



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, April 15, 2016

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You bring forth blessings from just deeds. Listen to our prayers for the Members of this people's House. Give them the wisdom to meditate upon Your revelation, Your law. Help them find confidence in Your love, especially in times of difficulty.

May their efforts reflect the mindset and gracious manner revealed in Your loving commands, and may their work contain the depth of justice and the expansive embrace of human goodness that You reveal to Your people.

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

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the advocacy efforts of the McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center, a wonderful and renowned central New York organization that is dedicated to ending child abuse through intervention and education. This month, McMahon/Ryan is launching its Go Blue 4 Kids campaign to help end child abuse.

Go Blue 4 Kids is a first-of-its-kind collaboration among five central New York healthcare leaders who are focused on raising awareness about child abuse prevention. In recognition of April being National Child Abuse Awareness Month, myself and hundreds of my constituents will be wearing blue, painting a blue pinwheel, or attending local events to raise awareness about child abuse prevention.

As a former Federal prosecutor, I am all too aware that much remains to be done if we are to guarantee a safe and happy upbringing for all American youths.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the 24th District of New York to join the Go Blue 4 Kids campaign. I commend McMahon/Ryan for the excellent work they do in our community, and I will continue to support their efforts to end child abuse.

### CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, this week the Cambodian American community of Long Beach will observe Remembrance Day, commemorating 41 years since the end of the Cambodian genocide.

This horrific event, in which the Khmer Rouge killed approximately 1.7 million Cambodians from all walks of life, devastated Cambodia for years, de-

priving the country of a generation of its best and its brightest, and leaving a lifetime of trauma for Cambodians living in the United States and around the world.

I have introduced H. Res. 436, along with over a dozen of my colleagues, to ensure that we never forget the unspeakable horrors of the genocide and honor the memory of its many victims.

Today I ask my colleagues and people across this country to join us in coming together to remember the Cambodian genocide to commemorate the almost 2 million people who were killed.

### TAX DAY

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in advance of tax day to address the U.S. Tax Code and its impact on our economy.

There is no escaping the fact that our Tax Code is written in a manner that is burdensome to individuals. It is complex and unruly. However, I want to speak briefly about the dire effects that it has on small businesses.

Over 28 million small businesses in this country are the true economic drivers. As the tax changes continue to plague small businesses, we have a major problem. Instead of concentrating on servicing their customers, growing their company, or creating jobs, they are overwhelmed with tax provision changes. This is a never-ending story.

When that small business in Nevada diverts efforts and resources to deal with tax compliance issues, they are not focusing on why they are in business. They need a Tax Code that is simpler, fairer, and flatter.

As the debate surrounding tax reform continues, let's make sure that our Tax Code doesn't impact job creation.

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

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

## JACKIE ROBINSON DAY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is Jackie Robinson Day, declared such by Major League Baseball, but it should be declared such by the United States of America.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. For 80-some odd years, there were no African American players in the major leagues. Branch Rickey put Jackie Robinson on the Brooklyn Dodgers and baseball became integrated. It truly became America's national pastime.

Today, Major League Baseball players will all wear number 42, a number retired and allowed to be worn only on this day in honor of Jackie Robinson on the occasion of integrating Major League Baseball.

Jackie Robinson was a great American and a great athlete. He lettered in four sports at UCLA. He was a great major league player with the Brooklyn Dodgers and was honored by being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Today there is a Jackie Robinson Foundation that gives young people scholarships to go to college and to do good deeds. He was very much interested in moving America forward in civil rights, and he did all he could.

I was fortunate to travel to Cuba with the President. I met his widow, Rachel, and his daughter, Sharon, who gave me a button—and this is a replica of it—designating April 15 as Jackie Robinson Day. I think we should all think about his contributions to America and what contributions we can make to America to make us a more perfect Union.

Thank you, Jackie Robinson.

## 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTER TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of Porter Township, Clinton County, located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, which was founded in 1841 and named for the current Governor at the time, David Porter.

The township was settled by Scotch Irish pioneers and was known in its early days for the Washington Iron Works, built in 1809 and operated until 1878.

Like so much of Clinton County, Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, and the Commonwealth as a whole, the township has been also dependent on the timber industry over its 175-year history. To this day, the timber industry remains vital, contrib-

uting an estimated \$90 million per year to the county's economy.

At 175 years old, Porter County is older than 24 States. This is, indeed, a milestone to celebrate. The celebration begins this weekend, on Saturday, with an opening ceremony that will include guest speakers, a hymn sing, and an ice cream social. Further events are planned through the end of the year, including a 5K Color Walk/Run and tours of township farms.

Again, congratulations to the officials and residents of Porter Township on this huge milestone.

## LET'S MOVE FORWARD AND PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, at the end of last year, Congress put aside political grandstanding and actually made some progress: a budget agreement that was supposed to be a framework for 2 years. It wasn't a perfect agreement, but it kept us from going off a cliff. It did some good for the folks we represent. It set aside much of the damaging across-the-board cuts and gave Federal agencies, businesses, and workers some certainty and predictability.

Congress simply passing a budget at this point is a bit like a dog playing the piano. The song may not sound perfect, but it is a dog playing the piano. Congress actually passed a budget.

But here we go again. As I stand here, we, once again, don't have an annual budget. I struggle to explain to my constituents how Congress is, once again, snatching defeat from the claws of victory and how this dysfunction remains the norm.

The solution here is simple. Let's stick to the compromise made just a few months ago. Let's stick with what a majority of the House and Senate actually backed just a few months ago. Let's avoid shutdowns and dysfunction and get to work on moving this economy and this Congress forward.

## CONDITION OF THE GENERAL FARM ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week the Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing—and will be holding more—on the condition of the general farm economy.

We see prices of commodities going down extremely from a high just a couple of years ago. Indeed, farm income is down approximately 56 percent, according to the USDA.

Steps need to be taken to ensure stability in the ag economy because it is

a large part of the export market for us; and the stability of U.S. food prices and the economy in rural America rely on it.

We need to have the type of policy that helps keep business in America doing well. It isn't just devising policy here in Washington, D.C., but also not making a regulatory burden and causing the prices of inputs to continue to spiral upward as we watch farm prices at the gate go down.

We need to do much more to have a friendly atmosphere for business. That includes agriculture in this country. And we hope to come up with solutions as we put the spotlight on the Agriculture Committee in the coming weeks.

## IMMIGRATION POPULATION SETS RECORDS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent study shows the immigrant population, both legal and illegal, has grown to record levels, now surpassing 15 percent in one-third of the States. And in six States—California, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, and Texas—the population of immigrants and their children is over 25 percent.

A report by the Center for Immigration Studies found that since 1970, the number of immigrants and their children has increased six times faster than the overall population. Congress needs to analyze these facts as it considers assimilation, cost of government services, and the impact immigration has on jobs and the economy.

America has the most generous immigration system in the world. However, our immigration policies must put the interests of American workers and taxpayers first.

## NO RATE REGULATION OF BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS ACT

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2666.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 672 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2666.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0913

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2666) to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2666, the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act.

From the first indication that the Federal Communications Commission intended to reclassify broadband Internet access service as a title II service subject to utility regulation, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology has made it a priority to ensure that the FCC bureaucracy never has the authority to actually get in and micromanage and regulate rates.

The Internet is a model of innovation, flourishing under decades of light-touch or no-touch regulation. That is how it has flourished, Mr. Chairman.

□ 0915

In recent years, as the FCC has repeatedly attempted to regulate the management of Internet traffic, the potential reach of those regulations has grown, prompting concerns that the FCC would retreat to the world of rate regulation that typified the monopoly telephone era.

Unfortunately, these fears proved well-founded when the FCC announced in early 2015, Mr. Chairman, that it would reclassify the Internet as a utility-style service as part of the newest net neutrality rules—rules that are currently being challenged in the courts, I might add.

I would like to begin by addressing one of the most common attacks against this legislation, Mr. Chairman: that we are attempting to “gut” the FCC’s authority to implement net neutrality rules. That simply is not the case.

We are supportive of clear, bright-line rules of the road for ISPs and the way they treat Internet traffic. We are for that. In fact, last year I released a discussion draft bill, along with Chairman UPTON and Senator THUNE, that would codify those very rules.

What we don’t support is the use of outdated, ill-suited regulations to achieve those goals. This bill isn’t intended to touch the net neutrality

rules, and, in fact, an amendment I offered up in committee markup goes so far as to make an explicit exemption to ensure that the bill would not impact the FCC’s work to ban paid prioritization. What this bill does is prohibit the FCC from regulating the amount charged to a consumer by an ISP for the provision of broadband service, a fact made clear by our definitions.

There is another objection, Mr. Chairman, we have heard repeatedly, and that is that the FCC had chosen to forbear from several of the provisions in title II and that the Chairman of the FCC had promised not to regulate rates anyway, so this bill is really unnecessary.

Again, this is simply not the case. The FCC did forbear from various sections of title II, but the authority to regulate rates through enforcement was and is still very much on the table. In addition, while Chairman Wheeler did promise before our subcommittee and multiple other committees of the Congress that he would not regulate rates, there was nothing to bind him or his successors to that commitment.

The need for the certainty of a statutory ban on rate regulation became even clearer just a few weeks ago when the bill’s sponsor, Representative KINZINGER, actually asked the Chairman of the FCC, Chairman Wheeler, whether he believed the FCC should have the authority to regulate rates. Chairman Wheeler’s response: “Yes, sir.”

Given the philosophy of the Chairman himself, it is clearly more pressing than ever that this bill becomes law. The FCC cannot and should not be able to regulate the rates charged by ISPs to their customers. This sort of regulatory overhang clouds the decisionmaking of providers and dissuades them from offering innovative, pro-consumer pricing plans and service offerings, lest the Commission come back after the fact and penalize them.

Take T-Mobile’s Binge On service as a prime example. Consumers are able to access video offered by any participant in the program without that data counting toward their monthly usage limits or charges. Edge providers win because their content is viewed more often. The service provider wins because they actually attract more customers. It is called the marketplace. It is innovation in the marketplace responding to what consumers want. Most importantly, consumers win because they are able to access the desired content with no cost or penalty.

Sounds pretty good, doesn’t it?

Now, I am not here to advocate for one company over another, but this is called innovation in the marketplace. This is what entrepreneurship is all about. But, unfortunately, under the opaque rules of the FCC, T-Mobile had no way of knowing whether this sort of

Binge On pricing scheme would violate the Commission’s rules. They didn’t know.

And while T-Mobile has taken this risk, many providers may now choose not to do so, ultimately depriving customers of choices they otherwise would have. You see, everybody is a little afraid, does this Chairman or the next Chairman come back, after the fact, and say: Well, you know, that is really not something we think is too dandy to do, so we are going to penalize you. It is called after-the-fact regulation.

So, as an unfortunate corollary to this chapter of Internet history, the same kind of flip-flop we are concerned we will see on rate regulation is exactly what we have seen with respect to Binge On. You see, Chairman Wheeler was “okay with it” until he decided maybe not.

As a former businessowner myself, I can tell you that you can’t make business additions based on a hope and a prayer of your regulator. I was actually regulated by the FCC. I knew the rules. I followed them. They were clear. They were bright-line.

In an incredibly innovative marketplace, which the Internet thrives in, can you imagine having the lack of clarity and the ability to go back after the fact and, in effect, rate regulate? This will stifle competition, innovation, and consumer choice.

Finally, I would like to address charges that this bill would leave customers helpless to overcharge, or worse, by ISPs. We would all share that concern. We don’t want that, and this bill provides protection.

The notion that the FCC, an agency that didn’t have authority over Internet service providers’ rates until last year—until last year—is the only line of defense between customers and fraud is, frankly, silly. It is a silly claim.

Customers have gotten along just fine without the aid of the FCC regulating rates; and this notion that the FCC is the only cop on the beat for consumers would come as a surprise—a real surprise—to many States attorneys general and consumer advocates across the Nation. All those protections, and fraud, abuse still prevail out there.

This bill is a carefully tailored piece of legislation that is targeted at just one thing—one thing, Mr. Chairman—and that is unnecessary bureaucratic, Washington-based rate regulation. We used the most narrow definition, inserted rules of construction, and made specific exemptions to the prohibition, all in an attempt to address the concerns that were raised by the witnesses in our hearings that we held, Mr. Chairman, Members at markup and others who participated in the process.

We listened to all of those voices say: How do we make this right? How do we make it narrow? How do we get at just the issue here of a bureaucracy that

wants to expand and grow and micro-manage and rate regulate?

We sought to prevent unintended consequences, unlike the FCC, who crafted their rules to have the broadest and furthest reaching scope. Imagine that, Mr. Chairman, from a bureaucracy that writes rules, that they would write rules that are broadly written so they have more power for themselves. In fact, many of the changes we made to the bill at full committee markup were inspired by an amendment offered by Representative MATSUI of California. Drawing on her suggested changes, we amended the bill to be a more targeted draft.

We also considered amendments by multiple other Members of Congress but felt that they would not have resulted in the kind of prohibition that this situation narrowly calls for, one that clearly prohibits all flavors of ratemaking, not just before-the-fact tariffing where they say you can charge \$7, that is it—that would be tariffing before the fact—but also after-the-fact regulation, where they come back, Mr. Chairman, and say: Oh, by the way, whatever you were charging, we have now kind of thought about that, and we think it was too much or too little or whatever.

While I am disappointed that so many of my colleagues across the aisle cannot support this bill, it wasn't for lack of trying. It wasn't for lack of a hearings process or taking many of their suggestions to heart and modifying our underlying text. I nonetheless, though, strongly believe that this legislation is an essential step in maintaining the robust and vibrant Internet ecosystem that drives our economy, powers innovations, and prompts and promotes new jobs and investment like no other service. The last thing we want to throw on there is the cold water of Washington bureaucracy after-the-fact regulation that will stifle competition and innovation that has so benefited consumers in this great Internet economy in which we find ourselves.

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2666, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, today we are debating a bill that the majority has titled the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act. It sounds terrific.

On the surface, this bill appears to do what Democrats and Republicans both support. We both support this. What we support is very clear: preventing the FCC from setting the monthly rate that customers pay for Internet access service. But in reality, this bill is about undermining the FCC's authority to protect consumers and ensure a free and open Internet for all.

I listened very carefully to the chairman, whom I respect, who is my friend,

talking about innovation, talking about the effect that that has on so much that we do.

I represent the innovation capital of our country and the world, Silicon Valley, so I think that I understand something about innovation and the ingredients that make it work. As the ranking member of the subcommittee, I have made it very clear that I do not support setting rates for customers to pay on Internet access, nor do any of my Democratic colleagues on the committee.

In fact—and the chairman left this out. The chairman left this out. In fact, during the subcommittee and full committee markup of this bill, I offered an airtight, one-page amendment, right here—right here, one-page amendment—to codify that the FCC will permanently forbear from setting the rates that customers pay for Internet access. It is airtight. It is as clear as a bell, but it was rejected twice.

Now, why would the majority reject exactly what they say they are seeking? It is a good question. It is a rhetorical question, but it should be raised. I think it is because this bill is about more than the FCC setting the rates that customers pay for Internet access.

The FCC is the cop on the beat in the communications marketplace. That means the FCC has the responsibility to keep watch over the companies that provide our cell phone, cable, and Internet services to ensure that everyone is treated fairly.

I think, in the absence of the following, not one consumer organization in the country supports the bill that is on the floor because it is overly broad. The definition of rate regulation in this bill leaves the door open for courts to strike down the FCC's authority to protect consumers and act in the public interest if they interpret any of its actions as impacting broadband Internet rates. That is what this bill does. That is what we object to. We do not object to, essentially, what the title of the bill is, No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access.

These protections include prohibiting Internet service providers, ISPs, from capping the amount of data that customers can use; outlawing pay-for-privacy agreements where consumers have to pay fees to avoid having their data collected and sold to third parties; enforcing net neutrality rules against blocking Web sites; and reviewing mergers that increase consolidation and limit choice in the broadband Internet market.

As I said a moment ago, it is no wonder this bill is opposed by over 70 public interest groups, including the National Hispanic Media Coalition, the Consumer Federation of America, and the National Consumer Law Center. And the White House has said that it will veto the bill.

We could have come here with a very simple bill that essentially is what my amendment stated: no rate regulation. That is what the majority says that they are for, except the bill goes way beyond that.

I want to make it clear to my colleagues and to the American people that may be tuned in to this debate: This bill, in its broadness, is an attack on consumers and an attack on the FCC's net neutrality rules. Now, that is not a surprise because the majority has never supported that. And that is why I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 2666.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD three letters from consumer organizations.

I reserve the balance of my time.

APRIL 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,

*Speaker,*

*House of Representatives.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

*Democratic Leader,*

*House of Representatives.*

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN AND LEADER PELOSI: We understand that floor consideration of H.R. 2666, the "No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act," is expected following a meeting of the House Committee on Rules this week.

The undersigned groups strongly urge you and your colleagues to vote against H.R. 2666, because it would block the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from fulfilling its essential consumer-protection responsibilities. This would be disastrous for all of the people and businesses in America that use the Internet. Simply, H.R. 2666 would prevent the FCC from doing its job to protect the American people.

H.R. 2666's overly broad definitions and undefined language would create extreme regulatory uncertainty. It would hamstring the FCC's ability to carry out its congressionally-mandated responsibilities. The impacts of this legislation are wide-ranging and difficult to fully enumerate, given the broad definitions of "rates" and "regulation" in the bill, which conflict with legal precedent. Yet several harmful impacts are readily apparent.

First, it is clear that the bill is yet another attempt to undermine the FCC's Open Internet Order and the principles of net neutrality. The Order "expressly eschew[ed] the future use of prescriptive, industry-wide rate regulation" and the FCC forbore from the legal authorities that enable it to set rates.

Although the FCC is not setting rates, stripping away its authority to review monopoly charges and other unjust and unreasonable business practices would harm everyone. It would especially harm the families and small businesses that rely on an affordable and open Internet to find jobs, do schoolwork, or reach consumers to compete in the 21st century global marketplace.

This legislation threatens the FCC's ability to enforce merger conditions that provide low-cost broadband to disadvantaged communities, harming low-income Americans who already have limited broadband access, and further widening the digital divide.

It would give a free ride to companies currently imposing punitive data caps and introducing zero-rating schemes, which the FCC has rightly questioned and continues to investigate. And despite the bill's imprecise references to interconnection and paid

prioritization, it would leave open the very real possibility that these companies may try to extort and extract additional payments from websites and applications to reach their customers—even though the ability to download and upload the content of their choosing is exactly what broadband customers pay for.

By using the term interconnection in an undefined manner, H.R. 2666 also creates significant uncertainty about what, if anything, the FCC can do to protect the public from interconnection-related harms. Congestion at interconnection points—locations where the Internet's backbone infrastructure connects to last-mile providers such as Comcast and AT&T—has hurt consumers and online businesses in recent years, and this bill would leave the public vulnerable to those harms.

Lastly, the legislation would undermine the FCC's efforts to protect consumer privacy, including oversight of so-called "pay-for-privacy" plans that require customers to pay significant additional fees to their broadband provider to avoid having their online data collected and sold to third parties.

In sum, the broad definition of "regulation" in H.R. 2666 would make it difficult, if not impossible, for the FCC to review and then prohibit even clearly anti-competitive and anti-consumer actions by broadband companies. Under the bill, broadband providers could characterize any and every rule or determination the FCC makes as a "rate regulation" if it prevents these ISPs from charging abusive penalties or tolls.

Over four million Americans called for the FCC to protect an open Internet. It is time for members of Congress to stop sneak attacks that would allow big cable companies to break net neutrality rules without consequences. We strongly believe that the limited and inadequate exemptions in the current bill are neither credible nor sufficient. These limited exceptions for a small number of regulatory issues are not enough, as they simply create opportunities for companies to circumvent them.

Congress has made the FCC the guardian of the public interest. The Commission must be able to protect America's Internet users from unreasonable business practices.

It is unfortunate that the Energy & Commerce Committee Majority twice rejected proposed compromises that would have been harmonious with the FCC's decision not to set broadband rates, while ensuring the Commission still had the ability to protect consumers. Instead, this bill is little more than a wolf in sheep's clothing that would reduce the FCC's oversight abilities and strip away communications rights for hundreds of millions of Americans.

We respectfully urge you to vote against this bill to show your support for America's consumers and businesses that need the free and open Internet.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org, Alternate ROOTS, Arts & Democracy, Center for Media Justice (CMJ), Center for Rural Strategies, Cogent Communications, Inc., Color Of Change, Common Cause, Common Frequency, Consumer Action, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Watchdog, Daily Kos, Demand Progress, Engine, Faithful Internet, Families for Freedom, Fight for the Future, Free Press Action Fund, FREE! Families Rally for Emancipation and Empowerment.

Future of Music Coalition, Generation Justice, Global Action Project (GAP.), Greenlining Institute, Human Rights Defense Center, Instituto de Educacion Popular

del Sur de California (IDEPSCA), Line Break Media, Martinez Street Women's Center, Media Action Center, Media Mobilizing Project, National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients, National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC), New America's Open Technology Institute, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Open Access Connections, People's Press Project, PhillyCAM, Progressive Technology Project, Prometheus Radio Project, Public Knowledge.

School for Designing a Society, St. Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN), TURN, United Church of Christ, OC Inc., Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, Voices for Racial Justice, Women Action Media, Working Films, Working Narratives, Writers Guild of America, West.

CONSUMER UNION,  
Washington, DC, April 14, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker,*  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Democratic Leader,*  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM LEADER: Consumers Union, the policy and advocacy division of Consumer Reports, urges the House not to approve H.R. 2666, the "No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act." We believe this legislation is unnecessary, and we are concerned that it would undermine the Federal Communications Commission's net neutrality rule and other important responsibilities of the Commission in protecting consumers and competition in the broadband marketplace.

We share the concerns voiced during the bill's consideration in Committee, that "rate" and "rate regulation" could be interpreted to interfere on a broad scale with the Commission's authority to prevent all manner of discriminatory treatment simply because there is some direct or indirect price-related manifestation or effect. Indeed, the Committee states in its report that the term "rates" should "be interpreted broadly, extending beyond a simple price to any provider-offered fee, rate level, rate structure, discount, incentive, or similar customer-facing proposal." We are concerned that, other than outright denial of service or interconnection, anticompetitive discrimination would most likely take the form of some kind of price differential—including data caps, throttling, anticompetitive subsidies, and paid prioritization, just to name some of the most obvious.

Moreover, there is no indication that the Commission has any intent to regulate rates for broadband service, now or in the future, or that it has seriously entertained the possibility of doing so. Indeed, the Open Internet Order explicitly disclaims such intent. This bill is a flawed and harmful solution to a non-existent and wholly theoretical problem.

The Open Internet Order is key to ensuring that the benefits of the Internet are widely available—that everyone has access to it on equal, nondiscriminatory terms. We hope the House will allow the Commission to appropriately enforce the Open Internet Order, without injecting new and unnecessary uncertainty into the scope of its authority. We urge that H.R. 2666 be defeated.

Respectfully,

GEORGE P. SLOVER,  
*Senior Policy Counsel,*  
*Consumers Union.*

COMPUTER & COMMUNICATIONS

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, April 14, 2016.

Re CCIA Letter on H.R. 2666—No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Democratic Leader,*  
*House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: As you know, an open Internet has been a driving force of economic growth, innovation, and a key to American competitiveness. It is a crucial input for businesses large and small, and an essential component of the lives of everyday Americans for expression, education, and work.

Unfortunately, H.R. 2666, the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act, threatens the FCC's ability to enforce sensible rules to ensure the Internet remains competitive and open. As you consider this legislation this week, I hope you will take into account the negative consequences this bill would have for consumers and businesses that rely on Internet access.

Despite the bill's title, H.R. 2666 goes far beyond rate regulation. A closer look will not just reveal the potential for higher costs to consumers and businesses, but also significant regulatory uncertainty. Of considerable concern are the bill's intentionally broad definitions. For example, the bill's definitions of "regulation" and "regulate" include the Commission's enforcement authority. This would prevent the Commission from pursuing its longstanding Congressional mandates of promoting competition and consumer protection. Without such authority, the FCC would not be able to review and prohibit anti-competitive actions that could hurt consumers and businesses.

During consideration by the Energy & Commerce Committee, Democratic Members sought to find common ground with amendments that would more clearly define what the bill seeks to prevent—ratemaking for broadband. However, these efforts were rejected on party-line votes. The bill's ambiguity remains a significant concern for businesses and will impair the FCC's obligation to ensure that basic rules of the road will protect the openness that has made the Internet so useful. I urge you to consider the effects on the open Internet and vote against H.R. 2666.

Sincerely,

ED BLACK,  
*President & CEO,*  
*Computer & Communications Industry Association.*

□ 0930

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN). She is the vice chairman of the full Energy and Commerce Committee and a very important member of our subcommittee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the floor today and stand in support of this bill. It is the right step.

The gentlewoman from California references the amendment that she had wanted, but her amendment was not exactly what that bill is.

What we are seeking to do is to encourage the FCC to make good on the promise that they have made. In March 2015, Chairman Wheeler was speaking

at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

He was talking about net neutrality and rules and regulations. He said:

This is not regulating the Internet. Regulating the Internet is rate regulation, which we don't do.

Whoops, they do. That is what they are trying to do.

Now, there is a difference in what the gentlewoman was seeking to do in committee, not have tariffs or regulation. But if they had gone ahead and done it, then we would have to get into a process of trying to undo. That is what people don't like. They don't like that kind of mess.

What they want is something very explicit. That is what Mr. KINZINGER's bill does. It very explicitly says: FCC, you cannot, you shall not, and you will not do rate regulation. It is not what the American people want to see. It is what the FCC has promised they will not do.

So what we are doing is helping a federal agency keep their word, keep their promise, and not get into rate regulation. Of course, we all know that what they would like to do is regulate the Internet so they can tax the Internet, so they can then come in and set all the rates, and so they can then come in and assign priority and value to content.

It is a commerce issue, it is a free speech issue, and it is an issue for the American people who want to make certain that the information service they have known, appreciated, and utilize every day in the virtual marketplace is not going to be regulated by a Federal Government agency.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I would note that the FCC chairman is not a Member of Congress. It is only Congress that can write a statute. The amendment that I offered codified—codified—that there would be no rate regulation of the Internet.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the distinguished ranking member of the full committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from California, the ranking member of our subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, today we are considering a deceptively simple bill, H.R. 2666. The bill states that the FCC may not regulate rates for broadband Internet access service, but I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to not fall for this rhetoric and misinformation.

Just because this bill is short in length does not mean it is narrow in scope. It is designed to gut the FCC because, as experts have pointed out, the definitions in the bill for rate regulation could mean almost anything.

While the Republicans claim that they intend the bill to be narrow, we have heard over and over that their draft would swallow vast sections of

the Communications Act. Most notably, this bill could undermine the FCC's ability to protect consumers.

Democrats repeatedly offered help to improve this bill. But make no mistake, there was not a negotiation. We offered suggestions, but were rebuffed time and again. In fact, we raised concerns from the beginning that the original bill failed to define rate regulation.

Then, at the eleventh hour, the Republicans provided their own take-it-or-leave-it definition with no Democratic input. This is not negotiating.

The result of this one-sided conversation is the definition of rate regulation that simply confirms our worst fears. The definition is so broad that it effectively would gut the agency.

Now, we have said repeatedly that we do not want the FCC to set rates. But we can't support a bill that undermines the FCC's core mission. We can't support a bill that prevents the agency from acting in the interest of the public.

We can't support a bill that prevents the agency from protecting consumers from discriminatory practices, and we certainly cannot support a bill that undercuts the FCC's net neutrality rules. The Republicans rebuffed all of our efforts to narrow H.R. 2666 so that consumers are not harmed.

If we are at all serious about passing a narrow bill, then accomplishing these goals would not be that hard. Our collective interests should be aligned. But that clearly is not the intent of my Republican colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to cast a vote against H.R. 2666.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time each side has remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 19 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 22½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER). He is the author of this legislation and is a very serious member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology and a great patriot for this country.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I thank the committee, and I thank the other side of the aisle. Even though this is something that we are going to put through and we would love to have a lot more support from the other side of the aisle, we do appreciate the working relationship.

Mr. Chairman, let me just say that this is, in my mind, very simple. When the FCC, in essence, chose to reclassify broadband Internet access service as a common carrier, that gave them the classification and the ability to regulate rates of private companies.

Understanding this, it was the concern, as we looked around, that we want to make sure that the FCC does

not have the power to regulate the rates charged for Internet access.

If you look back in the history of this country and, really, what technology and what the Internet has been able to do for jobs, for economic growth, and for everything along that line, it has all been because it is free of government regulation. So let's just put this into law, that the FCC shouldn't have the authority.

In a couple of hearings, Chairman Wheeler, the chairman of the FCC, was asked: Do you believe you should have the right or the ability to regulate the rates charged for Internet, for broadband access?

He said: No. I forbear that.

In fact, I asked the chairman: What if we put into law a simple statement that said that the FCC shouldn't have that authority?

Amen, basically, is what he said.

Now, over the next year, we have run into some more issues. All of a sudden 3 weeks ago I asked the chairman the same question again, and he admits that, actually, the FCC should have the ability to regulate broadband Internet access.

This is Congress simply doing its job. Congress' job is to determine what authority the FCC should and should not have. That is what we were invented for. That is what we were created for, to determine those laws and those rules.

All we are doing is taking back a little bit of power from the FCC and saying: Look, let's keep the Internet free market. Let's keep broadband free market.

Congress is going to have its say in this. I hope the other side of the aisle and my colleagues join me in supporting this measure.

It is the right thing for our country, and it is a great first step in preserving the Internet as free for future generations.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH). He is an outstanding member of the committee.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, as I said on Wednesday during debate on the rule, the bill before us today is a vague solution in search of a nonexistent problem.

While we all share concerns about the idea of broadband Internet rate regulation, Chairman Wheeler has made it absolutely clear that the FCC will not seek to regulate those rates.

But since this bill is before the House anyway, I thought I would offer an amendment that would address an actual problem that can be fixed by the FCC.

Section 317 of the Communications Act of 1934 requires broadcasters to disclose the true identity of political advertising sponsors.

The FCC currently relies on an outdated 1979 staff interpretation of the law that does not account for the dramatic changes that have taken place in our campaign system over the last 6 years, including the Citizens United and McCutcheon decisions. The rule makes sense. The American people ought to know who is actually trying to influence their votes.

Unfortunately, sponsors in today's world don't indicate who is actually paying for the ad. No. We get sponsors like Americans for Kittens and Puppies. That is not very helpful in disclosing to the American people who is trying to influence them.

It would be, for instance, if somebody ran an ad promoting sugared soft drinks and, instead of Coca-Cola or Pepsi being the actual people paying for the ad, you would have the advertising agency: This ad is sponsored by Ogilvy & Mather or McCann Erickson. That is not very helpful to the American people.

So this has resulted in a major loophole in which special interests and wealthy donors can anonymously spend limitless amounts of money to influence the outcomes of our elections. That is not what Congress intended.

Despite having the authority to do so, the FCC has refused to take action to close this loophole. My amendment, by restating the original constitutional intent, would have sent a message to the FCC that it is time to act.

We all know how much secret money has flooded our politics, weakened accountability in government, and made it harder for voters to develop a true opinion of the individuals they will send to Congress to represent them.

My amendment would have helped to change that and, hopefully, would have begun to restore a minimum level of honesty in our electoral system.

The amendment was germane within the rules of this body, and the solution it provided was well within the authority of the FCC.

Most importantly, an overwhelming majority of Americans—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—want us to do this. They want us to reform and fix our broken campaign finance system.

Unfortunately, Republicans on the Rules Committee voted against the interests of a majority of Americans and blocked my amendment from coming to the floor.

While they killed my amendment, I am glad the amendment offered by my colleague, Mr. LUJÁN, will be up for consideration today.

It will give us a chance to debate the lack of disclosure and transparency in campaign ads. Unlike the underlying bill, it offers a specific solution to a real problem.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), another terrific

member of our Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, I rise in strong support of Mr. KINZINGER's bill.

The Internet has dramatically changed the global economy and how every one of us lives daily life. It is the great equalizer, providing an open platform to boost innovation and job creation, expand expression and free speech, as much as any invention in history.

But some unelected officials here in Washington are eager to regulate it, and some in office across the country are eager to tax it. We must prevent both.

The prosperity and opportunity we have come to know from the Internet will be compromised if Internet access becomes another victim of an overweening governmental agency.

The apps on your mobile phone and for your online accounts, your social sphere and your personal and professional information come not from the permission of unelected officials, but from the work of innovators who have invented this 21st century technology.

They must remain empowered to continue their innovation. We cannot allow the government a foothold for Internet control.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support H.R. 2666.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), a wonderful and important member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I thank my ranking member on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee and the chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee.

There are two questions here. First is net neutrality. One of the biggest decisions that the FCC made was to protect net neutrality.

Before they issued their order, they had literally millions of comments from people all across this country, in your district and in mine, urging that net neutrality be maintained and preserved. The chairman and the FCC did that with their order.

Now, that has raised some questions as to whether the assertion of FCC authority is going to result in micromanaging through regulation, and that would be a legitimate concern if it were a concern.

But the chairman has made it extremely clear that he has no intention whatsoever of doing any kind of rate regulation under title II. He is not going to do it. It hasn't been done.

So this bill, which is going to "prohibit rate regulation" has some significant and potentially very dangerous consequences for two things, net neutrality and protection of consumers.

We need an FCC that is going to be there to protect consumers against some potentially bad practices, like cramming or overbilling, things that traditionally the FCC has done as the agency that is protecting consumers against bad practices.

□ 0945

The reason why many experts believe that this bill would result in that happening is because there is no definition of rate regulation. There is none. The burden on legislators, when we propose something, is to be clear and specific as to what it is that is being proposed. There is no definition whatsoever in this bill about rate regulation. This bill is founded on an apprehension that something bad will happen, but it gives an undefined answer to prevent an undefined event from happening. So the effect here is that you have a bill that is playing on the fear of the unknown.

My preference would be for us to not pass this bill, not endanger the authority of the FCC to take steps that help consumers in your district and in my district, and to focus where we should be focusing, in my view, on steps that we can take to improve broadband access in speeds, particularly for rural areas, rural Vermonters. There is a common goal that we have in our committee to try to get the broadband out and deployed at higher speeds in all of our areas, particularly the rural areas that are in jeopardy.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just like to point out for the RECORD that on page 4 of the bill, H.R. 2666, on line 7, there is a definition of broadband Internet access service. We also have the definition of rate; we have the definition of regulation all spelled out in the bill. And very specific to the issue of cramming and illegal actions on truth-in-billing and all, those are also called for in the bill.

He may be looking at an old draft of the bill or something, but it is not the legislation before us. We do define what rate regulation is. We do make sure that the FCC continues to enforce subpart Y, part 64, title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, relating to truth-in-billing requirements. That is lines 18 through 20 of the bill. So those things actually were addressed in the legislation that is now before the House.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chair, it actually was great to follow my colleague from Vermont, who is a thoughtful individual, who always raises good questions, who really is open to debate, and he stumbles onto the truth in this.

This does have an issue of net neutrality. Our problem has always been, we now have a Federal agency imposing what there was no need or desire,

by many of us, to fix. So now we are trying to make sure that this Federal agency doesn't kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

There is a fear. He was correct in also saying there was a fear.

So how do you ease that fear?

You enshrine into law the promises made by the administration and by the Chairman of the FCC. You take away the fear. It is not like, well, maybe this is what he said, but maybe he will do this. Just codify it. Then we know what the law is. Then everyone who brings it into litigation can say, well, here is the black and white law. Of course, we also have trouble with the courts. We would hope that the courts would read the black and white language of the law and then rule that way.

All we are trying to do is trust, but verify. What we see is that the net neutrality debate was a fix seeking a problem, which there was no problem. No one can stand on our side today and say we have not advanced greatly by this new technological age and that we need more government to help cause it to flourish more.

We are afraid of a Federal agency. We are afraid that the FCC has gone too far. We need to enshrine this into law. Everybody knows the ground rules. That is all my colleague, Mr. KINZINGER, is trying to do.

I would ask my colleagues to support it.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, may I get an update on the time remaining on each side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 13 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), who has an incredible background in rate regulation and the commission there and is a terrific member of our subcommittee.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chair, as the chairman said, I served nearly 10 years as a title II rate regulator on the North Dakota Public Service Commission, and I know what title II rate regulation looks like. The Internet is not an appropriate vehicle or medium for this type of regulation. The Internet is not a monopoly railroad, the Internet is not a monopoly telephone company, it is not a monopoly electric or gas utility. The Internet is a dynamic, competitive innovator. Even the threat of this type of regulation stifles that innovation, and we do not want that to happen.

I want to address the amendment that was referred to by the ranking member of the subcommittee, who I have great respect for. She referred to the term "permanent forbearance."

That is a contradiction in terms. Forbearance is, by definition, temporary. He who has the authority to forbear has the authority to unforbear. That is exactly what her amendment did. That is why it was not adequate to this bill.

This legislation simply codifies that which the President of the United States and the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission promised: to not regulate rates. If they promised to do it, God bless them. But we don't know that the next Chairman and the next President will live up to that promise. This law ensures that that promise is kept by codifying it.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished majority leader of the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, the biggest goal of the innovation initiative is to bring government into the modern age, making the policies that come out of Washington reflect and adapt to the world today.

What has shaped our world more in the 21st century than the Internet?

Education, commerce, communication, information. Everything in our lives has changed because of the Internet.

How did the Internet become something so important, so useful, and so widespread?

Government left it alone. It expanded to reach and help billions because bureaucrats weren't allowed to micromanage it.

I remember hearing this from AOL founder Steve Case. It was back in 1985. He said only 3 percent of people were online for an average of just 1 hour a week. Today, the Internet has reached about 40 percent of the world. That is an amazing growth.

Unfortunately, the freedom that led to this amazing success is at risk. Right now, it is an open question whether the FCC can regulate Internet rates. Congress needs to clarify that it has no authority to do so.

If the FCC were to regulate rates, it could harm every American across the country that has a Wi-Fi connection by imposing artificial restraints on their plans and service options, it would stop needed investment in expanding and improving the Internet, and it would block innovation that we depend on to create better and faster Internet. Regulating rates means its bureaucrats think that they can manage the Internet better than the private sector, which has already brought fast and affordable connections to millions across the country.

I know the FCC and President Obama promised they wouldn't regulate broadband Internet rates from their of-

fices in Washington, and that is a good thing. But that doesn't mean I am not concerned. I don't know about you, Mr. Chair, but after 7 years of broken promises, I have a hard time trusting this administration will follow through.

So today we are voting to hold the administration to its word. They promised not to regulate rates. This legislation bars the FCC from regulating rates. It is as simple as that. I can't imagine why anyone would object.

I want to thank Congressman KINZINGER for his work on this legislation, holding the FCC and the Obama administration accountable.

The innovation initiative is all about giving the American people the freedom to grow and prosper. With this, the Internet stays a little freer, executive overreach is held back, and we leave space for the people to innovate without the Federal Government trying to control it all.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG), another distinguished member of our Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Mr. LONG. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, you don't need a Ph.D. from MIT to understand what is going on here. Despite President Obama and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Wheeler's past promises not to regulate the retail rates of Internet service providers, the Chairman announced last week that the FCC will start a new regulatory framework for the evolving business data market, and told other House Energy and Commerce Committee members and me last month that the FCC should have the authority to regulate broadband rates.

Today, services provided over modern high-speed broadband facilities to customers are unregulated. It is a vibrant market where broadband companies compete vigorously for customers.

If the administration gets in their way, the FCC will reverse course, price regulate business services, and create disincentives for further investment and deployment of high-speed fiber networks throughout the Nation. These burdens would harm investments, stifle innovation, and cost tens of thousands of jobs.

Mr. Chair, our economy and American workers cannot afford this impact. I urge my colleagues to join me and support this crucial bill.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), another member of the Republican leadership, who is also a really important member of our committee and subcommittee.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank Chairman WALDEN, and I want to thank my colleague, Congressman KINZINGER, for his



leadership on bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Chair, what we are trying to do here is to continue to allow the great innovation that we have seen from the technology industry. It has happened not because government has sat there and regulated every aspect of what they do. It is because government, frankly, hasn't figured out how to regulate them because the industry moves so fast. I think that has been a good thing.

It has shown that if you allow an industry to go out there and invest private money in creating great new technologies, great new products, and you look at the development and deployment of broadband, it is literally changing people's lives for the good. It has allowed America to be such a great technological leader.

But then when you see the threat of the FCC setting rates, regulating broadband, it will send a chilling effect that will not only kill that investment and slow down the ability and the growth that we have seen that has been so revolutionary in this country, but it will kill jobs in this country.

We need to stop the threat of the FCC being able to set rates in a way that can slow down that growth. We have seen such tremendous growth in the technology industry by the government not being in this arena. What Congressman KINZINGER is doing with this bill protects taxpayers and protects the growth and innovation that we need in this country.

I urge adoption of the bill.

□ 1000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), another great member of our committee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2666, the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act, which will prohibit the FCC from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.

This bill will help prevent further FCC overreach, save tens of thousands of jobs, keep rates affordable for consumers, and provide certainty for the future of broadband regulation.

For the last year and a half, the FCC has insisted it would not regulate broadband Internet rates. That changed last month when Chairman Wheeler reversed course and contradicted all previous testimony on the FCC's intent to regulate rates.

Many of our local businesses and organizations would suffer from further FCC overreach. Many already suffer from the uncertainty and vague new legal standards that have been imposed by the FCC. Regulating rates before and even after they are issued would further infuse the worst government

meddling into a market that should remain nimble and competitive.

I thank Congressman KINZINGER for his excellent and timely work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2666.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a gentleman who cares deeply about this issue.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my support for H.R. 2666.

In 2015, the FCC reclassified Internet service providers as title II common carriers, giving themselves the ability to regulate Internet rates and user privacy. The administration has promised that this new agency power will not be used to regulate broadband rates; however, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has admitted that the FCC should have the authority to do so. This regulatory uncertainty is why this bill is needed.

H.R. 2666 would prohibit the FCC from regulating rates charged for broadband Internet access and would hold the administration to the promise it made to American consumers. Preventing government interference with broadband retail rates would give smaller providers greater confidence when making investments, particularly those that would increase Internet access in rural and small communities.

I urge my colleagues to help prevent the government micromanagement of Internet access by supporting H.R. 2666.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), an important member of the committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. I thank our ranking member, Ms. ESHOO, and the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose H.R. 2666, the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act, which would prohibit the FCC from regulating rates for broadband Internet access.

I agree with the premise behind the bill. The Commission should not be setting rates for broadband access. In fact, we have heard from FCC Chairman Wheeler. He has stated several times that he does not intend to set rates.

Like millions of Americans who made their voices heard last year, I support a free and open Internet. I do not believe the FCC needs to get into the business of regulating consumer broadband rates. H.R. 2666, however, is overbroad and far-reaching. The unintended consequences of the bill before us would undermine important consumer protections and would threaten a free and open Internet.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill before us today.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains on both sides?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). The gentleman from Oregon has 7 minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from California has 15½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the chairman for his work on this important bill.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2666, the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act.

The bill does just that—prohibits the Federal Communications Commission from unnecessarily regulating broadband rates. This legislation ensures that not only the current Commission but future Commissions will not have the option to regulate broadband Internet rates, which will protect the free market, encourage competition, and promote jobs; and that is what we need to be all about.

Plain and simple, unelected Washington bureaucrats at the FCC have set out with another solution in search of a problem. By shifting the classification of broadband Internet to be a title II common carrier, the FCC is, simply, reclassifying broadband Internet to fall under their rulemaking purview.

This is nothing more than another power grab by the administration to regulate and control yet another industry. It is estimated that, if rules regulating broadband services are carried out, it could cost over 43,000 jobs, and I think we can all agree that it is not time to gamble with American jobs. When bureaucrats in Washington play the regulation game, no one wins.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2666, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this has been an interesting discussion on the floor this morning. For people who are tuned in, I think that I want to stay away from Federal talk, telecommunications talk, governmentese.

What this debate is all about is the Internet. There is a clear difference between how the Democrats view the Internet and how to protect its openness and its accessibility, and that rests in net neutrality—not a very sexy term. What it means is that no ISP can get in the way of the consumer. All you have to do is look in your purse or in your pocket. What you take out and the content that you view and whatever the Internet carries, no company can get in the way of that—to chop it up, to slow it down, to speed it up, to charge more.

Now, our Republican colleagues have fought mightily, and I salute them with their mightily launched campaign in that they don't believe in that, and

that is really what is underneath this. They talk about Federal bureaucracies. They don't like that. They talk about bureaucrats. They don't like them. They talk about the President. They don't like him.

What is at the heart of all of this is that we believe in that open, accessible Internet. We do not believe that the executive branch—in this case, the FCC—should be able to regulate broadband rates. We have said so. We have said so time and again.

The gentleman from North Dakota objected to my amendment. He said that it was an oxymoron. Our amendment codified. No one else codified. We offered codification in the law that not only this FCC Commission but all future Commissions—all future Chairmen—could not exact rate regulation. I don't know what needs to be done in order to get to “yes” around here, and it is curious to me that all of the speakers on the other side never referenced what we put on the table—that there is agreement.

Really, this bill goes beyond that, and that is what we object to. There is not one consumer organization in our country that supports what the majority is doing. We stand with consumers. They need a cop on the beat—we don't need the rate regulation of broadband by the FCC—just the way other agencies are supposed to look after the best interests of the American people. In fact, in the Communications Act, the public interest is stated over 100 times. We believe in that. The majority has gone too far with this bill. It can hurt small businesses, and it will hurt consumers. That is where we draw the line.

Mr. Chairman, for all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on H.R. 2666. It goes too far. We were willing to meet and join hands and have something sail through the House—and I think it would have in the other body as well—and that is that there be no rate regulation of broadband Internet. I don't know. Maybe the majority was shocked that we agreed with their talking point. We are serious about it. We offered a solution to it that was rejected not once but twice. Very disappointing. For all of these reasons and with what my colleagues stated on this side in the magnificent statements that they made, I urge the House to reject this legislation because it goes well beyond its stated intent.

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

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

I do appreciate the comments by my friend, and I consider her a good friend. We have worked together on a lot of issues successfully and have found common ground time and time again. Then there are days like today when we just see things differently and, per-

haps, read them differently. That is what democracy is, after all, all about: competing ideas that come to an open marketplace where we can have an up-or-down vote by the people's Representatives.

Let me talk about a couple of things, Mr. Chair.

First of all, there is the issue of net neutrality, itself. As my friend from California knows, I put together a draft bill in January of 2015—nearly a year and a half ago now. That bill read: no blocking, no paid prioritization, no throttling, and it required transparency, which are the core principles of an open Internet order. My colleagues on this side of the aisle are for all of those things. The door remains open for Democrats to join us in sponsoring that legislation. We looked forward to that, hopefully, in going forward, but we couldn't reach agreement on those very clear positions.

My colleague said, Gee, they are for not having the Federal Communications Commission regulate rates for broadband Internet access service. I think that is an accurate description of what the gentlewoman said she was for. Let me go to page 3 of the bill and just, simply, read from line 6, section 2: “Regulation of broadband rates prohibited.” Line 7: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Communications Commission may not regulate the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.” That is what this bill does.

Now, here is where people may get a little confused because, on the one hand, we say no tariffing. That means no setting of the rates ahead of time. We agree that that is a bad idea. You have heard that from both sides of the aisle here. Yet, you see, the door that remains cracked open is the one they refuse to close; so the chilling winter air of regulatory overreach blows through that crack in the door because, if you don't close the ability of the agency to come in after the fact and say “what you did on your rates we no longer think is correct,” then you have after-the-fact rate regulation, which is even more uncertain than up-front tariffing, than an up-front setting of the rates. It is with this that we find ourselves in disagreement with my friends across the aisle. You see, they are willing to say no tariffing in advance, but they are not willing to close the door that allows the chilly air that will freeze out innovation—a post-action regulation—from occurring.

Having been in small business for 20-plus years earlier in my life and in the radio business, I know what regulation is. I know how to follow them. I know what a public file is. I actually kept them and did all of these things in our little radio station; but I cannot imagine if, after the fact, my regulator could come back and say: Do you know those ads you sold to the local car deal-

er? Even though they were printed on your rate card and they were publicly disclosed and all of that, we think, maybe, that was a little too high.

□ 1015

So you have to go back and you have to change things. There is no definition of how far back they could go. Could they go back 6 months? A year? 2 years? 10 years? I don't know.

See, I guess you get to the point that the Internet thrives today in an environment where it was never regulated. That is what really made it go off the charts, is the innovators in Silicon Valley and I daresay in my district, in Oregon, and elsewhere, all over the world literally. There is no central-only point of innovation when it comes to the Internet and technology. It is global.

The economy has flourished globally and has done all that without three Commissioners—or two Commissioners and one Chairman, three people in America deciding what you can and can't do.

You have got to go: Mama, can I? Daddy, can I? Can I after the fact? Is it going to be okay? This is the new environment when you treat the Internet like an old, black, dial-up phone.

Fundamentally, that is what Chairman Wheeler decided to do with pressure from the White House. They lost their independence as an agency when they went down this path to say that the Internet is now like an old phone line. Or, as you heard the former member of the Public Utility Commission from North Dakota, my friend, Mr. CRAMER, who was in the rate regulation business, say, the Internet, it is not appropriate to regulate it as an old common carrier, an old railroad system that is a monopoly because the Internet is not a monopoly. We want innovation for consumers. We want the competition in the marketplace that we know drives down prices.

When you have three people in America wanting to set the rates after the fact, which is what would happen in the FCC with a partisan Commission, as it is constructed today, they get to make the call, not consumers who say: you know, I kind of like that Binge On thing. That is new and innovative.

And the Chairman will say: Well, yeah. We let that go. We think that is okay. That is the point. The Chairman got to say: We think that is okay.

Prior to title II regulation, the chairman didn't have a say in that. The marketplace did. The consumers could go: I don't like that, so I am going to that carrier. Some other carrier can say: I don't like what they're doing, and I am going to offer you this.

Now all that is going to get second-guessed by a government that is too big and is too much in our lives, and that is only going to get more regulatory in its scope and scheme.

Finally, let me just restate the argument raised earlier that somehow consumers could be hurt by truth-in-billing fraud or paid prioritization. We specifically addressed those in the bill that came to the floor.

We listened to our colleagues. We listened to those who testified. We made changes in the bill. We didn't do everything that everybody wanted because this is a compromise process.

It is a good piece of legislation that protects consumers, encourages innovation, and does what our constituents want us to do: draw clear statutory lines that agencies have to follow, not devolve all authority to them.

Mr. Chairman, I urge passage of H.R. 2666.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2666, the No Rate Regulation Act. Many small businesses and many of my neighbors in the Tampa Bay area have experienced loss of internet, TV and phone services. I want to ensure that my neighbors and businesses are protected—I am fighting for them to receive the services they paid for. The No Rate Regulation Act aims to dismantle the open internet and take the “cop off the beat” by hamstringing the FCC's ability to protect the consumer. Because of these concerns on behalf of my neighbors and small businesses, today I will vote against this bill.

This is timely legislation for all the wrong reasons. On April 1 of this year, Frontier Communications assumed Verizon's TV, internet and land-line phone services in the Tampa Bay area. Since the transition, small businesses and individual consumers in Florida have experienced loss of internet, TV and phone services. Consumers are paying for services they are not receiving. Even now, customers are reporting waiting for Frontier's technicians that are “no shows”. Frontier appears to be unable to provide the necessary services to my neighbors, at the present time.

I am here today to ensure all customers are protected. I have been fighting to protect the consumer and for robust public interest reviews. On February 2nd I stated in my letter to the FCC regarding the proposed Bright House Networks/Time Warner Cable/Charter merger that it is appropriate for the FCC to investigate that “best practices” are present on behalf consumers.

The awesome power of the internet should be used to build up our community and grow opportunity for our children. I am proud that last year Tampa was selected as one of only 27 communities nationwide to participate in ConnectHOME, which promotes locally tailored solutions to help bridge the gap in digital access for working-class households by addressing the barriers they have to high-speed broadband.

We should be dedicated to significant community boosts in access to digital opportunities for our students. We should be working with all agencies to develop the types of skills needed to secure today's higher paying jobs for all our kids. Instead of inviting a promising tomorrow, Republicans have chosen to focus on a bad bill with no future today.

On the House floor Republicans have offered the No Rate Regulation Act. If passed it

could undermine key provisions in the FCC's Open Internet order and harm the Commission's ability to protect consumers. This bill simply fails to define a clear definition and experts assert that the bill could result in unintended consequences. The No Rate Regulation Act is overly broad and extends far beyond the goals of codifying the FCC's forbearance from applying provisions of the Communications Act related to tariffs, rate approval, or other forms of utility regulation. The FCC should not be stymied in their participation of mergers and acquisitions like the Bright House/TWC/Charter proposal. For example, I have said that BHN's Connect2Compete Program should be maintained, but as written, this legislation could undermine the FCC's ability to encourage customer service agreements that protect the most vulnerable.

We have seen the Comcast Universal merger approval include the supply of an affordable internet program called the Internet Essentials. These stipulations are important and should be maintained in other deals moving forward.

Mr. Chair, today I will vote against this Republican bill that could undermine key provisions in the FCC's Open Internet Order and harm the FCC's ability to protect consumers. We should not be undermining the FCC. This legislation could exacerbate already negative consequences for my neighbors in the Tampa Bay area. I will continue work to protect consumers and neighbors in my community and vote no on the No Rate Regulation Act.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2666 the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act. Both Republicans and Democrats agree that the FCC should not have the authority to establish monthly rates for customers but I cannot vote in favor of this bill. Republicans crafted a poorly written and overly broad bill that threatens consumer protections. This is not the first time this Republican majority Congress has introduced legislation that is really a guise to strip administrative authority from agencies and to weaken consumer protection laws. I will continue to fight efforts to erode consumer rights and protections.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, printed in the bill, shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 2666

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the “No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act”.*

**SEC. 2. REGULATION OF BROADBAND RATES PROHIBITED.**

*Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Communications Commission may not regulate the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.*

**SEC. 3. EXCEPTIONS.**

*Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the authority of the Commission to—*

*(1) condition receipt of universal service support under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) by a provider of broadband Internet access service on the regulation of the rates charged by such provider for the supported service;*

*(2) enforce subpart Y of part 64 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to truth-in-billing requirements); or*

*(3) enforce section 8.9 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to paid prioritization).*

**SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

*For purposes of this Act, broadband Internet access service shall not be construed to include data roaming or interconnection.*

**SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

*In this Act:*

*(1) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term “broadband Internet access service” has the meaning given such term in the rules adopted in the Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling, and Order that was adopted by the Commission on February 26, 2015 (FCC 15–24).*

*(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.*

*(3) RATE.—The term “rate” means the amount charged by a provider of broadband Internet access service for the delivery of broadband Internet traffic.*

*(4) REGULATION.—The term “regulation” or “regulate” means, with respect to a rate, the use by the Commission of rulemaking or enforcement authority to establish, declare, or review the reasonableness of such rate.*

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114–490. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 1 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114–490.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN), I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 20, strike “; or” and insert a semicolon.

Page 3, line 22, strike the period and insert “; or”.

Page 3, after line 22, insert the following:

(4) promulgate regulations that require a television broadcast station, AM or FM radio broadcast station, cable operator, direct broadcast satellite service provider, or satellite digital audio radio service provider, to the extent such station, operator, or provider is required to make material in its public inspection file available on, or upload such material to, an Internet website, to make such material available or upload such material in a format that is machine-readable, such that the format supports the automated searching for particular text within

and among documents, the bulk downloading of data contained in such material, the aggregation, manipulation, sorting, and analysis of the data contained in such material, and such other functionality as the Commission considers appropriate.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment that will make it easier for the American people to figure out who is trying to influence their vote through campaign ads.

Right now, when someone is placing a political commercial on the air, the TV station is required to upload to the FCC public site information that identifies the name of the ad's sponsor, the duration of the ad, and the cost of the ad. But the FCC's site is cumbersome, slow, and impossible to search, which defeats the purpose of this requirement.

This amendment clarifies that nothing in the underlying bill will prevent the FCC from requiring those entities that must submit a public inspection file to do so in a machine-readable format, which would guarantee that it is easily sortable, searchable, and downloadable.

Adopting the Luján amendment will send a message to the FCC that there is strong congressional support for making this information more accessible so that the American people have at least a chance to figure out who is trying to influence our elections.

Furthermore, this amendment would fix a real-world problem, unlike the underlying bill, which is a vague solution in search of a nonexistent problem.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment states that nothing in the bill shall affect the FCC's authority to require that TV and radio stations and video and audio satellite providers make their public inspection files available online or in a machine-readable format.

Mr. Chairman, I was in the radio business for 21 years. I would guess I am probably one of the few, if only, people who have actually had to maintain a public file.

I don't know if the gentleman knows all the things that are in those public files. I would be happy to go through the very long list of them.

I don't think the way the amendment is constructed is perhaps what he is seeking. I understand the part about public disclosure of time purchase, who is purchasing it, and all of that.

But the public file includes all FCC authorizations, applications and re-

lated materials, contour maps, ownership reports and related materials, portions of Equal Employment Opportunity file, the public and broadcasting manual itself, children's television programming reports, DTV transition education reports, citizen agreements, then the political file, letters and emails from the public, material relating to FCC investigations and complaints, issues/program lists, donor lists for noncommercial educational channels, records concerning children's programming commercial limits, local public notice certifications and announcements, time brokerage agreements, must-carry or retransmission consents elections, joint sales agreements, and it goes on and on.

Ours was a full drawer. We were just a little AM and FM radio station, and it was a full drawer in a filing cabinet.

By the way, if you didn't have each file in the proper order, you could be fined. You had to have the political catechism in there. You had to have all these things.

I understand what the gentleman is going for, and I am for disclosure. We had to do it. We did it. People came and looked at the file. It was all open and transparent, and now it does have to be online already.

I just think this is an inappropriate place to go down this other path, when we are dealing with rate regulation of the Internet. I realize the gentleman cares passionately about the political disclosure issue, but I would just argue, Mr. Chair, that this is the wrong place.

I think the amendment is clumsily worded in terms of the scope and magnitude that would occur in terms of making all this machine-readable. Because I am thinking about a little AM radio station out there that is barely keeping the doors open, and we are going to tell them they have got to have their contour maps machine-readable? I don't even know how to do that. I know some programs like Adobe you can click, and some you can't. I don't know. It is a pretty big new requirement on these stations.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the Luján, Pallone, Yarmuth, and Clarke amendment.

This commonsense amendment would ensure that the FCC can easily determine who is paying for political ads. More specifically, this amendment would guarantee that nothing in this bill would prevent the FCC from requiring that TV broadcast stations, AM and FM radio broadcast stations, cable operators, direct broadcast satellite service providers, or satellite digital audio radio service providers

upload the public inspection file in the format that is machine-readable.

Unfortunately, there is a large amount of unlimited money moving through our electoral system. This amendment gives all voters the peace of mind of knowing our elections are fair and transparent.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First, in response to Chairman WALDEN—and I know that he shares my interest in creating effective disclosure of campaign contributions and ads—this amendment does not mandate any particular form of machine-readable information. It only says that the Commission is not prohibited from requiring that certain parts of information are readable in machine format.

I want to read a few quotes on disclosure:

“Disclosure requirements deter actual corruption and avoid the appearance of corruption by exposing large contributions and expenditures to the light of publicity.”

“With modern technology, disclosure now offers a particularly effective means of arming the voting public with information.”

“Today, given the Internet, disclosure offers much more robust protections against corruption.”

“Because massive quantities of information can be accessed at the click of a mouse, disclosure is effective to a degree not possible at the time Buckley, or even McConnell, was decided.”

All of the quotes are from the majority opinion in *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, written by Chief Justice Roberts.

Now, I don't agree with the decision, but I sure do agree with his position that disclosure is critical to the integrity of our electoral system in the wake of this decision.

I believe that adopting the commonsense Lujan amendment shows that Congress values transparency in government and will help restore a level of trust with the public.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise for my closing statement to oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Again, I think it is overly broad. Beyond that, the gentleman from Kentucky kind of hit it on the head when he said that this doesn't require the FCC to do anything in terms of the machine-readable technology and all. Because, in theory, in reality, the way it is written, it basically says: nothing in this bill prevents them from doing something, by the way, which they can already do.

The whole point, though, is this has nothing to do with the issue at hand in

the legislation. Our constituents really believe we should take one issue at a time.

The issue here is about controlling a bureaucracy from doing something it has never had the power to do before: giving clarity in the marketplace, that they cannot regulate the rates of Internet service providers, which, in effect, has the ability of regulating innovation in new offerings for consumers.

So I must oppose this amendment and ask my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114-490.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 20, strike “; or” and insert a semicolon.

Page 3, line 22, strike the period and insert “; or”.

Page 3, after line 22, insert the following:

(4) act in the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 2666. This amendment would help to rein in some of the unintended consequences of the bill by preserving the FCC’s authority to act in the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

The public interest is a key principle that the Commission has used to protect consumers since Congress first created the agency in 1934, and it is just as important today.

The FCC has consistently looked to the public interest standard when taking action to protect consumers, foster innovation, and increase competition.

The standard has been a hallmark of many of the most important policies of the Commission. To give you a sense, the words “public interest” appear over 100 times in the Communications Act. That is 100 times. That is how pervasive it is.

Even with the amended version of the bill that was reported out of com-

mittee, serious concerns remain that the bill is going to have far-reaching and unintended consequences.

For example, it could be that the Commission would no longer be able to investigate data caps, pay for privacy practices.

The Commission could also lose further protections for various types of unfair and discriminatory practices that affect how much they pay for broadband.

My amendment would seek to limit some of those unintended consequences by ensuring that the Commission continues to have the authority that has historically served it so well.

Moreover, by preserving the FCC’s authority to act in the public interest, my amendment would safeguard the broad aims that the Communication Act embodies.

□ 1030

This amendment would continue to appropriately focus the FCC toward promoting the public good. I urge my Members to support it.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I must rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, this one is a little more insidious than the last one because what it does is precisely what the gentleman says it does. It says, “Nothing in this act can affect the FCC’s authority to act in the public interest, convenience, or necessity.”

And he is right. That term of art is all over communications law. Let me make that clear: all over communications—it is so broad, you can drive a rate-regulated truck back through it, a de facto after-the-fact regulation. And that is the point.

When you give the bureaucracy wide-open language that says “in the public interest,” it sounds good on its face, but the practical impact for someone who wants to regulate, it is on their own authority, they go, well, we think that rate is in the public interest to bring down after the fact.

See, then what we have done is empower others unelected to make decisions based on a term of art which, while it may be pervasive, is also wide open. That is what we are trying to avoid here, Mr. Chairman.

See, the FCC could say, we are not going to rate regulate unless we want to rate regulate because we will determine on our own whether it is in the public interest to do so.

All that sounds good, “public interest” sounds good, and it is good and it is an important part of our law, but in this case, remember where we start. Until Chairman Wheeler was directed, in effect, by the White House to treat

the Internet like an old utility, none of this was regulated. That is the vibrant Internet we have today, and that is what Republicans are trying to preserve, an open Internet.

We are all with you on blocking and throttling and pay prioritization and those issues. I have got draft legislation to legally say no to all of that. But when it comes to suffocating innovation in the marketplace and new offerings to consumers and really the vibrant competition that has been out here to this point, we have to draw a line with our friends.

They say you don’t want to tariff in advance, and we are with them on that, but the worst thing—the worst thing—when you are in business is the uncertainty of after-the-fact decisionmaking by your regulator—after-the-fact decisionmaking by your regulator. Unfortunately, Mr. MCNERNEY’s proposal here, his amendment would allow that door to remain open, allow the agency to have this unfettered authority.

Now, we have got provisions throughout the bill and in other law, both at State and Federal level, to protect consumers against fraud and to protect consumers on truth-in-billing. All those things are there. Those protections remain.

Our sole purpose here and why we have been very narrow and specific and clear in our legislation is rate regulation is not something the FCC should take on. Consumers should have that power and authority, and people who want to innovate against the giant companies out there should be able to enter that marketplace with creative new packages that allow consumers to make choices and not have to go to Washington, D.C., and seek privilege and an audience with the chairman to find out if what they are proposing might be okay after the fact if they do it.

Mr. Chairman, I have to rise in opposition to Mr. MCNERNEY’s amendment. He is a good member of the committee. I like working with him, but in this case, the amendment is horribly flawed and would do grave damage to the marketplace.

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate—or I sort of appreciate the chairman’s comments, and I do appreciate the idea of broadness here; but if you look at what the actual bill says, “may not regulate rates charged for broadband Internet services,” that is the definition of broad. You can’t get any broader than that. So we want to rein that in a little bit.

We don’t want unintended consequences out here, but let me say what my amendment says. “Act in the public interest, convenience, and necessity.”

Would the chairman like it if I took out “convenience”? Should I just say

“act in the public interest and necessity”? Would that be good enough, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. WALDEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McNERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WALDEN. What I think would be really good is you withdraw your amendment and vote for the underlying bill that is really clear in its scope and faith and is a really good legislative product.

Mr. McNERNEY. Well, again, I appreciate the chairman’s and Mr. KINZINGER’s work on this, and I appreciate working with the chairman on this, but I am going to have to insist that we look at this amendment and take it seriously. I do want to protect the public interest. That is really what this comes down to.

Again, the term shows up 100 times in the act, so let’s not turn our back on the intent of the act. Let’s move forward in a way that protects the public interest.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I would again urge opposition to the amendment of the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY).

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY).

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 114-490 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. YARMUTH of Kentucky.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. McNERNEY of California.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 231, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 150]

AYES—179

Adams	Fudge	Moore
Aguilar	Gabbard	Moulton
Ashford	Gallo	Murphy (FL)
Beatty	Garamendi	Napolitano
Becerra	Gibson	Neal
Bera	Graham	Nolan
Beyer	Grayson	Norcross
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Pallone
Bonamici	Grijalva	Pascrell
Boyle, Brendan F.	Gutiérrez	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Hahn	Peters
Brown (FL)	Hastings	Peterson
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Butterfield	Higgins	Pocan
Capps	Himes	Polis
Capuano	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Cárdenas	Honda	Quigley
Carney	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Carson (IN)	Huffman	Richmond
Cartwright	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Issa	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Jackson Lee	Ruppersberger
Chaffetz	Jeffries	Rush
Chu, Judy	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Ciulline	Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda T.
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta
Clarke (NY)	Keating	Sarbanes
Clay	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Kennedy	Schiff
Clyburn	Kildee	Schrader
Cohen	Kilmer	Scott (VA)
Conyers	Kind	Scott, David
Cooper	Kirkpatrick	Serrano
Costa	Kuster	Sewell (AL)
Courtney	Langevin	Sherman
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Sinema
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Sinema
Cummings	Lawrence	Sires
Davis (CA)	Lee	Slaughter
Davis, Danny	Levin	Smith (WA)
DeFazio	Lewis	Speier
DeGette	Lipinski	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	Loeb	Takai
DeBene	Loeb	Takano
DeSaulnier	Lofgren	Takano
Deutch	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	Lowe	Titus
Doggett	Lujan Grisham	Tonko
Doyle, Michael F.	(NM)	Torres
Duckworth	Lujan, Ben Ray	Van Hollen
Edwards	(NM)	Vargas
Ellison	Lynch	Veasey
Eshoo	Maloney,	Vela
Esty	Carolyn	Velázquez
Farenthold	Maloney, Sean	Visclosky
Farr	Matsui	Walz
Foster	McCollum	Wasserman
Frankel (FL)	McDermott	Schultz
	McGovern	Watson Coleman
	McNerney	Welch
	Meeks	Wilson (FL)
	Meng	Yarmuth

NOES—231

Abraham	Bridenstine	Costello (PA)
Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Cramer
Allen	Brooks (IN)	Crawford
Amash	Buchanan	Crenshaw
Amodei	Buck	Culberson
Babin	Bucshon	Curbelo (FL)
Barletta	Burgess	Davis, Rodney
Barr	Byrne	Denham
Barton	Calvert	Dent
Benishek	Carter (GA)	DeSantis
Bilirakis	Carter (TX)	Diaz-Balart
Bishop (MI)	Chabot	Dold
Bishop (UT)	Clawson (FL)	Donovan
Blackburn	Coffman	Duffy
Blum	Cole	Duncan (TN)
Bost	Collins (GA)	Ellmers (NC)
Boustany	Comstock	Emmer (MN)
Brady (TX)	Conaway	Fitzpatrick
Brat	Cook	Fleischmann

Fleming	LoBiondo	Rokita
Flores	Long	Rooney (FL)
Forbes	Loudermilk	Ros-Lehtinen
Fortenberry	Love	Roskam
Fox	Lucas	Ross
Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer	Rothfus
Frelinghuysen	Lummis	Rouzer
Garrett	MacArthur	Royce
Gibbs	Marino	Russell
Gohmert	Massie	Salmon
Goodlatte	McCarthy	Sanford
Gosar	McCaul	Scalise
Gowdy	McClintock	Schweikert
Granger	McHenry	Scott, Austin
Graves (GA)	McKinley	Sensenbrenner
Graves (LA)	McMorris	Sessions
Graves (MO)	Rodgers	Shimkus
Griffith	McSally	Shuster
Grothman	Meadows	Smith (MO)
Guinta	Meehan	Smith (NE)
Guthrie	Messer	Smith (NJ)
Hardy	Mica	Smith (TX)
Harper	Miller (FL)	Stefanik
Harris	Miller (MI)	Stewart
Hartzler	Moolenaar	Stutzman
Heck (NV)	Mooney (WV)	Thompson (PA)
Hensarling	Mullin	Thornberry
Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney	Tiberi
Hice, Jody B.	Murphy (PA)	Tipton
Hill	Neugebauer	Trott
Holding	Newhouse	Turner
Hudson	Noem	Upton
Huelskamp	Nugent	Valadao
Huizenga (MI)	Nunes	Wagner
Hultgren	Olson	Walberg
Hunter	Palazzo	Walden
Hurd (TX)	Palmer	Walker
Hurt (VA)	Paulsen	Walorski
Jenkins (KS)	Pearce	Walters, Mimi
Jenkins (WV)	Perry	Weber (TX)
Johnson (OH)	Pittenger	Webster (FL)
Johnson, Sam	Pitts	Wenstrup
Jolly	Poe (TX)	Westerman
Jordan	Poliquin	Westmoreland
Joyce	Pompeo	Whitfield
Katko	Posey	Williams
Kelly (MS)	Price, Tom	Wilson (SC)
Kelly (PA)	Ratcliffe	Wittman
King (IA)	Reed	Womack
King (NY)	Reichert	Woodall
Kinzinger (IL)	Renacci	Yoder
Kline	Ribble	Yoho
Knight	Rice (SC)	Young (AK)
Labrador	Rigell	Young (IA)
LaHood	Roby	Young (IN)
LaMalfa	Roe (TN)	Zeldin
Lamborn	Rogers (AL)	Zinke
Lance	Rogers (KY)	
Latta	Rohrabacher	

NOT VOTING—23

Bass	Fattah	Pelosi
Black	Fincher	Rangel
Collins (NY)	Hanna	Simpson
Connolly	Jones	Stivers
Delaney	Lieu, Ted	Thompson (CA)
DesJarlais	Marchant	Tsongas
Duncan (SC)	Nadler	Waters, Maxine
Engel	Payne	

□ 1056

Ms. STEFANIK, Messrs. ALLEN, NUGENT, YOUNG of Indiana, GROTHMAN, and MESSER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. FARENTHOLD, ISSA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mr. POLIS changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. SESSIONS was allowed to speak out of order.)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 1206, H.R. 3724, H.R. 4885, AND H.R. 4890

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, yesterday, the Rules Committee issued four announcements outlining the amendment processes for:

H.R. 1206, No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act;

H.R. 3724, Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act;

H.R. 4885, IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending Act; and

H.R. 4890, a bill to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy.

The amendment deadline for each bill has been set for 10 a.m. on Monday, April 18. For more details and the text of the bill, please contact me or visit the Rules Committee Web site.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 231, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 151]

AYES—173

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings

Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Gibson  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer

Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lipinski  
Loebbeck  
Lofgren  
Lowe  
Lujan Grisham  
Lujan, Ben Ray  
Lynch  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney

Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rice (NY)

Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishek  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brat  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curbushon  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
Diaz-Balart  
Dold  
Donovan  
Duffy  
Duncan (TN)  
Eilmlers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Fox  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger

Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaull  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)

NOES—231

Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pearce  
Perry  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Sires  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)

Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—29

Black  
Brady (TX)  
Bridenstine  
Cárdenas  
Collins (NY)  
Connolly  
Delaney  
DesJarlais  
Duncan (SC)  
Engel

Fattah  
Fincher  
Hanna  
Jones  
Kildee  
Lieu, Ted  
Marchant  
Nadler  
Paulsen  
Payne

Pelosi  
Rangel  
Schweikert  
Simpson  
Stivers  
Thompson (CA)  
Veasey  
Wagner  
Walz

□ 1102

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 151, I was meeting with a constituent. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2666) to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service, and, pursuant to House Resolution 672, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. I am in its current form.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Yarmuth moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2666 to the Committee on Energy Commerce with instructions to report the same

back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ Upon enactment of this Act it shall be in order to consider in the House of Representatives the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 125) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2017 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2018 through 2026. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and on any amendment thereto to adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit.

Mr. WALDEN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Ladies and gentlemen, today, April 15, is the deadline for Congress to enact a budget resolution; but here we are, set to leave town without taking any action.

To their credit, Republicans did write a budget and it was approved by their members of the Budget Committee. So why, after months of promises of a return to regular order, would Speaker RYAN refuse to allow a floor vote on the Republican budget, the budget of his own party, the party he leads?

Our obligation here in Congress is to control the purse strings of the country. So why would a former Budget Committee chair not want a vote on his party's budget, unless he didn't want people to know what is inside of it.

I don't blame him. Our Democratic budget invests in education, infrastructure, medical research, job training, job creation, American priorities that improve our communities today and increase revenue in the future. It is why they are called investments. In contrast, the Republicans took the European austerity approach: eviscerating each of those investments and taking health coverage away from 20 million Americans, ending Medicare as we know it, and jeopardizing the retirement of millions of Americans. It also makes us less competitive, and encourages companies to ship jobs overseas.

Nobody knows the backlash from this rebuke of American values better than

Speaker RYAN, because the budget he wrote 4 years ago, when he was running for Vice President, had to be disavowed by his Presidential candidate running mate, Mitt Romney. It was so abhorrent to the American people that even his own running mate couldn't support it.

So I get it, Mr. Speaker. I like your budget even less than you do. But you have it, and the people deserve to know what is in it and where their Representatives stand on it.

You know, earlier this week, Speaker RYAN gave a speech explaining why he wasn't going to be a candidate for President, and he said one of the reasons was we have too much work to do here in Congress.

Well, he sure is right. So why are we here, and why were we here yesterday and the day before working on bills that have no consequence to the American people when we should be doing the most important business we can, and that is to decide how much money we are going to spend and where for the American people.

This motion to recommit is simple. It says, upon the bill's passage, we will bring the Republican budget to the floor.

So don't hide behind procedural roadblocks to block debate. If you believe in your budget, make the case before the cameras and the American people. Let them see the contrast in our parties' values so they can decide for themselves.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order against the motion because the instruction contains matter in the jurisdiction of a committee to which the bill was not referred, thus violating clause 7 of rule XVI, which requires the amendment to be germane to the measure being amended.

Committee jurisdiction is a central test of germaneness, and I am afraid I must insist on my point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from Oregon makes a point of order that the instructions proposed in the motion to recommit offered by the gentleman from Kentucky are not germane.

Clause 7 of rule XVI—the germaneness rule—provides that no proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

One of the central tenets of the germaneness rule is that an amendment may not introduce matter within the jurisdiction of a committee not represented in the pending measure.

The bill, H.R. 2666, as amended, addresses rates for broadband Internet

access service, which is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The instructions in the motion to recommit propose an amendment consisting of a special order of business of the House, which is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules.

As the Chair ruled in similar proceedings yesterday, the instructions in the motion to recommit are not germane because they are not within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Accordingly, the motion to recommit is not germane. The point of order is sustained, and the motion is not in order.

The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 173, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 152]

AYES—241

Abraham	Donovan	Jolly
Aderholt	Duffy	Jordan
Allen	Duncan (TN)	Joyce
Amash	Elmgers (NC)	Katko
Amodei	Emmer (MN)	Kelly (MS)
Babin	Farenthold	Kelly (PA)
Barletta	Fitzpatrick	King (IA)
Barr	Fleischmann	King (NY)
Barton	Fleming	Kinzinger (IL)
Benishek	Flores	Kline
Bilirakis	Forbes	Knight
Bishop (MI)	Fortenberry	Labrador
Bishop (UT)	Fox	LaHood
Blackburn	Franks (AZ)	LaMalfa
Blum	Frelinghuysen	Lamborn
Bost	Garrett	Lance
Boustany	Gibbs	Latta
Brady (TX)	Gibson	LoBiondo
Brat	Gohmert	Long
Bridenstine	Goodlatte	Loudermilk
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	Love
Brooks (IN)	Gowdy	Lucas
Buchanan	Granger	Luetkemeyer
Buck	Graves (GA)	Lummis
Bucshon	Graves (LA)	MacArthur
Burgess	Graves (MO)	Marino
Byrne	Griffith	Massie
Calvert	Grothman	McCarthy
Carter (GA)	Guinta	McCaul
Carter (TX)	Guthrie	McClintock
Chabot	Hardy	McHenry
Chaffetz	Harper	McKinley
Clawson (FL)	Harris	McMorris
Coffman	Hartzler	Rodgers
Cole	Heck (NV)	McSally
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	Meadows
Comstock	Herrera Beutler	Meehan
Conaway	Hice, Jody B.	Messer
Cook	Hill	Mica
Costa	Holding	Miller (FL)
Costello (PA)	Hudson	Miller (MI)
Cramer	Huelskamp	Mooleenaar
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Mooney (WV)
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Mullin
Culberson	Hunter	Mulvaney
Curbelo (FL)	Hurd (TX)	Murphy (PA)
Davis, Rodney	Hurt (VA)	Neugebauer
Denham	Issa	Newhouse
Dent	Jenkins (KS)	Noem
DeSantis	Jenkins (WV)	Nugent
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Nunes
Dold	Johnson, Sam	Olson



Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen

Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shinkus  
Shuster  
Sinema  
Sires  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton

Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

Engel  
Fattah  
Fincher  
Hanna  
Jones

Lieu, Ted  
Marchant  
Nadler  
Payne  
Pelosi

Rangel  
Simpson  
Thompson (CA)

□ 1126

So the bill was passed.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:  
Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 152 on H.R. 2666, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 150 for passage of the Yarmuth Amendment No. 2, rollcall No. 151 for passage of the McNerney Amendment No. 3, rollcall No. 152 for final passage of H.R. 2666 which took place Friday, April 15, 2016, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 150, the Yarmuth Amendment No. 2, on rollcall No. 151, the McNerney Amendment No. 3. I would have voted “aye” on rollcall No. 152 for final passage of H.R. 2666.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, 2016, I was absent and was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

- Rollcall No. 150—“No.”
- Rollcall No. 151—“No.”
- Rollcall No. 152—“No.”

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader about the schedule for the week to come.

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

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and at noon for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. No votes are expected in the House on Friday.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business today.

Mr. Speaker, since next Monday is Tax Day, the House will also consider four commonsense bills aimed at protecting all taxpayers.

First will be H.R. 1206, the No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act, sponsored by Representative DAVID ROUZER, and will ensure that IRS employees—the very people who are responsible for col-

lecting taxes from every American—pay their own taxes.

H.R. 4885, the IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending Act, sponsored by Representative JASON SMITH, will require fees collected by the IRS to be subject to congressional appropriations so that there is proper oversight into how the taxpayer money is spent.

H.R. 3724, the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act, sponsored by Representative KRISTI NOEM, will prohibit the IRS from rehiring someone who has been fired for cause.

□ 1130

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4890, the IRS Bonuses Tied to Measurable Metrics Act, sponsored by Representative PAT MEEHAN, will ban IRS bonuses until they can demonstrate improved customer service. It just doesn't get any more common sense than that.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for that information. I want to ask him just one question on one of those commonsense bills that seeks to remove those employees who work for the IRS who collect taxes, that if they are delinquent, they will be removed.

Does that apply to the Congress of the United States as well which levies those taxes, that if we have any Members who are delinquent, that they, too, would be removed?

I yield to my friend.

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

The bill solely deals with the IRS, but he can always offer an amendment.

Mr. HOYER. I may do that.

First of all, let me thank the gentleman. We are confronting a crisis, as the gentleman so well knows, in Puerto Rico. On May 1, they will be unable to pay their debts.

I want to thank the majority leader who has been leading to reach a bipartisan solution. Unfortunately, as the majority leader and I both know, there was a failure in committee this week to move the bill forward. But I want to reiterate my appreciation to the gentleman from California, the majority leader, for his efforts to make sure that we do, in fact, address this issue before May 1. I want to thank him for that.

It is critical that we do so, it is critical that we do so in a bipartisan fashion, and it is critical to have a bill that both sides can support. I have told the majority leader, and I reiterate, we hope that on both restructuring and the composition and the authority of a board of review, an oversight board, that we can come to an agreement so that we can have such a vote and have it in the near future.

Secondly, can the majority leader tell me where we are? I know the budget has been reported out of committee. The gentleman talks about Tax Day. Obviously, we are now at the point when a budget was expected to be brought to the floor. Can the majority

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Delaney

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Duncan (SC)

leader tell me where we stand on the budget process and the budget coming to the floor of the House of Representatives?

I yield to my friend.

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

I will first touch on Puerto Rico. I thank the gentleman for his work on that. Let me start by saying that any proposal that the House considers cannot be a bailout of Puerto Rico.

I know the committee had a markup and they postponed the vote on it simply because Treasury was still negotiating. We had heard from those on your side of the aisle that they did not want to pursue or continue until Treasury was done negotiating. So we look forward to continue solving this problem in a bipartisan manner.

I also understand the gentleman asking about the budget. I do believe the budget process is an important one, and we are continuing to work through it. It is out of the committee, and I look forward to getting it onto the floor.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Let me mention two other items briefly because I know the gentleman has a time constraint. Zika and Ebola continue to be challenges to the health of Americans and, indeed, the health of the international community as well.

Obviously, we previously committed a significant sum of money to meet the Ebola crisis, which still remains with us. It is not on the front burner as it was for a period of time, but it is, nevertheless, as the gentleman knows, a very significant and serious one.

In addition, of course, we have the crisis that Zika poses to the health and welfare not only of women who either are or may become pregnant, but also to others as well.

Can the gentleman tell me where the funding—as the gentleman knows, the administration transferred some funds out of the money that was dedicated to Ebola. And I want to thank the gentleman for having a hearing, which he invited me. We joined in having that hearing, and we had Secretary Burwell of HHS, Tony Fauci of NIH, and Dr. Frieden of CDC—a very important hearing. They have transferred some money.

Does the gentleman have any information as to when we might move forward, both on backfilling the money that has been taken from Ebola and responding to the administration's request for funding for response to Zika?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I do think the gentleman's work is bipartisan on our challenge with Zika and as we continue to move forward with it.

First, I am very happy to see that the administration did take our advice last week and began using the unused Ebola

funding in our efforts to combat Zika. I know that was more than half a billion dollars. That money is going to go a long way to containing the disease. I had met with the chairman of Appropriations just today. They are continuing to look and monitor. We believe this money will take us throughout the rest of this fiscal year, but we will look and monitor where we need it and what we need to move forward.

As the gentleman knows, every day we continue to learn more about Zika. We are committed on this side, and I know on your side as well, to make sure that we eradicate this problem from ever furthering in America.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I look forward to working with him on both—continuing to focus on Ebola, while at the same time we focus on the immediate threat of Zika.

The last comment I would make, Mr. Speaker, is that Members ought to be disabused of the concept—and I have heard it, as well as the gentleman has heard it—that the legislation under consideration for Puerto Rico is a bailout. There is no money going to Puerto Rico. There is no guarantee of any of their indebtedness going from the United States to Puerto Rico.

This is simply whether or not we can construct a mechanism so that they can restructure their debt, which may prolong the period of time in which the debt is paid off. It may reduce by some amount the debt that is repaid. But as the gentleman knows—and he is shaking his head in agreement—we are not contemplating nor are we moving forward on a bailout for Puerto Rico.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016, TO MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, April 18, 2016, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia? There was no objection.

#### RECOGNIZING TOM BOWERS

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Tom Bowers. Tom is a Commonwealth attorney for the city of Salem, Virginia, who today, in a formal award ceremony at Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters, is receiving the Richmond FBI's 2015 Direc-

tor's Community Leadership Award for his efforts to organize a Heroin Prevention Initiative in the Roanoke, Virginia, area.

Regrettably, the growing epidemic of heroin use is a plague on communities throughout the United States. Addressing this nationwide problem will require expanded coordination and involvement by local, State, and Federal governments, as well as law enforcement agencies and healthcare professionals.

I applaud Commonwealth Attorney Bowers and those working for him on the Heroin Prevention Initiative for their efforts to combat the heroin epidemic by bringing awareness to the pervasiveness of prescription drug and heroin use among youth in our area and helping to alleviate the damage to our community.

Others involved in this important work in this initiative include the Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition, the Prevention Council of Roanoke County, the Virginia State Police, the City of Roanoke Police Department, the Vinton Police Department, and the Roanoke County Police Department.

I also would note, of course, that Tom Bowers represents the city of Salem, and the city of Salem folks are involved as well.

Congratulations to Commonwealth Attorney Bowers on being presented the Richmond FBI's 2015 Director's Community Leadership Award.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Irvington, New Jersey, Christmas Day, December 25, 2013: Pierre Clervoyant, Jr., 34 years old; Woodley Daniel, 32; Mushir Cureton, 27.

Rochester, New York, August 19, 2015: Johnny Johnson, 25 years old; Rayquan Manigault, 19; Jonah Barley, 17.

Hesston, Kansas, February 25, 2016: Brian Sadowsky, 43 years old; Josh Higbee, 31; Renee Benjamin, 30.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 9, 2016: Tina Shelton, 37 years old; Jerry Shelton, 35; Brittany Powell, 27; Shada Mahone, 26; Chanutta Powell, 25.

Waynesville, Indiana, May 11, 2013: Kathryn Burton, 53 years old; Aaron T. Cross, 41; Shawn Burton, 41; Thomas W. Smith, 39.

#### VA ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge the Senate to quickly act on House-passed VA accountability legislation.

According to recent VA Inspector General reports, wait time manipulation occurred at 40 VA facilities in 19 States. Yet, almost no one has seriously been held accountable for these failures.

This isn't even including the most egregious example of failures, like the VA employee who was convicted of charges related to armed robbery and still couldn't be fired.

The House has passed legislation to get at the root of this problem, and it is past time the Senate acts.

H.R. 1994, the VA Accountability Act, contains my legislation that forces VA employees to solve problems for veterans. If they can't, then the VA needs to make room for someone who can. Our veterans are too important to us, and they are counting on Congress to deliver them the care they need and deserve.

We have to send the VA accountability legislation to the President's desk now.

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HONORING JUDGE FREDERICK P. AGUIRRE

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Frederick P. Aguirre, and to congratulate him for his service.

Judge Aguirre is a member of the Latino community and a judge of the Superior Court of Orange County. He was born and raised in Fullerton, California, and he is the grandson of Mexican immigrants.

Judge Aguirre graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in history, and he earned his law degree at UCLA. His career in public advocacy began when he attended the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC. He began to attend the meetings, and by the time he was a senior in high school, he was the president-elect of the local chapter.

He is the cofounder of the Hispanic Association of Lawyers in Orange County; the Hispanic Advisory Council for Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA as we know it; the founder and the vice president of the Leadership Academy of the Superior Court; and the president of Latino Advocates for Education.

I know him best because he honors our veterans every year in a very large ceremony, calling out their service in the different wars.

I am honored to recognize Judge Frederick Aguirre for his outstanding achievements within the Latino community, the Orange County community, amongst our veterans, and for all citizens.

□ 1145

OBAMACARE FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday, the Department of Labor finalized its fiduciary rule—or, as we could call it: ObamaCare for financial planning. This rule reclassifies and expands the scope of individuals who are considered “financial advisers” and adds the Department of Labor as a new regulator.

The investment advisory industry is already among the most regulated, but this rule will force a sweeping overhaul of the financial services industry. Most importantly, it will hurt middle class Americans.

This new rule change, which circumvents the Congress and the Constitution, will significantly raise legal and compliance costs, making it expensive, difficult, and impractical for companies like State Farm, which is headquartered in my congressional district, and their advising agents to continue to provide services to small businesses and hardworking customers.

Ultimately, this rule will drastically narrow the access that these families, who are trying to save for retirement, will have by making financial advice more expensive. It will even penalize small businesses that want to provide benefits for their employees, thereby discouraging small businesses from providing 401(k) plans.

I am committed to fighting the implementation of this rule, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

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EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week, we marked Equal Pay Day, which is the day more than 3 months into the year when women's earnings finally catch up to men's from the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, it all adds up—\$430,000. That is how much the average income loss is for a woman throughout her career as a result of this unfair wage gap. This means our mothers and our grandmothers get less for their retirement security, and there are more of them in poverty.

Inequality hurts the heart and it hurts the pocketbook. It hurts women and their families. That is why we need paycheck fairness, affordable child care, paid family leave, and retirement security.

When women succeed, America succeeds.

SUPPORTING THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the 14th consecutive year in order to speak out on behalf of the LGBTQ youth community. It is unacceptable that, in 2016, young people are still experiencing discrimination across this country based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Kaleb Lennon, a young transgender student in my district, sees this day as a chance to combat the bullying, the slurs, and the put-downs that these children face on a daily basis. I am proud to lend my voice to Kaleb's cause. It is our duty to speak out against the bigotry and hatred facing this community. We must celebrate the diversity in this country and reject all forms of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, this is my last year to take the floor and support these young people. I ask that, next year, my colleagues stand where I am and lend their voices to the support of the LGBTQ community.

Today, as youth across the country take a vow of silence to protest the silent response they see to bigotry, I ask one last time that you remember that, while you are silent, we here in Congress should not be.

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STEERING AND POLICY HEARING ON POVERTY

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight yesterday's Democratic Steering and Policy Committee hearing on the “Failure of Trickle-Down Economics in the War on Poverty.” The hearing highlighted the daily hardships that are faced by more than 46 million Americans. We know that too many families struggle to buy healthy food, to pay rent, and to access good-paying jobs.

I was very proud that, among the witnesses at the hearing—all of whom were phenomenal—was my constituent, Oakland resident Violet Henderson, who shared her personal story of overcoming poverty. After leaving, unfortunately, the criminal justice system, after being paroled, she told her story. She is a phenomenal individual who is raising her two children and is a student. She succeeded against overwhelming odds. Her story is a powerful example of resilience and dedication, which so many struggling Americans have.

It should be a call to action for Members of Congress to help more people like Violet by supporting policies that will end poverty. Yet our Republican colleagues continue to promote harmful cuts to critical safety net programs

despite knowing that these cuts will push more families over the edge; and the record of the members on Speaker RYAN's so-called Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility are just as bad, if not worse. Time and time again, they have voted to cut SNAP, to erode higher education funding and Pell Grants, and to weaken affordable housing programs.

Mr. Speaker, I insert in the RECORD Violet Henderson's testimony.

TESTIMONY OF VIOLET HENDERSON AT HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE HEARING: "THE FAILURE OF TRICKLE DOWN ECONOMICS IN THE WAR ON POVERTY," APRIL 14, 2016

Thank you Leader Pelosi, Congresswoman DeLauro, Congresswoman Edwards, and Whip Hoyer. Thank you to the other panelists up here with me. And I want to give a special thank-you to my Congresswoman, Congresswoman Barbara Lee. I'm here today because of you, Congresswoman Lee, both because you invited me to this hearing, but in a bigger sense, your leadership in Oakland and support of good reentry and economic policies has made it possible for me to escape poverty and live a life I am proud of and talk to you about today.

I am honored to be here, and grateful that you have given me the opportunity to speak about these issues. I am a worker, a mother, a grandmother, a formerly incarcerated person, a churchgoer, and a student.

I can speak only for myself but I hope that my testimony today can give voice to the millions of people who, like me, got caught up in the criminal justice system, worked incredibly hard to transform their lives, but still face lifelong stumbling blocks to financial stability. Unlike me, too many people who worked have never escaped poverty despite their hard work.

For me, like so many, the challenges started with childhood poverty. My father died when I was four years old. My mother had seven children to care for on her own and she really struggled. I grew up in the Aliso Village housing project in East Los Angeles. I never remember, as a child, having hope or vision about a bright future.

My "escape" came when I was fourteen years old. My 21-year-old boyfriend took me to Oakland and made me work the streets. At the time, I did not have the privilege of believing that I deserved more and better for my life. I was first arrested when I was sixteen years old but I was not seen as the victim of sex trafficking. I was treated like a criminal. And I became one. My next boyfriend, who was 25 years older than I was, taught me how to become a thief. When I was 19 years old I was sent to prison for grand theft and conspiracy of several hundred dollars in a street scam.

Because I was a high school dropout, I got my G.E.D. while I was in prison, and afterward I took college-level classes. For the first time in my life I was exposed to learning, and I loved it. While in prison I met a mother and a daughter who were incarcerated at the same time. This broke my heart because the daughter had a child whom she missed dearly and tried to escape from prison to get back to her child. The moment I heard that the daughter tried to escape, I made a decision to change my life. I wanted children but I was going to put them through that. I have never looked back.

Once I got out, I had two wonderful children and dedicated myself to supporting

them. I worked full-time as a cosmetologist but still did not earn enough to feed my family. For a while we survived because we had access to food stamps, which we needed even when I was working multiple full-time jobs. Then, thanks to an affirmative action program, I was able to join the local Laborers Union and I worked heavy construction for the next 20 years. It was hard physical labor but I was grateful for the opportunity because I earned more money than I had ever earned at any other job. It allowed me, as a single parent, to provide for my children, though we still struggled.

Working as a laborer became more and more difficult as I grew older and I looked for other work. When I was 54 years old I was denied office jobs because of my convictions, which were then 30 years old. Thanks to free reentry clean slate legal services—which Congresswoman Barbara Lee helped start in Oakland at the East Bay Community Law Center—I was able to clean up my record, and as a result I was able to get a great job, and thankfully one that this sixty-one-year-old body can handle. I'm coordinating the environmental/waste reduction program for a large city agency. It has been an inspiring and wonderful opportunity. I was even able to fulfill my life-long dream of becoming a homeowner and I bought a condo in Oakland.

A few years back I enrolled in a community college in Oakland to study Environmental Management, where I take night and evening classes. I have surprised myself by earning a 3.92 GPA, and was even more surprised when I was recently invited to transfer to the University of California at Berkeley.

But—and this is why we are here today—despite my successes, and despite working as hard as a person can work, I have worried constantly about keeping my head above water financially. I have had stable employment, and I have catapulted myself out of the deep poverty my family knew when I was a child. BUT still, even now, I can't say that I have feel economically secure. I struggled mightily to hold onto my condo through the economic recession. I am 61 years old and worried about being able to retire anytime soon.

I don't exactly know how to define "middle class" but it can't mean what I have done for the last 3 decades of my life: Working full time, being very frugal, but yet also constantly worrying about meeting my basic financial obligations and the threat of eviction. And I am someone who has been exceptionally lucky in terms of the abundance of learning and employment opportunities I have had! I cannot imagine the financial burdens of people who have been less fortunate or live in areas with fewer programs.

My plea today is that you work for policies that reward all hard working people in America with a fair chance to support their families. This is the challenge my children face even though both of them are resourceful, intelligent, and have good jobs. I pray that my children will be able to know economic prosperity, which at very least means living without constant worry about day-to-day about making it.

I sit before you as a very different person from who I was as lost and hopeless 16-year-old girl on the streets. It has been a long journey of seeking forgiveness for the harm I caused others, and healing myself I hope my story can inspire women who are now struggling on the path I was on thirty years ago. I want them to be encouraged to persevere and make positive changes in their lives, and to have faith in the system. But

the system must also have faith in us! Successful reentry requires government policies and programs that remove stumbling blocks to economic security.

I am exceptionally grateful to be here but I am not exceptional. I am an example of what's possible when we support people through smart and fair reentry and economic programs.

Thank you.

#### THE BUDGET AND THE ZIKA VIRUS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I had the privilege of participating with the Union Theological Center, in New York, to speak about our faith and our legislation. It causes me to come to the floor today to act upon that very strong faith in the Good Samaritan, which means that we are, in effect, our brothers' and sisters' keeper.

We have a devastating disease in the Zika virus that has now been announced as being more devastating than had been expected as it causes severe brain damage; and my State and Gulf States and other States across America are, in fact, in the target line. In Texas, for example, we recently had a Zika virus hearing, and our infectious disease experts told us that this is a devastating disease.

Yes, we can take money from someplace else and borrow from Peter to pay Paul, but I am asking this Congress, in the spirit of the Good Samaritan, to pass the President's emergency supplemental request of \$1.9 billion. I will be asking the Secretary of Health and Human Services to come to Texas and sit down with our law enforcement and health professionals in order to make a difference.

Finally, let me say, Mr. Speaker, that this is budget day, and we have not passed a budget. We will not pass a Republican budget because it kills education; it doesn't protect Social Security; and it is not in the spirit of a Good Samaritan. Let us do what is right—pass a budget for the American people and provide for those in the line of danger with the Zika virus.

#### MISSED BUDGET DEADLINE

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, there is something important for the American people to know: today is the day, April 15, that the law requires that Congress enact a budget resolution. Obviously, that ain't gonna happen. However, the Republican-led Budget Committee did share a budget blueprint with the GOP leadership. Ultimately, the leadership decided that it wasn't harsh enough on families, seniors, or children to pass through a Republican majority.

A Federal budget should be a reflection of our values as a Nation, and the details of the rumored proposal of a road to ruin that the Republicans want to release are just not good. Apparently, the attempt to end the Medicare guarantee for seniors, to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and to block investments in good-paying jobs was not sufficiently brutal enough for the radicals within the Republican Party. If this version of the budget could not muster enough support to be brought to the House floor for a vote, I fear what the Republican majority will actually propose.

House Democrats should continue to press for a budget that creates jobs, grows paychecks, and invests in the future of the American people, like we always do. We believe in those values, and that is what we will continue to fight for.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1670. An act to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1436. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

#### "A REPUBLIC, MADAM, IF YOU CAN KEEP IT"

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, being argued before the United States Supreme Court—the eight Justices remaining—is a case of *United States v. Texas*. It will take up the President's—I started to say his "executive order," but, actually, in the case of His Majesty's program on amnesty, there actually was no executive order that was signed by the President. Like you find in a lot of countries around the world where there is a dictator, there was a speech made and comments made by the ruler. Then the Secretary of Homeland Security—in our case, Secretary Johnson—wrote a series of memos to carry out the dictation from on high, and they overrode the laws that were duly passed by both Houses of Congress and by previous Presidents.

That is where we run into some trouble. That is where you run into trouble

in doing what Benjamin Franklin suggested might be possible to undo. As we know, a lady asked him at the Constitutional Convention, "What did you give us?" and he said, "A Republic, Madam, if you can keep it." One of the ways you do not keep representative government—self-government through the electing of Representatives to do the will of the people—is to go and have those elections and elect people who pass laws—I mean, the Founders wanted government to have gridlock.

As I mentioned before, Justice Scalia, in talking to a group of 50 or so senior citizens from my district, explained that the reason we are the freest country in history—or at least we used to be. The indicators indicate we are not the freest country anymore, but the reason we became, for a while there, the freest country in history was that the Founders did not trust government. They knew that, if it were too easy for a government to make laws or to just dictate what would happen in a country, then people would not be free.

They pledged their lives, liberty, sacred honor—they pledged everything. Many—most, actually—of the signers of the Declaration of Independence did not have very pleasant lives after the signing of that. Many lost their treasures, their fortunes. They never lost their sacred honor. They pledged it, and they never lost their sacred honor.

When you look at all of the sacrifices that were made to try to allow us to have representative, self-government—and as difficult as it is to pass a bill here in the House and have the Senate pass the same bill or a similar bill and, if they are not the same, to go to conference and try to work out a bill that is the same and get it passed in both Houses and send it to the President and get the President to sign it and have the Supreme Court say, yes, that it is consistent with the Constitution—that is very difficult.

All of those things have happened with regard to our immigration law that the President talked about, as any good ruler would; and, of course, as any good ruler, he had a Secretary of Homeland Security who did memos and said: Okay. We are going to just not pay any attention to that law. Here is the new law.

□ 1200

I was amazed to hear all of the major networks, including Fox News, talk about "Here is the new program," "Here is the new plan" after memos were concocted that overrode the laws that were duly passed in the House and Senate and signed previously by the President, who just overrode the law and said: We are not going to do that. We have, in their opinion, the discretion to just ignore the law and do what we want.

There is a good article out of the Hoover Institution journal written by

Michael McConnell. It just came out on April 15. I thought it did a good job of discussing these issues that are coming up before the Supreme Court on Monday.

Also, by way of further preface, the decision originated in the Southern District of Texas before United States District Judge Andrew Hanen, who happened to be one of the smartest people in his class and, actually, going through law school, one of the more liberal people in our class in law school, but a brilliant guy.

The more he delved into issues, the better lawyer he became. He was with one of the best firms in Houston. He has become a profoundly good arbitrator of justice as a United States judge.

So Judge Hanen wrote a very lengthy order in which he enjoined in carrying out the wishes that were dictated by the Secretary of Homeland Security because they violate the law. They say: We are ignoring the law. And the judge could see that there are massive consequences.

Although right here in this very room the President said that we are not going to cover people that are illegally in the country with his ObamaCare, it turns out that that wasn't true.

We have, apparently, massive numbers who get the income tax credit, whether legally or not. I have people constantly telling me they work for different income tax services and they provide services to people that don't have Social Security numbers that are legitimate.

They all know about the earned income tax credit, and they all want it on there. They all claim it. Whether they can tell you where their kids are or not, they want that credit.

There has been some massive projections of just how much in millions or billions is being paid out. We previously had reporting about, just in one little community, how numerous people claim to live in one home and claim to have as many as 30 kids or so in that home so they could claim all those earned income tax credits so they could get a big refund.

There is massive amounts of money that is being taken from those who earned it and given to those who have come into the country illegally.

I don't have the articles in front of me. There are articles out this week talking about that, actually, by more than the current unemployment rate—even the real rate, not the one that is just made up—it doesn't include the 94 million or so who are eligible to work, have tried to find work and given up trying to find work.

But either number you care to use, we have that percentage of people who have immigrated to America. Thank God for legal immigration.

Perhaps one in six people working in America are first-generation immigrants. That is great, but the trouble is

that a huge portion of those are illegal in the country.

The President can say all he wants to: Well, they are doing jobs that Americans won't do. When wages are lower that are being paid to Americans looking for work and working, it affects their homes.

It has affected their standard of living. It has caused people to be unemployed who would be employed if they weren't competing with people that took lower wages because they are here illegally.

Of course, yesterday we learned that the IRS Commissioner, the head of the IRS, Koskinen, is an accomplice. He has been complicit in the use of stolen, illegal Social Security numbers because he says: It is okay if they use stolen Social Security numbers for a good basis. We just don't want them to use it for a bad basis.

Apparently, for him, somebody filing a perjured and fraudulent income tax return and getting a refund of money that they very well may not be entitled to at all and should not be entitled to is one of the good purposes.

He clearly needs to be impeached and removed from office as head of the Internal Revenue Service. Hopefully, that will be happening in the near future.

There has to be consequences for violating the law, for helping others violate the law, by looking the other way and announcing you are looking the other way while people violate the law.

America is in trouble. We could very well be Greece right now if it weren't for the United States having the dollars, the international currency, and having our ability to print our own money, neither of which Greece has.

This case being taken up on Monday by the Supreme Court has the ability to basically make Congress a nullity by saying: You know what—look, the President was elected 8 years ago and 4 years ago.

So if he wants to just ignore laws and do what he wants that is not according to the law, shouldn't that be okay? It is incredible how some even who have advanced degrees are so uneducated on how you keep a republic.

Well, Michael McConnell says:

“One of the most closely watched cases before the Supreme Court this term is *United States v. Texas*, the immigration case that is scheduled to be argued on April 18. The Supreme Court surprised most observers when it asked the parties in that case to address a question they did not raise in their briefs: whether President Obama's ‘Deferred Action for Parents of Americans’ (DAPA) order violates the ‘Take Care Clause’ of Article II of the Constitution. The Take Care Clause has never before been enforced by the Court and most people have probably never heard of it.”

Let me insert here: My dear friend from Florida, Congressman TED YOHO,

has been advocating for some time we pass a bill that just sets out an enabling statute that says what Take Care means under the Constitution and sets some requirements out so we actually have some hard requirements against which to measure a President's performance in order to determine whether he has violated the Take Care Clause and ought to be removed from office.

Before you can determine the latter, you really need to know has the Take Care Clause been violated to a level that would justify high crimes and misdemeanors.

I appreciate so much Andrew McCarthy's book regarding impeachment where he lays out, really, impeachment was intended to be a political issue.

The Founders did not want impeachment to be like a criminal case where the prosecution has to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt.

It is a mechanism by which we avoid revolutions and military coups, which have happened in countries around the world.

Here we have not had to have ever, thank God, a military coup or another revolution since 1776. We have had massive movements for which we are grateful, like the abolitionist movement that got rid of the atrocity of slavery, led mainly by Christian churches, and the civil rights movement, of course, which the ultimate leader was Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., an ordained Christian minister.

So these movements have not required revolution, have not required a military coup, because the Founders created something called impeachment.

According to Andrew's book—and I'm sorry I can't do it the justice it deserves—basically, impeachment is a political mechanism to allow people to remove from office someone who may not have violated a criminal statute beyond a reasonable doubt.

But more than half of the country—more than half of those representatives elected in the country believe that he should be removed. Then we avoid a revolution, a coup, those kinds of things.

This article from the Hoover Institute goes on:

“DAPA is a set of executive branch directives giving some four million illegal aliens who have given birth to children in the United States what the orders call ‘legal presence’ — even though they are here in violation of the law.

“This ‘legal presence’ entitles DAPA beneficiaries to work permits, a picture ID, driver's licenses, Social Security, Earned Income Tax credits, Medicaid, ObamaCare, and other social welfare benefits.

“Until the 2014 election, President Obama repeatedly and emphatically stated that he did not have authority

to issue such an order without congressional action.”

Then, when he didn't like the results of the election, he went ahead and did it anyway. He had said: I am not a monarch. I can't just do these things.

And when he didn't like the result of the election, he decided to go ahead and be a monarch and do them anyway.

The article goes on:

“Twenty-six states have sued the federal government to challenge the legality of DAPA. The courts below held that the orders violate the Administrative Procedure Act because they were issued without public notice and comment, as is required for agency actions with the effect of law, and because they are in violation of the underlying statute, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

“By adding the Take Care Clause to the Questions Presented, the Court is taking care that the constitutional dimensions of this case will not be swamped by the administrative law details. But for most people, including most lawyers, the Take Care Clause is a great unknown—uncharted territory. So: What is the Take Care Clause and what does it mean?

“The Take Care Clause, found in Article II of the Constitution, the Executive Power Article, is comprised of only nine words: The President ‘shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.’

“But an understanding of those nine words requires an appreciation of their roots in English history. Like many other structural features of the United States Constitution, the Take Care Clause derives from the long struggle between Parliament and the Crown over the extent of ‘prerogative powers,’ that is, the monarch's asserted powers to create laws or otherwise to act unilaterally.

□ 1215

“Absolute monarchs rule by whim. What they say goes. Even before Parliament existed, however, the barons of England insisted that monarchs rule in accordance with law rather than mere executive whim or decree. King John, 1199–1216 AD, was a major offender against the rule of law. He arbitrarily increased taxes, abused the king's court, mustered soldiers for military misadventures foreign and domestic, and hanged innocents in Wales. Things came to a head in 1215 at Runnymede. Faced with armed insurrection, John agreed to the Great Charter, which established the principle that the king is not a law unto himself; even the king must act through settled law to bind his subjects.

“Thus began a centuries-long struggle between law and royal prerogative. The term ‘prerogative’ refers to powers invested in the executive that are not governed by law.”

John Locke, who was read by so many of our Founders and discussed

during our Nation's founding, "John Locke defined the term in his Second Treatise on Government." John Locke said this: "This power to act according to discretion, for the public good, without the prescription of the law, and sometimes even against it, is that which is called prerogative." The king's prerogative powers included the veto, the pardon, the powers of war and peace, the power to create and fill public offices, and the power to dissolve the Parliament. All these he could do without the need for statutes passed by Parliament, and statutes passed by Parliament could not touch, limit, or regulate these prerogative powers.

"Prerogative powers are not all inconsistent with constitutional government. Under the Constitution, for example, the President has certain defined prerogatives, such as the pardon power and the veto, which are committed to the President's discretion."

Of course, we know the prerogative of veto can be overridden by Congress, so it is not an ultimate prerogative.

"But much of constitutionalism consists of replacing prerogative with law. The Framers of the U.S. Constitution carefully reflected on the various prerogative powers claimed or exercised by the English king and granted, denied, or limited those powers when creating the Article II executive."

Now, the early controversies over prerogative powers left that "one of the most dangerous prerogative powers asserted by English monarchs was the proclamation power. That is the power to create new law without parliamentary approval. The term modern Americans would use for proclamations is 'executive orders.' Disputes over the proclamation power came to the fore during the Tudor dynasty, which was 1485 to 1603.

"Henry VIII believed his royal proclamations should have the force of law, as 'though they were made by act of Parliament.' The great 18th century historian and philosopher David Hume later called this 'a total subversion of the English Constitution.' After Henry's death, Parliament repealed the Act of Proclamations.

"The struggle over prerogative accelerated under the four Stuart kings prior to the Glorious Revolution of 1688. James I was an ardent believer in the divine right of kings; he wrote a book on the topic shortly before he ascended to the English throne called 'The Trew Law of Free Monarchies.' In James I's view, kings are unrestrained by law; their authority comes from God, and therefore the king is accountable only to God—never to man or law.

"In 1610 James I issued a royal proclamation prohibiting 'new buildings in and around London' and 'the making of starch of wheat.' The legality of these orders was tested in Case of Proclamations. Lord Ellesmere, the royalist jurist, argued that the courts should

'maintain the power and prerogative of the king' and that 'in cases in which there is no authority and precedent,' the judges should 'leave it to the king to order it according to his wisdom.' Chief Justice Coke—whose whiggish constitutionalism later informed the views of American Framers—held that the king could not lawfully 'change any part of the common law, nor create any offense by his proclamation, which was not an offense before, without Parliament.' Coke concluded, 'the law of England is divided into three parts: common law, statute law, and custom; but the king's proclamation is none of them.'

"Chief Justice Coke reiterated the point in the Case of Non Obstante, or Dispensing Power. Coke observed that the king does have some prerogative powers. For example, a royal pardon grants mercy notwithstanding—or, as English lawyers said at the time, non obstante—the lawful conviction. But Coke insisted that the king's non obstante, or dispensing, power never can be used to annul statutes. If the king attempted to dispense with a statute, Coke held, the king's effort would be 'void,' for 'an act of Parliament may absolutely bind the king.'"

Parenthetically, of course, since our laws were derived through this knowledge of what was done here, the Framers believed that the law would absolutely bind the king that lives in the White House.

"The principles of the Case of Proclamations and the Case of Non Obstante are part of the American constitutional tradition. The Steel Seizure Case of 1952, our Supreme Court's foundational separation-of-powers decision, held that the President cannot make law; that is exclusively Congress' job. In other words, executive orders have the force of law only when implementing statutes, treaties, and the Constitution . . . Notably, many if not all of these controversies over the reach of royal prerogative arose when the king took a precedent that prior monarchs had used in modest and relatively uncontroversial ways—as Elizabeth had funded defense against the Spanish Armada—and stretched it to cover significant usurpations of power in ways contrary to the will of Parliament. That has continued to be the pattern in American separation of powers struggles, including the one over DAPA."

It is a very good article that goes on and discusses other concepts, but Dan Stein had a good article regarding why *United States v. Texas* is the most important case the Court will decide this year.

According to Stein: "The Supreme Court has decided to review certain elements in *United States v. Texas*." He goes further than that. He says: "The most dramatic of these actions were two programs designed to grant

de facto amnesty and work authorization to an estimated 4.7 million illegal aliens. The first of these amnesties was an expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA—a 2012 executive action that has thus far benefited some 800,000 illegal aliens who arrived in the U.S. when they were under the age of 16"—or, at least I will add parenthetically, based on what I have observed at the border who said they were under 16. I have been there all hours of the day and night on the border and have been astonished beyond mildly, being amused that people who clearly could grow full beards would claim to be under 16. I have seen them in the middle of the night when a group of them would have to go through being processed by the Border Patrol reading their little pieces of paper they had and exchanging, and then each of them showing, this is what I have for identification purposes. I was amused how their identities seemed to be interchangeable because they could pass them among each other and decide which identity each wanted to take.

But this article points out that "U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen issued a temporary injunction halting implementation. That injunction was subsequently upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The Obama administration appealed that decision to the Supreme Court," and they will hear arguments. That will be on Monday. "While Hanen's injunction was based on the government's failure to comply with the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, the High Court has indicated that it will also consider whether the executive amnesty programs violate the Take Care Clause of the Constitution."

I also want to insert here, since I know the intellectual integrity and brilliance of Judge Andrew Hanen—I have not talked to him in a number of years, but when I read the order that he drafted, he could have just had a one-page, one-paragraph order implementing in the injunction, but it was lengthy and thorough, and I knew what Judge Hanen was doing, having been a judge and chief justice. I understood exactly.

There are times when you don't want the lawyers, as smart as they may be, to misinterpret the actions you have taken, and you know that you are capable of writing a good law review article, as Judge Hanen was more than capable and by himself has won an award for a law review article. I knew, as a judge, what I suspected Judge Hanen felt in this case, this could end up before the Supreme Court, and I don't want any misunderstanding or some court coming back down the way that says, oh, I probably meant this or I intended to do that when that was not my meaning and it was not my intent.

So Judge Hanen issued a very eloquent and lengthy order so that even

some of the normal majority of the U.S. Supreme Court would have to really twist and abuse his words in order to get the wrong meaning of what he was doing. He laid out his legal basis. He laid out the facts, and he made very clear that both the law and the facts supported what he did and the reasons for which he did them.

So it should be a lesson. I know, as a judge, often it is easier when a litigant, prevailing litigant—the way it usually goes, they supply an order with their motion, with their petition for injunction. Here is the order. And it is a lot easier for a judge just to sign that and go on.

But on important matters, I hope other judges who truly appreciate the Constitution the way Judge Hanen does, will take the time to write their own order, as he did, and scrupulously so. And I certainly hope, Mr. Speaker, that come Monday, during and after oral arguments in this case, the Justices on the Supreme Court, some of whom may not be quite as smart as Judge Hanen intellectually, will at least give credence to the trouble that he endured in order to write his own order and make sure his legal reasoning was as clear as Judge Hanen made it.

Well done, good and faithful Judge Hanen.

□ 1230

This article says: “Under these two newly announced programs”—talking about DAPA and DACA—“nearly 40 percent of the Nation’s estimated 12 million illegal aliens would be granted legal presence and permission to work in the U.S. According to an analysis by the Migration Policy Institute, an organization that is generally supportive of President Obama’s immigration policies, combined with the 40 percent of illegal aliens covered by DACA, DACA+, and DAPA, the other policy directives issued by Secretary Johnson would have exempted 87 percent of all illegal aliens from enforcement actions.”

That is extraordinary. If the President doesn’t like the law, he says: I have the power to exclude certain people from prosecution and, hey, I can issue pardons in specific cases. So I am specifically making 87 percent of those illegally in the country legal.

We might as well pronounce the next President king or queen if they are going to have this kind of power.

Further down in the article, Mr. Stein says: “To the contrary, Congress has taken explicit actions to limit the discretionary authority of the executive in the area of immigration enforcement. In the Illegal Immigration Reform and Relief Act of 1996, which Congress passed and President Clinton signed, Congress indisputably intended ‘to prevent delay in the removal of illegal aliens.’

“Under the INA, Congress has enumerated two mandatory statutory responsibilities to the Secretary of Homeland Security: the ‘power and duty,’ to administer and enforce all laws relating to immigration, and the mandatory duty to guard against the illegal entry of aliens.

“Under the Obama administration, neither Secretary Johnson nor his predecessor, Janet Napolitano, have faithfully complied with these statutory responsibilities. In fact, through his acts of November 20, 2014, the Secretary has affirmatively shirked those responsibilities and blatantly attempted to substitute Presidential policies in the place of a comprehensive system of constitutionally enacted Federal laws that define who may enter and remain in the United States and under what conditions.

“Needless to say, when the Supreme Court delivers its ruling in June, the implications for U.S. immigration policy will be profound. What is at stake is nothing less than the entire premise of more than a century of immigration policy: namely, the legitimacy of laws that restrict immigration in order to protect the social, economic, and security interests of the American people.”

Let me insert here. Let’s look at who is most harmed by these vast amnesty programs of millions of millions of people to compete with people legally in America for the jobs. You have got over 94 million Americans that are so tired of looking for work and being turned down for jobs, they quit looking. Perhaps some of those 94 million should be given the chance to have those jobs.

And, of course, knowing the way free markets are supposed to work, labor is paid what the free market would require. But you convolute the free market by bringing people in. And I do say bringing them in, because Homeland Security, as Border Patrolmen have told me, are called logistics by the drug cartels because they get them across the river, and then Homeland Security becomes logistics and ships them wherever they want to go in the United States. Or they may be so callous as to just give them a notice, whether they are a killer, as has happened here lately, and say: By the way, come back to court some time in the future, for which they, of course, do not return.

But in any event, the article concludes: “Even those Justices of the court who might agree with the President’s views on immigration policy generally should appreciate the precedent-setting decision they would be making by allowing the President to run roughshod over the constitutional separation-of-powers doctrine.

“Those who support granting amnesty to illegal aliens should recognize that a ruling in favor of his vast new claims to power to change the law

would be a Pyrrhic victory. It would emasculate the abilities of Congress to set immigration limits and standards, and it would render the courts irrelevant in ensuring the enforcement of the very same.”

So this is a big case coming up. The Supreme Court also has heard oral arguments on whether or not the President can order the violation of deeply held religious Christian convictions and order folks like the Little Sisters of the Poor, who have dedicated their lives to poverty and helping those less fortunate.

If they want them to violate their religious convictions, as was made clear during oral argument, then the administration ought to be able to order any American, including churches, according to them, to violate their Christian beliefs. Because after all, they are the government. They work for the President.

Sure, they can order people to violate their Christian beliefs. For heaven’s sake, these people have no sense of history. They don’t even know that one of the things that just infuriated Americans and caused a revolution was a king believing that he could just order people to violate their religious convictions. That is why religion is the first thing mentioned in our Bill of Rights.

It has been so misconstrued, but the government was to never do what the King of England did when he ordered a new church. The Church of England is the official church. They never saw it as a problem to have different denominations agree to pray in the name of Jesus and to have the same type of prayers begin each day in the Congress and then, again, when we started our first congresses under the Constitution. That was never a problem. They knew they were not violating the First Amendment, because many of them helped craft it. We are not establishing a religion and we are not going to prohibit the free exercise thereof.

So the Court has this before it, with eight Justices sitting, after the untimely death of a real American hero, who has no doubt already heard, as John Quincy Adams said when he stood downstairs before the Supreme Court and prayed that the Justices of the Supreme Court that have already deceased would have already heard those words: Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter now into the joy of the Lord.

That is what John Quincy Adams said specifically before the Supreme Court in the hearing on the Amistad case downstairs when the Supreme Court was here in this building. I have no doubt Justice Scalia has already heard that. He has been a very faithful servant, standing up for religious liberty.

So we will see what the other eight Justices, do, and then we will see whether or not politics has become so



extraordinarily the purpose of the Supreme Court rather than the Constitution. Because, clearly, there is information that is passed and gotten to the Supreme Court. Apparently it occurred during the decision on whether or not to extend the 24-hour hold on the bankruptcy order that violated the Constitution.

And God bless Justice Ginsburg when she put that 24-hour hold on an unconstitutional, illegal order. According to what one of the Justices told me—without going into detail—the White House submitted information *ex parte*, behind the scenes, that if they left that 24-hour hold in place, everybody that had any kind of job that related to the automobile industry would lose their job. And it would all be the Supreme Court's fault if they left the 24-hour hold in place.

It certainly appears they got information that affected Chief Justice Roberts. It looked like he changed a dissenting opinion into a majority opinion in the ObamaCare case. This is serious. And this will determine whether or not we are going to follow the Constitution.

I am so pleased to be here on the House floor with my friend from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), the former Governor.

Mr. SANFORD. I just want to borrow maybe 5 minutes worth of your time just to talk about this issue of Puerto Rico. You have touched on it in different ways. You were talking about constitutional issues just a moment ago, and I want to follow up on that thought because I think that what is occurring here has far bigger consequences than we may realize.

I would say that at a couple different levels. One is, Charles Dickens once talked about Christmas past, Christmas present, Christmas still to come. I think that this is a snapshot of Christmas to come if we don't watch out here in the United States.

As my colleague from Texas well knows, we are at a financial tipping point, the likes of which our civilization has never seen before. We have never before been at this level of indebtedness in a peacetime situation. We are, again, about to find ourselves between a rock and a hard place, which is very much the story of Puerto Rico, as it relates to their financial situation.

So you think about the number of 2025. In basically less than 10 years, we are only going to have enough money to pay for interest and entitlements and nothing else. You think about the way in which interest payments—by congressional budget numbers—are expected to balloon from around \$200 billion a year to \$800 billion a year and the fact that we are going to spend more on interest payments than we will on defense.

You can walk through a lot of different numbers that say that we are

about to be at a profound, bad spot, which is, again, the way in which Puerto Rico, I think, is foretelling. It really talks about the fact that they went out, spent too much, obligated themselves too much, made promises they couldn't deliver on. And so we find ourselves in this pickle.

I would also say this. This is an exercise in free markets. If you think about the notion of free markets and what that means, what we would agree on as conservatives is that there are certain absolutes. On the rule of law and private property rights and market-based principles, Thomas Friedman talks about a flat world and how a kid in Texas or in South Carolina competes with kids in Shanghai or New Delhi in ways that they never did before.

So if you have a corporate rate that is too high, not surprisingly, corporations aren't going to come to your island. If you have a minimum wage that doesn't fit with the prevailing wage rate of that area, corporations or businesses, local and small, may not be able to start up and compete. If you think about so many of the different building blocks that make for a vibrant economy, this is, again, a reminder of how important those things are.

And so I look at this and I am perplexed. I am really struggling with this issue.

I looked just a little while ago. Puerto Rican bonds are still trading between 65 and 70 cents on the dollar, even though we have a pure math trap, which is to say financial markets are still betting that, in some form or another, those bondholders are going to get bailed out.

So that is on the one hand. On the other hand, you look at the plight of the people in Puerto Rico, you look at what might come next. I empathize with leadership of how do you deal with this issue. But I want to go back to one thing that I think is central to both of us, and that is the rule of law.

I actually pulled up a general obligation bond. This was a 2012 issue, Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, \$400 million in size. It says on the first page: "The bonds are general obligations of the Commonwealth. The good faith, credit, and taxing power of the Commonwealth are irrevocably pledged for the prompt payment of the principal and interest on the bonds. The Constitution of Puerto Rico provides that public debt of the Commonwealth, which includes bonds," whatnot, whatnot, whatnot. This on the front page.

□ 1245

The issue of what is occurring in Puerto Rico has everything to do with the sanctity of the rule of law in this country. It has far-reaching implications well beyond the 3½ million people that make up the Island of Puerto Rico but, really, the whole of the United States.

We have a municipal market in this country of about \$2.7 trillion in size. What comes next? Because, if they can change it in the front page of what was a \$400 million issue for Puerto Rico, can they change it for Illinois? Can they change it for California?

Obviously, territories and States are very different, but I do worry about the degree of precedent it sets, because what we are worried about is a public exodus from Puerto Rico. We are worried about a lot of different ramifications. Is that not true if Illinois was to end up in a real problem spot financially, in terms of what comes next?

So I think it has real implications there. I think it is a reminder of how important it is that we look at the ingredients of growth.

One of my problems with this bill is it is asymmetrical. The cram-down provision, section 3, is absolute and certain. The certainty of economic reforms on that island are not certain. It is asymmetrical in that form.

So I look at the Jones Act. I was in a transportation hearing yesterday, and it was pointed out that the cost of delivering a 20-foot container from the East Coast of the United States is double the cost of what it would be to deliver that same container to the Dominican Republic or to Haiti.

I look at the corporate tax there. They used to have a very competitive corporate tax rate on the island of Puerto Rico. That Federal clause lapsed, and now they are not so competitive.

But why don't we have it in this bill? In other words, if we are going to have a cram-down provision, which really deals with the sanctity of law, general obligation bonds, what they do or don't mean, why wouldn't we have incorporated, as well, other provisions that could make the island more competitive, whether that deals with the Jones Act corporate tax—or, for instance, we have a bill on the minimum wage.

If you look at what has happened in American Samoa, or if you look in the Northern Mariana Islands, other territories of the United States, what we did as a Congress is to say: You know what? The prevailing wage of that region of the Pacific is not the same as what you would see in the domestic United States. Therefore, let's give them discretion in how they set their minimum wage.

Our bill says that same thing. The prevailing wage of the Caribbean Basin is not the same as you would see in the domestic United States. Why not give them that same option so that they can become more competitive as they compete with Haiti and the Dominican Republic and other neighboring islands down that way?

So I am going to continue to study this issue, but I am genuinely concerned about what it could mean.

I just want to take one second—can I take one more second?—to read the

cram-down provision because, in the bill, under title III, it incorporates 1129(b) of the Federal Code. Let me just read that so it is on the record.

“Notwithstanding section 510(a) of this title, if all of the applicable requirements of subsection (a) of this section other than the paragraph (8) are met with respect to a plan, the court, on request of the proponent of the plan, shall confirm the plan notwithstanding the requirements of such paragraph if the plan does not discriminate unfairly, and is fair and equitable, with respect to each class of claims or interests that is impaired under . . . the plan.”

I could go on. It is Greek. It is written in legalese. But the point is this bill has an absolute cram-down provision, which is to open up new territory with regard to how territories handle debt, and I think we need to be very, very, very wary of that provision; and, at minimum, if we are going to include something like that, include whole-scale changes that would make the island more competitive so that they can, in fact, pay off their debts because, if you don't do anything to improve the economy, we are going to end up back in this same problem, whether it is 12 months from now or 12 years from now.

Mr. GOHMERT. The gentleman is exactly right. It seems like the big push is to resolve the issue of what is owed to the bondholders who invested money; and, apparently, they are the ones running commercials in some people's districts about, oh, don't do a bailout, because they want to get their full money on what they invested. I sure understand that.

But as my friend has pointed out, we can't be sure that there will be any reforms. I know some of our friends, we think, well, there is such massive unemployment. Well, one cure in some places to help with massive unemployment is to lower the minimum wage and get more people to work, and that is being suggested; but in Puerto Rico, I was reading that, for a typical family of three, if someone works a 40-hour-per-week minimum wage job, at the current minimum wage before it is lowered like some people are advocating, the take-home is under \$1,200. However, the welfare payments they would be entitled to, typically, on average, would be about \$1,800 a month; so sometimes lowering the minimum wage would be a solution.

In Puerto Rico, where—and of course I think it is totally appropriate and fair, as the Founders said: If they don't elect one representative to the body that makes taxes, then they have no right to make taxes on us. So, in Puerto Rico, which is also true of Guam, Samoa, the Mariana Islands, any territory where they elect a delegate or they don't elect a full voting Representative, because those come from

the several States, they don't pay any Federal income tax.

So I had in my mind that, wow, Puerto Rico could be the American Hong Kong. They have all the Federal benefits. I read one estimate that 20 percent of all of the income made by people in Puerto Rico is actually welfare benefits, paid by people of the 50 States.

But some of the towns—I saw a chart—I think the highest was right at 46 percent of the local community work for government. And, you know, you have got communities, 28,000, 35,000, where 40 percent of the whole population works for the government. Something has to be done about that.

Our friend, fellow Republican Luis Fortuño, got elected Governor, and he could see the handwriting on the wall. We have got to get our government down and under control because, if we are going to expect anybody to help us at all, we have got to show we are able to take care of our own problems. He was promptly fired at the next election for trying to get the massive government bureaucracy under control. That hasn't been dealt with. There is no indication it will actually be dealt with.

President Obama will make all the appointments of the board we are talking about that will have oversight, but those will come from recommendations from Minority Leader PELOSI, Speaker RYAN, Majority Leader MCCONNELL, and Minority Leader REID; and the President will make what will be the deciding vote on close calls. So there are no assurances that there is going to be reform in these areas.

As my friend, Senator INHOFE from Oklahoma, has pointed out, Puerto Rico had the only area, he was telling me, in the world where all of our military branches could come together and do tactical exercises, you know, storm the beach type of things. And that was taken away; and that land, 17,000 or so acres, is owned by the Department of the Interior.

Puerto Rico, apparently, is part of this deal. They don't want to sell any Puerto Rican land, but they are willing to let the Department of the Interior sell their land and give that money to Puerto Rico. So we are not giving them direct payments, but the Department of the Interior, part of this deal is going to be selling things.

Mr. SANFORD. If the gentleman would yield, and then I will leave it to you.

You hit on Luis Fortuño, and I do want to shout out, I worked with him in a former role in government, and you are absolutely correct. What he tried to do, I think, was brave in political terms, courageous, and he paid a price for it in the political world; but I think that the record will show that he was trying to do the right thing on that front.

I think also, what has happened here is a reminder of how, if everybody is in

charge, nobody is in charge. And too much of what we see, again, I absolutely empathize with the plight that leadership finds themselves in in terms of: How do you manage these competitive interests of the need to have financial stability on an island like Puerto Rico, and how do you manage that with the precedent that it might set for other States and other territories and the overall notion of financial responsibility?

I see your time is about to wind up, so I am going to stop for you since it was your time. Thank you for letting me borrow a few minutes of it.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 18, 2016, at noon for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5045. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acequinocyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0382; FRL-9944-34] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5046. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R02-2015-NY2; FRL-9935-51-Region 2] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5047. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plans Required for Attainment of the 2010 1-Hour Primary Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS); Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0098; FRL-9944-88-OAR] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5048. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-088, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5049. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-148, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5050. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-107, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5051. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-061, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5052. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification, pursuant to Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Secs. 614(a)(3) and 652; Public Law 111-117, div. F, Sec. 7009(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5053. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-133, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d)(1); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(d) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (90 Stat. 740); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5054. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-099, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d)(1); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(d) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (90 Stat. 740); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5055. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hizballah Financial Sanctions Regulations received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5056. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List the Tanzanian DPS of African Coelacanth (*Latimeria chalumnae*) as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act [Docket No.: 141219999-6207-02] (RIN: 0648-XD681) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4240. A bill to require an independent review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and subsets of the TSDB, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-495). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROYCE: Committee on Foreign Affairs. H.R. 4678. A bill to prohibit modification, abrogation, abandonment, or other related actions with respect to United States jurisdiction and control over United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, without congressional action (Rept. 114-496). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DENT: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4974. A bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-497). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. HAHN, Mr. NOLAN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. ESTY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 4954. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HANNA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 4955. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to exclude the receipts and disbursements of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation from the Federal budget; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BARR, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BRAT, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. COLE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. COOK, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. HUDSON, Mr.

HUELSKAMP, Mr. HULTGREN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PALMER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TIPTON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. YOHO, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. DESANTIS);

H.R. 4956. A bill to provide that no Federal funds, fees, or resources may be used to implement certain Executive orders, to suspend rule making authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. EDWARDS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY):

H.R. 4957. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 4958. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the refining of used lubricating oil; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 4959. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the designation of surgical health professional shortage areas; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 4960. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 525 N Broadway in Aurora, Illinois, as the "Kenneth M. Christy Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. DONOVAN, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 4961. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to protect individuals and businesses from unforeseen consequences that may result from Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. GARRETT, Ms. ESTY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 4962. A bill to amend title 4 of the United States Code to limit the extent to

which States may tax the compensation earned by nonresident telecommuters and other multi-State workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 4963. A bill to better protect, serve, and advance the rights of victims of elder abuse and exploitation by establishing a program to encourage States and other qualified entities to create jobs designed to hold offenders accountable, enhance the capacity of the justice system to investigate, pursue, and prosecute elder abuse cases, identify existing resources to leverage to the extent possible, and assure data collection, research, and evaluation to promote the efficacy and efficiency of the activities described in this Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 4964. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the rapid acquisition of directed energy weapons systems by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 4965. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to enhance medical device communications and ensure device cleanliness; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 4966. A bill to establish requirements for reusable medical devices relating to cleaning instructions and validation data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4967. A bill to amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 relating to the distribution of food; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4968. A bill to require executive agencies to notify the public and consider public comment before relocating an office of the agency that has regular contact with the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 4969. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide for informational materials to educate and prevent addiction in teenagers and adolescents who are injured playing youth sports and subsequently prescribed an opioid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4970. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restrict the use of pre-paid debit cards in the issuance of tax refunds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself and Ms. HAHN):

H.R. 4971. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for recklessly damaging or destroying certain pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each

case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 4972. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of penalty-free distributions to unemployed individuals from retirement plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 4973. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a work opportunity tax credit for the older long-term unemployed recipient, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BYRNE (for himself, Mr. KLINE,

Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MESSER, Mr. BRAT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. ROBY, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. PALMER):

H.J. Res. 87. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of Labor relating to "Interpretation of the 'Advice' Exemption in Section 203(c) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Ms. GRAHAM):

H. Con. Res. 128. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to exercise its veto in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Ms.

CLARKE of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H. Res. 684. A resolution recognizing the achievements of America's high school valedictorians of the graduating class of 2016, encouraging civic engagement, and commending academic excellence of all American high school students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H. Res. 685. A resolution recognizing Linemen, the profession of Linemen, and the contributions of these brave men and women to protect public safety, and expressing support of designation of April 18, 2016, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 4954.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 4955.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:  
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:  
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 4956.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution, including the power granted Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 4957.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana:

H.R. 4958.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carryin into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 4959.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 4960.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7: "The Congress shall have Power . . . To establish Post Offices and post roads"

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 4961.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The ability to regulate interstate commerce pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 4962.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 4963.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1  
The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. LAMBORN:  
H.R. 4964.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8:

“The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the common Defence . . .

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.”

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:  
H.R. 4965.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 4966.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4967.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4968.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 4969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to: Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4970.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 4971.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 4972.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 4973.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DENT:

H.R. 4974.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .” In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: “The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .” Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.J. Res. 87.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 169: Mr. BUCK and Mr. WALBERG.
- H.R. 379: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 624: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. RIBBLE.
- H.R. 711: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. HANNA.
- H.R. 789: Mr. CARNEY.
- H.R. 793: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 846: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
- H.R. 923: Mr. COLE.
- H.R. 1192: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JONES, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
- H.R. 1206: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
- H.R. 1221: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
- H.R. 1336: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
- H.R. 1342: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
- H.R. 1431: Mr. PITTENGER.
- H.R. 1432: Mr. PITTENGER.
- H.R. 1457: Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 1542: Mr. LANGEVIN.
- H.R. 1550: Mr. MACARTHUR and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
- H.R. 1594: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
- H.R. 1611: Mr. BLUM.
- H.R. 1733: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
- H.R. 1769: Ms. BONAMICI.
- H.R. 1969: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
- H.R. 1988: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
- H.R. 2121: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
- H.R. 2124: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. VELA, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
- H.R. 2215: Mr. COLE.
- H.R. 2237: Mr. O'ROURKE.
- H.R. 2283: Ms. ESTY.
- H.R. 2315: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
- H.R. 2368: Ms. TSONGAS.
- H.R. 2460: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. HECK of Washington.
- H.R. 2461: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 2513: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
- H.R. 2571: Mr. SHERMAN.
- H.R. 2589: Mr. STEWART.
- H.R. 2590: Mr. NOLAN.
- H.R. 2658: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

- H.R. 2726: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. CRAMER.
- H.R. 2737: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LATTI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. HARDY.
- H.R. 2759: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
- H.R. 2799: Mr. SCHIFF.
- H.R. 2811: Mr. SABLAN.
- H.R. 2844: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 2894: Mr. O'ROURKE.
- H.R. 2901: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 2903: Mr. JOLLY.
- H.R. 2939: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 2980: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Mr. PAULSEN.
- H.R. 3007: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. ELLISON.
- H.R. 3012: Mr. LAMBORN.
- H.R. 3095: Mr. FATTAH.
- H.R. 3110: Mr. MACARTHUR.
- H.R. 3119: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
- H.R. 3209: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 3222: Mr. LABRADOR and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.
- H.R. 3227: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. JONES.
- H.R. 3235: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mrs. BUSTOS.
- H.R. 3308: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. VARGAS.
- H.R. 3310: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.
- H.R. 3323: Mr. TAKAI and Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 3326: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. QUIGLEY.
- H.R. 3381: Mr. BUCHANAN.
- H.R. 3412: Mr. VALADAO.
- H.R. 3470: Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
- H.R. 3520: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 3604: Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 3706: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
- H.R. 3722: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. SESSIONS.
- H.R. 3724: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
- H.R. 3742: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. STEWART, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. VEASEY.
- H.R. 3846: Ms. ESTY.
- H.R. 3865: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. TIPTON.
- H.R. 3886: Ms. ESTY.
- H.R. 3917: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, and Ms. BORDALLO.
- H.R. 3929: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. HARDY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COLE, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. NUNES.
- H.R. 3982: Mr. BENISHEK.
- H.R. 4019: Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 4073: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
- H.R. 4118: Mr. VEDCLOSKY.
- H.R. 4144: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
- H.R. 4223: Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 4229: Mr. DOLD.
- H.R. 4268: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. CUELLAR.
- H.R. 4301: Mr. CALVERT.
- H.R. 4352: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. RUIZ.
- H.R. 4371: Mr. JORDAN.
- H.R. 4386: Mr. RUIZ.
- H.R. 4399: Mr. PALLONE.
- H.R. 4447: Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 4488: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. LEVIN.

- H.R. 4498: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4514: Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 4523: Mr. UPTON.  
H.R. 4524: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LEE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 4537: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.  
H.R. 4586: Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
H.R. 4594: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 4603: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 4607: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 4612: Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 4614: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 4615: Ms. HAHN and Mr. DELANEY.  
H.R. 4621: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 4625: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. VISLOSKEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. ASHFORD.  
H.R. 4626: Mr. MARINO and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 4640: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 4651: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 4653: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 4667: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. JOLLY, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 4695: Mr. BLUM.  
H.R. 4701: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 4712: Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 4715: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. LONG, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BRAT, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. TIPTON.  
H.R. 4717: Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 4729: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4751: Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 4760: Mrs. LUMMIS and Mr. LOBIONDO.
- H.R. 4764: Mr. SABLAN, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BLUM, Mr. HURD of Texas, and Mr. JORDAN.  
H.R. 4773: Mr. BRAT, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. STEWART, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BARR, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 4775: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. BUCSHON.  
H.R. 4794: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 4795: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. YODER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.  
H.R. 4798: Mr. DESAULNIER and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 4813: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. JOYCE.  
H.R. 4828: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 4833: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 4835: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 4840: Mr. CUMMINGS.  
H.R. 4848: Mr. HECK of Nevada.  
H.R. 4880: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PALMER, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
H.R. 4884: Mr. SCALISE.  
H.R. 4885: Mr. CHAFFETZ.  
H.R. 4895: Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 4897: Mr. ISSA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 4904: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. KNIGHT.  
H.R. 4922: Mr. COOK.
- H.R. 4923: Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOLD, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 4924: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 4926: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. BUCK.  
H.R. 4928: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
H.R. 4932: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. RUSSELL and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.  
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.  
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H. Con. Res. 39: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. KEATING.  
H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. COLE, and Mr. BARR.  
H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. JOLLY.  
H. Res. 220: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. BORDALLO.  
H. Res. 343: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. DESANTIS.  
H. Res. 402: Mr. KING of New York.  
H. Res. 451: Mr. FORBES.  
H. Res. 487: Mr. CONYERS.  
H. Res. 494: Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H. Res. 540: Mr. TAKAI and Mr. GRAYSON.  
H. Res. 590: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. BLUM.  
H. Res. 674: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. WALKER.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

RECOGNIZING CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to five former political prisoners who arrived in Miami on March 15, 2016: Vladimir Morera Bacallao, Jorge Ramirez Calderon, Yojarne Arce, Aracelio Riviaux Noa, and Niorvis Rivera Guerra. These men were victims of vicious acts at the hands of Castro's thugs.

Vladimir, Jorge, and Aracelio were among those on the so-called "list of 53" who were released as part of the Obama-Castro deal. Although Castro released these 53 wrongfully incarcerated political prisoners, many, including Vladimir, Jorge, and Aracelio, were re-arrested.

While in prison, Vladimir began a hunger strike on October 9, 2015. In December, I expressed grave concern for his health as he lingered near death in a Cuban prison, and in January wrote a letter to President Obama expressing serious concern for Jorge and others re-arrested on the list of 53.

The five political prisoners I mentioned here were promised safe haven in the U.S., but their families remain in Cuba, subject to abuse and harassment at the hands of the Castro regime. These activists are extremely worried about their families in Cuba who are suffering retaliation because they had the courage to speak out against an unjust government.

The Castro regime holds the worst human rights record in our hemisphere, and its repression has escalated. The concessions that President Obama has provided to the Castro dictatorship has emboldened the Cuban people's oppressors, and they further harass, brutalize, and abuse courageous activists such as these five individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in Congress to condemn the egregious human rights abuses perpetrated against Cuban pro-democracy activists and their families, and demand the immediate, unconditional release of all political prisoners.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

**HON. DENNIS A. ROSS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 75th anniversary of MacDill Air Force Base. MacDill has had a long and storied history during the last 75 years. With

much of the world engulfed in conflict in 1939, the War Department selected Tampa, Florida to house a new military air field which would go on to become MacDill Air Force Base. With Tampa's natural and strategic location, MacDill has grown and expanded over its 75 years serving as a testament to our nation's military might and the Tampa Bay area's dedication to supporting the brave men and women of the Armed Services.

Officially activated on April 16, 1941, MacDill trained World War II airmen to fly and operate bombers including the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-26 Marauder. Throughout the Second World War, MacDill saw thousands of servicemen train to lead the force in the dangerous skies over Europe. From start to finish, MacDill played a critical role in our country's great military achievement.

After World War II, the bombers gave way to fighters when MacDill became a Tactical Air Command. The turmoil of the 1960's again highlighted the strategic importance of MacDill's location. Throughout the Vietnam War and up until the first Gulf War in 1991, the Tampa Bay region became a home for the F-4 Phantoms and later F-16 Fighting Falcons. Between 1979 and 1993, about half of all F-16 fighter pilots trained at MacDill Air Force Base.

Currently, MacDill houses the 6th Air Mobility Wing and 39 Mission Teammates, including U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. MacDill is home to more than 13,000 military and civilian personnel and about 170,000 retirees live in the Tampa Bay area and depend on the base for many necessary services. MacDill remains a vital economic driver and a source of good paying jobs in the counties of Hillsborough and Polk in my district. MacDill extends the global reach of U.S. air power through global air refueling and airlift operations and is a mission our community embraces.

In facing our nation's ongoing and future national security challenges, I am confident that MacDill will continue to play a vital role in protecting the safety of our families and all Americans. The Tampa Bay region is proud to host and I am honored to represent thousands of servicemen and women, veterans, and civilians who work at and rely on MacDill Air Force Base every day, and especially on its 75 year anniversary.

Bruce Teague Jr. (The Bossman), who was called to rest by his heavenly father on Thursday April 7, 2016.

Bruce, Mr. Speaker, was born in Henry County, Tennessee on March 29, 1931. He was the seventh child out of eight born to Bruce and Essie (Boyd) Teague and he loved each of his siblings.

Due to the limited opportunities available in Tennessee, Bruce decided to explore the bright lights, big city life in Chicago, Illinois. While residing with his big sister, Alice, Bruce began to work various jobs until he landed a career at the National Casting Company (NCC). Being a man of faith, he was led by God to pursue what became two of his own successful entrepreneurial endeavors in towing and in real estate investing. After 40 years of being a hardworking, dedicated, and exemplary employee, he retired from NCC in 1992.

In 1958, he met Mary Helen Hargrove and they were married the following year on December 18, 1959. To this union six children were born: Regina, Donna, Tasha, Juan, Bruce, and James. There was nothing he enjoyed more than celebrating the accomplishments of his family and friends through weddings, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, recitals, and many other special occasions. A major accomplishment of his own was celebrating 56 years of holy matrimony to his beloved "May Helen".

Mr. Speaker, Bruce was a man of strong core values. His foundation and beliefs were deeply rooted in the Love of Family and Faith in God. Bruce believed in attending church faithfully no matter where he was. Whenever in Iowa City, he attended House of Praise Church under the leadership of Pastor Rick McCaslin. He poured his time, energy, and experience into the next generation of upcoming Deacons. Bruce implemented the "Deacon Apprenticeship Program" at House of Praise Church to train and develop young men how to carry out the duties of a deacon.

Mr. Speaker, some of his greatest pastimes were having breakfast with his friends in Chicago and Iowa City, watching and attending baseball games while eating popcorn, gardening, and traveling with his family. "Switchblade Bruce", the "Bossman", shot straight from the hip. One could never mistake what he meant; he told you just what he felt. but Deacon Teague cried about everything. He even cried when he was forced by Mary Helen to discipline the children. He often reminded his children, "If you do wrong, I will only come to get you from jail one time".

His legacy will live on through his loving and devoted wife of 56 years Mary Helen; his children, Regina, Donna, Ricky, Tasha, Juan, Darron, Bruce, James, Jeremiah, Danielle, and a host of family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, those who truly knew Bruce Teague Jr. know he was not pompous or prideful, but proud of his life and all of those in it.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRUCE TEAGUE JR.

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr.

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

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

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE  
OF THE LATE ANDREW STEPHEN  
GROVE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, Andy Grove (née András István, Gróf) was born September 2, 1936, in Budapest, Hungary, and died on March 16, 2016, at the age of 79. After enduring Nazi occupation and Soviet abuse, he immigrated to the United States in 1956. He earned a degree in chemical engineering at City College of New York (CCNY) and his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1958, Andy Grove married Eva Kastan, a fellow Hungarian refugee. They have two daughters, Karen and Robie, whom Andy adored and was fiercely protective of their privacy. He also leaves eight grandchildren who brought him great joy.

Andy Grove's first job after graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, was as a researcher at Fairchild Semiconductor. When Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce founded Intel Corporation, Andy joined them. Together, they became a storied team at Intel, playing a pivotal role in the creation of the personal computer and the growth of Silicon Valley. Andy served as Intel's President beginning in 1979, became CEO in 1987, and was Board Chair from 1997 to 2005.

Andy Grove was a visionary corporate leader. He was a believer in open communication and took on none of the trappings of power. He was an advocate for jobs for Americans and helped transform Intel Corporation into the world's largest manufacturer of semiconductors.

Andy Grove wrote or co-authored seven books and gave generously of his time, resources and considerable talents to many charitable causes, especially the advancement in research for Parkinson's Disease and to the Grove School of Engineering at CCNY. He received many honors, including honorary degrees from CCNY, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Harvard University. He was named the "Most Influential Business Person of the Last 25 Years" by the Wharton School, and was Time Magazine's 1997 Man of the Year. He was a longtime member of the International Rescue Committee's Board of Directors, and was honored by the IRC in 2010 as one of ten distinguished refugees. When Andy Grove received the Churchill Club Legendary Leader Award in 2015, he struggled onto the stage, took the microphone and urged the audience to help refugees. "I made it, let's help in a little way to help them make it."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Andrew S. Grove and in extending our most sincere condolences to his wife, Eva, to his children, grandchildren, and all who knew and loved him. It was said of him, "He merits a place alongside the great business leaders of the 20th century." Our country embraced a young refugee and immigrant, and in return Andy Grove lifted up our entire nation with his vision, extraordinary intellect and unmatched leadership. How privileged I

am to have known him and represented him in Congress. How blessed our country has been to have him as a prized and cherished citizen.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR  
GENE CAREY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Lewisville Mayor Gene Carey for his generosity and public service to the citizens and City of Lewisville. Mr. Carey passed away recently at the age of 73 and is survived by his wife of almost 50 years, two children, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Carey and his family moved to Lewisville in 1972. He previously served in the U.S. Army and became an inventory analyst for Halliburton, where he worked for more than 38 years. His love for Lewisville inspired him to commit his time and efforts to ensure the community's prosperous growth and the well-being of its residents. He was a faithful member of Lakeland Baptist Church and an active volunteer with Christian Community Action. His numerous community activities included membership in the Denton County Republican Men's Club and Lewisville Economic Development Foundation. Mr. Carey was a graduate of Lewisville's Citizens Police Academy, served as Chairman of the Arts Advisory Board and the Charter Review Committee, and as a board member on the Lewisville Parks Board.

In 1993, he was elected to the Lewisville City Council. He would then go on to win his first race for Mayor in 2000 and was subsequently re-elected three more times. Mr. Carey was the 21st person to serve as Mayor of Lewisville and was the longest-serving mayor in the city's history.

I was privileged to count Mayor Gene Carey as an insightful and trusted colleague in serving the citizens of Lewisville and Denton County. He dedicated his life to his family, friends, and the Lewisville community. He will be greatly missed by the people whose lives he touched and his legacy will continue to benefit the community for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2016, the House of Representatives considered H.R. 3791, to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, and for other purposes. Regrettably, I was unable to be present for the vote. However, had I been present, I would have supported the final passage of H.R. 3791.

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF CHEYENNE MOUN-  
TAIN AIR FORCE STATION

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, since 1966, the United States Air Force at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station has been the synergistic hub to track foreign threats worldwide, providing an essential component of North American defense and global security; and

Whereas, countless space and ground sensor data collections are assimilated, providing leadership the key threat assessments to ensure safety and security to millions of people around the world; and

Whereas, the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado provides operational support and infrastructure sustainability, and today celebrates the 50th anniversary of the full operational capability of Cheyenne Mountain; and

Whereas, the 721st Mission Support Group at Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs, Colorado provides the dedicated daily sustainment to more than 13 mission partners performing the national security mission inside of the Mountain Complex; and

Whereas, every day over 1,000 U.S. and Canadian military and civilians, residing in Colorado and working in Cheyenne Mountain, are ever vigilant, round the clock, in our collective common defense; and

Whereas, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station is one of the greatest engineering marvels of its time, still relevant now and into the future, representing an Eighteen Billion Dollar (\$18B) facility, unrivaled anywhere in the world; and

Whereas, Colorado is proud to be a nexus in providing for the defense of North America, which has a far-reaching utility and whose multi-use services are critical to national and global security not only today but in the future; therefore, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, I do hereby proclaim, forever after, April 20, 2016, as Cheyenne Mountain Day.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR  
AND BRONZE STAR PRESEN-  
TATION TO LT. COL. JACK  
DEICHMAN

**HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today we mark the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam war and take a moment to honor and express our gratitude to our Vietnam Veterans.

Our Vietnam war veterans served our nation with courage, dignity, and a willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.



Deserving particular praise and commendation for his heroism and service during the Vietnam war is Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Jack Deichman of the United States Marine Corps.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jack for over a year now, and today I am grateful to have the opportunity to acknowledge Jack's leadership in Dai Do, Vietnam on March 30, 1968.

Mr. Speaker, Jack displayed expert leadership in maneuvering his Company through heavy enemy fire and remained steadfast in assisting his wounded Commander to establish their defensive positions.

Because of Jack's actions, many lives were saved that day, and many attribute this battle as the deciding factor in winning the war.

We as a nation are grateful for Jack's heroic actions that day.

His courage and selfless devotion to duty represents the essence of the United States Marine Corps and this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the day we acknowledge Jack's bravery and present him the Bronze Star Medal.

I am proud to recognize Jack and all our Vietnam Veterans today. We thank you for your service. Welcome home.

HONORING THE DUNN LORING VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, and to congratulate the incoming 2016 officers and board members.

The Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department (DLVFRD) is 1 of 12 volunteer fire departments in Fairfax County, and since its founding in 1942, it has provided lifesaving, fire suppression/prevention, and emergency medical/rescue services to the residents of the Dunn Loring area and the surrounding community.

Currently, the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and Ladies Auxiliary operates from Station 13 on Gallows Road and boasts 80 active members. Alongside career firefighters, these brave volunteers contribute more than 29,000 hours each year to enhance public safety for more than 23,000 citizens and hundreds of businesses in the Dunn Loring area.

It is my honor to submit the following names of the 2016 officers and board members:

- Jaime Wolfin, President
- Kenneth Kubiak, Vice President
- Tammy Lauver, Secretary
- Richard Morani, Treasurer
- Shawn Stokes, Chief
- Michael Masciola, Trustee
- Keith Edgemon, Trustee
- Eugene Tighe, Trustee
- Michael Van Dyke, Trustee
- Ryan Robinson, Trustee
- Alan Caldwell, Trustee

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2016 officers and

board members and in commending the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department for 74 years of service. I also extend my personal thanks to the outgoing DLVFRD officers and trustees for 2015. All these brave men and women deserve our highest praise for their dedication to public safety, and to each of them I say: "Stay safe."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EASTON PUBLIC MARKET ON THE OCCASION OF ITS GRAND OPENING

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand opening of the Easton Public Market, which will offer the citizens of Easton and surrounding towns a new community resource. The Public Market, a full-service artisan food hall, will feature a farmstand, demonstration kitchen, and numerous local food vendors. Its focus on locally-sourced goods and crafts, sustainable business practices, and relationship-building will surely inspire new directions for growth and help transform the health of the community.

Markets like this have significant cultural and economic impacts. They offer opportunities to purchase from regional farmers and craftsman as well as provide a space for meaningful social engagement. They also encourage entrepreneurs and create jobs.

I commend the Greater Easton Development Partnership as well as its staff and volunteers for their commitment to creating a vibrant Easton Public Market. Paired with the offerings of the Easton Farmer's Market, America's oldest continuous open-air market, it will forge the Easton Market District into a regional attraction showcasing Easton's unique food culture.

HONORING JULIE BORDEN

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Julie Borden, a great community leader, who is being honored as Citizen of the Year by the Associated Parents Group of Hillsborough, California. From the moment she moved to our town in 1995, she immersed herself in all aspects of our schools and greater community. She is an extraordinary role model, selfless advocate and a tireless volunteer. She is also a devoted mother, wife and, I am grateful to say, a good friend.

Julie and her husband of 29 years, Jim, have three children—Elaine, Craig and Mary—who all were students in Hillsborough schools. Julie served on the West and Crocker Parent Group Executive Boards as New Family Liaison, Parent Campaign Co-Chair, and Hillsborough Schools Foundation President. Her youngest daughter, Mary, and my daughter were in the same class at Crocker and

more recently, Mary interned in my Congressional Office in Washington, DC. In 2005, Julie was elected to the Hillsborough City School District Board of Trustees where she served for four years. She returned in 2011 for seven months to fill a vacancy on the board.

Julie has also volunteered countless hours and her boundless energy on the Hillsborough Recreation Commission, the San Mateo High School Foundation, Stand By Our Schools Committee to Safeguard Our School, the San Mateo Union High School District Budget Advisory Committee and the Measure B School Bond Committee.

Julie's involvement in our schools over the years was steadfast and effective, but she would always give credit to the collective and stress that all successes were the result of everyone's effort. She is a true team player.

Julie has always been extremely active in the community and has served on the Task Force for a Sustainable Hillsborough, the Citizens Communication Advisory Committee, the National Charity League and the Hillsborough Auxiliary to Peninsula Family Services.

Julie was born and raised in Menlo Park and attended Menlo-Atherton High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Geography from UC Santa Barbara and her Master's degree in Computer Cartography from Oregon State University. For the following 15 years, Julie made her career creating maps and even started her own company which she sold when she decided to focus her energy on her family and to raise her three children.

Mr. Speaker, Julie Borden is a shining example of a model citizen and an inspiration to others. I can't think of a more deserving person to be named 2016 Hillsborough Citizen of the Year.

DOES THE MAJORITY ALWAYS WIN? BY ROBERT WARD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Robert Ward attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: Does the majority always win?

Democracy: a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state establish policy and governance through a majority vote. Although we pride ourselves as one of the finest democracies in the world we don't and shouldn't exactly fit the formal definition of a democracy presented above simply because minority rights

and national security are more important than majority wishes. I would approach majority rule with the idea that the constitutional rights of a minority and our national security should never be compromised by a majority ruling.

Following the civil war much discrimination still existed and racists in our government found a crafty way of excluding many African Americans whom they deemed unfit for suffrage by enacting a poll tax. This tax, although seemingly fair because it taxed all individuals the same amount to vote, was directly targeted at African American who had recently been emancipated from slavery and had minute sums of money to pay to vote. This situation clearly demonstrates a time when the majority rule (enacting a poll tax) was in direct violation of minorities' constitutional right to unrepressed suffrage. If I were elected this is exactly the state of affairs that I would steer clear of in order to protect the liberties of all citizens of the United States. Similar barriers to minority suffrage such as literacy tests to vote or flat out intimidation and harassment against minorities at voting centers would not be acceptable under my watch.

National security is another item that must never bow down to majority will. For instance the patriot act, enacted following the vicious attacks of 9/11, and those similar to it should be upheld even against even majority rule because they are directed with the intention of the well being and safety of American citizens. Consider a hypothetical situation where 90% of congress voted to have key military technological advancements, such as the design and engineering behind the black hawk helicopter, released to the general public. Even if congress wasn't faced by opposition from the executive branch, judicial review and elected officials like my future self would fiercely oppose this divulgence of such essential information because of the great threat it would place on national security and military supremacy. This is another situation where majority rule would have to be denied.

If I were elected as a prominent government official I would strive to ensure that the liberties of the few and the safety of the many are protected even from a majority ruling in a proclaimed democracy to provide security and balance.

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HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF  
THE 2016 DALE CITY CIVIC ASSO-  
CIATION COMMUNITY AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2016 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards.

The Civic Association represents the interests of the residents of Dale City in a manner that benefits the entire community. Association members complete revitalization and beautification projects, advocate for land use projects, and volunteer responses to community needs.

Each year, the Association hosts a recognition banquet to honor individuals and organizations that have shown exemplary devotion to the betterment of the community through public service. It is my honor to submit the names of the 2016 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards recipients:

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter of the Year Award: Robert "Alex" Willis  
Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year Award: Lauren Clowser

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Officer of the Year Award: Sergeant Robert "OJ" Best  
Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Cadet of the Year Award: Tristin Toro

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Career Firefighter of the Year Award: Technician I Andrew Hale

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Career Emergency Medical Technician of the Year Award: Technician II Mike Militello

Prince William County Police Department, Police Officer of the Year Award: Officer William Bowler

Prince William County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award: Deputy Thomas "TC" Williams

Kathy Feeney Nurse of the Year Award: Angela Cronan

Business of the Year Award: Haynes View, LLC, owned by LaBrenda Haynes

John D. Jenkins Youth Citizen of the Year Award: Sara Howell

Dale City Youth Environmental and Conservation Award: Rebecca Hawkins

Prince William County Public Schools, Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award: Ashley Hoyle

Prince William County Public Schools, Middle School Teacher of the Year Award: Donna Morgan

Prince William County Public Schools, High School Teacher of the Year Award: Karen Shaver

Kathleen K. Seefeldt Community Service Award: Mary Lively

Ernestine S. Jenkins Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award: Mary Allen

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year Award: Lucille Cahill

Dale City Civic Association Outstanding Service Award: Michael Bizik

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the 2016 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards winners for their commitment to building and maintaining such a vibrant community for residents to live, work, and play. Each recipient has made a lasting contribution to Dale City, and I hope their actions will spur others into serving our community to sustain this tremendous success.

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TRIBUTE TO SUNNI SWARBICK

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sunni Swarbick for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an

impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Sunni serves as an Associate Director at Diversified Management Services in West Des Moines. She has been tirelessly committed to her clients by helping them grow through new innovative ideas. Sunni is dedicated to excellence and it shows through her hard work and determination to succeed. She is also a leader within her community and founded the Lead Like a Lady organization, a network that gives young women the tools they need to be successful leaders personally and professionally.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Sunni in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sunni on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

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CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OXNARD COLLEGE

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Oxnard College on its 40th anniversary as a principal, two-year institution of higher learning in Ventura County. Since 1975, Oxnard College has built a vibrant and diverse scholastic community, has enhanced the local and global consciousness of its students, and has fashioned itself into a remarkable academic asset for the Central Coast region.

Ever since its inaugural year, when it enrolled over 4,400 students, Oxnard College has been a significant driver of education and opportunity for Ventura County's residents. During its early years, Oxnard College classes operated out of borrowed facilities in churches, schools, military bases, and firehouses. Today and within a span of only four decades, Oxnard College has come a long way from its humble beginnings, and boasts of state-of-the-art classrooms, educational facilities, a physical education center, a performing arts center, and a library, with major new construction and renovations always on the horizon.

Oxnard College strives to provide open-access to educational opportunities so that every individual—regardless of age, sex, race, disability, or ethnic socio-economic status, cultural or educational background—can fulfill his or her potential. Oxnard College is a shining beacon to the community giving hope to all of Ventura County residents who seek economic opportunity and social mobility through their academic pursuits.

Pursuant to its educational philosophy, Oxnard College provides educational programs that develop individual abilities, strengthen human relationships, and enrich community life. To that end, Oxnard College offers 18 certificate programs, 17 Associate degrees for transfer, and 37 Associate degrees with classes in over 60 disciplines. Every year, Oxnard College prepares hundreds of students for further undergraduate studies, such as in the esteemed University of California and California State University systems.

On the occasion of its 40th anniversary, it is my sincere pleasure to honor Oxnard College and the entire Condor community for its contributions to academic excellence and success.

HONORING ANGIE CARRERA ON  
HER RETIREMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angie Carrera on the occasion of her retirement from Fairfax County and to thank her for her service. Although she has been a Fairfax County employee for the last 22 years, her immense contributions to our community go back much further.

Ms. Carrera has devoted her career to the promotion and administration of volunteerism. This began in 1975 when she began recruiting volunteers for a nearly-defunct women's center. This led to her becoming the executive director of the Voluntary Action Center, which is now known as Volunteer Fairfax and serves as a clearing house matching volunteers with area non-profits.

Following her tenure with Volunteer Fairfax, Ms. Carrera served in a variety of positions and capacities. She became volunteer coordinator for the Fairfax County Juvenile Court where she was responsible for recruiting and supervising programs for court-involved youths. In 1992, Ms. Carrera was asked to launch the Volunteer Interpreter Program to help the Juvenile Court staff better deal with youth and their families who were not proficient in English. This program received two National Association of Counties awards in recognition of its effectiveness and value. In 2002 she became the Language Access Coordinator in the Office of the County Executive and was responsible for policy and procedures on language issues within the county government.

Most recently Ms. Carrera has served as both Volunteer Resource Coordinator and a Partnership Developer for the County's Office of Public-Private Partnerships. The Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP<sup>3</sup>) serves as a clearing house and point of contact for public agencies, non-profit organizations, and local businesses. OP<sup>3</sup> creates and develops meaningful public private partnerships in county priority areas to leverage new resources and address community issues impacting the quality of life in Fairfax County. In addition to serving in these positions, Ms. Carrera has played a

role in numerous special projects including elections outreach and the 2015 World Police and Fire Games. Ms. Carrera was recently honored by the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce as its 2014 Business Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Angie Carrera's accomplishments and the legacy she leaves behind in her community are worthy of our highest praise. Her selfless dedication has contributed greatly to the public good and the outstanding quality of life for residents of Fairfax County. I commend her for her decades of service and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her well in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on April 12, 2016 I was not present to vote on H.R. 1567 (Global Food Security Act). I wish to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for roll call No. 139, I would have voted "YEA."

THE FERGUSON RIOTS: AN IMPORTANT EVENT THAT HAS CHANGED AMERICA, BY PHILLIP NGUYEN

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Phillip Nguyen attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: The Ferguson Riots: An Important Event That Has Changed America.

The year of 2015 has been a time of immense societal changes in America. The riots in Ferguson, Missouri exemplify one of the many events that have sparked such changes in the United States. From impacting the way society views minority groups to representing the shift in which the citizens of America demonstrate their protests, the Ferguson riots were a horrific event to be remembered throughout our country that has changed the way our society functions.

Beginning with the sudden death of Michael Brown by a police officer, the riots over the dispute of police brutality have be-

come a catalyst for the newfound "black lives matter" movement. This event has sparked an immense change in our country in that the citizens have become much more focused upon the treatment of minorities (especially African Americans) by police officers. In addition, a large amount of citizens of all races have been advocating the idealistic values of non-violence after witnessing the incidents occurring during the riots (looting, fires, and destruction of property). The media has even become extremely centralized over the ongoing disputes between the black and white communities as well as police brutality. Furthermore, the event of the riots in Ferguson has incited a shift in the functionality of the police system, such as requiring on duty officers to have a working camera on their person. Not all changes were positive, however. The riots were indicative of the change in how Americans demonstrate their protests of today in comparison to the past. For example, the riots emerged from the protests pertaining to police brutality towards African Americans quickly turned violent (by the protestors), whereas in the past for American civil rights movements, the protests were centralized over the idealism of peace and non-violence and rarely have the protestors ever turned violent.

The Ferguson riots in Missouri were an event that shook the country as a whole and sparked a plethora of social changes in the American people. Moreover, it not only impacted the way in which people have viewed the African American community lately, but it has changed the way in which the police force functions.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT TARA R. BROWN

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the life of Air Force Master Sergeant Tara R. Brown. A graduate of Deltona High School in Volusia County, Florida, Master Sergeant Brown gave her life defending our freedom on April 27, 2011. MSgt. Brown was the wife of Army Sgt. Ernest Brown and the daughter of Mr. Jim Jacobs of Deltona, Florida.

On Monday, April 18, 2016, in Central Florida, the street that serves as the entry to her alma mater, Daytona High School, will be named in her honor. This special recognition serves to honor and pay tribute to her service and devotion to the nation. Her family, friends and community will gather as we dedicate the corridor where she attended school in her memory.

Shortly after graduating from Deltona High School, MSgt. Brown enlisted in the Air Force and reported to Basic Military Training School at Lackland Air Force Base. She continued her training at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi where she attended technical school and was subsequently assigned to Kadena Air Base, Japan where she began working in information management.

Brown continued her service to our country during several overseas assignments. In November 2006, she was assigned to Headquarters, Air Force Office of Special Investigations and her service later took her to Eskan Village, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with and Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. In January 2011, she deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as a communications squadron advisor for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Air Training Command-Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, Master Sgt. Brown selflessly answered her nation's call to serve, and performed with distinction for over fifteen years. Her impeccable service record further reflects her outstanding character and dedication to her fellow men and women in uniform and to our country. As a testament to her decorated career, MSgt. Brown was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, and the NATO Article Five Medal. In her local community, the citizens of Deltona, Florida have renamed the southern portion of the road formerly known as Forrest Edge Drive to MSgt. Tara Jacobs Brown Ave.

In addition to her father and husband, Brown is survived by her mother, Gladys Vereen of New York; brothers Jim Jacobs of Kissimmee, Dominic Jacobs of New York, and Michael Jacobs of Deltona; and sister, Laguanda Jacobs of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering and celebrating the decorated service of Master Sergeant Tara R. Brown, and ask that God bless her soul and the souls of all our fallen heroes that have given their lives so we may enjoy the freedoms we all hold dear.

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#### HONORING TROY HAGER

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Troy Hager who is being recognized with the Community Care Award by the Associated Parents Group of Hillsborough, California. Mr. Hager has been a highly respected and popular teacher in the Hillsborough City School District for 16 years. He not only values creativity and independence in his students, he fosters and instills these qualities in them.

Mr. Hager came to Crocker Middle as the new technology teacher in 1999. Within a year, he had a vision for what would become his signature class: a newscast produced, directed, anchored, reported and videotaped by the HTV Newsteam, a group of 7th and 8th graders. Hillsborough Television (HTV) already existed as a local access cable station broadcasting content such as important district information, school presentations, musicals, theatrical performances and events produced by the school district, but the idea of a newscast fully produced by students was new. Mr. Hager pitched the idea to the principal, got the green light and then went to work to build the studio—from scratch. He built Teleprompters, news sets and painted the walls. This is not

exactly what you would expect of a technology teacher, so it is important to understand Mr. Hager's background. He grew up in Ventura without a TV. Instead, the family did projects where they turned a closet into a dark room, restored cars, and built cabinets and aquariums. As a child, Troy helped his father build several grandfather clocks. His wife Karen says he is a Renaissance man, just like his father.

Once the studio was built, Mr. Hager started teaching the class in 2000. Students compete to get in the class and submit applications, just like in the real television world. There are more than fifteen different jobs involved in producing the newscast and the students rotate so that they can learn every single job, but there is only one person who is teaching all of those skills: Mr. Hager. I had the great pleasure to see this extraordinary teacher at work when my children attended Crocker and were on the news team. They learned invaluable lessons and developed both technical and creative skills.

Mr. Hager was also one of the creators of the One-To-World Chromebook program at Crocker Middle School that began in 2011. It supplies students with their own laptops. His vision to prepare our children for the future in the digital world they will live and work in is characteristic of Mr. Hager. He is always one step ahead and constantly striving for excellence.

In addition to these outstanding accomplishments, Mr. Hager serves as an advisor to the Crocker Coding Club and a coach on the Executive Board of the Hillsborough American Youth Soccer Organization.

But Mr. Hager doesn't only serve the students. He also does the IT support for all of the teachers and staff at Crocker. Calls to repair broken or frozen computers are part of his every day. He welcomes those calls and sees them as opportunities to embrace technology. To him computers are interactive tools that connect teachers and students and open up new channels of learning. He has the ideal temperament for his job; he is even-keeled, mellow and loves working with teenagers.

He and Karen, his wife of 19 years, have two teenagers of their own, Brooke who is 15 and Sage who is 13 and currently attending Crocker Middle School.

Troy Hager grew up in Ventura and attended Ventura High School. He received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UC Berkeley and his teaching credential from San Francisco State University. Before teaching at Crocker Middle School, he taught at Franklin Elementary School in Burlingame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the members of the House of Representatives rise with me to honor Troy Hager, an exceptional teacher and devoted husband and father. I can't think of a more deserving person to receive the 2016 Hillsborough Community Care award.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF LORRAINE BUSHROD JACKSON

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Lorraine Bushrod Jackson of Springfield, Virginia, and to commend her years of service to her church and community.

Mrs. Jackson has been a member of the Shiloh Baptist Church for 73 years, beginning in 1943. Shiloh Baptist Church is one of oldest churches in Northern Virginia and has been designated a historical site by the Fairfax County Historical Commission. At the age of 10, Mrs. Jackson joined the Shiloh Baptist Church. Her parents, Gladys Cordelia Bushrod and Courtney Bushrod were members and raised their family within the church community. Mrs. Jackson has remained a faithful member of Shiloh Baptist Church since that time, as have her three remaining siblings: Shirley, Gwendolyn, and Barbara.

For 35 years, from 1978 to 2013, Mrs. Jackson served as the Financial Secretary of Shiloh Baptist Church. When Mrs. Jackson first accepted the position of Financial Secretary she lived in Capitol Heights, Md., and traveled to Lorton regularly to perform her duties. She was truly dedicated and committed to doing her job and serving the church. While serving in this capacity, she implemented numerous enhancements that improved the functionality and financial reporting capabilities including establishment of a voucher system, creation of budget line items that allowed the various ministries to better track their funds, introduction of Church Plus Financial System for more accurate record keeping of member's donations and church expenses, and preparation of year-end statements to church members.

Mrs. Jackson has also served in other ministries over the years. She was an active missionary, as well as church historian and usher, and she served on a number of committees including the Hospitality Committee and Cemetery Committee. She also represented Shiloh Baptist Church on the Seeds of Independence Committee at Gunston Hall. Despite recent physical limitations, Mrs. Jackson is currently President of the (Primetimers) Senior Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Lorraine Bushrod Jackson epitomizes living one's faith through service to her church and the community. I commend Mrs. Jackson for her dedicated and faithful service to the Shiloh Baptist congregation and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her many accomplishments and wishing her health, happiness, and success in all future endeavors.

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#### TRIBUTE TO SHANNON RUDOLPH UMTNUM

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Shannon

Rudolph Umthum for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Shannon serves as the Designated Learning Officer at the VA Central Iowa Health Care Systems (VACIHCS). She is continuously working to find new ways to improve the services and employment provided by the VACIHCS. Shannon promotes a culture of learning and growth that attracts the best and brightest in her field. Her dedication to excellence has also followed her into her civic life. Shannon is currently a member of the Iowa Hospital Association Executive Academy of 2016 and also formed the very first Go Red for Women Event Committee and Iowa Stroke Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Shannon in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Shannon on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

MAJORITY RULE BY RAHUL  
NAGVEKAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Rahul Nagvekar attends Dulles High School in Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: majority rule.

Majority rule is an important principle in any democracy, but it is always crucial to preserve the rights of and consider ideas from minority factions. To improve our sys-

tem of majority rule, I would seek to introduce legislation permitting binding nationwide referenda, consequently allowing proposals supported by an absolute majority of voters to be enacted independently of our party system.

Our current system of majority rule allows political factions to claim majority status even without the support of a numerical majority of voting-eligible Americans. In the last ten years, voter turnout has never exceeded 65% in a nationwide election. Even a party that wins 55% of the vote in an election with 65% turnout—almost always sufficient for a majority in a legislature or Electoral College—has been endorsed by just over 35% of eligible voters. Clearly, this does not indicate majority support for the winning party's policies and positions.

As an alternative, I believe America needs a nationwide petition-and-referendum system, some variant of which is already used in most states to consult voters about significant changes to legislation. Here is a basic framework for a nationwide referendum system, which can, if used correctly, bypass the party system and promote true majority rule:

1. Any voting-eligible American citizen can introduce a petition calling for a referendum, either to introduce a new law or to repeal an existing law. The petitioner should include the text of his or her proposed referendum question.

2. Once the petition is signed by 20% of all voting-eligible Americans, the proposal will be submitted to a Referendum Committee consisting of five constitutional law experts, all appointed by the Supreme Court. (The very high signature threshold should ensure that referenda are only used to resolve questions of genuine national importance.)

3. If the Referendum Committee unanimously concludes that the passage of the referendum will not violate the Constitution, the referendum question will appear on the ballot at the next available opportunity. Nationwide referenda will coincide with elections to the House of Representatives, but no more than three referendum questions will appear simultaneously on any national ballot.

4. If an absolute majority of voting-eligible Americans vote for the referendum proposal, the referendum will be binding and the proposal will be passed into law with a vote of Congress and the signature of the president.

This petition-and-referendum system enhance our current system of majority rule, first and foremost by allowing a proposal genuinely supported by a majority of voting-eligible Americans to be enacted into law even if it is not supported by the governing party. Additionally, by giving citizens a say in important national matters, a referendum system is likely to encourage increased turnout in future elections. I sincerely believe that this increased political participation will lead to more vigorous debate, encouraging winning parties to consider ideas from their defeated opponents—making our majority rule system more functional and democratic.

RECOGNIZING THE OXNARD COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM AS THE 2015 CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Oxnard College Men's Soccer Team for winning the 2015 California Community College Athletic Association State Soccer Championship. I commend the entire Oxnard College community on this monumental achievement and victory.

It is important to recognize that the journey for the Oxnard College Men's Soccer Team began far before they stepped on the field to practice. For the majority of these young men, their soccer careers began as young children playing in youth sports for fun. It was only a mere dream that one day these men would grow up to play for their college team and win the state title. Under the outstanding leadership of Coach Ross Greaney, a former Oxnard College player himself, the team was led to victory through hard work and dedication throughout the season.

Beginning with their initial home game, the Oxnard Condors worked diligently throughout their season up until the championship game on December 6, 2015. The Condors ended their season with 19 wins, 4 losses, and 3 ties. Facing Evergreen Valley College at De Anza College in Cupertino, California for the State Championship may have felt like a dream at one point, but their successful season had prepared the Condors well for this challenge.

From over 300 miles away, the Oxnard College community cheered and vigilantly watched as Cristian Guzman scored the winning goal for the Condors in overtime with the final score of 2-1. Through their perseverance and teamwork, the Condors returned home as state champions.

Through their sportsmanship and commitment, the Oxnard Condors brought home Oxnard College's first state title in almost forty years. With a leadership team of Head Coach Ross Greaney, Assistant Coach Bryan Hill, Team Manager Marc Pinlac, and Student Manager Oscar Martinez, the Condors had a strong support system to become champions. I would like to recognize the 19 players who deserve recognition for their victory including Eduardo Garcia, Saul Higuera, Daniel Aguilar, Mario Sermen, Ricky Arroyo, Jorge Jimenez, Edwin Elizarraraz, Gustavo Navarro, Fernando Hernandez Puga, Christian Guzman, Jerry Orozco, Raul Gonzalez, Luis Cabrera, Andres Herrera, Damian Lopez, Matias Lopez, Keifer Cooksey, Joseph Hernandez, and Sergio Equivel.

I am confident this hallmark achievement is only the beginning of many more to come for this team. For these reasons, I am pleased to express my sincere congratulations to the Oxnard College Men's Soccer Team for this great victory.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on April 12, 2016 I was absent for recorded vote Number 139 and Number 140.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here:

On Roll Call Number 139 I would have voted yes.

On Roll Call Number 140 I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 TYSONS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate the incoming 2016 board members.

Tyson's has drastically transformed during the past 50 years. This change began when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved plans for the Tysons Corner Shopping Center in 1962. When the mall opened in 1968, it was hailed as the largest enclosed mall in the world.

Since then, there has been a dramatic influx of technology companies, government contracting firms, and other corporations. Tysons has become the premier business district of the Washington Metropolitan Area and is the 12th largest employment center in the United States. With the recent opening of Metro's Silver Line and ongoing redevelopment, the region is expected to continue adding not only businesses but also high-density residential housing.

The mission of the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce is to be the unified voice of the business community in the area while ensuring that its ties and commitment to the community are strengthened. The Chamber actively promotes local non-profits and community organizations, as well as youth educational programs, and it sponsors multiple events each year in support of these activities. The growth of the Chamber has been the result of the diversity of its members and the leadership of its Board. I am pleased to submit the following names of the incoming 2016 board members:

2016 Chairman of the Board: Lori Lopez

2017 Incoming Chairman of the Board: Jeff DiMeglio

Incoming Board Members: William P. Daly, Jr., David MacGillivray, Peg McDermott, Stacy Bradford, Scott Finberg, Angela Inzerillo, Kathy Jensen, Kevin McCoy, Scott M. Ward, James Y. Boland, Carla Doyle, Matt Edgar, Maureen Loftus, Matt Evans, Jerry Ferguson, Shania Kapoor, Sopa Keo, Jeffrey B. Krashin, Shirley Luu, Cory Scott, Michele Weatherly, Peter Wynne, and Dean Xenos.

I also commend Mark Rogoff who served as Chairman for 2014–2015 for his leadership during this time of significant expansion. During his tenure, membership of the Chamber increased by 15 percent, professional programs offered to members were expanded and improved, and community involvement was increased.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce for its commitment to promoting the business community while encouraging social responsibility and in congratulating the incoming board members. I wish the Chamber continued success.

## ESSAY BY REBECA CHACKO

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Rebeca Chacko attends Manvel High School in Manvel, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

In the 1960's the movement for marriage equality gained notable attention. This attempt gained traction because of the growing number of people who identified as homosexual. Since then, there has and continues to be conflict facing the definition of marriage. This issue unraveled the larger issue of government power. What can the government dictate, and what is overstepping the line? Even though the United States was built on Christian ideals, the government cannot cater to a specific group of people and neglect the rest. The Supreme Court legalizing same sex marriage evoked discussion and reevaluation of our country's beliefs.

Our government has the responsibility of maintaining order and protecting the rights of the people. As the people evolve, the government must evolve accordingly. With this Supreme Court ruling, some individuals felt as if this was an attack on their personal beliefs. Certain groups of people felt that they were going against their religious views by accepting this ruling. However, the ruling made it clear to individuals with those beliefs that it is not a matter of right or wrong in their standards, but a matter of equality that is extended to all individuals. Religious rights should not be encroached on, but individual rights must be preserved as well. The country learned to be more open and accepting of an array of views. Our constitution was created to ensure the protection of the

minority, so no one group has to feel inferior to the rest.

The nation realized that everyone's views are not homogenous. With the legalization of same sex marriage, our nation has become more progressive. Though the entire country might not be on the same page, they are on the path to acceptance. Nothing happens overnight, and no one should expect it to. Moreover, people cannot be complacent; they have to continually fight for the minority. Now, our country is more open to change and reform. This ruling helped us to become a better nation that includes all groups. Democracy cannot function without the illumination of the people's voice provoking change. That is exactly what has happened with this ruling.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JESSICA GRACE KINGSLEY

**HON. JOSEPH J. HECK**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Captain Jessica Kingsley for her past year of exemplary service as an Army Congressional Liaison for the Chief, Army Reserve. During that short time, Jessica made a lasting and positive impact on the Army Reserve through her efforts to foster and maintain relationships with Congressional members and staff. As the legislative liaison for personnel and medical portfolios, she ensured that Army Reserve Soldiers' interests were clearly communicated to Members of Congress and their staffs as they contemplated the impacts of pending legislation. Additionally, Jessica led efforts to draft, refine, and promote legislative proposals designed to ensure the well-being of Army Reserve Soldiers and to maintain the superior quality force the Nation expects from its Army Reserve.

I am grateful that she will continue to serve the Army and Congress in her new assignment to the House Liaison Division, Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison, at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. We wish her well in her new position and look forward to our continued relationship.

A native of New York, Captain Kingsley enlisted in the Army Reserve as a Private. She served ten years as an Intelligence Analyst. During that time, Jessica deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of NATO's first peacekeeping operation and the NATO led Stabilization Force, deterring war and maintaining security to support civil reconstruction efforts. In 2001, she mobilized for 30 months at U.S. Army Forces Command in support of the Global War on Terrorism. In 2002, she graduated from the University of Georgia with three Bachelor Degrees in Criminal Justice, Sociology and Psychology.

Captain Kingsley was appointed via direct commission into the military intelligence branch in 2005. As an Officer in the United States Army Reserve, Captain Kingsley served at various levels. In 2005, she mobilized in support of humanitarian efforts on behalf of the people of Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas as part of Joint Task Forces Katrina and Rita. In 2006, Captain Kingsley

deployed to Iraq as the Senior Intelligence Officer for the Engineer Task Force serving Multi-National Force-West and conducting all bridging, construction and route clearance operations in western Iraq. In 2008, she was selected to serve as the Aide-de-Camp for the Commanding General of the Military Intelligence Readiness Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In 2011, she was selected as the Company Commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 377th Military Intelligence Battalion in Orlando, Florida. In 2012, Captain Kingsley was recognized with the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

Her service in the Army Reserve is highlighted by her 2013 selection as an Army Congressional Fellow. Captain Kingsley graduated with a Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University and served as a Congressional Fellow for Senator ROBERT CASEY JR. of Pennsylvania. In Senator CASEY's office, she worked legislative and constituent issues in National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Veterans Affairs, and various labor and union related areas. Following her fellowship, Captain Kingsley served as a Legislative Liaison assigned to the Office, Chief Army Reserve.

As with all our Citizen Soldiers, it is important that we acknowledge her civilian employer's sacrifice and community's service. It is because of their cooperation and understanding during her many tours on Active Duty that she is able to make such a positive impact on the Army Reserve.

Jessica is accustomed to working long hours in all of her positions in the Army and civilian sector. So, it is only fair and proper to acknowledge the tireless support of her spouse, Annah. I thank her for her sacrifices and wish her all the best for continued success in the future.

Throughout her twenty year career, Captain Jessica Kingsley has made positive impacts on the careers and lives of her Soldiers, peers, and superiors, and I am grateful that she has chosen to serve as an Army leader. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army congressional liaison.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE RICHARDS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mike Richards for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based

on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As a senior shareholder and attorney at the Davis Brown Law Firm, Mike works tirelessly to provide his customers with sound, reasonable legal advice and top notch customer service. Mike's dedication to his community goes hand in hand with his hard work in his professional life. He volunteers his time to the Broadlawns Advocate Circle so that those who suffer from a mental illness have access to the kind of care they need in order to find themselves on the path to recovery.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mike in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mike on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE  
MARC KOVAR

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Detective Marc Kovar, who is being honored by the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist during the 16th Annual Dean McNutty Awards Dinner this Sunday, April 17, 2016.

Detective Kovar is the Executive Vice President of the 33,000-member strong New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association (NJSPBA). He is committed to fighting for the rights of the men and women of law enforcement, who place their lives on the line each day for the people of New Jersey. Marc has served the residents in the City of Passaic for more than 20 years, and holds the rank of Detective.

He has been involved in many other committees and sits on the National Board of NAPO (National Association of Police Organizations). As a labor leader, Marc rose through the ranks of the Passaic PBA and State PBA. As the Delegate for the PBA Local 14, he was appointed to the State PBA Executive Board in 2008 and served six years as Chairman of the Collective Bargaining Committee. Furthermore, he is an active voice in the PBA Committees on legislation, legal defense and training of new union delegates. Marc is widely known for his volunteer work on behalf of fallen officers and their survivors; including over 10 years of service on the Passaic County Blue Mass Committee. He currently lives in Clifton with his wife Nicole and his two daughters Rachel and Isabella.

Marc is one of the most passionate union members and is exceptionally loyal to the

PBA. Until his appointment as Executive Vice President, he was Chairman of the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association Collective Bargaining Committee. His involvement with this committee has given him the unique perspective and experience needed to carry out his duties as PBA Executive Vice President.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I understand that law enforcement officials such as Detective Kovar are a critical part of keeping our local communities safe. I have the great honor of recognizing Marc's strong leadership and tireless dedication to his fellow officers as well as the communities that they serve. I have known Marc personally as a law enforcement officer and as a friend, and I can tell you that there are few people who you would rather have in your corner than him.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of public servants such as Detective Marc Kovar.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, his family and friends, fellow officers, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Detective Marc Kovar.

CONGRATULATING SUE WOODRUFF  
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sue Woodruff on the occasion of her retirement, and to thank her for her 42 years of service to Fairfax County.

Sue began her career with Fairfax County in 1973. Since that time, she has served in a variety of positions and departments including the County Executive's office, the Consumer Affairs division and the former Department of Social Services; however, she has spent the majority of her career in the Department of Human Resources (DHR) where she has served admirably for the last 35 years.

Sue joined the DHR in 1981 as a personnel analyst and from 1986-2002 served as the employee relations division chief. In this position, Sue was responsible for supervising employee relations, including personnel policy development, grievances, internal communications, award programs, the Employee Assistance Program, and drug and alcohol testing. She also served as the agency's liaison to the Fairfax County Employees Advisory Council and the Civil Service Commission.

She was promoted to assistant director for DHR in 2002 and served in that position for 6 years. Her responsibilities included overseeing compensation, employee relations, and work force planning. Due to her expertise, Sue led the review of the Pay for Performance System. She convened a group of human resources professionals, budget analysts, and employee advocates to explore possible enhancements. This commission identified a

number of areas that could be improved and made recommendations, including the addition of an extra level or "fifth bar" to be used in employee evaluations and adjustments to performance awards. These changes resulted in a more consistent and fair employee evaluation process. During this time, Sue also served on the legislative team and co-lead the management team setting the strategic direction for the agency.

Most recently, Sue has served as the director of the Department of Human Resources (DHR), a position the Board of Supervisors appointed her to in 2008. She has continued to strive to improve Human Resources operations and ensure that Fairfax County has the policies and programs in place to attract and retain a superior workforce. The world-class services provided by Fairfax County government are in no small way due to Sue's efforts to build, train, and incentivize the dedicated civil servants who work for the County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Sue on the occasion of her retirement and in thanking her for her decades of dedicated public service. Fairfax County is often cited as being one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and Sue Woodruff has contributed immeasurably to this success.

COMMEMORATING THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 37th Anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) which was signed thirty-seven years ago on April 10, 1979.

Since its enactment, the TRA has undergirded U.S.-Taiwan relations—resulting in a mutually beneficial relationship that encourages strong security, cultural, and economic ties.

Taiwan's story is an example to the world of the potential of a country.

Taiwan and the United States share many values including: a commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Indeed, I am particularly proud that as a Member of the U.S. Congress, my colleagues and I can serve an important role in strengthening bilateral relations by engaging our counterparts in Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has grown to become America's ninth-largest overall trading partner and our seventh-largest destination for agricultural exports.

After Taiwan became part of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in November 2012, travel from Taiwan to the United States increased by more than 50 percent.

Taiwan is set to join the U.S. Global Entry Program—a manifestation of its commitment to continuous cooperation between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the speech delivered by Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou on

March 30, 2016 at AmCham Hsieh Nian Fan celebration, in which he emphasized the strong and abiding friendship between Taiwan and the United States, which was integral to Taiwan's transformation into the free, prosperous, and just society it is today.

President Ma also mentioned that through the effort to seek peace, Taiwan has become a peacemaker and provider of humanitarian aid.

President Ma also spoke of Taiwan's future through the lens of three key issues: cross-strait relations, energy, and economic development.

During this time, as we commemorate the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, I encourage my colleagues to continue to join me in support of and in promotion of our bilateral relations with Taiwan.

I also want to congratulate Taiwan on the January 16, 2016 election of the first female President to be elected—Dr. Tsai Ing-wen.

Mr. Speaker, the inauguration of President Dr. Tsai Ing-wen is the third peaceful transition of power in Taiwan's democratic history.

The United States congratulates the people and government of Taiwan on the election of President Tsai Ing-wen and Taiwan's enduring and strong commitment to nurturing democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS—BIANCA ELLEGON

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bianca Ellegon from Richmond, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

Bianca attends Terry High School and is one of eight high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, a program for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school and supported to continually strive toward their aspirations of working in the medical field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 25th through the 27th. Bianca was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress because of her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing a medical science. We are proud of Bianca and all of her hard work, and know she will make Richmond proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Bianca for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING KATHRYN A. HEIN ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 11 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathy Hein. She retired from Marquette University on March 31, 2016 after serving eleven years. Ms. Hein was the Assistant Director of the Les Aspin Center—Milwaukee, Les Aspin Center for Government. The position oversees the Milwaukee-based state and local internship program created to complement the Washington internship program.

The Les Aspin Center for Government which began in 1984 is a nationally recognized educational program that prepares young people to serve the public effectively and ethically and provides opportunities to enhance public policy awareness. Additionally, in 2005, the Kleczka Internship Program which Kathy Hein oversaw was started on Marquette's campus in Milwaukee. The Kleczka Internship Program places students in city, county and state legislative offices in Wisconsin. Like the successful academic model of the Les Aspin Center, the Kleczka internship combines hands-on internship experiences with classroom instruction to maximize students' learning opportunities. Since its inception 2,200 Les Aspin Center students have interned at many offices including: nearly 100 congressional offices, the State Department, the U.S. Secret Service, the White House, the Department of Defense, the Wisconsin Office of Federal-state Relations, and offices for Wisconsin-based corporations. The Les Aspin Center, through international exchanges, promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries. In fact, at any given time, there are approximately 50 Les Aspin Center alumni working as professional staff members in Congress and many have been elected to office themselves.

This is Ms. Hein's second retirement. She was a distinguished public servant working for the federal government for 27 years. Kathy worked in the Washington, DC office of the late Congressman Les Aspin. Prior to retirement from federal service, she served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Kleczka, my immediate predecessor, where she worked for 20 years.

Kathy Hein grew up in DePere, Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She worked for both Governor Pat Lucey and Governor Marty Schreiber. She continues her public service by serving as a member of the City of Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission, a member of the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center Board of Directors and serves as the Co-chair of my 4th Congressional District, Academy Nomination Board of Advisors. Kathy is especially famous for her amazing desserts and she enjoys spending time with her loving husband of thirty-four years, Gordon Werner.

Kathy is a true "public servant" and has always fought for policies aimed at advancing



equality of rights for all. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I rise to pay tribute to an amazing woman, Kathy Hein, on her illustrious career. She is an asset to the 4th Congressional District and has made a positive impact on all of Wisconsin.

CONGRATULATING THE ORGANIZATION OF KOREAN-AMERICAN WOMEN ON ITS 52ND ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Organization of Korean-American Women (OKAW) and congratulate it on the occasion of its 52nd Anniversary.

While much has changed here in Northern Virginia over the last 50 years, the mission of the Organization of Korean-American Women has not, and it is more important than ever. The transition to a new country can be daunting as new customs and social mores, a different language, and a reduced network of supportive friends and family present real challenges to anyone moving to a new community. The Organization of Korean-American Women has distinguished itself through its service in helping people adapt to their new home and to fully share in the benefits and opportunities that brought them to the United States.

For 15 years, OKAW has been an active supporter of The House of Hope, which provides temporary emergency shelter and support services to women and children who are in immediate danger from domestic violence. No woman should have to live in fear simply because she does not know where to turn for help. The House of Hope provides these women with financial support, shelter, and legal assistance. It also helps them become self-sufficient and full participants in our American society.

OKAW would not be able to provide these crucial services without the contributions of individuals, corporations, and foundations, however its most priceless asset is the commitment of its staff and volunteers, who dedicate their time and energy to ensure the well-being of others. I am honored to submit the names of three of these individuals into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Ms. Mija Perkins, President of the Organization of Korean-American Women. Ms. Perkins has been involved in OKAW for more than 35 years and has led the organization through its growth and expansion of programs and services.

Mr. William Won-Kyun Hwang, President of the Washington Chapter of the National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC) for the Republic of Korea. Mr. Hwang is an integral part of the Northern Virginia community and is a long-time supporter of OKAW.

Mr. Sam Patton, who has volunteered his time for more than 10 years and assisted in a variety of capacities including serving as webmaster.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Organization of Ko-

rean-American Women on its 52nd anniversary, and in thanking the staff, volunteers, and supporters for their contributions to our community. Their commendable efforts and selfless dedication to improving the lives of others are truly worthy of our highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER SMITH

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jennifer Smith for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Jennifer works as an Assurance Manager for Des Moines based McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith P.C. She is passionate about providing her clients with sound advice and works hard to build strong business relationships with each of them. Jennifer is also tirelessly dedicated to serving her community. She volunteers her time and talents to organizations like the Bidwell Riverside Center, Hawthorn Hill, and Lead Like a Lady. Her commitment to serving others before herself is a true testament to her character and her Iowa values.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jennifer in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jennifer on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 17 as World Hemophilia Day, a day where the international community speaks as one to honor the hundreds of thousands of people across the globe suffering from hemophilia. Now, more than ever, we must renew our commitment to hemophilia patients, ensure that they can receive the most

advanced care known to modern medicine, and redouble our efforts to discovering new treatments—and ultimately a cure—for this dangerous condition.

Hemophilia is a genetic disorder that prevents blood from clotting properly, making even seemingly slight injuries a terrifying prospect for a bleeding episode that can lead to serious injury and even death. While the disease is rare in statistical terms, an estimated 400 newborns are diagnosed with the disease every year, and approximately 20,000 hemophiliacs live in the United States at this very moment. And all too often, this vulnerable patient population is put into jeopardy by the financial hurdles obstructing access to the intensive care needed for combatting such a pervasive disease.

Even with the protections put into place by the Affordable Care Act, too many American families are faced with the daunting challenge of tackling the financial burden of hemophilia—a burden that can grow to a quarter of a million dollars per year—alone. This World Hemophilia Day, I stand to speak out on behalf of the patients battling this complicated disease and hope that by raising awareness in this body, we move closer to a day where the treatment of hemophilia is practical, sustainable, and accessible for all Americans.

HONORING THE 2015 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2015 recipients of the Northern Virginia Leadership Awards presented by Leadership Fairfax.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training, and growing leaders in Northern Virginia. The mission of Leadership Fairfax is to educate, prepare, inspire, and connect leaders to serve and strengthen our community. Graduates from its programs become part of a fast-growing network of civic leaders. I've always said, "When you walk into a crowded room, it's easy to spot the graduates of Leadership Fairfax—they just stand out!"

Leadership Fairfax alumni and the general public submitted nominations for the 19th annual Northern Virginia Leadership Award, and a panel of community and business leaders made the final selections. It is my honor to submit the following names of the 2015 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients:

The recipient of the 2015 Trustee Leadership Award is Dr. Charles Thomas, Jr. in recognition of his work as Project Leader at LMI. Thanks to Dr. Thomas' leadership, LMI's commitment to community outreach manifests itself in many ways. Some of the programs the company supports include Children's Hospital, the Wounded Warriors Project, the Fallen Heroes Project and Wreaths Across America.

The recipient of the 2015 Nonprofit Leadership Award presented to an individual is Ms. Eileen Ellsworth, in recognition of her work

with the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is a grant-making and endowment-building organization, working with donors across the region. Their research on key issues philanthropic investment inspires the Northern Virginia community to become more engaged in supporting the most pressing issues facing our neighbors in need.

The recipient of the 2015 Nonprofit Leadership Award presented to an organization is The Child and Family Network Centers. The Child and Family Network Centers' mission is to provide caring, high-quality, free education and related services to at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods in order to prepare them for success in school and life.

The recipient of the 2015 Corporate Leadership Award is Helios HR. Helios has provided sustained support to many organizations within the Washington metro area. From winter coat drives, to providing pro bono resume writing and interviewing skills workshops and mentoring members of future generations, Helios is there for the community in innumerable ways.

The recipient of the 2015 Educational Leadership Award is Mr. Jesse Kraft, in recognition of his work as Principal of Providence Elementary School. Mr. Kraft began his educational career in 1996 after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a National Board Certified Teacher, and he earned his Master's degree from George Mason University. In 2010 he was recognized by FCPS with the Nancy F. Sprague Outstanding First Year Principal Award.

The recipient of the 2015 Regional Leadership Award is Ms. Leila Gordon, in recognition of her work as Director of the Reston Community Center. Reston Community Center works to bring the community together through enriching leisure time experiences that enhance the value of the community and improve local organizational effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of these individuals and organizations are one of the reasons why Fairfax is such a sought after community in which to live and work, and this year's honorees highlight the legacy of Leadership Fairfax in preparing our community's future leaders to address the challenges we face. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees and thanking them for their service to Northern Virginia.

#### TRIBUTE TO EMILY TORIBIO

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Emily Toribio for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers.

Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Emily serves as the Corporate Outreach and Communications Coordinator at the low-based Fareway Stores Inc. As the Corporate Outreach and Communications Coordinator, Emily highlights the benefits and tremendous impact of helping others through charitable donations each and every day. She brings her dedication to helping others into her personal life as well. Emily is a proud supporter and volunteer for the Junior League of Des Moines, Lead Like a Lady, and Variety—The Children's Charity.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Emily in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Emily on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 146, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

#### NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS—SUNGMIN CHO

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sungmin Cho from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

Sungmin is one of eight high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, a program for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school and supported to continually strive toward their aspirations of working in the medical field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 25th

through the 27th. Sungmin was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress because of his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing a medical science. We are proud of Sungmin and all of his hard work, and know he will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sungmin for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Keep up the great work.

#### IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the importance of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and the critical work they do to save lives and provide support for victims of domestic violence.

For nearly 20 years, the National Domestic Violence Hotline has been operating as a 24/7 lifeline for victims and survivors of domestic violence nationwide.

In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act authorized the creation of the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

On August 17, 1995 the Texas Council on Family Violence received a \$1 million federal grant that established The Hotline.

On February 21, 1996 the Hotline took its first call.

The Hotline's approximately 130 dedicated advocates receive almost 35,000 monthly contacts and have managed this high contact volume while ensuring quality services.

Marketed to millions through public outreach, the Hotline has assembled a comprehensive database with thousands of referral resources, influenced policies and practices in victim services.

The Hotline helps survivors see options for next steps and connects them to immediate sources of practical help.

In 2007, the Hotline partnered with Liz Claiborne Inc. to launch the "loveisrespect" which is a program aimed to mobilize parents, educators, peers, and victims to raise awareness about healthy dating behaviors and unhealthy and abuse patterns in relationships.

In addition to the availability of 24/7 phone, chat, and SMS text helplines designed to meet the specific needs of young adults, "loveisrespect" works to grow the next generation of anti-violence advocates.

Nationwide nearly 3 in 10 women and 1 in 10 men in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by a partner and report a related impact on their functioning.

In 2014, in Texas alone 132 women were killed as a result of domestic violence, along with 185,817 reports of family violence incidents, while there were 185,373 hotline calls answered.

As the ranking member on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I know

the importance of protecting victims of crime and providing the vital support they need.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here as Mother, Wife, and Member of Congress to acknowledge the important work of those who staff the National Domestic Violence Hotline, they provide a comfort to those Americans who are in abusive relationships.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I am unavoidably absent for today's consideration of the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act (H.R. 2666) as I am speaking at the funeral for Ms. Fannie Fitzgerald, a Civil Rights pioneer who helped integrate the Prince William County Public Schools in my district in the early 1960s. She was a courageous and inspiring woman, and I was proud to feature her first-hand recounting of that experience the Northern Virginia Civil Rights Archive project, which my office produced to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

On the Yarmuth/Lujan/Pallone/Clarke Amendment, I would have voted "yes," in support of preserving the FCC's authority to require broadcasters provide their public inspection files in an online, searchable format for public review. I also would have voted "yes" on the McNerney Amendment to preserve the Commission's authority to act in the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Finally, I would have voted "no" on final passage as the scope of this bill extends far beyond its simple-sounding title.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES SKIPPER

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Skipper for his 30 years of dedication and hard work for Glynn County Schools.

One of his most passionate endeavors, Mr. Skipper coached the Brunswick High School baseball team for 28 years, 5 of them as head coach. Brunswick High Baseball won 314 games during the time he was on the coaching staff for a win percentage of 60 percent. In total, Coach Skipper coached Brunswick High School in 12 playoff appearances, including sub-region championships in 2004 and 2007. He was named to be a coach on the Georgia Dugout Club All-State team in 2007 and 2011 and has received the Quarter Century Award for service to the game of baseball by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

In the course of 30 years, Coach Skipper's dedication to the Glynn County School system also included coaching football and teaching Physical Education as well as health and fitness courses.

After many years of impacting young lives, Coach Skipper is retiring. I rise today to thank him for his work with the Glynn County school system, thank him for the lives that he shaped, and to congratulate him on his coaching successes.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS—HAYLEY WISNIESKI

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hayley Wisnieski from Richmond, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

Hayley attends William B. Travis High School and is one of eight high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, a program for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school and supported to continually strive toward their aspirations of working in the medical field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 25th through the 27th. Hayley was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress because of her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing a medical science. We are proud of Hayley and all of her hard work, and know she will make Richmond proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Hayley for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Keep up the great work.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM BOWERS

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in recognition of Tom Bowers, Commonwealth Attorney for Salem, Virginia, who today in a formal awards ceremony at Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters is receiving the Richmond FBI's 2015 Director's Community Leadership Award for his efforts to organize a Heroin Prevention Initiative in the Roanoke, Virginia area.

According to the Washington Post, in the first three quarters of last year, 244 people in Virginia died of heroin overdoses. This is an increase from 239 deaths the year prior. More locally, in a study by the Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition of middle and high school students, one in 14 students admitted to using heroin.

Regrettably, the growing epidemic of heroin use is a plague on communities throughout the United States. Addressing this nationwide problem will require expanded coordination and involvement by local, state, and federal governments as well as law enforcement agencies and health care professionals.

I applaud Commonwealth Attorney Bowers and those working with him on the Heroin Prevention Initiative for their efforts to combat the heroin epidemic by bringing awareness to the pervasiveness of prescription drug and heroin use among youth in the Roanoke area and helping to alleviate damage to our community. Others involved in this initiative include the Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition, the Prevention Council of Roanoke County, the Virginia State Police, the City of Roanoke Police Department, the Vinton Police Department, and the Roanoke County Police Department.

Congratulations to Commonwealth Attorney Bowers on being presented the Richmond FBI's 2015 Director's Community Leadership Award. I commend him and others on the front line of the ongoing fight against heroin and prescription drug abuse in our community.

TRIBUTE TO CORY SCOTT

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cory Scott for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Cory serves as a Partner and Urban Planner at RDG Planning and Design in their Des Moines location. He has committed himself to providing his clients with expert planning and urban development advice for cities all across the Midwest. Cory's passion for enacting change within communities is truly inspiring. His commitment to his professional life is paralleled by his commitment to his community. Cory is a supporter of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition and the Des Moines Bicycle Collective, working to create an environment where bicycle and pedestrian transportation is always part of the discussion in urban development.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Cory in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join

me in congratulating Cory on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

IN RECOGNITION OF JANE BAILEY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Bailey for her twenty nine years of service and advocacy with the Michigan Association of Justice (MAJ) and her lifetime of commitment to civil rights, equality and fairness.

A native of Adrian, Michigan, Jane attended Eastern Michigan University, where she majored in Mathematics and General Business. After her undergraduate studies, Jane went to law school at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, where she graduated in 1977 and subsequently passed the bar. Later on in her academic career, Jane pursued Doctoral studies in Marketing at Michigan State University and continued on her path of learning.

After spending two years as a practicing attorney in Chicago, Jane began a career as an educator. She worked as a teacher and instructor for nearly a decade, first at Augustana College in Illinois, and later at the Florida Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, and the General Motors Institute. In addition to her teaching career, Jane spent time in the private sector in marketing, and in 1987 began her distinguished career at the MAJ in Lansing. She immediately had a powerful impact developing coalitions throughout the state of Michigan and building the membership of the MAJ. In 1988, Jane was asked to serve as the Legislative Counsel, where she began to develop deeper and more meaningful relationships with legislators and worked to closely track legislation in Lansing. As a testament to her impact, in 1990, Jane was named as the Executive Director of the MAJ, a position she has served in for the past twenty seven years.

As the Executive Director of the MAJ, Jane provided the leadership and vision necessary to grow the organization into one of the top advocacy organizations in Lansing. Her steady leadership has led the organization to be an effective voice for those who need a champion. Jane is responsible for implementing a wide variety of programs, building a large and successful voluntary board and broadening relationships with legislators on both sides of the aisle through active participation from its membership. Jane's leadership was acknowledged in 1996 when she was elected President of the Michigan Association of Bar Executives, and in 2001, when she was elected as the President of the National Association of Trial Lawyer Executives. As a testament to the organization that she worked so hard to build, in 2011, Jane was honored with the MAJ's Champion of Justice award, the highest award that the organization confers.

Jane's work has helped to ensure that all people—individuals, families, patients and consumers—can seek justice in our third

branch of government, the courts. She has been a voice for those that are injured and have nowhere else to turn. She has helped to ensure that we fight for and preserve a balanced civil justice system and to advocate for tough laws to hold industries and corporations accountable when they withhold information that can harm or kill. Our environment is cleaner, our medicine is better and our cars are safer because of her leadership of fighting for every person in America to have a path to justice. Jane has also been a voice for consistent public education and research to promote informed public dialogue on, and understanding of and appreciation for, the civil justice system.

In addition to her professional work, Jane has been a staunch supporter and advocate for civil rights, equality, and justice in all of her efforts. She has supported a wide variety of LGBT, environmental, and women's rights organizations. Jane has gone above and beyond in the community helping to establish the Mark Weiss Memorial Scholarship at Wayne State University, which is given to an aspiring law student each year who is committed to practicing law in the public interest. She also worked to start the Heads-Up for Safety event which has been dedicated to giving out bike helmets to children in Lansing, keeping more of our children safe. Jane's contributions both professionally and personally have been commendable, and while I know she is looking to enjoy her retirement, it is my sincere hope that she will continue to share of her time and talents into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Jane Bailey for her service to our community. I thank her for her leadership and wish her many years of happiness in her retirement.

IN HONOR OF JOSHUA MOLINE

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corps veteran Joshua Moline of Woodbury Heights, New Jersey for his exemplary service to the citizens of New Jersey and the United States.

Joshua was born and raised in Woodbury Heights, and attended Gateway High School, where he was a 4-year varsity athlete, broke the state and school pole vault record, and was later inducted into the Gateway High School Hall of Fame in 2012. After graduating in June 2000, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. During his time in the Marines, he served aboard the USS *Iwo Jima*, was deployed to combat operations in Mosul, delivered humanitarian aid in Liberia, and participated in anti-terrorism operations in Djibouti.

After returning to civilian life in 2004, Joshua became a member of VFW Post 5579 and has earned the All State Post Commander Award, All State Quartermaster Award, and is a member of the Semper Fidelis Marine Corps League. Moreover, he continues his selfless community service by helping veterans and their families throughout Gloucester County.

Mr. Speaker, Joshua Moline is a great American who exemplifies true love for our country. His commitment to protecting and serving our community both as a member of the Marine Corps and as a veteran is an inspiration. I join with my community and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements and selfless service of this truly exceptional young man.

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE SWOBODA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Catherine Swoboda for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Catherine serves as the Director of Planning at the Des Moines based World Food Prize Organization. Through her work, Catherine is able to motivate the next generation of young people to fight hunger and give back to the people who need it most. She is tirelessly dedicated to educating others about the sheer number of people who go hungry each and every day. Not only does Catherine help others in her professional life, but she is also committed to using her time outside of work to help refugees fight through the issues they encounter when beginning a new life and acclimating to a new culture.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Catherine in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Catherine on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of Equal Pay Day.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues Task Force on Women of

Color, I have always believed that equal pay should be a universal right for all citizens regardless of gender.

Equal Pay Day is a time to reflect and renew our shared dedication and responsibility to eliminate pay inequalities in the workforce.

Equal Pay Day is the date in the current year that represents the extra days a typical woman working full-time would have to work just to make the same as a typical man did in the previous year.

Women in America still earn an average of 78 cents to a man's dollar, even after having attained the same level of experience and education.

For women of color:

60 cents on the dollar for the typical Black woman.

55 cents on the dollar for the typical Hispanic woman.

The gender pay gap in the United States is among the largest of many industrialized nations.

On average there's a yearly pay gap of \$11,084.

At this rate, the wage gap will not close completely for another 40 years; costing women anywhere from \$400,000 to \$2 million over a lifetime in lost wages.

Women make up nearly half of our workforce, therefore this disparity impacts us all.

The wage gap not only disadvantages women who worked just as hard to earn less, it also hurts those families supported by women's incomes.

Pay discrimination puts greater strain on families to cover costs like child care or health care, and it holds our economy back from achieving its full potential.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is a common-sense measure that will bolster the ability of women to fight pay discrimination.

This women's Equity measure will:

Require that employers seeking to justify unequal pay bear the burden of proving that its actions are job-related and consistent with a business necessity.

Prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers.

Put gender-based discrimination sanctions on equal footing with other forms of wage discrimination—such as race, disability or age—by allowing women to sue for compensatory and punitive damages.

Require the Department of Labor to enhance outreach and training efforts to work with employers in order to eliminate pay disparities.

Require the Department of Labor to continue to collect and disseminate wage information based on gender.

Create a new grant program to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women.

This Equal Pay Day, we celebrate the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Mr. Speaker, Equal Pay Day restores the American promise, an idea that with hard work, anyone can reach their dreams and know no limits but the scope of their aspirations.

I believe in equal pay for equal work, and we need to rededicate ourselves to building a future in which women are paid based on their merits.

MARLEE ZEIN SERVES UP  
TOWARD SUCCESS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marlee Zein of Sugar Land, Texas for being selected to the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Junior Leadership Team.

Marlee is currently a sophomore at Dulles High School and is 1 of only 30 tennis players from across the United States to be selected to the USTA Junior Leadership Team. The USTA acknowledges tennis players who exemplify admirable qualities such as leadership and good sportsmanship, both while playing tennis and in day to day activities. Members selected to the USTA contribute to their community as a whole, and do so with outstanding character. Marlee is not only part of the USTA team, but also ranked the number four player in the state of Texas and number nine in the country for the end of the 2015 year; what an accomplished young woman. In addition to an impressive list of awards, she also volunteers at a community Sudanese group.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Marlee Zein for being selected as a USTA Junior Leadership Team member. We can't wait to see what she does next.

TRIBUTE TO BETHANY WILCOXON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bethany Wilcoxon for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the Capitol Crossroads Director at the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Bethany works hard on a daily basis to move Des Moines forward as an innovative community where you can live, work and build a family. It is because of Iowans like her that Des Moines continues to be one of the greatest places to live in the entire country. Her passion for growing the community also applies to her civic life. Most recently, Bethany has been involved with the Jester Park Nature Center Campaign Leadership Team, the Tomorrow Plan, Urban Ambassadors, and the Leukemia

and Lymphoma Society's Central Iowa Man & Woman of the Year campaign.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Bethany in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bethany on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

CONGRATULATING THE GOLDEN  
STATE WARRIORS ON BREAKING  
NBA REGULAR-SEASON WINS  
RECORD

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, together with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman MICHAEL HONDA, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, I rise today to congratulate the Golden State Warriors on breaking the National Basketball Association (NBA) regular-season wins record on Wednesday.

With the whole world watching, the Warriors' 73rd victory broke the Chicago Bulls' record that stood for twenty years. This achievement is a prime example showing the Warriors' resilience, "Strength in Numbers," and status as among the best teams ever.

This incredible journey began with the best start to a season, with 24 wins in a row, and ended with 39 wins and just 2 losses at home at Oracle Arena.

We are so proud to represent the Golden State Warriors in Congress as well as the best fans in the NBA, #DubNation.

Throughout this season, the Warriors have been a thrill to watch. They have truly re-invented the game of basketball.

But, it is not just their skills that shine. Both on and off the court, they have shown the power of hard work and unity.

Time after time, the Warriors have proven their love for our community and served as powerful role models. We are so honored to have these incredible athletes and men in our community.

Thank you to owner Joe Lacob, president Rick Welts, head coach Steve Kerr, interim head coach Luke Walton, Steph Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green, Harrison Barnes, Andrew Bogut, Andre Iguodala, and all of the talented players, coaches, and staff who made this record possible.

We look forward to our Warriors bringing home the Larry O'Brien Trophy once again this summer. Go Warriors, and Go Dub Nation.

HONORING DANIEL ALAN  
ZIEGLER, JR.

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor a young family in mourning.

Rae-Lynn Ziegler and Dan Ziegler are Capitol Hill veterans that have worked for Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. In fact, Rae-Lynn was an integral member of my team in Washington D.C.; she aided in setting up our office and served the constituents of the 17th Congressional District of Texas for nearly three years.

On March 23, 2016, Rae-Lynn and Dan welcomed their first-born son, Daniel Alan Ziegler, Jr. into the world. Prior to his birth, Daniel Jr. was diagnosed with a life threatening condition—Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia—and his family knew his life would be challenging and require much specialized medical care and attention. Despite these challenges, he was born into an immediate and extended family full of hope, support, prayers and love. Unfortunately, his time on this earth was limited as he passed away on March 29, 2016.

During his short time with us, Daniel Jr., touched many lives and was loved deeply by family and friends. His life was a brief gift to us and there is no doubt that Daniel Jr. had some of the strongest, most loving parents and supporters.

Throughout this entire process, Rae-Lynn and Dan exhibited tremendous strength and were steadfast in their faith in God. Their unwavering commitment to Christ, along with the support of their loving families and friends, will help them get through this difficult time. Rae-Lynn, Dan, and Daniel Jr. will continue to be in our prayers.

Psalm 34:18 reminds us that “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” In a nutshell, God has taken Daniel Jr. into his loving arms and is healing the broken hearts of his family.

Mr. Speaker, today, we honor and remember the life of Daniel Alan Ziegler, Jr. While his life was short, he will live on in the memories of many and has left an indelible mark on the lives of his loving parents.

May God bless Daniel Alan Ziegler, Jr. and his family.

As I close, I ask all Americans continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

MARINE AND NCO OF THE QUARTER ANNOUNCED AT MCLB BARSTOW

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two outstanding Marines who were recently selected as the Marine and Non-

commissioned Officer of the Quarter at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

Lance Corporal Cristina Zamora was named the Marine of the Quarter. Lance Corporal Zamora, a native of Los Angeles, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2014 and currently serves as a postal clerk. This past summer, she participated in and won the High Intensity Tactical Training Competition at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. Lance Corporal Zamora then went on to participate against winners from other Marine Corps installations and finished in the top 10 overall. She certainly earned the title of Marine of the Quarter.

There are many of you here today who haven't served in the Armed Forces, but it's important to know that noncommissioned officers are the backbone of our military. I'm proud to announce that Corporal Natori Miller was named the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. Corporal Miller enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2011 and has taken full advantage of the educational and leadership opportunities at her disposal. She has participated and excelled in the Military Academic Skills Program, and she serves as president of the Single Marines Program at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. Corporal Miller is truly a leader of Marines in every sense of the word.

Again, congratulations to Lance Corporal Zamora and Corporal Miller for their dedication to the United States Marine Corps and the United States of America. Semper Paratus, Devil Dogs.

COMPUTER SCIENCE BY  
PAOLA OBISPO

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Paola Bispo attends Manvel High School in Manvel, Texas. The essay topic is: computer science.

The future of our country rests on the actions we take now to secure a spot at the helm of innovation, with regards to technology. Technology, more specifically computer science, is growing in relevance worldwide and we would be foolish to ignore it. The importance of computer science is second to none as it is vital to our security, foreign and domestic, as well as vital to safeguarding our economic prosperity.

The power of computer science is so great that it enables anyone with a computer ac-

cess to power. Knowledge in computer science is what allowed North Korea, a country with relatively low resources, to orchestrate a successful cyber attack against a U.S. corporation. Furthermore, at home, ordinary citizens and businesses are experiencing the sting of sub par computer science education, as they are falling victim to cyber breaches.

On the other hand, our country can benefit tremendously economically by supporting computer science education. The fact that knowledge of computers can lead to rewarding careers is evident on a large scale to the success of people like Bill Gates, Larry Page, Sergey Brin, and Mark Zuckerberg. Furthermore, it is expected that around “[h]alf a million new jobs over the next decade will require computer-science know-how.”

Plans to encourage computer science have been started by the Obama administration. Whether, the move to increase the budget will be effective or not is yet to be decided. However, the awareness President Obama brought to computer science during his last state of the union address is still noteworthy, although probably not enough.

The neglect we have given computer science courses cannot continue, if we hope to maintain our place as a superpower. As evidence of this neglect only “4,310 out of the roughly 37,000 high schools in the nation in 2015” offer Advanced Placement computer science. Fortunately for me, my school is one of those schools that offer AP computer science and I have been able to benefit from a computer science education. My only regret is to not have been versed in computer science education earlier in my K-12 education.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,221,297,840,432.89. We've added \$8,594,420,791,519.81 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA TEN CLAY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Angela Ten Clay for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community

and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Angela serves as a Communications Manager at Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield. She works hard on a daily basis to provide her clients with the expertise and advice that they need to be successful. Angela also brings that work ethic to her civic life. She is involved in a number of community organizations including: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa, Solidarity Microfinance, and a local committee that helped raise \$60,000 for a Des Moines family who were victims of a violent crime.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Angela in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. Task that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Angela on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING 10TH DISTRICT APP CHALLENGE WINNERS

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sam Abdallah and Lucas Sacherer of Lake Forest, Illinois. Sam and Lucas, representing Lake Forest High School, are the 10th District's selection for this year's Congressional App Challenge. The Congressional App Challenge seeks to foster an interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics by challenging high school students to develop and code applications that can provide us with real solutions.

Their project, an application they call Greenlight, seeks to use technology to address problems faced in classrooms across America. Its primary purpose is to track the progress and understanding of students over the course of a class period, while also providing a judgment free and anonymous forum for students to ask questions.

Sam and Lucas represent some of the best their generation has to offer us. Both were named Illinois State Scholars and their academic record is nothing if not impressive. I am proud to recognize them for their hard work and success as winners of the Congressional App Challenge.

FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a bedrock community institution in my district, the Falls Church News-Press.

The Falls Church News-Press just celebrated the 25th anniversary of the publication of its first issue. Led by founder and publisher Nick Benton, the paper has established itself as a fixture in the region over the course of the last quarter century, covering the things that mattered most to the members of this community. Founder and publisher Nick Benton's hard work has kept the paper running through good times and bad for the print journalism industry, and is a testament to the value of fostering civil discussion on the local level.

It all started in 1991 when Mr. Benton presented a plan for a local paper to the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce; initially, 130 businesses pledged their support to the periodical, which has maintained its strong ties to the community with a free circulation of 10,000 copies.

In today's journalistic world where major media outlets have ever increasing gaps in local news coverage the Falls Church News-Press, with Mr. Benton at the helm, has filled those gaps many times over.

The Falls Church News-Press has been awarded the City of Falls Church Business of the Year, and the city's Business Contribution to the Community award. As an active partner in community affairs, sponsoring an annual food drive, an annual scholarship for high school seniors, a citywide holiday party, and other events and activities, the Falls Church News-Press manages to do more than just inform the people of my district: it helps support them.

I commend the Falls Church News-Press and its staff on the occasion or the newspaper's 25th anniversary. They deserve the greatest degree of credit for helping create our own Falls Church sense of community.

TRIBUTE TO MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to MacDill Air Force Base on its upcoming 75th anniversary. Located in Tampa, Florida, MacDill has played a crucial role over the past 75 years in extending the global reach of U.S. air power through air refueling and airlift operations, and is currently home to the 6th Air Mobility Wing and 39 Mission Teammates, including U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command.

Officially activated on April 16, 1941, MacDill trained World War II airmen to fly and operate bombers, including the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-26 Marauder. Throughout

the Second World War, MacDill saw thousands of servicemen train to lead the force in the dangerous skies over Europe. From start to finish, MacDill played a critical role in our country's great military achievement.

After World War II, the bombers gave way to fighters, when MacDill became a Tactical Air Command. The turmoil in the 1960's again highlighted the strategic importance of MacDill's location. Throughout the Vietnam war and up until the first Gulf war in 1991, MacDill was home to the F-4 Phantoms and later F-16 Fighting Falcons. Between 1979 and 1993, about half of all F-16 fighter pilots trained at MacDill Air Force Base.

In addition to its key role in preserving our country's national security, the Base also serves as an important economic driver in the region and the state of Florida. With over 13,000 military and civilian personnel on MacDill and approximately 170,000 military retirees calling the Tampa area home, MacDill has been found to inject \$14 billion a year into the regional economy. MacDill is vital to the Tampa Bay region's economic well-being.

MacDill's strategic location in Tampa has encouraged its growth and expansion, and serves as a testament to our nation's military might and Tampa's dedication to supporting the brave men and women of the Armed Services. I am honored to support MacDill Air Force Base's mission in Congress and am proud of the critical role our hometown plays in protecting our nation and her people.

HONORING THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance (GLAA) of Washington, DC, a valued organization that has long been a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate for full and equal rights for the District of Columbia, and has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen enforcement of the landmark D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. One of GLAA's most significant achievements, on which it worked with coalition partners, D.C. elected officials, and District residents, was enactment of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act, which permits same-sex couples to marry in the District of Columbia.

GLAA has stoutly defended the District's comprehensive human rights law; has been an outspoken advocate for LGBT youth and seniors; has stood up for the rights of LGBT consumers; has upheld the rights of transgender people, including equal treatment by police and access to culturally competent healthcare; has educated and rated local candidates on LGBT issues; and has built and nurtured coalitions with other constituencies to advance

these causes and defend the District's autonomy.

At GLAA's 45th anniversary reception on April 21, 2016, the recipients of its 2016 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized, including:

June Crenshaw serves as the Chair of the Board of Rainbow Response Coalition. June is one of the original founders and continues to lead this all volunteer coalition. She is a board member and emeritus Chair of Whitman Walker Health. In addition, June is a Board of Governor of the Human Rights Campaign. June was the first African-American woman to co-chair HRC's National Dinner. She was a long-standing member of the Advisory Board of the Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs. She also previously served on the Community Advisory Board of Lesbian Services Programs and Black Lesbian Support Group. She volunteered for over five years with Hearty House. Professionally, she is PMP certified and has worked over 19 years as a project manager.

Mónica Palacio has served as Director of the D.C. Office of Human Rights since March 2014. In that capacity, she directed a six-month study in 2015 that revealed anti-transgender job bias at 48 percent of District employers. Mónica brings 20 years of experience in civil rights, strengthening communities in crisis and coalition building for social justice. She previously directed the District's Language Access Program, and served as a commissioner on the D.C. Commission on Human Rights. She holds a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. from Fordham University. Mónica has lived in the District for 25 years and was born in Bogotá, Colombia.

Stirling A. Washington served as Director of the Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs for two years ending in January 2015. Prior to that he was Resource and Grant Development Manager for the Center for Black Equity; worked on grants, newsletters, and community relations at Us Helping Us, People into Living, Inc.; and led the Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Organization of Students at Howard. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from The George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in music history from Howard University. He is a tenor soloist and section leader at National City Christian Church.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA's 2016 Distinguished Service Award and in celebrating GLAA's 45 years of contributions to the LGBT community in the District of Columbia.

REMEMBERING SENATOR EUGENE  
MCCARTHY IN HONOR OF HIS  
100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy, in celebration of his 100th birthday this month. A native of Watkins, Minnesota, Mr. McCarthy went on to proudly serve Minnesota in the U.S. House, representing Saint Paul and sur-

rounding communities, the 4th Congressional District for 10 years and U.S. Senate for 12 years.

Senator McCarthy graduated from St. John's University on the shores of Lake Sagatagan in Collegeville, Minnesota in 1935. Before he ever ran for political office and embarked on his storied career as a legislator, he was a passionate educator who taught in high schools, and later, at the university level. Beyond being an educator, Mr. McCarthy also served his country admirably during World War II while working in the War Department's Intelligence division as a codebreaker.

In 1949, Mr. McCarthy was elected to the House of Representatives as a member of Minnesota's Democratic Farm-Labor party. During his ten years in the House he was well known amongst his colleagues for his agreeable personality and, because of his wit, received the nickname "the Needle". He developed a liberal voting record which he carried with him when he was elected to the Senate in 1958. While there, Senator McCarthy earned a national following for his outspoken criticism of the Vietnam war and of President Johnson's policies in Southeast Asia.

In 1967 he announced his candidacy for the 1968 Democratic presidential nomination. As a candidate, he possessed the ability to energize and inspire legions of young voters, many of whom had become disillusioned with our democracy, and felt that their voices were no longer being heard. His impact on them was exemplified by the "Clean for Gene" movement that became popular among his supporters before the New Hampshire primary, where male supporters would shave their long hair, beards, and mustaches while campaigning for him. His supporters put their hopes and inspirations in him, and he did the same of them. Of his campaign he said "I am hopeful that this challenge may alleviate this sense of political helplessness and restore to many people a belief in the processes of American politics and of American government." He ran for president not for the sake of his ego, but because of the unshakeable belief he had in the power and resilience of our democracy. His time in public service changed public discourse and policy for the better and left a legacy of peacemaking in Minnesota and throughout our country that lasts to this day.

Residents of Minnesota's 4th Congressional District share special pride as the first voters to send Mr. McCarthy to Washington. He was a true American patriot who stood up for his beliefs as well as the interests of the constituents he represented. It is an honor and privilege to represent the Congressional District that he served.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise to honor Senator Eugene McCarthy and the legacy that he left on the political landscape both in his beloved home state of Minnesota, and across the country.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN D. RITZ

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nathan D.

Ritz for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the Director of Regional Workforce Development and Education at the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Nathan has a knack for proving why Des Moines is a great place to work, live, and entertain. His dedication to youth mentoring in his professional life is certainly part of the reason he was selected for this award. Nathan is also tirelessly dedicated to his community and it shows through his work on the Iowa Asian Alliance. He has served on their board of directors for the last four years and continues to strive day in and day out to provide awareness of and education about the struggles faced by the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Nathan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Nathan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARIEL  
RIOS FEDERAL BUILDING

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Ariel Rios Federal Building Act" which will name the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) headquarters in honor of its first special agent killed by hostile action. This bill will designate the federal building at 99 New York Avenue, NE Washington D.C. as the Ariel Rios Federal Building. Ariel Rios was a young ATF special agent murdered by drug traffickers in 1982 while assigned to then Vice President George Bush's South Florida Drug Task Force.

In 1985, Congress designated the ATF headquarters building at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue as the Ariel Rios Memorial Federal Building. The designation honored both the personal sacrifice of Ariel Rios and served as an enduring reminder of the dangers that front line law enforcement officers willingly confront to keep the rest of us safe. For nearly 30 years, the original ATF headquarters building bore the name of Ariel Rios.



In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, it was determined that a new, more secure ATF headquarters would be built and shortly thereafter, Congress approved the construction of a new ATF headquarters at 99 New York Avenue NE. After the ATF vacated 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, the building was repurposed as the headquarters for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Congress renamed the EPA headquarters building as the William Jefferson Clinton Building, but the designation in honor of Ariel Rios was not transferred to the new ATF Headquarters building.

This legislation seeks to rectify that omission and is supported by six of the former Directors of ATF who served between 1982 and 2015. This legislation is also supported by former President George H.W. Bush, the surviving family of Special Agent Ariel Rios and the ATF Association which is comprised of current and former ATF colleagues who work in support of the ATF mission.

Naming the ATF headquarters after Ariel Rios is an important symbolic reminder of risks faced by ATF's front line agents and their ongoing service to our country. As a former law enforcement officer, I believe this important recognition of Ariel Rios will serve as a tribute to every frontline law enforcement officer past, present, and future. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas Southmost College (TSC) as the institution marks 90 years of educating students and providing opportunity in the Rio Grande Valley.

Located in Brownsville, Texas, Texas Southmost College was founded in 1926. It was initially known as The Junior College of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and in 1931 the college changed its name to Brownsville Junior College. It was not until 1949 that the name was changed to Texas Southmost College (TSC). TSC is located on the U.S.-Mexico border, near the Mexican town of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in the heart of downtown Brownsville.

Texas Southmost College sits on the property once known as Fort Brown, a United States Army post that was active during the Mexican-American War and the U.S. Civil War. TSC occupies former buildings and structures of historic Fort Brown.

In May 1991, the Texas Legislature authorized the newly created University of Texas at Brownsville to enter into an agreement with Texas Southmost College to teach courses not offered at the college or university. This resulted in the creation of "The University of Texas at Brownsville-Texas Southmost College." For more than 20 years, UTB and TSC operated simultaneously as one institution.

For many years, Texas Southmost College has provided residents of Cameron, Hidalgo

and Willacy counties with opportunities to pursue associate degrees, workforce training, and continuing education degrees and certificates. TSC is committed to enhancing student success and degree completion through motivation, learning-centered, and service-oriented educational and skills training programs.

The mission of Texas Southmost College is "Transforming our Communities through Innovative Learning Opportunities." Texas Southmost College fulfills this mission by educating our next generation of leaders in public service, science, teaching, medicine and other fields. Some of its notable alumni include Oscar Casares, author of Brownsville: Stories and Amigoland; Dr. Juliet V. Garcia, former president of UTB/TSC; Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO of California; and Jaime Zapata, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent killed in the line of duty while traveling from Mexico to the United States.

In 2015, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics selected Texas Southmost College as a Bright Spot, highlighting its efforts to close the achievement gap and expand access to quality higher education opportunities for first-generation Hispanic college students.

Texas Southmost College has made a lasting, positive impact in our community, and they will continue to play a critical role in shaping our region's future. I rise today to congratulate them on 90 successful years.

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 17 as World Hemophilia Day and to bring awareness to Hemophilia, a genetic bleeding disorder that affects about 20,000 Americans. All races and ethnic groups are affected by this genetic disorder. In the United States, most people with hemophilia are diagnosed at a very young age. Based on CDC data, the median age at diagnosis is 36 months for people with mild hemophilia, 8 months for those with moderate hemophilia, and 1 month for those with severe hemophilia. And all too often, this vulnerable patient population is put into jeopardy by the financial hurdles obstructing access to the intensive care needed for combatting such a pervasive disease.

According to the Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California, in that region alone an estimated 1,800 people are affected by Hemophilia with 31 percent of those affected being Hispanic.

Having a chronic disease, such as a bleeding disorder, often means spending much time and effort negotiating. Too many American families are faced with the daunting challenge of tackling the financial burden of hemophilia—a burden that can grow to a quarter of a million dollars per year—alone. It is important to acknowledge the financial burden, make care and treatment more accessible to Americans with Hemophilia, and provide comfort to those affected by the financial burden.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of North Texas (UNT) on their 125th anniversary. On September 16, 1890, Joshua C. Chilton established what was then known as the Texas Normal College and Teacher Training Institute in Denton, TX. Starting with only 70 students, UNT has risen in the ranks of academia to become the largest university in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with a student population of over 37,000.

Starting out as a small, private teacher's college, an important milestone was reached in 1901 when the school became a publicly-funded educational institution. 1913 was a banner year with the opening of the first library and genesis of the sports program as well as student enrollment reaching 1,000 students. In the 1920's, the music program became well-known with the introduction of the Aces of Collegeland band. This iconic moment still resonates today as the School of Music has gained renown as the first in the world to offer a jazz studies degree and is one of the largest music institutions at the collegiate level in North America.

During World War II, the campus became a training site and enrollment declined by half as the student body was called to service. In the decades to come, the institution grew in size and stature as it attained university status; became home to the Texas Academy of Math and Science; added the College of Engineering at the Discovery Park campus; built the premier Murchison Performing Arts Center, Apogee Stadium and Union venues; launched the nation's first comprehensive emergency management degree and just recently achieved recognition as a tier one research university.

The University of North Texas has become a cornerstone educational institution and powerful economic generator for not only Denton, but also the entire north Texas region. As a proud UNT alumnus, I am pleased to join the students, faculty, staff, administration and community in celebrating the university's quasiquicentennial. In the years to come, UNT will continue to serve as a leader in higher education. It is an honor to serve the University of North Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

MAJORITY RULE BY PAYTON SPRAGUE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high

school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Payton Sprague attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: majority rule.

Majority rule is an important concept both in our political system and in our society. It allows for an orderly and practical determination of the direction of our society by the majority, thereby avoiding the problems associated with a system that requires unanimous support. Although it might sound ideal to have everyone united behind a single effort, law or action, this in reality would be impossible. Rarely would you find unanimous support for any idea or law. Such a requirement would lead to an inability to function as a society.

If I were elected as a Congressperson, I would vote consistent with the majority views of my constituents. As a politician who is elected, by a majority vote, I would be compelled to vote consistent with interests of the majority of my constituents, whenever possible. This may be the case even if I don't agree entirely agree with their wishes. If ones goal is to be reelected, then they might believe that pleasing the majority is the easiest way to go. In contrast, if the goal of the congressman is to make a change in their community and country, then they would do what would end up being the best overall choice.

The wishes of the majority should be met until they abridge the rights of remaining citizens. The people vote on the members of congress for a reason. By doing so they give the power to a single individual (congressperson) to make decisions on the course or vote that best benefits the whole constituency. But, the decisions or votes should ultimately be made by the congressperson because they are the most qualified person and the only individual that is likely to be aware of all of the implications of the decision. Hopefully this knowledge will give the congressperson the ability to overcome any bias, sentiment or other shortcomings that

the constituency may have in order to arrive at the decisions that are best for the group.

Majority rule is not perfect because it ignores the needs of the minority, but it is likely the best compromise for a large society that would otherwise be stymied by indecision if unanimous rule was required.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call numbers 145, 146, 148, and 149, I would have voted "no."

On roll call number 147, I would have voted "yes."

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#### HONORING THE 2015 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the honorees of the 2015 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally-recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Our community has a strong commitment to promoting and preserving our environment, including our public parks and outdoor spaces. Each year thousands of volunteers donate their talents and time to protect our natural and cultural resources and en-

hance public educational and recreational services.

The Elly Doyle Service Awards were established in 1988 in honor of former board member Ellamae Doyle's many years of outstanding service. In addition, recipients also have been selected for the Eakin Philanthropy Award, named in honor of the family that donated the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority more than 50 years ago, the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship, named in honor of a celebrated local historian and military veteran, the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, named in honor of a local champion of environmental education and protection and a special recognition for Park Authority volunteers, who play an integral role in the agency's success. This year also marks the debut of a new award, the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award, named for the Sully District representative on the Park Authority Board and recognizing the value of partnership and collaboration in providing state of the art facilities to a varied constituency. I congratulate each of the following recipients of these prestigious awards and proudly submit their names:

2015 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients: Friends of Accotink Creek, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, Susan Voss.

2015 Outstanding Volunteer Recognition: David Fennel, Ken Kozloff, Pat McCormack, Ivy Sinaiko, John & Aaron Abalos-Green, Betty Holman, Gary Blasser, Janet and Rodney Smith, Jim Cudlip, Kat Dyer, Marian Ewell, Marilyn Connors, Mary Kay Claus, Monty Montgomery, Mila Weiss, Richard Duong, Songui "Chiraz" Sanwogou, Vivian Morgan-Mendez, Will MacDonald, Yadi Bermea.

Student Honoree: Joshua Buontempo.

2015 Eakin Philanthropy Award: Tom D. Fleury, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gary F. Smith Memorial Field, Suzan Syron-Singh.

2015 Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award: Paula Esley.

2015 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award: The Science Education Team at Fairfax County Public Schools.

2015 Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award: Harold L. Strickland, Michael R. Frey.

**SENATE—Monday, April 18, 2016**

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JAMES LANKFORD, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise You for the privilege of prayer. We confess that we often neglect this opportunity to find power in Your presence. Guide our lawmakers with Your wisdom, liberating them from doubts and uncertainties, as they remember that their times are in Your hands. May they seek directions from You as they strive to honor Your Name. Lord, undergird them with Your enabling might and help them to remember that without You their striving would be losing. Give them a steady faith, a firm hope, and a fervent charity so that they will stay within the circle of Your will.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 18, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES LANKFORD, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. LANKFORD thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

**FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Americans continue to see the difference a Republican-led Senate can make on behalf of our country. We have passed legislation to combat the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic, to provide a long-term highway funding solution, and to advance many other important issues.

Today I am hopeful we will be able to add to that record of achievement with the FAA reauthorization and airport security bill, which aims to keep Americans safe in our airports and in the skies. Recent terror attacks across the world emphasize the importance of ensuring our airports are secure, and I am pleased the bill includes a number of provisions that will help to do so. From increasing security in prescreening areas to securing international flights arriving in the United States, to ramping up measures aimed at deterring cyber security attacks, this legislation contains the most comprehensive aviation security reforms in years.

It also includes a number of passenger-friendly provisions such as refunds for lost or delayed bags and efforts to improve travel for those with disabilities. The bill accomplishes all this without raising fees or taxes on passengers and without imposing heavy-handed regulations that threaten consumer choice.

The FAA reauthorization bill is the product of hard work and deliberation from Members on both sides of the aisle. It wouldn't have been possible without the leadership of Senator THUNE, our Commerce Committee chair, and Senator AYOTTE, the Aviation Subcommittee chair. They worked to consider amendments from both Republicans and Democrats that Members thought would make this good bill an even better one. I also thank their ranking member counterparts, Senator NELSON and Senator CANTWELL, for their efforts to advance this legislation.

Let's continue that bipartisan progress today and move the FAA reauthorization and airport security bill across the finish line. It is a win for passengers. It is a win for national security. It is another example of commonsense legislating under Republican leadership that is getting the Senate back to work.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

**THE REPUBLICAN SENATE**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I really have to smile when I hear the Republican leader with his "Senate is Back to Work" speeches. The Senate Republicans are like the guy who shows up only half the time for work and then asks for a raise. They go through the motions, but they fail to do their job.

They failed to fund opioid legislation. They failed to do anything about the water in Flint, MI. They failed to fix what everyone agrees was an error on the renewable tax credits. They have failed to address the Zika virus and on and on.

Republicans used to complain all the time about meeting deadlines for doing the budget resolution, but this year they just aren't doing one. Even district court nominations supported by Republicans seem too hard for this group to accomplish. It appears the Senate will fail even to have a hearing on the President's Supreme Court nomination. It seems that Senate Republicans still need to learn how to do their job.

**MERRICK GARLAND NOMINATION**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate Republicans are making history but for all the wrong reasons. The Republicans' obstruction of President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, is the first of its kind in Senate history. Never before has the Senate categorically refused to consider a Supreme Court nominee solely because the vacancy occurred during an election year. As each day passes, the Republicans set some new mark for gridlock.

For example, in the post-World War II era, the average time between a Supreme Court nomination and the nominee's first hearing was 29 days. Today is the 33rd day since Merrick Garland's name was put forward by President Obama. Already we are 5 days past the average.

The longest a nominee has been forced to wait for a hearing was 82 days. That was President Eisenhower's nominee, Potter Stewart, who was confirmed at a later time. Republicans vow every day that there will be no hearing. So they are well on their way to eclipsing the 82-day mark.

While that achievement may earn the Republicans a slap on the back from the Koch brothers and Senator MCCONNELL—who, by the way, is the proud "guardian of gridlock," as he says—Americans take no pleasure in this record-setting obstruction. Instead, Americans want Republicans in

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

the Senate to do their job and give Merrick Garland a hearing.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it has been almost 3 years since the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform. Senate Democrats worked with a handful of Republicans to craft a good, fair, comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed with strong bipartisan support. Then we watched as Speaker Boehner capitulated to the tea party radicals and refused to allow a vote on the floor. It would have passed overwhelmingly.

To his credit, President Obama saw Republicans' inertia on immigration reform and decided to act. He told us in his State of the Union Address that he was tired of waiting around for Republicans to do things, so he had to do it himself, and that is what he has done.

Using his Executive authority under existing law, he worked to fix the system to prioritize enforcement resources on those who actually pose a threat to our national security and public safety. On November 20, 2014, President Obama ordered a series of Executive actions that increased border security and ensured greater accountability throughout our immigration system.

One aspect of President Obama's Executive actions was the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents Program. The program provided temporary deportation relief for parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, if they meet three basic requirements. No. 1, they have to be in the country for at least 5 years; No. 2, they must register with the government; and No. 3, they must pass a criminal background check. Today, there are over 5 million children—all U.S. citizens—who are eligible for this program.

President Obama also expanded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, helping to protect DREAMers, the undocumented children who were brought to the United States at a very young age. To date, over 700,000 DREAMers have been protected—12,000 in Nevada alone. Not only were these Executive actions the right thing to do, they were also smart investments. Nevada will benefit from about a \$3.5 million-a-year increase in State and local tax revenues. Nevadans will see an increase in earnings of more than \$1 billion over 10 years. Together these programs will help grow America by \$230 billion over the next 10 years, but now this progress is being threatened.

Shortly after President Obama's announcement, a politically motivated lawsuit was filed by the Texas attorney general and joined by Republican Governors and attorneys—not all of them but a lot of them. The Texas attorney

general won a preliminary injunction temporarily blocking both programs. This came from a single judge.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to consider the case and today it heard oral arguments. They were good. I thought it was an extremely sound, deliberate argument. I think the Justices—most of them—had questions that went to the heart of what the issues are, standing and other things. A decision to overturn the President's actions would put many families with U.S. citizen children at risk of deportation and prevent the Department of Homeland Security from doing its job of focusing on criminals and other threats to national security and public safety.

In Nevada alone, President Obama's Executive actions stand to help 50,000 people. Those are 50,000 Nevadans who should not be separated from their families.

The U.S. Supreme Court must do the right thing and recognize President Obama's authority. That is why I joined 38 other Senate Democrats and 186 House Democrats in filing an amicus brief with the Supreme Court, making clear that Congress granted the Department of Homeland Security broad discretion in enforcing our country's immigration laws. What the President did was both lawful and it was necessary. He helped target limited enforcement resources. It is also what every other President since Eisenhower has done, including Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. Instead of litigating the President's lawful actions, Republicans should work to fix the immigration system in Congress. By working with Democrats to pass immigration reform, they would render the President's Executive actions unnecessary.

I hope the Supreme Court decides in the administration's favor. I think they will, even though the Court is short a member. I hope these Executive orders are implemented to bring hard-working families out of the shadows, but our Nation would be far better off with a permanent solution. Our Nation would be far better off with a bipartisan, comprehensive overhaul of our Nation's immigration laws.

My friend the assistant minority leader has been at the forefront of these immigration issues. The DREAM Act is something he put forward 15 years ago. I admire the work he has done on this. I think he has kept this issue alive, when a lot of Republicans wanted it to go away. He has been helpful to the people of Nevada—people who don't know his name and will never ever see him, but we have 12,000 DREAMers whose lives have been changed forever, and we hope the same will happen to their parents.

Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2015

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 636, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Thune/Nelson) amendment No. 3679, in the nature of a substitute.

Thune amendment No. 3680 (to amendment No. 3679), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority whip.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me first thank the minority leader, Senator REID, for his kind words about the DREAM Act, which I introduced 15 years ago.

This was a piece of legislation that came about because a mother called my office in Chicago. Here was her family story.

She brought her two kids to America from Brazil. They actually started off in Korea, but they came through Brazil and came to Chicago—mother, father, and two kids. The father had the ambition of starting a church. There are a lot of Korean churches around Chicago and around the country, and his dream was to start a Korean-American Church. His dream never came true. He continued to pray and read the Bible, but he didn't work much. It was up to mom to go to work.

She went to work in a dry-cleaning establishment in Chicago. If you have been around the great city I am honored to represent and go into a dry cleaners, most of the time Korean families are running them. They are working around-the-clock, and are the hardest working people imaginable.

Mom went to work in the dry cleaners and the kids struggled because there wasn't much money coming in. One of their girls, Tereza, heard about a program in Chicago called the MERIT Music Program. It is a program that is available for low-income families of kids in public schools. The lady who left the money for it said to give them instruction in musical instruments and help them buy the instruments.

Tereza Lee heard about this when she was a little girl and decided to sign up for it and to practice the piano. Well, guess what. She turned out to be a prodigy. She was amazing. For her the MERIT Music Program was like an opening to another part of the world

she had never seen. She participated in recitals. Sometimes they told me they had to give her a key to the Merit music offices because she wanted to stay and practice until late at night. It was tough for her getting through high school. She tells the story, when she was interviewed in the local press, that sometimes she didn't have a lunch to take to school or any money to buy food. She would wait until the other kids left, and she would go through the wastebasket and look for food they had left behind. That is how tough it was. But because of her skill at playing the piano, she was given an opportunity. She was accepted into the Juilliard School for music in New York and at the Manhattan School of Music conservatory to pursue the piano. She was that good.

When she and her mom started filling out the application, they reached that point where it said this: What is your nationality? What is your citizenship?

Her mom said: Tereza, I don't know. We came here on a visitor's visa way back when you were 2 years old, but I never filed any papers for you.

She said: Mom, what are we going to do?

Her mom said: We are going to call DURBIN's office.

So they called the Senate office. We looked into it. The law in the United States was very clear for 17-year-old Tereza Lee. She had to leave the United States for 10 years and apply to come back in—leave for 10 years. She came here at the age of 2. She did not do anything wrong.

She did everything right. She finished high school, against the odds. She developed a talent, against the odds. She was accepted at one of the best music schools in America, and our law very clearly said: Leave; we don't want you. If you want to try to come back in 10 years, that is your business.

I don't think that is right. That is why 15 years ago I introduced the DREAM Act. It said: If you are one of those kids brought here under the age of 16, have finished high school, and have no serious criminal issues, we are going to give you a chance. Go to college or join the military and we will give you a path to ultimately getting to the back of the line but becoming a citizen of the United States—the DREAM Act.

When I introduced this bill to solve Tereza Lee's problem, I used to give speeches about it all around Chicago. A funny thing would happen. When I would finish the speech and go back to my car, sometimes at night, there would be somebody waiting by my car. As I got closer, it turned out to be a very young girl, usually, maybe with her friend.

They would wait to make sure no one was around. The young girl would say to me: Senator, I am one of those DREAMers. I am undocumented. My

mom and dad are scared to death that they are going to be deported, and then I will be deported. I hope you can pass this.

Well, time passed. We called the bill on the floor and called it in the House. We have never been able to make it the law of the land. Sadly, the reality is that there are probably 2.5 million young people living in America who would qualify under the DREAM Act to be given a chance to become legal—2.5 million.

What happened to Tereza Lee? I have to finish that story. She ended up going to the Manhattan School of Music. Two families stepped forward—families that had befriended the Merit music program in Chicago. I know one of them well. They said: This girl is too good. We can't waste her talent. We will pay for her education.

They did so out of pocket. She did not qualify for any Federal assistance because she is undocumented. So Tereza finished school and played in Carnegie Hall. Now she is about to complete her Ph.D. in music. She is living in Brooklyn, NY. She is a mom with a little girl. She married an American musician so she is legal—finally. That is her story. Thank goodness this determined young girl stuck with it. We have to stick with it too.

The people who want to turn away these 2.5 million DREAMers ought to take a minute to meet them—just to meet them and to understand what it is to be a young person in America going through all the challenges of adolescence and all of the challenges that might be brought to you in your community or by our family and knowing in the back of your mind that at any moment, someone can knock on the door and tell you that you have to leave this country and that you are not here legally.

They do it, and they fight every single day for a chance and a dream so that someday they will become part of the only country they have ever known. These are kids who, just like the Senate a few minutes ago, got up every day in the classroom and pledged allegiance to that flag, the only flag they have ever known. They do not view themselves as Mexican or Korean. They view themselves as Americans.

The question is this: How do we view them? Do we view them as an asset to America or do we view them as a problem—a problem that should be thrown away and deported? You are listening to the Presidential campaign. We all are. I am not going to go into detail about some of the terrible things that have been said, but I just wish some of the haters, some of the people who want to turn on these young people, would meet them. Come and meet them. Hear their stories.

I think even the hardest, coldest heart would be moved by them. Across the street—you can see it through the

window—is the Supreme Court building. It was about 12 years ago that we decided to do something in the Senate that I thought was a great idea. Every 2 years, when there is a new class of Senators, we have a dinner with the Justices of the Supreme Court. We do it at their place. It is right across the street. We line up in the entryway there—the beautiful marble entryway. There are tables set up, each of us sits at a table with one of the Justices.

I can remember one of the early times I went over there. I shared the table with another Senator, Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, a legendary Member of the Senate and former President pro tempore of the Senate. He served here for decades and carried the Constitution around in his breast pocket. In his great days he could recite poetry nonstop. He was a real believer in the Senate. He wrote the history of the Senate, one that probably will never be matched. I shared a table with him in the Supreme Court for one of these dinners.

I said: Isn't this a beautiful building?

He said: It sure is.

I said: How often do you get over here, Senator Byrd?

He said: This is my first time.

I said: You have been in the Senate for 40-plus years, and this is your first time? Why?

He said: Well, it is a separate branch of government. We must respect them. They had never asked me to come over.

Well, I see it a little differently. I go across that street because, yes, it is a separate branch of government, but it is one that we should understand and respect, as I hope they understand and respect Congress on this side of the street. So this morning I did. I went over for an argument before the Supreme Court. There was a huge mob out in front of the Supreme Court because the case that was being considered is one that affects millions of lives in America—Texas v. United States.

The question is this: What are we going to do with people like Tereza Lee, whom I just described earlier. You see, what happened 6 years ago is that I joined with Republican Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana and wrote a letter to President Obama saying: If the Congress is not going to change the law to make it possible for these young people to stay in this country, would you issue an Executive order that allows them, at least on a temporary basis, to stay in the United States?

Within a year or two, the President agreed to do it. He created what is known as the DACA Program. It basically says that young people like Tereza Lee, whom I described earlier, can step forward, identify themselves to our government, submit themselves for criminal investigation, and pay a filing fee of around \$500, I believe it is. If they do, they will be given the right to stay in the United States on a temporary renewable basis for 2 years or 3 years.

That is what DACA is all about—so that young people can pursue their lives at least with the understanding that for a few years, they don't have to worry about that knock on the door. Oh, if they get a job, they have to pay their taxes. If they go to college, they are not going to get a penny from this government. We don't help them pay for their college education.

The President did it. I applauded him for doing it. So far, 700,000 young people just like Tereza Lee have signed up for protection under DACA. We estimate that the total universe of young people eligible is about 2.5 million. So the President attempted to extend the DACA Program. He said: We need to address the problem with their parents. Many of these parents have children who are U.S. citizens and legally in the United States, but they are undocumented and subject to deportation.

So the President said, in what is known as DAPA: The parents of these kids can come forward, submit themselves to a criminal background check with fingerprints and all, pay a filing fee of around \$500, and then they will be allowed, on a temporary, renewable basis, if they keep their noses clean, to work in this country.

If they are going to work in this country, they have to pay their taxes. Well, that is what the President suggested. As soon as he made these two proposals to extend DACA and to create this other program for the parents, a lawsuit was filed. It was led by the State of Texas, and 25 other States, I believe, joined. That is the case before the Supreme Court today.

Before I get into the details of that case—and I want to say a word about it on the floor this afternoon—let me say one other thing. What Senator Byrd told me about not going across the street was not only respect for that institution of the Supreme Court, but as a Senator he was basically saying that we need to respect their right to be above politics. We want to make certain that that branch of government is above politics, that they apply the law and interpret the Constitution in a nonpolitical way.

Sometimes I read their decisions and think they have gone political on us. But the goal is to make sure they are preserved from becoming political. This morning, when I went before the Supreme Court, I did not face nine Justices, only eight. Antonin Scalia, who passed away a few weeks ago, created a vacancy that has not been filled. Why has the Senate failed to fill this vacancy on the Supreme Court? Because within hours of the untimely death of Justice Scalia, the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, who was here a few moments ago, announced publicly: We will not fill this vacancy on the Supreme Court.

That is important to remember. It is the first time in the history of the

United States of America—the first time in the history of the Senate—that the Senate is refusing a hearing for a Presidential nominee to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. It has never happened before—never.

Oh, the Republicans argue: Well, if the shoe were on the other foot, I am sure you Democrats would do exactly the same thing. I call their attention to the year 1988. Republican President Ronald Reagan, with a vacancy on the Supreme Court, submitted the name of Anthony Kennedy to the Senate. A Republican President was filling a vacancy on the Supreme Court, and he submitted the name of his nominee.

The Senate, then controlled by the Democrats, gave Anthony Kennedy a hearing, a strong vote, and sent him over to the Supreme Court. So when the shoe was on the other foot, we did not play politics. But now we are. So I faced eight Justices over there as that argument was made this morning. I thought to myself: If they end up in a 4-to-4 tie—and that can happen—it will be chaos and confusion across America, with different courts and different districts having different interpretations of the same law.

How did we get into this mess? Because the Republican majority in the Senate has decided: We are not going to appoint anyone to fill this vacancy. Their argument is this: Let the American people speak to filling this vacancy in the Presidential election. Let them decide whether it will be a Democrat or a Republican President filling this vacancy.

There might be some value to that argument if President Obama, in the last election, when he was running for reelection in 2012, had been running for a term of 3 years. You can argue then that this fourth year he was not entitled to be President. But you know what. It turns out that he was running for a 4-year term. It turns out he won by 5 million votes. It turns out that when it comes to being Commander in Chief and President of the United States, he has all the powers vested in him by the Constitution, even in the fourth year. Isn't that amazing—4 years as the President? That is what the American people decided, but only to be overruled by the Republican majority in the Senate.

Sorry, Mr. President, they say, you only get 3 years. Maybe we give you 3 years and 2 months, but you sure don't have the right to try and fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court, even though the Constitution explicitly says in article II, section 2: The President shall appoint a nominee to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. Their argument is that you may think you are President when it comes to the Supreme Court, but the Senate Republican majority thinks otherwise.

I sat down with Merrick Garland. He is the proposed nominee to fill this va-

cancy. He is chief judge of the D.C. Circuit Court, which is a high position in the judiciary. He was born in Illinois, so I come to his nomination with some prejudice, but he is an extraordinary person.

People have said: Well, why didn't the President choose a woman? Why didn't the President choose an African American? Why didn't he choose a Hispanic? Why didn't he choose someone from India? Why did he choose this man?

I think he chose him for an obvious reason: He is clearly qualified. Even Republican Senators have said nice things about him publicly. Many of them have said they refuse to even meet with him, will not even sit in the same room with him. Some have agreed to, but many have said no. Senator MCCONNELL said: I won't meet with him because he is not going to get a hearing and he is not going to get a vote.

It is time for us to fill that vacancy. It is time for us to accept our constitutional responsibility and show respect for the document we all swore to uphold and defend when we took the oath of office. It is time to fill that vacancy and put nine Justices on the Supreme Court to avoid the uncertainty, confusion, and chaos which might otherwise emerge.

I wish to say a word about the case before the Court this morning. This was a case—United States v. Texas—a legal challenge, as I mentioned earlier, to the President's immigration policy, filed by 26 Republican Governors. I believe this lawsuit has no legal merit. It is driven by political hostility toward President Obama and his immigration policy.

I was proud to join an amicus brief signed by 39 Senators on our side of the aisle and 186 House Democrats in support of the administration's decision on immigration. The President is on very solid ground in this case. I am hoping and confident that the Supreme Court will rule in his favor.

As an initial matter before the case proceeds, the States that filed this lawsuit have to show they will be harmed by the President's immigration policy. Otherwise, they really don't have any standing to sue. It turns out that exactly the opposite is true. The President's policy allowing people to work here on a temporary basis under his Executive orders will create a huge benefit to the American economy.

Over the next 10 years, in the State of Texas alone—and they brought the lawsuit; at least started it—the President's immigration action would increase that State's gross domestic product by more than \$38 billion and increase the earnings of all Texas residents by \$17.5 billion. They argue that the President's immigration policy would cost the State of Texas money. It turns out that exactly the opposite is true.

Even if the States have standing to sue, the Supreme Court repeatedly has held that the Federal Government has broad authority to decide questions of immigration. Justice Anthony Kennedy, appointed earlier, wrote the opinion for the Court striking down Arizona's controversial immigration law. Listen to what he said:

A principal feature of the removal system—

Removal of people who are not eligible to be in the United States—

is the broad discretion exercised by immigration officials. . . . Discretion in the enforcement of immigration law embraces immediate human concerns. Unauthorized workers trying to support their families, for example, likely pose less danger than alien smugglers or aliens who commit a serious crime.

This administration's immigration policy is not just legal, it is smart and realistic. The President has said simply: We should prioritize. We have limited resources. We can't deport all those who are here undocumented. If we are only going to deport some, let's pick those who are a danger to the United States.

The President has focused on those who have been convicted of serious crimes or pose a threat to our security. And shouldn't he? As Commander in Chief, shouldn't that be his highest priority, to make sure anyone who is a danger to the United States is gone? He knows he can't deport all even if he wished to, so he focuses on those who may be a danger to the United States—prosecutorial discretion. The Department of Homeland Security only has enough funding to deport a small fraction of undocumented, so the President wants to focus the limited resources on those who could do us harm. That is just common sense.

At the same time, the President said that we should not waste our resources on deporting young immigrant students who grow up in this country, such as Tereza Lee, whom I mentioned earlier, or tear apart families by deporting the parents of U.S. citizens. The President's policy is focused on deporting felons, not families—criminals, not children.

In November of 2014, President Obama established this program, DAPA, Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents. Under DAPA, undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for more than 5 years and have American children would be required to come forward, register with the government, pay a fee, go through a criminal background check and a national security background check, and pay their taxes.

If the government determines these parents have not committed any serious crimes and don't pose any threat, this Executive order says: On a temporary, renewable basis, they will not be targeted for deportation.

President Obama also expanded the DACA Program for children, as I mentioned earlier, at the same time. Why did he do that? Because for years Republicans in Congress have refused to consider legislation to fix our broken immigration system.

On the floor of the Senate on June 27, 2013, I joined a group of seven other Senators—four Democrats and four Republicans in total. We had worked for months to construct a bipartisan, comprehensive immigration bill. We had to give a lot. There were things in that bill which I didn't like at all and things which some of the Republican Senators didn't like, but it is the nature of legislation and compromise that that happens.

We brought the bill to the floor for a vote after a lengthy markup in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and dozens of amendments had been offered. The Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform legislation on June 27, 2013, 68 to 32—more than 2 to 1. That bill would have strengthened border security, protected American workers, and established a tough but fair path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants who were then currently living in our country.

What happened to the bill after it passed the Senate? I take you back to how laws are made and your civics course. It went across the Rotunda to the House of Representatives, which was under Republican control. The majority in the House of Representatives refused to call the bill, refused to even bring it to the floor for a debate, and refused to offer any substitute. They did nothing—nothing, despite our broken immigration system. In the face of this, the President was left with no choice.

For the good of the American people, he used the authority given him as President to try to make some reforms to our immigration system. The Center for American Progress has studied what the President proposed, and they say that over the next 10 years, if these two programs—DACA and DAPA—were passed, the gross domestic product for my home State of Illinois would increase by \$15 billion and the earnings of Illinois residents would increase by almost \$8 billion. Could your State use that—more economic activity, more people paying taxes to the Federal Government and to your State? Virtually every State could use that.

It is unfortunate that these bills have been blocked by the Senate, and now they are trying to block them in the Supreme Court.

I see Senator CORNYN is on the floor, and I will close by telling a story about another DREAMer. I have done this quite a few times. My staff has done a lot of work on it. I thank them all for it. These stories really say a lot more than I ever could in a speech. They tell us what was at stake before the Su-

preme Court of the United States this morning.

This attractive young woman is Vasthy Lamadrid. Her family came to the United States from Mexico. She was 5 years old. They came here with nothing. They moved into a home with four other families, so a lot of the kids slept in the same room.

Despite their poverty, Vasthy felt safe and excelled in school. Math was her best subject. She had nearly perfect scores on standardized tests. English was tough, but then she discovered a series of books called "Goosebumps." If you have kids or grandkids, I bet you have heard of that one. She became an avid reader and mastered the English language.

By middle school, Vasthy was placed in the gifted program. That is where she discovered her love of engineering. She was a student in the Engineering Pathway at Bioscience High School, where she received the Young Entrepreneurs Award, made the principal's list every semester, and played tennis. She was an active volunteer, working with such groups as Girls For Change, CompuGirls, E-Tech, Hospice of the Valley, and St. Joseph's Hospital. Vasthy also helped younger kids in her neighborhood by tutoring them in math and tennis.

Vasthy went on to attend Arizona State University. Because she is undocumented, she didn't qualify for a penny of government assistance, and she had to pay out-of-State tuition despite the fact that she had lived her entire life in the United States, in Arizona.

Then something extraordinary happened. Counting on the generosity of the American people, Vasthy decided to crowdfund her college education. She shared her life story online and asked people to contribute to help her pay her tuition. Well, it worked. She is currently in her second year of college. In the first semester, she made the dean's list with a 3.79 GPA in the Ira Fulton School of Engineering.

Thanks to DACA—the Presidential Executive order—she is able to support herself. She has also made time to continue to volunteer for a club called STEM Academy mentoring young children. She volunteers with the Arizona Immigration Refugee Service as an English teacher. As a result of her volunteer work, she has decided she wants to become a science teacher. Can we use more science teachers in America? You bet.

This is what she said in a letter she wrote:

DACA signifies to me a chance to show that I belong here—that inside I am an American. It represents an opportunity to show that my parents' sacrifice was worth it. I love this country and want to one day become a citizen and continue to give back to the community. I don't need that journey to become a citizen to be easily given to me, but I'd hope that the journey is fair.

Vasthy and other DREAMers have so much they can give to America.

I don't understand the Republican Party when it comes to the issue of immigration. We are a nation of immigrants. My mother was an immigrant to this country. I am a first-generation American and proud of it. It is my honor to serve and represent a great State like Illinois. I know what her journey was like. She was brought here at the age of 2 from Lithuania. I know what her early life was like as she struggled to try to make sure there was food on the table, first for her mom, sister, and brother, and then ultimately for her own family. That is my family's story, but it is a story that is repeated over and over again.

There is something in the DNA of immigrants who are willing to risk everything in this world to go to a country where they don't even speak the language because they know they will have an opportunity here, and they bring something with them. That is why they light up the scoreboard in Silicon Valley with all of these new inventions and new corporations with thousands of employees that make us an economic success in many fields. That is why we should think twice about those who condemn immigrants in this Nation of immigrants.

I am confident the Supreme Court will uphold the President's immigration actions. Then I hope, after they have done this, that the Republicans in Congress will finally decide to return to the table and work on a bipartisan basis for comprehensive immigration reform.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am always impressed with the distinguished Democratic whip and his eloquence, but he is telling the American people that we have to choose between being a nation of immigrants or a nation of laws. The fact is, we don't have to make that choice; we can be both. But we can't do it when we have a President who simply believes he can do an end run around the U.S. Constitution.

In fact, according to Pew, about 3.5 million people could claim the benefits of the President's unlawful Executive action, receiving work permits, driver's licenses, and Social Security numbers. While we are a compassionate country, we are a nation of immigrants, that is not the kind of decision the Constitution gives to a single political actor, even if he is the President of the United States.

So there is a right way and a wrong way. And I realize the distinguished Democratic whip believes that just because they can't get what they want when they want it, the President can then resort to this end run, but thankfully that is not the view of the courts. The U.S. Federal district court in

Brownsville, TX, issued an injunction against the President's Executive action. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed that injunction, and now the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments in the case this afternoon.

This is really more than just about immigration. This is whether, under the doctrine of separation of powers, the Constitution we have lived under for 10 these many years gives the President unilateral authority without the approval of Congress, the elected representatives of the people, and in flagrant disregard for the laws that are already on the books.

The heart of the case the Court heard today is about stopping a President who said: I have a pen and I have a phone. And even though the American people have given Republicans a majority in both Houses and obviously forced the President to deal with a Republican conference to come up with consensus legislation, the President said: Forget that. I am not about trying to achieve bipartisan consensus on anything. If I don't get what I want, I am going to jam it through the system and hope the courts don't stop me. So it is not just about immigration, it is about the Constitution itself.

There are perhaps 22 different times, by my count, where the President of the United States acknowledged he didn't even have this authority. I remember in a speech he gave to La Raza, an interview he gave on Univision, the President denied he had the authority, which now, miraculously, our Democratic friends think is clear-cut under the law. How can that be? It cannot be.

I remember specifically being at a meeting where the President invited the leadership of both the House and the Senate to the White House after the 2014 election. Many may recall that leading up to that point, there had been a lot of rumors about the President issuing an Executive action, but he had not done so. I remember specifically sitting there in the White House with some of my colleagues from the House and the Senate, where then-Speaker Boehner said to the President: Please, Mr. President, don't do this. Don't poison the well. Don't make it impossible, by such a polarizing action, for us to build consensus on the building blocks of immigration reform where we could actually agree.

I remember Majority Leader McCARTHY making the same comment. I joined in and reiterated the same point. The President, defiant, told us he was going to go ahead and do it.

There are a lot of conversations people are having today across the United States. I had some of those earlier today during some visits with people who were just wondering how to explain the political environment in America today. What I tell them is

that this seems unprecedented in my experience. People are so angry. People are so scared. People are frightened and worried about the next generation. And for the first time in my memory, parents are doubting whether their children will enjoy the same sorts of freedom and prosperity that we enjoy today. That is a tragedy.

My parents were part of the "greatest generation." My dad was a B-17 pilot in the Army Air Corps, even before the Air Force came into being. On his 26th bombing mission over Nazi Germany, while he was flying in the 8th Air Force out of Molesworth, England, he was shot down and captured as a prisoner of war for 4 months. Fortunately, that was toward the tail end of the war. Even though he was injured in his parachute jump—not seriously, as it turned out, although he had some disability associated with that later in life—he managed to survive that and even survived an appendectomy by a fellow prisoner of war when he had appendicitis in a POW camp. It is amazing.

I always thought my dad had nine lives. Even though he passed away at the very young age of 67, he survived countless occasions when surely he could have lost his life, including those occasions of jumping out of a burning B-17 plane over Germany and an appendectomy in a POW camp at the hands of a fellow prisoner of war.

The reason my parents and all of our parents sacrificed so much and risked so much and worked so hard is that they believed in the promise of America—the promise that exists only when the law is respected, when people in high office are bound by and obligated to and held accountable to the same laws that govern the most humble among us. That is what America is all about—a country where people, if they work hard and play by the rules, can achieve their dreams. I think that is the reason America seems so polarized today. People have sort of jumped outside the usual paradigm of political calculation where you are a liberal or you are a conservative or you are somewhere in the middle. People have sort of jumped that track, and we are seeing something entirely different on the left and on the right. I think the reason is, in part, because of a President who believes he is not bound by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

People are frightened because they have seen over the last 7 years—even though the President was stopped legislatively after the Affordable Care Act was passed and after Dodd-Frank was passed and then stopped by the electorate giving the Republicans a majority in the House and in 2014 a majority in Senate—that this President will not be stopped by the voters. That is the determination he made, and this Executive order is exhibit 1 because he said:



I don't care what the voters think. I don't care what the American people think. I don't care what the Constitution says. I don't care that what Congress says should be the law of the land. I am going to do it the way I want to do it. Frankly, that is scary stuff when you are talking about the Commander in Chief, the leader of the free world, and the sort of power that goes along with that.

Rather than heed the warning—or I would really call it the plea of leaders in the House and the Senate after the 2014 election—the President decided to go around Congress and try to essentially change the law, giving work permits to people who were illegally present in the country, giving them driver's licenses, even giving Social Security numbers to an estimated 3.5 million people. How can the President do this when Congress is deadlocked? Well, he did it. And that is a question the Supreme Court is going to have to decide.

At the time, the President called it a middle-ground approach. He is a master of rhetoric. The problem is the facts belie his words. The fact of the matter is this was a constitutional scorched-earth tactic. And more than anything else, it eroded public confidence in Congress's ability, working with the White House, to get anything constructive done in the area of immigration.

The Acting President pro tempore is, of course, from the great State of Oklahoma, and he went to school in Texas. He understands what I understand: We have a large Hispanic population in Texas—about 38 percent. But we are a very diverse State. Many people are surprised when I tell them the third most commonly spoken language in Texas today is Vietnamese—Vietnamese. Can you believe that? We also have a large Indian American population.

We are a very diverse State, and the main reason for that is we still represent that land of opportunity that America used to be, where people can come, work hard—those of modest means, with little on their backs and maybe nothing in their pockets—and achieve something and live the American dream. So I resent, I really do resent, the distinguished Senator from Illinois trying to tell us the President was only trying to do something that was good for Texas. He doesn't have a clue. In fact, if we were to follow the policy choices of the leadership in Texas, the country would be a heck of a lot better off when it comes to taking advantage of our energy resources, when it comes to taxes, reasonable regulation, and a willingness to try to accommodate those who invest capital and create jobs. To me, that is the single biggest difference between where I live in Texas and what I see across our country and what is coming out of

Washington, DC. There seems to be an attitude here in Washington of how many more obstacles, how many larger impediments can we place in the way of those who invest the capital and those who are creating the jobs and still expect the American dream to be alive.

Believe me, we have tested it. The Obama administration has tested it, and what it has produced is disaster. It has produced a health care system that, rather than making health care more affordable, has made it more expensive, has caused people who liked their coverage to give up their coverage only to buy something that had a deductible that has, in essence, made them self-insured. It has created stagnant wages. It has created stagnant economic growth.

There are not a lot of problems we have in this country that couldn't be mitigated, made better, if we just saw our economy growing again, instead of the sort of anemic and flatlined growth we have seen since 2008.

My predecessor in the Senate, Mr. Phil Gramm, has a Ph.D. in economics from Texas A&M University. He has made the point that, historically, what you see after a recession like the one we saw following the fiscal crisis in 2008 is a V-shape recovery. In other words, you hit the bottom and you bounce up and you grow quickly because basically you have worked the problems out of the system. But what we have seen since 2008 is a U-shaped recovery, if you could even call it that. It is pretty close to flat, where the economy is growing at less than 2 percent, which is not fast enough to keep people fully employed. And we still have—although the unemployment rate has dropped down, we still have the smallest percentage of people participating in the workforce that we have had in the last 30 years. Many people have simply given up, retired early, or made other arrangements. This is a serious matter.

The Supreme Court heard arguments today. We know there are currently eight members of the Supreme Court. I heard the distinguished Democratic whip complain about the fact that we have decided to allow the voters to choose in November the President who will make the choice to fill the Scalia vacancy. Well, the fact of the matter is, it is simply too important to allow President Obama, given his penchant for lawlessness and usurpation of constitutional authority—to give him the chance to stack the Supreme Court in favor of a Court that would likely rubberstamp his actions and those of future Presidents for the next 25 years.

The hypocrisy is rich, listening to our Democratic colleagues. These are the folks who invented the judicial filibuster. They invented the judicial filibuster. They did that when President George W. Bush was President. As con-

troversial as the nomination of Clarence Thomas was, I believe he was confirmed with 52 votes—not 60 votes but 52 because nobody dreamed back then that Senate rules would allow the minority party to insist on 60 votes to confirm a President's appointee.

We know that after the election where the Democratic majority lost that majority, in a lameduck session they jammed a number of appointees onto the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in an effort to pack that court to match the ideological picture they wanted. Again, this is the second most important court in the Nation, which they believed would be more inclined to rubberstamp the overreaching by the Obama administration.

We are all familiar with the Biden speech in 1992 when, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he suggested it would be perhaps inappropriate to confirm a Presidential nominee in the waning days of that President's term.

We saw the Harry Reid speech in 2005, where he said it is the President's prerogative to appoint, but the Senate is not obligated to grant consent to that nomination. Actually, I agree with Senator REID back then, but not today, when he has taken the exact opposite approach.

Then there is Senator SCHUMER, the heir apparent to the Democratic leadership in the Senate, who said, in 2007, 18 months before George W. Bush left office: I think there ought to be a presumption against confirmation.

To listen to my Democratic colleagues complain about the decision we have made to let the voters vote for the President who is going to fill that vacancy and to watch them—well, it looks like crocodile tears to me, and it smells like hypocrisy.

As we have said, the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments today in a case brought by the State of Texas and other States that would otherwise be compelled to grant work permits, issue driver's licenses and Social Security numbers to people illegally present in the United States who did not comply with our laws. I am confident the Court will find that the States have suffered real harm from the standpoint of the constitutional notion of standing; in other words, you have to have standing before you can sue. Basically, it means you have to show real or potential harm if the Court doesn't act. I am confident the Court will find standing.

But the Court will do one of two things. Either the Court will affirm by being split 4 to 4 or all eight Justices could write in favor of the Fifth Circuit decision to let the injunction stand or, if the Court deems that this issue needs to be held over until the Court has all nine members, after the first of the year, that is a decision the Court can make.

This is a very important issue, and I am glad the Court is taking it up. We need to know—we need to know whether we remain a nation of laws as well as a nation of immigrants. The whole idea our Democratic colleagues have foisted on us that somehow we have to choose between those two is a false choice. It is a false choice. We are both. We aren't one or the other. America has always been made better by people who have risked coming to the United States because they weren't satisfied with what they had or where they lived, but the day we begin rewarding people who do this in disregard of the laws is the day we begin to no longer be a nation of laws, and that is a legacy and a treasure we should not squander.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

#### TAX REFORM

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I rise to discuss an issue of importance for Nebraskans and Americans all across this country; that is, the need for comprehensive tax reform.

It is no secret the current Tax Code is overly complex and outdated. Any American can tell you how frustrating it is to file a tax return. Our Tax Code is riddled with deductions, exemptions, credits, exclusions, preferences, and loopholes that make it nearly impossible for anyone without a degree in tax law to understand.

At the same time, we should recognize that some progress has been made. Thanks to the work of Chairman HATCH and members of the Senate Finance Committee, many important updates to the Tax Code were made permanent at the end of last year. In particular, increasing the deduction limit and making permanent section 179 of the Tax Code was an important step. This section allows small businesses to deduct from their taxes certain depreciable business assets. My constituents told me annual uncertainty about whether section 179 would be renewed made it very difficult for them to plan, to invest, and to grow their businesses. Making this provision permanent reduced the ambiguity that had plagued Nebraska's small business owners and operators.

Although we have made some progress in reforming the Tax Code, there is more work to do for the American people. I believe tax reform should focus on several principles, including competitiveness, simplicity, and economic growth. At nearly 40 percent, the United States has the highest combined corporate tax rate in the developed world. This is stifling job growth, hurting families, and compelling businesses to move overseas. Any comprehensive plan should seek to lower this rate to a competitive level, one that will not only encourage current businesses to stay but also incentivize new businesses to set up shop.

Another goal of comprehensive tax reform should be to simplify the Tax Code. Families and businesses spend billions of hours every year in completing their taxes. A disproportionate share of this burden is shouldered by many small businesses. Many of these are family businesses, and they don't have the resources to easily comply.

Creating a tax system that is simple and efficient will reduce administrative and compliance costs. A simple tax system will also increase transparency, allowing Americans to fill out their taxes accurately while preventing fraud and lost revenue. Perhaps most importantly, any plan to reform the Tax Code—well, it must spur economic growth. Inaction on reforming the Tax Code is delaying needed growth in GDP, jobs, and investment.

When I was first elected to the Senate, I thought my colleagues and I would immediately take up two issues to restart our economy, grow jobs, and help all American families: tax reform and reducing the overburden of government regulations. After all, it is pretty obvious these are two issues we can reform that would have a positive impact on our economy. We see regulations become ever more burdensome, and they continue to depress our economy, stifle innovation, and hurt our families.

Major tax reform has not happened. We continue to chip away, but I believe now is the time we step up and be bolder. We must make the necessary reforms to our tax system to give Americans confidence in our future. We need to help put more money back in the pockets of hardworking Americans and allow them to spend money on the goods and services they choose and that they need.

It is my hope my colleagues will join me in continuing this discussion and that this dialogue then will eventually result in action, in comprehensive tax reform that truly benefits Nebraskans and the American people.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CHINA'S ALUMINUM INDUSTRY

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, over the last few decades, China has used market-distorting subsidies and industrial policies to repeatedly prop up their own industries and rip off American jobs. Steel, tires, solar panels—the story plays out again and again. Too often China's economy is not run by the markets; it is run by government committee. So even though its own State Council has called out the problem of severe excess capacities, China

clings to the same old tired and destructive policies. Today I want to address what is happening now with China's huge overcapacity of aluminum.

The amount of aluminum Chinese smelters are churning out has gone up by more than 1,200 percent in a decade and a half. In 2000, they produced 2.5 million metric tons. In 2015 China produced 32 million metric tons. When you create a glut of aluminum production the way China has, you send the markets into turmoil and you do enormous harm to American workers.

I spoke last week at a public hearing held by the U.S. Trade Representative and the International Trade Commission about how the overproduction of steel in China is an urgent and immediate threat to steel jobs here in our country. While China's steel mills are churning out more steel than ever, American steel towns are suffering or worse. Thousands of jobs nationwide have been lost just in the last year. Even though one-third of all steel produced today has no buyer, China keeps adding and adding to the glut by producing more steel.

The same story is played out in the case of primary aluminum. There is a huge overcapacity in China that, once again, is driven by market-distorting government policies. It has unleashed a chain of events that can end in economic devastation across this country. Global aluminum prices have already plummeted, undercutting our American companies. Between the start of 2011 and this upcoming June, the lights will have gone out at nearly two-thirds of the aluminum smelters in the United States. More than 6,500 jobs—good American jobs—will have been lost. You can bet that sooner or later the damage will ripple downstream through the entire aluminum industry, which employs three-quarters of a million Americans either directly or indirectly.

In my judgment, the United States is badly in need of a safeguard against this economic tidal wave. That is why I have chosen to stand with my friend Leo Gerard, president of the United Steelworkers, and the steelworkers. They filed a petition for relief under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 today. Without an immediate economic bulwark, the United States is in danger of losing thousands of good family-wage jobs across our country.

It is my view that the administration should act in this case as soon as possible to defend our workers and our businesses from economic ruin. The United States and our trading partners must ramp up the pressure on China to stop overproduction, and our trade enforcers have to take on the trade cheats and use every single trade tool in the toolbox, including the ENFORCE Act, the Leveling the Playing Field

Act, and the other measures my colleagues and I on the Finance Committee fought to get signed into law over the last year.

I firmly believe workers in Oregon and across this country can compete with anybody in the world, but the United States cannot afford to sit idly by and watch China's destructive policies cause our aluminum industry to be wiped out. As the steelworkers have pointed out repeatedly, enough is enough. Leo Gerard and those steelworkers are standing up and fighting back, and I am honored to stand with them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, in a few moments, we will be voting on ending debate on H.R. 636, and that will allow us to proceed to a vote on the bipartisan Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016. I wish to urge my colleagues to support that motion to end debate.

The legislation we are considering is not just any FAA reauthorization. This bill is the most pro-passenger and pro-security FAA reauthorization in recent history. Travelers are frustrated, and this bill contains commonsense reforms to make travel safe and secure and more passenger-friendly.

For over 2 weeks on the Senate floor now and before that in the Commerce Committee, where I serve as chairman, we have been working hard to thoughtfully develop this bill and to allow for robust debate. For instance, there are drone safety provisions in the bill, including a pilot program to deploy technology to intercept drones near airports. These provisions are obviously intended to prevent accidents like the one that happened outside the Heathrow Airport this weekend, where a drone hit an approaching plane.

We developed this provision and others in the bill through an open process that allowed every member of the committee to contribute and help write the bill. Last year, we held six hearings on topics that helped inform our bill, and at the committee markup last month alone, we accepted 57 amendments, 34 of which were sponsored by Democrats and 23 by Republicans. On the Senate floor, when it was reported out and taken up, we added 19 amendments, 10 from Democrats and 9 from Republican Senators. The resulting bill is one we can be proud of, and both sides of the aisle have commended us for our inclusive process. When there have been differences, we have been able to find

ways to address or set those aside for later so the progress on the legislation could move forward.

Even at this late hour, we have worked constructively to assemble a possible managers' package of more than two dozen additional amendments that we would like to adopt by voice vote prior to final passage. Yet, even if that is not possible, I commit to those Senators whose amendments we stand prepared to accept that I will work to address their concerns as we engage with our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Now it is time to conclude our work on the bipartisan FAA bill that I introduced a long ways back, along with my friend and ranking member, Senator BILL NELSON, and our Aviation Subcommittee leaders, Senators KELLY AYOTTE and MARIA CANTWELL.

The bill includes reforms benefiting the traveling public, and we shouldn't let them down. Let's vote yes on the motion to end debate and start moving these historic reforms forward.

As I mentioned, I have a list of 26 amendments that we would like to clear—amendments offered by both sides. It is a package we could adopt. We have a couple of objections to doing that. If the Members who have put forward those objections would be willing to release those objections, we would be able to get another 26 amendments adopted, many of which have been offered by colleagues, as I said, on both sides and many of which contain measures that I think will make the bill even stronger and make it a product we can all be proud of as it moves over to the House of Representatives. There, I hope it will receive consideration and action and ultimately end up on the President's desk.

The FAA bill is legislation we have to do on a fairly routine basis around here. This authorization will stand for about 18 months. There are a number of important considerations that need to be addressed that this bill not only acknowledges but addresses. As I mentioned, those considerations have to do with drone safety, which is an increasingly important issue in our economy and one where we need to make sure we have the right rules of the air, if you will, in place so that we preserve and ensure that safety is the No. 1 factor as we continue to see the increased research, development, and deployment of drone technologies in ways that have tremendous commercial application. As I said, it also includes a lot of passenger protections which are very consumer-friendly in terms of passengers who travel on a regular basis with the airlines. So those are things as well that we need to address in this legislation.

We enhanced the bill by amendment when it came to the floor with a couple of safety provisions that we think are critically important, particularly in

light of what has happened of late with the attack in Brussels and a number of other attacks we have seen, where we have had aviation insiders involved, if you will—particularly the Metrojet airliner that crashed not that long ago and killed 224 people. There are a number of safety provisions that help address some of those concerns. As I said, we expand the TSA precheck program to limit the number of people who are in areas outside secure areas—outside the perimeter, so to speak—where they are more vulnerable to these types of attacks.

These are all included in this legislation. So from an aviation security standpoint, this bill includes the most comprehensive security measures we will have adopted in nearly a decade. As I said before, from a passenger-friendly standpoint, according to a columnist at the Washington Post, this is one of the most passenger-friendly FAA reauthorization bills we have seen literally in a generation. So these are reasons why this bill needs to move forward.

I hope my colleagues here in the Senate, when the vote comes here in a few minutes, will cast a vote in support of ending debate and allow us to move forward to a vote on final passage, which will enable this legislation to move forward to the House of Representatives and I hope ultimately to the President so he can sign it into law and put many of these provisions in place that would be good for our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today, I wish to pay tribute to Sarah Root, a young woman from Iowa who just graduated from college with perfect grades. She was devoted to her family and friends and had a bright future, but she was taken from this earth too soon.

I want to express my sympathies to Sarah's parents and acknowledge Michelle Root, Sarah's mother, who is watching today. She will be testifying tomorrow before the House Committee on the Judiciary at a hearing titled, "The Real Victims of a Reckless and Lawless Immigration Policy: Families and Survivors Speak Out on the Real Cost of This Administration's Policies."

The hearing will focus on how the Obama administration's failed immigration policies allow thousands of criminal aliens to roam free.

Michelle Root will share her personal story about the loss of her daughter and how someone in the country illegally was able to walk free and abscond from authorities after fatally hitting her daughter's vehicle on graduation night.

Sarah was 21 years old and had just graduated from Bellevue University with an interest in pursuing a career in criminal justice. In the words of her family, "she was full of life and ready to take on the world." According to a close friend of hers, Sarah was smart, outgoing, and dedicated to her friends and family. She embodied the words: "live, laugh, love."

The day Sarah graduated, she was struck by a drunk driver in the country illegally. The alleged drunk driver was Edwin Mejia, who had a blood alcohol content of more than three times the legal limit.

The driver was charged with felony motor vehicle homicide and operating a vehicle while intoxicated on February 3.

Bail was set at \$50,000, but he was only required to put up 10 percent. So, for a mere \$5,000, the drunk driver walked out of jail and into the shadows.

This case has shed light on the breakdown between the Federal Government and State and locals. It has also been a terrible example of why the President's policies don't work, and how they are having a dire effect on American families like the Root family.

Under President Obama's Priority Enforcement Program, a person in the country illegally will only be detained or removed in a few limited circumstances. The administration hides behind these so-called "priorities" to ensure that a vast majority of people in the country are not removed. Some say that nearly 90,000 illegal immigrant criminals were released in 2015 because of this policy.

The administration's policies result in tragedies like Sarah's.

A smart young lady who had a bright future was struck by a drunk driver who entered the country illegally, and was turned over to a brother who was also in the country illegally, while awaiting his immigration court date.

After the accident, local law enforcement apparently asked the Federal government—specifically U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—to take custody of the driver, but the Federal government declined. ICE refused to place a detainer on him. An ICE spokesman stated that the agency did not lodge a detainer on the man because his arrest for felony motor vehicle homicide "did not meet ICE's enforcement priorities."

The driver made bond and absconded, never showing up for his hearings and required drug tests. It is difficult for the family to have closure since the

man is nowhere to be found. It is unknown if he is still in the United States or if he has fled to his home country of Honduras.

Sarah Root is one of many victims who have been harmed or killed because of lax immigration enforcement and the notion that drunk driving isn't always a public safety threat.

Even though this tragic accident happened in the heartland of America, this is a border security problem. The driver of the vehicle that killed Sarah entered the country illegally.

Every day, people are illegally entering the country, being removed, entering again, and committing more crimes. Illegal re-entries are happening because there are no consequences. That is what happened in Kate Steinle's death. And, that is why we need to move on Kate's law.

That bill would deter people from illegally re-entering by enhancing penalties and establishing new mandatory minimum sentences for certain individuals with previous felony convictions.

The Obama administration cannot continue to turn a blind eye to drunk drivers, sanctuary communities, and people who ignore our laws, overstay their visas, or cross the border time and again.

I am still waiting for answers from the Obama administration on this case, and many more. There are many unanswered questions.

How many more people have to die? How many more women and young people are going to be taken from their family and friends?

Things have got to change. The President must rethink his policies and must find a way to ensure that criminal immigrants are taken off the streets. The Obama administration should try enforcing the law, instead of its priorities, for the sake of the American people.

I want to wish Michelle Root the best of luck while she is in Washington this week, and send my thoughts to her father who is trying to find justice back home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The Senator from Ohio.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to echo the sentiments shared by our senior Senator from Iowa, CHUCK GRASSLEY. Tomorrow morning, one of my constituents, Michelle Root, will be testifying before the House Judiciary Committee about the loss of her beautiful young daughter, Sarah Root. As a mother of three daughters myself, I cannot begin to fathom the pain and anguish Mrs. Root is experiencing.

Earlier this year, 21-year-old Sarah Root was killed by a drunk driver. That driver, Edwin Mejia, was allegedly drag racing with a blood alcohol level more than three times the legal limit when he crashed into the back of Sarah's vehicle.

Edwin Mejia is also an illegal immigrant. After causing the death of an American citizen and being charged with motor vehicle homicide, one would think he would clearly meet U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's so-called enforcement priorities. But no, citing the administration's November 2014 memo on immigration enforcement priorities, ICE declined to lodge a detainer and take custody of Mejia. During a recent Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing, ICE Director Sarah Saldana actually suggested that ICE neglected to issue a detainer because at the time they were contacted, Sarah Root was seriously injured, not dead.

How twisted and convoluted has our immigration system become that an illegal immigrant who, while driving drunk and drag racing, hits and either seriously injures or kills an American citizen is not considered a priority for deportation?

In fact, only after a floor speech, multiple letters, and hearing questions from Senators from Nebraska and Iowa, as well as media attention and concerns raised by the Root family, did ICE finally acknowledge that they should have taken Mejia into custody. It should not take all of those actions for ICE to determine that an illegal immigrant who kills an American citizen should be removed from our country.

Tragically, after ICE declined to file a detainer against Mejia, he posted a \$5,000 bond, was released, and has since disappeared. This is so despite the fact that he had a history of skipping court dates related to prior driving offenses.

A few weeks ago, I spoke with Sarah's dad, who told me that before they could even lay their daughter to rest, Mejia was released. This is truly an injustice, and we must do everything we can to ensure that we get answers in this case and prevent a similar tragedy from being replicated elsewhere.

While America has been and always will be a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws. It is a privilege to live in this country, and anyone who comes here illegally and harms our citizens should without question constitute a priority for removal. For ICE to decide otherwise is baffling.

In recognition of their clear mistake, they have since listed Mejia on their "most wanted" list and acknowledged they should have taken him into custody.

The photograph of Sarah behind me was taken as she celebrated her graduation from Bellevue University with a 4.0 GPA and a bachelor's degree in criminal investigations and prepared to begin a bright future. The next day, she was killed.

While nothing can bring Sarah back, her family and friends deserve clear answers as to why Mejia was allowed to

flee. This tragedy further underscores the administration's failed immigration enforcement priorities and should serve to spur renewed discussion about their so-called priorities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, there are a lot of people in this country who work very, very hard. We are known in this country as a people who work hard.

Montanans are no exception. We have some of the hardest working folks I know who live in that great State. Whether it is a farmer preparing the spring crop or a fishing guide preparing for the upcoming tourist season, my constituents know what a long day's work looks like. In fact, many of my constituents work two jobs so they can put food on the table and a roof over their head and can save for their kid's college education. These folks don't wake up in the morning and say: Hey, I think I will take the year off and just sit it out.

That is why it is no surprise that when I went home for the March recess, Montanans were overwhelmingly disgusted with the majority's decision to refuse to do their job. Constituent after constituent asked me what the heck we were doing back here. Local editorial boards even chimed in.

The Billings Gazette, my State's largest newspaper, tore the majority to shreds, saying that those who crow about making Washington work better are intentionally sabotaging the system, making it work worse.

The Montana Standard, in "Butte, America," accused Senators of "shirking their constitutional responsibilities" and denounced their tactics as "a pretty shoddy way to do business."

If that wasn't enough, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle described the crusade as "nothing but an abdication of responsibility and another example of the kind of playground-level obstruction that has soured so many Americans on Congress and contributed to the divisive meltdown in the race to the GOP nomination for President."

Now here we are. It has been 33 days since Judge Garland was nominated to the Supreme Court—33 days and counting. Yet there are no hearings in sight, no chance for the American people to have their voices heard through their elected representatives, no chance to ask tough questions of the nominee.

This week we will hear the majority leader talk about regular order with respect to appropriations bills. But if regular order is good enough for appropriations bills, it is good enough for a Supreme Court nomination.

The bottom line is this. The American people are as frustrated as I am. They are fed up with the obstructionism, and they want Congress to do its job.

So let's have a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and then let's have a vote in the Senate. As the Montana Standard says, anything less than that is "a pretty shoddy way to do business."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, in about 8 minutes we are going to start the vote on a motion for cloture, moving forward on the FAA bill. We have had a lot of debate about this. It passed with very little objection in the Commerce Committee. We have a package of 26 amendments, all of which have been cleared. We hope that can go as a separate amendment, almost like a managers' package. They are all non-controversial.

I am quite encouraged that we are making a number of reforms in the FAA that I have spoken about at length and that the chairman of the committee, Senator THUNE, has spoken about at length. It is a good bill. Its previous adoption on a motion for cloture was something like 94 to 4. So you see where we are going.

Then we will get into conference with the House, although it is my understanding they have not passed their bill. They passed it out of committee, but they have some controversial things. Hopefully, they will get it out, and we will be able to come to terms and get this reauthorization of the FAA, which we had to extend in a short-term reauthorization, because the clock is ticking. So I just wanted to share that with the Senate.

PROTECTING THE MANATEE

Now, Mr. President, since we have some time and no Senator is seeking recognition, I want to tell the Presiding Officer about a creature we have in Florida. We have lots of interesting creatures. There are things that come in that are like alien species, such as the Burmese python that they estimate—the Superintendent of Everglades National Park has estimated that there may be as many as 150,000. They got one 15-foot female, and she had 54 eggs in her. So you see how prolific they are.

You cannot find them. The only way you can really find them is if there is a cold snap, because they will come out of the water, out of the river of grass where they are so exquisitely camouflaged. In a cold snap, they will come out of the water and up to the tree islands. Of course, you have seen some of those monsters—18 footers.

Well, they had another critter that we have, because in Florida we do have

alligators. Lo and behold, you may have seen this alligator. This alligator was 800 pounds and 15 feet long. He had been in a lake that was created in a cattle pasture, and he had been eating cows, so he had plenty of food. Well, this alligator, of course, is a critter that is native to Florida. It is the crocodile that is imported.

You can tell the difference between an alligator and a crocodile because the alligator has a rounded snout and the crocodile has a pointed one. All of this is to tell you we have another critter that is the most loveable critter, and we have had it on the endangered list. This is the animal called the manatee; some people call it a sea cow.

These adorable creatures breathe air but live in the water. They have little flippers and a big body. Of course, they have these lovable faces. They have been endangered primarily because of boat propellers cutting them up. So we have had a serious effort at reducing the speeds of boats to a slow idle in manatee areas to protect them.

They also get bothered by cold water. When there is a cold snap, they will migrate to warmer water. Pollution is another cause of the manatee being endangered.

There has been a comeback. Around 20 years ago, there were only 1,200 of them in the world. That population has grown upward to 6,000.

Here is the point: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants to take them off the endangered list and put them into a lesser category. Those of us who want to protect these critters don't want them to come off the endangered list. If I had thought enough in advance, I would have brought a picture of a manatee. They are the most loveable critters. You can get in the water, you can swim with them, and you can feed them. When you feed them a pellet of food, they nibble like a horse nibbles sugar out of your hand—all of this under water.

They are the most adorable critters. They love to be rubbed on their tummies. They love fresh water. In a brackish water system, where you can take a fresh water hose, they will come up and just drink the water, and then they will roll over so you can spray them underneath their flippers.

Thank goodness they have rebounded, but there is a lot more to rebound. So, I wanted to share our crusade—our efforts to try to keep the manatee on the endangered list and to protect them.

I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 3680

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 3680 is agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3679, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 3679, as amended, is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 55, H.R. 636, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Daniel Coats, Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, Roger F. Wicker, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Kelly Ayotte, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, James M. Inhofe.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 636, as amended, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 46 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Alexander	Feinstein	Merkley
Ayotte	Fischer	Mikulski
Baldwin	Franken	Moran
Barrasso	Gardner	Murkowski
Bennet	Gillibrand	Murphy
Blumenthal	Graham	Murray
Booker	Grassley	Nelson
Boozman	Hatch	Paul
Brown	Heinrich	Perdue
Burr	Heitkamp	Peters
Cantwell	Heller	Reed
Capito	Hirono	Reid
Cardin	Hoeven	Roberts
Carper	Inhofe	Rounds
Casey	Isakson	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Schatz
Coats	Kaine	Schumer
Cochran	King	Scott
Collins	Kirk	Sessions
Coons	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Corker	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Leahy	Stabenow
Cotton	Manchin	Sullivan
Daines	Markey	Tester
Donnelly	McCain	Thune
Durbin	McCaskill	Tillis
Enzi	McConnell	Udall
Ernst	Menendez	

Vitter  
Warner

Warren  
Whitehouse

Wicker  
Wyden

NAYS—5

Boxer  
Lee

Portman  
Risch

Rubio

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt  
Crapo

Cruz  
Flake

Sanders  
Toomey

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 5.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Hawaii.

UNITED STATES V. TEXAS

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, today the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *United States v. Texas*. This case is a challenge to President Obama's Executive actions to prioritize U.S. immigration enforcement.

In 2012, the President used his legal authority to establish the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or DACA. DACA has given nearly 700,000 undocumented young people the opportunity to come out of the shadows to pursue their dreams through education and jobs.

In 2014, again acting within existing legal authority, the President announced an expansion of the successful DACA Program. He also created a new Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents Program, or DAPA. DAPA allows the undocumented parents of U.S.-born and legal permanent resident children, the majority of whom are U.S. citizens, to stay in this country with their families.

Together, the expanded DACA and DAPA were expected to enable nearly 5 million people to come out of the shadows without fear of deportation. Unfortunately, Texas and 25 other States have challenged the President's authority to issue these Executive orders, resulting in the Supreme Court hearing today.

Hundreds of DREAMers, Muslim students, and activists from California, New York, New Jersey, and elsewhere rallied on the Supreme Court steps this morning. I spoke with them and heard their stories and their hopes that the Supreme Court would make the right decision in support of the President and the millions of DACA and DAPA families. Many carried signs and stickers that read "Keep families together." Keeping families together is at the crux of the President's Executive orders—families like that of Gabriela Andrade, who, as a teenager, fled violence in Brazil and settled in Texas before coming to Hawaii. While Gabriela's sister and parents were granted visas through a lottery system, Gabriela fell through the cracks. Until President Obama announced the DACA Program, she lived in fear of being separated from her entire family. She said:

DACA pulled me out of limbo and gave me a life again. It allowed me to go back to school to pursue a bachelor's degree in political science, to volunteer with several local organizations.

Today, Gabriela is an advocate for DREAMers like herself. President Obama's DAPA and expanded DACA Programs would help thousands of families like Gabriela's who want to stay together and be contributing members of our communities without the daily fear of deportation. To tear undocumented parents away from their children and put these U.S.-born children in foster care is unconscionable. To deport people who were brought here when they were very young—to essentially tear them away from the United States, the only home and country they have known—is also unconscionable.

These young people would be facing insurmountable odds, and I can certainly relate to some of the challenges they face. When I was almost 8 years old, my mother, brothers, and I legally immigrated to the United States. When we first arrived in Hawaii, we certainly struggled. I had to navigate the public school system without speaking a word of English. My mother worked low-paying jobs with no job security, and we struggled to make ends meet. But we took strength in being together as a family.

However, in addition to facing the kind of challenges my whole family faced when we first arrived in this country, DACA and DAPA families live in constant fear that they will be ripped apart through deportation. These families and children have been living in limbo for over a year while the legal challenges work their way through the system, through the courts.

In addition, *United States v. Texas* is also pushing DREAMers who are eligible for the original DACA Program, which is not being challenged, further into the shadows.

Singai Masiya, who heads the Aloha DREAM Team in my home State and is a DREAMER himself, told my office that DACA-eligible people in Hawaii stopped applying for DACA. Why? They are afraid that if the Court rules against President Obama's Executive actions, their application information will be used to deport them. This is a real fear in our communities.

*United States v. Texas* not only affects the lives of the more than 7,000 DACA- and DAPA-eligible Hawaii residents, it affects our economy. Over 10 years, DACA, DAPA, and expanded DACA are projected to provide a \$276 million cumulative increase in Hawaii's State gross domestic product. The Center for American Progress also projects that, over 10 years, DACA, DAPA, and DACA expansion would provide a \$136 million increase in the combined earnings of Hawaii's residents.

However, in order to see these economic benefits, the Justices of the Supreme Court must rule on the side of DREAMers and the DAPA families. My hope is that the Supreme Court rules that the President is well within his legal authority in expanding DACA and DAPA and allows these Executive actions to be implemented.

I note, however, that Executive actions, important as they are, are not enough. The President himself has called on Congress to fix our broken immigration system so that 11 million undocumented people in our country can come out of the shadows and live and work openly.

It has been almost 3 years since the Senate passed bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform. I call upon Congress to do our jobs and enact fair, humane, and sensible immigration reform—recognizing that we are, indeed, a country of immigrants. That fact is at the very root of our strength as a nation.

Mr. President, I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 12 noon on Tuesday, April 19, the Senate vote on passage of H.R. 636, as amended; further, that following the disposition of H.R. 636, as amended, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2012, the Energy Modernization Act, as under the previous order; that following disposition of S. 2012, as amended, if amended, but not prior to Wednesday, April 20, the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 2028 be withdrawn and the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGET ACT ENFORCEMENT DETAILS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, Public Law

114-74, included an instruction to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget to file allocations, aggregates, and budgetary levels in the Senate after April 15, 2016. Today, I wish to submit the required filing found in that act.

Specifically, section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 requires the chairman to file: No. 1, an allocation for fiscal year 2017 for the Committee on Appropriations; No. 2, an allocation for fiscal years 2017, 2017 through 2021, and 2017 through 2026 for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations; No. 3, aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2017; No. 4, aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2017, 2017 through 2021, and 2017 through 2026; and No. 5, aggregate levels of outlays and revenue for fiscal years 2017, 2017 through 2021, and 2017 through 2026 for Social Security.

The figures included in this filing are consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 and the most recent baseline from the Congressional Budget Office, CBO's last baseline was released on March 24, 2016.

In addition to the update for enforceable limits above, section 102(c) of the act allows for the matter contained in subtitles A and B of title IV of S. Con. Res. 11, the fiscal year 2016 congressional budget resolution, to be updated by 1 fiscal year. Pursuant to this authority, all reserve funds available to the Senate in title IV of last year's budget resolution are updated and available for use.

For purposes of enforcing the Senate's pay-as-you-go rule, which is found in section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 congressional budget resolution, I am resetting the Senate's scorecard to zero for all fiscal years.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables detailing enforcement in the Senate be printed in the RECORD.

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

ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017—PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 AND SECTION 102 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2015

	[\$ Billions]	
	Budget Authority	Outlays
Appropriations:		
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority <sup>1</sup>	551.068	n/a
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority <sup>1</sup>	518.531	n/a
General Purpose Outlays <sup>1</sup>	n/a	1,181.800
Subtotal	1,069.599	1,181.800
on-budget	1,064.120	1,176.252
off-budget	5.479	5.548
Mandatory	1,018.836	1,006.323

<sup>1</sup> The allocation will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO SENATE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS—PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 AND SECTION 102 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2015

	[\$ Billions]		
	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry			
Budget Authority	133.326	654.992	1,326.950
Outlays	121.522	602.813	1,227.781
Armed Services			
Budget Authority	162.573	866.345	1,881.840
Outlays	162.554	862.324	1,878.407
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs			
Budget Authority	23.973	114.120	214.810
Outlays	1.767	–6.607	–44.043
Commerce, Science, and Transportation			
Budget Authority	19.605	97.564	200.873
Outlays	14.226	78.209	153.228
Energy and Natural Resources			
Budget Authority	4.033	22.689	45.474
Outlays	3.875	23.019	46.064
Environment and Public Works			
Budget Authority	45.086	220.077	424.157
Outlays	2.593	12.994	25.832
Finance			
Budget Authority	2,276.978	13,076.286	31,139.783
Outlays	2,261.358	13,047.872	31,097.877
Foreign Relations			
Budget Authority	36.313	163.870	312.459
Outlays	30.758	149.512	296.865
Homeland Security and Government Affairs			
Budget Authority	139.899	743.132	1,605.694
Outlays	138.184	730.863	1,571.460
Judiciary			
Budget Authority	30.054	90.554	164.524
Outlays	16.069	94.016	171.897
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions			
Budget Authority	17.155	91.885	180.246
Outlays	15.792	90.782	186.736
Rules and Administration			
Budget Authority	0.065	0.332	0.664
Outlays	0.036	0.200	0.429
Intelligence			
Budget Authority	0.514	2.570	5.140
Outlays	0.514	2.570	5.140
Veterans' Affairs			
Budget Authority	102.652	550.283	1,227.001
Outlays	108.093	557.484	1,233.278
Indian Affairs			
Budget Authority	0.469	2.053	4.484
Outlays	0.829	3.038	5.263
Small Business			
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000
Unassigned to Committee			
Budget Authority	–844.465	–4,648.714	–10,722.295
Outlays	–835.231	–4,607.534	–10,646.215
TOTAL			
Budget Authority	2,148.230	12,048.038	28,011.804
Outlays	2,042.939	11,641.555	27,209.999

Includes entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts.

BUDGET AGGREGATES—PURSUANT TO SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 AND SECTION 102 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2015

	[\$ Billions]		
	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Spending:			
Budget Authority	3,212.350	N.A.	N.A.
Outlays	3,219.191	N.A.	N.A.
Revenue:	2,681.976	14,498.308	32,350.752

N.A.= Not Applicable.

SOCIAL SECURITY LEVELS—PURSUANT TO SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 AND SECTION 102 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2015

	[\$ Billions]		
	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Outlays	805.365	4,609.710	11,047.979
Revenue	826.094	4,438.985	9,738.619

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE  
(\$ Billions)

	Balances
Fiscal Years 2016 through 2021 .....	0
Fiscal Years 2016 through 2026 .....	0

CALLING FOR RENEWED  
ATTENTION TO BOKO HARAM

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to bring renewed attention to the continued violence perpetrated by Boko Haram against women and children.

It has now been 2 years since the horrific kidnapping of 279 school girls in Nigeria. In the aftermath of this brazen attack, Senator MIKULSKI and I, joined by the other women in the Senate, strongly advocated for the imposition of sanctions on Boko Haram, and the international community responded by doing just that. We were grateful for Secretary Kerry's swift action to get this done at the United Nations, and Boko Haram is now subject to a complete asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo.

In addition, the Senate unanimously passed legislation that I authored to require a comprehensive, 5-year strategy to combat Boko Haram at the end of last year. Next week, I am sending a letter signed by many of the cosponsors of this legislation to our colleagues in the House of Representatives, urging them to take up this important measure.

Nevertheless, Boko Haram has continued to wage its relentless war on innocent civilians in Nigeria and throughout the Lake Chad Basin since it declared its allegiance to ISIS last year. More women and more girls have been kidnapped. Although some of the captives have escaped, most are still lost, likely subjected to forced marriages, religious conversions, sexual trafficking, slavery, and possibly forced to carry out suicide bombings on behalf of Boko Haram.

According to UNICEF, 39 out of 89 Boko Haram suicide bombings in 2015 were carried out by women, and the number of children involved in suicide bombings increased tenfold in just one year. The fact that children are being used as weapons in Boko Haram's terror campaign speaks to the inhumanity and total disregard for life that is at the core of this terrorist group's perverse ideology. As Boko Haram increasingly relies upon women and children to carry out its attacks, survivors who have lived through such unimaginable ordeals are often met with suspicion when they return to their communities. Such marginalization extends their suffering.

In a letter to Nigeria's bishops, Pope Francis wrote: "Do not grow tired of doing what is right." He urged: "Go forward on the way of peace. Accompany the victims! Come to the aid of

the poor! Teach the youth!" I could not agree more. We must keep fighting to ensure that all Nigerians can live in peace and that young girls everywhere can pursue an education without fear of violence or intimidation.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE  
DECISIONS DAY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize that Saturday, April 16, 2016, was National Healthcare Decisions Day. National Healthcare Decisions Day exists to inspire, educate, and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. Started by a Richmond attorney as a local grassroots initiative in Virginia, NHDD became an annual event in 2008, and today it is recognized across all 50 States. Faith-based groups, doctors and nurses, hospitals, patients, and caregivers alike are engaged in these efforts. NHDD is an opportunity for all Americans to discuss their preferences and goals with family and friends—and this starts with filling out an advance directive.

In the last year, we have made real progress in giving Americans access to the clear, consistent, and concise information they need to make critical health care decisions, and there is a growing awareness of the need to transform advanced care, both among providers and families.

In my own State of Virginia, the general assembly recently designated April as Advance Care Planning Month. Around the Commonwealth, Virginians are innovating and creating new models of care to provide patients with the tools and support to make their own advanced care decisions. For example, the Richmond Academy of Medicine's Honoring Choices Initiative is a partnership with three major health care systems working to adopt nationally recognized best practices and adapting them to the needs of patients, families, doctors, and hospitals in central Virginia. On the ground, Virginians are holding dozens of events this month to encourage individuals to fill out an advance directive.

This year has been a significant one at the national level as well. For the first time, Medicare providers are being compensated for spending time with their patients to discuss their health care decisions. And I am pleased that the bipartisan Care Planning Act, which I introduced again this last year with Senator ISAKSON, has gained more support than ever, including from nearly 90 health and senior advocacy groups. The purpose of the Care Planning Act is to align the care people want with the level of care they get. It doesn't limit choices; it works to make sure people are made fully aware of the broad range of choices they have. The growing support for this legislation

demonstrates just how far the conversation around advance care planning has come. While physician reimbursement is an important first step, the Care Planning Act provides a strong, bipartisan foundation for Congress as we consider how to further empower patients to make informed choices about their own care.

I am working to advance this conversation wherever I can. For example, Senator ISAKSON and I are cochairs of the Finance Committee's bipartisan chronic care working group, and we are looking at a broad range of policies so that chronically ill patients receive the highest quality care at all stages of illness, especially towards the end of life. We are not going to pass the Care Planning Act in full as a part of that process, but I see this process as a real way to move the ball forward. While this process remains a work in progress, I am hopeful that we will be able to get some of these bipartisan provisions done.

I know how important this is not just from my time serving as a Governor and as a Senator but through the eyes of a loved one who struggled with these issues. My own mother suffered from Alzheimer's disease for 10 years, and for 9 of those years, she couldn't speak. My father, sister, and I found grappling with the challenges of caring for her difficult. The difficulty was greater because, when she was first diagnosed, my family didn't take the opportunity to talk in an honest and fully informed way with her and her health care providers about the full array of health care options available or about what her priorities would be during the final years of her life.

Care planning is a subject that most people do their best to avoid, but on National Healthcare Decisions Day, I urge all Americans to fill out an advance directive and to have these conversations. I also urge my fellow policymakers to continue engaging in this dialogue to improve advanced care planning at all levels—Federal, State, local—so that at the end of the day, we are empowering Americans and their loved ones.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JAMES WAGNER

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize in the RECORD James W. Wagner, a leader at the helm of one of Georgia's great institutions of higher education, Emory University.

After 13 years as president of Emory University, Mr. Wagner will soon be stepping down from his position. I feel I would be remiss if I did not mark some of his achievements at Emory here in the RECORD, as the success of Emory University and its students has made a difference to our Nation.



Emory University's reputation as a private research university that has led in academic, research, and health care eminence extends far beyond its beautiful campus, which is headquartered in the beautiful Druid Hills neighborhood of Atlanta, GA. President Wagner has enhanced the school's reputation, recruiting a world-class and diverse community of scholars and researchers who have secured an increased number of appointments to national academies and an increased amount of external research funding that added up to more than \$570 million in 2015.

President Wagner guided the Emory community in developing the university's first vision statement, which established the foundation for a 10-year strategic plan focused on strengthening faculty distinction, ensuring the highest student quality, enhancing the student experience, and exploring new frontiers in science and technology.

President Wagner also led a fundraising campaign that resulted in the investment of \$1.7 billion in support of the university's initiatives in teaching, research, scholarship, patient care, and social action.

In short, President Wagner has advanced all aspects of the university's mission through the innovative design and construction of a number of new facilities to support health sciences research, science education, residential life, library resources, and patient care.

I hope that President Wagner and I will remain in touch wherever his next step takes him, and I wish him and his wife, Debbie, the very best.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1670. An act to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2666. An act to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.

H.R. 3340. An act to place the Financial Stability Oversight Council and the Office of Financial Research under the regular appropriations process, to provide for certain quarterly reporting and public notice and comment requirements for the Office of Financial Research, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3791. An act to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3340. An act to place the Financial Stability Oversight Council and the Office of Financial Research under the regular appropriations process, to provide for certain quarterly reporting and public notice and comment requirements for the Office of Financial Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3791. An act to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5111. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acequinocyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9944-34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5112. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program" (RIN0584-AE07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5113. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6,

2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5114. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General David D. Halverson, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5115. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Mark S. Bowman, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5116. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations Based on the 2015 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements" (RIN0694-AG77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5117. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Securities Investor Protection Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Order Approving the Determination of the Board of Directors of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation not to Adjust for Inflation the Standard Maximum Cash Advance Amount and Notice of the Standard Maximum Cash Advance Amount" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5118. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plans Required for Attainment of the 2010 1-Hour Primary Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)" (FRL No. 9944-88-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5119. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9935-51-Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5120. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List the Tanzanian DPS of African Coelacanth (*Latimeria chalumnae*) as Threatened Under the Endangered Species Act" (RIN0648-XD681) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5121. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applications of Bioassay for Radioiodine" (Regulatory Guide 8.20, Revision 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April

13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5122. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bioassay at Uranium Mills" (Regulatory Guide 8.22, Revision 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5123. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List Eleven Distinct Population Segments of the Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) as Endangered or Threatened and Revision of Current Listings Under the Endangered Species Act" (RIN0648-XB089) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5124. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applications of Bioassay for Uranium" (Regulatory Guide 8.11, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5125. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Fish and Wildlife Service on reasonably identifiable expenditures for the conservation of endangered and threatened species for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5126. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Administration's fiscal year 2015 Competitive Sourcing efforts; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5127. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Workers' Compensation Offset from Age 65 to Full Retirement Age—Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act." (RIN0960-AH65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5128. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0032 - 2016-0054); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5129. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5130. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation

Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5131. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2015 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5132. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Management Alert to the Department of Housing and Community Development Regarding the Housing Production Trust Fund"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5133. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the District of Columbia Family Court Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5134. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Special Diabetes Program for Indians 2014 Report to Congress, Changing the Course of Diabetes: Turning Hope into Reality"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5135. A communication from the Supervisory Human Resources Specialist, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, six (6) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5136. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of AH-7921 into Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-432) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5137. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan" (RIN0648-BF75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5138. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-6537) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5139. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1047) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5140. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness

Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0187) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5141. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5036) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5142. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3983) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5143. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5038) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5144. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4212) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5145. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Weatherly Aircraft Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5422) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5146. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. (Type Certificate previously held by AlliedSignal Inc., Garrett Turbine Engine Company) Turboprop Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-2208) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5147. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3942) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5148. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace; Bartow, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-4239)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5149. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace, and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lake City, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5150. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Wilmington, OH" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-7486)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5151. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Rapid City, SD" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-7492)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5152. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Michigan Towns; Alpena, MI; and Muskegon, MI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-7483)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5153. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Architectural Glazing Materials" (CPSC Docket No. CPSC-2012-0049) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5154. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Procedural Schedule in Stand-Alone Cases" (RIN2140-AB26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5155. A communication from the Staff Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Glazing Standards" (RIN2130-AC43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5156. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Depart-

ment of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, received in the office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5157. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-147. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas urging the federal government to require the use of sound science in evaluating crop protection chemistries and nutrients; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6045

Whereas, Agriculture is crucial to the continued production of food, feed, fiber and energy to meet both domestic and global demand; and

Whereas, In the United States, the agriculture and value-added industries and businesses utilize precision farming equipment, crop protection chemistries, genetic engineering or enhancement, agricultural nutrients and other modern technologies. Such advanced practices protect the safety of the public and reduce environmental and natural resource impacts, while increasing yields, improving profitability and ensuring an abundant, affordable and wholesome food supply; and

Whereas, Agricultural production systems and crop protection are among the most studied and highly regulated of all industries, at both the state and federal levels. The use of sound science should be the bedrock of our nation's regulatory scheme for the agriculture and food production industries, as these industries are critical to the economic vitality of Kansas and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, By the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we support the use of sound science to study and regulate modern agricultural technologies such as crop protection chemistries and genetically engineered or enhanced traits and nutrients; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we oppose legislative or regulatory action at any level that may result in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies.

POM-148. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas urging the President of the United States to obey the United States Constitution and declare that the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay will remain; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5024

Whereas, The President of the United States, Barack Obama, has threatened to move the terrorist detainees currently held at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Fort

Leavenworth without regard to the wishes or the safety of the people of Kansas; and

Whereas, The President has threatened to close the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay; and

Whereas, The threat of the transfer has been underscored by visits to Fort Leavenworth by officials of his Administration, preparing for the threatened transfer; and

Whereas, Many detainees that have been released have continued to fight against this country and its allies; and

Whereas, This President and others have insisted that the mere existence of the detention facility at Guantanamo has inflamed terrorists around the world and aided in their recruitments; and

Whereas, Transferring the detainees to Fort Leavenworth will only transfer the ire of terrorists worldwide from Guantanamo to Fort Leavenworth; and

Whereas, This President has a demonstrated willingness to violate American law; and

Whereas, This President has said that he will go around the Congress to accomplish his agenda; and

Whereas, Closing the Naval Station at Guantanamo has been high on this President's agenda since before he was first elected; and

Whereas, The President has continually sought to weaken our standing in the world; and

Whereas, The terrorists have demonstrated an ability and willingness to conduct attacks in America, in furtherance of their savage war against America; and

Whereas, Detonating large bombs in civilian communities in the vicinity of Fort Leavenworth would be exactly the sort of demonstration that the terrorists would try; and

Whereas, Fort Leavenworth does not have the necessary facilities to hold and care for the detainees and would, for example, be forced to transport them through the city of Leavenworth to access medical care, thereby presenting additional soft, tempting targets for attacks; and

Whereas, The surrounding community does not have the law enforcement, emergency response resources or the physical capability to harden potential civilian targets in the surrounding area. Transferring detainees to Fort Leavenworth represents a predictable, direct and unnecessarily high risk to American citizens in the vicinity of Fort Leavenworth; and

Whereas, The Naval Station at Guantanamo is a high security facility designed to both house high risk detainees and be secure from attack by external forces. This facility has not been the object of an external terrorist attack and, if it had been attacked, it would not have represented a threat to American civilians or communities; and

Whereas, The intentional placement of detainees on American soil, physically within an American community, would unnecessarily and intentionally put American citizens at greater risk, in violation of the government's sworn oath to support and defend them against enemies, foreign or domestic; and

Whereas, Officers from over one hundred countries attend classes at Fort Leavenworth; and

Whereas, Many of these officers would not bring their families nor be permitted by

their countries to attend, if the detainees were transferred to Fort Leavenworth, thereby hurting the local economy; and

Whereas, These officers and their families represent an important bond and link among our nations. Their loss will not just affect the local economy, but would potentially have grave impacts on our future ability to effectively and successfully find peaceful solutions to international problems: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein,* That the Legislature of the State of Kansas urges the President of the United States to obey the Constitution of the United States and the laws of this country, the people of which have placed him in a position of great trust and responsibility and depend upon him to ensure that the laws be upheld and that their security be maintained; and be it further

*Resolved, That the President must declare that the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay will remain, and that the detainees will continue to be held there, until said detainees are given proper, lawful disposition, in accordance with the Laws of War and the best interests of the safety of the people of the United States and their allies.*

POM-149. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the United States Congress to modernize the federal cap on the locally set Passenger Facility Charges user fee by setting it at \$8.50 and adjusting it periodically to offset the impacts of inflation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 261

Whereas, In 2010, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's public use airports supported approximately 304,000 jobs, generated \$9.2 billion in annual payroll and produced \$23.6 billion in annual economic activities; and

Whereas, In 1990, the Congress of the United States authorized Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs), local user fees collected for every boarded passenger, to help airports of all sizes meet their capital needs to finance Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved projects such as terminals, parking and multimodal projects that enhance safety, security, capacity, noise reduction or increase air carrier competition; and

Whereas, PFCs are locally determined fees collected at the point of sale, which do not affect Federal expenditures; and

Whereas, The PFC cap was last raised in 2000 when Congress set it at \$4.50; and

Whereas, Inflation has eroded the buying power of PFCs by approximately one-half since then due to rising construction costs; and

Whereas, There is a growing recognition of the need for infrastructure finance and funding to keep pace with inflation and action for doing so such as the act of November 25, 2014 (P.L. 974, No. 89) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Modernizing the PFC cap to \$8.50 now and indexing it for inflation would restore its original purchasing power and provide local communities with the ability to set their individual PFC user fees based on locally determined needs for ensuring the safety and security of their airports; and

Whereas, Over the next five years, airports will require more than \$75 billion to improve infrastructure to prevent passenger delays and congestion; and

Whereas, Direct Federal funding through the FAA Airport Improvement Program has declined 10% over the past six years and cov-

ers only a fraction of the total infrastructure projects required to upgrade and maintain the world-class aviation system: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to modernize the Federal cap on the locally set PFC user fee by setting it at \$8.50 and adjusting it periodically to offset the impacts of inflation; and be it further

*Resolved,* That a copy of this resolution to be sent to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-150. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the United States Congress to ensure the continued appropriation of watercraft inspection station funding in the fiscal year 2017 budget to significantly enhance aquatic invasive species prevention efforts and to implement the intent of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 104

Whereas, maintaining a healthy suite of economic, environmental and social ecosystem services in aquatic systems is integral to the quality of life in the State of Idaho; and

Whereas, healthy aquatic habitats provide clean drinking water, flood control, transportation, recreation, purification of human and industrial wastes, power generation, habitat for native plants and animals, production of fish and other foods, marketable goods and cultural benefits; and

Whereas, Dreissenid mussels, specifically quagga mussels (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) and zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), are aquatic invasive species that cause irreparable ecological damage to many waters in the United States; and

Whereas, Dreissenids have not yet been detected in the Pacific Northwest. The estimated annual cost to address established populations of Dreissenids in the Pacific Northwest Economic Region is almost \$0.5 billion annually; and

Whereas, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act was signed in June 2014. Section 1039 of the act authorizes \$20 million for Columbia River Basin watercraft inspection stations to prevent introduction of Dreissenid mussels and other aquatic invasive species through the Secretary of the Army; and

Whereas, the fiscal year 2016 budget for the United States Army Corps of Engineers includes \$4 million in funding for watercraft inspection stations as authorized by the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, and the State of Idaho and Pacific Northwest Economic Region are grateful for the Corps' recognition of the severity of the threat of aquatic invasive species to the region and dedication to assist the region in enhancing prevention efforts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* By the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we respectfully request that Congress ensure the continued appropriation of these funds in the fiscal year 2017 budget to significantly enhance aquatic invasive species prevention efforts and to implement the intent of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed

to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Interior, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-151. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio encouraging the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the United States Office of Management and Budget to support plans to upgrade the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and encourage the United States Army Corps of Engineers to take expeditious action in preparing an Economic Reevaluation Report; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NUMBER 263

Whereas, The Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, are of the utmost importance to Ohio and play a critical role in the nation's economy and security. Each year, approximately 10,000 Great Lakes vessels, carrying 80 million tons of iron ore, coal, grain, and other cargo, safely and efficiently traverse the locks; and

Whereas, Nearly 80% of all domestic iron ore, the primary material used to manufacture steel, travels from mines in Minnesota and Michigan's Upper Peninsula through the Soo Locks to steel producers in Ohio; and

Whereas, Only one of the four Soo Locks, the Poe Lock, is large enough to accommodate the modern vessels that commonly traverse the Great Lakes. 70% of cargo is carried on these large ships that can only pass through the Poe Lock, and the remaining cargo must pass through the smaller MacArthur Lock. The 100-year-old Davis and Sabin Locks are rarely used as they are the smallest locks and cannot accommodate large modern vessels; and

Whereas, The continued reliance on only the Poe Lock poses a serious risk to national security and the economies of not only the State of Ohio, but also the entire country. A long-term outage of the Poe Lock due to lock failure or a terrorist attack could cripple the economy and disrupt steel production in the United States. It is estimated that a 30-day outage of the Poe Lock would result in economic losses of \$160 million; and

Whereas, Upgrades to the Soo Locks are needed to ensure national security and unfettered commerce through the Great Lakes. The United States Army Corps of Engineers acknowledges that the Soo Locks are a single point of failure for the Great Lakes Navigation System; and

Whereas, The United States Congress has authorized the construction of a second Poe-sized lock, but a study that contains crucial errors is preventing the construction from proceeding: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage the President and the Congress of the United States and the United States Office of Management and Budget to support plans to upgrade the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; and be it further

*Resolved,* That we encourage the United States Army Corps of Engineers to take expeditious action in acknowledging the national security need for maintaining the Great Lakes Navigation System in addition to properly accounting for the limitation of transportation resources if a lock outage occurs in the preparation of an Economic Reevaluation Report; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Ohio congressional delegation, the Director of the United States Office of Management and Budget, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

POM-152. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming urging the United States Congress to seek removal of the gray wolf and grizzly bear populations from listing under the Endangered Species Act and to assist in funding programs and services for gray wolf and grizzly bear management; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

Whereas, gray wolf and grizzly bear predation on livestock and big game species is resulting in economic losses in the state of Wyoming; and

Whereas, the cost to manage gray wolves and grizzly bears and to compensate individuals and entities for damage caused by these species is significantly greater than can be sustained through existing budgets of the responsible state and federal agencies; and

Whereas, gray wolf and grizzly bear populations are recovered and these species should therefore be removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming in order for the state to effectively manage these species; and

Whereas, federal funding is essential to assist the state in compensating individuals and entities for losses caused by gray wolves and grizzly bears now and after the date these species are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming; and

Whereas, such federal support in compensating individuals and entities for losses will increase acceptance of these wildlife species in Wyoming and continue the healthy and self-sustaining populations of gray wolves and grizzly bears in the state: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, by the Members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. That the Wyoming legislature calls on Congress and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to speedily seek removal of the gray wolf and grizzly bear populations from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming, by all means available.

Section 2. That the Wyoming legislature calls on Congress to immediately and fully fund all necessary programs and services for gray wolf and grizzly bear management, particularly programs and services to compensate individuals and entities for losses caused by these wildlife species.

Section 3. That the Wyoming legislature calls on Congress to assist in funding the necessary programs and services indicated in section 2 of this resolution after the date the gray wolf and grizzly bear populations are removed from the list of experimental nonessential population, endangered species or threatened species in Wyoming.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United

States Congress, to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and to the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

POM-153. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan supporting the recommendations of the Chicago Area Waterway System Advisory Committee to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, The Chicago Area Waterway System serves as a pathway for aquatic invasive species to move between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Zebra mussels and other species spread from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and its tributaries through this man-made connection. Now, Asian carp are on the brink of using this same route to invade the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River basin; and

Whereas, Asian carp continue to migrate upstream and are now within a day's swim of Lake Michigan. In the last year, juvenile Asian carp have moved 66 miles closer to Lake Michigan, leaving them only 76 miles from the Great Lakes. While electrical barriers currently stand in their way, new research indicates that those barriers may not be effective at stopping small fish; and

Whereas, The impacts of Asian carp to the ecosystems and economies of the Great Lakes states and local communities will be catastrophic. Invasive species established in the Great Lakes already cost the region more than \$100 million per year. Asian carp could add dramatically to this cost if they move through the Chicago area into the Great Lakes. These carp are voracious filter feeders and could out-compete the native fish of the Great Lakes, threatening a \$7 billion sport and commercial fishery. History has demonstrated that, once established, aquatic invasive species like Asian carp are nearly impossible to eradicate; and

Whereas, The Chicago Area Waterway System Advisory Committee was formed in May 2014 with the goal of reaching consensus on a set of recommendations for elected and appointed local, state, and federal officials and the public on short- and long-term measures to prevent Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species from moving between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the Chicago Area Waterway System; and

Whereas, The diverse, 32-member advisory committee reached consensus in a letter to the President of the United States on a specific system of control points to prevent the two-way interbasin transfer of aquatic invasive species. It also reached consensus on supporting immediate actions at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois, to prevent the risk of Asian carp from migrating upstream while the system of control points is evaluated as a long-term solution for all aquatic invasive species; and

Whereas, The best long-term solution will prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes while preserving as much as possible the current uses of the Chicago area waterways. Options that would change shipping on these waterways should only be pursued after all other options have been exhausted; and

Whereas, The costs of preventing Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes are substantially lower than the costs to the ecosystems and economies of the Great Lakes states if Asian carp were to become established; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate*, That we support the Chicago Area Waterway System Advisory

Committee recommendations to implement immediate control technologies at Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois, and to further investigate the specific system of control points for long-term movement of aquatic invasive species into and out of the Great Lakes; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Commanding General and Chief of Engineers of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

POM-154. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to take actions necessary to help families enduring mental health crisis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 169

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental illness is defined as "health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior (or some combination thereof) associated with distress and/or impaired function." The National Institute of Mental Health states, "while mental disorders are common in the United States, the burden of illness is particularly concentrated among those who experience disability due to serious mental illness (SMI)"; and

Whereas, Laws, regulations, and misinterpretations frequently shut out families attempting to get effective and appropriate treatment for their loved ones in a mental health crisis. In a given year, approximately ten million Americans endure serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder. Approximately four million Americans battle with serious mental illness do not receive treatment in a given year; and

Whereas, Families struggling with mental illness must also grapple with the likelihood that their loved one will end up in jail or prison where there is virtually no mental health treatment. There are ten times more individuals with serious mental illness in jails and prisons than in state psychiatric hospitals. Moreover, federal laws and billing policies restrict the ability of persons on Medicaid to receive high-quality inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment; and

Whereas, Current spending needs to be more focused on the most effective services and most severe mental illnesses. Passage of federal legislation like the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015 (H.R. 2646), sponsored by United States Congressman Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania, would be a positive first step. The bill would create a new Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders to coordinate funding between agencies, collect increased data on treatment outcomes, and drive evidence-based care: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the House of Representatives*, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to take actions necessary to help families enduring mental health crisis; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-155. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the

United States Congress to restructure the United States Postal Service in a way that would reopen shuttered mail processing plants throughout the nation and provide acceptable delivery times; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 105

Whereas, the mail processing function of the post office in Pocatello, Idaho, was closed on or about April 19, 2015; and

Whereas, Brian Sperry, the regional spokesman for the United States Postal Service (USPS) stated that the impacts would be that stamped "First-Class Mail" would take between two and three days to reach its destination; and

Whereas, mail delivery in eastern Idaho is now significantly delayed, with delays ranging from a few days up to a few weeks; and

Whereas, USPS has already closed or suspended services in many locations nationwide, including in Twin Falls, Idaho, and is considering closing more; and

Whereas, USPS can provide better delivery times while still cutting substantive costs by restructuring its pre-funding for retirement benefits: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, By the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that Congress should pass legislation that would direct USPS to restructure their budget priorities, rethink their administrative model, make appropriate budget cuts if necessary, focus on customer service and acceptable delivery times, and reopen shuttered mail processing plants throughout the United States; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of this Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KIRK, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2806. An original bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-237).

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2017" (Rept. No. 114-238).

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 185. A bill to create a limited population pathway for approval of certain antibacterial drugs.

S. 1622. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to devices.

S. 2700. A bill to update the authorizing provisions relating to the workforces of the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2713. A bill to provide for the implementation of a Precision Medicine Initiative.

S. 2742. A bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act regarding the national research institutes, and for other purposes.

S. 2745. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote the inclusion of minorities in clinical research, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on Finance.

\*Andrew LaMont Eanes, of Kansas, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019.

\*Vik Edwin Stoll, of Missouri, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

\*Elizabeth Ann Copeland, of Texas, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 2806. An original bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2807. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to require State approval before the Secretary of the Interior restricts access to waters under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service for recreational or commercial fishing; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2808. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 2809. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve taxpayers' rights to administrative appeal of deficiency determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 2810. A bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to assist small cheese producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2811. A bill to authorize the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Chaplain (First Lieutenant) Joseph Verbis LaFleur for acts of valor during World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2812. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize and improve the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2813. A bill to amend title 4 of the United States Code to limit the extent to which States may tax the compensation earned by nonresident telecommuters and other multi-State workers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. SASSE):

S.J. Res. 33. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "fiduciary" and the conflict of interest rule with respect to retirement investment advice; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 134

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes.

S. 256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to amend the definition of "homeless person" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth, and for other purposes.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an

advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 979, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of volunteer income tax assistance for low-income and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1059

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1059, a bill to provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid.

S. 1060

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1062

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1062, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to preserve consumer and employer access to licensed independent insurance producers.

S. 1760

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1760, a bill to prevent gun trafficking.

S. 2147

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S.

2147, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to participant votes on the suspension of benefits under multi-employer plans in critical and declining status.

S. 2242

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2242, a bill to repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to reform laws relating to small public housing agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2332

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2332, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2348, a bill to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, and for other purposes.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 2473

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2473, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide veterans the option of using an alternative appeals process to more quickly determine claims for disability compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 2478

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2478, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for the purchase of paper United States savings bonds with tax refunds.

S. 2502

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2502, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure that retirement investors receive advice in their best interests, and for other purposes.

S. 2577

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2577, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 2675

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2675, a bill to provide for the adjustment of the debts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

S. 2676

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2676, a bill to provide for the adjustment of the debts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, non-profit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and

small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2708

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2708, a bill to provide for the admission to the United States of up to 10,000 Syrian religious minorities as refugees of special humanitarian concern in each of the fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

S. 2712

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2712, a bill to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

S. 2724

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2724, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, with respect to the judicial review of agency interpretations of statutory and regulatory provisions.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2740, a bill to prohibit the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to state sponsors of terrorism.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 2780

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2780, a bill to amend section 1034 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 to strengthen the certification requirements relating to the transfer or release of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

S.J. RES. 28

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule sub-

mitted by the Secretary of Agriculture relating to inspection of fish of the order Siluriformes.

S. RES. 426

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 426, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should support and protect the right of women working in developing countries to safe workplaces, free from gender-based violence, reprisals, and intimidation.

AMENDMENT NO. 3265

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3265 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3798. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3679 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON)) to the bill H.R. 636, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3798.** Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3679 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON)) to the bill H.R. 636, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle A of title II, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_ . COLLABORATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ON UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.**

(a) COLLABORATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of Defense shall collaborate on developing ground-based sense and avoid (GBSAA) and airborne sense and avoid (ABSAA) capabilities for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The collaboration required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Sharing information and technology on safely integrating unmanned aircraft systems and manned aircraft in the national airspace system.

(B) Building upon Air Force and Department of Defense experience to inform the Federal Aviation Administration's development of civil standards, policies, and procedures for integrating unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system.

(C) Assisting in the development of best practices for unmanned aircraft airworthiness certification, development of airborne and ground-based sense and avoid capabilities for unmanned aircraft systems, and research and development on unmanned aircraft systems, especially with respect to matters involving human factors, information assurance, and security.

(b) PARTICIPATION BY FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may participate and provide assistance for participation in test and evaluation efforts of the Department of Defense, including the Air Force, relating to ground-based sense and avoid and airborne sense and avoid capabilities for unmanned aircraft systems.

(2) PARTICIPATION THROUGH CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AND TEST SITES.—Participation under paragraph (1) may include provision of assistance through the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Sites.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 18, 2016, following the first vote at 5:30 p.m., in room S-216 of the Capitol.

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

#### NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2016 first quarter Mass Mailing report is Monday, April 25, 2016. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable pdf document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically or delivered to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

#### APPOINTMENTS

The Acting President pro tempore. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-140, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission: Robert Groves of the District of Columbia (data privacy), Jeffrey Liebman of Massachusetts (researcher), and Kim Wallin of Nevada (experienced program administrator).



ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
APRIL 19, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 636; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:36 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SUSAN FAYE BEARD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE GREGORY H. FRIEDMAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARY BETH LEONARD, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE AFRICAN UNION, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

LAWRENCE ROBERT SILVERMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SUSAN S. GIBSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE. (NEW POSITION)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. KENNETH D. JONES  
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. ARLAN M. DEBLIECK  
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. RODNEY L. FAULK  
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

NILSON OROZCOOVIDO  
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

PIERRE E. SAINTFLEUR  
IN THE COAST GUARD  
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

*To be vice admiral*

VICE ADM. FRED M. MIDGETTE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, April 18, 2016

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 18, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MO BROOKS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

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

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Lord God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Our Nation is singular and powerful by the very fact that Congress begins its workday with prayer, setting an example for all students and workers of this great land. It has done so from the very beginnings of Congress itself.

By seeking Your presence and wisdom in moments of prayer each day, we humbly lay before You our limitations and our hopes. We display our openness to Your creative light to guide us in the decisions that must be made to stay the course of government of Your free people.

Hear the prayers of this people's House, and call each Member to moral

integrity and charitable, bipartisan political effort, that the course of government might roll forward toward advancements of the common good of our Nation.

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

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

### HIGH TAXES DESTROY JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today marks tax day, a day when Americans must file their taxes.

The broken Tax Code is nearly 75,000 pages and has excessive regulations, destroys jobs, and lacks certainty. The tax bill is too high for hardworking American families. This year Americans will collectively spend more on taxes than basic necessities like food, clothing, and housing combined.

New ObamaCare taxes destroy jobs. We must make the Tax Code fair and simple to allow hardworking American families and small businesses to keep more of their hard-earned tax dollars.

That is why I am grateful to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 27, Tax Code Termination Act, which would retire the old, burdensome Tax Code and replace it with a system that provides tax relief for working Americans, protects the rights of taxpayers, eliminates bias against saving, and creates jobs.

I will continue to work in Congress toward a commonsense solution that creates a fair and simple Tax Code for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

### PARDON RAIF BADAWI

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today on behalf of Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi.

In 2014, Saudi Arabian authorities sentenced Raif to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for his liberal writings and support for secularism. Today is Raif's 1,425th day in prison. He has been publicly flogged 50 times, and his wife and children, fearful for their safety, have had to abandon their country for Canada.

But Raif is not a criminal. He is a champion of freedom of thought and expression in a kingdom whose rulers fear both.

This week President Obama will travel to Saudi Arabia to meet with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council. When the President sees King Salman, he should urge him to pardon Raif and allow him to join his wife and three children in Canada.

I seek the full support of Congress and the Obama administration in urging the Saudi Arabian Government to free Raif and all other prisoners of conscience like him, as befits any government with a seat on the U.N. Human Rights Council.

### CONGRATULATING STATE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER MELANIE LYNCH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate State College High School health education teacher Melanie Lynch, who was recently named one of six winners of the National Health Education Teacher of the Year Award by the Society of Health and Physical Educators.

Specifically, Melanie was recognized for designing and putting in place lesson plans which educate, motivate, and inspire high school students and their communities to take personal responsibility for improving their health habits.

Melanie's classes involve not only the academic knowledge of which nutrients are best for their diets, but also

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

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

about topics such as peer pressure, bullying, eating disorders, and how to eat right once they graduate high school. Lynch is assisted in those efforts by the textbook she co-wrote entitled "Comprehensive Health."

Physical and health education is key to students across the Nation receiving a well-rounded school experience. I appreciate the efforts of teachers such as Melanie Lynch in bringing real-world lessons into the classroom.

**HONORING SILVER STAR HERO  
FIRST LIEUTENANT ELMER JEBO**

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary hero from Tupper Lake in my district.

First Lieutenant Elmer Jebo was drafted into the Army in 1940 where he would participate in military campaigns across Italy.

On February 21, 1944, during the Anzio invasion, his position was attacked by six enemy tanks. For his bravery under siege and his courageous conduct to repel these attacks, he was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart by the U.S. Army.

Unfortunately, because of significant wounds sustained in combat, Lieutenant Jebo spent many months recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center and never received his medal. He has since passed.

After his family reached out to our office, I am honored that we were able to play a small part in preserving the legacy of this north country hero.

This Thursday my office will host his family at a ceremony in Washington to present them with Lieutenant Jebo's much-deserved Silver Star.

Today I am honored to recognize Lieutenant Jebo's heroic service on the House floor.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 639, the Chair announces that an amicus brief was filed on April 4, 2016, in the United States Supreme Court in the matter of *United States v. Texas*.

**RECESS**

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

**AFTER RECESS**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE**

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015**

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1638) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress information on the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project in the National Capital Region, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1638

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act of 2015".

**SEC. 2. INFORMATION ON DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION PROJECT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress information on the implementation of the enhanced plan for the Department headquarters consolidation project within the National Capital Region, approved by the Office of Management and Budget and included in the budget of the President for fiscal year 2016 (as submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), that includes the following:

(1) A proposed occupancy plan for the consolidation project that includes specific information about which Department-wide operations, component operations, and support offices will be located at the site, the aggregate number of full time equivalent employees projected to occupy the site, the seat-to-staff ratio at the site, and schedule estimates for migrating operations to the site.

(2) A comprehensive assessment of the difference between the current real property and facilities needed by the Department in the National Capital Region in order to carry out the mission of the Department and the future needs of the Department.

(3) A current plan for construction of the headquarters consolidation at the St. Elizabeths campus that includes—

(A) the estimated costs and schedule for the current plan, which shall conform to relevant Federal guidance for cost and schedule estimates, consistent with the recommendation of the Government Accountability Office in the September 2014 report entitled "Federal Real Property: DHS and GSA Need

to Strengthen the Management of DHS Headquarters Consolidation" (GAO-14-648); and

(B) any estimated cost savings associated with reducing the scope of the consolidation project and increasing the use of existing capacity developed under the project.

(4) A current plan for the leased portfolio of the Department in the National Capital Region that includes—

(A) an end-state vision that identifies which Department-wide operations, component operations, and support offices do not migrate to the St. Elizabeths campus and continue to operate at a property in the leased portfolio;

(B) for each year until the consolidation project is completed, the number of full-time equivalent employees who are expected to operate at each property, component, or office;

(C) the anticipated total rentable square feet leased per year during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the consolidation project is completed; and

(D) timing and anticipated lease terms for leased space under the plan referred to in paragraph (3).

(5) An analysis that identifies the costs and benefits of leasing and construction alternatives for the remainder of the consolidation project that includes—

(A) a comparison of the long-term cost that would result from leasing as compared to consolidating functions on Government-owned space; and

(B) the identification of any cost impacts in terms of premiums for short-term lease extensions or holdovers due to the uncertainty of funding for, or delays in, completing construction required for the consolidation.

**(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—**

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall review the cost and schedule estimates submitted under subsection (a) to evaluate the quality and reliability of the estimates.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the submittal of the cost and schedule estimates under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall report to the appropriate committees of Congress on the results of the review required under paragraph (1).

**(c) DEFINITIONS.—**In this Act:

(1) The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(3) The term "Department" means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) The term "National Capital Region" has the meaning given the term under section 2674(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(5) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1638.

Mr. Speaker, since construction began in 2006, the Department of Homeland Security's consolidated headquarters on St. Elizabeth's historic Washington, D.C. campus has been riddled with cost overruns and construction delays, at times estimated to be more than \$1 billion over budget and 12 years behind schedule.

As the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, I conducted rigorous oversight of the project, including holding a hearing in September 2014. Having visited the site, I saw firsthand the immense challenges that lie ahead. While we are encouraged by the recently updated DHS St. Elizabeth's plan, we still believe that increased oversight of the consolidation project will help ensure accountability and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars, especially considering this project was fully funded through the fiscal year 2016 appropriations, and DHS alone has requested \$225 million for fiscal year 2017.

This bill that we are talking about today, the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act, a companion to H.R. 1640, which was passed by the House unanimously in June of last year and of which I was a cosponsor, will require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the administrator of General Services, to submit a report on the implementation of the updated plan for the headquarters consolidation, including estimated costs and occupancy plans of the project. With a project of this magnitude, improved oversight and increased transparency is paramount.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson once said that an educated citizenry is "the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty." Our constituents expect their representatives to hold government accountable. S. 1638 does just that.

I wish to thank Senators JOHNSON and CARPER for their hard work passing this bill through the Senate. I urge all Members to join me in supporting this important bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1638, the Department of Homeland Security Head-

quarters Consolidation Accountability Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, since the 2006 decision to establish the Department of Homeland Security's headquarters at the former site of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, the project has experienced significant shortfalls in cost and schedule performance.

The Government Accountability Office reported that between the start of construction at St. Elizabeth's in fiscal year 2009 through the fiscal year 2014 appropriation, the project received \$1.6 billion less than the funding amendments requested over this period. The impact of this funding gap is far-reaching. In fact, GAO has found this gap resulted in cost escalations exceeding \$1 billion and schedule delays exceeding 10 years for the project.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate bill we consider today is the companion to H.R. 1640, a bill that the House approved by voice vote last June.

S. 1638 directs DHS and GSA to provide information to Congress within 120 days of enactment of this bill to establish that the data has been collected and analyzed to support the current direction for this high-profile investment.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, S. 1638 specifies that the information provided to Congress by DHS and GSA include updated cost and schedule estimates for the project.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, S. 1638 directs GAO to report to Congress on the quality and reliability of these estimates, not later than 90 days after they have been submitted to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, DHS headquarters operations currently are dispersed around the national capital region, in facilities that, in many cases, are inadequate—as is the case with the Nebraska Avenue Complex.

To support the government's effective stewardship of public resources and to deliver a headquarters that DHS desperately needs, I would urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 1638 is virtually identical to the House-passed legislation that my subcommittee advanced last year.

The bill's provisions acknowledge the need for GSA to be engaged at a high level, as the construction manager for the Department's headquarters consolidation project, and to help DHS develop realistic and achievable outcomes.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that up to 69 percent of the Department's commercial leases in the national capital region are slated to

expire between fiscal years 2016 and 2020. As such, the Department will be forced to engage in the expensive process of recompeting and possibly relocating its operation and personnel.

It would behoove the Department and the GSA to move more of DHS' headquarters activities to St. Elizabeth's as soon as possible and, thus, avoid the costs associated with executing additional leasing in the expensive D.C. market.

Mr. Speaker, I do again urge the adoption of S. 1638.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, once again, urge my colleagues to support S. 1638.

I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for her words of support. This is the right thing to do—being good stewards of taxpayer dollars and fulfilling our oversight role.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in strong support of S. 1638, the "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act."

I support this bipartisan legislation because it would move DHS forward in accomplishing the important objective of establishing a home for the Department's many components and agencies.

Eleven days after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge was appointed as the first Director of the Office of Homeland Security in the White House.

In November 2002, I was proud to join my colleagues in voting to create a Department of Homeland Security.

On March 1, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security official became a Cabinet-level department charged with the responsibility of unifying national homeland security efforts.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created through the integration of all or part of 22 different Federal departments and agencies into a unified, integrated Department.

S. 1638, directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in coordination with the General Services Administration (GSA), to submit information on the implementation of the enhanced plan for the DHS headquarters consolidation project within the National Capital Region, approved by the Office of Management and Budget and included in the budget of the President for FY2016, that includes:

a proposed occupancy plan with specific information about which DHS-wide operations, component operations, and support offices will be located at the site, the aggregate number of full time equivalent employees projected to occupy the site, the seat-to-staff ratio at the site, and schedule estimates for migrating operations to the site;

a comprehensive assessment of the difference between the current real property and facilities needed by DHS in the Region to carry out its mission and its future needs;

an analysis of the difference between the current and needed capital assets and facilities of DHS;

a current plan for construction of the headquarters consolidation at the St. Elizabeths campus that includes the estimated costs and schedule for the current plan and any estimated cost savings associated with reducing the scope of the project and increasing the use of existing capacity developed under the project;

An important goal of S. 1638, is an evaluation of the current plan to determine the leased portfolio of DHS throughout the Region that includes an end-state vision that identifies which DHS-wide operations, component operations, and support offices do not migrate to the St. Elizabeths campus and continue to operate at a property in the leased portfolio.

The bill will result in real numbers regarding the total compliment of full-time equivalent employees who are expected to operate at each property, component, or office for each year until the consolidation project is completed.

S. 1638, identifies the costs and benefits of leasing and construction alternatives for the remainder of the consolidation project, including a comparison of the long-term cost that would result from leasing to the cost of consolidating functions on government-owned space and the identification of any cost impacts in terms of premiums for short-term lease extensions or holdovers due to the uncertainty of funding for, or delays in, completing construction required for the consolidation.

Mr. Speaker, since DHS initiated its headquarters consolidation in 2006, it has progressed despite changes in senior leadership and waning funding support from Congress.

As a result, in April 2015, DHS and GSA announced that the construction sequence and timetable for the headquarters consolidation would be adjusted to reflect reduced funding by Congress.

DHS must now re-compete up to 69 percent of its commercial leases in the National Capital Region as they are scheduled to expire between 2016 and 2020.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in strong support of the suspension bill, S. 1638, the "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1638.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SIDNEY OSLIN SMITH, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4618) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the "Sid-

ney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4618

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

#### SECTION 1. SIDNEY OSLIN SMITH, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4618.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4618 would designate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Following his service in the United States Army during World War II, Judge Smith received his law degree and went into the private practice of law. In 1965, he was appointed to the Federal bench as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia by President Johnson, and he served until his retirement in 1974.

Given his commitment and dedication to our Nation and the law, I think it is fitting to recognize his service by naming this courthouse after him.

I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for his leadership on this legislation.

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also support H.R. 4618, which designates the United States Courthouse

in Gainesville, Georgia, as the Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Judge Smith served as a Federal district court judge in the Northern District of Georgia and was a World War II veteran. Judge Smith graduated from Harvard University and the University of Georgia Law School. After graduating from law school, Judge Smith went into private practice, as was noted, and he practiced until 1962, and was later elected as a superior court judge in Georgia.

In 1965, Mr. Speaker, Judge Smith was appointed as a district court judge and was later elevated to chief judge. Judge Smith stepped down from the Federal bench in 1974, as was noted, and returned to private practice as a partner at an Atlanta law firm.

In addition to his very long and distinguished career, Judge Smith was an active member of the educational community in Georgia, serving as chairman of the Gainesville Board of Education, the chairman of the State Board of Regents, and as a trustee of Brenau University for 35 years.

Judge Smith was well respected in his community. It is very appropriate to name the building in Gainesville, Georgia, the Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

I also support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Florida for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4618, legislation that I introduced to name the Federal building and United States Courthouse in Gainesville, Georgia, after Judge Sidney Oslin Smith, or Sidney Smith as we knew him.

Judge Smith passed away, but his influence in my hometown of Gainesville is still felt. He was born and raised in Gainesville, and committed to the law and furthering education.

Judge Smith dedicated his life to serving the public. He joined the Army during World War II to serve his country. He later went on to have a distinguished legal career after receiving his law degree from the University of Florida. He was in private practice in Gainesville for many years, and served as a superior court judge prior to being appointed to the Federal bench by President Lyndon Johnson.

Judge Smith's appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia included time as chief judge from 1968 to 1974.

□ 1615

After leaving the bench, Judge Smith served the community in many other ways. He served on the board of Brenau College—now Brenau University—and played a pivotal role in helping the school to obtain university status and become a doctoral granting institution.

Judge Smith's legacy is one that deserves to be honored. As the judge's son said, "serving others was his vocation calling."

The Federal building and courthouse in Gainesville is a symbol of public service and civic duty. Judge Smith dedicated his life to the high ideals of justice, honor, and family, and naming the courthouse after him will keep his legacy alive for years to come. It will serve as a reminder of the judge's commitment to his community, and I believe it will help inspire others to public service.

Mr. Speaker, as we have just heard from my two friends and colleagues here about this man, Judge Smith, it goes beyond the resume, and it starts to talk, really, about the law degree and the private practice and the superior court judge. In fact, my father, who was a Georgia State trooper, remembers Judge Smith before he was on the Federal bench.

I think what is most special for me in doing this and in working with my friends and fellow Senators from Georgia to name this building is not only did he do his service, but then he came back to the community. It was out of a duty that he served on the Federal bench. He then came back, once out of Federal practice, and he served in a law firm and helped in our educational community. Brenau University is known worldwide as a former women's college, but it has now expanded its program and reach to, literally, all across the world. It has recently expanded into China and has had an influence there and all over Georgia.

It is also that commitment to business and that commitment to his hometown. You see, when we name buildings—and I don't take that lightly—it should be in honor of someone who touches all aspects, not just one's Federal service, not just, maybe, one's private service, but a combination of the two.

When we go into high schools—and, Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues do as well. We speak in high schools and elementary schools all the time—we talk about pride; we talk about public service. Judge Smith is one of those in my community to whom we can point and say: Here is someone who served his country, who served his fellow members of Georgia as a member of the bar, but who was also known at home. They knew him in the restaurants; they knew him in the town square. He is someone we can look to and take pride in saying: There is someone who identifies with the very ideals of American life.

For that reason, it is really easy for me to say this is something that we do in honor of someone who earned his honor while he was living. He earned it through his hard work, his dedication, and his commitment to his fellow man and to our beloved community in Gainesville.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to recognize Judge Smith by naming this building in Gainesville the Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

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

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

I thank my colleagues for coming to the floor today in support of this legislation. Clearly, we are taking the opportunity—and the House has the opportunity before it—to honor a man who inspired his community, who served with honor, and who, quite frankly, was a role model to so many in the State of Georgia. I would respectfully ask all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4618.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 119) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 119

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the "sponsor") shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the "event"), on the Capitol Grounds.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 18, 2016, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

#### SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol

and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

#### SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

#### SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

#### SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 119.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 119 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 18.

I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for introducing this resolution and for his long-time support of this event.

This annual event is designed to encourage children to show off their work, ingenuity, and creativity as they compete for trophies. These races have been run nationally since 1934. Today, they are held throughout the country, and a few are held throughout the world. The winners of each division are then qualified to compete in the All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio, in July.

I support the passage of this resolution.

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my good friend from Maryland, Representative HOYER, for introducing this resolution on behalf of the Washington regional delegation.

This annual competitive event, Mr. Speaker, encourages boys and girls, ages 9 through 16, to construct and operate their own soap box vehicles. The event has become a great tradition in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area over the last 20 years. It provides a terrific opportunity for children to appreciate the workmanship that is necessary to build vehicles and to enjoy the thrill of competition.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby organizers will work with the Architect of the Capitol and with the Capitol Police to ensure that the appropriate rules and regulations are in place and that the event remains free to the public.

I support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation, because it is critically important for the future of our children.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank both Mr. CURBELO, the chairman of the subcommittee, and the ranking member for moving this resolution forward. I think this is the 25th year that I have sponsored this resolution, and I have had great support throughout. I thank them both.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of this resolution, which I sponsor each year on behalf of the Washington metropolitan delegation, to permit the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its annual race on the grounds of the Capitol Building.

This is a very special year for the soap box derby as it celebrates its 75th anniversary. For three-quarters of a century now, young people from across the Greater Washington, D.C., area have assembled at the Capitol for a fun, educational, and exciting event.

First run in 1938, when Norman Rocca sped past 223 of his fellow young racers on New Hampshire Avenue to capture the first soap box derby victory, the race brings together those between ages 8 and 17 to compete in three divisions. Those divisions are Stock, Super Stock, and Masters. The winner of each division will qualify to race against the regional champions from across the country later this year at the All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio. This year's race here in Washington will take place on June 18.

There is a reason, of course, the soap box derby has been called the "greatest amateur racing event in the world." It is not only because it is a thrill to watch on race day, but because of ev-

erything that happens before race day as well. For weeks in advance, the young drivers and their parents—and, yes, sometimes grandparents—gather in garages and basements to build, test, and improve their soap box racers together. It is a process that brings the generations together and teaches valuable lessons about hard work, science and engineering, sportsmanship, leadership, and pride of achievement. Many of the skills learned in building these soap box racers are the same ones that help students succeed in science, technology, engineering, and math—or the STEM subjects as we refer to them—which will prepare them for success in college and careers.

In addition to bringing families together, the soap box derby brings entire communities together with civic groups, police and fire departments, and service organizations that sponsor participants in whom they see the future leaders of their communities and of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I said before that this is the 75th anniversary of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. It also marks, as I said, the 25th year that I have had the honor of sponsoring this resolution. I have done so because I am incredibly proud of this tradition and of all of the young people from Maryland's Fifth District who have participated year after year. In fact, I say with some degree of pride that the Fifth District has been home to many soap box derby champions, including the winners of 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, and 2014, which is to say, recently, we have done pretty well, Mr. Speaker. Our racers even brought home national championship victories in 2007 and in 2008.

I thank all of those who worked to make the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby possible. I also thank the cosponsors of this resolution: Representatives CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, GERRY CONNOLLY, DON BEYER, JOHN DELANEY, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, DONNA EDWARDS, and BARBARA COMSTOCK.

I hope the House will offer its strong support once again for this great American pastime and for all of those young people and their families who participate.

I thank the two gentlemen for their leadership.

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

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

I congratulate the gentleman from Maryland on the 25th anniversary of his bringing forward this resolution. The gentleman from Maryland is someone who respects the traditions of this House and who, through his example, teaches younger and newer Members to also respect the traditions of this House. I am proud to support this resolution today, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 119.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

#### 100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS ACT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4570) to amend the Department of Agriculture program for research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to redesignate the program as the "Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4570

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "100 Years of Women in Congress Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The first woman elected to Congress, Representative Jeannette Rankin from Montana, was elected on November 7, 1916, almost four years prior to ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

(2) Jeannette Rankin was not only a pioneer in national electoral politics, she was also a pioneer as a woman in science, graduating from the University of Montana in 1902 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

(3) 100 years after the election of Jeannette Rankin, 108 women serve in the 114th Congress, more than at any other time in our Nation's history. While this improvement is commendable, women hold only 20 percent of the seats in Congress, far below their relative share of the American electorate.

(4) According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, women make up 47 percent of the total U.S. workforce. Gains have been made in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields over time, but women still comprise only 39 percent of chemists and material scientists, 28 percent of environmental scientists and geoscientists, 16 percent of chemical engineers, and 12 percent of civil engineers.

(5) More must be done to encourage women to run for elected office and to enter STEM fields.

#### SEC. 3. JEANNETTE RANKIN WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN STEM FIELDS PROGRAM.

Paragraph (7) of section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade

Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)(7)) is amended to read as follows:

“(7) JEANNETTE RANKIN WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN STEM FIELDS PROGRAM.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with priority given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary. Any grant made under this paragraph shall be known and designated as a ‘Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program Grant’.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4570, the 100 Years of Women in Congress Act. This legislation would honor a true pioneer of American politics by naming an important agricultural research program as the Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program.

This competitive research grants program is designed to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

I can think of no better person to identify with this important program than former Representative Rankin, who was the first woman to serve in the United States House of Representatives, an achievement made even more significant by the fact that Ms. Rankin was elected to Congress several years prior to the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELBENE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 4570, the 100 Years of Women in Congress Act. This is bipartisan legislation on a topic that is critical for our country and personally important to me.

This legislation would honor the first woman elected to Congress in 1916, Jeannette Rankin, by renaming

USDA’s Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program as the Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Grant Program.

Jeannette Rankin graduated with a degree in biology long before it was common for women to be scientists, and she was elected to Congress before women had the right to vote. As a fellow Pacific northwesterner, she continues to be an inspiration today.

There is no doubt that we need more women, especially more women leaders, in STEM fields. The year I graduated from college, women received 37 percent of the computer sciences degrees. Today it is below 20 percent.

One explanation for this is that, in the early days of PCs, computers were seen as toys and were marketed heavily to boys, not girls. Eventually, young women considered computer science and showed up on college campuses and found themselves alone in computer science classrooms dominated by men.

Before Congress, I had a long career in the technology sector and worked with a lot of developers in the early days of email, so I know what it is like to be the only woman in the room.

Thankfully, I had a strong female role model, my mother, who showed my sisters and me that we could do anything we wanted in our careers.

So I know firsthand how important it is that our kids develop the skills they need to have bright futures and help make sure the United States remains a leader in technology and innovation. Children, especially young women, need more role models like Jeannette Rankin so they can see themselves in STEM fields.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a brief moment to thank my colleague, Ms. DELBENE, for her kind comments and for helping to ensure that this great bill is going to make it through with a very bipartisan majority.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Montana (Mr. ZINKE), my colleague who is one of the most courageous Members of Congress, somebody who served our Nation in our U.S. military for many years and deserves our thanks.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the women of Montana to advocate for renaming the Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Grant Program to honor former Montana Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin. Yes, I do hold her seat and, yes, she held the first seat in Montana before women could vote.

I would like to also say that she was a true Montanan. She embodied the pioneer spirit that we know and love. She led the way in so many different areas to include:

She was one of the first to graduate from the University of Montana with a degree in biology. She voted against both wars because she could not fight. Her spirit blazoned the trails and gave us leadership. She was also a gifted scientific mind and an early pioneer.

The grant program is an important tool for young women today to continue their education in STEM and possibly break new ground, like Jeannette Rankin, and blaze new trails for young women of tomorrow, today, and our future.

I would like to add that my own staffer, Ms. Jocelyn Galt, is a relative of Jeannette Rankin. She, too, demonstrates the tenacity and determination that made Jeannette Rankin successful and feared among her peers.

Renaming this program in Representative Rankin’s honor is the right thing to do because it a reminder of those who had courage to break down the barriers, had the tenacity to not let go of their dreams, and the courage to be a mentor and an inspiration to us all.

I am happy to partner with Representative GRACE MENG on this important endeavor. I thank her for her leadership.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to be here today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women serving in Congress. Thank you for allowing this legislation to come to the floor.

I also thank my friend and colleague, Representative ZINKE, for authoring this legislation with me. His support has been instrumental in ensuring the consideration of this bill, and I am deeply grateful to him.

A hundred years ago this November, the people of Montana elected Jeannette Rankin to the United States House of Representatives. She was the first woman elected to Congress and was elected before passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

Jeannette Rankin was a trailblazer her entire life. In 1902, she graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in biology.

Afterward, she would become active in the women’s suffrage movement, moving to New York City and assisting in the founding of the New York Woman Suffrage Party and working for the National American Woman Suffrage Party.

She would return to Montana and was elected to office in the congressional election of 1916. Upon winning, she declared: “I may be the first woman Member of Congress, but I won’t be the last.”

I am happy to say she was right.



In recognition of Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin's many accomplishments and in celebration of the centennial anniversary of her election to Congress, Representative ZINKE and I introduced the 100 Years of Women in Congress Act.

Because Jeannette Rankin was a woman of science more than 100 years before our current push to have more women enter STEM fields, we felt it appropriate to rename the Department of Agriculture's Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Grant Program after her.

This program currently supports collaborative research projects at institutions of higher education, which seek to increase the participation of women and minorities from rural areas in STEM fields. It will continue to do so into the future, but now it will also recognize the many contributions Jeannette Rankin made to American life.

Mr. Speaker, thank you again for allowing this legislation to come to the floor today, and I thank Congressman ZINKE for partnering with me on it.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me and all of us here in support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it has been 100 years since the first woman was elected to serve in this great institution, and now I am blessed to serve with so many great women on both sides of the aisle.

This is a recognition that is long overdue.

I urge all of my colleagues, along with those you have already heard today, to support this important piece of legislation to give Ms. Rankin the respect and the honor that she deserves when she walked here 100 years ago.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4570, the "100 Years of Women in Congress Act," which renames the existing Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program, or WAMS program, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as the "Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program."

I commend Congresswoman MENG and Congressman ZINKE for introducing this bipartisan legislation which:

Highlights the importance and contributions of women Members in Congress;

Recognizes the importance of the Suffragette Movement in achieving opportunities for women;

Emphasizes the imperative of promoting education for women in STEM; and

Affirms our nation's commitment to expanding opportunities for rural women in my home state of Texas and across the country.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first woman being elected to Congress, Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana.

This bill is a fitting way to honor Representative Rankin's legacy, and to celebrate the many contributions of the female lawmakers who have succeeded her in this institution.

Jeannette Rankin was a trailblazer who broke barriers throughout her lifetime and whose example continues to inspire women the world over.

She graduated from the University of Montana with a biology degree in 1902.

She later became active in the women's suffrage movement, organizing the New York Women's Suffrage Party and working for the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

In 1916, Representative Rankin became the first woman elected to Congress, even before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed the right to vote to women.

For all of her contributions to women's rights, to political activism, and to this institution, it is only fitting to pay tribute to her achievements.

The USDA WAMS program was created specifically to encourage women and minorities from rural areas to participate in research and projects in the sciences.

Women and minorities have been and continue to be underrepresented in STEM fields.

Although women make up 47 percent of the total U.S. labor force, they comprise only 36 percent of the computing workforce, 24 percent of the engineering workforce, and 18 percent of the advanced manufacturing workforce.

Indeed, minority representation in STEM fields is even lower, with African-American and Latino workers comprising 29 percent of the general workforce, but only 15 percent of the computing workforce, 12 percent of the engineering workforce, and 6 percent of the advanced manufacturing workforce.

The WAMS program is one way that we can address these glaring disparities.

WAMS grants are awarded to universities and institutions of higher learning to distribute to eligible applicants, and they prioritize projects and programs of particular relevance to USDA.

Recipient institutions have used WAMS grants for worthy endeavors, such as: establishing a WAMS fellowship program for women and minority high school students in rural areas; providing mentorship and hands-on, service-based learning to high school students and undergraduates in particular STEM fields; and offering mentoring services to current undergraduates to help them successfully complete STEM-based degrees.

Because Representative Rankin is a graduate of the sciences from a rural area, renaming the WAMS program as the Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program is the perfect way to honor her legacy as a woman of the sciences and the first woman elected to Congress, and to encourage the next generation of women and minorities from rural areas to take up STEM fields.

I join my colleagues in support of this important measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4570.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

**CAPTAIN JOHN E. MORAN AND  
CAPTAIN WILLIAM WYLIE GALT  
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER**

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 719) to rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 719

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

**SECTION 1. RENAMING OF THE ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER IN GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, AS THE CAPTAIN JOHN E. MORAN AND CAPTAIN WILLIAM WYLIE GALT ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER.**

(a) RENAMING.—The Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, map, regulation, map, document, paper, other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) and the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ZINKE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 719 and my companion bill, H.R. 1521, to honor Montana Medal of Honor recipients Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt and rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, in their honor.

Captain John E. Moran served in the Philippine-American war and was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1910 for fearlessly leading a small body of troops under severe fire and through waist-deep water in the attack against the enemy.

Captain William Wylie Galt served in World War II and was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945 for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty.

Galt manned a machinegun on a tank destroyer at the front of the assault force, staying at his post in the vehicle's turret and continuing to lead his men despite intense hostile fire.

He was killed while manning his machinegun and, on February 1, 1945, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. He was just 24 years old. I am proud to have a member of the Galt family on my staff.

Captain Galt and Captain Moran are an inspiration to every Montanan who was ever and will ever put on the uniform, myself included.

Montana has a strong heritage of military service, with more veterans per capita than almost any other state in the Nation, to include our Indian nations.

Both Captain Moran and Captain Galt received the Medal of Honor, this Nation's most distinguished honor, for displaying such personal bravery that went well beyond the call of duty.

As leaders, they deserve our respect and honor. Memorializing these two heroes by renaming the Armed Forces Reserve Center will provide a daily reminder to us all of the service and sacrifice these Montanans made to our country.

I thank my friends, Senator STEVE DAINES and Senator JON TESTER, for seeing this important bill through the Senate. I am proud to see this issue to completion.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of the Montana congressional delegation's legislation to rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, to the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Captain Moran and Captain Galt were both awarded the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest honor, for their bravery in combat during the Philippine-American war and World War II, respectively.

The recognition they earned through the sacrifices that they and their families made will be memorialized appropriately at the facility.

As the Congresswoman representing Guam here in Congress, I have a special appreciation for the service of our men and our women in uniform and their families.

Having welcomed the Marines in 1944 after 3 years of brutal Japanese occu-

pation during World War II, our island has a history of service and one that demonstrates an understanding of our role in the American community.

□ 1645

Guam, like Montana, ranks in the top percentile for the servicemembers and veterans per capita, and our National Guard consistently maintains a force that is among the largest per capita in the Nation, a fact I am always proud to highlight.

I commend Congressman ZINKE and Senators TESTER and DAINES for their work in recognizing the contributions of two of Montana's own. I am pleased to support this bill and look forward to continuing to work to ensure that our brave servicemembers get the recognitions they deserve and have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I encourage passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 719.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

APRIL 18, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803 (a)), I am pleased to appoint the Honorable Debbie Dingell of Michigan to the Congressional Award Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Democratic Leader.*

#### FIRST LIEUTENANT SALVATORE S. CORMA II POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3866) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1265 Hurffville Road in Deptford Township, New Jersey, as the "First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building".

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

H.R. 3866

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

#### SECTION 1. FIRST LIEUTENANT SALVATORE S. CORMA II POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located 1265 Hurffville Road in Deptford Township, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BLUM. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3866 introduced by Congressman DONALD NORCROSS of New Jersey. H.R. 3866 designates the post office located at 1265 Hurffville Road in Deptford Township, New Jersey, as the First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building.

First Lieutenant Corma was an officer in the United States Army who gave his life while serving in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lieutenant Corma died on April 29, 2010, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. This came only weeks after returning to Afghanistan from visiting his home on leave.

Lieutenant Corma was a dedicated soldier, a dedication that was evident throughout his life. He began martial arts at just 3 years old and continued with it throughout high school and college, even winning the silver medal for tae kwon do at the Junior National Olympics.

Lieutenant Corma was also an excellent student. He was on the honor roll from kindergarten through his senior year of high school. He was a 2008 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he was captain of the tae kwon do karate team.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Corma was a dedicated friend and fellow soldier.

According to his mother, he would call and check on his men every day while he was on leave. Once he even mailed them 300 energy drinks. His dedication continued through his death, a death that came far too soon.

We will be forever grateful for the sacrifices First Lieutenant Salvatore Corma II made for his country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill to name a post office to honor his life and his sacrifice.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3866 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1265 Hurffville Road in Deptford Township, New Jersey, as the First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building.

Following his graduation from West Point in 2008, Salvatore Corma attained his Ranger badge, serving as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

First Lieutenant Corma was deployed to Afghanistan, where he served as a platoon leader. On April 29, 2010, First Lieutenant Corma tragically lost his life while marking an IED in Zabul, Afghanistan.

As his company commander noted when recommending First Lieutenant Corma for a valor award, marking IEDs is usually a soldier task, yet Salvatore Corma displayed not only his bravery, but also his leadership in knowingly putting himself in danger rather than his men. As he once told his mother: "You have to lead from the front. You can never lead from the back."

First Lieutenant Corma's selfless leadership should be commended. His military awards include the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, we all should be pleased to pass this bill to honor the valiant actions and steadfast leadership of First Lieutenant Salvatore Corma, who put the lives of others before his own.

I urge passage of H.R. 3866.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS). This is his bill.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative NORTON for yielding. I also thank Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for leadership and support for bringing this bill to the floor.

I take this opportunity to introduce you to a name that no one in this Chamber had likely ever known, but it is a name and a legacy you should know and you need to know. It is my honor to be the one to share it with you. It is one of the reasons why we

stand here today enjoying the many freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.

The name is Army First Lieutenant Salvatore Corma II of Deptford Township, New Jersey. Sal grew up in south Jersey and even attended karate class with my own children before receiving a nomination to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

He graduated from West Point in 2008, and then it was on to Active Duty in the United States Army as a First Lieutenant in the Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Sal only stood 5 foot 6, but his leadership made him a towering figure among his fellow soldiers. It was that very leadership on that very dark day that stands out—far from the safety and security of his home in the south Jersey suburbs—in one of those most volatile places on the planet, Afghanistan. That day was April 29, 2010.

Sal was leading his company when they spotted an IED, an improvised explosive device. Sal ordered his soldiers to back off. As they retreated, the IED detonated. It would take the life of Salvatore Corma. He was just 24 years old.

Sal Corma is credited with saving as many as 17 of his fellow soldiers in that one heroic, selfless act. Many will tell you that Sal made history that day. We know he did, but it happens in ways that you will never know. Because of his heroism, those who survived that day will go on to protect the United States from threats and eliminate dangers around the world. Those soldiers will live on and continue to protect us. They continued the fight, carrying in their hearts the spirit of Sal Corma. They are all living tributes and a living history to his actions.

Many of those soldiers will come home after service and start the American Dream of a family. That is something that was denied Sal. He will never get to marry or have kids, but his actions ensured that others will get that opportunity, all because of his valor. Sal Corma II is undeniably an American hero.

What better way to pay tribute to his valor than with this legislation I present today, to rename the Deptford, New Jersey, post office as the First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building.

Like all of our Active Duty service-members and veterans, Sal deserved this honor in life, not just in death. It is our duty to preserve his legacy to remind our fellow citizens and the world of his bravery. So every person that crosses that threshold in Deptford will see the name. If they don't know it, I hope they will take a moment to read about his life and his legacy and what he did for us as a country.

I respectfully ask for your unanimous support in my legislation to rename the Deptford post office the First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building.

□ 1700

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

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3866.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HAROLD GEORGE BENNETT POST OFFICE

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2928) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2928

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

#### SECTION 1. HAROLD GEORGE BENNETT POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Harold George Bennett Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have five legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2928, introduced by Congressman FRENCH HILL of Arkansas. H.R.

2928 designates the post office located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the Harold George Bennett Post Office.

Sergeant Harold George Bennett enlisted in the United States Army in 1957, and he served heroically in Vietnam. He was taken prisoner in that country, and on June 25, 1965, he became one of the first prisoners of war killed in Vietnam. Sergeant Bennett fought courageously, thinking not of himself, but thinking first and foremost of his colleagues.

I will ask my colleague and the sponsor of this bill, Representative FRENCH HILL, to share the incredible story of Sergeant Bennett; but for now, I urge Members to support this bill to name a post office after Sergeant Harold George Bennett.

Mr. Speaker, hearing his story inspires bravery in all of us, and I am hopeful that permanently naming a post office in remembrance of his sacrifice will serve to inspire generations to come.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 2928, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the Harold George Bennett Post Office.

Born in Perryville, Arkansas, in 1940, Harold George Bennett followed in his father's footsteps by joining the Army. Sergeant Bennett served with the 82nd and the 101st Airborne Divisions and volunteered to serve in Vietnam in 1964. During his deployment, Sergeant Bennett acted as infantry adviser to South Vietnam's 33rd Ranger Battalion.

On December 29, 1964, Sergeant Bennett's unit was airlifted to Binh Gia, a village overrun by the Viet Cong. Upon landing, they were met by enemy forces and a firefight ensued. A selfless man, Sergeant Bennett called off two separate helicopter pilots who attempted to rescue him, refusing to put their lives in danger to save his.

With his unit overrun by Viet Cong, Sergeant Bennett was captured. He demonstrated courage and tenacity by participating in hunger strikes and attempting three times to escape captivity. Tragically, following his third attempt, Sergeant Bennett was executed, becoming the first American POW to be put to death during the Vietnam war.

Sergeant Bennett was posthumously awarded a Silver Star for his heroic actions, in addition to receiving a Prisoner of War Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and a Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to commemorate the great sacrifices Sergeant Harold George Bennett made for his country, as he selflessly and re-

peatedly put the lives of others before his own. I urge the passage of H.R. 2928.

I yield back the balance of my time.  
Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of going to the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam war in Little Rock and to see all the hugs and emotion at that event. Truly, it was a tumultuous time in our world. It was so good to see the healing that those men and women experienced at that 50th anniversary. I looked at that table set for the POW/MIA ceremony, and, of course, I was thinking about Sergeant Harold George Bennett from Perryville, Arkansas.

Sergeant Bennett was born on October 16, 1940, in Thornburg, Arkansas, a very small town outside the beautiful Ouachita National Forest. A graduate of Perryville High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1957. He served as an airborne infantryman with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions—no finer units. He completed Special Forces training in 1963. From there, Sergeant Bennett volunteered to go to South Vietnam as a Special Forces adviser with the Military Assistance Command.

On December 29, 1964, his unit was airlifted to a small village after it had been overrun by the Viet Cong. Upon landing, Sergeant Bennett's unit was confronted by enemy forces. Twice, he refused extraction by military helicopters, as he was concerned for the pilots' safety and wanted to continue the fight against the enemy. After a furious and courageous battle, Sergeant Bennett was taken prisoner by the Viet Cong. Like so many of his colleagues, he spent 179 days as a POW and attempted to escape three times at great risk. His captors executed him on June 25, 1965.

Only 24 years old, Sergeant Bennett was the first American POW killed in Vietnam. And like so many other servicemen who lost their lives there, his remains have never returned home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman such time as he may consume.

Mr. HILL. After four decades, in 2004, Sergeant Bennett was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning. In 2006, his family was presented with his Combat Infantryman's Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart. In 2010, Sergeant Bennett's family was presented with his Silver Star.

Today, we honor Sergeant Bennett's heroism, bravery, and service by installing a permanent marker of his lasting contribution to his native State

and to our Nation, both that he loved and served so ably.

Duty, honor, and country—his example is one all Americans and Arkansans can admire, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2928.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SGT. 1ST CLASS TERRY L. PASKER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4605) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 6th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa as the "Sgt. 1st Class Terry L. Pasker Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 4605

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

#### SECTION 1. SGT. 1ST CLASS TERRY L. PASKER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 6th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, shall be known and designated as the "Sgt. 1st Class Terry L. Pasker Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sgt. 1st Class Terry L. Pasker Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have five legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

The bill before us would designate the post office located at 615 6th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as the

Sgt. 1st Class Terryl L. Pasker Post Office Building. This bill pays tribute to the life of Sergeant First Class Pasker, who was, unfortunately, killed in Afghanistan in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Pasker was born February 26, 1972, in Anamosa, Iowa, the son of David and Mary Pasker. He joined the Army in 1990, after graduating from Lisbon High School, transitioning to the National Guard in 1995.

Sergeant Pasker served in Afghanistan in 2004 and 2005, deploying again in 2011 with the 334th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division. He served in Panjshir province, where he was responsible for maintaining electronic equipment and mentoring Afghan police and military leaders.

Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 2011, Sergeant First Class Terryl L. Pasker gave his last full measure of devotion to his country when he was killed at the age of 39 at a checkpoint, only days before the end of his combat tour.

He is survived by his wife, Erica; his parents, Mary and David; his brother, Andrew; and his two sisters, Christine and Rebecca. His family told me that he always said he would rather be a sermon than preach one, a belief that I believe he exemplified throughout his life.

Admired by his fellow soldiers, Pasker was known for his humility, his sense of humor, and his willingness to selflessly serve others. Away from service, Terryl was a homebuilder, taught karate, and was active in his local church. During his life, he would remind others that freedom is not free.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we honor the sacrifice of Sergeant First Class Pasker, I ask us to also remember the thousands of servicemembers who sacrifice their time, their relationships, and even their lives to protect the freedom of this great Nation. I urge Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 4605, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 6th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as the Sgt. 1st Class Terryl L. Pasker Post Office Building.

Born in Anamosa, Iowa, Terryl Pasker joined the Army in 1990, following his high school graduation. In 1995, he joined the Iowa National Guard, deploying to Afghanistan from 2004 to 2005. Six years later, Sergeant First Class Pasker decided to return for a second deployment with the 34th Infantry Division. During this tour, he mentored Afghan police forces and military leadership.

□ 1715

Tragically, Sergeant First Class Pasker was killed at a checkpoint in

Panjshir province on July 9, 2011, just days before he was to return home from his combat duty. He was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his sacrifice.

Sergeant First Class Pasker is remembered as an active member of his church, who taught karate and served as a mentor to many in his community. A diligent, hardworking carpenter and owner of a contracting business, Terryl Pasker had intended to return to his trade and start a family with his wife, Erica, whom he married in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to recognize Sergeant First Class Terryl Pasker for the bravery, courage, and selflessness that he exhibited in his 20 years of honorable military service. I urge the passage of H.R. 4605.

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

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4605.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1206, NO HIRES FOR THE DELINQUENT IRS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4885, IRS OVERSIGHT WHILE ELIMINATING SPENDING (OWES) ACT OF 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-502) on the resolution (H. Res. 687) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1206) to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent

tax debt, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4890, BAN ON IRS BONUSES UNTIL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY DEVELOPS COMPREHENSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3724, ENSURING INTEGRITY IN THE IRS WORKFORCE ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-503) on the Resolution (H. Res. 688) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4890) to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3724) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4570, by the yeas and nays;

S. 719, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4570) to amend the Department of Agriculture program for research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to redesignate the program as the "Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 6, answered “present” 2, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

YEAS—377

Abraham	Delaney	Hurt (VA)
Adams	DeLauro	Israel
Aguilar	DelBene	Issa
Allen	Denham	Jeffries
Amash	Dent	Jenkins (KS)
Amodei	DeSantis	Jenkins (WV)
Ashford	DeSaulnier	Johnson (GA)
Barletta	DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)
Barr	Deutch	Johnson, E. B.
Bass	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam
Beatty	Dingell	Jolly
Becerra	Doggett	Jones
Benishek	Dold	Jordan
Bera	Donovan	Joyce
Bilirakis	Duckworth	Kaptur
Bishop (GA)	Duffy	Katko
Bishop (MI)	Duncan (SC)	Keating
Black	Duncan (TN)	Kelly (IL)
Blackburn	Ellison	Kelly (MS)
Blum	Ellmers (NC)	Kelly (PA)
Bonamici	Emmer (MN)	Kennedy
Bost	Engel	Kildee
Boustany	Eshoo	Kilmer
Bridenstine	Esty	Kind
Brooks (IN)	Farenthold	King (IA)
Brownley (CA)	Farr	King (NY)
Buchanan	Fitzpatrick	Kinzinger (IL)
Buck	Fleischmann	Kline
Bucshon	Fleming	Knight
Burgess	Forbes	Kuster
Bustos	Fortenberry	Labrador
Butterfield	Foster	LaHood
Byrne	Fox	LaMalfa
Calvert	Frankel (FL)	Lamborn
Capps	Franks (AZ)	Lance
Cardenas	Frelinghuysen	Langevin
Carney	Fudge	Larsen (WA)
Carson (IN)	Gabbard	Larson (CT)
Carter (GA)	Gallego	Latta
Carter (TX)	Garamendi	Lawrence
Cartwright	Garrett	Levin
Castor (FL)	Gibbs	Lewis
Castro (TX)	Gibson	Lieu, Ted
Chabot	Gohmert	LoBiondo
Chaffetz	Goodlatte	Loeb
Chu, Judy	Gowdy	Lofgren
Ciçilline	Graham	Long
Clark (MA)	Granger	Loudermilk
Clarke (NY)	Graves (GA)	Love
Clawson (FL)	Graves (LA)	Lowenthal
Clay	Graves (MO)	Lowe
Cleaver	Grayson	Lucas
Clyburn	Green, Al	Luetkemeyer
Coffman	Green, Gene	Lujan, Ben Ray
Cohen	Guinta	(NM)
Cole	Guthrie	Lummis
Collins (GA)	Gutiérrez	Lynch
Comstock	Hahn	MacArthur
Conaway	Hanna	Maloney, Sean
Connolly	Hardy	Marchant
Conyers	Harper	Massie
Cook	Harris	Matsui
Cooper	Hartzler	McCarthy
Costa	Heck (NV)	McCaul
Costello (PA)	Heck (WA)	McClintock
Courtney	Hensarling	McCollum
Cramer	Hice, Jody B.	McDermott
Crawford	Higgins	McGovern
Crenshaw	Hill	McHenry
Crowley	Himes	McKinley
Cuellar	Holding	McMorris
Culberson	Honda	Rodgers
Cummings	Hudson	McNerney
Curbelo (FL)	Huelskamp	McSally
Davis (CA)	Huffman	Meadows
Davis, Danny	Huizenga (MI)	Meehan
Davis, Rodney	Hultgren	Meng
DeFazio	Hunter	Messer
DeGette	Hurd (TX)	Mica

Miller (FL)	Rice (NY)	Swalwell (CA)
Miller (MI)	Richmond	Takai
Moolenaar	Rigell	Takano
Mooney (WV)	Roby	Thompson (CA)
Moore	Roe (TN)	Thompson (MS)
Moulton	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (PA)
Mullin	Rogers (KY)	Thornberry
Mulvaney	Rokita	Titus
Murphy (FL)	Rooney (FL)	Tonko
Murphy (PA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Torres
Nadler	Roskam	Trott
Napolitano	Ross	Tsongas
Neal	Rothfus	Turner
Neugebauer	Rouzer	Upton
Newhouse	Roybal-Allard	Valadao
Noem	Royce	Vargas
Nolan	Ruiz	Veasey
Norcross	Ruppersberger	Vela
Nugent	Russell	Velázquez
Nunes	Ryan (OH)	Visclosky
O'Rourke	Salmon	Wagner
Pallone	Sánchez, Linda T.	Walberg
Palmer	Sarbanes	Walden
Pascrell	Scalise	Walorski
Paulsen	Schakowsky	Walters, Mimi
Pearce	Schiff	Walz
Perlmutter	Schrader	Wasserman
Perry	Schweikert	Schultz
Scott (VA)	Scott (VA)	Watson Coleman
Scott, Austin	Scott, Austin	Weber (TX)
Sensenbrenner	Serrano	Webster (FL)
Sessions	Sessions	Welch
Sewell (AL)	Sewell (AL)	Wenstrup
Sherman	Sherman	Westerman
Shimkus	Shimkus	Westmoreland
Shuster	Shuster	Whitfield
Simpson	Simpson	Williams
Sinema	Sinema	Wilson (SC)
Smith (MO)	Smith (MO)	Wittman
Smith (NE)	Smith (NE)	Womack
Smith (NJ)	Smith (NJ)	Woodall
Smith (TX)	Smith (TX)	Yarmuth
Smith (WA)	Smith (WA)	Yoder
Stefanik	Stefanik	Yoho
Stewart	Stewart	Young (AK)
Stivers	Stivers	Young (IA)
		Zeldin
		Zinke

NAYS—6

Babin	Brooks (AL)	Griffith
Brat	Gosar	Grothman

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Rice (SC) Sanford

NOT VOTING—48

Aderholt	Grijalva	Poe (TX)
Barton	Hastings	Rohrabacher
Beyer	Herrera Beutler	Rush
Bishop (UT)	Hinojosa	Sánchez, Loretta
Blumenauer	Hoyer	Scott, David
Boyle, Brendan F.	Jackson Lee	Sires
Brady (PA)	Kirkpatrick	Slaughter
Brady (TX)	Lee	Speier
Brown (FL)	Lipinski	Stutzman
Capuano	Lujan Grisham	Tiberi
Collins (NY)	(NM)	Tipton
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney,	Van Hollen
Edwards	Carolyn	Walker
Fattah	Marino	Waters, Maxine
Fincher	Meeks	Wilson (FL)
Flores	Olson	Young (IN)
	Payne	
	Pelosi	

□ 1850

Messrs. BROOKS of Alabama and GOSAR changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. CARSON of Indiana changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 153, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

CAPTAIN JOHN E. MORAN AND CAPTAIN WILLIAM WYLIE GALT ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 719) to rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 154]

YEAS—387

Abraham	Clyburn	Fleming
Adams	Coffman	Forbes
Aguilar	Cohen	Fortenberry
Allen	Cole	Poster
Amash	Collins (GA)	Fox
Amodei	Comstock	Frankel (FL)
Ashford	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Babin	Connolly	Frelinghuysen
Barletta	Conyers	Fudge
Barr	Cook	Gabbard
Bass	Cooper	Gallego
Beatty	Costa	Garamendi
Becerra	Costello (PA)	Garrett
Benishek	Courtney	Gibbs
Bera	Cramer	Gibson
Bilirakis	Crawford	Gohmert
Bishop (GA)	Crenshaw	Goodlatte
Bishop (MI)	Crowley	Gosar
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Gowdy
Black	Culberson	Graham
Blackburn	Cummings	Graves (GA)
Blum	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (LA)
Bonamici	Davis (CA)	Graves (MO)
Bost	Davis, Danny	Grayson
Boustany	Davis, Rodney	Green, Al
Brat	DeFazio	Green, Gene
Bridenstine	DeGette	Griffith
Brooks (AL)	Delaney	Grothman
Brooks (IN)	DeLauro	Guinta
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Guthrie
Buchanan	Denham	Gutiérrez
Buck	Dent	Hahn
Bucshon	DeSantis	Hanna
Burgess	DeSaulnier	Hardy
Bustos	DesJarlais	Harper
Butterfield	Deutch	Harris
Byrne	Diaz-Balart	Hartzler
Capps	Doggett	Hastings
Cardenas	Dold	Heck (NV)
Carney	Donovan	Heck (WA)
Carson (IN)	Duckworth	Hensarling
Carter (GA)	Duffy	Herrera Beutler
Carter (TX)	Duncan (SC)	Hice, Jody B.
Cartwright	Duncan (TN)	Higgins
Castor (FL)	Ellison	Hill
Castro (TX)	Ellmers (NC)	Himes
Chabot	Emmer (MN)	Holding
Chaffetz	Engel	Honda
Chu, Judy	Eshoo	Hoyer
Ciçilline	Esty	Hudson
Clark (MA)	Farenthold	Huelskamp
Clarke (NY)	Farr	Huffman
Clawson (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Huizenga (MI)
Clay	Fleischmann	Hultgren
Cleaver		Hunter

Hurd (TX)	Meehan	Sanford
Hurt (VA)	Meng	Sarbanes
Israel	Messer	Scalise
Issa	Mica	Schakowsky
Jeffries	Miller (FL)	Schiff
Jenkins (KS)	Miller (MI)	Schrader
Jenkins (WV)	Moolenaar	Schweikert
Johnson (GA)	Mooney (WV)	Scott (VA)
Johnson (OH)	Moore	Scott, Austin
Johnson, E. B.	Moulton	Sensenbrenner
Johnson, Sam	Mullin	Serrano
Jolly	Mulvaney	Sessions
Jones	Murphy (FL)	Sewell (AL)
Jordan	Murphy (PA)	Sherman
Joyce	Nadler	Shimkus
Kaptur	Napolitano	Shuster
Katko	Neal	Simpson
Keating	Neugebauer	Sinema
Kelly (MS)	Newhouse	Smith (MO)
Kelly (PA)	Noem	Smith (NE)
Kennedy	Nolan	Smith (NJ)
Kildee	Norcross	Smith (TX)
Kilmer	Nugent	Smith (WA)
Kind	Nunes	Stefanik
King (IA)	O'Rourke	Stewart
King (NY)	Palazzo	Stivers
Kinzinger (IL)	Pallone	Swalwell (CA)
Kline	Palmer	Takai
Knight	Pascarell	Takano
Kuster	Paulsen	Thompson (CA)
Labrador	Payne	Thompson (MS)
LaHood	Pearce	Thompson (PA)
LaMalfa	Perlmutter	Thornberry
Lamborn	Perry	Tipton
Lance	Peters	Titus
Langevin	Peterson	Tonko
Larsen (WA)	Pingree	Torres
Larson (CT)	Pittenger	Trott
Latta	Pitts	Tsongas
Lawrence	Pocan	Turner
Lee	Poliquin	Upton
Levin	Polis	Valadao
Lewis	Pompeo	Vargas
Lieu, Ted	Posey	Veasey
LoBiondo	Price (NC)	Velázquez
Loeback	Price, Tom	Visclosky
Lofgren	Quigley	Wagner
Long	Rangel	Walberg
Loudermilk	Ratcliffe	Walden
Love	Reed	Walorski
Lowenthal	Reichert	Walters, Mimi
Lowey	Renacci	Walz
Lucas	Ribble	Wasserman
Luetkemeyer	Rice (NY)	Schultz
Luján, Ben Ray	Richmond	Watson Coleman
(NM)	Rigell	Weber (TX)
Lummis	Roby	Webster (FL)
Lynch	Roe (TN)	Welch
MacArthur	Rogers (AL)	Wenstrup
Maloney, Sean	Rogers (KY)	Westerman
Marchant	Rokita	Westmoreland
Massie	Rooney (FL)	Williams
Matsui	Ros-Lehtinen	Wilson (FL)
McCarthy	Roskam	Wilson (SC)
McCaull	Ross	Wittman
McClintock	Rothfus	Womack
McCollum	Rouzer	Woodall
McDermott	Roybal-Allard	Yarmuth
McGovern	Royce	Yoder
McHenry	Ruiz	Yoho
McKinley	Ruppersberger	Young (AK)
McMorris	Russell	Young (IA)
Rodgers	Ryan (OH)	Zeldin
McNerney	Salmon	Zinke
McSally	Sánchez, Linda	
Meadows	T.	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Rice (SC)

NOT VOTING—45

Aderholt	Edwards	Maloney,
Barton	Fattah	Carolyn
Beyer	Fincher	Marino
Blumenauer	Flores	Meeks
Boyle, Brendan	Granger	Olson
F.	Grijalva	Pelosi
Brady (PA)	Hinojosa	Poe (TX)
Brady (TX)	Jackson Lee	Rohrabacher
Brown (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Calvert	Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta
Capuano	Lipinski	Scott, David
Collins (NY)	Lujan Grisham	Sires
Doyle, Michael	(NM)	Slaughter
F.		Speier

Stutzman	Vela	Whitfield
Tiberi	Walker	Young (IN)
Van Hollen	Waters, Maxine	

□ 1858

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 153 and 154. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both.

□ 1900

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN RAY THORNTON

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

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to honor the life of Congressman Ray Thornton, who was a pillar in Arkansas politics and a stalwart advocate and voice for the improvement of education in our great State of Arkansas.

Serving six terms in Congress, for over 23 years, Congressman Thornton served in two different congressional districts, the fourth and the second. Ray was committed to the people of Arkansas and supporting Arkansas ideals on the political stage.

His distinguished career included service in the United States Navy during the Korean war, leadership as president of both Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas, an 8-year term on the Arkansas Supreme Court, and appointment as the first chairman of the Arkansas Lottery.

In 2013, Congressman Thornton donated his personal and professional papers to the University of Arkansas.

Though he will be greatly missed by many throughout our State, his countless contributions and legacy will live on and serve as an example of statesmanship and public service for all Arkansans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RABBI HERBERT BAUMGUARD

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Rabbi Herbert Baumguard, who passed away this past Friday, at the age of 95.

Rabbi Baumguard founded Temple Beth Am, which is an important institution in my congressional district that has brought the south Florida Jewish community together for over 60 years.

A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Rabbi Baumguard served as an assistant to a chaplain in World War II. He credited that experience with his motivation for becoming a rabbi.

One of Rabbi Baumguard's strongest ideals was the continuing friendship and alliance with the State of Israel. The Rabbi was committed to not only strengthening our ties with our great ally, but to seeing that the United States continues to support and defend the Jewish state, which is an idea that I shared with him.

I am so honored and privileged to have had the opportunity to represent Temple Beth Am and to experience all that Rabbi Baumguard has done to improve south Florida. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF DELL URBAN

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

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dell Urban, the chief of the North Chicago Fire Department, who is retiring after spending more than 25 years on the force. Ms. Urban is the first female fire chief in Lake County, and one of only two female fire chiefs in the State of Illinois.

As fire chief, Ms. Urban was responsible for saving countless lives and did her duty protecting the community of North Chicago. We should all aspire to be as brave as the firemen who lay down their lives each and every day to ensure our safety.

In addition to performing her duties, Ms. Urban has been a mentor and a friend to many firefighters throughout her time as chief, and she is leaving the station far better off than before she was chief.

I want to thank Ms. Urban for her service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

FIREARMS TRANSFER IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Mr. GUINTA. Madam Speaker, the Firearms Transfer Improvement Act, which I introduced in Congress, would provide a significant boost to New Hampshire gun dealers, nearly all of them small-business owners, as well as the Granite State's tourism industry and larger economy.

At its foundation, this bill is meant to protect every American's right to bear arms, an essential freedom that is as important as it ever was.

My bill would extend the same Federal law that allows interstate long gun purchasing to handgun purchases.

For instance, a Vermonter could purchase a handgun in New Hampshire, where no sales tax exists, and transport it home, as long as he or she follows his or her State's gun laws.

This bill would be a boon for States like New Hampshire that, in addition to enjoying greater Second Amendment freedom, would also enjoy greater economic freedom. Granite Staters stand to benefit immensely, as do sporting enthusiasts around the country.

I would like to thank the 18 original cosponsors for their support of this necessary legislation.

#### POTENTIAL DRAWDOWN OF LAND FORCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include supporting material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GIBSON. Madam Speaker, tonight I am speaking to gain support for H.R. 4534. This is the POSTURE Act. It stops the administration's drawdown of our land forces, the United States Marine Corps and the United States Army.

This is a bipartisan bill, myself and 52 others, 52 cosponsors, including 42 Republicans and 10 Democrats. I am proud to say that we are coming together to make sure that we keep our land forces strong.

This is also a bicameral bill. The language of this bill has also been introduced in the United States Senate.

Madam Speaker, the predicate here is a belief in peace through strength, a belief that what we want to do is deter potential adversaries; and to do that, we certainly need to restore our capability in our Armed Forces, deterrence really being capability and will.

Tonight I am focused in on the POSTURE Act. Of course, Madam Speaker, the coauthors and I, we certainly share deep concern for the entire joint force, but today we are particularly focused in on the land forces.

You will hear, across the evening here, five general points. They are:

Number one, that the drawdown plan currently from the administration is planned to continue into 2018, for several more years here; and at the culmination of that, our land forces will actually be at pre-World War II levels.

Given the very volatile, uncertain, ambiguous international environment

that we live in, we believe, the authors, that this is very high risk; and, really, we want to change that and, essentially, preserve 67,000 troops in end strength in the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps. That is number one.

The second point is the assumptions that were made, Madam Speaker, when the administration initially made the decision on the drawdown, we believe that those assumptions are no longer valid. There has been much change in the world in the last several years, and you will hear some of that this evening.

The third point, which is very important, is that, with our land forces, this is not like a light switch where we can turn it on, turn it off, turn it back on. If we end up standing down these 67,000 troops, it could take 3 to 4 years to reconstitute that force level; and given the uncertainty we have in this international environment, we think that that is too much risk for us to take on.

Madam Speaker, the fourth point, and here I will speak from my personal experience of 29 years in the military, is that this planned drawdown also has consequence for our servicemen and -women. It has, certainly, consequence in terms of the op tempo, the operational tempo, of how many deployments they will go on and for how long, the duration of those deployments.

And also, we know the risk. The enemy's weapon of choice in this war is the improvised explosive device, and we know that that has led to significant challenge with traumatic brain injuries and also post-traumatic stress.

Certainly, there is wide bipartisan support in this Chamber to care for our servicemen and -women and their families, and that is why these bipartisan authors are also very concerned about end strength. That is point 4.

The fifth point is this: when we preserve this—because I believe we are gaining momentum and, ultimately, I like our chances; we are going to get this into law—it is very important that this end strength come with the necessary resources so that we do not hollow out this force.

So, Madam Speaker, we are going to have a series of speakers now, my coauthors on the bill. I want to begin with my original coauthor, and he is the highest ranking enlisted man to ever serve in this Chamber. He is a great American hero, TIM WALZ. He is a Democrat from Minnesota.

In 1989, he earned the title of Nebraska Citizen Soldier of the Year. After deployment to Italy with his Guard unit, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Sergeant Major WALZ retired from the Army National Guard and resumed teaching as a geography teacher and a football coach at Man-kato West Senior High School.

He is a member of the Armed Services Committee, and he is also a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), my good colleague and friend.

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York. It is a phrase we sometimes throw around in here without a lot of authenticity behind it, but I can tell you, in this case, a gentleman who served this Nation three decades in uniform and has had a distinguished career here in Congress, I am proud to stand with you.

I think you heard the gentleman's comments on why we think now is not the right time to draw down this land force, and I say that with both of us coming out of that force.

The size of the force this Nation needs should not be predicated by a plan that is outdated. Since the time this plan was written and put into effect: the rise of ISIS, China has built a new island in the South China Sea and is landing aircraft on it now, and a beligerent Russia.

But more than that, we have seen the use of the military force as a deterrent, not just to aggression. We have seen it as a peaceful use, whether it be in Haiti to respond to natural disasters or to respond to Ebola in West Africa. The best trained, the most efficient and the most ready force to be able to use our diplomacy and our humanitarian assets is this land force.

I think for many of us, we were concerned about this, but this is not ideologically driven. The gentleman and I coauthored a piece of legislation that created the National Commission on the Future of the Army.

We said: Let's let the data speak for itself. If the experts can take this in and assess that this force is enough to do what needs to be done according to the strategic plan of this Nation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the best thinkers, then that is the way it should be.

But they did not come back with that. They came about some alarming things that they talked about, and one of them, I think it is very clear we are heading down the wrong path, stripping it of manpower.

There is a belief in this Nation that we can solve all problems, especially security problems, with the use of technology. Our technological advantage is a huge positive force, but it will not be on the ground with Ebola. It will not be there when we have to have that defending force.

□ 1915

As everyone in this Chamber knows, 15 years of war puts an incredible stress on that. The gentleman used a great analogy.

He talked about turning on and off the lights. I use the one that I think a lot of people think: This is like running the car out of gas. If we just need more, we will put more gas in it.

That is not true. It is running the car out of oil, which causes all kinds of



problems. If we do not keep the force where it is at, keep it trained, and keep it ready to go, we will not be able to carry out those missions.

I would like to highlight a couple of other things that the Commission said about the integration of the National Guard to the active components and the use of the National Guard as an operational reserve, not a strategic reserve.

Those of us who lived through the years where the National Guard was an afterthought and we practiced artillery training with toilet paper rolls instead of real charges because we didn't have the capacity to train, that is the surest way to make sure our force is not ready to go. It is not a good use of taxpayer dollars, and it is simply immoral to train America's young warriors without the full capacity of what they need.

So I think, for many of us, this is not only a national security issue, it is a smart fiscal issue. We have paid dearly with treasure and blood to have this force. I can tell you, if the force shrinks too much—and we have seen this happen—the rotations happen very quickly.

All the speakers you are going to hear tonight, Madam Speaker, are going to tell you about this. It becomes very difficult both from the personal side for them to manage their relationships, but also the professional side of soldiering. You can't get to the schools you need. You can't develop the wider breadth that you need for all contingencies.

We have become very, very good at small missions that the same people get rotated into without the ability to look elsewhere. So as we pivot to the Pacific, those are new skill sets that need to be incorporated in.

What the gentleman is asking for is let's just pause in the drawdown, let's keep the force where the Commission and the GAO says it needs to be, let's give the force the ability to rotate out and to do what needs to be done to have them get back and ready to get in the fight again in a way that makes sense. We can do that.

Again, I want to be very clear. Those critics who say that we are asking to build up the military, we are just asking to stop a drawdown that we think gets dangerously close to putting this Nation in a predicament where it cannot carry out the missions that are asked of it.

We in this Chamber and the American public have a moral responsibility to never put a warrior in that position and never put those commanders in that position.

So I want to thank the gentleman for bringing this forward. I want to thank him for being willing to champion this forward. We know this is about educating not only our colleagues, but the American public. It is about having a debate.

I think the gentleman from New York brought up a critical point. Numbers without the ability to train, equip, and do what is necessary to get them to the highest level of readiness is probably worse than nothing, and that is not what we are asking for.

I think, again, to highlight the gentleman's commitment to this, he is looking at ways to pay for it. He is looking at ways to make it work: repealing sequestration, pursuing waste, eliminating programs at the Pentagon, encouraging and assisting our allies and partners to beef up what they need to do to beef up, and ensure the next President has the force capable to not only address current, but future threats. That is our responsibility.

So I am proud to stand with the gentleman on the POSTURE Act. I think it is smart policy. It is predicated on data. It is predicated on decades of personal experience from the gentleman from New York and speakers you are going to hear coming up. It is what the thinkers are telling us.

Again, I think it does come back to the gentleman's opening comments. Those adversaries who think that this is the time to do something with this Nation need to be sent a strong message that we are as strong as ever, our commitment is as strong as ever, and our force will be as it always has been: the best trained and the best fighting force the world has ever seen. We are just asking to give them the numbers to do their job.

So, Madam Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to take a look at this, to get on board, and to talk with the gentleman, myself, and the other cosponsors of this.

Let's put that next President in a position to be able to secure this Nation, to be able to forward project American power in the name of humanitarian or human rights, and continue to give our young warriors what they need.

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman. Madam Speaker, you just heard, I think, in really compelling terms and you saw witness to why it is that we have the finest fighting force in the world.

What separates us from the rest of the world is our noncommissioned officer corps. This is an incredible collection of professionals that provide advice, analysis, and recommendations. Really, I would put our noncommissioned officer corps up against any other noncommissioned officer corps in the world.

I want to say, beyond that, he is a phenomenal Representative here in the U.S. House. I want to thank the gentleman for that tremendous testimony and for his great leadership.

I now want to turn to another great warrior, Representative STEVE RUSSELL. STEVE RUSSELL is, Madam Speaker, an Airborne Ranger. He has served in airborne, light, and mechanized in-

fantry assignments. His deployments include deployment to Kosovo, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Madam Speaker, in 2003, then-Lieutenant Colonel STEVE RUSSELL commanded the task force in Iraq that was instrumental in the hunt and capture of Saddam Hussein.

He is in his first term. He is already off to an amazing start. He is a member of the Armed Services Committee.

I yield to the gentleman from the State of Oklahoma, Mr. STEVE RUSSELL.

Mr. RUSSELL. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my brother, combat infantryman, warrior, and colleague from New York (Mr. GIBSON) for his leadership in this effort.

Madam Speaker, in 1940, our Nation faced tough decisions. Lawmakers in this Chamber debated over our constitutional requirement to defend our Republic.

Faced with a decade of depression, declining budgets, and enormous domestic needs, President Roosevelt recognized that the Nation was woefully unprepared to defend herself, given the alarming developments in Asia and Europe the previous 2 years.

Congress acted, and, although assured we could stay out of the war, this body passed the unprecedented Selective Service Act of 1940 to increase our defensive posture.

While some would call it prescient or even timely, we were still woefully unprepared for the horrific attacks on our naval, land, and air forces in 1941. When the blow fell, we had for the first time a sizeable forward-deployed force based in the Philippine Islands in December 1941.

That Allied force of 150,000 soldiers fought bravely for 5 months until their medical supplies, food, and, finally, ammunition were exhausted, prompting the largest surrender of U.S. forces in American history.

Tens of thousands of these Allied soldiers died in brutal captivity, all simply because our Nation could not get to them. While we had future capacity, we had forfeited our defensive posture through cost-cutting policies the previous decade and we had exhausted our time.

As unprepared as we were in 1940, it could have been even worse had the President and Congress not acted when they did. But here is something to ponder: our current land forces are actually 30 percent smaller today than they were in 1940 when you compare them to a percentage of our per capita population. If we lived today in an atmosphere of peace, maybe we could take such gambles.

Instead, we see Russians reigniting the cold war, Iranians destabilizing the Middle East, North Koreans firing nuclear missiles with the aim to range the United States, and Islamic jihadist death-cult extremists committing acts

of barbarity akin to the Middle Ages. We also see tensions rising with our trading partner, China, and the seeds of potential unrest in the Pacific.

What does the President and this Congress intend to do if we do not act to prepare for this dangerous world? This year it would cut the United States Army by 30,000 more soldiers and our Marines by another 8,000. Instead, our bipartisan answer to these cuts in this Congress is a resounding no.

Whatever savings we might imagine we safeguard, whatever tension we may imagine we could trim, whatever goodwill we deceive ourselves of that would go after, we assuredly would be eroded by an unexpected attack on our Nation as she has voluntarily chained herself down into a weakened condition.

Rather than slacken our posture, we must slacken our chains. We stand together with much work ahead, but this bipartisan effort is a refusal to see our Nation further diminished.

As we pass this measure into law, let's do it with the echo of these sobering words from novelist, historian, and Nobel Laureate Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, a survivor of torture and tyranny:

I would like to call upon America to be more careful with its trust and prevent those who because of shortsightedness and still others out of self-interest from falsely using the struggle for peace and for social justice to lead you down a false road. Because they are trying to weaken you. They are trying to disarm your strong and magnificent country in the face of this fearful threat. I call upon you ordinary working men of America. Do not let yourselves become weak.

Pass the POSTURE Act and prevent some horrific blow from berthing in our future.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. GIBSON for his outstanding leadership on this issue.

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL).

What we heard, Madam Speaker, just moments ago here is what I mentioned at the outset. We were talking about the changed assumptions when the administration first made these decisions.

Of course, they were working based on the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, the 2013 Strategic Choices and Management Review, and also the 2014 QDR.

Madam Speaker, I think we just heard very persuasive argumentation how just in the last several years so much has changed and the reason why this Chamber is coming together in a bipartisan way to move forward on this POSTURE Act.

Now, Madam Speaker, I want to turn to Representative RENEE ELLMERS. RENEE is not on the Committee on Armed Services, but this lady works incredibly hard for our Nation and for our servicemen and -women. She studies all the time. I have had countless discussions with her.

She is always wanting to know the details to make sure that the service-

men and -women who serve at Fort Bragg get all the resources that they need. She takes their combat readiness so very seriously because she knows that their lives are on the line there.

Fort Bragg could not ask for a stronger advocate. I am very impressed and am very thankful for her support in going above and beyond, not being on the committee and jurisdiction, to be here tonight and, really, to make her voice be heard all throughout this land on why we need to get behind the POSTURE Act.

So I will just say last before I turn it over to her that part of what I know that Representative ELLMERS is working on is a very important supporting element for our land forces, the 440th, which is based out of Fort Bragg and Pope Army Air Base. I know from firsthand experience this is an incredible outfit. We are concerned about some decisions that are being taken here.

I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. GIBSON. I just want to start right off by saying, Madam Speaker, that our colleague, Mr. GIBSON, has been a tireless voice for our military and certainly has been a resource for me and has always been more than open and honest with me when it comes to decisions that are facing our military and national security.

Again, I just want to thank the gentleman for his service and, also, for coming to Washington to serve our country yet again, to be such an advocate for the military, and to be such a support for the rest of us who are trying to help in that capacity as well.

I am here tonight to discuss in this Special Order the introduction of the POSTURE Act, and I thank the gentleman for this great piece of legislation.

The POSTURE Act is an important piece of legislation that will prevent further troop reductions and improve military readiness. As the Representative of Fort Bragg based in North Carolina, I have the unique perspective to see how this troop drawdown is directly impacting our national security.

It is my top priority to ensure that we restore our military's end strength not only to serve as a deterrent, but also so that our military can appropriately and effectively respond to any threat represented to our country or our allies. The POSTURE Act will ensure that our troops are ready and prepared to defend our Nation at a moment's notice.

I would also like to thank Mr. GIBSON for his help raising awareness about the serious issues facing Fort Bragg, including the deactivation of the 440th Airlift Wing.

The 440th Airlift Wing provides unparalleled support to Fort Bragg paratroopers, more specifically, the famed

82nd Airborne's Global Response Force, a unit Mr. GIBSON knows all too well, as he was the commander of this force just a few years back.

Because of the potential deactivation of the 440th Airlift Wing, I have been having this very discussion about maintaining military readiness and maintaining sufficient troop levels for the last 2-plus years.

This certainly is not the first time I have stepped foot onto the House floor to rail against the Air Force's ill-conceived decision to deactivate the 440th. In fact, I have stood in this very spot and stressed my concerns about the threats their decision poses to the readiness of the Fort Bragg paratroopers.

Unfortunately, what I thought was going to happen is indeed taking place as we speak. While the Air Force has promised they would continue to provide necessary airlift support for Fort Bragg, the Air Force is already falling well short of this promise.

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Fort Bragg aims to complete 10,000 jumps a month to prepare troops for combat, but the Air Force's decision to prematurely hollow out this wing has prevented them from meeting this jump goal. Last month, only 6,100 paratroopers jumped from Air Force planes. In fact, the Air Force has even fallen short on Fort Bragg's 8,000-jump minimum—a number they consider to be their threshold for proficiency.

This is yet another consequence and, unfortunately, it is a concrete example of how drawdown can and will affect military readiness and training. Not only have I met with Fort Bragg leadership, but I have also met with our Nation's top military officials and still, to this day, I do not understand why the Air Force insists on making decisions based on zero strategic merit.

To make matters worse, deactivation of the 440th is happening at a time when the 18th Airborne Corps was recently called upon to lead the fight against the Islamic extremist group ISIS. Members of the 18th Airborne Corps are set to deploy this summer. Meanwhile, we are on the track to have the smallest size Army since the end of World War II.

Russia has become increasingly aggressive and China's military presence continues to grow in southeast Asia—all the while our President insists on drawing down our military and cutting its funding. This is not the time to be cutting our military. This is the time to strengthen it.

Mr. GIBSON's bill ensures that we will have appropriate end strength to keep our Nation and our allies safe and secure. I look forward to continuing to work with Mr. GIBSON and standing by him in this capacity, as I believe that strengthening our military is one of the most important issues facing Congress to date.

Mr. GIBSON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. I want to thank her for her strong voice, and I want to thank her for the attention to detail that she puts into this. This is so critically important. It is very instrumental in the momentum that we have had—your great voice, your staff's hard work, and your hard work.

We are going to continue to push forward with this with the POSTURE Act, and continue to make sure that the entire installation at Fort Bragg has the necessary resources to deliver and to get its mission done and to look after and take care of its servicemen and -women, those paratroopers, and also the families.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT). Representative KNIGHT is also a veteran of our Armed Forces. He was born at Edwards Air Force Base in Antelope Valley, California. He served in the United States Army from 1985 to 1987. He was a track systems mechanic in Freiburg, Germany. When his tour ended, he served in the United States Army Reserve. His total military service spanned from 1985 to 1993. He is a member of the House Armed Services Committee. Also, within his district, he has Air Force Plant 42 and the Edwards Air Force Base.

Mr. KNIGHT. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. GIBSON for taking a leadership role in making sure that the military has a voice, and that is exactly what he has done in his tenure here in Congress.

I rise in support of H.R. 4534. The POSTURE Act is not just something that we are asking for. It is basically the bare necessities. We are getting down to the limits.

I can say, just on personal experience, when I enlisted in 1985 as a young person graduating high school and enlisting into the Army, I expected that we had such a great military and we had all of these things that were going to help me in my endeavors. As I went to Germany, my job was if something happened, if the Russians were going to come over, we were supposed to guard what was known as the Fulda Gap. I know that anyone who has ever served in the Army in the '80s knows what the Fulda Gap is. It was basically that line where we were going to stop the Russian Army.

Unfortunately, they told us that we were going to be outrun about 11 to 1 at that time from the Russian Army. That is not something that an 18-year-old wants to know, is that the very first assignment that might happen in the cold war is you are going to go to a spot and you are going to be up against an 11-to-1 army. At that time, we had about 781,000 active Army folks.

If we fast forward to today, we are sending people in rotations every 12 months or every 18 months. We are sending these people two, three, or four

different rotations during their 4- or 6-year enlistments, and we have such a smaller active Army. I know that now folks out there will be talking about the total Army structure and the total structure. I think that is great that we have the Reserves and National Guard as part of the total structure. I believe in that. I think that is something that absolutely should happen.

But if we are just doing apples to apples from 1986 to today, we go from about 780,000 to less than 500,000. That is getting down to a point where, can we fight on two fronts, can we help, can we do all of the missions that the Army has done for the last 200 years?

I would say that we are getting down to that point where if we don't pass the POSTURE Act, we will go underneath that level and we will not be able to send our warriors into combat and into humanitarian situations with our best effort, with our best foot forward. I would say that this is the absolute—the absolute—end to where we should draw down.

Let's look at what we are looking at today. We are not looking at some of the larger countries, but we are also looking at rogue states. Russia and China, obviously, are out there and they are, obviously, doing things that we keep our eye on. Their technology has advanced, their amount of money that they spend on the military has jumped dramatically over the last 20 years. Some of the things that they are bringing forward are as technologically advanced as we have.

I would say that if we went back 20 years, we would never say that. We would say technologically we are ahead every step of the way. Today we can't say that. Today we also have rogue nations and rogue leaders out there that want to do things to us and to our allies.

So I say at a time where we are drawing down and continuing to draw down, where we have these types of rogue nations, where we have these types of superpowers out there, and we have these types of groups that want to do bad things to us and to our allies, is this actually the time that we should draw down to an unsafe level?

I would like to thank Mr. GIBSON for everything that he has done in his tenure here in Congress and what he has done for the United States of America because, honestly, he is a true hero. But in this regard, he is trying to unite all of Congress behind what he has believed and what he has done for his entire life.

I think that Congress should listen, I think that Congress should say, yes, we absolutely have these levels, and we can't go below them. In fact, as we are watching everything that is happening on the news on a daily basis, we would say that maybe those levels are too low, too. So I would like to thank Mr. GIBSON for his leadership.

Mr. GIBSON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I thank him for his service to our Nation, and also thank him for his great work on the House Armed Services Committee. He is truly making a difference, and his voice here tonight is very compelling and very significant.

Madam Speaker, I am now going to recap and move to close. I appreciate very much the time in a busy schedule and colleagues here tonight. We are here tonight, again, for H.R. 4534, the POSTURE Act, which stops the Obama administration's drawdown of our land forces—our Army and our Marine Corps.

As I mentioned, this is a bipartisan bill—myself and 52 others here in this Chamber, including 42 Republicans and 10 Democrats, led so ably by Sergeant Major Retired Representative TIM WALZ, a Democrat from Minnesota.

I also want to say that Chairman TURNER was not able to be here today, but he has been instrumental in not only help craft this, but actually help build support for it for these past several months.

As I mentioned, Madam Speaker, tonight you heard five points why it is so important that we put the POSTURE Act into law and that we stop this drawdown.

In the first point we gave some historical figures and some context of where we are today. We know that at present our land forces are about at the same size that we were on the 11th of September of 2001. Of course, during the surge, we saw a ramp-up of our land forces, and now we have seen a resetting of that where we are about at 11th of September of 2001 levels.

However, the plan now from the administration is to continue that drawdown all the way down to pre-World War II levels. That would be done by 2018. That takes an additional 67,000 troops out of the formations.

Madam Speaker, we heard, I think, some very significant testimony tonight from some of the speakers. We know that we have senior leaders in our Armed Forces now that have described this as a very serious risk, very significant risk. And you also heard from Representative WALZ when he talked about the Commission on the Future of the Army, which Representative WALZ, a humble man, was actually the author for that, the brain for that. We are here today because of his work on that score.

The results of that commission, I believe, Madam Speaker, really need to be paid attention to. It was here that not only were we able to get a better understanding of this risk, but also we helped bring together all components of the Army—the regular Army, the National Guard, and the Army Reserve. The Commission on the Future of the Army helped.

I also want to reinforce how important leadership is—our Chief of Staff of

the Army, our Secretary of the Army, our Acting Secretary of the Army right now. They have put a major priority on really pulling together everyone that serves in the Army. The same goes for our Secretary of the Navy and for our Commandant of the Marine Corps because this is truly a team effort all the way across. That commission helped chart the way forward.

Madam Speaker, the General Accounting Office, the GAO's report that came out just last week, documented what our research has also shown over these several months. That is that there is just too much risk in continuing this drawdown to pre-World War II levels. That was point one.

In point two, we talked about the assumptions—we heard from all the speakers. Particularly, Mr. RUSSELL focused in on that—how much of the world has changed. We can understand why the administration brought forward an argument back initially, but so much has changed since that time. It is clear to all of us that we need to pay attention to that and to adopt the POSTURE Act.

We also pointed out this evening that this is not like a light switch. It is not something that we can turn on and turn off. If we decide to move forward with the 67,000 troops, taking them out of the formations, we know that we are looking at 3 to 4 years just to get back to where we are today, Madam Speaker. That would, I think, really signal to our potential adversaries the wrong message.

The fourth point is—and we heard from a couple of the speakers—how important it is that we have the right size formations because that impacts on how often they get sent over into the combat zone and how long they stay. All of this has impacts on families, it has impacts on traumatic brain injury potential, and also posttraumatic stress. That is certainly something that this Chamber is absolutely unified in doing everything we can to support our servicemen and -women. By enacting the POSTURE Act, we are also supporting our currently serving members and our veterans.

The last point—and this has been really made very clear to us by all the leadership in both the Army and the Marine Corps—is how important it is that by preserving this end strength, it has to come with the necessary resources so that they are manned, equipped, and trained, and that we look towards the modernization of the force and look towards the future.

We have heard from the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO. The CBO initially assesses this at \$600 million. We understand that there may be a new assessment coming forward shortly. But as was also mentioned by Sergeant Major WALZ, Representative WALZ, our committee is also very keenly going through the budget, a budget

of over \$600 billion, when you look at the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, the Overseas Contingency Fund. We are looking for ways to make sure we do this in the best way possible for the taxpayer.

Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD a series of letters of support that we are getting from the Association of the United States Army, the National Guard Association, and the Reserve Officers Association. We deeply appreciate their support.

ASSOCIATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES ARMY,  
Arlington, Virginia, 3 March 2016.

Hon. CHRIS GIBSON,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. GIBSON: On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), I write to support your introduction of H.R. 4534, the "Protecting Our Security Through Utilizing Right-Sized End-Strength Act of 2016" or the "POSTURE Act." At a time when our Army is confronting growing threats and increasing operational demands, it would be wise to pause the current budget-driven force reductions and allow the next administration time to assess land force capabilities and needs before determining troop levels.

Under current plans, the Regular Army is expected to fall to 475,000 Soldiers by 1 October 2016, and then further decrease to 450,000 Soldiers by 1 October 2018. These same plans will also reduce the end strength of our Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. Such a reduction in our manpower capability does not make sense in a time of increased threats and global instability.

While the POSTURE Act puts the brakes on budget-driven force reductions, the Army will also face negative consequences if the additional end strength is not funded. During a recent hearing on the Army's Fiscal Year 2017 budget, Army Chief of Staff GEN Mark Kinney told the Senate Appropriations Committee that stopping the drop in Army end strength without providing funding to cover the additional costs would undermine readiness and potentially result in a hollow Army.

AUSA looks forward to working with you to advance the POSTURE Act, but urges you to consider ways to provide the additional resources to prepare our Army to face a dangerous and increasingly unstable world.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN,  
General, USA Retired.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF  
THE UNITED STATES, INC.  
Washington, DC, February 26, 2016.

Hon. CHRIS GIBSON,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

On behalf of the nearly 45,000 members of the National Guard Association of the United States and the approximately 450,000 soldiers and airmen of the National Guard, please accept our sincere thanks for your leadership in introducing the Protecting Our Security Through Utilizing Right-Sized End-Strength (POSTURE) Act of 2016 (H.R. 4534), a bill that would stop the drawdown of U.S. Land Forces.

NGAUS strongly supports your legislation. The National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFEA) recommended a minimally sufficient Total Army of 980,000 soldiers; however, it provided no optimal end-strength

level. NGAUS testified before the NCFEA that the Total Army was at the risk of becoming dangerously small given the current threat environment.

Given the velocity of instability, the demand for U.S. Land Forces will likely only increase for the foreseeable future. U.S. Land Forces must be sized to address these threats without putting undue stress on our soldiers and marines.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure this important legislation becomes law. Thank you, as always, for your continued support for members of the National Guard.

Sincerely,

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

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,  
1 March 2016.

Hon. CHRIS GIBSON,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN GIBSON: The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) supports your bill H.R. 4534, "Protecting Our Security Through Utilizing Right-Sized End-Strength Act of 2016" or the "POSTURE Act." This bill recognizes the vital contributions of the Reserve Components and the need to ensure they have the right Fiscal Year 2016 end strength authorized.

Since 9/11, more than 900,000 Reserve Component members have been activated to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and other contingencies. Despite increased use of the Guard and Reserve, the Congressional Research Service, identified end strength reductions between FY2001 and FY2015.

"Between FY2001 and FY2015, the largest shifts in authorized end strength have occurred in the Navy Reserve (-31,600 or -35.5%), Air Force Reserve (-7,258 or -9.8%), and Coast Guard Reserve (-1,000 or -12.5%). A smaller change occurred in the Air National Guard (-3,022 or -2.8%) and Army Reserve (-3,300 or -1.6%), while the authorized end strength for the Army National Guard (-326 or -0.1%) and the Marine Corps Reserve (-358 or -0.9%) have been largely unchanged during this period, (FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act: Selected Military Personnel Issues, R44120)."

As stated in the bill, passing this legislation will ensure Guard and Reserve members are available, "... to deter threats, shape the international security 15 environment, respond to emergent situations and crises, and, if necessary, to fight and win the Nation's war. . . ."

ROA has a membership of 50,000, which represents all the uniformed services of the United States who would be favorably affected by your bill. Thank you for your efforts on this issue, and past support to the Military.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY E. PHILLIPS,  
Executive Director.

Mr. GIBSON. Lastly, Madam Speaker, the legislative strategy here is that we have been building out support. Our hope is that when the mark for the national security policy bill, which will be unveiled here in the next couple of weeks, that this bill will be included in the underlying bill because we think it is just so critically important that we get this done this year.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to come together with my

colleagues to talk about such an important issue for the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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**CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS—  
ROAD TO RUIN: HOUSE REPUBLICANS FAIL ON THE BUDGET**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege, once again, to come to the House floor on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and join with my distinguished colleague from Ohio, Representative JOYCE BEATTY, as we anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order—the CBC hour of power—where, for 60 minutes, we get an opportunity to talk to the American people about issues of great importance to the African American community, to our democracy, and, certainly, to our country at large.

Today, we are here to discuss, tragically, the House GOP's continued failure to demonstrate the ability to govern in a basic fashion—that is to pass a budget, which is required by statutory law, as of April 15. That deadline has come and gone, and we are still waiting for the House majority to present a budget to this body for our consideration.

We were told for years by people, including by the current Speaker of this great House, that the most fundamental tenet of governing is the passage of a budget. Yet, even with Republicans in firm control of both the House and the Senate, it seems that this Congress is still unable to get its act together. It is a stunning act of legislative abdication of basic responsibilities. We are going to explore that tonight, not just from a procedural standpoint, but from a standpoint of how this is indicative of this majority's unwillingness and inability to do the business of the American people.

It is now my honor and my privilege to yield to my distinguished colleague, my coanchor, my classmate—the always eloquent and effervescent gentlewoman from the great city of Columbus in the great State of Ohio, Representative JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. I thank the gentleman.

I always look forward to engaging in our Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour and, tonight, for our dialogue, for our debate, on the House Republicans' repeated failure to pass a budget.

First, let me say, as your classmate and colleague, being able to be the voice for your constituents and my constituents and America at large, it is an honor. I think it is so important, when we think about how important the work of this Congress is, for us to take on challenging the House Republicans' road to ruin.

Madam Speaker, tonight, the Congressional Black Caucus is going to discuss the importance of why we should pass a budget. Not only that, I am sure Mr. JEFFRIES and I will have a dialogue about the value and the importance of having a budget. As Members of Congress and, especially, as members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we know specifically that a budget creates jobs and that it raises the paychecks of hardworking American people while reducing the deficit in a balanced and responsible way.

Madam Speaker, let me just take a moment to point out that this is not the first time that the Congressional Black Caucus has held a Special Order hour on the subject of the Republicans' inaction. Earlier this year, the Congressional Black Caucus came to this House floor and implored the Republican leadership to do its job—the job America wants us to do—and that was to enact commonsense gun control legislation. To date, Madam Speaker, Republicans have continued to fail the American people by putting forth or by bringing forth commonsense gun control legislation. It is still hanging out there, waiting for action.

Now, again, here in the House of Representatives, the people's House, we are faced with another instance of Republican failure. Under law, as spelled out in title III of the Congressional Budget Act, Congress is directed to complete actions on the concurrent resolution on the budget by April 15, as we heard Mr. JEFFRIES remind us. A concurrent resolution on the budget means it is supposed to pass both the Senate and the House, again, by April 15. At this date, neither Chamber has considered a budget resolution for 2017.

Madam Speaker, I don't know about your constituents, but in my district, Ohio's Third Congressional District, my constituents expect Congress to work; so let's take a look at it.

What happens when people refuse to do their jobs?

If postal workers don't deliver, you don't get your mail. If farmers don't farm, people don't eat. If teachers don't show up, our children don't learn. People all over America take their jobs seriously, and they expect us, as their

elected officials, to also do that. It is time for House Republicans to get America off the road to ruin and back on the path to prosperity.

When Speaker RYAN took office—this is worth repeating, and Congressman JEFFRIES mentioned this earlier. When Speaker RYAN took office, House Republicans stated that passing a budget was a basic function of government. However, the statutory deadline of passing a budget resolution by April 15 has come and gone, although House Republicans made passing a budget a top priority for this year. In the Republicans' own words, they can't even accomplish the basic functions of government—their job.

Madam Speaker, why do we care that we don't have a budget? Let me give you the answer.

The importance of setting a budget is that it lays out the blueprint for the appropriations process. It outlines government spending for the year. Without a budget, we have 12 appropriations bills that are working their way through Congress without there being guiding principles on overall spending. If we cannot as a Congress perform the basic functions of governing, how are we going to tackle the much more complicated issues, such as income inequality, education quality, tuition affordability, tax reform, and so many others?

Once again, House Republicans have demonstrated the degree to which the sharp division within their Conference is impeding Congress' ability to work for the American people. Instead of coming together with Democrats to pass a budget resolution that will create jobs and grow the paychecks of hardworking American families, they have just decided not to pass a budget.

This decision was made despite the fact that President Obama submitted his budget request to Congress back in February. As you may remember, Madam Speaker, the Republican majority here in the House of Representatives and the Republican-controlled Senate took the unprecedented step of refusing to receive the OMB Director for a formal hearing so as to present the President's budget.

Madam Speaker, how did that turn out for us? We all know how it turned out. The Republican Conference failed the American people, and it set us on a road to ruin by not passing a budget.

Mr. JEFFRIES, I look forward to our continuing this dialogue tonight with other members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank Congresswoman BEATTY for a very thorough presentation and for pointing out that the Speaker, himself, and the Republican majority have indicated that they should be judged based on their capacity to complete the basics of their job responsibilities, which include the passage of a budget resolution. In fact, it was then-Congressman

RYAN who, in 2012, stated that failing to enact a budget has serious consequences for American families.

There are at least three current health crises that we are trying to deal with in America and throughout the world, but Republicans have abdicated their responsibility: the Zika virus, the Flint water crisis, and the opioid addiction that is ravaging communities in the inner cities, in suburban America, and all throughout the rural parts of this country; yet House Republicans have failed not just to put forth a budget that would provide a roadmap to deal with these issues, but they have chosen to simply ignore these crises in a manner that represents such a stunning departure of what responsible Members of Congress should be doing at this particular point in time.

I am thankful that we have been joined by the distinguished gentlewoman from the great Lone Star State, who has always been thoughtful and eloquent on issues of importance not just to her district, which is anchored in Houston, Texas, but through her membership and leadership on the Homeland Security Committee as well as on the House Judiciary Committee. She has been so thoughtful and effective on a great many issues in the context of our safety, of our well-being, of criminal justice reform, of course, and of the protection of civil liberties—all issues that are fundamental to our democracy in the same way that a budgetary roadmap is fundamental to our democracy.

Let me yield to Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank my colleagues for their eloquence but, more importantly, for the Congressional Black Caucus in its taking up the mantle of the moral compass of justice.

One would argue that justice is tied to our committee, the Judiciary Committee; but as I look at this Congress and as I look at a very small document called the Constitution, one can anchor the responsibilities of this body—of both the House and the Senate—Mr. JEFFRIES, in the Bill of Rights. I would like to just, very briefly, take us on a journey that indicates that our moral compass is broken because a budget that was supposed to be passed on April 15, by midnight, was not.

To the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, let me thank her. She will have her own distinctive story, in her eloquence, about the fairness to the territories.

I listened, as I came in, to the presentation by the gentlewoman from Ohio, who knows full well that we need a budget to ensure that there is full employment in America. Then I work extensively with my colleague on the Judiciary Committee, and we will not pass or fund prison reform without a budget.

I rise today, however, to weave in and out of my comments about the

moral compass that is broken to indicate that my district—the 18th Congressional District in Houston, Texas, and Harris County—is under a terrible emergency disaster. We are underwater. We are again facing an enormous rainfall that has been listed as historic and, possibly, as catastrophic.

Let me acknowledge my mayor, Mayor Turner, and county judge, Judge Emmett, for the work that has been done so far; and let me indicate two pastors with whom I have just gotten off the phone, Bishop Dixon and Bishop Bady, who are watching hungry people come to a site, looking for food.

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As I was speaking to the emergency leadership, they are indicating they were evacuating babies from apartments and people were being displaced.

So what does that have to do with where we are today and no budget? Well, we know that the President introduced his budget a few months ago.

Because of his responsibility, we know that Homeland Security was provided funding and FEMA was provided funding to deal with emergency declarations of a disaster.

My district now needs it more than they have ever needed it. They need it in terms of providing for those immediate needs of vulnerable people without the resources to have stocked food, medical care, clothing, and also those who may be off work now because of the disaster.

So we don't have a budget. We are not moving along to ensure that FEMA, which has seen a lot of disasters over the last 2 years, has the necessary funding to do their job. That is a broken moral compass.

It also reflects the Constitution because we are owed an equal treatment under the law and due process under the Fifth Amendment. There is no due process when I hear that one area is under water and we are not able to get help.

Let me also say that, as I watch a broken moral system, I also look at the predicament that we will be in with the Zika virus.

Congressman JEFFRIES has mentioned the opioid crisis, and we cannot forget the water crisis in Flint, but there is also the water crisis across the Nation. There is hard work that is being done by the Members in Michigan and Mr. KILDEE.

They need a budget to be able to fund the crisis or to help repair the crisis, restorative dollars, that a budget does to give a roadmap to the appropriators.

I also know that we are facing another potential epidemic, if you will, the Zika virus that is taking control of places like Puerto Rico and other places in the Caribbean, places that we have not yet fully documented. I can assure you that the Gulf Coast States of Florida, Louisiana, and Texas are in the eye of the storm.

The President a couple of months ago dutifully and responsibly introduced to this Congress a request of \$1.9 billion—no, I didn't say trillions. I didn't say 5 billion. I said 1.9 billion—so that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can do their job.

Mr. JEFFRIES, colleagues, if we are not doing our job, we need those who have the distinctive responsibility for issues of health and epidemics in this country to be able to do their job.

We have now been told by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that it is not just in the prestiges of pregnancy that the Zika virus can have a severe impact.

It is throughout the pregnancy. We also know that they have just determined that it will be severe brain damage that will come about.

So how irresponsible can it be to not put forward the emergency supplemental of \$1.9 billion? I have sent letters to Secretary Burwell. I have sent letters to, obviously, the President of the United States in supporting his efforts. I have sent letters to our leader, NANCY PELOSI, who has been a champion on these issues of Zika funding. And I have sent a letter to Speaker PAUL RYAN.

Might I speak to the Speaker and certainly ask that a half-baked, if I might say, contribution to fighting the Zika virus is not going to work because any taking of monies from other places is going to damage the funding of malaria, tuberculosis, and a universal flu vaccine. Yes, it is going to undermine our needed and continued effort of fighting Ebola.

Let me finish by simply saying this: Along with the idea of the Zika virus and other crises, when we hear headlines like this that indicate Americans still don't see a vibrant labor market, then you know what else is needed under this budget? We need a budget to be able to fully fund the retraining of Americans.

I have introduced legislation that will train middle-age or middle-management workers and others and give them a stipend while they are being retrained for the 21st century jobs. We cannot do that with a budget not passed and an assessment not being made on how we would fund job training.

Lastly, the Supreme Court heard a case today dealing with the issues of executive orders and immigration. I would argue that Texas and the other States do not have standing because they are not required to give driver's licenses or anything else, as the President provides a prioritization of who should be deported.

I will say to you that, over the years, we have said over and over again to pass comprehensive immigration reform, which could have been a key element of a budget revenue to be able to help this country move along.

Without a budget and an intelligent discussion about what comprehensive immigration reform would do as an added revenue for this country, here we are mumbling along while Houston remains under water, needing resources from FEMA, while the Zika virus is in distress with no monies and while a number of other important issues are not addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JEFFRIES for allowing me to spend a moment to at least tie in the Bill of Rights that deal with the very core values of this country.

We have let down that basic document that guarantees equal protection, guarantees a certain freedom to be protected, guarantees that Americans have due process, if you will, and certainly guarantees the freedom of expression so that Americans can speak and be heard. They are speaking, but they are not being heard. What a shame that this budget has not been passed.

I am grateful to the Congressional Black Caucus. Let me acknowledge the chairman and say: Let us keep our fight going because we have reason to provide that kind of comfort to the American people.

Madam Speaker, Last week, House Republicans blew past the statutory deadline for Congress to enact a budget—reflecting apparently the belief of the Leadership that their already severe budget proposal was not radical enough to pass through a Republican Majority.

The Do-Nothing Republican Congress is back.

Instead of coming together with Democrats to pass a budget resolution that will create jobs and grow the paychecks of hard-working American families, Republicans have decided not to pass a budget at all.

The Republican-led Budget Committee, at the direction of the House GOP Leadership, put forward the most devastating ‘Road to Ruin’ budget in history, but the Republican majority has rejected the plan as insufficiently severe.

Here’s what was too weak to satisfy the radical forces that have seized control of the Republican Party; a budget that would:

1. End the Medicare guarantee for seniors;
2. Make \$6.5 trillion in cuts—the sharpest cuts ever proposed by the House Budget Committee;
3. Devastate investments in good-paying jobs, education, and American infrastructure;
4. Repeal the Affordable Care Act and dismantle the affordable health care of 20 million Americans.

Republicans have failed to keep their promise to pass a budget but their goal is still clear: to take us back to the radical trickle-down agenda that shattered our economy and hollowed out the wages of middle-class Americans.

At the same time, House Republicans have done nothing to help the thousands of Americans struggling to protect their families from the three public health emergencies of the Zika virus, opioid addiction and the Flint Water Crisis:

1. As the House Democratic Leadership wrote to Speaker RYAN last month, these public health crises require swift and decisive Congressional action.

2. Also last week, Democrats on the Appropriations Committee wrote to Chairman HAL ROGERS (R-KY), requesting an immediate hearing on the Administration’s \$1.9 billion emergency supplemental request for Zika, pointing out that “The Zika virus is a true public health emergency that has the potential to affect millions of Americans this summer, including more than two million pregnant women.”

3. But House Republicans have responded with nothing but inaction and indifference.

Instead of taking action to pass a budget or address urgent public health crises, House Republicans are now wasting a full week grandstanding on the IRS.

That’s just the kind of hollow, meaningless posturing the American people have come to expect from the Do-Nothing Republican Congress.

As NPR notes:

Under Republican leadership, the 114th Congress has been “short on meaty legislation and short on weeks in session . . . But there seems to be plenty of time to think about other things. Last month, one House member introduced a measure that would nationally recognized magic as an art form.”

Hard-working families deserve a Congress that invests in their future, protects safety, and creates a level-playing field for them and their children to succeed.

Democrats will continue to press for a budget that creates jobs and raises the paychecks of the American people, while reducing the deficit in a balanced and responsible way.

Today, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in its review of the President’s Immigration Executive Actions, which, as a result of congressional Republicans’ inaction, address our Nation’s broken immigration system and set important priorities in enforcing our immigration laws.

The President’s executive actions fall well within both the clear legal authority provided by Congress and the Constitution, and the well-established precedents of immigration actions by every Democrat and Republican President for the last 50 years.

1. Six Republican presidents have used the same clear authority to make our immigration enforcement priorities better fit our values as a people and our needs as a nation;
2. Past presidents have routinely acted in the face of Congressional inaction;
3. Numerous noted legal scholars have found that the President’s actions are well within his legal authority.

The Immigration Executive Actions follow the same constitutional and legal precedent used by every Administration—Republican and Democratic—since President Eisenhower.

Just as Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush did before him, President Obama took executive action to make our immigration system better meet the needs of our country and better reflect our values as Americans.

As former Republican Senator Richard Lugar wrote in the *New York Times*:

“. . . whether or not you like President Obama’s actions, he has operated under long-

standing provisions of law that give the executive branch discretion in enforcement. This presidential prerogative has been recognized explicitly by the Supreme Court.”

Democrats stand for restoring sense to our utterly broken immigration system—so that we stop tearing apart families and separating parents from their children.

Last month, House and Senate Democrats filed our own amicus brief with the Supreme Court in support of the President’s Immigration Executive Actions.

We are confident that the Supreme Court will affirm these vital immigration reforms and allow the President’s steps to start fixing our immigration system to move forward.

While Republicans stand with Donald Trump’s incendiary anti-immigrant agenda, Democrats will continue to champion the comprehensive immigration reform our nation needs.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas. She raises several important points.

One of the things that has struck me during my time here in Congress is that, under Republican reign, we have consistently seen government by crisis on one issue after the next.

From the group of people that spend so much time messaging the point to the American people that they believe in fiscal responsibility, where is the fiscal responsibility in failing to put forth a budget consistent with the law that you supported?

The other thing that amazes me—and the gentlewoman from Texas raised the point about the Supreme Court case that was argued earlier today on the immigration executive order issued by the President—I sit on the Judiciary Committee along with the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE and we hear almost every week about how lawless this President allegedly has been in terms of his time in office.

Now, it is interesting to consistently hear the lectures about how lawless this President has allegedly been from people who believe that President Barack Obama exceeded his authority on January 20, 2009, the moment that he took the oath of office because there are folks who still cannot believe that this man is the President and leader of the free world. So I never buy that lawlessness argument.

This is a group now that supports essentially undermining the Constitution over in the other house of this Congress. The President has done his job in putting forth the Supreme Court nominee, who is clearly qualified not according to Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, but according to ORRIN HATCH himself, one of the leading Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, amongst others.

The lawlessness is not taking place at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. It is taking place right here in the United States Congress under the leadership of House and Senate Republicans.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JEFFRIES. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me just finish my point by saying that the reason why the budget is not here is because they could not muster the votes of the majority and they could not muster them even though their budget ended Medicare, it took \$6.5 trillion in cuts from the overall budget, it devastated good-paying jobs, education, American infrastructure, and, again, it repealed the Affordable Care Act and dismantled the Affordable Care Act for 20 million people.

Even with those poison pills to draw in support for some kind of budget that would fit within the law, their responsibility or the responsibility of Congress—they are in the majority—they could not pass or get on the floor a budget.

Clearly, the moral compass is broken. More importantly, it denies equal protection under the law, in my interpretation, of millions of Americans depending on this Congress doing its job.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the thoughtful observations of the gentlewoman from Texas.

I think we want to bring Representative STACY PLASKETT into this conversation in terms of the stunning inability to present a budget.

As Representative JACKSON LEE said, what else is there to do in terms of satisfying the extreme elements of your party? Privatize Social Security and throw older people out of their homes across the country? What else can you do?

We are going to explore some of these draconian cuts that were in a budget that apparently is not extreme enough.

I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), my good friend and colleague by way of Brooklyn, New York, I point out. We are so thankful for her presence here in the Congress. It is my honor now to yield to her.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JEFFRIES and I thank the Congressional Black Caucus for giving us this opportunity to always be the conscience of this Congress.

I want to thank the gentleman for his tireless efforts to raise awareness on not just the Committee on the Judiciary, but all of the work that he does.

This group has come together this evening to talk about the fact that once again the Republicans have created a road to ruin in their budget failure.

We talked about the fact that this Republican Congress has blown past the statutory deadline to enact a budget last week, reflecting, apparently, the belief of the leadership that their already severe budget proposal was not even radical enough to pass through this Republican majority.

The gentleman talked about some of the draconian measures that were already in the budget that they had proposed, which seems to have not been sufficient enough for their caucus.

At the direction of the House GOP leadership, the Budget Committee put forth one of the most devastating budgets in history and the majority rejected that plan as insufficient, which can only lead us to believe that it was not even severe enough for them.

Some of the things that were in that budget were an end to a Medicare guarantee for seniors, makes \$6.5 trillion in cuts—the sharpest cuts ever proposed by the House Budget Committee—devastates investments in good-paying jobs, education, and American infrastructure, repeals the Affordable Care Act and dismantling the affordable health care of 20 million Americans.

Now, as expressed by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), in February, the administration, our President, requested support for Americans through the budget that he submitted to this Congress, which provided support for education, job training support, bolstering our obligation to seniors, real tools for growth for the territories in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and others by inclusion in the Affordable Care Act and expansion of Medicare.

But it seems that the Republicans have failed their promise to pass a budget, never mind even listen to or hear the head of OMB on that budget.

Their goal is still clear, to take us back to radical, trickle-down agenda that shattered our economy in the past and hollowed out the wages of middle-class Americans.

At that same time, House Republicans have done nothing to help the thousands of Americans struggling to protect their families from the three public health crises the chief spoke of: Zika, the opioid addict addictions, and the Flint water crisis. In Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Florida, and now even Texas, this is a real crisis concerning the Zika virus.

Last week, Democrats on the Appropriations Committee wrote to Chairman HAL ROGERS requesting an immediate hearing on the administration's 1.9 billion emergency supplemental request for Zika, pointing out that: "The Zika virus is a true public health emergency that has the potential to affect millions of Americans this summer, including more than 2 million pregnant women."

What did that committee do? Absolutely nothing. Not even the respect of a hearing. They have not responded to anything but just their inaction and indifference.

□ 2015

Instead of taking action to pass a budget or address urgent public health crises, the House Republicans are now

wasting a full week grandstanding on the IRS. That is just the kind of hollow, meaningless posturing the American people have come to expect from this Congress.

Hardworking families deserve a Congress that invests in their future, protects their safety, creates a level playing field for them and their children to succeed. Democrats will continue to press for a budget that creates jobs, raises the paychecks, creates opportunities for American people while reducing the deficit in a balanced and responsible way.

I look forward to hearing, with the rest of my colleagues, their thoughts on this budget process and even possibly solutions for us as American people to come away with a clear budget that creates growth and opportunities for Americans.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PLASKETT. She raised several important points. She noted that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to embrace this notion of trickle-down economics, which is sort of the foundation of many of the slash-and-burn cuts that are contained in at least a budget document that has been passed in prior years and the document that was put forth by the Committee on the Budget this year, this belief that if you lower the tax rate for millionaires and billionaires, that it will result in some residual benefit to the American people. But there is an irony in the embrace even of that term, "trickle-down economics."

With the leadership of Representative BOBBY SCOTT and others, the CBC has consistently put forth a budget designed to open the floodgates of prosperity for working class Americans and middle class folks all throughout this country, but what the Republicans want to do is trickle-down economics. The only thing that you get with that philosophy, you may get a trickle, but you are guaranteed to stay down.

We are thankful that Representative SCOTT for so many years has consistently put forth through his leadership a budget from the Congressional Black Caucus designed to be both fiscally responsible and consistent with our ideals as a country that looks out for the least of those amongst us.

Let me now yield to the distinguished representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mr. BOBBY SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for getting the title of our State correct. I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding and organizing tonight's Special Order.

Last week, the House of Representatives failed to pass a budget by the statutorily mandated date of April 15. This failure is unfortunate for our budget process, but perhaps not unfortunate for the American people because



no budget is better than the proposed Republican budget that would have been brought to the floor.

Our Nation's budget reflects priorities, but the Republican budget only highlights the wrong priorities. The budget the House Republicans wanted to bring to the floor would be even more devastating to students, working families, and seniors than their previous proposals.

The Republican budget would end the Medicare guarantee for seniors by converting Medicare into a voucher payment that would not keep pace with medical inflation, shifting billions of dollars in medical costs onto our senior citizens.

The Republican budget would repeal the Affordable Care Act and would jeopardize the health insurance for millions of Americans, even though the budget assumes all of the revenue collected by the Affordable Care Act to pay for the Affordable Care Act, all of those taxes remain in the budget.

The Republican budget includes a total of \$6.5 trillion in spending cuts, largely unspecified. If this level of cuts were ever made, it would devastate our investments and jobs, education, research, and would essentially eliminate any new transportation projects.

On top of these devastating cuts to vital programs that support and uplift hardworking American families, the Republican budget calls for trillions of dollars in tax cuts that would primarily benefit millionaires and billionaires, and then they claim the tax cuts would be revenue neutral, suggesting that we are to believe that trillions of dollars in new taxes would be imposed to pay for those tax cuts for the wealthy. But despite this, the Republican budget is not a credible plan.

Are we really going to dismantle Medicare? Are we really going to cut hundreds of billions of dollars out of education and job training and transportation? Are we really going to raise trillions of dollars in new taxes to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy?

I don't think so. But the House leadership couldn't even secure enough votes for this budget proposal because a faction of their conference wanted even deeper, unrealistic spending cuts. Budgeting is about making tough choices, and the only choice the Republicans seem to have made with the budget proposal is that we can only balance the budget on the backs of students, workers, seniors, the disabled, and vulnerable communities across the Nation while cutting taxes for the wealthy.

The Congressional Black Caucus knows that is not the right choice. That is why, as we have done for the last 30 years, we have diligently prepared our own budget alternative to the Republican budget, which we would have offered as an amendment to the Republican budget if they had brought up their proposal.

The CBC budget chooses to invest in programs that we know will grow our economy and ensure that every American family is able to prosper. Our budget proposes a comprehensive jobs program, totaling \$500 billion over 3 years that will accelerate our economic recovery and ensure that it reaches virtually every community in America while also investing in what will guarantee America's long-term economic competitiveness.

This jobs plan includes funding for direct jobs creation programs, school modernization, jobs for teachers and first responders, immediate investments in our Nation's crumbling infrastructure, assistance for neighborhoods and families still reeling from the housing crisis, job training programs, and summer jobs.

Our budget calls for significant and sustained investments—approximately \$300 billion over the next decade—above the President's request for programs that have been instrumental in lifting millions of Americans out of poverty. Some of these proposals include restoration of cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, expanding access to affordable housing, increasing access to quality and affordable education, increasing funding for job training and Trade Adjustment Assistance, adjusting the earned income tax credit and child tax credit to inflation, as well as decreasing the age where you can benefit for the earned income tax credit down to 21 years of age.

Thanks to the leadership of Congressman JIM CLYBURN, our budget also ensures that Federal resources are targeted more efficiently toward eradicating poverty by targeting Federal spending toward persistent areas of poverty through the 10-20-30 formula.

Our budget also includes more than \$340 billion above the President's request for education over the next decade. This additional money will help make college more affordable by increasing the Pell grant, fully funding the President's free community college program, reducing interest rates on student loans, and financing other proposals to ensure that no student graduates from college saddled with unmanageable debt.

The CBC budget also provides much-needed funding for families of Flint, Michigan, to help address the short-term and long-term cognitive and behavioral development of children exposed to high lead levels. However, the Congressional Black Caucus appreciates, unfortunately, that Flint is not the only community in America impacted by lead exposure. This is why our budget includes funds to help not only Flint, but also other communities across the Nation deal with the effects of lead exposure.

Unlike the Republican budget, the CBC budget clearly shows how we pay

for these additional investments. Our budget sets a new revenue target of \$4 trillion over the next 10 years above the current revenue baseline. To demonstrate how this is achievable and realistic, our budget suggests several specific alternatives, totaling \$7 trillion, that the House and Senate committees can choose from to reach that target.

We ask for \$4 trillion in new additional and specifically outline at least \$7 trillion to choose from. We do this by specifically talking about closing specific corporate loopholes, treating capital gains and dividends as regular income, a reasonable fee for financial transactions, restoring the estate tax to levels paid over a few years ago, specific items where you can choose from and, in fact, if we just cancel the Bush-era tax cuts, we would have almost \$4 trillion in new revenue right there.

At the end of the day, our budget realistically reduces the deficit by approximately \$3.2 trillion over the next decade compared to the Congressional Budget Office's March 2016 baseline. The CBC budget chooses investments in America's children and workers, protects our most vulnerable communities, and changes the wrong choices offered by the Republican majority.

I hope that we will have an opportunity to debate these issues if the House Republicans are ever able to bring their road-to-ruin budget to a full House vote.

Again, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Would the gentleman indulge one question?

It was mentioned during that very thorough presentation of what is contained in the CBC budget the 10-20-30 program, and of course 10-20-30, an initiative that has been championed by the CBC through the leadership of Representative JIM CLYBURN, would put forth a formula where 10 percent of the funding allocation would go to counties where 20 percent of the population has been living below the poverty line for 30 or more years. Is that correct?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. That is correct. If you look at that, those counties and areas are spread all over the country, and if we are ever going to eradicate poverty, we have to target it to the high poverty areas, and 10-20-30 does exactly that.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman. In fact, what Representative CLYBURN has consistently pointed out, which I think is important in an era where we are trying to find common ground and deal with the problems confronting the American people, if you look at a breakdown of persistently poor counties across the country and overlay that with congressional districts, a majority of those counties are actually represented by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

This is something that we believe should be embraced by the Speaker and

our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as it would benefit, by the numbers, the constituents that they represent even more so than those of us within the CBC or on this side of the aisle.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. That is exactly true. I thank the gentleman very much for pointing that out.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SCOTT.

Let me now ask my colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), to just react to some of what we have heard.

One of the things that I thought was interesting in the presentation related to this budget is that if you look at the numbers, they are so extreme. I was on the Committee on the Budget during my first 2 years in Congress, but these numbers are even more extreme than what I remember in the 113th Congress. The budget apparently will cut \$157 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program over a 10-year period.

The Republican budget that came out of the committee would cut roughly \$2 trillion from Medicaid. When I was on the committee, the number was \$700 million. I thought that was out of control, \$700 million. Now we are at \$2 trillion over a 10-year period apparently.

And then we have got cuts in higher education. The proposal is \$185 billion over 10 years.

You have to ask the question: Why would anyone propose such draconian cuts?

The answer is clear. This is not something that is often talked about, but the objective is to create a situation where you can dramatically lower the tax rates for the wealthiest amongst us. The top tax rate right now is 39.6 percent, but what the budget that has been put forth by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would do is that it would create two tax rates, one at 10 and the other at 25 percent. So what you will see is a tax cut that goes from 39.6 percent to 25 percent.

The way that you balance a budget and pay for it is on the backs of working families, the middle class, senior citizens, children, the disabled, the poor, the afflicted, and everybody else who doesn't fall into the category of millionaire or billionaire.

□ 2030

Now, you wonder how it could be possible that anyone could think that they could get away with such a draconian budget. Well, again, the argument is trickle-down economics.

But what I found fascinating—and maybe you could react to this, Representative BEATTY—is that if you actually look at a side-by-side comparison of the economy 8 years under President Clinton with a side-by-side comparison of the economy 8 years under George W. Bush, and then a side-

by-side comparison of the economy 8 years under President Obama, I think it is pretty clear who actually has been the responsible fiscal stewards.

There were 20.3 million jobs created under the Clinton Presidency. America lost 650,000 jobs in 8 years under the Bush Presidency. America has now gained more than 14 million private sector jobs under 8 years of the Obama Presidency.

What has been demonstrated is that the argument that if you lower tax rates, you create economic prosperity, is phony. Because Bill Clinton raised the top tax rate to 39.6 percent. It didn't seem to adversely impact the economy. In fact, it was humming between 1992 and 2000. George Bush comes to office, lowers the tax rate for high-income earners from 39.6 percent to 35 percent. We had the greatest recession in the history of modern America; the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

President Obama comes into office and he raises the top tax rate again from 35 to 39.6, more than 14 million jobs are created, the unemployment rate has dropped under his tenure from over 10 percent to 5 percent, the deficit has been reduced by more than a trillion dollars. The stock market has gone from 6,000 to over 16,000. Now it is up to 18,000. I haven't been in the 401(k) system as long as Congressman SCOTT, who clearly is monitoring the situation. So the prosperity numbers have been phenomenal.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for her reaction.

Mrs. BEATTY. I think Mr. JEFFRIES and our other colleagues have said it so well, but here is what I am afraid of.

I think the Republicans—the GOP—want to take us down to the radical trickle-down agenda that shattered our economy and hollowed out the wages of middle class, hardworking Americans.

You said it all with that comparison from Clinton to Bush to now President Obama. And I could add to that long list: some 18 million people with health insurance; women having some of the best healthcare opportunities, getting mammograms for those who are under- and uninsured. We are able to have college students stay on their parent's insurance.

So I think when we look at what is happening, there are billions of dollars that they want to do away with in programs. And we can add to that: the \$185 billion from Federal college aid for low-income students or the \$150 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Many of my constituents refer to that as their food stamps. And certainly, but for the Congressional Black Caucus, those members on the Agriculture Committee, those Members in leadership fighting for us to restore those dollars, I think it is quite simple.

I think what we are hearing tonight from our members of the Congressional

Black Caucus is that they are trying to take us back in history. They are trying to take us back to an era of time, and we are not going to let them do that. We have too much at stake. We have gained so much.

Someone may ask us tonight: Why are we here? Why are we the conscience of the Congress, Mr. Speaker? Why are we here tonight talking about the road to ruin and destruction by not having a congressional budget?

I think the facts speak for themselves. I think that the American public needs to know that this is not something that just affects the Congressional Black Caucus. I want that to be clear. This affects America.

You mentioned it with Mr. CLYBURN'S 10-20-30. The fact is more individuals who don't look like members of the Congressional Black Caucus will benefit. And that is the difference between Democrats and Republicans. We care about all people.

They profess to have hearings on poverty, and then when you look at the results of their own budget and what they are doing to those individuals who live in poverty—chuckle we may, clear our voice, Mr. Speaker, as we may—the facts speak for themselves. They are not creating programs that will help us eliminate poverty. And it is as simple as that.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank you for laying that out. And I think history can be judged by objective observers as it relates to fiscal responsibility. But a few facts that perhaps some in the Chamber may have had amnesia about, but maybe it bears going through.

Sequestration and painful budget cuts as it relates to the extreme agenda of some here in the Congress have been brought to us in a manner that has cost us both jobs and the ability to experience accelerated financial growth.

We saw in the aftermath of a severe economic shock the approach that was taken by our friends over in Europe of extreme austerity did not bear financial fruit. It was the stimulus package that was put forth—with not a single vote from anyone on the other side of the aisle—that was actually the financially responsible approach taken to help deal with the train wreck that President Obama inherited and to get the economy back on track.

But, of course, the objective from the very beginning—not my words, but the words of the Senate majority leader on the other side of the Capitol—was to make the President a one-term President.

I just don't even understand the philosophy of a President who takes office, inherits the worst economy since the Great Depression, and the number one agenda is to make sure that he is a one-term President. But that was an unsuccessful political endeavor. He gets a second term.

The first thing that some of my good friends on the other side of the aisle decide to do, as we approach the end of the fiscal year in 2013, was to shut down the government for 16 days. It cost us \$24 billion in lost economic productivity. That is not hyperbole. Those are facts.

And what was it all for?

Because there is this obsession—perhaps clinical in nature—with the Affordable Care Act. This is why we voted more than 50 times to destroy it, defeat it, delay it, and do everything possible to stop it.

What could be possibly wrong with making sure that preexisting conditions don't prevent someone here in the greatest country in the history of the world from being able to get adequate medical care? What is wrong with more than 20 million previously uninsured Americans actually having health care?

Yet, in the budget that apparently is not extreme enough, we would take away the Affordable Care Act.

So these are just some of the facts. I wish we had some more time to explore it. That is not hyperbole. Historians will judge this Presidency and this Congress. I, of course, am of the belief that many will conclude that this is a Congress that has majored in obstruction, minored in dysfunction, and done everything possible to pursue a degree in legislative malpractice to the detriment of the American people. And I am hopeful that we can just get back on track and try to find common ground to do the business of the American people, which is why each and every one of us was sent here to the people's House.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Republican controlled House has once again missed a key deadline when it failed to pass a budget resolution before April 15. Despite promises to the contrary, House Speaker PAUL RYAN has been unable to bring a budget resolution to the floor in a timely fashion. This is simply unacceptable.

Completing a budget resolution is an important step in the budget process that will lay out Congress' spending priorities and create a unified vision for a more prosperous nation. While Democrats have endeavored to work cooperatively with Republicans to pass a comprehensive budget resolution, Speaker RYAN has insisted on pushing a budget that divides our country while further slashing critical investments aimed at strengthening our economy. The Republican budget reflects the needs of only a select few instead of the views and priorities of every American and places the burden of deficit reduction squarely on the backs of middle and working class Americans.

It is clear that our most vulnerable segments of the population—the elderly, minorities, low-income earners, and others—have been most impacted by the Great Recession. Yet this latest Republican budget resolution continues to reflect the failed economic worldview that wealth will trickle down when we give massive

tax breaks to the wealthy. Time and time again, history has demonstrated that this is simply untrue.

It is unfortunate that the Republican-controlled Congress today is subjecting millions of hard-working families to even greater pressures to work longer hours for less pay, while we continue to prop up the wealthiest earners and biggest corporations with tax breaks and other loopholes. The Republican budget exemplifies these principles and drives the wedge deeper between the wealthy and our most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our nation is on a dangerous path under this Republican leadership. Congress should be working to create jobs and increase pay for hard-working American families, not giving additional tax breaks to the wealthy and cutting spending for key social programs. The Republicans have long abandoned their commitment to pass a budget resolution that reflects the needs of all Americans. Thus, I am strongly urging my colleagues to support fiscally sound and morally responsible budget alternatives that will create a level playing field and new opportunities for every American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). The Chair would remind Members that remarks in debate may not engage in personalities toward the President, including by repeating remarks made elsewhere that would be improper if spoken in the Member's own words.

#### RESTORING ARTICLE I CONSTITUTIONAL POWER TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for 30 minutes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this evening's Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, if Congress does not assert its constitutional authority, we risk becoming obsolete in the eyes of an Executive that would prefer to legislate with a phone and a pen as a replacement for this body.

Thank you to all my colleagues who join me this evening, and may God bless America.

Every day, before Members of Congress meet to conduct official business, we gather to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America. We place our right hand over our hearts and promise to our colleagues, our constituents, and all Americans that we will uphold the rule of law.

This very law is the very vehicle that has ensured liberty and justice for all even being a possibility: the rule of law. Unfortunately, this administra-

tion seems intent on operating outside the rule of law. It insists upon circumventing Congress by changing laws and legislating from the Oval Office, not from Capitol Hill.

Time and again, the American people have had to bear witness to the blatant disrespect this administration has for our Constitution. In my heart, I believe this disrespect is on full display in the embattled fight Congress and the American people find themselves in today with the executive branch at the Supreme Court.

This morning, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the United States v. Texas case, including 25 other States. To some, this case is simply an argument over whether or not you are pro-illegal immigration. Let me repeat that. You are pro-illegal immigration or not. To others, this case is about keeping families together. To many, like myself, it is about protecting the dignity of our Constitution and the balance of powers within the three branches of government.

The United States v. Texas is about the rule of law and defending the integrity of our great institution of government. We are a constitutional Republic. And yet, the President's mass deferred action on deportation of individuals residing within our country illegally would make it seem more like we are living in a dictatorship.

The Constitution is clear on the issues of legislation. Article I, section 1 explicitly states: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives."

Let that sink in for a moment. "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives."

Article I, section 8, clause 4: "to establish a uniform rule of naturalization." That is solely the responsibility of this body. Take notice of the absence of any reference to the executive office, executive branch, or judicial branch.

Article II, section 3, however, states that the President "shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed." It is referred to as the Take Care Clause. That the laws be faithfully executed, not established, not rewritten, not selectively enforce portions of law, but to take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

□ 2045

That power is still delegated to Congress just as it was over two centuries ago.

If the Supreme Court upholds the administrative executive action, I fear that our Republic—that is the United States—will die. We will see an end of a Nation that started by fending off tyranny. We will see the end of a Nation which has withstood a civil war,

two world wars, and countless terrorist attacks.

Terrorists hate the United States simply because of the manner through which we have prospered under the freedoms enshrined in the Constitution.

Again, the success of our Nation is because we are a land and a Nation of laws. I urge all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate to not falter in their defense of the founding principles upon which this great Nation was built.

Interesting, today, at the Supreme Court, I was there to speak on these very topics. Many pro-illegal immigrants were present, and I found it very interesting they were shouting, demonstrating, exercising freedom of speech, freedom of speech and demonstrating in America, simply because we have a Constitution that protects that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss the case being heard before the Supreme Court, *United States v. Texas*, and the President's unconstitutional executive actions on immigration and the need for the restoration of the balance of powers between the branches of government. This case is the challenge to President Obama's executive actions for illegal immigrants, the so-called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, otherwise known as DAPA, an expansion of the earlier Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, otherwise known as DACA. The lawsuit was brought by Governors and attorneys general from the Texas Supreme Court and 25 other States. That is significant, in and of itself.

Under these unconstitutional programs, President Obama claims the right to, by executive fiat, make an illegal immigrant "lawfully present." Let me say that again real slow. The President claims, by right, by executive fiat, to make an illegal immigrant "lawfully present" in the United States and eligible to receive a work permit after an application is reviewed and a fee is paid. This is straight out of "1984."

The language is upside down. The government is handing out work permits and making illegal immigrants eligible to work in the United States as well as receive Social Security, unemployment, and disability benefits. But this only hurts American citizens and taxpayers.

What has Congress done about this? Not enough.

The real issue in this case is not discretion, but whether or not there is any limit at all on Presidential power.

The Founders recognized these distinctions, and they made Congress the first branch among equals of the Federal Government and the most ac-

countable branch to the American people—and thus, Article I, not II. The Congress is Article I.

The Founders created a system of checks and balances to ensure no individual could gain absolute power within the government without a check, not even George Washington, whom they all loved.

Under our Constitution, the Congress is entrusted with "all legislative powers"—all, including the power "to establish a uniform rule of naturalization."

The Founders drafted the Constitution to clearly state that it is not the President who writes the laws; Congress does. Much of the President's job is to faithfully execute these laws passed by Congress. In fact, neither any immigration law nor the Constitution empowers the Executive to authorize, let alone facilitate, the violation of the laws passed by Congress. The President even acknowledged this 22 times on TV before using his pen and phone to act alone without Congress.

This imbalance of powers is a threat to self-government itself. Our inaction, time and again, has expanded the administrative state and left the American people without a voice in Washington. The Presidential elections on both sides of the aisle are making this abundantly clear.

For starters, we can advocate for reforms in four principled areas: reclaiming Congress' power of the purse, reforming executive-empowering legislative "cliffs," restoring congressional authority over regulations and regulators, and reining in executive discretion.

I have sponsored simple legislation to do just that: return power back to Congress. I introduced a bill to reform this process with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS, the primary agency for implementing the President's immigration executive order.

USCIS funds itself through application fees, which insulates it from the will of the American people as expressed through their Representatives in Congress. Congress cannot effectively exercise its powers through the appropriations process to perform basic oversight functions and ensure the agency is executing the laws faithfully.

My proposal, the Use Spending for Congressional Immigration Supervision, USCIS, Act, will make unaccountable agencies like the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services accountable to Congress and, therefore, accountable to the American people. Putting USCIS on appropriations ensures that unelected bureaucrats are held accountable and provides transparency for how the Federal Government is raising and spending your money.

Congress needs to reassert its power of the purse by making agency budgets

subject to appropriations, but we cannot stop there. There is more Congress has to do to restore Congress' power to hold the executive branch accountable. The Constitution still gives Congress all its powers. It is up to Congress to step up and start using them.

Mr. YOHO. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. King).

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Florida for organizing this Special Order, for his leadership, for his constitutional convictions, and for the opportunity to address you tonight, Mr. Speaker, here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I am listening to this dialogue that is taking place here on the floor, and this thought occurred to me that, several years ago, our borders are so open and our borders are so porous, and we have a President who has refused to enforce the law. In fact, he sends the message through his executive branch, if you are determined to enforce the law and you are a member of the Border Patrol, you had better find another job. I mean, that came out of the President and his leadership team all the way on down to our Border Patrol agents.

I have been down to the border a good number of times, and I have watched as people come across the border in broad daylight, float across there in a raft. They get unloaded, stand there on the grass on our side of the river, and wait for the Border Patrol to come down with a welcome wagon and say: Would you like to apply for asylum?

And, by the way, one of them was a pregnant lady, and so I am sure by now she has her asylum, or at least that baby is an American citizen.

Our borders are so porous that, in order to illustrate how bad they are, we had James O'Keefe, who went down and put on an Osama bin Laden mask and walked across the border. Nobody bothered him.

There was another individual that thought: I will make a bigger show of it. I will hire a mariachi band, and he rode a circus elephant across the Rio Grande River. That is how bad our border is.

Now, here is how bad our law and our Constitution are. The mariachi band was serenading the Supreme Court today, Mr. Speaker, to try to convince them that we ought to see the Supreme Court rewrite law that Congress has written, that has been signed by a previous President, and every President since then has taken the oath to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

This constitutional balance that we have has seen a Supreme Court rewrite ObamaCare. So now they have the audacity to rewrite the law, and they are the ones that are deciding today, with

eight Justices, sadly—sadly, not 9—as to whether or not the President of the United States can do what the Supreme Court did, in other words, rewrite the law.

The President of the United States, 22 times, as the previous speaker, Mr. BRAT, said, told America he doesn't have the constitutional authority to grant the amnesty, the executive amnesty that he did, whether it be DACA or whether it be DAPA. But then, after he deliberated for awhile, he checked his conscience. That didn't bother him. We shouldn't be amazed at that, Mr. Speaker. He already knew the Constitution. He lectured it to us. But what he checked was his politics, and his question was: Can he get away with it? Is there an enforcement capacity that could stop him?

Well, he hadn't met yet Judge Hanen in Texas who, if these Justices in the Supreme Court deadlock 4-4, the President's executive amnesty, at least for DAPA, is going to be stalled for the duration of his administration.

And so this prosecutorial discretion argument before the Court today that the Obama administration very well knew was the center of this case—and that prosecutorial discretion can be conferred on an individual basis only. That was the testimony of Janet Napolitano; and in the first Morton memo document, there were multiple references to an individual basis only. Her testimony was an individual basis only. But even the first document set out four categories, groups of people, whom the law would be waived for, and that is what we are talking about here.

Who writes the law? If the President writes the law, how could we write one that would restrain this President that is out of line? Let's preserve our Constitution, and let's look forward to an appointment to the Supreme Court that actually means it when they take their oath as we do ours.

Mr. YOHO. I thank my colleague from Iowa for such great remarks and your passion and your leadership. It was great to see you in front of the Supreme Court today speaking passionately about this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the great State of South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for doing this. I think it is such an important issue.

I think that, as has been mentioned by a couple of speakers now, what is really at play here is a constitutional issue. The Founding Fathers were so emphatically clear that there were to be three different pieces of pie. There was to be an executive branch that administered the law, a legislative branch that created it, and a judicial branch that interpreted it.

There is this amazing reservoir of common sense that exists out there with the American public. So what peo-

ple told me back home is this is not about being against somebody from some other place. This is not about being against Hispanics. This is, in fact, about the rule of law and a system that our Founding Fathers gave us more than 200 years ago and how we preserve it. And how we preserve it is by actually sticking to it. Ultimately, the issue has less to do with immigration than it does to do with this larger notion of common sense and rule of law.

I would also stress the common sense part. I remember back in the O.J. Simpson trial, there was this whole notion of, if the glove doesn't fit, you can't acquit. In this case, the glove doesn't fit from the standpoint of common sense.

I actually had my staff pull up a couple of numbers this afternoon, and I think that they are fascinating, and here is what I mean by that. The numbers don't fit with the scale of every other amnesty that has been done for more than the last 50 years.

Think about this. The amnesties that this President has proposed, in total, are about 5½ million people. That is more than all of the cumulative amnesties for the last 53 years, going back all the way to the time of Eisenhower. In fact, the average amnesty was about 32,000 people in size.

We have all always been a Nation that has been welcoming; we have included other people. So if you look back at the El Salvadorans that Clinton and Bush allowed in, based on civic conflict and real civil war down that way, if you look at the Persian Gulf evacuees, if you look at the—my eyesight is getting so bad, I need to get glasses. If you look at the Chinese, after Tiananmen Square, if you were to look at Soviet refugees, if you look at the Ethiopians, the Lithuanians, even going back to the war orphans at the time of Eisenhower, there has been a remarkable case when amnesties were judged okay by this Congress, okay by the American people, okay by the President because of scale, 32,000 people, on average, per amnesty, for 53 years.

Again, this President's amnesty dwarfs the total amnesties of all Presidents over the last 53 years, and, for that reason, the American public has reacted as it has saying this just doesn't fit.

The other thing that I think is interesting, going back to the notion of sheer scale and the ways in which this particular amnesty that the President has proposed is at odds with every other for the last 53 years, is, if you were to add up the cumulative amnesties of this President, you would be in the top 20 States in the United States of America—5.5 million people. That is well above the population of South Carolina; it is well above the population of Alabama. Or go down about

another 30 States, wherein you would have a de facto new State added that would be more than midway in the graph of all States in this country. It doesn't fit.

A third point that I would make, and I think this is a fascinating one that my staff pulled, is that if you look at all those amnesties I was just talking about over the last 53 years, they have really fallen into a couple of baskets, the one big amnesty being back in 1986 which, ultimately, went through this Congress. It was, in fact, as a consequence of the act of Congress and the will of the American public. That was a big one. But the other one was the Adjustment Act of 1966, which goes back to the plight of the Cuban people and trying to do something about that.

The other one has been a basket of natural disaster, of political strife, of family reunification. That has been a basket. And then there has been a basket for refugees. But never before have we had a basket that was about a political objective as opposed to a reaction to an external event. We have had a long list of external events over 53 years that is at odds with what we see taking place.

So not only is this important from the standpoint of the Constitution and the rule of law, as has been so eloquently stated thus far, it is something that doesn't fit common sense from the standpoint of scale.

And there is one last point. There is a financial cost to this. The Cato Institute estimated that you are looking at about \$14,000 per household. If you multiply that times the number of refugees that the President is talking about here, you are looking at about \$19 billion in cost. That is about two-thirds of the dustup we have had over the budget. You are talking about \$30 billion. Is the number 1070 or 1040? A \$30 billion difference. In this case, two-thirds of that total would be taken care of just with this question of amnesty that is before us tonight which you, again, have brought, and I very, very much appreciate you doing so.

Mr. YOHO. I thank my colleague from the great State of South Carolina for those—I mean, those are great numbers that really illustrate the significance and the large amount of numbers that we are dealing with.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from the State of Arizona, Dr. PAUL GOSAR.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for his leadership on this issue and for organizing this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken many times right here on the House Floor about upholding the rule of law. Whether it be about a lawless Attorney General who tried to cover up a gunrunning operation, or a rogue IRS Director illegally targeting innocent Americans, or a President attempting

to enact amnesty by executive action, ensuring that the Federal Government is held accountable for its lawlessness has been one of my top priorities as an elected Representative to the people's House. And while the concept of equal application of the law may not seem like it needs any explanation, I would like to speak to the heart of why upholding the rule of law is so fundamental.

Our laws seek to incentivize Americans to behave responsibly and to impose consequences when they don't. This is the fundamental contract woven into the fabric of our Republic. It is a concept envisioned by our Founding Fathers, not only to protect the individual rights of every man, woman, and child, but also to prohibit executive overreach from an intrusive Federal Government.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis captured these principles best when he stated: "In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. Our Government is the potent, the omnipresent teacher. For good or for ill, it teaches the whole people by its example. Crime is contagious. If the Government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for the law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy."

Sadly, we are witnessing what happens when the Federal Government becomes a lawbreaker and breeds contempt for the law—anarchy. The Obama administration has created an immigration crisis as a result of its failure to enforce Federal immigration laws on the books.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service reported just last week that 2016 could set another record for the number of unaccompanied alien children crossing our southern border, and that from 2011 to 2014, unaccompanied alien children increased by 1,200 percent. Also last week, 1,000 Cuban aliens stormed the Costa Rica-Panama border demanding to pass so they could continue their journey to enter the United States illegally.

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress clear jurisdiction on immigration matters, and President Obama's executive actions on immigration clearly infringe on that authority. The President even admitted that fact 22 times previously when he stated he did not have the authority to take the executive actions he ultimately ended up taking.

□ 2100

Justice Kennedy rightfully pointed out today that DAPA is a legislative act, not an administrative act. Thus, its creation is unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court should uphold the lower court's ruling that halted Obama's illegal actions.

What incentive do Americans have to follow the rule of law themselves if

they have no faith that their government will do the same? How can lawmakers ask immigrants seeking to migrate lawfully to our country to follow these rules when this President so blatantly violates those same rules?

Unfortunately, if we don't take bold action now to hold the President accountable for his lawlessness, we risk permanently damaging the integrity of all our laws beyond all repair.

The good news is there is a solution. The House must utilize our power of the purse to block any and all funding for the President's executive amnesty orders.

I am attempting to do just that and recently spearheaded an appropriations rider supported by 35 of my colleagues to block funding for all executive actions on immigration dating back to 2011.

Returning to the rule of law begins with the House enforcing its own constitutional power of the purse. We must fundamentally reject the President's legacy of lawlessness and renew the faith that we all place in the rule of law.

Mr. YOHO. I thank my colleague for such wise words of wisdom.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from the State of Colorado, Mr. KEN BUCK.

Mr. BUCK. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration somehow missed the class in civics about separation of powers, checks and balances, and so many other issues from our Constitution. Thankfully, the Supreme Court can offer some remedial education when it decides the case *United States v. Texas*.

The facts of the case are simple. The President's executive action on immigration is downright illegal. He bypassed Congress, even though the Constitution explicitly states that the legislative branch has the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization.

This administration uses the excuse of prosecutorial discretion. As a prosecutor for 25 years, I can tell you this isn't true. When his executive order creates a new special class for millions of people in the United States, this isn't a case-by-case use of discretion. It is a blanket rulemaking, and it is rulemaking that directly contradicts the wishes of Congress.

All three branches of government agree that these actions are illegal. Courts have already issued an injunction against the rule.

Congress submitted a friend-of-the-court brief highlighting its proper role, and the President himself knows it would be unconstitutional to bypass Congress and create his own immigration laws. He said so many times. For some reason, he still went ahead and issued the executive order.

Real people feel real consequences when we put the Constitution through

the paper shredder. The President's actions will lead to devastating new costs for States. Our healthcare system, our judicial and law enforcement systems, and our education system will all be strained as they try to accommodate the President's unconstitutional orders.

The judicial branch has a chance to stand up to executive overreach in this case and reassert congressional power. I hope the Court rules correctly because the fate of the Republic hangs in the balance.

Mr. YOHO. Words spoken so true, and I appreciate that. The Constitution and the sovereignty of this Nation is what is at stake here, along with the institution itself.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend, Mr. JODY B. HICE from the State of Georgia.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. I am grateful to my colleague from Florida for yielding this time.

Mr. Speaker, today the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments on what certainly has every potential of being one of the most important cases of our time. Of course, we are talking about a case involving an unprecedented and inexplicable expansion of powers by the President.

We all remember in November 2014 when President Obama, fresh from, I might add, losing midterm elections, announced his executive decision to grant amnesty to some 5 million illegal immigrants.

Immediately 26 States, my home State of Georgia being one of them, quickly moved to challenge this President's decision in the courts.

Those States rightly and correctly argued that they were being forced by the Federal Government to bear the costly burden of this President's abuse of power.

So after months of legal wrangling in the lower courts, now we watch *United States v. Texas* being considered in the High Court.

We watched this being put on in the Supreme Court, and I am hopeful, as many of my colleagues, all of us here tonight, that the rulings from the lower courts will stand and that, ultimately, this President's executive amnesty will be ruled for what it is, a clear violation of the Constitution.

That is what we are dealing with tonight, a violation of the Constitution, specifically article II, section 3, the faithful execution clause.

Many ask: What is that? Basically, that clause requires the President to enforce the laws of the land. Is it too much to ask for the President to enforce the laws of the land as written by Congress and interpreted by the courts?

This President has turned that upside down. He has turned our Constitution on its head with his own legislative policies from the executive office and the abuse of executive authority.

Many of us here have voted multiple times to oppose many of the President's unconstitutional actions, and I have cosponsored many bills trying to deal specifically with his planned amnesty program.

Going forward, now we have the Supreme Court case before us, and we all hope that they will see that what the President has done is a direct, gross violation of our Constitution.

Again, I want to thank my friend from Florida, Congressman YOHO, for putting together this Special Order.

Mr. YOHO. I would like to thank my colleague from Georgia for participating.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, our institution of law is threatened more today than ever before. All evil or tyranny needs to succeed or for a constitutional republic to fail is for good men and women to be complacent and do nothing.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friends, as led by our friend, Congressman TED YOHO from Florida, and our friend from Georgia, Brother HICE. We heard great comments from Dr. GOSAR and our friend, STEVE KING, from Iowa.

These are deeply troubling times, and the Supreme Court taking up *United States v. Texas* really accentuates that issue. Sometimes it is nice to just pause and pay tribute to folks, for example, a beautiful couple here.

It is a pastor. His name is Pastor Jesse Estrada Sabillon and his wife, Maria Sabillon. They are with their granddaughter in this picture. They are a beautiful couple. You can feel the love emanating from the picture.

Pastor Jesse Estrada Sabillon was a Baptist minister at Nuevo Amanecer Baptist Church of Houston in the Cloverleaf area. He was an excellent carpenter. He owned a home remodeling business, J J & Sons Remodeling. His wife, Maria,—you can tell she loves her granddaughter—was a retired home caregiver for children with special needs. They were a beautiful couple.

Mr. Sabillon never accepted a salary from the church and instead relied upon his job as a carpenter to feed his family. So it appears that Pastor Sabillon was working and acting in the vein of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Particularly Paul didn't want to be a burden to others. So he made tents,

sewed, and did whatever he needed to so that he wasn't a burden to others.

Instead of being a burden to others, Pastor Sabillon and his wife, Maria, were a blessing to Texas. They were a blessing to the Houston area and to so many whom they helped, the special needs kids that Maria helped with.

□ 2115

It appears that Jesse, Pastor Sabillon, was doing what Jesus said to do, to be a light to others, to be salt to the world, to administer to others' needs, or as Jesus told Peter, "If you love me, you will tend my flock." Well, Pastor Sabillon did that and, apparently, did that very well.

This story, April 15: "Alexis De Larosa Sosa, 21, is a Mexican national who entered the United States illegally, HCSO"—apparently Harris County Sheriff's Office—"public information officer Ryan Sullivan confirmed in a phone interview with Breitbart Texas.

"His intake"—by this he means, Alexis De Larosa Sosa—"form says: U.S. citizen, no; alien status, illegal . . . De Larosa Sosa was wanted in connection with a street racing crash where Pastor Jesse Estrada Sabillon, and his wife, Maria Sabillon, were killed. The couple was driving home Tuesday night after visiting their niece who had just given birth to a baby when they were struck by the truck.

"The suspect is reported to have fled the scene following the crash and did not turn himself in until Friday morning about 10 a.m. local time.

"He was allegedly driving a 2006 Chevy pickup truck and was said to be racing with a dark-colored Dodge Challenger or Charger, the Houston Chronicle reported on Wednesday. The two vehicles were said to be racing along the Sam Houston Tollway feeder road when De Larosa Sosa is reported to have run a red light, striking the 2004 BMW 330 driven by Sabillon. The couple were both pronounced dead at the scene of the crash. De Larosa Sosa is said to have fled the scene on foot. The driver of the Dodge fled the scene in his vehicle.

"Officials with the Harris County Sheriff's Office quickly notified the family of the pastor who expressed relief at the news," talking about the apprehension of the suspect.

"De Larosa Sosa is currently processing into the Harris County jail and has not yet made a court appearance. He is expected to be charged in connection with the two homicides and fleeing the scene of the fatal accident."

We know there are some wonderful people who have come into this country illegally. There have been. But there is no question that criminals have taken advantage of the situation to cross our border, since it has been porous, and to inflict crime on people of the United States. There should be little doubt about that.

And then we have this story from the Washington Free Beacon: "Number of Children Illegally Crossing Border Up 1,200 Percent Between 2011 and 2014." Ironically, it just happens to be, as people were finding out south of our border and in other parts of the world, that if you make it into the United States illegally, then you are probably going to stay. Odds are 97 percent you will stay.

As border patrolmen have told me, drug cartels across our southern border call our Border Patrol, our Homeland Security, the logistics, and they laughingly say if they get people illegally into the country, then Homeland Security is the logistics that ships them wherever they want them to go in the country.

As I have seen a number of times in the middle of the night as people are being processed, and like, for example, the one older lady who was asked how much she paid, some would say \$6,000, some would say \$7,000, \$5,000, or \$8,000.

On a number of occasions, a border patrolman has challenged them: Where did you get that kind of money? You don't have that kind of money.

It normally took repeated questioning to elicit an answer: Well, I paid \$1,800 from family in this place, some people sent \$2,000 from the United States, and I am going to pay the rest by working it off in the United States.

They tell them where they want to go. Amazingly, Homeland Security has shipped people that have come into the country illegally all over the country. We have reports about Mexican drug distribution in all of our major cities. When you know that Homeland Security is shipping people that still owe the drug cartels money into different cities, it is not hard to figure out how they are getting some of their less than happy workers helping them with their drug distribution.

This article from Adam Kredo says in this Washington Free Beacon: "The number of children apprehended on the U.S. border attempting to immigrate illegally has surged more than 1,200 percent since 2011, and the number of these children crossing the border during 2016 could be another record, according to a newly released government report.

"The number of unaccompanied alien children (UACs) illegally crossing the U.S. border 'has increased sharply' since 2011, with a surge of more than 1,200 percent just between 2011 and 2014, according to the Congressional Research Service. The agency also disclosed that the flow is increasing significantly in the first 5 months of fiscal 2016.

"The illegal immigration of these children hit record-breaking numbers in 2014, with U.S. officials apprehending more than 52,000 alien children. Nearly 20,000 have been apprehended within the first 5 months of

2016, setting the stage for another potentially record-breaking year.

“This unexpected surge of children strained U.S. Government resources and created a complex crisis of humanitarian implications,” the report said. “They increased in the first 5 months of FY 2016, however, and experts warn that significant migration flows will continue until policymakers in the countries of origin and the international community address the poor socioeconomic and security conditions driving Central Americans to leave their homes.”

That is interesting, but I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that actually they will continue to surge as long as they are led to believe by the administration, and the evidence continues to indicate, that they will be allowed to stay in America, we will send them where they may claim to have relatives or where the drug cartels tell them to request to be sent.

Just in the last few weeks, spending some days and nights on our border, our southern border, it is heart-breaking what you see because there are people that clearly want a better way of life. They are leaving the country of origin because their countries do not enforce the rule of law. There is graft, there is corruption, and the rule of law, the law is not evenly and fairly supported and enforced across the board. Therefore, the jobs aren't there.

There are more opportunities here in the United States. Although we have breakdowns, we do try to enforce the law more evenly than, I would submit, anywhere in the world, at least until more recently when this administration makes exceptions of millions of people who are assured that they can violate the law with impunity and will be awarded for it.

People come from countries where there is no equality under the law and they come to this country, as soon as they get here, for those of us that were out in front of the Supreme Court today, being shouted down by people who are angry, many of them shouting in Spanish—fine—but we were told that people in their positions were all in the shadows.

Now, I did see some people lounging around under a few trees, but most of them were not in the shadows. They were, in fact, on the steps of the Supreme Court right there in front yelling and screaming and showing disrespect for the U.S. national anthem and yelling, trying to prevent freedom of speech.

It is just really interesting, seeing posters like “Jesus was an immigrant.” Well, sort of, but he never violated the law. He never encouraged anyone else to violate the law. In fact, he urged people to go forth and do wrong no more, but that is not the case.

The great and really tragic irony of what is taking place is people coming

to America illegally demanding that the laws not be properly enforced, not be fairly enforced. Sure, there have been millions and millions and millions and millions of Americans who have come through our system legally, but we are the millions that did not come legally and we demand to have the same treatment as if we did come legally.

If we do that, it will not be long before we will be in the same shape as the countries these people fled from because there is not adequate opportunities. Since there is not adequate room for the billion or so that we have been told may want to come to America around the world, it would be far better to encourage their nations to end graft and corruption, to treat people fairly across the board.

Here is an article from the Center for Immigration Studies. It says: “The criminal aliens released by ICE in these years, who had already been convicted of thousands of crimes, are responsible for a significant crime spree in American communities, including 124 aliens charged with 135 new homicides. Inexplicably, ICE is choosing to release some criminal aliens multiple times.”

These are people that not only came into the country illegally, but have committed crimes multiple times, many of them, while they are here. At least they have certainly been charged with them.

“A total of 121 criminal aliens who were freed by ICE over the 5-year period between 2010 and 2014 were subsequently charged with homicide-related crimes within that time frame. Three more were charged in 2015. These 121 accused murderers were associated with 250 different communities in the United States, with the most clustered in California, New York, and Texas.

“These aliens were charged with a total of 135 homicide-related crimes after release. Two of them had homicide-related convictions even before they were released. These aliens had 464 criminal convictions prior to release by ICE.

“Another three aliens who were released by ICE during that time were charged with homicides during the first 10 months of FY 2015 . . . this tally does not include aliens who were released by sanctuary jurisdictions, nor those aliens that were released by local law enforcement agencies after ICE declined to take them into custody due to Obama administration prioritization policies. This list includes only those aliens that ICE arrested and then released.”

□ 2130

“The names of the criminal aliens were redacted by the Judiciary Committee, but the list presumably includes murderers like Apolinar Altamirano, an illegal alien who was

arrested by ICE in 2013 following his conviction on local charges involving a burglary and abduction, but who was released on a \$10,000 bond and permitted to remain free and elect to have deportation proceedings that would take years to complete. In January 2015, Altamirano shot and killed 21-year-old Grant Ronnebeck while he was working at a convenience store where Altamirano had come to buy cigarettes.

“ICE has previously disclosed that 75 percent of the homicidal criminal aliens were released due to court orders, including the so-called Zadvydas cases in which the aliens' home countries would not take them back. The rest were released by ICE's choice.”

The article also points out: “In 2014, ICE released a total of 30,558 criminal aliens from its custody. These aliens had already been convicted of 92,347 crimes before they were released by ICE.

“As of July 25, 2015, a total of 1,895 aliens have been charged with a crime after being freed by ICE.

“In a separate communication, ICE provided a list of countries that currently are uncooperative in accepting their deported citizens: Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Cape Verde, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe.”

We have the power to force these countries to either take back their citizens who have come illegally into this country or who are illegally in this country—particularly if they have committed crimes in this country—or have consequences. Instead, this administration chooses to provide benefits to countries like Iran and Afghanistan. For goodness sake. Make sure they are running Christians and Jews out of Afghanistan, but shouldn't they at least take back their own people?

I was told by one of the leaders in Afghanistan—this is a few years ago—that their budget was around \$12 billion a year. They only provided about \$1.5 billion. All the rest came from other countries, and most of that was from the United States. If they won't take their people back, then shut the government down. They will take their people back. This is ridiculous.

Also, an important point was made in this article.

“As of July 25, 2015, only about 3 percent of the 30,558 criminal aliens freed by ICE in 2014 have been removed . . . ICE reports that 28,017 still had a pending immigration case as of July 25, 2015,” but some of them don't show up for their hearings. Many don't. The largest percentage do not. They are just given notices to appear.

“Recent National Gang Unit-led operations include—” and this is from a different article, from the article: “ICE



Arrests More Than 1,100 in Operation Targeting Gangs.” It talks about all of the efforts to capture gangs. Let’s see. “Of the 1,133 arrests, 915 were gang members and associates; 1,001 were charged with criminal offenses; and 132 were arrested . . .” It is just more and more numbers of drugs, firearms, currency. Again, about 3 percent, apparently, is all they are removing of those who are committing crimes in the country.

Jessica Vaughan, from a year ago, had an article from May 28: “The Non-Deported: ICE Still Releasing Criminal Aliens at a Rapid Pace.”

She documents, according to this article: “The majority of convicted criminal releases occurred because of Obama administration policies that require ICE officers to let the offenders go. In some cases, judges will allow aliens to be released after a bond hearing, but the conditions are usually set by ICE, and ICE attorneys say that they have been instructed not to vigorously contest an alien’s request for release,” which brings us back to the Sabillons. My Christian brother and my Christian sister are gone; and we don’t enforce our immigration laws as the oath taken by those in this administration require.

I want to finish up by mentioning again about my being on the border. I was so struck. Texas has utilized and provided massive amounts of money to try to help us defend our border. The number one area through which people are coming into the United States moved some years back from Arizona to the McAllen corridor into Texas. I had occasion to be on a DPS boat with fantastic DPS officers. They had fantastic equipment that they were able to utilize to spot people who were clearly getting ready—behind bushes and whatnot—to cross the Rio Grande, from the Mexico side, into the U.S. It appeared, clearly, that some of them were just people who were going to be brought across, and some were carrying things. Maybe they were drugs. We don’t really know.

After we had spotted these folks when we were cruising down the river on the DPS boat—and there were a couple of Border Patrol boats that were much smaller, and there were other assets that allowed them to focus once we identified where these people were so that the Federal Border Patrol would know—and after we stayed silent for a while, we finally got a radio message from the Border Patrol that asked us to go ahead and return back to the dock way on down the river so that they could try to intercept these folks. Fine, because I know, if the Department of Public Safety sees a raft coming across, they will stop them. They do destroy the raft, which, as I understand, gets the coyote in trouble with the drug lord who sent him with the raft with people who had paid money to

get them across. So the DPS would do that.

They said: Why don’t you go ahead. They are waiting for you to leave the area. Then we can interdict. We can catch them red-handed.

It turns out that is exactly what they did. We spent massive amounts of money and effort in spotting people before they came across the river illegally. Whether it was bringing drugs, whether it was people coming across, we knew where they were. We spotted them, and we directed the Border Patrol to them. I say “we.” It is our Department of Public Safety people in Texas. We got word: That is exactly what they were waiting for. They came across after you left the area, and now we are in-processing them into the United States.

We have the power to secure our border, but this administration has no will, and that is why unaccompanied children are up 1,200 percent. I have seen tiny, little girls, who couldn’t have been more than 3 or 4, just in the last trip down, in the days I spent down there. Girls like them say: Oh, I am unaccompanied.

I guarantee you they did not cross that river unaccompanied. They did not come 1,000 miles unaccompanied across Mexico. They were accompanied. Thank God they were not sold into sex trafficking as so many have been.

When we in the United States, as I have been told by African friends—some of whom I have seen in the last month—say we are the hope of the world and when we don’t follow the law, when we don’t enforce the law, when we don’t enforce our own laws, the world suffers. As Christians in Africa have told me: We know where we go when we die, but our only hope of having a peaceful life is if America stays strong.

We haven’t done that. Christians are now being persecuted in greater numbers than ever in history. Jews are being persecuted again as if we are headed toward a new holocaust.

It is time for American leaders who have taken an oath to the United States Constitution and to this country to realize: to whom much is given, from them much will be required. There is going to be a day of judgment on America if we don’t rise to the occasion and use what we have been blessed with.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of unforeseen circumstances.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker’s table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 284. An act to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1670. An act to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

5057. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s Major final rule — Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-0013] (RIN: 0910-AG98) received April 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5058. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department’s final order — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of AH-7921 into Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-432] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5059. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s direct final rule — Administrative Actions for Noncompliance; Lesser Administrative Actions [Docket No.: FDA-2015-N-5052] received April 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5060. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Revision 0 to Regulatory Guide 3.75 — Corrective Action Programs for Fuel Cycle Facilities received April 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5061. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide 8.20 — Applications of Bioassay for Radioiodine received April 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5062. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide 8.22 — Bioassay at Uranium Mills received April 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5063. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Revision 3 to Regulatory Guide 4.7 — General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations received April 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5064. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 3.50 — Standard Format and Content for a Specific License Application for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation or Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility received April 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5065. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Class D and Class E Airspace; Wilmington, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7486; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AGL-26] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5066. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule To List Eleven Distinct Population Segments of the Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) as Endangered or Threatened and Revision of Current Listings Under the Endangered Species Act [Docket No.: 120425024-6232-06] (RIN: 0648-XB089) received April 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5067. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Rapid City, SD [Docket No.: FAA-

2015-7492; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AGL-27] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5068. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Michigan towns; Alpena, MI; and Muskegon, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7483; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AGL-23] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5069. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held by AlliedSignal Inc., Garrett Turbine Engine Company) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2208; Directorate Identifier 2015-NE-19-AD; Amendment 39-18447; AD 2016-07-02] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5070. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-6537; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-154-AD; Amendment 39-18457; AD 2016-07-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5071. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1047; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-157-AD; Amendment 39-18449; AD 2016-07-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5072. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5038; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-029-AD; Amendment 39-18455; AD 2016-07-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5073. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Weatherly Aircraft Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5422; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-011-AD; Amendment 39-18456; AD 2016-07-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5074. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3983; Directorate Identifier

2015-NM-141-AD; Amendment 39-18448; AD 2016-07-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5075. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5033; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-118-AD; Amendment 39-18450; AD 2016-07-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5076. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3942; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-064-AD; Amendment 39-18446; AD 2016-07-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5077. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4212; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-010-AD; Amendment 39-18451; AD 2016-07-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5078. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace for Bartow, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4239; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASO-4] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5079. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace, and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lake City, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4010; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ASO-11] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5080. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0187; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-094-AD; Amendment 39-18452; AD 2016-07-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5081. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5036; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-180-AD; Amendment 39-18453; AD 2016-07-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 13,

2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5082. A letter from the Staff Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Glazing Standards [Docket No.: FRA-2012-0103, Notice No. 2] (RIN: 2130-AC43) received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4885. A bill to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury; with an amendment (Rept. 114-498). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1206. A bill to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt; with an amendment (Rept. 114-499). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3724. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct; with an amendment (Rept. 114-500). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4890. A bill to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy; with an amendment (Rept. 114-501). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. STIVERS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 687. A Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1206) to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury (Rept. 114-502). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 688. A Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4890) to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3724) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involun-

tarily separated from service for misconduct (Rept. 114-503). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ASHFORD (for himself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 4975. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5720 South 142nd Street in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. LANCE):

H.R. 4976. A bill to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to seek recommendations from an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration before approval of certain new drugs that are opioids without abuse-deterrent properties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 4977. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs complies with requirements relating to scheduling veterans for health care appointments, to improve the uniform application of directives of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia (for himself, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. POLIQUIN, and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 4978. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the United States and its treatment under Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 4979. A bill to foster civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies and enhance the licensing and commercial deployment of such technologies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. COOK, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 4980. A bill to require the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to make a final disposition of requests to correct its records within 60 days, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 4981. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to improve access to opioid use disorder treatment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to

the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 4982. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate and report on the in-patient and outpatient treatment capacity, availability, and needs of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 4983. A bill to provide information to prescribers in Federally qualified health centers and facilities of the Indian Health Service on best practices for prescribing naloxone; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4984. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit the Secretary of the Army to produce, treat, manage, and use natural gas located under Fort Knox, Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 4985. A bill to amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to protect classified information in Federal court challenges; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4986. A bill to establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MICA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 4987. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class William 'Kelly' Lacey Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 4988. A bill to restore protections for Social Security, Railroad retirement, and Black Lung benefits from administrative offset; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr.

HUFFMAN, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 4989. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to provide cranial prostheses under the Medicaid program when a physician finds such treatment necessary for individuals affected by diseases and medical conditions that cause hair loss; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 4990. A bill to improve transparency in charity regulation; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 4991. A bill to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice to establish the offense of retaliation, to improve military justice case management, data collection, and the accessibility of such data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H. Res. 686. A resolution expressing support for efforts to enhance Israeli security and create the conditions for progress toward a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. DONOVAN):

H. Res. 689. A resolution expressing condolences to and support for the people of Ecuador following the devastating earthquake on April 16, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HONDA:

H. Res. 690. A resolution recognizing and celebrating April as "National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ASHFORD:

H.R. 4975.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7: "The Congress shall have power . . . to establish Post Offices and Post Roads."

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4976.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8  
By Mrs. WALORSKI:  
H.R. 4977.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia:  
H.R. 4978.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 4979.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 4980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Due Process clause of the Fifth Amendment.

Additional authority derives from Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (The Congress shall have Power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and within the Indian Tribes"), Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (The Congress shall have Power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"), and Article III, Section 1 ("The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.")

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 4981.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 4982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 4983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses I and 12: "The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the common Defence" and "To raise and support Armies."

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 4985.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 4986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers."

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 4987.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 4988.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 4989.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 4990.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 4991.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of the Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H.R. 140: Mr. YOHO.  
H.R. 228: Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
H.R. 303: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. GALLEGO.  
H.R. 333: Ms. BROWN of Florida.  
H.R. 402: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.  
H.R. 428: Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
H.R. 556: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.  
H.R. 563: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H.R. 592: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.  
H.R. 649: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 664: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. HINES.  
H.R. 793: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 836: Mr. KNIGHT.  
H.R. 865: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 885: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 911: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 921: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Ms. SCHRADER, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. JOYCE.  
H.R. 923: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
H.R. 953: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 954: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.  
H.R. 969: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. BUCHANAN.  
H.R. 1116: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.  
H.R. 1130: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1151: Mr. BOUSTANY.  
H.R. 1197: Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
H.R. 1200: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.  
H.R. 1220: Mr. JONES, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. DELANEY.  
H.R. 1331: Mr. NUGENT.  
H.R. 1336: Ms. TSONGAS.  
H.R. 1399: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 1427: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SARBANES, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 1488: Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H.R. 1538: Mr. MASSIE.  
H.R. 1594: Mr. GALLEGO.  
H.R. 1655: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. BLUM.

- H.R. 1769: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
- H.R. 1859: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. BARR.
- H.R. 2189: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. GRAYSON.
- H.R. 2197: Ms. BONAMICI.
- H.R. 2218: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 2257: Mr. CAPUANO.
- H.R. 2350: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H.R. 2368: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 2404: Mr. HENSARLING.
- H.R. 2461: Mr. BOUSTANY.
- H.R. 2500: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 2654: Mr. PALLONE and Ms. GABBARD.
- H.R. 2658: Mr. POLIQUIN and Mr. MCKINLEY.
- H.R. 2694: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 2698: Mr. BYRNE.
- H.R. 2726: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. KING of New York.
- H.R. 2739: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 2799: Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. KEATING.
- H.R. 2817: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 2848: Mr. YOHO.
- H.R. 2894: Mr. CAPUANO.
- H.R. 2903: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. MCCAUL.
- H.R. 2962: Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 2993: Mr. McNERNEY and Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 3012: Mr. BOUSTANY
- H.R. 3029: Mrs. DINGELL.
- H.R. 3099: Mr. LIPINSKI.
- H.R. 3117: Ms. MOORE and Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 3119: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
- H.R. 3209: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. BOUSTANY.
- H.R. 3235: Mr. COHEN and Mr. DENT.
- H.R. 3280: Mrs. DINGELL.
- H.R. 3308: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. NEAL, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 3323: Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 3326: Mr. HIMES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BEYER, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 3366: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
- H.R. 3423: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
- H.R. 3463: Mr. COHEN and Mr. LONG.
- H.R. 3487: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 3643: Mr. ROHRBACHER.
- H.R. 3673: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 3706: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
- H.R. 3742: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
- H.R. 3793: Ms. MOORE and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 3799: Mr. WENSTRUP.
- H.R. 3815: Mr. LYNCH.
- H.R. 3817: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mrs. BEATTY.
- H.R. 3846: Mr. PAULSEN and Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 3860: Mr. ALLEN.
- H.R. 3865: Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 3870: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mrs. TORRES.
- H.R. 3948: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 3953: Mr. POSEY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. GRAHAM, and Mr. DESANTIS.
- H.R. 3978: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 4019: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
- H.R. 4065: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. POSEY.
- H.R. 4144: Ms. ESTY.
- H.R. 4184: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 4262: Mr. CRAMER.
- H.R. 4278: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. RUSH.
- H.R. 4320: Miss RICE of New York.
- H.R. 4365: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
- H.R. 4374: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
- H.R. 4375: Mr. MASSIE.
- H.R. 4399: Mr. YARMUTH.
- H.R. 4456: Mr. DENT.
- H.R. 4460: Mr. NADLER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. CROWLEY.
- H.R. 4469: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
- H.R. 4481: Mr. CRENSHAW.
- H.R. 4486: Mr. BARR.
- H.R. 4498: Mr. BARR, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. POLIS.
- H.R. 4499: Mr. KEATING and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
- H.R. 4514: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan and Mr. DUFFY.
- H.R. 4519: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
- H.R. 4543: Ms. MOORE.
- H.R. 4553: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
- H.R. 4555: Mr. HUDSON.
- H.R. 4570: Mr. COHEN, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. KEATING.
- H.R. 4575: Mr. MESSER.
- H.R. 4584: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 4586: Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 4599: Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 4614: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. HILL.
- H.R. 4625: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 4640: Mr. DOLD.
- H.R. 4653: Mr. HONDA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 4702: Mr. RIGELL.
- H.R. 4708: Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 4715: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. BARR, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. PITTENGER.
- H.R. 4740: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
- H.R. 4762: Mr. ROHRBACHER.
- H.R. 4764: Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. HANNA, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. MCCAUL.
- H.R. 4766: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mrs. DINGELL.
- H.R. 4773: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. TROTT, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. LONG, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. LATTA.
- H.R. 4775: Mr. GOSAR.
- H.R. 4776: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 4790: Mr. POLIS.
- H.R. 4796: Mrs. CAPPS and Ms. MOORE.
- H.R. 4807: Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 4820: Mr. ROSS.
- H.R. 4860: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. LAMBORN.
- H.R. 4879: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BASS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mrs. BEATTY.
- H.R. 4893: Ms. LEE.
- H.R. 4897: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
- H.R. 4904: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MULVANEY.
- H.R. 4907: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
- H.R. 4924: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. ROSKAM.
- H.R. 4932: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 4939: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. LEE.
- H.R. 4941: Mr. GOODLATTE.
- H.R. 4956: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. OLSON, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. GARRETT, and Mr. MULVANEY.
- H.R. 4961: Mr. ZELDIN.
- H.R. 4963: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
- H.R. 4969: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
- H. Con. Res. 88: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. COOK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. YOHO.
- H. Con. Res. 105: Mr. WENSTRUP.
- H. Res. 290: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H. Res. 561: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
- H. Res. 567: Mr. KING of New York.
- H. Res. 591: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
- H. Res. 650: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GARRETT, and Mr. FATTAH.
- H. Res. 660: Mr. KEATING, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. COOK, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KILMER, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
- H. Res. 679: Mr. COHEN and Miss RICE of New York.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative BRADY of Texas, or a designee, to H.R. 4890, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING BETSY FLEMING  
FOR HER SERVICE AS PRESIDENT  
OF CONVERSE COLLEGE

### HON. TREY GOWDY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, today I commend President Betsy Fleming of Converse College for her service to higher education and her remarkable impact on South Carolina.

After growing up in Spartanburg, President Fleming left in 1984 to embark on her journey to become a renowned art-historian. Throughout her career, she held curatorial positions at several prominent museums across the United States as well as overseas in London. Prior to being named President of Converse College in 2005, Fleming served as the executive director of the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, South Carolina.

Under President Fleming's eleven years of leadership, Converse College experienced incredible transformation. During her tenure, Converse reduced its tuition by 43 percent and celebrated its largest undergraduate enrollment in over 25 years, becoming a national leader in affordability and value. Furthermore, Converse gained full NCAA Division II membership in eleven sports programs and raised more than \$76 million in support.

In addition to her impact on the Converse College community, President Fleming's service extends above and beyond her commitment in Spartanburg. An Aspen Institute Liberty Fellow, President Fleming serves on the Council of Presidents for the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Steering Committee in the Future of Higher Education, and on the Board of Directors for both the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Charlotte Branch and Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina.

President Fleming's impact on students, staff, and faculty will always be remembered, and her legacy will transform the future of Converse College. I thank President Fleming for her extraordinary service and congratulate her on her retirement. We look forward to the next chapter of her remarkable life as she continues to serve our community, state and country.

IN MEMORY OF RACHEL HOUSTON

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to remember and honor the life, faith, and service of Rachel Margaret Houston. A former legislative assistant in my office, Rachel

passed away on April 10, 2016, at the far-too-young age of 32.

Those of us who had the honor to know Rachel knew her kind heart, deep faith, and compassion for others. Friends and former co-workers remembered her as a "wonderful" and "lovely person," and a "soft, sweet spirit," with a "bright smile, kind words, and warm heart." Rachel was that rare person who could reach out to someone new and make him or her feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged. Her kindness left a mark on all who knew and worked with her—whether for a short time, or over the course of years.

In her professional life, Rachel exemplified qualities worth emulating. In her work for the people of New Jersey's 5th Congressional District, she demonstrated a commitment to excellence and always strove to give her best. Her colleagues and friends alike, both on and off Capitol Hill, recognized her for her sharp mind, loving spirit, and inner strength.

Rachel was devoted to causes greater than herself and impacted many lives beyond her work in Congress. In 2006, she participated in the Family Research Council's Witherspoon Fellowship program to prepare for leadership and service in the public arena. She was an accomplished writer, and she also shared her faith, time, and talent through various mission trips as well as through her church family.

Rachel was a blessing in the lives of all who knew her. She loved her God, her country, and her fellow man—and she will be missed. My prayer is that God will comfort her family and friends during this time, and that they will know that Rachel's life will be remembered.

### THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, April 10th marked the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act. This landmark legislation, one of Congress' great achievements, has guaranteed and continues to guarantee ongoing relations with our friend and partner, Taiwan.

Taiwan's President Ma made a speech at the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei (AmCham) Hsieh Nian Fan celebration on March 30th, 2016. In the speech, President Ma pointed out that in the US-based Global Finance magazine's ratings of the world's richest countries from November of last year, Taiwan ranked 19th out of 185 countries worldwide. That put Taiwan right behind Germany, and far ahead of countries like France, Great Britain, Japan, and South Korea. Additionally, in the 2015 global competitiveness ratings published by the Institute of Management De-

velopment (IMD), in Lausanne, Switzerland, Taiwan ranked No. 11 in the world and No. 3 in the Asia-Pacific Region. Taiwan has created an enviable and thriving innovative economy. I give praise to President Ma's leadership. The United States and Taiwan enjoy a long-standing relationship that stems from our shared values: democracy, the rule of law, and free enterprise. Taiwan is a strong economic partner—in fact they are now our 9th-largest trading partner. In 2014, Colorado's exports to Taiwan reached \$191.5 million. Taiwan is Colorado's 7th largest export market in Asia, and 14th largest export market in the world. Colorado companies have substantial opportunities to expand their business and cooperation with Taiwan. Equally important are the Taiwanese-Americans living in Colorado and the wealth of knowledge and entrepreneurial energy they bring.

I offer my warmest and best wishes to the people of Taiwan on this 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. I also extend my congratulations to Dr. Tsai Ing-wen on her victory in the Taiwanese Presidential election. I look forward to the continued and growing friendship and partnership between the United States and Taiwan.

### TRIBUTE TO JOSH CALHOON

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Josh Calhoun of Minden, Iowa, on his selection to the Tri-Center High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Josh, a 2010 graduate of Tri-Center High School, in Avoca, Iowa, is known for being an outstanding athlete.

The Tri-Center High School Hall of Fame was created in 1991 to honor those students who excelled in high school basketball. In his career, Josh led the Tri-Center Trojans to many victories as a two-year starting varsity team member, a three-year letter winner, first All-Western Iowa Conference selection and was named to the Southwest Iowa All-Star Game. Josh epitomizes the word, "leadership." He scored 818 points during his basketball career and is remembered for his work ethic, especially his willingness to go above and beyond for his beloved Tri-Center Trojans.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Josh for his induction into the Tri-Center High School Basketball Hall of Fame. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Josh and wishing him nothing but continued success.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF COLONEL ROCKY MCPHERSON, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RET)

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Colonel Rocky McPherson, United States Marine Corps (Ret), for his more than fifty years of dedicated service to the State of Florida and our great Nation.

A 1966 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Rocky received his commission in the United States Marine Corps. For more than 30 years, his military career took him around the globe, which began upon commission with the first of two combat tours and included a myriad of command and leadership roles. In his first combat assignment, Rocky deployed to Vietnam and served as an Infantry Officer with A Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. When he returned home, he attended the Air Force flight school at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. Having earned his wings, he moved on to his next assignment, mission qualification in the all-weather attack aircraft A6 Intruder. As a newly minted pilot, Rocky returned to Vietnam aboard the USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) as a Squadron Landing Signal Officer. During this second combat tour, he recorded numerous sorties over Vietnam and had over 160 carrier landings. His two combat tours earned him the distinction as the only Marine officer with both ground and aviation combat tours during the Vietnam war.

For the next several tours, Rocky remained stateside. He served as the Marine Corps Representative at the United States Air Force Academy and at Marine Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He then commanded the Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 121 aboard the USS *Ranger* (CV-61); took on the responsibility of training and operations for more than 400 tactical aircraft as Deputy Wings Operations Officer in El Toro, California; and commanded the Marine Air Training Support Group at Whidbey Island, Washington, before returning abroad as Chief of Staff to III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) in Okinawa, Japan. Rocky made his final stop at Marine Corps Headquarters as Manpower Division Deputy Director before retiring as Colonel in 1995.

Colonel McPherson's commitment to public service did not end there, however. From 1999 to 2007, he continued to serve in support of our Nation's heroes and in particular the more than 1.5 million veterans and their families in Florida, as the Executive Director of Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. During his tenure, he oversaw the most significant expansion of state veterans' nursing homes and was a driving force behind the Florida World War II Memorial and monument and the expansion of Bushnell National Cemetery. Additionally, he helped to ensure that wounded service members returning home from the Global War on Terror received the support and care they had earned.

Florida is proud of being home to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans, and Rocky understands the critical importance that the military missions based in the state play in providing for our strong national defense. To that end, he has spent the last decade of his career in support of Florida's military installations as part of Enterprise Florida, Inc. He played an integral role in standing up the Florida Defense Support Task Force, created by Florida Statute, to preserve, protect, and enhance Florida's military missions and installations and currently serves as its Vice President of Military and Defense Programs, Strategic Partnerships. Rocky also assisted in creating and publishing the Florida Military Friendly Guide, a summary of all laws and programs in Florida benefitting active duty, Reserve and National Guard personnel and their families, as well as production of the Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis. Furthermore, he played an integral role in establishing the first-ever program for applying state resources to non-conservation lands transactions in Florida Statute to protect military missions from non-compatible development and other encroachment threats to the military value of Florida installations. He has been an active and valued voice on the State Advisory Council for the Association of Defense Communities.

Without question, Colonel Rocky McPherson can hang his hat up on a career he can be proud of. He has proven to be an accomplished leader who has dedicated his life to serving the State of Florida and the United States of America, and his unwavering commitment to men and women in the Armed Forces and veterans' community will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to honor Colonel Rocky McPherson, United States Marine Corps (retired). My wife Vicki joins me in thanking Rocky and his wife, Connie, for their dedicated service. This includes Connie's 12 years in the United States Marine Corps. We wish them; their three children, Ashley, Nathan, and Courtney; grandchild; and all of the McPherson family all the best for continued success. *Semper Fi.*

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ART NICHOLAS

**HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Art Nicholas of Englewood, Florida, who was recently awarded France's highest military decoration, the "Knight of the Legion of Honor."

Mr. Nicholas was honored, at a ceremony in Englewood, for his service to France and its people during World War II. The Knight's Cross award was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. Since World War II approximately 93,000 of these medals have been presented to American servicemen who risked their lives fighting on French soil during the war.

Mr. Nicholas served aboard a landing ship (LCT52) during D-Day, the Allied assault to free occupied Europe in June of 1944. The invasion along France's northern coast was the largest amphibious invasion in history and led to the liberation of France from Nazi forces.

Mr. Nicholas held the rank of boatswain's mate first class and worked as an underwater demolition man at the Gold Beach landing area. Nicholas was also at both Juno Beach and Omaha Beach. Earlier in the war, he participated in the invasion of North Africa in November in 1942 and was also awarded a Purple Heart.

In addition to his combat service, Mr. Nicholas helped build the Amphibious Warfare School in Fort Pierce, Florida as a member of the "Scouts and Raiders." He trained members of the Underwater Demolition Team in Fort Pierce, Florida who were the forerunners of today's Navy SEALs, who conduct quiet forays into enemy territory during conflicts in which the U.S. is involved.

Mr. Nicholas left the military in 1946. He returned to Michigan and married his wife, Hazel, whom he met in England and has been married to for 69 years.

He opened a business named Corrugated Paper Products, which created shipping containers in Indiana before moving to Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Art Nicholas for his service and commend him on receiving the highest military commendation the French government awards an individual.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY AND PAT CORKREAN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nancy and Pat Corkrean of Winterset for being honored with a 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

The Corkreans have actively participated in Madison County organizations for many years. Through their business, Madison County Realty, they have promoted residential development, housing and a strong tax base. They launched Corkrean Homes, a construction company which provides new housing and commercial development. They have been involved in the world-renowned John Wayne Birthplace Museum, the Quilt Museum, and were active in enticing the development of a new Winterset motel. Their commitment to their church, St. Joseph Catholic Church of Winterset is a model for all Madisonians. Winterset and Madison County Iowa are blessed to have two people such as these working hard to make the picturesque region an even greater place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Pat and Nancy Corkrean in the United States Congress. I also invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on receiving this award and wishing them nothing but continued success as they move forward in building a better Madison County.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BEVERLY  
W. GLOVER

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Beverly W. Glover for her noteworthy work with the International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers Widows, Inc. Dr. Glover, the wife of Pastor and Moderator Walter L. Glover, Jr., currently serves as the President of IAMWMW, which will celebrate its 75th year of training and preparing ministers and pastor's wives for service in their roles beside their husbands. A celebration will take place in Richmond, Virginia on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. At this celebration, IAMWMW will recognize Dr. Glover as an outstanding leader, retired educator, mother, wife, and faithful follower of Christ.

Dr. Beverly W. Glover is a native of Macon, Georgia. She received her education from Bibb County Public Schools, Savannah State College, Fort Valley State College (now University), Georgia College, and Georgia Southern University. She earned a Doctorate in Administration and Supervision from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

With a passion for improving the lives of children and young adults, Dr. Glover began her career as a teacher at Burdell Elementary School in Macon, Georgia. She taught at Danforth Primary School and Bernd Elementary School before moving to Miller Middle School, where she served as Assistant Principal, and then Southwest High School, where she served as Principal. Dr. Glover concluded her remarkable 37-year career with the Bibb County School System serving as the Director of the Joseph N. Neel Alternative School. Here, she worked diligently to ensure success for all students and staff and under her leadership, the school received the Excellence in Education Award.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Dr. Glover is an active member of many religious and civic organizations where she continuously devotes her time to bettering the community. These organizations include the Epsilon Tau Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.; Phi Delta Kappa; Church Women United; The Links Inc.; NAACP; OES Number 82; and General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., among others.

Since childhood, the church has always played a vital role in Dr. Glover's life. She is an active member of the Greater Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church where she organized the Deaconess Ministry. She is a member of the Sunday School, Missionary Society, Mission-in-Action, and advisor to the Women's Ministry. Dr. Glover also organized and managed the church's first Vacation Bible School which enrolled and served 225 children the first year. She also serves as Secretary and General Manager of Glover Memorial Mortuary in Macon, Georgia.

Dr. Glover has been a member of the ministers' wives organizations for more than 30 years. She founded the Macon Interdenominational Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows

local organization. On the state level, Dr. Glover served as Recording Secretary under the leadership of Dr. Ethel Purvis Stokes. She was then elected President of the Georgia Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows. Since 2010, Dr. Glover has served as the eighth President of the International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Inc.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Dr. Glover undoubtedly lives by this philosophy. From her work as an educator to her involvement in missions, Dr. Glover has made a tremendous impact on the lives of others. She is a woman of integrity who exudes the genuine principles and values of Christian discipleship. A charismatic evangelical leader and pioneer, her spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, members of the IAMWMW, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest appreciation to Dr. Beverly W. Glover. A woman of many hats, she is an outstanding educator and mentor, strong leader, prominent community activist, and devoted caretaker, but above all, she is a faithful servant of God.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS.  
BETTY R. MODRALL

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mrs. Betty R. Modrall and ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the legacy that she left in Columbia, Tennessee.

Betty was born in Memphis, Tennessee. She spent her childhood and adolescent years in the city of Mount Pleasant. After high school she attended Columbia Business College where she met her husband Mr. Joe Tom Modrall. On June 11th, 1956, she began her first job working for the city of Columbia starting as a clerk and bookkeeper. In 1970, she was appointed as the city recorder and finance director until 1995. She continued to serve as city recorder until her passing on March 15th, 2016.

Betty was a beloved member of her city. She faithfully served for almost six decades. Betty looked out for the interests of the people, especially the retiree community. She went above and beyond for the city of Columbia and fulfilled her positions with honor. Her love and support will be remembered by those whom she served.

TRIBUTE TO MARY DEWITT

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Mary

DeWitt on the occasion of her 100th birthday on March 27, 2016.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mary's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mary has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mary in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

FRAY GARCES COUNCIL 1830  
CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special recognition of the Fray Garces Council 1830 of the Knights of Columbus. Established in Needles, California on March 5, 1906, Council 1830 celebrated its 100th anniversary at a special ceremony on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

Named in the honor of a martyred Franciscan missionary, Council 1830 has served under the Arch Diocese of Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Bernardino. In 1950, Council 1830 moved its operations to Barstow, California and is an integral part of the San Bernardino County community. Council 1830 is active with the El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, California, has sponsored bingo events since the 1960s, and founded the Arrowhead-Desert Valley Chapter in 1959.

I would like to congratulate Council 1830 on this momentous occasion. Their commitment to promoting the Knights of Columbus principles of unity, charity, fraternity, and charity make our community a special place to live. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, congratulations on 100 years of service.

HONORING DON ROMINES

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Romines of Houston, Missouri on receiving this year's Lifetime Achievement Award for his 45 years of service to the community. In addition to being the city's longest serving alderman, Don has volunteered and participated in numerous groups and projects dedicated to improving the community.



From a young age, Don worked in the family owned and operated business Romines Motor Company. His parents were active members of the community, with Don's mother Vera holding office as the first female mayor of Houston. In 1972, Don married former Houston Middle School teacher Barbara Bridges, whom he later had two children with, Franklin and Tyler.

In 1978, Don was first elected to the Houston City Council. In his thirty-plus year career, Don has spent more than 720 evenings at council meetings alone, which totals over 1500 cumulative hours of volunteering for the community. During his tenure as alderman, Don has worked on projects including airport expansion, park developments, street and sidewalk additions, and long range planning. In addition to his service on the City Council, Don has participated in the Houston Jaycees, volunteered at the fire department, the chamber of commerce, and the Houston Development Company.

For these many accomplishments and his outstanding career of community service, it is my pleasure to recognize Don Romines in front of the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE FEIRER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julie Feirer of Winterset for being honored by her peers as the 2015 Business Person of the Year by the Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

Julie launched her business, Winterset Citizen Promotions, in late 2013 and by 2015 had achieved a 425 percent increase in her business. Known for providing a high level of service to fellow Madison County businesses, Julie devotes volunteer hours throughout the community to improve and enhance Winterset and the Madison County area. The region is better served because Julie epitomizes leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Iowans like Julie in the United States Congress. I also invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this award and wishing her nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIDDLESEX AND SOMERSET COUNTIES AFL-CIO LABOR COUNCIL 33RD ANNUAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH HONORING KEVIN MCCABE AND VINCENT M. LANE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Middlesex and Somerset Counties AFL-CIO Labor Council as its members

gather for the 33rd annual Awards and Scholarship Brunch on April 24, 2016. I would also like to congratulate Kevin McCabe and Vincent M. Lane on their recognition by the Council as the Hubert H. Humphrey Friend of Labor Award recipient and the Labor Person of the Year recipient, respectively.

The Middlesex and Somerset Counties AFL-CIO Labor Council, based in Sayreville, New Jersey, represents workers in Middlesex and Somerset Counties. The Council supports and advocates for unions and their members in an effort to advance and protect the standards, rights and benefits of New Jersey's labor force.

Kevin McCabe and Vincent Lane, truly embody the spirit of the Hubert H. Humphrey Friend of Labor Award and the Middlesex and Somerset Counties AFL-CIO Labor Council Labor Person of the Year. As President of the Carpenter Contractor Trust of New York & New Jersey and former Commissioner for the New Jersey State Department of Labor, Chairman McCabe is a dedicated partner in labor and continues to serve New Jersey's workforce. Mr. Lane is a hardworking labor leader, currently serving as its Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 711.

I would also like to join with the Council in commemorating Workers Memorial Day. Workers Memorial Day is an important observance, highlighting the risks men and women face on the job and the need to continue our efforts to advance safe work conditions. I commend the Middlesex and Somerset Counties AFL-CIO Labor Council for remembering those individuals who have been injured or who have lost their lives in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the Middlesex and Somerset Counties AFL-CIO Labor Council and congratulating Kevin McCabe and Vincent Lane. Their efforts to ensure equal rights and opportunities for workers is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

COMMEMORATING THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) is not only our close economic and security partner but a friend with whom we share many principles and values. Signed into law in 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act established the legal basis for our bilateral relations with Taiwan. I am pleased to say the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship has continued to expand and grow stronger over the past thirty-seven years. As President Ma Ying-jeou remarked during The American Chamber of Commerce 2016 Annual Hsieh Nien Fan Gala, this relationship has also reaped benefits for the peaceful state of the East Asia and Asia-Pacific regions:

"First, the development of Taiwan-U.S. relations and the trilateral interaction involving the U.S., Taiwan, and the mainland over the past eight years have led to the warmest relations in more than 60 years."

In a recent trip to Taiwan, I had the opportunity to experience firsthand our shared values and our close economic ties. In 2015, Taiwan was the United States' 9th largest trading partner and the bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan reached \$67.4 billion. My home state of California has also benefited from the strong commercial partnership. For example, in 2014, California's export to Taiwan reached \$7.46 billion, making Taiwan California's 5th largest export market in Asia and 7th largest export market in the world.

Additionally, as we recently recognized the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II, it is appropriate to remember Taiwan's important contributions to the alliance that defeated fascist militarism. The United States and Taiwan work closely and that partnership continued as the United States helped Taiwan to overcome challenges and thrive following the end of the fighting.

As a friend of Taiwan, I look forward to continuing to promote policies that reaffirm our mutual commitment to democratic and economic development. I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,203,187,186,595.43. We've added \$8,576,310,137,682.35 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKE SUTPHIN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brooke Sutphin for being recognized by her peers to receive the 2015 Customer Service of the Year Award from the Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Her company, b.Shannon Designs in Winterset, is known throughout the region for its unique product of personalized jewelry

Brooke has been designing and creating jewelry since 1995 when she graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Her specialty is seeking a unique combination of contrast and textures

which catch the eye. It has been said that "A customer doesn't care how much you know until they know how much you care." (D. Ramon) Brooke Sutphin lives that motto every day in her dealings with the public. She cares about her community as much as she cares about her business and it shows with the recognition they bestowed upon her.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Brooke and all the citizens of Madison County in the United States Congress. I also invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING APRIL 17 AS WORLD  
HEMOPHILIA DAY

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 17 as World Hemophilia Day, a day where the international community speaks as one to honor the hundreds of thousands of people across the globe suffering from hemophilia. Now, more than ever, we must renew our commitment to hemophilia patients, ensure that they can receive the most advanced care known to modern medicine, and redouble our efforts to discovering new treatments—and ultimately a cure—for this dangerous condition.

Hemophilia is a genetic disorder that prevents blood from clotting properly, making even seemingly slight injuries a terrifying prospect for a bleeding episode that can lead to serious injury and even death. While the disease is rare in statistical terms, an estimated 400 newborns are diagnosed with the disease every year, and approximately 20,000 hemophiliacs live in the United States at this very moment. And all too often, this vulnerable patient population is put into jeopardy by the financial hurdles obstructing access to the intensive care needed for combatting such a pervasive disease.

Too many American families are faced with the daunting challenge of tackling the financial burden of hemophilia—a burden that can grow to \$250,000 a year or more. This World Hemophilia Day, I stand to speak out on behalf of the patients battling this complicated disease and hope that by raising awareness in this body, we move closer to a day where the treatment of hemophilia is practical, sustainable, and accessible for all Americans.

MARY BETH RADIGAN

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Beth Radigan, an outstanding educator and Hillsborough County's 2016 Teacher of the Year.

After graduating from Ohio University with a degree in Special Education, Ms. Radigan

began her illustrious career in special-education classrooms, including nine years in Hillsborough County as an educator for autistic and intellectually delayed students. She currently serves as special education teacher at Plant High School in Tampa, Florida. As a proud parent of a Plant High School student, I know firsthand how invaluable an educator is in developing the potential in all children. Ms. Radigan's passion for education is so well established in our community that she was selected from a pool of hundreds of nominees as the Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year.

Accompanying her passion in the classroom, Ms. Radigan serves as a Special Olympics coach. Students in her classroom learn important life skills through numerous additional programs that she has spearheaded. In 2012, Ms. Radigan's class founded Pawbucks coffee, a coffee service, where her students have the opportunity to improve their job skills, social skills and independence. They are responsible for managing the business by making coffee, setting up the carts, selling and delivering coffee, answering phone orders and counting the total daily sales. Beyond practical skills, Pawbucks coffee has given students the opportunity to feel a great pride and a part of the school community.

In addition to the coffee service, she and her students founded an organic garden that recently received a Florida Agriculture in the Classroom grant to buy a hydroponic tower. You can also find her students leading the cheering section at the weekly football games through the Paw Prints Cheerleading. Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year Mary Beth Radigan has shown time and time again her unwavering commitment and compassion to go above and beyond for her students. She has created a meaningful and enriching experience for all of her students and will leave a lasting legacy as a teacher with endless compassion and drive.

It is one of my greatest honors to champion our community's excellent students and educators in Congress. On behalf of the constituents of the Fourteenth District of Florida it is our honor to recognize Mary Beth Radigan for her exemplary career of educating our community's youth.

TRIBUTE TO GORDON HENNICK

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gordon Hennick on the occasion of his 100th birthday on March 30, 2016.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Gordon's life. Since his birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Gordon has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In his lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Gordon in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish him a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Gordon on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing him even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HOSTILITIES BETWEEN  
AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest concern over the recent surge in hostilities along the Line of Contact between Armenia and Azerbaijan which needlessly claimed dozens of lives on both sides.

These skirmishes come just days after a successful visit by Azerbaijani President Aliyev with Vice President BIDEN and Secretary Kerry. Azerbaijan has been a staunch ally to the United States. It is critical to regional stability and global security that the recent hostilities are deescalated.

It is no secret that Russia does not support the Southern Gas Corridor Project. This pipeline has been championed by Azerbaijan and would provide critical energy security for America's friends and allies in Europe. Accordingly this latest upsurge in fighting is another sign of Moscow's meddling in the affairs of states along its borders. As we have seen in Eastern Ukraine and Georgia, Russia continues to exploit separatist movements along its periphery to pressure our friends and allies in the region. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that Armenia, Russia's key regional ally, has been used as a proxy to intimidate our partners, including Azerbaijan and Georgia.

These latest hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia remind us of the urgency to find a peaceful solution to the protracted conflict. I urge the Administration to step up its efforts towards a peaceful solution and work with both sides to stabilize the region. Meanwhile, in the face of increasing Russian interference and aggression against its neighbors, the United States must remain steadfast in its support of friends like Azerbaijan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. SEBASTIAN  
LUJAN "BEN"  
BENAVIDEZ

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Sebastian Lujan "Ben" Benavidez, a longtime Fresno civil rights leader, who passed away on April 4, 2016, at the age of 69. Mr. Benavidez will undoubtedly be remembered by the legacy he created through serving the community as a positive role model to all of those he encountered.

Born on November 4, 1946 in Miami, Arizona, Mr. Benavidez was the son of Arizona

copper miners. He moved to Fresno, California in 1962. He graduated from Washington Union High School, and continued on to attend Fresno City College. After college Ben worked for Parlier Unified School District. Mr. Benavidez is appreciated by many individuals throughout California, but he is especially treasured in the San Joaquin Valley, where he worked tirelessly to improve civil and economic rights for individuals throughout the region.

Mr. Benavidez was a leader and spent decades advocating and working to improve the lives of immigrant families in the rural communities of the San Joaquin Valley and California. He became actively involved in the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA), serving as President for 13 years. As President of MAPA, Mr. Benavidez fought to expand opportunities in education, and led an effort to increase minority participation in local government. In the 1980s and early 1990s, he led boycotts and walkouts that helped more Latinos win city and school board positions. His efforts to expand opportunities for minorities in education decisions led him to take on Dinuba, and Kings Canyon Unified School districts in a battle to eliminate at-large elections, to ensure that school boards were reflective of the communities they served.

Mr. Benavidez's unrelenting pursuit for social justice made him known to be fearless, and he demanded fairness. He fought for equality and improved educational opportunities for immigrant, migrant and minority children. He educated parents about their civil rights and their enormous political potential. Mr. Benavidez's contributions to his community, his philanthropic endeavors, and his work to expand small minority owned businesses led him to be honored by Parlier Unified School District with an elementary school named after him. In 2007, The Fresno Bee recognized Mr. Benavidez with the Latino Legends of the 20th Century Award, and in 2011, Mr. Benavidez was honored for his civil rights work, in advocating for minority civil and economic rights by the Greenlining Institute.

Without question, Mr. Benavidez's integrity, honor and long-lasting involvement in the Central Valley made him a reputable man. He was well known, beloved, and shown enormous appreciation by anyone who had the pleasure of calling him a friend. Mr. Benavidez leaves behind his loving family, including his wife of 49 years, Gloria, their two sons and two daughters, their respective spouses, twelve grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It is my honor to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man, who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor the life of Mr. Ben Benavidez. He will be remembered for his contributions and service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO DAN MEHMEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Dan

Mehmen of Atlantic, Iowa, for being recognized as the Ambassador of the Year by the Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dan is new to the Atlantic area, stepping into the community in 2015. To be a friendly neighbor and community leader, Dan has taken an active role in the Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce. As an Ambassador for the organization, he visits local businesses to welcome them to the community, attend grand opening ribbon cuttings, and shares information beneficial to a new or local business. In presenting the award, his peers recognized his faithful attendance at Chamber-related events throughout the year, while showing enthusiastic support for area businesses and his fellow Ambassadors.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Dan for earning this award and for taking an active role in his community. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dan and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday, April 13, 2016, has been designated "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing the unique contributions to our civilization from those of Greece and of Greek American descent.

Democracy was first born in Greece over 2,000 years ago, based on the fundamental principle of consensual government self-determined by free citizens. The ideas forged in ancient Greece by brilliant minds of the day have such clarity and force that 2,000 years later they still hold more power than a host of armed weapons.

The priceless ideas of democracy and equality born in ancient Greece have strongly shaped the American national identity, which became a beacon of freedom and dignity to individuals. They continue to give hope and inspiration to the millions around the world who yearn to live in a free society like ours. Greece set the example for us and we, in turn have set the example for countless others.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that the Congress has set aside this national day of celebration again in 2016. Each year, it seems, we have a greater appreciation for the tremendous contribution of Greece to our American values and our priceless democracy.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEAN ROBINSON FAMILY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Dean

Robinson Family for being awarded the Cattleman of the Year award from the Madison County Cattlemen's Association. The Madison County Cattlemen's Association is an organization of beef producing families and associated companies dedicated to the future of Iowa's beef industry.

Accepting the coveted award were Robinson family members and producers Dave, Gina, Dean, Kristin and Bradley Robinson. Many Iowans, as well as the Robinsons, have a long tradition of raising quality beef for world consumption. Their farming operation is based on pure dedication to feeding the world while being good stewards of their product and the land.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate the Robinsons for this award and I share their love and passion of raising cattle to feed the world. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Robinson Family and wishing them nothing but continued success.

IN MEMORIAM BRUCE MERRILL  
MAY 13, 1937–APRIL 9, 2016

**HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bruce Merrill. Bruce was a prominent Arizona political scientist and pollster who taught and conducted research at Arizona State University for the past forty years. Bruce was an Arizona native who taught political science and conducted regular opinion surveys of Arizona voters and provided political commentary to news outlets.

No elected official in Arizona was elected to office without the knowledge of Merrill's research. He was a factual, objective voice focused on finding out what Arizonan's wanted from their leaders. His perspective and deep knowledge of the Arizona electorate will be deeply missed.

Bruce was also a U.S. Navy veteran who served as a liaison officer to members of Congress and other political leaders. He studied political research at Brigham Young University and joined the faculty at ASU in 1970. He retired from the university in 1998 as a professor emeritus and served as a fellow for the Morrison Institute, a research center focused on public policy in Arizona.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Janis, daughter Kathryn Sorensen, son Christopher and his wife's children, Laura Sonius, Brian Sandler and Heather Lutt and a host of grandchildren. Please join me in honoring his memory.

TRIBUTE TO WALT TITUS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Walt Titus

on his recent retirement from the Gravity, Iowa Fire Department. Walt served as a firefighter for more than 58 years.

Walt became a volunteer firefighter in the mid-1950s in Kirkman, Iowa and has worked for the Sharpsburg and Gravity Fire Departments over the course of the next 58 years. He did anything that needed to be done in service to the department. He was quoted in the Bedford Times-Press stating that commitment is the key to a volunteer fire department. "If a fire alarm goes off, there is a blizzard and it's 10 below zero, some want to stay home. When you're committed, you get up and go whether you feel like it or not." It is that attitude which exemplifies the Iowa spirit of volunteerism and pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Walt for his service to Taylor County. I consider it an honor to represent Walt in United States House of Representatives and wish him the best in his retirement from his firefighting duties.

CELEBRATING THE 2016 CONGRESSIONAL ARTS COMPETITION

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented young men and women participated in the 2016 Congressional Arts Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional.

Sixty six participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Jane Lee from Wayne Valley High School for her acrylic painting entitled, "Chrome Still-Life." Second place was awarded to Emma Jang from West Morris Mendham High School for her acrylic painting on canvas entitled, "Tenacity." Tyler Harker received third place for his etching titled "Opal."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Connor Sokol of Sparta High School for his photograph titled "Freedom's Flight," Jasmine Shaw for her photograph entitled "There's No Place Like Homeland," Camila Rosario for her colored pencil sketch entitled "Stressed Out," and Leonela Moyoli of Boonton High School for her acrylic painting entitled, "Tyran Moore."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries.

Boonton High School:  
Alexis Manfredi, "The Lorax"  
Leonela Moyoli, "Tyran Moore"  
Theodore Perri, "Phelps"  
Elizabeth Sayles, "Elizabeth"  
Chatham High School:

Jane Ewald, "Teddy"  
Connie Han, "Like Father Like Son"  
Phoebe Nichols, "Eliza"  
Amanda Leyens, Untitled  
Delbarton School:  
Joseph Gambetta, "Patriotism"  
Santiago Robertson-Lavalle, "Girl in the Archway"  
Hanover Park High School:  
Samantha Wingerter, "Sam I Am"  
Jefferson Township High School:  
Skylar Lewis, "Moonlight Serenade"  
Melanie Rodriguez, "Reflections"  
Nina Thogulura, "Hues of Contemplation"  
Kinnelon High School:  
Samantha Flayderman, "Miss Believer"  
Patrycia Glowiak, "Shadows"  
Ava Lutz, "Aviary Reflection"  
Amanda Pita, "The Old Man by the Sea"  
Livingston High School:  
Lanie Esralew, "July in Manhattan"  
Yana Sang, "Around the World"  
Jasmine Shaw, "There's No Place like Homeland"  
Julia Zeman, "Passionate Polaroid"  
Jennifer Zheng, "Where to Next?"  
Mewe Art Academy:  
Siyu Cao, "2011/07/01 Shanghai"  
Montville High School:  
Kristen DiGiacomo, "Lost"  
Destinee Garrido, "Style"  
Alexander Tullo, "Back Street Lot"  
Morris Catholic High School:  
Patrick Green, "Sunset Over the Marine Corps War Memorial"  
Roxana Ponce, "Reminiscence"  
Haoming Zhu, "Zi Tai [Posture]"  
Morris Knolls High School:  
Austin Braddock, "Censored"  
Jenna Ford, "Fractured Self-Portrait"  
Adam SanGiovanni, "Stephanie, the Free Soul"  
Ryan Sullivan, "Hypnotized"  
Mountain Lakes High School:  
Joy Xie, "Worn Out"  
Nutley High School:  
Barbara Benda, "Relief in the Farm of Nusty Pages"  
Jacob Michels, "Bridge"  
Omar Morsi, "Making the Best of a Rainy Day"  
Gregory O'Connell, "Smooth Criminal"  
Parsippany High School:  
Christine Li, "Don't Burst My Bubble"  
Parsippany Hills High School:  
Karoline Xiong, "The Joy of Sunrise"  
Passaic County Technical Institute:  
Christopher Cortez, "Norma"  
Jamie Loverdi, "Candice Swanepoel"  
Passaic Valley High School:  
Claudia Barone, "Piano Keys"  
Melanie Capalbo, "Fall Foliage"  
Andrew Fucntet, "Fear in Clouds"  
Santiago Gomez-Vargas, "All the Dry Peaches"  
Randolph High School:  
Nicole Gehan, "Brave"  
Sparta High School:  
Brandon Ancis, "Unspoken Wisdom"  
Katlyn Connelly, "Father and Son Bonding"  
Mitchell Coyle, "The Dream Within Us All"  
Connor Sokol, "Freedom's Flight"  
Wayne Valley High School:  
Jane Lee, "Chrome Still-Life"  
Olivia Lozy, "Stained Hands"  
Chelsea Pitti-Fernandez, "Hedgeworth"  
Camila Rosario, "Stressed Out"  
West Morris Mendham High School:  
Tyler Harker, "Opal"  
Emma Jang, "Tenacity"

West Orange High School:  
Victoria Chi, "Harper"  
Genesis Guedes, "Titans"  
Harper McVey, "Fury"  
Vanessa Wapples, "Still Waiting . . ."  
Whippany Park High School:  
Nasim Bibi, "Beyond the Looking Glass"  
Michelle Duong, "Morendo: Diminishing in Time"  
Ana Ramil, "Pride"  
Lisa Romano, "1,000 Words"

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 18, I missed Roll Call Votes 153 and 154 due to flight delays in traveling to Washington, D.C. associated with my need to monitor the emergency response to flash flooding in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 153, I would have voted AYE (H.R. 4570—100 Years of Women in Congress Act (Representative MENG—Agriculture))  
On Roll Call 154, I would have voted AYE (S. 719—To rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center (Senator TESTER—Armed Services))

TRIBUTE TO RINGGOLD COUNTY HOSPITAL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ringgold County Hospital in Mount Ayr, Iowa on their 65th anniversary. This is an important milestone in their history of service to Ringgold County and the surrounding communities.

Ringgold County Hospital opened on April 17, 1951 with 25 employees and 65 years later, employs 125. Ringgold County Hospital offers many services not even possible in 1951, ranging from same-day and outpatient surgeries, physical therapy, cardiopulmonary rehab, medical imaging, infusion therapy and sleep studies to ambulance services. Ringgold County Hospital also owns the Mount Ayr Medical Clinic and offer many specialty clinic services for community members.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its many years of service, Ringgold County Hospital has successfully met the needs of the community by providing excellent care and necessary services. I congratulate the Ringgold County Hospital on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent its employees in the United States Congress. I wish them nothing but continued success well into the future.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to eight extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Remington Belford from Texas Southern University; Bianca Rennie from the University of Texas at Austin; Madelyn Wilson from the University of Houston; Promise Ukandu from Texas Tech University; Gabriela Irizarry from the George Washington University; Itzayana Lopez from the University of Houston-Downtown; Taylor Rainey from Howard University; and Karis Johnson, Esq. from St. Mary's Law School.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain

from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 20

- 10 a.m.
  - Committee on Appropriations
    - Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
      - To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-124
  - Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
    - Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security
      - To hold hearings to examine the state of the United States maritime industry, focusing on stakeholder perspectives. SR-253
  - Committee on Environment and Public Works
    - To hold hearings to examine new approaches and innovative technologies to improve water supply. SD-406
  - Committee on Finance
    - Business meeting to consider an original bill to prevent identity theft and tax refund fraud, and an original bill entitled, "Taxpayer Protection Act of 2016". SD-215

- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
  - To hold hearings to examine the administrative state, focusing on an examination of Federal rulemaking. SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary
  - To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Inga S. Bernstein, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Stephanie A. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Suzanne Mitchell, and Scott L. Palk, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, and Ronald G. Russell, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
  - Committee on Appropriations
    - Subcommittee on Department of Defense
      - To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for Defense innovation and research. SD-192
  - Committee on the Budget
    - To hold hearings to examine restoring stability to government operations. SD-608
- 2 p.m.
  - Committee on Armed Services
    - Subcommittee on SeaPower
      - To hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program. SR-232A
- 2:15 p.m.
  - Committee on Rules and Administration
    - To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Carla D. Hayden, of Maryland, to be Librarian of Congress. SR-301
- 2:30 p.m.
  - Committee on Armed Services
    - Subcommittee on Personnel
      - To hold hearings to examine the current state of research, diagnosis, and treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. SR-222
  - Joint Economic Committee
    - To hold hearings to examine our complex tax code and the economy. SD-562
- 5 p.m.
  - Committee on Foreign Relations
    - To receive a closed briefing on an Administration update on the Mosul Dam. SVC-217
- APRIL 21
  - 9:15 a.m.
    - Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
      - To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service. SD-342
  - 9:30 a.m.
    - Committee on Armed Services
      - To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and General Lori J. Robinson, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general

- and to be Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command. SH-216
- 9:45 a.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety  
To hold hearings to examine enabling advanced reactors, including S. 2795, to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy. SD-406
- 10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for commerce, justice, science, and related agencies, and proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for transportation, housing and urban development, and related agencies. SD-106
- 2 p.m.  
Committee on Finance  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Customs and Border Protection agency. SD-215  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining  
To hold hearings to examine S. 1167, to modify the boundaries of the Pole Creek Wilderness, the Owyhee River Wilderness, and the North Fork Owyhee Wilderness and to authorize the continued use of motorized vehicles for livestock monitoring, herding, and grazing in certain wilderness areas in the State of Idaho, S. 1423, to designate certain Federal lands in California as wilderness, S. 1510, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1699, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, S. 1777, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, S. 2018, to convey, without consideration, the reversionary interests of the United States in and to certain non-Federal land in Glennallen, Alaska, S. 2223, to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, S. 2379, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Tucson, Arizona, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest to the City, and S. 2383, to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation, to provide for the shared management of the withdrawn land by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Air Force to facilitate enhanced weapons testing and pilot training, enhance public safety, and provide for continued public access to the withdrawn land, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land. SD-366
- APRIL 26
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine challenges and opportunities for oil and gas development in different price environments. SD-366  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, focusing on the need for more timeliness and transparency. SD-226
- APRIL 27
- 2:15 p.m.  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on "Telecommunications: Additional Coordination and Performance Measurement Needed for High-Speed Internet Access Programs on Tribal Lands." SD-628
- APRIL 28
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining  
To hold hearings to examine the impacts of invasive species on the productivity, value, and management of land and water resources; to conduct oversight on the National Invasive Species Council's new framework for early detection and rapid response; to examine improved cooperative tools for control and management, including S. 2240, to improve the control and management of invasive species that threaten and harm Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior. SD-366
- MAY 9
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Airland  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-232A
- MAY 10
- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on SeaPower  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-232A  
11 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Personnel  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SD-G50  
2 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SD-G50  
3:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SD-G50  
5:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-232A
- MAY 11
- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222
- MAY 12
- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222
- MAY 13
- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222
- POSTPONEMENTS
- APRIL 21
- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's overtime rule and the rising costs of doing business. SR-428A

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, April 19, 2016

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 19, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, in today's world, the threats we face are constantly changing. Our ability to keep America safe relies on our capacity to adapt quickly to these new and evolving threats.

In the years following 9/11, the U.S. made significant changes to our intelligence and law enforcement capabilities that have stopped over 60 terror plots against the U.S. and saved countless American lives.

But 9/11 was 15 years ago. The threats we face today are vastly different than the threats we faced then. It is time we reprioritize resources to confront this new reality.

The recent terror attacks in Brussels and Paris confirm that one of our largest security vulnerabilities is soft targets, relatively unprotected venues where large groups of people gather. Soft targets include places we all frequent, like airports, transit systems, stadiums, restaurants, and shopping malls. They are easy to attack and difficult to protect.

The recent attacks also showed that threats are becoming harder to detect. The ability to collect intelligence on terrorist intentions and terror plots is more challenging because of new encryption technology and the reliance on lone-wolf attacks.

Because specific and credible threats are increasingly more difficult to uncover, we need to redouble our efforts and reprioritize our funding to reduce our vulnerabilities. Yet, alarmingly, current funding for the Federal programs designed to keep America safe fails to meet the new and growing threats we face.

The primary responsibility of the Federal Government under the Constitution is to "provide for the common defense," but, in recent years, Congress has made significant cuts to the Homeland Security programs that were designed to protect things like soft targets. Since the majority took over the House in 2010, Homeland Security grants to help States and localities protect against and respond to terror attacks have been cut in half.

Urban Areas Security Initiative grants, which large cities like my hometown of Chicago use to invest in the training and equipment necessary to respond to their unique security threats, have been cut by over \$200 million. Transit security funding, used by the Chicago Transit Authority to invest in camera systems that protect against terror attacks and have lowered crime by 50 percent, has been reduced by over 60 percent. And Buffer Zone Protection grants, which once helped cities defend critical infrastructure like stadiums, are no longer funded.

To the detriment of our security, many of my House colleagues have championed the harmful, across-the-board spending cuts of sequestration that restrict our intelligence and law enforcement capabilities and, in 2014, forced a hiring freeze at the FBI. They champion these cuts even as the Secretary of Defense calls sequestration the "biggest strategic danger" to our national security, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs argues it poses a greater threat to national security than Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, and ISIS.

Last year, the House majority took the budget irresponsibility even further by threatening to shut down the Department of Homeland Security over a partisan fight over immigration. All the while, Congress continues to prioritize billions in funding to respond

to threats posed by a cold war that ended decades ago.

For example, we are spending \$350 billion over the next decade on our outdated nuclear weapons policy. By simply eliminating our strategically obsolete stockpile of ICBMs, we could free up \$2.6 billion a year, money that could be spent on intelligence, cybersecurity, and homeland security.

While the goal of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to deter, detect, and prevent terror attacks remains the same, how we accomplish and fund that goal must continue to evolve to meet the new challenges we face.

Protecting against new and evolving threats will not necessarily require additional spending, but it will require smarter spending. When it comes to national security, we must continue to ask ourselves what really keeps America safe in today's world.

### REINING IN GOVERNMENT: A NEW ATTITUDE AND A NEW DAY

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, it is a great day here in America.

Four years ago I came to Congress with a desire to change the business-as-usual politics in Washington, D.C. That road has been tough, but change has been achieved. My efforts, along with the efforts of like-minded colleagues, changed the leadership of this House for the better. There has been a renewed work ethic and excitement to set forth an agenda for the American people that puts them first, not Big Government, not Big Business. There is truth in the saying: Do not grow weary in well doing.

Madam Speaker, with positive incremental changes taking hold, the keystone to our success will be a change in leadership at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Our current administration has done everything it can to avoid working with Congress. Time and again, Republicans have sent legislation to the President's desk on behalf of the American people, only to have each one of them vetoed. With every veto, the President casts aside the will of the very people who elected us to serve, telling them, essentially: I know what is best for you. Or he rules with a pen and a phone.

Every Member of Congress takes their work and the work of the American people seriously as Representatives and as a legislative body. If this

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

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

administration, in their remaining time in office, doesn't want to work with Congress on anything, then the Republicans in the House and the Senate must take action to address the issues facing the American people.

Due to the President's policy of stonewalling Congress, the legislation that we have passed has no chance of gaining his signature. Compromise, once accepted as a means to accomplish the greater good, now seems to be a thing of the past. The executive branch, whether held by Democrats or Republicans, has grown accustomed to exercising unilateral power to reinterpret existing law and twist it to fit its own ideology.

Again, I want to repeat. The executive branch, whether held by Republicans or Democrats, has used that power and twisted it to fit its own ideology.

Congress has no answer to the authoritative rulemaking process used by government agencies today. Madam Speaker, we need to reestablish a check on those agencies that are willfully disrupting business across America.

I am not talking about rules that were crafted with an understanding of the industry and a truly thoughtful process which included all stakeholders. I am talking about the rules, like the Clean Power Plan, endorsed by radical environmental groups with no reasonable knowledge of what affordable energy means to people who live paycheck to paycheck and follow an ideology of their own.

To blunt these rules, Congress must have a tool that truly is a check on the executive, one that forces the executive and legislative branch to work things out together.

One tool that scholars repeatedly pay lip service to is the power of the purse. We talk about it all the time, but we don't see it in action. While historically being an important tool to enforce the will of Congress, nowadays, a fight over spending devolves into a blame game over shutting down the government. It is a black eye to our system of government; it is a black eye to the notion of stability; and it is an insult to the American people and furthers the dysfunction of this great institution.

The balance of power in our government is out of alignment, and it is up to us in Congress to reclaim what used to be ours—the legislative veto. The legislative veto used to be a potent check on the executive branch for the better part of the 20th century. However, a broad ruling by the United States Supreme Court in 1983, *INS v. Chadha*, nullified the legislative veto in over 280 statutes. This was a sweeping decision, one that both handed more authority to the executive branch while limiting Congress' ability to stand up to Federal bureaucracies.

In his dissent, Justice Byron White, who was nominated to the Court by President Kennedy, correctly identified the fallout from the decision, and I quote: "Without the legislative veto, Congress is faced with a Hobson's choice: either to refrain from delegating the necessary authority, leaving itself with a hopeless task of writing laws with the requisite specificity to cover endless special circumstances across the entire policy landscape or, in the alternative, to abdicate its law-making function to the executive branch and independent agencies. To choose the former leaves major national problems unresolved; to opt for the latter risks unaccountable policymaking by those not elected to fill that role."

As members of the legislative branch, we all must take this seriously. We may be in the middle an election year, but if we play party politics when it comes to the struggle between the executive and the legislative power, neither party wins, and the American people lose. What is at stake, and more important than party politics, is the survival of our very form of government, a constitutional Republic.

This is the time to come together, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans, to bring this power back.

#### FAILURE TO PASS A BUDGET

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

Ms. ESTY. Madam Speaker, last Friday, this House blew right through the statutory deadline to enact a budget resolution.

Let's set aside, for a moment, the fact that passing a budget last Friday was required by law. The real injustice to the American people is that Congress has once again failed to fulfill the most basic responsibilities that the American people sent us here to carry out.

A budget is supposed to reflect the values of the American people. It should be a roadmap of Congress' plan for supporting working families, creating middle class jobs, and strengthening our education system. It should be a roadmap for lifting barriers to opportunity, supporting our Nation's innovators, and helping startups and small businesses to get off the ground. It should be a roadmap for keeping Americans safe at home and abroad.

Now, let's be clear. The proposal that came out of the Budget Committee did none of these things. Dismantling Medicare won't improve our economic security. Abandoning public schools won't lift barriers to opportunity.

But the way forward is not to simply throw up our hands and abandon the budget process entirely. A budget is not a political exercise. We don't pass

budgets when doing so is easy and walk away from our jobs when it gets hard.

Republicans and Democrats need to come together to craft a budget that reflects the priorities of the American people, a bipartisan budget that envisions a smarter, leaner government, one that creates predictability and support for good-paying jobs and increases opportunity for all.

□ 1015

We need a budget to rebuild America by investing in our transportation and infrastructure. I worked very hard to successfully pass the 5-year highway bill that was signed into law late last year.

But according to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the United States needs to invest more than \$3.6 trillion by 2020 to bring our infrastructure up to basic standards.

Nowhere is this truer than in my home State of Connecticut where we have some of the oldest infrastructure in the country and where we rely on Federal funding to fix crumbling roads, bridges, and transit systems.

Our budget should encourage innovation and entrepreneurship. Connecticut has a long, proud manufacturing tradition. We are home to 5,000 manufacturers, many of them small and family owned, and I know they can compete with anyone if they have a level playing field. We need a budget that helps us create one.

Supporting innovators means investing not just in infrastructure, but in infostructure, our electrical grid and the physical building blocks of the Internet, which are vital to the success of startups and small businesses throughout the country.

Madam Speaker, in Connecticut and around the Nation, we need a budget that invests in STEM education and 21st century jobs, commits to growing our manufacturing sector, and provides the resources we need to fight the opioid epidemic that is tearing apart so many families.

The American public wants to see Congress take bold action. Our budget should set us on a path to leadership in today's and tomorrow's global economy.

A budget is much more than a statement of principles. It is a roadmap to lifting barriers to opportunity. It is an investment in our infrastructure and in the research and development we need to power 21st century careers. It is an investment in the American people.

It is time that we in this House put our responsibility to the American people before partisanship and political games. When the people we represent at home stop doing their jobs, they don't get paid.

In Congress, we should work the same way. We should pass the No Budget, No Pay Act because Members of Congress should only get paid when



they do their jobs. If we worked under No Budget, No Pay, I guarantee you the House would have passed a budget last Friday.

So I call on my colleagues. Let's do the job the American people sent us here to do. Let's do the job we are paid to do. Let's go to the table—Democrats and Republicans—and hammer out a budget that supports good-paying jobs, grows our economy, keeps us safe, and truly reflects the priorities of the American people.

#### WASTING TAXPAYER MONEY IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I have brought to the floor today a prophetic political cartoon. Let me describe it very quickly.

There is Uncle Sam sitting in a wheelchair, and he shouts out with great excitement: I can see Greece from here. Behind the wheelchair pushing is President Obama. Behind President Obama is a donkey representing the Democratic Party, and behind the donkey is an elephant representing the Republican Party, the point being that all of us are guilty of heading this country towards Greece, and that means an economic collapse is forthcoming.

Madam Speaker, we are \$19 trillion in debt.

Another reason I am on the floor today is that the continued waste of the taxpayer money in Afghanistan is becoming astounding.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article titled, "Report cites wasted Pentagon money in Afghanistan."

[From USATODAY.com, Jan. 20, 2016]

#### REPORT CITES WASTED PENTAGON MONEY IN AFGHANISTAN

(By Tom Vanden Brook)

WASHINGTON.—The embattled Pentagon agency blamed for building a budget-busting gas station in Afghanistan and renting luxury housing for its employees also imported Italian goats to boost the cashmere industry in the impoverished, war-racked country, according to a government investigator.

Meanwhile, the former head of the Task Force for Business Stability Operations, Paul Brinkley, blasted back Wednesday at the government inspector general, accusing him of inaccuracy and hype.

At a Senate hearing, John Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR), said in prepared testimony that the task force lacked "strategic direction" and suffered from a "scattershot approach to economic development."

Among the more egregious examples of boondoggles he cited: "importing rare blond Italian goats to boost the cashmere industry." The \$6 million program included shipping nine male goats to western Afghanistan from Italy, setting up a farm, lab and staff to certify their wool.

A chart summarizing task force initiatives shows the inspector general did not conduct an audit of the program. The program, according to a contractor's analysis, may have created as many as 350 jobs. Sopko ripped the Pentagon and the task force for failing to track its spending. It's not unclear, for instance, if the goats were eaten.

"We don't know," Sopko said. "This was so poorly managed."

Sopko testified Wednesday on his report, "Preliminary Results Show Serious Management and Oversight Problems." The task force was charged with jump starting the economy of Afghanistan with nearly \$800 million in U.S. taxpayer funds.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., who chaired the hearing, called the allegations about the filling station troubling and called for a full accounting of task force spending.

"What happened to the money?" Ayotte asked. "All of it?"

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., was livid about task force spending and called the natural gas-station program "dumb on its face," given the cost of converting cars to natural gas exceeds the average income of Afghans.

"This is a terrible waste of taxpayer money when we have so many other uses for it," McCaskill said.

In a letter and other documents, Brinkley, who led the task force in Iraq and later Afghanistan from 2006 to 2011, defended his oversight of the agency and lashed out at the government's watchdog.

"A meaningful and balanced review cannot be accomplished through a sustained media campaign or a practice of repeating uncorroborated allegations," Brinkley wrote to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Sopko has released several provocative reports charging the task force with waste and shoddy accounting practices. Among the most eye-catching: a \$43 million natural-gas filling station that should have cost \$500,000 and proved of no use to average Afghans; and \$150 million spent on renting luxury villas for task force staff and visitors. Those alleged boondoggles have drawn ire from Capitol Hill and cast Brinkley as a profligate spender.

Brinkley, through his lawyer, bristled at the charge from the inspector general that he had approved of programs without knowing their cost. Brinkley told investigators on Dec. 17 that his task force had no contracting authority, relying instead on career military officials to make deals within government regulations, according to his lawyer.

"This was done, in fact, in fact to ensure proper oversight—not to avoid it," Brinkley's lawyer, Charles Duross, wrote Wednesday to the inspector general's office.

The Pentagon on Wednesday also took issue with Sopko's price tag for the gas station, saying it was closer to \$5 million, not \$43 million. Brian McKeon, a top Pentagon policy official, said in a statement to USA TODAY that the methods used Sopko were "flawed, and the costs of the station are far lower."

The refueling station itself cost \$2.9 million, and the balance of the \$5 million paid for associated buildings and equipment, McKeon said.

Brinkley, in his letter, challenged the assertion that he and his staff lived in luxury, eschewing the basic, free accommodations offered by the military in Afghanistan.

In a previous report, Sopko criticized the task force for spending \$150 million on "western-style hotel accommodations" that included flat-screen TVs, private bodyguards

and "three-star" menus for staff and guests. Bunking with the Army, Sopko suggested, could have saved taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

Living conditions during his tenure, Brinkley wrote, were far from luxurious—"basic and minimal, with multiple bunks in shared living quarters" or on military bases.

"When this was not possible or practical, the challenge was to find facilities that did not continually smell of raw sewage, and food that did not frequently sicken our personnel or visiting government and business leaders—a challenge we never fully overcame," Brinkley wrote.

The task force's final grade is not yet in, McKeon said.

"Ultimately, time will tell whether the task force succeeded in its overall objectives," McKeon said. "Reports that the (Pentagon) commissioned to assess the Task Force's work—as well as SIGAR's work—tell us that the Task Force had a mixed record of success, with some successes and some failures."

Mr. JONES. In this story, John Sopko, the Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, tells that the worst boondoggle he has ever seen is the fact that the Department of Defense spent \$6 million to buy nine goats—nine goats—for \$6 million.

The sad thing about that is he testified before the Senate: We can't find the goats. What does that mean to the taxpayers? I don't know anymore. That is why they are so outraged, quite frankly.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a second article titled, "12 Ways Your Tax Dollars Were Squandered in Afghanistan."

[From NBC NEWS.com, March 5, 2016]

#### 12 WAYS YOUR TAX DOLLARS WERE SQUANDERED IN AFGHANISTAN

(By Alexander Smith)

The United States has now spent more money reconstructing Afghanistan than it did rebuilding Europe at the end of World War II, according to a government watchdog.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said in a statement to Congress last week that when adjusted for inflation the \$113.1 billion plowed into the chaos-riven country outstripped the post-WWII spend by at least \$10 billion.

Billions have been squandered on projects that were either useless or sub-standard, or lost to waste, corruption, and systemic abuse, according to SIGAR's reports.

NBC News spoke to SIGAR's Special Inspector General John F. Sopko about 12 of the most bizarre and baffling cases highlighted by his team's investigations.

Paraphrasing Albert Einstein, Sopko said the U.S.'s profligate spending in Afghanistan is "the definition of insanity—doing the same things over and over vain, expecting a different result."

The Pentagon spent close to half a billion dollars on 20 Italian-made cargo planes that it eventually scrapped and sold for just \$32,000, according to SIGAR.

"These planes were the wrong planes for Afghanistan," Sopko told NBC News. "The U.S. had difficulty getting the Afghans to fly them, and our pilots called them deathtraps. One pilot said parts started falling off while he was coming into land."

After being taken out of use in March 2013, the G222 aircraft, which are also referred to

as the C-27A Spartan, were towed to a corner of Kabul International Airport where they were visible from the civilian terminal. They had “trees and bushes growing around them,” the inspector general said.

Sixteen of the planes were scrapped and sold to a local construction company for 6 cents a pound, SIGAR said. The other four remained unused at a U.S. base in Germany.

Sopko called the planes “one of the biggest single programs in Afghanistan that was a total failure.”

The Tarakhil Power Plant was fired up in 2009 to “provide more reliable power” to blackout-plagued Kabul, according to the United States Agency for International Development, which built the facility.

However, the “modern” diesel plant exported just 8,846 megawatt hours of power between February 2014 and April 2015, SIGAR said in a letter to USAID last August. This output was less than 1 percent of the plant’s capacity and provided just 0.35 percent of power to Kabul, a city of 4.6 million people.

Related: U.S. Spent \$43M on Gas Station But Can’t Explain Why

Furthermore, the plant’s “frequent starts and stops . . . place greater wear and tear on the engines and electrical components,” which could result in its “catastrophic failure,” the watchdog said.

USAID responded to SIGAR’s report in June 2015, saying: “We have no indication that [Afghan state-run utility company] Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), failed to operate Tarakhil as was alleged in your letter.”

U.S. officials directed and oversaw the construction of an Afghan police training facility in 2012 that was so poorly built that its walls actually fell apart in the rain. The \$456,669 dry-fire range in Wardak province was “not only an embarrassment, but, more significantly, a waste of U.S. taxpayers’ money,” SIGAR’s report said in January 2015.

It was overseen by the U.S. Central Command’s Joint Theater Support Contracting Command and contracted out to an Afghan firm, the Qesmatullah Nasrat Construction Company.

SIGAR said this “melting” started just four months after the building was finished in October 2012. It blamed U.S. officials’ bad planning and failure to hold to account the Afghan construction firm, which used poor-quality materials. The U.S. subsequently contracted another firm to rebuild the facility.

Sopko called the incident “baffling.” “Afghans apparently have never grown or eaten soybeans before,” SIGAR said in its June 2014 report. This did not stop the U.S. Department of Agriculture funding a \$34.4 million program by the American Soybean Association to try to introduce the foodstuff into the country in 2010.

The project “did not meet expectations,” the USDA confirmed to SIGAR, largely owing to inappropriate farming conditions in Afghanistan and the fact no one wanted to buy a product they had never eaten.

“They didn’t grow them, they didn’t eat them, there was no market for them, and yet we thought it was a good idea,” Sopko told NBC News.

“What is troubling about this particular project is that it appears that many of these problems could reasonably have been foreseen and, therefore, possibly avoided,” the inspector general wrote in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in June 2014.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built some 2,000 buildings to be used as barracks,

medical clinics and fire stations by the Afghan National Army as part of a \$1.57-billion program. When two fires in October and December 2012 revealed that around 80 percent of these structures did not meet international building regulations for fire safety, Sopko said he was “troubled” by the “arrogant” response from a senior USACE chief.

Major General Michael R. Eyre, commanding general of USACE’s Transatlantic Division, said the risk of fire was acceptable because “the typical occupant populations for these facilities are young, fit Afghan soldiers.” Writing in a January 2014 memo published by SIGAR, Eyre said these recruits “have the physical ability to make a hasty retreat during a developing situation.”

Sopko told NBC News that Eyre’s comments “showed a really poor attitude toward our allies.” He added: “It was an unbelievable arrogance, and I’m sorry to say that about a senior officer.”

Despite the Department of Defense spending \$597,929 on Salang Hospital in Afghanistan’s Parwan province, the 20-bed facility has been forced to resort to startling medical practices.

“Because there was no clean water, staff at the hospital were washing newborns with untreated river water,” SIGAR’s report said in January 2014. It added that the “poorly constructed” building was also at increased “risk of structural collapse during an earthquake.”

NBC News visited the hospital in January 2014 and witnessed some disturbing practices: a doctor poking around a dental patient’s mouth with a pair of unsterilized scissors before yanking out another’s tooth with a pair of pliers.

Related: \$600K in U.S. Taxpayer Cash Buys Medieval Hospital in Afghanistan

The United States Forces-Afghanistan responded to SIGAR’s report in January 2014 saying it would investigate why the building was not constructed to standard.

In a separate report, SIGAR said that USAID reimbursed the International Organization for Migration for spiraling costs while building Gardez Hospital, in Paktia province.

The IOM’s “weak internal controls” meant it paid \$300,000 for just 600 gallons of diesel fuel—a price of \$500 per gallon when market prices should not have exceeded \$5, SIGAR said.

The so-called “64K” command-and-control facility at Afghanistan’s Camp Leatherneck cost \$36 million and was “a total waste of U.S. taxpayer funds,” SIGAR’s report said in May 2015.

The facility in Helmand province—named because it measured 64,000 square feet—was intended to support the U.S. troop surge of 2010.

However, a year before its construction, the very general in charge of the surge asked that it not be built because the existing facilities were “more than sufficient,” the watchdog said. But another general denied this cancellation request, according to SIGAR, because he said it would not be “prudent” to quit a project for which funds had already been appropriated by Congress.

Ultimately, construction did not begin until May 2011, two months before the draw-down of the troops involved in surge. Sopko found the “well-built and newly furnished” building totally untouched in June 2013, with plastic sheets still covering the furniture.

“Again, nobody was held to account,” Sopko told NBC News, adding it was a “gross . . . really wasteful, extremely wasteful amount of money.”

He added: “We have thrown too much money at the country. We pour in money not really thinking about it.”

A now-defunct Pentagon task force spent almost \$40 million on Afghanistan’s oil, mining and gas industry—but no one remembered to tell America’s diplomats in Kabul, according to SIGAR, citing a senior official at the U.S. embassy in the city.

In fact, the first the U.S. ambassador knew about the multi-billion-dollar spend was when Afghan government officials thanked him for his country’s support, SIGAR said.

The project, administered by the Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO), was part of a wider \$488 million investment that also included the State Department and USAID. These organizations “failed to coordinate and prioritize” their work, which created “poor working relationships, and . . . potential sustainability problems,” according to SIGAR.

It was, according to Sopko, “a real disaster.”

One USAID official told the watchdog it would take the U.S. “100 years” to complete the necessary infrastructure and training Afghanistan needs to completely develop these industries.

SIGAR said the U.S. military has been unable to provide records answering “the most basic questions” surrounding the mystery purchase and cancellation of eight patrol boats for landlocked Afghanistan.

The scant facts SIGAR were able to find indicated the boats were bought in 2010 to be used by the Afghan National Police, and that they were intended to be deployed along the country’s northern river border with Uzbekistan.

“The order was cancelled—without explanation—nine months later,” SIGAR said. The boats were still sitting unused at a Navy warehouse in Yorktown, Virginia, as of 2014.

“We bought in a navy for a landlocked country,” Sopko said.

Despite the U.S. plowing some \$7.8 billion into stopping Afghanistan’s drug trade,” Afghan farmers are growing more opium than ever before,” SIGAR reported in December 2014.

“Poppy-growing provinces that were once declared ‘poppy free’ have seen a resurgence in cultivation,” it said, noting that internationally funded irrigation projects may have actually increased poppy growth in recent years.

The “fragile gains” the U.S. has made on Afghan health, education and rule of law were being put in “jeopardy or wiped out by the narcotics trade, which not only supports the insurgency, but also feeds organized crime and corruption,” Sopko told U.S. lawmakers in January 2014.

Afghanistan is the world’s leader in the production of opium. In 2013, the value of Afghan opium was \$3 billion—equivalent to 15 percent of the country’s GDP—according to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime.

Sopko told NBC News the picture is no more optimistic today. “No matter which metric you use, this effort has been a real failure,” he said.

The USAID-funded Shorandam Industrial Park in Kandahar province was transferred to the Afghan government in September 2010 with the intention of accommodating 48 business and hundreds of local employees. Four years later, SIGAR inspectors found just one active company operating there.

This was due to the U.S. military building a power plant on one-third of the industrial park to provide electricity to nearby Kandahar City, causing “entrepreneurs to shy away from setting up businesses” at the site, SIGAR said in its report of April 2015.

After the military withdrew in mid-2014, the investigators were told that at least four Afghan businesses had moved into the industrial park. However, SIGAR said that it could not complete a thorough inspection because USAID's contract files were "missing important documentation."

The DOD spent nearly \$82 million on nine incineration facilities in Afghanistan—yet four of them never fired their furnaces, SIGAR said in February 2015. These four dormant facilities had eight incinerators between them and the wastage cost \$20.1 million.

In addition, SIGAR inspectors said it was "disturbing" that "prohibited items," such as tires and batteries, continued to be burned in Afghanistan's 251 burn pits. U.S. military personnel were also exposed to emissions from these pits "that could have lasting negative health consequences," the watchdog said.

The Department of Defense said it was "vital" interested in exploring all possible ways to save taxpayer dollars and ensure we are good stewards of government resources."

A spokesman added: "We'll continue to work with SIGAR, and other agencies, to help get to the bottom of any reported issues or concerns."

A spokesman for Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani declined to comment on this story.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, we have already spent more in Afghanistan than it cost to rebuild Europe after World War II. In fact, last week I asked my staff to draft a letter to Speaker PAUL RYAN.

In the letter, I asked the Speaker of the House, PAUL RYAN, to meet with John Sopko, who is the Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, and listen to this absolute waste that is going on in Afghanistan.

Yet, sometime soon we will mark up the NDAA, National Defense Authorization Act, and I will guarantee you there will be billions of dollars in OCO funds going to Afghanistan.

There will be those of us on both sides of the aisle that would like to take that money out or significantly reduce the money. Last year it was over \$43 billion in OCO funds, which is nothing but a slush fund.

Madam Speaker, there is a famous line about Afghanistan. It says that Afghanistan is the graveyard of empires.

I predict today—but I hope I am wrong—if we continue to spend and waste billions of dollars in Afghanistan, there will be a headstone in that graveyard that says: USA.

I hope that does not happen. But we had better wake up, as Members of Congress, and stop supporting programs like money for Afghanistan that are a total waste of the taxpayers' money.

Madam Speaker, I will ask God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform and ask God to continue to bless America.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL BARKLA

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

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of my good friend, Paul Barkla. I met Paul when I first ran for Congress. He was one of my earliest supporters.

I still vividly recall meeting him at the end of a Democratic primary debate when he introduced himself as a former Bill Proxmire staffer, as I was, and then promised to do everything he could to help me get elected. It was the beginning of a 25-year friendship, during which time he became a member of our family.

Paul is a native of the Pacific Northwest and was raised in Eugene, Oregon. Paul was a firm believer in good, old-fashioned, shoe-leather politics, and he pounded the pavement for Democratic candidates across the country, where he met many friends along the way.

In 2004, he traveled to New Hampshire to volunteer for the Presidential campaign of General Wesley Clark. In 2008, he again loaded up his dog and traveled around the country, showing up in battleground States and volunteering for President Obama. He believed we all had an obligation to participate in our democracy.

After college, Paul moved to Washington, where he received a master's degree from George Washington University and worked as a Capitol policeman.

He also went to work for numerous Congressmen and then worked for Senator Proxmire of Wisconsin, where he became engaged with Wisconsin politics.

It was during his time in Washington that he became active in the civil rights movement, participating in the March on Washington in August 1963. He enjoyed telling stories of his life during those times.

Paul met his wife, Nancy, who also worked for Senator Proxmire in Washington, in 1958. And then, in 1968, they moved their family to Wisconsin, where he continued to work on progressive causes and campaigns. There he worked as a caregiver and manager of group homes.

Paul and Nancy raised three children: Ann Fedders of New Richmond, Sidney Scott of Fall City, and Paul Barkla, Jr., of Ellsworth. He was very proud of his 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Paul believed in our democratic process and public service. That is why he ran for and was elected to the Pierce County Board in 2004 and later became the board chair.

Pierce County residents knew Paul as a community leader and advocate for the needs of his neighbors. He wasn't afraid to tackle tough issues.

He told me he enjoyed serving on the county board because it was less partisan, driven more by the local needs of the Pierce County residents rather than strict adherence to party ideology.

Although Paul was gruff on the outside, he was fiercely loyal to his family and friends. We had many discussions over the years. I knew I could always count on Paul to provide an honest opinion, and he was never afraid to speak his mind.

He made many friends over the years through politics and public service. He befriended many of my staff whom he talked to frequently and stayed in touch with even when they moved on to other opportunities.

For those who are lucky enough to cross paths with Paul, from folks in Washington to Oregon to Washington, D.C., he will not be forgotten.

Paul exemplified what was great about America: deep love for his country, the importance of public service, and the need to fight for the most vulnerable and less fortunate in our society.

In short, Paul was a great patriot and a great American. For those whose lives he touched, Paul will be greatly missed.

#### HOLDING INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, yesterday was tax day—or at least the deadline for filing and paying your taxes. I can't imagine very many citizens look forward to that.

We all know that we have to do our part, but we are often frustrated by the unacceptable waste of government spending. We all work hard; yet, they take our money and oftentimes spend it on things that we find objectionable or, worse, they simply waste it.

To add insult to injury, government doesn't have to follow the same standards that every citizen has to. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the IRS and its Commissioner, who scoffs at the very same rules that every other citizen has to abide by.

Now, I would just ask you: If you got subpoenaed to produce documents and to protect documents and just ignored it, how do you think that would go for you? If you lied to government officials—let's say government officials in the IRS—about your tax records, knowing that they are requirements, and you just refused to provide them, how do you think that that would be for you?

This is just another example of two sets of standards, one for the ruling class and another for the rest of the citizens. It was never intended to be this way, essentially where we are forced to serve our government.

In this particular case, these folks just had the wrong opinions about their government and they were sure that they would be protected under the

First Amendment, protected from reprisal and punishment, but that is simply not the case.

Exactly what happened is that the IRS sought to cover up and blame others that had nothing to do with what happened.

Remember, the feared and omnipotent IRS targeted and punished certain Americans solely because of what they thought of their government, violating their First Amendment right provided by God and enumerated in our Constitution.

Think about that. The full power and authority of the massive Federal Government and its endless resources focused on a few citizens because they dared to disagree. Is this a Communist country? Is this something worse?

Let's remember how this started. The inspector general did an investigation and said they were going to file a report.

Hearing that, Lois Lerner takes a planted question and lies about who did it. She blames it on the good workers in Cincinnati. The President calls for a criminal investigation, and the Commissioner is fired.

However, when it really came to conducting that investigation, the Department of Justice really just couldn't be bothered. Then the person at the center of the issue comes to Congress and pleads the Fifth.

Congress has to now look elsewhere for the truth. They are not going to get it from Ms. Lerner. So they look to her email communication.

Subpoenas are issued, two of them, and three protective orders, one by the IRS itself. The IRS violates literally all of it while saying they went to great lengths in search of the truth.

Come on. Great lengths? They didn't even check Ms. Lerner's BlackBerry.

The new Commissioner, Mr. Koskinen, hired to clean things up, knows that 422 backup tapes were destroyed, including 24,000 of Ms. Lerner's emails; yet, he waits 4 months to tell Congress while coming multiple times to testify to Congress during that period. You lie about your lost documents for 4 months and see what happens.

Mr. Koskinen violated his duty to preserve and provide the information. He violated his duty to disclose, he violated his duty to be truthful, and he violated his duty to correct the record about what he knew. Mr. Koskinen violated the public trust on multiple accounts.

The issue at hand is that the agency Mr. Koskinen represents violated the constitutionally guaranteed rights of American citizens and nothing has been done about it.

This simply cannot stand. We cannot have two separate standards of justice, one for the ruling class, one for the government, and one for the governed.

Congress has a duty to get to the truth. As Representatives of the citi-

zens, we don't have a police force. We are Representatives. We can't fire the Commissioner. We are Members of Congress. The only remedy that Congress has is the constitutional check of impeachment.

Impeachment proceedings are the only way we can hope to get some relief from this agency which has been wantonly unaccountable in the most egregious fashion.

It is the only way we will be able to determine whether the Commissioner violated the standards of trust set down for government officials.

It is the only way we can start to move to a circumstance where our government serves the people as opposed to citizens being forced to serve their government.

So, Madam Speaker, as we reflect on tax day, I respectfully request the resolution regarding the impeachment of Commissioner Koskinen be forwarded to the Judiciary Committee and to this floor for consideration.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, since 1970, more Americans have died from domestic gun violence than in every war dating back to the American Revolution.

If all the victims of gun violence since 1970 were put on a wall like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, it would contain 1.5 million names and stretch 2½ miles. That is 25 times as long as the actual Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

□ 1030

We are quick to hold moments of silence on this floor, but we are not quick to act. I have had enough of Congress' failure to lead. So to draw attention to the slaughter going on in this country each and every month, I will recite the names each month of every person killed in a mass shooting during the previous month. I have also created my own memorial wall in the hallway outside of my office.

Here are the stories of some of the victims of the 31 mass shootings in March of this year. There have been so many people this month affected by mass shootings, that I don't have time to list the injured, but I recognize the trauma they have endured as well.

Deonte Fisher, age 7, was killed sitting in a parked car outside a convenience store on March 4 in Columbus, Ohio.

Anthony Renee Beamon, Jr., age 36, was killed while leaving a party on March 6 in Compton, California.

Pablo Villeda Estrada, age 19, was killed at a birthday party on March 6 in Chelsea, Massachusetts. He loved music and was a family joker.

Austin Harter, age 29; Clint Harter, age 27; Jake Waters, age 36; and Michael Capps, age 41, were killed by their neighbor on March 7 in Kansas City, Kansas. The shooter also killed Randy J. Nordman, age 49, the next day while fleeing police.

Ishmael Haywood, age 20, and Demontray Keshawn Mackay, age 17, were killed in a car on March 8 in San Antonio, Texas.

Jerry Shelton, age 35; Tina Shelton, age 37; Brittany Powell, age 27; Chanetta Powell, age 25; and Shada Mahone, age 26, were killed at a family cookout on March 9 in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania. Chanetta was 8 months pregnant.

John Smith, age 65, and Jamil Goodwin, age 43, were killed while sitting on their porch on March 11 in Detroit, Michigan.

Douglas Hearne, age 48, was killed at a bar on March 12 in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Alyric Fouch, age 17, was killed by her mother's boyfriend on March 12 in Elberton, Georgia. She was trying to protect her mother from gunfire.

Deosha Jackson, age 19, and Daryl Hunt, age unknown, were killed on March 19 in Wetumpka, Alabama.

Serge Pierre Dumas, age 28, was killed at a house party on March 20 in Plantation, Florida. He is survived by his 15-month-old son pictured here on this poster next to me.

Billie Jo Hettinger, age 32, and her children Collin Hettinger, age 5, and Courtney Hettinger, age 4, were killed by their husband and father on March 20 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Kelly Russler, age 39, and her sons Jayden Evans, age 10, and Laing Russler, age 7, were killed by Kelly's husband and Laing's father on March 21 in Sherman, Texas.

Elizabeth Janie Woods, age unknown, was killed by her husband on March 25 in Lauderdale County, Alabama. He also shot their two sons, who were in critical condition but have survived.

Virginia State Trooper Chad P. Dermeyer was killed by a gunman at a bus station on March 31 in Richmond, Virginia. He was a Marine Corps veteran and had two young children.

May the dead rest in peace, the wounded recover quickly and completely, and the bereaved find comfort.

Members, colleagues, mothers and fathers, when will we do more than call for moments of silence?

#### AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize April as Autism Awareness Month, an opportunity for our communities to come together and become more educated and understanding of autism and its impacts on our students and society.

Reports from 2014 state that autism affects 1 in 68 children in the United States, a 119 percent increase from the year 2000. Despite the great scientific strides that have been made to understand autism, not much is known about how the disorder actually develops in the brain.

The BRAIN Initiative is an ambitious program which aims to advance our understanding of how the brain functions. It is my firm belief that the BRAIN Initiative is an instrumental step toward revolutionary breakthroughs in neuroscience. For these reasons, I introduced the Mental Health Awareness Semipostal Stamp Act to help raise additional funding for the BRAIN Initiative, at no expense to taxpayers. I am confident that together we can make great strides for autism awareness, and I hope that you join me in lighting it up blue for the rest of April.

TEAM VISION

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize M-Vision Miami, a group comprised of young professionals in the Youth Leadership Miami program, sponsored by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

M-Vision, in partnership with PACE Center for Girls, has worked to create a career development and college preparatory lab for PACE students. The M-Vision program focuses on financial literacy training, interview etiquette, college preparation, career awareness, exploration, and community service. This group, which is completely volunteer based, has dedicated countless hours to building relationships throughout Miami-Dade County in order to support their mission.

I thank M-Vision and centers like PACE Miami for their efforts to ensure that all children, regardless of their socioeconomic class, have an opportunity to achieve college and career success. They have done a remarkable job, and I am certain that they will continue doing great work for years to come.

CONGRATULATING DEBBIE BRADY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Brady, the executive director of the Dade County Farm Bureau, who will be retiring this year after a life dedicated to educating others on the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. Debbie is also the president of the Florida Agri-Women, a member of the American Agri-Women, and a long-time resident of South Dade. She has worked in agribusiness for over 30 years and has a true passion for farming. Her knowledge and experience are unparalleled, and she will be greatly missed.

I have had the privilege of meeting with Debbie on many occasions and know how much of a resource she has been to both me and my staff. We have strongly advocated together on behalf of the South Dade farmers, especially

during the recent oriental fruit fly quarantine and devastating floods that crippled the region's ag community. Her immense knowledge of the issues has helped us make very positive gains on behalf of the farmers in South Dade.

Debbie, thank you for dedicating your life to helping our community. We wish you the best in your retirement. You have certainly earned it.

END CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FATALITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to spend a few minutes this morning discussing the recent report of the Commission to End Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities. Chartered by Congress under the Protect our Kids Act of 2013, the Commission's goal is to provide a framework for ending child maltreatment fatalities in the United States. For 2 years they have studied and examined this problem, and now we have the results.

The death of any child is a tragedy. While the data on child deaths related to abuse and neglect is incomplete, the Commission estimates that there were over 1,500 such cases in 2014. The majority of the children in these heartbreaking cases were younger than a year old, and many of them only days and weeks into their young lives. Three-quarters of the deaths occurred in children under age 3.

Madam Speaker, these are shocking figures, but we are talking about much more than just numbers. These stories of lives cut short, of senseless deaths, are a rallying cry for action, and no community or State is immune. In my home State of Rhode Island, at least four children have died in State care since October, two of them infants.

In neighboring Massachusetts, Bella Bond's story is a heartbreaking reminder of our moral obligation to act in defense of all children. Bella only ever knew abuse and neglect. She died before her third birthday, allegedly beaten to death by her drug-addicted parents. Despite two neglect complaints against Bella's mother, there was never any recognition that this toddler's life was in danger. The State never sent anybody to check on her safety, and her death remained hidden until her body was discovered.

The problems in the Bella Bond murder, though, sadly, are not unique. The Commission's report highlights a lack of communication between State child welfare agencies and law enforcement in every State. Noting the high correlation between domestic violence and child deaths, the Commission recommends that States treat this as a broad public health issue and call for better coordination between child welfare agencies and law enforcement.

Cross-agency collaboration will allow social workers to use law enforcement data to find the most at-risk children and intervene when necessary to protect the child. Just as we would take action to stop disease before it kills the patient, we can and we must intervene when a child's life is at risk.

However, the Commission also notes that the most successful interventions are the ones that prevent a crisis from happening in the first place. Not all of these interventions involve foster care or removing a child. Early intervention of the most at-risk families will allow social workers to tailor and deliver the most effective interventions for each family, and even sometimes small interventions early on can make the biggest difference. The report makes clear that crisis breeds crisis. It is the self-perpetuating, repetitive cycle.

Parents suffering from mental health issues or drug addiction are much more likely to harm or kill their child. The stresses of unemployment and poverty are also linked with child abuse, neglect, and death.

Madam Speaker, States need to engage in an all-of-the-above approach to child safety. We must also ensure that funding is in place to allow for meaningful interventions. Child welfare agencies need to be held accountable for results, and empowered to deliver services and interventions to at-risk children and families when they are required.

Despite these challenges, I would like to close on a hopeful note, embodied in the title of the report itself: Within Our Reach.

Madam Speaker, we can put a stop to these tragic deaths. Law enforcement, child welfare, and community groups have to work together to provide a network of support and intervention for families and children at risk of abuse. We in Congress have to fully fund these agencies and empower them to deliver meaningful change.

Madam Speaker, the time to act is now.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Kevin Hintze, Zion Lutheran Church, Georgetown, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord of our Nation, we thank You for the continued preservation of our blessed country and all who uphold civil duties of leadership within our borders.

We pray today for all the Members of Congress and their staff that they may be endowed with wisdom from Your spirit as they serve with the authority of government in our land.

Bless their daily work and encourage our leaders of this Nation to fulfill their elected duties with mercy and justice in a sacrificial spirit for the common welfare.

Bless us all with sincere and joyful hearts of service as we serve this country in each of our vocations. We pray justice and concord may abide, peace and prosperity be kept secure, for You, God, are everlasting.

We seek You with all our hearts knowing full well that You hear our prayers. Praying as I have been taught, I close now in the name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

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#### TAXPAYER IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION ACT

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Trade Commission recently ranked the St. Louis metropolitan area, my district and hometown, as

having the highest rate of identity theft regarding Federal income tax returns. This is absolutely unacceptable and why I introduced the Taxpayer Identity Theft Protection Act.

My legislation would require the IRS to issue an identity protection personal identification number, or IP PIN, to any individual who requests one to better protect their Social Security numbers from criminals who are looking to steal their identity and file fraudulent tax returns.

Missourians and all Americans deserve peace of mind when filing their taxes with the IRS, but, instead, we are seeing an unconscionable increase in data breaches and identity theft.

A new GAO report found many deficiencies in the IRS' security program that blatantly expose taxpayers' personal and financial data. My legislation will help stop this reckless exposure.

This essential bill holds the IRS accountable and forces the agency to do the most important job: assist and protect taxpayers.

At a time when trust in government is so low, I am committed to fixing this growing problem and providing another level of security to protect Americans from fraudulent activity.

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#### REMEMBERING TOM HENNESSY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, Tom Hennessy was a beloved columnist at the Long Beach Press-Telegram for nearly 30 years. Tom passed away recently with his Duchess Debbie by his side.

For his readers, Tom was Mr. Long Beach. He was a humorist, he was an advocate, he was our favorite uncle, and our closest neighbor.

He was a friend who lived in the same world, but somehow saw it so much more clearly and never shied away from using his Irish wit to say so.

Every morning for three decades Tom was the champion of what was right, good, and decent in Long Beach. I was fortunate to have read him, I was lucky to have known him, and now I will join his readers, his family, and his friends in missing him.

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#### ONLY CONGRESS CAN WRITE LAWS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the U.S. House of Representatives was represented at the Supreme Court during oral arguments for *United States v. Texas*, the challenge by 25 States to the President's illegal executive action on illegal aliens.

Article I of the Constitution is clear: only Congress can write laws. Sadly, the President has overstepped his authority by acting alone after repeatedly saying that he did not have the authority he claimed.

I was grateful to vote in favor of the resolution, which authorized Speaker PAUL RYAN to file a brief in the Supreme Court, the first by the House as a whole. Speaker RYAN deserves recognition for his remarkable leadership in standing up for the Constitution and rule of law.

United States v. Texas filings reveal the President's failed immigration policy, which should be to enforce existing laws. As an attorney who has practiced immigration law, I know firsthand the benefits of a lawful system welcoming new citizens following the law.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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#### NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, 1 in 68 children are diagnosed with autism, and 3.45 million Americans are living with it.

April is National Autism Awareness Month, a time to direct attention to and appreciate the special gifts of these Americans.

In Congress, it is a time to redouble our commitment to them by supporting the Autism CARES Act, which authorizes research in early intervention programs; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which includes early intervention and education services for people with autism; and the BRAIN Initiative at the National Institutes of Health.

In western New York, I have been proud to support \$5.7 million in Federal grants for promising work at the Institute for Autism Research at Canisius College.

There is a great deal to be done to piece together the mysteries of autism and support the individuals and families living with it every day.

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#### RECOGNIZING HANESBRANDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize HanesBrands, a company headquartered in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with a long history of innovation, product excellence, and brand recognition.

Hanes recently earned its seventh consecutive partner-of-the-year award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program.

The company was recognized for its continued excellence in energy conservation, carbon emissions avoidance, and environmental sustainability.

Since 2007, Hanes, the world's largest marketer of basic apparel, has reduced its energy use by 25 percent, water use by 31 percent, and carbon emissions by 21 percent.

Last year Hanes derived 25 percent of its worldwide energy needs from renewable sources, including biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal, and wind.

With its continued commitment to excellence, Hanes is a valued corporate partner in the local community. It is a pleasure to have this outstanding company in North Carolina's Fifth District.

**U.S. INCREASES TROOPS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA: WHEN WILL CONGRESS ACT?**

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Drip, drip, drip, Mr. Speaker. That is the sound of U.S. escalation in Syria and Iraq. Yesterday, the Pentagon announced that the U.S. will send 217 additional troops to Iraq, pushing the official number of U.S. troops there to more than 4,000.

Mainly Army Special Forces, they will be embedded with Iraqi brigades and battalions. They will be stationed close to the front lines. They will include trainers and maintenance crews for the new deployment of Apache helicopters.

More U.S. commandos could also head to Syria, bolstering the roughly 50 Special Operations Forces advising and training rebel forces on the ground.

Just when is the House going to debate and vote on an authorization for deploying U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria?

When is the House going to debate these escalations that add more firepower and put more U.S. troops close to the front lines?

Our troops carry out their constitutional duties. When will Congress act and carry out its constitutional responsibility?

The American people are tired of endless wars. Putting these wars on remote control, with no debate and no votes, is shameful.

**ENSURING INTEGRITY IN THE IRS WORKFORCE ACT**

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, with tax day yesterday and millions of Ameri-

cans feeling the sting of a burdensome government agency, the House will focus its efforts on giving taxpayers relief from the bureaucratic mess known as the IRS.

When the scandal broke that the IRS improperly targeted conservative 501(c)(4) groups, the Nation was shocked, but not surprised. After thorough investigations by Congress and unrelenting criticism by liberals and conservatives, several high-level officials resigned.

While the IRS can and has fired many low-level employees for other abuses and poor performance, a report by the IRS Inspector General found that many of the IRS employees were rehired.

That is why this week we are passing the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act, which will prevent the agency from rehiring anyone who was previously terminated for misconduct.

Government employees, especially those in the IRS, who work with private and sensitive data of American citizens should not be given the chance to do it again.

This week the House will show the American people that we take our responsibility to stop corruption, misconduct, and abuse of power in the Internal Revenue Service seriously.

**BUDGET RESOLUTION DEADLINE**

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week the House Republican leadership blew past the deadline to adopt the budget.

Instead of coming together to enact a budget that invests in American jobs, grows our economy, and builds the paychecks of American workers, Republicans actually decided intentionally not to pass a budget at all.

Even worse, in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, 100,000 people can't drink their water because it has been poisoned by lead through decisions made by its own State government. It is in crisis.

There is a bill in the Senate and there is a bill in this House to provide relief to this great city during a disaster, and this Congress won't bring up that bill, nor will it bring up legislation to deal with the opioid epidemic or the Zika virus epidemic.

This is shameful. This is the Congress of the United States. We are supposed to do the work of the American people. We have people in crisis in my own hometown, and we can't get Congress to act, not on a budget, not on health for Flint, and not on Zika.

We need to do our job in the body of this United States Congress.

**SUPPORTING THE TEXAS-LED CHALLENGE TO THE PRESIDENT'S UNILATERAL AMNESTY**

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, this week the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the United States v. Texas case. This is the Texas-led challenge to the President's executive orders on immigration, a challenge that I strongly support.

By granting unilateral amnesty to 5 million illegal immigrants, the President has blatantly disregarded his duty to enforce our laws. Instead, he is trying to rewrite them altogether. It doesn't work this way.

Article I of the Constitution is clear. All legislative powers shall be vested in Congress. Erosion of this principle is a threat to the rule of law. That is why this challenge by Texas and other States is so important.

This fight is about asserting the will of Americans and defending the authority of Congress. I am pleased that the House has voted to put its full support behind Texas and our Speaker. Lower courts have already ruled to halt the President's illegal amnesty.

On behalf of my constituents, I strongly urge the Supreme Court to do the same.

□ 1215

**CONGRATULATING J.W. OAKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J.W. Oakley Elementary School for their academic and civic accomplishments.

Over the past 18 years, Oakley's commitment to academic excellence has enhanced the lives of their students and earned them statewide recognition. Oakley has been recognized as a California Title I Achieving School and California Distinguished School. In doing so, Oakley has consistently placed among the top performing schools in our district, with a California Academic Performance Index score of 804.

Furthermore, their extraordinary participation in the Jump Rope for Heart program has helped raise over \$200,000 for research initiatives.

I would like to commend the hard-working administrators and teachers for their work—teachers like Maryann Vasquez-Moreno, an educator of 15 years, who in addition to preparing her students to succeed, also organizes yearly food drives during the holidays for her community.

I am delighted to recognize Oakley Elementary School for their commitment to our children.

COMMENDING U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL FOR ENCOURAGING WOOD USE IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent, has a deep heritage with wood products and timber industries. Wood is the ultimate green building material and should be encouraged for its environmental benefits.

Unfortunately, USDA's Bio-Preferred Program did not recognize wood products, despite the obvious benefits of using such material in buildings. Because of this, I authored the Forest Products Fairness Act of 2013. This legislation, which was ultimately included in the 2014 farm bill, modified USDA's definition of bio-based products to specifically include forest products.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the U.S. Green Building Council in taking the next step with the recent changes to their Leadership in Energy Environmental Design, or LEED, green building rating system.

This change will encourage more use of domestic wood in building construction. The change includes lumber companies certified by the American Tree Farm System and landowners certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative or the Forest Stewardship Council.

This decision by the U.S. Green Building Council is another step in the right direction and will provide a boost to many across Pennsylvania involved in the industries that rely on our significant timber resources.

RECOGNIZING THE PAMELA SILVA CONDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding south Floridian and her initiative, the Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship.

Having graduated from my alma mater, Florida International University, with a degree in broadcast journalism and a master's degree in business, Pamela understands the importance of higher education.

While Pamela calls Miami home, her work as a six-time Emmy Award-winning journalist has taken her all over the world. With her success, Pamela has made it a point to be civic-minded and engaged in our community, primarily on children and college education issues.

Always wanting to do more, Pamela founded the Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship, which focuses on assisting first-generation, low-income business or

journalism majors and help them attend college.

Today I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in honoring Pamela Silva Conde, and thank her for all that she has done and will continue to do for students in our south Florida community.

RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2016 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Bobbie Cavnar, from my district in Gaston County.

Mr. Cavnar has spent the last 13 years teaching British literature at Belmont's South Point High School. He spent the last year receiving awards, tremendous awards, in fact. In May, he was named Gaston County's Teacher of the Year. Then, in December, he was named the best teacher for North Carolina's southwest region.

Mr. Cavnar's students describe him as an engaging teacher who asks your opinion and values what you say and believe—maybe something we in the House could learn from—and the type of teacher who makes you want to come to school, perhaps the highest compliment you could pay to a high school teacher these days.

Please join me in congratulating Bobbie Cavnar, and thank him for his dedication to the students of Gaston County.

OBAMA CAN'T MAKE IMMIGRATION LAWS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the State of Texas argued before the Supreme Court that the President's executive amnesty violates Federal immigration laws and the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution.

The Constitution is clear: Congress has the sole power to write laws, including immigration laws; and the President must faithfully execute the laws, whether he agrees with them or not.

In fact, President Obama has said dozens of times that he doesn't have the power to unilaterally rewrite immigration laws. However, when the House of Representatives refused to approve the President's mass amnesty policies, he violated his own words and acted alone.

The Supreme Court should uphold the rule of law and stop the President's unprecedented executive amnesty policies.

HEALTHIER ACT OF 2016

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Remote Area Medical is a nonprofit organization that sends teams of doctors and nurses to give free medical care to our Nation's poorest people. I am proud that it is headquartered in my district and founded by my constituent, Stan Brock.

RAM, as we call it, is world-renowned for its great work. For over 30 years, many thousands of people in the U.S. and worldwide have benefited from the free medical services provided by RAM's volunteers. RAM has been featured on 60 Minutes and recognized for its excellence by media outlets such as Time Magazine, BBC, and countless others.

I have introduced the HEALTHIER Act of 2016, which would give a financial incentive to any State that does pass, or already has passed, laws that enable groups like RAM to volunteer more easily across State borders to provide free medical services to our Nation's neediest. Unlike many recent healthcare initiatives, this is not a Federal mandate. It uses funds already available and does not require new funding. It protects State's rights.

My bill makes those who can't afford good health care a priority. It unites them with people who are always searching for ways to help others. That is what health care is all about—helping others.

I ask my colleagues to cosponsor my legislation so that our doctors and nurses can volunteer their skills and expertise to help their fellow citizens who desperately need help and health.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 19, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 19, 2016 at 10:56 a.m.:

Appointment:  
Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.



PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1206, NO HIRES FOR THE DELINQUENT IRS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4885, IRS OVERSIGHT WHILE ELIMINATING SPENDING (OWES) ACT OF 2016

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 687 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 687

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1206) to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-47 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-50 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the cus-

tomary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for H.R. 1206, the No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act, and H.R. 4885, the IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending (OWES) Act of 2016.

House Resolution 687 provides a structured rule for H.R. 1206 and a closed rule for H.R. 4885.

The resolution makes all germane amendments offered by Members in order.

Additionally, the resolution provides each bill 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, each April, Americans send a large portion of their hard-earned income to the Internal Revenue Service. Often, they don't get a good return on their investment from the agency tasked with collecting their tax dollars.

Since I joined Congress in 2011, I have heard from countless constituents struggling to understand how to comply with the complex Tax Code or with other directives from the Internal Revenue Service. Often, they turn to my office because they have no help within the agency and nobody willing to give them help.

I know that these problems aren't new and they aren't issues just contained in my district. They impact all Americans who have representatives here in Congress, from both the Republican and the Democrat side.

We owe our constituents improvements in customer service from all Federal agencies. In the end, everybody who works for our government is in the job of customer service to provide a service for our citizens.

And, of course, this week is tax week, so it is a natural week to advance some bills aimed at restoring our American people's confidence in their public institution and improving the taxpayer experience with the Internal Revenue Service.

This rule makes two bills in consideration: No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act, sponsored by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), and IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending (OWES) Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

□ 1230

Under current law, the IRS is required to terminate any employee who willfully fails to file his Federal tax return or intentionally understates his tax liability. A report from last year by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration found that the IRS consistently reduces penalties for current employees who violate tax laws. The Treasury Inspector General reported that, of the 1,580 employees who were found to have willfully violated tax laws between 2004 and 2013, only 39 percent were terminated, resigned, or retired.

The No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act would prohibit the hiring of additional IRS employees until the Secretary of the Treasury can certify that current IRS employees do not have serious delinquent tax debt. The vast majority of Federal employees pay their taxes in full and on time, but this bill would give the American people and American taxpayers the confidence in knowing that Internal Revenue Service employees are following the same laws that the American people follow and that the agency is tasked with enforcing.

The other bill under consideration under this rule is the IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending Act, which would repeal a provision of the current law that enables the Internal Revenue Service to spend user fees that are collected by the agency without any congressional approval or without an appropriation. Under this bill, these fees would be directed to the Treasury's general fund, helping to ensure the agency operates in a transparent and accountable manner. It would also help us as we are trying to close in on our deficit spending and are trying to balance our budget.

The funds from these fees have historically supported taxpayer services, but in fiscal year 2015, the IRS spent only 10 percent of this money for that purpose. It diverted the other 90 percent for other purposes. In fact, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight found that the IRS is purposely diverting these funds away from taxpayer services and towards other functions, like the implementation of ObamaCare and other items.

Together, these bills would take important steps toward improving the IRS' customer service to taxpayers, and it would give Americans the peace of mind that the Internal Revenue Service and its employees are following the same laws that the American people and taxpayers are required to follow.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the closed rule providing for the consideration of both H.R. 1206, the No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act, and H.R. 4885, the IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, when we began this Congress, we were told that it would be the most open Congress that we have had in our great Nation. The general public does not quite grasp, at least I believe, the significance of rules being closed or rules being open.

When there is an open rule for whatever the subject matter is, then every Member of the House of Representatives has an opportunity, if he or she chooses, to make potential amendments to the subject matter that is before the House. My colleagues on the other side have chosen a different tack. I might add, at other times—in my opinion, wrongly—Democrats have done the same thing, and that is to have closed rules and shut out the rest of the people who may have interesting and necessary proposals with reference to whatever the subject matter is.

In this particular instance, we are now numbering, with these two bills, 55 times that we have come here to the floor with closed rules. I bring that to the attention of the general public with an eye toward hoping that there will be some pressure, as there was when I came here, on the majority body to begin to open up this process so that all Members can participate. These bills are nothing more than partisan messaging bills that the majority hopes to use to score cheap political points during the tax season deadline, which was yesterday.

H.R. 1206 would freeze hiring at the IRS until the Treasury Secretary certifies that there are no IRS employees with seriously delinquent tax debt. I agree—and I believe Democrats agree—that IRS employees should pay their taxes. In my view, that is common sense. The good news is that the IRS' department, the Treasury, has the lowest tax delinquency rate—at 1.19 percent—throughout the entire executive branch. So, instead of solving the actual important problems that are facing our Nation, my Republican friends—and the presenter of this measure is my friend—have, apparently, decided it is more important to try and invent problems to solve.

There is then H.R. 4885, yet another one of these grab bag proposals that we bring here with more than one rule at a time. This bill would prohibit the IRS from supplementing its annual appropriations funding through user fees, but what it really amounts to is an end-around attempt to cut an additional 4 percent from the IRS' budget. We already cut that budget, rather substantially, previously. Now we seek, under this measure, to cut even more.

In other words, the majority often complains that the IRS is not good at

its job, and in their wisdom, the answer to this concern is to cut the agency's budget even more and make it harder to hire the people it needs. The IRS is already drastically underfunded and understaffed, so, naturally, my friends on the other side think the solution is to cut more and hire less. This counter-intuitive logic is not making the IRS a more successful agency. No. Instead, these proposals will simply make the IRS' already difficult task of enforcing the tax law and serving the American people even more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, more importantly, last week, I asked my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Where is the budget? I had the pleasure of working with my friend from Ohio in presenting yet another rule that was going nowhere like this one is. I asked him to have a colloquy with me regarding the budget. I won't bother him with that this week. I am sure that, doubtless, he and I will be back here next week and will be talking about the ongoing negotiations, as he told me last week, on the side of the majority.

This week, now that we have blown past the statutorily mandated deadline to pass a budget resolution, through my colleague on the other side and you, Mr. Speaker, I will just ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Where is the budget? Perhaps the American people would like to ask them the same thing: Where is the budget?

Mr. Speaker, it is not just the fact that we have no budget; it is the fact that we are not addressing, for example, Puerto Rico's debt crisis, that we are not funding a response to combat the risk posed by the Zika virus. Let me footnote that particular situation.

My understanding is that, yesterday, in the Rules Committee, the chairman of the Rules Committee indicated that he thought that there were 20 States that had this problem but that he felt that Texas didn't have the problem. He did assert, with all of the horrible rain and flooding that occurred in certain areas of Texas yesterday, that the residual from that likely will allow, as summer proceeds, for added mosquitos.

What has transpired that is little understood by the public is that this matter is now affecting as many as 20 States, according to the chairman. My recollection, from just the news alone, indicates that there may be as many as 33 States in which this pronounced virus has shown up. There are now 80 examples of its having occurred in the State of Florida—7 of them in the congressional district that I am privileged to serve. This particular virus that affects pregnant women and their children is likely to mutate, and scientists signified—the NIH department testified here earlier this week—that this may now be something that we are going to have to look at with adults, who may very well wind up with this problem.

If this thing blows up, then we are going to have a crisis in this Nation, and that needs to be addressed right now, not at such time as many people are affected. We can reasonably expect that, with what has occurred, the President has requested nearly \$2 billion to address this problem. The Republican majority sent back to the President: take it out of Ebola, and take it out of other areas. The NIH indicates that they would then have to go into other funds, which they are going into, including the fund for tuberculosis.

Here again, we have a similar example as to what we have going on here. Rather than addressing a real crisis, we are addressing matters that are going nowhere fast. We are not taking steps to ensure that men and women are paid the same for the same work. We are not working to reform our criminal justice system or our broken immigration system. In fact, under the leadership of this Republican majority, we are not doing much of anything here to solve any of the problems that are facing our country—a broken infrastructure that we have been begging about right here in the Nation's Capital. Aside from all of the potholes, the Memorial Bridge may very well be shut down as well as thousands of bridges in this country; yet we cannot do the things that are vitally necessary that we should be doing in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Conference's inability to govern means, instead of addressing the many important problems that are facing this great Nation of ours, we are here today, attacking an already underfunded and understaffed agency so that the majority can score political points. Sadly, this has become the status quo with my friends on the other side of the aisle.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to address a few issues with regard to the rule on the two bills.

The Rules Committee did approve every amendment that was found germane. There were many amendments that were found not germane to these bills. For example, there was an amendment filed that would have declared that water district rebates are not taxable, but because neither of these bills actually amends the Tax Code and defines what is taxable and what is not, that was not germane. Of every amendment the Rules Committee actually found germane, we included it to be voted on. One of these bills has an amendment, and the other one had no germane amendments filed. The rule did include some opportunities for that.

I appreciate the gentleman from Florida's impassioned plea on things like infrastructure and Zika, on which

we do have bipartisan agreement—the gentleman is correct—and we need to work to solve those problems.

□ 1245

In this rule, we have two bills from the Ways and Means Committee. It is tax week. Frankly, it is a week for us to increase the transparency and accountability of the Internal Revenue Service, and that is what these two bills do.

Frankly, the IRS has 100,000 employees. So by the gentleman's own math, Mr. Speaker, of 1.5 percent, that is 1,500 employees with serious delinquencies in the IRS, working to process other people's taxes.

There is some work we need to do to, again, to give some belief to the American people that the employees of the Internal Revenue Service play by the same rules that the American people do and that the American taxpayers do. I think that is the purpose of the bill.

As soon as the Treasury Secretary can verify that we have weeded out those with serious delinquencies from the IRS, then they could continue to hire. So there is nothing that gets in the way there.

The other bill from the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) makes sure that, when there are user fees that aren't appropriated, they can't be used. They have to go back to the Treasury.

Frankly, Article I of our Constitution says that Congress will appropriate money for government services and government agencies. When we have unaccountable fees that are not used through the appropriations process, it creates a problem. It is a constitutional problem. It is time we stand up for the Constitution, and that is what we are doing today with Mr. SMITH's bill.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the distinguished chair of the Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), who is a member of the Rules Committee, for not only yielding me the time, but also for the service that he gives to the Rules Committee, the hours of deliberate work, reading, and thought process.

I also want to address, if I can, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) did, with great admiration not only to Judge HASTINGS for always constantly staying with issues and ideas that not only affect his district in Florida, but that really address the entire country.

I was delighted yesterday when the gentleman brought up in a most thoughtful, genuine way: Where is the answer to these important questions?

What we are here today, Mr. Speaker, to do is—as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) talked about, we are here to have, I think, once again a thoughtful debate about some problems that we think we see.

The role of the United States Congress, on behalf of the American people, is to make sure that we provide proper oversight, that we fund well and faithfully the running of the government.

As we see things that happen from time to time, it is our role to make sure that we are providing the debate, the argument, the facts of the case, and that is what we are doing today about the IRS.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) did talk about H.R. 4885, IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending Act. There is more to the story about fees that are being collected by the IRS.

I am going to read here directly about what they have done. Mr. Speaker, traditionally, the IRS has used this money that they collect in fees, that they collect for work that they do that goes directly back into customer service, sustaining themselves in the eyes of the public, taking calls, answering questions, trying to be of a service nature.

We understand the IRS is an organization that is there to collect taxes and very few people want to pay certainly more than what they have to. But in doing that, in complying with the law, it is not unusual that a taxpayer would want to contact the Service to learn more about paying their taxes, properly reporting their taxes, and properly doing things.

So, historically, the user fee account has primarily supported taxpayer services in the past. However, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight found that, in fiscal year 2015, the IRS deliberately diverted resources away from taxpayer services toward other agency functions, including implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

So they took their eye off the ball that they had previously done to change that. In fiscal year 2014, the IRS spent \$183 million in these user fees on taxpayer services, which was 44 percent of the user account fees. That is what they used it for: 44 percent.

In fiscal year 2015, however, the agency spent only \$49 million—from \$183 million to \$49 million on taxpayer services and only 10 percent of user fees from those accounts that came in. That decision amounted to a 73 percent reduction in user fee allocation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to say today to the IRS—because this is how we give them oversight. We hold a hearing. We do a markup. We bring the ideas to the Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee notifies all the Members that, if you have an idea about how you would like to talk about this bill, there is an amendment process. For both the rules that we are doing today, we made all of the amendments in order that were germane.

What we are saying here, Mr. Speaker, is that we disagree with the IRS.

We are going to force the IRS to begin using these user fees in the way that they have historically done so that the public, which are taxpayers, have a chance to comply with the law, to get their questions answered, and to do business as is necessary.

The IRS has intentionally changed the way they do business to the detriment of the customer. Republicans all the time argue we ought to be more like customer services or a business-type organization.

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

Mr. STIVERS. I yield an additional 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, so what we are trying to say today, which we would like to do on a bipartisan basis, which we would like to do straight up and look right at the IRS, is say: We would like to meet you in a way to where you know what we think. We would like to be very specific. We would like to show you exactly what we are talking about. We would love to have you comply.

In this case, it is taking a piece of legislation that we think is in the best interest of the IRS—because we are helping them protect themselves—and Congress that has oversight and an administration that we would welcome this opportunity. This is not some sneaky attempt to do something wrong. This is the right attempt.

The second part of the rule is H.R. 1206, No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act. That simply says that we want to make sure that the Commissioner of the IRS understands that they should not hire any new employee if they have a tax problem.

I would think that would be part of the agreement. I would think that an employee of the IRS would understand that, to be faithful to their job, they should not be given an extra status better than any taxpayer who pays their taxes, has done what they are supposed to do, and follows the law.

Mr. Speaker, that is why Republicans are on the floor of the House of Representatives today. I am proud of what Congressman STIVERS is doing. I support this rule that is a fair and logical rule for the best interest of us working with the IRS, with our colleagues that are Democrats and Republicans, and with the administration.

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

I ask the chairman if he would remain just a moment to engage in a colloquy with me.

Mr. Chairman, with great respect, do you agree with me that, between the years 2010 and 2015, Congress cut the IRS budget by 17 percent?

Mr. SESSIONS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman engaging me in a colloquy.

In fact, on a bipartisan basis, that was achieved, and the President of the United States signed the legislation. That was because of the gross examples of the IRS' conduct as it was related to politicalization. That would be correct.

Mr. HASTINGS. So, then, having cut their budget by 17 percent and then not allowing them to undertake the user fees under the measure that is before us in a manner as you assert to undertake a mandate that they had, do you agree with me that the IRS, under the Affordable Care Act, is mandated to implement that act?

Mr. SESSIONS. Yes, sir. In fact, I do. But I also recognize—and the gentleman knows this. You are making a very, very good point. They did not use it for something they were not authorized to do.

My point is that I think what we are trying to say is we would like to get the IRS to answer more questions. Some of the people who might be asking questions, it might be related to the Affordable Care Act because, in fact, it is a new portion of the law. And the IRS, I believe, has a duty to at least balance what they do, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. I appreciate that very much, Mr. Chairman.

Then, for all of our edification, not needing a response unless you care to give one, I said earlier in my remarks that it was less than 2 percent of the delinquencies that occurred in the executive branch, inclusive of the IRS.

I don't mean to beat up on staff and Congress people, but congressional employees have less than 6 percent, about 5.8 percent, delinquencies.

Now, I am not arguing for delinquencies. But if we are going to go after the IRS, then we might want to take care of our own.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas, if he cares to respond.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman makes a very important point. I would respond back by saying it is probably my fault and Members' fault. We do not ask that question.

I do not have a determination. I generally do not do a full background check. I do not have access to their records. I would not know if they were telling me the truth or not.

If you were a law enforcement organization or if you were a hospital looking for certification, if you were the IRS, you would have pretty much data available to you so that you didn't ask a question that you couldn't verify. So I think the gentleman makes a point.

I will tell you that this Member of Congress is now and has always been faithful and has not done anything with his taxes. I pay mine every year.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am not just talking about Congresspersons, I am talking about throughout the bureaucracy.

Mr. SESSIONS. Well, I agree with that. Once again, I don't ask the question, but the IRS should.

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes, I follow you. I don't have a problem with that. I thank the chairman for his forthright commentary.

Mr. Speaker, I would advise my colleague from Ohio that I have no further speakers. I think we have made our time deadline of 1:50. So I am ready to close.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further speakers and am prepared to close.

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

If we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a bill that would ensure that American corporations that enjoy the benefits of operating in our country continue to pay their fair share of taxes by closing the tax inversion loophole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question.

These partisan messaging bills are not what the American people want or deserve. These bills are what the extremists in the Republican Party that didn't come here to govern want.

□ 1300

Instead of debating and passing a budget, we are here today ignoring the important work of governing so the majority can try and score political points and appease the insatiable extreme wing of their party that turned down their party's own budget proposal.

By the way, the Republican budget proposal, the one they couldn't get enough votes in their own conference to pass, would have ended the Medicare guarantee for seniors. It would have made \$6.5 trillion in cuts, the sharpest ever proposed by the House Committee on the Budget. It would have repealed the Affordable Care Act and dismantled the affordable health care of 20 million Americans.

And yet, that Republican proposal, as extreme as I view it to be, was still not enough to get the extremist wing to agree to it. When I say "the extremist wing," we are talking about roughly 40 Members of the House of Representatives. Maybe it flows as high up as 47 or as low as 35. They seem to be the tail that is wagging this elephant.

So here we are. No budget, and we aren't addressing any of the real pressing issues facing our country. Rather, we are debating partisan messaging bills with no hope of becoming law. I don't think that there are companion

measures in the United States Senate, and I can pretty much assure everybody that when we finish the discussion here today and the Republicans pass this measure—and a handful of Democrats may vote for it; I doubt that—but when we pass it, that will be the end of it and tax season will go on. We will have made the measure look like it is something that the American people are going to have as law.

The House of Representatives is not just some messaging platform that the majority can use to try and score transparently cheap political points. It is a place where the issues facing our Nation should be addressed and solved in a bipartisan manner.

I want to lift from Roll Call—and for purposes of those in the general public of our great country that do not know, we have two or three little papers here inside the beltway, inside the capital, and Roll Call is one of them. They, today, say the following:

"Governing by crisis has become the norm in Congress in recent years, but so far this year even that hasn't happened.

"Puerto Rico is on the verge of economic collapse, an average of 78 people are dying every day from opioid overdoses," and 90-plus people from gun violence, accidental or otherwise, "and mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus have been found in 30 States. But Congress has shown no urgency about addressing those issues.

"Maybe that's not surprising from a Republican majority that can't even adopt a nonbinding budget resolution after months of 'family' discussions."

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Conference has cowered to the extremists in their party, which is truly shameful and not doing one thing to help the people of this great Nation that we have been elected to serve.

Let me make a prediction. This measure will pass. Both these bills will pass the House of Representatives, and tomorrow we will be back here talking about some more measures that are not going to pass as law. Several reasons why. The Senate, first, is not likely to take it up, and even if they did, the administration policy is widely known that the measures would be vetoed.

So why are we doing this instead of Zika? Why are we doing this instead of equal pay for women? Why are we doing these things instead of dealing with our infrastructure? Why are we doing these things instead of giving us a budget so that the appropriations process can do more than end with a measure that will throw everything together at the end of this session? Why are we doing these things and where is the budget? That is what I ask my colleagues.

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's points on things

we should be doing, and I agree and hope we can get a budget agreement in the next coming days or weeks, hopefully as soon as we can get it done. There are other pressing issues that face this country: issues of infrastructure, the Zika virus and how we are ready for it.

But today we are here on two bills that can increase the transparency and accountability of the Internal Revenue Service. I believe both of those bills are well intentioned. I think they would both bring more accountability and more taxpayer confidence to that agency, and I would urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 687 OFFERED BY  
MR. HASTINGS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 415) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 415.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT  
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that

"the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4890, BAN ON IRS BONUSES UNTIL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY DEVELOPS COMPREHENSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3724, ENSURING INTEGRITY IN THE IRS WORKFORCE ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 688 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 688

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4890) to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-49. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3724) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from

rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-48 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 688, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring forward this rule on behalf of the Committee on Rules. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4890, Ban on IRS Bonuses Until Secretary of the Treasury Develops Comprehensive Customer Service Strategy, and H.R. 3724, Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act of 2015.

For each of these two bills, the rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and also provides a motion to recommit. H.R. 4890 will be considered under a structured rule, while H.R. 3724 will be considered under a closed rule, as none of the amendments submitted were germane.

Yesterday the Committee on Rules received testimony from members of the Committee on Ways and Means. Both pieces of legislation covered by this rule were considered and marked up by the Committee on Ways and Means and enjoyed discussion before that committee. H.R. 3724 passed the committee by a voice vote, and H.R. 4890 was also passed and reported by the Committee on Ways and Means.

It is fitting that the House consider these bills to rein in and reform the IRS this week, as Americans across the country have had to face tax day yesterday.

Our Tax Code is overly burdensome and complex and penalizes hardworking Americans. Tax dollars belong in the hands of Americans who have earned them, not in the hands of Washington bureaucrats.

The bills before us today help to rein in the IRS, protect taxpayer money, and hold the IRS accountable.

H.R. 4890, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN), prohibits the IRS from paying bonuses to employees until it creates and submits to Congress a comprehensive strategy to improve customer service.

The IRS' mission is to "provide America's taxpayers top quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities. . ."

Unfortunately, the IRS has fallen woefully short of this stated goal. The IRS does not have a comprehensive customer service strategy to ensure that it is providing effective and efficient service. In fact, in fiscal year 2015, only 38 percent of the callers wanting to speak to an IRS representative were able to reach one. This is unacceptable.

No one likes to pay their taxes, but the IRS has a responsibility to provide service and assistance to those who are trying to meet the burdensome obligation.

H.R. 4890 makes clear that until the IRS meets its obligation to the taxpayers who fund the agency, IRS employees will not get bonuses. To me, this is common sense. We should not be rewarding agency employees when they are not meeting their mission. H.R. 4890 helps hardworking Americans by ensuring that the IRS implements a comprehensive customer service strategy.

H.R. 3724, introduced by the gentleman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM), prohibits the IRS Commissioner from rehiring any employee who was let go from the agency for misconduct.

Now, just think about that one for a second. We are in a place with the IRS where we have to prohibit by law that agency from rehiring people who they have fired for misconduct. No wonder people shake their heads.

I can tell you this—a businessman or woman in Georgia would think twice about hiring someone they had to fire, but the IRS, which has access to sensitive taxpayer data, is repeatedly doing just that, according to the agency's own inspector general.

In fact, according to Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, the IRS rehired 141 former employees who had been removed from service for issues ranging from falsification of official forms to abuse of IRS leave and property policies.

□ 1315

Americans deserve better. They deserve to know their tax and personal information is protected and that those handling it are held accountable. It is past time we hold the IRS to a higher standard.

I would like to thank Ways and Means Committee Chairman BRADY, Congresswoman NOEM, Congressman MEEHAN, and their staffs for their work in bringing together these important reforms.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong opposition to this rule, which provides for consideration of H.R. 4890, under a structured process, and H.R. 3724, under a completely closed process. These two pieces of legislation are part of the House majority's effort this week to micromanage the IRS and undermine its ability to enforce our tax laws.

This is not a serious attempt at legislating. These bills are press releases. Let's be honest. They are press releases for my friends in the majority to use on the campaign trail, and they are serving as a distraction from the business the Republican leadership has failed to act upon.

Last Friday, House Republicans missed the legally mandated deadline for Congress to enact a budget, and it appears as though we are not going to see a budget resolution on the floor this week—or anytime soon. It is pretty sad that Speaker RYAN, a former Budget Committee chairman himself, can't get the House to pass a budget.

In 2011, Speaker RYAN said that failing to enact a budget is a "historic failure to fulfill one of the most basic responsibilities of governing." In 2012, the Speaker went on to say that not passing a budget "has serious consequences for American families."

But the extreme budget proposed by the Republican leadership—a budget that would end the Medicare guarantee, gut antipoverty programs, and demand \$6.5 trillion in cuts—was not extreme enough for House Republicans, so they can't get a majority within their ranks. This is a failure of the majority to do its job, plain and simple.

Demands by a vocal group of conservative Members to abandon a bipartisan agreement reached last year on spending caps has put a budget in jeopardy and the promise of regular order for the appropriations process out of reach. Don't be surprised if all these spending bills get crammed in during a lame duck session after voters have cast their ballots and we have this big monstrosity that comes before the Congress—nobody knows what is in it—and it gets passed. That is the way the

business of this House will proceed. I don't think that is what the American people want; and if you want to talk about what makes the American people shake their heads, it is that.

Forgive me if I find it ironic that we are here today telling the IRS how to do its job while this Republican majority can't even do its job of passing a budget and fulfilling its most basic responsibility of governing.

So if my Republican friends don't want to pass a budget, there are other important things we can do besides these message bills that are going nowhere:

Negotiations have stalled on legislation to help Puerto Rico avoid a default. We could do that.

A bill to provide aid to families in Flint, Michigan, has not reached the floor for a vote. Clearly, I think everybody in this country was horrified when they learned of the fact that the residents of Flint, Michigan, were being poisoned by the water that was coming out of their faucets. We could do something about that, but we are not.

A bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed the U.S. Senate has been blocked by the leadership in this House for the past 3 years. We could actually fix our immigration laws rather than just complain about them, but we are not going to do that, I guess, either.

I might also suggest to my friends that, if they need bills to consider on the floor, we could respond to the thousands and thousands of constituents from all over the country that have been rallying at the Capitol during the past week as part of the Democracy Spring and Democracy Awakening movements and take up legislation to reform our campaign finance system. Let's do something about getting the money out of politics. Let's remove the influence that special interests have on congressional elections—and all elections—because of our broken campaign finance laws. We could do that, but we are not. We are doing messaging bills that are going nowhere.

We could join millions of our constituents and people across the globe in celebrating Earth Day by considering climate change legislation. I know that may be a heavy lift on my Republican friends, because a big chunk of the Republican Conference doesn't even believe that climate change is an issue.

We could do tax reform. Let's simplify the Tax Code. Let's remove all these loopholes that allow big corporations to escape paying taxes while regular, hardworking people have to pay taxes. Let's do tax reform. That would be a good thing to do during this week, but we are not going to do that.

And perhaps we can maybe debate an AUMF, an Authorization for Use of Military Force, something that I have been urging this place to do for a long,

long time now. Yesterday, the Pentagon announced hundreds more U.S. forces will be deployed in Iraq. We are getting sucked into this war even more deeply. I think people are tired of endless wars. Our troops are expected to perform their responsibilities when we send them to places like Iraq and Syria, but why aren't we expected to do our job and actually debate these issues and vote on them? Instead, we are silent; we are indifferent.

So we have a lot that we can do. Unfortunately, we are not doing any of those things. This place is becoming a Chamber where trivial issues are debated passionately and important ones not at all. We need to do better, and we need to start coming together and figuring out how to solve some of these problems.

H.R. 3724, which is unnecessary at best, prohibits the IRS Commissioner from rehiring any former employee that was terminated for misconduct, even though there are already processes in place to ensure employees with significant performance or conduct problems are not rehired. This legislation is not even necessary.

H.R. 4890 prevents the Treasury Department from paying bonuses to IRS employees until the Secretary submits to Congress a customer service strategy that has been approved by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Again, an added layer of bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter sent to all Members of Congress from The National Treasury Employees Union, which is opposed to H.R. 4890 and a number of the other bills that we are debating here today.

THE NATIONAL  
TREASURY EMPLOYEES UNION,

April 12, 2016.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), representing over 150,000 federal employees in 31 agencies, including the men and women at the IRS, I am writing to express opposition to several bills scheduled to be considered by the House Committee on Ways and Means on April 13. NTEU believes all of these bills would weaken IRS' ability to carry out their taxpayer service and enforcement missions, and undermine efforts to retain dedicated and experienced employees.

H.R. 4885, the "IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending (OWES) Act of 2016," would require IRS collected user fees to be deposited in the general fund of the U.S. Treasury and would prevent the IRS from spending the user fees "unless provided by an appropriations act." NTEU strongly opposes eliminating IRS' ability to use the user fees that it collects, as provided by law. The IRS charges user fees for various services: to assist taxpayers in complying with their tax liabilities; to clarify the application of the tax code to particular circumstances; and to ensure the quality of paid preparers of tax returns, among others. While user fees have historically been used, in large part, to fund traditional taxpayer service activities, recent budget cuts in excess of \$900 million since Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 have forced the IRS to reallocate a greater portion of these

user fees to implement a number of significant legislative mandates, nearly all of which came with no additional funding. These include the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FACTA), and the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act.

While proponents of this legislation claim the bill is simply an attempt to ensure proper congressional oversight of the IRS, in reality these measures are designed to undermine and weaken the IRS's ability to enforce enacted laws. While NTEU takes no position as to whether any particular tax statutory provisions remain or are repealed, NTEU believes it is important to remember that the IRS, and its personnel, are charged with implementing each and every tax law passed by Congress, including the ACA. Therefore, it is imperative that the IRS be provided with the resources necessary to carry out its responsibilities under the law, and to retain the flexibility to allocate user fee revenues as necessary to do so.

Prohibiting the IRS from accessing the roughly \$400 million in user fees it collects each year is effectively an immediate cut of \$400 million to its budget, and will simply force the IRS to divert resources from other critical taxpayer service and enforcement programs to carry out its statutory mandates.

NTEU also urges you to oppose H.R. 1206, the "No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act" which would prohibit the hiring of additional IRS employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the IRS has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

While NTEU believes that each and every IRS employee should pay their taxes in full and on time, we have serious concerns about how the bill defines a seriously delinquent tax debt, and believe basing IRS' ability to hire additional personnel on such an uncertain standard is unjustified, and will only further undermine its ability to meet its taxpayer service and enforcement missions.

Under H.R. 1206, a tax debt is considered "seriously delinquent" by the filing of a notice of a federal tax lien (NFTL). Unfortunately, using notice of a lien as an indication a debt is seriously delinquent is inappropriate since it is not a final determination of tax liability. Section 6321 of the Internal Revenue Code establishes that a lien can be filed immediately upon the assessment of tax. In many instances, the IRS may file an NFTL to simply secure the government's future potential interest and establish its priority as a possible creditor in competition with other creditors. Therefore, the filing of the NFTL is not a true indication that a tax debt is "seriously delinquent."

In addition, it is unclear why this legislation is even necessary. The bill specifically singles out the tax status of employees at the IRS who have an overall tax compliance rate of over 99%, the highest in the federal government, and a much higher compliance rate than the general public. Furthermore, for those employees at the IRS that do have tax debts, the existing Federal Payment Levy Program already allows the IRS to levy federal salaries to recover federal tax debts.

We also believe restricting the IRS' ability to hire qualified applicants based upon an uncertain tax status standard of its employees is misguided, and will simply further impede its ability to provide quality services to American taxpayers. The IRS workforce has been reduced by more than 15,000 employees over the past five years, including many front-line customer service and enforcement personnel. Therefore, it is critical that the

IRS have the ability to hire additional personnel to provide the services taxpayers expect and to implement the laws passed by Congress.

Finally, NTEU urges you to oppose H.R. 4890 which would prohibit the IRS from paying performance awards to its employees until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy. NTEU believes this legislation is unnecessary, and will only serve to undermine IRS efforts to retain experienced employees that provide many of the critical taxpayer services. In fact, the IRS has already recently provided a detailed and comprehensive strategy to improve taxpayer services, and in particular, the phone level of service, as part of its FY 2017 budget request. However, implementation of this strategy will require a commitment by Congress to provide the IRS with the necessary resources and staffing. If members are serious about helping the IRS meet its mission of providing taxpayers with top quality service in a timely manner, Congress will fund the Administration's FY 2017 IRS budget request.

Furthermore, this measure is unfairly punitive to hard-working front-line employees who are not responsible for developing or implementing agency-wide policies and strategies, and who have already experienced significant pay hardships in recent years—stemming from the three-year pay freeze and furlough days, followed by three years of minuscule pay increases, and performance awards below one percent of their salaries. Like all federal agencies and effective employers, the IRS must be able to properly compensate its workforce, particularly at a time of a healthy job market, and to distinguish and reward higher performing employees.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to oppose these bills during committee consideration on Wednesday, April 13. Please contact Matt Socicnat of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY M. REARDON,  
*National President.*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, if the majority is concerned with customer service at the IRS, we should be considering appropriations legislation to fully fund the administration's budget request for the agency. IRS funding has been slashed by nearly \$1 billion since 2010, and as a result, the IRS had to cut 12,000 jobs, reduce employee training, and delay technology updates. So while I understand that my friends on the other side of the aisle don't like the IRS, it is their demands for steep funding cuts that have led directly to a degradation of customer service during the past several years.

Furthermore, the IRS has already developed and has begun to implement a strategy to improve taxpayer services, and here is the deal, Mr. Speaker. If this were really an issue, we could have brought this up at any time. We could come together and try to see whether we can work on bipartisan legislation, but instead, we bring up legislation attacking the IRS during the week that people have to pay their taxes. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that this is all about messaging and not about substance.

I think that people in this country are really sick and tired of the performance of this Congress—or the lack of performance of this Congress. We have a lot of challenges that we need to confront; we have a lot of problems that we need to solve; and rather than doing this, we ought to be doing the people's business. We ought to be legislating in a serious way and leave these press releases and these messaging bills for the Republican congressional campaign committee. It is beneath, I think, the standards that this Congress should uphold.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. We have no speakers because everybody is so interested in this legislation that I think they would prefer to stay in their offices.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question. If we do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up Mr. VAN HOLLEN's bill that would restrict American companies' use of so-called tax inversions to shrink their tax obligations by hiding money in foreign countries. The bill would direct the money toward repairing our crumbling infrastructure.

That is exactly the type of legislation we ought to be debating here: something that is meaningful to the American people and to get American corporations that are trying to not pay their fair share to pay their fair share and to invest in repairing our crumbling infrastructure, whether it be water infrastructure that we see in such disrepair in places like Flint, Michigan, or our roads and bridges. Where I come from in Massachusetts, we have bridges that are older than most of your States, and they need repair.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question and to vote "no" on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I believe there is probably going to be debate on these bills this week on the House floor. But also, there are certain times when you just understand the bills are, as I say from my part of the world, just common sense, and we just need to get to them.

It is amazing that we actually have to tell the IRS to not rehire people

that they fired for misconduct. That is just an amazing idea. There are a lot of things that need to go on over there, the least of which is to give them more money which they have shown, repeatedly over the past few years, that they use to target groups that they don't like.

So that is not the reason that they are problematic. There are other issues there that need to be dealt with.

As I said before, our tax system is out of control. Americans deserve to keep their hard-earned dollars. While I would like to dismantle the IRS—I am more of a fair tax proponent—while it exists, we must rein it in and hold it accountable.

This rule provides for consideration of legislation that will protect taxpayers. It takes important steps toward ensuring that the IRS is not abusing taxpayer dollars. For that reason I urge my colleagues to support this rule and H.R. 4890 and H.R. 3724.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 688 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3064) to authorize highway infrastructure and safety, transit, motor carrier, rail, and other surface transportation programs, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 3064.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT  
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.



Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question on H.R. 688 will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of H.R. 688, if ordered; ordering the previous question on H.R. 687; and adoption of H.R. 687, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 172, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 155]

YEAS—240

Abraham	Graves (MO)	Newhouse
Aderholt	Griffith	Noem
Allen	Grothman	Nugent
Amash	Guinta	Nunes
Amodei	Guthrie	Olson
Babin	Hanna	Palazzo
Barletta	Hardy	Palmer
Barr	Harper	Paulsen
Barton	Harris	Pearce
Benishek	Hartzler	Perry
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Pittenger
Bishop (MI)	Hensarling	Pitts
Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler	Poe (TX)
Black	Hice, Jody B.	Poliquin
Blackburn	Hill	Pompeo
Blum	Holding	Posey
Bost	Hudson	Price, Tom
Boustany	Huelskamp	Ratcliffe
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Reed
Brat	Hultgren	Reichert
Bridenstine	Hunter	Renacci
Brooks (AL)	Hurd (TX)	Ribble
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Rice (SC)
Buchanan	Issa	Rigell
Buck	Jenkins (KS)	Roby
Buchson	Jenkins (WV)	Roe (TN)
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (KY)
Calvert	Jolly	Rohrabacher
Carter (GA)	Jones	Rokita
Carter (TX)	Jordan	Rooney (FL)
Chabot	Joyce	Ros-Lehtinen
Chaffetz	Katko	Roskam
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Ross
Coffman	Kelly (PA)	Rothfus
Cole	King (IA)	Rouzer
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Royce
Comstock	Kinzinger (IL)	Russell
Conaway	Kline	Salmon
Cook	Knight	Sanford
Costello (PA)	Labrador	Scalise
Cramer	LaHood	Schweikert
Crawford	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Crenshaw	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
Culberson	Lance	Sessions
Curbelo (FL)	Latta	Shimkus
Davis, Rodney	LoBiondo	Shuster
Denham	Long	Simpson
Dent	Loudermilk	Smith (MO)
DeSantis	Love	Smith (NE)
DesJarlais	Lucas	Smith (NJ)
Diaz-Balart	Luetkemeyer	Smith (TX)
Donovan	Lummis	Stefanik
Duffy	MacArthur	Stewart
Duncan (SC)	Marchant	Stivers
Duncan (TN)	Marino	Thompson (PA)
Ellmers (NC)	Massie	Thornberry
Emmer (MN)	McCarthy	Tiberi
Farenthold	McCauley	Tipton
Fitzpatrick	McClintock	Trott
Fleischmann	McHenry	Turner
Fleming	McKinley	Upton
Flores	McMorris	Valadao
Forbes	Rodgers	Wagner
Fortenberry	McSally	Walberg
Fox	Meadows	Walden
Franks (AZ)	Meehan	Walker
Frelinghuysen	Messer	Walorski
Gibbs	Mica	Walters, Mimi
Gibson	Miller (FL)	Weber (TX)
Gohmert	Miller (MI)	Webster (FL)
Goodlatte	Mooleenaar	Wenstrup
Gosar	Mooney (WV)	Westerman
Gowdy	Mullin	Westmoreland
Granger	Mulvaney	Whitfield
Graves (GA)	Murphy (PA)	Williams
Graves (LA)	Neugebauer	Wilson (SC)

Wittman	Yoho	Zeldin
Womack	Young (AK)	Zinke
Woodall	Young (IA)	
Yoder	Young (IN)	

NAYS—172

Adams	Gabbard	Norcross
Aguilar	Gallego	O'Rourke
Ashford	Garamendi	Pallone
Beatty	Graham	Pascarell
Bera	Grayson	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	Pelosi
Bonamici	Green, Gene	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan	Grijalva	Peters
F.	Gutiérrez	Peterson
Brady (PA)	Hahn	Pingree
Brown (FL)	Hastings	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)	Polis
Bustos	Higgins	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Himes	Quigley
Capps	Honda	Rangel
Capuano	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Huffman	Richmond
Carney	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Ruiz
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	T.
Ciulline	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Clay	Kind	Schiff
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Clyburn	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Langevin	Scott, David
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Lawrence	Sherman
Costa	Lee	Sinema
Courtney	Levin	Sires
Crowley	Lewis	Slaughter
Cuellar	Lieu, Ted	Smith (WA)
Cummings	Lipinski	Speier
Davis (CA)	Loebsock	Swalwell (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Takai
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Takano
DeGette	Lowe	Thompson (CA)
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	(NM)	Titus
DelBene	Lynch	Tonko
Deutch	Maloney, Sean	Torres
Dingell	Matsui	Tsongas
Doggett	McCollum	Vargas
Doyle, Michael	McDermott	Veasey
F.	McGovern	Vela
Duckworth	McNerney	Velázquez
Ellison	Meeks	Vislosky
Engel	Moore	Walz
Eshoo	Moulton	Wasserman
Esty	Murphy (FL)	Schultz
Farr	Nadler	Watson Coleman
Foster	Napolitano	Welch
Frankel (FL)	Neal	Wilson (FL)
Fudge	Nolan	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—21

Bass	Fattah	Maloney,
Becerra	Fincher	Carolyn
Beyer	Garrett	Meng
Blumenauer	Hinojosa	Rush
Collins (NY)	Jackson Lee	Stutzman
DeSaulnier	Johnson, E. B.	Van Hollen
Dold	Lujan Grisham	Waters, Maxine
Edwards	(NM)	

□ 1352

Mr. THOMPSON of California changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 242, noes 172, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 156]

AYES—242

Abraham	Grothman	Paulsen
Aderholt	Guinta	Pearce
Allen	Guthrie	Perry
Amash	Hanna	Pittenger
Amodei	Hardy	Pitts
Babin	Harper	Poe (TX)
Barletta	Harris	Poliquin
Barr	Hartzler	Pompeo
Barton	Heck (NV)	Posey
Benishkek	Hensarling	Price, Tom
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Ratcliffe
Bishop (MI)	Hice, Jody B.	Reed
Bishop (UT)	Hill	Reichert
Black	Holding	Renacci
Blackburn	Hudson	Ribble
Blum	Huelskamp	Rice (SC)
Bost	Huizenga (MI)	Rigell
Boustany	Hultgren	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Roe (TN)
Brat	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hurt (VA)	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Issa	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Jenkins (KS)	Rokita
Buchanan	Jenkins (WV)	Rooney (FL)
Buck	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen
Bucshon	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Burgess	Jolly	Ross
Byrne	Jones	Rothfus
Calvert	Jordan	Rouzer
Carter (GA)	Joyce	Royce
Carter (TX)	Katko	Russell
Chabot	Kelly (MS)	Salmon
Chaffetz	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Clawson (FL)	King (IA)	Scalise
Coffman	King (NY)	Schweikert
Cole	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Comstock	Knight	Sessions
Conaway	Labrador	Shimkus
Cook	LaHood	Shuster
Cooper	LaMalfa	Simpson
Costa	Lamborn	Sinema
Costello (PA)	Lance	Smith (MO)
Cramer	Latta	Smith (NE)
Crawford	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Long	Smith (TX)
Culberson	Love	Stefanik
Curbelo (FL)	Lucas	Stewart
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Stivers
Denham	Lummis	Thompson (PA)
Dent	MacArthur	Thornberry
DeSantis	Marchant	Tiberi
DesJarlais	Marino	Tipton
Diaz-Balart	Massie	Trott
Donovan	McCarthy	Turner
Duffy	McCaul	Upton
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Valadao
Duncan (TN)	McHenry	Wagner
Ellmers (NC)	McKinley	Walberg
Emmer (MN)	McMorris	Walden
Farenthold	Rodgers	Walker
Fitzpatrick	McSally	Walorski
Fleischmann	Meadows	Walters, Mimi
Fleming	Meehan	Weber (TX)
Flores	Messer	Webster (FL)
Forbes	Mica	Wenstrup
Fortenberry	Miller (FL)	Westerman
Foxx	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Franks (AZ)	Moolenaar	Whitfield
Frelinghuysen	Mooney (WV)	Williams
Gibbs	Mullin	Wilson (SC)
Gibson	Mulvaney	Wittman
Gohmert	Gohmert	Womack
Goodlatte	Gosar	Woodall
Gowdy	Gowdy	Yoder
Granger	Granger	Yoho
Graves (GA)	Graves (LA)	Young (AK)
Graves (LA)	Graves (MO)	Young (IA)
Graves (MO)	Griffith	Young (IN)
Griffith		Zeldin
		Zinke

NOES—172

Adams	Bass	Bera
Aguilar	Beatty	Bishop (GA)
Ashford	Becerra	Bonamici

Boyle, Brendan	Green, Al	Pallone
F.	Green, Gene	Pascrell
Brady (PA)	Grijalva	Payne
Brown (FL)	Gutiérrez	Pelosi
Brownley (CA)	Hahn	Perlmutter
Bustos	Hastings	Peters
Butterfield	Heck (WA)	Peterson
Capps	Higgins	Pingree
Capuano	Himes	Pocan
Cárdenas	Honda	Polis
Carney	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Carson (IN)	Huffman	Quigley
Cartwright	Israel	Rangel
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Rice (NY)
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Richmond
Chu, Judy	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Citilline	Keating	Ruiz
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Clay	Kildee	Sánchez, Linda
Cleaver	Kilmer	T.
Reed	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Cohen	Kuster	Schakowsky
Connelly	Langevin	Schiff
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Schrader
Courtney	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Crowley	Lawrence	Scott, David
Cuellar	Lee	Serrano
Cummings	Levin	Sewell (AL)
Davis (CA)	Lewis	Sherman
Davis, Danny	Lieu, Ted	Sires
DeFazio	Lipinski	Slaughter
DeGette	Loeb	Smith (WA)
DeLaney	Loeb	Speier
DeLauro	Lofgren	Swalwell (CA)
DeBene	Lowenthal	Takai
DeSaulnier	Lowey	Takano
Deutch	Lujan, Ben Ray	Takano
Dingell	(NM)	Thompson (CA)
Dogett	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
Doyle, Michael	Maloney, Sean	Titus
F.	Matsui	Tonko
Duckworth	McCollum	Torres
Ellison	McDermott	Tsongas
Engel	McGovern	Vargas
Eshoo	McNerney	Veasey
Esty	Meeks	Vela
Farr	Moore	Velázquez
Foster	Moulton	Visclosky
Frankel (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Walz
Fudge	Nadler	Wasserman
Gabard	Napolitano	Schultz
Gallego	Neal	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Nolan	Welch
Graham	Norcross	Wilson (FL)
Grayson	O'Rourke	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—19

Beyer	Garrett	Maloney
Blumenauer	Hinojosa	Carolyn
Collins (NY)	Jackson Lee	Meng
Dold	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Edwards	Loudermilk	Stutzman
Fattah	Lujan Grisham	Van Hollen
Fincher	(NM)	Waters, Maxine

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1359

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1206, NO HIRES FOR THE DELINQUENT IRS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4885, IRS OVERSIGHT WHILE ELIMINATING SPENDING (OWES) ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 687) providing for con-

sideration of the bill (H.R. 1206) to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 173, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 157]

YEAS—239

Abraham	Franks (AZ)	Marchant
Aderholt	Frelinghuysen	Marino
Allen	Gibbs	Massie
Amash	Gibson	McCarthy
Amodei	Gohmert	McCaul
Babin	Goodlatte	McClintock
Barletta	Gosar	McHenry
Barr	Gowdy	McKinley
Barton	Granger	McMorris
Benishkek	Graves (GA)	Rodgers
Bilirakis	Graves (LA)	McSally
Bishop (MI)	Graves (MO)	Meadows
Bishop (UT)	Griffith	Meehan
Black	Grothman	Messer
Blackburn	Guinta	Mica
Blum	Guthrie	Miller (FL)
Bost	Hanna	Miller (MI)
Boustany	Hardy	Moolenaar
Brady (TX)	Harper	Mooney (WV)
Brat	Harris	Mullin
Bridenstine	Hartzler	Mulvaney
Brooks (AL)	Heck (NV)	Murphy (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Hensarling	Neugebauer
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Newhouse
Buck	Hice, Jody B.	Noem
Bucshon	Hill	Nugent
Burgess	Holding	Nunes
Byrne	Hudson	Olson
Calvert	Huelskamp	Palazzo
Carter (GA)	Huizenga (MI)	Palmer
Carter (TX)	Hultgren	Paulsen
Chabot	Hunter	Pearce
Chaffetz	Hurd (TX)	Perry
Clawson (FL)	Hurt (VA)	Pittenger
Coffman	Issa	Pitts
Cole	Jenkins (KS)	Poe (TX)
Collins (GA)	Jenkins (WV)	Poliquin
Comstock	Johnson (OH)	Pompeo
Conaway	Johnson, Sam	Posey
Cook	Jolly	Price, Tom
Costello (PA)	Jones	Ratcliffe
Cramer	Jordan	Reed
Crawford	Joyce	Reichert
Crenshaw	Katko	Renacci
Culberson	Kelly (MS)	Ribble
Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Rice (SC)
Davis, Rodney	King (IA)	Rigell
Denham	King (NY)	Roby
Dent	Kinzinger (IL)	Roe (TN)
DeSantis	Kline	Rogers (AL)
DesJarlais	Knight	Rogers (KY)
Diaz-Balart	Labrador	Rohrabacher
Donovan	LaHood	Rokita
Duffy	LaMalfa	Rooney (FL)
Duncan (SC)	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Duncan (TN)	Lance	Roskam
Emmer (MN)	Latta	Ross
Farenthold	LoBiondo	Rothfus
Fitzpatrick	Long	Rouzer
Fleischmann	Loudermilk	Royce
Fleming	Love	Russell
Flores	Lucas	Salmon
Forbes	Luetkemeyer	Sanford
Fortenberry	Lummis	Scalise
Foxx	MacArthur	Schweikert

Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry

Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup

Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

NAYS—173

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Bishop (GA)  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge

Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe y  
Luján, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross

O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrad er  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—21

Bass  
Beyer  
Blumenauer  
Carney  
Collins (NY)  
Dold  
Edwards  
Ellmers (NC)

Fattah  
Fincher  
Garrett  
Hinojosa  
Jackson Lee  
Johnson, E. B.  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)

Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Meng  
Rush  
Stutzman  
Van Hollen  
Waters, Maxine

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1405

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 239, noes 173, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 158]

AYES—239

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishkek  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Culberson  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donovan  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte

Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows

Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Rohy  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott

Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi

Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman

NOES—173

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Bishop (GA)  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge

Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe y  
Luján, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke

Pallone  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Hastings  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Hoyer  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrad er  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—21

Bass  
Beyer  
Blumenauer  
Carney  
Collins (NY)  
Dold  
Edwards  
Ellmers (NC)

Fattah  
Fincher  
Garrett  
Hinojosa  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Johnson, E. B.

Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Meng  
Stutzman  
Van Hollen  
Waters, Maxine

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1411

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcalls 153 through 158 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 153 on H.R. 4570, I am not recorded due to a family emergency, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 154 on S. 719, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 155 on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 688, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 156 on H. Res. 688, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 157 on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 687, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 158 on H. Res. 687, I would have voted "nay."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present in the House chamber for certain rollcall votes this week. Had I been present on April 18th and 19th 2016, I would have voted "yea" for rollcalls 153 and 154 and "nay" on rollcalls 155, 156, 157, and 158.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 155, 156, 157, and 158, I was detained at a meeting at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

PROVIDING INTERNAL REVENUE  
SERVICE PUBLICATION 17 FREE  
TO TAXPAYERS

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 673) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Internal Revenue Service should provide printed copies of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 to taxpayers in the United States free of charge.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

## H. RES. 673

Whereas each year, Internal Revenue Service Publication 17, entitled "Your Federal Income Tax", provides individuals with general instructions on how to file their tax returns for the previous taxable year;

Whereas in each year prior to 2015, free printed versions of Internal Revenue Service

Publication 17 were made widely available to taxpayers at libraries, post offices, and taxpayer service offices, and even by mail at the request of a taxpayer;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Service no longer disseminates a free printed version of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 as it transitions to a fully electronic tax filing system, including an electronic system for providing instructions on filing tax returns;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Service directs taxpayers to the Internet to download an electronic version of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17, even though the limited availability of a printed version of this publication burdens individuals who do not have access to a computer or printer and individuals who struggle to navigate a computer;

Whereas the dissemination of printed copies of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 is a basic taxpayer service that the Internal Revenue Service is ignoring;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Service should prioritize its resources on areas that are critical to the ability of taxpayers to file their tax returns in a timely and proper manner;

Whereas the decision of the Internal Revenue Service to stop disseminating printed copies of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 adversely impacts populations that do not have access to, or understand how to use, a computer, and the decision unnecessarily burdens and restricts the ability of taxpayers to comply with the convoluted and complicated provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

Whereas Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 is clear evidence of the need for comprehensive tax reform that simplifies the Internal Revenue Code so that individuals can complete their tax returns and pay their taxes without needing the nearly 300 pages of instructions that currently make up Publication 17: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives urges the Internal Revenue Service to—

(1) resume printing copies of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17; and

(2) provide free copies of such publication to the taxpayers of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Dakota.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 673, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 673, and I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for introducing it.

The resolution is simple. It expresses a sense of the House that the IRS should make the individual income tax instructions widely available to Americans, free of charge.

Mr. Speaker, the Tax Code is broken. It is too long, too complicated, too confusing, and too old. Taxpayers spend somewhere around 6 billion hours in complying with our Nation's confusing tax laws, and they spend over \$30 billion on computer programs and professional tax preparation just to figure these documents out. It is absurd, and the solution is fundamental tax reform.

My colleagues and I have been working hard to simplify the Tax Code and make it fairer for American workers and families, but it is a long and a difficult process. As we work toward this comprehensive solution that we need, the best thing that we can do is to make sure Americans have the information they need to comply with the law.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights reads that taxpayers have the right to be informed about how to comply with Federal tax law. This is something the IRS' Publication 17 document—or the individual income tax form instructions—says taxpayers have a right to as well. As we move more and more to electronic tax filing, this is a promise the IRS is abandoning in some cases. While e-filing may be an attainable goal for some, there are millions of Americans who are without the access or the ability to find the information online or to make sense of it. Recently, the IRS stopped making the income tax services available to libraries, post offices, and taxpayer service offices. Instead, it requires a taxpayer to order a copy and then to pay for it. This is unacceptable.

The IRS, like many agencies, has faced reductions in budgetary allocations due to sequestration, but it is important to remember that budget reductions require prioritizations within an agency. Providing Americans with free access to the instructions that are necessary to file taxes should be a priority for the IRS.

Until we have a fairer, a simpler, and a flatter Tax Code, we need to make sure the people have the information they need to file their taxes correctly. H. Res. 673 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Internal Revenue Service should provide U.S. taxpayers with free printed copies of IRS Publication 17, which is entitled, "Your Federal Income Tax" and provides individuals with general instructions for filing tax returns.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

This is "bashing the IRS and its 80,000 employees" week, but the two bills here today are very minor additions. Tomorrow and Thursday are the real problem proposals and the real culprits. They are the ones that really

curtail the ability of the IRS to provide adequate service. Let me say just a few words about this bill.

It urges the IRS to make available printed copies of IRS Publication 17, as has been said—the tax guide for individuals—free of charge to taxpayers. According to the IRS, printing and shipping copies of this publication cost them more than \$500,000 last year.

Will the Republicans fund this important service for taxpayers? No. Better yet, will they increase funding for customer services broadly, like answering taxpayer phone calls or investing in cybersecurity to prevent fraud? No.

Instead, Republicans have cut the IRS' budget by close to \$1 billion since 2010. As a consequence of those cuts, the state of the IRS' customer service today is inexcusable. If Republicans want the IRS to improve the services they provide to taxpayers, they need to provide adequate funding for the IRS. They need to increase it instead of cutting it as they have in previous years.

This bill is also a distraction from the Republicans' inability to act on what really matters: the budget bill, the Flint bill—in terms of responding to the crisis there—and the Puerto Rico legislation.

In part because this is, simply, a sense of Congress, it is, more or less, innocuous except in its saying to the IRS: Pay yourselves—the IRS—for the printing and the shipping—\$500,000 it cost last year—while, at the same time, the Republicans say: We are not going to provide the funding necessary for customer services. There is that total inconsistency.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the frustrating things about the Federal Government is that it acts without realizing the hardship it is causing other people.

The reason for this bill is that, recently, the IRS decided not to publish in paper form Publication 17, which is a necessary publication for anybody who has a moderately difficult income tax return to prepare. There are two classes of people who are affected by this—first of all, the people who do their own returns.

Like many other agencies, the IRS only looks at the costs that it is directly imposing on the citizenry. It doesn't look at the costs it is indirectly imposing on the citizenry. In this country, the average cost of a professionally prepared tax return is easily over \$200. If we turned around and billed everybody \$200 from the government, obviously, we couldn't pass that bill around here; but because of the complexity of our Internal Revenue Code and of people having to go out and pay that \$200, we don't associate it

with a tax, but it makes people poorer just as if we had directly increased their taxes. When you don't provide copies of instructions for a tax return, you are punishing people who are trying to save that \$200, \$250, \$300 by doing their own returns.

Secondly, you are disproportionately affecting people who cannot navigate the Internet as well—in other words, our older population. It just seems offensive—as you have older people out there, some who are not familiar with the Internet—saying: No. No. We won't go with paper for now. That, again, is kind of—I guess I will call it—elitism on the part of the IRS because it doesn't need the paper form. It is saying the 75- or 80-year-old who is still doing his return doesn't need the form.

We are, therefore, asking for this bill to be passed and are asking the IRS to, one more time, have sympathy for the people who may not have the additional \$200, \$250, \$300 to pay a professional preparer and for the older citizens who may not be comfortable preparing their return online.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I have listened. Here is the problem.

Under your rule, the IRS has been receiving less money than it needs—\$900 million less than in 2011. You come here, and you complain—when you are really the source of the complaints, in large measure—of the people who can't access the booklet or who can't get through on the telephone. You are the cause of so much of this difficulty, and you come here and complain. You need to put the money behind your complaints. Do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 673, a common-sense bill that expresses the support of Congress for having the IRS continue to provide taxpayers with a paper copy of instructions on how to file their taxes.

I thank Representative GROTHMAN for introducing this resolution and for giving us the opportunity to discuss this important issue during tax week.

I hear from constituents all the time about how difficult it is to access paper tax forms, let alone how hard it is to file their taxes. Every year, millions of people continue to file their taxes on paper, but, every year, the IRS continues to make this process even more difficult.

As the IRS has transitioned to preferring an electronic filing system, many of my constituents are getting left behind. Not everyone is easily able to get access to paper forms on their

own. The response that my constituents receive when they ask for help from the IRS is that all of the forms are easily available online. Unfortunately, more than 25 percent of all Americans lack regular or easy access to the Internet, and over 50 percent of seniors do not own a computer. Other people just want to file by paper. We need to preserve this option.

Beyond the accessibility concerns, we hear more and more about the dangers of electronic data security and tax fraud—dangers which are exacerbated by e-filing. Many of my constituents want to avoid these threats to their personal information, and the IRS is actively hindering them from taking sensible precautions.

I actually introduced legislation—the PAPER Act—in this Congress, which would require the IRS to send filing instructions and tax forms in paper format if someone traditionally files his taxes by paper. This seems pretty easy to me. While many of my constituents have concerns about how complicated their taxes are or about how high their rates are, they want to pay their taxes. We should not be keeping them from doing so.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this simple resolution. I think, if the IRS would stop going after individuals about their politics, they would have plenty of money with which to send out the forms.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I respect the gentleman from Michigan, my colleague, who talks about it becoming more difficult. The reason it is more difficult to reach the IRS on the phone or to, perhaps, get the forms is due to the failure of the Congress, under the Republican majority, to provide adequate resources for customer service. That is the long and short of this.

When we had a chance, we did add several hundred million dollars to the IRS that one year, and service improved; but now it is relapsing again because the Republican majority here simply will not provide adequate resources to the government agency that is supposed to work with our taxpayers. Also, the IRS is supposed to do some work in auditing tax returns. Because of the lack of resources, now fewer than 1 percent of taxpayers have any auditing of what they present to the IRS.

I understand the concerns. What I do not understand is the realization that you are the source, in large measure, of these concerns. Tomorrow, we will be debating bills that have a much greater impact in terms of the IRS and its employees. This is relatively innocuous, in part, because it is only a sense of Congress and because it is unlikely to pass the Senate. Even if it did, it would be nothing more than an expression of the sense.

□ 1430

What we really need are dollars and cents given to the IRS employees so that they can do the work they want to do so that the 50, 60, or whatever percent of the calls that come in never get through to those people who would like to respond to the people who are calling them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard the gentleman's points on reducing the IRS' budget over the last several years, and we have done that. In fact, we have done that in the environment of where we have seen the abuse that the IRS has wrought on this country.

We have seen the lavish parties, and the American people said it was unacceptable. We have seen the extreme bonuses that were paid to employees. We have seen the targeting of individual groups based on what they work on.

We had hoped that the reduction in spending would be a reminder to the IRS of who they are to be accountable to, which is to the hardworking taxpayers, and that it would be the perfect opportunity for them to identify their priorities of what they should be doing, which is helping and servicing taxpayers who are trying to comply with the law instead of targeting individuals and instead of stopping to answer phone calls.

He talked about only 50 to 60 percent of the phone calls being answered. I think only 38 percent of those phone calls are being answered. And then, even if they are answered at times, they are dropped out of courtesy because the IRS simply isn't there to answer the questions the taxpayers have.

Taxpayers are spending somewhere around 6 billion hours preparing their taxes, \$30 billion on computer programs and/or professional help to try to pay their taxes accurately so they can comply with the laws this country has in place.

The problem is that, by stopping this distribution of IRS publication 17, who we are harming the most are those who are disadvantaged, the elderly who don't have access to computers, the poor who don't have access to getting the kind of help that they need or have the funds to find and be able to pay professional tax preparers. That is who we hurt if we don't pass this bill today.

Let's help those who are disadvantaged. Let's make sure that they have the instructions necessary to pay their taxes accurately and on time. Let's reprioritize what the IRS should have done to begin with when they were reminded that their job was. Let's support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) that the House suspend

the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 673.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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**PROHIBITING THE USE OF FUNDS  
BY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
TO TARGET CITIZENS OF  
THE UNITED STATES**

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4903) to prohibit the use of funds by Internal Revenue Service to target citizens of the United States for exercising any right guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4903

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

**SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON TARGETING BY THE  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
BASED ON THE EXERCISE OF FIRST  
AMENDMENT RIGHTS.**

None of the funds made available under any Act may be used by the Internal Revenue Service to target citizens of the United States for exercising any right guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Dakota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 4903 currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of H.R. 4903, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) for introducing the bill.

We live in a Nation that is founded on the idea of free speech. The government does not control our media. It does not control who we decide to associate with. We don't live in a place where we should have to think twice before supporting a group that aligns with their views or making their political beliefs known to others.

The heavy hand of the Federal Government should not control how an American shares their views. Yet, that is just what happened to nearly 300 groups that applied for tax-exempt status between 2010 and 2012.

These organizations were small gatherings of like-minded people who wanted to discuss their views and educate the public about those views. They filled out the necessary IRS paperwork to become tax exempt, as it is required by the law.

But months and even years after they applied, after answering intrusive questions, after providing mountains of documents, after having their activities monitored by IRS agents, after all of this, many of them still sat in IRS limbo.

During the investigation, the Ways and Means Committee staff reviewed upwards of 1 million documents and interviewed dozens of IRS and Treasury officials. This exhaustive, years-long investigation yielded the information that we now know, that 298 applications for tax-exempt status were put on hold. Over 80 percent of them were right-leaning and only 10 percent were left-leaning.

Thanks to the committee's investigation, we know that the former head of the IRS division that governs tax-exempt groups, Lois Lerner, was told that frontline agents noticed an uptick in groups referring to themselves with phrases like Tea Party. She said the Tea Party matter was very dangerous and suggested how to deny those applications.

We know she inserted herself into the supposedly nonbiased procedures that she had created. She then bypassed even those procedures and singled out certain taxpayers for additional scrutiny and audit.

We also know that the IRS bureaucracy in Washington went as far as setting up a surveillance program called a review of operations. In other words, an IRS unit in Dallas would monitor a group's activity, including their Internet postings, trying to build a case for an audit.

Over 80 percent of the groups that were flagged for this surveillance were right-leaning and, of the groups actually selected for the audit, Mr. Speaker, 100 percent of them were right-leaning.

When concerns about this activity reached Congress, my colleagues at Ways and Means asked multiple members of the IRS leadership about it. They assured the committee that all was well. We now know what was really going on.

When Lois Lerner finally admitted in 2013 that the IRS had targeted taxpayers based on their political beliefs, the President went on national television and promised to help Congress get to the bottom of the situation. He later changed his tune and blamed the targeting on a few rogue IRS agents.

If the Ways and Means investigation showed us anything, it is that the wrongdoing happened nowhere else but in Washington, D.C., and that the IRS employees on the front lines were not to blame.

We must make sure that political targeting like this never happens again. By passing this bill to reaffirm American taxpayers' First Amendment rights, we take a step toward that goal.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, what is being prohibited here is already prohibited. It is prohibited in the law. It is prohibited by law that we passed in 1998.

It says that there shall not be action as to any taxpayer, taxpayer representative, or other employee of the IRS in violation of any right under the Constitution of the United States.

So maybe this bill is an effort to bring back the long discussion we had about the IRS procedures. I don't think this is the time to relitigate it.

I was there and you weren't, if I might say so. I thought maybe you would bring it up; so, I did go back to what happened.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to remind the gentleman to direct his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I will do that.

I decided to go back to 2013 to the hearing of Ways and Means. After the inspector general gave his report—this is May 17, 2013—this is what I asked the inspector general: Did you find any evidence of political motivation in the selection of the tax-exemption applications?

And the inspector said: We did not, sir.

Look, we could spend hours talking about what has happened to the rules regarding 501(c)(4)'s in this country. We could go back and discuss the abuse of the 501(c)(4) provisions. We could go back and look at how much political money is being poured into this process by 501(c)(4)'s.

We could go back and discuss what was the original language in the 501(c)(4) legislation that no political money could be used. Instead, it was interpreted decades ago that it relates to the majority must not be.

So what has happened is that 501(c)(4)'s—by the way, most of them are rightwing organizations, most of them.

Most of the money has come from rightwing organizations using the mask of 501(c)(4)'s to essentially, I think, pollute the democratic processes in this country. We shouldn't really be doing that. You raised it; so, I am responding.

What this bill does is simply say that the constitutional rights should essentially prevail, and I fully agree. It is already in the 1998 legislation. So let's move on. Let's not use vehicles for political purposes.

Look, we have so much more we could be doing today in terms of tax

legislation. We have legislation relating to inversions. A number of us have introduced it.

We complain that the executive uses too much power. They have used their power relating to inversions up to, I think, a legitimate point and have said to us in the Congress that we need to go further—the Congress does—to address the problem of inversions in this country. Essentially, we do nothing. We do nothing about this.

There was talk earlier today about tax reform. We have heard this talking endlessly, and there is no product. There is no product whatsoever.

So this bill simply restates what is already in the 1998 law which we completely, completely embrace. So I suggest we just get on with our business and try to do real business.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from South Dakota.

Yesterday marked the deadline for all Americans to file their 2015 taxes, and Americans from all walks of life disclosed some of their most private information and handed over their hard-earned dollars to the government.

With this in mind, last week I was proud to introduce legislation prohibiting the use of funds by the IRS to target citizens for exercising their First Amendment rights. Americans have seen Federal agencies abuse their power, and the IRS is one of the worst offenders.

The IRS has specifically targeted conservative groups simply for being conservative. This is a direct violation of the First Amendment.

My bill preserves the integrity of the First Amendment by ensuring its protections are never compromised by unelected Federal bureaucrats.

Specifically, H.R. 4903 protects Americans by prohibiting use of funds by the IRS and its rogue bureaucrats to carry out government abuse on citizens for exercising their constitutional rights. I can think of nothing more despicable than persecution for beliefs.

Tax day is stressful enough with the Tax Code we have in place. The IRS has no business in striking fear into the hearts of Americans for expressing their strongly held beliefs and convictions.

The Constitution is the law of the land, whether the IRS likes it or not. We must hold the IRS and its unelected bureaucrats accountable, especially because they have overstepped their constitutional bounds before, as my colleague pointed out. My colleague on the other side may dispute our legislation, but they can't dispute the facts, Mr. Speaker.

My colleagues serving on the Oversight and Government Reform committee and the Ways and Means Com-

mittee have been investigating the IRS' unlawful targeting of conservative groups since 2012. They were dogged in their pursuit of justice for every American's fundamental right, the freedom of speech.

The investigation revealed that, as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, democratic leadership pressured IRS bureaucrats to fix the problem by taking an aggressive stance against political speech by tax-exempt entities.

□ 1445

My colleagues also found clear evidence and testimony that the Tea Party and other conservative organizations were targeted for enhanced scrutiny because their organizations' names reflected their conservative beliefs.

For 27 months, from February 2010 until May 2012, the IRS systematically targeted conservative tax-exempt applicants for additional scrutiny and delay. This is an egregious violation of the First Amendment rights of all Americans.

The leader of this scheme was Lois Lerner, an IRS official at the time, as was mentioned.

In April 2010, a sensitive case report on the targeted Tea Party groups is shared with Lerner, when she first learned of a spike in Tea Party applications.

In June and July of 2011, Lerner is briefed that employees are using such terms as "Tea Party," "patriots," "9/12 Project," "government spending," "government debt," "taxes," and "make America a better place to live" to flag applications.

Lerner, after learning about such terms, tells the Cincinnati office to revise its guidelines for flagging applications. The guidance is expanded to include "organizations involved with political lobbying or advocacy for exemption under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)."

Also, Lois Lerner's hard drive supposedly crashed that June, erasing 2 years worth of emails. How convenient was that?

In March 2012, DARRELL ISSA, then-chairman of the Committee on House Oversight and Government Reform, expressed concern to the IRS inspector general that Tea Party groups were being targeted by the IRS. Doug Shulman, IRS Commissioner at the time, vehemently denied on the record to Congress that the agency was targeting conservative groups.

In May 2013, Lois Lerner testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. She proclaimed her innocence before invoking her Fifth Amendment right and refusing to answer questions from lawmakers. For 2 more years, the IRS circumvented Congress' investigations.

Lois Lerner, time and time again, refused to cooperate with Congress in its

investigation of targeting conservative groups and, instead, hid behind the Fifth Amendment.

Before I was elected to Congress, my colleagues in the House of Representatives rightly voted to hold Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress for her refusal to cooperate with ongoing investigations into the agency's special targeting of groups with "Tea Party" or "patriot" in their names that were seeking tax-exempt status.

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, a decision to hold Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress was not taken lightly. Not surprisingly, the Obama administration's Department of Justice unilaterally decided not to prosecute Lois Lerner for her unlawful actions.

However, Congress vowed to continue to find answers and hold the IRS accountable for its actions. This is why I stand before you today. I refuse to allow another American to be persecuted and targeted by IRS bureaucrats for expressing their First Amendment rights, no matter their beliefs.

The House holds the power of the purse. As such, it is within our authority to gut the IRS where it hurts the most: their use of hard-earned tax dollars.

H.R. 4903 prohibits the IRS from using funds made available by any law to target citizens for exercising their First Amendment rights.

Today I urge my colleagues to stand with me to ensure that the IRS no longer oversteps its authority and supports the God-given constitutional rights of every American. No American should fear persecution from the government for expressing his or her strongly held beliefs and conviction.

Please join me in supporting H.R. 4903.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I thought maybe this bill was an excuse to try to relitigate this issue. I was among the first who suggested that Lois Lerner be relieved of her duties. I did so because of, I thought, the incompetent way it was handled, but not because there was any evidence of political motivation.

Again, I want to go back to the question I asked the inspector general in 2013: "Did you find any evidence of political motivation in the selection of the tax-exemption applications?"

Mr. George said: "We did not, sir."

So what has happened here is essentially getting up and reading a one-sided, often erroneous text, often conclusions that are not at all based on fact.

We really should not be relitigating this today. We should be acting on tax legislation, on the budget, and other

necessary issues that face the people of this country.

I hope no one thinks that the passage of this bill will in any way imply on the part of any of us who have been involved with this on the Democratic side that there is any substance to the attack that has been launched here on the IRS and conclusions that have been reached that are not founded on fact.

It is kind of sad. The 1998 law says no IRS employee may violate the constitutional rights of a taxpayer. That is absolutely clear. It is absolutely clear.

So with this, I want to express my regret that this bill is being used as a vehicle for strictly political purposes. Let's abide by the Constitution and the 1998 law. Let's also abide by the responsibilities of this Congress, and that is to act on critical legislation and not use a bill as a vehicle to try to go over once and once again a case where there is deep difference of opinion and often deep misstatement of facts.

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let's not forget that what we are doing here today is ensuring that the IRS will never target Americans based on their political beliefs, on their First Amendment rights. This bill will just make sure that doesn't happen. Regardless of what the past was—and what is wonderful about the past and being at congressional hearings and taking part in them and serving on a committee or not serving on a committee is that they are public and that they are open, and that you can ask questions, and the general public at home can hear the answers that are given there.

Let me remind you that in 2013, Lois Lerner admitted that the IRS had targeted taxpayers based on their political beliefs. She said that the Tea Party matter was very dangerous. She suggested how to deny the applications. We know for a fact that she inserted herself into the supposedly unbiased processes that she had created and then bypassed even these procedures and singled out certain taxpayers for additional scrutiny and audit.

Do we think, really, that it was just a fluke that 100 percent of the audits and the groups that were selected for audit were right-leaning? I don't believe so, sir.

While that investigation may be over, it is still important to have discussions like this to reassure the taxpayers back home that this type of targeting will never happen, that we have legislation before us today that will stop some of the abuses that may have happened in the past and ensure that they won't happen in the future. That is why I am going to urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4903.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SERVICE PROVIDER OPPORTUNITY CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4284) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue regulations providing examples of a failure to comply in good faith with the requirements of prime contractors with respect to subcontracting plans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4284

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Service Provider Opportunity Clarification Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. GOOD FAITH COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF PRIME CONTRACTORS WITH RESPECT TO SUBCONTRACTING PLANS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue regulations providing examples of activities that would be considered a failure to make a good faith effort to comply with the requirements imposed on an entity (other than a small business concern as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) that is awarded a prime contract containing the clauses required under paragraphs (4) or (5) of section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Small Business Act requires that when large businesses receive Federal prime contracts, they must negotiate a subcontracting plan outlining who they intend to use as small business subcontractors. That



plan becomes part of the contract, and the results are supposed to be part of the past performance evaluation for the prime contractor.

Indeed, failure to make a good faith effort to comply with the agreed-upon plan can trigger liquidated damages. Even though this has been the law for 38 years, the Small Business Administration has never explained what it means to fail to make a good faith effort to comply with a subcontracting plan.

This failure is a double-edged sword. For bad actors, it lets them off the hook. For good actors, it leaves ambiguity about what they are expected to do. It also forces companies that take their compliance obligations seriously to compete against bad actors who never even report the results of their plans.

Failure to report is a real problem. As many as 40 percent of the companies with subcontracting plans don't report any results. As a result, subcontracting dollars with small businesses are at the lowest point in over 40 years.

My colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO), who chairs the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade of the Committee on Small Business has a commonsense solution for this problem. H.R. 4284 requires the Small Business Administration to explain what it means to fail to make a good faith effort to comply with the plan. It further explains that failing to meet the most basic obligation of the contract term—reporting back on results—cannot be good faith.

The beauty of Mr. CURBELO's legislation is that it solves a problem without placing any new burdens on compliant contractors while still ensuring that the American taxpayer gets the benefits anticipated in the contract.

This legislation was included as part of a larger bill that passed the Committee on Small Business in January, and it received bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 4284.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4284, the Service Provider Opportunity Clarification Act of 2015. It has long been the policy of Congress to ensure that a fair proportion of Federal contracts, prime contracts or subcontracts, be awarded to small businesses. In some areas there has been success in advancing this goal. In fiscal year 2015, small prime contractors received over \$90 billion, amounting to over 25 percent of contracting dollars. As a result, the government, again, met its prime small business contracting goal.

However, prime contracting is only one part of the equation. For many small businesses, subcontracts are just

as vital. These opportunities serve as an entry point for firms to the Federal marketplace.

Subcontracts are a way for firms to increase their capacity and prepare to eventually become prime contractors. Subcontracts also help entrepreneurs gain valuable insight into what is required when the Federal Government is your client.

Recognizing the importance of subcontracts, the Small Business Act requires that prime contractors submit subcontracting plans for contracts valued at certain levels and SBA to set goals for subcontracting dollars awarded to small businesses.

□ 1500

Yet, throughout the course of this Congress, our committee has heard testimony of countless witnesses indicating that not only are prime contractors not reporting their subcontracting dollars, but also that contracting officers are not holding these firms accountable for their subcontracting goals.

Even more egregious is the fact that some primes have been awarded contracts without a subcontracting plan at all. This is simply unacceptable.

The Service Provider Opportunity Clarification Act of 2015, introduced by Mr. CURBELO and Ms. CLARKE, seeks to rectify this problem by making the failure to submit the required subcontracting report a material breach, thus providing remedial options to agencies.

Procurement center representatives will also be allowed to review subcontracting plans and place a 30-day hold on the plan if they found that it did not adequately provide small businesses subcontracting opportunities.

Additionally, the bill requires that SBA update its regulations to give contracting personnel better examples of when prime contractors have acted in good faith compliance with the subcontracting plans.

These provisions will provide necessary oversight to ensure that prime contractors are adhering to subcontracting regulations and that small businesses are afforded maximum opportunity to participate in the Federal marketplace as a subcontractor.

I, therefore, ask my fellow Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy, and Trade.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last year I was proud to introduce the Small Entrepreneur Subcontracting Opportunities Act, or the SESO Act.

The bill would hold agency officials accountable for small-business subcontracting during their annual performance evaluations.

Subcontracting is an important entry point for new Federal contractors. If we have fewer subcontractors today, we will have fewer prime contractors tomorrow.

In turn, this would mean fewer small suppliers, manufacturers, and innovators and higher costs to the Federal Government or the taxpayers. We must ensure a healthy industrial base at all levels in our country.

I would like to thank Small Business Committee Chairman CHABOT and Armed Services Committee Chairman THORNBERRY for supporting that important language to hold agency managers accountable for meeting subcontracting goals included in the Defense Authorization Act that was signed into law.

However, large contractors must also be held accountable for meeting subcontracting goals. While the vast majority of contractors honor these goals, some do not.

Currently, the Small Business Act holds bad actors accountable by imposing liquidated damages if prime contractors fail to make a good faith effort to meet the goals.

However, SBA regulations only offer examples of what they are supposed to do, not what would constitute a violation.

Consequently, the last time the law was enforced was in 1982. Because of this ambiguity, bad actors are able to continue receiving Federal contracts.

My legislation, H.R. 4284, the Service Provider Opportunity Clarification Act, or the SPOC Act, simply requires the SBA to issue rules explaining what a failure to act in good faith means, ensuring transparency and accountability in the subcontracting process.

I want to thank Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE for her leadership promoting small-business participation in the procurement process and for co-sponsoring this bipartisan effort.

I also thank chairman STEVE CHABOT for his leadership and Ranking Member NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ.

I thank the chairman for being an original cosponsor of this bill and for being a strong advocate for our Nation's emerging entrepreneurs. We must ensure that our local businesses have access to Federal contracts and subcontracts.

It is not just about helping the entrepreneurs. It is also about helping the workers they employ and keeping our community strong and prosperous. We should never forget the vital role that our local businesses play in our neighborhoods.

The reason small business is important, Mr. Speaker, is because small businesses have access and know the people who are in most need of jobs and opportunities.

Think of the immigrant family that recently arrived in this country and is hungry for opportunities to work or

the kid who had to drop out of college to help his family.

It is these small firms, these small entrepreneurs, that have access to these needy people and can really help them rise up and give them these opportunities to work and prosper.

So I thank my colleagues for their support.

I urge passage of H.R. 4284.

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

Mr. Speaker, small firms continue expressing concern that it is increasingly difficult to find subcontracting opportunities as primes take on more of the work themselves. Agencies and contracting officers must do better to ensure that small businesses have access to these opportunities.

The government-wide subcontracting goal has continually been lowered, from 36 percent in the 2012 and 2013 fiscal years, to just over 34 percent in fiscal year 2014. Despite this decrease, the goal is not being met, with only 33 percent of subcontracting dollars awarded to small firms.

But even these numbers are deceiving, as the percentage is based only on the subcontracting dollars reported. It is estimated that as many as 40 percent of prime contractors are not submitting subcontracting reports.

The changes in H.R. 4284 will ensure that this no longer occurs and that there are real consequences to those companies that try and evade their subcontracting obligations.

I once again urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, clarifying an ambiguous provision in law in a way that promotes small-business participation without creating any new burdens on contractors is a win-win.

This provision helps contracting officers and large businesses better understand the law, aids small businesses looking to be subcontractors, and improves the quality of the data we use to make policy decisions.

This bill deserves the support of the House. I urge my colleagues to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4284.

I thank the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for working in a bipartisan manner on this bill, as we always try to do in the committee. I think we almost always achieve that goal. So I want to thank her for that.

I want to thank Mr. CURBELO again for his leadership. I thank Ms. CLARKE as well for working in bipartisan manner on this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4284.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SMALL AGRICULTURE PRODUCER SIZE STANDARDS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3714) to amend the Small Business Administration to establish size standards for small agricultural enterprises using the same process for establishing size standards for small business concerns, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3714

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Agriculture Producer Size Standards Improvements Act of 2015”.

##### SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES.

Paragraph (1) of section 18(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 647(b)(1)) is amended by striking “businesses” and inserting “small business concerns”.

##### SEC. 3. EQUAL TREATMENT OF SMALL FARMS.

Paragraph (1) of section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(1)) is amended by striking “operation: *Provided,*” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “operation.”.

##### SEC. 4. UPDATED SIZE STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall, by rule, establish size standards in accordance with section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) for agricultural enterprises (as such term is defined in section 18(b)(1) of such Act).

(b) REVIEW.—Size standards established under subsection (a) are subject to the rolling review procedures established under section 1344(a) of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (15 U.S.C. 632 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Small Business Act, the Small Business Administration sets size standards for approximately 1,100 industries every 5 years.

These standards determine what is a small business for purposes of regulatory analyses, procurement programs, capital access, and technical entrepreneurial development assistance.

The SBA sets these size standards in accordance with statutory guidelines and using notice and comment rule-making. The Small Business Committee and, in particular, my colleague from Illinois (Mr. BOST), has spent a great deal of effort to make sure this is a transparent and accountable process.

However, agricultural enterprises have not been able to benefit from these advances due to a historic anomaly. Forty-six different industries, as diverse as cattle ranching and citrus farming, are all subject to a single size standard that hasn't changed in nearly 20 years.

That means that, to qualify as small, a poultry farmer or a soybean producer can only have \$750,000 in receipts each year. That is receipts, not revenues. For some agricultural producers, \$750,000 does not cover the cost of a hobby farm.

H.R. 3714 levels the playing field for these small farmers. It does not set a size standard, but instead requires that the SBA examine the characteristics of these industries to develop size standards using the normal process. Recognizing that a small dairy doesn't look like a small corn farm is common sense.

My colleague, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, who chairs the Agriculture, Energy, and Trade Subcommittee of the Small Business Committee, held a hearing examining H.R. 3714, and the witnesses overwhelmingly supported this legislation.

H.R. 3714 was then included as part of a larger bill that passed the Small Business Committee in January, and it received bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 3714.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 3714, the Small Agriculture Producer Size Standards Improvements Act of 2015.

Small businesses play a critical role in the American economy. They make up the vast majority of employer firms and create nearly two-thirds of new jobs.

Over the years, Congress has created numerous Federal program set-asides, tax preferences, and SBA loan programs to help small firms succeed.

Last year small businesses were able to access over \$28 billion in capital and \$90 billion in contracting opportunities

because they met the definition of small. Many businesses used long-term loan proceeds to keep their doors open, retain employees, and create new jobs.

Since yesterday was tax day, I would also like to mention that small business-oriented tax provisions allow firms to write off expenses quickly, putting money back in their hands to create new avenues for growth.

However, the advantages conferred by this program can only occur if a business can show that they meet the industry-based definition of small business.

While, generally, SBA is tasked with defining size standards for over 1,100 industries that establish eligibility for its programs, agricultural standards have been exempted from this process.

Instead, Congress set a rigid gross revenue-base standard for all agriculture industries that has not been adjusted since 2000. However, since the time Congress first began setting the size standard, agricultural production has shifted dramatically.

The Small Agriculture Producer Size Standards Improvements Act, introduced by Mr. BOST and cosponsored by Ms. MENG, will eliminate the outdated size standard and gives SBA the authority to tailor standards that are reflective of the changes the industry has experienced as well as the variety of agricultural businesses across our country.

What is small for a cattleman is not the same for fresh produce producers or dairy farmers. The bill requires SBA to apply their current methodology, solicit feedback from industry stakeholders, and implement specific standards that can be tweaked periodically to respond to changes in the industry.

I, therefore, ask my fellow Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), who put a lot of hard work and thought into this, and I thank him for his leadership on this matter.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his support of this legislation to update and modernize the agricultural producers' small business size standards.

President Eisenhower once said: Farming looks mighty easy if your plow is a pencil and the closest cornfield is a thousand miles away. Unfortunately, this quote is accurate when describing the statutorily established size standards for agriculture producers.

Agricultural production is an important contributor to the American economy. According to the USDA, the total value of farm production exceeds \$390 billion, and the agricultural industry supports 16 million domestic jobs.

Farmers and ranchers provide the food, fiber, and fuel that are critical to our daily lives.

Family-owned farms still account for the majority of farms and ranches in the United States. However, the advance of new technology has created increased productivity, leading to lower prices for many commodities. This downward pressure on prices is expected to increase, and newer technology will be adopted. As margins continue to thin, more and more single-owned family operations will consolidate into somewhat larger, multi-family-owned operations, but these are still small businesses.

Unfortunately, the current small business size standard for agriculture has been set in statute and is outdated. The standard is too low for a vast majority of farms and ranches to participate in potential government contracts and subcontracting opportunities.

Also, the SBA size standards are often used for Federal agencies to determine their obligations under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. This law helps ensure that the Federal agency establishes the potential impacts of proposed regulations on small businesses. It also informs the consideration of less burdensome regulatory alternatives.

Unfortunately, the statutory standard has no rational basis. It appears that the number was just grabbed out of the air by a previous Congress. As a result, small business agriculture producers do not enjoy the potential benefit of small business classifications.

In the 30 years since the enactment of the statutory size standard, the Small Business Administration has specifically improved its process for determining small business size standards. This should address whatever issue previous Congresses had when it established these size standards.

Now, I believe it is important that the Congress and the Federal agencies promote consistency in policymaking. My legislation will help ensure that consistency.

I do want to thank the ranking member and the chairman for their support of this bill, and I appreciate the help and support that they have given.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO), who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. I thank the chairman for his steadfast leadership and advocacy on behalf of our Nation's small entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, small business size standards are used by the Federal Government to determine eligibility to receive certain Federal contracts and SBA guarantee loans. They are also used by Federal agencies when they

analyze the economic impact of new regulations on small businesses.

Size standards for most industries are developed through a congressionally mandated rulemaking process that is transparent and allows small businesses to provide input. The Small Business Administration analyzes a number of factors—average firm size, startup costs, entry barriers, industry competition, and the distribution of firms by size—and then proposes changes to small business size standards through the notice and comment rulemaking process. However, there is one glaring exception: the existing size standard for agricultural enterprises is established in statute and has not been updated in over 15 years.

The current standard for small farmers is \$750,000 in annual receipts. It applies to 46 different agricultural subsectors, from citrus groves to beef cattle ranching.

Small farmers and ranchers have been neglected for too long. The size standard setting process for agricultural enterprises needs to be modernized. The existing statutory size standard does not account for changes in industry structure, cost of production, economic conditions, or other factors.

Florida is the country's largest producer of squash, fresh tomatoes, and fresh snap beans, among a great deal of other fruits and vegetables. Obviously, this would not be possible without the hard work of our Nation's small farmers and ranchers.

I am proud to join Ranking Member MENG in cosponsoring the Small Agriculture Producer Size Standards Improvements Act, which was introduced by Representative BOST.

H.R. 3714 would strike the \$750,000 statutory size standard and require the SBA to establish size standards for agricultural enterprises through the notice and comment rulemaking process.

It would also require those size standards to be periodically reviewed at least every 5 years. This will ensure that size standards for small farmers and ranchers are up to date so that they are able to compete for Federal contracts, have access to SBA guaranteed loans, and are considered when agencies draft new regulations.

Again, I want to thank Mr. BOST and Ranking Member MENG for their legislation. I also want to thank Chairman CHABOT and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ.

These are the types of bipartisan bills that will really improve the quality of life for our farmers and for all Americans. I urge passage.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, like all other industries, the agricultural industry has changed over the last 30 years.

With new technologies, many agricultural businesses have been able to increase their production rates. The last Census of Agriculture found U.S.

farms sold nearly \$395 billion in agricultural products, a 33 percent increase from the sales of 2007. Crop sales also increased by 48 percent.

The changes made in H.R. 3714 will give SBA the tools necessary to set size standards for those in agricultural production. The bill ensures these adjustments are done with careful consideration as to the effects on small farms. I once again would urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in closing, allowing the SBA to develop rational size standards for small farmers, rather than perpetuating a one-size-fits-all approach, simply makes sense. It will allow these farmers to access the appropriate SBA programs and helps ensure that regulations are properly crafted.

The provision doesn't have any cost since SBA is already doing this for all other industries. This bill deserves the support of the House, and I would urge my colleagues to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3714.

Again, I want to thank the ranking member and the other Members that have been mentioned here today for their work on this important measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3714.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MAXIMIZING SMALL BUSINESS COMPETITION ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4332) to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the duties of procurement center representatives with respect to reviewing solicitations for a contract or task order contract.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4332

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. DUTIES OF PROCUREMENT CENTER REPRESENTATIVES WITH RESPECT TO REVIEWING SOLICITATIONS FOR A CONTRACT OR TASK ORDER CONTRACT.

Section 15(1)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(1)(2)(D)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) through (I) as subparagraphs (F) through (J), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) review any solicitation for a contract or task order without regard to whether the

contract or task order or part of the contract or task order is set aside for small business concerns, whether 1 or more contract or task order awards are reserved for small business concerns under a multiple award contract, or whether or not the solicitation would result in a bundled or consolidated contract (as defined in subsection (s)) or a bundled or consolidated task order;"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Small Business has spent this Congress taking a hard look at how the SBA administers its programs. Given that the single most common complaint I receive on Federal contracting is that contracts are unjustly bundled and consolidated so that small businesses are denied the opportunity to compete, the SBA's role in the process became a priority.

The committee learned that a few years ago, the SBA essentially gave contracting officers a get-out-of-jail-free card on bundling and consolidation when it issued new regulations governing which contracts it would review. The SBA said that it would not review multiple award contracts if a single seat on the contract was reserved for a small business—a single seat.

While at first this might seem like a good way to allocate resources, it ignores the fact that a contracting officer can now evade the SBA review by simply reserving one award for a small business, even if the small business never receives any work. It means the contracting agency doesn't need to do its homework on how the contract can be structured to maximize competition. It means small businesses are denied meaningful opportunities to compete for work.

The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) has found a solution for this problem. H.R. 4332 prohibits the SBA from limiting review based on a so-called reserve or similar procedural measure.

The committee has documented that over 25 percent of small businesses previously engaged in Federal contracting have exited the marketplace since 2012. Ensuring that contracts aren't rigged

to prevent their participation is one of many steps the Small Business Committee is examining to rebuild our industrial base.

This legislation was included as part of a larger bill that passed the Small Business Committee in January and received bipartisan support. I would urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 4332.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4332, the Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016. Purchasing more than \$400 billion in goods and services annually, the U.S. Government remains a consistent and reliable client for all businesses.

The Small Business Act requires that small businesses have a fair opportunity to compete for Federal contracts. To help facilitate awards to small firms, the act created a position of procurement center representatives, or PCRs. PCRs are placed throughout the country to monitor agencies' major buying activities, with the main goal of increasing the small business share of Federal procurement awards and ensuring that a fair portion of awards go to small businesses of all types.

These representatives are tasked with various duties, including initiating and recommending small businesses set-aside contracts. If the PCR feels that a contract or a portion of a contract can be set aside, he or she can file an appeal to an agency. However, due to decisions made internally at SBA, PCRs are no longer required to review proposed solicitations that already include a small business set-aside. Thus, there would be no opportunity for them to file an appeal. As a result, an agency can get away with setting aside the bare minimum for small businesses without having a solicitation reviewed by the PCR, which deprives many small businesses of potential opportunities.

□ 1530

This has been particularly harmful with larger contracts that have been bundled or consolidated. For example, at the General Services Administration, we have seen large contracts worth billions of dollars not receive PCR review. A review could have opened up more of the contracts to small businesses.

The Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, introduced by Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, seeks to remedy the problem created by the SBA's decision to limit PCR reviews.

The bill would allow PCRs to review contracts regardless of whether the contract already includes a set-aside or partial set-asides for small businesses.

We cannot accept the bare minimum from agencies regarding contracting

opportunities for small businesses. If PCRs see that an agency can include more small firms, they should be allowed to appeal the agency.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) who in a relatively short period of time in this Congress is already showing considerable initiative and has taken a leadership role in the committee.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, small business are mom-and-pop stores. They are contractors. They are all kinds of people across my district located on Main Street. They are families, they are veterans, and they are individuals in the First District of Mississippi and all across this great Nation.

Small businesses are the heart and soul of local and rural economies, especially in places in rural districts like my district.

H.R. 4332, Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, is part of an ongoing effort of the Small Business Committee to provide opportunities for small businesses and to promote greater accountability from the Federal Government.

The purpose of the SBA procurement center representatives is to review contracts across the government and make sure they are structured in a way that maximizes opportunities for small businesses to compete.

Unfortunately, the SBA changed their rules to say that, if a contract was restricted to small businesses in whole or in part, procurement center representatives would no longer review the contract.

This rule change has given agencies a way to get around small business administrative review. This rule change has led to contracts being consolidated or bundled, thus limiting opportunity for hundreds of small businesses to compete for work with the Federal Government.

H.R. 4332, the Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, provides a solution. This legislation makes clear that Small Business Administration procurement center representatives have the ability to review contracts, regardless of whether they are designated for award to small businesses, if the procurement center representative believes the requirement can be structured to improve small-business competition.

This legislation helps to ensure that there are not missed opportunities for small businesses contracting with the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the assistance and leadership shown by my chairman, Chairman CHABOT, and the bipartisan working relationship with

Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ in bringing this bill to the floor. I appreciate my colleagues' consideration and support of H.R. 4332.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, PCRs are the first line of offense and defense when ensuring small businesses get their fair share of Federal contracts.

It is troubling that SBA has limited the ability of these professionals to oversee contracts. This decision could result in small firms not receiving the maximum contracting opportunities.

Currently, if a contracting officer sets aside 5 percent of the contract for service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses, PCRs are not reviewing these applications. A review could find that more could be set aside for these small businesses or perhaps other small-business groups.

This bill ensures that PCRs are seeking out additional opportunities for small business and not relying on contracting officers to guarantee that these businesses are afforded their fair share of prime contracts.

Mr. Speaker, once again I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, allowing small businesses the opportunity to compete for contracts is simply common sense. Competition encourages innovation, lower prices, and job creation.

This bill will alleviate an unnecessary barrier to small-business competition. H.R. 4332 removes a regulatory hurdle. I urge my colleagues to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4332.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4332.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UNIFYING SMALL BUSINESS TERMINOLOGY ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4325) to amend the Small Business Act to modify the anticipated value of certain contracts reserved exclusively for small business concerns.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4325

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Unifying Small Business Terminology Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF THE ANTICIPATED VALUE OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(j)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(j)(1)) is amended by striking "greater than \$2,500 but not greater than \$100,000" and inserting "greater than the micro-purchase threshold defined in section 1902(a) of title 41, United States Code, but not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold".

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 3(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(m) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—In this Act, the term 'simplified acquisition threshold' has the meaning given such term in section 134 of title 41, United States Code."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, many of the contracting provisions in the Small Business Act were written in the 1960s and 1970s. As such, they predate the government's move to a set of standardized contracting terms in 1984.

In reality, this means that the Small Business Act uses outdated terms that make it hard to read in conjunction with other laws. Even the SBA has adopted the new terminology in their regulations, given that over 30 years have passed since it was first adopted.

My colleague and the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ of New York, introduced H.R. 4325 to update the Small Business Act. Thanks to her efforts, we will no longer use different terms for micropurchase or simplified acquisition than the rest of the government. This will make it easier for small businesses to understand the law and for contracting officers to implement the law.

This legislation was included as part of a larger bill that passed the Small Business Committee in January, and it received bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 4325.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4325, the Unifying Small Business Terminology Act of 2016. There are many places in which the statutes and regulations small businesses must understand are overly complex.

This problem is compounded by inconsistencies in the language. For example, there are entire sections of the Small Business Act that are one long sentence with multiple commas and clauses.

The act also predates many other statutes and regulations that we now use to govern how agencies purchase goods and services.

As such, the act uses outdated terminology when discussing Federal contracting. Additionally, there are places in which the definitions vary between the act and the corresponding regulations.

One such case is when a contract must be reserved for award to small businesses. While the act indicates that contracts valued over \$2,000 and below \$100,000 are to be reserved for small businesses, other statutes and even SBA's own regulations point to different values or use the terms the values are supposed to represent.

This causes confusion not only among small businesses, but also to contracting officers as they are left to determine which values to use.

That is why I introduced H.R. 4325, the Unifying Small Business Terminology Act of 2016. The bill amends the Small Business Act so that it has the same terms that are used in titles 10 and 41 of the United States Code and in SBA's own regulation when referring to procurement rules.

This will ensure that there is no confusion among contracting personnel as to which opportunities should be set aside for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, our committee hears from small businesses almost daily about how difficult it is to navigate the Federal marketplace.

With businesses having to be familiar with small-business regulations, the Federal Acquisition Regulations, and each agency's own FAR supplement, as well as other statutes, the very least we can do is to make sure that all the terminology is consistent.

The changes made in H.R. 4325 will unify the terminology, providing much-needed certainty to both contracting officers and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the gentlewoman's bill is simply good government. We shouldn't have different terms and different laws if we are talking about the same thing.

Federal contracting is confusing enough for small businesses without the use of arcane terminology. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4325.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman, the ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for her leadership in this matter.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4325.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4326) to amend the Small Business Act to expand the duties of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4326

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. EXPANDING DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)), as amended by section 870 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92), is amended—

(1) by striking "section 8, 15 or 44" and inserting "section 8, 15, 31, 36, or 44";

(2) by striking "sections 8 and 15" each place such term appears and inserting "sections 8, 15, 31, 36, and 44";

(3) in paragraph (10), by striking "section 8(a)" and inserting "section 8, 15, 31, or 36";

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (15), (16), and (17) as paragraphs (16), (17), and (18), respectively;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following new paragraph:

"(15) shall review purchases made by the agency greater than the micro-purchase threshold defined in section 1902(a) of title 41, United States Code, and less than the simplified acquisition threshold to ensure that the purchases have been made in compliance with the provisions of this Act and have been properly recorded in the Federal Procurement Data System, if the method of payment is a purchase card issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2784 of title 10, United States Code, or by the head of an executive agency pursuant to section 1909 of title 41, United States Code;"; and

(6) in paragraph (17) (as so redesignated)—  
(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) any failure of the agency to comply with section 8, 15, 31, or 36.".

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 3(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(m) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—In this Act, the term 'simplified acquisition threshold' has the meaning given such term in section 134 of title 41, United States Code.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization were created in 1978 to serve as advocates within Federal agencies for small businesses seeking prime contracts and subcontracts.

These small offices help review contracts to prevent bundling, make sure small companies are paid promptly, and ensure that solicitations are written in a manner that maximizes the use of small businesses.

H.R. 4326, introduced by Ms. ADAMS of North Carolina, makes two improvements to this program.

First, H.R. 4326 makes a technical correction to the Small Business Act. When these offices were created in 1978, there was no contracting program for service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses or for businesses located in and employing people from distressed areas, commonly known as HUBZones.

Therefore, H.R. 4326 updates the act to make it clear that these small-business advocates are authorized to provide assistance to service-disabled veterans and HUBZone small businesses.

Second, the bill allows the Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to crack down on credit card fraud by Federal employees.

Last year we learned that the Department of Veterans Affairs had ignored the law and hidden almost \$6 billion in spending by using these credit cards.

These contracts should have gone to service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses, but the small-business office didn't have access to the data that would have let them catch this fraud. H.R. 4326 gives these small-business advocates access to this data.

This legislation was included, as I mentioned some of the other bills were,

as part of a larger bill that passed the Small Business Committee in January, and it received bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 4326.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4326, the Small and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Act of 2016. Over the years, Congress has sought to ensure that small businesses have fair opportunities to compete for Federal contracting opportunities.

There are various provisions that require agencies to set aside or reserve contracts for performance by small businesses so long as they can perform at a fair and reasonable price.

□ 1545

These tools have provided small businesses with opportunities that may have otherwise been closed to them. They have also diversified the government's available suppliers and increased competition, thereby strengthening our country's industrial base.

However, last year, the Committees on Small Business and Veterans' Affairs held a hearing in which senior procurement officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs alleged that the Department was circumventing contracting regulations. Rather than using a contracting vehicle, contracting personnel used purchase cards to buy goods and services such as pharmaceuticals and prosthetics.

If true, these uses of purchase cards by the VA directly violated contracting regulations. Many of these purchases were of such value, that they should have been procured using either the small business reserve or set-asides. Additionally, as a result of their use, veterans were put at risk, as the goods purchased using these cards came without the warranties and protections provided under a contract.

The Small and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Act of 2016, introduced by Ms. ADAMS and Mr. HARDY, seeks to ensure that the fraud alleged at the VA does not happen there or at any other agency. The bill will require the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to review agency purchases made using government purchase cards to ensure compliance with the contracting mechanisms set forth in the Small Business Act.

Additionally, the bill provides OSDBU the ability to ensure that all small businesses have access to their services. We cannot allow agencies to bypass the protections afforded to small businesses.

I, therefore, ask my fellow Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations.

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, we hear about fraud, waste, and abuse as it pertains to the Federal Government spending too much in this country.

Last year, the Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations within the Small Business Committee held a joint hearing with the Veterans' Affairs Committee to investigate the reports of fraud and manipulation at the VA when it comes to reporting small business goals. What we heard was shocking.

The VA unlawfully spent millions of dollars on medicine, medical care, and prosthetic contracts. And even more troubling, these contracts, if administered lawfully and transparently, would have allowed veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses the opportunity to compete.

That is why I stand in support of my colleague's bill, H.R. 4326, the Small and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Act of 2016. It contains language to equip small businesses with the tools to root out deception and fraud.

By having access to data in their toolbox, the small business offices would have not only reduced fraud activities, but it could also have potentially saved money by allowing competition in the process.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense language to help reduce fraud, waste, and abuse.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the author of H.R. 4326 and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4326, the Small and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Act.

This bill will expand oversight over the government purchase card system by ensuring that all small businesses contracting programs are under the purview of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

This legislation follows a joint Small Business Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations and House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing, where we discussed reports that cited irregularities at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This hearing uncovered numerous violations of Federal procurement laws with regard to government purchase cards.

According to witness testimony, including individuals from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA's Office of Management issued government purchase cards that were being used illegally. This includes recipients using

government purchase cards above the micro-purchase threshold in the same manner as micro-purchases.

As ranking member of the Small Business Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations, I believe we must ensure that our small businesses have access to Federal contracts by guaranteeing that money associated with government purchase cards are not used for wasteful spending.

The reckless misuse of government funding uncovered at the VA has prevented some small businesses from accessing the Federal dollars owed to them. This legislation would ensure that every agency properly monitors purchase card activity to better free up the funds allocated to small businesses, including disadvantaged businesses.

We have a responsibility to our Nation's small businesses to guarantee that there is a level playing field for them to offer their products and services. We cannot provide that level playing field if there are inefficiencies and waste occurring within our Federal agencies.

Before I close, I would like to thank Representative HARDY for his support and cosponsorship.

I want to urge my colleagues to support the Small and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Act because supporting small business is simply the right thing to do.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN). He is the chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Small and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Act of 2016.

In part, H.R. 4326 is the result of the outstanding joint effort between the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce.

Our investigative work and joint hearing on the improper, and at times illegal, use of purchase cards revealed billions of dollars worth of inappropriate purchases within the Department of Veterans Affairs alone. This work underscores the need for the reform legislation to be applied across the Federal Government.

The bill requires purchase card procurements to be reviewed if they are above \$3,500 and less than \$150,000, and requires them to be properly entered into the Federal Procurement Data System. You might think this was already a clearcut requirement, but it wasn't. H.R. 4326 corrects this glaring loophole. The bill also spells out the role of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, a much-needed clarification.

I encourage all Members to support this outstanding, bipartisan piece of legislation.

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

In closing, last year, we saw the government achieve record high percentages of dollars awarded to small business. Unfortunately, these numbers have been called into question due to allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse at the VA.

Ultimately, we do not know the total value of small business contracts at the VA, but estimates suggest that small businesses lost out between \$2.8 billion and \$3.7 billion of contracts as a result of personnel using their purchase cards. If this is true, it is a failure not just of the VA, but of the procurement system more broadly.

Time and time again, we are presented with similar allegations in which opportunities were improperly diverted away from those that they were intended to reach. Every time this happens, a deserving small business loses out on revenue that could help create jobs in local communities. The truth is that we need more oversight, and H.R. 4326 will provide it.

Before I yield back, I want to thank Ms. ADAMS for her efforts and the efforts of all of the members of the committee to work in a bipartisan manner to help small businesses gain access to the Federal marketplace.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman CHABOT for his leadership on these matters, as well as other legislation that has passed out of the committee. I am happy to be working with him again to ensure that small businesses get the help they need to grow and continue to create jobs for our communities.

I also would like to add a thank you note to the staff on the majority, Emily Murphy, and on the minority, Eminence Griffin.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, allowing service-disabled veterans access to small business advocates in Federal agencies is simply common sense. Allowing those advocates the tools necessary to detect fraud is good government.

This bill deserves the support of the House. I want to thank Mr. HARDY of Nevada for his leadership, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Ms. ADAMS of North Carolina, and, as always, the ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for her leadership in this matter and all the other bills we had today. I urge passage of H.R. 4326.

I also want to thank the Speaker pro tempore for his time this afternoon. I particularly enjoyed his pronouncement of the great State of Ohio.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4326.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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**BLOCKING PROPERTY AND SUSPENDING ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES OF PERSONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SITUATION IN LIBYA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-124)**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCSALLY) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed: *To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the “order”) expanding the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Libya.

In the order, I find that the ongoing violence in Libya, including attacks by armed groups against Libyan state facilities, foreign missions in Libya, and critical infrastructure, as well as human rights abuses, violations of the arms embargo imposed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011), and misappropriation of Libya’s natural resources threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, democratic transition, and territorial integrity of Libya, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. The order blocks the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

- to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following:

- actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Libya, including through the supply of arms or related materiel;

- actions or policies that obstruct, undermine, delay, or impede, or pose a significant risk of obstructing, undermining, delaying, or impeding, the adoption of or political transition to a Government of National Accord or a successor government;

- actions that may lead to or result in the misappropriation of state assets of Libya; or

- threatening or coercing Libyan state financial institutions or the Libyan National Oil Company;

- to be planning, directing, or committing or to have planned, directed, or committed, attacks against any Libyan state facility or installation (including oil facilities), against any air, land, or sea port in Libya, or against any foreign mission in Libya;

- to be involved in, or to have been involved in, the targeting of civilians through the commission of acts of violence, abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

- to be involved in, or to have been involved in, the illicit exploitation of crude oil or any other natural resources in Libya, including the illicit production, refining, brokering, sale, purchase, or export of Libyan oil;

- to be a leader of an entity that has, or whose members have, engaged in any activity described above;

- to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of any of the activities described above or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or

- to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

In addition, the order suspends entry into the United States of any alien determined to meet one or more of the above criteria.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 19, 2016.

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**EARTH DAY AND THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT**

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, the idea of Earth Day began as a single day for the Nation to focus on environmental protection. Soon after the very



first Earth Day in 1970, the phrase “every day is Earth Day” became a mantra among those who want to leave our planet in better shape than it was when we got here.

On Earth Day 2016, I am proud to note that the landmark Paris Climate Agreement is scheduled to be signed by more than 150 nations, including the world’s biggest polluters: China, Brazil, and the United States. The quickest, most direct way we are making every day Earth Day, this Friday, is by implementing the largest international agreement the world has ever known.

Earth Day isn’t just about the environment. It is about the people who inhabit it. It is about the air we breath, the water we drink, and the food we eat.

The Paris Agreement is already working, setting the foundation for an historic reduction in greenhouse gases, and paving the way to a thriving, clean global economy. Here at home, it is also about creating new jobs and empowering the private sector to once again harness that uniquely American brand on innovation to lead the global marketplace.

We may celebrate it once a year, but Earth Day truly is every day. That is a promise that is as important today as it was 46 years ago. And 46 years later, we are making Earth Day every day with the Paris Climate Agreement.

□ 1600

UNITED STATES V. TEXAS

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about families.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on DACA and DAPA. I challenge anyone to look at the children who were protesting in front of the Supreme Court yesterday and not feel an urgency to protect them and their families.

Our unjust and broken immigration system has forced millions of families to live in the shadows. Where is our compassion?

Immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve justice and dignity. We are a Nation of immigrants. Uniting and keeping our families together is an integral American value. We should be protecting the stability of our hard-working immigrant families instead of tearing them apart.

Comprehensive immigration reform is the moral imperative of our time, and I urge this Congress to pass it.

EARTH DAY

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, this coming Friday, April 22, is Earth Day.

I had the pleasure this morning to be at Masonville Cove in Baltimore. This is the first national wildlife urban refuge that was established in the country. I was there with a class of young people—high school students from Benjamin Franklin High School—who are learning science in the classroom but then are taking that knowledge outdoors and are connecting to nature.

I am very excited that recently, when we passed the new reauthorization of the Federal Education Act, we embedded in it environmental education, which is now going to allow nonprofits, local school districts, and others to apply for competitive grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education to support environmental education and outdoor activities all across this country.

The excitement these young people have today shows that our planet is in good hands.

OBSTRUCTION OF JUDGE MERRICK GARLAND’S APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for all Members to have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to implore the Senate to fulfill its responsibility and give fair consideration to President Obama’s nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court.

During my tenure in this honorable body, I have witnessed no comparable examples of partisan politics and complete obstructionism with respect to the consideration of a Supreme Court nominee.

I introduced H. Res. 661, together with my Democratic colleagues on the House Judiciary Committee. This resolution calls on the Senate to hold hearings and an up-or-down vote on the President’s nomination of Judge Garland. The Senate majority’s flat-out refusal to consider President Obama’s nominee, regardless of the nominee’s qualifications, is historically unprecedented and is part of a longstanding

pattern of disrespect shown to this administration in particular. Our Constitution relies on a system of checks and balances; yet the Senate majority’s continued stonewalling of the President’s nominee threatens to throw the system into an imbalance.

The President, of course, has the constitutional authority and obligation to appoint Justices to the Supreme Court, pursuant to Article II, section 2, and he has fulfilled his duty with his nomination of Judge Garland. The Senate has both the authority and the duty to provide advice and consent on the President’s nominee; yet the Senate has, thus far, refused to do its job, which is simply unacceptable.

It is clear the Constitution requires that both the President and the Senate fulfill their respective roles in the Supreme Court nomination process in order for the Supreme Court to be able to fully perform its constitutional role. Otherwise, what is to stop the Senate from grinding the Court—a coequal branch of government, I remind you—to a halt by simply refusing to consider any nominees to fill any vacancies on the Court?

There is no merit to their argument that we have to wait until we elect a new President. After all, the American people twice elected President Obama to fulfill the duties of President, including the duty to appoint Supreme Court Justices. A strong and independent judiciary is a prerequisite for a strong democracy. This remains as true in the last year of a Presidency as it does in the first. Moreover, there is ample precedent for Presidents nominating and the Senate confirming Supreme Court nominees in a Presidential election year. For example, in 1988, during the last full year of Ronald Reagan’s Presidency, the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed the nomination of Justice Anthony Kennedy by President Reagan by a vote of 97–0.

There are 9 months left in President Obama’s term. The President has nominated an eminently qualified jurist in Judge Garland, and the Senate has more than enough time to consider and vote on his nomination. It is vital that the Supreme Court have a full complement of Justices so that the critical constitutional and legal questions before the Court can be given the full attention they need. Already, we have seen a number of 4–4 decisions that have left much uncertainty in place for the lower courts, for the litigants, and for Americans generally.

The Senate should do its job: comply with regular order, hold hearings on Judge Garland’s nomination, and then have an up-or-down vote on the nomination.

Now it is with great pleasure that I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. STENY HOYER, the distinguished minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his distinguished service.

Madam Speaker, I want to begin by expressing my appreciation to the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for leading today's Special Order on the important issue of the vacancy on the Supreme Court and the Senate Republicans' unprecedented obstruction of the President's nominee.

That nominee, of course, is Judge Merrick Garland of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. He is one of the most highly qualified nominees ever. Let me repeat that. He is one of the most highly qualified nominees ever to be put forward for a seat on the Nation's highest court. He is a respected former prosecutor and is well regarded as an appellate judge. He was confirmed to his present position in 1997 by a vote of 76-23, with a majority of Republicans voting in favor.

Madam Speaker, in fact, notwithstanding the opposition of some Republicans, they articulated—in particular, Mr. GRASSLEY, who is now the chairman of the Judiciary Committee—that Judge Garland was eminently qualified and would be good for an appointment to another court but that he was not for expanding the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, and it was for that reason alone that he voted against Mr. Garland.

Madam Speaker, today is the 21st anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. Judge Garland, as Deputy Assistant Attorney General during the Clinton administration, oversaw the successful investigation into the bombing and the prosecution of its perpetrators. His insistence on traveling to see the remains of the Murrah Building in the days after the attack and his hands-on approach to the investigation and prosecution won him praise across the political spectrum.

The Constitution is clear: the President has a responsibility to nominate Justices to the Court, and the Senate has the ability to advise and consent, but it also has the responsibility to provide its advice and consent with regard to these nominees. It can, of course, reject a nominee, and it can advise and consent to the appointment of a nominee; but the Senate has chosen to do neither. It has chosen to do nothing. It has chosen to perpetrate gridlock in the Supreme Court of the United States. President Obama met his responsibilities. Now the Senate must do the same. It needs to do its work. Senate Republicans can't just pick and choose when to do their jobs.

Last month, we saw the real-life consequences of an eight-member Supreme Court as it split 4-4 in a key case concerning the right of the teachers to organize and collect union dues. Madam Speaker, I was pleased with that particular outcome because the lower

court had ruled in a way that I thought was appropriate. It is an example, however, of a case too important to be the result of a default to the lower court because of a split bench. In cases like these, the Court cannot set precedent. The American people, however, deserve a Court that operates at full strength so that it can establish precedent.

We cannot wait until after the election to vote on Judge Garland's nomination. Senate Republicans, Madam Speaker, continue to insist that, somehow, their obstruction is based in precedent—that a nomination ought not to be made in the final year of a President's term. Ranking Member CONYERS, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, just spoke to that. Nowhere in our Constitution is the President's authority limited by the number of days or months into or remaining in his or her term. The President is the President from January 20 until January 20 4 years later. This is yet another example of congressional Republicans holding this particular President to a different and unfair standard.

The Senate confirmed Justice Anthony Kennedy, as has been said, during the final year of President Reagan's second term. Thirteen other Justices have been confirmed during Presidential election years, including Louis Brandeis and Benjamin Cardozo—two of the great members of the Supreme Court of the United States.

During the Kennedy confirmation process in 1988, President Ronald Reagan said: "The Federal judiciary is too important to be made a political football."

I would hope that Senate Republicans, who often cite President Reagan as a guide for the kind of leaders they want to be, would heed this admonition. Some have had the political courage to reject their colleagues' disrespectful approach of refusing to even meet with Judge Garland. I congratulate them. They are doing their jobs.

□ 1615

Not only should all Members of the Senate give him the courtesy of a meeting, they ought to do their jobs as well and not stand in the way of hearings and consideration.

The Senate's duty to advise and consent certainly, Madam Speaker, was not envisioned by the Founders to be optional or that the Senate could effectively pocket veto a nomination to the Court. The Senate ought to do its job.

I don't think a single Founder would have conceived of the possibility of the Court receiving a nomination pursuant to the President's constitutional responsibility and authority and simply say: Too bad, Mr. President. Too bad, Supreme Court. We are not going to consider that nomination.

No Founding Father would have conceived that to be possible, and they,

therefore, did not provide for a time limit in which the consideration could occur.

I suggest to you, Madam Speaker, that, if we meet our oath to the Constitution of the United States to uphold the laws of the United States, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that the Supreme Court of the United States is fully manned so that it can, in fact, assure the faithful execution and adherence to the laws and Constitution of this country.

I thank my colleague from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for leading this Special Order tonight on a subject of profound consequence to all Americans.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his incredible analysis.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan.

I rise today to express my concern about the ongoing vacancy in the Supreme Court. The President has done his constitutional job, and that is to screen, to choose, to nominate, and to put forward a name.

The Senate must do its constitutional duty, to take a look at the nominee and give a vote. I don't know how the Senate would vote, depending on the nominee.

It is in their jurisdiction. It is in their individual right to take a look and to decide yea or nay. But it is their responsibility to take up that nominee. That is the constitutional requirement.

It has dire consequences for us when this vacancy is left unfilled. It has dire consequences for many, in particular, for example, the Latino community. Just yesterday the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *United States v. Texas*, a challenge to the President's executive actions on immigration.

Because of the vacancy, we only have three Justices. So there is the clear possibility that it could be a 4-4 vote. That would leave in place the freeze on DACA and DAPA, and millions of immigrants' lives are hanging in the balance.

The Supreme Court must be able to make concrete decisions on the most pressing issues facing our country, but we are stuck in limbo.

Actually, if you think of the division of powers, we are purposely in a way hampering the power of that judiciary. It doesn't have to be that way.

President Obama has nominated Judge Garland, a worthy and a just successor to the late Justice Scalia's seat.

Yes, Senate Republicans refuse to give Judge Garland their consideration even though a majority of Senate Republicans voted to confirm this exact same judge to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1997.

They refuse to consider his nomination. Why? Because they are looking to

block any Supreme Court nominee at any cost.

There is too much at stake to leave the Supreme Court vacancy open. It is time for the Senate to fulfill their constitutional duty by filling the Supreme Court vacancy with undue delay.

Wasting time, playing political games with the highest of the Court, is irresponsible and is unacceptable.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding and for his leadership on this Special Order hour.

Madam Speaker, 5 weeks ago President Obama fulfilled his constitutional responsibility and nominated Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court.

Judge Garland is eminently qualified for this position. In 1997, he was confirmed to the United States Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia with a majority of both parties supporting his nomination. He oversaw the prosecution of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols for the Oklahoma City bombing.

Before Judge Garland's nomination to the Supreme Court, Republican Senator ORRIN HATCH said he would be a consensus nominee and that there was no question he would be confirmed in the Senate.

Now, one month after President Obama nominated Judge Garland to the Supreme Court, Senate Republicans are refusing to hold hearings on his nomination or give him an up-or-down vote.

President Ronald Reagan said: The Federal judiciary is too important to be made a political football. But that is exactly what Senate Republicans are doing.

They are denying the American people a fully functioning Supreme Court and choosing to turn the Federal judiciary into a political football.

The Supreme Court was designated by the Founders of our country to make major decisions of law and to protect the rights of all Americans, but the Supreme Court can't function as it was designed without a full slate of nine Justices.

The Constitution makes clear that the President's job is to nominate Justices to the Supreme Court, and the Senate's job is to advise and consent on those nominations.

The President has done his job. It is outrageous and deeply offensive that Senate Republicans are saying they won't do their job for the remainder of the year.

This is yet another example, maybe the most consequential example, of Republican obstruction. The American people deserve more from their elected officials.

Leader MCCONNELL and Members of the Senate Republican caucus, do your

job and consider Judge Garland's nomination as swiftly as possible. The American people deserve nothing less.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Maryland for coordinating this discussion, and I thank Ranking Member CONYERS for yielding.

Madam Speaker, a Supreme Court sitting with only eight Justices, including the Chief Justice, is not good for democracy.

The failure by the Senate to consider our President's nominee because of the electoral cycle is an abdication of constitutional responsibility that is without precedent and without reason.

Now, I am best known to my colleagues as the last Ph.D. scientist in Congress or perhaps as the businessman who founded a company with his brother that now manufactures most of the theater lighting equipment in the United States.

What is less well known is that I am also the son of a civil rights lawyer who wrote much of the enforcement language behind the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Like me, my father was a scientist, and he stepped away from his career in science to become a civil rights lawyer.

There was a decade between the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that held that racially segregated school systems were inherently unequal and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

My father spent most of that decade traveling around the South, advising school boards and Federal judges on the nuts and bolts of school desegregation.

In August of 1969, President Richard Nixon nominated Judge Clement F. Haynsworth to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The nomination was to replace Justice Abe Fortas, a liberal from the New Deal era. The confirmation of Clement Haynsworth would have shifted the balance of the Court significantly to the right.

Many liberal Democrats were strongly opposed to the nomination on ideological grounds, but my father knew Judge Haynsworth from his years working in civil rights. He knew him to be an intelligent and a fair-minded man.

So my father was called to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of the nomination of Clement Haynsworth.

My father's testimony cited specific cases in which he, my father, as an avowedly liberal Democrat, would have decided otherwise. But he pointed out that the decisions could be sustained by a reasonable man and could be sustained under precedent.

In the closing of my father's testimony, he said:

The question for me is not whether I would have made another nominee for the Supreme Court. It is rather the question of whether Judge Haynsworth possesses the qualities required to become a fine Justice of the Supreme Court.

This is the standard that should be employed by the Senate today. The President alone has the authority and the obligation to nominate a person to serve on the Supreme Court.

The Senate can defeat that nomination through a vote on the Senate floor after hearings and thoughtful considerations of a person's judicial temperament and intellect.

I believe that considering those characteristics makes it clear that Judge Merrick Garland is eminently qualified to sit on the Supreme Court. But from the Framers, to my father, to today, we have established frameworks for making those decisions.

The Supreme Court should not be, as a famous President once said, a political football, and filling the bench is vitally important.

So I urge my colleagues in the Senate to give Merrick Garland what liberal Democrats gave Clement Haynsworth: hearings and a vote.

In 1969, finally, the Senate voted to withhold its consent for the appointment of Clement Haynsworth 3 months after his nomination, with 38 Democrats and 17 Republicans voting against him.

I think that the process will make it clear how qualified Merrick Garland is and that he will be confirmed, but the Senate must follow the process established in the Constitution for reviewing a nominee.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the ranking member on the Intelligence Committee and a former member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, last month President Obama nominated a fantastic jurist, Judge Merrick Garland, to the Supreme Court. Seconds later Republicans announced that he would not receive a vote, a hearing, or even a courtesy meeting in many cases.

Judge Garland has a sterling reputation as a brilliant centrist and, above all, a fair jurist. He has been praised by Members of both parties in the past.

He served in the criminal division of the Department of Justice before his nearly two-decades-long career as a U.S. circuit court judge.

Garland is a Harvard University and Harvard Law School graduate. He clerked for a U.S. Court of Appeals judge and then for Justice William Brennan on the U.S. Supreme Court.

During his stint with the Department of Justice, he was dispatched in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing to help set up the prosecution team and help investigators build a case.

When Garland was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals, he received a

broad and bipartisan vote. There is no doubt that Garland is superbly qualified.

This Nation's Constitution expressly states that the President has the power to appoint Supreme Court Justices with two-thirds of the Senate approving.

Nowhere is there some kind of an asterisk stating that, during their last year in office or even during the last few weeks of their term, the President must relinquish this power to a successor.

President Obama was elected by the American public in 2012 to serve another 4 years in office. With 9 months left in his term, there is no excuse for the Senate to block him from filling this Supreme Court vacancy.

Precedent demands action. In the past, six previous Supreme Court nominees were confirmed by the Senate in an election year, including current Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was nominated by then-President Reagan.

A Republican President who was in the final year of his term and a Democratic Congress hoping that one of their own would replace him in The Oval Office, if that sounds familiar, it is.

But instead of the partisan gridlock in the midst of a heated presidential campaign, in 1988, Kennedy received a fair and lengthy hearing chaired by then-Senator JOE BIDEN and then received an overwhelming 97-0 bipartisan vote.

□ 1630

The Supreme Court is a coequal branch of government, not to be trifled with, not to be demeaned like some administrative backwater, and certainly not to be made the partisan and political plaything of a Senate GOP leadership desperate to hold on to its majority at all costs.

Judge Garland deserves a full and fair hearing before the Senate to discuss his qualifications and judicial philosophy, and he deserves an up-or-down vote on his nomination as soon as possible.

To do otherwise would set a dangerous new precedent that further politicizes the judicial nomination process and departs from our constitutional system.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ).

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. CONYERS for his leadership and for organizing this Special Order to highlight the grave consequences of Senate Republican obstructionism by blocking a simple up-or-down vote on the nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court.

Republicans claim to love the Constitution, yet they refuse to acknowledge their constitutional duties. Sen-

ate Republicans have chosen to play politics instead of doing what is right for the American people. They simply don't want to do their job.

President Obama faithfully fulfilled his constitutional duty by nominating Chief Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court, but Senate Republicans refuse to even hold a hearing to consider, to just consider, Chief Judge Garland's nomination.

This refusal to fulfill a constitutional duty of theirs to vet and vote on this nominee is indicative of Republicans' 8-year strategy of obstructing President Obama at every opportunity.

And who loses? The American people do.

The worst excuse that I have heard as to why Senate Republicans are shirking their duty is that the American people should have a say in the process. I would like to remind my Senate Republican colleagues that the American people—including 11.2 million Latinos who voted in the 2012 election cycle—already had a voice in this nomination.

The American people expressed their will when they overwhelmingly re-elected President Obama to a second full term, with the understanding that if a vacancy occurred, it is part of the President's duty to nominate a Supreme Court Justice.

I would like to remind my Republican colleagues, a full Presidential term is 4 years, not just 3. I know math can be hard and a little tricky, so I wanted to make sure that my Republican colleagues in the Senate were clear on that.

The vacancy before us is one that is critically important for all Americans, but especially for Latinos living in the United States. The President has fulfilled his obligation. Now it is time for the Republican Senators to do their job.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. I now yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGU).

Mr. GALLEGU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Senate Republicans to give a full and fair hearing and vote to confirm President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland.

There is critical business before the Supreme Court this term. Our democracy relies on a full and functioning Supreme Court.

It has been more than a month since President Obama announced his nominee, and Republican leadership has refused to move forward with the confirmation process.

Judge Garland is an experienced and respected jurist with a long history of service to our Nation. He has more experience as a Federal judge than any nominee in history, but Republican leaders have decided they won't hold a hearing to consider Judge Garland's nomination. Instead of doing their

jobs, Republicans are playing political games and leaving our Nation's highest court in limbo.

This kind of obstructionism is unprecedented. Since the 1980s, every person appointed to the Supreme Court has been given a prompt hearing and a vote within 100 days. There are 276 days until the next President takes office—plenty of time to consider Judge Garland's nomination.

The Constitution gives the President the responsibility to nominate Justices to the Supreme Court and gives the Senate the job of considering that nominee. There are no exceptions for election year. Never before in American history has a Senate majority said they refuse to consider or vote on anyone nominated by the current President. We have never stopped considering Supreme Court nominees during election years.

This is just the latest example of unconscionable Republican obstructionism. From shutting down the government to threatening to cause a catastrophic default, Republicans have proven that they don't know how to govern and they don't have our Nation's best interests in mind. Republicans continue to put partisan politics ahead of the well-being of the American people.

Nearly 60 percent of Americans want the Senate to hold hearings and vote on the nominee. They want and expect Republican Senators to do their jobs.

Justice Scalia dedicated his life to the Constitution. The Senate should honor his service by upholding their constitutional responsibility to give his replacement a fair hearing and a timely vote.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday I had the honor and the privilege of sitting in the Supreme Court chamber while the case of United States v. Texas was argued. It is a case that many of us hope will affirm the President's executive actions known as DACA and DAPA and allow for children who were brought here through no fault of their own as young kids to stay in the country, and also for their parents, the parents of U.S. citizen children, to also remain here so that families are not separated because of our laws.

I hope that the President prevails and the administration prevails and these families prevail in their arguments when we find out in June or so what the Supreme Court decides. As all of us sat there and watched the arguments, the elephant in the room was that there was one Justice who was not there. Instead of the Supreme Court being filled with nine Justices, there were only eight, which leaves open the

possibility in this case, and many others, that the Court will be deadlocked 4-4.

Not only on this issue where both sides, whether you are in favor of the administration's actions or against them, have a right to have the case decided and not be left in limbo.

On the issue of immigration in this term, on the issue of abortion, criminal law issues, jury selection issues, these important constitutional questions, many of them could be left in limbo because the Senate Republicans refuse to even start to do their job.

The President has nominated somebody for the Supreme Court. The Senate is supposed to take that nomination up, give the person a hearing, and then take a vote.

Is it so much to ask that the Senate take a vote on the nomination?

They can vote "no" if they disagree with it, but they should at least take a vote.

Now, I say this in the context of the last few years in this Congress, putting aside this term that we are in right now, the last two terms of Congress before this were the least productive terms in American history, measured by the number of bills sent to the President's desk.

What this represents is the fact that the cancer of gridlock is spreading from the Congress to the judiciary because Senate Republicans refuse not only to do their job in their Chamber, but also to allow the Supreme Court to properly do its job.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Senate and Senate Republicans to do their job and to take a vote on the nomination of Merrick Garland.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am now pleased to yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK).

Mr. HECK of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

Please listen with me to the following timeless, universal, and wise words:

"Trust that justice will be done in our courts without prejudice or partisanship is what, in a large part, distinguishes this country from others. For a judge to be worthy of such trust, he or she must be faithful to the Constitution and to the statutes passed by the Congress. He or she must put aside personal views or preferences and follow the law, not make it."

Timeless and universally wise words. And, yes, those are the words of Chief Judge Merrick Garland.

President Obama fulfilled his constitutional responsibility by nominating Chief Judge Garland, an eminently qualified American, to the Supreme Court. He does, indeed, deserve—and the American people deserve—a fair hearing and an up-or-down vote.

Chief Judge Merrick Garland has more Federal judiciary experience than

any other Supreme Court nominee in history. Let me repeat that. He has more Federal judicial experience than any other Supreme Court judge in history. This approach has earned him bipartisan praise throughout his career. As he was, as noted earlier, confirmed by a majority of both political parties, Senator HATCH's words were referenced.

Here is what hasn't been referenced. None other than Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Roberts said: "Anytime Judge Garland disagrees, you know you're in a difficult area."

I am proud to be from and in this body representing a region of Washington State. Of course, I am not over in the Senate. We here on the House floor don't get a vote. The nomination doesn't come here. But I am also proud that I am represented by both Senators PATTY MURRAY and MARIA CANTWELL, who are both committed to moving forward and prepared to do their job and vote. Washingtonians, frankly, should be proud of their leadership.

If only the Senate majority would also do their job and allow the Senate to function, then we can ensure that the Court is able to reach decisions that will produce the necessary precedent we need to resolve many matters going forward.

Someday I hope someone from the 10th Congressional District of Washington State is nominated to the highest court in our land. And I fear a kid from Tacoma known for resolving disputes on the playground or a teenager in Olympia showing a talent for judging policy debates or a law student from Shelton with their nose in administrative law textbooks, I fear they are seeing all of this play out and thinking, why would I want to devote my career and life to the judicial process only to be denied consideration from a stubborn Senate?

But worst of all, with this inaction, the Senate is basically erasing the lines, and they are creating a new level of gridlock. As an American, I, frankly, genuinely fear what this will become. Every American should fear what this will mean in the future. This kind of obstructionism can become and will become a slippery slope, and it will not bode well for our democracy. This is arbitrary and capricious.

Justice Scalia died February 12, so there was not enough time left because there was just a year left to go. Same is true in January.

What about December and November? That is holiday season. Hardly enough time.

What about October? Well, we are going into holiday season.

What about September? Well, we have got to get the budget out.

What about August? We are on recess.

We are erasing the lines, and that is for the Supreme Court.

Where does it go next? Does it go to all other judicial level appointments? Does it go to all administrative agencies?

We are erasing the lines. It will not bode well for the rule of law. It will not bode well for justice.

I am not in the business of giving advice to the eminent Members of the upper Chamber ever except today. Do your job. Hold a hearing. Give it an up-or-down vote. Were I there, yes, I would vote to confirm Chief Judge Garland. But, minimally, do your job. Hold a hearing and give it an up-or-down vote.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I now yield to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member of our Committee on the Judiciary for yielding. I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for bringing us together tonight so as to speak to what I think is a necessary cry, an outspoken cry to please fill the post on the Supreme Court.

□ 1645

Madam Speaker, I am here this evening to join in spirit and voice with my colleagues who are urging, requesting our counterparts in the Senate, controlled by the Republican Party, to move forward on action taken by our President, as he nominated a gentleman by the name of Judge Merrick Garland to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. Their recalcitrance seems to strike a common theme of obstructionism.

The Republican-led Congress has embodied obstructionism over the last several years. We see in public opinion surveys where that has reduced the positive side of the image of Congress simply because we don't do our work when it is required of us.

Where else in this country in any other job can you say no when asked to do your job? That is what is happening here.

Our Republican-controlled Senate is suggesting and indicating by their action that they will not move in fairness to address this nomination. My colleagues and I are not asking for a rubber stamp process here. We are asking simply that a fair hearing be given to the individual nominated by our President.

President Obama has looked at qualifications, he has checked performance, he has looked at integrity, and he has named an individual that has received great reviews on both sides of the aisle in both Houses; but for some reason our colleagues in the other House—the Republicans of the Senate—will not allow for a fair hearing. That is saying no to your job. They embrace the Constitution, but seem to walk from it when it doesn't fit their agenda.

What we have here again is obstructionism, perhaps of an historic dimension. This show of recalcitrance is regrettable and it is unacceptable.

For the sake of argument, let me just share two numbers: 67 and 125. Sixty-seven days is the average length of time from nomination to confirmation for a Supreme Court nominee since 1975. Sixty-seven days. In terms of 127 days, that expresses the longest wait ever for a nominee from nomination to confirmation before that vote came. So 67 days and 125 days to make the case here.

President Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland on March 17, a full 311 days before his term expires on January 20 of next year. So the math here is very plain. It is a sound, solid argument: 67 on average, 125 at fullest length for the time span for doing business in the Senate when it comes to addressing the highest court in the land. They have had 311 days to do their work.

People say: Well, the people need to decide. They want a President to be elected, come forth, and then address this vacancy.

Well, the people did decide when they named President Obama by vote to a second term. America didn't elect President Obama for his second term to serve three-quarters of a term. They elected him for a full 4 years. So the arguments are weak, if they are even arguments.

"Do your job" is the message that we share today on this House floor to the other House and to the Republican-controlled Senate. Do your job. There is much unfinished business in the highest court of the land. The Supreme Court has great unfinished business. To render that an eight-member body, where there can be deadlock and virtual paralysis in the highest court in the land, is unacceptable.

Let's do the people's business. Let's fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court, let's respect the Constitution, and let's understand that much time was available—is available—to get the work done here to confirm or to reject a nominee. Simply do your job and offer the gentleman a fair hearing.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), whose father honored us by serving on the Judiciary Committee when he was here.

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the ranking member for yielding, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this important topic of filling the Supreme Court vacancy.

Madam Speaker, many of our colleagues in this Chamber carry a pocket Constitution—I have got one here myself—to remind ourselves of our duty to the country.

Article II, Section 2, the so-called Appointments Clause, is very clear. It says that the President shall have the

power to nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court.

It says "shall," Madam Speaker. It doesn't say "may." It doesn't say "might." It says "shall." Yet, many of our Senate colleagues on the Republican side—the very same people who routinely will brandish the Constitution as they speak to justify their actions—are now ignoring the very plain text of the Constitution.

MITCH MCCONNELL suggested that the President should not even have put forward a nominee for this vacancy on the Supreme Court. In other words, he suggested the President shouldn't do the job that the Constitution clearly dictates he should do. Well, the President decided he was going to do his job. And all we are asking is that the Members of the Senate do their job.

If you look at the nominee, Merrick Garland, it is hard to imagine a person better qualified to be on the Supreme Court. Nobody disputes the credentials of Judge Garland, an accomplished Federal prosecutor, a former senior official at the Department of Justice, the current chief judge of the ever-important D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, and someone who throughout his career has been praised by both Democrats and Republicans alike.

So what is the problem here? What is the holdup? Why isn't this vacancy being filled?

Well, I think the Republicans in the Senate are just trying to run out the clock on President Obama's term. And it is not just that they are denying the President the process that he is entitled to. They are denying the country what the Constitution says the country deserves, which is a fully constituted Supreme Court with nine Justices serving and making important decisions.

The Supreme Court of the United States cannot function as it is intended to unless it has nine members sitting on the court. It cannot find its way to new jurisprudence and new thinking unless it has got a fully constituted court.

Many Americans look with expectation at this court and hope that certain kinds of decisions that we have seen over the last few years will maybe be revisited with some new thinking.

For example, the Citizens United case has unleashed this torrent of outside money on our politics, which has left everyday people feeling locked out and left out of their own democracy. That wrong-headed ruling has further surrendered our political system to the wealthy and the well connected.

The Shelby case gutted certain parts of the Voting Rights Act and enabled partisan operatives in State legislatures across the country to come up with new ways to limit access to the ballot box.

These are decisions which eventually will be revisited. And we don't know how Merrick Garland would come down on those kinds of decisions. That is not the point. We are not prejudging where a rethinking of that kind of jurisprudence would land, but what we are saying is that it is important that you have a fully constituted court to examine these questions. And the American people have a right to expect that that will happen.

When I came to this Chamber 10 years ago, I remember early on there was a very tough vote and I was going back and forth whether I should vote "yes" or I should vote "no." And for a fleeting instant, I thought to myself: maybe I will just vote present.

I talked to a couple of my colleagues and they said: The one reason you are here is to cast a vote. You can't just show up and be present. You have got to make a decision.

And we are not asking Republican Members of the Senate to vote for Judge Garland. We are just asking them to take a vote. We are asking them to hold a hearing to meet the expectation of the Constitution. Have a hearing, put it to a vote, and let the chips fall where they may. You can't just show up and say: I am present.

To do your job, you have got to show up and vote. That is what we do. We are legislators. We are not fixing potholes, we are not managing some brigade of soldiers. We are here to vote on legislation. We are here to vote on nominations. That is our job under the Constitution. So you can't not vote and pretend that you are showing up for work.

So, Madam Speaker, I hope and encourage and beseech our colleagues on the Senate side to give Judge Garland a fair hearing, and then bring his nomination to a vote on the floor of the Senate. That is what the Constitution requires. That is what your job requires.

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

#### SUPREME COURT NOMINATION PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I am so grateful to my friends across the aisle for bringing up a subject that has bothered me for years.

Having been a State district judge, I was bothered when people would be nominated for a Federal bench and they wouldn't get their hearing. Or perhaps like a gentleman named Bork, a gentleman named Clarence Thomas, they got a hearing, but as Justice Thomas properly stated back at the

time, it wasn't so much a hearing as it was a high-tech lynching.

I am sure all of us have our own personal stories that we are personally aware of. I just happen to be one of 435 who have personal knowledge of personal friends—people who were immi- nently qualified and were eventually confirmed.

□ 1700

One of them was my law school col- league, and we served in the same firm together for a few years, Leonard E. Davis. He was nominated in 1992 and, yes, as my friends across the aisle point out, it was the last of 4 years of the George H.W. Bush term, but there was no reason not to give him a hear- ing. The guy had been editor of the Baylor Law Review, a brilliant guy, en- gineer by undergraduate training.

And, Madam Speaker, it is really un- fortunate, but not only did he not get a hearing in 1992, not only did the Sen- ate Democrats drag their feet and refuse to give him a hearing in 1992, he had to wait 10 years for a hearing to become a Federal judge because the Senate Democrats refused to give him the hearing he deserved and the vote that he deserved. So he was nominated in 1992, and, in 2002—actually, May 9 of 2002—he was finally confirmed as a Federal judge.

Now, another law school classmate, colleague, was with one of the best firms in Houston. He and I entered law school at the same time. In fact, there is another justice now that we were all part of the same entering class at Baylor Law School, and that was An- drew Hanen.

Andrew Hanen was nominated to the Federal bench in 1992 by George H.W. Bush as President. I didn't hear any of my colleagues that are now here that were here in 1992 rushing here to the floor and saying: You know what? That Leonard Davis and that Andrew Hanen, they were at the top of their class. They are brilliant. They are obviously well qualified, got the highest bar rat- ings anybody could get. Everybody likes them. They ought to get their hearing and they ought to be con- firmed. 1992, Andrew Hanen was nomi- nated to the Federal bench, and he fi- nally got his hearing as a Federal judge in 2002, 10 years later, and he was fi- nally confirmed on May 9, 2002.

So I am so pleased to hear my friends here in the House complaining about highly qualified, preeminent legal scholars not getting a hearing, because I wasn't even a judge in 1992. But I was running for judge in 1992, in Texas, and I knew how grossly unfair it was to have the Democrats in charge of the Senate sit on those nominations and sit and sit.

Now, in the case of brilliant Baylor lawyer Priscilla Owen, she made the top grade on the State bar exam when it was taken. I recall, I was sitting

across the table from, now, Justice Owen, and when I got my grade, I was thrilled. I made a great grade on the bar exam.

And then people said: You were sit- ting right across the table from Pris- cilla. She made the high grade on the bar. Do you not even cheat at all?

Well, the answer is no, I don't cheat. And I was thrilled with the grade I got. But Priscilla made the top grade in the entire State on the bar exam.

She had been a member of the Texas Supreme Court, eminently qualified, obviously brilliant, and she was nomi- nated to be a Federal judge by George W. Bush, the first time, May 9 of 2001. After her hearing, a wait. She was nominated May 9 of 2001, and she never got a hearing on that nomination. She was nominated again September 4 of 2001. She finally got a hearing July of 2002.

She was eminently qualified, abso- lutely brilliant. According to the Texas bar exam, she was the smartest lawyer taking the bar exam in Texas that month of that year we took the bar. It was only given three times a year. I think it may just be given twice now. It was given three times a year. On our bar exam, she was the smartest lawyer in the room.

I would have to tip my hat; as well as I did, she was a little smarter than I was—smart, able lawyer and justice.

So, over a year after she was first nominated, July of 2002, she gets a hearing. Three years later, she was never given a vote.

Now, I was thrilled to hear from my colleague across the aisle that 67 days is the average wait, from the nomi- nation to confirmation, since the 1970s. So how is it, when a brilliant man or woman is nominated by George H.W. Bush or George W. Bush, they run into this kind of wall from the Democrats? Even when the Republicans had the majority in the Senate, they didn't have 60, and the Democrats were able to hold up and prevent a vote on some- one as eminently qualified as Priscilla Owen.

So, nominated 2001, her 67 days were up, and she didn't have a hearing, and didn't have a hearing for over a year, and then years go by. January of 2005 comes and goes, and she had gone an entire almost 4 years without the Sen- ate Democrats giving her a chance to have a vote—nearly 4 years, and they wouldn't give her a vote.

So, February 14, right after George W. Bush took the oath of office again for a second term, 4 years, nearly 4 years after her first nomination, she was nominated again, and she had al- ready had a hearing. She finally got a vote in 2005. It took 4 years and getting elected to a second term before they would even give Priscilla Owen the de- cency, just give her a vote, for heaven's sake.

Leonard Davis, it took not only the year of 1992, it took a son of that Presi-

dent that nominated Leonard Davis to renominate Leonard Davis before he fi- nally ever got a hearing and a con- firmation vote.

What a lot of people don't under- stand, if you are in a major law firm and you are nominated to the Federal bench, it wreaks absolute havoc on the life of the nominee because not only do they fill out massive pages of applica- tion forms, but they also undergo an FBI, thorough scrutiny that the Senate gets.

Then something that is not reported, but I know from having talked to these attorneys who were nominated for the Federal bench and then were put on hold for years and years: When you are nominated for a Federal bench and you are in a major firm, you have got tons of clients. They are coming to you with their business. You are bringing in lots of money for the firm, and you are bringing home a great deal of money because you are very successful be- cause, with your experience, people trust your experience. But the minute you get nominated to the Federal bench, you life goes into chaos because the people at your firm are not going to send you over any cases that they need help on. Clients are no longer going to come to you because they know you have been nominated for the Federal bench, and so you are not get- ting the work anymore. Your produc- tion falls off dramatically. Who suffers then? You do; your family does.

So when someone like Andy Hanen, Andrew Hanen, was nominated to the bench and it took so long to get a hear- ing, it cost him a lot of money. It cost his firm a lot of money.

When Priscilla Owen, sitting on the Texas Supreme Court, is nominated to the Federal bench and the Senate Democrats prevent her from getting a vote that she deserves for over 4 years—whether they are Democrats or Republicans on the Texas Supreme Court, they are smart people, gen- erally. Every now and then a ringer gets on there, but most of them are very smart.

They know if you have been nomi- nated to the Federal bench that you could go to the Federal bench any day. You could go to the Federal bench in 67 days, according to my Democratic col- leagues, after you are nominated. So why would they have you write any major opinions when you could be at appellate level, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, before you will have time to really dig into the appellate case?

So you go month after month, year after year, without being allowed to preside and write a majority opinion on a specific case. They may get you one here or there that they think won't be a major effort to write. But it affects your life; it affects your State; it af- fects those you care about. So nobody is more thrilled than I am to have

heard, for nearly an hour, my colleagues across the aisle say, if somebody is nominated, they need to get a hearing, and they need to get a vote.

Now, that brings us up to current time, with President Obama having been in office over 7 years now. And it has been rather interesting, but this administration has set a record. My staff cannot find any administration that tops this.

There have been 11 decisions in a 4-year period by the United States Supreme Court where all nine Judges unanimously said the Obama administration has vastly overreached what they were doing, and they struck down the action unanimously. This Court, four very liberal judges, and they, 11 times in about 4 years, struck down, unanimously, effort after effort by this administration.

□ 1715

In fact, it is apparently a record that, in 4 years, this administration was struck down 23 times. They weren't all unanimous. They were before Justice Scalia's death.

But to have your work as President, along with those under you that you were ordering to do as you tell them and to follow your policies and your guidelines, to be struck down 23 times in 4 years—and that is like 2010 or 2011 through 2014, is my understanding.

So cases since then I am sure will add to the record of the Obama administration. Perhaps now that Justice Scalia has passed, it may enable the Obama administration to get through these last months without racking up too many more overrulings by the Supreme Court.

But it tells you the mindset of this administration: We are going to violate the Constitution.

Even the tremendously liberal judges on the Supreme Court, those four, come back and say: Eleven times, really, you have gone so far beyond what the Constitution allows. Even for us liberals you have gone way too far. We have got to reel you in. You just can't keep pushing that far.

So would it be a surprise when an administration makes a nomination in the last months, especially since the head of that administration as a Senator basically supported the idea that you can't even make a nomination in the last year of your Presidency?

His Vice President, when he was Senator JOE BIDEN—they were all for stopping any nomination the last year of a President. So maybe when they were Senators they weren't always wrong.

Perhaps when they were saying that it was a terrible idea for a President to make a nomination in the last year shouldn't even be given any consideration. Maybe like a broken clock is right twice a day—maybe that is one of those times—well, they were right on that one.

I would not submit that that should always be the rule. I would not argue that, as President Obama and Vice President BIDEN were pushing, they shouldn't give a hearing to George W. Bush's nominations in the last year. I wouldn't push that far.

But I would submit that, when an administration is setting records for being the most unconstitutional administration in history, then perhaps in their case it merits slowing down a little bit before you allow them to contribute anymore to unconstitutional actions.

Because those who studied modern history, going back to World War II and pre-World War II, we know that President Franklin Roosevelt didn't like the way the Supreme Court was ruling; so, he was threatening to get the number added from 9 to 15. He would appoint 6 and then he could get them to do what he wanted. It had the desired effect upon the Supreme Court. They started ruling the things he wanted were not unconstitutional.

This is also the Democratic administration that ordered the interment of people just because of what they looked like and where they were from. No Republican has ever done that, but Franklin Roosevelt did.

With this administration 23 times having their actions struck down, 11 times unanimous, that record, perhaps it is an indication that we should hold up.

Our friend Andrew McCarthy, today with [pjmedia.com](http://pjmedia.com), has an article. I want to read from part of that article.

His title is: As Primary Campaigns Roll on, Obama Shreds Constitutional Governance.

He says: "Two cases in point: President Obama's pressure on the states to drop sanctions against Iran, and his continuing scheme to dictate immigration law unilaterally."

Mr. McCarthy, who was the prosecutor that did a fabulous job in prosecuting the bombers of the first World Trade Center bombing from back in 1993, says this in his article: "The invaluable Omri Ceren (citing a Bloomberg View report) alerts us that the State Department has sent monitoring letters to the governors of all fifty states 'suggesting' that they review any sanctions imposed against Iran. Over half the states have such sanctions, targeting not only Iran's nuclear work but the regime's other weapons work, (e.g., ballistic missiles), terror promotion, human rights abuses, detention of Americans, etc."

"Explains Mark Dubowitz of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies: '[These sanctions] are an essential part of the non-nuclear sanctions architecture designed to both deter Iranian illicit behavior and to safeguard pension funds from the risk associated with entering Iran's economy.'

"Alas, any counter-Iranian measure with real teeth is certain to fly in the

face of President Obama's Iran deal—the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action."

Mr. McCarthy points out the text of the JCPOA, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. That is the Iran treaty. It really was a treaty because you cannot amend a treaty the way this one amended prior treaties unless it is a treaty.

The difference is the Senate leadership couldn't work up the courage to bring it to the floor as the treaty it was so that a two-thirds vote would not be able to be reached, it would not be confirmed, and it could have been stopped dead in its tracks if it had been brought to the floor.

This is such a powerful, important issue, unlike some that Majority Leader REID set aside the cloture rule to bring to the floor without a cloture vote.

This is something that will affect and could bring about the end of millions of lives, and that is the largest supporter of terrorism in the world getting their hands on \$100 to \$150 billion. That is just the first year.

They could get \$100 billion a year after that, but also getting the green light to go ahead and move forward with the nuclear work that they are doing. And the administration may allow them or help them to move along, as the Clinton administration did for the North Koreans.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker, the North Koreans struck a deal with Wendy Sherman, who helped out on the Iranian deal, and President Clinton—I know this is a shorthand rendition—basically, in effect, said: Hey, North Korea, if you will just sign saying you won't use what we give you to develop nuclear weapons, we will build you a nuclear power plant. We will give you everything you need for nuclear weapons if you will just sign saying you won't develop nuclear weapons.

Of course, thinking people knew what would happen, and it did happen just as thinking people knew it would. You couldn't trust the leader of North Korea. They took the materials that were provided for power plants.

They developed nuclear weapons. And now this administration has to be constantly concerned about what North Korea is doing because they have nuclear weapons.

They wanted to help Iran all because of the deal that Wendy Sherman helped do back during the Clinton administration and now she helped make happen with Iran. So they were able to keep working as they thought.

Then we found out more recently, in just recent weeks, that, actually, the Department of Justice and this President's administration—surely had to include the White House—knew that Iranians had hacked into our system here.

They were charged with hacking into the system, but, according to recent reports, the Justice Department was



talked into holding up on the charges until after the Iranian deal could be made—it wasn't confirmed. It is not a legitimate treaty—but at least squeak through without the two-thirds of the Senate being opposed, which is not the treatment treaties are supposed to get, according to the Constitution. But that doesn't keep some folks from acting unconstitutionally.

So, anyway, it turns out the Obama administration encouraged the Justice Department to sit on those charges. They knew Iran had people hacking into our system. It had to be government sanctioned. You don't do that in Iran without government permission.

This administration knew about ballistic missile testing that violated all kinds of things; yet, this administration we knew.

And some of us said right here on this floor that there will be violations and this administration will have to turn their head and act like they don't really see the violations because they twisted so many arms and did so many deals to try to get the Iran treaty treated as if it is a treaty without the confirmation that they could not afford for people to know how blatantly Iran leaders were violating their agreements.

This article from Mr. McCarthy goes on: “. . . the text of the JCPOA expressly indulges Iran's position that it will ‘cease performing [its] commitments’ under the deal if it deems the sanctions to have been ‘reinstated in whole or in part.’ That threat should only relate to sanctions on Iran's nuclear program, but—as the Obama administration well knew—many of the sanctions against significant Iranian entities (e.g., the National Iranian Oil Company and Bank Mellī) are based on activities in addition to support for the nuclear program.

“Moreover, Iran has publicly announced that it interprets the JCPOA”—the Iran treaty we will call it—“as a sweeping eradication of sanctions related both to various non-nuclear activities (e.g., other weapons and ballistic missiles) and to sectors of its economy sanctioned due to activities beyond support for the nuclear program.

“Against that backdrop, the JCPOA also purports to oblige the Federal Government to use ‘all available authorities’ [to eliminate any] law at the State or local level [that] is preventing the implementation of sanctions lifting as specified in this JCPOA.”

That is amazing. The administration makes a deal that they are willing to sign a deal with Iran that violates our own Constitution.

They have no right to dictate laws to State and local authorities, but they apparently signed a deal with Iran that they would dictate State and local law.

“This is a foreign relations matter. So why does the Iran deal commit

Washington merely to ‘encourage’ and otherwise try to persuade state and local officials to honor the deal's terms? Because, for all its bluster about domestic and international law, the administration knows this deal has no legal standing.

“Plainly, the President is trying to muscle his way through the inconvenience that the JCPOA is merely an executive agreement. It is not a legally enforceable treaty, nor is it supported by any legislation that would bind the states.

“Obama is willing it to work through sheer extra-legal executive power.”

The article goes on. It is a good article. But, then again, when we look at the record-setting slaps at this Administration's overreach in violation of the Constitution, 11 unanimous decisions in 4 years or so and 23 reversals by the Supreme Court in such a short period of time—4 or 5 years—these are records—have that many reversals in such a short time that it bears great scrutiny when an administration setting records for violating the Constitution says: Right before we go out, we want to get this person onto the Supreme Court because we have some other stuff that is still going to be ruled on by the Supreme Court after we are gone and we want some of that stuff that may be unconstitutional, like the 23 times the Supreme Court said they were, struck down things—they want those upheld in the future.

It seems like these are good reasons for the Senate to be very careful, much more so than they were about the Iran treaty.

There is an article from Paul Bedard: “Obama's Open-Door Immigration Policy Blamed for Surge in Rural Gang Crime.”

□ 1730

“A rural Maryland sheriff on Tuesday blamed”—and this is Maryland. This isn't Texas. It is not Arizona.

“A rural Maryland sheriff on Tuesday blamed President Obama's open-door immigration policy for a surge in gangland crime that included a retaliation murder and assault on an officer doing paperwork in his cruiser.

“‘Case-by-case amnesty, backdoor amnesty, DACA programs, and the DREAM Act were pushed through by executive order,’ said Frederick County Sheriff Charles Jenkins.

“‘Policy shifts by President Obama weakened and ruined secure communities, and did not allow action by ICE when sheriffs and police departments ignored detainees, allowing criminals to be released back on the streets. In effect, criminal aliens that should have been deported have been allowed to remain and commit more serious crimes, becoming violent offenders,’ he told the House Judiciary Committee probing the criminal impact of illegals in the United States.

“He was joined by family members of victims of illegal immigrant crime, a surging issue around the Nation as Obama's policies allow more unauthorized aliens to leave jail and remain in the country.

“Frederick is north of Washington, D.C., but has become a haven for criminal ‘transnational’ gangs, especially in high schools. Members of MS-13 and 18th Street gangs have become influential in the schools and county. ‘Transnational alien gangs are structured criminal enterprises involved in drug and human trafficking, crimes of violence over turf, retaliation, money laundering, and other serious crime. As these gangs are recruiting locally and increasing in number, so does the associated crime within communities,’ said Jenkins.

“He gave details on the crimes by immigrant gangs in his county:

“There are over 75 active known validated transnational criminal gang members in Frederick County, many more suspected of gang affiliation. We also believe that MS-13 and 18th Street alien gangs are recruiting, locally, in our schools, in the region, and out of the country.

“Of the 52 validated criminal alien gang members identified since 2008, 25 of the 52, 48 percent, were identified since late 2014.

“Eighteen of the 25, 72 percent, gang members encountered since 2014 have been charged with felonies.

“Seven of 11, 64 percent, of the criminal alien gang members encountered in 2015 were unaccompanied juveniles when they entered the U.S. and eventually located to Frederick County, Maryland. Now they are adults committing serious felonies.

“Crimes committed include five occurrences of attempted first and second degree murder, armed robbery, first degree assault, home invasion, armed carjacking, kidnapping, use of a firearm in the commission of a violent felony, carrying concealed deadly weapons.

“In 2014, eight criminal aliens charged with rape and sexual assault of children ages 5 to 14, with two of the girls impregnated.

“One of my deputies was the victim of an unprovoked physical attack/assault with an MS-13 gang member while sitting in his cruiser doing paperwork.

“The U.S. District Court recently indicted a known alien gang member for involvement in a 2013 MS-13 hired killing in Frederick. The victim in the killing fled El Salvador to live in Frederick because of an MS-13 hit for him there, but the hit order carried to a local MS-13 clique. The victim was lured to a wooded area where he was shot in the head and stabbed to death.

“The growing alien gang problem has spread into one high school where fights and violence between MS-13 and 18th Street are routine.”

That goes back to this important point about this administration's urging and luring people into the United States illegally by talking about the amnesty, talking about legal status. And as has been made clear by Border Patrol, when anyone in Washington, whatever party, either House or Senate, talk about legal status or amnesty, it creates a surge across our southern border.

Having been there in the last few weeks, spending nights and days down there on the border, on the river, aside the river—and I do mean all hours of the day and night—you see these things firsthand. You see little bitty children. The Border Patrol are told they came unaccompanied. There is no way these little children came unaccompanied across a river flowing that fast and that deep. Some of them alleged to have come from Central America. Over a thousand miles they journeyed unaccompanied? That is garbage.

It is like border patrolmen have told me—one in particular, he said: I am Hispanic. I speak better Spanish than most of them. Ninety percent of the time when they tell me they came to escape gang violence, I will hit them up: You may convince some gringo of that, but you and I both know you paid a gang to bring you in to the United States. And he said—90 percent of the time the response is—Well, that is true, but we were told to say we were fleeing gang violence.

As other border patrolmen have told me down there, there is not one inch of our southern border that isn't considered the jurisdiction of some drug cartel, some drug lord. And if you cross within that sector without getting permission or properly paying, making sure the drug lord or the drug cartel is satisfied with your payment, then you will be sought and found and either killed or be forced to provide services until your debt is paid.

That is why it is staggering when people down on the border, having come across illegally, are asked about how much they paid. It is not part of the required questions, but some of our Border Patrol are really wanting to know what is the going rate here for this sector: For people like you from the country you came from, what are they charging you? And you get different answers: \$5,000, \$6,000, \$7,000, \$8,000, maybe \$10,000 for a group.

The response comes back: How in the world could you have come up with that much money? The resulting answer is: Well, they said I could work it off when I get to the U.S. city where I am going.

You know they have agreed to work for a drug cartel, for a gang, for MS-13, for 18th Street. And it is not just along the Texas border, as we have seen from Frederick, Maryland, it is all over the country. People have agreed to provide the services.

As I have pointed out here before, Border Patrol says: The drug cartels, the gangs in Mexico, call us their logistics because they know under this administration, if they just get somebody across the border, across the Rio Grande, get them across illegally, then we become their logistics and we ship them wherever they want to go.

They tell us: We have got an address, or I have got a family member here, a family member there, or somebody that I have agreed to take care of me.

They don't say it, but it sounds like it could also mean: The drug cartel gave me this address and they told me this is where I am supposed to go.

They don't say: This is where the drug cartel told me to go. What does anyone expect when they have said: The drug cartel is going to let me work it off?

Is it any wonder that so many of the crimes in America are being committed by people who have come into the country illegally?

We know that most people coming in illegally are not violent criminals. I got that. We have that. We understand that, but when people come into the country illegally—and, by the way, for those that have not noticed, they are not in the shadows. I know there were a few in the shadows under the trees because it got hot out there in front of the Supreme Court, but most were out in front of the Supreme Court.

They are not in the shadows. People keep saying we have got to bring them out of the shadows. Well, start looking. They are not in the shadows. In fact, we had a group come to some offices here in the Capitol. They are not in the shadows. They are coming right in the office and demanding that we legalize those of them who have come in illegally.

The problem is—and this is the biggest problem—when the brightest hope in the world as a Nation, which once was the freest Nation in the world, once was the freest Nation in the history of the world, now international polls say we are not, but we have been the freest Nation, but when the freest Nation stops trying to apply the law equally across the board, then we become like the countries these poor, unfortunate individuals fled because their country did not apply the rule of law equally. It depended on who you were, how much you could pay, or what you could do for them. We become like the countries they had to flee, and there is nowhere left for people holding out hope for one place in the world where they can come and be free. It is gone.

I have had people even in Congress say: Louie, if it gets too bad, we will just pack up and go to Australia.

When I told that to some Australians in January, none of them smiled. They said: If something happens to United States' freedom, China will take us over instantly; you won't have us to come to.

If something happens to the United States and we continue to damage ourselves the way Europe has damaged itself, there isn't going to be any place else left to go. That is what the west Africans told me 3 or 4 years ago. They said: You have got to tell people in Washington—you know, as thrilled as we were when you elected your first Black President, we have seen you getting weaker and weaker, you're not standing up like you used to.

We are Christians. We are going to heaven when we die, but our only hope of a life of peace in this world is if America is strong. When we weaken the rule of law, when we have a President make millions and millions of exceptions to the law, we are on our way to becoming like the countries people that came here illegally had to leave.

For those who say we need to follow the Bible, I certainly believe that. And for individuals, there is no better place to start than within the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. But when you are acting as part of the government and you refuse to do what the Bible says, and that is show no partiality to those because they are rich, show no partiality because someone is poor or unfortunate, you apply justice across the board. That is the ultimate good government.

□ 1745

You provide justice. You see that the rule of law is equally enforced across the board.

Again, as this administration is trying to stack the Supreme Court while on its way out, after setting a record for being found to be the most unconstitutional in the shortest time, this article from today is entitled: "Obama Administration Unsure if Iran Spent \$3 Billion in New Cash on Terrorism." It is an article about the Obama administration, with the complicity of Secretary of State Kerry, making sure Iran gets \$100 billion to \$150 billion.

The article reads: "Obama administration officials disclosed Tuesday that Iran has been granted access to about \$3 billion in unfrozen assets in the months since the nuclear agreement was implemented, but it remains unclear to the administration if the Islamic Republic has spent any of this money to fund its global terrorism enterprise."

We know, Mr. Speaker, in having listened to the Iranian leaders—while this administration was saying: Oh, yes, we have got to abide by this Iranian deal—the Iranian leaders were assuring their people: We are not abiding by anything that the United States tells us to do. We are still doing everything we intend to do. We are not going to be restrained by any agreement with the United States.

They announced in Iran: We are going to be able to provide more financial support once we get the \$100 billion

to \$150 billion more support for terrorist groups— Hamas and Hezbollah. They told us.

Now the administration, this week, is saying: Gee, we can't be sure they didn't use some or all of this money—who knows?—on terrorism. They quote State Department spokesman John Kirby as saying: "We don't know. We don't have a way."

When an administration, like the leaders of Iran, lie and lie and are responsible for providing more terrorism and more death and destruction in the world than any other country—the largest supporter of terrorism in the world—and when they tell you they are going to take money you give them and spend it on terrorism, that may be the one thing you can count on their being honest about.

In going back to November 2015, to the story by John Hayward, it talks about the State Department's social media accounts that were hacked by Iran: "The surge has led American officials to a stark conclusion: For Iran, cyberspies—with the power it gives the Iranians to jab at the United States and its neighbors without provoking a military response—is becoming a tool to seek the kind of influence that some hard-liners in Iran may have hoped its nuclear program would eventually provide." The New York Times reports.

We have this report from December of 2015—4 short months ago: "Iranian hackers infiltrated a small New York dam in 2013 in a previously undisclosed incident, according to The Wall Street Journal."

This is an article by Katie Bo Williams from The Hill, and this was December 21: "Investigators said that the hackers didn't take control of the system but were probing its defenses."

The White House knew about it. They knew about the intrusion into New York's system. So people are wondering: How could people support Donald Trump? New York got hacked by Iran, and this administration has done nothing about it but try to defend Iran from having the money cut that they have said they will use for terrorism. So is it any wonder New Yorkers are thinking: Well, here is a guy who says he is going to completely stop this kind of activity with radical Islamic groups? Sure. Of course, people will vote for a person who will say that.

Here is an article from January 25, 2015: "Five Ways Iran is Cheating on the Interim Nuclear 'Deal.'" That was the interim deal. It goes on and sets out how they have been cheating.

Here is an article from December 16, 2015: "Iran's October Missile Test Violated U.N. Ban." That was the conclusion of an expert panel, according to this reuters.com story by Louis Charbonneau. It reads: "Iran violated a U.N. Security Council resolution in October by test-firing a missile capable of

delivering a nuclear warhead." Yet this administration did not see that as any reason to slow down rushing the \$100 billion to \$150 billion that they had coming to Iran.

This article from Katie Pavlich reads: "White House: Likely Iran Violated U.N. Sanctions with Missile Test, but They'll Uphold Nuclear Agreement."

She quotes from White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest: "Despite the likely violation, Earnest stressed that the White House believes the Iranian regime will uphold its obligations to the recently made nuclear agreement."

Amazing, because it turned out they already knew that Iran had been hacking our government Web sites and our government Internet. They had charges held up so that it wouldn't stop what we now know is an executive agreement acting like a treaty.

They are still doing it. Some of us said they would have to. They have bent over so far backwards to get an agreement with the largest state supporter of terrorism in the world that, once Iran continued to violate even to the point of taking our sailors prisoner, violating the Geneva Convention rules on prisoners—humiliating the prisoners—not only did this administration not send more Navy forces to take back the Navy sailors who were imprisoned, but it gushed about how wonderful Iran was to take charge of our sailors as the videos emerged—mocking America as they treated our Navy sailors as just trash.

Then we get this story by Bradley Klapper: "U.S. Considers Easing Ban on Dollars to Help Iran."

This administration wants to turn around and give Iran—the largest state supporter of terrorism—access to our dollars. Apparently, that would mean access to Internet sites, to bank sites when they know they have been hacking us. They are trying to figure out ways to bring down the United States, and now this administration wants to help them to show how good of friends we can be? That is like trying to convince a bully on the playground that you will keep giving him money because you are his dear friend. He will keep taking your money, but he will never see you as a friend. Not only does he not see you as a friend, but the more you give him, the more contempt he has for you as a coward.

This article today from Caroline May reads: "Mother of Daughter Killed by Illegal: His Bail was 'Less Than it Cost to Bury My Baby.'"

"The mother of a recent college graduate, who was killed by an illegal immigrant who later absconded after posting bail and remains at large, offered emotional testimony Tuesday before a House panel.

"Michelle Root, the mother of 21-year-old Sarah Root, spoke about the devastation of losing her daughter at

the hands of Eswin Mejia, an illegal immigrant who killed Root while street racing drunk." This is different from the story we talked about yesterday. "Mejia was able to flee when Immigration and Customs Enforcement declined to detain him, and he was able to post bail.

"Eswin spent 4 days in jail and is believed to have fled the country," Michelle Root said. "He posted \$5,000 bond, which was less than the cost it was to bury my daughter Sarah. Because of the lack of controls, the police, immigration, U.S. Marshals, and law enforcement have little or no information on his whereabouts."

"Eswin was not a stranger to law enforcement and failed to honor his legal obligations for minor traffic infractions prior to killing my daughter. Now a failed local judicial system that set his bail too low, coupled with flawed Obama administration policies, have rewarded the illegal and punished my family and hampered law enforcement in their investigations."

There are plenty of good reasons to wait for a different nominee for the Supreme Court. We won't even make them wait 10 years like the Democrats in the Senate made my friends. We won't make them wait 4 or 5 years as Senate Democrats did my friends before they would give them a confirmation. In setting records for unconstitutionality in such a short time, it bears our being diligent when the administration is not. People's lives are at stake. They have already been lost. More are at stake. We have got to stand up.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MACARTHUR). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward Members of the Senate and to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President, including by repeating extraneous material that would be improper if spoken in the Member's own words.

#### AMERICAN PROSPERITY AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) for 30 minutes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Americans have seen a change in our economy firsthand and are concerned about

what it means for their place in a new economy. We can't stop the forces that are transforming our economy and our world, but we can and we must look to the future to find the solutions that adapt to this new economy. We can't live in the past. This means boosting the creation of high-quality jobs by lowering barriers for small businesses to succeed and investing in infrastructure and research. It also means giving Americans the skills to work the jobs of the future that are being created.

In March 2015, the New Democrat Coalition released *Winning the Future*, which outlines how we can grow our economy, preserve the American Dream, and make government work better for the people.

The principles presented in the agenda and report represent ideas that anyone—Democrat, Republican, Independent—can support. The recently released report consists of 200 legislative actions, including items for every one of our Members. More than 57 percent of those bills—110 in total—are bipartisan, and more than 30 bills have advanced through a committee of the House or through the House as a whole. More than 20 items in the report have become law or have been implemented by an executive agency.

This represents not just a plan but tangible progress. Today, we will share what that means for growing the economy in every town and city in America and for helping hardworking Americans thrive in the changing global economy.

Federal funding for research and development has been on a downward trend for the past several decades. Today, the Federal Government spends almost two-thirds less on research and development than it did in 1965 as a portion of discretionary spending. The lack of funding has led to a \$1.5 trillion investment deficit, and a growing number of America's best young researchers are taking their talents to other industries and to other countries.

□ 1800

We need to reinvest in our young researchers to remain globally competitive.

On that subject, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, the date was October 4, 1957, and the time was 7:28 p.m. when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1. It was a wake-up call to the United States, and it was perceived as an existential threat.

The reaction to that was a focus by our Federal Government on national research, on basic research to drive innovation, to step up to that perception of threat. The outcome of that was extraordinary scientific breakthroughs. I often point to the cell phone in my pocket.

A lot of the technologies in that cell phone, from the lithium battery that

powers it, to the touch screen that allows me to navigate on it, to the Internet that helps me find a delicious Chinese restaurant to go have dinner, to the GPS system that helps me navigate my way to that restaurant—all of those innovations, the basic research behind it was funded by the exact same venture capitalist, Uncle Sam.

Part of the American Prosperity Agenda that the New Democrat Coalition has put forward is focused on redoubling our investment in basic research, because the reality is that we don't have Sputnik being launched by the former Soviet Union.

The reality is we face a Sputnik moment every single day with the threat of new innovation happening somewhere else and jobs being created somewhere else.

You heard my friend suggest that research and development, as a percentage of gross domestic product since the early 1960s, has declined by nearly two-thirds just in these last four decades.

In contrast, you have seen China substantially increase its investment in higher education. In fact, according to the National Science Board, by 2022, China will invest more in research and development than the United States of America.

China has now surpassed the United States as the world's largest exporter of high technology. So every single day we are facing a Sputnik moment.

And the reality is, while the 20th century was defined by an arms race and a race for military might, the 21st century race is for brains and for research and development.

So that downward trajectory of investment in Federal research is something that, as part of the New Democrats' American Prosperity Agenda, we are seeking to stem. We want to revitalize investment in basic research and reauthorize what was known as the America COMPETES Act, which was passed by this body in a bipartisan form less than a decade ago.

That came out of a report by The National Academies called "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" that suggested that, if the United States was going to compete as a Nation, we had to significantly increase America's investment in research and development. Unfortunately, since the passage of that act, you have not seen Congress keep up with that.

On the wall of my office and on the wall of the office where I worked when I worked in economic development professionally, we had a sign up that said: We are competing with everyone, everywhere, every day forever.

That is true not just when you look at folks working in local economic development in Tacoma, Washington. It is true with regard to our Nation today. We are in a global competition.

Steve Jobs before he passed said: "Innovation distinguishes between a lead-

er and follower." I think it is important that the United States maintains its economic leadership and its leadership in innovation.

Lord knows, there are extraordinary challenges that still need to be tackled. Climate change could be 2016's Sputnik moment. Investing in breakthroughs in green technology. Increasing energy independence.

Not only will those innovations lead to solving our world's problems, they will create jobs here in the United States of America.

Paul Otellini, who was the former CEO of Intel, said: Without raising our game in Federal research, the next big thing won't be invented here and the jobs associated with that innovation won't be created here.

I think we can do better, I think we need to do better, and I think the American Prosperity Agenda that the New Democrat Coalition has put forward suggests a better path.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KILMER for his leadership on this and for coming to join us today.

Speaking of climate change and those kinds of issues, front and center in the changing economy in this decade is a fundamental shift in the way that we provide power for our economy.

It is time to fully embrace the transition to a clean energy economy to reduce our alliance on foreign fuels, to create high-quality jobs, and to protect our environment.

Last year New Dems helped to extend tax credits for the investment in production of solar and wind power. This will drive an estimated \$70 billion in private sector investment in wind and solar energy.

The wind and solar that will get built as a result of this investment will reduce emissions the equivalent of taking every American car off the road for 2 years.

New Democrats have put forward proposals to invest in alternative energy research in the military and further expand the deployment of clean energy across the country.

New Democrats are working to move the country forward to a clean energy economy that gives our children a better chance at a future with cleaner air, cleaner water, and economic prosperity.

The Harvard Business School's United States Competitiveness Project outlines eight actions it recommends that Congress take to make America the most economically competitive place in the world to do business, not just to raise corporate profits, but to increase wages for working people across America.

Among those eight steps, which include immigration reform, responsible Federal budgeting, simplification of Federal regulation, and investing in infrastructure and research, is tax reform.

A modern Tax Code for the United States should foster business development and innovation, support hardworking families, and create opportunities for Americans to prosper in a 21st century economy.

The current Tax Code is a complicated collection of outdated provisions riddled with loopholes in serious need of comprehensive overhaul.

New Democrats have advocated for comprehensive tax reform while putting forward commonsense proposals to fix some of the most critical provisions in our Tax Code.

This includes Chairman RON KIND's proposal to promote American manufacturing and Representative PATRICK MURPHY's proposal to spur investment in startups.

New Democrats are working to reform our Tax Code and make America the most competitive place in the world to do business.

With more than 11 million immigrants forced to live in the shadows and countless other waiting in line outside the United States, it is clear America needs bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform.

As long as Congress continues to delay action on comprehensive reform, the United States continues to lose out on top talent from around the world, our economy suffers as bright minds go elsewhere, and families remain separated.

I have worked with New Democrat Coalition member JOAQUIN CASTRO on one such effort to modernize and streamline the United States visa system.

Together, New Dems have advocated for a comprehensive solution that includes an earned path to citizenship and improved border security.

This is supported by groups from across the spectrum and will grow the economy, create good jobs, and reduce the budget deficit by \$200 billion and the debt in the first decade alone.

I yield to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak further to some of the issues and ideas laid out in the New Democrat Coalition's American Prosperity Agenda.

I think one of the things I appreciate about the approach is it understands that there is not a silver bullet to getting this economy moving again. It is more like silver buckshot.

Frankly, there is a whole bunch of things that we have to do to get our economy ready for success in the 21st century and have it be an economy that works for everybody.

One of the things when I am home in Washington State that I hear quite a bit about is adequate investment in our roads and our bridges and our basic infrastructure, everything from transportation infrastructure to energy infrastructure. I know this is not always the most exciting subject.

I have often pointed out that infrastructure is a Latin word, "structure" meaning structure and "infra" meaning boring, but it is actually incredibly important.

We know that when we saw a bridge actually go down on Interstate 5 over the Skagit River just a couple of years ago.

We know that when, in many parts of my State and, frankly, in many parts of this country, speed limit signs are only there for nostalgic purposes because we are simply sitting in traffic and not able to get our goods to market.

So the New Democrat Coalition has called for an approach to modernizing our roads and bridges, but also modernizing our communications networks and our power grid to help drive economic growth and make it easier for everyone to do business in the United States.

The reality is there are too many parts of this country where it is either too difficult to get goods to market or, in a 21st century economy where one of the most important ways of connecting people is through technology, where people simply lack access to high-speed Internet.

I represent an area where about a third of the district I represent is rural and we continue to see folks who don't have access to high-speed Internet.

It makes it much more difficult to start a business or for students to do research on a project. As a consequence, it makes it much more difficult for our country to compete.

It is why the American Prosperity Agenda calls for a new approach of making smart investments in that basic infrastructure.

I actually wanted to speak to one more issue that is part of the American Prosperity Agenda. That is a focus on small-business ownership, and there are a number of pieces as part of that.

Congresswoman DELBENE, also of my State, has a bill that is focused on women's small-business ownership. Congressman HIMES of Connecticut is focused on issues around cybersecurity.

I have been working on legislation, along with Congressman HANNA of New York, focused on providing resources to small businesses that are working to combat cyber attack.

The reality is we know that small businesses are a key part of our economic future. You often hear that small businesses are the backbone of our economy. I like that saying. I think that is a good saying.

I always say that small businesses are our star running backs. They are Marshawn Lynch. They are who we should have handed the ball off to at the end of the Super Bowl a couple years ago.

I say that because, if you look at how the United States has generally made it out of recessions, it is not our larg-

est employers that are the ones who are pulling us out of recessions. It is our small businesses that are racking up the tough yards and scoring the touchdowns.

I think one of the fundamental roles of the Federal Government, at the very least, is to get out of the way of our star running back, but, ideally, to do some blocking for them and to call some plays for them and enable them to score some touchdowns.

So a lot of the focus of the American Prosperity Agenda is to make it easier for entrepreneurs to succeed, whether that be to raise capital or to start a business or to combat hurdles that might present barriers to their business's success, like potential cyber attacks.

That is an important part of this agenda, and I think it is important to speak to that. Because, again, as we look at how to grow this economy, I think the small businesses of our country that already exist and those that are yet to be created are going to be an important part of that solution.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard an introduction as to how New Democrats are working to expand entrepreneurship, increase exports, invest in research and infrastructure, and set up Americans for success in the new economy.

Our economy isn't going to stop changing, and neither should our efforts to find the most innovative, effective solutions for adapting to those changes.

The Harvard Business School's United States Competitive Project has outlined eight actions it recommends that Congress take to make America the most economically competitive place in the world to do business, not just to raise corporate profits, but to increase wages for working people across America.

Those include New Democrat priorities like tax reform, responsible Federal budgeting, simplifying Federal regulation, investing in infrastructure and research, and fixing our broken immigration system.

□ 1815

I want to thank all the members of the New Democrat Coalition for their proposals and progress to increase prosperity and help hardworking Americans thrive in the changing global economy with more jobs, more skills, and more wealth.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 636. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

#### THE WRETCHED STATE OF RACIAL RELATIONS IN AMERICA TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss something that may not otherwise be discussed this year in this Congress: the wretched state of racial relations in America today.

We passed a bill here about a month ago in the House of Representatives to eliminate the term "Oriental" from the law books. I submit that eliminating a term does not eliminate the racism that embodies that term, and I think it is about time that we recognize what this problem is, the fact that it still festers in America, and give some thought to what we can do about it.

I want to begin by relating two stories, both from my home State of Florida. The first one involves a 16-year-old girl. She was White. She had an encounter with police officers who were also White. She lived on the Atlantic Coast, which is largely White, and I heard about this from a friend of a friend.

What happened to her is that her parents got a call from the police officers late one night. They didn't tell her why they were calling, but they said: You have to come to this location. We need to talk to you about your daughter. She is here with us.

The mother went to that location, spoke to the White police officers. They informed her that her daughter had been drinking in a car with her boyfriend, and they needed to take her home. She was shaken up a bit, so was the daughter, but everybody ended that night alive.

Now I want to tell you a different story. It didn't end so nicely. This was on the Gulf Coast, the coast of Florida that is heavily African American; and on the Gulf Coast one night there was a theme park, you could call it a fairgrounds, that was open to all students without having to pay. They could go on the rides, enjoy themselves one day each year. This is done in Tampa.

Now, teenagers being teenagers, some of them got a little bit out of hand. Many African Americans frequent that area, and they were out in force that night at the fairgrounds. There was a great deal of friction that night between the White police force and the African American teenagers who were there that night.

Some of them actually started running around, might have bumped into a few other people as they were running

around. Someone started to scream. You will notice that apart from that physical contact, nothing I described is actually against the law, like, for instance, drinking in a car with your boyfriend when you are 16 years old.

A number of them, about a hundred African American youths, were arrested that night 2 years ago in Tampa. The White police officers insisted that they strip to the waist. That apparently was for the purpose, in the minds of the police officers, to see whether they had gang colors on their bodies—at least, that is what they said.

Now, one of them, Andrew Joseph III, actually hadn't done any of that running around, any of that screaming, any of that casual bumping. He hadn't done any of that, but he saw his classmates being arrested. He came to see what was going on. He saw that one of them had his hat fall off his head. He went over and he picked it up. The officer said: I didn't say you could do that.

They arrested him for picking up his friend's hat. They took Andrew Joseph, a 14-year-old boy, 2 miles away from the fairgrounds, and they pushed him out of the police car and said: You are on your own.

A 14-year-old boy who has parents who were reachable by a telephone, they pushed him out in a neighborhood he had never seen before, never been to before, had no idea where he was. He remembered that his father was going to pick him up at the fairgrounds. He felt pretty shaken up because he had just been arrested and was told to strip to the waist and, frankly, felt humiliated.

He found his way, as best he could, back to the fairgrounds 2 miles away. He didn't call his parents because, frankly, he was scared, embarrassed, didn't want them to know. He almost got as far as the fairgrounds. He tried to cross the interstate highway to get to the fairgrounds. In the midst of traffic in both directions, he was struck by a car and died right on the spot, immediately.

One 16-year-old girl, White, alive today; one 14-year-old boy, African American, dead.

This is his picture, Andrew Joseph III. This is what this boy looked like. He was a good student, quite an athlete, had a wonderful future ahead of him. But not being White, his parents didn't get a call that night to say to come pick him up.

I submit to you, this is not just one person's tragedy. It is not just the tragedy of these parents standing at his gravesite. It is the tragedy of America. We persist in being a country of sometimes casual racism, racism that sometimes goes unnoticed.

If you say a bad word that begins with the letter N and there happens to be a recording device nearby, you will certainly be scolded and to some degree held accountable, that much is

true. But institutionalized racism, racial profiling, redlining is not treated the same way because it is just too hard. It is much like the concept that, if we close our eyes to it, it will somehow disappear. A 1-year-old, maybe a 2-year-old might think that way, but a country of 330 million, why do we ever think that way?

Now, I wish I could tell you that the story somehow had a happy ending. It doesn't. This kind of institutionalized racism goes on today. I asked the FBI to investigate whether there is racial profiling by the police force in Tampa. They are thinking about it. I don't know if they are going to say yes or they are going to say no. I can't tell for sure. That is their decision, not mine.

I remember when I was a boy, a great man said he hoped to see a day in America where his four children were judged not by the color of their skin but by their character. I submit to you, this boy was judged by the color of his skin, and he is not the only one.

We live in an America today, a country where 29 percent of White adults have college degrees; 18 percent of African Americans have college degrees. If Andrew Joseph III had lived, then his chance of getting a college degree would have been stunted, perhaps even forbidden, by the color of his skin.

Now, if he had lived, whether or not he had gone to college, he would have grown up in a country where African Americans like him have an average household income of \$37,000. Whites have an average income of \$57,000. The color of his skin, you could say, if he lived, would have cost him \$20,000 a year. That is our new poll tax, \$20,000 a year.

If he had managed to get across that highway—I imagine him being picked up safely by his father that night, whom you see here on my right—then, as an African American male, his life expectancy would have been 73 years. The life expectancy of White males in this country, including me, is 78 years. Now, it is a great tragedy—a great, great tragedy—that we stole 50 years of life from this one boy, but how much greater tragedy is it that we steal 5 years of life from 40 million?

We are in danger at this point of becoming a society that is not colorblind, not blind to color, but, rather, a country that is blind to racism. There is an easy way to end this problem. It is called doing something about it. It is called pulling ourselves together in the same way that we began to do in the 1960s: acknowledging these differences, and then remedying them.

I well recall that in the current Presidential election, the former Governor of my State, Jeb Bush, spent \$125 million on his campaign and got four votes—four votes, convention votes. But I remember that it never came up that Jeb Bush wiped out, destroyed, eliminated, blew up affirmative action

in my State of Florida—and now it is gone.

So the question before us is, writ small: How do we acknowledge that Black lives matter? How do we acknowledge that a terrible tragedy took place here and robbed this good young man of his life? And, writ large, what do we finally do—finally, finally, finally—50 years after the civil rights movement began, to end inequality in this country, end it?

It starts with justice, and it ends with equality. Not just the pablum of equality of opportunity, that buzz phrase that we use in order to solve our consciences, but, rather, the equality of results: an America where an African American boy is just as likely to go to college as a White boy; an America where an African American is just as likely to earn as much money as a White, and, for God's sake, an African American can live as long as a White man does.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5083. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination regarding countries of particular concern for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6442(c)(5); Public Law 105-292, Sec. 402 (as amended by Public Law 106-55, Sec. 2(a)); (113 Stat. 405); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5084. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5085. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5086. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning

international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(d)(1); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1; (86 Stat. 619); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5087. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's intent to sign a Project Arrangement to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Secretary of State for Defense of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Transmittal No. 07-17, pursuant to Executive Order 13637 and Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5088. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's intent to sign a Project Arrangement to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Secretary of State for Defense of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Transmittal No. 06-16, pursuant to Executive Order 13637, and Sec. 24(f) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5089. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to France, Transmittal No. 16-22, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5090. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5091. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance and Operations Division, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5092. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5093. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2015 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5094. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, Sec. 302; (116 Stat. 575); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 414. A bill to amend the

Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to repeal certain additional disclosure requirements, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-504). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1975. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities Exchange Commission to refund or credit excess payments made to the Commission (Rept. 114-505). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2357. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise Form 5-3 so as to add listing and registration of a class of common equity securities on a national securities exchange as an additional basis for satisfying the requirements of General Instruction I.B.1. of such form and to remove such listing and registration as a requirement of General Instruction I.B.6. of such form (Rept. 114-506). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3557. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to hold open meetings and comply with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to provide additional improvements to the Council, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-507). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3868. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to remove certain restrictions on the ability of business development companies to own securities of investment advisers and certain financial companies, to change certain requirements relating to the capital structure of business development companies, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise certain rules relating to business development companies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-508). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4498. A bill to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law (Rept. 114-509). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 1481. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the small business industrial base, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-510). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 4992. A bill to codify regulations relating to transfers of funds involving Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. BARR, and Mrs. LOVE):

H.R. 4993. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study regarding the privacy of information collected under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JONES, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 4994. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt reimbursements of certain medical expenses and other payments related to accident, theft, loss, or casualty loss from determinations of annual income with respect to pensions for veterans and surviving spouses and children of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. ZELDIN):

H.R. 4995. A bill to prohibit the facilitation of certain financial transactions involving the Government of Iran or Iranian persons and to impose sanctions with respect to the facilitation of those transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.J. Res. 88. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H. Res. 691. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of April 18, 2016, through April 22, 2016, as "National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H. Res. 692. A resolution honoring the 250th anniversary of the founding of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H. Res. 693. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish the Permanent Select Committee on Oversight of the Executive Branch; to the Committee on Rules.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

199. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 105, urging Congress to pass legislation that would direct USPS to restructure their budget priorities, rethink their administrative model, make appropriate budget cuts if necessary, focus on customer service and acceptable de-

livery times, and reopen shuttered mail processing plants throughout the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

200. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 261, urging the Congress of the United States to modernize the Federal cap on the locally set Passenger Facility Charges user fee by setting it at \$8.50 and adjusting it periodically to offset the impacts of inflation; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

201. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 104, requesting that Congress ensure the continued appropriation of funds in the fiscal year 2017 budget to significantly enhance aquatic invasive species prevention efforts and to implement the intent of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Natural Resources.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 4992.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 4993.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 4994.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14:

The Congress shall have Power to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 4995.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have the power . . . to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof."

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.J. Res. 88.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 335: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 446: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 499: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 546: Mr. WITTMAN and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 605: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 664: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 672: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 711: Mr. POCAN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 748: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 759: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 923: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 1095: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1144: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1150: Mr. COOK and Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 1220: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1221: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 1312: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. CONYERS

H.R. 1333: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 1391: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1427: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. KNIGHT.

H.R. 1439: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1516: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1538: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1550: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1559: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. STEWART, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, and Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 1586: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1594: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1603: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1608: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 1625: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1631: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 1643: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1706: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1707: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1763: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1859: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2170: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 2290: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 2293: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2350: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 2434: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2450: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2460: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2515: Mr. WALZ, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 2633: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2726: Ms. TITUS, Mr. NEAL, Mr. YOHO, Mr. FORBES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 2739: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2740: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 2775: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2817: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 2901: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Ms. Moore.

H.R. 2903: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 2948: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2963: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 2980: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2992: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 2993: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3012: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 3222: Mr. ROSS and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 3283: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 3308: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr.



- SHERMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. PETERSON.  
 H.R. 3323: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. ASHFORD.  
 H.R. 3355: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. DELAURO.  
 H.R. 3514: Ms. GABBARD, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. NOLAN.  
 H.R. 3520: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.  
 H.R. 3706: Mrs. LOVE, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 3713: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 3722: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. STIVERS.  
 H.R. 3870: Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. JOLLY.  
 H.R. 3880: Mr. SCALISE.  
 H.R. 3913: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 3924: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.  
 H.R. 3953: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.  
 H.R. 3974: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
 H.R. 3981: Mr. LEWIS.  
 H.R. 3989: Mr. COOK, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HANNA, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
 H.R. 3990: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
 H.R. 4059: Mr. HUDSON.  
 H.R. 4116: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.  
 H.R. 4165: Ms. DELBENE.  
 H.R. 4194: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 4212: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 4223: Mr. POCAN.  
 H.R. 4235: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. EDWARDS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
 H.R. 4352: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 4365: Mr. NUGENT.  
 H.R. 4400: Mr. SHERMAN.  
 H.R. 4430: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 4442: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 4469: Mr. MARCHANT.  
 H.R. 4481: Mr. DENT.  
 H.R. 4499: Mr. BERA.  
 H.R. 4500: Mr. BOST, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. LATTA.  
 H.R. 4511: Mr. GOODLATTE.  
 H.R. 4519: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 4539: Mr. CROWLEY.  
 H.R. 4553: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.  
 H.R. 4559: Mr. GRIFFITH.  
 H.R. 4599: Mr. KEATING.  
 H.R. 4611: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 4613: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 4625: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
 H.R. 4626: Ms. ESTY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.  
 H.R. 4633: Miss RICE of New York.  
 H.R. 4640: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. DELAURO.  
 H.R. 4653: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. DELANEY.  
 H.R. 4662: Mr. RUSH and Mr. COLLINS of New York.  
 H.R. 4667: Mr. GIBSON and Ms. MOORE.  
 H.R. 4680: Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
 H.R. 4701: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ISRAEL, and Miss RICE of New York.  
 H.R. 4715: Mr. WALDEN.  
 H.R. 4720: Mr. HUDSON.  
 H.R. 4730: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. RATCLIFFE.  
 H.R. 4754: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
 H.R. 4764: Mr. JOYCE.  
 H.R. 4773: Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. MULLIN.  
 H.R. 4779: Mr. CONNOLLY.  
 H.R. 4792: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 4794: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 4795: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 4817: Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 4828: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
 H.R. 4843: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
 H.R. 4848: Mr. MARCHANT.  
 H.R. 4869: Mr. DOLD.  
 H.R. 4875: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. FATTAH.  
 H.R. 4897: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
 H.R. 4904: Mr. RENACCI and Mr. MCKINLEY.  
 H.R. 4905: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 4919: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. BLUM.  
 H.R. 4925: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. COFFMAN.  
 H.R. 4932: Mr. FARR.  
 H.R. 4939: Mr. SHERMAN.  
 H.R. 4942: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. LATTA.  
 H.R. 4956: Mr. MESSER.  
 H.R. 4957: Ms. BROWN of Florida.  
 H.R. 4969: Mr. JOYCE.  
 H.R. 4978: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.  
 H.R. 4980: Mr. PALMER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.  
 H.R. 4991: Mr. JONES, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.  
 H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. HOLDING.  
 H. Res. 28: Mr. JEFFRIES.  
 H. Res. 126: Mr. DEFAZIO.  
 H. Res. 207: Ms. ESTY and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
 H. Res. 413: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
 H. Res. 494: Mr. PERRY and Mr. HUELSKAMP.  
 H. Res. 551: Mr. DESANTIS.  
 H. Res. 569: Mrs. BEATTY.  
 H. Res. 645: Mr. BUCSHON.  
 H. Res. 647: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. STEFANIK.  
 H. Res. 661: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H. Res. 674: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
 H. Res. 681: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

## SENATE—Tuesday, April 19, 2016

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

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the splendor of Your presence delights us. You have been our help in ages past. You are our hope for the years to come. Thank You for leading us beside the still waters of Your wisdom and through the green pastures of Your peace.

Empower our Senators for the tasks of this day. May they put right before expediency, others before self, principle before partisanship, and You before all else. Lord, keep our lawmakers under the canopy of Your care, sustaining them with Your grace amid all sunshine and shadow.

Lord, thank You that America still stands with lamp held aloft as a beacon of freedom for our world.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

### FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later this morning the Senate will have an opportunity to pass the FAA reauthorization and security bill, which aims to secure our airports and look out for American travelers.

This legislation received bipartisan support from the start, and it shows what is possible with a Senate that is back to work. Under the guidance of Senator THUNE, the Commerce Committee chairman, and Senator AYOTTE, the Aviation chair, this FAA reauthorization and security bill incorporated ideas from both sides as it moved through the legislative process. I also appreciate the work of Ranking Member NELSON and Ranking Member CANTWELL in working with them to advance it.

After 7 hearings and nearly 60 amendments accepted, the bill passed the

Commerce Committee by a voice vote. On the floor, the bill managers continued listening and working with Senators from both sides to process more amendments that Members thought would make this good bill even stronger. For instance, they worked to include a number of additional security measures in an amendment that earned bipartisan support. That amendment aims to enhance inspections and vetting of airport workers to improve security for international flights arriving at U.S. airports and to help ensure perimeter security is reviewed.

In addition to these important security provisions, we accepted an amendment from Senator HEINRICH to shore up security in prescreening zones, which could be particularly vulnerable to attacks. We also adopted an amendment from Senators TOOMEY and CASEY that addresses the security of cockpit doors. I appreciate these and other Senators who put forth ideas to make the final product something both sides can support.

The FAA reauthorization and security bill will make important strides for our national security and for travelers. It does so without increasing fees or taxes on passengers. It does so without imposing heavyhanded regulations that can stifle consumers' choices. I look forward to supporting this legislation later this morning.

### ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, moving forward, the Republican-led Senate will have another opportunity to pass bipartisan legislation—legislation aimed at modernizing America's energy policies. The Energy Policy Modernization Act is the result of more than a year's worth of work by our Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Senator MURKOWSKI, and ranking member Senator CANTWELL. These Senators know it has been nearly a decade since the Senate considered major energy legislation, so they worked to do something about it. They also know that good policy results from good process, as this bill certainly demonstrates. It has meant working through countless listening sessions and oversight hearings; it has meant working through numerous amendment votes and debate hours; it has meant working to move this bipartisan Energy bill to final passage.

The Energy Policy Modernization Act aims to bring our energy policies in line with the demands of today and to position us to benefit from the en-

ergy opportunities of tomorrow. Here is how it can help achieve that goal: It expands domestic supply and improves efficiency. It addresses aging infrastructure and enhances safeguards. It promotes accountability and cuts through needless redtape. This broad, bipartisan bill does all these things. It builds on technological progress in order to strengthen and sustain America's energy advances. It protects our environment at the same time. It does all of this without raising taxes or adding a dime to the deficit.

Here is what that means for our country: It will help Americans save energy. It will help Americans produce more energy. It will help Americans pay less for energy. And, like the airport security legislation I mentioned earlier, the Energy Policy Modernization Act will help keep Americans safe. It includes provisions to bolster our national security by strengthening our cyber security defense mechanisms.

This legislation will make significant strides for American energy policies, and it wouldn't have been possible without the bill managers' leadership and dedication. So I want to thank them again for their diligence in advancing this critical legislation closer to passage.

### TRIBUTE TO POLICE CHIEF RICK MCCUBBIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about my good friend Police Chief Rick McCubbin of the Bardstown Police Department. We learned yesterday that he will be retiring from service after 5 years as chief and nearly 30 years in law enforcement.

Chief McCubbin led his officers through some of the most troubling times in the police department's history. He did so with rigor and resolve, with grit and with grace.

Nearly 3 years ago, the Bardstown Police Department took a blow to its very core with the tragic assassination of Officer Jason Ellis, who was killed in an ambush while driving home in uniform and in a marked vehicle. Authorities have strong reason to believe the killing was retaliation from drug traffickers against a police department that was making significant progress in rooting out trafficking and making drug arrests.

Chief McCubbin was the leader of that effort to stamp out drug crime. He spoke eloquently on behalf of the whole department about the loss of their brother Jason, who will never be forgotten. I know that while the case remains unsolved today, he has led the

effort to see Officer Ellis's killers brought to justice.

Chief McCubbin continued the fight against drug trafficking by seeing to it that Bardstown's surrounding Nelson County earned inclusion in the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, which we call HIDTA, back in 2014. HIDTA is not just another government acronym but a model that works. It couples Federal law enforcement with State and local task forces and the supplies, training, and technology they need. By getting Nelson County included in the HIDTA program, Chief McCubbin brought a powerful force multiplier to his department's own efforts to fight drug trafficking and keep the citizens of Bardstown safe.

It has been an honor to work with Chief Rick McCubbin over the years. He received the honor of Kentucky's Police Chief of the Year in 2015, and I know the people of Bardstown and Nelson County certainly appreciate his diligence and determination to fight crime and to keep them safe. I thank him for his service to Bardstown, to Kentucky, and to the Nation.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### ENERGY BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the Republican leader talking positively about the Energy bill, which we called the energy efficiency bill in the last two Congresses, when we tried so hard under the direction of Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire to get this done. We tried so very hard. We had many runs at it. There were promises from the Republicans; I don't need to mention names, but they know who they are: Let's get back on this bill. We will get it done. We have only three amendments. We have only two amendments. We did that time after time over 4 years. Every time, the obstruction would not go away, and we could not do the bill.

I am grateful that we have a bill now dealing with energy efficiency. The name has been changed, but it is the same bill. I hope that Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire has some degree of pride over what she started a long time ago. Her name is not on the legislation anymore, and I appreciate the and the junior Senator from Washington and the senior Senator from Alaska working hard to bring it to the floor today. We brought it to the point where we are today as a result of a very long struggle.

The Republican leader talks about the many years since we have had an Energy bill. The reason we didn't have one 4 years sooner is that they

wouldn't let us. Gridlock, obstruction—the Republicans blocked Energy bills any chance they got. They insisted on offering amendments that weren't germane or relevant.

We are not acting the way they did. We want to get it done also. It is important for our country, and it is a positive step forward. I want to make sure there is a full understanding of the history behind this.

#### OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING ANNIVERSARY AND NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 21 years ago today, in Oklahoma City at 9:02 a.m. Oklahoma City time, Timothy McVeigh detonated a bomb at the Federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 innocent people, and 19 of them were children who were there with their parents on business the family had. This was a work day, and Timothy McVeigh detonated that huge explosion. People could see the smoke from miles and miles away. It was the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil before 9/11.

I think we can all see—I know I can see in my mind's eye the images that were on television and the huge Federal building destroyed. It had been ripped in half. I recall, as I am sure people within the sound of my voice recall, the images of chaos: bloody, disoriented victims trying to determine if they were alive, if they had their arms, if they had their legs, if they had their mind, if they had their eyes. As soon as they got that straightened out, they started desperately trying to find and assist the injured.

This was a heart-wrenching day for our Nation. People watched the aftermath and wanted to help in any way they could.

One of those eager to help was a lawyer from the Department of Justice named Merrick Garland. His boss at the time was a well-known political figure, Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick. She explained Garland's desire to go to Oklahoma City and help with the investigation. She said:

Both of us had kids about the ages of the kids in the day care center [in Washington]. We were just sick to our stomachs. And Merrick said, "I need to go."

Merrick Garland went home that evening knowing that he would be gone for a while. He kissed his wife and his children, and he arrived in Oklahoma City less than 48 hours later.

At this time, Garland was a seasoned Federal prosecutor, having served as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia prior to taking a senior role in the Department of Justice. Those who knew him recall how competent he was. Having done some criminal defense work in my past, I know how difficult it is for somebody trying to defend somebody when you come up

against a prosecutor with the reputation of Garland. They have a way about them to make the case simple in the minds of a judge and jury, even though there could be a very complicated set of facts. Those who worked with him recall him as unwavering in his commitment to the law. He followed the law. He followed procedure. He was guided by an acute sense of fairness. The New York Times reported:

Former colleagues also recalled that Mr. Garland insisted on doing the investigation by the book, like obtaining subpoenas even when phone and truck rental companies volunteered to simply hand over the evidence, to avoid any future trial problems. He also made sure there was a prosecutor responsible for keeping relatives and victims informed about the case as it developed.

In speech after speech, the senior Senator from Iowa has insisted that a nominee to the Supreme Court should be "supreme," should be someone who—and I quote him—"adheres to the Constitution and the rule of law and decides cases based on wherever the text takes him or her."

Merrick Garland is the person the senior Senator from Iowa described. With an entire nation wanting justice served immediately to those responsible for the bombing, Garland and his team refused to take shortcuts. They did it the right way. They did it the Garland way. They adhered to the law every step of the way.

So impressive was Mr. Garland throughout the investigation and prosecution, that Steven Jones, the attorney for Timothy McVeigh—listen to this. Here is what the attorney for McVeigh said about Merrick Garland.

Personally he's above reproach. He has integrity. He has the skills.

Merrick Garland was also devoted to the victims and their families. Claudia Denny was the mother of children in the building's daycare center. Her children were critically injured, but they survived. They are alive. This is what she said of Merrick Garland:

Early on we got invited to the U.S. attorney's office. They wanted all of our concerns, and I think Judge Garland set that up where we all got our voice heard.

The Oklahoma City prosecution ended with convictions and guilty pleas for all who were involved. To this day, Oklahomans still revere Merrick Garland for his good work. Frank Keating, the Governor of Oklahoma at the time of the attack, has been outspoken in his praise of Judge Garland. He told NPR recently:

People don't understand when they're eating a good dinner on Friday night, there is a chef in the kitchen that did it. And in the case of what we saw after April 19, there was a chef in the kitchen that did it, and it was Merrick Garland.

The junior Senator from Oklahoma recently praised Judge Garland saying, "I do plan to meet with Merrick Garland in my office in the weeks ahead to say thank you for what he did for Oklahoma during the bombing trial.

But that is as far as Senator LANKFORD has said he will go. He has made it clear that he will do nothing to help Garland get a hearing or a vote.

Following his work in the Oklahoma City case, Merrick Garland continued to work on other notable criminal cases. He oversaw the prosecution of the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski, this evil man who is now in prison. Garland ran the investigation on the Atlanta Olympics bombing. He then went on to serve with distinction on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, where he now serves as the chief judge.

Supreme Court Justice John Roberts once said of Garland's judicial expertise: "Anytime Judge Garland disagrees, you know you are in a difficult area." It is time for Republicans to allow the American people to see Merrick Garland themselves, not have me talking about him but see him for themselves. This is a super star. This is somebody who should be on the Court. Republicans should allow the American people to see this man for what the people of Oklahoma and litigants in the courtrooms have known for many years: This is a special man.

Last year, as part of the 20th anniversary of the Oklahoma City attack, Judge Garland and some of his fellow prosecutors were awarded the Reflections of Hope Award by the Oklahoma City National Memorial. The honor is awarded to those who exemplify the belief that "hope can survive and blossom amidst the tragedy and chaos."

That is the hope Merrick Garland brought to Oklahoma in the aftermath of that vicious day. We are reminded of Judge Garland's contributions in securing justice in Oklahoma City and wherever he has gone. He is a brilliant man. He is academically brilliant. He is a man who was not given anything on a silver platter. In my meeting with him, I asked him how he handled the situation at Harvard. It is an expensive place. He said: Well, among other things, I sold my comic book collection.

Now, that does not sound like much to most people. But those coins, for example, that my little brother—we are separated by 22 months—has been collecting since he was a little boy mean a lot to him. Most of them are not worth too much. Some of them are.

Merrick Garland collected comic books. One of my best friend's sons collects comic books. It is something they do. It meant a lot to him. He had to get rid of them to get through college. He has inspired those around him through his hard work and commitment and fairness always. That is why it is so disappointing that Republicans are denying this man the common decency of a hearing so the American people can see him.

Why not let Merrick Garland speak for himself at a hearing? Why not let him make his own case to the Amer-

ican people and their elected Senators? There is no excuse to delay his nomination any longer. Senate Republicans should give Merrick Garland the hearings and the vote he deserves. Republicans need to simply do their job.

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#### BOKO HARAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to say just a brief word on another subject. Last week marked another horrible anniversary, the 2-year anniversary since the terrorist group Boko Haram invaded a school in Nigeria and took away 300 little girls. They were girls. They were not young women. They were little girls.

The world watched as parents of the girls pleaded for help. People all over the world, including First Lady Michelle Obama, rallied behind the campaign "Bring Back Our Girls." Despite the global outcry, most of these girls—the vast majority of these girls—are still missing 2 years later. But here is the horrible part about this—the shocking fate of some of these girls.

It has been a couple of years. They are older—teenagers. Boko Haram is weaponizing them, turning these little girls—they are now not so little—into suicide bombers. According to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, or UNICEF, in the 4 countries where Boko Haram operates, the number of children used in bombing attacks has sharply increased from 4 in 2014 to 44 last year. That record will be broken this year.

Nearly one out of every five bombers where Boko Haram is active is a child. Seventy-five percent of the child bombers are girls. As a father and grandfather of 19 children, I am sickened by what has happened to those schoolgirls. Although 2 years have passed since the abduction, the world must not forget the evil of this organization. We must be as resolved as ever to fight terrorism wherever it rears its ugly head. Whether it is ISIS or Boko Haram, we cannot stop. We must be vigilant.

Mr. President, the Chair announces the business that we are going to proceed with today.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Vermont.

#### OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING ANNIVERSARY AND NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we are going to remember the victims and families whose lives were forever changed by the bombing in Oklahoma City 21 years ago. This homegrown terrorist attack—this bombing shook our Nation to its core. In fact, it remains the worst act of homegrown terrorism our Nation has endured.

The destruction and the loss of life were overwhelming. This photograph I have never forgotten. The firefighter is carrying the limp and bloodied body of a toddler from the wreckage. Those of us who are parents and grandparents know the joy we have had in caring for children this age. You can only imagine the sadness of that firefighter. It symbolized the horror of the attack: 168 innocent lives perished that day; 19 of them were children.

The impact, of course, and the loss in the Oklahoma City community was enormous. Nearly everyone knew someone who had lost a friend or family member. The city's emergency services and their victims support resources were quickly overwhelmed. As the days went by and the needs mounted, it became clear that the existing State and Federal resources were simply insufficient to respond to such a massive attack.

So to respond to the victims' needs, I proposed, and Congress passed, the Victims of Terrorism Act of 1995. Among important matters, the legislation I wrote created an emergency reserve as part of the Crime Victims Fund to serve as an emergency resource in the wake of an act of terrorism or mass violence. Even though every one of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, prayed there would never be such another act, we had, in my legislation, an emergency reserve, because without such a fund, State victim compensation and assistance programs are quickly overwhelmed. This new fund was critical to ensuring that additional resources got to the field quickly.

Over the last two decades, this fund has been instrumental in allowing the Federal government to immediately respond to the victims of other unspeakable acts of mass violence, including the 9/11 terrorist attack and more recently, the domestic terror attack in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Last month I met with the former Federal prosecutor who managed the investigation and the prosecutions of the Oklahoma City bombers. We talked about the prosecution. That former prosecutor was Chief Judge Merrick Garland. He was nominated to the Supreme Court last month. But before he was a judge and a nominee to serve on the highest Court in the land, he was a prosecutor and a senior official at the

Justice Department. Those of us who have had the privilege of being prosecutors, none of us could ever think of facing what he did.

Immediately after hearing the news of the devastation in Oklahoma City, Merrick Garland turned to the Deputy Attorney General. He said, very simply: "You need to send me there." The next day, Merrick Garland became the highest ranking Department of Justice official on the ground in Oklahoma City after the bombing. He helped to oversee every aspect of the criminal investigation and response. Years later, he still considers his work in Oklahoma City the most important in his life.

Chief Judge Garland's commitment to fairness during that difficult period and his work with the citizens of Oklahoma City were formative for him. I know from talking with him that it left a lasting impression on him, but it left especially a lasting impression on the people he served.

Last year, the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum honored Merrick Garland with a Reflections of Hope Award for his work on behalf of victims. After his nomination to the Supreme Court last month, the Oklahoma museum's Executive Director said: "We are so proud that Judge Garland, who kept the family members and survivors front and center during his work in Oklahoma City, has been nominated."

We have also heard from a team of former prosecutors, law enforcement agents, and victims' advocates who worked directly with Chief Judge Garland in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing. They have written to the leadership of the Senate and the Judiciary Committee to highlight Chief Judge Garland's work on this terrorism case. They strongly support his nomination to the Supreme Court. The law enforcement team writes of Chief Judge Garland:

Twenty years ago, the nation could not find a better lawyer to manage the investigation and prosecution of what was then the worse crime ever committed on American soil. Today, our nation could not find a better judge, nor a more honorable man, to join its highest court.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter highlighting Chief Judge Garland's work on the Oklahoma City bombing.

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

APRIL 19, 2016.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S.  
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER REID, CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY, AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: As former prosecutors, law enforcement agents and victim advocates who worked as a team with Merrick Garland, as well as state and local authorities, to secure justice for the thousands of victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, we write to offer our enthusiastic support for Chief Judge Garland to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.

We are a diverse group: we live in different parts of the country and work in a variety of fields, we have no common political affiliation, and indeed some of us are occasionally adversaries in court. But despite those differences we are united today, as we were united two decades ago, in our respect and admiration for the integrity, brilliance, leadership, and judgment of Merrick Garland. Twenty years ago, the nation could not find a better lawyer to manage the investigation and prosecution of what was then the worst crime ever committed on American soil. Today, our nation could not find a better judge, nor a more honorable man, to join its highest court.

On April 19, 1995, while first responders were still searching for the injured and the dead in the ruins of the Alfred J. Murrah Federal Building, Merrick Garland worked with the folks on the ground to provide the best federal resources, personnel and counsel to assist with the investigation and prosecutions. He knew that the best thing he could do was to leave Washington and travel to Oklahoma City to ensure that the investigators, the prosecutors, the victims and the survivors had the full support of the Justice Department. He arrived to find the largest and most complex crime scene anyone in American law enforcement had ever encountered. He helped to ensure that the many different local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies worked together as a team, despite their sometimes differing ideas about how best to build a case. At the same time, he made sure the victims, the survivors and their families had the critical resources they needed to deal with the unspeakable losses they had suffered.

Once the two men responsible for the bombing had been identified and arrested, Judge Garland was careful to ensure that each was treated fairly and with dignity to ensure that no one could reasonably accuse the government of a rush to judgment. He meticulously oversaw every step of the prosecution's initial proceedings, building an overwhelming case and ensuring that no legal error would allow the bombers to escape responsibility for their atrocity. And with the victims' families and the nation desperate for information and justice, Judge Garland ensured that they would have both.

After the case was on a sound footing, Judge Garland returned to his critical responsibilities at the Justice Department, but maintained close contact with the rest of us who continued to work on the case. With his towering intellect, exceptionally sound judg-

ment, and extraordinary decency, he provided the leadership and wise counsel that helped us face both novel legal issues in the courtroom and unprecedented challenges in supporting a community of victims that numbered in the thousands.

On a personal level, we all benefitted from having Judge Garland in our corner. For some of us, the bombing had ripped through our home town and killed and wounded neighbors and colleagues; for the rest of us who came to the task force from across the country, the case required many months away from friends and family. For all of us, working to secure justice for the victims and to reassure the nation that our judicial system could respond fairly but forcefully to such an act of domestic terrorism, the pressure to get it right was unyielding—and Judge Garland's support was critical. He was not just a supervisor; he was a mentor, a counselor, and a friend.

From the day of the Oklahoma City bombing until his judicial appointment at the start of the first of the trials, Merrick Garland provided our team with leadership, confidence, determination, and hope. If confirmed, he will bring to the Supreme Court the same humanity, talent, and judgment that we have seen in him for two decades. We unconditionally support his nomination and urge you to support his confirmation as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,

Donna Bucella; Vicki Zemp Behenna; Sean Connelly; David Chipman; Aitan Goelman; Jamie Gorelick; Joseph Hartzler; Carolyn Hightower; Arlene Johnson; Wan Kim; Larry Mackey; Scott Mendeloff; James Orenstein; Patrick Ryan; Beth Wilkinson.

Mr. LEAHY. The American people need to know that it is this dedicated public servant who is now being denied a public hearing by Senate Republicans. No nominee to the Supreme Court has ever been treated the way Senate Republicans are treating Chief Judge Garland. Since public confirmation hearings began in 1916, the Senate has never denied a Supreme Court nominee a hearing and a vote. I say to my friends the Republicans, you have no good reason for your obstruction of Merrick Garland.

Americans by a 2-to-1 margin want Chief Judge Garland to have a public hearing in the Judiciary Committee. Based on more than four decades of that precedent, that hearing should take place in the Judiciary Committee next week. Instead, Senate Republicans continue to ignore the American people.

Neil Siegel, a law professor at Duke University, said: "It does not matter constitutionally, nor as a matter of tradition, whether a nomination is made in an election year. Numerous nominations have succeeded during election years. Without exaggeration, Senate Republicans have made up a distinction without a relevant constitutional difference." Even school children know that Presidents are elected to 4-year terms and they have to carry out their constitutional duties each and every year right up until noon of January 20 of their last year. It

is no different for Senators. We can't just sit this year out because an election will be held in November. As Professor Siegel concludes, Senate Republicans "are harming the court without a justification that passes the laugh test."

Today, as we remember the victims, their families, and the entire Oklahoma City community, let's also remember the good the Senate has done when we have put aside destructive partisanship and come together to act for the good of the country. This body has done that time and again, under both Democratic and Republican leadership, as it has carried out its constitutional duty to consider nominees to the Supreme Court. I hope the Senate will carry out that duty for a public servant named Merrick Garland who has served this country so well.

#### INVESTING IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on April 12, 2016, the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations held a hearing on violent extremism and the role of U.S. foreign assistance. We heard testimony from four distinguished witnesses, including my good friend and partner in humanitarian work, Bono, the lead singer of U2 and cofounder of ONE. As I said at the hearing, there are millions of people who may never know Bono by name or have the privilege of listening to his music, but their lives are better because of the profound impact his advocacy has had on the world's efforts to combat poverty.

At the hearing, Bono testified about what he called the three extremes: extreme ideology, extreme poverty, and extreme climate. His testimony was powerful. It complemented the opinion piece he wrote that was published in the *New York Times* on the morning of the hearing in which he highlighted the importance of investing in international development in a way that empowers local populations, including refugees and other displaced persons.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the *RECORD* a copy of Bono's article entitled "Time to Think Bigger About the Refugee Crisis."

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

[From the *New York Times*, April 12, 2016]

BONO: TIME TO THINK BIGGER ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS

(By Bono)

I've recently returned from the Middle East and East Africa, where I visited a number of refugee camps—car parks of humanity. I went as an activist and as a European. Because Europeans have come to realize—quite painfully in the past year or two—that the mass exodus from collapsed countries like Syria is not just a Middle Eastern or African

problem, it's a European problem. It's an American one, too. It affects us all.

My countryman Peter Sutherland, a senior United Nations official for international migration, has made clear that we're living through the worst crisis of forced displacement since World War II. In 2010, some 10,000 people worldwide fled their homes every day, on average. Which sounds like a lot—until you consider that four years later, that number had quadrupled. And when people are driven out of their homes by violence, poverty and instability, they take themselves and their despair elsewhere. And "elsewhere" can be anywhere.

But with their despair some of them also have hope. It seems insane or naïve to speak of hope in this context, and I may be both of these things. But in most of the places where refugees live, hope has not left the building; hope to go home someday, hope to find work and a better life. I left Kenya, Jordan and Turkey feeling a little hopeful myself. For as hard as it is to truly imagine what life as a refugee is like, we have a chance to re-imagine that reality—and reinvent our relationship with the people and countries consumed now by conflict, or hosting those who have fled it.

That needs to start, as it has for me, by parting with a couple of wrong ideas about the refugee crisis. One is that the Syrian refugees are concentrated in camps. They aren't. These arid encampments are so huge that it's hard to fathom that only a small percentage of those refugees actually live in one; in many places, a majority live in the communities of their host countries. In Jordan and Lebanon, for example, most refugees are in urban centers rather than in camps. This is a problem that knows no perimeter.

Another fallacy is that the crisis is temporary. I guess it depends on your definition of "temporary," but I didn't meet many refugees, some of whom have been displaced for decades, who felt that they were just passing through. Some families have spent two generations—and some young people their entire lives—as refugees. They have been exiled by their home countries only to face a second exile in the countries that have accepted their presence but not their right to move or to work. You hear the term "permanent temporary solution" thrown around by officials, but not with the irony you'd think it deserves.

Those understandings should shape our response. The United States and other developed nations have a chance to act smarter, think bigger and move faster in addressing this crisis and preventing the next one. Having talked with refugees, and having talked to countless officials and representatives of civil society along the way, I see three areas where the world should act.

First, the refugees, and the countries where they're living, need more humanitarian support. You see this most vividly in a place like the Dadaab complex in Kenya, near the border of Somalia, a place patched together (or not) with sticks and plastic sheets. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is doing noble and exceedingly hard work. But it can't do everything it needs to do when it is chronically underfunded by the very governments that expect it to handle this global problem.

Second, we can help host countries see refugees not just as a burden, but as a benefit. The international community could be doing much more, through development assistance and trade deals, to encourage businesses and states hosting refugees to see the upside of people's hands being occupied and not idle

(the World Bank and the Scriptures agree on this) The refugees want to work. They were shopkeepers, teachers and musicians at home, and want to be these things again, or maybe become new things—if they can get education, training and access to the labor market.

In other words, they need development. Development that invests in them and empowers them—that treats them not as passive recipients but as leaders and partners. The world tends to give humanitarian efforts and development efforts their own separate bureaucracies and unlisted phone numbers, as if they're wholly separate concerns. But to be effective they need to be better coordinated; we have to link the two and fund them both. Refugees living in camps need food and shelter right away, but they also need the long-term benefits of education, training, jobs and financial security.

Third, the world needs to shore up the development assistance it gives to those countries that have not collapsed but are racked by conflict, corruption and weak governance. These countries may yet spiral into anarchy. Lately some Western governments have been cutting overseas aid to spend money instead on asylum-seekers within their borders. But it is less expensive to invest in stability than to confront instability. Transparency, respect for rule of law, and a free and independent media are also crucial to the survival of countries on the periphery of chaos. Because chaos, as we know all too well, is contagious.

What we don't want and can't afford is to have important countries in the Sahel, the band of countries just south of the Sahara, going the same way as Syria. If Nigeria, a country many times larger than Syria, were to fracture as a result of groups like Boko Haram, we are going to wish we had been thinking bigger before the storm.

Actually, some people are thinking bigger. I keep hearing calls from a real gathering of forces—Africans and Europeans, army generals and World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials—to emulate that most genius of American ideas, the Marshall Plan. That plan delivered trade and development in service of security—in places where institutions were broken and hope had been lost. Well, hope is not lost in the Middle East and North Africa, not yet, not even where it's held together by string. But hope is getting impatient. We should be, too.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see my distinguished colleague on the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### MILITARY READINESS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have the honor to represent the tip of America's spear—Fort Bragg, NC. Fort Bragg is the largest military installation in the United States, and it is the home to the most decorated combat forces of the military, the All-American Division, the 82nd Airborne.

The 82nd is a subordinate command of the XVIII Airborne Corps, America's Global Response Force. Whenever a threat occurs, units of the XVIII Airborne can be wheels up and on top of any target in the world in just 48 hours.

In the 15 months that I have had the privilege to represent North Carolina

in the Senate, I have made the readiness of the XVIII Airborne one of my top priorities. In fact, you would think it would be everybody's top priority, but I have watched budget cutters in the Air Force slowly chip away at the ability of the commanders at Fort Bragg to adequately train their paratroopers at Pope Army Airfield.

This year, the Air Force began dismantling the one Air Force tactical unit at Pope—the 440th Airlift Wing—capable of providing daily and ad hoc support for Fort Bragg soldiers. I said at the time that the removal of the 440th created unreasonable risks to the readiness of critical airborne units. They must be prepared to respond to a range of contingencies in very short timeframes. I have pointed out repeatedly that the deactivation of the 440th comes at a time when the Nation is facing growing uncertainty and increasing threats abroad that could require a military response, and it is a response that only forces at Fort Bragg can fulfill.

Over the last 7 years, the 440th has provided the Army with unparalleled support, tailored training opportunities without the tyranny of distance that comes through logistical, bureaucratic, and operational delays by having aircraft stationed somewhere other than Pope Army Airfield.

The Air Force leadership stated that after any deactivation of the 440th, out-of-State aircraft would support all airlift requirements for Fort Bragg units at Pope. The Air Force asked me to suspend disbelief. They told me to accept that it is more cost-effective for units to fly from Little Rock, AK, or McChord Air Force Base in Washington State and support Fort Bragg in North Carolina rather than having planes stationed at Fort Bragg.

I did my best to ensure that the Air Force understood the Army's requirements, and I promised them that if they removed the 440th, I would be monitoring their progress and their ability to satisfy the Army's requirements for as long as I am in the Senate.

The first warning signs that the Air Force was in trouble came in December at the annual Operation Toy Drop. Operation Toy Drop is the world's largest combined airborne operation at Fort Bragg. The drop is actually a daytime, nontactical, airborne operation supervised by foreign military jumpmasters. They view it as a rare treat to participate so that they can get jump wings from a foreign country.

This year's operation was purposefully designed by the Air Force to prove to Congress—to prove to me—that they could support the training mission at Fort Bragg. To prove the point, the Air Force Reserve went so far as to reduce the 440th's role in the operation. However, when the Air Force planes could not get to Pope be-

cause of weather, mechanical, or other delays, the 440th had to step in and make up the deficit, as they have done so many times before.

This is the real world in action. Bad weather and mechanical problems happen. The Air Force knows this exercise happens every year. They know it is highly visible. They knew they were under a microscope. Still they couldn't meet the requirement. In fact, during Operation Toy Drop, the 440th provided for about 40 percent of the chutes and 43 percent of the lift for the entire operation.

Fort Bragg leadership has been clear to the Air Force in terms of their combat requirements, their training requirements at Fort Bragg. They have told the Air Force that they have to drop 10,000 paratroopers a month. Eight thousand drops a month is considered the bare minimum for the XVIII Airborne Corps. Sadly, the Air Force is not meeting those requirements. Only 6,100 paratroopers exited from Air Force planes in March. That is 1,300 fewer paratroopers dropped than in February, which is 77 percent of the 8,000 sustainable threshold and 61 percent of the Army's overall requirement. Where I went to high school, 61 percent was a D-minus, bordering on an F. They are failing.

The Air Force has missed the Army's minimum jump requirements every month this year. These numbers are illuminating and concerning because in the Southeast, this is the best flying weather. January, February, and March have the best flying weather in the Southeast. What is going to happen when the Southeast thunderstorms and tornado season kicks in? If the Air Force can't meet Fort Bragg's need when the skies are clear, how is it going to do when the storm clouds gather?

I hope the Air Force knows I have their back as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. But in this case, this is about fulfilling the Army's requirement. This is about me having the Army's back. This is about making sure the men and women who will be asked at a moment's notice to assemble on the Green Ramp at the Pope Army Airfield and go wherever they must go to defend freedom and save lives are at their highest state of readiness. But the performance to this point suggests that the Air Force is failing its customer service to the Army. No business in America would be able to dictate to the customer how and when they are going to get their product, but that is exactly what is happening with the Air Force's relationship with the Army—and they are failing.

I will ask Senator MCCAIN to inquire as to whether the Air Force expects to meet the needs of the Global Response Force. They haven't in this first quarter, and this is the first quarter that they were trying to transition to a

Pope Army Airfield without the 440th. If they can't answer the question, then it is time for us to consider other options.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when Republicans took the majority in the Senate last January, we were determined to get the Senate working again.

By 2014, the Democratic-controlled Senate had largely ground to a halt. Serious legislation had been replaced by political messaging, and the Democratic leadership refused to allow votes on amendments. In short, despite Democratic control of the Senate, Democrats and Republicans alike were shut out of the legislative process. Republicans were determined to change that.

Since we took control of the Senate in 2015, we have focused on taking up substantial legislation that addresses the challenges facing the country. We have made sure individual appropriations bills get written in committees with input from Senators of both parties, and we have opened the Senate floor to debate and amendment.

Why is that important? Because an open legislative process in the Senate means all Americans get represented. When legislation is written in the open using the committee process and Senators have a chance to highlight their constituents' concerns, the final bill is a lot more likely to reflect the American people's priorities.

One of our most basic responsibilities as Members of Congress is to pass appropriations bills. Appropriations bills give Senators and Congressmen a chance to take a look at where taxpayer dollars are being spent and how we can spend this money more efficiently and effectively. Unfortunately, too often Congress ends up skipping the appropriations process and rolling a number of the appropriations bills into one giant spending bill. That means we lose the opportunity to closely examine our spending priorities and make sure we are spending money wisely.

Since we took control of the Senate, Republicans have been determined to make sure Congress takes the appropriations process seriously. We have made sure individual appropriations bills are developed in committee, where Senators of both parties have

the opportunity to help develop the bill and make sure their constituents' concerns are heard.

This week Congress is taking up the Energy and Water appropriations bill. This legislation funds a number of priorities: rural water projects, critical infrastructure projects, nuclear deterrence efforts, energy research, flood control, and environmental cleanup, to name a few. I am particularly pleased that this bill funds important projects—like the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System—that will help provide communities with access to steady, reliable water sources.

I am also pleased that this bill invests in next-generation, high-energy physics research, including the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment, which could revolutionize our understanding of some of the most fundamental elements of our universe. This funding demonstrates continued U.S. commitment to a project that will help train the next generation of scientists and engineers, retain and attract the best scientific minds to the United States, and garner additional investment from global partners. I am proud that South Dakota's Sanford Underground Research Facility will continue to play a leading role in this major international scientific effort.

The Energy and Water appropriations bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the unanimous—unanimous—support of Democrats and Republicans with a 30-to-0 vote. I am hoping it will receive the same strong bipartisan support on the Senate floor. This bill will boost our Nation's energy security, making our economy more competitive, and promote energy innovation. It will help us produce more and pay less for energy.

This legislation is an important first step in our commitment to restore order to the appropriations process, and I look forward to consideration of additional appropriations bills on the Senate floor in the coming weeks.

**RECOGNIZING THE RAPID CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE PENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to talk about the two ride-alongs I was privileged to take with Rapid City, SD, law enforcement officers at the end of March.

We live in a climate where police officers are often made to sound like criminals and criminals are often portrayed as victims. The result is, we forget about the real victims—the people who have suffered crimes or are forced to live in crime-ridden neighborhoods—and we forget about the work police officers do in making our work communities places we can live.

Three weeks ago, I got to meet with law enforcement officers from the

Rapid City Police Department and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office. After our meeting, I got to take a ride through Rapid Valley with Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Akley and a ride through Rapid City with Rapid City Police Officer Jim Hansen.

Not very long ago, some neighborhoods in Rapid City had their share of challenges. Law enforcement officers frequently responded to drug and alcohol calls, abuse calls, domestic violence, break-ins, and other violent crimes. Imagine what it is like to live in a neighborhood like that. Coming home after dark is dangerous. It may not be safe for your children to play in the yard. It is certainly not safe to send them to the playground. Your children constantly see things no child should see and hear things no child should have to hear. Your property isn't secure. Your car and your home are at risk all the time. There are no economic opportunities in your area because businesses don't want to locate in areas where it is not safe to do business. That is what life is like in some of these neighborhoods. In one instance in Rapid City, law enforcement officers responded to over 600 calls to one building over a period of a single year.

By partnering with residents in impacted neighborhoods, Rapid City law enforcement stepped in and conducted an aggressive, years-long campaign to rid this area of crime. Today, residents can let their children play outside without fear, and new economic opportunities are opening for residents as businesses move in. It is no exaggeration to say that what these police officers did changed the lives of countless Rapid City residents.

Every day, in every community in the United States, the men and women who make up our Nation's police forces and sheriff's departments put their lives on the line for the rest of us. They are first on the scene when someone is in danger, the first to come running when you call for help, and when evil threatens they step in.

I am grateful to the men and women of the Rapid City Police Department, the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, and to all the law enforcement officers keeping the peace in South Dakota and around the Nation. Because of their service, we can live in safety.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

**OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING ANNIVERSARY AND NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND**

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor to once again urge my Republican colleagues to do what they are elected to do: listen to their constituents and give Judge Garland the fair consideration he deserves.

As some of my colleagues have already noted, today marks 21 years since the Oklahoma City bombing, an attack that shocked the world and took 168 innocent lives. I had the honor of meeting with an individual last week who was not only involved in the immediate aftermath of this terrible attack but who went above and beyond to make sure justice was served on behalf of those who lost their lives.

Judge Merrick Garland, the President's nominee for the Supreme Court, was at the scene of the bombing within 2 days. With debris from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building still smoldering in the streets, Judge Garland was helping first responders and working with local law enforcement.

As a top official in the Justice Department, he led a massive investigation of the bombing and supervised the prosecution of Timothy McVeigh. He did all of that, even if it meant more work and more time away from his family, with incredible delicacy and thoroughness. He called his work for the Justice Department following the Oklahoma City bombing the most important thing he has ever done in his life.

As we remember those who were lost on that day in 1995, and in light of last week being National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we remember how Judge Garland honored those victims with his dedicated service. Judge Garland not only did his job with a great deal of heart, working with families who had lost loved ones, but with the vigor to demand that justice be served. His fairness and diligence earned him praise from Members of both parties, from victims' families and law enforcement officers, and even from the lead lawyer defending McVeigh.

A person like that, driven by the desire to help people and serve the public, is someone who deserves fair consideration by all of us in the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, that is not what is happening right now. We are 66 days into the Supreme Court vacancy, and so far Republican leaders are still refusing to do their jobs. They will not say they are opposed to Judge Garland. They are refusing to even live up to their constitutional responsibility and consider him. That kind of pure obstruction and partisanship is absolutely wrong. People across the country are not going to stand for that.

Last week I met with Judge Garland and talked through his background, his experiences, his philosophy, his judicial philosophy. What I found out—and



it would be difficult for any right-minded person not to come to this conclusion after meeting with him—is that Judge Garland is highly passionate, he is highly respected, and highly qualified to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am very glad some Republicans have started meeting with him. That is a great first step, but it cannot be the last step. Families across this country deserve to hear from Judge Garland in a Judiciary Committee hearing, under oath, and in public, and then he should get a vote where every Senator will have the opportunity to do their job and weigh in.

If any Member doesn't think Judge Garland should serve on the highest Court in the land, they should feel free to vote against him, but give him a hearing, give him a vote, and stop this partisanship and obstruction. Evaluating and confirming Supreme Court Justices is one of the most important roles we have in the United States, and it is this issue that actually pushed me to run for the Senate in the first place.

In 1991 I was a State Senator, a former school board member, and a mom. Similar to so many people across the country back then, I watched the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings in frustration over how the nominee wasn't pushed on the issues that I and so many others thought were so important to the future of our country. I saw how a woman who came to talk about her experiences, Anita Hill, was treated by this Senate. I decided then and there to run for the U.S. Senate, to give Washington State families like mine a voice in this process.

I have had the opportunity to use that voice in the Senate and to make sure Washington State families had a seat at the table in Supreme Court nominations and confirmations over the years. I voted to support some of the candidates, including the Chief Justice nominated by a Republican President. I voted to oppose others, but I always thought it was important that a nominee got the consideration he or she deserved, and I always worked to make sure the people I represented got their questions answered as best as I could and that they could have a view into the process that should be above partisanship and politics.

If Republicans continue to play election-year politics and continue to refuse to do their jobs, my families in Washington State will not have a voice. Families across America will not have a voice. The tea party gridlock and dysfunction that has dominated too much of our work in Congress will have claimed another victory. That is unacceptable.

Once again, I am on the floor to call on my Republican colleagues to do your job; meet with Judge Garland, hold a hearing, and give him a vote. We owe that to our constituents. It is our

constitutional responsibility, and we should get it done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the 19th, marks the anniversary of one of the worst terrorist attacks ever to hit the United States. On April 19, 1995, at 9:02 a.m., a rented truck filled with fertilizer and diesel fuel exploded in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The impact of the blast was devastating. One-third of the Federal Building was destroyed, and 168 men, women, and children lost their lives, with several hundred seriously wounded. At that time, it was the deadliest terror attack ever to take place on American soil.

The Oklahoma City bombing shocked America. In the days after April 19, Americans mourned the lives which were lost and called for those who committed this evil act to be brought swiftly to justice.

It was in this context that the U.S. Department of Justice sent one man to head this investigation and prosecution. His name is Merrick Garland. Merrick Garland was the Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. He had volunteered to lead this investigation, telling his boss, Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick, he had to do it.

Garland would stay in Oklahoma City for a long period of time. By all accounts, he worked around the clock, coordinating the efforts by law enforcement to gather evidence, building the case against Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols. Every step along the way, Merrick Garland was meticulous. He made sure no corners were cut in the investigation or the prosecution. There was so much at stake.

One of the roles Merrick Garland took most seriously was to be in touch with the survivors and the victims' families, keeping them informed, keeping them in the loop. He carried with him at all times a list of the names of the victims so he would never forget the historic importance of his assignment.

Merrick Garland would later call his work in Oklahoma City "the most important thing I have ever done in my life." His work helped bring the perpetrators of this terrorist attack to justice and earned him the respect and gratitude of those he worked with and served. That is the definition of public service.

The record is clear that Merrick Garland has always done his job diligently

and conscientiously. Throughout his decades in public service at the Justice Department and later on the Federal bench, Judge Garland has earned a reputation as a workhorse who leaves no task unfinished.

It is instructive to hear what his former law clerks say about him. Several dozen of them recently sent a letter to the Senate. Here is what they said about Judge Garland: "Unrelenting work ethic." They said Judge Garland "treated every matter before him with the same care and attention to detail, whether it affected the national interest or a single ordinary life."

Judge Garland's devotion to his work is admired by many. This is a man who has received extraordinary praise because he did his job and did it well. It should come as no surprise, when President Barack Obama announced that Merrick Garland was his choice to be the nominee to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court, he dwelled on this experience in Oklahoma City.

Unfortunately, Merrick Garland faces a historic blockade in the Senate. The Senate has never in its history denied a hearing to a Presidential nominee to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. It has never ever happened before.

The death of Antonin Scalia, about 2 months ago, led to an almost immediate announcement by the Republican Senate leader, Senator MCCONNELL, that there would be no consideration, no hearing, and no vote for any nominee sent by President Barack Obama to this U.S. Senate. Senator MCCONNELL went further to say that he would not even meet with the nominee.

It has been more than a month since Judge Garland was nominated to the Supreme Court. It has been over 2 months now since Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has passed. Why has the Republican majority leader decided to ignore the precedent of history? Why is he turning his back on our Constitution? That Constitution says explicitly, article II, section 2: The President of the United States shall appoint a nominee to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court.

Our Founding Fathers understood that you can play politics with vacancies, and they didn't want that to happen. So the President met his constitutional obligation but, sadly, this U.S. Senate has refused to meet its constitutional responsibility to advise and consent on that nominee. It is not automatic. There is no guarantee that any nominee sent by the President would be approved by the Senate, but it is our responsibility to ask the questions of that nominee.

People across the United States have a right to hear this nominee, Merrick Garland, under oath answer important questions about whether he is prepared to serve on the Supreme Court and, if he serves, whether he would bring integrity to that appointment.

We have extended that courtesy to every Presidential nominee to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court until this moment. The argument that is made on the other side of the aisle is that we have to go through an election—we have an election coming up—and let the American people decide, not the Senate. Let the American people decide, whether it will be a Democratic President or a Republican President.

What my friends on the other side of the aisle ignore is that when President Barack Obama was reelected, he was not elected to a 3-year term, he was elected to a 4-year term. He is the President of the United States this year. He has the power of that office this year not because I willed it—although I certainly did—but because by a plurality of 5 million votes the American people made that decision. Five million votes were cast for Barack Obama over Mitt Romney. The decision of the American people was that this President shall govern not for 3 years, not for 3 years and 2 months, but for 4 years.

A lot of people say: As a Democrat in the Senate, it is easy for you to say that Republicans should treat this Democratic President a little better. What if the shoe were on the other foot?

Well, we have a chance to take a look back and see exactly what happened when the roles were reversed. In 1988, during the last year of Republican President Ronald Reagan's term, we had a vacancy on the Supreme Court. He sent his nominee to the Senate, which was then controlled by the Democrats. Did we have an announcement from the Senate Democratic leadership that we will not consider any nominee sent by a Republican President in the last year of his term? Did we have an announcement by the Democratic leaders in the Senate that we won't even meet with the nominee? Exactly the opposite occurred. Anthony Kenney was given the opportunity to have a hearing, where he answered questions under oath, and had a vote which confirmed him on the Supreme Court. A Republican President, during the last year of his Presidency, filled a vacancy on the Supreme Court with the cooperation of a Democratic majority in the Senate.

The tables are turned now. We have a Democratic President with a Republican-controlled Senate, and they are ignoring the history and precedent of the Senate and they plan on ignoring this nominee. There is no basis in the Constitution for the position taken by the Senate Republicans. This is an unprecedented obstruction of a nomination to fill a key Supreme Court vacancy.

Yesterday I was across the street. It was the second time I have been honored to be included in a very small audience of about 250 people to listen to

the oral arguments in a case before the Supreme Court on a critical decision that will affect the lives of millions of people in the United States. I looked up to the chairs on the Supreme Court, and obviously one was vacant. There are only eight Justices. If this Court on this case—or others—cannot resolve it with a majority and has a vote of 4 to 4 on a case, it invites confusion and chaos in one of the most critical branches of our government. It is confusion and chaos that can be avoided if the Senate Republicans simply do their constitutional duty: advise and consent.

Give Merrick Garland a hearing under oath so the American people can draw their own conclusions about whether this man is the right person for the Supreme Court, and then let's have a vote on the floor. In the past, even when the Senate Judiciary Committee rejected a Presidential nominee for the Supreme Court, the committee sent that nomination to the floor anyway for a vote so that the whole Senate could speak to the worthiness of that nominee. Merrick Garland deserves nothing less.

The Senate Republicans refusal to do their job under the Constitution has real-world consequences. Recently the solicitor general of Illinois, Carolyn Shapiro, came to the Capitol to talk to the Senators about how the vacancy on the Supreme Court is actually hurting States by leaving important legal questions unresolved.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that her speech be printed in the RECORD.

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

STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A NINE-MEMBER SUPREME COURT FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

[Before the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, April 6, 2016, Carolyn E. Shapiro, Solicitor General of Illinois, Office of the Illinois Attorney General]

Good morning. Thank you very much for the opportunity to talk with you about the importance of a fully functional Supreme Court to state and local governments.

My name is Carolyn Shapiro, and I am the Illinois Solicitor General. I am also a tenured faculty member at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law where I founded the Institute on the Supreme Court of the United States and where my research and scholarship focuses largely on the Supreme Court as an institution.

State and local governments regularly rely on the Supreme Court to provide clarity and certainty in numerous areas of law, many of which do not involve the headline-grabbing, hot-button issues we hear about on the news.

But in some of these areas, the risk of an equally divided court is real, and a Supreme Court unable to provide clarity and certainty would have very real and harmful effects.

I could talk about a variety of different areas of law, but my focus here will be on the Fourth Amendment. The Fourth Amendment of course regulates what law enforcement

can and cannot do in investigating crime and it protects the privacy interests of the citizenry. It is crucial for law enforcement to know what the rules are and it is crucial for the citizenry to have confidence that law enforcement is following the rules and doing so uniformly.

These things cannot happen without the Supreme Court being able to resolve some of the difficult and contested issues in this area of law.

In the past three years, the Supreme Court has decided at least eight Fourth Amendment cases by close votes, and in several of those cases, Justice Scalia was in a five-member majority. In other words, without nine justices, the court might well have been unable to resolve the issues presented in those cases, leading to ongoing uncertainty. And some of those cases, as often happens in the Fourth Amendment area, have created new areas of uncertainty that must be resolved—but that may require a nine-member court to do so.

I will briefly mention two such areas. In 2013, the Supreme Court decided *Florida v. Jardines*, in which Justice Scalia wrote the opinion on behalf of five justice majority. *Jardines* held that when police bring a drug dog onto the front porch of a single family home, that constitutes a search for purposes of the Fourth Amendment.

This holding has led to new questions. Earlier this year, the Illinois Supreme Court held that *Jardines* extends to a drug sniff outside an apartment door in the common area of a building. But in similar cases around the country, other courts have reached different conclusions. Not only can this lead to inconsistent law from state to state, but even within a jurisdiction. A search held constitutional in state court might be held unconstitutional in federal court in the same state. This kind of uncertainty is untenable.

A second issue involves the implications of the 2013 case of *Missouri v. McNeely* in which Justice Scalia joined a five-member majority to hold that the natural dissipation of alcohol in the blood does not in and of itself create exigent circumstances allowing the police to obtain a blood test without a warrant. This term the court is poised to hear a case, *Birchfield v. North Dakota*, about the implications of some of *McNeely's* reasoning for state statutes that criminalize the refusal to submit to a blood or breath test when pulled over for a DWI. Illinois does not have such a statute, but we do have a statute making refusal to submit to such a test grounds for the suspension of a license. And a case challenging that statute is apparently being held by the Supreme Court pending the result in *Birchfield*. So if the court is unable to resolve *Birchfield* because it is equally divided, or is unable to resolve our case, should the Court later decide to hear it, those statutes will remain under a constitutional cloud and neither law enforcement nor state legislatures will know the scope of their authority in this area.

There are of course other areas of law I could discuss, but the point I want to leave you with is that state and local governments, and the citizenry, depend on a functional court to provide clarity and certainty in areas of law that affect government officials and citizens on a daily basis.

Thank you.

Mr. DURBIN. As an example, Solicitor General Shapiro pointed out how right at this moment numerous States and Federal circuits are governed by different standards on important

Fourth Amendment search and seizure issues. These cases are working their way through the courts, but only the Supreme Court can finally resolve the issues. But the Court may be unable to do that. A 4-to-4 Court with a tie will not resolve an issue. Unless the Senate Republicans do their job, the Supreme Court will be stuck with eight members for more than a year.

I have a trivia question. When was the last time the Senate left a vacancy on the Supreme Court for a year or more? During the Civil War. It took a war between the States for us to leave a vacancy that long in the Court—a vacancy which the Senate Republicans are continuing by this obstruction.

As we reflect on the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle will take a step back from politics. I hope they will acknowledge that Merrick Garland stepped up for this Nation, did the right thing, and proved he could do his job. Senate Republicans have no less responsibility. It is time for the Senate Republican majority to do its job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### HOUSTON FLOODING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over this last weekend and through yesterday, large parts of central and southeast Texas experienced torrential downpours. The Houston region in particular experienced so much rain, it led to widespread flooding. I know many people have seen that on TV, in news reports, or online.

Many will recall that last year over Memorial Day weekend, Harris County, which is where Houston is located, suffered from similar flooding. This year's rain seems to be even more widespread, with some areas receiving as much as 20 inches of rain in a relatively short period of time. Whole subdivisions were submerged, interstate highways were impassable, and power was knocked out, which affected more than 100,000 people at one point. Tragically, several people have died as a result of these floods.

Amidst this tragedy, Texans have been quick to help one another. Crews had performed more than 1,000 rescues as of yesterday afternoon, and even one TV reporter on location covering the story rushed to rescue an elderly man from a flooded underpass. The rescue is on YouTube. I recommend anybody who is interested to watch it. It is really quite a rescue.

This morning I spoke to County Judge Ed Emmett of Harris County, and I will continue to stay in close contact with him, as well as the chief of the Texas Department of Emergency Management, in the coming days.

The one thing I do know is that Texans are resilient. In particular, the peo-

ple in the Houston region, where I happen to have been born, are used to storms that cause that kind of flooding. But the rebuilding effort will be long and one that will require support from officials at all levels.

Going forward, I will do everything I can to help mobilize Federal resources for the Houston area should the Governor determine a Federal disaster declaration is necessary. In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Houston and other affected areas in Texas, and we hope and pray for their safety and their fast recovery.

#### JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I will spend a few minutes talking about a piece of legislation that is bipartisan and deserves this Chamber's consideration.

Last year, around the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, I reintroduced the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. This bill makes minor adjustments to our laws to help Americans who are attacked on U.S. soil get justice from those who sponsored and facilitated that terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

When the Judiciary Committee considered this bill earlier this year, it was reported out without objection. I think the reasons for that are pretty clear. We should use every means available to prevent the funding of terrorism, and the victims of terrorism in our country should be able to seek justice from people who do fund that terrorist attack. We have to maintain our diligence to hold those who sponsor terrorism accountable, particularly on our own soil, and we must leverage all of our resources—or as many as possible—to shut off the funding sources for terrorists. Using civil liability to do so has been Federal policy for decades, and JASTA would strengthen that.

It is my hope that this legislation will serve as a defective deterrent and will make foreign governments think twice before sending money to terrorist groups who target our homeland. Our country confronts new and expanding terror networks that are focused on targeting our citizens, and we need to do everything we can to stop it, including passing this legislation.

JASTA is also important because it would help the victims of the 9/11 attacks achieve closure from that horrific tragedy.

I mentioned that this is a bipartisan bill, and I am glad to introduce it with my colleague CHUCK SCHUMER of New York. But unfortunately the President doesn't seem to share these bipartisan concerns about helping the victims of terrorism or deterring others from funding and facilitating it in the future. Unfortunately, the administration has worked to undercut progress of this legislation at every turn.

Yesterday the White House insisted that the President does not oppose JASTA on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia even though the administration has made that argument in private. In light of his upcoming trip there this week, it appears that the Obama administration is pulling out all the stops to keep this bill from moving forward before the President's visit to Riyadh. I wish the President and his aides would spend as much time and energy working with us in a bipartisan manner as they have working against us trying to prevent victims of terrorism from receiving the justice they deserve.

I was glad to see the President abandon an argument that I always found strange, especially coming from him. He didn't seem to care that much about our relationship with Saudi Arabia when he ran through his misguided nuclear deal with Iran, running roughshod over serious concerns raised by the Kingdom. He didn't seem to care much about our relationship with Saudi Arabia when he contended that they should learn to "share the neighborhood with its mortal enemy Iran." In a very real way, the President's opposition to this bill looked like it was asking the victims of 9/11 and their families to pay some of the political price for the President's mishandling of our relationship with Saudi Arabia.

Well, yesterday the White House claimed it opposed the bill because it undermined the principle of sovereign immunity. In the past, the President said U.S. citizens could sue foreign governments and the United States would get sued abroad. Now, sovereign immunity is an important principle to be sure, but the fact is, the White House is misrepresenting the law. We have had statutory exemptions to this immunity for years for business conduct, torts, and many things, including terrorism. We already had these exceptions in the law, and that has been the law for decades. The only real change is allowing victims of terrorist attacks on the homeland to sue even if the defendant is not designated by the State Department as a state sponsor of terrorism. That is right. All this would do would be to allow victims of terrorist attacks on our homeland to sue even if the sponsor of the terrorist activity was not a State Department designated state sponsor of terrorism. This is a narrow piece of legislation, and it would not upend traditional principles of sovereignty.

Yesterday a White House spokesman claimed that JASTA would lead to liability for U.S. humanitarian aid work. That is just false. I am confident that Senator SCHUMER and I can make that abundantly clear to anybody who shares that misconception.

The President's attempt so far to derail this legislation that would help the victims of 9/11 pursue justice under the

law is completely unacceptable. Unfortunately, this shouldn't be a surprise. The President has steadfastly refused to declassify and release 28 pages of the "9/11 Commission Report" that pertain to allegations of Saudi Arabia's support for the 9/11 terrorists. According to some news reports, President Obama has vowed several times to release this information, but he hasn't followed through on that promise yet. His actions to shield the Saudi Government instead of advocating on behalf of his own citizens rings much louder than his words. That doesn't sound to me like the most transparent administration in American history, which is what the President promised the Nation at his inauguration.

The good news is that there is bipartisan support in this Chamber for those who will stand up for these victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and hold the people responsible accountable. I look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues to get this critical legislation passed.

The President has his prerogatives under the Constitution. If he wants to veto legislation passed by the Congress on a strong bipartisan vote, he can do that, but 67 Senators and two-thirds of the House can override a Presidential veto. That is in the Constitution too. So the President needs to step up, instead of trying to kill this legislation by private conversations in the Senate. The Senate needs to do its work: Pass this bipartisan legislation, help the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and hold those who fund and facilitate terrorist attacks responsible. If the President wants to get in the way, he can veto the legislation, and we can override that veto. That is the way the Constitution works.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### CHILD NICOTINE ADDICTION

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I rise today to call attention to a dangerous complacency that threatens the health and the lives of our children, and I rise today to urge our administration to take long overdue action to protect our children.

Two years ago this month, the Food and Drug Administration, or the FDA, released a proposed tobacco deeming rule, which is a blueprint for a regulatory framework for e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. Administration officials believed and conveyed that the final rule would be out by the end of the summer 2015. Well, the summer of 2015 is now history, and soon it will be the summer of 2016, and we wait. We have been waiting a very long time.

In total, it has been 7 years since the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act was passed by the

Senate and the House and signed by President Obama. This legislation gave the Food and Drug Administration the authority to regulate tobacco products.

This legislation was sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy. It was passed in the final months of his life. It was a tribute to his long advocacy for the regulatory control of tobacco—a dangerous, destructive drug widespread throughout America. The passage was part of his legacy. But now we are failing that legacy, and we are failing millions of our children.

When the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act was passed into law, it was heralded as a major victory, giving the FDA real power to crack down on the marketing of tobacco products to our children. After a year, there is no action—2 years, no action. That took us to 2011—3 years, no action; 4 years, no action; 5 years, no action; 6 years, no action; 7 years, no action. Over the course of those 7 years, a lot more Americans have become addicted to nicotine products.

In 7 years, the industry has had time to develop new innovative products to entrap our youth, and they have utilized that time well. How much longer will this inaction continue while our children are addicted to products newly invented and aimed directly at them? Each passing month, thousands of children become addicted to these new products. Each passing month, the nicotine addiction industry becomes more deeply entrenched and determined to prevent the regulation that we authorized back in 2009. It has been said that while Nero fiddled, Rome burned. In this situation, while the administration has failed to act, millions of children have become addicted to nicotine, with profound consequences for their health.

Once this rule is final, the FDA will be able to regulate new tobacco products in important ways, including imposing minimum age standards, limits on advertising, health warnings on the products, child-proof packaging, and requiring the registration of tobacco product manufacturers by the FDA and FDA approval of some novel products.

It is time to get this done because lives are at stake. We all are familiar with the cycle: Tobacco use leads to tobacco addiction. Tobacco addiction leads to disease. Disease leads to suffering and often to death. In fact, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States—the leading cause. It imposes a terrible toll on health and lives and dollars. It affects families and businesses and government.

So the best way to improve the health of Americans 10, 20, 30 years into the future or 40 years down the line is to stop the process by which this industry is targeting our youth. Here is what they know. They know that after

the age of 21, very few people become addicted to nicotine. It is a product that people try in their youth, and with repeated use they become addicted to it and then continue, normally for years and years. That makes for a very good customer of the tobacco industry, a very good customer of the nicotine industry, and very bad consequences for the health of our children, who become our young adults, who become our middle-aged adults—very bad costs for health at each stage.

According to a Surgeon General's report released in March 2012, tobacco use among youth is a "pediatric epidemic." But the thing is that our children just aren't starting to smoke because of happenstance. No, they are aggressively targeted by the tobacco industry. Big Tobacco is working day and night to design products to appeal to kids, to get them hooked on this deadly habit so that they will be reliable consumers or reliable customers.

In fact, the industry calls them "replacement smokers." The products we supplied before have resulted in a whole lot of our customers dying. So we need replacement smokers; we need replacement consumers.

This clearly is a product with great harm associated with it. There are cigars, cigarillos, tobacco candy, snus, and e-cigarettes, and the list goes on and on. Products cost often as little as 99 cents and are sold in colorful or cool packaging, and nowhere is that more true than in the burgeoning e-cigarette industry.

This chart shows very readily the strategy of using candy flavors and fruit flavors targeted at kids. They have everything from cherry and watermelon, and the list continues with all kinds of—check this out—gummy bear flavors. When you advertise e-cigarette flavors like gummy bears, you are not targeting people over 21. You are targeting our children. You are targeting them with bubble gum flavor and wild cherry flavor and candy apple flavor. These flavors are not for adults. They mask the taste of the product and make it more tempting, more exciting for our young people.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use a prop.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. I thank the Chair.

This is an actual container, like these containers that are shown on the poster. This is called JJuice. They call it juice. They put juice in the title, as if to imply it is healthy. This is liquid nicotine targeted at our children with all of these kinds of flavors.

This particular container was a response to the advocacy of myself and others to say that this targeting of our children is not OK. So the industry decided to create a "Senator's Choice" flavor, and they call this flavor "the

greatest blend to date” using “the purist, highest quality liquid essence of guava, combin[ing] it with all-natural, American-made raw ingredients.” It is almost like a review of a fine wine, this “Senator’s Choice.” Again, they created this specifically to protest the fact that Senators were standing up and saying that this targeting of children is not OK. It is immoral, and it is wrong. We have a law in place to end it, but the administration must act or that law has no impact.

What is actually in this? Well, the ingredients list does not have essence of guava on the ingredient list. It has glycerin and propylene glycol, nicotine, and artificial flavorings, which somehow doesn’t sound nearly as nice as the description on their Web site.

Let’s see the impact of this targeting of our youth because, unfortunately, Big Tobacco’s—the nicotine addiction industry—strategies work. That is why they are continuing to employ them. High school e-cigarette use tripled in just 1 year, from 2013 at 4.5 percent to 2014 at 13.4 percent. When we have the numbers for 2015, I am sure we will find that it is substantially higher because of this aggressive marketing campaign aimed at our junior high and high school students.

Nearly one in seven high school students have used an e-cigarette in the last 30 days. That represents 2 million of our children—2 million of our teenagers nationwide.

An updated CDC study released recently confirmed that youth tobacco use is continuing to grow. Our children are not using e-cigarettes to quit smoking; they are using e-cigarettes to start smoking. So when the industry claims that all of these e-cigarettes are improving the health of those who currently use cigarettes, it is another tobacco industry big lie. Big Tobacco brings us another big lie. Children are using these products to start smoking, not to stop smoking. Every day that we don’t act, more of our children are at risk for a lifetime of tobacco and nicotine addiction.

The choice is simple. Let’s end this irresponsible inaction. Let’s stop enriching the multibillion-dollar tobacco industry by continuing to delay the regulations authorized back in 2009. Let’s do the right thing for America’s children. Let’s assist our children in living longer, healthier, happier lives by ending the targeting by Big Tobacco.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I would like to find out how long the Senator from North Carolina wants to speak because I need to wrap up a matter on the FAA bill, which we are voting on in 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, through the Chair, I will take about 5 minutes, not more.

Mr. NELSON. Very fine.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### COROLLA WILD HORSES

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk about something that is very important to many of us in North Carolina and to the people who come to the North Carolina coast to enjoy our beautiful beaches and a group of wild horses at Corolla.

They are called the Corolla wild horses. They are a piece of American heritage. They have been there since ships have been wrecked in what we call the graveyard of the Atlantic. These horses of Spanish origin ended up finding their way to shore, and they set up a habitat on the East Coast that is actually an attraction to tourists and something that brings a smile to your face when you are out on the water and you see them coming to the shore. They have been there for almost 400 years, and they are roaming over about 7,500 acres of land right now.

The problem we have, though, is that with development over time their habitat has shrunk. As a result of that, we only have about 80 horses out in Corolla now. To have a healthy population, we have to figure out a way to provide them with genetic diversity or they are going to become extinct in a very brief period of time. The entire herd is in grave danger as a result.

The solution to the problem is to try to figure out a way to produce genetic diversity, which is why the senior Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR, has offered an amendment that I hope we can get support for.

The horses roam mostly on private land, but there are some public lands they roam freely on that are managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife. The county and private philanthropic organizations are managing the horses. No taxpayer dollars are being used to manage these horse populations, but they do need some help and relief from the amendment Senator BURR has put forward.

To give an idea of what we are dealing with, I want to tell a story of a typical example of what is happening in Corolla. This is a heartbreaking story. It was shared with me by Karen McCalpin, the executive director of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, who manages the horses now with no taxpayer dollars:

When Cordero was first seen, the tides were too high to bring a trailer up the beach so we had to wait until the next day at low tide to bring panels and a trailer. We looked for him every day for 4 days after that. We went through wooded areas and marsh with no success. We finally found his harem on July

20, 2013. It was a difficult capture and the poor thing was trying to run to keep up with his mother. We had to capture her as well. Due to his young age and poor condition, he needed his mother’s milk as well as her company to help relieve some of the stress of captivity. Unfortunately, that became an exercise in futility.

Cordero, because of his health problems, had to be euthanized.

We want a solution to this problem. It is a great solution that only requires a minimum amount of influence from us to get this done—largely done by private and local entities. What we need to do is put an amendment forward that requires the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the State of North Carolina, and Currituck County—the State of North Carolina and Currituck County want to do this—working with the Corolla Wild Horse Fund to establish a management plan that would allow for the transfer of horses from a related herd located at Shackleford Banks. This would allow the herd size to grow and will provide more genetic diversity to prevent situations that poor Cordero experienced.

Our amendment asks for no money. The amendment is supported by the Humane Society, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Animal Welfare Institute, the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, and other key animal welfare organizations.

Contrary to what some people have said who may oppose this amendment, it doesn’t change the mission of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services. It doesn’t require any taxpayer dollars. All it simply does is allow local government to solve this problem.

I hope that later today or tomorrow, when we can get on these amendments, we can convince our Members that this is a very important asset not only for North Carolina but for the Nation, and a simple gesture on our part can solve a very difficult problem on the part of the Corolla wild horses.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

#### FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, we are close to the vote on the FAA bill. I want to underscore the importance for the Senate because it contains some of the most significant passenger-friendly reforms and airport security enhancements that we have seen in years.

To get to this point has been no small task, especially in this era in which it is so difficult to find consensus and a bipartisan way to pass something. We have been able to do it with the able leadership of the chairman, Senator JOHN THUNE. The two of us have felt like we needed to focus on areas where we agree, and as a result the entire Commerce Committee came

together to get this done. Now we are about to pass this and get it on to the House.

In a complicated bill like this, it doesn't contain everything that everybody wants, but we hope our counterparts in the House are going to take up and pass this bill without delay. We have given them a good bipartisan blueprint to follow and one they ought to pass easily.

If they add controversial or partisan measures such as privatizing our air traffic control system, this bill will fail. The U.S. Department of Defense is unalterably opposed to private controllers controlling our military aircraft. If that path is taken in the House, it is going to be a big loss for consumers and for the safety of the flying public.

When thinking about some of the irritations of passengers, such as the growing list of airline fees and charges, consumers feel they are nickel-and-dimed to death. This bill is going to require greater transparency and relief. Building on a minority Commerce Committee report that was released last summer, it requires fee refunds for delayed baggage. It requires refunds for ancillary services, such as seating fees that are paid for by a customer and then not delivered by the airline. It requires new standardized disclosure of fees for consumers and increased protections for disabled passengers.

There are important safety reforms. Last night's national news was led by an international news report from London about an inbound British Airways flight into Heathrow that was struck by a drone. Computer analysis has been done. What would happen if the drone is sucked into a jet engine? It can certainly cause it to be inoperable and might start an explosion.

Remember what happened when two seagulls were sucked into the engine of a flight called the Hudson River miracle, when captain Sully Sullenberger was able to belly it in because he had no power. That was caused by a seagull with feathers, webbed feet, and a beak. Imagine what the metal and plastic of a drone being sucked into a jet engine could do. Do we need any more reminders?

This bill has a pilot program to test and develop technologies to intercept or shut down drones when they are near airports.

Remember the tragedy in Brussels. Remember the downing of a Russian airliner in Egypt because somebody was on the inside and snuck a bomb onto the airplane. There are parts in this bill that will help reduce the insider threat that terrorists have previously exploited, including the soft targets in the queues at the TSA lines and at the ticket counters.

This bill will improve the background checks and security screenings for airport workers and prevent hackers from potentially gaining control of

an airplane. This bill also requires that the FAA develop standards on how aircraft manufacturers can keep flight control systems separate from inflight passenger entertainment systems. Remember what was shown on "60 Minutes" about the takeover and control of a car by someone going on the Internet and hacking into the car's entertainment system.

The bottom line is, this is a good bill. It is the result of a hard-earned collaborative effort. I thank Senator THUNE and his staff for their good work and their good will in our negotiations. I also thank the Members of our staff who worked endlessly to get us to this point. After the vote, I am going to read a list of their names because I want them to be recognized.

To our colleagues in the Senate, I thank you for working with Senator THUNE and me on the creation and development of the bill up to this point and now the passage of the bill. I suspect the Senate will respond overwhelmingly and I certainly urge that result.

Madam President, we have just a couple minutes until the vote.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes.

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

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, we are trying to get clearance for a package of 26 noncontroversial amendments that Senator THUNE and I put together in a package. They are noncontroversial. They are amendments sponsored by a multiplicity of Senators, a whole array of different things that are needed.

We have one Senator objecting to proceeding with the package of 26 amendments. We are trying to get that objection removed; otherwise, we are going to be in a position of going to the bill, which we will have the votes to pass, but without these 26 amendments. These are amendments by Senators HATCH, McCAIN, THUNE, MORAN, BROWN, MURPHY, KAINE, FEINSTEIN, JOHNSON, LEAHY, INHOFE, CORNYN, MARKEY, KIRK, CORNYN, DURBIN, MORAN, WARNER, SULLIVAN, HIRONO, HOEVEN, HEITKAMP, ISAKSON, MURRAY, and TESTER.

All are noncontroversial. But we have one objection with regard to this package, which is noncontroversial.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, we have pending before us final passage on the FAA reauthorization. We have been waiting to see if there were not another 26 amendments that have been cleared on both sides that we can get added to the bill. Despite our best efforts, we have an objection to that. We have been trying all morning to get that cleared, but that has not been possible.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 636, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 47 Leg.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Boozman	Cassidy
Ayotte	Brown	Coats
Baldwin	Burr	Cochran
Barrasso	Cantwell	Collins
Bennet	Capito	Coons
Blumenthal	Cardin	Corker
Blunt	Carper	Cornyn
Booker	Casey	Cotton

Crapo	King	Risch
Daines	Kirk	Roberts
Donnelly	Klobuchar	Rounds
Durbin	Lankford	Sasse
Enzi	Leahy	Schatz
Ernst	Manchin	Schumer
Feinstein	Markey	Scott
Fischer	McCain	Sessions
Flake	McCaskill	Shaheen
Franken	McConnell	Shelby
Gardner	Menendez	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Merkley	Sullivan
Graham	Mikulski	Tester
Grassley	Moran	Thune
Hatch	Murkowski	Tillis
Heinrich	Murphy	Toomey
Heitkamp	Murray	Udall
Heller	Nelson	Vitter
Hirono	Paul	Warner
Hoeven	Perdue	Warren
Inhofe	Peters	Whitehouse
Isakson	Portman	Wicker
Johnson	Reed	Wyden
Kaine	Reid	

NAYS—3

Boxer	Lee	Rubio
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NOT VOTING—2

Cruz	Sanders
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The bill (H.R. 636), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today to express my appreciation to my colleagues for the passage of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016. By passing this legislation, which I offered with the Commerce Committee's ranking member, Senator NELSON, and our Aviation Subcommittee leaders, Senator AYOTTE and Senator CANTWELL, the Senate is seeking to end a string of short extensions with a comprehensive reform proposal now on its way to the House of Representatives. Bipartisan efforts at both the Commerce Committee and on the Senate floor made an already strong bill even better.

Only weeks ago, horrific attacks by ISIS created new concern for air travelers. Recognizing the need to enhance security, Senators from both sides of the aisle offered amendments to strengthen safety and security protections for passengers in this aviation bill. To guard against the threat of airport insiders helping terrorists, we added provisions that I authored along with Senator NELSON to improve the scrutiny of individuals applying to work in secure airport areas.

For the first time, we put requirements in place so applicants needing access to secure areas of airports can be denied security credential if they have been convicted of embezzlement, racketeering, robbery, sabotage, immigration law violations, or assault with a deadly weapon.

While very few criminals are terrorists, it is not at all uncommon for terrorists to get their start as criminals. The Brussels attackers, for example,

were known to the police as criminals long before they carried out terrorist attacks. Ensuring that dangerous criminals don't work behind the scenes at airports is one important thing we can do to reduce the threats facing airport passengers. Tightening the vetting process for airport employees is especially critical, as many experts believe the recent bombing of a Russian passenger jet leaving Egypt had help from an aviation insider.

Our bill also includes security provisions to better safeguard public areas outside the security checkpoints at airports and to help reduce passenger backups. These reforms could help prevent a future attack, like the one in the Brussels terminal last month, which targeted a crowd of passengers in an area where the attackers didn't even need tickets.

While many of our security enhancements addressed problems highlighted by recent attacks, none of these proposals were cobbled together in a rush to do something. All of the security proposals added to this bill have existed for months and were developed as a result of congressional oversight, independent evaluations of agencies, and the study of existing problems. What recent attacks by ISIS did create is new urgency to enact these security safeguards as the threat of terrorism remains a menace.

As I have mentioned more than once, this legislation has been praised for the many ways it helps airline passengers. Under this bill, airlines will be required to return fees if they lose or significantly delay delivery of passengers' luggage. We also require airlines to automatically return fees for services purchased but not delivered so travelers don't have to go through the hassle of trying to reclaim their money from an airline.

Because many customers are frustrated by lengthy legal jargon that can make it difficult to understand add-on costs, our bill creates a new and easy-to-read uniform standard for disclosing baggage, ticket change, seat selection, and other fees. We even help families with children find flights where they can sit together without additional costs by requiring airlines to tell purchasers about available seat locations at the time of booking.

A Washington Post consumer columnist called our bill "one of the most passenger-friendly Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bills in a generation."

I am proud that the FAA bill before the Senate today is the product of a bipartisan process. Over at the Commerce Committee, we approved 57 amendments before this bill came to the floor, and 60 percent of those amendments came from Members of the minority. Here on the Senate floor, we approved an additional 19 amendments.

In addition to helping passengers and enhancing security, this legislation addresses a number of other priorities, including the cyber security of aircraft, the aircraft design approval process, undue regulatory burdens on non-commercial pilots, airport infrastructure, rural air service, lithium battery safety, mental health screening for pilots, communicable disease preparedness, drone safety, and many other important areas. Without going through them in detail, the bill's provisions for unmanned aerial systems are groundbreaking.

Twenty years from now, when drones play significant roles in our economy and making the public safer, Congress will look back at this bill as landmark legislation. Provisions in this bill will give the FAA authority to address safety issues unique to drones and advance the development of drone technology.

Thanks to this legislation, the FAA will be able to consider and grant permission for new and safe drone usage, stop dangerous practices, and deploy new tools to put sensitive parts of our national airspace under restricted access for drones.

Finally, as I have noted, Ranking Member NELSON, Senator AYOTTE, and Senator CANTWELL deserve high praise for their collaboration on this legislation. Senator NELSON, in particular, has been a real partner in the effort, and I want to express my sincere thanks to him and to his talented staff.

I also want to acknowledge the important contributions of Finance Committee Chairman HATCH, Ranking Member WYDEN, and their staffs. Without the Finance Committee provisions they provided for revenue and expenditure authority, we would not have an FAA bill.

I also want to thank Leader MCCONNELL, his lead liaison to the Commerce Committee, Scott Rabb, and Leader REID for helping us get this bill passed.

I also appreciate the Senators and their staff members who worked with us so that we could include so many amendments here on the floor.

Finally, it goes without saying that I want to thank my own staff for their great work on this bill, especially Nick Rossi, Adrian Arnakis, Bailey Edwards, Michael Reynolds, Jessica McBride, Missye Brickell, Suzanne Gillen, Jaclyn Keshian, Christopher Loring, Rebecca Seidel, Cheri Pascoe, Peter Feldman, Andrew Timm, Frederick Hill, and Lauren Hammond. Long hours and even a few all-nighters have been put into this bill over the course of many months. I am the first to say that nothing consequential or substantial gets done around this place without the important, hard work of the very talented and skilled staff. I am blessed on the Commerce Committee to be surrounded with people who care passionately about these issues, who work very diligently to get the best

possible outcomes and results. I am grateful for the contributions of our staff and those of Senator NELSON's staff and of the many Members who were involved in shaping this bill. It is another accomplishment that we can all be proud of.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, the feeling is mutual. I made my comments earlier, so I won't go into the substance of the bill. Senator THUNE has certainly been a delight to work with, as was his committee staff.

I wish to personally thank our staff: Tom Chapman, Jenny Solomon, Chris Day, Mohsin Syed, Melissa Alvarado, Laura Ponto, Dan Hurd, Renae Black, Maria Stratienko, Nick Russell, Christian Fjeld, Brian No, Peder Magee, Meeran Ahn, Brad Torppey, and our staff director Kim Lipsky. I also wish to thank the Democratic staff here on the floor—they make this place run day in and day out—Gary Myrick, Tim Mitchell, Trisha Engle, Dan Tinsley, and all the cloakroom staff.

I thank the Senate for responding so affirmatively to this FAA bill. Now let's get the House to understand the importance of this bill so we can get it into law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

AMENDMENT NO. 3799

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the title amendment at the desk be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3799) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to make some remarks on the Burr-Tillis amendment No. 3175 to the Energy bill.

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

COROLLA WILD HORSES PROTECTION  
AMENDMENT

Mr. BURR. Mr. President and colleagues, I am embarrassed that I am having to come to the floor to talk about an amendment that makes so much sense, that embraces everything that I think the legislative branch and, more importantly, the American people support: the protection of a species.

I rise today to ask my colleagues to support the Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act. The amendment mirrors legislation Senator TILLIS and I introduced, S. 1204. This bill passed the House twice, in 2012 and 2013.

Let me be specific. This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Corolla Wild Horses Fund to provide for the management of free-roaming wild horses in and around Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

As I have learned, North Carolina is mostly inhabited by people from Virginia and Maryland—up and down the east coast—in the summer. As a matter of fact, as to the homes in the northern portion of the Outer Banks where the wild horses are found, where there isn't a road, 60 percent of the homes are owned by Virginians, not North Carolinians. These horses have existed there for hundreds of years. As a matter of fact, these horses have been such an important part of North Carolina's history that in 2010 it was made North Carolina's State horse.

People have seen these horses on the beach and between cottages. They have co-existed with the habitat for over 200 years. The turtles, ducks, and wildlife have thrived. The species of that habitat have survived because there is no better protector of the species than these animals. They eat what they need without removing the roots, which is what helps them to repopulate and stay alive.

Here is the problem: This herd has been mandated to be held at 60 horses, and every scientific study on genetics shows you have to have more than 100 or 120 to have genetic sustainability.

What are we proposing? This act proposes that we bring 20 horses from the Shackleford reserve and integrate them with the horses on the Outer Banks, which is a mere 2 hours away. This herd is similar from the standpoint of its creation. By doing this, we will begin to inject genetics into this so we don't have the genetic deformities that are beginning to be experienced with the Corolla horses. If we don't act now, we could lose these horses, and it is all due to genetic inbreeding.

The reason I am embarrassed to be here is that this is something that ought to be done by unanimous consent. Every person in this body should embrace this legislation. Yet the Fish and Wildlife Service is opposed to this. And there is nothing that says that Fish and Wildlife can't build a fence around the wildlife reserve. It existed for hundreds of years in the wildlife reserve before and after it was designated as a wildlife reserve. As a matter of fact, 70 percent of the land on which these horses roam is private. The land for the wildlife refuge is only 30 percent, but 70 percent of the land is privately owned, and the private landowners are all for making this herd genetically sustainable.

If we don't do this legislatively, let me assure you that the Fish and Wildlife Service is going to hold the number at 60. If they hold the herd at 60, the

herd will genetically burn out. I don't know what Fish and Wildlife is going to do. The herd is at 80 today. The herd needs new genetics entered into it to change the trend, but Fish and Wildlife could go out tomorrow and shoot 20 horses. I am sure they would probably tell us that they would take 20 horses and put them somewhere else. Where are they going to put them? Inject them into another genetic herd and increase their sustainability? Maybe so. But if you do it somewhere else, why wouldn't you do the same thing here?

No landowners are clamoring to let this herd die out. As a matter of fact, there are a million and a half people in this country who have expressed support for the sustainability of this herd. But this is where science dictates. Science says that it is not sustainable if you leave this herd without a genetic injection from somewhere else.

This is not a new proposal. It passed in the House twice. It is not a new proposal. Fish and Wildlife has done this in other places. For some reason, they don't want to do it in North Carolina.

The last test for any Member of Congress and anybody in this country should be: What will it cost us to do this? What am I asking you to pay to do this? The answer is zero. There is no Federal cost to this legislation. We can sustain the herd for the future, and it will not cost taxpayers anything. We have a private entity that will take responsibility for the management of the fund.

We don't in any way, shape, or form limit Fish and Wildlife from the standpoint of their ability to fence off whatever they believe is environmentally sensitive. And we have horses that have lived with ducks, geese, and sea turtles for over 200 years and have never seen a problem with it.

The Presiding Officer has been patient. I say to my colleagues: Don't make a mistake. Support this legislation. It is the right thing to do. It doesn't cost the taxpayers money, and it embraces everything that I think America stands for, and that is the preservation of the history of this country. Believe it or not, these horses represent over 200 years of history in North Carolina, and that is why we made it our State horse.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield back my time.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:54 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).



ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2012, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2012) to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Murkowski amendment No. 2953, in the nature of a substitute.

Murkowski (for Cassidy/Markey) amendment No. 2954 (to amendment No. 2953), to provide for certain increases in, and limitations on, the drawdown and sales of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Murkowski amendment No. 2963 (to amendment No. 2953), to modify a provision relating to bulk-power system reliability impact statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3276; 3302, AS MODIFIED; 3055; 3050; 3237; 3308; 3286, AS MODIFIED; 3075; 3168; 3292, AS MODIFIED; 3155; 3270; 3313, AS MODIFIED; 3214; 3266; 3310; 3317; 3265, AS MODIFIED; 3012; 3290; 3004; 3233, AS MODIFIED; 3239; 3221; 3203; 3309, AS MODIFIED; 3229; 3251; AND 2963 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2953

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I call up the following amendments en bloc and ask that they be reported by number and be considered en bloc, along with amendment No. 2963, offered by Senator MURKOWSKI: Cantwell amendment No. 3276; Klobuchar amendment No. 3302, as modified; Flake amendment No. 3055; Flake amendment No. 3050; Hatch amendment No. 3237; Murkowski amendment No. 3308; Heller amendment No. 3286, as modified; Vitter amendment No. 3075; Portman amendment No. 3168; Shaheen amendment No. 3292, as modified; Heinrich amendment No. 3155; Manchin amendment No. 3270; Cantwell amendment No. 3313, as modified; Cantwell amendment No. 3214; Vitter amendment No. 3266; Sullivan amendment No. 3310; Heinrich amendment No. 3317; Vitter amendment No. 3265, as modified; Kaine amendment No. 3012; Alexander amendment No. 3290; Gillibrand amendment No. 3004; Warner amendment No. 3233, as modified; Thune amendment No. 3239; Udall amendment No. 3221; Coons amendment No. 3203; Portman amendment No. 3309, as modified; Flake amendment No. 3229; and Inhofe amendment No. 3251.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Ms. MURKOWSKI], for herself and others, proposes amendments numbered 3276; 3302, as modified; 3055; 3050; 3237; 3308; 3286, as modified; 3075; 3168; 3292, as modified; 3155; 3270; 3313, as modified; 3214; 3266; 3310; 3317; 3265, as modified; 3012; 3290; 3004; 3233, as modified; 3239; 3221; 3203; 3309, as modified; 3229; and 3251 en bloc to amendment No. 2953.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3276

(Purpose: To strike certain provisions relating to technology demonstration on the distribution system, large-scale geothermal energy, and bio-power initiatives) Strike section 2303. Strike section 3009. Strike section 3017.

AMENDMENT NO. 3302, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To modify provisions relating to the energy efficiency materials pilot program)

Beginning on page 37, strike line 16 and all that follows through page 41, line 14 and insert the following:

SEC. 1004. ENERGY EFFICIENCY MATERIALS PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant” means a nonprofit organization that applies for a grant under this section.

(2) ENERGY-EFFICIENCY MATERIALS.— (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “energy-efficiency materials” means a measure (including a product, equipment, or system) that results in a reduction in use by a nonprofit organization for energy or fuel supplied from outside the nonprofit building.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “energy-efficiency materials” includes an item involving—

- (i) a roof or lighting system, or component of a roof or lighting system;
- (ii) a window;
- (iii) a door, including a security door; or
- (iv) a heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system or component of the system (including insulation and wiring and plumbing materials needed to serve a more efficient system); and
- (v) a renewable energy generation or heating system, including a solar, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, or biomass (including wood pellet) system or component of the system.

(3) NONPROFIT BUILDING.— (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “nonprofit building” means a building operated and owned by a nonprofit organization.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “nonprofit building” includes a building described in subparagraph (A) that is—

- (i) a hospital;
- (ii) a youth center;
- (iii) a school;
- (iv) a social-welfare program facility;
- (v) a faith-based organization; and
- (vi) any other nonresidential and non-commercial structure.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to award grants for the purpose of providing nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency materials.

(c) GRANTS.— (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants under the program established under subsection (b).

(2) APPLICATION.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section if an applicant submits to the Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may prescribe.

(3) CRITERIA FOR GRANT.—In determining whether to award a grant under this section, the Secretary shall apply performance-based criteria, which shall give priority to applications based on—

- (A) the energy savings achieved;
- (B) the cost-effectiveness of the use of energy-efficiency materials;

(C) an effective plan for evaluation, measurement, and verification of energy savings; and

(D) the financial need of the applicant.

(4) LIMITATION ON INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under this section shall not exceed \$200,000.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT NO. 3055

(Purpose: To establish a pilot project relating to the Western Area Power Administration)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_ WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PILOT PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall establish a pilot project, as part of the continuous process improvement program and to provide increased transparency for customers, to publish on a publicly available website of the Western Area Power Administration, a searchable database of the following information, beginning with fiscal year 2008, relating to the Western Area Power Administration:

- (1) By power system, rates charged to customers for power and transmission service.
- (2) By power system, the amount of capacity or energy sold.
- (3) By region, a detailed accounting of the allocation of budget authority, including—
  - (A) overhead costs;
  - (B) the number of contractors; and
  - (C) the number of full-time equivalents.
- (4) For the corporate services office, a detailed accounting of the allocation of budget authority, including—
  - (A) overhead costs;
  - (B) the number of contractors;
  - (C) the number of full-time equivalents; and

(D) expenses charged to other Federal agencies or programs for the administration of programs not related to the marketing, transmission, or wheeling of Federal hydro-power resources, including—

- (i) overhead costs;
  - (ii) the number of contractors; and
  - (iii) the number of full-time equivalents.
- (5) Capital expenditures, including—
- (A) capital investments delineated by the year in which each investment is placed into service; and
  - (B) the sources of capital for each investment.

(b) REPORT.—Not less than once each year for the duration of the pilot project under this section, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) describes the annual estimated avoided costs and the savings as a result of the pilot project under this section; and

(2) includes a certification from the Administrator that—

(A) the rates for each power system do not recover costs and expenses recovered by other power systems; and

(B) each expense allocated by the corporate services office to an individual power system is only recovered once.

(c) TERMINATION.—The pilot project under this section shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3050

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Energy to make available certain information about research grants of the Department of Energy.)

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 4405. RESEARCH GRANTS DATABASE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a public database, accessible on the website of the Department, that contains a searchable listing of every unclassified research and development project contract, grant, cooperative agreement, task order for federally funded research and development centers, or other transaction administered by the Department.

(b) **CLASSIFIED PROJECTS.**—Each year, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that lists every classified project of the Department, including all relevant details of the projects.

(c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Each listing described in subsections (a) and (b) shall include, at a minimum, for each listed project, the component carrying out the project, the project name, an abstract or summary of the project, funding levels, project duration, contractor or grantee name, and expected objectives and milestones.

(d) **RELEVANT LITERATURE AND PATENTS.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall provide information through the public database established under subsection (a) on relevant literature and patents that are associated with each research and development project contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, or other transaction, of the Department.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3237

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit recommendations to Congress on incorporating Internet-based lease sales for the sale of Federal oil and gas in certain circumstances)

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 31 . . . REPORT ON INCORPORATING INTERNET-BASED LEASE SALES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report containing recommendations for the incorporation of Internet-based lease sales at the Bureau of Land Management in accordance with section 17(b)(1)(C) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)(C)) in the event of an emergency or other disruption causing a disruption to a sale.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3308

(Purpose: To clarify certain provisions relating to the natural gas pipeline authorized in the Denali National Park and Preserve)

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 31 . . . DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE.**

(a) **PERMIT.**—Section 3(b)(1) of the Denali National Park Improvement Act (Public Law 113-33; 127 Stat. 516) is amended by striking “within, along, or near the approximately 7-mile segment of the George Parks Highway that runs through the Park”.

(b) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—Section 3(c)(1) of the Denali National Park Improvement Act (Public Law 113-33; 127 Stat. 516) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(2) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

(c) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—Section 3 of the Denali National Park Improvement Act (Public Law 113-33; 127 Stat. 515) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—A high pressure gas transmission pipeline (including appurtenances) in a nonwilderness area within the boundary of the Park, shall not be subject to title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3161 et seq.).”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3286, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To promote the development of renewable energy on public land)

On page 244, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

**Subpart B—Development of Geothermal, Solar, and Wind Energy on Public Land****SEC. 3011A. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subpart:

(1) **COVERED LAND.**—The term “covered land” means land that is—

(A) public land administered by the Secretary; and

(B) not excluded from the development of geothermal, solar, or wind energy under—

(i) a land use plan established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

(ii) other Federal law.

(2) **EXCLUSION AREA.**—The term “exclusion area” means covered land that is identified by the Bureau of Land Management as not suitable for development of renewable energy projects.

(3) **PRIORITY AREA.**—The term “priority area” means covered land identified by the land use planning process of the Bureau of Land Management as being a preferred location for a renewable energy project.

(4) **PUBLIC LAND.**—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term “public lands” in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(5) **RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT.**—The term “renewable energy project” means a project carried out on covered land that uses wind, solar, or geothermal energy to generate energy.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) **VARIANCE AREA.**—The term “variance area” means covered land that is—

(A) not an exclusion area; and

(B) not a priority area.

**SEC. 3011B. LAND USE PLANNING; SUPPLEMENTS TO PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.**

(a) **PRIORITY AREAS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish priority areas on covered land for geothermal, solar, and wind energy projects.

(2) **DEADLINE.**—

(A) **GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.**—For geothermal energy, the Secretary shall establish priority areas as soon as practicable, but not later than 5 years, after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) **SOLAR ENERGY.**—For solar energy, the solar energy zones established by the 2012 western solar plan of the Bureau of Land Management shall be considered to be priority areas for solar energy projects.

(C) **WIND ENERGY.**—For wind energy, the Secretary shall establish priority areas as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 years, after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **VARIANCE AREAS.**—To the maximum extent practicable, variance areas shall be considered for renewable energy project develop-

ment, consistent with the principles of multiple use as defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(c) **REVIEW AND MODIFICATION.**—Not less frequently than once every 10 years, the Secretary shall—

(1) review the adequacy of land allocations for geothermal, solar, and wind energy priority and variance areas for the purpose of encouraging new renewable energy development opportunities; and

(2) based on the review carried out under paragraph (1), add, modify, or eliminate priority, variance, and exclusion areas.

(d) **COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.**—For purposes of this section, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be accomplished—

(1) for geothermal energy, by supplementing the October 2008 final programmatic environmental impact statement for geothermal leasing in the western United States;

(2) for solar energy, by supplementing the July 2012 final programmatic environmental impact statement for solar energy projects; and

(3) for wind energy, by supplementing the July 2005 final programmatic environmental impact statement for wind energy projects.

(e) **NO EFFECT ON PROCESSING APPLICATIONS.**—A requirement to prepare a supplement to a programmatic environmental impact statement under this section shall not result in any delay in processing an application for a renewable energy project.

(f) **COORDINATION.**—In developing a supplement required by this section, the Secretary shall coordinate, on an ongoing basis, with appropriate State, tribal, and local governments, transmission infrastructure owners and operators, developers, and other appropriate entities to ensure that priority areas identified by the Secretary are—

(1) economically viable (including having access to transmission);

(2) likely to avoid or minimize conflict with habitat for animals and plants, recreation, and other uses of covered land; and

(3) consistent with section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), including subsection (c)(9) of that section.

(g) **REMOVAL FROM CLASSIFICATION.**—In carrying out subsections (a), (c), and (d), if the Secretary determines an area previously suited for development should be removed from priority or variance classification, not later than 90 days after the date of the determination, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the determination.

**SEC. 3011C. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW ON COVERED LAND.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary determines that a proposed renewable energy project has been sufficiently analyzed by a programmatic environmental impact statement conducted under section 3011B(d), the Secretary shall not require any additional review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(b) **ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**—If the Secretary determines that additional environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) is necessary for a proposed renewable energy project, the Secretary shall rely on the analysis in the programmatic environmental impact statement conducted under section 3011B(d), to the maximum extent practicable when analyzing the potential impacts of the project.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—Nothing in this section modifies or supersedes any requirement under applicable law, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

**SEC. 3011D. PROGRAM TO IMPROVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT PERMIT COORDINATION.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program to improve Federal permit coordination with respect to renewable energy projects on covered land.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for purposes of this section, including to specifically expedite the environmental analysis of applications for projects proposed in a variance area, with—

- (A) the Secretary of Agriculture; and
- (B) the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

(2) STATE PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may request the Governor of any interested State to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1).

(c) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the memorandum of understanding under subsection (b) is executed, all Federal signatories, as appropriate, shall identify for each of the Bureau of Land Management Renewable Energy Coordination Offices an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) consultation regarding, and preparation of, biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a);

(E) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(F) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.); and

(G) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) DUTIES.—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be responsible for addressing all issues relating to the jurisdiction of the home office or agency of the employee; and

(B) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, monitoring, inspection, enforcement, and environmental analyses.

(d) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Secretary may assign additional personnel for the renewable energy coordination offices as are necessary to ensure the effective implementation of any programs administered by those offices, including inspection and enforcement relating to renewable energy project development on covered land, in accordance with the multiple use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(e) RENEWABLE ENERGY COORDINATION OFFICES.—In implementing the program established under this section, the Secretary may establish additional renewable energy coordination offices or temporarily assign the qualified staff described in subsection (c) to a State, district, or field office of the Bureau

of Land Management to expedite the permitting of renewable energy projects, as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and each February 1 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the progress made pursuant to the program under this subpart during the preceding year.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Each report under this subsection shall include—

(A) projections for renewable energy production and capacity installations; and

(B) a description of any problems relating to leasing, permitting, siting, or production.

**SEC. 3011E. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

Nothing in this subpart establishes—

(1) a priority or preference for the development of renewable energy projects on public land over other energy-related or mineral projects or other uses of public land; or

(2) an exception to the requirement that public land be managed consistent with the principle of multiple use (as defined in section of section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

On page 244, line 14, strike “**Subpart B**” and insert “**Subpart C**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3075

(Purpose: To require the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to review the economic impact of a rule on small entities)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ REVIEW OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BSEE RULE ON SMALL ENTITIES.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “BSEE” means the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement;

(2) the term “Chief Counsel” means the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration;

(3) the term “covered proposed rule” means the proposed rule of the BSEE entitled “Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control” (80 Fed. Reg. 21504 (April 17, 2015)); and

(4) the term “small entity” has the meaning given the term in section 601 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the BSEE issues a final rule for the covered proposed rule, then not later than 1 year after the effective date of the final rule the BSEE, in consultation with the Chief Counsel, shall complete a review of the final rule under section 610 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC IMPACT.—In conducting the review required under paragraph (1), the BSEE, in consultation with the Chief Counsel, shall assess the economic impact of the final rule on small entities in the oil and gas supply chain.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the review is completed under this subsection, the BSEE, in consultation with the Chief Counsel, shall submit to Congress a report on the findings of the review.

AMENDMENT NO. 3168

(Purpose: To exclude power supply circuits, drivers, and devices designed to be connected to, and power, light-emitting diodes or organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination or ceiling fans using direct current motors from energy conservation standards for external power supplies)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ APPLICATION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS TO CERTAIN EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLIES.**

(a) DEFINITION OF EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY.—Section 321(36)(A) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(36)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking the subparagraph designation and all that follows through “The term” and inserting the following:

“(A) EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘external power supply’ does not include a power supply circuit, driver, or device that is designed exclusively to be connected to, and power—

“(I) light-emitting diodes providing illumination;

“(II) organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination; or

“(III) ceiling fans using direct current motors.”.

(b) STANDARDS FOR LIGHTING POWER SUPPLY CIRCUITS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Section 340(2)(B) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6311(2)(B)) is amended by striking clause (v) and inserting the following:

“(v) electric lights and lighting power supply circuits;”.

(2) ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD FOR CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.—Section 342 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) LIGHTING POWER SUPPLY CIRCUITS.—If the Secretary, acting pursuant to section 341(b), includes as a covered equipment solid state lighting power supply circuits, drivers, or devices described in section 321(36)(A)(ii), the Secretary may prescribe under this part, not earlier than 1 year after the date on which a test procedure has been prescribed, an energy conservation standard for such equipment.”.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) Section 321(6)(B) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(6)(B)) is amended by striking “(19)” and inserting “(20)”.

(2) Section 324 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294) is amended by striking “(19)” each place it appears in each of subsections (a)(3), (b)(1)(B), (b)(3), and (b)(5) and inserting “(20)”.

(3) Section 325(1) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(1)) is amended by striking “paragraph (19)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph (20)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3292, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To reduce barriers to combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems)

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

**SEC. 23 \_\_\_\_ MODEL GUIDANCE FOR COMBINED HEAT AND POWER SYSTEMS AND WASTE HEAT TO POWER SYSTEMS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADDITIONAL SERVICES.—The term “additional services” means the provision of supplementary power, backup or standby power,

maintenance power, or interruptible power to an electric consumer by an electric utility.

(2) WASTE HEAT TO POWER SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “waste heat to power system” means a system that generates electricity through the recovery of waste energy.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “waste heat to power system” does not include a system that generates electricity through the recovery of a heat resource from a process the primary purpose of which is the generation of electricity using a fossil fuel.

(3) OTHER TERMS.—

(A) PURPA.—The terms “electric consumer”, “electric utility”, “interconnection service”, “nonregulated electric utility”, and “State regulatory authority” have the meanings given those terms in the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), within the meaning of title I of that Act (16 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.).

(B) EPCA.—The terms “combined heat and power system” and “waste energy” have the meanings given those terms in section 371 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6341).

(b) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other appropriate entities, shall review existing rules and procedures relating to interconnection service and additional services throughout the United States for electric generation with nameplate capacity up to 20 megawatts to identify barriers to the deployment of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.

(2) INCLUSION.—The review under this subsection shall include a review of existing rules and procedures relating to—

(A) determining and assigning costs of interconnection service and additional services; and

(B) ensuring adequate cost recovery by an electric utility for interconnection service and additional services.

(c) MODEL GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other appropriate entities, shall issue model guidance for interconnection service and additional services for use by State regulatory authorities and nonregulated electric utilities to reduce the barriers identified under subsection (b)(1).

(2) CURRENT BEST PRACTICES.—The model guidance issued under this subsection shall reflect, to the maximum extent practicable, current best practices to encourage the deployment of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems while ensuring the safety and reliability of the interconnected units and the distribution and transmission networks to which the units connect, including—

(A) relevant current standards developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers; and

(B) model codes and rules adopted by—

(i) States; or

(ii) associations of State regulatory agencies.

(3) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In establishing the model guidance under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

(A) the appropriateness of using standards or procedures for interconnection service

that vary based on unit size, fuel type, or other relevant characteristics;

(B) the appropriateness of establishing fast-track procedures for interconnection service;

(C) the value of consistency with Federal interconnection rules established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(D) the best practices used to model outage assumptions and contingencies to determine fees or rates for additional services;

(E) the appropriate duration, magnitude, or usage of demand charge ratchets;

(F) potential alternative arrangements with respect to the procurement of additional services, including—

(i) contracts tailored to individual electric consumers for additional services;

(ii) procurement of additional services by an electric utility from a competitive market; and

(iii) waivers of fees or rates for additional services for small electric consumers; and

(G) outcomes such as increased electric reliability, fuel diversification, enhanced power quality, and reduced electric losses that may result from increased use of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.

AMENDMENT NO. 3155

(Purpose: To ensure that minority serving-institutions are considered in developing a strategy for the support and development of a skilled energy workforce, and to ensure the Secretary of Energy shall provide direct assistance in carrying out the energy workforce pilot grant program)

On page 320, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(f) OUTREACH TO MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—In developing the strategy under subsection (a), the Board shall—

(1) give special consideration to increasing outreach to minority-serving institutions (including historically black colleges and universities, predominantly black institutions, Hispanic serving institutions, and tribal institutions);

(2) make resources available to minority-serving institutions with the objective of increasing the number of skilled minorities and women trained to go into the energy and manufacturing sectors; and

(3) encourage industry to improve the opportunities for students of minority-serving institutions to participate in industry internships and cooperative work-study programs.

On page 320, line 3, strike “(f)” and insert “(g)”.

On page 324, strike line 9 and insert the following:

(j) DIRECT ASSISTANCE.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall provide direct assistance (including technical expertise, wraparound services, career coaching, mentorships, internships, and partnerships) to entities that receive a grant under this section.

(k) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall

On page 324, line 14, strike “(k)” and insert “(l)”.

On page 325, line 3, strike “(l)” and insert “(m)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3270

(Purpose: To modify provisions relating to the coal technology program)

Beginning on page 304, strike line 11 and all that follows through page 311, line 7, and insert the following:

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (as

amended by subsection (a)) is amended by inserting after section 961 (42 U.S.C. 16291) the following:

“SEC. 962. COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) LARGE-SCALE PILOT PROJECT.—The term ‘large-scale pilot project’ means a pilot project that—

“(A) represents the scale of technology development beyond laboratory development and bench scale testing, but not yet advanced to the point of being tested under real operational conditions at commercial scale;

“(B) represents the scale of technology necessary to gain the operational data needed to understand the technical and performance risks of the technology before the application of that technology at commercial scale or in commercial-scale demonstration; and

“(C) is large enough—

“(i) to validate scaling factors; and

“(ii) to demonstrate the interaction between major components so that control philosophies for a new process can be developed and enable the technology to advance from large-scale pilot plant application to commercial-scale demonstration or application.

“(2) NET-NEGATIVE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS PROJECT.—The term ‘net-negative carbon dioxide emissions project’ means a project—

“(A) that employs a technology for thermochemical coconversion of coal and biomass fuels that—

“(i) uses a carbon capture system; and

“(ii) with carbon dioxide removal, can provide electricity, fuels, or chemicals with net-negative carbon dioxide emissions from production and consumption of the end products, while removing atmospheric carbon dioxide;

“(B) that will proceed initially through a large-scale pilot project for which front-end engineering will be performed for bituminous, subbituminous, and lignite coals; and

“(C) through which each use of coal will be combined with the use of a regionally indigenous form of biomass energy, provided on a renewable basis, that is sufficient in quantity to allow for net-negative emissions of carbon dioxide (in combination with a carbon capture system), while avoiding impacts on food production activities.

“(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means the program established under subsection (b)(1).

“(4) TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘transformational technology’ means a power generation technology that represents an entirely new way to convert energy that will enable a step change in performance, efficiency, and cost of electricity as compared to the technology in existence on the date of enactment of this section.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘transformational technology’ includes a broad range of technology improvements, including—

“(i) thermodynamic improvements in energy conversion and heat transfer, including—

“(I) oxygen combustion;

“(II) chemical looping; and

“(III) the replacement of steam cycles with supercritical carbon dioxide cycles;

“(ii) improvements in turbine technology;

“(iii) improvements in carbon capture systems technology; and

“(iv) any other technology the Secretary recognizes as transformational technology.

“(b) COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a coal technology program to ensure the continued use of the abundant, domestic coal resources of the United States through the development of technologies that will significantly improve the efficiency, effectiveness, costs, and environmental performance of coal use.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The program shall include—

- “(A) a research and development program;
- “(B) large-scale pilot projects;
- “(C) demonstration projects; and
- “(D) net-negative carbon dioxide emissions projects.

“(3) PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.—In consultation with the interested entities described in paragraph (4)(C), the Secretary shall develop goals and objectives for the program to be applied to the technologies developed within the program, taking into consideration the following objectives:

- “(A) Ensure reliable, low-cost power from new and existing coal plants.
- “(B) Achieve high conversion efficiencies.
- “(C) Address emissions of carbon dioxide through high-efficiency platforms and carbon capture from new and existing coal plants.
- “(D) Support small-scale and modular technologies to enable incremental capacity additions and load growth and large-scale generation technologies.

“(E) Support flexible baseload operations for new and existing applications of coal generation.

“(F) Further reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and reduce the use and manage the discharge of water in power plant operations.

“(G) Accelerate the development of technologies that have transformational energy conversion characteristics.

“(H) Validate geological storage of large volumes of anthropogenic sources of carbon dioxide and support the development of the infrastructure needed to support a carbon dioxide use and storage industry.

“(I) Examine methods of converting coal to other valuable products and commodities in addition to electricity.

“(4) CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

- “(A) undertake international collaborations, as recommended by the National Coal Council;
- “(B) use existing authorities to encourage international cooperation; and
- “(C) consult with interested entities, including—
  - “(i) coal producers;
  - “(ii) industries that use coal;
  - “(iii) organizations that promote coal and advanced coal technologies;
  - “(iv) environmental organizations;
  - “(v) organizations representing workers; and
  - “(vi) organizations representing consumers.

“(c) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the performance standards adopted under subsection (b)(3).

“(2) UPDATE.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years after the initial report is submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the progress made towards achieving the objectives and performance standards adopted under subsection (b)(3).

“(d) FUNDING.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section, to remain available until expended—

“(A) for activities under the research and development program component described in subsection (b)(2)(A)—

“(i) \$275,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020; and

“(ii) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(B) for activities under the demonstration projects program component described in subsection (b)(2)(C)—

“(i) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020; and

“(ii) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(C) subject to paragraph (2), for activities under the large-scale pilot projects program component described in subsection (b)(2)(B), \$285,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021; and

“(D) for activities under the net-negative carbon dioxide emissions projects program component described in subsection (b)(2)(D), \$22,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(2) COST SHARING FOR LARGE-SCALE PILOT PROJECTS.—Activities under subsection (b)(2)(B) shall be subject to the cost-sharing requirements of section 988(b).”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3313, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate on accelerating energy innovation)

At the end of subtitle C of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 42. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON ACCELERATING ENERGY INNOVATION.**

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) although important progress has been made in cost reduction and deployment of clean energy technologies, accelerating clean energy innovation will help meet critical competitiveness, energy security, and environmental goals;

(2) accelerating the pace of clean energy innovation in the United States calls for—

(A) supporting existing research and development programs at the Department and the world-class National Laboratories (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801));

(B) exploring and developing new pathways for innovators, investors, and decision-makers to leverage the resources of the Department for addressing the challenges and comparative strengths of geographic regions; and

(C) recognizing the financial constraints of the Department, regularly reviewing clean energy programs to ensure that taxpayer investments are maximized;

(3) the energy supply, demand, policies, markets, and resource options of the United States vary by geographic region;

(4) a regional approach to innovation can bridge the gaps between local talent, institutions, and industries to identify opportunities and convert United States investment into domestic companies; and

(5) Congress, the Secretary, and energy industry participants should advance efforts that promote international, domestic, and regional cooperation on the research and development of energy innovations that—

(A) provide clean, affordable, and reliable energy for everyone;

(B) promote economic growth;

(C) are critical for energy security; and

(D) are sustainable without government support.

AMENDMENT NO. 3214

(Purpose: To provide for improved energy emergency response efforts of the Department of Energy)

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 44. ENERGY EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

(a) CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.—Section 102 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7112) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(20) To facilitate the development and implementation of a strategy for responding to energy infrastructure and supply emergencies through—

“(A) continuously monitoring and publishing information on the energy delivery and supply infrastructure of the United States, including electricity, liquid fuels, natural gas, and coal;

“(B) managing Federal strategic energy reserves;

“(C) advising national leadership during emergencies on ways to respond to and minimize energy disruptions; and

“(D) working with Federal agencies and State and local governments—

“(i) to enhance energy emergency preparedness; and

“(ii) to respond to and mitigate energy emergencies.”.

(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND ENERGY.—Section 202(b)(4) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7132(b)(4)) (as amended by section 4404(a)(3)) is amended, in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and applied energy” before “programs of the”.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—Section 203(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7133(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12) Emergency response functions, including assistance in the prevention of, or in the response to, an emergency disruption of energy supply, transmission, and distribution.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3266

(Purpose: To require the Comptroller General of the United States to prepare a report relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement relating to the legal procurement of privately owned helicopter fuel, without agreement, from lessees, permit holders, operators of federally leased offshore facilities, or independent third parties)

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 44. GAO REPORT ON BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF HELICOPTER FUEL.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that defines the statutory and regulatory authority of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement with respect to legally procuring privately owned helicopter fuel, without agreement, from lessees, permit holders, operators of federally leased offshore facilities, or independent third parties not under contract with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement or an agent of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3310

(Purpose: To provide for the correction of a survey of certain land in the State of Alaska)

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 44** . CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND WITHIN THE SWAN LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT BOUNDARY.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall—

(1) survey the exterior boundaries of the tract of Federal land within the project boundary of the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2911) as generally depicted and labeled “Lost Creek” on the map entitled “Swan Lake Project Boundary—Lot 2” and dated February 1, 2016; and

(2) issue a patent to the State of Alaska for the tract described in paragraph (1) in accordance with—

(A) the survey authorized under paragraph (1);

(B) section 6(a) of the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85-508); and

(C) section 24 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 818).

## AMENDMENT NO. 3317

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Energy to ensure that the costs of general and administrative overhead are not allocated to laboratory directed research and development)

At the end of subtitle C of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 42** . RESTORATION OF LABORATORY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall ensure that laboratory operating contractors do not allocate costs of general and administrative overhead to laboratory directed research and development.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3265, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To provide additional priorities for an energy workforce pilot grant program)

In section 3602(d)(9), strike “or” at the end.

In section 3602(d)(10), strike the period and insert a semicolon.

In section 3602(d), insert at the end the following:

(11) establish a community college or 2-year technical college-based “Center of Excellence” for an energy and maritime workforce technical training program; or

(12) are located in close proximity to marine or port facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, or Great Lakes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3012

(Purpose: To remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia)

At the end, add the following:

**TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEC. 6001. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.**

Public Law 101-479 (104 Stat. 1158) is amended—

(1) by striking section 2(d); and

(2) by adding the following new section at the end:

**“SEC. 4. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.**

“(a) The approximately 1-acre portion of the land referred to in section 3 that is used for purposes of a child care center, as authorized by this Act, shall not be subject to the use restriction imposed in the deed referred to in section 3.

“(b) Upon enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall execute an instrument to carry out subsection (a).”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3290

(Purpose: To add a provision relating to secondary use applications of electric vehicle batteries)

At the end of section 1306, add the following:

(h) **SECONDARY USE APPLICATIONS.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary shall carry out a research, development, and demonstration program that—

(A) builds on any work carried out under section 915 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16195);

(B) identifies possible uses of a vehicle battery after the useful life of the battery in a vehicle has been exhausted;

(C) conducts long-term testing to verify performance and degradation predictions and lifetime valuations for secondary uses;

(D) evaluates innovative approaches to recycling materials from plug-in electric drive vehicles and the batteries used in plug-in electric drive vehicles;

(E)(i) assesses the potential for markets for uses described in subparagraph (B) to develop; and

(ii) identifies any barriers to the development of those markets; and

(F) identifies the potential uses of a vehicle battery—

(i) with the most promise for market development; and

(ii) for which market development would be aided by a demonstration project.

(2) **REPORT.—**Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an initial report on the findings of the program described in paragraph (1), including recommendations for stationary energy storage and other potential applications for batteries used in plug-in electric drive vehicles.

(3) **SECONDARY USE DEMONSTRATION.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.—**Based on the results of the program described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop guidelines for projects that demonstrate the secondary uses and innovative recycling of vehicle batteries.

(B) **PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES.—**Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(i) publish the guidelines described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) solicit applications for funding for demonstration projects.

(C) **PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—**Not later than 21 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall select proposals for grant funding under this section, based on an assessment of which proposals are mostly likely to contribute to the development of a secondary market for batteries.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3004

(Purpose: To allow the use of Federal disaster relief and emergency assistance for energy-efficient products and structures)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . . . USE OF FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.—**Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 327. USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.**

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.—**In this section—

“(1) the term ‘energy-efficient product’ means a product that—

“(A) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation under an Energy Star program established under section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a); or

“(B) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation as being among the highest 25 percent of equivalent products for energy efficiency under the Federal Energy Management Program; and

“(2) the term ‘energy-efficient structure’ means a residential structure, a public facility, or a private nonprofit facility that meets or exceeds the requirements of Standard 90.1-2013 of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers or the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code, or any successor thereto.

“(b) **USE OF ASSISTANCE.—**A recipient of assistance relating to a major disaster or emergency may use the assistance to replace or repair a damaged product or structure with an energy-efficient product or energy-efficient structure.”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.—**The amendment made by this section shall apply to assistance made available under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act that is expended on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3233, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land)

At the end, add the following:

**TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEC. 6001. INTERAGENCY TRANSFER OF LAND ALONG GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

(1) **MAP.—**The term “Map” means the map entitled “George Washington Memorial Parkway—Claude Moore Farm Proposed Boundary Adjustment”, numbered 850\_130815, and dated February 2016.

(2) **RESEARCH CENTER.—**The term “Research Center” means the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center of the Federal Highway Administration.

(3) **SECRETARY.—**The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TRANSFER.—**

(1) **TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—**

(A) **GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY LAND.—**Administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 0.342 acres of Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary within the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, as generally depicted as “B” on the Map, is transferred from the Secretary to the Secretary of Transportation.

(B) **RESEARCH CENTER LAND.—**Administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 0.479 acres of Federal land within the boundary of the Research Center land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Transportation adjacent to the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, as generally depicted as “A” on the Map, is transferred from the Secretary of Transportation to the Secretary.

(2) **USE RESTRICTION.—**The Secretary shall restrict the use of 0.139 acres of Federal land

within the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway immediately adjacent to part of the perimeter fence of the Research Center, generally depicted as “C” on the Map, by prohibiting the storage, construction, or installation of any item that may interfere with the access of the Research Center to the restricted land for security and maintenance purposes.

(3) REIMBURSEMENT OR CONSIDERATION.—The transfers of administrative jurisdiction under this subsection shall not be subject to reimbursement or consideration.

(4) COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENT.—

(A) AGREEMENT.—The National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration shall comply with all terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by the parties on September 11, 2002, regarding the transfer of administrative jurisdiction, management, and maintenance of the land described in the agreement.

(B) ACCESS TO RESTRICTED LAND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the terms of the agreement described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall allow the Research Center—

(I) to access the Federal land described in paragraph (1)(B) for purposes of transportation to and from the Research Center; and

(II) to access the Federal land described in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) for purposes of maintenance in accordance with National Park Service standards, including grass mowing, weed control, tree maintenance, fence maintenance, and maintenance of the visual appearance of the Federal land.

(c) MANAGEMENT OF TRANSFERRED LAND.—

(1) INTERIOR LAND.—The Federal land transferred to the Secretary under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall be—

(A) included in the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway; and

(B) administered by the Secretary as part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, subject to applicable laws (including regulations).

(2) TRANSPORTATION LAND.—The Federal land transferred to the Secretary of Transportation under subsection (b)(1)(A) shall be—

(A) included in the boundary of the Research Center land; and

(B) removed from the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

(3) RESTRICTED-USE LAND.—The Federal land that the Secretary has designated for restricted use under subsection (b)(2) shall be maintained by the Research Center.

(d) MAP ON FILE.—The Map shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 3239

(Purpose: To establish a subcommittee to coordinate and facilitate United States leadership in high-energy physics)

At the end of subtitle C of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 42. NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL COORDINATING SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Science and Technology Council shall establish a subcommittee to coordinate Federal efforts relating to high-energy physics research (referred to in this section as the “subcommittee”).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the subcommittee are—

(1) to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in high-energy physics; and

(2) to support a robust, internationally competitive United States high-energy physics program that includes—

(A) underground science and engineering research; and

(B) physical infrastructure.

(c) CO-CHAIRS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation and the Secretary shall serve as co-chairs of the subcommittee.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the subcommittee shall be—

(1) to provide recommendations on planning for construction and stewardship of large facilities participating in high-energy physics;

(2) to provide recommendations on research coordination and collaboration among the programs and activities of Federal agencies;

(3) to establish goals and priorities for high-energy physics, underground science, and research and development that will strengthen United States competitiveness in high-energy physics;

(4) to propose methods for engagement with international, Federal, and State agencies and Federal laboratories not represented on the subcommittee to identify and reduce regulatory, logistical, and fiscal barriers that inhibit United States leadership in high-energy physics and related underground science; and

(5) to develop, and update once every 5 years, a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and activities in support of high-energy physics research.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Annually, the subcommittee shall update Congress regarding—

(1) efforts taken in support of the strategic plan described in subsection (d)(5);

(2) an evaluation of the needs for maintaining United States leadership in high-energy physics; and

(3) identification of priorities in the area of high-energy physics.

(f) SUNSET.—The subcommittee shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 3221

(Purpose: To establish a voluntary WaterSense program within the Environmental Protection Agency)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . . . WATERSENSE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding after section 324A (42 U.S.C. 6294a) the following:

**“SEC. 324B. WATERSENSE.**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF WATERSENSE PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Environmental Protection Agency a voluntary WaterSense program to identify and promote water-efficient products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services that, through voluntary labeling of, or other forms of communications regarding, products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services while meeting strict performance criteria, sensibly—

“(A) reduce water use;

“(B) reduce the strain on public and community water systems and wastewater and stormwater infrastructure;

“(C) conserve energy used to pump, heat, transport, and treat water; and

“(D) preserve water resources for future generations.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the ‘Administrator’)

shall, consistent with this section, identify water-efficient products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services, including categories such as—

“(A) irrigation technologies and services;

“(B) point-of-use water treatment devices;

“(C) plumbing products;

“(D) reuse and recycling technologies;

“(E) landscaping and gardening products, including moisture control or water enhancing technologies;

“(F) xeriscaping and other landscape conversions that reduce water use;

“(G) whole house humidifiers; and

“(H) water-efficient buildings or facilities.

“(b) DUTIES.—The Administrator, coordinating as appropriate with the Secretary, shall—

“(1) establish—

“(A) a WaterSense label to be used for items meeting the certification criteria established in accordance with this section; and

“(B) the procedure, including the methods and means, and criteria by which an item may be certified to display the WaterSense label;

“(2) enhance public awareness regarding the WaterSense label through outreach, education, and other means;

“(3) preserve the integrity of the WaterSense label by—

“(A) establishing and maintaining feasible performance criteria so that products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services labeled with the WaterSense label perform as well or better than less water-efficient counterparts;

“(B) overseeing WaterSense certifications made by third parties;

“(C) as determined appropriate by the Administrator, using testing protocols, from the appropriate, applicable, and relevant consensus standards, for the purpose of determining standards compliance; and

“(D) auditing the use of the WaterSense label in the marketplace and preventing cases of misuse; and

“(4) not more often than 6 years after adoption or major revision of any WaterSense specification, review and, if appropriate, revise the specification to achieve additional water savings;

“(5) in revising a WaterSense specification—

“(A) provide reasonable notice to interested parties and the public of any changes, including effective dates, and an explanation of the changes;

“(B) solicit comments from interested parties and the public prior to any changes;

“(C) as appropriate, respond to comments submitted by interested parties and the public; and

“(D) provide an appropriate transition time prior to the applicable effective date of any changes, taking into account the timing necessary for the manufacture, marketing, training, and distribution of the specific water-efficient product, building, landscape, process, or service category being addressed; and

“(6) not later than December 31, 2018, consider for review and revision any WaterSense specification adopted before January 1, 2012.

“(c) TRANSPARENCY.—The Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable and not less than annually, regularly estimate and make available to the public the production and relative market shares and savings of water, energy, and capital costs of water, wastewater, and stormwater attributable to the use of WaterSense-labeled products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services.

“(d) DISTINCTION OF AUTHORITIES.—In setting or maintaining specifications for Energy Star pursuant to section 324A, and WaterSense under this section, the Secretary and Administrator shall coordinate to prevent duplicative or conflicting requirements among the respective programs.

“(e) NO WARRANTY.—A WaterSense label shall not create an express or implied warranty.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. prec. 6201) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 324A the following:

“Sec. 324B. WaterSense.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3203

(Purpose: To provide for a study of waivers of certain cost-sharing requirements of the Department of Energy)

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 44. STUDY OF WAIVERS OF CERTAIN COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete a study on the ability of, and any actions before the date of enactment of this Act by, the Secretary to waive the cost-sharing requirement under section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352); and

(2) based on the results of the study under paragraph (1), make recommendations to Congress for the issuance of, and factors that should be considered with respect to, waivers of the cost-sharing requirement by the Secretary.

AMENDMENT NO. 3309, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To provide for activities relating to the centennial of the National Park System)

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 44. NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL.**

(a) NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 104909. National Park Centennial Challenge Fund**

“(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish a fund in the Treasury—

“(1) to finance signature projects and programs to enhance the National Park System as the centennial of the National Park System approaches in 2016; and

“(2) to prepare the System for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CHALLENGE FUND.—The term ‘Challenge Fund’ means the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund established by subsection (c)(1).

“(2) QUALIFIED DONATION.—The term ‘qualified donation’ means a cash donation or the pledge of a cash donation guaranteed by an irrevocable letter of credit to the Service that the Secretary certifies is to be used for a signature project or program.

“(3) SIGNATURE PROJECT OR PROGRAM.—The term ‘signature project or program’ means any project or program identified by the Secretary as a project or program that would further the purposes of the System or any System unit.

“(c) NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund,

to be known as the ‘National Park Centennial Challenge Fund’.

“(2) DEPOSITS.—The Challenge Fund shall consist of—

“(A) qualified donations that are transferred from the Service donation account, in accordance with subsection (e)(1); and

“(B) not more than \$17,500,000, to be appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury, in accordance with subsection (e)(2).

“(3) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts in the Challenge Fund shall—

“(A) be available to the Secretary for signature projects and programs under this title, without further appropriation; and

“(B) remain available until expended.

“(d) SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF LIST.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall develop a list of signature projects and programs eligible for funding from the Challenge Fund.

“(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives the list developed under paragraph (1).

“(3) UPDATES.—Subject to the notice requirements under paragraph (2), the Secretary may add any signature project or program to the list developed under paragraph (1).

“(e) DONATIONS AND MATCHING FEDERAL FUNDS.—

“(1) QUALIFIED DONATIONS.—The Secretary may transfer any qualified donations to the Challenge Fund.

“(2) MATCHING AMOUNT.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Challenge Fund for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2020 an amount equal to the amount of qualified donations received for the fiscal year.

“(3) SOLICITATION.—Nothing in this section expands any authority of the Secretary, the Service, or any employee of the Service to receive or solicit donations.

“(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall provide with the submission of the budget of the President to Congress for each fiscal year a report on the status and funding of the signature projects and programs.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections affected for title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(b)), is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104908 the following:

“§104909. National Park Centennial Challenge Fund.”.

(b) SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 101121. Second Century Endowment for the National Park System**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Park Foundation shall establish an endowment, to be known as the ‘Second Century Endowment for the National Park System’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Endowment’).

“(b) CAMPAIGN.—To further the mission of the Service, the National Park Foundation may undertake a campaign to fund the Endowment through gifts, devises, or bequests, in accordance with section 101113.

“(c) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—On request of the Secretary, the National Park Foundation shall expend proceeds from the Endowment in accordance with projects and programs in furtherance of the mission of the Service, as identified by the Secretary.

“(2) MANAGEMENT.—The National Park Foundation shall manage the Endowment in a manner that ensures that annual expenditures as a percentage of the principal are consistent with Internal Revenue Service guidelines for endowments maintained for charitable purposes.

“(d) INVESTMENTS.—The National Park Foundation shall—

“(1) maintain the Endowment in an interest-bearing account; and

“(2) invest Endowment proceeds with the purpose of supporting and enriching the System in perpetuity.

“(e) REPORT.—Each year, the National Park Foundation shall make publicly available information on the amounts deposited into, and expended from, the Endowment.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections affected for title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 101120 the following:

“§101121. Second Century Endowment for the National Park System.”.

(c) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)(1)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 104910. Intellectual property**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SERVICE EMBLEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Service emblem’ means any word, phrase, insignia, logo, logotype, trademark, service mark, symbol, design, graphic, image, color, badge, uniform, or any combination of emblems used to identify the Service or a component of the System.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘Service emblem’ includes—

“(i) the Service name;

“(ii) an official System unit name;

“(iii) any other name used to identify a Service component or program; and

“(iv) the Arrowhead symbol.

“(2) SERVICE UNIFORM.—The term ‘Service uniform’ means any combination of apparel, accessories, or emblems, any distinctive clothing or other items of dress, or a representation of dress—

“(A) that is worn during the performance of official duties; and

“(B) that identifies the wearer as a Service employee.

“(b) PROHIBITED ACTS.—No person shall, without the written permission of the Secretary—

“(1) use any Service emblem or uniform, or any word, term, name, symbol or device or any combination of emblems to suggest any colorable likeness of the Service emblem or Service uniform in connection with goods or services in commerce if the use is likely to cause confusion, or to deceive the public into believing that the emblem or uniform is from or connected with the Service;

“(2) use any Service emblem or Service uniform or any word, term, name, symbol, device, or any combination of emblems or uniforms to suggest any likeness of the Service emblem or Service uniform in connection with goods or services in commerce in a manner reasonably calculated to convey the impression to the public that the goods or services are approved, endorsed, or authorized by the Service;

“(3) use in commerce any word, term, name, symbol, device or any combination of words, terms, names, symbols, or devices to suggest any likeness of the Service emblem or Service uniform in a manner that is reasonably calculated to convey the impression



that the wearer of the item of apparel is acting pursuant to the legal authority of the Service; or

“(4) knowingly make any false statement for the purpose of obtaining permission to use any Service emblem or Service uniform.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections affected for title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104908 (as added by subsection (a)(2)) the following:

“§104910. Intellectual property.”.

(d) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Division A of subtitle I of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 1007 the following:

**“CHAPTER 1008—EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

**“CHAPTER 1008—EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

“Sec.

“100801. Definitions.

“100802. Interpretation and education authority.

“100803. Interpretation and education evaluation and quality improvement.

“100804. Improved utilization of partners and volunteers in interpretation and education.

**“§ 100801. Definitions**

“In this chapter:

“(1) EDUCATION.—The term ‘education’ means enhancing public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the resources of the System through learner-centered, place-based materials, programs, and activities that achieve specific learning objectives as identified in a curriculum.

“(2) INTERPRETATION.—The term ‘interpretation’ means—

“(A) providing opportunities for people to form intellectual and emotional connections to gain awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the resources of the System; and

“(B) the professional career field of Service employees, volunteers, and partners who interpret the resources of the System.

“(3) RELATED AREA.—The term ‘related area’ means—

“(A) a component of the National Trails System;

“(B) a National Heritage Area; and

“(C) an affiliated area administered in connection with the System.

**“§ 100802. Interpretation and education authority**

“The Secretary shall ensure that management of System units and related areas is enhanced by the availability and utilization of a broad program of the highest quality interpretation and education.

**“§ 100803. Interpretation and education evaluation and quality improvement**

“The Secretary may undertake a program of regular evaluation of interpretation and education programs to ensure that the programs—

“(1) adjust to the ways in which people learn and engage with the natural world and shared heritage as embodied in the System;

“(2) reflect different cultural backgrounds, ages, education, gender, abilities, ethnicity, and needs;

“(3) demonstrate innovative approaches to management and appropriately incorporate emerging learning and communications technology; and

“(4) reflect current scientific and academic research, content, methods, and audience analysis.

**“§ 100804. Improved utilization of partners and volunteers in interpretation and education**

“The Secretary may—

“(1) coordinate with System unit partners and volunteers in the delivery of quality programs and services to supplement the programs and services provided by the Service as part of a Long-Range Interpretive Plan for a System unit;

“(2) support interpretive partners by providing opportunities to participate in interpretive training; and

“(3) collaborate with other Federal and non-Federal public or private agencies, organizations, or institutions for the purposes of developing, promoting, and making available educational opportunities related to resources of the System and programs.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for division A of subtitle I of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 1007 the following:

“1008. Education and Interpretation 100801”.

(e) PUBLIC LAND CORPS AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 203(10)(A) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1722(10)(A)) is amended by striking “25” and inserting “30”.

(2) PARTICIPANTS.—Section 204(b) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1723(b)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “25” and inserting “30”.

(3) HIRING.—Section 207(c)(2) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C., 1726(c)(2)) is amended by striking “120 days” and inserting “2 years”.

(f) NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION.—Subchapter II of chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 101112—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) MEMBERSHIP.—The National Park Foundation shall consist of a Board having as members at least 6 private citizens of the United States appointed by the Secretary, with the Secretary and the Director serving as ex officio members of the Board.”; and

(B) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) CHAIRMAN.—

“(1) SELECTION.—The Board shall select a Chairman of the Board from among the members of the Board.

“(2) TERM.—The Chairman of the Board shall serve for a 2-year term.”; and

(2) in section 101113(a)—

AMENDMENT NO. 3229

(Purpose: To establish a program to reduce the potential impacts of solar energy facilities on certain species)

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 44 . PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES ON CERTAIN SPECIES.**

In carrying out a program of the Department relating to solar energy or the conduct of solar energy projects using funds provided by the Department, the Secretary shall establish a program to undertake research that—

(1) identifies baseline avian populations and mortality; and

(2) quantifies the impacts of solar energy projects on birds, as compared to other threats to birds.

AMENDMENT NO. 3251

(Purpose: To modify the calculation of fuel economy for gaseous fuel dual fueled automobiles)

On page 150, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

**SEC. 131 . GASEOUS FUEL DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.**

Section 32905 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) GASEOUS FUEL DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—

“(1) MODEL YEARS 1993 THROUGH 2016.—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile manufactured by a manufacturer in model years 1993 through 2016, the Administrator shall measure the fuel economy for that model by dividing 1.0 by the sum of—

“(A) .5 divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(c) of this title when operating the model on gasoline or diesel fuel; and

“(B) .5 divided by the fuel economy measured under subsection (c) of this section when operating the model on gaseous fuel.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT MODEL YEARS.—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile manufactured by a manufacturer in model year 2017 or any subsequent model year, the Administrator shall calculate fuel economy in accordance with section 600.510-12 (c)(2)(vii) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph) if the vehicle qualifies under section 32901(c).”.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on these amendments, the question is on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 3276; 3302, as modified; 3055; 3050; 3237; 3308; 3286, as modified; 3075; 3168; 3292, as modified; 3155; 3270; 3313, as modified; 3214; 3266; 3310; 3317; 3265, as modified; 3012; 3290; 3004; 3233, as modified; 3239; 3221; 3203; 3309, as modified; 3229; 3251; and 2963) were agreed to en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we are back on the floor with the Energy Policy Modernization Act—an act that many of us have spent a considerable amount of time not only here on the floor discussing but, prior to its arrival on the floor of the Senate, working through a process that, quite honestly, I am very pleased to be able to report on.

As we have just heard, with the voice vote that we just took en bloc, we have accepted and adopted 29 additional amendments to this broad, bipartisan, and, as some would suggest, long-stalled Energy bill. We have been working on this now on the floor for more than 2 months. It actually first came to the floor on January 27 of this year. But we have seen patience, a little bit of persistence, and a truly good-

faith negotiation. Last week we were able to clear the last of the objections to this bill and to define a path forward.

Again, we just reached unanimous consent on these 29 additional amendments. There will be eight rollcall votes this afternoon and then votes on cloture and final passage, and, hopefully, today we will see the last day of debate on our Energy bill.

Since we have been away from EPMA for so long, I wanted to start my comments this afternoon by reminding colleagues of the process we have followed and of the many good provisions we have incorporated within the bill that make it worthy of the Senate's support.

It began with a pretty simple and straightforward recognition; that is, that it was time—it was actually well past time—to update and reform our Nation's energy policies. The last time the Congress passed a major Energy bill was in December of 2007. So it has been almost a decade's worth of changes in technologies and markets taking place across the country.

Our energy space has changed, but what hasn't changed are the policies. The policies that we see are increasingly outdated and detached from the opportunities we need to advance good energy policy in this country.

So what did we do? We set out to write a bill. Our Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 is the result of more than a year of hard work by those of us who serve on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. It is the result of multiple listening sessions, multiple legislative hearings, bipartisan negotiations, and then a multiday markup that we held last July. At the end of that markup, we were able to approve a bill by a strong bipartisan margin—18 to 4.

The reason the bill passed out of committee with such strong bipartisan support was not just because of our commitment to a good process—and it was very clear that it was a good process throughout—but we matched that good process with a commitment, an equal commitment, to good policy. We worked together across the aisle to include good ideas from Members on both sides of the aisle, from Members on the committee, and Members off the committee. Some of the things we agreed to include are going to speak to the input we received.

Senator BARRASSO has led an effort that will streamline LNG exports. He was joined by 17 other Members. That is incorporated in our bill.

We agreed to include a major efficiency bill that the occupant of the Chair, the Senator from Ohio, together with the Senator from New Hampshire, have spearheaded for years. That bill was supported by 13 other Members and is incorporated as part of this overall Energy Policy Modernization Act.

We agreed to improve our mineral security. This is something I have been leading, along with Senators HELLER and CRAPO and RISCH.

We worked to promote the use of hydropower—a renewable, emission-free resource that is favored by just about everybody in this Chamber.

We agreed to streamline permitting for natural gas pipelines. This was an effort that was led by the Senator from West Virginia, Mrs. CAPITO.

We agreed to a new oil and gas permitting pilot program. This was one of several ideas that the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. HOEVEN, helped advance.

We have worked to improve our Nation's cyber security, based on legislation that was advanced by the Senator from New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, as well as Senator RISCH from Idaho.

We also made innovation a key priority to promote the development of promising technologies.

As part of that, we agreed to reauthorize some of the energy-related provisions that were contained in the America COMPETES Act, which was led by Senator ALEXANDER from Tennessee.

We also agreed to reauthorize the coal R&D program at the Department of Energy. This was, again, based on another bipartisan proposal that was led by both Senators from West Virginia, Senators CAPITO and MANCHIN, as well as the Senator from Ohio who is occupying the Chair now, Senator PORTMAN.

What we came away with was a substantive, timely, and bipartisan measure that has a very real chance of being the first major Energy bill signed into law in well over 8 years.

So this is important, for a host of different reasons.

Moving forward with this act will help America produce more energy. It will help Americans save more money. It will help ensure that energy can be transported from where it is produced to where it is needed. It will strengthen our status as the best innovator in the world, and it will bring us just one step closer to becoming a global energy superpower. It will do all of this without raising taxes, without imposing new mandates, and without adding to the Federal deficit.

That was our starting point here on the Senate floor back in January. When we came to the floor with the Energy bill, I think those of us on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee thought it was a pretty strong bill, but we have made it better. We kept building on it. Since the debate began, we have voted on a total of 38 amendments. We have accepted 32 of them, and we have added even more good ideas from even more Members to an already very bipartisan package. Right now, the Energy Policy Modernization Act includes priorities from

62 Members of the Senate. In other words, more than three-fifths of the Members of this body have contributed something to this overall bill, and that number will rise throughout the day as we process additional amendments.

One amendment I am particularly pleased with is the resources title that I have worked on and written with Senator CANTWELL. We have agreed to a package of 30 lands and water bills which will address a wide range of issues in Western States. That package also includes the bipartisan sportsmen's provisions that we have been working to pass in this body for at least three Congresses. This is a measure that will ensure that our public lands are open, unless closed for a legitimate reason, to require agencies to enhance opportunities for our sportsmen on public lands and more. I want to recognize my colleague from New Mexico who has helped us with this endeavor in making sure the sportsmen's package was included as this bill moved forward.

It is true we were a little bit delayed in reaching the point where we are today as we are processing these final amendments, but I thank the Senate and the majority leader for sticking with us on this. At one point in time, it was suggested that we were going to have to pull a rabbit out of a hat in order to get this bill back on the floor with a consent process that would allow us to finish. Well, the rabbit has come out of the hat. Some might suggest it was a little bit battered, but, nonetheless, nobody gave up on this bill.

I acknowledge Senator CANTWELL and her staff for working with us every step of the way. We knew we had a path forward. We worked tirelessly to find it because we know this is a bill worth passing.

Over the next couple of hours, Members will have an opportunity to deliver their final comments on the Energy bill, and after that we will move to these eight stacked rollcall votes, followed by votes on cloture, and then, hopefully, on final passage.

I am pleased to be able to say we will have wrapped up our work on this bill and send it over to the House of Representatives—again, hopefully, by the time we go home tonight.

I thank the Senate for working with us to get to this point, and I would encourage Members on both sides of the aisle to recognize the good work and the good ideas that are included within this bill. And when the time comes, I encourage every Member to vote yes on a broad bipartisan, good energy bill.

Mr. President, I recognize my colleague Senator CANTWELL, the ranking member on the Energy Committee and a fabulous partner throughout this effort. I would like to thank her for all she has done to get us to this point as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to thank Chairman MURKOWSKI for her leadership on the Energy bill. She and I have been working on this for almost a year now, and today we are at a point where we think we will see the final product of this legislation in the next 24 hours move out of the Senate and over to the House of Representatives. So it is a good day. We are very thankful that all the hard work she and her team and our side on the minority have put in will result in successfully getting a bill to the President's desk.

I acknowledge our colleagues in the Senate have addressed something like 40 different priority pieces of legislation. We have added, as the chairman has said, 60 different amendments during the floor process. We have had important compromises on clean energy technology, energy efficiency, and infrastructure with truly bipartisan support. We need to pass this bill, and that is why we have been persistent.

It has been since 2007 that we passed an energy bill, led by Senator Jeff Bingaman and Senator Pete Domenici, that laid down a lot of fundamental things in the renewable energy markets and clean energy investment, but the landscape has changed greatly since 2007. Since then, because of those efforts, the United States has more than quadrupled the wind power than what we had before. It has more than tripled than what we had. Solar photovoltaic installations are up nearly by 15 times. The number of LED lights has grown more than 90 times.

From 2007 to 2014, our national energy use also fell 2.4 percent while the GDP grew 8 percent. This represents a very significant point in energy productivity; that is, we have continued to produce cleaner sources of energy and helped diversify our own energy portfolio. Yet our economy and GDP still grew. It is important because these policies that are in this bill are continuing to move forward on energy efficiency, clean energy, renewables, and new technology.

I thank everybody who has been cooperative in this process. Clearly, we could have had a my-way-or-the-highway approach that was taken on the Shaheen-Portman legislation. I know my colleague is leaving the floor, but Senator PORTMAN and Senator SHAHEEN played a large role in past discussions, but the chairwoman didn't take that approach. She said: Let's all work together. In a spirit of compromise, let's pass legislation that our colleagues want to see. And of course, the U.S. Department of Energy published the Quadrennial Energy Review last year, which said that we are at an energy crossroads. And we looked at what our Nation needed to do at this crossroad, to make investments in modern-

izing our 21st century energy portfolio. Energy is the lifeblood of our economy. If we put good energy policy in place, businesses and consumers get more affordable, cleaner, and more renewable energy.

This bill takes important steps on research and development of clean energy technologies to help us integrate these new, clean energy technologies that are not already in the marketplace, and gaining a foothold on new clean energy technologies in marine, hydrokinetic and geothermal. I thank our colleague Senator WYDEN for his leadership on many of these issues.

The bill also takes important steps in advanced grid technology to help us with new integration of our renewable resources. It authorizes \$2 billion for technology demonstration grants to make sure that we are continuing the development of a microgrid deployment. I know from the chairman of the committee it is something very important to Alaska and the chairman, as they have a huge territory and lots to cover. So, making sure that microgrid development gets the technical support and assistance is critical.

The bill includes an initiative to accelerate the RD&D of energy storage, a technology that many witnesses before our committee have labeled as the game-changer—and I believe it is the game-changer. As a hydro State that gets more than 70 percent of our electricity from inexpensive renewable sources, like hydro. So making sure we can store some of that energy is a game-changer for the electricity grid.

Just as important, this bill makes a major investment in cyber security. We are talking about technologies that are key to making sure we protect our grid, making it more resilient, basically making it more robust so we can continue to improve it and face less risk in the future.

We have many opportunities in this Energy bill to continue to promote the advanced fuels and energy information that are going to allow us to continue to diversify our energy resources. We also want to make sure we are understanding how the United States can maintain its competitiveness in a clean energy economy. For example, the global smart grid economy is expected to grow by \$400 billion in the next 5 years. It is pretty basic. Anytime you can save on the supply you already have, it is a wise investment. Many people want to invest in making their electricity and the use of their current energy supply smarter. I like the smart building provisions of this bill. Smart building will end up using sensors to better direct and maintain the energy flow in buildings. Why is this so important? It is important because about 40 percent of our energy use in the U.S. comes from buildings today. The Department of Energy believes we can reduce the cost of energy

in our buildings by about 20 percent. I don't think there is a person in the Senate who hasn't walked into a room and felt like the thermostat just wasn't right. Whatever it said, the room seemed to be the opposite. That is why we want buildings to have smarter technology, more sophisticated technology, so we can save energy and help our businesses be more competitive.

Energy efficiency in the Chinese market is expected to be more than \$1.5 trillion by 2035. So continuing our leadership, this bill will help us grow jobs and grow industries in the United States. Energy efficiency and building standards have also lowered costs. A 20-percent cut of energy use in buildings would save \$80 billion each year in energy bills. That is something that would give any U.S. manufacturer a competitive advantage. Investing in smart building makes sense. I am pleased that while investing in this we are also helping our manufacturers.

We just had a hearing with the manufacturing industry in the Energy Committee. They told us they were literally bringing overseas jobs home to the United States because we are continuing to invest in the right advanced manufacturing technologies so they will continue to be competitive. I speak now of what is happening with aerospace manufacturing in composite lightweight materials. The research we did allowed us to continue to be proficient in that area and have more jobs brought back to the United States.

This bill invests in smart manufacturing. It would enhance fuel efficiency opportunities for advanced truck fleets. I thank Senators STABENOW, PETERS, and ALEXANDER for their work on that provision. Heavy-duty trucks move 70 percent of our freight and use 20 percent of the fuel consumed in the United States. This sector can continue to use the advancements in these technologies to continue their competitive advantage.

This legislation also focuses on workforce training issues. We know we need more jobs as the energy profile continues to change. The good news is these are high-paying jobs. In my State, the average salary for a utility worker is 57 percent higher than the average salary of all other industries in the State. Our bill establishes a competitive workforce grant, a job training program through community colleges, and helps with registered apprentice programs so we can get the workforce of tomorrow that the Secretary of Energy says we need. His report says we need 1.5 million new workers in the energy industry. Let's go about making sure we get that.

Lastly, I want to mention the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program that was actually authored by Senator "Scoop" Jackson from Washington and he remains the longest-

serving chairman of the Senate Energy Committee. The Land and Water Conservation Fund was a fully functional and effective program for 50 years, until Congress allowed its authority to lapse last fall. This bill would make sure that never happens again by making it permanent.

I thank the chairman for her leadership because she helped us craft a compromise on making the Land and Water Conservation Fund permanent, to get the right focus on how the program works and to continue to make sure we are making investments in outdoor recreation.

This Land and Water Conservation Fund helps support more than 200,000 jobs in the State of Washington and a nearly \$20 billion economy. When we talk about the various amendments we are going to be talking about today, I want to make sure Members understand that a lot of good work in the committee went into the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

We will also be voting on a lot of public lands amendments later. I want to bring up one, the Yakima River Basin bill, which we passed out of committee on a bipartisan vote. It's a holistic approach to dealing with water management. I hope it becomes a model for the rest of the country.

I also thank Secretary Moniz and his staff and Secretary Jewell and her staff for all the work that was done in the committee on both the lands package and on the energy provisions. I know the chairwoman probably discussed the issue of natural gas exports and Secretary Moniz provided us language for how the agency is working that we put into the bill.

I again thank my two colleagues who are on the floor, Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN. Certainly Senator SHAHEEN has been dogged in her enthusiastic support for not just energy efficiency policy, working with Senator PORTMAN, but when she left the committee, I don't think she really left the committee. She just pretended, so that she was somehow still connected to our efforts. I thank her for that and also Senator PORTMAN. I think we have taken the good work of these individuals and probably had almost 30 different energy efficiency proposals in this base legislation bill that we have incorporated and now are able to move forward on. I also thank my colleague Senator HEINRICH, who has several provisions in this bill and several that will be voted on shortly in the lands package.

These individuals, along with those I just mentioned, members of the committee, provided such great leadership for us in putting this final bill before the Members of the Senate. I hope our colleagues will give it enthusiastic support. It represents a lot of discussion. It is not the perfect bill that the chairwoman would have written nor the exact bill I would have written.

But it is a compromise on the modernization of energy that this country needs to move toward a safer, more secure, cleaner energy force and a skilled workforce to go with delivering it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I want to start by commending the Presiding Officer and Senator CANTWELL for getting this bill to the floor. They say the third time is the charm. I think this may be the fourth or the fifth time. But I will say that I marvel, Senator CANTWELL and Senator MURKOWSKI, at your patience and your persistence.

You have never lost sight of the goal, which is to actually move legislation that will help us create jobs, make our economy more efficient, as Senator CANTWELL has said, and improve our energy policies at a time when we are desperate to be able to address some of the new changes we see in our economy and in our energy situation in particular. So thank you for your persistence.

I also want to commend you and thank you for including as title I of this legislation the energy efficiency legislation, the Portman-Shaheen energy efficiency legislation that we just talked about.

Senator SHAHEEN is here on the floor with me. I hope she will talk about this bill in a second. This is something we worked on a long time—I think over 5 years now. It is an opportunity for us as a body to actually move forward with sensible legislation that makes our Federal Government more efficient and our factories more efficient, as Senator CANTWELL has talked about.

It improves our ability to create jobs and to be able to be more energy independent. It is the kind of win-win legislation that we do too seldom around here. It is an opportunity for us today to send a strong message to the House that we would like to move broad energy efficiency legislation. Hopefully, we can get it to the President's desk for signature and move it ahead.

There are two parts of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act. That is our legislation that has already been passed by this Chamber. Those two parts have been signed by the President. They are at work now.

I will say that already they are helping to allow individuals to use less energy and, therefore, have more savings. That lets companies to be more efficient, to create more jobs, and to reduce emissions. Now it is time to pass this remaining part of the legislation, the main part of the legislation which includes bipartisan reforms that we are taking up today.

It is about time we get these across the finish line. The priority I have had here in the Senate has been on jobs and

wages. That is exactly what this legislation does. It is really a jobs bill, among other things. According to a recent study of our legislation, the Portman-Shaheen bill, by 2030 it will help create nearly 200,000 new jobs and help the economy by saving consumers about \$16.7 billion in reduced energy costs.

So this is legislation about energy, but it is also about our economy and jobs. By the way, when we started this legislation, it was the Shaheen-Portman legislation. It has remained a totally bipartisan—even nonpartisan—effort.

Our workers in Ohio and in the States represented in this Chamber are competing with countries all over the world. If you think about it, a lot of these companies that are in other places, strictly in Europe and Japan, are very energy efficient. That gives them an advantage. It makes it harder for us to be able to add jobs here to be able to compete because their costs are lower and their profits are up.

So part of this legislation is strongly supported by the manufacturers in this country because they know that, by making our plants more energy efficient, we are going to give our workers in Ohio and around the country and our companies a competitive advantage. So that is one thing that is very important about this legislation. This will help us to be able to compete in a global economy.

It also creates more jobs to have more supply of energy. So it is not just that we are being more efficient, which is very good, but I will say that in this legislation we are also encouraging more production, including energy infrastructure that the chairman talked about earlier. So my view is very simple. We should be producing more and using less. That combination really works for our economy.

Over the last 7 years on the "produce more" side, we have been in the midst really of an energy production renaissance. This is because of new advances in technology. It has dramatically changed the productivity and output of American energy companies.

I am talking about everything. I am talking about solar and wind. I am talking about hydro. I am certainly talking about natural gas with fracking. I am also talking about oil and coal. We have become the world super power in energy—the world super power in energy. This is good for our country. This is good for all of us as consumers. With lower energy costs now, it is good for the competitiveness of our economy. But it is also a change. So the underlying legislation here—the broad legislation—is very important because our economy and our energy situation are very different than they were the last time we reformed energy laws.

That is why we need this broader legislation in my view. It does have some

needed changes, including bringing our permitting process up to speed, our regulations up to the times, and, again, dealing with some of the other issues with regard to our energy sector, which has been talked about this afternoon.

Just as it makes sense to produce more, it makes sense to use less, to eliminate some of the waste in our energy system, to make it more efficient. Production and efficiency are totally complementary. By improving energy efficiency again, our jobs bill here will actually create more economic growth and create more opportunities for Ohioans.

The Portman-Shaheen bill will also strengthen our national security. Why do I say that? Well, it makes us more energy independent. That is critical. We are already doing this through some means, but if we can get this legislation passed, we will be doing it through better energy efficiency as well. The bill helps clean our environment. By some estimates, passing Portman-Shaheen will have an impact on our carbon emissions, the equivalent to taking 20 million cars off the road over the next 15 years.

So it does have an impact in terms of dealing with the emissions issue. I am a really strong supporter of finding solutions that actually help the environment, help the economy, and help create jobs. Well, this is that sweet spot here. This legislation is a classic example. Our bill also provides a model for how to ensure that we can do it without a lot of new job-destroying mandates or regulations. There are no mandates in this legislation. There are lots of incentives for the private sector, but we try to make the Federal Government, in this legislation, a better partner, rather than a better task master. Again, I think that is the sweet spot.

One thing it does is it makes the Federal Government practice what it preaches. So it says to the Federal Government: You are the largest energy user in the world. You are far from efficient. Can't we do a better job in the Federal Government by having the Federal Government lead by example? It does this at the State and local level by updating building codes for government building, providing grants for retrofitting hospitals, youth centers, and faith-based organizations with energy efficiency improvements.

It would get rid of some of the duplicative green building programs that are at the Department of Energy, to make sure those are working better, are more consolidated. It establishes a Federal smart building program to conduct research and development on smart building technology, which was talked about by Senator CANTWELL a moment ago. There is a huge opportunity here because 40 percent of our energy use is in our buildings.

It would codify in statute that Federal agencies must reduce their energy

intensity 2.5 percent per year over the next decade. So it codifies some of what is already in place as that goes forward. As I have said, this bill does not impose new burdens on Americans, rather it creates incentives and helps small and medium-sized manufacturers to access smart manufacturing technology by establishing rebates for upgrading electric motors and transformers, by funding career field training for students receiving a certificate for installing energy efficient building technologies, one of the skills gaps we have right now in our economy that need to be closed for us to take advantage of these new energy efficiency technologies.

Rather than the Federal Government telling companies what to do under this bill, the Federal Government helps them to become more efficient. It is not just American companies. Portman-Shaheen would help everyone. Particularly, it would help low-income Americans be able to retrofit their homes to be more energy efficient, which will save them money on their energy bills.

With the middle-class squeeze that is out there, what we see right now is wages that are not just flat, but they have declined on average over the last several years. Expenses are up, including health care expenses and including, in many cases, energy expenses, including in my home State of Ohio, where we have more and more pressure on our electricity costs. This will help in terms of dealing with that middle-class squeeze. For people just trying to get by, a low energy bill can be a real relief, and a few dollars at the end of each month can then be used for a needed expenditure, for savings, maybe for investment in a kid's college education or for retirement.

Finally, our bill does reauthorize the Weatherization Assistance Program, which establishes building training and assessment centers at institutions of higher education around the country, which is also very important toward this efficiency of buildings.

The Portman-Shaheen legislation is now supported by more than 260 associations, businesses, and advocacy groups, from the National Association of Manufacturers to the Sierra Club, from the Alliance to Save Energy to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. These are some strange bedfellows, I will tell you. You normally don't see these groups coming together to support legislation on the floor of the Senate. But I think it shows that this is a consensus win for taxpayers, for workers, and for the environment.

I was really pleased to work with Senator SHAHEEN, Ranking Member CANTWELL, and Leader MCCONNELL to offer a bipartisan amendment to this broader bill that is supposed to clarify a Department of Energy efficiency standard related to external power supply drivers.

The existing standards are overly broad. Again, this is another amendment we are going to be offering today, and another case where we are able to bring all parties to the table and negotiate a compromise fix to an urgent problem. I am hopeful that will soon be adopted, and it will provide an effective, bipartisan solution.

Again, I want to thank Senator SHAHEEN for her persistence and her patience with regard to our energy efficiency bill and for being a great partner from the start. This is not the precise bill that she would have written or that I would have written, but it is one that finds that common ground, that consensus to be able to move our country forward with regard to energy efficiency.

I also want to mention an amendment I offered with Senator CANTWELL and Chairman MURKOWSKI to this broader legislation that is beneficial to our environment and will help the National Park Service, and this is the centennial legislation. As some of you know, 2016 is a big year for the parks. This is the park's centennial, the 100th year. In fact, this week is National Park Week. What better time is there for us to be adopting this amendment? The National Parks Service turns 100 years old on August 25. We want to make sure that the National Parks Service is well positioned for its next century.

In Ohio, 2.6 million people visit our 13 national parks sites every year. So you might not think of Ohio as being a big national park State. It is. We are blessed to have these sites that preserve and protect the national beauty of our State. We are grateful for the National Parks Service and for their custodianship and their stewardship of treasures like the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, one of the top 10 parks in the country in terms of visitation, and also of about 4,000 or so Ohio sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

Our amendment would officially set up two funds to help the National Park Service be more effective going forward to help them have more funds to be able to address some of the challenges they face and to start, particularly, to address the backlog of projects that need to be completed.

But first it would officially authorize the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund, which is already leveraged with about 25 million bucks in appropriated dollars to an additional \$45 million in private sector money—matching funds—to finance signature projects and programs of the National Park System. I think this is part of our answer to our national park shortfall and to the backlog, particularly the maintenance backlog at the parks; that is, to get more private sector interest. It is out there. This is a vehicle for that to happen.

The second would be a nonprofit second century endowment fund at National Park Foundation to reduce the \$10 billion in National Park Service projects. This would present another opportunity to leverage the willingness of the private sector to help address this backlog that the National Park Service faces. It is a win-win for the taxpayer and for all those who enjoy our national parks and all of our treasures.

Finally, it creates a new National Park Service education program to help further the educational mission of our parks. The parks are being well attended right now. Attendance is up. People are excited about the parks. It is a great time for us to pass this centennial legislation. I know there is comparable legislation on the House side. I am sure we can get this to the President—to his desk for signature. We can help to ensure that our parks, for the next 100 years, continue to grow and continue to provide this incredible experience for all of our constituents.

This amendment is another example of where we have come together in a bipartisan basis to do this. I want to thank again Senator CANTWELL for her work on this and Senator MURKOWSKI for putting it in this legislation. Finally, I am really pleased that we were able to include the Land and Conservation Fund's permanency in this legislation and also the sportsmen's bill in this legislation, to expand and ensure access to public lands for hunting and fishing.

The bottom line is that I encourage everybody to vote for this bill, Republicans and Democrats alike. This is a good bill. It is a bill that will drive infrastructure investments in my State of Ohio and around the country. It will protect the grid from cyber and physical attacks. It will allow more exports of liquefied natural gas, which is good for our economy.

It will make our Federal Government more efficient. It will make our economy more efficient. It creates jobs. It helps clean up the environment. It helps modernize our government. To me, that constitutes a victory for all of us. I congratulate Senator CANTWELL and Senator MURKOWSKI for getting this to the floor. I look forward to its passage later on today.

I yield back my time, and I hope my colleague from New Hampshire will have the opportunity to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I am thrilled to join my partner in efficiency, Senator PORTMAN, in addressing the energy efficiency provisions of the Energy Policy Modernization Act.

Before I get to those, I congratulate Chair MURKOWSKI and Ranking Member CANTWELL for everything they have done to move this Energy bill forward.

At a time when I think most of us thought this Energy bill was gone for this Congress—again, for the third time—they have been able to rally to bring people together to get consensus to move a bill that not only deals with the energy efficiency provisions that Senator PORTMAN and I have championed but also improves a broad array of energy policies for this country, and it would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I congratulate them on giving us yet a third opportunity—hopefully—to vote on this bill and to finally be able to pass it. As Senator PORTMAN said, the third time is a charm, hopefully. For 5 years, he and I have worked to advance the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, or what was known initially as Shaheen-Portman, which has now become Portman-Shaheen in this Congress. Many of the provisions in that original legislation are in this Energy Policy Modernization Act. While over the last 5 years we have been able to get some of the original provisions in the legislation through, the fact is, most of the significant provisions are in this current bill. I thank Senator PORTMAN for being such a great partner on energy efficiency and for helping to advance this legislation in a way that gives us another chance to hopefully vote successfully on the bill.

I have been a huge fan of energy efficiency since my years as Governor of New Hampshire because I believe that energy efficiency is the cheapest, fastest way to reduce our energy use. Energy savings techniques and technologies reduce carbon pollution. They lead to substantial energy savings that allow for businesses to expand, for us to create jobs, and for our economy to grow.

In a Congress that is too often divided along partisan lines on so many issues, energy efficiency is one priority that can bring us together on a bipartisan, bicameral basis because energy efficiency is beneficial to everyone, regardless of what part of the country they live in and regardless of their energy source. We can all benefit from energy efficiency. And those are the provisions that are in this legislation.

I will try not to repeat too much of what has already been said by Senator PORTMAN, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Senator CANTWELL about the bill, but I did want to go through a couple of the energy efficiency provisions that are in the legislation because it reduces the barriers to efficiency in a number of ways.

First, in buildings, it would strengthen outdated, voluntary national model building codes to make new homes and commercial buildings, which account for more than 40 percent of U.S. energy consumption. These provisions are especially important in this legislation because much of the savings in effi-

ciency come from these national model building code provisions. Again, as Senator PORTMAN has said, these are not done through mandates, they are done through incentives, through our encouraging States to adopt these model building codes.

The energy efficiency provisions also deal with industrial efficiency. They assist the industrial manufacturing sector, which consumes more energy than any other sector of the U.S. economy. They help that sector implement efficient production technologies and would encourage the private sector to develop innovative energy-efficient technologies for industrial applications, to invest in a workforce that is trained to deploy energy efficiency practices to manufactures.

Finally, the other major section of the efficiency provisions from Portman-Shaheen deals with the Federal Government. We encourage the Federal Government—which is the Nation's largest energy consumer—to adopt more efficient building standards, to adopt smart metering technology, and to look at our data centers and see how we can reduce costs and energy use. Through doing that, not only can we save energy, but we can save taxpayers millions of dollars.

Just the energy efficiency provisions from Portman-Shaheen in the legislation would create nearly 200,000 jobs by 2030—a significant job creator in the bill. It would reduce carbon emissions by the equivalent of taking over 20 million cars off the road, and it would save consumers over \$16 billion a year. There are significant benefits to this energy efficiency.

Again, as Senator PORTMAN has said, these are provisions that have brought together a very diverse group of stakeholders, everyone from the American Chemistry Council, to the National Wildlife Federation, as Senator PORTMAN said, the NRDC, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This is a broad group of trade associations, labor organizations, and environmental groups who have come together because energy efficiency is something on which we can all agree.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a number of letters that have been sent by many of these organizations.

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

JANUARY 20, 2016.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Russell Senate  
Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate, Hart Senate  
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER REID: We are writing to express our priorities for energy efficiency provisions in S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015. As you know, S. 2012

was approved by the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) with strong bipartisan support on July 30, 2015, under the leadership of Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell. We encourage the Senate to take up S. 2012 with the following priorities in mind to help maintain bipartisan support and pass a bill that can be enacted into law.

First, S. 2012 should preserve and strengthen the role of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in supporting and propagating updated building energy codes at the state and local level. In terms of energy and cost savings, as explained in more detail in the enclosed analysis prepared by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), U.S. homeowners and businesses stand to realize tremendous gains from state and local adoption of current building energy codes. U.S. DOE's role in code adoption is critical and S. 2012 (as reported) would lead to even greater savings over time. We support the building energy codes language currently included in S. 2012 and encourage in the strongest terms its inclusion in any comprehensive energy legislation considered by the Senate.

Second, we encourage the Senate to adopt provisions that would permit and encourage the inclusion of energy efficiency in the residential mortgage underwriting process. These provisions were first articulated in the Sensible Accounting to Value Energy (SAVE) Act, first introduced by Senators Johnny Isakson and Michael Bennett, and currently included in legislation that was also favorably reported by the Senate ENR Committee with strong bipartisan support. The SAVE Act would allow the common-sense consideration of energy efficiency during mortgage underwriting, which would help homeowners realize the true value of home improvements that improve comfort and generate savings. We would support an amendment to add the SAVE Act provisions to S. 2012.

Third, we urge the Senate to approve an amendment that would replace the current provisions relating to residential furnace standards in S. 2012 with language that matches Sec. 3123 of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015, which was approved by the House of Representatives on December 3, 2015. Unfortunately, at the last minute, apparently due to the time-crunch that typically accompanies a committee business meeting, language was added to S. 2012 that did not reflect a consensus reached by stakeholders. We would support an amendment to replace the current non-consensus furnace standard language in S. 2012 with the House-adopted consensus language that was developed over time and is broadly supported by stakeholders.

And fourth, we also support the retention of reauthorizations of the Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program in S. 2012. These provisions are critical for low-income Americans in all parts of the country and generate benefits across all sectors of the economy.

Energy efficiency is an energy resource—available to all homeowners and businesses—that is essential to our country's energy independence. More than half of the energy used today to power our economy is wasted, which represents an enormous opportunity for achieving savings and extracting gains in the energy productivity of our economy. The Senate now has an opportunity to pass comprehensive legislation, which currently enjoys strong bipartisan support, that would

improve the energy efficiency of homes and commercial buildings in every town, city, county, and state; help consumers and businesses manage their energy consumption and realize returns on their investments; and generate meaningful savings for all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alliance to Save Energy, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, ASHRAE, Association of Energy Engineers, Big Ass Solutions, Efficiency First, Energy Future Coalition, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Home Performance Coalition, Institute for Market Transformation, International Association of Lighting Designers, International Copper Association, Ltd., Large Public Power Council, National Association of Energy Service Companies, North American Insulation Manufacturers Association, National Association of State Energy Officials, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Schneider Electric, Seattle City Light, The Stella Group, Ltd., U.S. Green Building Council.

NAIOP, COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION,

*Herndon, VA, January 27, 2016.*

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. HARRY REID,  
*Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Re support for "The Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015" (S. 2012).

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND MINORITY LEADER REID: On behalf of NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, I write to express our strong support for "The Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015" that passed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee with a bipartisan vote.

NAIOP is the leading organization for developers, owners, investors and related professionals in office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate, and comprises 18,000 members and 48 local chapters throughout the United States.

Specifically, we support the language that was drafted by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and included in the energy efficiency title for buildings in the bill. We have worked with staff for a number of years on this issue, and we commend Senators Portman and Shaheen for facilitating the numerous discussions that took place with a variety of stakeholders. The latest version of this bill reflects a broad compromise on a host of efficiency measures that has increased support for this bipartisan legislation.

In order to create responsible building codes, economic feasibility and initial costs need to be considered with a realistic payback to the developer in order for energy efficiency gains to be viable. This legislation ensures that the Department of Energy will consider the recoupment of investment costs when developing efficiency targets, and allows for comment on those targets through a formal rulemaking.

We are thankful for the opportunity to represent the interests of the commercial real estate development industry throughout this process and feel strongly that this legislative approach is the best way for the federal government to promote energy efficiency in the built environment.

I respectfully urge you and your colleagues to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. BISACQUINO,  
*President and CEO, NAIOP.*

JANUARY 27, 2016.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. HARRY REID,  
*Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR LEADERS MCCONNELL AND REID: We the undersigned businesses and trade associations are writing to express our strong support for the policies included in Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 (S. 2012) that promote energy efficiency in industrial, commercial, and residential applications and urge full Senate consideration early this year.

We support low to no-cost, no-mandate bills that advance energy efficiency, while preserving the critical role of government oversight. American taxpayers save money on their energy bills and businesses thrive when we reduce regulatory burdens, increase transparency, and focus on the federal government as a first mover. We believe that the energy efficiency provisions in S. 2012 will have a positive impact on the U.S. economy.

Our businesses, along with many trade associations, companies and advocacy organizations, have long supported common sense energy efficiency legislation, such as those sponsored over the last two Congresses by Senators Portman and Shaheen. We commend Chairman Murkowski and Senator Cantwell for including these provisions in S. 2012. We believe that the energy efficiency title of S. 2012, which passed out of Committee on an 18-4 vote, is a win-win approach that will reduce energy consumption, advance the adoption of new technologies, produce energy savings for businesses and families, and encourage private-sector job creation creating a stronger and more durable American economy.

Some of the sections we are most enthusiastic about include the federal energy related provisions and the building codes section, which was developed through a bipartisan, transparent process and does not include state mandates. We urge lawmakers to retain the current language supporting strong, updated model building energy codes. Several of the provisions we support have also been introduced as stand-alone legislation such as S. 869, the All-of-the-Above Federal Building Energy Conservation Act of 2015; S. 1046, the Smart Building Acceleration Act; S. 1054, the Smart Manufacturing Leadership Act; and S. 858, the Energy Savings Through Public Private Partnership Act. We would further ask that you include S. 1038, the Energy Star Program Integrity Act and the SAVE Act, which was included in The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 720) reported out by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year, and is a voluntary means to improve residential energy efficiency and thereby save homeowners money.

We urge you to bring S. 2012 to the Senate for a vote early this year. It includes pragmatic, reasonable energy policies. Energy efficiency policies that enjoy strong bipartisan support, do not rely on an outlay of taxpayer

dollars, and do not impose mandates on consumers deserve prompt consideration by Congress.

Sincerely,

A.O. Smith Corporation, ABB Inc., Accella Performance Materials, American Chemistry Council, BASF, Big Ass Solutions, Bosch Group, Composite Lumber Manufacturers Association, Copper Development Association, Covestro, LLC, Danfoss, Dow Chemical Company, Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association, Federal Performance Contracting Coalition, Honeywell, Ingersoll Rand, Johnson Controls, Inc., National Association of Manufacturers, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, North American Insulation Manufacturers Association, Owens Corning, PPG Industries, Quadrant Urethane Technologies Corp., Roof Coatings Manufacturers Association, Schneider Electric, Siemens Corporation, Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals, SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association, The Brick Industry Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, United Technologies, Whirlpool Corporation.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. In closing, in a little while this afternoon, we will have a series of votes on amendments to the Energy Policy Modernization Act, and we will have a final vote for passage of the bill. I believe and it is certainly my hope that the broad package will pass. I think it has been far too long since Congress passed a comprehensive energy bill. It is time for us to work together to pass this important piece of legislation to improve our Nation's energy policies and to help grow our economy.

I believe there is support in the other Chamber, in the House, to take up this energy package and hopefully to pass it this year because it will improve our economy, it will improve our national security, and it will improve our environment. This is legislation we should all get behind.

Again, I thank my colleague Senator PORTMAN and applaud Senators CANTWELL and MURKOWSKI for all of the work they have done to bring this legislation to the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I rise today to speak about this bipartisan energy package we are going to be voting on today. Last year my colleagues and I on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee worked together to pass a package that received incredibly strong and bipartisan support at a time when that is hard to come by.

I think it is important to start my comments today by simply thanking the chair and ranking member of the Energy Committee, Senators MURKOWSKI and CANTWELL. As Senator PORTMAN mentioned, they showed incredible leadership and also incredible patience. That patience and persist-

ence on behalf of all of us is now paying off.

My home State of New Mexico occupies a very central and interesting place in nearly every facet of our Nation's energy industry, including uranium enrichment, oil and gas production, refining, wind and solar energy, as well as the research and development of new energy technologies—technologies of the future that come out of our National Laboratories and our research universities. That is why I have been working so hard in the Senate to position New Mexico and our Nation to take maximum advantage of new, clean energy sources and innovative technologies and transmission, while intelligently utilizing our reserves of traditional fuels as well.

This package will be the first comprehensive Energy bill to pass the Senate since 2007. I would like to think that it shows that we can look for areas where both parties can work together even if we don't completely agree and, probably most importantly, when we don't completely agree and still move our national priorities and our energy policy forward.

This package also includes permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. LWCF is one of America's most successful conservation programs. It has preserved our outdoor heritage, protected clean air and precious supplies of drinking water, and supported jobs across this entire Nation. Permanent reauthorization of LWCF is a major victory for conservation. I will continue to fight to fully fund LWCF so that we can make strong and smart investments in our public lands.

I wish to particularly focus my remarks today on the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, which is a key part of this bill. The Sportsmen's Act has been a long time in the making. I am very proud to lead this bipartisan effort with the Energy and Natural Resources chair, LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska. After attempts stalled on the sportsmen's bills in recent years, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee worked hard to find areas of agreement. We didn't allow controversial amendments from either side of the aisle to derail these efforts.

Hunting and fishing are an integral part of our American heritage. Without our public lands, that tradition would be lost to many westerners. Our public lands belong to all of the American people.

Like many New Mexicans, some of my favorite memories with my family are from camping, fishing, hiking, and hunting in New Mexico's national forests and on our Bureau of Land Management land. I will always remember taking my son Carter on his first backcountry elk hunting trip in the Carson National Forest. The bull elk that we brought home fed our family

for a year, but that experience of backpacking in the high country, sleeping on the ground, and hearing the elk bugle around us will feed his imagination for his entire life. I look forward to having that same sort of experience with his younger brother, Micah.

These traditions—hunting, hiking, camping, and fishing—are among the pillars of western culture and a thriving outdoor industry and recreation economy.

This bipartisan package of sportsmen's bills includes a broad array of measures to enhance opportunities for hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreational enthusiasts of all stripes. It improves access to those public lands, and it reauthorizes critical conservation programs. These programs include the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, or NAWCA, which provides grants to organizations, State and local governments, and private landowners for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of critical wetlands for migratory birds—a program that every duck hunter and birder in the United States can agree on; and the National Fish Habitat Conservation Program, which encourages partnerships among public agencies, tribes, sportsmen, private landowners, and other stakeholders to promote fish conservation.

It reauthorizes the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act to direct revenue from the sale of public land to the acquisition of high-priority conservation land from willing sellers to expand fish and wildlife habitat and public recreational opportunities.

Further, this bipartisan package will help boost the outdoor recreation economy writ large. Nationally, according to the Outdoor Industry Association, more than 140 million Americans make their living or make outdoor recreation a priority in their daily lives. When they do that, they end up spending \$646 billion on outdoor recreation, resulting in quality jobs for another 6.1 million Americans.

In New Mexico—a small State with just 2 million people—outdoor recreation generates more than \$6 billion a year. It provides 68,000 jobs and \$1.7 billion in wages and salaries.

A survey done recently by New Mexico Game and Fish found that sportsmen alone spend more than \$613 million a year in the State annually. That is an incredible contribution to our local economy. This boost to our economy is felt by small business owners, and it is felt by outfitter guides, hotels, restaurants, and the entire local community, especially in rural areas where we need it most.

Yet, for far too many hunters and anglers, it gets harder and harder each year to find a quiet fishing hole to fish for trout or a secluded meadow to chase elk. As sportsmen face more and more locked gates and more “no trespassing” signs, it is more important



than ever that we keep our public lands open and welcoming to hunters and anglers. I have heard from sportsmen who have found roads on BLM lands closed to public access without notice. I myself have experienced the frustration of running into a locked gate on roads that used to be open and even maintained by public agencies.

As opportunities for hunting and fishing shrink, we could lose the next generation of hunters and anglers who will fund tens of billions dollars in conservation and restoration through things such as purchasing Duck Stamps, paying the taxes on ammunition, tackle, and motorboat fuel—all of which are dedicated directly to the conservation of fish and wildlife.

This bipartisan sportsmen's package will go a long way toward solving many of these problems—many of the problems that hunters and anglers face in accessing and using our Nation's incredible public lands. I am particularly pleased that the package includes my legislation, the HUNT Act, which requires public land agencies such as the Forest Service and BLM to identify high-priority, landlocked public lands under their management that currently lack legal public access.

Landlocked public lands are technically open to the public but are sometimes literally impossible to reach unless you own a helicopter because there are no public trails, no public roads leading to them. Under the HUNT Act, Federal agencies such as the BLM and the Forest Service are required to work with States, tribes, and willing private landowners to provide public access to those landlocked areas that have a significant potential for hunting, fishing, and other recreational uses.

A study by the Center for Western Priorities estimated that at least half a million acres of public lands in New Mexico are currently landlocked with difficult legal public access. The HUNT Act is the first dedicated effort to reopen these lands to their owners. Public lands such as the Gila Wilderness, Valles Caldera National Preserve, and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument are some of the most special places to hunt and fish on the planet. These are the places that make New Mexico so enchanting and make our country so special.

I am incredibly excited to see that this natural resources amendment also includes the establishment of two new wilderness areas within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument northwest of Taos, NM. New Mexicans have a deep connection to the outdoors and benefit from the recreation, wildlife, water, and tourism opportunities that wilderness areas provide.

For many years now, an incredibly broad coalition of northern New Mexicans has worked to conserve the Rio San Antonio and Cerro del Yuta, or Ute

Mountain, areas. What is even more special about Ute Mountain is, while today it is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, this is actually a place that the Land and Water Conservation Fund helped put in the public trust. I have no doubt that future generations will be grateful for the many years of work and support that not only make these two new wilderness areas possible but make access to special places like this possible.

These two roadless areas provide important security habitats for elk, mule deer, black bears, golden eagles, and even American pronghorn. I want to say a special thanks to the local community—people who have worked for decades to put this proposal together—as well as to Senator TOM UDALL, my colleague from New Mexico, and former Senator Jeff Bingaman, for their incredible leadership as well.

Designating these two new wilderness areas completes a national example of community-driven, landscape-scale conservation that will preserve the culture, the natural resources, and the economy of this incredibly stunning piece of New Mexico.

I am proud to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle today to make sure we are making the best use of our energy and natural resources. I am hopeful that, thanks to our vote today, our kids and our grandkids will be catching trout and chasing mule deer on our Nation's incredible public lands for many years to come.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation. This was many years in the making. It was difficult. It required an enormous amount of compromise to get here, but it is an accomplishment worthy of that effort, and I urge my colleagues to vote aye.

Madam President, I also wish to discuss an important component addressed in this bipartisan energy package: critical minerals retrieval from electronics and technological waste.

I am proud of the work accomplished in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and what we have achieved at this point to move this bill forward. I would like to thank Senator MURKOWSKI, along with Senator WYDEN, for taking a lead on these issues and getting support for rare earth mineral recycling adopted into the legislation.

This piece of the legislation provides an important solution—recycling—to reducing electronics waste while ensuring our Nation has the rare earth minerals to meet demand for new technologies. While the average American may not have this issue on their radar, it addresses two major problems.

First, electronics waste is an international issue that is only growing in magnitude as consumers obtain the latest devices—from smartphones to automobiles. The United Nations reported last year that 90 percent of the

world's supply of electronic waste is illegally traded and dumped, imperiling lives and the environment. And more unfortunately, the United States generates 3.4 million tons of waste each year.

Second, rare earth minerals are crucial components of almost all of the latest consumer technologies, such as hybrid cars, flat panel televisions, and wind turbines. In 2014, the United States imported at least 50 percent of 43 different minerals. The overwhelming majority of the rare earth reserves and production are located in China. Should a supply disruption occur in China, it will be our manufacturers, consumers, and everyone who depends on the latest technologies for their livelihoods who will suffer the consequences.

Section 3307 of the pending legislation directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a program with Federal agencies, National Laboratories, producers, academic institutions, and other concerned stakeholders aimed at promoting efficient production, use, and recycling of critical minerals. Section 3308 directs the Secretary of Energy to put together a comprehensive analysis on rare earth mineral supply and demand over multiple years, and section 3309 establishes an assessment for the education and training of our workforces in manufacturing, development, and recycling of rare earth minerals. Higher education institutions would be able to apply for competitive grants to help assist in this important critical mineral program work.

By providing support for electronics recycling, we are taking necessary steps to provide economic security, while remediating an international economic and environmental problem.

It is important that bipartisanship does not stop with the Energy Policy Modernization Act, but that we continue to support and incorporate technological development, create job opportunities for our workers, and make our world a better one for future generations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 3787 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2953

(Purpose: To provide for the establishment of free market enterprise zones in order to help facilitate the creation of new jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities, enhanced and renewed educational opportunities, and increased community involvement in bankrupt or economically distressed areas.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3787.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 3787 to amendment No. 2953.

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of April 13, 2016, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I rise today to offer the largest, most sweeping anti-poverty legislation since LBJ began the War on Poverty. This legislation, if passed, would return \$100 billion to areas of poverty and high unemployment in our country—areas that have been devastated by chronic unemployment and poverty. Communities like Eastern Kentucky that have been devastated by the President's war on coal would be rescued. Communities like Flint, MI, where the water is unsafe to drink, would be restored. Communities like Ferguson, the South Side of Chicago, and the West End of Louisville would be given a chance to find the American dream if this legislation is passed.

My legislation is not a gift or a grant; my legislation simply allows \$100 billion to remain in the hands of those who earned it. My legislation will provide incentive for businesses and capital to return to areas overwhelmed by chronic poverty and unemployment.

We are just past the 50-year mark on the War on Poverty. Sadly, 50 years later, we are still fighting that war, and every one of our States still has areas of high unemployment and poverty.

I think it is time we try something different: an approach that harnesses the ingenuity and the hard work of individuals, families, and businesses in our most afflicted communities; an approach that invites new investment to these communities; an approach that is free from government bailouts and bureaucrats picking winners and losers; an approach that provides hope and opportunity.

Economic freedom zones will be the largest anti-poverty program since the War on Poverty. Economic freedom zones are areas of reduced taxes and reduced regulations that increase incentives for business to come into these poor communities. This is about much more than a government stimulus or a handout. This legislation will empower communities by leveraging the human capital, natural resources, and business investment opportunities that already exist.

Reducing taxes in economically distressed areas is a stimulus that will work because the money is returned to businesses and individuals who have already proved they can succeed. This isn't government picking whom to give the money to; this is returning the money to those who have earned it and trying to get those businesses to expand.

Cities and counties will be designated as "economic freedom zones" if local unemployment is 50 percent above the

national average or if poverty is 30 percent above the national average. Localities that are bankrupt—such as Detroit or Flint—or are in danger of bankruptcy are also eligible in order to attract new investment and economic activity that will help shore up the local finances without the need for a bailout. By slashing the Federal tax rate to 5 percent for a 10-year period, we can finally incentivize more businesses to locate in our struggling communities and provide more jobs and opportunities.

My plan leaves the hard-earned dollars of those of the community right there in the community. Instead of sending your money to Washington and begging to get some back, we leave it in your community to stimulate job production and economic growth in your community. It doesn't come to Washington, where politicians often pick the winners and losers; it stays with the community, where the consumers decide who succeeds.

Economic freedom zones will work where Big Government has failed because the money will remain in the hands of people whom local consumers have voted most able to run a business. Whereas big government programs often send money to people who are unable to run a business, who have no proven track record—think of Solyndra; we gave \$500 million to people who didn't have a good business plan—economic freedom zones return the money to businesses and the individuals who have already proved they can run a successful business.

The President's big government stimulus plan was funded by debt. It didn't work because government always fails to identify profitable uses for capital, whereas returning capital to those who originally earned it will provide a stimulus that is exponentially bigger.

In the eastern part of Kentucky, this legislation would provide over half a billion dollars each year in much needed capital. In West Louisville, this legislation would provide an annual infusion of over \$200 million. More importantly, this legislation will provide hope and opportunity where very little optimism currently exists.

For Detroit, it would mean that an extra \$368 million stays in Detroit, in the hands of the families who earned it, and it will be spent locally. Businesses that have demonstrated success will be able to hire new employees. Businesses that move to the area and hire employees will be able to take advantage of these low tax rates and will be welcomed and encouraged to come to the community by the attraction of these low tax rates.

Flint—a city you see in the news every day—which is struggling even to keep clean water, will see an immediate cash infusion of \$124 million if my bill were to pass. As business returns to Flint, as the local economy begins to

grow, so too will the ability of local government to finance their infrastructure. This legislation will help the city's economy recover and its families have more of their own money to spend on their own needs. We skip the middleman. Don't send the money to Washington. If you want to help poor communities in our country, leave the money there. Skip the middleman; don't send to it Washington.

Economic freedom zones will mean an extra \$452 million a year left in Baltimore and \$1.5 billion left in Chicago. These economic effects will be real and will be felt immediately. Economic freedom zones will also provide other reforms that set the stage for medium- and long-term growth. We will lift some of the most anti-growth regulatory burdens. We will allow Federal permitting for construction projects. We will allow this permitting process to be streamlined so we can rebuild our cities.

Regulations that artificially drive up labor costs so public projects cost 20 percent, 30 percent more than private projects—we will eliminate these rules to allow your tax dollars to go further. We will also encourage foreign investment to bring jobs back to these chronic areas of poverty and unemployment. Outside investment into local education and social services will be encouraged. To set the stage for continuous growth and opportunity for the next generation, educational reforms will allow parents to move their children out of failing schools and into the school of their choice.

The War on Poverty has been going on for over 50 years, and it often seems as though poverty is winning. They say the definition of insanity is trying the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Big government programs have not cured poverty. In fact, some would argue they have made it worse. Isn't it time we tried something different?

Today the Senate will have a chance to try something different. Today the Senate will have an opportunity to begin the rebuilding of America. I urge my colleagues to vote for economic freedom zones.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise to voice my support for the passage of the Energy Policy Modernization Act. I am pleased the Senate is considering and on the verge of passing legislation to update our Nation's energy policy. I thank Chairwoman MURKOWSKI, Ranking Member CANTWELL, and their staffs for their hard work in getting this bill to the floor of the Senate.

The Energy Policy Modernization Act is a good bill, but it is not a perfect bill. It is a compromised piece of legislation, and it does contain provisions I

do not support, such as expediting the export of liquid natural gas, which I am concerned could raise domestic energy prices and harm steelworkers in northern Minnesota, but there are also a number of important provisions I do support.

Congress has not passed a comprehensive energy bill since 2007, and a lot has changed in the energy sector since then. I believe comprehensive energy legislation needs to promote innovation, deploy clean energy technology, reduce greenhouse gases, and create good-paying jobs. The energy efficiency title of this bill will help produce electricity use, save consumers money, and increase our competitiveness through commonsense measures such as updating building codes. The bill permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund to ensure that we preserve our natural resources for generations to come. It also invests billions of dollars in science and innovation through the reauthorization of ARPA-E and the DOE Office of Science. These are the types of investments we will need to transform our energy system, an energy system that has been powered by dirty fossil fuels but is increasingly powered by clean, renewable technologies.

This bill also includes a provision I authored with Ranking Member CANTWELL to invest \$50 million per year in energy storage research and development. Energy storage will play a crucial role in helping unlock substantial new renewable energy resources. As you know, the Sun shines during the day and the wind blows more at night. Balancing these intermittent resources can be a challenge for energy providers, and this is where I see storage playing a critical role in ensuring that our electricity generation meets our demand. While storage technology has been around for a long time, we need the next generation of technologies for cost-effective implementation at the grid scale. This investment will spur innovation at universities and in the private sector to help get us where we need to be.

Investing in energy storage will also position the United States to lead in exporting these technologies to power-hungry countries around the world. Take India, for example. India's goal is to deploy 100 gigawatts of new solar power by 2022—a truly impressive target. As India and other countries build economies based on renewable energy, they will need storage technologies to turn intermittent solar energy into baseload power. I want America to develop and manufacture these storage technologies which will create jobs and lower emissions at the same time.

Energy storage also has the benefit of making our grid more resilient. According to the Department of Energy's 2015 Quadrennial Energy Review,

weather was responsible for half of the reported grid outages between 2011 and 2014 when customers went without power, and with the climate changing, it is essential we minimize the impact of weather-related grid outages on American households and businesses. Additional storage capacity will do just that—improving resilience to all types of grid disruption and allowing us to keep the lights on.

I also worked on a provision in this bill to reauthorize the DOE Office of Indian Energy. This office provides education, training, technical assistance, and grants to American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages that are looking to develop energy projects. Since 2002, this office has provided \$50 million for almost 200 renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects in Indian Country. We want to build on this momentum and continue this successful program. I am pleased we have extended the authorization of this office for another 10 years.

This Friday more than 100 nations will come together in New York to sign the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. While commitments to reducing emissions are important, they must be followed by real action to reduce our carbon footprint. The Energy bill we are debating takes an important step forward in doing just that, but of course we cannot stop here. Climate change is an existential threat to our planet and future generations. As a country, we must continue to expand clean energy and reduce greenhouse gases. I hope we can continue to build on the bipartisan work we did with this bill to do just that.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

AMENDMENT NO. 3312 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2953

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, first I wish to thank and congratulate Chairman LISA MURKOWSKI and Ranking Member MARIA CANTWELL for all their hard work and leadership on this Energy bill. They have done a very good job of getting this bill to the floor, and we now find ourselves in the position to offer amendments, which I am here to do. I think all of us are very happy to be able to be moving this legislation along and amending it.

My amendment is a very simple study amendment. It directs the Secretary of the Treasury to study and submit a report to Congress on potential clean energy victory bonds. This amendment is pro-clean energy. It changes no rules, it does not mandate any actual bonds, and being a study it does not score or impact the budget.

Citizens across this country want to see a cleaner energy future. They are doing their part to conserve energy, purchase cleaner energy, and invest in clean energy mutual funds. They are

doing this on a voluntary basis. It is having a big impact and pushing clean energy technologies forward in a rather dramatic way, but we also understand our energy challenges are broad and require large-scale investments by many investors.

We can harness and keep it voluntary without any cost to taxpayers through clean energy victory bonds. The Federal Government is our Nation's largest energy consumer, with more than 350,000 buildings and 600,000 road vehicles. Think about your own electricity bill that you pay each month and the gas you buy at the pump. The U.S. Government has to pay such bills as well to the tune of over \$20 billion each year. Most of that, about two-thirds, is for petroleum.

The Federal Government wants to cut its bills too. We invest in clean energy through energy efficiency upgrades and through power purchase agreements for cleaner energy and stable, predictable energy prices. The government has a choice about these options just as private citizens do. Private citizens can choose the types of energy they purchase for their homes and their businesses, and many opt for wind power, solar power, or other clean energy sources, or they install energy-efficient windows and appliances. Many tell me they want to help our government make these choices as well. Clean energy victory bonds could help us move in that direction. By purchasing a Treasury bond specifically devoted to clean energy, Americans can help the government supplement its energy purchases with energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy decisions. These investments could provide additional support to existing Federal financing programs already available to States for energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy. What is exciting about this option is that smart investments can help pay for themselves and bring a return on investment to people who purchase these bonds. That is why we think it is so important to study this option. It is a simple financial instrument that is a win for people saving money and a win for reducing the government's energy bill and it is all on a voluntary basis.

During the First and Second World Wars, our country faced threats we had never faced before. We rose to the challenge and gave it everything we had. Everyone contributed, and for many that included investing in victory bonds. They helped pay for the cost of the war—\$185 billion. That would be over \$2 trillion today. Folks lined up to buy those bonds. That is the spirit of the American people—to pull together. It was true then and it is still true today.

We face a very different challenge today. Our energy challenges are seen on multiple fronts, from the impacts to our environment to our global and

international struggles based on our dependence on foreign oil. Citizens want to unite and contribute. They want investments in homegrown American clean energy. Many cannot afford to buy solar panels for their own homes or invest \$1,000 minimums to buy clean energy mutual funds, but many can afford \$25 for a clean energy victory bond.

This amendment asks the Secretary of the Treasury to help inform Congress on the feasibility and structure of developing such a tool. It has broad support from groups such as the American Sustainable Business Council, Green America, the American Wind Energy Association, Ceres, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and many other groups. It has broad support out there.

Mr. President, I ask to call up my amendment No. 3312 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. UDALL] proposes an amendment numbered 3312 to amendment No. 2953.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of the Treasury to develop a plan for issuance of Clean Energy Victory Bonds)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY BONDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a report to Congress that provides recommendations for the establishment, issuance, and promotion of Clean Energy Victory Bonds by the Department of the Treasury (referred to in this section as the “Clean Energy Victory Bonds Program”).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of subsection (a), the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Program shall be designed to—

(1) ensure that any available proceeds from the issuance of Clean Energy Victory Bonds are used to finance clean energy projects (as defined in subsection (c)) at the Federal, State, and local level, which may include—

(A) providing additional support to existing Federal financing programs available to States for energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy deployment, and

(B) providing funding for clean energy investments by the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies,

(2) provide for payment of interest to persons holding Clean Energy Victory Bonds through such methods as are determined appropriate by the Secretary of the Treasury, including amounts—

(A) recaptured from savings achieved through reduced energy spending by entities receiving any funding or financial assistance described in paragraph (1), and

(B) collected as interest on loans financed or guaranteed under the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Program,

(3) issue bonds in denominations of not less than \$25 or such amount as is determined appropriate by the Secretary of the Treasury to make them generally accessible to the public, and

(4) collect not more than \$50,000,000,000 in revenue from the issuance of Clean Energy

Victory Bonds for purposes of financing clean energy projects described in paragraph (1).

(c) CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.—The term “clean energy project” means a project which provides—

(1) performance-based energy efficiency improvements, or

(2) clean energy improvements, including—

(A) electricity generated from solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, and hydrokinetic energy sources,

(B) fuel cells using non-fossil fuel sources,

(C) advanced batteries,

(D) next generation biofuels from non-food feedstocks, and

(E) electric vehicle infrastructure.

Mr. UDALL. I thank the Presiding Officer and will yield the floor. I know Senators Bennet and Isakson are here. They are both great leaders when it comes to clean energy and working on this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Udall amendment No. 3312.

AMENDMENT NO. 3202 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2953

(Purpose: To improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting used by the Federal Housing Administration by ensuring that energy costs are included in the underwriting process, to reduce the amount of energy consumed by homes, to facilitate the creation of energy efficiency retrofit and construction jobs, and for other purposes.)

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask to call up the Isakson-Bennet amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. ISAKSON] proposes an amendment numbered 3202 to amendment No. 2953.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of February 2, 2016, under “Text of Amendments.”)

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am delighted to rise in favor of the Isakson-Bennet amendment, the SAVE Act, and glad to acknowledge my hard work with MICHAEL BENNET, who has been a great partner in this effort.

I particularly want to acknowledge the patience of Senators Cantwell and Murkowski in allowing this bill and amendment to come forward. They have exemplified the type of patience that is necessary to do legislative work and do it well.

Very simply, this bill allows the Federal Housing Administration, in the underwriting of a mortgage loan for a family applying for that loan, to consider in the value of the appraisal, the enhanced over-minimum standards that are put in for insulation and the enhanced over-minimum standard savings that come to the consumer from those energy standards being put in. So the borrower gets credit as if it is income from the savings that comes from

putting in the insulation for the higher standards. The value of the property is enhanced in order for the borrower to be able to pay for the enhancements, and they are permanent. It is a win-win-win proposition.

Why are we doing this? It already worked in the United States. It worked in the 1980s when the savings and loan industry made most of the mortgage loans. In Georgia, we had a program called Good Sense Housing. If you put in enhanced energy savings, you were given credit toward qualification on your loan. When we put them in, we had better thermal windowpanes, better results, and less consumption.

This a good amendment that allows consumers to get what they want and allows Americans to enjoy more energy-efficient housing.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from Georgia for his tireless work on this bill. We have been at it now for 3 years, and here we are on the floor close to passing it. There is not a Senator in this body who possesses the knowledge that Senator ISAKSON does about real estate and how it works in the United States. It has been a real privilege to work with him on the bill.

I also wish to thank the chairwoman and the ranking member of the committee for their fine work on this bill.

It is time to enact this commonsense bill, the SAFE Act, as it is called. It is supported by groups all across the political spectrum, including the Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Sierra Club, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Our amendment, as Senator ISAKSON said, would allow for a home’s energy efficiency to be considered when a borrower applies for a loan. So when you apply for a mortgage, you can request an energy audit, and if you have a loan backed by the Federal Housing Administration, the energy efficiency of your new home and your future energy bills will be taken into account by your mortgage lender. Why is that important? Well, today, even though homeowners spend more money on energy than they do on taxes or buying home insurance, energy costs are not taken into account. And when they are taken into account, as a consequence of this bill, the savings derived from that energy efficiency can then be applied to paying your mortgage.

I want to be clear—and Senator ISAKSON said this—this amendment is not a mandate. It simply sets up a voluntary program.

It will create thousands of jobs in manufacturing and construction. By 2040, the estimates are that it will save consumers \$1.2 billion in energy costs

and save enough energy to power 100,000 homes every year.

I have heard from builders all across Colorado who support this amendment—people like Gene Myers, CEO and founder of Thrive Home Builders in Denver. He has built more than 1,000 energy-efficient homes, but he understands that we won't fully attain the benefits of efficiency in the market until we properly value it.

For these reasons, a large and diverse coalition supports this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment to improve energy efficiency, save money, and create American jobs.

Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I thank Senator BENNET for his support, and I urge each Member of the Senate today to vote favorably for the SAVE Act and favorably for the end legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today we will take steps to secure our Montana heritage and "Made in Montana" jobs. We will stand up for the Montana way of life.

Today we will pass a bill that for the first time would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, an important piece of legislation ensuring that Montanans have access to public lands.

As a fifth generation Montanan and avid sportsman, I recognize how valuable public lands are and the importance of ensuring access for generations to come. In fact, during the summer recesses, when many Senators are traveling around the world, there is no better place that I like to be than the back country of Montana, like I was last summer with my wife, my son, and our dog Ruby in the Beartooth Wilderness. In Montana and throughout the country, the Land and Water Conservation Fund plays a critical role in achieving the goal of increased access and by helping to preserve and protect Montanans' opportunities to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation.

LWCF keeps lands, like family ranches, in the family and working. It keeps forests in productive use through the Forest Legacy Program, such as in the Haskill Basin, where my good friend Chuck Rody of Stoltze Land and Lumber works. Today will be a vic-

tory for them—like Eric Grove of Great Divide Cyclery in Helena, MT, who has built his mountain bike business around the South Hills Trail System outside of Helena, facilitated by LWCF.

There are many other small businesses like Eric's in Montana that depend on our thriving outdoor economy.

This bill will also streamline the permitting for the export of liquefied natural gas, allowing more American energy to power the world.

Montana is the fifth largest producer of hydropower in the Nation, and we have 23 hydroelectric dams. This bill strengthens our Nation's hydropower development by defining hydro as a renewable fuel. Only in Washington, DC, would hydro not be defined as a renewable source of energy. I am glad to see we will get that cleared up with this bill today. This is great news for Montana, and it is well overdue.

This energy bill will establish a pilot project to streamline drilling permits if less than 25 percent of the minerals within the spacing unit are Federal minerals. That is of particular importance to Montana, given the patchwork of land and mineral ownership in the Bakken.

This bill will improve Federal permitting of critical and strategic mineral production, which supports thousands of good-paying Montana jobs and is essential to our national security and international competitiveness. The absence of just one critical mineral or metal could disrupt entire technologies, entire industries, and create a ripple effect throughout our entire economy.

For example, Stillwater mines in Montana is one of the only sources of palladium and platinum in the world. Currently, the United States has one of the longest and most arduous permitting processes for critical minerals in the world. This bill helps address those concerns.

Metal and nonmetal mining also has directly created more than 16,000 good-paying Montana jobs. In fact, mining overall helps support more than 22,000 jobs across Montana.

In Montana, energy supports thousands of good-paying jobs for union workers, for tribal members. Access to our State's one-of-a-kind public lands is critical to our State's tourism economy and our way of life. We in Montana say we work, but we also like to play, striking the right balance towards responsible natural resource development as well as protecting our public lands.

With passage of the energy bill, we will help unleash Montana's and our country's energy potential and uphold our country's commitment to conservation.

I urge adoption of the bill and commend Chairman MURKOWSKI for her leadership.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3210 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2953

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3210 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. LANKFORD] proposes an amendment numbered 3210 to amendment No. 2953.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add provisions relating to acquisition of Federal land under the Land and Water Conservation Fund)

On page 426, after line 23, add the following:

(e) CERTAIN LAND ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 200306 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by subsection (d)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) NON-ROAD DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG.—If the non-road deferred maintenance backlog on Federal land is greater than \$1,000,000,000, acquisitions of land under this section may not exceed the level of deferred maintenance backlog funding.

“(f) MAINTENANCE NEEDS.—In making an acquisition of land under this section, funds appropriated for the acquisition shall include any funds necessary to address maintenance needs at the time of acquisition on the acquired land.

“(g) CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CERTAIN LAND ACQUISITIONS.—For any acquisition of land under this section for which the cost of the land is greater than \$50,000 per acre—

“(1) before acquiring the land, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the land proposed to be acquired; and

“(2) no acquisition may be made unless the proposed acquisition is—

“(A) reported to Congress in accordance with paragraph (1); and

“(B) approved by the enactment of a bill or joint resolution.”.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, there are a lot of good things in this bill that we are discussing. There are a lot of good amendments that have been brought to the floor.

There has been an awful lot of conversation over the past year about a program called the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It is a straightforward program that has been around for a long time. It takes money from revenue from offshore oil drilling and it uses that money to purchase land, usually next to a national park or in other areas, and that becomes Federal land.

The problem is that over the decades we have continued to accumulate more money in the Land and Water Conservation Fund and we have continued

to accumulate more land onto the Federal roll but we are not taking care of what we have.

The issue with this particular version of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is that it is not a short-term extension the way it has always been in the past; it is a permanent program put in place—permanent meaning there are no changes. So permanently we put in a structure that continues to purchase Federal lands without maintaining those lands. We all know it. We all see it.

Year after year, everyone has said we should add more to maintenance, but year after year we just buy more land using the Land and Water Conservation Fund and never use other budget funds for maintenance because, quite frankly, there are a lot of other vital Federal issues that need to be paid for.

The simple solution to this is to take the money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and make sure that one simple thing is done: that when we purchase land, we also maintain that land with that funding. We also take care of the backlog.

This amendment is very straightforward: We use 50 percent to purchase land and 50 percent to maintain the land until we at least get down to a \$1 billion backlog, and then we can reconsider. A \$1 billion backlog is the goal. In some ways, this has become controversial. I can't believe it would be controversial to say: Let's try to work our Nation down to only a \$1 billion backlog in our maintenance for all our Federal facilities.

We have record attendance at our national parks. They are beautiful national treasures, but if we can't maintain them, then we reinforce what is already true: that the Federal Government is the largest landowner, largest land controller, and the worst landowner in the country. Federal lands are maintained the least of any other large holder of land. Let's fix it.

This doesn't take away the Land and Water Conservation Fund; this makes sure we take care of what we have. When we purchase land and bring it in, we make sure we also set aside money to fix it. Frankly, it is straightforward.

Today my daughter turns 16 years old. She will at some point get a used car. I am sure it will be a doozy—we are thinking somewhere around a 1978 Volvo. Nice and tough. Indestructible. At some point she will end up with a used car, but the requirement is that she has to be a part of the purchase of it. When we buy that car, we will not use everything in our savings account, nor will we allow her to use all of her savings account. She has to have enough money to be able to put gas in it and maintain it when it breaks down because it is a car and it will break down. This change in the Land and Water Conservation Fund is as simple as that. Whenever we put new land in

the inventory, we make sure we have money set aside to make sure we can actually take care of it. Why have a car if you can't put gas in it? Why continue to add land year after year if we are not going to maintain it? That is not good stewardship of our resources; that is bad stewardship of our resources.

This amendment says that before we make this program permanent, let's fix the structure of this program to make sure we are also watching out for the program long term as well.

One other quick note. Some of the land that has been purchased has been purchased for very high amounts, such as \$1-million-per-acre types of amounts. This amendment puts a simple block in it that says: Before there is a purchase of land for more than \$50,000 an acre, run that through Congress to make sure someone has had a second look at that. It is a straightforward provision to make sure the Federal taxpayer is not paying more than they should per acre for land in the Federal inventory.

I would urge the adoption of this amendment. This doesn't kill the program; it enhances the program. It allows us to take better care of our Federal land and to engage with that.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

MS. CANTWELL. Mr. President, before we go to the votes that have been scheduled on this bill, I wanted to take a few more minutes. I mentioned some of our colleagues from the Energy Committee and some of their contributions, but I wanted to mention a couple of other provisions that are in this underlying bill and to thank our colleagues for their hard work, Senator WYDEN particularly for his focus on renewable energy technologies, such as marine and hydrokinetic and geothermal. These are important provisions because they are going to help us gain a foothold in very important areas of this development. I thank him for his contribution.

I mentioned energy storage earlier, and in committee our colleagues dealt with this a lot, but Senators FRANKEN, HEINRICH, HIRONO, and KING all made significant contributions on the modernization of the grid and grid storage, as my colleague from Alaska knows, on how to plan for microgrid activity—and Senator HIRONO, because she has a very unique State that she represents, Hawaii. Having an integration of those activities into the grid is very important. I thank them for their contributions on making our electricity grid more distributed and integrating in some of the renewable energies and making sure that our grid has the flexibility to do that.

Senator KING has certainly worked hard to ensure that distributed genera-

tion gets a fair shake in the marketplace and to make sure that consumers are treated fairly. This is a subject our committee will continue to work on. I am sure we are going to hear about it. For those individual homeowners who are making investments in solar energy, we want to make sure they are not unfairly treated by their own utilities in how that solar development plays out. They don't want to be overcharged for the development of solar, if they want to put solar on their homes. They are willing to be part of the solution; they don't want to be the funder of the whole solution. I think Senator KING is rightly concerned about how distributed generation gets a fair shake.

I thank Senator FRANKEN. He was out here on the floor, and he was a key proponent of the Department of Energy science and investment in the areas of energy storage and generation, and he has been a very strong voice on why storage is so important. And as I mentioned, Washington being a hydro State and having a variety of renewable energies, having storage capability is very important for us in the Pacific Northwest.

Senator FRANKEN is also a very strong voice in how energy programs are going to work in the tribal areas of our country. I thank him for that.

I also thank Senator MANCHIN for working with Senator HEINRICH and Senator MURKOWSKI on the bipartisan sportsmen's package that is included in this bill, which is something that the Senate—well, let's just say that we had a lot of discussion about the sportsmen's bill over many Congresses, so the fact that we are actually passing a comprehensive sportsmen's package is a great testament to the work of our committee and the work of the Senate in a bipartisan fashion.

I thank Senator WARREN for her focus on transparency in energy commodity markets and ensuring that consumers' interests are there, particularly when it comes to global natural gas markets, and making sure we are well informed about what is happening in the marketplace. These are all important because we want to have enough transparency that the consumers and the government know what is happening and that we never run into the kind of situation we did before with the manipulation of markets because of very tight markets and people taking advantage of that.

I appreciate all of the committee members on our side of the aisle and their contributions, and I certainly appreciate working on these issues with the chair of the committee and many members.

I thank Senator STABENOW and Senator PETERS. I know we tried for many weeks to work on a solution to the Flint issue. The chair, Senator MURKOWSKI, was very efficient in trying to

marshal the discussions on her side of the aisle about how to get a resolution to this issue. I thank her for that. I know our colleagues, Senators STABENOW and PETERS, will continue to work on finding solutions to this, so I thank them for that, and I thank them for their leadership on manufacturing and vehicle technology as well.

Again, I know we are going to start voting, but I can't emphasize enough how much material is in the underlying bill, the amendments we cleared earlier by voice vote, and the amendments we are going to vote on. This is a lot of work, and I want to again thank the staff for continuing to process a lot of ideas about energy policies, land conservation policies, and workforce and energy issues for the future because all of these are vital policies for us—modernizing our energy infrastructure and making sure we continue to protect consumers and businesses and making sure we are going to be competitive in the future.

I again thank the chair for her leadership on this issue and look forward to processing the rest of these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as my colleague on the committee pointed out, many individuals have made great effort and have made very positive contributions toward where we are today with this Energy bill. I wanted to note very quickly some of the groups who have weighed in throughout the process as we have sought input in different sectors across the energy space and really across the broader economy for some of the ideas in efficiency, supply, infrastructure, and accountability. When we look at the list of those organizations from around the country in different areas, I have a seven-page, single-spaced list in very small type of those who have weighed in in support of the measures we have in front of us today. From my State, it is everyone from the Department of Natural Resources, to the Alaska Power Association, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, the Cordova Electric Co-op, and a whole bunch more.

At the national level, we have support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Chemistry Council, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers—and I am picking randomly.

We have support from labor groups—North America's Building Trades Union, the United Auto Workers, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters—who all weighed in with support for ideas that are included.

We have a huge coalition—from the Alliance to Save Energy, to Seattle City Light—that have focused on the work we have done with efficiency.

When we think about those who are focused on keeping the lights on, keep-

ing fuel affordable, those who produce the materials that make modern life possible, groups such as the National Hydropower Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the National Mining Association, the American Exploration & Mining Association, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy, the American Public Power Association, and Edison Electric Institute—there is a long list of those who have weighed in in support. It is all over the board—the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, the American Society of Interior Designers, the Nebraska Public Power District. The list is comprehensive and notable.

I want to be clear, not all in these groups agree with all aspects of the bill that we have in front of us. Those who support our work to streamline LNG exports might not necessarily be supportive of what we are trying to do to clean up the United States Code. But I think it is fair to say that to craft a bill that 100 percent of everybody likes is just not going to happen.

What we have in front of us today and what the Senate will now commence voting on is a bipartisan product that has gone through an extraordinary process in the past year, has been collaboratively built, and is an effort to modernize our energy policies in a smart way that uses common sense. It is not the government telling us what we shall do; it is doing it for the right reasons.

With that, Mr. President, we have come to the end of our 2 hours of debate, so we will commence with our series of rollcall votes that have previously been agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3234, AS MODIFIED, TO  
AMENDMENT NO. 2953

Mr. President, at this time, I call up my amendment No. 3234.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Ms. MURKOWSKI] proposes an amendment numbered 3234, as modified, to amendment No. 2953.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To add certain provisions relating to natural resources)

At the end, add the following:

**TITLE VI—NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Subtitle A—Land Conveyances and Related Matters**

**SEC. 6001. ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado is adjusted to incorporate the approximately 92.95 acres of land generally depicted as “The Wedge” on the map entitled “Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment” and dated November 6, 2013, and described as lots three, four, eight, and nine of section 13, Township 4 North, Range 76 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado. A lot described in this subsection may be included in the boundary adjustment only after the Sec-

retary of Agriculture obtains written permission for such action from the lot owner or owners.

(b) BOWEN GULCH PROTECTION AREA.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall include all Federal land within the boundary described in subsection (a) in the Bowen Gulch Protection Area established under section 6 of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 539j).

(c) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—For purposes of section 200306(a)(2)(B)(i) of title 54, United States Code, the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest, as modified under subsection (a), shall be considered to be the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest as in existence on January 1, 1965.

(d) PUBLIC MOTORIZED USE.—Nothing in this section opens privately owned lands within the boundary described in subsection (a) to public motorized use.

(e) ACCESS TO NON-FEDERAL LANDS.—Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6(f) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 539j(f)) regarding motorized travel, the owners of any non-Federal lands within the boundary described in subsection (a) who historically have accessed their lands through lands now or hereafter owned by the United States within the boundary described in subsection (a) shall have the continued right of motorized access to their lands across the existing roadway.

**SEC. 6002. LAND CONVEYANCE, ELKHORN RANCH AND WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO.**

(a) LAND CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Consistent with the purpose of the Act of March 3, 1909 (43 U.S.C. 772), all right, title, and interest of the United States (subject to subsection (b)) in and to a parcel of land consisting of approximately 148 acres as generally depicted on the map entitled “Elkhorn Ranch Land Parcel-White River National Forest” and dated March 2015 shall be conveyed by patent to the Gordman-Leverich Partnership, a Colorado Limited Liability Partnership (in this section referred to as “GLP”).

(b) EXISTING RIGHTS.—The conveyance under subsection (a)—

(1) is subject to the valid existing rights of the lessee of Federal oil and gas lease COC-75070 and any other valid existing rights; and

(2) shall reserve to the United States the right to collect rent and royalty payments on the lease referred to in paragraph (1) for the duration of the lease.

(c) EXISTING BOUNDARIES.—The conveyance under subsection (a) does not modify the exterior boundary of the White River National Forest or the boundaries of Sections 18 and 19 of Township 7 South, Range 93 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado, as such boundaries are in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) TIME FOR CONVEYANCE; PAYMENT OF COSTS.—The conveyance directed under subsection (a) shall be completed not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The conveyance shall be without consideration, except that all costs incurred by the Secretary of the Interior relating to any survey, platting, legal description, or other activities carried out to prepare and issue the patent shall be paid by GLP to the Secretary prior to the land conveyance.

**SEC. 6003. LAND EXCHANGE IN CRAGS, COLORADO.**

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate the land exchange set forth herein; and

(2) to promote enhanced public outdoor recreational and natural resource conservation opportunities in the Pike National Forest near Pikes Peak, Colorado, via acquisition of the non-Federal land and trail easement.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BHI.—The term “BHI” means Broadmoor Hotel, Inc., a Colorado corporation.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 83 acres of land within the Pike National Forest, El Paso County, Colorado, together with a non-exclusive perpetual access easement to BHI to and from such land on Forest Service Road 371, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Crags Land Exchange—Federal Parcel—Emerald Valley Ranch”, dated March 2015.

(3) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Federal land” means the land and trail easement to be conveyed to the Secretary by BHI in the exchange and is—

(A) approximately 320 acres of land within the Pike National Forest, Teller County, Colorado, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Crags Land Exchange—Non-Federal Parcel—Crags Property”, dated March 2015; and

(B) a permanent trail easement for the Barr Trail in El Paso County, Colorado, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Crags Land Exchange—Barr Trail Easement to United States”, dated March 2015, and which shall be considered as a voluntary donation to the United States by BHI for all purposes of law.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, unless otherwise specified.

(c) LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If BHI offers to convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of BHI in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall accept the offer and simultaneously convey to BHI the Federal land.

(2) LAND TITLE.—Title to the non-Federal land conveyed and donated to the Secretary under this section shall be acceptable to the Secretary and shall conform to the title approval standards of the Attorney General of the United States applicable to land acquisitions by the Federal Government.

(3) PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT TO BHI.—The non-exclusive perpetual access easement to be granted to BHI as shown on the map referred to in subsection (b)(2) shall allow—

(A) BHI to fully maintain, at BHI’s expense, and use Forest Service Road 371 from its junction with Forest Service Road 368 in accordance with historic use and maintenance patterns by BHI; and

(B) full and continued public and administrative access and use of FSR 371 in accordance with the existing Forest Service travel management plan, or as such plan may be revised by the Secretary.

(4) ROUTE AND CONDITION OF ROAD.—BHI and the Secretary may mutually agree to improve, relocate, reconstruct, or otherwise alter the route and condition of all or portions of such road as the Secretary, in close consultation with BHI, may determine advisable.

(5) EXCHANGE COSTS.—BHI shall pay for all land survey, appraisal, and other costs to the Secretary as may be necessary to process and consummate the exchange directed by this section, including reimbursement to the Secretary, if the Secretary so requests, for staff time spent in such processing and consummation.

(d) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE AND APPRAISALS.—

(1) APPRAISALS.—The values of the lands to be exchanged under this section shall be determined by the Secretary through appraisals performed in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

(C) appraisal instructions issued by the Secretary; and

(D) shall be performed by an appraiser mutually agreed to by the Secretary and BHI.

(2) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—The values of the Federal and non-Federal land parcels exchanged shall be equal, or if they are not equal, shall be equalized as follows:

(A) SURPLUS OF FEDERAL LAND VALUE.—If the final appraised value of the Federal land exceeds the final appraised value of the non-Federal land parcel identified in subsection (b)(3)(A), BHI shall make a cash equalization payment to the United States as necessary to achieve equal value, including, if necessary, an amount in excess of that authorized pursuant to section 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)).

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Any cash equalization moneys received by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the “Sisk Act”; 16 U.S.C. 484a); and

(ii) made available to the Secretary for the acquisition of land or interests in land in Region 2 of the Forest Service.

(C) SURPLUS OF NON-FEDERAL LAND VALUE.—If the final appraised value of the non-Federal land parcel identified in subsection (b)(3)(A) exceeds the final appraised value of the Federal land, the United States shall not make a cash equalization payment to BHI, and surplus value of the non-Federal land shall be considered a donation by BHI to the United States for all purposes of law.

(3) APPRAISAL EXCLUSIONS.—

(A) SPECIAL USE PERMIT.—The appraised value of the Federal land parcel shall not reflect any increase or diminution in value due to the special use permit existing on the date of the enactment of this Act to BHI on the parcel and improvements thereunder.

(B) BARR TRAIL EASEMENT.—The Barr Trail easement donation identified in subsection (b)(3)(B) shall not be appraised for purposes of this section.

(e) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—

(1) WITHDRAWAL PROVISIONS.—

(A) WITHDRAWAL.—Lands acquired by the Secretary under this section shall, without further action by the Secretary, be permanently withdrawn from all forms of appropriation and disposal under the public land laws (including the mining and mineral leasing laws) and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1930 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(B) WITHDRAWAL REVOCATION.—Any public land order that withdraws the Federal land from appropriation or disposal under a public land law shall be revoked to the extent necessary to permit disposal of the Federal land parcel to BHI.

(C) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND.—All Federal land authorized to be exchanged under this section, if not already withdrawn or segregated from appropriation or disposal under the public lands laws upon enactment of this Act, is hereby so withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, until the date of conveyance of the Federal land to BHI.

(2) POSTEXCHANGE LAND MANAGEMENT.—Land acquired by the Secretary under this

section shall become part of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and be managed in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System.

(3) EXCHANGE TIMETABLE.—It is the intent of Congress that the land exchange directed by this section be consummated no later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) MAPS, ESTIMATES, AND DESCRIPTIONS.—

(A) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary and BHI may by mutual agreement make minor boundary adjustments to the Federal and non-Federal lands involved in the exchange, and may correct any minor errors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of any land to be exchanged.

(B) CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between a map, an acreage estimate, or a description of land under this section, the map shall control unless the Secretary and BHI mutually agree otherwise.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—Upon enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file and make available for public inspection in the headquarters of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest a copy of all maps referred to in this section.

#### SEC. 6004. CERRO DEL YUTA AND RÍO SAN ANTONIO WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Río Grande del Norte National Monument Proposed Wilderness Areas” and dated July 28, 2015.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term “wilderness area” means a wilderness area designated by subsection (b)(1).

(b) DESIGNATION OF CERRO DEL YUTA AND RÍO SAN ANTONIO WILDERNESS AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the Río Grande del Norte National Monument are designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) CERRO DEL YUTA WILDERNESS.—Certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Taos County, New Mexico, comprising approximately 13,420 acres as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the “Cerro del Yuta Wilderness”.

(B) RÍO SAN ANTONIO WILDERNESS.—Certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Río Arriba County, New Mexico, comprising approximately 8,120 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the “Río San Antonio Wilderness”.

(2) MANAGEMENT OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas shall be administered in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this section, except that with respect to the wilderness areas designated by this subsection—

(A) any reference to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) any reference in the Wilderness Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary.

(3) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.—Any land or interest in land within the boundary of the wilderness areas that is acquired by the United States shall—

(A) become part of the wilderness area in which the land is located; and



(B) be managed in accordance with—  
 (i) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

(ii) this section; and  
 (iii) any other applicable laws.  
 (4) **GRAZING.**—Grazing of livestock in the wilderness areas, where established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be administered in accordance with—

(A) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(B) the guidelines set forth in appendix A of the Report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to accompany H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept. 101-405).

(5) **BUFFER ZONES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this section creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the wilderness areas.

(B) **ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS AREAS.**—The fact that an activity or use on land outside a wilderness area can be seen or heard within the wilderness area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

(6) **RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.**—Congress finds that, for purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the public land within the San Antonio Wilderness Study Area not designated as wilderness by this subsection—

(A) has been adequately studied for wilderness designation;

(B) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(C) shall be managed in accordance with this section.

(7) **MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file the map and legal descriptions of the wilderness areas with—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(B) **FORCE OF LAW.**—The map and legal descriptions filed under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct errors in the legal description and map.

(C) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The map and legal descriptions filed under subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(8) **NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM.**—The wilderness areas shall be administered as components of the National Landscape Conservation System.

(9) **FISH AND WILDLIFE.**—Nothing in this section affects the jurisdiction of the State of New Mexico with respect to fish and wildlife located on public land in the State.

(10) **WITHDRAWALS.**—Subject to valid existing rights, any Federal land within the wilderness areas designated by paragraph (1), including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(11) **TREATY RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this section enlarges, diminishes, or otherwise modifies any treaty rights.

**SEC. 6005. CLARIFICATION RELATING TO A CERTAIN LAND DESCRIPTION UNDER THE NORTHERN ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND VERDE RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2005.**

Section 104(a)(5) of the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-110; 119 Stat. 2356) is amended by inserting before the period at the end “, which, notwithstanding section 102(a)(4)(B), includes the N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, the N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, and the N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, sec. 34, T. 22 N., R. 2 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, comprising approximately 25 acres”.

**SEC. 6006. COOPER SPUR LAND EXCHANGE CLARIFICATION AMENDMENTS.**

Section 1206(a) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1018) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—  
 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “120 acres” and inserting “107 acres”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by inserting “improvements,” after “buildings,”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—  
 (A) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows shall select” and inserting “Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows shall jointly select”;

(ii) in clause (ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “An appraisal under clause (i) shall” and inserting “Except as provided under clause (iii), an appraisal under clause (i) shall assign a separate value to each tax lot to allow for the equalization of values and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:  
 “(iii) **FINAL APPRAISED VALUE.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subclause (II), after the final appraised value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land are determined and approved by the Secretary, the Secretary shall not be required to reappraise or update the final appraised value for a period of up to 3 years, beginning on the date of the approval by the Secretary of the final appraised value.

“(II) **EXCEPTION.**—Subclause (I) shall not apply if the condition of either the Federal land or the non-Federal land referred to in subclause (I) is significantly and substantially altered by fire, windstorm, or other events.

“(iv) **PUBLIC REVIEW.**—Before completing the land exchange under this Act, the Secretary shall make available for public review the complete appraisals of the land to be exchanged.”; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting the following:

“(G) **REQUIRED CONVEYANCE CONDITIONS.**—Prior to the exchange of the Federal and non-Federal land—

“(i) the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows may mutually agree for the Secretary to reserve a conservation easement to protect the identified wetland in accordance with applicable law, subject to the requirements that—

“(I) the conservation easement shall be consistent with the terms of the September 30, 2015, mediation between the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows; and

“(II) in order to take effect, the conservation easement shall be finalized not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016; and

“(ii) the Secretary shall reserve a 24-foot-wide nonexclusive trail easement at the ex-

isting trail locations on the Federal land that retains for the United States existing rights to construct, reconstruct, maintain, and permit nonmotorized use by the public of existing trails subject to the right of the owner of the Federal land—

“(I) to cross the trails with roads, utilities, and infrastructure facilities; and

“(II) to improve or relocate the trails to accommodate development of the Federal land.

“(H) **EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), in addition to or in lieu of monetary compensation, a lesser area of Federal land or non-Federal land may be conveyed if necessary to equalize appraised values of the exchange properties, without limitation, consistent with the requirements of this Act and subject to the approval of the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows.

“(ii) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN COMPENSATION OR CONVEYANCES AS DONATION.**—If, after payment of compensation or adjustment of land area subject to exchange under this Act, the amount by which the appraised value of the land and other property conveyed by Mt. Hood Meadows under subparagraph (A) exceeds the appraised value of the land conveyed by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall be considered a donation by Mt. Hood Meadows to the United States.”.

**SEC. 6007. EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ELIGIBLE.**—The term “eligible”, with respect to an organization or individual, means that the organization or individual, respectively, is—

(A) acting in a not-for-profit capacity; and  
 (B) composed entirely of members who, at the time of the good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission, have attained the age of majority under the law of the State where the mission takes place.

(2) **GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH-AND-RECOVERY MISSION.**—The term “good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission” means a search conducted by an eligible organization or individual for 1 or more missing individuals believed to be deceased at the time that the search is initiated.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable.

(b) **PROCESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Secretary shall develop and implement a process to expedite access to Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for eligible organizations and individuals to request access to Federal land to conduct good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The process developed and implemented under this subsection shall include provisions to clarify that—

(A) an eligible organization or individual granted access under this section—

(i) shall be acting for private purposes; and  
 (ii) shall not be considered to be a Federal volunteer;

(B) an eligible organization or individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section shall not be considered to be a volunteer under section 102301(c) of title 54, United States Code;

(C) chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”), shall not apply to an eligible organization or individual carrying out a privately requested good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section; and

(D) chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Employees Compensation Act”), shall not apply to

an eligible organization or individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, and the conduct of the good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission shall not constitute civilian employment.

(C) **RELEASE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM LIABILITY.**—The Secretary shall not require an eligible organization or individual to have liability insurance as a condition of accessing Federal land under this section, if the eligible organization or individual—

(1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to the provisions described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (b)(2); and

(2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal Government from all liability relating to the access granted under this section and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States from any claims or lawsuits arising from any conduct by the eligible organization or individual on Federal land.

(d) **APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF REQUESTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall notify an eligible organization or individual of the approval or denial of a request by the eligible organization or individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section by not later than 48 hours after the request is made.

(2) **DENIALS.**—If the Secretary denies a request from an eligible organization or individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, the Secretary shall notify the eligible organization or individual of—

(A) the reason for the denial of the request; and

(B) any actions that the eligible organization or individual can take to meet the requirements for the request to be approved.

(e) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—Each Secretary shall develop search-and-recovery-focused partnerships with search-and-recovery organizations—

(1) to coordinate good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(2) to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to Congress a joint report describing—

(1) plans to develop partnerships described in subsection (e)(1); and

(2) efforts carried out to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary pursuant to subsection (e)(2).

**SEC. 6008. BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CEMETERY.**—The term “Cemetery” means the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means the approximately 200 acres of Bureau of Land Management land adjacent to the Cemetery, generally depicted as “Proposed National Cemetery Expansion” on the map entitled “Proposed Expansion of Black Hills National Cemetery—South Dakota” and dated September 28, 2015.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **TRANSFER AND WITHDRAWAL OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND FOR CEMETERY USE.**—

(1) **TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land is transferred from the Secretary to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for use as a national cemetery in accordance with chapter 24 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) **LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice containing a legal description of the Federal land.

(ii) **EFFECT.**—A legal description published under clause (i) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the legal description.

(iii) **AVAILABILITY.**—Copies of the legal description published under clause (i) shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of—

(I) the Bureau of Land Management; and

(II) the National Cemetery Administration.

(iv) **COSTS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall reimburse the Secretary for the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this subparagraph, including the costs of any surveys and other reasonable costs.

(2) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, for any period during which the Federal land is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Federal land—

(A) is withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, and the geothermal leasing laws; and

(B) shall be treated as property as defined under section 102(9) of title 40, United States Code.

(3) **BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.**—The boundary of the Cemetery is modified to include the Federal land.

(4) **MODIFICATION OF PUBLIC LAND ORDER.**—Public Land Order 2112, dated June 6, 1960 (25 Fed. Reg. 5243), is modified to exclude the Federal land.

(c) **SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.**—

(1) **NOTICE.**—On a determination by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that all or a portion of the Federal land is not being used for purposes of the Cemetery, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Secretary of the determination.

(2) **TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.**—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer to the Secretary administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land subject to a notice under paragraph (1).

(3) **DECONTAMINATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall be responsible for the costs of any decontamination of the Federal land subject to a notice under paragraph (1) that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the Federal land to be restored to public land status.

(4) **RESTORATION TO PUBLIC LAND STATUS.**—The Federal land subject to a notice under paragraph (1) shall only be restored to public land status on—

(A) acceptance by the Secretary of the Federal land subject to the notice; and

(B) a determination by the Secretary that the Federal land subject to the notice is suitable for—

(i) restoration to public land status; and

(ii) the operation of 1 or more of the public land laws with respect to the Federal land.

(5) **ORDER.**—If the Secretary accepts the Federal land under paragraph (4)(A) and makes a determination of suitability under paragraph (4)(B), the Secretary may—

(A) open the accepted Federal land to operation of 1 or more of the public land laws; and

(B) issue an order to carry out the opening authorized under subparagraph (A).

**Subtitle B—National Park Management, Studies, and Related Matters**

**SEC. 6101. REFUND OF FUNDS USED BY STATES TO OPERATE NATIONAL PARKS DURING SHUTDOWN.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Park Service shall refund to each State all funds of the State that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the period in October 2013 in which there was a lapse in appropriations for the unit.

(b) **FUNDING.**—Funds of the National Park Service that are appropriated after the date of enactment of this Act shall be used to carry out this section.

**SEC. 6102. LOWER FARMINGTON AND SALMON BROOK RECREATIONAL RIVERS.**

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(213) **LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK, CONNECTICUT.**—Segments of the main stem and its tributary, Salmon Brook, totaling approximately 62 miles, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as follows:

“(A) The approximately 27.2-mile segment of the Farmington River beginning 0.2 miles below the tailrace of the Lower Collinsville Dam and extending to the site of the Spoonville Dam in Bloomfield and East Granby as a recreational river.

“(B) The approximately 8.1-mile segment of the Farmington River extending from 0.5 miles below the Rainbow Dam to the confluence with the Connecticut River in Windsor as a recreational river.

“(C) The approximately 2.4-mile segment of the main stem of Salmon Brook extending from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the confluence with the Farmington River as a recreational river.

“(D) The approximately 12.6-mile segment of the West Branch of Salmon Brook extending from its headwaters in Hartland, Connecticut to its confluence with the East Branch of Salmon Brook as a recreational river.

“(E) The approximately 11.4-mile segment of the East Branch of Salmon Brook extending from the Massachusetts-Connecticut State line to the confluence with the West Branch of Salmon Brook as a recreational river.”

(b) **MANAGEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The river segments designated by subsection (a) shall be managed in accordance with the management plan and such amendments to the management plan as the Secretary determines are consistent with this section. The management plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements for a comprehensive management plan pursuant to section 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(d)).

(2) **COMMITTEE.**—The Secretary shall coordinate the management responsibilities of the Secretary under this section with the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee, as specified in the management plan.

(3) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to provide for the long-term protection, preservation, and

enhancement of the river segment designated by subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements pursuant to sections 10(e) and 11(b)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with—

- (i) the State of Connecticut;
- (ii) the towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor in Connecticut; and
- (iii) appropriate local planning and environmental organizations.

(B) **CONSISTENCY.**—All cooperative agreements provided for under this section shall be consistent with the management plan and may include provisions for financial or other assistance from the United States.

(4) **LAND MANAGEMENT.**—

(A) **ZONING ORDINANCES.**—For the purposes of the segments designated in subsection (a), the zoning ordinances adopted by the towns in Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor in Connecticut, including provisions for conservation of floodplains, wetlands and watercourses associated with the segments, shall be deemed to satisfy the standards and requirements of section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)).

(B) **ACQUISITION OF LAND.**—The provisions of section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)) that prohibit Federal acquisition of lands by condemnation shall apply to the segments designated in subsection (a). The authority of the Secretary to acquire lands for the purposes of the segments designated in subsection (a) shall be limited to acquisition by donation or acquisition with the consent of the owner of the lands, and shall be subject to the additional criteria set forth in the management plan.

(5) **RAINBOW DAM.**—The designation made by subsection (a) shall not be construed to—

- (A) prohibit, pre-empt, or abridge the potential future licensing of the Rainbow Dam and Reservoir (including any and all aspects of its facilities, operations and transmission lines) by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as a federally licensed hydroelectric generation project under the Federal Power Act, provided that the Commission may, in the discretion of the Commission and consistent with this section, establish such reasonable terms and conditions in a hydropower license for Rainbow Dam as are necessary to reduce impacts identified by the Secretary as invading or unreasonably diminishing the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values of the segments designated by subsection (a); or

(B) affect the operation of, or impose any flow or release requirements on, the unlicensed hydroelectric facility at Rainbow Dam and Reservoir.

(6) **RELATION TO NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**—Notwithstanding section 10(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(c)), the Lower Farmington River shall not be administered as part of the National Park System or be subject to regulations which govern the National Park System.

(C) **FARMINGTON RIVER, CONNECTICUT, DESIGNATION REVISION.**—Section 3(a)(156) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended in the first sentence—

- (1) by striking “14-mile” and inserting “15.1-mile”; and
- (2) by striking “to the downstream end of the New Hartford-Canton, Connecticut town line” and inserting “to the confluence with the Nepaug River”.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section:

(1) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term “management plan” means the management plan prepared by the Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee entitled the “Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan” and dated June 2011.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

**SEC. 6103. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF PRESIDENT STREET STATION.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area” means the President Street Station, a railroad terminal in Baltimore, Maryland, the history of which is tied to the growth of the railroad industry in the 19th century, the Civil War, the Underground Railroad, and the immigrant influx of the early 20th century.

(b) **SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

- (A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;
- (B) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;
- (C) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(D) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(E) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(3) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

- (A) the results of the study; and
- (B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

**SEC. 6104. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF THURGOOD MARSHALL'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area” means—

- (A) P.S. 103, the public school located in West Baltimore, Maryland, which Thurgood Marshall attended as a youth; and
- (B) any other resources in the neighborhood surrounding P.S. 103 that relate to the early life of Thurgood Marshall.

(b) **SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

- (A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;
- (B) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;
- (C) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the

study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(D) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(E) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(3) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

- (A) the results of the study; and
- (B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

**SEC. 6105. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF JAMES K. POLK PRESIDENTIAL HOME.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a special resource study of the site of the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, and adjacent property (referred to in this section as the “site”).

(b) **CRITERIA.**—The Secretary shall conduct the study under subsection (a) in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(c) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

- (1) evaluate the national significance of the site;
- (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park System;
- (3) include cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of the site;

(4) consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or other interested individuals; and

(5) identify alternatives for the management, administration, and protection of the site.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

- (1) the findings and conclusions of the study; and
- (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

**SEC. 6106. NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE ADJUSTMENT.**

(a) **ROUTE ADJUSTMENT.**—Section 5(a)(8) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(8)) is amended in the first sentence—

- (1) by striking “thirty two hundred miles, extending from eastern New York State” and inserting “4,600 miles, extending from the Appalachian Trail in Vermont”; and
- (2) by striking “Proposed North Country Trail” and all that follows through “June 1975.” and inserting “‘North Country National Scenic Trail, Authorized Route’ dated February 2014, and numbered 649/116870.”.

(b) **NO CONDEMNATION.**—Section 5(a)(8) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(8)) is amended by adding at the end

the following: “No land or interest in land outside of the exterior boundary of any Federally administered area may be acquired by the Federal Government for the trail by condemnation.”.

**SEC. 6107. DESIGNATION OF JAY S. HAMMOND WILDERNESS AREA.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The approximately 2,600,000 acres of National Wilderness Preservation System land located within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve designated by section 201(e)(7)(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 410hh(e)(7)(a)) shall be known and designated as the “Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the wilderness area referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area”.

**SEC. 6108. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION.**

Section 304101(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11) as paragraphs (9), (10), (11), and (12), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) The General Chairman of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.”.

**SEC. 6109. ESTABLISHMENT OF A VISITOR SERVICES FACILITY ON THE ARLINGTON RIDGE TRACT.**

(a) DEFINITION OF ARLINGTON RIDGE TRACT.—In this section, the term “Arlington Ridge tract” means the parcel of Federal land located in Arlington County, Virginia, known as the “Nevius Tract” and transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1953, that is bounded generally by—

(1) Arlington Boulevard (United States Route 50) to the north;

(2) Jefferson Davis Highway (Virginia Route 110) to the east;

(3) Marshall Drive to the south; and

(4) North Meade Street to the west.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF VISITOR SERVICES FACILITY.—Notwithstanding section 2863(g) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107; 115 Stat. 1332), the Secretary of the Interior may construct a structure for visitor services to include a public restroom facility on the Arlington Ridge tract in the area of the United States Marine Corps War Memorial.

**Subtitle C—Sportsmen’s Access and Land Management Issues**

**PART I—NATIONAL POLICY**

**SEC. 6201. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF NATIONAL POLICY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that Federal departments and agencies, in accordance with the missions of the departments and agencies, Executive Orders 12962 and 13443 (60 Fed. Reg. 30769 (June 7, 1995); 72 Fed. Reg. 46537 (August 16, 2007)), and applicable law, shall—

(1) facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities on Federal land, in consultation with the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, and the public;

(2) conserve and enhance aquatic systems and the management of game species and the habitat of those species on Federal land, including through hunting and fishing, in a manner that respects—

(A) State management authority over wildlife resources; and

(B) private property rights; and

(3) consider hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities as part of all Federal plans for land, resource, and travel management.

(b) EXCLUSION.—In this subtitle, the term “fishing” does not include commercial fishing in which fish are harvested, either in whole or in part, that are intended to enter commerce through sale.

**PART II—SPORTSMEN’S ACCESS TO FEDERAL LAND**

**SEC. 6211. DEFINITIONS.**

In this part:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means—

(A) any land in the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) that is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(B).

**SEC. 6212. FEDERAL LAND OPEN TO HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), Federal land shall be open to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, in accordance with applicable law, unless the Secretary concerned closes an area in accordance with section 6213.

(b) EFFECT OF PART.—Nothing in this part opens to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting any land that is not open to those activities as of the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 6213. CLOSURE OF FEDERAL LAND TO HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and in accordance with section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(b)), the Secretary concerned may designate any area on Federal land in which, and establish any period during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting shall be permitted.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In making a designation under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall designate the smallest area for the least amount of time that is required for public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws.

(b) CLOSURE PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in an emergency, before permanently or temporarily closing any Federal land to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting, the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) consult with State fish and wildlife agencies; and

(B) provide public notice and opportunity for comment under paragraph (2).

(2) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Public notice and comment shall include—

(i) a notice of intent—

(I) published in advance of the public comment period for the closure—

(aa) in the Federal Register;

(bb) on the website of the applicable Federal agency;

(cc) on the website of the Federal land unit, if available; and

(dd) in at least 1 local newspaper;

(II) made available in advance of the public comment period to local offices, chapters, and affiliate organizations in the vicinity of the closure that are signatories to the memorandum of understanding entitled “Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding”; and

(III) that describes—

(aa) the proposed closure; and

(bb) the justification for the proposed closure, including an explanation of the reasons and necessity for the decision to close the area to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting; and

(ii) an opportunity for public comment for a period of—

(I) not less than 60 days for a permanent closure; or

(II) not less than 30 days for a temporary closure.

(B) FINAL DECISION.—In a final decision to permanently or temporarily close an area to hunting, fishing, or recreation shooting, the Secretary concerned shall—

(i) respond in a reasoned manner to the comments received;

(ii) explain how the Secretary concerned resolved any significant issues raised by the comments; and

(iii) show how the resolution led to the closure.

(c) TEMPORARY CLOSURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A temporary closure under this section may not exceed a period of 180 days.

(2) RENEWAL.—Except in an emergency, a temporary closure for the same area of land closed to the same activities—

(A) may not be renewed more than 3 times after the first temporary closure; and

(B) must be subject to a separate notice and comment procedure in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

(3) EFFECT OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE.—Any Federal land that is temporarily closed to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting under this section shall not become permanently closed to that activity without a separate public notice and opportunity to comment in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

(d) REPORTING.—On an annual basis, the Secretaries concerned shall—

(1) publish on a public website a list of all areas of Federal land temporarily or permanently subject to a closure under this section; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that identifies—

(A) a list of each area of Federal land temporarily or permanently subject to a closure;

(B) the acreage of each closure; and

(C) a survey of—

(i) the aggregate areas and acreage closed under this section in each State; and

(ii) the percentage of Federal land in each State closed under this section with respect to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting.

(e) APPLICATION.—This section shall not apply if the closure is—

- (1) less than 14 days in duration; and
- (2) covered by a special use permit.

**SEC. 6214. SHOOTING RANGES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary concerned may, in accordance with this section and other applicable law, lease or permit the use of Federal land for a shooting range.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary concerned shall not lease or permit the use of Federal land for a shooting range, within—

- (1) a component of the National Landscape Conservation System;
- (2) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;
- (3) any area that is—
  - (A) designated as a wilderness study area;
  - (B) administratively classified as—
    - (i) wilderness-eligible; or
    - (ii) wilderness-suitable; or
  - (C) a primitive or semiprimitive area;
  - (4) a national monument, national volcanic monument, or national scenic area; or
  - (5) a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (including areas designated for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System).

**SEC. 6215. FEDERAL ACTION TRANSPARENCY.**

(a) MODIFICATION OF EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROVISIONS.—

(1) AGENCY PROCEEDINGS.—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “, United States Code”;

(B) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (i); and

(C) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e)(1) Not later than March 31 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, and every fiscal year thereafter, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, after consultation with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to Congress and make publicly available online a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year under this section.

“(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards.

“(3)(A) Each report under paragraph (1) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this section that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to a nondisclosure provision.

“(B) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under subparagraph (A) shall not affect any other information that is subject to a nondisclosure provision in a settlement agreement.

“(f) As soon as practicable, and in any event not later than the date on which the first report under subsection (e)(1) is required to be submitted, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing, with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section made on or after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the following information:

“(1) The case name and number of the adversary adjudication, if available, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

“(2) The name of the agency involved in the adversary adjudication.

“(3) A description of the claims in the adversary adjudication.

“(4) The name of each party to whom the award was made as such party is identified in the order or other court document making the award.

“(5) The amount of the award.

“(6) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

“(g) The online searchable database described in subsection (f) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or a court order.

“(h) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of subsections (e), (f), and (g).”

(2) COURT CASES.—Section 2412(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) Not later than March 31 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, and every fiscal year thereafter, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publicly available online a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this subsection.

“(B) Each report under subparagraph (A) shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards.

“(C)(i) Each report under subparagraph (A) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this subsection that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to a nondisclosure provision.

“(ii) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under clause (i) shall not affect any other information that is subject to a nondisclosure provision in a settlement agreement.

“(D) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall include and clearly identify in each annual report under subparagraph (A), for each case in which an award of fees and other expenses is included in the report—

“(i) any amounts paid under section 1304 of title 31 for a judgment in the case;

“(ii) the amount of the award of fees and other expenses; and

“(iii) the statute under which the plaintiff filed suit.

“(6) As soon as practicable, and in any event not later than the date on which the first report under paragraph (5)(A) is required to be submitted, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing, with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this subsection made on or after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the following information:

“(A) The case name and number, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

“(B) The name of the agency involved in the case.

“(C) The name of each party to whom the award was made as such party is identified in the order or other court document making the award.

“(D) A description of the claims in the case.

“(E) The amount of the award.

“(F) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

“(7) The online searchable database described in paragraph (6) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or a court order.

“(8) The head of each agency (including the Attorney General of the United States) shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (5), (6), and (7).”

(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “United States Code.”; and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) by striking “of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code,” and inserting “of this section”; and

(ii) by striking “of such title” and inserting “of this title”.

(b) JUDGMENT FUND TRANSPARENCY.—Section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) Beginning not later than the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, and unless the disclosure of such information is otherwise prohibited by law or a court order, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the public on a website, as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after the date on which a payment under this section is tendered, the following information with regard to that payment:

- “(1) The name of the specific agency or entity whose actions gave rise to the claim or judgment.
- “(2) The name of the plaintiff or claimant.
- “(3) The name of counsel for the plaintiff or claimant.
- “(4) The amount paid representing principal liability, and any amounts paid representing any ancillary liability, including attorney fees, costs, and interest.
- “(5) A brief description of the facts that gave rise to the claim.
- “(6) The name of the agency that submitted the claim.”.

**PART III—FILMING ON FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY LAND**

**SEC. 6221. COMMERCIAL FILMING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of Public Law 106-206 (16 U.S.C. 4601-6d) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (f) as subsections (b) through (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, with respect to land under the respective jurisdiction of the Secretary.”;

(3) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture (hereafter individually referred to as the ‘Secretary’ with respect to land (except land in a System unit as defined in section 100102 of title 54, United States Code) under their respective jurisdictions)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, except in the case of film crews of 3 or fewer individuals” before the period at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) FEE SCHEDULE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, to enhance consistency in the management of Federal land, the Secretaries shall publish a single joint land use fee schedule for commercial filming and still photography.”;

(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), in the second sentence, by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

(5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), in the heading, by inserting “Commercial” before “Still”;

(6) in paragraph (1) of subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by inserting “in accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.)” after “without further appropriation.”;

(7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated)—  
(A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”;

and  
(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall not consider subject matter or content as a criterion for issuing or denying a permit under this Act.”; and

(8) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) EXEMPTION FROM COMMERCIAL FILMING OR STILL PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITS AND FEES.—The Secretary shall not require persons holding commercial use authorizations or special recreation permits to obtain an additional permit or pay a fee for commercial filming or still photography under this Act if the filming or photography conducted is—

“(1) incidental to the permitted activity that is the subject of the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit; and

“(2) the holder of the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit is an individual or small business concern (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

“(i) EXCEPTION FROM CERTAIN FEES.—Commercial filming or commercial still photography shall be exempt from fees under this Act, but not from recovery of costs under subsection (c), if the activity—

“(1) is conducted by an entity that is a small business concern (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632));

“(2) is conducted by a crew of not more than 3 individuals; and

“(3) uses only a camera and tripod.

“(j) APPLICABILITY TO NEWS GATHERING ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—News gathering shall not be considered a commercial activity.

“(2) INCLUDED ACTIVITIES.—In this subsection, the term ‘news gathering’ includes, at a minimum, the gathering, recording, and filming of news and information related to news in any medium.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 1009 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking section 100905; and

(2) in the table of sections for chapter 1009 of title 54, United States Code, by striking the item relating to section 100905.

#### **PART IV—BOWS, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, AND ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION, HUNTING, AND FISHING**

##### **SEC. 6231. BOWS IN PARKS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“§ 104909. Bows in parks**

“(a) DEFINITION OF NOT READY FOR IMMEDIATE USE.—The term ‘not ready for immediate use’ means—

“(1) a bow or crossbow, the arrows of which are secured or stowed in a quiver or other arrow transport case; and

“(2) with respect to a crossbow, uncocked.

“(b) VEHICULAR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Director shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from transporting bows and crossbows that are not ready for immediate use across any System unit in the vehicle of the individual if—

“(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the bows and crossbows; and

“(2) the bows or crossbows that are not ready for immediate use remain inside the vehicle of the individual throughout the period during which the bows or crossbows are transported across System land; and

“(3) the possession of the bows and crossbows is in compliance with the law of the State in which the System unit is located.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(b)), is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104908 the following:

“104909. Bows in parks.”.

##### **SEC. 6232. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN PARKS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 6231(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“SEC. 104910. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN PARKS.**

“(a) USE OF QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS.—If the Secretary determines it is necessary to reduce the size of a wildlife population on System land in accordance with applicable law (including regulations), the Secretary may use qualified volunteers to assist in carrying out wildlife management on System land.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified volunteers providing assistance under subsection (a) shall be subject to—

“(1) any training requirements or qualifications established by the Secretary; and

“(2) any other terms and conditions that the Secretary may require.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1049 of title 54 (as amended by section 6231(b)), United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104909 the following:

“104910. Wildlife management in parks.”.

##### **SEC. 6233. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION, HUNTING, AND FISHING ON FEDERAL LAND.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by—

(i) the Director of the National Park Service;

(ii) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(iii) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) STATE OR REGIONAL OFFICE.—The term “State or regional office” means—

(A) a State office of the Bureau of Land Management; or

(B) a regional office of—

(i) the National Park Service;

(ii) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; or

(iii) the Forest Service.

(3) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “travel management plan” means a plan for the management of travel—

(A) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, on park roads and designated routes under section 4.10 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

(B) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, on the land under a comprehensive conservation plan prepared under section 4(e) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(e));

(C) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, on National Forest System land under part 212 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

(D) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, under a resource management plan developed under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(b) PRIORITY LISTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, annually during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the first priority list is completed, and every 5 years after the end of the 10-year period, the Secretary shall prepare a priority list, to be made publicly available on the website of the applicable Federal agency referred to in subsection (a)(1), which shall identify the location and acreage of land within the jurisdiction of each State or regional office on which the public is allowed, under Federal or State law, to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes but—

(A) to which there is no public access or egress; or

(B) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted (as determined by the Secretary).

(2) MINIMUM SIZE.—Any land identified under paragraph (1) shall consist of contiguous acreage of at least 640 acres.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing the priority list required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider with respect to the land—

(A) whether access is absent or merely restricted, including the extent of the restriction;

(B) the likelihood of resolving the absence of or restriction to public access;

(C) the potential for recreational use;

(D) any information received from the public or other stakeholders during the nomination process described in paragraph (5); and

(E) any other factor as determined by the Secretary.

(4) ADJACENT LAND STATUS.—For each parcel of land on the priority list, the Secretary shall include in the priority list whether resolving the issue of public access or egress to the land would require acquisition of an easement, right-of-way, or fee title from—

(A) another Federal agency;

(B) a State, local, or tribal government; or

(C) a private landowner.

(5) NOMINATION PROCESS.—In preparing a priority list under this section, the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to nominate parcels for inclusion on the priority list.

(c) ACCESS OPTIONS.—With respect to land included on a priority list described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall develop and submit to the Committees on Appropriations

and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on options for providing access that—

(1) identifies how public access and egress could reasonably be provided to the legal boundaries of the land in a manner that minimizes the impact on wildlife habitat and water quality;

(2) specifies the steps recommended to secure the access and egress, including acquiring an easement, right-of-way, or fee title from a willing owner of any land that abuts the land or the need to coordinate with State land management agencies or other Federal, State, or tribal governments to allow for such access and egress; and

(3) is consistent with the travel management plan in effect on the land.

(d) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—In making the priority list and report prepared under subsections (b) and (c) available, the Secretary shall ensure that no personally identifying information is included, such as names or addresses of individuals or entities.

(e) WILLING OWNERS.—For purposes of providing any permits to, or entering into agreements with, a State, local, or tribal government or private landowner with respect to the use of land under the jurisdiction of the government or landowner, the Secretary shall not take into account whether the State, local, or tribal government or private landowner has granted or denied public access or egress to the land.

(f) MEANS OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND EGRESS INCLUDED.—In considering public access and egress under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall consider public access and egress to the legal boundaries of the land described in those subsections, including access and egress—

(1) by motorized or non-motorized vehicles; and

(2) on foot or horseback.

(g) EFFECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall have no effect on whether a particular recreational use shall be allowed on the land included in a priority list under this section.

(2) EFFECT OF ALLOWABLE USES ON AGENCY CONSIDERATION.—In preparing the priority list under subsection (b), the Secretary shall only consider recreational uses that are allowed on the land at the time that the priority list is prepared.

**PART V—FEDERAL LAND TRANSACTION FACILITATION ACT**

**SEC. 6241. FEDERAL LAND TRANSACTION FACILITATION ACT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act is amended—

(1) in section 203(2) (43 U.S.C. 2302(2)), by striking “on the date of enactment of this Act was” and inserting “is”;

(2) in section 205 (43 U.S.C. 2304)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “(as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)”; and

(B) by striking subsection (d);

(3) in section 206 (43 U.S.C. 2305), by striking subsection (f); and

(4) in section 207(b) (43 U.S.C. 2306(b))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “96-568” and inserting “96-586”; and

(ii) by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “Public Law 105-263;” before “112 Stat.”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432; 120 Stat. 3028);

“(4) the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-424; 118 Stat. 2403);

“(5) subtitle F of title I of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 111-11);

“(6) subtitle O of title I of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 460www note, 1132 note; Public Law 111-11);

“(7) section 2601 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1108); or

“(8) section 2606 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1121).”

(b) FUNDS TO TREASURY.—Of the amounts deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account, there shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**PART VI—FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

**SEC. 6251. AMENDMENTS TO PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT.**

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to facilitate the construction and expansion of public target ranges, including ranges on Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) DEFINITION OF PUBLIC TARGET RANGE.—In this section, the term “public target range” means a specific location that—

(1) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting;

(2) is open to the public;

(3) may be supervised; and

(4) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) the term ‘public target range’ means a specific location that—

“(A) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting;

“(B) is open to the public;

“(C) may be supervised; and

“(D) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting.”

(2) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—Section 8(b) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669g(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(b) Each State” and inserting the following:

“(b) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each State”;

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking “construction, operation,” and inserting “operation”;

(C) in the second sentence, by striking “The non-Federal share” and inserting the following:

“(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share”;

(D) in the third sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary”; and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as designated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the limitation described in paragraph (1), a State may pay up to 90 percent of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.”

(3) FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS.—Section 10 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h-1) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—Of the amount apportioned to a State for any fiscal year under section 4(b), the State may elect to allocate not more than 10 percent, to be combined with the amount apportioned to the State under paragraph (1) for that fiscal year, for acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.”;

(B) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) COST SHARING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out using a grant under this section shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the activity.

“(2) PUBLIC TARGET RANGE CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION.—The Federal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range in a State on Federal or non-Federal land pursuant to this section or section 8(b) shall not exceed 90 percent of the cost of the activity.”; and

(C) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) by striking “Amounts made” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), amounts made”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Amounts provided for acquiring land for, constructing, or expanding a public target range shall remain available for expenditure and obligation during the 5-fiscal-year period beginning on October 1 of the first fiscal year for which the amounts are made available.”.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING COOPERATION.—It is the sense of Congress that, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations), the Chief of the Forest Service and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management should cooperate with State and local authorities and other entities to carry out waste removal and other activities on any Federal land used as a public target range to encourage continued use of that land for target practice or marksmanship training.

**SEC. 6252. NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.**

(a) CONSERVATION INCENTIVES LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM.—Any acquisition of land (including any interest in land) under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.) shall be subject to the notification requirements under section [50 \_\_ (d)].

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.”.

**SEC. 6253. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act”.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties to promote fish conservation—

(1) to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities by—

(A) improving ecological conditions;  
(B) restoring natural processes; or  
(C) preventing the decline of intact and healthy systems;

(2) to establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by Fish Habitat Partnerships;

(3) to broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by—

(A) increasing fishing opportunities;  
(B) fostering the participation of local communities, especially young people in local communities, in conservation activities; and

(C) raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitat play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities;

(4) to fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated database of the National Fish Habitat Assessment—

(A) to empower strategic conservation actions supported by broadly available scientific information; and

(B) to integrate socioeconomic data in the analysis to improve the lives of humans in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals; and

(5) to communicate to the public and conservation partners—

(A) the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships; and

(B) new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the National Fish Habitat Board established by subsection (d)(1)(A).

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) **EPA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “EPA Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(5) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(6) **NOAA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “NOAA Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(7) **PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “Partnership” means a self-governed entity designated by the Board as a Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership pursuant to subsection (e)(1).

(8) **REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.**—The term “real property interest” means an ownership interest in—

(A) land; or  
(B) water (including water rights).

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States.

(11) **STATE AGENCY.**—The term “State agency” means—

(A) the fish and wildlife agency of a State; and

(B) any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources of the State pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

(d) **NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(A) **FISH HABITAT BOARD.**—There is established a board, to be known as the “National Fish Habitat Board”, whose duties are—

(i) to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of this section;

(ii) to establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(iii) to approve Partnerships; and

(iv) to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(B) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Board shall be composed of 25 members, of whom—

(i) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of the Interior;

(ii) 1 shall be a representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(iii) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Commerce;

(iv) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Agriculture;

(v) 1 shall be a representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(vi) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

(vii) 1 shall be a representative of either—  
(I) Indian tribes in the State of Alaska; or  
(II) Indian tribes in States other than the State of Alaska;

(viii) 1 shall be a representative of either—  
(I) the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852); or  
(II) a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions, which is composed of—

(aa) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(bb) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(cc) the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(ix) 1 shall be a representative of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council;

(x) 7 shall be representatives selected from each of—

(I) the recreational sportfishing industry;

(II) the commercial fishing industry;

(III) marine recreational anglers;

(IV) freshwater recreational anglers;

(V) habitat conservation organizations; and

(VI) science-based fishery organizations;

(xi) 1 shall be a representative of a national private landowner organization;

(xii) 1 shall be a representative of an agricultural production organization;

(xiii) 1 shall be a representative of local government interests involved in fish habitat restoration;

(xiv) 2 shall be representatives from different sectors of corporate industries, which may include—

(I) natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction;

(II) natural resource user industries; and

(III) industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation; and

(xv) 1 shall be a leadership private sector or landowner representative of an active partnership.

(C) **COMPENSATION.**—A member of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(D) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board.

(2) **APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a member of the Board described in any of clauses (vi) through (xiv) of paragraph (1)(B) shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(B) **INITIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The initial Board will consist of representatives as described in clauses (i) through (vi) of paragraph (1)(B).

(ii) **REMAINING MEMBERS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the representatives of the initial Board pursuant to clause (i) shall appoint the remaining members of the Board described in clauses (viii) through (xiv) of paragraph (1)(B).

(iii) **TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.**—Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Board a recommendation of not fewer than 3 tribal representatives, from which the Board shall appoint 1 representative pursuant to clause (vii) of paragraph (1)(B).

(C) **TRANSITIONAL TERMS.**—Of the members described in paragraph (1)(B)(x) initially appointed to the Board—

(i) 2 shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(ii) 2 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(iii) 3 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(D) **VACANCIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in any of clauses (viii) through (xiv) of paragraph (1)(B) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(ii) **TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.**—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in clause (vii) of paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not fewer than 3 tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(E) **CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.**—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(F) **REMOVAL.**—If a member of the Board described in any of clauses (viii) through (xiv) of paragraph (1)(B) misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(i) vote to remove that member; and

(ii) appoint another individual in accordance with subparagraph (D).

(3) **CHAIRPERSON.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies appointed pursuant to paragraph (1)(B)(v) shall serve as Chairperson of the Board.

(B) **TERM.**—The Chairperson of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(4) **MEETINGS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board shall meet—

(i) at the call of the Chairperson; but



(ii) not less frequently than twice each calendar year.

(B) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(5) PROCEDURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(i) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(ii) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of 2/3 of all members;

(iii) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this section;

(iv) procedures for designating Partnerships under subsection (e); and

(v) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(B) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

(E) FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE.—The Board may approve and designate Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this subsection.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

(A) to work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish and fish habitats;

(B) to engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation;

(C) to involve diverse groups of public and private partners;

(D) to develop collaboratively a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound;

(E) to leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships;

(F) to use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality;

(G) to develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures; and

(H) to implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

(3) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—An entity seeking to be designated as a Partnership shall—

(A) submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require; and

(B) demonstrate to the Board that the entity has—

(i) a focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats;

(ii) an ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership boundary;

(iii) a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat;

(iv) the ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat;

(v) a strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board;

(vi) the ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that ad-

dress strategic priorities of the Partnership and the Board; and

(vii) the ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, the ability to measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects of the Partnership, and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data effort.

(4) APPROVAL.—The Board may approve an application for a Partnership submitted under paragraph (3) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(A) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include State or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

(B) is organized to promote the health of important fish species and important fish habitats, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, and estuaries;

(C) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decisionmaking;

(D) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(E) includes a governance structure that—

(i) reflects the range of all partners; and

(ii) promotes joint strategic planning and decisionmaking by the applicant;

(F) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address the decline in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms, in accordance with the goals and national priorities established by the Board; and

(G) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

(F) FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.—

(1) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—Not later than March 31 of each calendar year, each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of priority fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this section.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARD.—Not later than July 1 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary a priority list of fish habitat conservation projects that includes the description, including estimated costs, of each project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this section for the following fiscal year.

(3) CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION.—The Board shall select each fish habitat conservation project to be recommended to the Secretary under paragraph (2) after taking into consideration, at a minimum, the following information:

(A) A recommendation of the Partnership that is, or will be, participating actively in implementing the fish habitat conservation project.

(B) The capabilities and experience of project proponents to implement successfully the proposed project.

(C) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project —

(i) fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the

Partnership and is consistent with the purpose of this section;

(ii) addresses the national priorities established by the Board;

(iii) is supported by the findings of the Habitat Assessment of the Partnership or the Board, and aligns or is compatible with other conservation plans;

(iv) identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures;

(v) provides a well-defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes;

(vi) leverages other funds to implement the project;

(vii) addresses the causes and processes behind the decline of fish or fish habitats; and

(viii) includes an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community.

(D) The availability of sufficient non-Federal funds to match Federal contributions for the fish habitat conservation project, as required by paragraph (5);

(E) The extent to which the local or regional fish habitat conservation project—

(i) will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public;

(ii) will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian tribes, and private entities;

(iii) increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;

(iv) advances the conservation of fish and wildlife species that have been identified by the States as species of greatest conservation need;

(v) where appropriate, advances the conservation of fish and fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and other relevant Federal law and State wildlife action plans; and

(vi) promotes strong and healthy fish habitats so that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt.

(F) The substantiality of the character and design of the fish habitat conservation project.

(4) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION.—No fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under paragraph (2) or provided financial assistance under this section unless the fish habitat conservation project includes an evaluation plan designed using applicable Board guidance—

(i) to appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities carried out using the assistance;

(ii) to reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;

(iii) to identify improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project; and

(iv) to require the submission to the Board of a report describing the findings of the assessment.

(B) ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A State, local government, or other non-Federal entity is eligible to receive funds for the acquisition of real property from willing sellers under this section if the acquisition ensures 1 of—

(I) public access for compatible fish and wildlife-dependent recreation; or

(II) a scientifically based, direct enhancement to the health of fish and fish populations, as determined by the Board.

(ii) STATE AGENCY APPROVAL.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—All real property interest acquisition projects funded under this section are required to be approved by the State agency in the State in which the project is occurring.

(II) PROHIBITION.—The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding for, any real property interest acquisition that has not been approved by the State agency.

(iii) ASSESSMENT OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The Fish Habitat Partnership shall conduct a project assessment, submitted with the funding request and approved by the Board, to demonstrate all other Federal, State, and local authorities for the acquisition of real property have been exhausted.

(iv) RESTRICTIONS.—A real property interest may not be acquired pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity, unless—

(I) the owner of the real property authorizes the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to acquire the real property; and

(II) the Secretary and the Board determine that the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity would benefit from undertaking the management of the real property being acquired because that is in accordance with the goals of a partnership.

(5) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under paragraph (2) or provided financial assistance under this section unless at least 50 percent of the cost of the fish habitat conservation project will be funded with non-Federal funds.

(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a fish habitat conservation project—

(i) may not be derived from another Federal grant program; but

(ii) may include in-kind contributions and cash.

(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or any other provision of law, any funds made available to an Indian tribe pursuant to this section may be considered to be non-Federal funds for the purpose of subparagraph (A).

(6) APPROVAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommended priority list of fish habitat conservation projects under paragraph (2), subject to the limitations of paragraph (4), and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in paragraph (3), the Secretary, after consulting with the Secretary of Commerce on marine or estuarine projects, shall approve or reject any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board.

(B) FUNDING.—If the Secretary approves a fish habitat conservation project under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use amounts made available to carry out this section to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(C) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary rejects any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under paragraph (2), not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary shall provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congress-

sional committees a written statement of the reasons that the Secretary rejected the fish habitat conservation project.

(g) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Director, the NOAA Assistant Administrator, the EPA Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, may provide scientific and technical assistance to the Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Scientific and technical assistance provided pursuant to paragraph (1) may include—

(A) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;

(B) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;

(C) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;

(D) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;

(E) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;

(F) ensuring the availability of experts to assist in conducting scientifically based evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and

(G) providing resources to secure state agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(h) COORDINATION WITH STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and Indian tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this section, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

(i) INTERAGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the NOAA Assistant Administrator, the EPA Assistant Administrator, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies (including at a minimum, those agencies represented on the Board) shall develop an interagency operational plan that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for the implementation of this section; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

(j) ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.—

(1) REPORTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of this section.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet, or other suitable measures of fish habitat, that was maintained or improved by partnerships of Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities in the United States during the 5-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(ii) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved during that 5-year period;

(iii) a description of the improved opportunities for public recreational fishing; and

(iv) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this section during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

(I) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under subsection (f)(2);

(II) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under subsection (f)(6), in order of priority for funding;

(III) a justification for—

(aa) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(bb) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(IV) a justification for any rejection of a fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under subsection (f)(2) that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in subsection (f)(3); and

(V) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(A) a status of all Partnerships approved under this section;

(B) a description of the status of fish habitats in the United States as identified by established Partnerships; and

(C) enhancements or reductions in public access as a result of—

(i) the activities of the Partnerships; or

(ii) any other activities carried out pursuant to this section.

(3) REVISIONS.—Not later than December 31, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall consider revising the goals of the Board, after consideration of each report required by paragraph (2).

(k) EFFECT OF SECTION.—

(1) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section—

(A) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(B) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(C) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(D) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of the Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS OR RIGHTS TO PROPERTY.—Under this section, only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, under State law, water rights or rights to property.

(3) STATE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section—

(A) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(B) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(4) EFFECT ON INDIAN TRIBES.—Nothing in this section abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(A) an agreement between the Indian tribe and the United States;

(B) Federal law (including regulations);

(C) an Executive order; or

(D) a judicial decree.

(5) ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666).

(6) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(7) EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.—

(A) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—Nothing in this section permits the use of funds made available to carry out this section to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest.

(B) MITIGATION.—Nothing in this section permits the use of funds made available to carry out this section for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(i) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(ii) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(iii) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4082); or

(iv) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(C) CLEAN WATER ACT.—Nothing in this section affects any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including any definition in that Act.

(1) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to—

(1) the Board; or

(2) any Partnership.

(m) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$7,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved under subsection (f)(6), of which 5 percent shall be made available for each fiscal year for projects carried out by Indian tribes.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING EXPENSES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

(i) for administrative and planning expenses; and

(ii) to carry out subsection (j).

(C) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance under, subsection (g)—

(i) \$500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(ii) \$500,000 to the NOAA Assistant Administrator for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(iii) \$500,000 to the EPA Assistant Administrator for use by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(iv) \$500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Geological Survey.

(2) AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary may—

(A) on the recommendation of the Board, and notwithstanding sections 6304 and 6305 of title 31, United States Code, and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 106-107), enter into a grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract with a Partnership or other entity for a fish habitat conservation project or restoration or enhancement project;

(B) apply for, accept, and use a grant from any individual or entity to carry out the purposes of this section; and

(C) make funds available to any Federal department or agency for use by that department or agency to provide grants for any fish habitat protection project, restoration project, or enhancement project that the Secretary determines to be consistent with this section.

(3) DONATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

(i) enter into an agreement with any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code to solicit private donations to carry out the purposes of this section; and

(ii) accept donations of funds, property, and services to carry out the purposes of this section.

(B) TREATMENT.—A donation accepted under this section—

(i) shall be considered to be a gift or bequest to, or otherwise for the use of, the United States; and

(ii) may be—

(I) used directly by the Secretary; or

(II) provided to another Federal department or agency through an interagency agreement.

**SEC. 6254. GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION REPORT ON GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF STATE BOUNDARY EXTENSION.**

(a) REPORT ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES.—Not later than March 1, 2017, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the economic, conservation and management, and law enforcement impacts of the implementation of section 110 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed accounting of how the implementation of section 110 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113) has affected—

(1) the economies of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas;

(2) the sustained participation of fishing communities;

(3) conservation and management of living resources under all applicable Federal laws;

(4) enforcement of Federal maritime laws; and

(5) the ability of the governments of the States described in paragraph (1) to effec-

tively manage activities pursuant to the fishery management plan for reef fish resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Commerce shall make available to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission \$500,000 to carry out the report required under subsection (a).

(2) SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall be available only to the extent specifically provided for in advance in subsequent appropriations Acts.

**SEC. 6255. GAO REPORT ON GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF STATE BOUNDARY EXTENSION.**

(a) REPORT ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES.—Not later than March 1, 2017, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the economic, conservation and management, and law enforcement impacts of section 110 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a detailed accounting of how section 110 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113) has affected—

(1) the economies of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas;

(2) the sustained participation of fishing communities;

(3) conservation and management of living resources under all applicable Federal laws;

(4) enforcement of Federal maritime laws; and

(5) the ability of the governments of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to effectively manage activities pursuant to the fishery management plan for reef fish resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

**PART VII—MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEC. 6261. RESPECT FOR TREATIES AND RIGHTS.**

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle—

(1) affects or modifies any treaty or other right of any federally recognized Indian tribe; or

(2) modifies any provision of Federal law relating to migratory birds or to endangered or threatened species.

**SEC. 6262. NO PRIORITY.**

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle provides a preference to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting over any other use of Federal land or water.

**Subtitle D—Water Infrastructure and Related Matters**

**PART I—FONTENELLE RESERVOIR**

**SEC. 6301. AUTHORITY TO MAKE ENTIRE ACTIVE CAPACITY OF FONTENELLE RESERVOIR AVAILABLE FOR USE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the State of Wyoming, may amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskadee Project authorized under the first section of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43 U.S.C. 620), to provide for the study, design, planning, and construction activities that will enable the use of all active storage capacity (as may be defined or limited by legal, hydrologic, structural, engineering, economic, and environmental considerations) of Fontenelle Dam

and Reservoir, including the placement of sufficient riprap on the upstream face of Fontenelle Dam to allow the active storage capacity of Fontenelle Reservoir to be used for those purposes for which the Seedskaelee Project was authorized.

(b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into any contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other agreement that is necessary to carry out subsection (a).

(2) **STATE OF WYOMING.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Wyoming to work in cooperation and collaboratively with the State of Wyoming for planning, design, related preconstruction activities, and construction of any modification of the Fontenelle Dam under subsection (a).

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The cooperative agreement under subparagraph (A) shall, at a minimum, specify the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Wyoming with respect to—

(i) completing the planning and final design of the modification of the Fontenelle Dam under subsection (a);

(ii) any environmental and cultural resource compliance activities required for the modification of the Fontenelle Dam under subsection (a) including compliance with—

(I) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(II) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(III) subdivision 2 of division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code; and

(iii) the construction of the modification of the Fontenelle Dam under subsection (a).

(c) **FUNDING BY STATE OF WYOMING.**—Pursuant to the Act of March 4, 1921 (41 Stat. 1404, chapter 161; 43 U.S.C. 395), and as a condition of providing any additional storage under subsection (a), the State of Wyoming shall provide to the Secretary of the Interior funds for any work carried out under subsection (a).

(d) **OTHER CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into contracts with the State of Wyoming, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Wyoming may agree, for division of any additional active capacity made available under subsection (a).

(2) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—Unless otherwise agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Wyoming, a contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the terms and conditions of Bureau of Reclamation Contract No. 14-06-400-2474 and Bureau of Reclamation Contract No. 14-06-400-6193.

**SEC. 6302. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**

Unless expressly provided in this part, nothing in this part modifies, conflicts with, preempts, or otherwise affects—

(1) the Act of December 31, 1928 (43 U.S.C. 617 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Boulder Canyon Project Act”);

(2) the Colorado River Compact of 1922, as approved by the Presidential Proclamation of June 25, 1929 (46 Stat. 3000);

(3) the Act of July 19, 1940 (43 U.S.C. 618 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act”);

(4) the Treaty between the United States of America and Mexico relating to the utilization of waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande, and supplementary protocol signed November 14, 1944, signed at Washington February 3, 1944 (59 Stat. 1219);

(5) the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact as consented to by the Act of April 6, 1949 (63 Stat. 31);

(6) the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43 U.S.C. 620 et seq.);

(7) the Colorado River Basin Project Act (Public Law 90-537; 82 Stat. 885); or

(8) any State of Wyoming or other State water law.

**PART II—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
TRANSPARENCY**

**SEC. 6311. DEFINITIONS.**

In this part:

(1) **ASSET.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “asset” means any of the following assets that are used to achieve the mission of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the people of the United States:

(i) Capitalized facilities, buildings, structures, project features, power production equipment, recreation facilities, or quarters.

(ii) Capitalized and noncapitalized heavy equipment and other installed equipment.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “asset” includes assets described in subparagraph (A) that are considered to be mission critical.

(2) **ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT.**—The term “Asset Management Report” means—

(A) the annual plan prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation known as the “Asset Management Plan”; and

(B) any publicly available information relating to the plan described in subparagraph (A) that summarizes the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to evaluate and manage infrastructure assets of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(3) **MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION NEED.**—The term “major repair and rehabilitation need” means major nonrecurring maintenance at a Reclamation facility, including maintenance related to the safety of dams, extraordinary maintenance of dams, deferred major maintenance activities, and all other significant repairs and extraordinary maintenance.

(4) **RECLAMATION FACILITY.**—The term “Reclamation facility” means each of the infrastructure assets that are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation at a Reclamation project.

(5) **RECLAMATION PROJECT.**—The term “Reclamation project” means a project that is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, including all reserved works and transferred works owned by the Bureau of Reclamation.

(6) **RESERVED WORKS.**—The term “reserved works” means buildings, structures, facilities, or equipment that are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation for which operations and maintenance are performed by employees of the Bureau of Reclamation or through a contract entered into by the Bureau of Reclamation, regardless of the source of funding for the operations and maintenance.

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) **TRANSFERRED WORKS.**—The term “transferred works” means a Reclamation facility at which operations and maintenance of the facility is carried out by a non-Federal entity under the provisions of a formal operations and maintenance transfer contract or other legal agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation.

**SEC. 6312. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT ENHANCEMENTS FOR RESERVED WORKS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an Asset Management Report that—

(1) describes the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation—

(A) to maintain in a reliable manner all reserved works at Reclamation facilities; and

(B) to standardize and streamline data reporting and processes across regions and areas for the purpose of maintaining reserved works at Reclamation facilities; and

(2) expands on the information otherwise provided in an Asset Management Report, in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) **INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Asset Management Report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) a detailed assessment of major repair and rehabilitation needs for all reserved works at all Reclamation projects; and

(B) to the extent practicable, an itemized list of major repair and rehabilitation needs of individual Reclamation facilities at each Reclamation project.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—To the extent practicable, the itemized list of major repair and rehabilitation needs under paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

(A) a budget level cost estimate of the appropriations needed to complete each item; and

(B) an assignment of a categorical rating for each item, consistent with paragraph (3).

(3) **RATING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The system for assigning ratings under paragraph (2)(B) shall be—

(i) consistent with existing uniform categorization systems to inform the annual budget process and agency requirements; and

(ii) subject to the guidance and instructions issued under subparagraph (B).

(B) **GUIDANCE.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance that describes the applicability of the rating system applicable under paragraph (2)(B) to Reclamation facilities.

(4) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Except as provided in paragraph (5), the Secretary shall make publicly available, including on the Internet, the Asset Management Report required under subsection (a).

(5) **CONFIDENTIALITY.**—The Secretary may exclude from the public version of the Asset Management Report made available under paragraph (4) any information that the Secretary identifies as sensitive or classified, but shall make available to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a version of the report containing the sensitive or classified information.

(c) **UPDATES.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Asset Management Report is submitted under subsection (a) and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall update the Asset Management Report, subject to the requirements of section 6313(b)(2).

(d) **CONSULTATION.**—To the extent that such consultation would assist the Secretary in preparing the Asset Management Report under subsection (a) and updates to the Asset Management Report under subsection (c), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers); and

(2) water and power contractors.

**SEC. 6313. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT ENHANCEMENTS FOR TRANSFERRED WORKS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the non-Federal entities responsible for the operation and maintenance of transferred works in developing reporting requirements for Asset Management Reports with respect to major repair and rehabilitation needs for transferred works that are similar to the reporting requirements described in section 6312(b).

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After considering input from water and power contractors of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Secretary shall develop and implement a rating system for transferred works that incorporates, to the maximum extent practicable, the rating system for major repair and rehabilitation needs for reserved works developed under section 6312(b)(3).

(2) UPDATES.—The ratings system developed under paragraph (1) shall be included in the updated Asset Management Reports under section 6312(c).

**SEC. 6314. OFFSET.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of the project authorized by section 1617 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 390h–12c), the maximum amount of the Federal share of the cost of the project under section 1631(d)(1) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 390h–13(d)(1)) otherwise available as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be reduced by \$2,000,000.

**PART III—BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT**

**Subpart A—Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement**

**SEC. 6321. SHORT TITLE.**

This subpart may be cited as the “Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Phase III Act of 2016”.

**SEC. 6322. MODIFICATION OF TERMS, PURPOSES, AND DEFINITIONS.**

(a) MODIFICATION OF TERMS.—Title XII of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4550) is amended—

(1) by striking “Yakama Indian” each place it appears (except section 1204(g)) and inserting “Yakama”; and

(2) by striking “Superintendent” each place it appears and inserting “Manager”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF PURPOSES.—Section 1201 of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4550) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife and the recovery and maintenance of self-sustaining harvestable populations of fish and other aquatic life, both anadromous and resident species, throughout their historic distribution range in the Yakima Basin through—

“(A) improved water management and the constructions of fish passage at storage and diversion dams, as authorized under the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619 et seq.);

“(B) improved instream flows and water supplies;

“(C) improved water quality, watershed, and ecosystem function;

“(D) protection, creation, and enhancement of wetlands; and

“(E) other appropriate means of habitat improvement;”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, municipal, industrial, and domestic water supply and use purposes, especially during drought years, including reducing the frequency and

severity of water supply shortages for prorable irrigation entities” before the semicolon at the end;

(3) by striking paragraph (4);

(4) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(5) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) to authorize the Secretary to make water available for purchase or lease for meeting municipal, industrial, and domestic water supply purposes;”;

(6) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (8), respectively;

(7) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(5) to realize sufficient water savings from implementing the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, so that not less than 85,000 acre feet of water savings are achieved by implementing the first phase of the Integrated Plan pursuant to section 1213(a), in addition to the 165,000 acre feet of water savings targeted through the Basin Conservation Program, as authorized on October 31, 1994;”;

(8) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by inserting “an increase in” before “voluntary”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(9) by inserting after paragraph (6) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(7) to encourage an increase in the use of, and reduce the barriers to, water transfers, leasing, markets, and other voluntary transactions among public and private entities to enhance water management in the Yakima River basin;”;

(10) in paragraph (8) (as redesignated by paragraph (6)), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(11) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) to improve the resilience of the ecosystems, economies, and communities in the Basin as they face drought, hydrologic changes, and other related changes and variability in natural and human systems, for the benefit of both the people and the fish and wildlife of the region; and

“(10) to authorize and implement the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan as Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, as a balanced and cost-effective approach to maximize benefits to the communities and environment in the Basin.”.

(c) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS.—Section 1202 of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4550) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), and (14) as paragraphs (8), (10), (11), (13), (14), (15), (16), (18), and (19), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL.—The term ‘designated Federal official’ means the Commissioner of Reclamation (or a designee), acting pursuant to the charter of the Conservation Advisory Group.

“(7) INTEGRATED PLAN.—The terms ‘Integrated Plan’ and ‘Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Plan’ mean the plan and activities authorized by the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Phase III Act of 2016 and the amendments made by that subpart, to be carried out in cooperation with and in addition to activities of the State of Washington and Yakama Nation.”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(9) MUNICIPAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY AND USE.—The term ‘municipal, industrial, and domestic water supply and use’ means the supply and use of water for—

“(A) domestic consumption (whether urban or rural);

“(B) maintenance and protection of public health and safety;

“(C) manufacture, fabrication, processing, assembly, or other production of a good or commodity;

“(D) production of energy;

“(E) fish hatcheries; or

“(F) water conservation activities relating to a use described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (11) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(12) PRORATABLE IRRIGATION ENTITY.—The term ‘prorable irrigation entity’ means a district, project, or State-recognized authority, board of control, agency, or entity located in the Yakima River basin that—

“(A) manages and delivers irrigation water to farms in the basin; and

“(B) possesses, or the members of which possess, water rights that are prorable during periods of water shortage.”;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (16) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(17) YAKIMA ENHANCEMENT PROJECT; YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.—The terms ‘Yakima Enhancement Project’ and ‘Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project’ mean the Yakima River basin water enhancement project authorized by Congress pursuant to this Act and other Acts (including Public Law 96–162 (93 Stat. 1241), section 109 of Public Law 98–381 (16 U.S.C. 839b note; 98 Stat. 1340), Public Law 105–62 (111 Stat. 1320), and Public Law 106–372 (114 Stat. 1425)) to promote water conservation, water supply, habitat, and stream enhancement improvements in the Yakima River basin.”.

**SEC. 6323. YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

Section 1203 of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4551) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking “title” and inserting “section”; and

(ii) in the third sentence, by striking “within 5 years of the date of enactment of this Act”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “irrigation” and inserting “the number of irrigated acres”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (G);

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (C), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “, and” and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(5) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(6) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(7) in paragraph (8)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(8) in paragraph (9)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(9) in paragraph (10)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(10) in paragraph (11)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(11) in paragraph (12)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(12) in paragraph (13)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(13) in paragraph (14)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) AUTHORITY OF DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL.—The designated Federal official may—

“(A) arrange and provide logistical support for meetings of the Conservation Advisory Group;

“(B) use a facilitator to serve as a moderator for meetings of the Conservation Advisory Group or provide additional logistical support; and

“(C) grant any request for a facilitator by any member of the Conservation Advisory Group.”;

(3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) PAYMENT OF LOCAL SHARE BY STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State or the Federal Government may fund not more than the 17.5 percent local share of the costs of the Basin Conservation Program in exchange for the long-term use of conserved water, subject to the requirement that the funding by the Federal Government of the local share of the costs shall provide a quantifiable public benefit in meeting Federal responsibilities in the Basin and the purposes of this title.

“(B) USE OF CONSERVED WATER.—The Yakima Project Manager may use water resulting from conservation measures taken under this title, in addition to water that the Bureau of Reclamation may acquire from any willing seller through purchase, donation, or lease, for water management uses pursuant to this title.”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “To participate in the Basin Conservation Program, as described in subsection (b), an entity shall submit to the Secretary a proposed water conservation plan.”;

(5) in subsection (i)(3)—

(A) by striking “purchase or lease” each place it appears and inserting “purchase, lease, or management”; and

(B) in the third sentence, by striking “made immediately upon availability” and all that follows through “Committee” and inserting “continued as needed to provide water to be used by the Yakima Project Manager as recommended by the System Operations Advisory Committee and the Conservation Advisory Group”;

(6) in subsection (j)(4), in the first sentence, by striking “initial acquisition” and all that follows through “flushing flows” and inserting “acquisition of water from willing sellers or lessors specifically to provide improved instream flows for anadromous and resident fish and other aquatic life, including pulse flows to facilitate outward migration of anadromous fish”.

#### SEC. 6324. YAKIMA BASIN WATER PROJECTS, OPERATIONS, AND AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) YAKAMA NATION PROJECTS.—Section 1204 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4555) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), in the first sentence, by striking “not more than \$23,000,000” and inserting “not more than \$100,000,000”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting “REDESIGNATION OF YAKAMA INDIAN NATION TO YAKAMA NATION.—”;

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) REDESIGNATION.—The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation shall be known and designated as the ‘Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.’”; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “deemed to be a reference to the ‘Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation.’” and inserting “deemed to be a reference to the ‘Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.’”.

(b) OPERATION OF YAKIMA BASIN PROJECTS.—Section 1205 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4557) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by inserting “additional” after “secure”;

(bb) by striking “flushing” and inserting “pulse”; and

(cc) by striking “uses” and inserting “uses, in addition to the quantity of water provided under the treaty between the Yakama Nation and the United States”;

(II) by striking clause (ii);

(III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and

(IV) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated) by inserting “and water rights mandated” after “goals”; and

(i) in subparagraph (B)(i), in the first sentence, by inserting “in proportion to the funding received” after “Program”;

(2) in subsection (b) (as amended by section 6322(a)(2)), in the second sentence, by striking “instream flows for use by the Yakima Project Manager as flushing flows or as otherwise” and inserting “fishery purposes, as”; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Additional purposes of the Yakima Project shall be any of the following:

“(A) To recover and maintain self-sustaining harvestable populations of native fish, both anadromous and resident species, throughout their historic distribution range in the Yakima Basin.

“(B) To protect, mitigate, and enhance aquatic life and wildlife.

“(C) Recreation.

“(D) Municipal, industrial, and domestic use.”.

(c) LAKE CLE ELUM AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1206(a)(1) of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4560), is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “at September” and all that follows through “to—” and inserting “not more than \$12,000,000 to—”.

(d) ENHANCEMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES FOR YAKIMA BASIN TRIBUTARIES.—Section 1207 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4560) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SUPPLIES” and inserting “MANAGEMENT”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “supplies” and inserting “management”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and water supply entities” after “owners”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “that choose not to participate or opt out of tributary enhancement projects pursuant to this section” after “water right owners”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “non-participating” before “tributary water users”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through “(but not limited to)—” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, following consultation with the State of Washington,

tributary water right owners, and the Yakama Nation, and on agreement of appropriate water right owners, is authorized to conduct studies to evaluate measures to further Yakima Project purposes on tributaries to the Yakima River. Enhancement programs that use measures authorized by this subsection may be investigated and implemented by the Secretary in tributaries to the Yakima River, including Taneum Creek, other areas, or tributary basins that currently or could potentially be provided supplemental or transfer water by entities, such as the Kittitas Reclamation District or the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, subject to the condition that activities may commence on completion of applicable and required feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and cost-benefit analyses that include favorable recommendations for further project development, as appropriate. Measures to evaluate include—”;

(ii) by indenting subparagraphs (A) through (F) appropriately;

(iii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including irrigation efficiency improvements (in coordination with programs of the Department of Agriculture), consolidation of diversions or administration, and diversion scheduling or coordination”;

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (H), respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) improvements in irrigation system management or delivery facilities within the Yakima River basin when those improvements allow for increased irrigation system conveyance and corresponding reduction in diversion from tributaries or flow enhancements to tributaries through direct flow supplementation or groundwater recharge;

“(D) improvements of irrigation system management or delivery facilities to reduce or eliminate excessively high flows caused by the use of natural streams for conveyance or irrigation water or return water”;

(vi) in subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by clause (iv)), by striking “ground water” and inserting “groundwater recharge and”;

(vii) in subparagraph (G) (as redesignated by clause (iv)), by inserting “or transfer” after “purchase”; and

(viii) in subparagraph (H) (as redesignated by clause (iv)), by inserting “stream processes and” before “stream habitats”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the Taneum Creek study” and inserting “studies under this subsection”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “and economic” and inserting “, infrastructure, economic, and land use”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) any related studies already underway or undertaken.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), in the first sentence, by inserting “of each tributary or group of tributaries” after “study”;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the heading, by inserting “AND NON-SURFACE STORAGE” after “NONSTORAGE”; and

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and nonsurface storage” after “nonstorage”;

(5) by striking subsection (d);

(6) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d); and

(7) in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “and implementation” after “investigation”;

(ii) by striking “other” before “Yakima River”; and

(iii) by inserting “and other water supply entities” after “owners”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence.

(e) CHANDLER PUMPING PLANT AND POWER-PLANT OPERATIONS AT PROSSER DIVERSION DAM.—Section 1208(d) of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4562; 114 Stat. 1425) is amended by inserting “negatively” before “affected”.

(f) INTERIM COMPREHENSIVE BASIN OPERATING PLAN.—Section 1210(c) of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4564) is amended by striking “\$100,000” and inserting “\$200,000”.

(g) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—Section 1211 of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4564) is amended by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”.

**SEC. 6325. AUTHORIZATION OF PHASE III OF YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.**

Title XII of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4550) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 1213. AUTHORIZATION OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN AS PHASE III OF YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.**

“(a) INTEGRATED PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall implement the Integrated Plan as Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project in accordance with this section and applicable laws.

“(2) INITIAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the State of Washington and Yakama Nation and subject to feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and the availability of appropriations, shall implement an initial development phase of the Integrated Plan, to—

“(i) complete the planning, design, and construction or development of upstream and downstream fish passage facilities, as previously authorized by the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619 et seq.) at Cle Elum Reservoir and another Yakima Project reservoir identified by the Secretary as consistent with the Integrated Plan, subject to the condition that, if the Yakima Project reservoir identified by the Secretary contains a hydropower project licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Secretary shall cooperate with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in a timely manner to ensure that actions taken by the Secretary are consistent with the applicable hydropower project license;

“(ii) negotiate long-term agreements with participating proratable irrigation entities in the Yakima Basin and, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, coordinate between Bureaus of the Department of the Interior and with the heads of other Federal agencies to negotiate agreements concerning leases, easements, and rights-of-way on Federal land, and other terms and conditions determined to be necessary to allow for the non-Federal financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of—

“(I) new facilities needed to access and deliver inactive storage in Lake Kachess for the purpose of providing drought relief for irrigation (known as the ‘Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant’); and

“(II) a conveyance system to allow transfer of water between Keechelus Reservoir to Kachess Reservoir for purposes of improving

operational flexibility for the benefit of both fish and irrigation (known as the ‘K to K Pipeline’);

“(iii) participate in, provide funding for, and accept non-Federal financing for—

“(I) water conservation projects, not subject to the provisions of the Basin Conservation Program described in section 1203, that are intended to partially implement the Integrated Plan by providing 85,000 acre-feet of conserved water to improve tributary and mainstem stream flow; and

“(II) aquifer storage and recovery projects;

“(iv) study, evaluate, and conduct feasibility analyses and environmental reviews of fish passage, water supply (including groundwater and surface water storage), conservation, habitat restoration projects, and other alternatives identified as consistent with the purposes of this Act, for the initial and future phases of the Integrated Plan;

“(v) coordinate with and assist the State of Washington in implementing a robust water market to enhance water management in the Yakima River basin, including—

“(I) assisting in identifying ways to encourage and increase the use of, and reduce the barriers to, water transfers, leasing, markets, and other voluntary transactions among public and private entities in the Yakima River basin;

“(II) providing technical assistance including scientific data and market information; and

“(III) negotiating agreements that would facilitate voluntary water transfers between entities, including as appropriate, the use of federally managed infrastructure; and

“(vi) enter into cooperative agreements with, or, subject to a minimum non-Federal cost-sharing requirement of 50 percent, make grants to, the Yakama Nation, the State of Washington, Yakima River basin irrigation districts, water districts, conservation districts, other local governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, and land owners to carry out this title under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require, including the following purposes:

“(I) Land and water transfers, leases, and acquisitions from willing participants, so long as the acquiring entity shall hold title and be responsible for any and all required operations, maintenance, and management of that land and water.

“(II) To combine or relocate diversion points, remove fish barriers, or for other activities that increase flows or improve habitat in the Yakima River and its tributaries in furtherance of this title.

“(III) To implement, in partnership with Federal and non-Federal entities, projects to enhance the health and resilience of the watershed.

“(B) COMMENCEMENT DATE.—The Secretary shall commence implementation of the activities included under the initial development phase pursuant to this paragraph—

“(i) on the date of enactment of this section; and

“(ii) on completion of applicable feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and cost-benefit analyses that include favorable recommendations for further project development.

“(3) INTERMEDIATE AND FINAL PHASES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the State of Washington and in consultation with the Yakama Nation, shall develop plans for intermediate and final development phases of the Integrated Plan to achieve the purposes of this Act, including conducting applicable feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and other relevant studies needed to develop the plans.

“(B) INTERMEDIATE PHASE.—The Secretary shall develop a final development phase to implement the Integrated Plan that, subject to authorization and appropriation, would commence not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this section.

“(C) FINAL PHASE.—The Secretary shall develop a final development phase to implement the Integrated Plan that, subject to authorization and appropriation, would commence not later than 20 years after the date of enactment of this section.

“(4) CONTINGENCIES.—The implementation by the Secretary of projects and activities identified for implementation under the Integrated Plan shall be—

“(A) subject to authorization and appropriation;

“(B) contingent on the completion of applicable feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and cost-benefit analyses that include favorable recommendations for further project development;

“(C) implemented on public review and a determination by the Secretary that design, construction, and operation of a proposed project or activity is in the best interest of the public; and

“(D) in compliance with all applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

“(5) PROGRESS REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in conjunction with the State of Washington and in consultation with the Yakama Nation, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a progress report on the development and implementation of the Integrated Plan.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The progress report under this paragraph shall—

“(i) provide a review and reassessment, if needed, of the objectives of the Integrated Plan, as applied to all elements of the Integrated Plan;

“(ii) assess, through performance metrics developed at the initiation of, and measured throughout the implementation of, the Integrated Plan, the degree to which the implementation of the initial development phase addresses the objectives and all elements of the Integrated Plan;

“(iii) identify the amount of Federal funding and non-Federal contributions received and expended during the period covered by the report;

“(iv) describe the pace of project development during the period covered by the report;

“(v) identify additional projects and activities proposed for inclusion in any future phase of the Integrated Plan to address the objectives of the Integrated Plan, as applied to all elements of the Integrated Plan; and

“(vi) for water supply projects—

“(I) provide a preliminary discussion of the means by which—

“(aa) water and costs associated with each recommended project would be allocated among authorized uses; and

“(bb) those allocations would be consistent with the objectives of the Integrated Plan; and

“(II) establish a plan for soliciting and formalizing subscriptions among individuals and entities for participation in any of the recommended water supply projects that will

establish the terms for participation, including fiscal obligations associated with subscription.

“(b) FINANCING, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF KACHESS DROUGHT RELIEF PUMPING PLANT AND K TO K PIPELINE.—

“(1) AGREEMENTS.—Long-term agreements negotiated between the Secretary and participating proratable irrigation entities in the Yakima Basin for the non-Federal financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Drought Relief Pumping Plant and K to K Pipeline shall include provisions regarding—

“(A) responsibilities of the participating proratable irrigation entities for the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure in consultation and coordination with the Secretary;

“(B) property titles and responsibilities of the participating proratable irrigation entities for the maintenance of and liability for all infrastructure constructed under this title;

“(C) operation and integration of the projects by the Secretary in the operation of the Yakima Project;

“(D) costs associated with the design, financing, construction, operation, maintenance, and mitigation of projects, with the costs of Federal oversight and review to be nonreimbursable to the participating proratable irrigation entities and the Yakima Project; and

“(E) responsibilities for the pumping and operational costs necessary to provide the total water supply available made inaccessible due to drought pumping during the preceding 1 or more calendar years, in the event that the Kachess Reservoir fails to refill as a result of pumping drought storage water during the preceding 1 or more calendar years, which shall remain the responsibility of the participating proratable irrigation entities.

“(2) USE OF KACHESS RESERVOIR STORED WATER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The additional stored water made available by the construction of facilities to access and deliver inactive storage in Kachess Reservoir under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)(I) shall—

“(i) be considered to be Yakima Project water;

“(ii) not be part of the total water supply available, as that term is defined in various court rulings; and

“(iii) be used exclusively by the Secretary—

“(I) to enhance the water supply in years when the total water supply available is not sufficient to provide 70 percent of proratable entitlements in order to make that additional water available up to 70 percent of proratable entitlements to the Kittitas Reclamation District, the Roza Irrigation District, or other proratable irrigation entities participating in the construction, operation, and maintenance costs of the facilities under this title under such terms and conditions to which the districts may agree, subject to the conditions that—

“(aa) the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Wapato Irrigation Project, and the Yakama Nation, on an election to participate, may also obtain water from Kachess Reservoir inactive storage to enhance applicable existing irrigation water supply in accordance with such terms and conditions to which the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Yakama Nation may agree; and

“(bb) the additional supply made available under this clause shall be available to participating individuals and entities in proportion to the proratable entitlements of the

participating individuals and entities, or in such other proportion as the participating entities may agree; and

“(II) to facilitate reservoir operations in the reach of the Yakima River between Keechelus Dam and Easton Dam for the propagation of anadromous fish.

“(B) EFFECT OF PARAGRAPH.—Nothing in this paragraph affects (as in existence on the date of enactment of this section) any contract, law (including regulations) relating to repayment costs, water right, or Yakama Nation treaty right.

“(3) COMMENCEMENT.—The Secretary shall not commence entering into agreements pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) or subsection (b)(1) or implementing any activities pursuant to the agreements before the date on which—

“(A) all applicable and required feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and cost-benefit analyses have been completed and include favorable recommendations for further project development, including an analysis of—

“(i) the impacts of the agreements and activities conducted pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) on adjacent communities, including potential fire hazards, water access for fire districts, community and homeowner wells, future water levels based on projected usage, recreational values, and property values; and

“(ii) specific options and measures for mitigating the impacts, as appropriate;

“(B) the Secretary has made the agreements and any applicable project designs, operations plans, and other documents available for public review and comment in the Federal Register for a period of not less than 60 days; and

“(C) the Secretary has made a determination, consistent with applicable law, that the agreements and activities to which the agreements relate—

“(i) are in the public interest; and

“(ii) could be implemented without significant adverse impacts to the environment.

“(4) ELECTRICAL POWER ASSOCIATED WITH KACHESS DROUGHT RELIEF PUMPING PLANT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 839 et seq.), shall provide to the Secretary project power to operate the Kachess Pumping Plant constructed under this title if inactive storage in Kachess Reservoir is needed to provide drought relief for irrigation, subject to the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C).

“(B) DETERMINATION.—Power may be provided under subparagraph (A) only if—

“(i) there is in effect a drought declaration issued by the State of Washington;

“(ii) there are conditions that have led to 70 percent or less water delivery to proratable irrigation districts, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(iii) the Secretary determines that it is appropriate to provide power under that subparagraph.

“(C) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Power under subparagraph (A) shall be provided until the date on which the Secretary determines that power should no longer be provided under that subparagraph, but for not more than a 1-year period or the period during which the Secretary determines that drought mitigation measures are necessary in the Yakima River basin.

“(D) RATE.—The Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration shall provide power under subparagraph (A) at the then-

applicable lowest Bonneville Power Administration rate for public body, cooperative, and Federal agency customers firm obligations, which as of the date of enactment of this section is the priority firm Tier 1 rate, and shall not include any irrigation discount.

“(E) LOCAL PROVIDER.—During any period in which power is not being provided under subparagraph (A), the power needed to operate the Kachess Pumping Plant shall be obtained by the Secretary from a local provider.

“(F) COSTS.—The cost of power for such pumping, station service power, and all costs of transmitting power from the Federal Columbia River Power System to the Yakima Enhancement Project pumping facilities shall be borne by irrigation districts receiving the benefits of that water.

“(G) DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner of Reclamation shall be responsible for arranging transmission for deliveries of Federal power over the Bonneville system through applicable tariff and business practice processes of the Bonneville system and for arranging transmission for deliveries of power obtained from a local provider.

“(c) DESIGN AND USE OF GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any water supply that results from an aquifer storage and recovery project shall not be considered to be a part of the total water supply available if—

“(A) the water for the aquifer storage and recovery project would not be available for use, but instead for the development of the project;

“(B) the aquifer storage and recovery project will not otherwise impair any water supply available for any individual or entity entitled to use the total water supply available; and

“(C) the development of the aquifer storage and recovery project will not impair fish or other aquatic life in any localized stream reach.

“(2) PROJECT TYPES.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance for, and participate in, any of the following 3 types of groundwater recharge projects (including the incorporation of groundwater recharge projects into Yakima Project operations, as appropriate):

“(A) Aquifer recharge projects designed to redistribute Yakima Project water within a water year for the purposes of supplementing stream flow during the irrigation season, particularly during storage control, subject to the condition that if such a project is designed to supplement a mainstem reach, the water supply that results from the project shall be credited to instream flow targets, in lieu of using the total water supply available to meet those targets.

“(B) Aquifer storage and recovery projects that are designed, within a given water year or over multiple water years—

“(i) to supplement or mitigate for municipal uses;

“(ii) to supplement municipal supply in a subsurface aquifer; or

“(iii) to mitigate the effect of groundwater use on instream flow or senior water rights.

“(C) Aquifer storage and recovery projects designed to supplement existing irrigation water supply, or to store water in subsurface aquifers, for use by the Kittitas Reclamation District, the Roza Irrigation District, or any other proratable irrigation entity participating in the repayment of the construction, operation, and maintenance costs of the facilities under this section during years in



which the total water supply available is insufficient to provide to those proratable irrigation entities all water to which the entities are entitled, subject to the conditions that—

“(i) the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Wapato Irrigation Project, and the Yakama Nation, on an election to participate, may also obtain water from aquifer storage to enhance applicable existing irrigation water supply in accordance with such terms and conditions to which the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Yakama Nation may agree; and

“(ii) nothing in this subparagraph affects (as in existence on the date of enactment of this section) any contract, law (including regulations) relating to repayment costs, water right, or Yakama Nation treaty right.

“(d) FEDERAL COST-SHARE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal cost-share of a project carried out under this section shall be determined in accordance with the applicable laws (including regulations) and policies of the Bureau of Reclamation.

“(2) INITIAL PHASE.—The Federal cost-share for the initial development phase of the Integrated Plan shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the initial development phase.

“(3) STATE AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may accept as part of the non-Federal cost-share of a project carried out under this section, and expend as if appropriated, any contribution (including in-kind services) by the State of Washington or any other individual or entity that the Secretary determines will enhance the conduct and completion of the project.

“(4) LIMITATION ON USE OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, other Federal funds may not be used to provide the non-Federal cost-share of a project carried out under this section.

“(e) SAVINGS AND CONTINGENCIES.—Nothing in this section shall—

“(1) be a new or supplemental benefit for purposes of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.);

“(2) affect any contract in existence on the date of enactment of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Phase III Act of 2016 that was executed pursuant to the reclamation laws;

“(3) affect any contract or agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation;

“(4) affect, waive, abrogate, diminish, define, or interpret the treaty between the Yakama Nation and the United States; or

“(5) constrain the continued authority of the Secretary to provide fish passage in the Yakima Basin in accordance with the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619 et seq.).

“SEC. 1214. OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF WATER SUPPLIES.

“The Secretary shall retain authority and discretion over the management of project supplies to optimize operational use and flexibility to ensure compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws, treaty rights of the Yakama Nation, and legal obligations, including those contained in this Act. That authority and discretion includes the ability of the United States to store, deliver, conserve, and reuse water supplies deriving from projects authorized under this title.”

**Subpart B—Klamath Project Water and Power**

**SEC. 6329. KLAMATH PROJECT.**

(a) ADDRESSING WATER MANAGEMENT AND POWER COSTS FOR IRRIGATION.—The Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-498; 114 Stat. 2221) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 4 through 6 as sections 5 through 7, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 3 the following:

“SEC. 4. POWER AND WATER MANAGEMENT.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED POWER USE.—The term ‘covered power use’ means a use of power to develop or manage water for irrigation, wildlife purposes, or drainage on land that is—

“(A) associated with the Klamath Project, including land within a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System that receives water due to the operation of Klamath Project facilities; or

“(B) irrigated by the class of users covered by the agreement dated April 30, 1956, between the California Oregon Power Company and Klamath Basin Water Users Protective Association and within the Off Project Area (as defined in the Upper Basin Comprehensive Agreement entered into on April 18, 2014), only if each applicable owner and holder of a possessory interest of the land is a party to that agreement (or a successor agreement that the Secretary determines provides a comparable benefit to the United States).

“(2) KLAMATH PROJECT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Klamath Project’ means the Bureau of Reclamation project in the States of California and Oregon.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘Klamath Project’ includes any dams, canals, and other works and interests for water diversion, storage, delivery, and drainage, flood control, and similar functions that are part of the project described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) POWER COST BENCHMARK.—The term ‘power cost benchmark’ means the average net delivered cost of power for irrigation and drainage at Reclamation projects in the area surrounding the Klamath Project that are similarly situated to the Klamath Project, including Reclamation projects that—

“(A) are located in the Pacific Northwest; and

“(B) receive project-use power.

“(b) WATER, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND POWER ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the reclamation laws and subject to appropriations and required environmental reviews, the Secretary may carry out activities, including entering into an agreement or contract or otherwise making financial assistance available—

“(A) to plan, implement, and administer programs to align water supplies and demand for irrigation water users associated with the Klamath Project, with a primary emphasis on programs developed or endorsed by local entities comprised of representatives of those water users;

“(B) to plan and implement activities and projects that—

“(i) avoid or mitigate environmental effects of irrigation activities; or

“(ii) restore habitats in the Klamath Basin watershed, including restoring tribal fishery resources held in trust; and

“(C) to limit the net delivered cost of power for covered power uses.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) authorizes the Secretary—

“(A) to develop or construct new facilities for the Klamath Project without appropriate approval from Congress under section 9 of the Reclamation Projects Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h); or

“(B) to carry out activities that have not otherwise been authorized.

“(c) REDUCING POWER COSTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the Secretary, in consultation with interested irrigation interests that are eligible for covered power use and representative organizations of those interests, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that—

“(A) identifies the power cost benchmark; and

“(B) recommends actions that, in the judgment of the Secretary, are necessary and appropriate to ensure that the net delivered power cost for covered power use is equal to or less than the power cost benchmark, including a description of—

“(i) actions to immediately reduce power costs and to have the net delivered power cost for covered power use be equal to or less than the power cost benchmark in the near term, while longer-term actions are being implemented;

“(ii) actions that prioritize water and power conservation and efficiency measures and, to the extent actions involving the development or acquisition of power generation are included, renewable energy technologies (including hydropower);

“(iii) the potential costs and timeline for the actions recommended under this subparagraph;

“(iv) provisions for modifying the actions and timeline to adapt to new information or circumstances; and

“(v) a description of public input regarding the proposed actions, including input from water users that have covered power use and the degree to which those water users concur with the recommendations.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall implement those recommendations described in the report that the Secretary determines will ensure that the net delivered power cost for covered power use is equal to or less than the power cost benchmark, subject to availability of appropriations, on the fastest practicable timeline.

“(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to each Committee described in paragraph (1) annual reports describing progress achieved in meeting the requirements of this subsection.

“(d) TREATMENT OF POWER PURCHASES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any purchase of power by the Secretary under this section shall be considered to be an authorized sale for purposes of section 5(b)(3) of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 839c(b)(3)).

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Bonneville Power Administration to make a sale of power from the Federal Columbia River Power System at rates, terms, or conditions better than those afforded preference customers of the Bonneville Power Administration.

“(e) GOALS.—The goals of activities under subsections (b) and (c) shall include, as applicable—

“(1) the short-term and long-term reduction and resolution of conflicts relating to water in the Klamath Basin watershed; and

“(2) compatibility and utility for protecting natural resources throughout the Klamath Basin watershed, including the protection, preservation, and restoration of Klamath River tribal fishery resources, particularly through collaboratively developed agreements.

“(f) PUMPING PLANT D.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more agreements with the Tulelake Irrigation District to reimburse the Tulelake Irrigation District for not more than 69 percent of the cost incurred by the Tulelake Irrigation District for the operation and maintenance of Pumping Plant D, on the condition that the cost benefits the United States.”.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF NON-PROJECT WATER; REPLACEMENT OF C CANAL.—

(1) DEFINITION OF KLAMATH PROJECT.—In this subsection:

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Klamath Project” means the Bureau of Reclamation project in the States of California and Oregon.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Klamath Project” includes any dams, canals, and other works and interests for water diversion, storage, delivery, and drainage, flood control, and similar functions that are part of the project described in subparagraph (A).

(2) CONVEYANCE OF NON-PROJECT WATER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity operating under a contract entered into with the United States for the operation and maintenance of Klamath Project works or facilities, and an entity operating any work or facility not owned by the United States that receives Klamath Project water, may use any of the Klamath Project works or facilities to convey non-Klamath Project water for any authorized purpose of the Klamath Project, subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C).

(B) PERMITS; MEASUREMENT.—An addition, conveyance, and use of water pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the requirements that—

(i) the applicable entity shall secure all permits required under State or local laws; and

(ii) all water delivered into, or taken out of, a Klamath Project facility pursuant to that subparagraph shall be measured.

(C) EFFECT.—A use of non-Klamath Project water under this paragraph shall not—

(i) adversely affect the delivery of water to any water user or land served by the Klamath Project; or

(ii) result in any additional cost to the United States.

(3) REPLACEMENT OF C CANAL FLUME.—The replacement of the C Canal flume within the Klamath Project shall be considered to be, and shall receive the treatment authorized for, emergency extraordinary operation and maintenance work in accordance with Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)).

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) COMPLIANCE.—In implementing this section the amendments made by this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall comply with—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) all other applicable laws.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(A) modifies the authorities or obligations of the United States with respect to the tribal trust and treaty obligations of the United States; or

(B) creates or determines water rights or affects water rights or water right claims in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

#### PART IV—RESERVOIR OPERATION IMPROVEMENT

##### SEC. 6331. RESERVOIR OPERATION IMPROVEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RESERVED WORKS.—The term “reserved works” means any Bureau of Reclamation project facility at which the Secretary of the Interior carries out the operation and maintenance of the project facility.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Army.

(3) TRANSFERRED WORKS.—The term “transferred works” means a Bureau of Reclamation project facility, the operation and maintenance of which is carried out by a non-Federal entity, under the provisions of a formal operation and maintenance transfer contract.

(4) TRANSFERRED WORKS OPERATING ENTITY.—The term “transferred works operating entity” means the organization that is contractually responsible for operation and maintenance of transferred works.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report including, for any State in which a county designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a drought disaster area during water year 2015 is located, a list of projects, including Corps of Engineers projects, and those non-Federal projects and transferred works that are operated for flood control in accordance with rules prescribed by the Secretary pursuant to section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665), including, as applicable—

(1) the year the original water control manual was approved;

(2) the year for any subsequent revisions to the water control plan and manual of the project;

(3) a list of projects for which—

(A) operational deviations for drought contingency have been requested;

(B) the status of the request; and

(C) a description of how water conservation and water quality improvements were addressed; and

(4) a list of projects for which permanent or seasonal changes to storage allocations have been requested, and the status of the request.

(c) PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of completion of the report under subsection (b), the Secretary shall identify any projects described in the report—

(1) for which the modification of the water operations manuals, including flood control rule curve, would be likely to enhance existing authorized project purposes, including for water supply benefits and flood control operations;

(2) for which the water control manual and hydrometeorological information establishing the flood control rule curves of the project have not been substantially revised during the 15-year period ending on the date of review by the Secretary; and

(3) for which the non-Federal sponsor or sponsors of a Corps of Engineers project, the owner of a non-Federal project, or the non-Federal transferred works operating entity, as applicable, has submitted to the Secretary a written request to revise water operations manuals, including flood control rule curves,

based on the use of improved weather forecasting or run-off forecasting methods, new watershed data, changes to project operations, or structural improvements.

(d) PILOT PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of identification of projects under subsection (c), if any, the Secretary shall carry out not fewer than 15 pilot projects, which shall include not less than 6 non-Federal projects, to implement revisions of water operations manuals, including flood control rule curves, based on the best available science, which may include—

(A) forecast-informed operations;

(B) new watershed data; and

(C) if applicable, in the case of non-Federal projects, structural improvements.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In implementing a pilot project under this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with all affected interests, including—

(A) non-Federal entities responsible for operations and maintenance costs of a Federal facility;

(B) individuals and entities with storage entitlements; and

(C) local agencies with flood control responsibilities downstream of a facility.

(e) COORDINATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITIES.—If a project identified under subsection (c) is—

(1) a non-Federal project, the Secretary, prior to carrying out an activity under this section, shall—

(A) consult with the non-Federal project owner; and

(B) enter into a cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other agreement with the non-Federal project owner describing the scope and goals of the activity and the coordination among the parties; and

(2) a Federal project, the Secretary, prior to carrying out an activity under this section, shall—

(A) consult with each Federal and non-Federal entity (including a municipal water district, irrigation district, joint powers authority, transferred works operating entity, or other local governmental entity) that currently—

(i) manages (in whole or in part) a Federal dam or reservoir; or

(ii) is responsible for operations and maintenance costs; and

(B) enter into a cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other agreement with each such entity describing the scope and goals of the activity and the coordination among the parties.

(f) CONSIDERATION.—In designing and implementing a forecast-informed reservoir operations plan under subsection (d) or (g), the Secretary may consult with the appropriate agencies within the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce with expertise in atmospheric, meteorological, and hydrologic science to consider—

(1) the relationship between ocean and atmospheric conditions, including—

(A) the El Niño and La Niña cycles; and

(B) the potential for above-normal, normal, and below-normal rainfall for the coming water year, including consideration of atmospheric river forecasts;

(2) the precipitation and runoff index specific to the basin and watershed of the relevant dam or reservoir, including incorporating knowledge of hydrological and meteorological conditions that influence the timing and quantity of runoff;

(3) improved hydrologic forecasting for precipitation, snowpack, and soil moisture conditions;

(4) an adjustment of operational flood control rule curves to optimize water supply storage and reliability, hydropower production, environmental benefits for flows and temperature, and other authorized project benefits, without a reduction in flood safety; and

(5) proactive management in response to changes in forecasts.

(g) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary may accept and expend amounts from non-Federal entities and other Federal agencies to fund all or a portion of the cost of carrying out a review or revision of operational documents, including water control plans, water control manuals, water control diagrams, release schedules, rule curves, operational agreements with non-Federal entities, and any associated environmental documentation for—

- (1) a Corps of Engineers project;
- (2) a non-Federal project regulated for flood control by the Secretary; or
- (3) a Bureau of Reclamation transferred works regulated for flood control by the Secretary.

(h) **EFFECT.**—

(1) **MANUAL REVISIONS.**—A revision of a manual shall not interfere with the authorized purposes of a Federal project or the existing purposes of a non-Federal project regulated for flood control by the Secretary.

(2) **EFFECT OF SECTION.**—

(A) Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to carry out, at a Federal dam or reservoir, any project or activity for a purpose not otherwise authorized as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) Nothing in this section affects or modifies any obligation of the Secretary under State law.

(C) Nothing in this section affects or modifies any obligation to comply with any applicable Federal law.

(3) **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION RESERVED WORKS EXCLUDED.**—This section—

(A) shall not apply to any dam or reservoir operated by the Bureau of Reclamation as a reserved work, unless all non-Federal project sponsors of a reserved work jointly provide to the Secretary a written request for application of this section to the project; and

(B) shall apply only to Bureau of Reclamation transferred works at the written request of the transferred works operating entity.

(4) **PRIOR STUDIES.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate the efforts of the Secretary in carrying out subsections (b), (c), and (d) with the efforts of the Secretary in completing—

(i) the report required under section 1046(a)(2)(A) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2319 note; Public Law 113-121); and

(ii) the updated report required under subsection (a)(2)(B) of that section; and

(B) if the reports are available before the date on which the Secretary carries out the actions described in subsections (b), (c), and (d), consider the findings of the reports described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A).

(i) **MODIFICATIONS TO MANUALS AND CURVES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of completion of a modification to an operations manual or flood control rule curve, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report regarding the components of the forecast-based reservoir operations plan incorporated into the change.

## PART V—HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

### SEC. 6341. TERROR LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT UPPER HIDDEN BASIN DIVERSION AUTHORIZATION.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **TERROR LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.**—The term “Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project” means the project identified in section 1325 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3212), and which is Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project number 2743.

(2) **UPPER HIDDEN BASIN DIVERSION EXPANSION.**—The term “Upper Hidden Basin Diversion Expansion” means the expansion of the Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project as generally described in Exhibit E to the Upper Hidden Basin Grant Application dated July 2, 2014 and submitted to the Alaska Energy Authority Renewable Energy Fund Round VIII by Kodiak Electric Association, Inc.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The licensee for the Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project may occupy not more than 20 acres of Federal land to construct, operate, and maintain the Upper Hidden Basin Diversion Expansion without further authorization of the Secretary of the Interior or under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.).

(c) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—The Upper Hidden Basin Diversion Expansion shall be subject to appropriate terms and conditions included in an amendment to a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), including section 4(e) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 797(e)), following an environmental review by the Commission under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

### SEC. 6342. STAY AND REINSTATEMENT OF FERC LICENSE NO. 11393 FOR THE MAHONEY LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) **LICENSE.**—The term “license” means the license for Commission project number 11393.

(3) **LICENSEE.**—The term “licensee” means the holder of the license.

(b) **STAY OF LICENSE.**—On the request of the licensee, the Commission shall issue an order continuing the stay of the license.

(c) **LIFTING OF STAY.**—On the request of the licensee, but not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall—

(1) issue an order lifting the stay of the license under subsection (b); and

(2) make the effective date of the license the date on which the stay is lifted under paragraph (1).

(d) **EXTENSION OF LICENSE.**—On the request of the licensee and notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) for commencement of construction of the project subject to the license, the Commission shall, after reasonable notice and in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for not more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(e) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in this section prioritizes, or creates any advantage or disadvantage to, Commission project number 11393 under Federal law, including the Fed-

eral Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.) or the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), as compared to—

- (1) any electric generating facility in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or
- (2) any electric generating facility that may be examined, proposed, or developed during the period of any stay or extension of the license under this section.

### SEC. 6343. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) project numbered 12642, the Commission may, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods from the date of the expiration of the extension originally issued by the Commission.

(b) **REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.**—If the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Commission shall reinstate the license effective as of the date of the expiration of the license; and

(2) the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on that expiration date.

### SEC. 6344. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR CERTAIN OTHER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) projects numbered 12737 and 12740, the Commission may, at the request of the licensee for the applicable project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the applicable project for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods from the date of the expiration of the extension originally issued by the Commission.

(b) **REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.**—If the period required for commencement of construction of a project described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Commission may reinstate the license for the applicable project effective as of the date of the expiration of the license; and

(2) the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on that expiration date.

### SEC. 6345. EQUUS BEDS DIVISION EXTENSION.

Section 10(h) of Public Law 86-787 (74 Stat. 1026; 120 Stat. 1474) is amended by striking “10 years” and inserting “20 years”.

### SEC. 6346. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR A FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT INVOLVING CANNONSVILLE DAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission project numbered 13287, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the "Commission") may, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of the project for up to 4 consecutive 2-year periods after the required date of the commencement of construction described in Article 301 of the license.

(b) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the required date of the commencement of construction described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission may reinstate the license effective as of that date of expiration.

(2) EXTENSION.—If the Commission reinstates the license under paragraph (1), the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of that expiration.

**PART VI—PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER COMPENSATION**

**SEC. 6351. PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER COMPENSATION.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall initiate a proceeding to identify and determine the market, procurement, and cost recovery mechanisms that would—

(1) encourage development of pumped storage hydropower assets; and

(2) properly compensate those assets for the full range of services provided to the power grid, including—

(A) balancing electricity supply and demand;

(B) ensuring grid reliability; and

(C) cost-effectively integrating intermittent power sources into the grid.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to each vote in this series.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. President.

The amendment I have called up is an amendment Senator CANTWELL and I have been working on. It is what we are dubbing our "Natural Resources" title. There are 30 different provisions—15 from the Republican side, 15 from the Democratic side. Nearly all of them have been reported from the committee. They have strong bipartisan support. It is a balanced collection of land and water bills.

We have included the sportsmen's bill, which we have heard talk of here on the floor, as it was reported from the committee with some additional provisions that came out of the Environment and Public Works Committee. It includes our open and less closed provisions to make sure our public lands and our national forests are accessible for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. We have included several land transactions involving the land management agencies, including some conveyances to correct Federal

survey errors and to adjust boundaries. We have provisions to get more renewable hydropower online and keep existing projects operating in at least five different States. We also protect some treasured landscapes and rivers. We re-route a national scenic trail, and we authorize the National Park Service to study three sites to determine their national significance. So, again, it is a broad package, a package that is balanced, and a package that continues to add to the good in the overall Energy bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, if I may add to my colleague's comments, this underlying bill supports the Yakima River Basin bill, which is an integrated approach to addressing water management needs for farmers, families, and fish. It will help restore the ecosystem, ensure that communities have access to water, and conserve and provide water for farmers in times of drought. It is not only important to the future of our State, it is also a model for how water management should be done in the 21st century.

This legislation also includes water provisions for Senators FEINSTEIN, FLAKE, MERKLEY, and WYDEN, as the chairwoman said, MURKOWSKI herself, and several of our other colleagues—MERKLEY, BURR, GILLIBRAND, and KAIN.

Support this legislation.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes following the first vote in this series be 10 minutes in length.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. If there is no further debate, I ask for the yeas and nays on amendment No. 3234.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is all time yielded back?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Yes, all time on the Republican side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 48 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blumenthal	Grassley	Reed
Blunt	Hatch	Reid
Booker	Heinrich	Risch
Boozman	Heitkamp	Roberts
Boxer	Heller	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Scott
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kirk	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Lee	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	Markey	Toomey
Cotton	McCain	Udall
Crapo	McCaskill	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Enzi	Mikulski	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	
Fischer	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz Perdue Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3202

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on amendment No. 3202, offered by the Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I just want all Members of the Senate to consider this amendment favorably.

It is an amendment that allows for consideration, in the qualification of the underwriting of a loan for the purchase of a single-family dwelling, of those enhanced standards for energy efficiency to go in over and above the minimum standard. It is permissive, and it is FHA only.

I appreciate every Member's vote.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, this amendment offered by my friend from Georgia sounds good, but let's examine it for a little while.

This amendment is opposed by the scholars of the Heritage Foundation, the Cato Institute, the American Action Forum, the American Enterprise Institute, and the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

As we all know, the mortgage underwriting process is about evaluating a borrower's ability to afford a mortgage, and history tells us that if we play around with it, it does not end well when we forget this.

This amendment would weaken FHA's underwriting standards, leading

to greater safety and perhaps soundness concerns for FHA's portfolio, which received a \$1.7 billion bailout in 2013. It would require that appraisals be inflated to account for the value of energy efficiency upgrades as determined by HUD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SHELBY. I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

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

Mr. SHELBY. It would also project energy savings and inflated borrowers' income for debt-to-income valuation.

I think it would be dangerous for FHA loans. We don't need it. FHA already has an FHA energy-efficient program, and according to HUD, FHA's energy-efficient program helps families save money on their utility bills by enabling them to finance energy-efficient improvements with their FHA insurance mortgage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia has 30 seconds.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I don't know who wrote what my friend from Alabama is reading, but the truth and the fact is that this is a recommendation that allows the installation of more energy efficiency and the funding of that in terms of housing. Homebuilders have endorsed it. Most energy efficiency organizations have endorsed it. It is good practice. It is good procedure. It is not ruining underwriting in any way whatsoever. It is good for America. It is good for energy efficiency. It is good for the housing industry.

I would appreciate the vote of each and every Member.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 49 Leg.]

YEAS—66

Alexander	Blumenthal	Brown
Ayotte	Blunt	Burr
Baldwin	Booker	Cantwell
Bennet	Boxer	Capito

Cardin	Hirono	Nelson
Carper	Hoeven	Peters
Casey	Isakson	Portman
Cassidy	Johnson	Reed
Cochran	Kaine	Reid
Collins	King	Rounds
Coons	Kirk	Schatz
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Schumer
Donnelly	Leahy	Shaheen
Durbin	Manchin	Stabenow
Feinstein	Markey	Sullivan
Franken	McCaskill	Tester
Gillibrand	Menendez	Tillis
Graham	Merkley	Udall
Hatch	Mikulski	Warner
Heinrich	Murkowski	Warren
Heitkamp	Murphy	Whitehouse
Heller	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—31

Barrasso	Gardner	Rubio
Boozman	Grassley	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Lankford	Sessions
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Crapo	McCain	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Vitter
Ernst	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Risch	
Flake	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Perdue	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3175, AS MODIFIED, TO  
AMENDMENT NO. 2953

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on amendment No. 3175, to be offered by the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I rise to speak on my amendment very briefly. Many of my colleagues may have seen these wild horses on a vacation to the Outer Banks or maybe you viewed the movie "Nights in Rodanthe." These horses have been there for over 200 years. What we are doing is we are injecting some new genetics so this herd is sustainable for another 200 years.

Let me tell my colleagues that they have never been managed by the Fish & Wildlife Service. The Fish & Wildlife Service doesn't want to manage them. They are managed by a private nonprofit that goes to great lengths and expense to make sure that this herd survives.

With that, I yield the floor. I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, is all time yielded back?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a minute left in opposition and 12 seconds remaining to the Senator from North Carolina.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, if there is no further discussion on this amendment, I call up the Burr amendment No. 3175 and ask unanimous consent that it be modified with the changes at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the amendment, as modified, by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Ms. MURKOWSKI], for Mr. BURR, proposes an amendment numbered 3175, as modified, to amendment No. 2953.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that the Secretary of the Interior collaborates fully with State and local authorities and certain nonprofit entities in managing the Corolla Wild Horse population on Federal land)

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

**SEC. 4. WILD HORSES IN AND AROUND THE CURRITUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.**

(a) GENETIC DIVERSITY.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the "Secretary"), in consultation with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Currituck County, North Carolina, and the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, shall allow for the introduction of a small number of free-roaming wild horses from the Cape Lookout National Seashore as necessary to ensure the genetic diversity and viability of the wild horse population currently found in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge, consistent with—

(1) the laws (including regulations) applicable to the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Cape Lookout National Seashore; and

(2) the December 2014 Wild Horse Management Agreement approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Currituck County, North Carolina, and the Corolla Wild Horse Fund.

(b) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the Corolla Wild Horse Fund to provide for the cost-effective management of the horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge while ensuring that natural resources within the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge are not adversely impacted.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall specify that the Corolla Wild Horse Fund shall pay the costs associated with—

(A) coordinating and conducting a periodic census, and inspecting the health, of the horses;

(B) maintaining records of the horses living in the wild and in confinement;

(C) coordinating and conducting the removal and placement of horses and monitoring of any horses removed from the Currituck County Outer Banks; and

(D) administering a viable population control plan for the horses, including auctions, adoptions, contraceptive fertility methods, and other viable options.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. The original Burr amendment did have a lot of discussion and passion on both sides, but the Senators were able to come together this afternoon to resolve their differences over this issue and craft a reasonable compromise that is acceptable to both sides. I want to thank Senator BURR, Senator TILLIS, and Senator BOXER for their willingness to find a solution that

we can support. So I urge all my colleagues to support the Burr amendment, as modified.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the 60-vote affirmative threshold with respect to the Burr amendment be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

The amendment (No. 3175), as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3210

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes, equally divided, prior to a vote on the Lankford amendment.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, it is a very straightforward Land and Water Conservation Fund amendment. We have common agreement on the Land and Water Conservation Fund—what it does, what it funds, how it is funded. Where we have some dispute is in whether we are we taking care of the land that we have. We continue to add more acres into the Federal inventory, and we are not taking care of them. The original plan of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is that someday, out of general budget, we will do maintenance on this, but let's keep adding land. We have all known for decades that has not worked. For decades we have added more land, and for decades we are not maintaining it.

The easiest way to identify this amendment is this: This amendment is about not only purchasing land but taking care of the land that we actually purchased. It splits half and half—half for the purchase of land and half for the maintenance.

My daughter's birthday is today. She is 16. She will get a car—an old used car—at some point. But the requirement for her is to not only help pay for the car but to actually have enough in her bank account that she can help maintain it and buy gasoline for it. She has to have a job so she can have income.

We have set aside the Land and Water Conservation Fund to continually get more land but not be able to maintain it. We wouldn't do that with our children. We wouldn't do that with our homes. But we have done it year after year with this.

Let's do something simple. Let's maintain what we actually purchased and make sure it comes into strict oversight of the Federal Government. We should take care of our Federal treasures that are these national parks and other Federal lands.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. LANKFORD. With that, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, speaking in opposition to the Lankford amendment, it would gut the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This is a program in which the Senator's new language would produce obstacles to the Federal government acquiring land that would cost more than \$50,000 per acre, and it would simply add more red-tape by having to pass another law just for the land acquisition to be purchased.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Lankford amendment and keep the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the purposes that it was designed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 34, nays 63, as follows:

[Rollcall No. 50 Leg.]

YEAS—34

Barrasso	Hatch	Rounds
Boozman	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Johnson	Sessions
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Enzi	McConnell	Thune
Ernst	Moran	Toomey
Fischer	Murkowski	Vitter
Flake	Paul	
Grassley	Roberts	

NAYS—63

Alexander	Durbin	Mikulski
Ayotte	Feinstein	Murphy
Baldwin	Franken	Murray
Bennet	Gardner	Nelson
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Peters
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boxer	Heitkamp	Reid
Brown	Hirono	Risch
Burr	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Kirk	Stabenow
Carper	Klobuchar	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Tillis
Cochran	Manchin	Udall
Collins	Markey	Warner
Cooms	McCain	Warren
Crapo	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Daines	Menendez	Wicker
Donnelly	Merkley	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Perdue	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3311 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2953

There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on amendment No. 3311, to be offered by the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3311.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BOOZMAN] proposes an amendment numbered 3311 to amendment No. 2953.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a report relating to certain transmission infrastructure projects)

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

SEC. 23. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16421) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Before carrying out a Project under subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

“(1) describes the impact that the proposed Project would have on electricity rates;

“(2) demonstrates that the proposed Project meets the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b); and

“(3) includes a list of utilities that have entered into contracts for the purchase of power from the proposed Project.

“(i) DECISION.—The Secretary may not issue a decision on whether to carry out a Project under subsection (a) or (b) before the date that is 90 days after the date of submission of a report required under subsection (h).”

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, this amendment provides a simple report from the Department of Energy on a specific kind of transmission project. The amendment will not cause delays or add additional redtape. It provides transparency and ensures that the Department follows the law.

This amendment just ensures that the Department provides information in a timely manner.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, this amendment is a job killer. It blocks a major new 700-mile, multi-state electric transmission project.

The Plains & Eastern Clean Line will deliver four gigawatts of economical renewable energy to the Southeast. This is \$2 billion of nontaxpayer dollars that will lead to over \$6 billion in private investment in new wind generation that will produce enough power to power 1 million homes.

During the 3 years of construction, the Clean Line will create 6,000 local construction jobs. Our Nation's grid is the energy of our economy and it needs modernization. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this job-killing amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 42, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 51 Leg.]

YEAS—42

Alexander	Ernst	Portman
Ayotte	Fischer	Risch
Blunt	Flake	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott
Coats	Johnson	Sessions
Cochran	Lee	Shelby
Corker	McCain	Sullivan
Cornyn	McConnell	Thune
Cotton	Moran	Toomey
Crapo	Murkowski	Vitter
Daines	Paul	Wicker

NAYS—55

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murphy
Barrasso	Graham	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Peters
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Hoeven	Reid
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Kirk	Stabenow
Casey	Klobuchar	Tester
Collins	Lankford	Tillis
Coons	Leahy	Udall
Donnelly	Manchin	Warner
Durbin	Markey	Warren
Enzi	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Menendez	Wyden
Franken	Merkley	
Gardner	Mikulski	

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Perdue	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3312

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on amendment No. 3312, offered by the Senator from New Mexico, Mr. UDALL.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Thank you, Mr. President.

This amendment is a very simple study amendment. It does nothing more than ask for a study. It is pro clean energy; it changes no rules; it

doesn't mandate anything; it has no cost; it has no score. It simply directs the Secretary of the Treasury to submit a report to Congress on the issuance of clean energy victory bonds.

It is supported by a number of groups. Just to mention a few: the American Sustainable Business Council, the Evangelical Environmental Network, the League of Conservation Voters, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and a number of others.

I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. We yield all time back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 52 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Ayotte	Gardner	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Kirk	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	

NAYS—47

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Perdue	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes

for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3787

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on amendment No. 3787, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. PAUL.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, Jack Kemp and others who have looked at and examined the issue of poverty have often found that we have not done a great job alleviating poverty. We have tried government programs. In my State, we tried them in rural Appalachia for 40 years. Yet we still have persistent poverty.

Many of us believe we would have a better chance with poverty if we would lower taxes in these areas, lessen regulation, and instead of sending the money to Washington, leave it where the poverty is. My amendment alone would leave half a billion dollars in Eastern Kentucky, \$200 million in Louisville.

We have had much discussion of Flint, MI, and the water problem there. My amendment would leave \$124 million in Flint, MI, next week. My amendment would leave over \$1 billion in Detroit.

If there are those in this body who can come together and say we have a unified presence and a unified ability and desire to combat poverty, this is the amendment to do it. It is called economic freedom zones. I hope we will get bipartisan support in favor of leaving money in these impoverished communities to help them get started again.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and this vision. Senator PAUL's amendment takes advantage of economically distressed communities in our country by saying we will take the hedge funds, big banks, rich investors and see their capital gains taxes completely eliminated.

The amendment would allow some of the areas in the country with the biggest environmental challenges, the most vulnerable communities, to ignore environmental laws like the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, ignore the requirements of National Heritage Areas, would lift Davis-Bacon, and it would scar school districts in these areas by not allowing public education dollars but allowing them to go to private schools instead.

In short, this amendment would turn these vulnerable communities into an experiment I don't think we need to have.

I raise a point of order that the pending measure violates section 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of my amendment, No. 3787, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to waive.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 33, nays 64, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 53 Leg.]

YEAS—33

Blunt	Flake	Moran
Boozman	Gardner	Paul
Capito	Graham	Risch
Cassidy	Grassley	Rubio
Coats	Hatch	Sasse
Cornyn	Heller	Scott
Cotton	Hoeven	Shelby
Crapo	Johnson	Sullivan
Daines	Kirk	Toomey
Ernst	Lee	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—64

Alexander	Franken	Nelson
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Peters
Baldwin	Heinrich	Portman
Barrasso	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Inhofe	Roberts
Booker	Isakson	Rounds
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Burr	Klobuchar	Sessions
Cantwell	Lankford	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Thune
Cochran	McCain	Tillis
Collins	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Corker	Merkley	Warren
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Perdue	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 33, the nays are 64.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained, and the amendment falls.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 53, I voted yea. It was my intention to vote nay. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted

to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 53, I voted yea. It was my intention to vote nay. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

AMENDMENT NO. 2954

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on amendment No. 2954, offered by the Senator from Louisiana, Mr. CASSIDY.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, this amendment pertains to the sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It merely gives the government the authority to time that sale. We can buy oil high or buy oil low, but we should sell it higher.

All this amendment does—a commonsense, bipartisan amendment—is to say that whenever the oil is sold from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, it should be when the best price is fetched, if you will, for the taxpayers of the country. It is common sense. It protects taxpayers. It should be adopted.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, Senator CASSIDY and I have offered this amendment in order to correct a problem in the bill. Without this amendment, there would not be the kind of discipline which is necessary in order to make sure the Strategic Petroleum oil is sold strategically so that the Federal Government gets the best price for it, so that we sell high—or as high as we can—in order to limit the number of barrels of oil that ultimately will be sold so that we can keep as many as possible in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

In order to meet the budget objectives, this amendment satisfies it but also ensures that we keep the maximum number of barrels of oil remaining in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is going to make millions—tens of millions of extra dollars for the Federal taxpayers because it will be done in a very smart way. We will be selling as high as possible because we bought this oil, for the most part, in a very high-priced marketplace.

Senator CASSIDY and I urge an “aye” vote on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I appreciate the work of both Senators, who came together with a very commonsense amendment.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 60-vote affirmative threshold for the Cassidy-Markey amendment be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Is there further debate on the amendment?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2954) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2953, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 2953, as amended, is agreed to.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order with respect to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 2012, upon reconsideration, be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on Wednesday, April 20, the time until 10 a.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; further, that at 10 a.m., the Senate vote on passage of S. 2012, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, this brings us to the end of the agreed-to votes on the amendments that required a rollcall, as well as the 29 various amendments that were accepted by voice en bloc. We have made extraordinary progress on a good, strong, bipartisan energy modernization bill. I thank colleagues for the process we have all engaged in today as we have worked to wrap up the final measures to allow us to move to final passage tomorrow morning.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Washington.

ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for a productive afternoon. We certainly improved the Senate Energy bill with a variety of amendments—the lands package specifically but other amendments as well, such as the energy savings by our colleagues, Senator ISAKSON and Senator BENNET.



I am very glad we are where we are today, and hopefully we will have this wrapped up very early tomorrow. I thank all our colleagues for their cooperation. I again thank the staff for getting us to this point today.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING ANNIVERSARY AND FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, in February of this year, Justice Scalia passed away. It was an enormous loss to the Nation.

In the hours and the days following that, Republicans in the Senate had the opportunity to talk about their constitutional responsibility—the responsibility of advice and consent. Supreme Court justices don't show up to the Supreme Court because the President just nominates them. In the Constitution, article II, section 2, lays out a 50–50 proposition.

The President has the first 50 percent. He narrows down his list, and he nominates.

The Senate then has the second 50 percent. They have the power of what is called advice and consent. The first half of that is when. Is this the right time to do a nominee? And with many nominees, historically—Ambassadors, Justices, Cabinet officers—the Senate has had a long delay to be able to say: No, this is not the right time.

So the first question is, Is this the right time? The second question is, Is this the right person? That is the process of advice and consent, and it has been for 200 years.

So what has happened since February? Since February, Republicans have been very consistent—myself included—to say: This is not the time to have a Supreme Court Justice go through the nomination process. In the hours after Justice Scalia passed away, we made it very clear so that any nominee who went through the process, regardless of who they were, would know in advance this: You will not move to a hearing because it is not the right time. Of our two-part test—Is this the right time? Is this the right person?—the first part is not complete. It is not the right time. So this nominee will not move at all throughout this entire year, and everyone knew that in advance.

So I understand Republicans have talked about the first test on that, the priority of “is this the right time?”

Democrats have focused on “is this the right person?” They have focused on Judge Garland as the nominee. They want to be able to raise and talk about his profile, and I get the politics of that. But it is just the politics of it. We would expect that banter back and forth on the politics, but this is a settled issue among Republicans. He will not move through the nomination process.

But we hit a new low today on this floor, and I had to come and address it. Today, this moved from a conversation about whether this is the right time and whether this is the right person to drawing in the memory of the 168 lives that were lost in Oklahoma City 21 years ago today—April 19, 1995. It was the worst act of terrorism at that time on American soil, carried out by another American, killing 168 people at the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. A Ryder truck loaded with fertilizer and diesel pulled up to the front and blew it up, killing 168.

Timothy McVeigh carried that out. He got into his Ford and drove north to leave out of the State. But 90 minutes later—90 minutes later—Trooper Charlie Hanger, who was just doing his job, saw a vehicle on I-35 without a license plate on it, pulled him over, found out he also had a weapon on him, and put him in jail to be able to hold him. Trooper Charlie Hanger, doing his job, actually arrested the person who had killed 168 people just 90 minutes before, not knowing it.

Local law enforcement and individuals quickly went through the debris trying to find individuals to save and evidence to be able to identify who this was. Within a few hours, they found the axle of the Ryder truck. They called the rental company. They identified it. They did a composite sketch, and they figured out within hours who this might be—a guy named Timothy McVeigh. Running a search on him, they figured out he was already in jail. He had been picked up by Trooper Charlie Hanger. Before he was released—because he was in the process of being released—they were able to hold him and unwind a horrific crime. It was incredible local law enforcement. It was an incredible task that happened.

Within 40 hours of that event occurring, a gentleman named Merrick Garland had come from DC, where he worked for the Department of Justice, to Oklahoma City to help on the Federal side of the prosecution, along with thousands of other people from around the country. Our State and our city was overwhelmed with the compassion of people around the country as we saw what happened, and Merrick Garland was one of those. We are grateful as a community for what he did in the prosecution of Timothy McVeigh, what he did against Terry Nichols, and what he did against Michael Fortier. We are grateful for his work there.

But today, on the floor of this Senate, the implication was laid out twofold. One is that, since Judge Garland served the country and did that, he deserves something else. I have never met Judge Garland. I will meet him next week and, quite frankly, look him in the face and say: Thank you for your service to Oklahoma.

To make clear again the same position before, there will be no nomination this year. He does deserve our gratitude. He doesn't deserve a lifetime appointment onto the bench because of his faithful service to our country and to our community as is being alluded to.

The politics of it really, really deeply struck me as an Oklahoman—that for some reason, today, of all days, the tragedy that happened to 168 people and their death 21 years ago suddenly became paraded out here as a political prop. One of the Senators was even standing with a picture of a dead child behind him like she is a prop. This child is not a prop for politics. She has a name. She was identified as a toddler. She was 1 year and 1 day old. She was killed in the Murrah Building the day after her 1-year birthday. She is not some random toddler. Her name is Baylee, and she is not to be used as a prop for politics in the Supreme Court nomination process.

It is absolutely fair game to talk about the record of Judge Garland and what he has done. We are grateful as Oklahomans for his service to our State and to our Nation to put away those awful terrorists. But to use a child who was killed in the Murrah Building bombing as a prop so far exceeds the line that I had to come and speak about it and say that I am absolutely offended—and I should be.

So it was 21 years ago today. We remember. It is a statement that comes up to Oklahomans over and over: We remember. We remember the victims. We remember the survivors. We remember the first responders. We remember the thousands of people who came from across the country to help us. We remember, and we will continue to remember. But don't do politics with the life and death of the children and adults in Oklahoma City. Let's keep this where it should be. We could have the debate about process. Do not draw this in.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

#### NOMINATION OF MICHAEL MISSAL

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to confirm Michael Missal, the nominee for the Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general.

For far too long, our Nation's veterans have been without a permanent watchdog in place to ensure the VA affords them the care that they deserve.

I have seen the damage that acting leadership in the VA Office of Inspector General has done in my own State of Wisconsin. Numerous veterans of the Tomah VA facility suffered for years through dangerous prescription practices, whistleblower retaliation, and a culture of fear. The VA Office of Inspector General, under acting leadership, conducted a multiyear investigation of the Tomah VA facility but then swept the allegations under the rug—the secret report that was hidden from veterans, the public, and Congress.

Months after the report was finalized and closed, Jason Simcakoski, a 35-year-old Marine Corps veteran, died of a lethal cocktail of over a dozen different drugs at the Tomah VA facility.

Another Wisconsin veteran, Thomas Behr, died after being treated at the Tomah VA facility. Mr. Behr's daughter Candace told me that had she known about the inspector general's report, she never would have taken her father to the facility and he might be alive today.

In other words, had the VA Office of Inspector General been transparent and published the findings of its investigation, these tragic outcomes could very well have been avoided.

Under acting leadership, the VA Office of Inspector General has tried to stonewall my investigation into the tragedies at Tomah VA medical facility. Its actions have shown that, under acting leadership, the VA Office of Inspector General has become too close to the VA, the agency it is charged with overseeing. The acting leadership lacked the fundamental tenets of transparency and accountability that all inspectors general should have that could literally mean the difference between life and death.

I was forced to resort to a subpoena to obtain the information about the investigation of the Tomah VA Office of Inspector General, and there are still some documents the acting leadership has refused to produce. For over a year, I have urged President Obama to appoint a permanent VA inspector general. I was pleased that President Obama finally heeded my calls—and, quite honestly, the calls of many of my colleagues—when he nominated Michael Missal to the position late last year. My committee, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, moved his nomination after carefully considering his qualifications, and we reported him out to the full Senate immediately.

I am hopeful that under Mr. Missal's leadership, the VA Office of Inspector General will restore veterans' trust in the inspector general's office, protect VA whistleblowers, and forge a new relationship with Congress, but above all else, I hope Mr. Missal will use his position to help ensure the finest among us receives the high-quality care they deserve.

I am confident Mr. Missal is up to the task, and I thank him for agreeing to serve in this supporting role.

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#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 448 only, with no other executive business in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Joseph Missal, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Missal nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

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#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

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#### FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, after months of debate and piecemeal short-term reauthorizations, the Senate has finally approved a comprehensive reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, that will improve the safety and efficiency of our Nation's airline transportation system. The Federal Aviation Administration Act of 2016 will not only make airline travel safer and more efficient, it will also strengthen our economy by creating jobs and supporting those who rely on the benefits of airline transportation, day to day. From protecting the rights and safety of airline employees, to ensuring the needs of passengers with disabilities are recognized and upheld, this legislation takes necessary steps to improve travel experiences for all Americans.

I am especially pleased that the Federal Aviation Administration Act includes a number of policies that will

benefit Vermont's airports, including the preservation of the Essential Air Service program, an important source of support for the Rutland-Southern Vermont Regional Airport. The bill also increases Airport Improvement Program funding, which is essential to the expansion and improvements of airports in Vermont and across the country. Also importantly, the bill will not privatize the Air Traffic Control System.

As the opportunities and challenges associated with new technology continue to evolve—both in NextGen implementation and use of drones—it is important that safety remains a top priority. This FAA reauthorization bill takes steps to address the safety and privacy concerns related to the widespread proliferation of unmanned aircraft within our domestic airspace. The legislation adds several provisions to increase safety by adding new technical and operational standards. For example, the bill requires the FAA and government agencies to collaborate with industry stakeholders to develop guidelines and procedures to ensure the safe integration of drones into the national airspace. I was also pleased that the bill addresses certain privacy concerns about the use of drones by requiring the FAA to establish a publicly accessible website containing information about commercial and government drone operations, the type of information those drones will collect, and how that information will be used. While the drone-related provisions in the bill are an improvement from the status quo, I believe that we must do more to ensure that safety and privacy safeguards are improved.

In Vermont, our airports are essential to a strong economy. They facilitate both tourism and commerce, and they are a source of economic growth for our communities. I am disappointed that, despite support from 99 other Senators, the objections of just one Senator prevented the passage of an amendment that would further facilitate travel and commerce between the United States and Canada, our largest trading partner. Expanding U.S. preclearance operations in Canada not only improves the travel experience for Americans traveling back and forth between Canada, but encourages neighbors to the north to visit the United States and infuses our economies through tourism and commerce. Importantly, it also furthers our national security. I will be looking for opportunities to advance this legislation moving forward.

The Federal Aviation Administration Act represents a strong step forward in keeping the U.S. airspace as the safest and most efficient in the world. I hope that, as the House takes up this important legislation, they will maintain the carefully balanced proposals included in the Senate bill.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I voted no on final passage of the FAA reauthorization bill because I was unable to offer my amendment to ensure that cargo pilots have the same rest and duty rules as passenger pilots.

Not only was I unable to secure a vote on my amendment, my offer to modify my amendment into a study by the National Transportation Safety Board was objected to by the other side. We should ensure that all pilots, whether they fly people or goods, have the same opportunities for rest. As this bill has many safety implications for our aviation system, I am very disappointed that my amendment did not receive consideration in the Senate.

However, I would like to thank the Senate Commerce Committee for their hard work on this bill, which includes many safety improvements, helpful consumer protections, and enhancements to airport security. I am particularly pleased that the bill includes a provision to ban the use of electronic cigarettes on board aircraft that I had asked to be included in this bill.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today the Senate approved legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration—FAA—for 18 months. I applaud the work of my colleagues, Senators THUNE and NELSON, and their staff who worked tirelessly to get this important legislation over the finish line. I hope leaders in the House of Representatives see what we passed here in the Senate and ensure smooth passage of the bill. This legislation truly represents bipartisan compromise. While it takes important steps forward, more work remains to be done to ensure the United States remains a global leader in aviation, safety, and innovation.

This legislation advanced many key priorities that I was proud to fight for. Aviation is a critical means of travel for people in my State and across the country, and I am confident that this legislation takes strides to improve the status quo for travelers.

I worked to advance provisions that help improve accessibility for persons with disabilities traveling through our Nation's commercial air system. The increased and improved data collected as a result of this legislation and the new advisory committee put in place will help fuel effective policies that enhance the traveling experience for persons with disabilities and remove barriers to accessibility.

The legislation will help improve the use of disadvantaged business enterprises in aviation infrastructure. I authored an amendment to align the size standard used by the Department of Transportation—DOT—to identify small businesses, with the metric used by the Small Business Administration—SBA. This small update will enable more minority and women-owned businesses to compete for infrastruc-

ture work. This amendment had widespread support in the aviation construction industry including from the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Airport Minority Advisory Council, the National Association of Minority Contractors, and I was pleased to see it unanimously supported in this legislation.

I also joined colleagues on the floor and through my role on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to move the legislation forward on policies that embrace innovation and help the United States maintain global leadership when it comes to embracing new technology and integrating UAS into the national airspace.

From a floor amendment with Senator INHOFE that will improve the safe use of UAS to examine and maintain our critical infrastructure to amendments I championed in committee that will move the United States forward on new applications of micro-UAS, we took important strides forward. This technology has the power to enhance search and rescue, deliver humanitarian aid, improve agriculture practices, and news-gathering. I introduced the Commercial UAS Modernization Act to help advance this technology and was pleased to see many of our ideas incorporated in this reauthorization.

This legislation also includes provisions to bolster the use of test sites and further important research initiatives that will benefit safety, infrastructure, and aviation technology. New Jersey is home to the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City and a UAS test site in Cape May. These sites play a key role in advancing aviation research and technology, and this legislation includes important provisions that ensure New Jersey will remain a leader in advancing aviation safety and R&D.

Lastly, I would like to discuss an area that is ripe for further congressional action: the Transportation Security Administration—TSA. The FAA reauthorization takes some steps towards stronger security, but more work needs to be done to advance our Nation's security, and TSA plays a critical role to these endeavors. I will continue to fight for accountability and further resources to this important entity that plays such an important role in keeping travelers safe and secure. We must ensure there are adequate resources and top-notch technologies deployed to our airports and our surface transportation systems.

Again, I thank my esteemed colleagues in Senate leadership and Senators THUNE and NELSON for their efforts on this important legislation. I know this will make a difference to my constituents in New Jersey and to people across the country.

Thank you.

#### OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, recently the Senate marked a significant achievement—the final passage of the bipartisan reauthorization of the Older Americans Act—and now the President has signed it into law.

This act provides seniors access to home-delivered meals, like Meals on Wheels; seniors centers; transportation, like rides to the senior center and the grocery store; and meals served at senior centers and churches. Other services include caregiver support, preventive health services, job training and support, elder abuse prevention, and the long-term care ombudsman.

In 2012, Tennessee served 2.4 million meals to seniors through Older Americans Act programs.

This reauthorization also will make a few important improvements.

One, it will provide States, area agencies on aging, and service providers with information and technical assistance in collaboration with relevant Federal agencies, on providing efficient, person-centered transportation services, including across geographic boundaries.

That means that when a senior who lives in Kentucky and wants to come see her doctor just over the border in Tennessee, it is easier for her to get that ride.

Two, this bill addresses the tragic issue of elder abuse with provisions for the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It bolsters services that address elder justice and exploitation of older individuals, including financial exploitation, which can be devastating to a senior's ability to stay independent and in his own home.

Three, this bill ensures States receive funding based on their senior population. Senator RICHARD BURR worked hard with me on this, and we have him to thank for this update.

This bill is the product of several years of bipartisan collaboration and compromise. This legislation protects and strengthens the underlying law's many vital programs. I look forward to seeing S. 192 signed into law, and now I would like to yield to my colleague, Senator BURR.

Mr. BURR. I would also like to thank my colleagues, particularly Chairman ALEXANDER, Ranking Member MURRAY, and Senator SANDERS, for their partnership in working with me to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. I am pleased that our efforts have resulted in sending a strong reauthorization of the Older Americans Act to the President's desk. The reauthorization of these critical support programs for seniors has been a process that each of us has been actively involved in over the last few years, and I am proud to see this bipartisan piece of legislation on its way to becoming law.

I want to focus on a key aspect of this reauthorization for my constituents—the change in the funding formula. In 2010, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, determined that the formula responsible for the allocation of State funding in the OAA was broken. It took us 6 years to act, and I am pleased to see this important change included in the OAA reauthorization, allowing funds to be directed where they are most needed. This is a commonsense, but critical change for better ensuring that the dollars are following the needs.

This change is especially important for North Carolina's seniors. The change in the formula calculation will increase resources for these programs in North Carolina and other States where seniors have moved since the last reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, a decade ago. As more and more seniors make North Carolina their home, this will help ensure that resources are being more fairly allocated based on the needs of seniors today and in the future, which is a key aspect of helping some of our most vulnerable seniors age with the dignity and respect they deserve.

I often hear from my constituents—area agencies on aging, PACE program directors, and North Carolinians themselves—about the benefits that come from the programs authorized by the Older Americans Act. The continuation of these programs, which provide meals, caregiver supports, and help seniors stay in the comfort of their homes and local communities longer positively impacts the lives of millions of seniors every day. With the passage of this legislation, almost 2 million North Carolina seniors may be able to benefit from State and local programs that provide needed support for them and their families. I am proud to have fought on behalf of North Carolina's seniors for the improvements reflected in this reauthorization bill, and I look forward to continuing to work to improve the quality of life for my constituents.

Mr. ALEXANDER. In addition to providing grants to States for senior social and nutrition services, this reauthorization also aims to continue protecting vulnerable elders from abuse by ensuring access to abuse screening and prevention through efforts like the Senior Medicare Patrol, SMP, program, which helps train seniors to recognize and protect themselves from Medicare and Medicaid fraud. The most recent inspector general report noted that the program had educated over 3.5 million beneficiaries, reached 27 million people, and saved about \$106 million.

The programs authorized by this law provide critical services to help Americans live with dignity well into their later years, but these services also provide a significant return on investment for taxpayers.

They help decrease the increasing cost pressures on Medicare and Medicaid. These programs that help seniors stay healthy, independent, and living in their own homes also are helping seniors stay where they want to be—and that is less expensive for taxpayers than if these seniors were instead in nursing homes.

Mr. ENZI. I would also like to highlight the National Resource Center for Women and Retirement as a highly successful program run by the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement—known to most as "WISER"—a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the security of women's retirement income through outreach, partnerships, and policy development. The staff and programs at WISER have provided important and effective trainings and education in my home State of Wyoming, as well as around the country.

Mr. ALEXANDER. For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act has been effective in large part because these successful programs are funded through flexible grants to States. States know best what services will be most beneficial for their residents to live healthier, more independent lives as they age.

I want to thank Senator MURRAY for working with me on this bill in our committee.

I want to thank Senator COLLINS, whose leadership on the Special Committee on Aging was instrumental. Her determination to help seniors stay home and independent helped us get this bill through the full Senate.

I want to thank Senator BURR for his determination to get a result on the funding issue.

Finally, I would like to thank Senator SANDERS for his tireless work on this issue and on this bill.

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#### NATIONAL CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss S. Res. 408. I am delighted that the Senate has unanimously declared April as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month for the fourth consecutive year. I would like to thank my friend and able colleague, Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland, for joining me in this legislation. This resolution is very important to me and my family as my grandson Jim Beau is a CDH survivor.

I specifically wanted to speak today, April 19, to commemorate Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Action Day. Charities and families in 60 countries and cities all over the U.S. are working together to raise CDH Awareness through State and town proclamations, lighted buildings, Parades of Cherubs, fundraisers, and other events.

CDH is a birth defect that occurs when the fetal diaphragm fails to fully

develop. The lungs develop at the same time as the diaphragm and the digestive system. When a diaphragmatic hernia occurs, the abdominal organs move into and develop in the chest instead of remaining in the abdomen. With the heart, lungs, and abdominal organs all taking up space in the chest, the lungs do not have space to develop properly. This may cause the lungs to be small and underdeveloped.

A diaphragmatic hernia is a life-threatening condition. When the lungs do not develop properly during pregnancy, it can be difficult for the baby to breathe after birth, or the baby is unable to take in enough oxygen to stay healthy.

Several members from the CHERUBS group visited my office yesterday. I was encouraged by their good spirit and enthusiasm. These individuals have been coming to Capitol Hill every year for the last several years to advocate for Federal assistance for this birth defect. Over the last 4 years, we have made good progress.

We have seen an increase in funding at the National Institutes of Health, NIH. In fiscal year 2015, the NIH funded approximately \$3,300,000 in CDH research. This is an increase of \$800,000 from fiscal year 2014. We have also seen an increase in awareness and education. But more research is needed. The cause of CDH remains unknown. Most cases of diaphragmatic hernia are believed to be multifactorial in origin, meaning both genetic and environmental factors are involved. It is thought that multiple genes from both parents, as well as a number of environmental factors that scientists do not yet fully understand, contribute to the development of a diaphragmatic hernia.

Congenital diaphragmatic hernia is a birth defect that occurs in 1 out of every 3,836 live births worldwide.

The CDC estimates that CDH affects 1,088 babies in the U.S. each year.

Every 10 minutes, a baby is born with CDH, adding up to more than 700,000 babies with CDH since just 2000; yet most people have never heard of CDH.

Up to 20 percent of cases of CDH have a genetic cause due to a chromosome defect or genetic syndrome.

According to the CDC, babies born with CDH experience a high mortality rate ranging from 20–60 percent depending on the severity of the defect and the treatments available at delivery. The mortality rate has remained stable since 1999.

Approximately 40 percent of babies born with CDH will have other birth defects, in addition to CDH. The most common is a congenital heart defect.

Awareness, good prenatal care, early diagnosis, and skilled treatment are the keys to a greater survival rate in these babies. That is why this resolution is so important.

In 2009, my grandson Jim Beau was diagnosed with CDH during my daughter Mary Abigail's 34th week of pregnancy. At that time, no one in my family had heard of CDH before. My family was very lucky that Jim Beau's defect was caught before he was born and that he was in the right place to receive excellent care for his CDH.

He is now a happy, rambunctious 6-year-old.

The resolution Senator CARDIN and I introduced is important because it will bring awareness to this birth defect, and this awareness will save lives. Although hundreds of thousands of babies have been diagnosed with this defect, the causes are still unknown, and more research is needed. Every year more is learned and there are more successes. We are making good progress, and we must continue these efforts.

I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in supporting this legislation to bring awareness to CDH.

I thank the Chair.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY MACDONALD

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Larry MacDonald as he retires from the city of Bayfield, WI, after an impressive 20 years as the city's mayor. Since his election in 1994, Larry has dedicated himself to improving the city of Bayfield and making it a wonderful destination in northwestern Wisconsin.

Larry was born in Munich, Germany, to American parents. After growing up in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, Larry and his wife, Julie, moved to Bayfield in 1989. They opened Cooper Hill House B&B, contributing to Bayfield's tradition of welcoming visitors from across the State to beautiful Bayfield County. The MacDonalds also opened the Apostle Islands Outfitters that, for close to two decades, supported Bayfield and the city's practice of providing outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and tourists alike.

While he has served as mayor for 20 years, Larry's career in public service began as a casual interest in local government. However, as a proactive politician, a committed environmentalist, and a savvy businessman, Larry's casual interest quickly grew into a remarkable passion for his work and dedication to his city. Over the past two decades and despite an ill-fated attempt at retirement in 2004, Larry has influenced all aspects of the Bayfield community.

The city of Bayfield is the smallest city in Wisconsin, but one of our most popular destinations. A beautiful city located on Lake Superior, Bayfield draws visitors from across the State. When others would be daunted, he faced head-on the challenges of a local economy based on tourism, working with local organizations and listening

closely to his community. Larry also dedicated his career to maintaining the natural beauty of Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands through his work as a board member of the Alliance of the Great Lakes and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. As mayor, he led the city to be one of the first in the Nation to adopt an eco-municipality resolution, thereby codifying its commitment to sustainability, setting an example for others to follow, and preserving Bayfield's natural resources for generations to come.

Larry's involvement in the community goes beyond his work as mayor. His many civic contributions include roles as master of ceremonies for the Bayfield Apple Festival for many years, an avid participant in the Big Top Chautauqua annual Pie & Politics event, and a regular contributor to the Bayfield School Reading Days. Larry's influence can be seen throughout the city, whether it is through his community work, the time he has spent working at his family's business interests, or simply enjoying the city.

However, when he looks back on his many roles in life, his greatest accomplishment will be his 20 years of service as mayor. Larry himself describes it as the best job he ever had. While he attributes his success to the Bayfield community, the city council and his dedicated staff, Larry's success comes from his own will. His investment in his staff, his honesty and involvement, and his personal touch are what spurred Bayfield residents to return him to office year after year. Although in retirement he will no longer be in the mayor's office, Larry's legacy will remain.

Over the past 20 years, Larry has impacted Bayfield residents and the community around him through his dedication, honest nature, and kind heart. I am so pleased to join others in recognizing Larry's success and accomplishments. I wish him, his wife, Julie, their children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren all the best in the next chapter of their lives together.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL THOMPSON

• Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate and recognize Mr. Michael Thompson of Greenville, SC, for receiving one of Scouting's highest honors—the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. This is a significant achievement and a testament to his continued service to our country, State, and especially to the South Carolina community.

As sitting president of the Blue Ridge Council Boy Scouts, Michael Thompson's love for service and the community, as well as his many achievements, place him in the company of

other great individuals who have received this award, such as President Gerald Ford, Neil Armstrong, and former Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert Gates, to name a few. His involvement in the Upstate community represents what it truly means to be an outstanding leader.

It is with pride and honor that we recognize Mr. Michael Thompson and his outstanding achievements today and add his legacy to our April 19, 2016, Congressional Record. We will always remember his admiration for the community, the Upstate, and above all for the scouts.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNTAIN INN WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

• Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor one of South Carolina's most impactful ministries, the Fountain Inn Wesleyan Methodist Church. Celebrating 100 years of faith and teachings on April 24, 2016, the church has remained dedicated to its vision, "To exalt Jesus Christ by Evangelizing the Lost, Disciplining Believers, Equipping the Church, and Ministering to the Community," and intends to continue on this path for years to come.

Evangelist Rev. J.M. Hames first organized the church in 1916, and its official name, the Wesleyan Church, was obtained in 1968 following mergers with several other denominations. Following a tent revival meeting at the start of its history, the church began as a place of worship for workers and residents of the Woodside Mill Village community. It was later provided its permanent place of worship when the Woodside Mill company deeded the building and property to the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Despite many changes incurred over time, including the leadership of 21 pastors, the church has continued to serve the community without straying from its initial mission. The Fountain Inn Wesleyan Methodist Church has remained a consistent source of guidance for its community and has brought many individuals to know the Lord throughout its history.

It is with honor and admiration that we recognize the Fountain Inn Wesleyan Methodist Church and its great impact, adding its legacy to our April 19, 2016, Congressional Record.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SOPHIE DOEDEN

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Sophie Doeden, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Sophie is a graduate of Beresford High School in Beresford, SD. Currently, Sophie is attending Northern State University, where she is majoring in political science. Sophie is a

dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sophie Doeden for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13566 OF FEBRUARY 25, 2011, WITH RESPECT TO LIBYA—PM 46

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") expanding the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Libya.

In the order, I find that the ongoing violence in Libya, including attacks by armed groups against Libyan state facilities, foreign missions in Libya, and critical infrastructure, as well as human rights abuses, violations of the arms embargo imposed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011), and misappropriation of Libya's natural resources threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, democratic transition, and territorial integrity of Libya, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. The order blocks the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

- to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following:

- actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Libya, including through the supply of arms or related materiel;

- actions or policies that obstruct, undermine, delay, or impede, or pose a significant risk of obstructing, undermining, delaying, or impeding, the adoption of or political transition to a Government of National Accord or a successor government;

- actions that may lead to or result in the misappropriation of state assets of Libya; or

- threatening or coercing Libyan state financial institutions or the Libyan National Oil Company;

- to be planning, directing, or committing or to have planned, directed, or committed, attacks against any Libyan state facility or installation (including oil facilities), against any air, land, or sea port in Libya, or against any foreign mission in Libya;

- to be involved in, or to have been involved in, the targeting of civilians through the commission of acts of violence, abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

- to be involved in, or to have been involved in, the illicit exploitation of crude oil or any other natural resources in Libya, including the illicit production, refining, brokering, sale, purchase, or export of Libyan oil;

- to be a leader of an entity that has, or whose members have, engaged in any activity described above;

- to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of any of the activities described above or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or

- to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

In addition, the order suspends entry into the United States of any alien determined to meet one or more of the above criteria.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 19, 2016.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 719. An act to rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

S. 1638. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress information on the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project in the National Capital Region, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2928. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office".

H.R. 3866. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1265 Hurffville Road in Deptford Township, New Jersey, as the "First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building".

H.R. 4570. An act to amend the Department of Agriculture program for research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to redesignate the program as the "Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program".

H.R. 4605. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 6th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa as the "Sgt. 1st Class Terryl L. Pasker Post Office Building".

H.R. 4618. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 119. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), the Minority Leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: DEBBIE DINGELL of Michigan.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2928. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3866. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 1265 Hurffville Road in Deptford Township, New Jersey, as the "First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4570. An act to amend the Department of Agriculture program for research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to redesignate the program as the "Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 4605. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 6th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa as the "Sgt. 1st Class Terryl L. Pasker Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4618. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. McCAIN (by request):

S. 2814. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2815. A bill to establish the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2816. A bill to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 2817. A bill to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2818. A bill to reduce housing-related health hazards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2819. A bill to establish the Council on Healthy Housing and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT,

Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KING, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 431. A resolution recognizing the immeasurable benefits of the national 4-H program to the young people of the United States and supporting the campaign to expand the 4-H program; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Con. Res. 35. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to exercise its veto in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 53

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 53, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify eligibility for the child tax credit.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow refunds of Federal motor fuel excise taxes on fuels used in mobile mammography vehicles.

S. 290

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 290, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 677

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to

the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 979, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1566

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1566, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for coverage of oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for suspension and removal of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety and to improve accountability of employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2108

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2108, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of certain long-term care hospital payment rules and the moratorium on the establishment of certain hospitals and facilities.

S. 2151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2151, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act.

S. 2217

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2217, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A.

S. 2291

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2291, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish procedures within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the processing of whistleblower complaints, and for other purposes.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

S. 2640

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2640, a bill to amend the market name of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from

Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide comprehensive mental health reform, and for other purposes.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with disabilities to save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts above the current annual maximum contribution if they work and earn income.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, nonprofit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to establish various prohibitions regarding the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and with respect to United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, and for other purposes.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2782, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pediatric subspecialists in the National Health Service Corps program, and for other purposes.

S. 2788

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 2788, a bill to prohibit closure of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to prohibit the transfer or release of detainees at that Naval Station to the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2790

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2790, a bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes.

S. 2808

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2808, a bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

S.J. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "fiduciary" and the conflict of interest rule with respect to retirement investment advice.

S. RES. 368

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 368, a resolution supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and the end of the country's enduring internal armed conflict and recognizing United States support for Colombia at the 15th anniversary of Plan Colombia.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 3787

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3787 proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the



modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED:

S. 2818. A bill to reduce housing-related health hazards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing two bills pertaining to healthy housing, the Healthy Housing Council Act and the Title X Amendments Act. These bills seek to improve federal coordination of healthy housing efforts and better integrate healthy housing activities into the ongoing lead poisoning prevention work at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The crisis in Flint, Michigan reaffirms a tragic reality; millions of Americans, including thousands of children and families in Rhode Island, remain at risk from lead exposure. For example, Rhode Island has the highest percentage of low-income children living in older housing, which poses health risks for these children because of the lead paint used in these older homes. Fortunately, Rhode Island has been a national leader in working to reduce lead hazards and bring down childhood lead poisoning rates. The number of children with elevated blood lead levels has been steadily declining in all areas of Rhode Island over the last decade, from 212 children under the age of 6 in 2005 to 42 children in 2015. But as we have seen this year with the tragedy in Flint, MI, lead poisoning among children is still a huge problem in this country. This is unacceptable, which is why I have long sought to improve and maximize federal funding for lead poisoning prevention programs.

The Title X Amendments Act makes important improvements to lead poisoning prevention programs at HUD to better serve low income families at risk for lead poisoning. It would provide HUD with the necessary authority to continue to carry out healthy housing activities while protecting important ongoing lead remediation efforts, allow grantees to improve the conditions in zero-bedroom units, and streamline eligibility for assistance. These are simple, yet necessary reforms designed to improve and expand cost-effective services, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to see them enacted.

It is also vital that we continue the type of collaboration and coordination among Federal departments and agencies, like HUD, HHS, EPA, and CDC, that resulted in the Strategy for Action to Advance Healthy Homes. Indeed, there are many programs fragmented across multiple agencies that are responsible for addressing housing-

related health hazards like lead and radon, and we should strive to improve the efficiency and efficacy of these efforts by ensuring that these agencies continue to work together.

The Healthy Housing Council Act would establish an independent inter-agency Council on Healthy Housing in the executive branch in order to improve coordination, bring existing efforts out of their respective silos, and reduce duplication.

The bill calls for the council to convene periodic meetings with experts in the public and private sectors to discuss ways to educate individuals and families on how to recognize housing-related health hazards and access the necessary services and preventive measures to combat these hazards. The council would also be required to hold biannual stakeholder meetings, maintain an updated website, and work to unify healthy housing data collection.

In addition to the 23 million homes with lead-based paint hazards, there are nearly 6 million households with moderate or severe health hazards, resulting in approximately 22,600 unintentional injury and fire deaths and 21,000 radon-associated lung cancer deaths every year. These bills seek to tackle these numbers, which contribute to increasing health care costs for individuals and families, as well as for Federal, State, and local governments.

The presence of housing-related health hazards is often overlooked and yet these hazards are sometimes the cause of a variety of preventable diseases and conditions like cancer, lead poisoning, and asthma. Promoting low-cost measures to eliminate subpar housing can make a dramatic and meaningful difference in the lives of children and families and help reduce health care costs. I am pleased that the National Center for Healthy Housing supports both of these bills and I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation forward.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 431—RECOGNIZING THE IMMEASURABLE BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL 4-H PROGRAM TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING THE CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND THE 4-H PROGRAM

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KING, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RISCH,

Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 431

Whereas in the late 1800s, 4-H clubs developed in rural communities to promote agricultural education among young people;

Whereas the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) established the cooperative extension services, which resulted in a national 4-H program;

Whereas the 4-H program and pledge are based on the values of community service, public leadership, and healthful living;

Whereas 4-H has played an indispensable role in shaping the lives of young leaders in rural areas of the United States for over 100 years;

Whereas nearly 6,000,000 young people are currently involved in 4-H, 40 percent of whom are from urban and suburban backgrounds;

Whereas the 4-H program has evolved to include opportunities for 4-H youth to become proficient in—

(1) science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and

(2) citizenship and public speaking;

Whereas young people who participate in 4-H are twice as likely as their peers who are not involved in 4-H—

(1) to be civically engaged;

(2) to participate in science, engineering, and computer technology programs outside of school; and

(3) to make healthful life choices;

Whereas the National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, and Citizenship Washington Focus give hundreds of young people who participate in 4-H the opportunity to exercise leadership skills nationally and to learn about the history and government of the United States; and

Whereas in April 2016, the National 4-H Council launched a “Grow True Leaders” campaign to expand the benefits of 4-H to more communities, with the goal of creating 10,000,000 True Leaders by 2025: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes 4-H as a vital organization for training the next generation for national leadership;

(2) congratulates the National 4-H Council on its “Grow True Leaders” campaign; and

(3) supports the efforts of the National 4-H Council to grow and diversify the 4-H program.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS VETO IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 35

Whereas it is long-standing practice of the United States Government that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

must come through direct, bilateral negotiations between the two parties;

Whereas President Barack Obama has stated this longstanding practice at the United Nations General Assembly in 2011, expressing “genuine peace can only be realized between the Israelis and the Palestinians themselves”;

Whereas it is long-standing practice of the United States Government to veto any United Nations Security Council resolution dictating terms, conditions, and timelines on the peace process;

Whereas President Barack Obama also expressed before the United Nations General Assembly in 2011, that “peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the United Nations – if it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now”;

Whereas Yasser Arafat committed by letter dated September 9, 1993, to then Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, “The PLO commits itself to the Middle East peace process and to the peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved by negotiation.”;

Whereas the United States has vetoed 42 unconstructive, anti-Israel resolutions in the United Nations Security Council since 1972;

Whereas after the United States voted against a resolution on Palestinian statehood, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, said the proposal was “deeply unbalanced”, had “unconstructive deadlines”, and failed to take “account of Israel’s security concerns”;

Whereas the United Nations is not the appropriate venue and should not be a forum used for seeking unilateral action, recognition, or dictating guidelines on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process;

Whereas in the two most recently completed United Nations General Assembly sessions, 21 of the 25 (68th Session) and 20 of the 23 (69th Session) resolutions attacked Israel;

Whereas the human rights bodies and agencies of the United Nations, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, have consistently demonstrated unwarranted bias against Israel; and

Whereas since 2006, 7 of the 23 Council’s sessions have focused on Israel and 61 of their 116 condemnations have unfairly singled out and targeted Israel: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a durable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process can only come through direct, bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians;

(2) the United Nations cannot be a truly neutral arbiter of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and

(3) the United States Government should continue to uphold its practice of vetoing any United Nations Security Council resolution that inserts the Council into the peace process, unilaterally recognizes a Palestinian state, makes declarations concerning Israeli controlled territories, or dictates terms and a timeline for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3799. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 636, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal

years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes.

SA 3800. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment 3679 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON)) to the bill H.R. 636, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3799. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 636, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes.”.

SA 3800. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3679 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON)) to the bill H.R. 636, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. —. REIMBURSEMENT FOR AIRPORT SECURITY PROJECTS.

Paragraph (3) of section 44923(h) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, up to \$ 50,000,000 shall be used to make discretionary grants, including other transaction agreements for airport security improvement projects, with priority given to small hub airports and nonhub airports.

“(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—For each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022, of the amount available under paragraph (1), up to \$10,000,000 shall be made available for reimbursement to airports that have incurred eligible costs under section 1604(b)(2) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 121 Stat. 481).”.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 19, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 19,

2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “Examining the President’s FY 2017 budget request for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.”

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 19, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Central America and the Alliance for Prosperity: Identifying U.S. Priorities and Assessing Progress.”

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

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 19, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Preventing Drug Trafficking through International Mail.”

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

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 19, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-2196 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 19, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

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

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Coast Guard Fellow, John Ariail, in Senator COCHRAN’s office, be granted floor privileges through the remainder of the 114th Congress.

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

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Marion Wittmann, a fellow in my office, be given floor privileges for the remainder of this session of the Congress.

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

FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT OF  
2016

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Senate Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration of S. 2755 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2755) to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to support the Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016, S. 2755. This bipartisan legislation will create a program to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family members of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty. These flags are provided at no cost to the family and will come with a certificate from the Senate, signed by the providing Member and President pro tempore, which contains our expression of sympathy for the grieving family. Certificates coming from the other body will be signed by the Speaker of the House and the providing House Member and express the sympathy of the House of Representatives.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in support of this legislation. Our first responders make tremendous sacrifices for our communities. If one of them makes the ultimate sacrifice, the least we can do to recognize their life, show our gratitude, and express our sympathy for their family is present them with a flag flown over this building.

Under existing rules, Senate offices may not use official funds to send flags to individuals. This legislation authorizes a new program, administered by the Architect of the Capitol, that will make it possible for families who have lost a loved one in these circumstances to request and receive a Capitol-flown flag at no expense. We are all grateful for the sacrifices these dedicated public servants make every day to serve and protect our communities, and this legislation will make it possible to present grieving families with a symbol of our gratitude.

This legislation has been endorsed by the National Fraternal Order of Police and the Sergeants Benevolent Association. I ask unanimous consent that their letters of support be printed in the RECORD following my statement.

I would like to thank all my colleagues who cosponsored this legislation, particularly our ranking member

of the Rules Committee, Senator SCHUMER. I would also like to thank Congressman PETER KING, who has championed this cause in the other body for many years. This legislation includes some revisions to the previously passed version in the House, but I expect they will be agreeable to the other body.

I hope both bodies will pass this legislation quickly and send it on to the President for his signature.

Thank you.

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

SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION,  
POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY  
OF NEW YORK,

*New York, NY, April 7, 2016.*

Hon. ROY BLUNT,  
*Chairman, Committee on Rules,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Rules,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN AND SENATOR SCHUMER, I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 active and retired members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our strong support for the "Fallen Heroes Flag Act." We appreciate your leadership on this legislation to honor those law enforcement officers and other first responders who have lost their lives protecting their fellow citizens.

In the first four months of 2016 alone, thirty federal, state, and local law enforcement officers have fallen in the line of duty. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, sixteen of these officers perished in firearms-related incidents. Statistics such as these are a sobering reminder of the sacrifices that are made daily by our first responders. These men and women, as well as countless others who have lost their lives in the line of duty, have earned the right to be honored for their heroism.

The legislation that you have introduced would provide this opportunity by allowing the surviving family of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or EMT who dies in the line of duty to request that an American flag be flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of their fallen family member. The flag would be provided to the family without cost, and would include a signed certificate with an expression of sympathy for the family involved. It is a simple yet extremely meaningful way to demonstrate to surviving families our recognition of and gratitude for the tremendous sacrifice their loved one made to keep our nation safe.

On behalf of the membership of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Washington Representatives Andrew Siff and Chris Granberg, if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

ED MULLINS,  
*President.*

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE,  
*Washington, DC, 7 April 2016.*

Hon. ROY D. BLUNT,  
*Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN, I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order

of Police to advise you of our support for S. 2755, the "Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016."

This legislation will provide a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol and a certificate containing an expression of sympathy to the immediate family member of a firefighter, law enforcement officer, member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew, or public safety officer who died in the line of duty.

Every day thousands of men and women put their lives on the line to help others and keep their communities safe. It takes a special person who is willing to sacrifice his/her life to run towards danger, while everyone else is running away from it. Mr. Chairman, as co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus, you know how important it is to honor the commitment and sacrifice of the men and women who died protecting their communities and that of their families.

Nothing can take away the pain or replace a loved one whose life has been unjustly taken. What we can offer is our deepest condolences and a symbol of our infinite gratitude. This legislation ensures that the heroes and their families who gave the ultimate sacrifice are honored and recognized.

On behalf of more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for introducing this legislation and amendment. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington Office.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,  
*National President.*

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2755) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2755

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016".

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act—

(1) the term "Capitol-flown flag" means a flag of the United States flown over the Capitol in honor of the deceased individual for whom the flag is requested;

(2) the terms "chaplain", "firefighter", "law enforcement officer", "member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew", and "public agency" have the meanings given such terms in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b);

(3) the term "immediate family member", with respect to an individual, means—

(A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of the individual or a person to whom the individual stands in loco parentis; or

(B) any other person related to the individual by blood or marriage;

(4) the term "public safety officer" means an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, as a firefighter, or as a chaplain; and

(5) the term "Representative" includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

**SEC. 3. PROVIDING CAPITOL-FLOWN FLAGS FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of an immediate family member of a firefighter, law enforcement officer, member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew, or public safety officer who died in the line of duty, the Representative or Senator of the family may provide to the family a Capitol-flown flag, together with the certificate described in subsection (c).

(b) NO COST TO FAMILY.—A Capitol-flown flag provided under this section shall be provided at no cost to the family.

(c) CERTIFICATE.—The certificate described in this subsection is a certificate which is signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Representative, or the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Senator, providing the Capitol-flown flag, as applicable, and which contains an expression of sympathy for the family involved from the House of Representatives or the Senate, as applicable.

**SEC. 4. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Architect of the Capitol shall issue regulations for carrying out this Act, including regulations to establish procedures (including any appropriate forms, guidelines, and accompanying certificates) for requesting a Capitol-flown flag.

(b) REVIEW.—The regulations issued under subsection (a) shall take effect upon approval by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2022 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act, to be derived from amounts appropriated in each such fiscal year for the operation of the Architect of the Capitol, except that the aggregate amount appropriated to carry out this Act for all such fiscal years may not exceed \$40,000.

**SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, except that a Capitol-flown flag may not be provided under section 3 until the regulations issued under section 4(a) take effect in accordance with section 4(b).

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS  
COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT**

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2722 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2722) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. JOHNSON. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 2722) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**RECOGNIZING THE IMMEASURABLE  
BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL 4-H  
PROGRAM TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF  
THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 431, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 431) recognizing the immeasurable benefits of the national 4-H program to the young people of the United States and supporting the campaign to expand the 4-H program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution

be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 431) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 20, 2016**

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2012.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW**

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:50 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION**

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 19, 2016:

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

MICHAEL JOSEPH MISSAL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH  
ROCKS

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Rocks, former Pennsylvania State Senator and Pennsylvania State Representative, who is retiring after a long career in public service.

Mr. Rocks served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives before joining the Pennsylvania State Senate. During his decade of service there, Mr. Rocks led the creation of the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, which provides financial oversight for the City of Philadelphia.

After retiring from the Senate, Mr. Rocks served as the CEO of NHS Human Services, where he focused on providing specialized services in mental health, addictive diseases, autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, juvenile justice, treatment foster care, and education.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Rocks for his dedication and service to his community both as a member of the Pennsylvania state legislature and as a leader in mental health care. I applaud his many accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTEN-  
NIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CITY OF CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the City of Crestview, located in the Florida Panhandle.

Situated on the peak of a long woodland range between the Yellow and Shoal rivers and one of the highest points in the state, Crest View, or Crestview as it would soon be combined, first earned its place on the map as a railroad depot. Outgrowing neighboring communities in both size and population, with a school, four general stores, and post office, where its first citizen Hamner F. "Doc" Powell served as shipping clerk and railroad agent, Crestview reached a population of 100 in 1889. With a growing community, Crestview's early residents soon built a congregational church, where members of the community could practice their faith, as well as a drug store, hotel, and numerous small businesses. During this time, industry in the area experienced a boom, particularly the turpentine and

lumber industry, which brought jobs and prosperity to the area.

Although the Crestview community continued to grow, the city did not formally incorporate until April 11, 1916, when a group of citizens gathered at the congregational church to vote on the question of incorporating the Town of Crestview. With Crestview's residents voting in favor of incorporation, the newly formed Crestview Town Council met for the first time on April 18, 1916, with the city's first Mayor W.R. White presiding over the meeting. The previous year, following the creation of Okaloosa County in 1915, Florida State Representative William Mapoles, known as "The Father of Okaloosa County," moved to Crestview from Laurel Hill and became the driving force behind the movement to eventually establish Crestview as the county seat in 1917.

Throughout the one hundred years to follow, businesses flourished, and Crestview became Okaloosa County's largest municipality and the only municipality between Pensacola and Tallahassee with a Sister City (Noirmoutier-en-l'île, France). Crestview also became a major transportation hub and has also long been home to servicemembers and veterans. Crestview's citizens make every effort to ensure that those who wear the uniform are thanked for their service and sacrifice. In fact, Crestview opened its first recreation center for enlisted servicemembers in 1941. Home to tens of thousands, as the northern gateway to the Department of Defense's largest and most dynamic Air Force Installation in the United States—Eglin Air Force Base, the Crestview-area family expanded when it welcomed 6,000 new residents to the community upon the arrival of the U.S. Army's 7th Special Forces Group.

There is no question that the residents of Crestview are a resilient people, and even through the most challenging of times, they have united as a community to develop and maintain its place as a key area for business in the State of Florida and throughout the entire Gulf Coast region.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of Crestview, Florida. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating all of those who have been fortunate to call Crestview home throughout the last century, and we wish them and the city continued success.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVE-  
MENTS AND 70TH BIRTHDAY OF  
THEODORE KATTOUF

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 70th birthday of Mr. Theodore Kattouf of Altoona, Pennsylvania. Mr. Kattouf has dedicated his life to serving our country, and in so doing has achieved a uniquely distinguished career.

Upon graduation from Penn State University in 1968, Mr. Kattouf served in the United States Army infantry for over three years and subsequently joined the Foreign Service in 1972. Beginning in 1973, Mr. Kattouf served as the economic and commercial officer in Kuwait, which then led to his assignment as a political officer to Damascus, the second largest city in Syria. Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Kattouf became a Middle East analyst at the U.S. State Department. Mr. Kattouf returned abroad from 1983 to 1986, serving in Baghdad as the Deputy Chief of Mission. Mr. Kattouf has spent numerous years working abroad with distinguished titles such as: Deputy Chief of Mission, Deputy Chief of Mission in Damascus, Deputy Chief of Mission in Riyadh, and Charge d'Affaires. His international work is not to be overshadowed by his work in the United States, which included Deputy Director and Director of Lebanon, Jordan and Syrian Affairs, and President and CEO of AMIDEAST.

Additionally, under President Clinton, Mr. Kattouf was nominated and confirmed as Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates in 1998. Later, in 2001, he was confirmed as Ambassador to Syria, having received a nomination for the post from President Bush.

Over the years, Theodore has encouraged international cooperation through his work as a U.S. Ambassador for the UAE and Syria. Mr. Kattouf has also received numerous awards, highlighting his dedication and advocacy efforts, some of which include: the Cobb Award, two Meritorious Honor Awards, four Senior Performance Awards, and one Presidential Honor Award.

It is with great pleasure and honor that I recognize Mr. Kattouf's service and contributions to our nation at the highest level. I applaud Mr. Kattouf for his dedication to our country and wish him a happy 70th birthday.

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

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

## WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of April 17 as World Hemophilia Day. Hemophilia is a rare genetic condition that prevents the proper formation of blood clots. Four hundred newborns are diagnosed with this disease annually, and hundreds of thousands more suffer from it around the world. We share a responsibility to this global patient population to ensure that they are receiving the most innovative treatments and advanced care. In addition, we must reaffirm our commitment to research and development to try and find a cure for this dangerous condition.

On World Hemophilia Day, I speak in support of the many people battling this complex disease. It is my hope that by raising awareness, we will eventually see the day where treatment for hemophilia is affordable, feasible, and accessible for all.

**DON WICK****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Don Wick for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Image Award.

Over the years, Don has been involved in a variety of boards and organizations that have exemplified his passion and deep commitment to the City of Arvada. Don has served as a board member for the Jefferson Foundation, Colorado Associations of Chiefs of Police, Center for Public Safety, Ralston House, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In addition, he is the former executive director for the Arvada Child Advocacy Center and also been involved in the Arvada Jefferson Kiwanis Club. With all he does, Don has the best interest of the community and its residents in mind.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Don Wick for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

## ESSAY BY KAITLIN FOSTER

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the impor-

tance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Kaitlin Foster attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: What makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

Everyone wants something. If our government worked in reality as it does in theory, everyone would be satisfied, but theories are just theories.

Members of Congress have a unique challenge of balancing the beliefs of many people. A politician would generally enter the political field because they want to improve society; of course, the term "improve" is entirely subjective, and its meaning lies with each individual. Thus, politicians use their own beliefs and values as a basis for change. However, personal beliefs are not enough to be elected; many groups and parties must be convinced in order to get the votes.

Once elected into Congress, a member will now have a large base of people—constituents, party members, donors—relying on them to effectively "improve" society. It is the responsibility of each member to balance the voices of the many groups.

The general population often chides Congress for "not compromising." However, with the vast amount of opinions invested into one Congressional member, each policy decision is not just each member acting on his or her own beliefs, but the beliefs of their constituents, donors, and party members. Each time a member of Congress casts a vote on a piece of legislation, they are not just voting for themselves, but for every entity that initially elected them. It is for this reason that the political process in Congress is so challenging. While it is impossible to make everyone happy, politicians cannot simply forfeit a portion of the beliefs for which they are responsible. When the general population accuses Congress of being uncompromising, they are forgetting why they elected these people into office: to advocate for us. Congress is meant to be our country in a microcosm; by choosing a candidate, we choose a vote, and we choose a voice. While popular culture may paint it differently, Congress is far from detached from general society; in fact, it is directly embedded into it. Members of Congress are speaking on behalf of the entire population, so when they give up on even a small issue, it affects thousands of lives. People may be willing to "compromise" something in the name of progress, but they most likely are not willing to compromise on their most closely held issue, the one they care the most about. Unfortunately, every issue, no matter how small, is the one that someone cares the most about. This is why members of Congress do not compromise easily; policy gridlock often ensues because they truly believe stopping all policies is better than willingly allowing someone who relies on them to be devastated. All the general population sees is a group of people not passing laws and waiting for a day when the other party finally gives up, but they do not see the true intentions of the members of Congress: to improve the lives of their constituents, as each of them see fit. The challenge actually lies not in Congress, itself, but in the country it represents.

## TRIBUTE TO ZACH JOHNSTON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zach Johnston of Adel DeSoto Minburn (ADM) High School for winning the Class 2A, 160-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Mr. Johnston, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this student demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent his family and him in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zach Johnston on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

**JEAN SCHARFENBERG****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jean Scharfenberg as the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Woman of the Year for her years of volunteerism, kindness and dedication to the community.

After many years as an educator and volunteer, Jean embodies the spirit of the community and is a perfect recipient for this award. Jean worked as a volunteer for the Arvada Community Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Rose Roots Garden, Santa House, and the Majestic View Nature Center. Jean regularly participates in the City of Arvada's Adopt-a-Trail Program and has been a long-time supporter of the Arvada Center. She also co-founded Trees Across Arvada, a nonprofit program that offers an annual opportunity for residents to purchase low-cost trees suitable for Colorado's drought environment and to help beautify the community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jean Scharfenberg for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and

missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 153 and "yea" on Roll Call No. 154.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, 2016, I did not vote on Roll Call vote Numbers 150 through 152. Had I been present I would have voted:

Roll Call Number 150, Yarmuth of Kentucky Amendment No. 2—AYE

Roll Call Number 151, McNerney of California Amendment No. 3—AYE

Roll Call Number 152, No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act—NO.

KORISSA STRAUB

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Korissa Straub for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Rising Star Award.

Korissa exemplifies outstanding leadership and involvement in the Arvada community. With a 4.46 GPA, including in AP and Honors classes, and as a three-sport athlete, Korissa clearly excels in school and all she does. She is an accomplished art student, vice president of her DECA team, student ambassador, and is involved in seven other clubs at school as well as the Outdoor Leadership Program and the International Career Development Conference. Korissa also helped coordinate a children's book drive at her middle school and has since continued that annual effort.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Korissa Straub for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

ESSAY BY JORDYN WEBER

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jordyn Weber attends St. Agnes Academy in Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

An especially important event that has occurred this year is the terrorist attacks that took place in Paris, France on Friday, November 13, 2015. Not only did this attack prove the eminent threat that ISIS poses to the western world, but it also brought about a new era of terrorism. The attack on Paris was the first time that local "soft targets" have been ambushed in this kind of attack. Soft targets refer to areas such as super markets, hotels, concert halls, restaurants, clubs, and any place that attacks every day normal people. These areas were always assumed to be safe from attacks as it was assumed terrorists wanted to kill large numbers, but this notion was changed after the terrifying attacks occurred in Paris. This new threat of attacks has altered the way the United States will live and fight in our war on terror.

The arising of this soft target attacks has shaped American fear in a new way. Since the 9/11 attacks, most Americans have experienced some subconscious fear of terrorist attacks, but never before has that fear been about going to a grocery store or to eat dinner. We now must face an era where we have to worry about the possibility of lower scale attacks. This brings about questions on how the United States should decrease the possibilities of the attacks. Since the attacks in Paris many citizens have begun to question the right steps to take in protecting our nation from the threat of a future terrorist attack. This questioning has led to two main issues at hand; how should the United States monitor the threat of terrorism in our country as well as who should be allowed to enter the country without posing a threat?

The first question of how should the United States monitor the threat of terrorism has been demonstrated in many ways. Should the US begin to observe conversations and invade the privacy of those believed to be possibly involved in terrorism within our country? Should we begin taking actions overseas like other countries have begun doing? One thing that is for sure is that the United States needs to get serious about their war on terror. This is going to shape the future of American life. If we sit back and do nothing Americans will continue to live in a world of fear of everyday activities. The government must take action to put American's minds to peace.

The second question of who poses a threat to our national security has brought up a huge debate in regards to the refugee crisis. When it was uncovered that one of the attackers from Paris arrived to Europe disguised as a refugee everyone began to question allowing the flow of refugees into the United States at this time. This is shaping and bringing into question what the United States's priorities need to be, the protection of our own citizens? Or the leadership in the protection of our world's most vulnerable people?

The attack on Paris has impacted the United States in an enormous way. It has instilled a new kind of fear among US citizens as well as brought into question many new issues that will continue to shape the future of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 154, due to severe weather in my district, I was unavoidably detained and unable to return to Washington, DC in time to cast votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STEVEN C. BEERING

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a notable Hoosier, Dr. Steven C. Beering, who is being honored by the Anti-Defamation League at the 2016 Man of Achievement Award Dinner in Indianapolis.

The Anti-Defamation League's Man of Achievement Award was established to recognize individuals and companies who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the community, justice and equal opportunity for all. Dr. Beering was chosen for this honor for his service to the state and nation.

Dr. Beering was born in Berlin, Germany and raised in Hamburg. His family was interred by the Nazi's late during World War II and he served in a Bavarian labor camp with members of his family before being liberated by the allied forces. The family immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island. He served in the United States Air Force Medical Corps for 12 years, retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

Dr. Beering earned his B.S. and M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and served as the Dean of Medicine and Director of the Indiana University Medical Center before being named President at Purdue University where he served from 1983 to 2000.

Dr. Beering has led on the national level as chairman of the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Association of American Universities. He is a former regent of the National Library of Medicine. He is a Fellow and Master of the American College of Physicians, a member of the Royal Society of Medicine, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, the Institute of Medicine and National Academy of Sciences, and the Indiana Academy. Dr. Beering has served on a number of national and corporate boards and is a Trustee at the University of Pittsburgh.

I first met Dr. Beering while serving as Deputy Indiana Secretary of State and have been an admirer of his since. He is a great friend and confidant of mine, and a wonderful asset to our community, state and nation. I wish to congratulate him on this latest honor and thank him for his leadership at Purdue University, Indiana and our nation.

## STEELHEAD COMPOSITES

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Steelhead Composites for receiving the Innovative Technology Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Innovative Technology Award is given to a company that is on the forefront of new and advanced technologies including the industries of aerospace, aviation, bioscience, energy, outdoor recreation and apparel, among others. Steelhead Composites manufactures lightweight, high-strength cylinders to be used for weight-sensitive energy and fuel storage application. The company's specialties include lightweight bladder accumulators, mobile compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel storage and transport, gas bottles, aluminum liners, and accessories. Steelhead also offers a full array of technical services in vessel design, metal spin forming, filament winding, prototyping, and testing of high pressure vessels. These fuel tanks are designed for the CNG and hydrogen vehicle industry, are lined with aluminum, and are just as strong as steel but at one-sixth the weight.

Steelhead is in the early stages of commercialization and currently has 6 high-paying employees with plans to expand significantly during the next couple of years.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Steelhead Composites for this well-deserved recognition by Jefferson County EDC. Thank you for your contributions to the Jefferson County economy and community.

## TRIBUTE TO MATT MALCOLM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Matt Malcolm of Glenwood High School in Glenwood, Iowa for winning the Class 2A, 152-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Matt, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Matt demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Matt and his family in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Matt on competing in this rigorous competition, and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

## CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORHAM PARK MEMORIAL FIRST AID SQUAD

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 65th Anniversary of The Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad, located in Florham Park, in Morris County, New Jersey.

Over the years, the squad has responded to various types of emergencies including: motor vehicle collisions, fire, plane crashes and have cared for victims of crimes. They have also been in attendance at countless parades, gazebo concerts, football games and graduations. For fifty years the squad has functioned as a free-of-charge service, relying upon donations from residents and businesses in order to cover their expenses.

As time has passed, the borough's population has increased, causing a raise in the number of calls they receive. In their first year, they had fifty-eight calls, while in 2000, there were 962. They have racked up more than 350,000 miles on a total of fourteen ambulances.

In 1951, first aid squads were considered an innovative idea. Only a few surrounding towns had them and there were only one-hundred and thirty squads operating in New Jersey. On January 15, 1951 the Florham Park Volunteer Fire Department decided to form their town's squad as a separate non-profit corporation. At the start, firemen served as advisors and trustees.

The concept of dialing 9-1-1 was not used until the early 1990s by Florham Park. When the squad first formed, a local storekeeper, Carmen Kursino, fielded calls during the day and the police department answered at night. In 1955, technology had advanced and an answering service in Madison dispatched calls. During this time, not many families had two cars, so in order to assist the volunteers the ambulance would pick up the crew on the way to the call. In 1965, calls would be broadcasted to volunteers over radio receivers called Plectrons. These were later upgraded to battery-operated units which allowed the crew to travel around town freely. They currently use Minitor II technology.

In order to be able to staff weekday shifts, Florham Park became one of the first squads in New Jersey that allowed women to join. An article written in the Newark Sunday News on October 2, 1955, echoed the feelings of that day. It stated, these women "may have to drop their brooms, forsake the washing or leave the dishes to rush to the squads headquarters" in order to receive a call.

Originally, their ambulance was stored in the Brooklake firehouse. However, after the fire department purchased a second fire truck, the squad was forced to find a new home. On February 20, 1953 they purchased a garage next door to their old location. They dedicated the building to the late Captain C. Howard Collins on Memorial Day 1953. In 1964, the town suggested the squad move to Felch Road. They listened and ended up purchasing a building costing around \$40,000.

The squad continues to update their equipment and training in order to keep up with advancements in emergency care. They are still the primary providers of first aid care to residents and workers of the borough and provide trusted aid to the surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Executive Board, members and volunteers of the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad of Florham Park, New Jersey for all of their service to their community.

## VANESSA KENDRICK

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Vanessa Kendrick for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Arvada Young Professionals Leadership Award.

As a local realtor in Arvada, Vanessa's professionalism and energetic attitude has enabled her to become a leader and successful entrepreneur in the City. Vanessa's dedication to the community is obvious through her involvement in several local organizations including Chair of the Arvada Young Professionals, Two Ponds Foundation board member, and captain for Sand and the City.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Vanessa Kendrick for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

## HONORING PAUL COOKE

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the career of Mr. Paul Cooke, for his selfless protection of the state and citizens of Colorado. Mr. Cooke served bravely in the name of fire safety and emergency services for over 40 years.

Throughout his time as a servant to the people of Colorado, Mr. Cooke has organized teams of volunteer and career firefighters as a fire chief, he has instructed fellow servicemen at the National Fire Academy and has served as the director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

It is impossible to measure the number of lives Mr. Cooke has touched and affected, but I hope that I can speak for these people today and express our strong sense of gratitude.

I thank Mr. Cooke for protecting our land, farms, and ranches. For protecting family homes and local businesses. And ultimately, for protecting the lives of Coloradans throughout his career. I thank him for recognizing the importance of fire safety and for answering the call to serve in its name. Mr. Cooke is a model citizen, and I am inspired that the great state of Colorado is home to men and women like him.

I am proud to salute Mr. Cooke with these words today, and I wish him happiness in his retirement.



CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF CITY MANAGER DAN NICK

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of City Manager Dan Nick of Jourdanton, Texas. He has proudly served the people of Jourdanton for nearly eighteen years.

Dan Nick was born on April 21st, 1948 in Duluth, Minnesota. After graduating from high school in 1966, Dan attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth and graduated with a degree in Business and minor in Economics in 1970. After graduation, Mr. Nick enlisted in the U.S. Army and courageously served his country, and completed a tour in Vietnam. He returned home to Minnesota in 1972.

After moving and briefly working for the city of Boise, Idaho, Dan began a 25-year career with Morrison-Knudsen Construction Company. His career took him all over the country, helping to build and work on America's infrastructure in states like Wyoming, Utah, Alaska, and Missouri. He and his family chose to settle down in Atascosa County, Texas in 1981 where he worked for seventeen years as a business manager for Lignite Mine, located just south of Jourdanton. In 1998, he embarked on his career as the City Manager of Jourdanton.

For nearly 18 years Dan has worked to improve quality of life and opportunities in Jourdanton. His efforts helped to bring a number of new facilities to the city. Some notable accomplishments include: a new water waste treatment plant, a municipal complex, a municipal court, a police department, and council chambers. Presently, the construction of a new sports complex is underway for the city; another project Dan had a hand in accomplishing. Dan Nick's impact as City Manager can be seen in the prosperity and success of the city of Jourdanton.

In addition to his exemplary career as a public servant, Dan Nick is a devoted husband to Kathryn Hendrickson and father to their two children Kimberley and Daniel.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Dan Nick, a patriotic American citizen, a devoted City Manager of Jourdanton, and a loving family man.

TERUMO BCT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Terumo BCT for receiving the Chairman's Choice Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

Terumo BCT, a global leader in blood component and cellular technologies, has a 45-year history in Jefferson County. Starting as a small medical device manufacturer in Cali-

fornia, Terumo has grown to be one of Jefferson County's largest employers with more than 1,800 employees in the county. They are the only company with the unique combination of apheresis collections, manual and automated whole blood processing, and pathogen reduction coupled. Additionally, they operate the only ethanol-oxide sterilization facility in the state.

Terumo BCT has been in Lakewood since 1964 and evolved into the organization it is today through mergers of different companies and increased growth. In April 2015, Terumo BCT opened their new 125,000 square foot state-of-the-art global headquarters in Lakewood, which includes office, lab, parking, and an onsite fitness center and cafeteria. The expansion will bring 300 high-paying jobs and over \$37 million in new capital investment to Jefferson County over the next couple of years.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Terumo BCT for this well-deserved recognition by Jefferson County EDC. Thank you for your contributions to the Jefferson County economy and community.

IN MEMORY OF MR. DEREK  
DUNN-RANKIN

**HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Derek Dunn-Rankin, founder and chairman of the Sun Media Group, who passed away at his home in Venice, Florida this weekend at the age of 88.

Mr. Dunn-Rankin began his newspaper career at age eleven as a delivery boy for the Miami News. While attending Rollins College, he worked as the editor for the student paper and as the sports editor for the Sanford Daily Herald. Following graduation, he returned home and took the position of circulation manager at the Miami News before becoming a Vice President with Landmark Communications in Norfolk, VA.

In 1977, Mr. Dunn-Rankin left Landmark Communications to start his own company in Venice, Florida. Derek began by purchasing the Venice Gondolier and within three years, the small newspaper was winning awards at the state level. His next endeavor was purchasing the Charlotte Sun in 1979, a small tabloid with four employees. By 1987, thanks to Mr. Dunn-Rankin's business savvy, the Sun had become a daily publication and was one of the fastest growing daily papers in the country. Today, Sun Media Group employs over 350 people, produces printed publications in seven areas and has twice received national recognition for its online publication.

In addition to his pioneering work in news media, Mr. Dunn-Rankin was a cornerstone of the Charlotte County community. Following the devastation of Hurricanes Charley and Ivan in 2004, many residents were forced to leave their homes and most were left without power, phones or any viable means of communica-

tion. Derek took it upon himself to help his community through this extremely challenging time. The Charlotte Sun distributed free newspapers in order to keep people in the community informed amidst the chaos. His telephone company also set up emergency call centers for residents to call loved ones and reach out to FEMA for assistance. Mr. Dunn-Rankin's tireless devotion to the people of Charlotte County during this disaster speaks volumes to his benevolent nature.

Mr. Dunn-Rankin's continuous dedication to growing the community did not go unnoticed. The Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce named him the "Pacesetter of the Year" in 1995 and the Cultural Center awarded him their "Citizen of the Year" in 2003 for his decades of service to the community. He will be sorely missed but his efforts will continue to have a positive impact on the community for years to come. Derek is survived by his loving wife Betty, his daughter Debbie and his four sons, Peter, David, Jeff and Mike.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Dunn-Rankin's family and the entire community as they mourn his passing. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHEAST  
POLK WRESTLING TEAM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southeast Polk Wrestling team for winning the Iowa High School Athletic Association Class 3A Wrestling Championship Title.

I send my congratulations to each member of the Team:

Wrestlers: Mark Ames, Ryan Strickland, Gauge Perrien, Wiley Parks, Adam Brown, Trent Nelson, Nate Lendt, Zach Strickland, Cody Batterson, Nathan Marchand, Zach Barnes, Andrei Allen, Gunner Jorgensen, Michael Lopez, Solomon Jones, Thad Breitsprecker, Gavin Babcock, Al Durr, Cody Wonderlich, Dawson Velez, Kameron Padavich, Brady Wenner, Eric Pingel, Grant Dishinger, Ethan Andersen, Damien Ramirez, Dan Ramirez, Levi Brand

Head Coach: Jason Christenson

Coaches: Jessman Smith, Jeff Evans, Jake Helvey, Jesse Smith, Eric Morrow, Pat Wilson, Tom Koch, Jeremy Dove

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, commitment, and determination. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them nothing but continued success in all aspects of their lives.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP  
8

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 8, located in Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey.

Troop 8 is one of the earliest chartered troops of the Boy Scouts of America in the eastern United States, founded in 1916. For one hundred years, Troop 8 has held an integral part in the Chatham community, fostering civic values, compassion, and a sense of moral aptitude in the young men who have filed through its ranks.

Troop 8 is sponsored by Ogden Memorial Church, located within Chatham Borough. The troop currently possesses an enrollment of one hundred young men of various ages. Throughout the year, the group partakes in a variety of community service events, aimed at improving the overall standard of living within Chatham and the surrounding area. The troop also organizes outings for members, such as camping trips and group hikes. Both these outings and trips strengthen the bonds of fellow scouts and build individual character.

Examples of past community service events are numerous and deeply impactful on the community. Scouts have cleaned up various Chatham parks, created campsites, and traveled as far as New Mexico in the name of community service.

Troop 8 is home to over 150 Eagle Award recipients. This award, one of the highest honors bestowed on a scout, requires active involvement in the troop, a minimum of 21 merit badges, a clear leadership role in the troop, and an original service project that benefits the community in some way. Past projects have included improvements to local churches, creating an outdoor reading center at the Chatham Library, and discovering and implementing a way to prevent flooding from Milton Pond. The completed projects, as well as the high volume of Eagle Award recipients within Troop 8, are a testament to the Boy Scout's dedication to serving the community.

Boys who have passed through the program have gone on to become successful adults, upholding the ideals instilled during their time as Boy Scouts. The life skills provided by Troop 8 are invaluable in preparing these young men for future roles and responsibilities. Moreover, the Chatham community is extremely thankful for the time and effort these young men contribute to improving their neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the members of the Boy Scout Troop 8 of Chatham, New Jersey for all of their service to the community, and in congratulating them and their scout leaders on their Centennial Anniversary.

RYAN STACHELSKI

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ryan Stachelski for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Arvada Young Professionals Leadership Award.

As the Deputy Director of the Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA), Ryan has achieved outstanding results in fostering economic development and vitality for the City of Arvada. His community-mindedness has helped create and enhance meaningful partnerships with a variety of organizations across the City. Ryan played an integral role in AEDA becoming certified as an economic development organization for the city and has helped grow engagement from local businesses to assist in Arvada's overall economic development efforts.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ryan Stachelski for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

ESSAY BY JONATHAN FROST

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jonathan Frost attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: What makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

John Adams once said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Today the political process in Congress is challenging because the representatives in Congress have lost that shared set of core values. Congress was not always in the gridlocked state that it is now. While political parties have always differed on priorities, strategies, and tactics, until recent decades members of Congress held a set of core values. Such values included a shared view of America's role in the world, the independence of the judiciary, respect for the Constitution, universal freedom, a shared religion, and the desire for the nation to put America's interests first.

What do we have today in Congress instead of that shared set of core values? Instead of

acting as a unified body that acts in the interests of the people of the nation, Congress acts more like a divided group of tribes who always try to harm the opposing tribe. The tribes primarily call themselves "Republicans" and "Democrats", both of which would rather hurt each other than do what's best for the nation. If Congress could agree again on a shared set of core values, then the legislative process would be easier and more productive.

To spawn these shared values, the stubborn allegiance most Congressmen have to their respective parties cannot continue. The challenge of getting political parties to change their ways is exasperated by many decades of bad blood and misbehavior. Many observers date the deterioration of the political parties from the character assassination of Clarence Thomas and his nomination as a Supreme Court Justice. The personal and insulting nature of the tactics of a few Democrats led to a downward spiral of revenge and payback that continues to this day.

The practical solution will require courageous leadership by strong and popular leaders of each of the two major political parties to join together in forging a concise set of core values to guide the work of the legislative branch. Only those leaders can define the values, but here are a few that might guide us:

Individual Responsibility  
Compassion for those who cannot provide for themselves

Hard Work  
Innovation  
Free Enterprise  
Strong Military

In the same way that great organizations are guided by a shared set of core values, Congress could consider only legislation that does not run afoul of the agreed set of core values. Sadly, the course of human history suggests that it is unlikely that two such visionary leaders will simultaneously emerge.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN P.  
CURTO ON THE OCCASION OF A  
DAY NAMED IN HIS HONOR BY  
THE CITY OF EASTON

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Stephen P. Curto. This past Sunday, City of Easton Mayor Salvatore J. Panto, Jr. declared April 17 to be Stephen P. Curto Day to give tribute to a man who brightened his community through a lifetime of service.

Stephen Curto dedicated himself to the city of his birth. A noteworthy chapter in his life was filled by nearly fifty years of volunteering for the Easton Area Community center, which, for over sixty years, served the West Ward, one of the most diverse and impoverished neighborhoods in the City. He was instrumental in establishing the Center's annual testimonial roast fundraiser and diligently worked to ensure its continued success.

Stephen Curto was also a dedicated family man and was involved for years in Democratic politics and labor causes. In 1990, he retired from his position as a business agent for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union

and gave himself even more fully to his family and his causes.

I applaud the City of Easton for bestowing such a worthy tribute to a uniquely resolute and enduring figure of community service.

JIM SCHARFENBERG

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jim Scharfenberg as the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Man of the Year for his volunteerism, kindness and dedication to the community.

Jim has been a long-time supporter and participant in many of Arvada's community programs, such as the Arvada Center and the City of Arvada's Adopt-a-Trail Program. He also worked as a volunteer for the Arvada Community Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Rose Roots Garden, Santa House, and the Majestic View Nature Center. He co-founded Trees Across Arvada with his wife, a nonprofit program that offers an annual opportunity for residents to purchase low-cost trees suitable for Colorado's drought environment and to help beautify the community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jim Scharfenberg for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 153, due to severe weather in my district, I was unavoidably detained and unable to return to Washington, D.C. in time to cast votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

TRIBUTE TO GRANT STOTTS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Grant Stotts of Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa for winning the Class 3A, 132-pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs at all levels, producing collegiate and Olympic champions for decades. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Grant, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Grant demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedi-

cation, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Grant on winning this rigorous competition and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Food for Thought for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Image Award.

With support and initial funding from the Arvada Sunrise Rotary Foundation, Food for Thought today serves a tremendous need with free or reduced meals in public schools across the Denver metro area. The Food for Thought program has expanded into Denver and now delivers more than 1,600 weekly "Power-sacks" and has delivered over 4,300 tons of food in total to children in need. The support from the Arvada Sunrise Rotary Foundation was instrumental in this program and the expansion of the program into Denver.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Food for Thought for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING THE TOP GRADUATING SENIORS FROM JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY, JOLIET WEST HIGH SCHOOL, AND JOLIET CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and determination of the top 25 graduating seniors from Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet West High School, and Joliet Central High School.

The academic achievements of these students are impressive, as are their community service and participation in school activities. These students truly have taken advantage of all that high school has to offer.

Also to be commended are the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, along with the Joliet Exchange, the Joliet Kiwanis, the Joliet Lions, and the Joliet Rotary Clubs, for hosting the 2016 Top Student Recognition Banquet to recognize these students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these top graduating seniors, as well as the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, the Joliet Exchange, Joliet Kiwanis, Joliet Lions, and Joliet Rotary Clubs for hosting the 2016 Top Student Banquet.

INTRODUCING THE VETERANS PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2016. This bipartisan legislation will protect veterans from losing their pension benefits in the event they receive compensation covering unforeseen health care costs.

A few years ago, a constituent of mine was confronted with this situation. He is a Navy veteran who suffers from muscular dystrophy. One day, as he crossed the street, he was struck by a truck. He was injured. His service dog was injured. His wheelchair was severely damaged. Like any person would, he filed an insurance claim, and received a settlement to cover his medical expenses and the costs for replacing his wheelchair.

Now Mr. Speaker, imagine his surprise when he received a letter for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), explaining to him that because of his sudden jump in income, he no longer qualified for a pension. It sounds ridiculous, but that's what happened.

Now, when assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the VA considers a variety of sources of revenue to calculate annual income. The VA uses this formula to make a simple determination: if a veteran's income exceeds the limit set by the VA, he or she does not qualify for a pension.

Under current law, compensation for medical expenses or pain and suffering, including insurance settlement payments or reimbursements, is considered income. This means that veterans are effectively punished when they receive these types of compensation after suffering medical emergencies like the one I just outlined. This is, quite simply, wrong.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation exempts reimbursements and compensation for medical expenses from the VA's formula for calculating income and pension eligibility. This will guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions, and will ensure that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled. This is a bill we can all get on board with. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

DEE GILL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dee Gill for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Image Award.

Dee's unwavering and ongoing kindness and generosity has helped to make the Arvada community a better place. Dee's community-minded focus and perspective has enhanced the sense of community and family across Arvada. Her support and bigheartedness provides an example for all of us. Dee's

contribution and dedication to her community will forever be remembered.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dee Gill for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF SEGUNDO "SY" UNPINGCO

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Segundo "Sy" Unpingco. Sy was a son of Guam, strong promoter of Chamorro culture, and a survivor of the occupation of Guam during World War II. He passed away on November 26, 2015 at the age of 81.

Sy was born on Guam on May 21, 1934 to José Rivera Unpingco and Vicenta Aguon Unpingco. He was just seven years old when enemy forces invaded Guam during World War II. Like many Chamorros on Guam, Sy and his family endured the atrocities committed against the Chamorro people during the occupation. However following the war, Sy attended George Washington High School in Mangilao, Guam. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Administration degree from St. Mary's College and a Juris Doctorate from Lincoln Law School.

While in high school Sy met his beloved wife, Remedios "Remmy" Pangelinan and they were married in 1953. Together they had three children, Segundo, Jr., Vivian, and Paul. They made their home in San Jose, California, and throughout his career, Sy worked with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department and as a Courtroom Bailiff until his retirement. Following his retirement, Sy partnered with the late Marcial Sablan and Tony Chargualaf to form the Hafa Adai Golf Classic.

Throughout its 35 year history, the Hafa Adai Golf Classic has brought together golfers, nine hosting clubs from California, Washington, and Nevada, sponsors, donors, supporters, families and friends together for a two day tournament. It has attracted approximately 17,000 semi-professionals and amateur golfers and their families from across the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Japan. Under Sy's leadership, the Hafa Adai Golf Classic promoted our Chamorro culture, and extended Guam's Inafa'maolek spirit to all who participated in the event. Sy was a shining example of that island spirit of cooperation, camaraderie and reciprocity of our culture and heritage, but he leaves behind a legacy that will live on in the years to come.

I join the people of Guam in mourning the passing of Sy Unpingco and commending him for his service to our island and contributions to our people and Chamorro culture. I extend my condolences to his wife, Remmy, children, grandchildren, family and friends. He will be missed but his memory will always be remembered by the countless people he touched throughout the years.

ESSAY BY KAYSIE FAAS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Kaysie Faas attends Needville High School in Needville, Texas. The essay topic is: Oil Prices Crash: The Impacts on Our Country and Our State.

Over the past year to eighteen months, we have watched crude oil prices plummet from over \$100 per barrel to the \$30 per barrel range. Over this same period gas prices at the pump have fallen from almost \$4.00 per gallon, to well below \$2.00; the lowest in years. While many people enjoy paying these lower gas prices and extra cash in their wallet, the effects on our economy are often very damaging, especially now that the United States produces much more oil than the past.

Years ago, the United States relied heavily on foreign oil as domestic production was falling short of expectations. Generally, when we rely on imported oil, increased oil prices negatively impact the U.S. economy, as the price for many goods and services are driven by the price of oil. For example, higher fuel prices result in increased shipping costs, which basically impact the cost of everything from apples to IPADs. Also, higher oil prices result in higher chemical prices for all chemicals that are produced from oil. So, in general, when we heavily rely on foreign oil, higher oil prices have a large impact on our economy.

However, in the 2000s, new technology (called "fracking") emerged in the oil and gas industry which made it possible to extract oil from previously untapped layers. As this technology spread across the U.S., the U.S. became one of the top oil and gas producers in the world. Closer to home, oil and gas production in our state of Texas also followed suit and boomed as well. This boom resulted in a great economic boost for our state as a whole and also for the greater Houston area that relies heavily on the oil and gas industry. I personally witnessed this boom during my family travels around the state. One time quiet and desolate small south Texas towns had become full of activity, with new hotels, convenience stores and restaurants. Everyone who wanted a job, had a job, and times were good. However, as the U.S. and Texas produces more oil, we are now more dependent and affected by the price of oil. So, as the price of oil drops, drilling and production does as well. This directly affects these small Texas towns and large city oil and gas centers such as our home congressional district and the Houston area. These decreases in drilling and produc-

tion activities result in massive lay-offs in oil producing regions. Now the small town hotels and restaurants are empty and forced to close. Large oil companies in the big cities are forced to cut thousands of jobs. These falling oil prices have a devastating effect on our area.

As stated above, cheaper gas prices appear to be a blessing to an economy. However, residing in a state and a congressional district that rely heavily on oil and gas, the effects can be devastating, even though we are saving at the pump.

RECOGNIZING MILDRED JANE  
WORSHAM AND LANDON WORSHAM

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in recognition of the service and dedication of Mildred Jane Worsham and Landon Worsham to the Chatham Presbyterian Church and the entire Chatham community.

Mildred Jane Worsham has been serving the Chatham Presbyterian Church congregation as their organist for over 70 years. Mildred began playing for Chatham Presbyterian in 1945 at the age of sixteen. Over the years, she shared that duty with the late Augusta Parrish on an every-other-month basis, and she now serves as the sole organist.

In addition to her duties as organist, Mrs. Worsham has also served as the church's long-standing session clerk, Choir Director, taught Sunday School, Bible School and Bible Studies, and Mrs. Worsham had the honor of being named the first female elder of Chatham Presbyterian Church and was one of the church's first female deacons. She was also a commissioner for the Presbytery of the Peaks, which included 129 churches spanning parts of Central Virginia, Southside, the New River Valley and Allegheny Highlands, and served as the Commissioner to the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in the United States. Mrs. Worsham has also been a member of the Sylvania Garden Club, the Homemaker's Club, and assisted her husband's work as Chief of the Chatham Volunteer Fire Department for over 50 years.

For decades, Landon Worsham's service to the Chatham community has extended far beyond firefighting. In 2013, I had the privilege of joining the Town of Chatham, Virginia to honor Mr. Worsham for his 60 years of service to Chatham as a volunteer firefighter, 50 of which he spent as fire chief. In addition to this tremendous accomplishment, Mr. Worsham has been an active volunteer at the Chatham Presbyterian Church, serving as the superintendent of Chatham Presbyterian's Sunday school for over 50 years and counting. Mr. Worsham is also an elder at the church and has served numerous times on the session.

Mr. Worsham also served as a leader in the Chatham Lions Club and the Chatham Jaycees, as well as serving as the Vice President of the Pittsylvania County Fire-Rescue Association. He also served his country in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, and was wounded in New Guinea and awarded the Purple Heart.

I ask the members of this House of Representatives to join with me and the entire Chatham community in thanking and honoring the service and dedication of Jane Worsham and Landon Worsham to the Chatham Presbyterian Church and the Town of Chatham, and to the surrounding counties and our great nation.

CONGRATULATING JESSICA M. BARRETT ON RECEIVING THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 2016 WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jessica M. Barrett on her selection as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2016 Women in Business Champion for Guam. This award honors an individual on Guam who, as an advocate for women entrepreneurs, has fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership.

Jessica is the President of Barrett Enterprise, Inc., a local family-owned business started in 1972 by her parents Jack and Maxine Barrett that provides basic plumbing and water infrastructure services to residential, commercial, and government clients on Guam. Originally an operation of two employees providing only plumbing services, today, Barrett Plumbing has grown to a workforce of 19 full-time and locally hired employees, including five women, providing plumbing services, as well as maintenance and installation of new construction of water and wastewater lines infrastructure. Under Jessica's leadership, Barrett Plumbing expanded its operations and achieved federal HUBZone certification. The company also partners with the Guam Department of Labor to provide an apprenticeship program to train new practitioners on Guam.

Jessica is also deeply involved with several community organizations on Guam. She is a founding member and current president of the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). In this capacity, Jessica has worked to provide guidance and counsel to local organizations and businesses about promoting and advancing the role of women in the construction industry. She has also supported local organizations such as the Guam Animals in Need (GAIN), Santa Teresita Catholic Church, and Catholic Social Services. Further, in 2014, the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce recognized Jessica as Guam's first Chamorro woman plumber.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating Jessica Barrett on her selection as the SBA's 2016 Women in Business Champion for Guam. I commend her for her many contributions to our island and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 4570, the "100 Years of Women in Congress Act," which expands Department of Agriculture programs for research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, I would have voted "aye."

Also, had I been present for the vote on passage of S. 719, a bill to rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS MCDANIEL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dennis McDaniel who has been named Chief of Police of Johnston, Iowa. Chief McDaniel has proudly served the central Iowa area as Chief of Police in nearby Windsor Heights, Iowa, and in Marshalltown, Iowa at the start of his career.

His dedication to public service and law enforcement is a testament to many aspiring community leaders. He has been integrally involved with the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force and served as Chairman of the Polk County Law Enforcement Executives Association. His commitment to neighborhood outreach programs have earned him applause from his peers. Those programs include Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out and Special Olympics Iowa.

In announcing his move across the Des Moines metropolitan area from one jurisdiction to another, the Johnston, Iowa mayor said, "One thing Chief McDaniel did say about community policing is that your community can be the first line of defense against things happening to you. It takes an entire community to be safe."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Chief McDaniel for this award and for sharing his leadership with an entire community. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Chief McDaniel and wishing him nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATING JENNIFER B. SANCHEZ ON RECEIVING THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 2016 FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION AWARD FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jennifer B. Sanchez on her selection as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2016 Financial Services Champion for Guam. Jennifer is being honored for her work in assisting small business owners through advocacy efforts to increase the usefulness and availability of accounting or financial services for small businesses.

Jennifer is the Vice President and Central South Regional Manager for the Bank of Guam, the largest financial institution on Guam, serving individual clients, small businesses, middle-market and large corporations, and government entities. She is responsible for overseeing six Bank of Guam branches with 78 employees serving approximately 44,000 customers on Guam. She began her career with the Bank of Guam in 2003 when she joined the bank's management training program, and since then she has held several management roles, including an operations manager, customer service manager, assistant branch manager, and the Hagåtña branch manager. Throughout her career, Jennifer has worked to help local business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs start and expand their businesses through access to capital and advocacy for economic development.

Jennifer is also an active member of our community. She is a founding member and current president of the Pacific Islands Microcredit Institute, which provides training and counseling to local entrepreneurs to gain access to capital and improve financial management. In this role, she is personally engaged with clients and helps build their networks to give them a better chance of success. She is also a member of the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Society of Human Resource Management, and the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration Advisory Council and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating Jennifer Sanchez on her selection as the SBA's 2016 Financial Services Champion for Guam. I commend her for her many contributions to our island and community.

IN HONOR OF MRS. EUNICE ELIZABETH ADAIR TINGLING

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Eunice Elizabeth Adair Tingling; who was a well-known resident of Harlem and Washington

Heights. On Friday, February 19, Eunice passed away after living a full life well-lived.

Eunice Elizabeth Adair was born January 4, 1919 in Anderson, South Carolina to Margaret Iola Jones, a third generation schoolteacher and Arthur Aton Adair, a Presbyterian Sunday school missionary. She was the second of four children and first of two girls. Together with her siblings, older brother Arthur Eugene (later a Presbyterian minister), and younger siblings Mary Rose (who became a teacher), and Joseph Arthur (who became both a minister and a teacher), she lived a busy, active life full of learning, music, family, church and travel. Eunice has a proud and extensively documented family history. She was the granddaughter of formerly enslaved Mary Magdalene Bomar who taught school for 60 years & Allen Augustus Jones, also formerly enslaved, who graduated from Maryville College in 1871.

Together they traveled the south as Presbyterian missionaries after their marriage, organizing schools and churches, teaching other newly freed blacks to read and write, raising 10 children, all of whom in turn went to college. While teaching at Brainerd Institute, a unique historic institution created from a former Freedman's school, later taken over by the Presbyterian Church, one of their daughters, Margaret Iola, met and married fellow teacher, Arthur Aton Adair, a union that produced Eunice and her three siblings. When Eunice was 12, her father died. Despite Arthur Aton's untimely death from pneumonia, her mother ensured that all four of the children went on to finish college, graduating with Joe, the youngest.

Eunice attended Brainerd Institute right across the street from her home in Chester, SC, where her parents had taught. It was there that her love of music was further nurtured into a lifelong love. After graduating from Brainerd at 16, Eunice attended Barber-Scotia Junior College in Concord, NC, then attended Knoxville College, graduating with a major in elementary education and minoring in music. On her way north, she stopped over in Washington, DC during WWII, and got a government job (after failing the typing test), working in the Food Stamp Program.

She eventually ended up in Harlem, helping her big brother Gene set up a day care program at Mt. Morris, the Presbyterian Church he was rejuvenating in central Harlem. A disastrous first date resulted in her meeting his brother, and Eunice was introduced to Milton Francis Tingling, a 1st-generation American of Jamaican parentage, aspiring statesman and law student that she met at an Episcopalian youth dance. They married on November 24, 1950.

This union produced three children: Michele, Milton, and Steven. Prior to the birth of her first child, Michele, Eunice obtained her Masters Degree in Education from Columbia University Teachers College on February 28, 1951. Milton and Eunice settled in NYC, raising and educating their three children. Eunice began teaching in NYC public schools, and Milton began practicing as an attorney. She was a founding member and historian for Barristers' Spouses of NY; an elder in Mt. Morris-Ascension Presbyterian Church; former board member & chair of Arthur Eugene & Thelma Davidson Adair Community Life Center; also

helped build & was a member of innumerable community & neighborhood organizations.

Milton preceded Eunice in death on June 9, 1987. Eunice helped her husband get elected as a judge of the Civil Court of the City of NY in 1982. In 1996, she then assisted her son Milton Adair in his election to Civil Court of the City of NY in 1996, then, again in 2000 when Milton was elected to the Supreme Court. In 2014, Eunice attended the induction of her son, Milton, at the swearing-in as the first black county clerk in the history of NY State. Eunice was a warrior for God, her family and her church. This petite, quiet, modest, unassuming but powerful woman lived a full life, and was truly a role model for the thousands of women and men whose lives she touched.

Eunice passed on February 19, 2016, at home, surrounded by family per her wishes. She is survived by children Michele, Milton, & Steven; son-in-law Rick; daughters-in-law Carolyn (Milton), Tonja (Milton), Rochelle (Steve), & Lisa (Milton); granddaughters Aija Mai Tingling, Candyce Vines, Nzingha Michele (Carlos) & Jasmine (Langston) Tingling-Clemmons; grandsons Toussaint L'Ouverture & Langston Mandela Tingling-Clemmons; Milton Jordan (Tai), Marcus Jamal & Steven Joshua Tingling; great-grands Zora Ann Tingling-Clemmons, Malcolm & Zayed Monadel Coleman-Tingling-Clemmons; sisters-in-law Thelma (Eugene) & Justine (Joseph); nephews Robert, Richard, & Maurice; nieces Daisy and Cindy (Rob); dozens of cousins, great-nieces, great-nephews; and multitudes of friends who were family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Eunice Elizabeth Adair Tingling. Great matriarchs like Mother Tingling are precious gifts we temporarily have in this world, but their caring assistance, contributions and accomplishments are far remembered and everlasting.

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ANTON ZHOU IS A MASTER OF  
THE ARTS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anton Zhou of Sugar Land, Texas for being named a Texas Young Master in visual arts for the spring of 2016. This is one of the most impressive awards given to a young artist in their state.

Anton currently attends Clements High School and previously attended the XinSheng Wang Art School. At 17 years of age, Anton has won multiple awards and recognition for his well-known impressionist and contemporary art style. Founded in 2002, the Texas Young Master program was developed by the Texas Cultural Trust and the Texas Commission on the Arts. They recognize students from 8th through 11th grade who have proven incredible artistic talent in either visual, performing, or literary arts. Students recognized as a Texas Young Master are awarded \$5,000 in scholarships each year for two years, to assist with continuing education in their selected art form.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Anton Zhou for being named a Texas Young Master. We can't wait to see what the future brings for him.

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CONGRATULATING MYRACLE  
MUGOL ON RECEIVING THE U.S.  
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S  
2016 HOME-BASED BUSINESS  
CHAMPION OF THE YEAR  
AWARD FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Myracle Mugol on her selection as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2016 Home-Based Business Champion of the Year Award for Guam. This award honors individuals who have experienced the rewards and difficulties of owning a home-based business and have worked voluntarily to improve the climate for other home-based businesses.

Myracle is the Managing Partner of Kahmeleon, a local graphics design, photography, and audio-visual production services company on Guam. She is also a Partner for Three Moon Productions, which partners with local artists by collaborating and providing opportunities to showcase talents throughout our island. These companies have worked with numerous artists and performers to promote their work and expand their outreach to our community. Through her work with Kahmeleon, Myracle has actively worked to promote programs that teach Chamorro language and culture, including developing a web series "Siha" and partnering with the Guam Department of Education and Twiddle Productions to produce an animated documentary, "Maisa: The Chamorro Girl that Saved Guåhan."

Myracle is also an active member of our community. She has worked on numerous projects to promote the arts on Guam, including the Guam International Film Festival and the GAX Exhibit at the Agana Shopping Center. She is also a volunteer with Island Girl Power and adopted a soon-to-be-completed media room with the organization.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating Myracle Mugol on her selection as the SBA's 2016 Home-Based Business Champion for Guam. I commend her for her many contributions to our island and community.

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RECOGNIZING THE 150TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF KERN COUNTY

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Kern County, California, which I am proud to represent.

When the California legislature founded Kern in 1866, they could not have imagined the empire they were creating. The borders they drew circumscribed a vast, underpopulated territory slightly smaller than New Jersey, where Spanish ranchers grazed their herds beside Paiute and Yokuts tribes living as they had for centuries. A few determined pioneer families worked the land, preparing that first cycle of spiraling growth and development that would ever afterward characterize our County.

Agriculture came first. Kern's early farmers planted cotton—our original cash crop—in 1865. Waves of settlers from the crowded East and the farthest stretches of the Old World brought new seeds, orchards and vineyards, carrots, almonds, and all the bounty of the Earth that would flourish in the rich alluvial soil and Mediterranean climate of the San Joaquin. Last year's \$7.4 billion harvest is but the latest manifestation of the vast fertility of our Valley, a miracle of irrigation, agronomy, and hard work.

As the 19th Century ended Kern discovered an abundance of that resource which would dictate the 20th: petroleum. The Kern River strike of 1899 set new records in the West, unsurpassed until a still larger reservoir in West Kern spouted 24 million barrels in 1910. Energy quickly joined agriculture to become the twin engine of Kern's economy, augmenting the steady clip of rural development with the iridescent bloom of oil wealth.

Just as suddenly, a supersonic boom in the skies above Kern announced the birth of modern flight in 1947, and with it, the introduction of high-tech aerospace to our County. It was a natural fit. For whenever our community applies itself to a new challenge, it leverages that unique fusion of technical talent and practical entrepreneurialism that makes possible such feats of industry and science as accomplished in our County. Consider that Kern not only produces more petroleum than any other county in America, but also provides half of California's renewable energy, much of it from windfarms pioneered in our own Tehachapi Mountains. In agriculture too, our people were not content with the Valley's natural advantages, but invested in cutting-edge drip irrigation and precision sprinkler systems to double Kern's crop yield in less than 50 years while conserving water. And so in aerospace, where many of the same scientists responsible for the best military aircraft in history are now inventing a new industry—civilian space flight—in desert laboratories at the world's first spaceport, in Mojave, California.

There is so much about Kern that inspires pride. Those things I mention today are only the contours of our accomplishments, the tangible residue of the life's work of generations—visible and easy to identify. The true value of Kern, measured by the compassion and quality of our families and neighbors, is not so easily described. To understand this, you must know the people. You must live, and laugh, and love as fiercely as we do. You must walk the streets of Bakersfield. It is our home—my home—forever.

TRIBUTE TO SAL ARZANI

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sal Arzani of Interstate 35 High School for winning the Class 1A, 160-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning two state championships in a row is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Sal, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Sal demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent his family and him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sal on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM NAN LI ON RECEIVING THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 2016 MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate William Nan Li on receiving the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2016 Champion of the Year Award for Guam. This award honors an individual on Guam who has fulfilled a commitment to support and assist minority entrepreneurs and small business owners.

William is an Assistant Vice President and Business Development Officer with the Bank of Guam, the largest financial institution on Guam, serving individual clients, small businesses, middle-market and large corporations, and government entities. In his role at the Bank of Guam, Will interacts with clients on a daily basis to provide assistance and counsel on appropriate commercial banking services to meet their business's individual needs. He has provided outstanding assistance to many local businesses, from restaurants to retail owners to contractors and investors. Further, he works with several Bank of Guam initiatives to promote financial literacy and sponsoring events and causes, including the Guam International Marathon, the Guam Football Association, and the "Nihi Tan Fan Bisita" which works with local mayors to extend financial counseling to island residents who may not have the resources to obtain it themselves.

Will is also an active member of our island community. He is a current Board Member of

the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam and the Guam Chinese Association, as well as a member of the United Chinese Association, Guam Chinese Contract Association, and the Chinese Women Association. Will also volunteers for outreach events that teach safe financial practices to local high school students.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating William Nan Li on his selection as the SBA's 2016 Minority Small Business Champion for Guam. I commend him for his many contributions to our island and community.

PASTOR KEVIN HINTZE

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to sponsor today's guest chaplain Pastor Kevin Hintze, the Associate Pastor of Missions and Outreach at Zion Lutheran Church and School in Georgetown, Texas. The guest chaplain program is a wonderful opportunity to welcome pastoral leaders from many different backgrounds. This practice brings to life the freedom of worship enjoyed across this nation.

Pastor Hintze is a steadfast servant of God who has dedicated his time and talents to the ministry of the Gospel in the Lone Star State for the past seven years. Despite the challenges of his profession, he remains enthusiastic in his calling to faithfully sharing the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Hintze is eager to support and encourage the leaders of our nation through communication and prayer. Today's not the first time he's ministered to an elected body. In addition to being a devoted servant in his community, he has also been a guest Chaplain in both the Texas Legislature and Senate in 2015.

Pastor Kevin Hintze represents his faith, church, and community with dignity and brings honor to the stirring words of the New Testament, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." I'm privileged to sponsor him as guest chaplain for the House of Representatives.

HONORING PHILLIP E. SLOOP FOR EARNING THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION CERTIFICATE

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phillip E. Sloop for earning the National American Legion Certificate. This certificate was awarded to Mr. Sloop for his 70 years of continuous service in American Legion Post 115, located in Kannapolis, North Carolina. It is an honor to thank Mr. Sloop for his brave and selfless service to our nation.

After graduating from high school in 1934, Mr. Sloop took a job at Cannon Mills, a local textile company, until he was drafted into the

Army Air Corps in April of 1941. Just a few months into his service, the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred on December 7, 1941 and changed the course of Mr. Sloop's life. Once the United States entered World War II, Mr. Sloop was sent to Australia and joined the 436th Army Signal Construction Battalion as part of the 5th Air Force.

While in Australia, he was responsible for installing communication lines in support of the Allied efforts in the Pacific theater. His service in the Pacific extended nearly five years before the eventual conclusion of the war. Upon his return home to North Carolina, he returned to his job at the textile mill and joined American Legion Post 115, where he has remained an active member for 70 years.

I am overjoyed that the American Legion recognized Mr. Sloop for his service during World War II and his participation in the American Legion. The men and women in uniform who have answered the call to defend our nation represent the best our country has to offer and they deserve our continued admiration. Opportunities like this serve as a reminder that we must never take the service and sacrifice of our veterans for granted, and that we as a nation must continually find ways to recognize these heroic patriots for their unparalleled dedication to protecting our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Phillip E. Sloop for earning this distinguished honor, and thanking him for his service and dedication to our country.

RECOGNIZING CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO ON RECEIVING THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S PHOENIX AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISASTER RECOVERY AS A VOLUNTEER FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Carlotta Leon Guerrero on receiving the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2016 Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery as a volunteer. Carlotta is being honored for her efforts and contributions that have enabled businesses of Guam and neighboring island communities to recover successfully from disasters.

Carlotta is the Executive Director of the Ayuda Foundation founded the non-profit organization in 1995 with Dr. Mike Cruz of the Guam Medical Society and Christine Nilsen of Continental Micronesia, Inc. Carlotta began her public service serving six years as a senator in the Guam Legislature from 1994 to 2000, and has served in different capacities within the public and private sectors.

The Ayuda Foundation is based in Guam and is dedicated to helping Pacific islanders, especially our Micronesian region, in times of need. The Ayuda Foundation is meant to improve the health and wellbeing of Micronesia through medical missions, emergency relief

and program support. The Ayuda Foundation is comprised of Medical Missions to Micronesia, Reach Out & Read Early Literacy Program, AIDS Education Project, Island Girl Power and Books to Schools.

Through Ayuda Foundation, Carlotta was able to bring important resources to areas recently hit by storms in places such as Philippines, Vanuatu, Chuuk, Yap and Saipan. She was instrumental in bringing diverse parts of the community together to assist in providing thousands of dollars of aid to areas affected by natural disaster. Carlotta creatively used her own resources to source, procure and distribute supplies and assistance to those in need in the form of donations and in-kind contributions.

Carlotta has selflessly, consistently and tirelessly worked to help victims of disasters in every way possible. In addition to providing food and supplies, she believes that it is critical to assist hospitals within communities struck by natural disasters to maximize assistance. Though, Ayuda Foundation has a broad mission of helping the community, the bulk of the work goes to disaster relief. Most notably, Carlotta and the Ayuda Foundation partnered with MAP International, a non-profit in the U.S. to secure large donations of pharmaceuticals. She then worked with non-governmental organizations around the world to distribute them in areas of conflict and disaster. Ayuda Foundation was able to obtain \$400,000 worth of medication with only \$5,000 donated by the Bank of Guam to donate to the islands of Chuuk and Yap after they were hit by Typhoon Maysak. Ayuda Foundation was also able to procure an inter Emergency Health Kit from MAP International for the community hospital on the island of Saipan after the devastating Typhoon Soudelor.

Again, I congratulate Ms. Carlotta Leon Guerrero on receiving the 2016 Small Business Administration's Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending her for her award and thanking her for her many contributions to our island community.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—GABRIEL AGU

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gabriel Agu from Richmond, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Gabriel attends Strake Jesuit College Prep School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard

work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Gabriel was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Gabriel and all of his hard work, and know he will make Richmond proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Gabriel for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING TWENTY-TWO TEACHERS OF THE GREATER BOCA RATON AREA

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the twenty-two outstanding teachers from my district who have been awarded the Teacher of the Year award from the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise.

For the past 30 years, the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise has offered this annual distinction to one teacher at each of the twenty-two schools in the greater Boca Raton area. Each awardee is selected by the school's principal. These teachers have dedicated themselves to inspiring and empowering the next generation of young South Floridians. The amount of time and effort these exemplary teachers have spent betting the next generation of their community is truly admirable, and their passion is worthy of recognition.

These twenty-two exemplary teachers have made a profound impact on their students through their caring, commitment, and professionalism. They are a cohort defined by integrity, excellence, and the highest marks in all they do. The City of Boca Raton is fortunate to have such outstanding faculty, dedicated to ensuring a bright future for our students.

Congratulations to Cara Pavek, Polly Moorman, Jeanne Russell-Khan, Kenneth Johnson, Tina Garafalo, Alyce Lewert, Deborah Woolsey, Lori Paquette, Stephany Pierre, Gina Yallop, Linda Josaphat, Lorraine Overton, Margaret Longazel, Abbe Snyder, Rosanne Breland, Kristen Stern, Randy Weddle, Rachel Smith, Jenifer Berlatsky, Lindsay Ackerman-Conway, Lawrence Shane, and Nicole Scalisi on being nominated for this year's teacher of the year award. I am pleased to honor them, and I thank them for their continued service.



RECOGNIZING DAVID J. JOHN IN RECEIVING THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 2016 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate David J. John on being awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2016 Small Business Person of the Year Award for Guam. David John is being honored and recognized as an individual who has demonstrated outstanding skills, savviness, and ability to create success in the small business community. He was educated at the University of Saint Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota and is the president of ASC Trust Corporation, a retirement management company located in Hagåtña, Guam.

For the last 25 years, ASC Trust Corporation has provided employer sponsored retirement plans in Guam and throughout the Pacific. The company manages approximately half a billion dollars in retirement assets for 23,000 participants and 340 retirement plans in the Western Pacific. ASC Trust Corporation has been committed to steady growth and has expanded to four offices with more than 50 employees in the region. David proudly supports the local workforce and all of his employees are native residents of the island or city where their office is located in.

ASC Trust Corporation is committed to revolutionizing retirement plans in the Pacific Region by providing plan sponsors and participants the services they need to plan for successful retirement. The company offers a local team providing unparalleled service and the support of industry-leading partners to help manage their technology and investments. Additionally, ASC Trust Corporation is the largest provider of retirement plan management services in Micronesia.

Not only is David a successful business person, he is also very involved in the local community. He is an active member of the Guam Economic Development Authority where is the Vice Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Tax Qualifying Program for Guam. He is a member and past Chairman of the University of Guam Endowment foundation, past Chairman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and past President of the Rotary Club of Guam. Additionally, David supports other local organizations, including sponsoring the ASC Trust Corporation Islanders soccer and basketball teams.

David is a successful business man and family man. He is a leader in our local community and a role model for others in the private business sector. David and his company are committed to Guam and the region, and to improving the community through hiring local and boosting the economy.

I congratulate David on receiving the 2016 U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him on this award and thanking them for their many contributions to our island community.

THANKING CHARLES RUGGLES FOR HIS CHARITY AND SERVICE

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Charles Ruggles for the support he has offered to the city of Flint and its residents during the Flint Water Crisis.

Mr. Ruggles is a professional photographer who formed the Flint Teens Matter project as a response to the water crisis. As a result of the crisis, some families may not have the resources to have professional portraits taken for their graduates. The mission of Mr. Ruggles' project is to provide free senior photos to high school students in the city who have been impacted by the ongoing water crisis.

Mr. Ruggles empowers his cause through a strategy of social networking to recruit photographers and donors from around Michigan to join his efforts. Additionally, he accomplishes his project's mission by graciously donating his own time to schedule and shoot photography sessions with teens of families who have been affected by the crisis. This gesture leaves a lifelong impact on students and their families, and one that might not be present without Mr. Ruggles' commendable and charitable efforts.

It is my honor to represent such active and charitable members of our community, and Charles Ruggles is a shining example. The type of direct and individual care that Mr. Ruggles has shown is exactly what the citizens of Flint need.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by Mr. Charles Ruggles and thank him for the service he has provided to the students and city of Flint.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH CRAWFORD

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ralph Crawford of Villisca, Iowa. Mr. Crawford has been recognized by France 71 years later for his bravery during his service in World War II on the infamous D-Day, June 6, 1944. He has been awarded the French Legion of Honour medal for his 'gallantry of action and the liberation of France in World War II.' This award joins his recognition medals from the United States of America: Purple Heart, Air Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Stated Crawford: "The mission was to bomb Teluth." Mr. Crawford flew three missions on D-Day as a tailgunner on a B-17 bomber. The mission went awry and the Nazis spotted the group and without any prior parachute training, Mr. Crawford and his team had to jump for their lives, mid-air, with no certainty as to their fate. The entire crew survived with some injuries and continued in service to this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Mr. Crawford for this exemplary award from the French government. We are all humbled by his service and for keeping the United States of America and its allies free. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. Crawford and wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE GUAM SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ON RECEIVING THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 2016 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER AWARD

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Guam Small Business Development Center on being awarded the 2016 U.S. Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Center Award. The Guam Small Business Development Center is being recognized for their excellence in providing value to small businesses and advancing program delivery and management through innovation.

The Guam Small Business Development Center began operations in May 1995 through federal funds and celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. It became the Pacific Islands SBDC Network and first service center in the region. The Guam Small Business Development Center provides free, confidential, one-to-one counseling in all areas of business management to all existing and potential small business owners and managers that are U.S. citizens, green card holders or citizens of the Freely Associated States. These services include pre-venture feasibility, business plan development, marketing, record keeping, financial and human resource management, operations management, access to capital, and specialized areas such as international trade and technical services. The Guam SBDC is able to refer local businesses to high-quality external sources of information and ideas because of its membership with U.S. Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) and partnership with the U.S. SBA and the National Business Incubation Association.

Additionally, the Guam Small Business Development Center works with the local Guam Small Business Administration Branch Office and Hawaii Small Business Administration District Office as a champion for Small Business Administration products and services. This work includes the effective amplification of the Small Business Administration mission, priorities and programs. The Guam Small Business Development Center provides excellent customer service with a 95 percent client satisfaction rate and efficiently meets clients' needs by providing quality counseling. The Guam Small Business Development Center utilizes

all resources available and partners with local government agencies and private entities to carry out its mission of helping entrepreneurs start and expand their businesses.

Again, I congratulate Guam Small Business Development Center on being awarded the 2016 U.S. Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Center Award. I commend Guam Small Business Development Center Director Casey Jeszenka and the staff of the Guam SBDC for their leadership in helping to promote entrepreneurship and support for our local economy. I join the people of Guam in commending them for their award and thanking them for their many contributions to our island community.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND BRONZE STAR PRESENTATION TO LT. COL. JACK DEICHMAN

**HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2016 we marked the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War to honor and express our gratitude to our Vietnam Veterans.

Our Vietnam War veterans served our nation with courage, dignity, and a willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

Deserving particular praise and commendation for his heroism and service during the Vietnam War is Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Jack Deichman of the United States Marine Corps.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jack for over a year now, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to acknowledge Jack's leadership in Dai Do, Vietnam on March 30, 1968.

Mr. Speaker, Jack displayed expert leadership in maneuvering his Company through heavy enemy fire and remained steadfast in assisting his wounded Commander to establish their defensive positions.

Because of Jack's actions, many lives were saved that day, and many attribute this battle as the deciding factor in winning the war.

We as a nation are grateful for Jack's heroic actions that day.

His courage and selfless devotion to duty represents the essence of the United States Marine Corps and this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2016, the nation acknowledged Jack's bravery with the presentation of the Bronze Star Medal.

I am proud to recognize Jack and all our Vietnam Veterans and we thank you for your service. Welcome home.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT LAKES CENTER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of

the Great Lakes Center (GLC). For more than half a century, the Great Lakes Center has worked to improve the quality of the environment by providing the best possible science to decision makers concerned with the health and sustainability of our freshwater resources, with a primary focus on the Great Lakes and their watersheds.

The Center was established in 1966 when Howard Sengbush formed the Great Lakes Laboratory. The Great Lakes Center's field station is located on SUNY Buffalo State's waterfront campus along the Black Rock Channel. It is a multidisciplinary research, education, and service institute focused on advancing our knowledge and understanding of the largest body of freshwater on Earth.

The Great Lakes Center is the only institution within the SUNY system with a research field station physically situated along the water. The Center maintains a large fleet of research vessels dedicated to specific types of research and educational functions.

Over the last eight years under the Direction of Sasha Karatayev, the GLC saw sustained activity and productivity: over 80 research papers published, 240 presentations given at various state, national, and international meetings and 35 funded projects totaling over 14 million dollars. This living laboratory dedicated to the investigation of the ecology of the Great Lakes and its tributaries is staffed by research scientists, educators, technicians and professors with the Biology department. The Center provides opportunities to obtain Masters of Arts and Masters of Science degrees in Great Lakes Ecosystem Science.

The Great Lakes ecosystem is complex, dynamic, and fragile. The work conducted at the GLC informs policy makers, educators, community leaders, and environmentalists—and contributes toward effective stewardship and decision-making. As part of the Great Lakes Observing System, the GLC operates the only operating observation buoy in eastern Lake Erie. The GLC continuously works to reverse the damage of decades of abuse neglect of the Great Lakes. The Center continues to explore opportunities to expand its educational programs within the regional community.

In February of this year, I was proud to speak on the House Floor during Great Lakes Day to demonstrate the importance of Congress to continue to fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Since the creation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2010, nearly \$1.6 billion has been invested in projects to clean up the Great Lakes, the world's largest freshwater system. Locally, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative supports a number of initiatives including the restoration of the Buffalo River.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to once again speak about the Great Lakes with pride in this visionary, vitally important and internationally renowned center whose home base is my alma mater, Buffalo State College as its Gold Anniversary was celebrated on April 15, 2016. Congratulations and deepest appreciation to all those who contributed to the past and present of this Center as the preservation, protection and promotion of the Great Lakes is of immeasurable importance to our future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT L. BOWEN

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a notable Hoosier, Dr. Robert L. Bowen, who is being honored by the Anti-Defamation League at the 2016 Man of Achievement Award Dinner in Indianapolis.

The Anti-Defamation League's Man of Achievement Award was established to recognize individuals and companies who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the community, justice and equal opportunity for all. Dr. Bowen was chosen for this honor because of his selfless support of underprivileged youth in Indianapolis.

Dr. Bowen and his wife Terry established the Bowen Foundation in 2000 to provide scholarships to minority students in Indianapolis to pursue education past high school. Over 700 students have received more than \$2 million in scholarships. In 2002, the Bowens, along with the Purdue University President, founded Science Bound. The program mentors Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) students from grades 8 through 12 to pursue careers in science and technical fields and then receive a full-tuition scholarship to Purdue University. In 2009, Dr. Bowen was inducted into the IPS Hall of Fame for his philanthropy efforts.

Dr. Bowen also provides support to Purdue University through the Robert L. and Terry L. Bowen High-Scale Performance Civil Engineering Laboratory, and \$11 million research facility test structure. Every fall since 2010, Dr. Bowen drives to Purdue's campus twice a week to teach leadership and advanced project management to 60 senior-level students.

Dr. Bowen is the founder and chairman of Bowen Engineering Corporation, a multi-market company specializing in water and wastewater treatment plants and energy utility construction. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University and has completed the Harvard Business School OPM Program. He has received many other awards and honors throughout his career.

He is a great friend and confidant of mine, and a wonderful asset to our community, state and nation. I wish to congratulate him on this latest honor and thank him for all he does and will continue to do to help ensure that the American promise as The Land of Opportunity is there for those who work to achieve it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I had to return to New York, and as a result, I missed votes on April 14 through 15, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote No. 146, Final Passage of H.R. 3340, the

Financial Stability Oversight Council Reform Act, “no” on roll call vote No. 149, Final Passage of H.R. 3791 to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, “aye” on roll call vote No. 150, the Amendment offered by Mr. YARMUTH to clarify that nothing in H.R. 2666 prevents the FCC from requiring or enhancing transparency, “aye” on roll call vote No. 141, the Amendment offered by Mr. MCNERNEY stating that nothing in H.R. 2666 shall affect the authority of the FCC to act in the public interest, and “no” on roll call vote No. 152, Final Passage of H.R. 2666, the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—COY GARDNER

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coy Gardner from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Coy attends Katy High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Coy was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Coy and all of his hard work, and know he will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Coy for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MONSIGNOR JOHN DUCETTE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great spiritual leader from Western New York, the Reverend Monsignor John I. Ducette, who passed away last week at the age of 79.

Msgr. Ducette was a native of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, educated in those cities and

later at St. Bonaventure University and Christ the King Seminary, both in Olean, NY, and later at Seton Hall University, The New York Province Priests' Institute and the National Institute for Clergy Formation.

Ordained a priest on St. Patrick's Day 1962, Msgr. Ducette accepted diocesan assignments and ministered to congregants throughout Western New York, from East Otto to Niagara Falls before finally earning assistant pastor positions at two parishes in the town of Tonawanda.

In 1985, Msgr. Ducette was appointed Pastor of St. Timothy's Parish in the town of Tonawanda, and it is at this parish where he made his most lasting mark. As Pastor for more than 23 years, he established St. Tim's as a warm and inviting—and prospering—parish within the nearby Sheridan-Parkside community. Msgr. Ducette often spoke of St. Tim's as “an intentional parish.” He told his congregants that, “the people that come to St. Tim's don't necessarily live in the community, but they long for the type of services that we provide to the people.”

The response he received to his work demonstrated that fact. Msgr. Ducette was a master at attracting retired priests to St. Tim's, where each might say one or two masses per weekend. In so doing, he managed a robust schedule of masses and attracted the followers of these retired priests to come and worship at St. Tim's, thereby growing the size of the parish and enhancing the parish's ability to provide services to a local community often beset by economic and social challenges.

Msgr. Ducette was known to run a tight ship. He liked to celebrate a well-organized and efficient Sunday mass. But within that efficiency was an innate ability to deliver a cogent and thoughtful message. While few of Msgr. Ducette's homilies during mass would exceed two or three minutes of length, all were memorable, and most if not all would end with a question, usually one that would cause his congregants to examine their respective faith and allow them throughout the ensuing week to consider what they were doing in their lives to do a greater good within their own communities.

In addition to having been named a prelate of honor by Pope St. John Paul II and his service as Chaplain of the Town of Tonawanda Police Department, Msgr. Ducette was a great lover of the sea. He served as Chaplain of the Port of Buffalo and for 35 years served as diocesan director of the Apostleship of the Sea, praying for the safety of all seafarers and blessing sailing vessels. He delivered blessings at the dedication of the USS *Little Rock* and USS *The Sullivans* at the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park. I was proud to invite Msgr. to participate in a nautical ceremony at the Buffalo Yacht Club several years ago.

I was proud to have known Msgr. Ducette and to have been in his presence when he offered prayers. He was a kind soul, loved by all who had the privilege of knowing him. It is certain that his many friends and followers mourn his loss and will look to his great legacy—the successful St. Timothy's parish—for comfort at this time of sadness.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS FROM WANDO HIGH SCHOOL IN MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA

**HON. MARK SANFORD**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the students from Wando High School, located in South Carolina's First Congressional District, who will be participating in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals a few short days from now. In order to qualify for the national finals, a class must win its state championship or qualify as a “wild card” class, which was the case for Wando this year. These students will join with approximately 1,200 high schoolers from 56 classes across the nation, all of whom will be competing in the mock hearings held at the University of Maryland.

At a variety of levels, it is encouraging to see so many students investing their time to further their education by taking an in-depth look at American history, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. And the support these students receive throughout the U.S. is remarkable—each year, local communities raise nearly \$2,000,000 to support the national finalists.

During their time in DC, the high schoolers not only have the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, but they will come to demonstrate their civic knowledge by participating in a simulated congressional hearing before panels of judges made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and government leaders from across the nation.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the students from Wando, wish them good luck at the competition, and offer a word of welcome as they make their visit to the Capitol.

HONORING THE GALVAN BALLROOM

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Galvan Ballroom in Corpus Christi, Texas, which recently received the Texas Treasure Business Award.

The Texas Historical Commission, an organization authorized by the Texas State Legislature, honored the Galvan Ballroom with the Texas Treasure Business Award, as a business that has been in operation and has provided employment opportunities and support to the state's economy for over 50 years. This award, created in 2005 by Senate Bill 920, pays tribute to the state's well-established businesses and their exceptional historical contributions toward the economic growth and prosperity of the State of Texas. The Galvan Ballroom, located in the heart of Corpus Christi at 1632 Agnes St., opened its doors on March 2, 1950. The Galvan Ballroom was established by Corpus Christi police officer, entrepreneur, and musician Rafael Galvan, Sr.

Mr. Galvan sought to open a venue for the Galvan Orchestra, a fifteen-piece ensemble featuring his four sons: Ralph, Eddie, Sammy, and Bobby.

The Galvan Ballroom earned its reputation as the place in Corpus Christi to visit for big band, swing, and jazz music. Due to its large size, the venue hosted national acts. The large dance hall, which featured a custom-made revolving chandelier with four spotlights, was a popular location for dances and other events. South Texans will recall that the Galvan Ballroom was fully booked with events nearly every night. On Saturday nights, the ballroom hosted functions for private clubs and community events, including student dances, church events, and the annual policeman's ball. On Sundays, the ballroom opened to the public for dancing and music, including performances by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Chester "Chet" Rupe. During the time of segregation, The Galvan Ballroom played a major role in the social and cultural development of Corpus Christi. The venue promoted integration of the Hispanic and Anglo-American communities through diverse musical acts, which included African-American groups.

The Galvan Ballroom continues to be a musical landmark in Corpus Christi. Today, the ballroom hosts weddings, quinceañeras and other events. On the first floor is the headquarters of the Galvan Music Company. Eddie Galvan, a member of the original Galvan Orchestra, was inducted into the South Texas Region XIV Band Directors Hall of Fame, and the South Texas Music Walk of Fame has also honored members of the Galvan family.

In 2015, the Galvan Ballroom was added to the National Register of Historic Places and was designated as a Texas Hispanic Heritage site. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the Galvan Ballroom upon receiving the Texas Treasure Business Award, and wish them many more years of continued contributions to the Coastal Bend area.

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VOTER SUPPRESSION IS  
UN-AMERICAN

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**  
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today on this Restoration Tuesday, I rise to shed light on the continued voter suppression around the country during this election year and the ongoing battle to protect every American's constitutional right to vote.

Alabama—Arizona—Texas—Wisconsin—the list goes on. We continue to hear tale after tale of modern day barriers to the voting polls this election year. After the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 pre-clearance requirements in 2013, several states took that ruling as a license to trample on the Constitution and violate the voting rights of vulnerable communities across the nation. These continued attacks on the rights of eligible voters in this country are unconscionable and unconstitutional. Congress needs to act now to stop this plague of voter suppression and fight for justice.

Today, as you know, the state of New York is holding its primary elections. Unsurprisingly, complaints have already been made by eligible voters who registered a minor party or with no party, and who will not be able to participate in the primary elections. New state rules allow only registered Democrats to vote in Tuesday's Democratic primary and only registered Republicans to vote in the GOP contest. This new law will leave out 3.2 million New Yorkers who are registered to vote.

Likewise, my home state of Alabama implemented new strict voter ID laws and then closed over 30 DMV offices; the most popular location to obtain a driver's license. Arizona implemented a similar voter suppression strategy by reducing their voting sites from 200 in 2012 to 60 in 2016, citing a so-called need for budget savings.

In all, 17 states across the country have implemented new restrictive laws aimed at blocking the American people from the ballot box. New laws with strict photo identification requirements, early voting cutbacks, new requirements of proof of citizenship, and practices creating grueling waiting lines are all burdensome barriers which would have likely been blocked through the Voting Rights Act process of pre-clearance. And not surprisingly, these new restrictions have disproportionately affected minority populations such as African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans as well as university students.

The fear of voter fraud is an excuse. The need for budget cutbacks is an excuse. The American people are fed up with the excuses. Fundamental to our democracy is the right to vote, and creating barriers to block the vote is truly un-American. It holds little value to give someone a car and then take away the keys. Our right to vote is the vehicle to democracy but we need the keys to easily access the polls. The suppression needs to stop, the oppression needs to stop, and the excuses need to stop. Congress needs to stand up and do something about it now.

On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty, and justice for all.

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IN RECOGNITION OF IRVIN WARREN AND HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Irvin Warren was born to a rural farming family in Sampson County, North Carolina, where he spent his early years learning the value of hard, honest work and the importance of education. Later Mr. Warren pursued higher education at both East Carolina and North Carolina State Universities; Mr. Warren acquired his Master's degree in Education. During his tenure in school he returned home on the weekends to continue working on his family's farm.

Upon graduation, Mr. Warren became a professor and it was during this time that his

Uncle offered him a partnership in an auto parts business. To follow this new aspiration, Mr. Warren secured a loan from his mother and started Warren Oil Company in 1976 with only three employees.

Mr. Warren expanded his company over the next few decades, growing to over 450 employees and packaging oil products under its own brand, and for other companies. The company has expanded across the country, distributing its product across the United States and in over 49 countries globally. Warren Oil Company is currently the largest independent lubricant manufacturer in North America. Mr. Warren's grit and persistence have allowed for him to remain competitive with multinational oil and gas corporations such as Exxon and BP.

Even through this impressive growth Mr. Warren has never wavered in his commitment to his employees—even referring to them as part of his own family—furthermore, he continued to give back to the community.

His generosity, commitment to service and love for people is evident. He has provided relief funding for events such as the earthquake in Haiti in 2010—even personally visiting the country during this tragedy and remaining on-site during a significant portion of the recovery process.

Perhaps most notably, Mr. Warren has also provided several all-expenses-paid tours for WW II veterans to visit the D.C. museums and memorials, assuring that priority was given to those who had never been. Mr. Warren is committed to continuing these trips until each veteran has had the opportunity to see the Washington sites.

This self-driven entrepreneurial spirit, coupled with the generosity and family-like connection to his employees should be a model for aspiring business people across the United States. Through hard work and dedication, Mr. Warren has managed to create a highly competitive business while still remaining deeply connected to his hometown of Dunn, North Carolina.

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HONORING THE WOLFE COUNTY  
HEALTH AND REHABILITATION  
CENTER

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special organization from Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District. The Wolfe County Health and Rehabilitation Center recently received the 2015 Facility of the Year Award from the Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities.

The Wolfe County facility is located in beautiful Campton, Kentucky. They are owned by First Corbin Long Term Care, Inc., a part of Forcht Group of Kentucky. The 100 bed facility offers high quality long term care and short term rehabilitation to its residents. Administrator Amy Prater and all the staff are to be commended for the wonderful job they do in caring for their residents. The award recognizes service of the highest excellence among

the many long term care facilities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Caring for the elderly population in our country is a very special and important calling. The Wolfe County Health and Rehabilitation Center offers excellent skilled care in a loving and compassionate environment. Their award was well deserved and serves as the standard for other facilities to emulate. I am proud to recognize and honor the Wolfe County Health and Rehabilitation Center before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of the 195th anniversary of Greece's independence.

America's Founding Fathers drew inspiration from ancient Greece's democratic example. Hundreds of years later, the modern-day nation of Greece continues to stand as an ally with the United States. Yet our relationship goes far beyond our mutual security concerns. Our bond is rooted in our shared values of democracy, liberty, and humanitarian aid.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Hellenic-Israeli Alliance Caucus, I will continue to promote greater collaboration between Congress, Israel, and Greece. I congratulate the people of Greece and extend my best wishes on the occasion of Greek Independence Day.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE BISCOGLIA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kyle Biscoglia of Waukee, Iowa for winning the Class 3A, 106-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Kyle, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Kyle demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kyle on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER  
OF JOHN SHIELS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of John Shiels. John is a committed community servant in my hometown of Sacramento, California, who has dedicated much of his life to improving flood protection for the people who live there.

For the past decade, John served honorably on the Board of Trustees of Reclamation District 1000, which is responsible for maintaining the levees that protect the Natomas basin in Sacramento. John's leadership on the board of Reclamation District 1000 included sitting on the Executive, Urbanization, and Personnel Committees; in this capacity, John made many positive contributions to Sacramento's levee safety.

His association with Reclamation District 1000 led to John serving as a member of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), which has been an invaluable partner to me in my efforts to ensure that Sacramento has the highest possible level of flood protection. John's term on SAFCA was characterized by his strong leadership, astute coalition-building, and unwavering commitment to public safety.

Not all of John's career was spent protecting Sacramento from flooding. Indeed, before he became a Trustee of Reclamation District 1000, John spent a distinguished career with several Fortune 500 companies as a senior information systems executive. Prior to his professional career, he served with the U.S. Navy Supply Corps, earning several commendations.

Now that John has retired, he volunteers in the Natomas community and across the Sacramento region. He is currently President of the River Oaks Community Association, and assists with administrative responsibilities for his church.

Those of us in Sacramento who care about protecting our community from flooding owe a debt of gratitude to John for his years of distinguished service on SAFCA and at Reclamation District 1000. I wish John a happy and fulfilling retirement, and respectfully ask that my colleagues acknowledge him today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call No. 153.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE  
SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—MARIA BENNETT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maria Bennett from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Maria attends Cinco Ranch High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Maria was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Maria and all of her hard work, and know she will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Maria for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF GREEN HILL RE-  
TIREDMENT COMMUNITY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Green Hill Retirement Community located in West Orange, Essex County, New Jersey.

Green Hill Retirement Community is devoted to providing personal care to older Americans of lifestyles ranging from all levels of need. Green Hill continues to preserve the vision of its founders set 150 years ago by working to adapt to the changing needs of their community.

Established in 1866, Green Hill is a non-profit facility dedicated to providing compassionate care to seniors and their families. Originally founded by the Society for the Relief of Respectable Aged Women in 1866, following the end of the Civil War with just 13 residences, Green Hill currently continues to expand and innovate new ways of living such as the launch of their Green House Homes development in 2011. Though the world has changed greatly since 1866, the need for self-less personal care continues to grow.

Additionally, Green Hill provides families of elderly loved ones with all of the necessary resources crucial in the transition to a senior living community. Green Hill provides the tools and services required to evaluate the level of need for each prospective resident, determine what financial resources are available to them, and explore their different lifestyle options at Green Hill. Green Hill understands that transitioning to a senior living community can be stressful for both the prospective resident and their family; therefore Green Hill is dedicated to all efforts helping to ease the process.

In addition to the quality care that Green Hill provides to seniors on both ends of the need spectrum, including those independent and "on the go" as well as those who require full-time assistance, Green Hill also offers an immense selection of recreational, educational, and social activities. These programs increase the comfort of living in the convenient metropolitan location of Green Hill.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the members and supporters of the Green Hill Retirement Community of West Orange, New Jersey for all of their service to the community, and in congratulating them on their 150th Anniversary.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,203,643,099,493.25. We've added \$8,576,766,050,550.17 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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TRIBUTE TO COLTON  
CLINGENPEEL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Colton Clingenpeel of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa for winning the Class 3A, 152-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Colton, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Colton demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedi-

cation, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Colton and his family in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Colton on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TODD C. YOUNG**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 18, 2016, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "Yes" on roll call vote No. 153, and "Yes" on roll call vote No. 154.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT A.  
COPELAND, JR.

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dr. Robert A. Copeland, Jr. a leading American ophthalmologist who helped the profession deepen its understanding of disparities and broaden its international reach. Dr. Copeland was the founding chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Howard University College of Medicine, the position he held at the time of his untimely passing on the evening of Monday, April 11, 2016. He is survived by his wife Candie, whom he married May 24, 2008, and children Kennedie, Robert III, and Lucas.

Dr. Copeland was widely admired as an advocate for the prevention of eye disease, a mentor to countless students, and an expert and attentive physician. His advocacy reached Capitol Hill, where I had the pleasure of working with him on patient issues. Dr. Copeland was scheduled to come to my office for a meeting in conjunction with the American Academy of Ophthalmology on April 14, the week of his passing.

Robert A. Copeland, Jr., was born on December 13, 1955, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His interest in the condition of the eye arose during his first week as a Fisk University undergraduate in 1973. Copeland was injured playing football and had to be treated for blunt trauma to the right eye at Meharry Medical College. After completing his studies at Fisk, Copeland earned a medical degree in 1981 from Temple University School of Medicine. He subsequently completed an internal medicine residency at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1982, an ophthalmology residency at Howard University Hospital in 1985, an external disease/cornea fellowship at Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1986, and a cornea, external disease, and uveitis fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco in 1989.

Dr. Copeland contributed more than three decades of service to Howard University. In 1982, he arrived at Howard University Hospital as a young ophthalmology resident. Four years later, he joined the Howard University Department of Surgery, Division of Ophthalmology, as an instructor. He was elevated to assistant professor in 1988 and to full professor in 2010. He served as interim chief of the division from 1993 until his campaign to make ophthalmology a stand-alone department was successful in 2000. He was named chair in the document ratifying creation of the Department of Ophthalmology by the Howard University Board of Trustees.

Dr. Copeland wrote multiple papers on corneal and external diseases, uveitis, and other diseases of the eye. His research focused on conditions affecting the eye, as well as the socioeconomic and gender disparities in cataract surgery, including factors such as insurance coverage, transportation, and other barriers to access.

In 2012, in conjunction with a Duke University professor, Dr. Copeland published Copeland and Afshari's Principles and Practice of Cornea, a definitive textbook on the cornea. The two-volume work is over 1,500 pages long, includes 119 chapters, and weighs over 14 pounds. Dr. Copeland also traveled throughout the world to perform humanitarian services for underserved populations. He served the people of Haiti, Saint Lucia, Ghana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Chile, Liberia, Nigeria, and India.

Over the years, Dr. Copeland's work drew numerous awards and accolades. He was frequently honored by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, garnering the Distinguished Service Award, Achievement Award, Council of Appreciation Award, Surgery by Surgeons Award, and the Secretariat Award. He was frequently listed as a "top doctor" in major publications. In 2008, Dr. Copeland received the Professional Service Award from the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington, and in 2013, he garnered an Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society nomination. At Howard University, Dr. Copeland was honored at the Ninth Annual Spirituality and Medicine Seminar in 2005—he was a member of Washington's historic Shiloh Baptist Church, where he was a deacon. Howard also honored Dr. Copeland with a Citation of Achievement Award in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in remembering this barrier-breaking physician. Dr. Copeland was a leader in ophthalmology who used his expertise to help the underserved. His wisdom and compassion will be sorely missed, but his contributions will live on through all those who learned from him.

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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE  
SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—ARNYA ARORA

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arnya Arora from Pearland, TX

for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Arnya attends Manvel High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Arnya was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Arnya and all of his hard work, and know he will make Pearland proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Arnya for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

CELEBRATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, in 1741, 275 years ago, a small group of Moravian settlers founded a community along the banks of the Monocacy Creek in an area about 60 miles north of Philadelphia.

In recognition of their faith—and in the hope that they were establishing a community that would stand the test of time—they named their settlement Bethlehem.

These Moravian settlers chose an excellent site for their settlement. Bethlehem quickly grew to become an important hub for commerce, industry and learning. It remains so to this day, and continues to evolve with the times while still retaining strong ties to its heritage and founders.

Bethlehem also remains a rich melting pot and serves as a shining example for other cities. Many of its citizens share a connection to the former Bethlehem Steel plant, which was once the number two steel producer in the United States. While time and circumstances resulted in Bethlehem Steel's closure, the people of Bethlehem have proven themselves to be as resilient and strong as the steel they forged. The City has continued to prosper, and it consistently appears on lists of the best places to live in the country.

Now with a population over 75,000, a diversified industrial base, and a unique blend of culture and commerce, Bethlehem is celebrating its 275th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to serve and represent the people of Bethlehem, and I

offer them my sincerest congratulations on their numerous achievements over the course of their city's long and storied past. May their city long continue to grow and to prosper.

RECOGNIZING TRENT HARMON,  
15TH AND FINAL WINNER OF  
"AMERICAN IDOL"

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, April 7, 2016, was an exciting night for Mississippians, as we were represented by gifted vocalists, Trent Harmon, of Amory, and La'Porsha Renae, of McComb, the final two contestants during the farewell season of "American Idol." While Trent was ultimately victorious, he and La'Porsha have bright futures ahead of them and made Mississippi proud.

Born and raised in the First District of Mississippi, I was inspired by Trent's faith in God, hard work ethic, and humility. During the process, Trent was diagnosed with mononucleosis and was given the option to quit the show. Thankfully, Trent's hard work and determination allowed him to compete and overcome the illness.

Throughout the season, Trent was proud of his state and his state was proud of him. This was on display during the hometown parade and concert. Thousands of fans flocked to the parade in downtown Amory wearing blue and white "Team Trent" shirts, businesses had "Vote for Trent" signs in their windows, and fans crowded Amory High School to watch Trent perform. This is what is special about Mississippi. People are proud of where they come from and are happy to see each other succeed.

Most importantly, Trent had the love and support of his family. He discussed working on his family farm and restaurant and the need to leave in order to find success in the music industry. Even though he had to leave Amory, his family, community, and state continued to support his dream. I congratulate Trent on his success and wish him the best in his future career.

ESSAY BY JILLIAN SABOE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have writ-

ten short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jillian Saboe attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: What makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

In recent decades, many political scientists as well as ordinary people of the American population have taken notice of the seemingly endless routes that pieces of legislature take once they enter the hands of congressmen. Although the Constitution and other foundational texts and practices emphasize the democratic ways of government that sets America apart from the other nations of the world, what America gains in democracy, America lacks in efficiency. The polarization of Congressmen that results from different morals, political parties, and religions is a major factor that makes the political process in Congress so challenging.

A piece of legislature is voted on a number of times throughout the process of becoming official. Legislature is passed through the houses of Congress sometimes several times, as well as the through the President and his peers. Each member of Congress and member of the President's cabinet come from a different and unique background. These backgrounds include ethnicity, geographical regions, religions, political beliefs, a sense of what is right and what is wrong, and several other distinguishing factors. Each different member of Congress/the Executive team votes on legislature on the basis of two different things: 1) what his/her constituency wants and 2) what he/she wants. Balancing these two things along with all of the previously mentioned personal factors, those who vote on legislature in Congress have an incredible amount of information to consider prior to making decisions. The natural and environmental differences between humans that lead to each balancing factor results in a competitive, argumentative, passive Congress.

Just like in any relationship between/among individuals, reaching agreements when faced with a challenge or suggestion can be difficult. When you extend hundreds of individuals, who are in charge of thousands of individuals each, into one single political relationship, reaching an agreement almost seems impossible. Therefore, congressional struggles that exist and prevent some pieces of legislature from being efficiently passed, are consequences of inevitability and must either be dealt with or Congress must be reorganized.

POEM BY ALBERT CASWELL IN HONOR OF ROBIN WILLIAMS

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the remarkably talented Robin Williams, a man who gave the world one of the greatest gifts of all—laughter. The following poem was written in his honor by Albert Caswell:

LAUGH UNTIL YOU DIE IN MEMORY OF ROBIN WILLIAMS  
(By: Albert Carey Caswell)

Laugh  
Laugh until you die  
Wipe those tears from your eyes

Laugh, laugh until you die  
 Because life is far too short to ever ask why  
 Robin Williams, was a shooting star so way  
 up high  
 So out of this world and in his mind,  
 as to new heights he would climb  
 So brilliant and so bright,  
 soaring ever higher with his mind as he took  
 flight  
 Was he really from another planet in time?  
 This comet that we called his life  
 Laugh until you dies  
 As he brought so many smiles  
 While, living with his own pain the while  
 A man of style and such grace  
 With that smile upon his face  
 Laugh until you die,  
 Cherish every moment we're alive  
 As his was a special place,  
 As none will take his place or reside  
 With his laughter bringing us to tears in our  
 eyes  
 Robin Williams was such a genius none will  
 deny  
 As everywhere he went,  
 His life was filled with the kindness so spent  
 With his warm heart as he to tried  
 Laugh, yea laugh until you die  
 Live life like it's your last night  
 And smile with delight so all inside  
 For Robin's gift was to bring joy and laugh-  
 ter into peoples lives  
 And the "DEAD POETS SOCIETY" wasn't  
 really just an act,  
 it was the closest thing to real Robin Wil-  
 liams you will find  
 Yea, let's laugh until we die  
 Yes, he was one heck of a shusbut,  
 so Morked out all in time  
 So out of this world with his special comedic  
 mind  
 So brilliant we can't deny  
 Reaching higher than most of us will ever at-  
 tempt to fly  
 So fast and so far and so high  
 A natural born comic reacting with his gut  
 in time  
 And there wasn't any DOUBTFIRE about  
 Robin being a charming guy  
 For he traveled at light speeds  
 all in his need to entertain us in time  
 And if you ever thought you could catch up  
 to him,  
 You were out of your mind  
 Because his mind was always in a race,  
 Towards laughter at such a pace  
 So interstellar,  
 so extraterrestrial as time he did not waste  
 So out of this world,  
 as he added new meaning to Area 51 with his  
 design  
 All in the days of our lives,  
 When things seemed filled with sadness and  
 strife  
 Robin gave the world what she so needed in  
 time  
 LAUGHTER, is the best medicine you will  
 find  
 Making us forget about our worries and our  
 cares,  
 as we laughed until we cried with him there  
 And laughter,  
 HE MADE IT RAIN  
 Coming down in buckets so insane  
 Giving back everywhere he went  
 Was what his life's work so meant  
 "GOODWILL HUNTING" was how his time  
 was spent  
 Making us smile with laughter wherever he  
 commenced  
 So laugh until you die  
 And one Robin's special loves so all inside  
 Were our men and women of The Armed  
 Forces,

as half was around the world to them he  
 would fly  
 Traveling overseas,  
 For their families there was nothing he'd  
 deny  
 But his greatest loves of all,  
 were his children and his wife we saw  
 "THE WORLD'S GREATEST DAD",  
 His children knew they had  
 Now, whenever we say his name,  
 our hearts fill with love and such pain miss-  
 ing him so bad.  
 Please laugh until you die  
 And anyone who's ever done standup will not  
 deny  
 Robin was The Clown Prince of Comedy all  
 at speed was this guy.  
 For he had the "HOOK",  
 as "BACK TO NEVER LAND" all of us took  
 And he could act, as his life was a work of  
 poetry so profound  
 And this is why he belongs in The Hall of  
 Fame,  
 with all those DEAD POETS SOCIETY he  
 could claim now  
 For Robin was a Man For All Seasons,  
 and for so many reasons as he made us say  
 "WOW"  
 Whether, on the sidelines with his beloved  
 Niner's,  
 he was everywhere so all in time here and  
 how  
 Laugh until you die  
 Sadly, he must of been one hell of a magi-  
 cian,  
 how he kept all his tears of a clown so all  
 hidden  
 But Robin's very core,  
 was the heart of a child of which will live on  
 forevermore  
 Like Peter Pan, this wonderful man  
 refused to grow up and that's for sure  
 And that is why we should all laugh until we  
 die  
 "GOOD MORNING, VIETNAM",  
 when we hear him say those words we thing  
 of Robin and his smile  
 As we watched him perform,  
 it was like a NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM as  
 history was being born.  
 As he was always so strong to the finish,  
 cause like "POPEYE" he too ate his spinach  
 As "THE FISHER KING" he caught our  
 hearts with his smile  
 Bringing us to new "AWAKENINGS" all the  
 while  
 And that's why we should all laugh until we  
 die  
 As he was one of "THE ARISTOCRATS",  
 Kings of Comedy and that's a fact  
 Equipped with such "ARTIFICIAL INTEL-  
 LIGENCE",  
 oh how he could rap  
 And upon the stage, Robin would "SIEZE  
 THE DAY"  
 Watching him, was always "THE BEST OF  
 TIMES" we can say  
 As not the question we all must ask,  
 from his craft "WHAT DREAMS MAY  
 COME?"  
 While, riding in his "RV" or on the stage of  
 life he brought such glee  
 As now it's all very clear,  
 because of his heart he was always the "MAN  
 OF THE YEAR".  
 But "THE FINAL CUT",  
 Was so what we all felt when we heard he had  
 died  
 As came the tears down upon our face as we  
 asked why?  
 Knowing, that no longer on this earth Robin  
 would reside  
 And on that day our world got a little bit  
 sadder as we realized

But he's not really gone  
 For he lives on and on,  
 in everyone's heart who has seen him per-  
 form  
 As into future generations they will admire  
 this sensation,  
 named Robin Williams living on as out his  
 name they cry  
 And if we could all "PATCH ADAMS" up our  
 hearts  
 And from his memory in all our tears try to  
 start  
 TO LAUGH  
 By remembering what came from his heart  
 All in that laughter which was his TRUE  
 WORK OF ART  
 In our hearts  
 And laugh until we die  
 Because, we all live short lives

TRIBUTE TO THE CRESTON HIGH  
 SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Creston High School wrestling team for winning the Iowa High School 2A Wrestling Championship title.

I send my congratulations to each member of the team:

Wrestlers by Weight Class—

113—Jacob Goodson

138—Wyatt Thompson

160—Cam Leith

195—Seth Maitlen

126—Trevor Marlin

145—Mitchel Swank

170—Chase Shiltz

220—Kadon Hulett

Head Coach: Darrell Frain.

Coaches: Cody Downing and Eric Ehlen.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, commitment, and determination. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVER-  
 SARY OF TEXAS BORDER BUSI-  
 NESS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the ten year anniversary of Texas Border Business.

Roberto H. Gonzalez founded Texas Border Business in 2005 as a source of business news for South Texas and Northern Mexico. Since its inception, it has been regarded by the business community as one of the most valuable and credible sources for commerce



news. Their high caliber reporting and journalistic integrity offers the region's businesses a well-balanced and informative source for news.

Regular features include industry and market reports, company success stories and executive insights. The newspaper also provides regular updates on educational programs serving businesses, ongoing features introducing local company web sites, as well as articles on local politics and how they affect business in the Rio Grande Valley. In addition, Texas Border Business covers the high-tech industry, with reports on e-commerce, broadband, wireless, data storage, web design, computer peripherals, and security.

Furthermore, Texas Border Business also serves as a reminder that perseverance is the key to success. Roberto H. Gonzalez started this publication using the last few dollars that he had. His home was being foreclosed and bills were piling up. He had been unemployed for over a year and had barely enough money to make it day to day. However, he never lost hope. After, ten years of success through hard work and dedication, this anniversary shows what can be accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Texas Border Business on its ten year anniversary and I congratulate Roberto Hugo Gonzalez and the Texas Border Business team for their important contributions to the business community in the Rio Grande Valley.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

**HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

The Base was officially activated on April 16, 1941 and named in honor of Col. Leslie MacDill, a World War I veteran and aviation pioneer who died in a plane crash. MacDill AFB has a long and established legacy of protecting our national security.

MacDill has continued to evolve and thrive over its 75 year lifespan. MacDill went from training crews to fly B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-26 Marauder bombers in World War II to B-29 Superfortresses, B-47 Stratojets and F-84, F-4 and F-16 fighters. It now is home to two wings that fly KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling jets. The base has played a key role in U.S. military actions from World War II, the Korean War, the Cuban missile crisis, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the ongoing fight against terrorism in the Middle East and elsewhere. From its first day in service to our nation to now, MacDill has consistently played a vital role in U.S. military achievement.

Currently, MacDill houses the 6th Air Mobility Wing and 39 Mission Teammates, including

U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command, Marine Corps Forces Central Command, the Joint Communications Support Element and dozens of other mission partners, including, until July, the aircraft operations center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

As integral as it is to our national security operations, MacDill is also a critical partner in our nation's humanitarian response efforts. Its strategic location was used to respond and aid the millions devastated by the 2010 earthquake that ravaged the capital city of Haiti, Port-a-Prince.

MacDill is home to more than 13,000 military and civilian personnel. Nearly 170,000 retirees live in the Tampa area and depend on the base for many necessary services. MacDill remains a vital economic driver and a source of good paying jobs for Southwest Florida residents. The base pumps about \$5 billion a year into the regional economy. MacDill is part of fabric of Southwest Florida; the relationship between the base and community is among the strongest in the military.

Many of my constituents work and serve at MacDill and I am proud to represent these brave Floridians in an area that is so integral to our national defense. I know that MacDill will continue to play a crucial role in protecting Florida's families as our nation faces ongoing and future security challenges. I am proud to support MacDill Air Force Base every day and especially today on its 75-year anniversary.

**SENATE—Wednesday, April 20, 2016**

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Your works are great and marvelous. We praise You for the gift of this day and rededicate ourselves to serve our Nation in a way that honors You.

Lord, we confess that too often we bring You the leftovers of our time, talents, and trust, but empower us to offer You nothing less than our best.

Bless our Senators. Give them the compassion, courage, and wisdom that our times demand. Use them to touch our Nation and world in a way that will enable Your will to be done. Dwell in us all and make us productive for the betterment of humanity.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

**FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, under a new majority the Senate is getting back to work, and progress is being made on behalf of the American people. We saw another example of that yesterday when we passed the most pro-passenger, pro-security FAA reauthorization in years.

It is the product of dedicated work from Senator THUNE, Senator AYOTTE, and their ranking member counterparts, Senators NELSON and CANTWELL. These Senators ensured that Republicans and Democrats both had a say on this bill, and we ultimately arrived at balanced legislation that passed by a very strong bipartisan majority.

It takes important strides to bolster national security against the threat of terrorism, it contains provisions to help frustrated passengers, and it won't levy a nickel in new taxes or fees on passengers or impose the kind of over-

regulation that can take away their choice or threaten service.

As the Washington Post reminded us, this is "the second major transportation bill approved by the Senate within five months."

So whether it is providing long-term solutions for highway funding, permanent tax relief for families and small businesses, or commonsense reforms for airline passengers and airport security, this much is clear: The Republican-led Senate is working to address issues that affect our constituents on a daily basis.

**ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL**

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, passing the FAA reauthorization bill isn't the only legislative milestone we will mark this week. Today we will pass, as the New York Times put it, "the first major energy bill to come to the Senate floor since the Bush administration," the passage of which, as the paper has also noted, would represent a significant step forward for the Nation's energy policy.

It has been nearly a decade since the Senate last debated major energy legislation and much has changed in that time. That is why Senator MURKOWSKI, the Energy Committee chair, and Senator CANTWELL, the ranking member, worked for the past year to move broad bipartisan energy legislation, the Energy Policy Modernization Act.

Like the FAA reauthorization bill I mentioned earlier, this bill won't raise taxes on American families, but it can help them by making energy more affordable and more abundant, by building on technological advances and bolstering national security, and by growing the economy and furthering innovation. In short, the bill before us takes a comprehensive approach to bring America's energy policies in line with the kind of challenges and opportunities we now face.

The bill managers worked ceaselessly to see this bill through to final passage. Now, following the passage of the most pro-passenger, pro-security FAA reauthorization in years, the Republican-led Senate will today pass the first major Energy bill in nearly a decade. It is broad, it is bipartisan, and it is just the kind of legislation we are seeing a lot of in a Republican-led Senate that continues to show what is possible with good ideas and good old hard work.

**THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS**

Mr. McCONNELL. Finally, Mr. President, on the topic of hard work. The reason the Republican-led Senate has been able to pass so much good legislation over the past year is because we resolved to put this Chamber back to work.

That started with the committees. We have seen what is possible in the Commerce Committee; just look at the FAA bill. We have seen what is possible in the Energy Committee; just look at the Energy bill. But we are also seeing what is possible in many other committees, such as Appropriations.

Last year, the committee passed all 12 of the bills that fund the government. Passing all of those bills through committee used to be fairly routine, yet it hadn't happened in years by the time the new majority took over. We changed that last year. We resolved to do even more this year.

The committee has again gotten the appropriations process off to a strong start, and we would now like to pass as many of the funding bills as possible on the Senate floor. Getting this done will require cooperation from across the aisle.

Our Democratic friends recently wrote a letter pledging cooperation in the appropriations process. "This is a win-win opportunity," they said, and "we should seize it together."

With the appropriate cooperation, we will, and we are.

The Appropriations Committee has already conducted more than 40 hearings since January. Tomorrow they will mark up two more funding bills, which follows their action last week to pass two others on a bipartisan and unanimous basis.

We are about to consider one of those funding bills out here on the floor. The Energy and Water appropriations bill is thoughtful, bipartisan legislation that will ensure a fiscally responsible approach to a variety of issues—things such as national security, energy innovation, waterways, and economic development.

I look forward to talking more about it tomorrow, and I would like to thank Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN for their many hours of hard work on that bill. I would also like to recognize Chairman COCHRAN for everything he has done with Ranking Member MIKULSKI to get the appropriations process moving forward.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

## ENERGY AND FAA BILLS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am happy to be here and have the Republican leader talk about the things he has been able to accomplish, but I would note—just to make sure the record is clear—the reason these things are happening is because we have a minority that is willing to work with the majority.

The record should also be corrected to the effect that we have had over the last 7½ years lots of debates on energy—lots of them. The problem is that they have gone no place because of the obstruction of my Republican colleagues, with filibuster after filibuster on the bill that we are going to soon dispose of.

I am glad. It is a really important piece of legislation. It was worked on for 5 years, led by Senator SHAHEEN, but it is really difficult to determine how many different times it was stopped because of obstruction—seven or eight times, that I can come up with. So we are glad to be able to get it done. Why? Because we wanted to get it done for years, and finally we are able to get it done.

So we want to be here and work with the Republican leader and friends on the other side of the aisle to get things done. That is why we have been no obstacle to the FAA bill. It is too bad it is such a narrow version of what we wanted to do, but the Republican leader said we will finish the things that we wanted to do to deal with section 48(c) before the end of the year.

## APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Mr. REID. Also, Mr. President, as to the appropriations bills, I was a longtime member of the Appropriations Committee, and I am glad we are moving forward on the appropriations bills. Why didn't we do it before? Because we had objections from the Republicans, and we couldn't. But we are going to be as cooperative as we can and see if we can move some of these appropriations bills. I am happy to have the Republican leader talk about the accomplishments, but make sure there is a side note or a footnote that says this has been accomplished because of our cooperation.

## NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend also talked about the accomplishments of the various committees. My caucus knows how much I believe in the committee system. I think it is very important that committees work well. We know one committee that is not working well, led by the senior Senator from Iowa.

The senior Senator from Iowa claims that he feels no pressure over blocking

President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland. If that is really true, Senator GRASSLEY must not read the papers from Iowa. To date, there have been two dozen Iowa editorials condemning Senator GRASSLEY's refusal to consider President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, and there are many more letters to the editor. This is only Iowa. Around the country there have been scores and scores of editorials talking about how wrong it is that the Judiciary Committee is taking a vacation.

In Iowa there was a column published in the Des Moines Register over the weekend that was especially discerning. It was authored by veteran Iowa political journalist Kathie Obradovich. This is what she wrote:

Senator Grassley keeps offering new reasons for refusing to give Judge Merrick Garland a hearing and a vote on his appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. He may as well keep trying, as the explanations he's given so far for waiting until after the next presidential election are mostly nonsense.

I am only going to mention a few of the excuses that the senior Senator from Iowa has invented in an effort to avoid his job.

Senator GRASSLEY won't consider Merrick Garland because he says he wants the American people to have a voice. The Senator either is ignoring or forgetting or doesn't know that the American people and fellow Iowans used their voice twice when they elected and re-elected—both times overwhelmingly—President Obama. They gave President Obama the right to nominate individuals to the Supreme Court as well as all the other obligations a President has.

Secondly, Senator GRASSLEY won't consider Merrick Garland because he said he wants a Justice who abides by the law. Try that one on. If the senior Senator from Iowa wants a Justice who abides by precedent and sticks to the law, he need look no further than Merrick Garland, who has developed a reputation on the bench for respecting precedent. People who served with him—so-called liberal, conservative, and moderate judges—all agree that Merrick Garland is good. In fact, maybe there is somebody who can't stand him, but we haven't heard a peep from anybody saying what a bad judge he is—not from anyone.

Senator GRASSLEY says he won't consider Merrick Garland for a third reason, because the Supreme Court only needs eight Supreme Court Justices. The Supreme Court needs all nine. Yesterday they deadlocked on another question, and it appears that the chairman of the Judiciary Committee is willing to gridlock our Nation's highest Court just to keep Merrick Garland from being confirmed.

That decision yesterday is a bad decision because what it does is to keep in place a lower court ruling that most all

academics and people who follow the law believe is wrong. It allowed the State of California standing to sue another State—basically, the State of Nevada. Under their ruling, we are now going to have a free-for-all in the States suing each other. From the time we have been a country, that didn't take place. There was order in interstate commerce.

Well, the fourth reason Senator GRASSLEY gives is that it is all Chief Justice Roberts' fault. The very person who is blocking the Supreme Court nominee is accusing the Chief Justice of making the Court political.

Finally—there are others, but this is enough for this morning—the senior Senator from Iowa says he is just doing what Chairman BIDEN said 20 years ago. Well, I would suggest—and I am sure his staff has done this, if he hasn't—to look at what Vice President BIDEN did, not a partial part of a speech that he gave, because if you looked at that, he was exemplary. He brought judges to the Senate floor. He even brought nominees to the floor who had been turned down by the committee because, as he said yesterday and he has said before: I believe we have an obligation for advice and consent that is not completed until it is brought to the floor.

So Senator GRASSLEY should follow JOE BIDEN's example and process more than part of a speech he gave. None of these examples makes sense, as the columnist from Iowa said, but yesterday the Judiciary Committee chair came up with another one. Listen to this one. This is classic. Senator GRASSLEY said he will not consider Merrick Garland's nomination because the hearing would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Well, we could have a hearing, we aren't going to have a hearing, but let's just suppose we did have a hearing. . . . So you have a hearing and you spend a lot of taxpayers' money gearing up for it, you spend a lot of time of members, a lot of research that has to be done by staff.

That is kind of a strange comment. Staff is not paid by the hour. They are paid each day. I would hope they could squeeze into their busy schedules enough time to look at a Supreme Court nominee. Offering our advice and consent on the Supreme Court nomination is what the taxpayers want us to do. Look at polls all over America. That is our job.

I find it ridiculous—there is probably a better description—but I find it ridiculous that the very Senator who continues to use the Judiciary Committee to wage a political war on former Secretary Hillary Clinton dares to claim he is trying to save taxpayer dollars. Where is he, where is his concern for misusing taxpayer funds while his committee continues to waste millions of dollars on partisan opposition research of a Presidential candidate? That is not their job.

Where was the penny-pinching when the Judiciary Committee used Senate funds and Senate staff to investigate former Clinton staffers; for example, asking for maternity leave records—maternity leave records—time sheets, anything they could to try to embarrass Secretary Clinton.

Where is Senator GRASSLEY's focus on government waste while the so-called Benghazi Select Committee continues to spend millions and millions of dollars on a political hit job with no end in sight? Every day the Judiciary Committee has a new excuse, a new justification for why it will not do its job. I think we all have news for the Senator from Iowa: No one is buying it.

They are not buying it in Iowa. They are not buying it in Nevada. They are not buying it in New York. They are not buying it in Kentucky. They are not buying it anywhere. The American people are not buying it. His own constituents are leading the pack of people who are not buying this. His behavior reminds me of a Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem: "It takes less time to do the right thing than it does to explain why you did it wrong."

So the senior Senator from Iowa has spent months trying to explain away the obstruction of a Supreme Court nominee. Wouldn't it be easier to give him a hearing and a vote? Wouldn't it be easier for him to just do his job? Wouldn't it be the right thing to do to just do his job?

Mr. President, I ask the Chair to announce to everyone what the Senate is going to do the rest of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2012, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2012) to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time?

If no one yields time, time will be discharged equally to both sides.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, we are about to vote on the Energy Modernization Act of 2016. I know my colleague, the chairwoman of the committee from Alaska, will probably like to close debate. So I would like to take a few minutes before that vote

this morning to again thank all of our colleagues for their diligent consideration of this legislation.

We will be passing the first Energy bill since 2007. This Energy bill will be the first one in 9 years. It is a modernization of our energy system that is so desperately needed because it focuses on cleaner, more efficient, more renewable sources of energy that is more cost-effective for the consumer. It does this by modernizing the grid, making investments in advanced storage technology, smart buildings, composite materials, and vehicle batteries. It improves cyber security and helps plan for the workforce we need for tomorrow.

I urge my colleagues to make sure this legislation passes. I want to say that yesterday, we substantially improved this legislation—particularly with the inclusion of both the public lands package that includes the Yakima River Basin Bill from the State of Washington; as well as the bipartisan SAVE Act—which will help homeowners recognize the investments they make in energy efficiency so they can benefit from it when they are ready to sell their homes.

I think yesterday's efforts helped improve this legislation, but all of this would not be possible without the staff and the support of so many people. I thank Angela Becker-Dippman, Sam Fowler, David Brooks, Rebecca Bonner, Rosemarie Calabro Tully, John Davis, Benjamin Drake, David Gillers, Rich Glick, Spencer Gray, Sa'Rah Hamm, Aisha Johnson, Faye Matthews, Scott McKee, Casey Neal, Bryan Petit, David Poyer, Betsy Rosenblatt, Sam Siegler, Bradley Sinkaus, Carolyn Sloan, Rory Stanley, Melanie Stansbury, Al Stayman, Nick Sutter, Stephanie Teich-McGoldrick, Brie Van Cleve, and of course I thank Colin Hayes and Karen Billups from the majority staff who have worked so hard on this legislation as well.

As I said, the improvements we are making in this bill help us reach the goals that have been outlined in the Quadrennial Energy Review. Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz helped us on this legislation, clearly calling for the type of 21st century energy infrastructure investments that will help our country remain economically competitive in the future. It also will help us train the 1.5 million new workers we will need, over the next 15 years.

I should say, one of the provisions we were so happy to defeat amendments on yesterday was preserving the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of the preeminent programs in our country for preserving open space at a time when our country continues to develop. It has been a program that has nurtured that very important need for all of us to be outdoors, and it has also helped to build an outdoor economy.

So we are saying to the American public this is a program we believe should be made permanent, particularly after last September's lapse and successfully renewing it for just a couple of years. It is time to say the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program that has been around since the 1960s, should be made permanent.

I thank everyone again for their work on this legislation. I hope we get a resounding vote out of the Senate and a quick conference with the House of Representatives so we can plan for America's energy future in a more effective, streamlined way, and we can then realize the opportunity to help our businesses and consumers plan for the energy future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in the very short time we have before the vote is called, I have just a few comments this morning. We have completed our work on a bill that includes more than 350 amendments that were filed to this broad, bipartisan bill. We have accepted a total now of 65 of those amendments.

This bill contains priorities from over 80 Members of this body. Not everything has been smooth. I think we recognize that. I think this bill has shown that the Senate does work, the Senate can work cooperatively, that they can work toward a bipartisan product that will produce long-lasting benefits for the people who have sent us here to serve them.

Our next step, our last step, is obtaining final passage. I would strongly encourage all of our colleagues to vote aye this morning. There are plenty of reasons to do that. I will repeat what I said yesterday: Our bill will help America produce more energy. It will help Americans save more energy. It will protect our mineral security and our manufacturers. It will boost innovation, leading to new technologies and new jobs. It will increase America's influence on the world stage, allowing us to finally become that global energy superpower and enjoy the benefits that come with it.

This is a good bill. This is an important bill for our country. I thank our colleagues who have worked with us to get to this point. I urge my colleagues to support the Energy Policy Modernization Act and vote for this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 54 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Table listing names of Senators who voted 'Yeas' (85 total). Includes Alexander, Ayotte, Baldwin, Barrasso, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Booker, Boxer, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Cardin, Casey, Cassidy, Coats, Cochran, Collins, Coons, Corker, Cornyn, Crapo, Daines, Donnelly, Durbin, Enzi, Ernst, Feinstein, Fischer, Flake, Franken, Gardner, Gillibrand, Graham, Grassley, Hatch, Heinrich, Heitkamp, Heller, Hirono, Hoeven, Inhofe, Isakson, Johnson, Kaine, King, Kirk, Klobuchar, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McCain, McCaskill, McConnell, Menendez, Merkley, Mikulski, Moran, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Nelson, Peters, Portman, Reed, Reid, Risch, Roberts, Rounds, Schatz, Schumer, Shaheen, Stabenow, Sullivan, Tester, Thune, Tillis, Udall, Vitter, Warner, Warren, Whitehouse, Wicker, Wyden.

NAYS—12

Table listing names of Senators who voted 'Nays' (12 total). Includes Boozman, Cotton, Lankford, Lee, Paul, Perdue, Rubio, Sasse, Scott, Sessions, Shelby, Toomey.

NOT VOTING—3

Table listing names of Senators who did not vote (3 total). Includes Carper, Cruz, Sanders.

The bill (S. 2012), as amended, was passed as follows:

S.2012

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—EFFICIENCY

Subtitle A—Buildings

Sec. 1001. Greater energy efficiency in building codes.

Sec. 1002. Budget-neutral demonstration program for energy and water conservation improvements at multifamily residential units.

Sec. 1003. Coordination of energy retrofit-fitting assistance for schools.

Sec. 1004. Energy efficiency materials pilot program.

Sec. 1005. Utility energy service contracts.

Sec. 1006. Use of energy and water efficiency measures in Federal buildings.

Sec. 1007. Building training and assessment centers.

Sec. 1008. Career skills training.

Sec. 1009. Energy-efficient and energy-saving information technologies.

Sec. 1010. Availability of funds for design updates.

Sec. 1011. Energy efficient data centers.

Sec. 1012. Weatherization Assistance Program.

Sec. 1013. Reauthorization of State energy program.

Sec. 1014. Smart building acceleration.

Sec. 1015. Repeal of fossil phase-out.

Sec. 1016. Federal building energy efficiency performance standards.

Sec. 1017. Codification of Executive Order.

Sec. 1018. Certification for green buildings.

Sec. 1019. High performance green federal buildings.

Sec. 1020. Evaluation of potentially duplicative green building programs.

Sec. 1021. Study and report on energy savings benefits of operational efficiency programs and services.

Sec. 1022. Use of Federal disaster relief and emergency assistance for energy-efficient products and structures.

Sec. 1023. Watersense.

Subtitle B—Appliances

Sec. 1101. Extended product system rebate program.

Sec. 1102. Energy efficient transformer rebate program.

Sec. 1103. Standards for certain furnaces.

Sec. 1104. Third-party certification under Energy Star program.

Sec. 1105. Energy conservation standards for commercial refrigeration equipment.

Sec. 1106. Voluntary verification programs for air conditioning, furnace, boiler, heat pump, and water heater products.

Sec. 1107. Application of energy conservation standards to certain external power supplies.

Subtitle C—Manufacturing

Sec. 1201. Manufacturing energy efficiency.

Sec. 1202. Leveraging existing Federal agency programs to assist small and medium manufacturers.

Sec. 1203. Leveraging smart manufacturing infrastructure at National Laboratories.

Subtitle D—Vehicles

Sec. 1301. Short title.

Sec. 1302. Objectives.

Sec. 1303. Coordination and nonduplication.

Sec. 1304. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 1305. Reporting.

PART I—VEHICLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 1306. Program.

Sec. 1307. Manufacturing.

PART II—MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY COMMERCIAL AND TRANSIT VEHICLES

Sec. 1308. Program.

Sec. 1309. Class 8 truck and trailer systems demonstration.

Sec. 1310. Technology testing and metrics.

Sec. 1311. Nonroad systems pilot program.

PART III—ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1312. Repeal of existing authorities.

Sec. 1313. Reauthorization of diesel emissions reduction program.

Sec. 1314. Gaseous fuel dual fueled automobiles.

Subtitle E—Short Title

Sec. 1401. Short title.

Subtitle F—Housing

Sec. 1501. Definitions.

Sec. 1502. Enhanced energy efficiency underwriting criteria.

Sec. 1503. Enhanced energy efficiency underwriting valuation guidelines.

Sec. 1504. Monitoring.

Sec. 1505. Rulemaking.

Sec. 1506. Additional study.

TITLE II—INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—Cybersecurity

Sec. 2001. Cybersecurity threats.

Sec. 2002. Enhanced grid security.

Subtitle B—Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Sec. 2101. Strategic Petroleum Reserve modernization.

Sec. 2102. Strategic petroleum reserve drawdown and sale.

Subtitle C—Trade

Sec. 2201. Action on applications to export liquefied natural gas.

Sec. 2202. Public disclosure of liquefied natural gas export destinations.

Sec. 2203. Energy data collaboration.

Subtitle D—Electricity and Energy Storage

Sec. 2301. Grid storage program.

Sec. 2302. Electric system grid architecture, scenario development, and modeling.

Sec. 2303. Hybrid micro-grid systems for isolated and resilient communities.

Sec. 2304. Voluntary model pathways.

Sec. 2305. Performance metrics for electricity infrastructure providers.

Sec. 2306. State and regional electricity distribution planning.

Sec. 2307. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 2308. Electric transmission infrastructure permitting.

Sec. 2309. Report by transmission organizations on distributed energy resources and micro-grid systems.

Sec. 2310. Net metering study guidance.

Sec. 2311. Model guidance for combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.

Subtitle E—Computing

Sec. 2401. Exascale computer research program.

TITLE III—SUPPLY

Subtitle A—Renewables

PART I—HYDROELECTRIC

Sec. 3001. Hydropower regulatory improvements.

Sec. 3002. Hydroelectric production incentives and efficiency improvements.

Sec. 3003. Extension of time for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project involving Clark Canyon Dam.

Sec. 3004. Extension of time for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project involving Gibson Dam.

PART II—GEOTHERMAL

SUBPART A—GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

Sec. 3005. National goals for production and site identification.

- Sec. 3006. Priority areas for development on Federal land.
- Sec. 3007. Facilitation of coproduction of geothermal energy on oil and gas leases.
- Sec. 3008. Noncompetitive leasing of adjoining areas for development of geothermal resources.
- Sec. 3009. Report to Congress.
- Sec. 3010. Authorization of appropriations.
- SUBPART B—DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL, SOLAR, AND WIND ENERGY ON PUBLIC LAND
- Sec. 3011. Definitions.
- Sec. 3011A. Land use planning; supplements to programmatic environmental impact statements.
- Sec. 3011B. Environmental review on covered land.
- Sec. 3011C. Program to improve renewable energy project permit coordination.
- Sec. 3011D. Savings clause.
- SUBPART C—GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION
- Sec. 3012. Geothermal exploration test projects.
- PART III—MARINE HYDROKINETIC
- Sec. 3013. Definition of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy.
- Sec. 3014. Marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy research and development.
- Sec. 3015. National Marine Renewable Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Centers.
- Sec. 3016. Authorization of appropriations.
- PART IV—BIOMASS
- Sec. 3017. Policies relating to biomass energy.
- Subtitle B—Oil and Gas
- Sec. 3101. Amendments to the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000.
- Sec. 3102. Liquefied natural gas study.
- Sec. 3103. FERC process coordination with respect to regulatory approval of gas projects.
- Sec. 3104. Pilot program.
- Sec. 3105. GAO review and report.
- Sec. 3106. Ethane storage study.
- Sec. 3107. Aliso Canyon natural gas leak task force.
- Sec. 3108. Report on incorporating Internet-based lease sales.
- Sec. 3109. Denali National Park and Preserve natural gas pipeline.
- Subtitle C—Helium
- Sec. 3201. Rights to helium.
- Subtitle D—Critical Minerals
- Sec. 3301. Definitions.
- Sec. 3302. Policy.
- Sec. 3303. Critical mineral designations.
- Sec. 3304. Resource assessment.
- Sec. 3305. Permitting.
- Sec. 3306. Federal Register process.
- Sec. 3307. Recycling, efficiency, and alternatives.
- Sec. 3308. Analysis and forecasting.
- Sec. 3309. Education and workforce.
- Sec. 3310. National geological and geophysical data preservation program.
- Sec. 3311. Administration.
- Sec. 3312. Authorization of appropriations.
- Subtitle E—Coal
- Sec. 3401. Sense of the Senate on carbon capture, use, and storage development and deployment.
- Sec. 3402. Fossil energy.
- Sec. 3403. Establishment of coal technology program.
- Sec. 3404. Report on price stabilization support.
- Subtitle F—Nuclear
- Sec. 3501. Nuclear energy innovation capabilities.
- Sec. 3502. Next generation nuclear plant project.
- Subtitle G—Workforce Development
- Sec. 3601. 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board.
- Sec. 3602. Energy workforce pilot grant program.
- Subtitle H—Recycling
- Sec. 3701. Recycled carbon fiber.
- Sec. 3702. Energy generation and regulatory relief study regarding recovery and conversion of nonrecycled mixed plastics.
- Sec. 3703. Eligible projects.
- Sec. 3704. Promoting use of reclaimed refrigerants in Federal facilities.
- Subtitle I—Thermal Energy
- Sec. 3801. Modifying the definition of renewable energy to include thermal energy.
- TITLE IV—ACCOUNTABILITY
- Subtitle A—Loan Programs
- Sec. 4001. Terms and conditions for incentives for innovative technologies.
- Sec. 4002. State loan eligibility.
- Sec. 4003. GAO Study on fossil loan guarantee incentive program.
- Sec. 4004. Program eligibility for vessels.
- Sec. 4005. Additional reforms.
- Sec. 4006. Department of Energy Indian energy education planning and management assistance program.
- Subtitle B—Energy-Water Nexus
- Sec. 4101. Nexus of energy and water for sustainability.
- Sec. 4102. Smart energy and water efficiency pilot program.
- Subtitle C—Innovation
- Sec. 4201. America COMPETES programs.
- Sec. 4202. Inclusion of early stage technology demonstration in authorized technology transfer activities.
- Sec. 4203. Supporting access of small business concerns to National Laboratories.
- Sec. 4204. Microlab technology commercialization.
- Sec. 4205. Sense of the Senate on accelerating energy innovation.
- Sec. 4206. Restoration of Laboratory Directed Research and Development Program.
- Sec. 4207. National Science and Technology Council coordinating subcommittee for high-energy physics.
- Subtitle D—Grid Reliability
- Sec. 4301. Bulk-power system reliability impact statement.
- Sec. 4302. Report by transmission organizations on diversity of supply.
- Subtitle E—Management
- Sec. 4401. Federal land management.
- Sec. 4402. Quadrennial Energy Review.
- Sec. 4403. State oversight of oil and gas programs.
- Sec. 4404. Under Secretary for Science and Energy.
- Sec. 4405. Western Area Power Administration pilot project.
- Sec. 4406. Research grants database.
- Sec. 4407. Review of economic impact of BSEE rule on small entities.
- Sec. 4408. Energy emergency response efforts of the Department.
- Sec. 4409. GAO report on Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement statutory and regulatory authority for the procurement of helicopter fuel.
- Sec. 4410. Conveyance of federal land within the Swan Lake hydroelectric project boundary.
- Sec. 4411. Study of waivers of certain cost-sharing requirements.
- Sec. 4412. National park centennial.
- Sec. 4413. Program to reduce the potential impacts of solar energy facilities on certain species.
- Sec. 4414. Wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.
- Subtitle F—Markets
- Sec. 4501. Enhanced information on critical energy supplies.
- Sec. 4502. Working Group on Energy Markets.
- Sec. 4503. Study of regulatory framework for energy markets.
- Subtitle G—Affordability
- Sec. 4601. E-prize competition pilot program.
- Sec. 4602. Carbon dioxide capture technology prize.
- Subtitle H—Code Maintenance
- Sec. 4701. Repeal of off-highway motor vehicles study.
- Sec. 4702. Repeal of methanol study.
- Sec. 4703. Repeal of authorization of appropriations provision.
- Sec. 4704. Repeal of residential energy efficiency standards study.
- Sec. 4705. Repeal of weatherization study.
- Sec. 4706. Repeal of report to Congress.
- Sec. 4707. Repeal of report by General Services Administration.
- Sec. 4708. Repeal of intergovernmental energy management planning and coordination workshops.
- Sec. 4709. Repeal of Inspector General audit survey and President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency report to Congress.
- Sec. 4710. Repeal of procurement and identification of energy efficient products program.
- Sec. 4711. Repeal of national action plan for demand response.
- Sec. 4712. Repeal of national coal policy study.
- Sec. 4713. Repeal of study on compliance problem of small electric utility systems.
- Sec. 4714. Repeal of study of socioeconomic impacts of increased coal production and other energy development.
- Sec. 4715. Repeal of study of the use of petroleum and natural gas in combustors.
- Sec. 4716. Repeal of submission of reports.
- Sec. 4717. Repeal of electric utility conservation plan.
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- Sec. 5001. National Park Service Maintenance and Revitalization Conservation Fund.
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- SUBPART A—YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER  
ENHANCEMENT
- Sec. 10321. Short title.
- Sec. 10322. Modification of terms, purposes, and definitions.
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- Sec. 10325. Authorization of Phase III of Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project.
- SUBPART B—KLAMATH PROJECT WATER AND  
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- Sec. 10331. Reservoir operation improvement.
- PART V—HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS
- Sec. 10341. Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project Upper Hidden Basin Diversion authorization.
- Sec. 10342. Stay and Reinstatement of FERC License No. 11393 for the Mahoney Lake Hydroelectric Project.

Sec. 10343. Extension of deadline for hydroelectric project.

Sec. 10344. Extension of deadline for certain other hydroelectric projects.

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Sec. 10346. Extension of time for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project involving Cannonsville Dam.

**PART VI—PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER COMPENSATION**

Sec. 10351. Pumped storage hydropower compensation.

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Energy.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

**TITLE I—EFFICIENCY**

**Subtitle A—Buildings**

**SEC. 1001. GREATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING CODES.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 303 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6832) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (14) and inserting the following:

“(14) **MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE.**—The term ‘model building energy code’ means a voluntary building energy code and standards developed and updated through a consensus process among interested persons, such as the IECC or the code used by—

“(A) the Council of American Building Officials, or its legal successor, International Code Council, Inc.;

“(B) the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers; or

“(C) other appropriate organizations.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(17) **IECC.**—The term ‘IECC’ means the International Energy Conservation Code.

“(18) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).”.

(b) **STATE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY CODES.**—Section 304 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6833) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 304. UPDATING STATE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY CODES.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) encourage and support the adoption of building energy codes by States, Indian tribes, and, as appropriate, by local governments that meet or exceed the model building energy codes, or achieve equivalent or greater energy savings; and

“(2) support full compliance with the State and local codes.

“(b) **STATE AND INDIAN TRIBE CERTIFICATION OF BUILDING ENERGY CODE UPDATES.**—

“(1) **REVIEW AND UPDATING OF CODES BY EACH STATE AND INDIAN TRIBE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which a model building energy code is updated, each State or Indian tribe shall certify whether or not the State or Indian tribe, respectively, has reviewed and updated the energy provisions of the building code of the State or Indian tribe, respectively.

“(B) **DEMONSTRATION.**—The certification shall include a demonstration of whether or not the energy savings for the code provisions that are in effect throughout the State or Indian tribal territory meet or exceed—

“(i) the energy savings of the updated model building energy code; or

“(ii) the targets established under section 307(b)(2).

“(C) **NO MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE UPDATE.**—If a model building energy code is not updated by a target date established under section 307(b)(2)(D), each State or Indian tribe shall, not later than 2 years after the specified date, certify whether or not the State or Indian tribe, respectively, has reviewed and updated the energy provisions of the building code of the State or Indian tribe, respectively, to meet or exceed the target in section 307(b)(2).

“(2) **VALIDATION BY SECRETARY.**—Not later than 90 days after a State or Indian tribe certification under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) determine whether the code provisions of the State or Indian tribe, respectively, meet the criteria specified in paragraph (1); and

“(B) if the determination is positive, validate the certification.

“(c) **IMPROVEMENTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING ENERGY CODES.**—

“(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of a certification under subsection (b), each State and Indian tribe shall certify whether or not the State and Indian tribe, respectively, has—

“(i) achieved full compliance under paragraph (3) with the applicable certified State and Indian tribe building energy code or with the associated model building energy code; or

“(ii) made significant progress under paragraph (4) toward achieving compliance with the applicable certified State and Indian tribe building energy code or with the associated model building energy code.

“(B) **REPEAT CERTIFICATIONS.**—If the State or Indian tribe certifies progress toward achieving compliance, the State or Indian tribe shall repeat the certification until the State or Indian tribe certifies that the State or Indian tribe has achieved full compliance, respectively.

“(2) **MEASUREMENT OF COMPLIANCE.**—A certification under paragraph (1) shall include documentation of the rate of compliance based on—

“(A) independent inspections of a random sample of the buildings covered by the code in the preceding year; or

“(B) an alternative method that yields an accurate measure of compliance.

“(3) **ACHIEVEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.**—A State or Indian tribe shall be considered to achieve full compliance under paragraph (1) if—

“(A) at least 90 percent of building space covered by the code in the preceding year substantially meets all the requirements of the applicable code specified in paragraph (1), or achieves equivalent or greater energy savings level; or

“(B) the estimated excess energy use of buildings that did not meet the applicable code specified in paragraph (1) in the preceding year, compared to a baseline of comparable buildings that meet this code, is not more than 5 percent of the estimated energy use of all buildings covered by this code during the preceding year.

“(4) **SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.**—A State or Indian tribe shall be considered to have made significant progress toward achieving compliance for purposes of paragraph (1) if the State or Indian tribe—

“(A) has developed and is implementing a plan for achieving compliance during the 8-year-period beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph, including annual

targets for compliance and active training and enforcement programs; and

“(B) has met the most recent target under subparagraph (A).

“(5) **VALIDATION BY SECRETARY.**—Not later than 90 days after a State or Indian tribe certification under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) determine whether the State or Indian tribe has demonstrated meeting the criteria of this subsection, including accurate measurement of compliance; and

“(B) if the determination is positive, validate the certification.

“(d) **STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES THAT DO NOT ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE.**—

“(1) **REPORTING.**—A State or Indian tribe that has not made a certification required under subsection (b) or (c) by the applicable deadline shall submit to the Secretary a report on—

“(A) the status of the State or Indian tribe with respect to meeting the requirements and submitting the certification; and

“(B) a plan for meeting the requirements and submitting the certification.

“(2) **FEDERAL SUPPORT.**—For any State or Indian tribe for which the Secretary has not validated a certification by a deadline under subsection (b) or (c), the lack of the certification may be a consideration for Federal support authorized under this section for code adoption and compliance activities.

“(3) **LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**—In any State or Indian tribe for which the Secretary has not validated a certification under subsection (b) or (c), a local government may be eligible for Federal support by meeting the certification requirements of subsections (b) and (c).

“(4) **ANNUAL REPORTS BY SECRETARY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall annually submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register, a report on—

“(i) the status of model building energy codes;

“(ii) the status of code adoption and compliance in the States and Indian tribes;

“(iii) the implementation of this section; and

“(iv) improvements in energy savings over time as a result of the targets established under section 307(b)(2).

“(B) **IMPACTS.**—The report shall include estimates of impacts of past action under this section, and potential impacts of further action, on—

“(i) upfront financial and construction costs, cost benefits and returns (using investment analysis), and lifetime energy use for buildings;

“(ii) resulting energy costs to individuals and businesses; and

“(iii) resulting overall annual building ownership and operating costs.

“(e) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.**—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to States and Indian tribes to implement the goals and requirements of this section, including procedures and technical analysis for States and Indian tribes—

“(1) to improve and implement State residential and commercial building energy codes;

“(2) to demonstrate that the code provisions of the States and Indian tribes achieve equivalent or greater energy savings than the model building energy codes and targets;

“(3) to document the rate of compliance with a building energy code; and

“(4) to otherwise promote the design and construction of energy efficient buildings.

“(f) **AVAILABILITY OF INCENTIVE FUNDING.**—



“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide incentive funding to States and Indian tribes—

“(A) to implement the requirements of this section;

“(B) to improve and implement residential and commercial building energy codes, including increasing and verifying compliance with the codes and training of State, local, and tribal building code officials to implement and enforce the codes; and

“(C) to promote building energy efficiency through the use of the codes.

“(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—Additional funding shall be provided under this subsection for implementation of a plan to achieve and document full compliance with residential and commercial building energy codes under subsection (c)—

“(A) to a State or Indian tribe for which the Secretary has validated a certification under subsection (b) or (c); and

“(B) in a State or Indian tribe that is not eligible under subparagraph (A), to a local government that is eligible under this section.

“(3) TRAINING.—Of the amounts made available under this subsection, the State or Indian tribe may use amounts required, but not to exceed \$750,000 for a State, to train State and local building code officials to implement and enforce codes described in paragraph (2).

“(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—States may share grants under this subsection with local governments that implement and enforce the codes.

“(g) STRETCH CODES AND ADVANCED STANDARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide technical and financial support for the development of stretch codes and advanced standards for residential and commercial buildings for use as—

“(A) an option for adoption as a building energy code by State, local, or tribal governments; and

“(B) guidelines for energy-efficient building design.

“(2) TARGETS.—The stretch codes and advanced standards shall be designed—

“(A) to achieve substantial energy savings compared to the model building energy codes; and

“(B) to meet targets under section 307(b), if available, at least 3 to 6 years in advance of the target years.

“(h) STUDIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with building science experts from the National Laboratories and institutions of higher education, designers and builders of energy-efficient residential and commercial buildings, code officials, and other stakeholders, shall undertake a study of the feasibility, impact, economics, and merit of—

“(1) code improvements that would require that buildings be designed, sited, and constructed in a manner that makes the buildings more adaptable in the future to become zero-net-energy after initial construction, as advances are achieved in energy-saving technologies;

“(2) code procedures to incorporate measured lifetimes, not just first-year energy use, in trade-offs and performance calculations; and

“(3) legislative options for increasing energy savings from building energy codes, including additional incentives for effective State and local action, and verification of compliance with and enforcement of a code other than by a State or local government.

“(i) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section or section 307 supersedes or

modifies the application of sections 321 through 346 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291 et seq.).

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and section 307 \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended.”.

(c) FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Section 305 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834) is amended by striking “voluntary building energy code” each place it appears in subsections (a)(2)(B) and (b) and inserting “model building energy code”.

(d) MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODES.—Section 307 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6836) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 307. SUPPORT FOR MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODES.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall support the updating of model building energy codes.

“(b) TARGETS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall support the updating of the model building energy codes to enable the achievement of aggregate energy savings targets established under paragraph (2).

“(2) TARGETS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work with States, local governments, and Indian tribes, nationally recognized code and standards developers, and other interested parties to support the updating of model building energy codes by establishing one or more aggregate energy savings targets to achieve the purposes of this section.

“(B) SEPARATE TARGETS.—The Secretary may establish separate targets for commercial and residential buildings.

“(C) BASELINES.—The baseline for updating model building energy codes shall be the 2009 IECC for residential buildings and ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2010 for commercial buildings.

“(D) SPECIFIC YEARS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Targets for specific years shall be established and revised by the Secretary through rulemaking and coordinated with nationally recognized code and standards developers at a level that—

“(I) is at the maximum level of energy efficiency that is technologically feasible and life-cycle cost effective, while accounting for the economic considerations under paragraph (4);

“(II) is higher than the preceding target; and

“(III) promotes the achievement of commercial and residential high-performance buildings through high-performance energy efficiency (within the meaning of section 401 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17061)).

“(ii) INITIAL TARGETS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this clause, the Secretary shall establish initial targets under this subparagraph.

“(iii) DIFFERENT TARGET YEARS.—Subject to clause (i), prior to the applicable year, the Secretary may set a later target year for any of the model building energy codes described in subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that a target cannot be met.

“(iv) SMALL BUSINESS.—When establishing targets under this paragraph through rulemaking, the Secretary shall ensure compliance with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; Public Law 104-121).

“(3) APPLIANCE STANDARDS AND OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING BUILDING ENERGY USE.—In establishing building code targets under para-

graph (2), the Secretary shall develop and adjust the targets in recognition of potential savings and costs relating to—

“(A) efficiency gains made in appliances, lighting, windows, insulation, and building envelope sealing;

“(B) advancement of distributed generation and on-site renewable power generation technologies;

“(C) equipment improvements for heating, cooling, and ventilation systems;

“(D) building management systems and SmartGrid technologies to reduce energy use; and

“(E) other technologies, practices, and building systems that the Secretary considers appropriate regarding building plug load and other energy uses.

“(4) ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing and revising building code targets under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall consider the economic feasibility of achieving the proposed targets established under this section and the potential costs and savings for consumers and building owners, including a return on investment analysis.

“(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE-SETTING AND STANDARD DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, on a timely basis, provide technical assistance to model building energy code-setting and standard development organizations consistent with the goals of this section.

“(2) ASSISTANCE.—The assistance shall include, as requested by the organizations, technical assistance in—

“(A) evaluating code or standards proposals or revisions;

“(B) building energy analysis and design tools;

“(C) building demonstrations;

“(D) developing definitions of energy use intensity and building types for use in model building energy codes to evaluate the efficiency impacts of the model building energy codes;

“(E) performance-based standards;

“(F) evaluating economic considerations under subsection (b)(4); and

“(G) developing model building energy codes by Indian tribes in accordance with tribal law.

“(3) AMENDMENT PROPOSALS.—The Secretary may submit timely model building energy code amendment proposals to the model building energy code-setting and standard development organizations, with supporting evidence, sufficient to enable the model building energy codes to meet the targets established under subsection (b)(2).

“(4) ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY.—The Secretary shall make publicly available the entire calculation methodology (including input assumptions and data) used by the Secretary to estimate the energy savings of code or standard proposals and revisions.

“(d) DETERMINATION.—

“(1) REVISION OF MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODES.—If the provisions of the IECC or ASHRAE Standard 90.1 regarding building energy use are revised, the Secretary shall make a preliminary determination not later than 90 days after the date of the revision, and a final determination not later than 15 months after the date of the revision, on whether or not the revision will—

“(A) improve energy efficiency in buildings compared to the existing model building energy code; and

“(B) meet the applicable targets under subsection (b)(2).

“(2) CODES OR STANDARDS NOT MEETING TARGETS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary makes a preliminary determination under paragraph (1)(B) that a code or standard does not meet the targets established under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may at the same time provide the model building energy code or standard developer with proposed changes that would result in a model building energy code that meets the targets and with supporting evidence, taking into consideration—

- “(i) whether the modified code is technically feasible and life-cycle cost effective;
- “(ii) available appliances, technologies, materials, and construction practices; and
- “(iii) the economic considerations under subsection (b)(4).

“(B) INCORPORATION OF CHANGES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—On receipt of the proposed changes, the model building energy code or standard developer shall have an additional 270 days to accept or reject the proposed changes of the Secretary to the model building energy code or standard for the Secretary to make a final determination.

“(ii) FINAL DETERMINATION.—A final determination under paragraph (1) shall be on the modified model building energy code or standard.

“(e) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) publish notice of targets and supporting analysis and determinations under this section in the Federal Register to provide an explanation of and the basis for such actions, including any supporting modeling, data, assumptions, protocols, and cost-benefit analysis, including return on investment; and

“(2) provide an opportunity for public comment on targets and supporting analysis and determinations under this section.

“(f) VOLUNTARY CODES AND STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any model building code or standard established under section 304 shall not be binding on a State, local government, or Indian tribe as a matter of Federal law.”

**SEC. 1002. BUDGET-NEUTRAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENTS AT MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL UNITS.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish a demonstration program under which, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, and ending on September 30, 2018, the Secretary may enter into budget-neutral, performance-based agreements that result in a reduction in energy or water costs with such entities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under which the entities shall carry out projects for energy or water conservation improvements at not more than 20,000 residential units in multifamily buildings participating in—

(1) the project-based rental assistance program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), other than assistance provided under section 8(o) of that Act;

(2) the supportive housing for the elderly program under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); or

(3) the supportive housing for persons with disabilities program under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PAYMENTS CONTINGENT ON SAVINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to an entity a payment under an agreement under this section only during applica-

ble years for which an energy or water cost savings is achieved with respect to the applicable multifamily portfolio of properties, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (B).

(B) PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each agreement under this section shall include a pay-for-success provision—

(I) that will serve as a payment threshold for the term of the agreement; and

(II) pursuant to which the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall share a percentage of the savings at a level determined by the Secretary that is sufficient to cover the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

(ii) LIMITATIONS.—A payment made by the Secretary under an agreement under this section shall—

(I) be contingent on documented utility savings; and

(II) not exceed the utility savings achieved by the date of the payment, and not previously paid, as a result of the improvements made under the agreement.

(C) THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION.—Savings payments made by the Secretary under this section shall be based on a measurement and verification protocol that includes at least—

(i) establishment of a weather-normalized and occupancy-normalized utility consumption baseline established preretrofit;

(ii) annual third party confirmation of actual utility consumption and cost for owner-paid utilities;

(iii) annual third party validation of the tenant utility allowances in effect during the applicable year and vacancy rates for each unit type; and

(iv) annual third party determination of savings to the Secretary.

(2) TERM.—The term of an agreement under this section shall be not longer than 12 years.

(3) ENTITY ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish a competitive process for entering into agreements under this section; and

(B) enter into such agreements only with entities that demonstrate significant experience relating to—

(i) financing and operating properties receiving assistance under a program described in subsection (a);

(ii) oversight of energy and water conservation programs, including oversight of contractors; and

(iii) raising capital for energy and water conservation improvements from charitable organizations or private investors.

(4) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—Each agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the inclusion of properties with the greatest feasible regional and State variance.

(c) PLAN AND REPORTS.—

(1) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a detailed plan for the implementation of this section.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) conduct an evaluation of the program under this section; and

(B) submit to Congress a report describing each evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A).

(d) FUNDING.—For each fiscal year during which an agreement under this section is in effect, the Secretary may use to carry out this section any funds appropriated to the Secretary for the renewal of contracts under a program described in subsection (a).

**SEC. 1003. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.**

(a) DEFINITION OF SCHOOL.—In this section, the term “school” means—

(1) an elementary school or secondary school (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

(2) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a));

(3) a school of the defense dependents’ education system under the Defense Dependents’ Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.) or established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code;

(4) a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(5) a tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

(6) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

(b) DESIGNATION OF LEAD AGENCY.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall act as the lead Federal agency for coordinating and disseminating information on existing Federal programs and assistance that may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out coordination and outreach under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) in consultation and coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies, carry out a review of existing programs and financing mechanisms (including revolving loan funds and loan guarantees) available in or from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate Federal agencies with jurisdiction over energy financing and facilitation that are currently used or may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects for schools;

(2) establish a Federal cross-departmental collaborative coordination, education, and outreach effort to streamline communication and promote available Federal opportunities and assistance described in paragraph (1) for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects that enables States, local educational agencies, and schools—

(A) to use existing Federal opportunities more effectively; and

(B) to form partnerships with Governors, State energy programs, local educational, financial, and energy officials, State and local government officials, nonprofit organizations, and other appropriate entities to support the initiation of the projects;

(3) provide technical assistance for States, local educational agencies, and schools to help develop and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects—

(A) to increase the energy efficiency of buildings or facilities;

(B) to install systems that individually generate energy from renewable energy resources;

(C) to establish partnerships to leverage economies of scale and additional financing mechanisms available to larger clean energy initiatives; or

(D) to promote—

(i) the maintenance of health, environmental quality, and safety in schools, including the ambient air quality, through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofit projects; and

(ii) the achievement of expected energy savings and renewable energy production through proper operations and maintenance practices;

(4) develop and maintain a single online resource website with contact information for relevant technical assistance and support staff in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for States, local educational agencies, and schools to effectively access and use Federal opportunities and assistance described in paragraph (1) to develop energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofit projects; and

(5) establish a process for recognition of schools that—

(A) have successfully implemented energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofit projects; and

(B) are willing to serve as resources for other local educational agencies and schools to assist initiation of similar efforts.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of this section.

#### SEC. 1004. ENERGY EFFICIENCY MATERIALS PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant” means a nonprofit organization that applies for a grant under this section.

(2) ENERGY-EFFICIENCY MATERIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “energy-efficiency materials” means a measure (including a product, equipment, or system) that results in a reduction in use by a nonprofit organization for energy or fuel supplied from outside the nonprofit building.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “energy-efficiency materials” includes an item involving—

(i) a roof or lighting system, or component of a roof or lighting system;

(ii) a window;

(iii) a door, including a security door; or

(iv) a heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system or component of the system (including insulation and wiring and plumbing materials needed to serve a more efficient system); and

(v) a renewable energy generation or heating system, including a solar, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, or biomass (including wood pellet) system or component of the system.

(3) NONPROFIT BUILDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “nonprofit building” means a building operated and owned by a nonprofit organization.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “nonprofit building” includes a building described in subparagraph (A) that is—

(i) a hospital;

(ii) a youth center;

(iii) a school;

(iv) a social-welfare program facility;

(v) a faith-based organization; and

(vi) any other nonresidential and non-commercial structure.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to award grants for the purpose of providing

nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency materials.

(c) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants under the program established under subsection (b).

(2) APPLICATION.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section if an applicant submits to the Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may prescribe.

(3) CRITERIA FOR GRANT.—In determining whether to award a grant under this section, the Secretary shall apply performance-based criteria, which shall give priority to applications based on—

(A) the energy savings achieved;

(B) the cost-effectiveness of the use of energy-efficiency materials;

(C) an effective plan for evaluation, measurement, and verification of energy savings; and

(D) the financial need of the applicant.

(4) LIMITATION ON INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under this section shall not exceed \$200,000.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, to remain available until expended.

#### SEC. 1005. UTILITY ENERGY SERVICE CONTRACTS.

Section 546 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8256) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) UTILITY ENERGY SERVICE CONTRACTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency may use, to the maximum extent practicable, measures provided by law to meet energy efficiency and conservation mandates and laws, including through utility energy service contracts.

“(2) CONTRACT PERIOD.—The term of a utility energy service contract entered into by a Federal agency may have a contract period that extends beyond 10 years, but not to exceed 25 years.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The conditions of a utility energy service contract entered into by a Federal agency shall include requirements for measurement, verification, and performance assurances or guarantees of the savings.”.

#### SEC. 1006. USE OF ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

(a) ENERGY MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 543(f)(4) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253(f)(4)) is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

(b) REPORTS.—Section 548(b) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8258(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) the status of the energy savings performance contracts and utility energy service contracts of each agency;

“(B) the investment value of the contracts;

“(C) the guaranteed energy savings for the previous year as compared to the actual energy savings for the previous year;

“(D) the plan for entering into the contracts in the coming year; and

“(E) information explaining why any previously submitted plans for the contracts were not implemented.”.

(c) DEFINITION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES.—Section 551(4) of the National

Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8259(4)) is amended by striking “or retrofit activities” and inserting “retrofit activities, or energy consuming devices and required support structures”.

(d) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.—Section 801(a)(2)(F) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287(a)(2)(F)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) limit the recognition of operation and maintenance savings associated with systems modernized or replaced with the implementation of energy conservation measures, water conservation measures, or any combination of energy conservation measures and water conservation measures.”.

(e) MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY.—Section 801(a)(2) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(H) MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Federal agency may sell or transfer energy savings and apply the proceeds of the sale or transfer to fund a contract under this title.”.

(f) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—Section 802 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287a) is amended by striking “(and related operation and maintenance expenses)” and inserting “, including related operations and maintenance expenses”.

(g) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL BUILDING.—Section 551(6) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8259(6)) is amended by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “the term does not include a dam, reservoir, or hydropower facility owned or operated by a Federal agency;”.

(h) DEFINITION OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—Section 804(2) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287c(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “federally owned building or buildings or other federally owned facilities” and inserting “Federal building (as defined in section 551)” each place it appears;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) the use, sale, or transfer of energy incentives, rebates, or credits (including renewable energy credits) from Federal, State, or local governments or utilities; and

“(F) any revenue generated from a reduction in energy or water use, more efficient waste recycling, or additional energy generated from more efficient equipment.”.

#### SEC. 1007. BUILDING TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide grants to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) and Tribal Colleges or Universities (as defined in section 316(b) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))) to establish building training and assessment centers—

(1) to identify opportunities for optimizing energy efficiency and environmental performance in buildings;

(2) to promote the application of emerging concepts and technologies in commercial and institutional buildings;

(3) to train engineers, architects, building scientists, building energy permitting and

enforcement officials, and building technicians in energy-efficient design and operation;

(4) to assist institutions of higher education and Tribal Colleges or Universities in training building technicians;

(5) to promote research and development for the use of alternative energy sources and distributed generation to supply heat and power for buildings, particularly energy-intensive buildings; and

(6) to coordinate with and assist State-credited technical training centers, community colleges, Tribal Colleges or Universities, and local offices of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and ensure appropriate services are provided under this section to each region of the United States.

(b) **COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall coordinate the program with the industrial research and assessment centers program and with other Federal programs to avoid duplication of effort.

(2) **COLLOCATION.**—To the maximum extent practicable, building, training, and assessment centers established under this section shall be collocated with Industrial Assessment Centers.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

**SEC. 1008. CAREER SKILLS TRAINING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall pay grants to eligible entities described in subsection (b) to pay the Federal share of associated career skills training programs under which students concurrently receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training for the purpose of obtaining an industry-related certification to install energy efficient buildings technologies, including technologies described in section 307(b)(3) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6836(b)(3)).

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to obtain a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall be a nonprofit partnership described in section 171(e)(2)(B)(ii) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2916(e)(2)(B)(ii)).

(c) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out a career skills training program described in subsection (a) shall be 50 percent.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

**SEC. 1009. ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND ENERGY-SAVING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

Section 543 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253) is amended by adding at the end the following: “(h) **FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND ENERGY-SAVING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES.**—

“(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **DIRECTOR.**—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(B) **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.**—The term ‘information technology’ has the meaning given the term in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code.

“(2) **DEVELOPMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, each Federal agency shall collaborate with the Director to develop an implementation strategy (including best-practices and measurement and verification techniques) for the maintenance, purchase, and use by the Federal agency of energy-efficient and energy-saving information technologies.

“(3) **ADMINISTRATION.**—In developing an implementation strategy, each Federal agency shall consider—

“(A) advanced metering infrastructure;

“(B) energy efficient data center strategies and methods of increasing asset and infrastructure utilization;

“(C) advanced power management tools;

“(D) building information modeling, including building energy management; and

“(E) secure telework and travel substitution tools.

“(4) **PERFORMANCE GOALS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than September 30, 2015, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish performance goals for evaluating the efforts of Federal agencies in improving the maintenance, purchase, and use of energy-efficient and energy-saving information technology systems.

“(B) **BEST PRACTICES.**—The Chief Information Officers Council established under section 3603 of title 44, United States Code, shall supplement the performance goals established under this paragraph with recommendations on best practices for the attainment of the performance goals, to include a requirement for agencies to consider the use of—

“(i) energy savings performance contracting; and

“(ii) utility energy services contracting.

“(5) **REPORTS.**—

“(A) **AGENCY REPORTS.**—Each Federal agency subject to the requirements of this subsection shall include in the report of the agency under section 527 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17143) a description of the efforts and results of the agency under this subsection.

“(B) **OMB GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REPORTS AND SCORECARDS.**—Effective beginning not later than October 1, 2015, the Director shall include in the annual report and scorecard of the Director required under section 528 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17144) a description of the efforts and results of Federal agencies under this subsection.

“(C) **USE OF EXISTING REPORTING STRUCTURES.**—The Director may require Federal agencies to submit any information required to be submitted under this subsection through reporting structures in use as of the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016.”

**SEC. 1010. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DESIGN UPDATES.**

Section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DESIGN UPDATES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), for any project for which congressional approval is received under subsection (a) and for which the design has been substantially completed but construction has not begun, the Administrator of General Services may use appropriated funds to update the project design to meet applicable Federal building energy efficiency standards established under section 305 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834) and other requirements established under section 3312.

“(2) **LIMITATION.**—The use of funds under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 125 percent of the estimated energy or other cost savings associated with the updates as determined by a life cycle cost analysis under section 544

of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8254).”

**SEC. 1011. ENERGY EFFICIENT DATA CENTERS.**

Section 453 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17112) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(D)(iv), by striking “the organization” and inserting “an organization”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (3); and

(2) by striking subsections (c) through (g) and inserting the following:

“(c) **STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary and the Administrator shall carry out subsection (b) in consultation with the information technology industry and other key stakeholders, with the goal of producing results that accurately reflect the best knowledge in the most pertinent domains.

“(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In carrying out consultation described in paragraph (1), the Secretary and the Administrator shall pay particular attention to organizations that—

“(A) have members with expertise in energy efficiency and in the development, operation, and functionality of data centers, information technology equipment, and software, including representatives of hardware manufacturers, data center operators, and facility managers;

“(B) obtain and address input from the National Laboratories (as that term is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)) or any institution of higher education, research institution, industry association, company, or public interest group with applicable expertise;

“(C) follow—

“(i) commonly accepted procedures for the development of specifications; and

“(ii) accredited standards development processes; or

“(D) have a mission to promote energy efficiency for data centers and information technology.

“(d) **MEASUREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS.**—The Secretary and the Administrator shall consider and assess the adequacy of the specifications, measurements, and benchmarks described in subsection (b) for use by the Federal Energy Management Program, the Energy Star Program, and other efficiency programs of the Department of Energy or the Environmental Protection Agency.

“(e) **STUDY.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, shall make available to the public an update to the report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1 of the Act of December 20, 2006 (Public Law 109-431; 120 Stat. 2920), entitled ‘Report to Congress on Server and Data Center Energy Efficiency’ and dated August 2, 2007, that provides—

“(1) a comparison and gap analysis of the estimates and projections contained in the original report with new data regarding the period from 2007 through 2014;

“(2) an analysis considering the impact of information technologies, including virtualization and cloud computing, in the public and private sectors;

“(3) an evaluation of the impact of the combination of cloud platforms, mobile devices, social media, and big data on data center energy usage;

“(4) an evaluation of water usage in data centers and recommendations for reductions in such water usage; and

“(5) updated projections and recommendations for best practices through fiscal year 2020.

“(f) DATA CENTER ENERGY PRACTITIONER PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with key stakeholders and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall maintain a data center energy practitioner program that provides for the certification of energy practitioners qualified to evaluate the energy usage and efficiency opportunities in Federal data centers.

“(2) EVALUATIONS.—Each Federal agency shall consider having the data centers of the agency evaluated once every 4 years by energy practitioners certified pursuant to the program, whenever practicable using certified practitioners employed by the agency.

“(g) OPEN DATA INITIATIVE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with key stakeholders and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall establish an open data initiative for Federal data center energy usage data, with the purpose of making the data available and accessible in a manner that encourages further data center innovation, optimization, and consolidation.

“(2) CONSIDERATION.—In establishing the initiative under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider using the online Data Center Maturity Model.

“(h) INTERNATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS AND METRICS.—The Secretary, in consultation with key stakeholders, shall actively participate in efforts to harmonize global specifications and metrics for data center energy and water efficiency.

“(i) DATA CENTER UTILIZATION METRIC.—The Secretary, in collaboration with key stakeholders, shall facilitate in the development of an efficiency metric that measures the energy efficiency of a data center (including equipment and facilities).

“(j) PROTECTION OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall not disclose any proprietary information or trade secrets provided by any individual or company for the purposes of carrying out this section or the programs and initiatives established under this section.”

**SEC. 1012. WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 422 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6872) is amended by striking “appropriated—” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “appropriated \$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”

(b) GRANTS FOR NEW, SELF-SUSTAINING LOW-INCOME, SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS TO ELIGIBLE MULTISTATE HOUSING AND ENERGY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—The Energy Conservation and Production Act is amended by inserting after section 414B (42 U.S.C. 6864b) the following:

**“SEC. 414C. GRANTS FOR NEW, SELF-SUSTAINING LOW-INCOME, SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS TO ELIGIBLE MULTISTATE HOUSING AND ENERGY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

“(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

“(1) to expand the number of low-income, single-family and multifamily homes that receive energy efficiency retrofits;

“(2) to promote innovation and new models of retrofitting low-income homes through new Federal partnerships with covered organizations that leverage substantial donations, donated materials, volunteer labor, homeowner labor equity, and other private sector resources;

“(3) to assist the covered organizations in demonstrating, evaluating, improving, and replicating widely the model low-income energy retrofit programs of the covered organizations; and

“(4) to ensure that the covered organizations make the energy retrofit programs of the covered organizations self-sustaining by the time grant funds have been expended.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘covered organization’ means an organization that—

“(A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code; and

“(B) has an established record of constructing, renovating, repairing, or making energy efficient a total of not less than 250 owner-occupied, single-family or multifamily homes per year for low-income households, either directly or through affiliates, chapters, or other direct partners (using the most recent year for which data are available).

“(2) LOW-INCOME.—The term ‘low-income’ means an income level that is not more than 200 percent of the poverty level (as determined in accordance with criteria established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget) applicable to a family of the size involved, except that the Secretary may establish a higher or lower level if the Secretary determines that a higher or lower level is necessary to carry out this section.

“(3) WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS.—The term ‘Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons’ means the program established under this part (including part 440 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations).

“(c) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall make grants to covered organizations through a national competitive process for use in accordance with this section.

“(d) AWARD FACTORS.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

“(1) the number of low-income homes the applicant—

“(A) has built, renovated, repaired, or made more energy efficient as of the date of the application; and

“(B) can reasonably be projected to build, renovate, repair, or make energy efficient during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the application;

“(2) the qualifications, experience, and past performance of the applicant, including experience successfully managing and administering Federal funds;

“(3) the number and diversity of States and climates in which the applicant works as of the date of the application;

“(4) the amount of non-Federal funds, donated or discounted materials, discounted or volunteer skilled labor, volunteer unskilled labor, homeowner labor equity, and other resources the applicant will provide;

“(5) the extent to which the applicant could successfully replicate the energy retrofit program of the applicant and sustain the program after the grant funds have been expended;

“(6) regional diversity;

“(7) urban, suburban, and rural localities; and

“(8) such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(e) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section,

the Secretary shall request proposals from covered organizations.

“(2) ADMINISTRATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an applicant shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(3) AWARDS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of issuance of a request for proposals, the Secretary shall award grants under this section.

“(f) ELIGIBLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS.—A grant under this section may be used for—

“(1) energy efficiency audits, cost-effective retrofit, and related activities in different climatic regions of the United States;

“(2) energy efficiency materials and supplies;

“(3) organizational capacity—

“(A) to significantly increase the number of energy retrofits;

“(B) to replicate an energy retrofit program in other States; and

“(C) to ensure that the program is self-sustaining after the Federal grant funds are expended;

“(4) energy efficiency, audit and retrofit training, and ongoing technical assistance;

“(5) information to homeowners on proper maintenance and energy savings behaviors;

“(6) quality control and improvement;

“(7) data collection, measurement, and verification;

“(8) program monitoring, oversight, evaluation, and reporting;

“(9) management and administration (up to a maximum of 10 percent of the total grant);

“(10) labor and training activities; and

“(11) such other activities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(g) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant provided under this section shall not exceed—

“(A) if the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year is \$225,000,000 or more, \$5,000,000; and

“(B) if the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year is less than \$225,000,000, \$1,500,000.

“(2) TECHNICAL AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE.—The total amount of a grant provided under this section shall be reduced by the cost of any technical and training assistance provided by the Secretary that relates to the grant.

“(h) GUIDELINES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue guidelines to implement the grant program established under this section.

“(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The guidelines—

“(A) shall not apply to the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons, in whole or major part; but

“(B) may rely on applicable provisions of law governing the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons to establish—

“(i) standards for allowable expenditures;

“(ii) a minimum savings-to-investment ratio;

“(iii) standards—

“(I) to carry out training programs;

“(II) to conduct energy audits and program activities;

“(III) to provide technical assistance;

“(IV) to monitor program activities; and

“(V) to verify energy and cost savings;

“(iv) liability insurance requirements; and

“(v) recordkeeping requirements, which shall include reporting to the Office of

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs of the Department of Energy applicable data on each home retrofitted.

“(i) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall review and evaluate the performance of any covered organization that receives a grant under this section (which may include an audit), as determined by the Secretary.

“(j) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW.—Nothing in this section or any program carried out using a grant provided under this section supersedes or otherwise affects any State or local law, to the extent that the State or local law contains a requirement that is more stringent than the applicable requirement of this section.

“(k) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress annual reports that provide—

“(1) findings;

“(2) a description of energy and cost savings achieved and actions taken under this section; and

“(3) any recommendations for further action.

“(l) FUNDING.—Of the amount of funds that are made available to carry out the Weatherization Assistance Program for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 under section 422, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 not less than—

“(1) 2 percent of the amount if the amount is less than \$225,000,000;

“(2) 5 percent of the amount if the amount is \$225,000,000 or more but less than \$260,000,000; and

“(3) 10 percent of the amount if the amount is \$260,000,000 or more.”

(c) STANDARDS PROGRAM.—Section 415 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) STANDARDS PROGRAM.—

“(1) CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION.—Effective beginning January 1, 2016, to be eligible to carry out weatherization using funds made available under this part, a contractor shall be selected through a competitive bidding process and be—

“(A) accredited by the Building Performance Institute;

“(B) an Energy Smart Home Performance Team accredited under the Residential Energy Services Network; or

“(C) accredited by an equivalent accreditation or program accreditation-based State certification program approved by the Secretary.

“(2) GRANTS FOR ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under section 414C, a covered organization (as defined in section 414C(b)) shall use a crew chief who—

“(i) is certified or accredited in accordance with paragraph (1); and

“(ii) supervises the work performed with grant funds.

“(B) VOLUNTEER LABOR.—A volunteer who performs work for a covered organization that receives a grant under section 414C shall not be required to be certified under this subsection if the volunteer is not directly installing or repairing mechanical equipment or other items that require skilled labor.

“(C) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall use training and technical assistance funds available to the Secretary to assist covered organizations under section 414C in providing training to obtain certification required under this subsection, including provisional or temporary certification.

“(3) MINIMUM EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Effective beginning October 1, 2016, the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(A) each retrofit for which weatherization assistance is provided under this part meets minimum efficiency and quality of work standards established by the Secretary after weatherization of a dwelling unit;

“(B) at least 10 percent of the dwelling units are randomly inspected by a third party accredited under this subsection to ensure compliance with the minimum efficiency and quality of work standards established under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) the standards established under this subsection meet or exceed the industry standards for home performance work that are in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.”

#### SEC. 1013. REAUTHORIZATION OF STATE ENERGY PROGRAM.

Section 365(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6325(f)) is amended by striking “\$125,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012” and inserting “\$90,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, of which not greater than 5 percent may be used to provide competitively awarded financial assistance”.

#### SEC. 1014. SMART BUILDING ACCELERATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means the Federal Smart Building Program established under subsection (b)(1).

(2) SMART BUILDING.—The term “smart building” means a building, or collection of buildings, with an energy system that—

(A) is flexible and automated;

(B) has extensive operational monitoring and communication connectivity, allowing remote monitoring and analysis of all building functions;

(C) takes a systems-based approach in integrating the overall building operations for control of energy generation, consumption, and storage;

(D) communicates with utilities and other third-party commercial entities, if appropriate; and

(E) is cybersecure.

(3) SMART BUILDING ACCELERATOR.—The term “smart building accelerator” means an initiative that is designed to demonstrate specific innovative policies and approaches—

(A) with clear goals and a clear timeline; and

(B) that, on successful demonstration, would accelerate investment in energy efficiency.

(b) FEDERAL SMART BUILDING PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the “Federal Smart Building Program”

(A) to implement smart building technology; and

(B) to demonstrate the costs and benefits of smart buildings.

(2) SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate the selection of not fewer than 1 building from among each of several key Federal agencies, as described in paragraph (4), to compose an appropriately diverse set of smart buildings based on size, type, and geographic location.

(B) INCLUSION OF COMMERCIALY OPERATED BUILDINGS.—In making selections under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may include buildings that are owned by the Federal Government but are commercially operated.

(3) TARGETS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Secretary shall establish targets for the number of smart buildings to be commissioned and evaluated by key Federal agencies by 3 years and 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) FEDERAL AGENCY DESCRIBED.—The key Federal agencies referred to in this subsection shall include buildings operated by—

(A) the Department of the Army;

(B) the Department of the Navy;

(C) the Department of the Air Force;

(D) the Department;

(E) the Department of the Interior;

(F) the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(G) the General Services Administration.

(5) REQUIREMENT.—In implementing the program, the Secretary shall leverage existing financing mechanisms including energy savings performance contracts, utility energy service contracts, and annual appropriations.

(6) EVALUATION.—Using the guidelines of the Federal Energy Management Program relating to whole-building evaluation, measurement, and verification, the Secretary shall evaluate the costs and benefits of the buildings selected under paragraph (2), including an identification of—

(A) which advanced building technologies—

(i) are most cost-effective; and

(ii) show the most promise for—

(I) increasing building energy savings;

(II) increasing service performance to building occupants;

(III) reducing environmental impacts; and

(IV) establishing cybersecurity; and

(B) any other information the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(7) AWARDS.—The Secretary may expand awards made under the Federal Energy Management Program and the Better Building Challenge to recognize specific agency achievements in accelerating the adoption of smart building technologies.

(c) SURVEY OF PRIVATE SECTOR SMART BUILDINGS.—

(1) SURVEY.—The Secretary shall conduct a survey of privately owned smart buildings throughout the United States, including commercial buildings, laboratory facilities, hospitals, multifamily residential buildings, and buildings owned by nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education.

(2) SELECTION.—From among the smart buildings surveyed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall select not fewer than 1 building each from an appropriate range of building sizes, types, and geographic locations.

(3) EVALUATION.—Using the guidelines of the Federal Energy Management Program relating to whole-building evaluation, measurement, and verification, the Secretary shall evaluate the costs and benefits of the buildings selected under paragraph (2), including an identification of—

(A) which advanced building technologies and systems—

(i) are most cost-effective; and

(ii) show the most promise for—

(I) increasing building energy savings;

(II) increasing service performance to building occupants;

(III) reducing environmental impacts; and

(IV) establishing cybersecurity; and

(B) any other information the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(d) LEVERAGING EXISTING PROGRAMS.—

(1) BETTER BUILDING CHALLENGE.—As part of the Better Building Challenge of the Department, the Secretary, in consultation with major private sector property owners, shall develop smart building accelerators to demonstrate innovative policies and approaches that will accelerate the transition

to smart buildings in the public, institutional, and commercial buildings sectors.

(2) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct research and development to address key barriers to the integration of advanced building technologies and to accelerate the transition to smart buildings.

(B) INCLUSION.—The research and development conducted under subparagraph (A) shall include research and development on—

(i) achieving whole-building, systems-level efficiency through smart system and component integration;

(ii) improving physical components, such as sensors and controls, to be adaptive, anticipatory, and networked;

(iii) reducing the cost of key components to accelerate the adoption of smart building technologies;

(iv) data management, including the capture and analysis of data and the interoperability of the energy systems;

(v) protecting against cybersecurity threats and addressing security vulnerabilities of building systems or equipment;

(vi) business models, including how business models may limit the adoption of smart building technologies and how to support transactive energy;

(vii) integration and application of combined heat and power systems and energy storage for resiliency;

(viii) characterization of buildings and components;

(ix) consumer and utility protections;

(x) continuous management, including the challenges of managing multiple energy systems and optimizing systems for disparate stakeholders; and

(xi) other areas of research and development, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter until a total of 3 reports have been made, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the establishment of the Federal Smart Building Program and the evaluation of Federal smart buildings under subsection (b);

(2) the survey and evaluation of private sector smart buildings under subsection (c); and

(3) any recommendations of the Secretary to further accelerate the transition to smart buildings.

**SEC. 1015. REPEAL OF FOSSIL PHASE-OUT.**

Section 305(a)(3) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

**SEC. 1016. FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 303 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6832) (as amended by section 1001(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “to be constructed” and inserting “constructed or altered”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(19) MAJOR RENOVATION.—The term ‘major renovation’ means a modification of building energy systems sufficiently extensive that the whole building can meet energy standards for new buildings, based on criteria to be established by the Secretary through notice and comment rulemaking.”

(b) FEDERAL BUILDING EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Section 305(a)(3) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C.

6834(a)(3)) (as amended by section 1015) is amended—

(1) by striking “(3)(A) Not later than” and all that follows through subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(3) REVISED FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

“(A) REVISED FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the Secretary shall establish, by rule, revised Federal building energy efficiency performance standards that require that—

“(I) new Federal buildings and alterations and additions to existing Federal buildings—

“(aa) meet or exceed the most recent revision of the International Energy Conservation Code (in the case of residential buildings) or ASHRAE Standard 90.1 (in the case of commercial buildings) as of the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016; and

“(bb) meet or exceed the energy provisions of State and local building codes applicable to the building, if the codes are more stringent than the International Energy Conservation Code or ASHRAE Standard 90.1, as applicable;

“(II) unless demonstrated not to be life-cycle cost effective for new Federal buildings and Federal buildings with major renovations—

“(aa) the buildings be designed to achieve energy consumption levels that are at least 30 percent below the levels established in the version of the ASHRAE Standard or the International Energy Conservation Code, as appropriate, that is applied under subclause (I)(aa), including updates under subparagraph (B); and

“(bb) sustainable design principles are applied to the location, siting, design, and construction of all new Federal buildings and replacement Federal buildings;

“(III) if water is used to achieve energy efficiency, water conservation technologies shall be applied to the extent that the technologies are life-cycle cost effective; and

“(IV) if life-cycle cost effective, as compared to other reasonably available technologies, not less than 30 percent of the hot water demand for each new Federal building or Federal building undergoing a major renovation be met through the installation and use of solar hot water heaters.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—Clause (i)(I) shall not apply to unaltered portions of existing Federal buildings and systems that have been added to or altered.

“(B) UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of approval of each subsequent revision of the ASHRAE Standard or the International Energy Conservation Code, as appropriate, the Secretary shall determine whether the revised standards established under subparagraph (A) should be updated to reflect the revisions, based on the energy savings and life-cycle cost-effectiveness of the revisions.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(C) In the budget request” and inserting the following:

“(C) BUDGET REQUEST.—In the budget request”.

**SEC. 1017. CODIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER.**

Beginning in fiscal year 2016 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the head of each Federal agency shall, unless otherwise specified and where life-cycle cost-effective, promote building energy conservation, efficiency, and management by reducing, in Federal buildings of the agency,

building energy intensity, as measured in British thermal units per gross square foot, by 2.5 percent each fiscal year, relative to the baseline of the building energy use of the applicable Federal buildings in fiscal year 2015 and after taking into account the progress of the Federal agency in preceding fiscal years.

**SEC. 1018. CERTIFICATION FOR GREEN BUILDINGS.**

Section 305 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834) (as amended by sections 1015 and 1016(b)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by adding at the end the following:

“(D) CERTIFICATION FOR GREEN BUILDINGS.—

“(i) SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PRINCIPLES.—Sustainable design principles shall be applied to the siting, design, and construction of buildings covered by this subparagraph.

“(ii) SELECTION OF CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS.—The Secretary, after reviewing the findings of the Federal Director under section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)), in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense relating to those facilities under the custody and control of the Department of Defense, shall determine those certification systems for green commercial and residential buildings that the Secretary determines to be the most likely to encourage a comprehensive and environmentally sound approach to certification of green buildings.

“(iii) BASIS FOR SELECTION.—The determination of the certification systems under clause (ii) shall be based on ongoing review of the findings of the Federal Director under section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)) and the criteria described in clause (v).

“(iv) ADMINISTRATION.—In determining certification systems under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall—

“(I) make a separate determination for all or part of each system;

“(II) confirm that the criteria used to support the selection of building products, materials, brands, and technologies—

“(aa) are fair and neutral (meaning that the criteria are based on an objective assessment of relevant technical data);

“(bb) do not prohibit, disfavor, or discriminate against selection based on technically inadequate information to inform human or environmental risk; and

“(cc) are expressed to prefer performance measures whenever performance measures may reasonably be used in lieu of prescriptive measures; and

“(III) use environmental and health criteria that are based on risk assessment methodology that is generally accepted by the applicable scientific disciplines.

“(v) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the green building certification systems under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

“(I) the ability and availability of assessors and auditors to independently verify the criteria and measurement of metrics at the scale necessary to implement this subparagraph;

“(II) the ability of the applicable certification organization to collect and reflect public comment;

“(III) the ability of the standard to be developed and revised through a consensus-based process;

“(IV) an evaluation of the robustness of the criteria for a high-performance green building, which shall give credit for promoting—

“(aa) efficient and sustainable use of water, energy, and other natural resources;

“(bb) the use of renewable energy sources;

“(cc) improved indoor environmental quality through enhanced indoor air quality, thermal comfort, acoustics, day lighting, pollutant source control, and use of low-emission materials and building system controls; and

“(dd) such other criteria as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

“(v) national recognition within the building industry.

“(vi) REVIEW.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services and the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct an ongoing review to evaluate and compare private sector green building certification systems, taking into account—

“(I) the criteria described in clause (v); and

“(II) the identification made by the Federal Director under section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)).

“(vii) EXCLUSIONS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), if a certification system fails to meet the review requirements of clause (v), the Secretary shall—

“(aa) identify the portions of the system, whether prerequisites, credits, points, or otherwise, that meet the review criteria of clause (v);

“(bb) determine the portions of the system that are suitable for use; and

“(cc) exclude all other portions of the system from identification and use.

“(II) ENTIRE SYSTEMS.—The Secretary shall exclude an entire system from use if an exclusion under subclause (I)—

“(aa) impedes the integrated use of the system;

“(bb) creates disparate review criteria or unequal point access for competing materials; or

“(cc) increases agency costs of the use.

“(viii) INTERNAL CERTIFICATION PROCESSES.—The Secretary may by rule allow Federal agencies to develop internal certification processes, using certified professionals, in lieu of certification by certification entities identified under clause (ii).

“(ix) PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING.—With respect to privatized military housing, the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary may, through rulemaking, develop alternative certification systems and levels than the systems and levels identified under clause (ii) that achieve an equivalent result in terms of energy savings, sustainable design, and green building performance.

“(x) WATER CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES.—In addition to any use of water conservation technologies otherwise required by this section, water conservation technologies shall be applied to the extent that the technologies are life-cycle cost-effective.

“(xi) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

“(I) DETERMINATIONS MADE AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2015.—This subparagraph shall apply to any determination made by a Federal agency after December 31, 2015.

“(II) DETERMINATIONS MADE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2015.—This subparagraph (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016) shall apply to any use of a certification system for green commercial and residential buildings by a Federal agency on or before December 31, 2015.”; and

(2) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) once every 5 years, review the Federal building energy standards established under this section; and

“(2) on completion of a review under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that significant energy savings would result, upgrade the standards to include all new energy efficiency and renewable energy measures that are technologically feasible and economically justified.”.

#### SEC. 1019. HIGH PERFORMANCE GREEN FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

Section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “SYSTEM” and inserting “SYSTEMS”;

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Based on an ongoing review, the Federal Director shall identify and shall provide to the Secretary pursuant to section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)), a list of those certification systems that the Director identifies as the most likely to encourage a comprehensive and environmentally sound approach to certification of green buildings.”; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “system” and inserting “systems”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) an ongoing review provided to the Secretary pursuant to section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)), which shall—

“(i) be carried out by the Federal Director to compare and evaluate standards; and

“(ii) allow any developer or administrator of a rating system or certification system to be included in the review;”;

(C) in subparagraph (E)(v), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) a finding that, for all credits addressing grown, harvested, or mined materials, the system does not discriminate against the use of domestic products that have obtained certifications of responsible sourcing; and

“(H) a finding that the system incorporates life-cycle assessment as a credit pathway.”.

#### SEC. 1020. EVALUATION OF POTENTIALLY DUPLICATIVE GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS.

(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “administrative expenses” has the meaning given the term by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 504(b)(2) of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (31 U.S.C. 1105 note; Public Law 111-85).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “administrative expenses” includes, with respect to an agency—

(i) costs incurred by—

(I) the agency; or

(II) any grantee, subgrantee, or other recipient of funds from a grant program or other program administered by the agency; and

(ii) expenses relating to personnel salaries and benefits, property management, travel, program management, promotion, reviews and audits, case management, and communication regarding, promotion of, and out-

reach for programs and program activities administered by the agency.

(2) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The term “applicable program” means any program that is—

(A) listed in Table 9 (pages 348–350) of the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue”; and

(B) administered by—

(i) the Secretary;

(ii) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(iii) the Secretary of Defense;

(iv) the Secretary of Education;

(v) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(vi) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(vii) the Secretary of Transportation;

(viii) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(ix) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(x) the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; or

(xi) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(3) SERVICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term “service” has the meaning given the term by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term “service” shall be limited to activities, assistance, or other aid that provides a direct benefit to a recipient, such as—

(i) the provision of technical assistance;

(ii) assistance for housing or tuition; or

(iii) financial support (including grants, loans, tax credits, and tax deductions).

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2017, the Secretary, in consultation with the agency heads described in clauses (ii) through (xi) of subsection (a)(2)(B), shall submit to Congress and make available on the public Internet website of the Department a report that describes the applicable programs.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) determine the approximate annual total administrative expenses of each applicable program attributable to green buildings;

(B) determine the approximate annual expenditures for services for each applicable program attributable to green buildings;

(C) describe the intended market for each applicable program attributable to green buildings, including the—

(i) estimated the number of clients served by each applicable program; and

(ii) beneficiaries who received services or information under the applicable program (if applicable and if data is readily available);

(D) estimate—

(i) the number of full-time employees who administer activities attributable to green buildings for each applicable program; and

(ii) the number of full-time equivalents (the salary of whom is paid in part or full by the Federal Government through a grant or contract, a subaward of a grant or contract, a cooperative agreement, or another form of financial award or assistance) who assist in administering activities attributable to green buildings for the applicable program;

(E) briefly describe the type of services each applicable program provides attributable to green buildings, such as information, grants, technical assistance, loans, tax credits, or tax deductions;



(F) identify the type of recipient who is intended to benefit from the services or information provided under the applicable program attributable to green buildings, such as individual property owners or renters, local governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, or State governments; and

(G) identify whether written program goals are available for each applicable program.

(c) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than January 1, 2017, the Secretary, in consultation with the agency heads described in clauses (ii) through (xi) of subsection (a)(2)(B), shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a recommendation of whether any applicable program should be eliminated or consolidated, including any legislative changes that would be necessary to eliminate or consolidate applicable programs; and

(2) methods to improve the applicable programs by establishing program goals or increasing collaboration to reduce any potential overlap or duplication, taking into account—

(A) the 2011 report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “Federal Initiatives for the Nonfederal Sector Could Benefit from More Interagency Collaboration”; and

(B) the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue”.

(d) **ANALYSES.**—Not later than January 1, 2017, the Secretary, in consultation with the agency heads described in clauses (ii) through (xi) of subsection (a)(2)(B), shall identify—

(1) which applicable programs were specifically authorized by Congress; and

(2) which applicable programs are carried out solely under the discretionary authority of the Secretary or any agency head described in clauses (ii) through (xi) of subsection (a)(2)(B).

**SEC. 1021. STUDY AND REPORT ON ENERGY SAVINGS BENEFITS OF OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

(a) **DEFINITION OF OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**—In this section, the term “operational efficiency programs and services” means programs and services that use information and communications technologies (including computer hardware, energy efficiency software, and power management tools) to operate buildings and equipment in the optimum manner at the optimum times.

(b) **STUDY AND REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study and issue a report that quantifies the potential energy savings of operational efficiency programs and services for commercial, institutional, industrial, and governmental entities, including Federal agencies.

(c) **MEASUREMENT AND VERIFICATION OF ENERGY SAVINGS.**—The report required under this section shall include potential methodologies or protocols for utilities, utility regulators, and Federal agencies to evaluate, measure, and verify energy savings from operational efficiency programs and services.

**SEC. 1022. USE OF FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 327. USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.**

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—  
“(1) the term ‘energy-efficient product’ means a product that—

“(A) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation under an Energy Star program established under section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a); or

“(B) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation as being among the highest 25 percent of equivalent products for energy efficiency under the Federal Energy Management Program; and

“(2) the term ‘energy-efficient structure’ means a residential structure, a public facility, or a private nonprofit facility that meets or exceeds the requirements of Standard 90.1–2013 of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers or the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code, or any successor thereto.

“(b) **USE OF ASSISTANCE.**—A recipient of assistance relating to a major disaster or emergency may use the assistance to replace or repair a damaged product or structure with an energy-efficient product or energy-efficient structure.”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply to assistance made available under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act that is expended on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 1023. WATERSENSE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Part B of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding after section 324A (42 U.S.C. 6294a) the following:

**“SEC. 324B. WATERSENSE.**

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF WATERSENSE PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established within the Environmental Protection Agency a voluntary WaterSense program to identify and promote water-efficient products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services that, through voluntary labeling of, or other forms of communications regarding, products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services while meeting strict performance criteria, sensibly—

“(A) reduce water use;

“(B) reduce the strain on public and community water systems and wastewater and stormwater infrastructure;

“(C) conserve energy used to pump, heat, transport, and treat water; and

“(D) preserve water resources for future generations.

“(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the ‘Administrator’) shall, consistent with this section, identify water-efficient products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services, including categories such as—

“(A) irrigation technologies and services;

“(B) point-of-use water treatment devices;

“(C) plumbing products;

“(D) reuse and recycling technologies;

“(E) landscaping and gardening products, including moisture control or water enhancing technologies;

“(F) xeriscaping and other landscape conversions that reduce water use;

“(G) whole house humidifiers; and

“(H) water-efficient buildings or facilities.

“(b) **DUTIES.**—The Administrator, coordinating as appropriate with the Secretary, shall—

“(1) establish—

“(A) a WaterSense label to be used for items meeting the certification criteria established in accordance with this section; and

“(B) the procedure, including the methods and means, and criteria by which an item may be certified to display the WaterSense label;

“(2) enhance public awareness regarding the WaterSense label through outreach, education, and other means;

“(3) preserve the integrity of the WaterSense label by—

“(A) establishing and maintaining feasible performance criteria so that products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services labeled with the WaterSense label perform as well or better than less water-efficient counterparts;

“(B) overseeing WaterSense certifications made by third parties;

“(C) as determined appropriate by the Administrator, using testing protocols, from the appropriate, applicable, and relevant consensus standards, for the purpose of determining standards compliance; and

“(D) auditing the use of the WaterSense label in the marketplace and preventing cases of misuse; and

“(4) not more often than 6 years after adoption or major revision of any WaterSense specification, review and, if appropriate, revise the specification to achieve additional water savings;

“(5) in revising a WaterSense specification—

“(A) provide reasonable notice to interested parties and the public of any changes, including effective dates, and an explanation of the changes;

“(B) solicit comments from interested parties and the public prior to any changes;

“(C) as appropriate, respond to comments submitted by interested parties and the public; and

“(D) provide an appropriate transition time prior to the applicable effective date of any changes, taking into account the timing necessary for the manufacture, marketing, training, and distribution of the specific water-efficient product, building, landscape, process, or service category being addressed; and

“(6) not later than December 31, 2018, consider for review and revision any WaterSense specification adopted before January 1, 2012.

“(c) **TRANSPARENCY.**—The Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable and not less than annually, regularly estimate and make available to the public the production and relative market shares and savings of water, energy, and capital costs of water, wastewater, and stormwater attributable to the use of WaterSense-labeled products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services.

“(d) **DISTINCTION OF AUTHORITIES.**—In setting or maintaining specifications for Energy Star pursuant to section 324A, and WaterSense under this section, the Secretary and Administrator shall coordinate to prevent duplicative or conflicting requirements among the respective programs.

“(e) **NO WARRANTY.**—A WaterSense label shall not create an express or implied warranty.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. prec. 6201) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 324A the following:

“Sec. 324B. WaterSense.”.

**Subtitle B—Appliances****SEC. 1101. EXTENDED PRODUCT SYSTEM REBATE PROGRAM.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELECTRIC MOTOR.—The term “electric motor” has the meaning given the term in section 431.12 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) ELECTRONIC CONTROL.—The term “electronic control” means—

(A) a power converter; or

(B) a combination of a power circuit and control circuit included on 1 chassis.

(3) EXTENDED PRODUCT SYSTEM.—The term “extended product system” means an electric motor and any required associated electronic control and driven load that—

(A) offers variable speed or multispeed operation;

(B) offers partial load control that reduces input energy requirements (as measured in kilowatt-hours) as compared to identified base levels set by the Secretary; and

(C)(i) has greater than 1 horsepower; and  
(ii) uses an extended product system technology, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) QUALIFIED EXTENDED PRODUCT SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified extended product system” means an extended product system that—

(i) includes an electric motor and an electronic control; and

(ii) reduces the input energy (as measured in kilowatt-hours) required to operate the extended product system by not less than 5 percent, as compared to identified base levels set by the Secretary.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “qualified extended product system” includes commercial or industrial machinery or equipment that—

(i)(I) did not previously make use of the extended product system prior to the redesign described in subclause (II); and

(II) incorporates an extended product system that has greater than 1 horsepower into redesigned machinery or equipment; and

(ii) was previously used prior to, and was placed back into service during, calendar year 2016 or 2017.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to provide rebates for expenditures made by qualified entities for the purchase or installation of a qualified extended product system.

(c) QUALIFIED ENTITIES.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—A qualified entity under this section shall be—

(A) in the case of a qualified extended product system described in subsection (a)(4)(A), the purchaser of the qualified extended product that is installed; and

(B) in the case of a qualified extended product system described in subsection (a)(4)(B), the manufacturer of the commercial or industrial machinery or equipment that incorporated the extended product system into that machinery or equipment.

(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a rebate under this section, a qualified entity shall submit to the Secretary—

(A) an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

(B) a certification that includes demonstrated evidence—

(i) that the entity is a qualified entity; and  
(ii)(I) in the case of a qualified entity described in paragraph (1)(A)—

(aa) that the qualified entity installed the qualified extended product system during the 2 fiscal years following the date of enactment of this Act;

(bb) that the qualified extended product system meets the requirements of subsection (a)(4)(A); and

(cc) showing the serial number, manufacturer, and model number from the nameplate of the installed motor of the qualified entity on which the qualified extended product system was installed; or

(II) in the case of a qualified entity described in paragraph (1)(B), demonstrated evidence—

(aa) that the qualified extended product system meets the requirements of subsection (a)(4)(B); and

(bb) showing the serial number, manufacturer, and model number from the nameplate of the installed motor of the qualified entity with which the extended product system is integrated.

(d) AUTHORIZED AMOUNT OF REBATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide to a qualified entity a rebate in an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

(A) an amount equal to the sum of the nameplate rated horsepower of—

(i) the electric motor to which the qualified extended product system is attached; and

(ii) the electronic control; and

(B) \$25.

(2) MAXIMUM AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—A qualified entity shall not be entitled to aggregate rebates under this section in excess of \$25,000 per calendar year.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of the first 2 full fiscal years following the date of enactment of this Act, to remain available until expended.

**SEC. 1102. ENERGY EFFICIENT TRANSFORMER REBATE PROGRAM.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) QUALIFIED ENERGY EFFICIENT TRANSFORMER.—The term “qualified energy efficient transformer” means a transformer that meets or exceeds the applicable energy conservation standards described in the tables in subsection (b)(2) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c) of section 431.196 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) QUALIFIED ENERGY INEFFICIENT TRANSFORMER.—The term “qualified energy inefficient transformer” means a transformer with an equal number of phases and capacity to a transformer described in any of the tables in subsection (b)(2) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c) of section 431.196 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) that—

(A) does not meet or exceed the applicable energy conservation standards described in paragraph (1); and

(B)(i) was manufactured between January 1, 1985, and December 31, 2006, for a transformer with an equal number of phases and capacity as a transformer described in the table in subsection (b)(2) of section 431.196 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act); or

(ii) was manufactured between January 1, 1990, and December 31, 2009, for a transformer with an equal number of phases and capacity as a transformer described in the table in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of that section (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(3) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term “qualified entity” means an owner of industrial or manufacturing facilities, commercial build-

ings, or multifamily residential buildings, a utility, or an energy service company that fulfills the requirements of subsection (d).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to provide rebates to qualified entities for expenditures made by the qualified entity for the replacement of a qualified energy inefficient transformer with a qualified energy efficient transformer.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a rebate under this section, an entity shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including demonstrated evidence—

(1) that the entity purchased a qualified energy efficient transformer;

(2) of the core loss value of the qualified energy efficient transformer;

(3) of the age of the qualified energy inefficient transformer being replaced;

(4) of the core loss value of the qualified energy inefficient transformer being replaced—

(A) as measured by a qualified professional or verified by the equipment manufacturer, as applicable; or

(B) for transformers described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(i), as selected from a table of default values as determined by the Secretary in consultation with applicable industry; and

(5) that the qualified energy inefficient transformer has been permanently decommissioned and scrapped.

(d) AUTHORIZED AMOUNT OF REBATE.—The amount of a rebate provided under this section shall be—

(1) for a 3-phase or single-phase transformer with a capacity of not less than 10 and not greater than 2,500 kilovolt-amperes, twice the amount equal to the difference in Watts between the core loss value (as measured in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (4) of subsection (c)) of—

(A) the qualified energy inefficient transformer; and

(B) the qualified energy efficient transformer; or

(2) for a transformer described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(i), the amount determined using a table of default rebate values by rated transformer output, as measured in kilovolt-amperes, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with applicable industry.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017, to remain available until expended.

(f) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided by this section terminates on December 31, 2017.

**SEC. 1103. STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN FURNACES.**

Section 325(f)(4) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(f)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) RESTRICTION ON FINAL RULE FOR RESIDENTIAL NON-WEATHERIZED GAS FURNACES AND MOBILE HOME FURNACES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary shall not prescribe a final rule amending the efficiency standards for residential non-weatherized gas furnaces or mobile home furnaces until each of the following has occurred:

“(I) The Secretary convenes a representative advisory group of interested stakeholders, including the manufacturers, distributors, and contractors of residential non-

weatherized gas furnaces and mobile home furnaces, home builders, building owners, energy efficiency advocates, natural gas utilities, electric utilities, and consumer groups.

“(II) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the advisory group described in subclause (I) completes an analysis of a nationwide requirement of a condensing furnace efficiency standard including—

“(aa) a complete analysis of current market trends regarding the transition of sales from non-condensing furnaces to condensing furnaces;

“(bb) the projected net loss in the industry of the present value of original equipment manufactured after adoption of the standard;

“(cc) the projected consumer payback period and life cycle cost savings after adoption of the standard;

“(dd) a determination of whether the standard is economically justified, based solely on the definition of energy under section 321; and

“(ee) other common economic principles.

“(III) The advisory group described in subclause (I) reviews the analysis and determines whether a nationwide requirement of a condensing furnace efficiency standard is technically feasible and economically justified.

“(IV) The final determination of the advisory group under subclause (III) is published in the Federal Register.

“(ii) AMENDED STANDARDS.—If the advisory group determines under clause (i)(III) that a nationwide requirement of a condensing furnace efficiency standard is not technically feasible and economically justified, the Secretary shall, not later than 180 days after the date on which the final determination of the advisory group is published in the Federal Register under clause (i)(IV), establish amended standards through the negotiated rulemaking procedure provided for under subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990’).”

**SEC. 1104. THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION UNDER ENERGY STAR PROGRAM.**

Section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall revise the certification requirements for the labeling of consumer, home, and office electronic products for program partners that have complied with all requirements of the Energy Star program for a period of at least 18 months.

“(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In the case of a program partner described in paragraph (1), the new requirements under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall not require third-party certification for a product to be listed; but

“(B) may require that test data and other product information be submitted to facilitate product listing and performance verification for a sample of products.

“(3) THIRD PARTIES.—Nothing in this subsection prevents the Administrator from using third parties in the course of the administration of the Energy Star program.

“(4) TERMINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an exemption from third-party certification provided to a program partner under paragraph (1) shall terminate if the program partner is found to have violated program requirements with respect to at least 2 separate models during a 2-year period.

“(B) RESUMPTION.—A termination for a program partner under subparagraph (A) shall cease if the program partner complies with all Energy Star program requirements for a period of at least 3 years.”

**SEC. 1105. ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT.**

(a) DEADLINE.—The requirements of the final rule entitled ‘Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigeration Equipment’ (79 Fed. Reg. 17725 (March 28, 2014)), shall take effect on January 1, 2020, for equipment covered by the final rule that—

(1) uses natural refrigerants with a global warming potential of 10 or less that are approved for use by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Significant New Alternatives Program;

(2) is within 1 of the following product categories:

(A) VCT.SC.M vertical cooler with transparent door self contained medium temperature; or

(B) HCT.SC.M horizontal cooler with transparent door self contained medium temperature; and

(3) uses not more than 115 percent of the energy use allowed by applicable standards under Energy Star 3.0.

(b) FUTURE RULEMAKINGS.—Nothing in this section changes the criteria to be considered during future rulemakings undertaken by the Department under title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291 et seq.).

(c) REVIEW.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the next review required under section 342(c)(6)(B) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(c)(6)(B)) shall be conducted based on an effective date of March 27, 2017.

**SEC. 1106. VOLUNTARY VERIFICATION PROGRAMS FOR AIR CONDITIONING, FURNACE, BOILER, HEAT PUMP, AND WATER HEATER PRODUCTS.**

Section 326(b) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6296(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) VOLUNTARY VERIFICATION PROGRAMS FOR AIR CONDITIONING, FURNACE, BOILER, HEAT PUMP, AND WATER HEATER PRODUCTS.—

“(A) RELIANCE ON VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS.—For the purpose of periodic testing to verify compliance with energy conservation standards and Energy Star specifications established under sections 324A, 325, and 342 for covered products described in paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (9), and (11) of section 322(a) and covered equipment described in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (F), (I), (J), and (K) of section 340(1), the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall rely on testing conducted by voluntary verification programs that are recognized by the Secretary in accordance with subparagraph (B).

“(B) RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTARY VERIFICATION PROGRAMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall initiate a negotiated rulemaking in accordance with subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990’) to develop criteria that have consensus support for achieving recognition by the Secretary as an approved voluntary verification program.

“(ii) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria developed under clause (i) shall, at a minimum, ensure that the voluntary verification program—

“(I) is nationally recognized;

“(II) is operated by a third party and not directly operated by a program participant;

“(III) satisfies any applicable elements of—

“(aa) International Organization for Standardization standard numbered 17025; and

“(bb) any other relevant International Organization for Standardization standards identified and agreed to through the negotiated rulemaking under clause (i);

“(IV) at least annually tests independently obtained products following the test procedures established under this title to verify the certified rating of a representative sample of products and equipment within the scope of the program;

“(V) maintains a publicly available list of all ratings of products subject to verification;

“(VI) requires the changing of the performance rating or removal of the product or equipment from the program if testing determines that the performance rating does not meet the levels the manufacturer has certified to the Secretary;

“(VII) requires new program participants to substantiate ratings through test data generated in accordance with DOE regulations;

“(VIII) allows for challenge testing of products and equipment within the scope of the program;

“(IX) requires program participants to disclose the performance rating of all covered products and equipment within the scope of the program for the covered product or equipment;

“(X) provides to the Secretary—

“(aa) an annual report of all test results, the contents of which shall be determined through the negotiated rulemaking process under clause (i); and

“(bb) test reports, on the request of the Secretary or the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, that note any instructions specified by the manufacturer or the representative of the manufacturer for the purpose of conducting the verification testing, to be exempted from disclosure to the extent provided under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’); and

“(XI) satisfies any additional requirements or standards that the Secretary and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall establish consistent with this subparagraph.

“(iii) FINDING REQUIRED FOR CESSATION OF RECOGNITION.—The Secretary may only cease recognition of a voluntary verification program as an approved program described in subparagraph (A) on a finding that the program is not meeting its obligations for compliance through program review criteria established under this subparagraph.

“(iv) REVISIONS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Major revisions to voluntary verification program criteria established under this subparagraph shall only be made pursuant to a subsequent negotiated rulemaking in accordance with subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990’).

“(II) NONMAJOR REVISIONS.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make all other nonmajor criteria revisions by initiating a direct final rule in accordance with section 553(b)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code, on a determination published in the Federal Register that revisions to the criteria are necessary and that substantive opposition to the proposed revisions is not expected.

“(bb) CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVENESS.—If the Secretary does not receive adversarial comments with respect to the determination published under item (aa) during the 30-day period following publication of that determination in the Federal Register, the direct final rule shall have the force and effect of law.

“(cc) WITHDRAWAL OF FINAL RULE.—Receipt of any adversarial comment with respect to the determination published under item (aa) shall require the Secretary to withdraw the direct final rule and publish—

“(AA) a notice of proposed rulemaking pursuant to section 553 of title 5, United States Code; or

“(BB) a notice of proposed rulemaking pursuant to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, that includes a determination that revisions to the criteria are necessary.

“(C) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not require—

“(I) manufacturers to participate in a voluntary verification program described in subparagraph (A); or

“(II) participating manufacturers to provide information that has already been provided to the Secretary or the Administrator.

“(ii) LIST OF COVERED PRODUCTS.—The Secretary or the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may maintain a publicly available list of covered products and equipment that distinguishes between products that are, and are not covered products and equipment verified through a voluntary verification program described in subparagraph (A);

“(iii) PERIODIC VERIFICATION TESTING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

“(aa) shall not subject products or equipment that have been verification tested under a voluntary verification program described in subparagraph (A) to periodic verification testing that verifies the accuracy of the certified performance rating of the products or equipment; but

“(bb) may test products or equipment described in subclause (I) if the testing is necessary—

“(AA) to assess the overall performance of a voluntary verification program;

“(BB) to address specific performance issues;

“(CC) for use in updating test procedures and standards; or

“(DD) for other purposes consistent with this title.

“(II) ADDITIONAL TESTING.—The Secretary may subject products or equipment described in subclause (I) to periodic verification testing outside the restrictions of subclause (I)(bb), if agreed to during the rulemaking described in subparagraph (B)

“(D) EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this paragraph limits the authority of the Secretary or the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce compliance with any law.”

#### SEC. 1107. APPLICATION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS TO CERTAIN EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY.—Section 321(36)(A) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(36)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking the subparagraph designation and all that follows through “The term” and inserting the following:

“(A) EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘external power supply’ does not include a power supply cir-

cuit, driver, or device that is designed exclusively to be connected to, and power—

“(I) light-emitting diodes providing illumination;

“(II) organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination; or

“(III) ceiling fans using direct current motors.”

(b) STANDARDS FOR LIGHTING POWER SUPPLY CIRCUITS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Section 340(2)(B) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6311(2)(B)) is amended by striking clause (v) and inserting the following:

“(v) electric lights and lighting power supply circuits;.”

(2) ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD FOR CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.—Section 342 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) LIGHTING POWER SUPPLY CIRCUITS.—If the Secretary, acting pursuant to section 341(b), includes as a covered equipment solid state lighting power supply circuits, drivers, or devices described in section 321(36)(A)(ii), the Secretary may prescribe under this part, not earlier than 1 year after the date on which a test procedure has been prescribed, an energy conservation standard for such equipment.”

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) Section 321(6)(B) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(6)(B)) is amended by striking “(19)” and inserting “(20)”.

(2) Section 324 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294) is amended by striking “(19)” each place it appears in each of subsections (a)(3), (b)(1)(B), (b)(3), and (b)(5) and inserting “(20)”.

(3) Section 325(1) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(1)) is amended by striking “paragraph (19)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph (20)”.

#### Subtitle C—Manufacturing

#### SEC. 1201. MANUFACTURING ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to reform and reorient the industrial efficiency programs of the Department;

(2) to establish a clear and consistent authority for industrial efficiency programs of the Department;

(3) to accelerate the deployment of technologies and practices that will increase industrial energy efficiency and improve productivity;

(4) to accelerate the development and demonstration of technologies that will assist the deployment goals of the industrial efficiency programs of the Department and increase manufacturing efficiency;

(5) to stimulate domestic economic growth and improve industrial productivity and competitiveness; and

(6) to strengthen partnerships between Federal and State governmental agencies and the private and academic sectors.

(b) FUTURE OF INDUSTRY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 452 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17111) is amended by striking the section heading and inserting the following: “FUTURE OF INDUSTRY PROGRAM”.

(2) DEFINITION OF ENERGY SERVICE PROVIDER.—Section 452(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17111(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(ii) by inserting before subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(E) water and wastewater treatment facilities, including systems that treat municipal, industrial, and agricultural waste; and”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) ENERGY SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term ‘energy service provider’ means any business providing technology or services to improve the energy efficiency, water efficiency, power factor, or load management of a manufacturing site or other industrial process in an energy-intensive industry, or any utility operating under a utility energy service project.”

(3) INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS.—Section 452(e) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17111(e)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(C) in subparagraph (A) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including assessments of sustainable manufacturing goals and the implementation of information technology advancements for supply chain analysis, logistics, system monitoring, industrial and manufacturing processes, and other purposes”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) COORDINATION.—To increase the value and capabilities of the industrial research and assessment centers, the centers shall—

“(A) coordinate with Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

“(B) coordinate with the Building Technologies Program of the Department of Energy to provide building assessment services to manufacturers;

“(C) increase partnerships with the National Laboratories of the Department of Energy to leverage the expertise and technologies of the National Laboratories for national industrial and manufacturing needs;

“(D) increase partnerships with energy service providers and technology providers to leverage private sector expertise and accelerate deployment of new and existing technologies and processes for energy efficiency, power factor, and load management;

“(E) identify opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

“(F) promote sustainable manufacturing practices for small- and medium-sized manufacturers.

(3) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall provide funding for—

(A) outreach activities by the industrial research and assessment centers to inform small- and medium-sized manufacturers of the information, technologies, and services available; and

(B) coordination activities by each industrial research and assessment center to leverage efforts with—

“(i) Federal and State efforts;

“(ii) the efforts of utilities and energy service providers;

“(iii) the efforts of regional energy efficiency organizations; and

“(iv) the efforts of other industrial research and assessment centers.

(4) WORKFORCE TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay the Federal share of associated internship

programs under which students work with or for industries, manufacturers, and energy service providers to implement the recommendations of industrial research and assessment centers.

“(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out internship programs described in subparagraph (A) shall be 50 percent.

“(5) SMALL BUSINESS LOANS.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall, to the maximum extent practicable, expedite consideration of applications from eligible small business concerns for loans under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) to implement recommendations of industrial research and assessment centers established under paragraph (1).

“(6) ADVANCED MANUFACTURING STEERING COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory steering committee to provide recommendations to the Secretary on planning and implementation of the Advanced Manufacturing Office of the Department of Energy.

“(7) EXPANSION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall expand the institution of higher education-based industrial research and assessment centers, working across Federal agencies as necessary—

“(A) to provide comparable assessment services to water and wastewater treatment facilities, including systems that treat municipal, industrial, and agricultural waste; and

“(B) to equip the directors of the centers with the training and tools necessary to provide technical assistance on energy savings to the water and wastewater treatment facilities.”.

(c) SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part E of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6341) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 376. SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—As part of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Secretary, on the request of a manufacturer, shall conduct on-site technical assessments to identify opportunities for—

“(1) maximizing the energy efficiency of industrial processes and cross-cutting systems;

“(2) preventing pollution and minimizing waste;

“(3) improving efficient use of water in manufacturing processes;

“(4) conserving natural resources; and

“(5) achieving such other goals as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the initiative in coordination with the private sector and appropriate agencies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to accelerate adoption of new and existing technologies and processes that improve energy efficiency.

“(c) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES.—As part of the industrial efficiency programs of the Department of Energy, the Secretary shall carry out a joint industry-government partnership program to research, develop, and demonstrate new sustainable manufacturing and industrial technologies and processes that maximize the energy efficiency of industrial plants, reduce pollution, and conserve natural resources.”.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of the Energy Policy and Conservation

Act (42 U.S.C. prec. 6201) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to part E of title III the following:

“Sec. 376. Sustainable manufacturing initiative.”.

**SEC. 1202. LEVERAGING EXISTING FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAMS TO ASSIST SMALL AND MEDIUM MANUFACTURERS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section and section 1203:

(1) ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.—The term “energy management system” means a business management process based on standards of the American National Standards Institute that enables an organization to follow a systematic approach in achieving continual improvement of energy performance, including energy efficiency, security, use, and consumption.

(2) INDUSTRIAL ASSESSMENT CENTER.—The term “industrial assessment center” means a center located at an institution of higher education that—

(A) receives funding from the Department;

(B) provides an in-depth assessment of small- and medium-size manufacturer plant sites to evaluate the facilities, services, and manufacturing operations of the plant site; and

(C) identifies opportunities for potential savings for small- and medium-size manufacturer plant sites from energy efficiency improvements, waste minimization, pollution prevention, and productivity improvement.

(3) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(4) SMALL AND MEDIUM MANUFACTURERS.—The term “small and medium manufacturers” means manufacturing firms—

(A) classified in the North American Industry Classification System as any of sectors 31 through 33;

(B) with gross annual sales of less than \$100,000,000;

(C) with fewer than 500 employees at the plant site; and

(D) with annual energy bills totaling more than \$100,000 and less than \$2,500,000.

(5) SMART MANUFACTURING.—The term “smart manufacturing” means advanced technologies in information, automation, monitoring, computation, sensing, modeling, and networking that—

(A) digitally—

(i) simulate manufacturing production lines;

(ii) operate computer-controlled manufacturing equipment;

(iii) monitor and communicate production line status; and

(iv) manage and optimize energy productivity and cost throughout production;

(B) model, simulate, and optimize the energy efficiency of a factory building;

(C) monitor and optimize building energy performance;

(D) model, simulate, and optimize the design of energy efficient and sustainable products, including the use of digital prototyping and additive manufacturing to enhance product design;

(E) connect manufactured products in networks to monitor and optimize the performance of the networks, including automated network operations; and

(F) digitally connect the supply chain network.

(b) EXPANSION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall expand the scope of technologies covered by the Industrial Assessment Centers of the Department—

(1) to include smart manufacturing technologies and practices; and

(2) to equip the directors of the Industrial Assessment Centers with the training and tools necessary to provide technical assistance in smart manufacturing technologies and practices, including energy management systems, to manufacturers.

(c) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use unobligated funds of the Department to carry out this section.

**SEC. 1203. LEVERAGING SMART MANUFACTURING INFRASTRUCTURE AT NATIONAL LABORATORIES.**

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study on ways in which the Department can increase access to existing high-performance computing resources in the National Laboratories, particularly for small and medium manufacturers.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—In identifying ways to increase access to National Laboratories under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) focus on increasing access to the computing facilities of the National Laboratories; and

(B) ensure that—

(i) the information from the manufacturer is protected; and

(ii) the security of the National Laboratory facility is maintained.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study.

(b) ACTIONS FOR INCREASED ACCESS.—The Secretary shall facilitate access to the National Laboratories studied under subsection (a) for small and medium manufacturers so that small and medium manufacturers can fully use the high-performance computing resources of the National Laboratories to enhance the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States.

**Subtitle D—Vehicles**

**SEC. 1301. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Vehicle Innovation Act of 2016”.

**SEC. 1302. OBJECTIVES.**

The objectives of this subtitle are—

(1) to establish a consistent and consolidated authority for the vehicle technology program at the Department;

(2) to develop United States technologies and practices that—

(A) improve the fuel efficiency and emissions of all vehicles produced in the United States; and

(B) reduce vehicle reliance on petroleum-based fuels;

(3) to support domestic research, development, engineering, demonstration, and commercial application and manufacturing of advanced vehicles, engines, and components;

(4) to enable vehicles to move larger volumes of goods and more passengers with less energy and emissions;

(5) to develop cost-effective advanced technologies for wide-scale utilization throughout the passenger, commercial, government, and transit vehicle sectors;

(6) to allow for greater consumer choice of vehicle technologies and fuels;

(7) shorten technology development and integration cycles in the vehicle industry;

(8) to ensure a proper balance and diversity of Federal investment in vehicle technologies; and

(9) to strengthen partnerships between Federal and State governmental agencies and the private and academic sectors.

**SEC. 1303. COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.**

The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the activities authorized by this subtitle do not duplicate those of other programs within the Department or other relevant research agencies.

**SEC. 1304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for research, development, engineering, demonstration, and commercial application of vehicles and related technologies in the United States, including activities authorized under this subtitle—

- (1) for fiscal year 2016, \$313,567,000;
- (2) for fiscal year 2017, \$326,109,000;
- (3) for fiscal year 2018, \$339,154,000;
- (4) for fiscal year 2019, \$352,720,000; and
- (5) for fiscal year 2020, \$366,829,000.

**SEC. 1305. REPORTING.**

(a) **TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPED.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter through 2020, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report regarding the technologies developed as a result of the activities authorized by this subtitle, with a particular emphasis on whether the technologies were successfully adopted for commercial applications, and if so, whether products relying on those technologies are manufactured in the United States.

(b) **ADDITIONAL MATTERS.**—At the end of each fiscal year through 2020, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant Congressional committees of jurisdiction an annual report describing activities undertaken in the previous year under this Act, active industry participants, the status of public private partnerships, progress of the program in meeting goals and timelines, and a strategic plan for funding of activities across agencies.

**PART I—VEHICLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT****SEC. 1306. PROGRAM.**

(a) **ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary shall conduct a program of basic and applied research, development, engineering, demonstration, and commercial application activities on materials, technologies, and processes with the potential to substantially reduce or eliminate petroleum use and the emissions of the Nation's passenger and commercial vehicles, including activities in the areas of—

- (1) electrification of vehicle systems;
- (2) batteries, ultracapacitors, and other energy storage devices;
- (3) power electronics;
- (4) vehicle, component, and subsystem manufacturing technologies and processes;
- (5) engine efficiency and combustion optimization;
- (6) waste heat recovery;
- (7) transmission and drivetrains;
- (8) hydrogen vehicle technologies, including fuel cells and internal combustion engines, and hydrogen infrastructure, including hydrogen energy storage to enable renewables and provide hydrogen for fuel and power;
- (9) natural gas vehicle technologies;
- (10) aerodynamics, rolling resistance (including tires and wheel assemblies), and accessory power loads of vehicles and associated equipment;
- (11) vehicle weight reduction, including lightweighting materials and the development of manufacturing processes to fabricate, assemble, and use dissimilar materials;
- (12) friction and wear reduction;
- (13) engine and component durability;
- (14) innovative propulsion systems;

(15) advanced boosting systems;

(16) hydraulic hybrid technologies;

(17) engine compatibility with and optimization for a variety of transportation fuels including natural gas and other liquid and gaseous fuels;

(18) predictive engineering, modeling, and simulation of vehicle and transportation systems;

(19) refueling and charging infrastructure for alternative fueled and electric or plug-in electric hybrid vehicles, including the unique challenges facing rural areas;

(20) gaseous fuels storage systems and system integration and optimization;

(21) sensing, communications, and actuation technologies for vehicle, electrical grid, and infrastructure;

(22) efficient use, substitution, and recycling of potentially critical materials in vehicles, including rare earth elements and precious metals, at risk of supply disruption;

(23) aftertreatment technologies;

(24) thermal management of battery systems;

(25) retrofitting advanced vehicle technologies to existing vehicles;

(26) development of common standards, specifications, and architectures for both transportation and stationary battery applications;

(27) advanced internal combustion engines;

(28) mild hybrid;

(29) engine down speeding;

(30) vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-pedestrian, and vehicle-to-infrastructure technologies; and

(31) other research areas as determined by the Secretary.

(b) **TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the Department continues to support research, development, engineering, demonstration, and commercial application activities and maintains competency in mid- to long-term transformational vehicle technologies with potential to achieve reductions in emissions, including activities in the areas of—

(1) hydrogen vehicle technologies, including fuel cells, hydrogen storage, infrastructure, and activities in hydrogen technology validation and safety codes and standards;

(2) multiple battery chemistries and novel energy storage devices, including nonchemical batteries and electromechanical storage technologies such as hydraulics, flywheels, and compressed air storage;

(3) communication and connectivity among vehicles, infrastructure, and the electrical grid; and

(4) other innovative technologies research and development, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) **INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION.**—To the maximum extent practicable, activities under this Act shall be carried out in partnership or collaboration with automotive manufacturers, heavy commercial, vocational, and transit vehicle manufacturers, qualified plug-in electric vehicle manufacturers, compressed natural gas vehicle manufacturers, vehicle and engine equipment and component manufacturers, manufacturing equipment manufacturers, advanced vehicle service providers, fuel producers and energy suppliers, electric utilities, universities, national laboratories, and independent research laboratories. In carrying out this Act the Secretary shall—

(1) determine whether a wide range of companies that manufacture or assemble vehicles or components in the United States are represented in ongoing public private partnership activities, including firms that have

not traditionally participated in federally sponsored research and development activities, and where possible, partner with such firms that conduct significant and relevant research and development activities in the United States;

(2) leverage the capabilities and resources of, and formalize partnerships with, industry-led stakeholder organizations, nonprofit organizations, industry consortia, and trade associations with expertise in the research and development of, and education and outreach activities in, advanced automotive and commercial vehicle technologies;

(3) develop more effective processes for transferring research findings and technologies to industry;

(4) support public-private partnerships, dedicated to overcoming barriers in commercial application of transformational vehicle technologies, that utilize such industry-led technology development facilities of entities with demonstrated expertise in successfully designing and engineering pre-commercial generations of such transformational technology; and

(5) promote efforts to ensure that technology research, development, engineering, and commercial application activities funded under this Act are carried out in the United States.

(d) **INTERAGENCY AND INTRAAGENCY COORDINATION.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall coordinate research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities among—

(1) relevant programs within the Department, including—

(A) the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy;

(B) the Office of Science;

(C) the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability;

(D) the Office of Fossil Energy;

(E) the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy; and

(F) other offices as determined by the Secretary; and

(2) relevant technology research and development programs within other Federal agencies, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) **FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION OF TECHNOLOGIES.**—The Secretary shall make information available to procurement programs of Federal agencies regarding the potential to demonstrate technologies resulting from activities funded through programs under this Act.

(f) **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall seek opportunities to leverage resources and support initiatives of State and local governments in developing and promoting advanced vehicle technologies, manufacturing, and infrastructure.

(g) **CRITERIA.**—When awarding grants under this program, the Secretary shall give priority to those technologies (either individually or as part of a system) that—

(1) provide the greatest aggregate fuel savings based on the reasonable projected sales volumes of the technology; and

(2) provide the greatest increase in United States employment.

(h) **SECONDARY USE APPLICATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out a research, development, and demonstration program that—

(A) builds on any work carried out under section 915 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16195);

(B) identifies possible uses of a vehicle battery after the useful life of the battery in a vehicle has been exhausted;

(C) conducts long-term testing to verify performance and degradation predictions and lifetime valuations for secondary uses;

(D) evaluates innovative approaches to recycling materials from plug-in electric drive vehicles and the batteries used in plug-in electric drive vehicles;

(E)(i) assesses the potential for markets for uses described in subparagraph (B) to develop; and

(ii) identifies any barriers to the development of those markets; and

(F) identifies the potential uses of a vehicle battery—

(i) with the most promise for market development; and

(ii) for which market development would be aided by a demonstration project.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an initial report on the findings of the program described in paragraph (1), including recommendations for stationary energy storage and other potential applications for batteries used in plug-in electric drive vehicles.

**(3) SECONDARY USE DEMONSTRATION.—**

(A) IN GENERAL.—Based on the results of the program described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop guidelines for projects that demonstrate the secondary uses and innovative recycling of vehicle batteries.

(B) PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(i) publish the guidelines described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) solicit applications for funding for demonstration projects.

(C) PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—Not later than 21 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall select proposals for grant funding under this section, based on an assessment of which proposals are mostly likely to contribute to the development of a secondary market for batteries.

**SEC. 1307. MANUFACTURING.**

The Secretary shall carry out a research, development, engineering, demonstration, and commercial application program of advanced vehicle manufacturing technologies and practices, including innovative processes—

(1) to increase the production rate and decrease the cost of advanced battery and fuel cell manufacturing;

(2) to vary the capability of individual manufacturing facilities to accommodate different battery chemistries and configurations;

(3) to reduce waste streams, emissions, and energy intensity of vehicle, engine, advanced battery and component manufacturing processes;

(4) to recycle and remanufacture used batteries and other vehicle components for reuse in vehicles or stationary applications;

(5) to develop manufacturing processes to effectively fabricate, assemble, and produce cost-effective lightweight materials such as advanced aluminum and other metal alloys, polymeric composites, and carbon fiber for use in vehicles;

(6) to produce lightweight high pressure storage systems for gaseous fuels;

(7) to design and manufacture purpose-built hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and components;

(8) to improve the calendar life and cycle life of advanced batteries; and

(9) to produce permanent magnets for advanced vehicles.

**PART II—MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY COMMERCIAL AND TRANSIT VEHICLES**

**SEC. 1308. PROGRAM.**

The Secretary, in partnership with relevant research and development programs in other Federal agencies, and a range of appropriate industry stakeholders, shall carry out a program of cooperative research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities on advanced technologies for medium- to heavy-duty commercial, vocational, recreational, and transit vehicles, including activities in the areas of—

(1) engine efficiency and combustion research;

(2) onboard storage technologies for compressed and liquefied natural gas;

(3) development and integration of engine technologies designed for natural gas operation of a variety of vehicle platforms;

(4) waste heat recovery and conversion;

(5) improved aerodynamics and tire rolling resistance;

(6) energy and space-efficient emissions control systems;

(7) mild hybrid, heavy hybrid, hybrid hydraulic, plug-in hybrid, and electric platforms, and energy storage technologies;

(8) drivetrain optimization;

(9) friction and wear reduction;

(10) engine idle and parasitic energy loss reduction;

(11) electrification of accessory loads;

(12) onboard sensing and communications technologies;

(13) advanced lightweighting materials and vehicle designs;

(14) increasing load capacity per vehicle;

(15) thermal management of battery systems;

(16) recharging infrastructure;

(17) compressed natural gas infrastructure;

(18) advanced internal combustion engines;

(19) complete vehicle and power pack modeling, simulation, and testing;

(20) hydrogen vehicle technologies, including fuel cells and internal combustion engines, and hydrogen infrastructure, including hydrogen energy storage to enable renewables and provide hydrogen for fuel and power;

(21) retrofitting advanced technologies onto existing truck fleets;

(22) advanced boosting systems;

(23) engine down speeding; and

(24) integration of these and other advanced systems onto a single truck and trailer platform.

**SEC. 1309. CLASS 8 TRUCK AND TRAILER SYSTEMS DEMONSTRATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a competitive grant program to demonstrate the integration of multiple advanced technologies on Class 8 truck and trailer platforms, including a combination of technologies listed in section 1308.

(b) APPLICANT TEAMS.—Applicant teams may be comprised of truck and trailer manufacturers, engine and component manufacturers, fleet customers, university researchers, and other applicants as appropriate for the development and demonstration of integrated Class 8 truck and trailer systems.

**SEC. 1310. TECHNOLOGY TESTING AND METRICS.**

The Secretary, in coordination with the partners of the interagency research program described in section 1308—

(1) shall develop standard testing procedures and technologies for evaluating the performance of advanced heavy vehicle technologies under a range of representative duty cycles and operating conditions, including for heavy hybrid propulsion systems;

(2) shall evaluate heavy vehicle performance using work performance-based metrics

other than those based on miles per gallon, including those based on units of volume and weight transported for freight applications, and appropriate metrics based on the work performed by nonroad systems; and

(3) may construct heavy duty truck and bus testing facilities.

**SEC. 1311. NONROAD SYSTEMS PILOT PROGRAM.**

The Secretary shall undertake a pilot program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial applications of technologies to improve total machine or system efficiency for nonroad mobile equipment including agricultural, construction, air, and sea port equipment, and shall seek opportunities to transfer relevant research findings and technologies between the nonroad and on-highway equipment and vehicle sectors.

**PART III—ADMINISTRATION**

**SEC. 1312. REPEAL OF EXISTING AUTHORITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 706, 711, 712, and 933 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16051, 16061, 16062, 16233) are repealed.

(b) ENERGY EFFICIENCY.—Section 911 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16191) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “vehicles, buildings,” and inserting “buildings”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3); and

(C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “(a)(2)(D)” and inserting “(a)(2)(C)”.

**SEC. 1313. REAUTHORIZATION OF DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROGRAM.**

Section 797(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16137(a)) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2021”.

**SEC. 1314. GASEOUS FUEL DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.**

Section 32905 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) GASEOUS FUEL DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—

“(1) MODEL YEARS 1993 THROUGH 2016.—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile manufactured by a manufacturer in model years 1993 through 2016, the Administrator shall measure the fuel economy for that model by dividing 1.0 by the sum of—

“(A) .5 divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(c) of this title when operating the model on gasoline or diesel fuel; and

“(B) .5 divided by the fuel economy measured under subsection (c) of this section when operating the model on gaseous fuel.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT MODEL YEARS.—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile manufactured by a manufacturer in model year 2017 or any subsequent model year, the Administrator shall calculate fuel economy in accordance with section 600.510–12 (c)(2)(vii) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph) if the vehicle qualifies under section 32901(c).”

**Subtitle E—Short Title**

**SEC. 1401. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Portman-Shaheen Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2016”.

**Subtitle F—Housing****SEC. 1501. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) **COVERED LOAN.**—The term “covered loan” means a loan secured by a home that is insured by the Federal Housing Administration under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.).

(2) **HOMEOWNER.**—The term “homeowner” means the mortgagor under a covered loan.

(3) **MORTGAGEE.**—The term “mortgagee” means an original lender under a covered loan or the holder of a covered loan at the time at which that mortgage transaction is consummated.

**SEC. 1502. ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY UNDERWRITING CRITERIA.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall, in consultation with the advisory group established in section 1505(c), develop and issue guidelines for the Federal Housing Administration to implement enhanced loan eligibility requirements, for use when testing the ability of a loan applicant to repay a covered loan, that account for the expected energy cost savings for a loan applicant at a subject property, in the manner set forth in subsections (b) and (c).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS TO ACCOUNT FOR ENERGY COST SAVINGS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The enhanced loan eligibility requirements under subsection (a) shall require that, for all covered loans for which an energy efficiency report is voluntarily provided to the mortgagee by the homeowner, the Federal Housing Administration and the mortgagee shall take into consideration the estimated energy cost savings expected for the owner of the subject property in determining whether the loan applicant has sufficient income to service the mortgage debt plus other regular expenses.

(2) **USE AS OFFSET.**—To the extent that the Federal Housing Administration uses a test such as a debt-to-income test that includes certain regular expenses, such as hazard insurance and property taxes—

(A) the expected energy cost savings shall be included as an offset to these expenses; and

(B) the Federal Housing Administration may not use the offset described in subparagraph (A) to qualify a loan applicant for insurance under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.) with respect to a loan that would not otherwise meet the requirements for such insurance.

(3) **TYPES OF ENERGY COSTS.**—Energy costs to be assessed under this subsection shall include the cost of electricity, natural gas, oil, and any other fuel regularly used to supply energy to the subject property.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF ESTIMATED ENERGY COST SAVINGS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The guidelines to be issued under subsection (a) shall include instructions for the Federal Housing Administration to calculate estimated energy cost savings using—

(A) the energy efficiency report;

(B) an estimate of baseline average energy costs; and

(C) additional sources of information as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) **REPORT REQUIREMENTS.**—For the purposes of paragraph (1), an energy efficiency report shall—

(A) estimate the expected energy cost savings specific to the subject property, based on specific information about the property;

(B) be prepared in accordance with the guidelines to be issued under subsection (a); and

(C) be prepared—

(i) in accordance with the Residential Energy Service Network’s Home Energy Rating System (commonly known as “HERS”) by an individual certified by the Residential Energy Service Network, unless the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development finds that the use of HERS does not further the purposes of this subtitle;

(ii) in accordance with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation energy rating system by an individual certified by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation as an authorized Energy Rater; or

(iii) by other methods approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in consultation with the Secretary and the advisory group established in section 1505(c), for use under this subtitle, which shall include a third-party quality assurance procedure.

(3) **USE BY APPRAISER.**—If an energy efficiency report is used under subsection (b), the energy efficiency report shall be provided to the appraiser to estimate the energy efficiency of the subject property and for potential adjustments for energy efficiency.

(d) **PRICING OF LOANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal Housing Administration may price covered loans originated under the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section in accordance with the estimated risk of the loans.

(2) **IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN MATERIAL COSTS, IMPEDIMENTS, OR PENALTIES.**—In the absence of a publicly disclosed analysis that demonstrates significant additional default risk or prepayment risk associated with the loans, the Federal Housing Administration shall not impose material costs, impediments, or penalties on covered loans merely because the loan uses an energy efficiency report or the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section.

(e) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal Housing Administration may price covered loans originated under the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section in accordance with the estimated risk of those loans.

(2) **PROHIBITED ACTIONS.**—The Federal Housing Administration shall not—

(A) modify existing underwriting criteria or adopt new underwriting criteria that intentionally negate or reduce the impact of the requirements or resulting benefits that are set forth or otherwise derived from the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section; or

(B) impose greater buy back requirements, credit overlays, or insurance requirements, including private mortgage insurance, on covered loans merely because the loan uses an energy efficiency report or the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section.

(f) **APPLICABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION DATE.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and before December 31, 2019, the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section shall be implemented by the Federal Housing Administration to—

(1) apply to any covered loan for the sale, or refinancing of any loan for the sale, of any home;

(2) be available on any residential real property (including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives) that qualifies for a covered loan; and

(3) provide prospective mortgagees with sufficient guidance and applicable tools to implement the required underwriting methods.

**SEC. 1503. ENHANCED ENERGY UNDERWRITING VALUATION GUIDELINES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall—

(1) in consultation with the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council and the advisory group established in section 1505(c), develop and issue guidelines for the Federal Housing Administration to determine the maximum permitted loan amount based on the value of the property for all covered loans made on properties with an energy efficiency report that meets the requirements of section 1502(c)(2); and

(2) in consultation with the Secretary, issue guidelines for the Federal Housing Administration to determine the estimated energy savings under subsection (c) for properties with an energy efficiency report.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The enhanced energy efficiency underwriting valuation guidelines required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a requirement that if an energy efficiency report that meets the requirements of section 1502(c)(2) is voluntarily provided to the mortgagee, such report shall be used by the mortgagee or the Federal Housing Administration to determine the estimated energy savings of the subject property; and

(2) a requirement that the estimated energy savings of the subject property be added to the appraised value of the subject property by a mortgagee or the Federal Housing Administration for the purpose of determining the loan-to-value ratio of the subject property, unless the appraisal includes the value of the overall energy efficiency of the subject property, using methods to be established under the guidelines issued under subsection (a).

(c) **DETERMINATION OF ESTIMATED ENERGY SAVINGS.**—

(1) **AMOUNT OF ENERGY SAVINGS.**—The amount of estimated energy savings shall be determined by calculating the difference between the estimated energy costs for the average comparable houses, as determined in guidelines to be issued under subsection (a), and the estimated energy costs for the subject property based upon the energy efficiency report.

(2) **DURATION OF ENERGY SAVINGS.**—The duration of the estimated energy savings shall be based upon the estimated life of the applicable equipment, consistent with the rating system used to produce the energy efficiency report.

(3) **PRESENT VALUE OF ENERGY SAVINGS.**—The present value of the future savings shall be discounted using the average interest rate on conventional 30-year mortgages, in the manner directed by guidelines issued under subsection (a).

(d) **ENSURING CONSIDERATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT FEATURES.**—Section 1110 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3339) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) that State certified and licensed appraisers have timely access, whenever practicable, to information from the property



owner and the lender that may be relevant in developing an opinion of value regarding the energy-saving improvements or features of a property, such as—

- “(A) labels or ratings of buildings;
- “(B) installed appliances, measures, systems or technologies;
- “(C) blueprints;
- “(D) construction costs;
- “(E) financial or other incentives regarding energy-efficient components and systems installed in a property;
- “(F) utility bills;
- “(G) energy consumption and benchmarking data; and
- “(H) third-party verifications or representations of energy and water efficiency performance of a property, observing all financial privacy requirements adhered to by certified and licensed appraisers, including section 501 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6801).

Unless a property owner consents to a lender, an appraiser, in carrying out the requirements of paragraph (4), shall not have access to the commercial or financial information of the owner that is privileged or confidential.”

(e) **TRANSACTIONS REQUIRING STATE CERTIFIED APPRAISERS.**—Section 1113 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3342) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, or any real property on which the appraiser makes adjustments using an energy efficiency report”;

and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting after before the period at the end the following: “, or an appraisal on which the appraiser makes adjustments using an energy efficiency report”.

(f) **PROTECTIONS.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS.**—The guidelines to be issued under subsection (a) shall include such limitations and conditions as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to be necessary to protect against meaningful under or over valuation of energy cost savings or duplicative counting of energy efficiency features or energy cost savings in the valuation of any subject property that is used to determine a loan amount.

(2) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.**—At the end of the 7-year period following the implementation of enhanced eligibility and underwriting valuation requirements under this subtitle, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may modify or apply additional exceptions to the approach described in subsection (b), where the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development finds that the unadjusted appraisal will reflect an accurate market value of the efficiency of the subject property or that a modified approach will better reflect an accurate market value.

(g) **APPLICABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION DATE.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and before December 31, 2019, the Federal Housing Administration shall implement the guidelines required under this section, which shall—

(1) apply to any covered loan for the sale, or refinancing of any loan for the sale, of any home; and

(2) be available on any residential real property, including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives, that qualifies for a covered loan.

**SEC. 1504. MONITORING.**

Not later than 1 year after the date on which the enhanced eligibility and under-

writing valuation requirements are implemented under this subtitle, and every year thereafter, the Federal Housing Administration shall issue and make available to the public a report that—

(1) enumerates the number of covered loans of the Federal Housing Administration for which there was an energy efficiency report, and that used energy efficiency appraisal guidelines and enhanced loan eligibility requirements;

(2) includes the default rates and rates of foreclosures for each category of loans; and

(3) describes the risk premium, if any, that the Federal Housing Administration has priced into covered loans for which there was an energy efficiency report.

**SEC. 1505. RULEMAKING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subtitle, in consultation with the Secretary and the advisory group established in subsection (c), which may contain such classifications, differentiations, or other provisions, and may provide for such proper implementation and appropriate treatment of different types of transactions, as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development determines are necessary or proper to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle, to prevent circumvention or evasion thereof, or to facilitate compliance therewith.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to require any homeowner or other party to provide energy efficiency reports, energy efficiency labels, or other disclosures to the Federal Housing Administration or to a mortgagee.

(c) **ADVISORY GROUP.**—To assist in carrying out this subtitle, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall establish an advisory group, consisting of individuals representing the interests of—

- (1) mortgage lenders;
- (2) appraisers;
- (3) energy raters and residential energy consumption experts;
- (4) energy efficiency organizations;
- (5) real estate agents;
- (6) home builders and remodelers;
- (7) consumer advocates;
- (8) State energy officials; and
- (9) others as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

**SEC. 1506. ADDITIONAL STUDY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall reconvene the advisory group established in section 1505(c), in addition to water and locational efficiency experts, to advise the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on the implementation of the enhanced energy efficiency underwriting criteria established in sections 1502 and 1503.

(b) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The advisory group established in section 1505(c) shall provide recommendations to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on any revisions or additions to the enhanced energy efficiency underwriting criteria deemed necessary by the group, which may include alternate methods to better account for home energy costs and additional factors to account for substantial and regular costs of homeownership such as location-based transportation costs and water costs. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall forward any legislative recommendations from the advisory group to Congress for its consideration.

## TITLE II—INFRASTRUCTURE

### Subtitle A—Cybersecurity

#### SEC. 2001. CYBERSECURITY THREATS.

Part II of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 224. CYBERSECURITY THREATS.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **BULK-POWER SYSTEM.**—The term ‘bulk-power system’ has the meaning given the term in section 215.

“(2) **CRITICAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE.**—The term ‘critical electric infrastructure’ means a system or asset of the bulk-power system, whether physical or virtual, the incapacity or destruction of which would negatively affect national security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.

“(3) **CRITICAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘critical electric infrastructure information’ means information related to critical electric infrastructure, or proposed critical electric infrastructure, generated by or provided to the Commission or other Federal agency, other than classified national security information, that is designated as critical electric infrastructure information by the Commission under subsection (d)(2).

“(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term ‘critical electric infrastructure information’ includes information that qualifies as critical energy infrastructure information under regulations promulgated by the Commission.

“(4) **CYBERSECURITY THREAT.**—The term ‘cybersecurity threat’ means the imminent danger of an act that severely disrupts, attempts to severely disrupt, or poses a significant risk of severely disrupting the operation of programmable electronic devices or communications networks (including hardware, software, and data) essential to the reliable operation of the bulk-power system.

“(5) **ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION.**—The term ‘Electric Reliability Organization’ has the meaning given the term in section 215.

“(6) **REGIONAL ENTITY.**—The term ‘regional entity’ has the meaning given the term in section 215.

“(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Energy.

“(b) **EMERGENCY AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the President notifies the Secretary that the President has made a determination that immediate action is necessary to protect the bulk-power system from a cybersecurity threat, the Secretary may require, by order and with or without notice, any entity that is registered with the Electric Reliability Organization as an owner, operator, or user of the bulk-power system to take such actions as the Secretary determines will best avert or mitigate the cybersecurity threat.

“(2) **WRITTEN EXPLANATION.**—As soon as practicable after notifying the Secretary under paragraph (1), the President shall—

“(A) provide to the Secretary, in writing, a record of the determination and an explanation of the reasons for the determination; and

“(B) promptly notify, in writing, congressional committees of relevant jurisdiction, including the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, of the contents of, and justification for, the directive or determination.

“(3) COORDINATION WITH CANADA AND MEXICO.—In exercising the authority pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary is encouraged to consult and coordinate with the appropriate officials in Canada and Mexico responsible for the protection of cybersecurity of the interconnected North American electric grid.

“(4) CONSULTATION.—Before exercising authority pursuant to this subsection, to the maximum extent practicable, taking into consideration the nature of an identified cybersecurity threat and the urgency of need for action, the Secretary shall consult regarding implementation of actions that will effectively address the cybersecurity threat with—

“(A) any entities potentially subject to the cybersecurity threat that own, control, or operate bulk-power system facilities;

“(B) the Electric Reliability Organization;

“(C) the Electricity Sub-sector Coordinating Council (as established by the Electric Reliability Organization); and

“(D) officials of other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate.

“(5) COST RECOVERY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall adopt regulations that permit entities subject to an order under paragraph (1) to seek recovery of prudently incurred costs required to implement actions ordered by the Secretary under this subsection.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Any rate or charge approved under regulations adopted pursuant to this paragraph—

“(i) shall be just and reasonable; and

“(ii) shall not be unduly discriminatory or preferential.

“(c) DURATION OF EMERGENCY ORDERS.—An order issued by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b) shall remain in effect for not longer than the 30-day period beginning on the effective date of the order, unless, during that 30 day-period, the Secretary—

“(1) provides to interested persons an opportunity to submit written data, recommendations, and arguments; and

“(2) affirms, amends, or repeals the order, subject to the condition that an amended order shall not exceed a total duration of 90 days.

“(d) PROTECTION AND SHARING OF CRITICAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE.—

“(1) PROTECTION OF CRITICAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE.—Critical electric infrastructure information—

“(A) shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

“(B) shall not be made available by any State, political subdivision, or tribal authority pursuant to any State, political subdivision, or tribal law requiring disclosure of information or records.

“(2) DESIGNATION AND SHARING OF CRITICAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall promulgate such regulations and issue such orders as necessary—

“(A) to designate critical electric infrastructure information;

“(B) to prohibit the unauthorized disclosure of critical electric infrastructure information; and

“(C) to ensure there are appropriate sanctions in place for Commissioners, officers, employees, or agents of the Commission who knowingly and willfully disclose critical electric infrastructure information in a manner that is not authorized under this section;

“(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating regulations and issuing orders under para-

graph (2), the Commission shall take into consideration the role of State commissions in—

“(A) reviewing the prudence and cost of investments;

“(B) determining the rates and terms of conditions for electric services; and

“(C) ensuring the safety and reliability of the bulk-power system and distribution facilities within the respective jurisdictions of the State commissions.

“(4) NO REQUIRED SHARING OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section requires a person or entity in possession of critical electric infrastructure information to share the information with Federal, State, political subdivision, or tribal authorities, or any other person or entity.

“(5) DISCLOSURE OF NONCRITICAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION.—In carrying out this section, the Commission shall segregate critical electric infrastructure information within documents and electronic communications, wherever feasible, to facilitate disclosure of information that is not designated as critical electric infrastructure information.”

#### SEC. 2002. ENHANCED GRID SECURITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELECTRIC UTILITY.—The term “electric utility” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

(2) ES-ISAC.—The term “ES-ISAC” means the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

(3) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(4) SECTOR-SPECIFIC AGENCY.—The term “Sector-Specific Agency” has the meaning given the term in the Presidential policy directive entitled “Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience”, numbered 21, and dated February 12, 2013.

(b) SECTOR-SPECIFIC AGENCY FOR CYBERSECURITY FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Department shall be the lead Sector-Specific Agency for cybersecurity for the energy sector.

(2) DUTIES.—As the designated Sector-Specific Agency for cybersecurity, the duties of the Department shall include—

(A) coordinating with the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant Federal departments and agencies;

(B) collaborating with—

(i) critical infrastructure owners and operators; and

(ii) as appropriate—

(I) independent regulatory agencies; and

(II) State, local, tribal and territorial entities;

(C) serving as a day-to-day Federal interface for the dynamic prioritization and coordination of sector-specific activities;

(D) carrying out incident management responsibilities consistent with applicable law (including regulations) and other appropriate policies or directives;

(E) providing, supporting, or facilitating technical assistance and consultations for the energy sector to identify vulnerabilities and help mitigate incidents, as appropriate; and

(F) supporting the reporting requirements of the Department of Homeland Security under applicable law by providing, on an annual basis, sector-specific critical infrastructure information.

(c) CYBERSECURITY FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, the energy sector, the States, and other stakeholders, shall carry out a program—

(A) to develop advanced cybersecurity applications and technologies for the energy sector—

(i) to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities, including—

(I) dependencies on other critical infrastructure; and

(II) impacts from weather and fuel supply; and

(ii) to advance the security of field devices and third-party control systems, including—

(I) systems for generation, transmission, distribution, end use, and market functions;

(II) specific electric grid elements including advanced metering, demand response, distributed generation, and electricity storage;

(III) forensic analysis of infected systems; and

(IV) secure communications;

(B) to leverage electric grid architecture as a means to assess risks to the energy sector, including by implementing an all-hazards approach to communications infrastructure, control systems architecture, and power systems architecture;

(C) to perform pilot demonstration projects with the energy sector to gain experience with new technologies; and

(D) to develop workforce development curricula for energy sector-related cybersecurity.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$65,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

(d) ENERGY SECTOR COMPONENT TESTING FOR CYBERRESILIENCE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program—

(A) to establish a cybertesting and mitigation program to identify vulnerabilities of energy sector supply chain products to known threats;

(B) to oversee third-party cybertesting; and

(C) to develop procurement guidelines for energy sector supply chain components.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

(e) ENERGY SECTOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CYBERRESILIENCE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out a program—

(A) to enhance and periodically test—

(i) the emergency response capabilities of the Department; and

(ii) the coordination of the Department with other agencies, the National Laboratories, and private industry;

(B) to expand cooperation of the Department with the intelligence communities for energy sector-related threat collection and analysis;

(C) to enhance the tools of the Department and ES-ISAC for monitoring the status of the energy sector;

(D) to expand industry participation in ES-ISAC; and

(E) to provide technical assistance to small electric utilities for purposes of assessing cybermaturity level.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

(f) MODELING AND ASSESSING ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE RISK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop an advanced energy security program to secure energy networks, including electric, natural gas, and oil exploration, transmission, and delivery.

(2) SECURITY AND RESILIENCY OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the program developed under paragraph (1) is to increase the functional preservation of the electric grid operations or natural gas and oil operations in the face of natural and human-made threats and hazards, including electric magnetic pulse and geomagnetic disturbances.

(3) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the program developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

(A) develop capabilities to identify vulnerabilities and critical components that pose major risks to grid security if destroyed or impaired;

(B) develop modeling at the national level to predict impacts from natural or human-made events;

(C) develop a maturity model for physical security and cybersecurity;

(D) conduct exercises and assessments to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities to the electric grid, including providing mitigation recommendations;

(E) conduct research hardening solutions for critical components of the electric grid;

(F) conduct research mitigation and recovery solutions for critical components of the electric grid; and

(G) provide technical assistance to States and other entities for standards and risk analysis.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

(g) LEVERAGING EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The programs established under this section shall be carried out consistent with—

(1) the report of the Department entitled “Roadmap to Achieve Energy Delivery Systems Cybersecurity” and dated 2011;

(2) existing programs of the Department; and

(3) any associated strategic framework that links together academic and National Laboratory researchers, electric utilities, manufacturers, and any other relevant private industry organizations, including the Electricity Sub-sector Coordinating Council.

(h) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, shall conduct a study to explore alternative management structures and funding mechanisms to expand industry membership and participation in ES-ISAC.

(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

**Subtitle B—Strategic Petroleum Reserve**

**SEC. 2101. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE MODERNIZATION.**

(a) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms the continuing strategic importance and need for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as found and declared in section 151 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6231).

(b) SPR PETROLEUM ACCOUNT.—Section 167(b) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) OBLIGATION OF FUNDS FOR THE ACQUISITION, TRANSPORTATION, AND INJECTION OF PE-

TROLEUM PRODUCTS INTO SPR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.—

“(1) PURPOSES.—Amounts in the Account may be obligated by the Secretary of Energy for—

“(A) the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products into the Reserve;

“(B) test sales of petroleum products from the Reserve;

“(C) the drawdown, sale, and delivery of petroleum products from the Reserve;

“(D) the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of storage facilities and related facilities; and

“(E) carrying out non-Reserve projects needed to enhance the energy security of the United States by increasing the resilience, reliability, safety, and security of energy supply, transmission, storage, or distribution infrastructure.

“(2) AMOUNTS.—Amounts in the Account may be obligated by the Secretary of Energy for purposes of paragraph (1), in the case of any fiscal year—

“(A) subject to section 660 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7270), in such aggregate amounts as may be appropriated in advance in appropriations Acts; and

“(B) notwithstanding section 660 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7270), in an aggregate amount equal to the aggregate amount of the receipts to the United States from the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and a distribution of the Reserve under section 161, including—

“(i) a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of that section; or

“(ii) from the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f).

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds available to the Secretary of Energy for obligation under this subsection may remain available without fiscal year limitation.”

(c) DEFINITION OF RELATED FACILITY.—Section 152(8) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6232(8)) is amended by inserting “terminals,” after “reservoirs.”

**SEC. 2102. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE DRAWDOWN AND SALE.**

Section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-74; 129 Stat. 589) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) INCREASE; LIMITATION.—

“(1) INCREASE.—The Secretary of Energy may increase the drawdown and sales under paragraphs (1) through (8) of subsection (a) as the Secretary of Energy determines to be appropriate to maximize the financial return to United States taxpayers.

“(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall not drawdown or conduct sales of crude oil under this section after the date on which a total of \$5,050,000,000 has been deposited in the general fund of the Treasury from sales authorized under this section.”

**Subtitle C—Trade**

**SEC. 2201. ACTION ON APPLICATIONS TO EXPORT LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS.**

(a) DECISION DEADLINE.—For proposals that must also obtain authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the Maritime Administration to site, construct, expand, or operate liquefied natural gas export facilities, the Secretary shall issue a final decision on any application for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(a)) not later than 45 days after the later of—

(1) the conclusion of the review to site, construct, expand, or operate the liquefied

natural gas export facilities required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(2) the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) CONCLUSION OF REVIEW.—For purposes of subsection (a), review required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be considered concluded when the lead agency—

(1) for a project requiring an Environmental Impact Statement, publishes a Final Environmental Impact Statement;

(2) for a project for which an Environmental Assessment has been prepared, publishes a Finding of No Significant Impact; or

(3) determines that an application is eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) implementing regulations.

(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except for review in the Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or the circuit in which the liquefied natural gas export facility will be located pursuant to an application described in subsection (a) shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action for the review of—

(A) an order issued by the Secretary with respect to such application; or

(B) the failure of the Secretary to issue a final decision on such application.

(2) ORDER.—If the Court in a civil action described in paragraph (1) finds that the Secretary has failed to issue a final decision on the application as required under subsection (a), the Court shall order the Secretary to issue the final decision not later than 30 days after the order of the Court.

(3) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—The Court shall—

(A) set any civil action brought under this subsection for expedited consideration; and

(B) set the matter on the docket as soon as practicable after the filing date of the initial pleading.

(4) TRANSFERS.—In the case of an application described in subsection (a) for which a petition for review has been filed—

(A) upon motion by an applicant, the matter shall be transferred to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or the circuit in which a liquefied natural gas export facility will be located pursuant to an application described in section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(a)); and

(B) the provisions of this section shall apply.

**SEC. 2202. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS EXPORT DESTINATIONS.**

Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF LNG EXPORT DESTINATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any authorization to export liquefied natural gas, the Secretary of Energy shall require the applicant to report to the Secretary of Energy the names of the 1 or more countries of destination to which the exported liquefied natural gas is delivered.

“(2) TIMING.—The applicant shall file the report required under paragraph (1) not later than—

“(A) in the case of the first export, the last day of the month following the month of the first export; and

“(B) in the case of subsequent exports, the date that is 30 days after the last day of the applicable month concerning the activity of the previous month.

“(3) DISCLOSURE.—The Secretary of Energy shall publish the information reported under this subsection on the website of the Department of Energy and otherwise make the information available to the public.”.

**SEC. 2203. ENERGY DATA COLLABORATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall collaborate with the appropriate officials in Canada and Mexico, as determined by the Administrator, to improve—

(1) the quality and transparency of energy data in North America through reconciliation of data on energy trade flows among the United States, Canada, and Mexico;

(2) the extension of energy mapping capabilities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

(3) the development of common energy data terminology among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

(b) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Administrator shall periodically submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives an update on—

(1) the extent to which energy data is being shared under subsection (a); and

(2) whether forward-looking projections for regional energy flows are improving in accuracy as a result of the energy data sharing under that subsection.

**Subtitle D—Electricity and Energy Storage**  
**SEC. 2301. GRID STORAGE PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a program of research, development, and demonstration of electric grid energy storage that addresses the principal challenges identified in the 2013 Department of Energy Strategic Plan for Grid Energy Storage.

(b) AREAS OF FOCUS.—The program under this section shall focus on—

(1) materials, electric thermal, electromechanical, and electrochemical systems research;

(2) power conversion technologies research;

(3) developing—  
(A) empirical and science-based industry standards to compare the storage capacity, cycle length and capabilities, and reliability of different types of electricity storage; and  
(B) validation and testing techniques;

(4) other fundamental and applied research critical to widespread deployment of electricity storage;

(5) device development that builds on results from research described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4), including combinations of power electronics, advanced optimizing controls, and energy storage as a general purpose element of the electric grid;

(6) grid-scale testing and analysis of storage devices, including test-beds and field trials;

(7) cost-benefit analyses that inform capital expenditure planning for regulators and owners and operators of components of the electric grid;

(8) electricity storage device safety and reliability, including potential failure modes, mitigation measures, and operational guidelines;

(9) standards for storage device performance, control interface, grid interconnection, and interoperability; and

(10) maintaining a public database of energy storage projects, policies, codes, standards, and regulations.

(c) ASSISTANCE TO STATES.—The Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance to States, Indian tribes, or units of

local government to participate in or use research, development, or deployment of technology developed under this section.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

(e) NO EFFECT ON OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Nothing in this subtitle or an amendment made by this subtitle authorizes regulatory actions that would duplicate or conflict with regulatory requirements, mandatory standards, or related processes under section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o).

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the use of funds to carry out this section is coordinated among different offices within the Grid Modernization Initiative of the Department and other programs conducting energy storage research.

**SEC. 2302. ELECTRIC SYSTEM GRID ARCHITECTURE, SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT, AND MODELING.**

(a) GRID ARCHITECTURE AND SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall establish and facilitate a collaborative process to develop model grid architecture and a set of future scenarios for the electric system to examine the impacts of different combinations of resources (including different quantities of distributed energy resources and large-scale, central generation) on the electric grid.

(2) MARKET STRUCTURE.—The grid architecture and scenarios developed under paragraph (1) shall account for differences in market structure, including an examination of the potential for stranded costs in each type of market structure.

(3) FINDINGS.—Based on the findings of grid architecture developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) determine whether any additional standards are necessary to ensure the interoperability of grid systems and associated communications networks; and

(B) if the Secretary makes a determination that additional standards are necessary under subparagraph (A), make recommendations for additional standards, including, as may be appropriate, to the Electric Reliability Organization under section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o).

(b) MODELING.—Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct modeling based on the scenarios developed under subsection (a); and

(2) analyze and evaluate the technical and financial impacts of the models to assist States, utilities, and other stakeholders in—

(A) enhancing strategic planning efforts;  
(B) avoiding stranded costs; and  
(C) maximizing the cost-effectiveness of future grid-related investments.

(c) INPUT.—The Secretary shall develop the scenarios and conduct the modeling and analysis under subsections (a) and (b) with participation or input, as appropriate, from—

(1) the National Laboratories;  
(2) States;  
(3) State regulatory authorities;  
(4) transmission organizations;  
(5) representatives of the electric industry;  
(6) academic institutions;  
(7) independent research institutes; and  
(8) other entities.

**SEC. 2303. HYBRID MICRO-GRID SYSTEMS FOR ISOLATED AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HYBRID MICRO-GRID SYSTEM.—The term “hybrid micro-grid system” means a stand-alone electrical system that—

(A) is comprised of conventional generation and at least 1 alternative energy resource; and

(B) may use grid-scale energy storage.

(2) ISOLATED COMMUNITY.—The term “isolated community” means a community that is powered by a stand-alone electric generation and distribution system without the economic and reliability benefits of connection to a regional electric grid.

(3) MICRO-GRID SYSTEM.—The term “micro-grid system” means a standalone electrical system that uses grid-scale energy storage.

(4) STRATEGY.—The term “strategy” means the strategy developed pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(B).

(b) PROGRAM.—  
(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program to promote the development of—

(A) hybrid micro-grid systems for isolated communities; and

(B) micro-grid systems to increase the resilience of critical infrastructure.

(2) PHASES.—The program established under paragraph (1) shall be divided into the following phases:

(A) Phase I, which shall consist of the development of a feasibility assessment for—

(i) hybrid micro-grid systems in isolated communities; and

(ii) micro-grid systems to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure.

(B) Phase II, which shall consist of the development of an implementation strategy, in accordance with paragraph (3), to promote the development of hybrid micro-grid systems for those communities exposed to extreme weather conditions and high energy costs, including electricity, space heating and cooling, and transportation.

(C) Phase III, which shall be carried out in parallel with Phase II and consist of the development of an implementation strategy to promote the development of micro-grid systems that increase the resilience of critical infrastructure.

(D) Phase IV, which shall consist of cost-shared demonstration projects, based upon the strategies developed under subparagraph (B) that include the development of physical and cybersecurity plans to take appropriate measures to protect and secure the electric grid.

(E) Phase V, which shall establish a benefits analysis plan to help inform regulators, policymakers, and industry stakeholders about the affordability, environmental and resilience benefits associated with Phases II, III and IV.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR STRATEGY.—In developing the strategy under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall consider—

(A) establishing future targets for the economic displacement of conventional generation using hybrid micro-grid systems, including displacement of conventional generation used for electric power generation, heating and cooling, and transportation;

(B) the potential for renewable resources, including wind, solar, and hydropower, to be integrated into a hybrid micro-grid system;

(C) opportunities for improving the efficiency of existing hybrid micro-grid systems;

(D) the capacity of the local workforce to operate, maintain, and repair a hybrid micro-grid system;

(E) opportunities to develop the capacity of the local workforce to operate, maintain, and repair a hybrid micro-grid system;

(F) leveraging existing capacity within local or regional research organizations, such as organizations based at institutions of higher education, to support development of hybrid micro-grid systems, including by testing novel components and systems prior to field deployment;

(G) the need for basic infrastructure to develop, deploy, and sustain a hybrid micro-grid system;

(H) input of traditional knowledge from local leaders of isolated communities in the development of a hybrid micro-grid system;

(I) the impact of hybrid micro-grid systems on defense, homeland security, economic development, and environmental interests;

(J) opportunities to leverage existing interagency coordination efforts and recommendations for new interagency coordination efforts to minimize unnecessary overhead, mobilization, and other project costs; and

(K) any other criteria the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) **COLLABORATION.**—The program established under subsection (b)(1) shall be carried out in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including, as appropriate—

- (1) States;
- (2) Indian tribes;
- (3) regional entities and regulators;
- (4) units of local government;
- (5) institutions of higher education; and
- (6) private sector entities.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts to implement the program established under subsection (b)(1) and the status of the strategy developed under subsection (b)(2)(B).

**SEC. 2304. VOLUNTARY MODEL PATHWAYS.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTARY MODEL PATHWAYS.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate the development of voluntary model pathways for modernizing the electric grid through a collaborative, public-private effort that—

(A) produces illustrative policy pathways that can be adapted for State and regional applications by regulators and policymakers;

(B) facilitates the modernization of the electric grid to achieve the objectives described in paragraph (2);

(C) ensures a reliable, resilient, affordable, safe, and secure electric system; and

(D) acknowledges and provides for different priorities, electric systems, and rate structures across States and regions.

(2) **OBJECTIVES.**—The pathways established under paragraph (1) shall facilitate achievement of the following objectives:

- (A) Near real-time situational awareness of the electric system.
- (B) Data visualization.
- (C) Advanced monitoring and control of the advanced electric grid.
- (D) Enhanced certainty for private investment in the electric system.
- (E) Increased innovation.
- (F) Greater consumer empowerment.
- (G) Enhanced grid resilience, reliability, and robustness.
- (H) Improved—

- (i) integration of distributed energy resources;
- (ii) interoperability of the electric system; and
- (iii) predictive modeling and capacity forecasting.

(3) **STEERING COMMITTEE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a steering committee to facilitate the development of the pathways under paragraph (1), to be composed of members appointed by the Secretary, consisting of persons with appropriate expertise representing a diverse range of interests in the public, private, and academic sectors, including representatives of—

- (A) the Smart Grid Task Force; and
- (B) the Smart Grid Advisory Committee.

(b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may provide technical assistance to States, Indian tribes, or units of local government to adopt 1 or more elements of the pathways developed under subsection (a)(1).

**SEC. 2305. PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

- (1) an evaluation of the performance of the electric grid as of the date of the report; and
- (2) a description of the quantified costs and benefits associated with the changes evaluated under the scenarios developed under section 2302.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF METRICS.**—In developing metrics for evaluating and quantifying the electric grid under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

- (1) standard methodologies for calculating improvements or deteriorations in the performance metrics, such as reliability, grid efficiency, power quality, consumer satisfaction, sustainability, and financial incentives;
- (2) standard methodologies for calculating value to ratepayers, including broad economic and related impacts from improvements to the performance metrics;
- (3) appropriate ownership and operating roles for electric utilities that would enable improved performance through the adoption of emerging, commercially available or advanced grid technologies or solutions, including—

- (A) multicustomer micro-grids;
- (B) distributed energy resources;
- (C) energy storage;
- (D) electric vehicles;
- (E) electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- (F) integrated information and communications systems;
- (G) transactive energy systems; and
- (H) advanced demand management systems; and

(4) with respect to States, the role of the grid operator in enabling a robust future electric system to ensure that—

- (A) electric utilities remain financially viable;
- (B) electric utilities make the needed investments that ensure a reliable, secure, and resilient grid; and
- (C) costs incurred to transform to an integrated grid are allocated and recovered responsibly, efficiently, and equitably.

**SEC. 2306. STATE AND REGIONAL ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION PLANNING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the request of a State or regional organization, the Secretary shall partner with States and regional organizations to facilitate the development of State and regional electricity distribution plans by—

- (1) conducting a resource assessment and analysis of future demand and distribution requirements; and
- (2) developing open source tools for State and regional planning and operations.

(b) **RISK AND SECURITY ANALYSIS.**—The assessment under subsection (a)(1) shall include—

(1) the evaluation of the physical and cybersecurity needs of an advanced distribution management system and the integration of distributed energy resources; and

(2) advanced use of grid architecture to analyze risks in an all-hazards approach that includes communications infrastructure, control systems architecture, and power systems architecture.

(c) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—For the purpose of developing State and regional electricity distribution plans, the Secretary shall provide technical assistance to—

- (1) States;
- (2) regional reliability entities; and
- (3) other distribution asset owners and operators.

**SEC. 2307. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out sections 2302 through 2307 \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

**SEC. 2308. ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE PERMITTING.**

(a) **INTERAGENCY RAPID RESPONSE TEAM FOR TRANSMISSION.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an interagency rapid response team, to be known as the “Interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission” (referred to in this subsection as the “Team”), to expedite and improve the permitting process for electric transmission infrastructure on Federal land and non-Federal land.

(2) **MISSION.**—The mission of the Team shall be—

- (A) to improve the timeliness and efficiency of electric transmission infrastructure permitting; and
- (B) to facilitate the performance of maintenance and upgrades to electric transmission lines on Federal land and non-Federal land.

(3) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Team shall be comprised of representatives of—

- (A) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
- (B) the Department;
- (C) the Department of the Interior;
- (D) the Department of Defense;
- (E) the Department of Agriculture;
- (F) the Council on Environmental Quality;
- (G) the Department of Commerce;
- (H) the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and
- (I) the Environmental Protection Agency.

(4) **DUTIES.**—The Team shall—

(A) facilitate coordination and unified environmental documentation among electric transmission infrastructure project applicants, Federal agencies, States, and Indian tribes involved in the siting and permitting process;

(B) establish clear timelines for the review and coordination of electric transmission infrastructure projects by the applicable agencies;

(C) ensure that each electric transmission infrastructure project is posted on the Federal permitting transmission tracking system known as “e-Trans”, including information on the status and anticipated completion date of each project; and

(D) regularly notify all participating members of the Team involved in any specific permit of—

- (i) any outstanding agency action that is required with respect to the permit; and
- (ii) any approval or required comment that has exceeded statutory or agency timelines for completion, including an identification of

any Federal agency, department, or field office that has not met the applicable timeline.

(5) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Annually, the Team shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that describes the average completion time for specific categories of regionally and nationally significant transmission projects, based on information obtained from the applicable Federal agencies.

(6) USE OF DATA BY OMB.—Using data provided by the Team, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prioritize inclusion of individual electric transmission infrastructure projects on the website operated by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with section 1122 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) TRANSMISSION OMBUDSPERSON.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—To enhance and ensure the reliability of the electric grid, there is established within the Council on Environmental Quality the position of Transmission Ombudsperson (referred to in this subsection as the “Ombudsperson”), to provide a unified point of contact for—

(A) resolving interagency or intra-agency issues or delays with respect to electric transmission infrastructure permits; and

(B) receiving and resolving complaints from parties with outstanding or in-process applications relating to electric transmission infrastructure.

(2) DUTIES.—The Ombudsperson shall—

(A) establish a process for—

(i) facilitating the permitting process for performance of maintenance and upgrades to electric transmission lines on Federal land and non-Federal land, with a special emphasis on facilitating access for immediate maintenance, repair, and vegetation management needs;

(ii) resolving complaints filed with the Ombudsperson with respect to in-process electric transmission infrastructure permits; and

(iii) issuing recommended resolutions to address the complaints filed with the Ombudsperson; and

(B) hear, compile, and share any complaints filed with Ombudsperson relating to in-process electric transmission infrastructure permits.

(c) AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands (as defined in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1702(e)), and the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land, shall provide for continuity of the existing use and occupancy for the transmission of electric energy by any Federal department or agency granted across public lands or National Forest System land.

(2) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, within 30 days after receiving a request from the Federal department or agency administering the electric energy transmission facilities, shall, in consultation with that department or agency, initiate agreements regarding the use and occupancy or right-of-way (including vegetation management agreements, where applicable).

(d) GEOMATIC DATA.—If a Federal or State department or agency considering an aspect of an application for Federal authorization requires the applicant to submit environmental data, the department or agency shall consider any such data gathered by geomatic

techniques, including tools and techniques used in land surveying, remote sensing, cartography, geographic information systems, global navigation satellite systems, photogrammetry, geophysics, geography, or other remote means.

**SEC. 2309. REPORT BY TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATIONS ON DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES AND MICRO-GRID SYSTEMS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE.—The term “distributed energy resource” means an electricity supply resource that, as permitted by State law—

(A)(i) is interconnected to the electric system operated by a transmission organization at or below 69kV; and

(ii) is subject to dispatch by the transmission organization; and

(B)(i) generates electricity using any primary energy source, including solar energy and other renewable resources; or

(ii) stores energy and is capable of supplying electricity to the electric system operated by the transmission organization from the storage reservoir.

(2) ELECTRIC GENERATING CAPACITY RESOURCE.—The term “electric generating capacity resource” means an electric generating resource, as measured by the maximum load-carrying ability of the resource, exclusive of station use and planned, unplanned, or other outage or derating, that is subject to dispatch by a transmission organization to meet the resource adequacy needs of the systems operated by the transmission organization.

(3) MICRO-GRID SYSTEM.—The term “micro-grid system” means an electrically distinct system under common control that—

(A) serves an electric load at or below 69kV from a distributed energy resource or electric generating capacity resource; and

(B) is subject to dispatch by a transmission organization.

(4) TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The term “transmission organization” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

(b) REPORT.—

(1) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall submit to each transmission organization notice that the transmission organization is required to file with the Commission a report in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a transmission organization receives a notice under paragraph (1), the transmission organization shall submit to the Commission a report that—

(A)(i) identifies distributed energy resources and micro-grid systems that are subject to dispatch by the transmission organization as of the date of the report; and

(ii) describes the fuel sources and operational characteristics of such distributed energy resources and micro-grid systems, including, to the extent practicable, a discussion of the benefits and costs associated with the distributed energy resources and micro-grid systems identified under clause (i);

(B) evaluates, with due regard for operational and economic benefits and costs, the potential for distributed energy resources and micro-grid systems to be deployed to the transmission organization over the short- and long-term periods in the planning cycle of the transmission organization; and

(C) identifies—

(i) over the short- and long-term periods in the planning cycle of the transmission organization, barriers to the deployment to the

transmission organization of distributed energy resources and micro-grid systems; and

(ii) potential changes to the operational requirements for, or charges associated with, the interconnection of distributed energy resources and micro-grid systems to the transmission organization that would reduce the barriers identified under clause (i).

**SEC. 2310. NET METERING STUDY GUIDANCE.**

Title XVIII of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58; 119 Stat. 1122) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 1841. NET ENERGY METERING STUDY.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

“(1) issue guidance on criteria required to be included in studies of net metering conducted by the Department; and

“(2) undertake a study of net energy metering.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS AND CONTENTS.—The model guidance issued under subsection (a) shall clarify without prejudice to other study criteria that any study of net energy metering, including the study conducted by the Department under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) be publicly available; and

“(2) assess benefits and costs of net energy metering, including—

“(A) load data, including hourly profiles;

“(B) distributed generation production data;

“(C) best available technology, including inverter capability; and

“(D) benefits and costs of distributed energy deployment, including—

“(i) environmental benefits;

“(ii) changes in electric system reliability;

“(iii) changes in peak power requirements;

“(iv) provision of ancillary services, including reactive power;

“(v) changes in power quality;

“(vi) changes in land-use effects;

“(vii) changes in right-of-way acquisition costs;

“(viii) changes in vulnerability to terrorism; and

“(ix) changes in infrastructure resilience.”

**SEC. 2312. MODEL GUIDANCE FOR COMBINED HEAT AND POWER SYSTEMS AND WASTE HEAT TO POWER SYSTEMS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADDITIONAL SERVICES.—The term “additional services” means the provision of supplementary power, backup or standby power, maintenance power, or interruptible power to an electric consumer by an electric utility.

(2) WASTE HEAT TO POWER SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “waste heat to power system” means a system that generates electricity through the recovery of waste energy.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “waste heat to power system” does not include a system that generates electricity through the recovery of a heat resource from a process the primary purpose of which is the generation of electricity using a fossil fuel.

(3) OTHER TERMS.—

(A) PURPA.—The terms “electric consumer”, “electric utility”, “interconnection service”, “nonregulated electric utility”, and “State regulatory authority” have the meanings given those terms in the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), within the meaning of title I of that Act (16 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.).

(B) EPCA.—The terms “combined heat and power system” and “waste energy” have the meanings given those terms in section 371 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6341).

(b) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other appropriate entities, shall review existing rules and procedures relating to interconnection service and additional services throughout the United States for electric generation with nameplate capacity up to 20 megawatts to identify barriers to the deployment of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.

(2) INCLUSION.—The review under this subsection shall include a review of existing rules and procedures relating to—

(A) determining and assigning costs of interconnection service and additional services; and

(B) ensuring adequate cost recovery by an electric utility for interconnection service and additional services.

(c) MODEL GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other appropriate entities, shall issue model guidance for interconnection service and additional services for use by State regulatory authorities and nonregulated electric utilities to reduce the barriers identified under subsection (b)(1).

(2) CURRENT BEST PRACTICES.—The model guidance issued under this subsection shall reflect, to the maximum extent practicable, current best practices to encourage the deployment of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems while ensuring the safety and reliability of the interconnected units and the distribution and transmission networks to which the units connect, including—

(A) relevant current standards developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers; and

(B) model codes and rules adopted by—

(i) States; or

(ii) associations of State regulatory agencies.

(3) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In establishing the model guidance under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

(A) the appropriateness of using standards or procedures for interconnection service that vary based on unit size, fuel type, or other relevant characteristics;

(B) the appropriateness of establishing fast-track procedures for interconnection service;

(C) the value of consistency with Federal interconnection rules established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(D) the best practices used to model outage assumptions and contingencies to determine fees or rates for additional services;

(E) the appropriate duration, magnitude, or usage of demand charge ratchets;

(F) potential alternative arrangements with respect to the procurement of additional services, including—

(i) contracts tailored to individual electric consumers for additional services;

(ii) procurement of additional services by an electric utility from a competitive market; and

(iii) waivers of fees or rates for additional services for small electric consumers; and

(G) outcomes such as increased electric reliability, fuel diversification, enhanced power quality, and reduced electric losses that may result from increased use of com-

bined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.

**Subtitle E—Computing**

**SEC. 2401. EXASCALE COMPUTER RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

(a) RENAMING OF ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 (15 U.S.C. 5501 note; Public Law 108-423) is amended by striking “Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004” and inserting “Exascale Computing Act of 2016”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 976(a)(1) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16316(1)) is amended by striking “Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004” and inserting “Exascale Computing Act of 2016”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Exascale Computing Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 5541) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (3) through (6), respectively;

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ‘Department’ means the Department of Energy.

“(2) EXASCALE COMPUTING.—The term ‘exascale computing’ means computing through the use of a computing machine that performs near or above 10 to the 18th power floating point operations per second.”;

(3) in paragraph (6) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “, acting through the Director of the Office of Science of the Department of Energy”;

(c) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HIGH-END COMPUTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 3 of the Exascale Computing Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 5542) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “program” and inserting “coordinated program across the Department”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “, which may” and all that follows through “architectures”;

(3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) EXASCALE COMPUTING PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a research program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Program’) to develop 2 or more exascale computing machine architectures to promote the missions of the Department.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

“(i) establish 2 or more National Laboratory partnerships with industry partners and institutions of higher education for the research and development of 2 or more exascale computing architectures across all applicable organizations of the Department; and

“(ii) provide, as appropriate, on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis, access for researchers in industries in the United States, institutions of higher education, National Laboratories, and other Federal agencies to the exascale computing systems developed pursuant to clause (i).

“(B) SELECTION OF PARTNERS.—The Secretary shall select members for the partnerships with the computing facilities of the Department under subparagraph (A) through a competitive, peer-review process.

“(3) CODESIGN AND APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the Program through an integra-

tion of applications, computer science, applied mathematics, and computer hardware architecture using the partnerships established pursuant to paragraph (2) to ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, 2 or more exascale computing machine architectures are capable of solving Department target applications and broader scientific problems.

“(B) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on how the integration under subparagraph (A) is furthering application science data and computational workloads across application interests, including national security, material science, physical science, cybersecurity, biological science, the Materials Genome and BRAIN Initiatives of the President, advanced manufacturing, and the national electric grid.

“(4) PROJECT REVIEW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The exascale architectures developed pursuant to partnerships established pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be reviewed through a project review process.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on—

“(i) the results of the review conducted under subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) the coordination and management of the Program to ensure an integrated research program across the Department.

“(5) ANNUAL REPORTS.—At the time of the budget submission of the Department for each fiscal year, the Secretary, in consultation with the members of the partnerships established pursuant to paragraph (2), shall submit to Congress a report that describes funding for the Program as a whole by functional element of the Department and critical milestones.”.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 4 of the Exascale Computing Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 5543) is amended—

(1) by striking “this Act” and inserting “section 3(d)”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following:

“(1) \$272,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(2) \$340,000,000 for fiscal year 2017; and

“(3) \$360,000,000 for fiscal year 2018.”.

**TITLE III—SUPPLY**

**Subtitle A—Renewables**

**PART I—HYDROELECTRIC**

**SEC. 3001. HYDROPOWER REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE USE OF HYDROPOWER RENEWABLE RESOURCES.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) hydropower is a renewable resource for purposes of all Federal programs and is an essential source of energy in the United States; and

(2) the United States should increase substantially the capacity and generation of clean, renewable hydropower resources that would improve environmental quality in the United States.

(b) MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TO INCLUDE HYDROPOWER.—Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “the following amounts” and all that follows through paragraph (3) and inserting “not less than 15 percent in fiscal year 2016 and each fiscal year thereafter shall be renewable energy.”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term ‘renewable energy’ means energy produced from

solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, municipal solid waste, or hydro-power.”.

(c) LICENSES FOR CONSTRUCTION.—Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 797(e)) is amended, in the first proviso, by striking “deem” and inserting “determine to be”.

(d) PRELIMINARY PERMITS.—Section 5 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 798) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “three” and inserting “4”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “Commission may extend the period of a preliminary permit once for not more than 2 additional years beyond the 3 years” and inserting the following: “Commission may—

“(1) extend the period of a preliminary permit once for not more than 4 additional years beyond the 4 years”;

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) after the end of an extension period granted under paragraph (1), issue an additional permit to the permittee if the Commission determines that there are extraordinary circumstances that warrant the issuance of the additional permit.”.

(e) TIME LIMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT WORKS.—Section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) is amended in the second sentence by striking “once but not longer than two additional years” and inserting “for not more than 8 additional years.”.

(f) LICENSE TERM.—Section 15(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 808(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(e) Except” and inserting the following:

“(e) LICENSE TERM ON RELICENSING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CONSIDERATION.—In determining the term of a license under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider project-related investments by the licensee over the term of the existing license (including any terms under annual licenses) that resulted in new development, construction, capacity, efficiency improvements, or environmental measures, but which did not result in the extension of the term of the license by the Commission.”.

(g) OPERATION OF NAVIGATION FACILITIES.—Section 18 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 811) is amended by striking the second, third, and fourth sentences.

(h) ALTERNATIVE CONDITIONS AND PRESCRIPTIONS.—Section 33 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 823d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “deems” and inserting “determines”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “determined to be necessary” before “by the Secretary”;

(C) by striking paragraph (4); and

(D) by striking paragraph (5);

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (4); and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) FURTHER CONDITIONS.—This section applies to any further conditions or prescriptions proposed or imposed pursuant to section 4(e), 6, or 18.”.

(i) LICENSING PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS AND COORDINATION.—Part I of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 792 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 34. LICENSING PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS.**

**“(a) LICENSE STUDIES.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the timely and efficient completion of the license proceedings under this part, the Commission shall—

“(A) conduct an investigation of best practices in performing licensing studies, including methodologies and the design of studies to assess the full range of environmental impacts of a project;

“(B) compile a comprehensive collection of studies and data accessible to the public that could be used to inform license proceedings under this paragraph; and

“(C) encourage license applicants and cooperating agencies to develop and use, for the purpose of fostering timely and efficient consideration of license applications, a limited number of open-source methodologies and tools applicable across a wide array of projects, including water balance models and streamflow analyses.

“(2) USE OF EXISTING STUDIES.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Commission shall use existing studies and data in individual licensing proceedings under this part in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(3) NONDUPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Commission shall ensure that studies and data required for any Federal authorization (as defined in section 35(a)) applicable to a particular project or facility are not duplicated in other licensing proceedings under this part.

“(4) BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that relevant offices within the National Marine Fisheries Service prepare any biological opinion under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) that forms the basis for a prescription under section 18 on a concurrent rather than sequential basis.

“(5) WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION DEADLINE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of issuing a license under this part, the deadline for a certifying agency to act under section 401(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341(a)) shall take effect only on the submission of a request for certification determined to be complete by the certifying agency.

“(B) NOTICE OF COMPLETE REQUEST.—The certifying agency shall inform the Commission when a request for certification is determined to be complete.

**“SEC. 35. LICENSING PROCESS COORDINATION.**

“(a) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.—In this section, the term ‘Federal authorization’ means any authorization required under Federal law (including any license, permit, special use authorization, certification, opinion, consultation, determination, or other approval) with respect to—

“(1) a project licensed under section 4 or 15; or

“(2) a facility exempted under—

“(A) section 30; or

“(B) section 405(d) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2705(d)).

“(b) DESIGNATION AS LEAD AGENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act as the lead agency for the purposes of coordinating all applicable Federal authorizations.

“(2) OTHER AGENCIES.—Each Federal and State agency considering an aspect of an application for Federal authorization shall cooperate with the Commission.

“(c) SCHEDULE.—

“(1) TIMING FOR ISSUANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that all Federal authorizations required for a project or facility, including a license or exemption order of the Commission, should be issued by the date that is 3 years after the date on which an application is considered to be complete by the Commission.

“(2) COMMISSION SCHEDULE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall establish a schedule for the issuance of all Federal authorizations.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the schedule under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall—

“(i) consult and cooperate with the Federal and State agencies responsible for a Federal authorization;

“(ii) ensure the expeditious completion of all proceedings relating to a Federal authorization; and

“(iii) comply with applicable schedules established by Federal law with respect to a Federal authorization.

“(3) RESOLUTION OF INTERAGENCY DISPUTES.—If the Federal agency fails to adhere to the schedule established by the Commission under paragraph (2), or if the final condition of the Secretary under section 4(e) or prescription under section 18 has been unreasonably delayed in derogation of the schedule established under paragraph (2), or if a proposed alternative condition or prescription has been unreasonably denied, or if a final condition or prescription would be inconsistent with the purposes of this part or other applicable law, the Commission may refer the matter to the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality—

“(A) to ensure timely participation;

“(B) to ensure a timely decision;

“(C) to mediate the dispute; or

“(D) to refer the matter to the President.

“(d) CONSOLIDATED RECORD.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall maintain official consolidated records of all license proceedings under this part.

“(2) SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Any Federal or State agency that is providing recommendations with respect to a license proceeding under this part shall submit to the Commission for inclusion in the consolidated record relating to the license proceeding maintained under paragraph (1)—

“(A) the recommendations;

“(B) the rationale for the recommendations; and

“(C) any supporting materials relating to the recommendations.

“(3) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—In a case in which a Federal agency is making a determination with respect to a covered measure (as defined in section 36(a)), the head of the Federal agency shall include in the consolidated record a written statement demonstrating that the Federal agency gave equal consideration to the effects of the covered measure on—

“(A) energy supply, distribution, cost, and use;

“(B) flood control;

“(C) navigation;

“(D) water supply; and

“(E) air quality and the preservation of other aspects of environmental quality.

**“SEC. 36. TRIAL-TYPE HEARINGS.**

“(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED MEASURE.—In this section, the term ‘covered measure’ means—

“(1) a condition prescribed under section 4(e), including an alternative condition proposed under section 33(a);

“(2) fishways prescribed under section 18, including an alternative prescription proposed under section 33(b); or



“(3) any further condition pursuant to section 4(e), 6, or 18.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF TRIAL-TYPE HEARING.—The license applicant (including an applicant for a license under section 15) and any party to the proceeding shall be entitled to a determination on the record, after opportunity for a trial-type hearing of not more than 120 days, on any disputed issues of material fact with respect to an applicable covered measure.

“(c) DEADLINE FOR REQUEST.—A request for a trial-type hearing under this section shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date on which, as applicable—

“(1) the Secretary submits the condition under section 4(e) or prescription under section 18; or

“(2)(A) the Commission publishes notice of the intention to use the reserved authority of the Commission to order a further condition under section 6; or

“(B) the Secretary exercises reserved authority under the license to prescribe, submit, or revise any condition to a license under the first proviso of section 4(e) or fishway prescribed under section 18, as appropriate.

“(d) NO REQUIREMENT TO EXHAUST.—By electing not to request a trial-type hearing under subsection (d), a license applicant and any other party to a license proceeding shall not be considered to have waived the right of the applicant or other party to raise any issue of fact or law in a non-trial-type proceeding, but no issue may be raised for the first time on rehearing or judicial review of the license decision of the Commission.

“(e) ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE.—All disputed issues of material fact raised by a party in a request for a trial-type hearing submitted under subsection (d) shall be determined in a single trial-type hearing to be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge within the Office of Administrative Law Judges and Dispute Resolution of the Commission, in accordance with the Commission rules of practice and procedure under part 385 of title 18, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), and within the timeframe established by the Commission for each license proceeding (including a proceeding for a license under section 15) under section 35(c).

“(f) STAY.—The Administrative Law Judge may impose a stay of a trial-type hearing under this section for a period of not more than 120 days to facilitate settlement negotiations relating to resolving the disputed issues of material fact with respect to the covered measure.

“(g) DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE.—

“(1) CONTENTS.—The decision of the Administrative Law Judge shall contain—

“(A) findings of fact on all disputed issues of material fact;

“(B) conclusions of law necessary to make the findings of fact, including rulings on materiality and the admissibility of evidence; and

“(C) reasons for the findings and conclusions.

“(2) LIMITATION.—The decision of the Administrative Law Judge shall not contain conclusions as to whether—

“(A) any condition or prescription should be adopted, modified, or rejected; or

“(B) any alternative condition or prescription should be adopted, modified, or rejected.

“(3) FINALITY.—A decision of an Administrative Law Judge under this section with respect to a disputed issue of material fact shall not be subject to further administrative review.

“(4) SERVICE.—The Administrative Law Judge shall serve the decision on each party to the hearing and forward the complete record of the hearing to the Commission and the Secretary that proposed the original condition or prescription.

“(h) SECRETARIAL DETERMINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Administrative Law Judge issues the decision under subsection (g) and in accordance with the schedule established by the Commission under section 35(c), the Secretary proposing a condition under section 4(e) or a prescription under section 18 shall file with the Commission a final determination to adopt, modify, or withdraw any condition or prescription that was the subject of a hearing under this section, based on the decision of the Administrative Law Judge.

“(2) RECORD OF DETERMINATION.—The final determination of the Secretary filed with the Commission shall identify the reasons for the decision and any considerations taken into account that were not part of, or inconsistent with, the findings of the Administrative Law Judge and shall be included in the consolidated record in section 35(d).

“(i) LICENSING DECISION OF THE COMMISSION.—Notwithstanding sections 4(e) and 18, if the Commission finds that the final condition or prescription of the Secretary is inconsistent with the purposes of this part or other applicable law, the Commission may refer the matter to the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality under section 35(c).

“(j) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The decision of the Administrative Law Judge and the record of determination of the Secretary shall be included in the record of the applicable licensing proceeding and subject to judicial review of the final licensing decision of the Commission under section 313(b).

#### “SEC. 37. PUMPED STORAGE PROJECTS.

“In carrying out section 6(a) of the Hydro-power Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 797 note; Public Law 113-23), the Commission shall consider a closed loop pumped storage project to include a project—

“(1) in which the upper and lower reservoirs do not impound or directly withdraw water from a navigable stream; or

“(2) that is not continuously connected to a naturally flowing water feature.

#### “SEC. 38. ANNUAL REPORTS.

“(a) COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives an annual report that—

“(A) describes and quantifies, for each licensed, exempted, or proposed project under this part or section 405(d) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2705(d)) (referred to in this subsection as the ‘covered project’), the quantity of energy and capacity authorized for new development and reauthorized for continued operation during the reporting year, including an assessment of the economic, climactic, air quality, and other environmental benefits achieved by the new and reauthorized energy and capacity;

“(B) describes and quantifies the loss of energy, capacity, or ancillary services as a result of any licensing action under this part or other requirement under Federal law during the reporting year;

“(C) identifies any application to license, relicense, or expand a covered project pending as of the date of the annual report, in-

cluding a quantification of the new energy and capacity with the potential to be gained or lost by action relating to the covered project; and

“(D) lists all proposed covered projects that, as of the date of the annual report, are subject to a preliminary permit issued under section 4(f), including a description of the quantity of new energy and capacity that would be achieved through the development of each proposed covered project.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Commission shall establish and maintain a publicly available website or comparable resource that tracks all information required for the annual report under paragraph (1).

“(b) RESOURCE AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any Federal or State resource agency that is participating in any Commission proceeding under this part or that has responsibilities for any Federal authorization shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that—

“(A) describes each term, condition, or other requirement prepared by the resource agency during the reporting year with respect to a Commission proceeding under this part, including—

“(i) an assessment of whether implementation of the term, condition, or other requirement would result in the loss of energy, capacity, or ancillary services at the project, including a quantification of the losses;

“(ii) an analysis of economic, air quality, climactic and other environmental effects associated with implementation of the term, condition, or other requirement;

“(iii) a demonstration, based on evidence in the record of the Commission, that the resource agency prepared the term, condition, or other requirement in a manner that meets the policy established by this part while discharging the responsibilities of the resource agency under this part or any other applicable requirement under Federal law; and

“(iv) a statement of whether the head of the applicable Federal agency has rendered final approval of the term, condition, or other requirement, or whether the term, condition, or other requirement remains a preliminary recommendation of staff of the resource agency; and

“(B) identifies all pending, scheduled, and anticipated proceedings under this part that, as of the date of the annual report, the resource agency expects to participate in, or has any approval or participatory responsibilities for under Federal law, including—

“(i) an accounting of whether the resource agency met all deadlines or other milestones established by the resource agency or the Commission during the reporting year; and

“(ii) the specific plans of the resource agency for allocating sufficient resources for each project during the upcoming year.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—Any resource agency preparing an annual report to Congress under paragraph (1) shall establish and maintain a publicly available website or comparable resource that tracks all information required for the annual report.”.

(j) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission (as the term is defined in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796)) shall establish a voluntary pilot program covering at least 1 region in which the Commission, in consultation with the heads of cooperating agencies, shall direct a set of region-wide studies to inform subsequent project-level studies within each region.

(2) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, if the conditions under paragraph (3) are met, the Commission, in consultation with the heads of cooperating agencies, shall designate 1 or more regions to be studied under this subsection.

(3) VOLUNTARY BASIS.—The Commission may only designate regions under paragraph (2) in which every licensee, on a voluntary basis and in writing, agrees—

(A) to be included in the pilot program; and

(B) to any cost-sharing arrangement with other licensees and applicable Federal and State agencies with respect to conducting basin-wide studies.

(4) SCALE.—The regions designated under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) be at an adequately large scale to cover at least 5 existing projects that—

(i) are licensed under this part; and

(ii) the licenses of which shall expire not later than 15 years after the date of enactment of this section; and

(B) be likely to yield region-wide studies and information that will significantly reduce the need for and scope of subsequent project-level studies and information.

(5) PROJECT LICENSE TERMS.—The Commission may extend the term of any existing license within a region designated under paragraph (2) by up to 8 years to provide sufficient time for relevant region-wide studies to inform subsequent project-level studies.

**SEC. 3002. HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION INCENTIVES AND EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS.**

(a) HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION INCENTIVES.—Section 242 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15881) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking “10” and inserting “20”;

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “20” and inserting “30”;

(3) in subsection (g), by striking “each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2016 through 2025”.

(b) HYDROELECTRIC EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT.—Section 243(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15882(c)) is amended by striking “each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2016 through 2025”.

**SEC. 3003. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR A FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT INVOLVING CLARK CANYON DAM.**

Notwithstanding the time period described in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 12429, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) shall, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice and in accordance with the procedures of the Commission under that section, reinstate the license and extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of project works for the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 3004. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR A FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT INVOLVING GIBSON DAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 12478-003, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) may, at the request of the licensee for

the project, and after reasonable notice and in accordance with the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of the project for a 6-year period that begins on the date described in subsection (b).

(b) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this subsection is the date of the expiration of the extension of the period required for commencement of construction for the project described in subsection (a) that was issued by the Commission prior to the date of enactment of this Act under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806).

(c) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (b) has expired before the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Commission shall reinstate the license effective as of the date of the expiration of the license; and

(2) the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on that expiration date.

**PART II—GEOTHERMAL**

**Subpart A—Geothermal Energy**

**SEC. 3005. NATIONAL GOALS FOR PRODUCTION AND SITE IDENTIFICATION.**

It is the sense of Congress that, not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior shall seek to approve a significant increase in new geothermal energy capacity on public land across a geographically diverse set of States using the full range of available technologies; and

(2) the Director of the Geological Survey and the Secretary should identify sites capable of producing a total of 50,000 megawatts of geothermal power, using the full range of available technologies, through a program conducted in collaboration with industry, including cost-shared exploration drilling.

**SEC. 3006. PRIORITY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LAND.**

The Director of the Bureau of Land Management, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall—

(1) identify high priority areas for new geothermal development; and

(2) take any actions the Director determines necessary to facilitate that development, consistent with applicable laws.

**SEC. 3007. FACILITATION OF COPRODUCTION OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY ON OIL AND GAS LEASES.**

Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) LAND SUBJECT TO OIL AND GAS LEASE.—Land under an oil and gas lease issued pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) that is subject to an approved application for permit to drill and from which oil and gas production is occurring may be available for noncompetitive leasing under this section to the holder of the oil and gas lease—

“(A) on a determination that—

“(i) geothermal energy will be produced from a well producing or capable of producing oil and gas; and

“(ii) national energy security will be improved by the issuance of such a lease; and

“(B) to provide for the coproduction of geothermal energy with oil and gas.”

**SEC. 3008. NONCOMPETITIVE LEASING OF ADJOINING AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES.**

Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) (as amended by sec-

tion 3007) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) ADJOINING LAND.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) FAIR MARKET VALUE PER ACRE.—The term ‘fair market value per acre’ means a dollar amount per acre that—

“(I) except as provided in this clause, shall be equal to the market value per acre (taking into account the determination under subparagraph (B)(iii) regarding a valid discovery on the adjoining land), as determined by the Secretary under regulations issued under this paragraph;

“(II) shall be determined by the Secretary with respect to a lease under this paragraph, by not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date the Secretary receives an application for the lease; and

“(III) shall be not less than the greater of—

“(aa) 4 times the median amount paid per acre for all land leased under this Act during the preceding year; or

“(bb) \$50.

“(ii) INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—The term ‘industry standards’ means the standards by which a qualified geothermal professional assesses whether downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability are sufficient to produce energy from geothermal resources, as determined through flow or injection testing or measurement of lost circulation while drilling.

“(iii) QUALIFIED FEDERAL LAND.—The term ‘qualified Federal land’ means land that is otherwise available for leasing under this Act.

“(iv) QUALIFIED GEOTHERMAL PROFESSIONAL.—The term ‘qualified geothermal professional’ means an individual who is an engineer or geoscientist in good professional standing with at least 5 years of experience in geothermal exploration, development, or project assessment.

“(v) QUALIFIED LESSEE.—The term ‘qualified lessee’ means a person that is eligible to hold a geothermal lease under this Act (including applicable regulations).

“(vi) VALID DISCOVERY.—The term ‘valid discovery’ means a discovery of a geothermal resource by a new or existing slim hole or production well, that exhibits downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability that are sufficient to meet industry standards.

“(B) AUTHORITY.—An area of qualified Federal land that adjoins other land for which a qualified lessee holds a legal right to develop geothermal resources may be available for a noncompetitive lease under this section to the qualified lessee at the fair market value per acre, if—

“(i) the area of qualified Federal land—

“(I) consists of not less than 1 acre and not more than 640 acres; and

“(II) is not already leased under this Act or nominated to be leased under subsection (a);

“(ii) the qualified lessee has not previously received a noncompetitive lease under this paragraph in connection with the valid discovery for which data has been submitted under clause (iii)(I); and

“(iii) sufficient geological and other technical data prepared by a qualified geothermal professional has been submitted by the qualified lessee to the applicable Federal land management agency that would lead individuals who are experienced in the subject matter to believe that—

“(I) there is a valid discovery of geothermal resources on the land for which the qualified lessee holds the legal right to develop geothermal resources; and

“(II) that thermal feature extends into the adjoining areas.

“(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(I) publish a notice of any request to lease land under this paragraph;

“(II) determine fair market value for purposes of this paragraph in accordance with procedures for making those determinations that are established by regulations issued by the Secretary;

“(III) provide to a qualified lessee and publish, with an opportunity for public comment for a period of 30 days, any proposed determination under this subparagraph of the fair market value of an area that the qualified lessee seeks to lease under this paragraph; and

“(IV) provide to the qualified lessee and any adversely affected party the opportunity to appeal the final determination of fair market value in an administrative proceeding before the applicable Federal land management agency, in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

“(ii) LIMITATION ON NOMINATION.—After publication of a notice of request to lease land under this paragraph, the Secretary may not accept under subsection (a) any nomination of the land for leasing unless the request has been denied or withdrawn.

“(iii) ANNUAL RENTAL.—For purposes of section 5(a)(3), a lease awarded under this paragraph shall be considered a lease awarded in a competitive lease sale.

“(D) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this paragraph.”

#### SEC. 3009. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the progress made towards achieving the goals described in section 3005.

#### SEC. 3010. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart—

(1) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2017; and

(2) \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2021.

#### Subpart B—Development of Geothermal, Solar, and Wind Energy on Public Land

#### SEC. 3011. DEFINITIONS.

In this subpart:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land” means land that is—

(A) public land administered by the Secretary; and

(B) not excluded from the development of geothermal, solar, or wind energy under—

(i) a land use plan established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

(ii) other Federal law.

(2) EXCLUSION AREA.—The term “exclusion area” means covered land that is identified by the Bureau of Land Management as not suitable for development of renewable energy projects.

(3) PRIORITY AREA.—The term “priority area” means covered land identified by the land use planning process of the Bureau of Land Management as being a preferred location for a renewable energy project.

(4) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term “public lands” in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(5) RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT.—The term “renewable energy project” means a project

carried out on covered land that uses wind, solar, or geothermal energy to generate energy.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) VARIANCE AREA.—The term “variance area” means covered land that is—

(A) not an exclusion area; and

(B) not a priority area.

#### SEC. 3011A. LAND USE PLANNING; SUPPLEMENTS TO PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.

(a) PRIORITY AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish priority areas on covered land for geothermal, solar, and wind energy projects.

(2) DEADLINE.—

(A) GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.—For geothermal energy, the Secretary shall establish priority areas as soon as practicable, but not later than 5 years, after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) SOLAR ENERGY.—For solar energy, the solar energy zones established by the 2012 western solar plan of the Bureau of Land Management shall be considered to be priority areas for solar energy projects.

(C) WIND ENERGY.—For wind energy, the Secretary shall establish priority areas as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 years, after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) VARIANCE AREAS.—To the maximum extent practicable, variance areas shall be considered for renewable energy project development, consistent with the principles of multiple use as defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(c) REVIEW AND MODIFICATION.—Not less frequently than once every 10 years, the Secretary shall—

(1) review the adequacy of land allocations for geothermal, solar, and wind energy priority and variance areas for the purpose of encouraging new renewable energy development opportunities; and

(2) based on the review carried out under paragraph (1), add, modify, or eliminate priority, variance, and exclusion areas.

(d) COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.—For purposes of this section, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be accomplished—

(1) for geothermal energy, by supplementing the October 2008 final programmatic environmental impact statement for geothermal leasing in the western United States;

(2) for solar energy, by supplementing the July 2012 final programmatic environmental impact statement for solar energy projects; and

(3) for wind energy, by supplementing the July 2005 final programmatic environmental impact statement for wind energy projects.

(e) NO EFFECT ON PROCESSING APPLICATIONS.—A requirement to prepare a supplement to a programmatic environmental impact statement under this section shall not result in any delay in processing an application for a renewable energy project.

(f) COORDINATION.—In developing a supplement required by this section, the Secretary shall coordinate, on an ongoing basis, with appropriate State, tribal, and local governments, transmission infrastructure owners and operators, developers, and other appropriate entities to ensure that priority areas identified by the Secretary are—

(1) economically viable (including having access to transmission);

(2) likely to avoid or minimize conflict with habitat for animals and plants, recreation, and other uses of covered land; and

(3) consistent with section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), including subsection (c)(9) of that section.

(g) REMOVAL FROM CLASSIFICATION.—In carrying out subsections (a), (c), and (d), if the Secretary determines an area previously suited for development should be removed from priority or variance classification, not later than 90 days after the date of the determination, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the determination.

#### SEC. 3011B. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW ON COVERED LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that a proposed renewable energy project has been sufficiently analyzed by a programmatic environmental impact statement conducted under section 3011B(d), the Secretary shall not require any additional review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(b) ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—If the Secretary determines that additional environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) is necessary for a proposed renewable energy project, the Secretary shall rely on the analysis in the programmatic environmental impact statement conducted under section 3011B(d), to the maximum extent practicable when analyzing the potential impacts of the project.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—Nothing in this section modifies or supersedes any requirement under applicable law, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

#### SEC. 3011C. PROGRAM TO IMPROVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT PERMIT COORDINATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program to improve Federal permit coordination with respect to renewable energy projects on covered land.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for purposes of this section, including to specifically expedite the environmental analysis of applications for projects proposed in a variance area, with—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

(2) STATE PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may request the Governor of any interested State to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1).

(c) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the memorandum of understanding under subsection (b) is executed, all Federal signatories, as appropriate, shall identify for each of the Bureau of Land Management Renewable Energy Coordination Offices an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) consultation regarding, and preparation of, biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a);

(E) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(F) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.); and

(G) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) DUTIES.—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be responsible for addressing all issues relating to the jurisdiction of the home office or agency of the employee; and

(B) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, monitoring, inspection, enforcement, and environmental analyses.

(d) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Secretary may assign additional personnel for the renewable energy coordination offices as are necessary to ensure the effective implementation of any programs administered by those offices, including inspection and enforcement relating to renewable energy project development on covered land, in accordance with the multiple use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(e) RENEWABLE ENERGY COORDINATION OFFICES.—In implementing the program established under this section, the Secretary may establish additional renewable energy coordination offices or temporarily assign the qualified staff described in subsection (c) to a State, district, or field office of the Bureau of Land Management to expedite the permitting of renewable energy projects, as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and each February 1 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the progress made pursuant to the program under this subpart during the preceding year.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Each report under this subsection shall include—

(A) projections for renewable energy production and capacity installations; and

(B) a description of any problems relating to leasing, permitting, siting, or production.

#### SEC. 3011D. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this subpart establishes—

(1) a priority or preference for the development of renewable energy projects on public land over other energy-related or mineral projects or other uses of public land; or

(2) an exception to the requirement that public land be managed consistent with the principle of multiple use (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

#### Subpart C—Geothermal Exploration

#### SEC. 3012. GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION TEST PROJECTS.

The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 30. GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION TEST PROJECTS.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED LAND.—The term ‘covered land’ means land that is—

“(A) subject to geothermal leasing in accordance with section 3; and

“(B) not excluded from the development of geothermal energy under—

“(i) a final land use plan established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

“(ii) a final land and resource management plan established under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.); or

“(iii) any other applicable law.

“(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ‘Secretary concerned’ means—

“(A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service), with respect to National Forest System land; and

“(B) the Secretary, with respect to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (including land held for the benefit of an Indian tribe).

“(b) NEPA REVIEW OF GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION TEST PROJECTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible activity described in paragraph (2) carried out on covered land shall be considered an action categorically excluded from the requirements for an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or section 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) if—

“(A) the action is for the purpose of geothermal resource exploration operations; and

“(B) the action is conducted pursuant to this Act.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—An eligible activity referred to in paragraph (1) is—

“(A) a geophysical exploration activity that does not require drilling, including a seismic survey;

“(B) the drilling of a well to test or explore for geothermal resources on land leased by the Secretary concerned for the development and production of geothermal resources that—

“(i) is carried out by the holder of the lease;

“(ii) causes—

“(I) fewer than 5 acres of soil or vegetation disruption at the location of each geothermal exploration well; and

“(II) not more than an additional 5 acres of soil or vegetation disruption during access or egress to the project site;

“(iii) is completed in fewer than 90 days, including the removal of any surface infrastructure from the project site; and

“(iv) requires the restoration of the project site not later than 3 years after the date of completion of the project to approximately the condition that existed at the time the project began, unless—

“(I) the project site is subsequently used as part of energy development on the lease; or

“(II) the project—

“(aa) yields geothermal resources; and

“(bb) the use of the geothermal resources will be carried out under another geothermal generation project in existence at the time of the discovery of the geothermal resources; or

“(C) the drilling of a well to test or explore for geothermal resources on land leased by the Secretary concerned for the development and production of geothermal resources that—

“(i) causes an individual surface disturbance of fewer than 5 acres if—

“(I) the total surface disturbance on the leased land is not more than 150 acres; and

“(II) a site-specific analysis has been prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

“(ii) involves the drilling of a geothermal well at a location or well pad site at which drilling has occurred within 5 years before the date of spudding the well; or

“(iii) involves the drilling of a geothermal well in a developed field for which—

“(I) an approved land use plan or any environmental document prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) analyzed the drilling as a reasonably foreseeable activity; and

“(II) the land use plan or environmental document was approved within 10 years before the date of spudding the well.

“(3) LIMITATION BASED ON EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—The categorical exclusion established under paragraph (1) shall be subject to extraordinary circumstances in accordance with the Departmental Manual, 516 DM 2.3A(3) and 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 (or successor provisions).

“(c) NOTICE OF INTENT; REVIEW AND DETERMINATION.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days before the date on which drilling begins, a leaseholder intending to carry out an eligible activity shall provide notice to the Secretary concerned.

“(2) REVIEW OF PROJECT.—Not later than 10 days after receipt of a notice of intent provided under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

“(A) review the project described in the notice and determine whether the project is an eligible activity; and

“(B)(i) if the project is an eligible activity, notify the leaseholder that under subsection (b), the project is considered a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and section 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation); or

“(ii) if the project is not an eligible activity—

“(I) notify the leaseholder that section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) applies to the project;

“(II) include in that notification clear and detailed findings on any deficiencies in the project that prevent the application of subsection (b) to the project; and

“(III) provide an opportunity to the leaseholder to remedy the deficiencies described in the notification before the date on which the leaseholder plans to begin the project under paragraph (1).”.

#### PART III—MARINE HYDROKINETIC

#### SEC. 3013. DEFINITION OF MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Section 632 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17211) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “electrical”.

#### SEC. 3014. MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 633 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17212) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 633. MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

“The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, shall carry out a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application to accelerate the introduction of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy production into the United States energy supply, giving priority to fostering accelerated research, development, and commercialization of technology, including programs—

“(1) to assist technology development to improve the components, processes, and systems used for power generation from marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy resources;

“(2) to establish critical testing infrastructure necessary—

“(A) to cost effectively and efficiently test and prove marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy devices; and

“(B) to accelerate the technological readiness and commercialization of those devices;

“(3) to support efforts to increase the efficiency of energy conversion, lower the cost, increase the use, improve the reliability, and demonstrate the applicability of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies by participating in demonstration projects;

“(4) to investigate variability issues and the efficient and reliable integration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy with the utility grid;

“(5) to identify and study critical short- and long-term needs to create a sustainable marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy supply chain based in the United States;

“(6) to increase the reliability and survivability of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies;

“(7) to verify the performance, reliability, maintainability, and cost of new marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy device designs and system components in an operating environment, and consider the protection of critical infrastructure, such as adequate separation between marine and hydrokinetic devices and projects and submarine telecommunications cables, including consideration of established industry standards;

“(8) to coordinate and avoid duplication of activities across programs of the Department and other applicable Federal agencies, including National Laboratories and to coordinate public-private collaboration in all programs under this section;

“(9) to identify opportunities for joint research and development programs and development of economies of scale between—

“(A) marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies; and

“(B) other renewable energy and fossil energy programs, offshore oil and gas production activities, and activities of the Department of Defense; and

“(10) to support in-water technology development with international partners using existing cooperative procedures (including memoranda of understanding)—

“(A) to allow cooperative funding and other support of value to be exchanged and leveraged; and

“(B) to encourage the participation of international research centers and companies within the United States and the participation of United States research centers and companies in international projects.”.

**SEC. 3015. NATIONAL MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION CENTERS.**

Section 634 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17213) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) PURPOSES.—A Center (in coordination with the Department and National Laboratories) shall—

“(1) advance research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies;

“(2) support in-water testing and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, including facilities capable of testing—

“(A) marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy systems of various technology readiness levels and scales;

“(B) a variety of technologies in multiple test berths at a single location; and

“(C) arrays of technology devices; and

“(3) serve as information clearinghouses for the marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy industry by collecting and disseminating information on best practices in all areas relating to developing and managing marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy resources and energy systems.”.

**SEC. 3016. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

Section 636 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17215) is amended by striking “\$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012” and inserting “\$55,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018 and \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2021”.

**PART IV—BIOMASS**

**SEC. 3017. POLICIES RELATING TO BIOMASS ENERGY.**

To support the key role that forests in the United States can play in addressing the energy needs of the United States, the Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, consistent with their missions, jointly—

(1) ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy—

(A) is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(B) recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management; and

(2) establish clear and simple policies for the use of forest biomass as an energy solution, including policies that—

(A) reflect the carbon-neutrality of forest bioenergy and recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use.

(B) encourage private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain, including in—

- (i) working forests;
- (ii) harvesting operations;
- (iii) forest improvement operations;
- (iv) forest bioenergy production;
- (v) wood products manufacturing; or
- (vi) paper manufacturing;

(C) encourage forest management to improve forest health; and

(D) recognize State initiatives to produce and use forest biomass.

**Subtitle B—Oil and Gas**

**SEC. 3101. AMENDMENTS TO THE METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000.**

(a) METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 (30 U.S.C. 2003) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, INTERAGENCY FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS, AND FIELD WORK PROPOSALS.—

“(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program of methane hydrate research and development authorized by this section, the Secretary may award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, institutions—

“(A) to conduct basic and applied research—

“(i) to identify, explore, assess, and develop methane hydrate as a commercially viable source of energy; and

“(ii) to identify the environmental, health, and safety impacts of methane hydrate development;

“(B) to identify and characterize methane hydrate resources using remote sensing and

seismic data, including the characterization of hydrate concentrations in marine reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico by the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016;

“(C) to develop technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of methane hydrate resources;

“(D) to conduct basic and applied research to assess and mitigate the environmental impact of hydrate degassing (including natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development);

“(E) to develop technologies to reduce the risks of drilling through methane hydrates;

“(F) to conduct exploratory drilling, well testing, and production testing operations on permafrost and nonpermafrost gas hydrates in support of the activities authorized by this paragraph, including—

“(i) drilling of a test well and performing a long-term hydrate production test on land in the United States Arctic region by the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016;

“(ii) drilling of a test well and performing a long-term hydrate production test in a marine environment by the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016; and

“(iii) drilling a full-scale production test well at a location to be determined by the Secretary; or

“(G) to expand education and training programs in methane hydrate resource research and resource development through fellowships or other means for graduate education and training.

“(2) ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall conduct a long-term environmental monitoring and research program to study the effects of production from methane hydrate reservoirs.

“(3) COMPETITIVE PEER REVIEW.—Funds made available under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be made available based on a competitive process using external scientific peer review of proposed research.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4(e) of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 (30 U.S.C. 2003(e)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “subsection (b)(1)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b)”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 is amended by striking section 7 (30 U.S.C. 2006) and inserting the following:

**“SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

“There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.”.

**SEC. 3102. LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS STUDY.**

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the National Association of State Energy Officials, shall conduct a study of the State, regional, and national implications of exporting liquefied natural gas with respect to consumers and the economy.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of—

(A) the economic impact that exporting liquefied natural gas will have in regions that currently import liquefied natural gas;

(B) job creation in the manufacturing sectors; and

(C) such other issues as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,

the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

**SEC. 3103. FERC PROCESS COORDINATION WITH RESPECT TO REGULATORY APPROVAL OF GAS PROJECTS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Federal authorization” means any authorization required under Federal law with respect to an application for authorization or a certificate of public convenience and necessity relating to gas transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Federal authorization” includes any permits, special use authorizations, certifications, opinions, or other approvals as may be required under Federal law with respect to an application for authorization or a certificate of public convenience and necessity relating to gas transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

(b) DESIGNATION AS LEAD AGENCY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act as the lead agency for the purposes of—

(A) coordinating all applicable Federal authorizations; and

(B) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) OTHER AGENCIES.—Each Federal and State agency considering an aspect of an application for Federal authorization shall cooperate with the Commission.

(c) SCHEDULE.—

(1) TIMING FOR ISSUANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that all Federal authorizations required for a project or facility should be issued by not later than the date that is 90 days after the date on which an application is considered to be complete by the Commission.

(2) COMMISSION SCHEDULE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall establish a schedule for the issuance of all Federal authorizations.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the schedule under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall—

(i) consult and cooperate with the Federal and State agencies responsible for a Federal authorization;

(ii) ensure the expeditious completion of all proceedings relating to a Federal authorization; and

(iii) comply with applicable schedules established under Federal law with respect to a Federal authorization.

(3) RESOLUTION OF INTERAGENCY DISPUTES.—

If the Federal agency with responsibility fails to adhere to the schedule established by the Commission under paragraph (2), or if a Federal authorization has been unreasonably denied, or if a Federal authorization would be inconsistent with the purposes of this section or other applicable law, the Commission shall refer the matter to the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality—

(A) to ensure timely participation;

(B) to ensure a timely decision;

(C) to mediate the dispute; or

(D) to refer the matter to the President.

(d) CONSOLIDATED RECORD.—The Commission shall maintain official consolidated records of all license proceedings under this section.

(e) DEFERENCE TO COMMISSION.—In making a decision with respect to a Federal authorization, each agency shall give deference, to

the maximum extent authorized by law, to the scope of environmental review that the Commission determines to be appropriate.

(f) CONCURRENT REVIEWS.—Pursuant to the schedule established under subsection (c)(2), each agency considering an aspect of an application for Federal authorization shall—

(1) to the maximum extent authorized by law, carry out the obligations of that agency under applicable law concurrently and in conjunction with the review required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), unless doing so would impair the ability of the agency to conduct needed analysis or otherwise carry out those obligations;

(2) formulate and implement administrative, policy, and procedural mechanisms to enable the agency to complete the required Federal authorizations in accordance with the schedule described in subsection (c); and

(3) transmit to the Commission a statement—

(A) acknowledging notice of the schedule described in subsection (c); and

(B) describing the plan formulated under paragraph (2).

(g) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—If an agency does not complete a proceeding for an approval that is required for a Federal authorization in accordance with the schedule described in subsection (c), the head of the relevant Federal agency (including, in the case of a failure by the State agency or unit of local government, the Federal agency overseeing the delegated authority) shall—

(1) notify Congress and the Commission of the failure; and

(2) describe in that notification an implementation plan to ensure completion.

(h) ACCOUNTABILITY; TRANSPARENCY; EFFICIENCY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For applications requiring multiple Federal authorizations, the Commission, in consultation with any agency considering an aspect of the application, shall track and make available to the public on the website of the Commission information relating to the actions required to complete permitting, reviews, and other requirements.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Information tracked under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The schedule described in subsection (c).

(B) A list of all the actions required by each applicable agency to complete permitting, reviews, and other requirements necessary to obtain a final decision on the Federal authorization.

(C) The expected completion date for each action listed under subparagraph (B).

(D) A point of contact at the agency accountable for each action listed under subparagraph (B).

(E) In the event that an action is still pending as of the expected date of completion, a brief explanation of the reason for the delay.

**SEC. 3104. PILOT PROGRAM.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this section as the “Director”), shall establish a pilot program in 1 State with at least 2,000 oil and gas drilling spacing units (as defined under State law), in which—

(1) 25 percent or less of the minerals are owned or held in trust by the Federal Government; and

(2) there is no surface land owned or held in trust by the Federal Government.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Director shall identify and im-

plement ways to streamline the review and approval of Applications for Permits to Drill for oil and gas drilling spacing units of the State in order to achieve a processing time for those oil and gas drilling spacing units similar to that of spacing units that require an Application for Permit to Drill and are not part of the pilot program in the same State.

(c) FUNDING.—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, and for a period of 3 years thereafter, to carry out the pilot program efficiently, the Director may fund up to 10 full-time equivalents at appropriate field offices.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the pilot program.

(e) WAIVER.—The Secretary of the Interior may waive the requirement for an Application for Permit to Drill if the Director determines that the mineral interest of the United States in the spacing units in land covered by this section is adequately protected, if otherwise in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and lease terms.

**SEC. 3105. GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of—

(1) energy production in the United States; and

(2) the effects, if any, of crude oil exports from the United States on consumers, independent refiners, and shipbuilding and ship repair yards.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing each review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a statement of the principal findings of the review; and

(2) recommendations for Congress and the President to address any job loss in the shipbuilding and ship repair industry or adverse impacts on consumers and refiners that the Comptroller General of the United States attributes to unencumbered crude oil exports in the United States.

**SEC. 3106. ETHANE STORAGE STUDY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with other relevant Federal departments and agencies and stakeholders, shall conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing an ethane storage and distribution hub in the Marcellus, Utica, and Rogersville shale plays in the United States.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an examination of, with respect to the proposed ethane storage and distribution hub—

(A) potential locations;

(B) economic feasibility;

(C) economic benefits;

(D) geological storage capacity capabilities;

(E) above-ground storage capabilities;

(F) infrastructure needs; and

(G) other markets and trading hubs, particularly hubs relating to ethane; and

(2) the identification of potential additional benefits of the proposed hub to energy security.

(c) PUBLICATION OF RESULTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce shall—

(1) submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the results of the study under subsection (a); and

(2) publish those results on the Internet websites of the Departments of Energy and Commerce, respectively.

**SEC. 3107. ALISO CANYON NATURAL GAS LEAK TASK FORCE.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.—Not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall lead and establish an Aliso Canyon Task Force (referred to in this section as the “task force”).

(b) MEMBERSHIP OF TASK FORCE.—In addition to the Secretary, the task force shall be composed of—

(1) 1 representative from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;

(2) 1 representative from the Department of Health and Human Services;

(3) 1 representative from the Environmental Protection Agency;

(4) 1 representative from the Department of the Interior;

(5) 1 representative from the Department of Commerce; and

(6) 1 representative from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) FINAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the task force shall submit a final report that contains the information described in subparagraph (B) to—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(iii) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(iv) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(v) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(vi) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(vii) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(viii) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives;

(ix) the President; and

(x) relevant Federal and State agencies.

(B) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, at a minimum—

(i) an analysis and conclusion of the cause of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak;

(ii) an analysis of measures taken to stop the natural gas leak, with an immediate focus on other, more effective measures that could be taken;

(iii) an assessment of the impact of the natural gas leak on health, safety, the environment, and the economy of the residents and property surrounding Aliso Canyon;

(iv) an analysis of how Federal and State agencies responded to the natural gas leak;

(v) in order to lessen the negative impacts of natural gas leaks, recommendations on how to improve—

(I) the response to a future leak; and

(II) coordination between all appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies in the re-

sponse to the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak and future natural gas leaks;

(vi) an analysis of the potential for a similar natural gas leak to occur at other underground natural gas storage facilities in the United States;

(vii) recommendations on how to prevent any future natural gas leaks;

(viii) recommendations on whether to continue operations at Aliso Canyon and other facilities in close proximity to residential populations based on an assessment of the risk of a future natural gas leak;

(ix) a recommendation on information that is not currently collected but that would be in the public interest to collect and distribute to agencies and institutions for the continued study and monitoring of natural gas infrastructure in the United States;

(x) an analysis of the impact of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak on wholesale and retail electricity prices; and

(xi) an analysis of the impact of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak on the reliability of the bulk-power system.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The interim reports and recommendations under paragraph (1) and the final report under paragraph (2) shall be made available to the public in an electronically accessible format.

(3) If, before the final report is submitted under paragraph (1) the task force finds methods to solve the natural gas leak at Aliso Canyon; better protect the affected communities; or finds methods to help prevent other leaks, they must immediately issue such findings to the same entities that are to receive the final report.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary.

**SEC. 3108. REPORT ON INCORPORATING INTERNET-BASED LEASE SALES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report containing recommendations for the incorporation of Internet-based lease sales at the Bureau of Land Management in accordance with section 17(b)(1)(C) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)(C)) in the event of an emergency or other disruption causing a disruption to a sale.

**SEC. 3109. DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRE-SEWER NATURAL GAS PIPELINE.**

(a) PERMIT.—Section 3(b)(1) of the Denali National Park Improvement Act (Public Law 113-33; 127 Stat. 516) is amended by striking “within, along, or near the approximately 7-mile segment of the George Parks Highway that runs through the Park”.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Section 3(c)(1) of the Denali National Park Improvement Act (Public Law 113-33; 127 Stat. 516) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(2) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—Section 3 of the Denali National Park Improvement Act (Public Law 113-33; 127 Stat. 515) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) APPLICABLE LAW.—A high pressure gas transmission pipeline (including appurtenances) in a nonwilderness area within the boundary of the Park, shall not be subject to title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3161 et seq.).”.

**Subtitle C—Helium**

**SEC. 3201. RIGHTS TO HELIUM.**

(a) DEFINITION OF HELIUM-RELATED PROJECT.—The term “helium-related project” means a project—

(1) to explore or produce crude helium; and

(2) to sell crude or refined helium.

(b) EXPEDITED COMPLETION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, applicable environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for helium-related projects shall be completed on an expeditious basis and the shortest existing applicable process under that Act shall be used for such projects.

(c) REPEAL OF RESERVATION OF HELIUM RIGHTS.—The first section of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181) is amended by striking the flush text that follows the last undesignated subsection.

(d) RIGHTS TO HELIUM UNDER LEASES UNDER MINERAL LEASING ACT FOR ACQUIRED LANDS.—The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 12. RIGHTS TO HELIUM.**

“Any lease issued under this Act that authorizes exploration for, or development or production of, gas shall be considered to grant to the lessee a right of first refusal to engage in exploration for, and development and production of, helium on land that is subject to the lease in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary.”.

**Subtitle D—Critical Minerals**

**SEC. 3301. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle:

(1) CRITICAL MINERAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “critical mineral” means any mineral, element, substance, or material designated as critical pursuant to section 3303.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “critical mineral” does not include—

(i) fuel minerals, including oil, natural gas, or any other fossil fuels; or

(ii) water, ice, or snow.

(2) CRITICAL MINERAL MANUFACTURING.—The term “critical mineral manufacturing” means—

(A) the production, processing, refining, alloying, separation, concentration, magnetic sintering, melting, or beneficiation of critical minerals within the United States;

(B) the fabrication, assembly, or production, within the United States, of equipment, components, or other goods with energy technology-, defense-, agriculture-, consumer electronics-, or health care-related applications; or

(C) any other value-added, manufacturing-related use of critical minerals undertaken within the United States.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means—

(A) a State;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) American Samoa;

(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

(G) the United States Virgin Islands.

**SEC. 3302. POLICY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1602) is amended in the second sentence—

(1) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) establish an analytical and forecasting capability for identifying critical mineral demand, supply, and other factors to allow informed actions to be taken to avoid supply shortages, mitigate price volatility, and prepare for demand growth and other market shifts;”;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end; and

(3) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) encourage Federal agencies to facilitate the availability, development, and environmentally responsible production of domestic resources to meet national material or critical mineral needs;

“(8) avoid duplication of effort, prevent unnecessary paperwork, and minimize delays in the administration of applicable laws (including regulations) and the issuance of permits and authorizations necessary to explore for, develop, and produce critical minerals and to construct critical mineral manufacturing facilities in accordance with applicable environmental and land management laws;

“(9) strengthen educational and research capabilities and workforce training;

“(10) bolster international cooperation through technology transfer, information sharing, and other means;

“(11) promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of critical minerals;

“(12) develop alternatives to critical minerals; and

“(13) establish contingencies for the production of, or access to, critical minerals for which viable sources do not exist within the United States.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2(b) of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1601(b)) is amended by striking “(b) As used in this Act, the term” and inserting the following:

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

“(1) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term ‘critical mineral’ means any mineral or element designated as a critical mineral pursuant to section 3303 of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016.

“(2) MATERIALS.—The term”.

#### SEC. 3303. CRITICAL MINERAL DESIGNATIONS.

(a) DRAFT METHODOLOGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey) (referred to in this subtitle as the “Secretary”), in consultation with relevant Federal agencies and entities, shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment a draft methodology for determining which minerals qualify as critical minerals based on an assessment of whether the minerals are—

(1) subject to potential supply restrictions (including restrictions associated with foreign political risk, abrupt demand growth, military conflict, violent unrest, anti-competitive or protectionist behaviors, and other risks throughout the supply chain); and

(2) important in use (including energy technology-, defense-, currency-, agriculture-, consumer electronics-, and health care-related applications).

(b) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—If available data is insufficient to provide a quantitative basis for the methodology developed under this section, qualitative evidence may be used to the extent necessary.

(c) FINAL METHODOLOGY.—After reviewing public comments on the draft methodology under subsection (a) and updating the draft methodology as appropriate, not later than

270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a description of the final methodology for determining which minerals qualify as critical minerals.

(d) DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out this subtitle, the Secretary shall maintain a list of minerals and elements designated as critical, pursuant to the methodology under subsection (c).

(2) INITIAL LIST.—Subject to paragraph (1), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register an initial list of minerals designated as critical pursuant to the final methodology under subsection (c) for the purpose of carrying out this subtitle.

(3) INCLUSIONS.—Notwithstanding the criteria under subsection (c), the Secretary may designate and include on the list any mineral or element determined by another Federal agency to be strategic and critical to the defense or national security of the United States.

(e) SUBSEQUENT REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review the methodology and designations under subsections (c) and (d) at least every 3 years, or more frequently as the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

(2) REVISIONS.—Subject to subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may—

(A) revise the methodology described in this section;

(B) determine that minerals or elements previously determined to be critical minerals are no longer critical minerals; and

(C) designate additional minerals or elements as critical minerals.

(f) NOTICE.—On finalization of the methodology under subsection (c), the list under subsection (d), or any revision to the methodology or list under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to Congress written notice of the action.

#### SEC. 3304. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with applicable State (including geological surveys), local, academic, industry, and other entities, the Secretary shall complete a comprehensive national assessment of each critical mineral that—

(1) identifies and quantifies known critical mineral resources, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories; and

(2) provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of undiscovered critical mineral resources throughout the United States, including probability estimates of tonnage and grade, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories.

(b) SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may carry out surveys and field work (including drilling, remote sensing, geophysical surveys, geological mapping, and geochemical sampling and analysis) to supplement existing information and datasets available for determining the existence of critical minerals in the United States.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of the Governor of a State or the head of an Indian tribe, the Secretary may provide technical assistance to State governments and Indian tribes conducting critical mineral resource assessments on non-Federal land.

(d) PRIORITIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may sequence the completion of resource assessments for each critical mineral such that

critical minerals considered to be most critical under the methodology established under section 3303 are completed first.

(2) REPORTING.—During the period beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date of completion of all of the assessments required under this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress on an annual basis an interim report that—

(A) identifies the sequence and schedule for completion of the assessments if the Secretary sequences the assessments; or

(B) describes the progress of the assessments if the Secretary does not sequence the assessments.

(e) UPDATES.—The Secretary may periodically update the assessments conducted under this section based on—

(1) the generation of new information or datasets by the Federal Government; or

(2) the receipt of new information or datasets from critical mineral producers, State geological surveys, academic institutions, trade associations, or other persons.

(f) ADDITIONAL SURVEYS.—The Secretary shall complete a resource assessment for each additional mineral or element subsequently designated as a critical mineral under section 3303(e)(2) not later than 2 years after the designation of the mineral or element.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the status of geological surveying of Federal land for any mineral commodity—

(1) for which the United States was dependent on a foreign country for more than 25 percent of the United States supply, as depicted in the report issued by the United States Geological Survey entitled “Mineral Commodity Summaries 2015”; but

(2) that is not designated as a critical mineral under section 3303.

#### SEC. 3305. PERMITTING.

(a) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS.—To improve the quality and timeliness of decisions, the Secretary (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management) and the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service) (referred to in this section as the “Secretaries”) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, with respect to critical mineral production on Federal land, complete Federal permitting and review processes with maximum efficiency and effectiveness, while supporting vital economic growth, by—

(1) establishing and adhering to timelines and schedules for the consideration of, and final decisions regarding, applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for mineral-related activities on Federal land;

(2) establishing clear, quantifiable, and temporal permitting performance goals and tracking progress against those goals;

(3) engaging in early collaboration among agencies, project sponsors, and affected stakeholders—

(A) to incorporate and address the interests of those parties; and

(B) to minimize delays;

(4) ensuring transparency and accountability by using cost-effective information technology to collect and disseminate information regarding individual projects and agency performance;

(5) engaging in early and active consultation with State, local, and Indian tribal governments to avoid conflicts or duplication of effort, resolve concerns, and allow for concurrent, rather than sequential, reviews;



(6) providing demonstrable improvements in the performance of Federal permitting and review processes, including lower costs and more timely decisions;

(7) expanding and institutionalizing permitting and review process improvements that have proven effective;

(8) developing mechanisms to better communicate priorities and resolve disputes among agencies at the national, regional, State, and local levels; and

(9) developing other practices, such as preapplication procedures.

(b) REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) identifies additional measures (including regulatory and legislative proposals, as appropriate) that would increase the timeliness of permitting activities for the exploration and development of domestic critical minerals;

(2) identifies options (including cost recovery paid by permit applicants) for ensuring adequate staffing and training of Federal entities and personnel responsible for the consideration of applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for critical mineral-related activities on Federal land;

(3) quantifies the amount of time typically required (including range derived from minimum and maximum durations, mean, median, variance, and other statistical measures or representations) to complete each step (including those aspects outside the control of the executive branch, such as judicial review, applicant decisions, or State and local government involvement) associated with the development and processing of applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for critical mineral-related activities on Federal land, which shall serve as a baseline for the performance metric under subsection (c); and

(4) describes actions carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) PERFORMANCE METRIC.—Not later than 90 days after the date of submission of the report under subsection (b), the Secretaries, after providing public notice and an opportunity to comment, shall develop and publish a performance metric for evaluating the progress made by the executive branch to expedite the permitting of activities that will increase exploration for, and development of, domestic critical minerals, while maintaining environmental standards.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Beginning with the first budget submission by the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, after publication of the performance metric required under subsection (c), and annually thereafter, the Secretaries shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) summarizes the implementation of recommendations, measures, and options identified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b);

(2) using the performance metric under subsection (c), describes progress made by the executive branch, as compared to the baseline established pursuant to subsection (b)(3), on expediting the permitting of activities that will increase exploration for, and development of, domestic critical minerals; and

(3) compares the United States to other countries in terms of permitting efficiency and any other criteria relevant to the globally competitive critical minerals industry.

(e) INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS.—Using data from the Secretaries generated under subsection

(d), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prioritize inclusion of individual critical mineral projects on the website operated by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with section 1122 of title 31, United States Code.

(f) REPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.—Not later than 1 year and 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the applicable committees of Congress a report that assesses the performance of Federal agencies with respect to—

(1) complying with chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Regulatory Flexibility Act”), in promulgating regulations applicable to the critical minerals industry; and

(2) performing an analysis of regulations applicable to the critical minerals industry that may be outmoded, inefficient, duplicative, or excessively burdensome.

#### SEC. 3306. FEDERAL REGISTER PROCESS.

(a) DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW.—Absent any extraordinary circumstance, and except as otherwise required by law, the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that each Federal Register notice described in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) subject to any required reviews within the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture; and

(2) published in final form in the Federal Register not later than 45 days after the date of initial preparation of the notice.

(b) PREPARATION.—The preparation of Federal Register notices required by law associated with the issuance of a critical mineral exploration or mine permit shall be delegated to the organizational level within the agency responsible for issuing the critical mineral exploration or mine permit.

(c) TRANSMISSION.—All Federal Register notices regarding official document availability, announcements of meetings, or notices of intent to undertake an action shall be originated in, and transmitted to the Federal Register from, the office in which, as applicable—

(1) the documents or meetings are held; or

(2) the activity is initiated.

#### SEC. 3307. RECYCLING, EFFICIENCY, AND ALTERNATIVES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a program of research and development—

(1) to promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of critical minerals throughout the supply chain; and

(2) to develop alternatives to critical minerals that do not occur in significant abundance in the United States.

(b) COOPERATION.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall cooperate with appropriate—

(1) Federal agencies and National Laboratories;

(2) critical mineral producers;

(3) critical mineral processors;

(4) critical mineral manufacturers;

(5) trade associations;

(6) academic institutions;

(7) small businesses; and

(8) other relevant entities or individuals.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—Under the program, the Secretary shall carry out activities that include the identification and development of—

(1) advanced critical mineral extraction, production, separation, alloying, or processing technologies that decrease the energy consumption, environmental impact, and costs of those activities, including—

(A) efficient water and wastewater management strategies;

(B) technologies and management strategies to control the environmental impacts of radionuclides in ore tailings; and

(C) technologies for separation and processing;

(2) technologies or process improvements that minimize the use, or lead to more efficient use, of critical minerals across the full supply chain;

(3) technologies, process improvements, or design optimizations that facilitate the recycling of critical minerals, and options for improving the rates of collection of products and scrap containing critical minerals from post-consumer, industrial, or other waste streams;

(4) commercial markets, advanced storage methods, energy applications, and other beneficial uses of critical minerals processing byproducts;

(5) alternative minerals, metals, and materials, particularly those available in abundance within the United States and not subject to potential supply restrictions, that lessen the need for critical minerals; and

(6) alternative energy technologies or alternative designs of existing energy technologies, particularly those that use minerals that—

(A) occur in abundance in the United States; and

(B) are not subject to potential supply restrictions.

(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the activities, findings, and progress of the program.

#### SEC. 3308. ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING.

(a) CAPABILITIES.—In order to evaluate existing critical mineral policies and inform future actions that may be taken to avoid supply shortages, mitigate price volatility, and prepare for demand growth and other market shifts, the Secretary, in consultation with the Energy Information Administration, academic institutions, and others in order to maximize the application of existing competencies related to developing and maintaining computer-models and similar analytical tools, shall conduct and publish the results of an annual report that includes—

(1) as part of the annually published Mineral Commodity Summaries from the United States Geological Survey, a comprehensive review of critical mineral production, consumption, and recycling patterns, including—

(A) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically produced during the preceding year;

(B) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically consumed during the preceding year;

(C) market price data or other price data for each critical mineral;

(D) an assessment of—

(i) critical mineral requirements to meet the national security, energy, economic, industrial, technological, and other needs of the United States during the preceding year;

(ii) the reliance of the United States on foreign sources to meet those needs during the preceding year; and

(iii) the implications of any supply shortages, restrictions, or disruptions during the preceding year;

(E) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically recycled during the preceding year;

(F) the market penetration during the preceding year of alternatives to each critical mineral;

(G) a discussion of international trends associated with the discovery, production, consumption, use, costs of production, prices, and recycling of each critical mineral as well as the development of alternatives to critical minerals; and

(H) such other data, analyses, and evaluations as the Secretary finds are necessary to achieve the purposes of this section; and

(2) a comprehensive forecast, entitled the "Annual Critical Minerals Outlook", of projected critical mineral production, consumption, and recycling patterns, including—

(A) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically produced over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(B) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically consumed over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(C) an assessment of—

(i) critical mineral requirements to meet projected national security, energy, economic, industrial, technological, and other needs of the United States;

(ii) the projected reliance of the United States on foreign sources to meet those needs; and

(iii) the projected implications of potential supply shortages, restrictions, or disruptions;

(D) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically recycled over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(E) the market penetration of alternatives to each critical mineral projected to take place over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(F) a discussion of reasonably foreseeable international trends associated with the discovery, production, consumption, use, costs of production, and recycling of each critical mineral as well as the development of alternatives to critical minerals; and

(G) such other projections relating to each critical mineral as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this section.

(b) PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—In preparing a report described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure, consistent with section 5(f) of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1604(f)), that—

(1) no person uses the information and data collected for the report for a purpose other than the development of or reporting of aggregate data in a manner such that the identity of the person or firm who supplied the information is not discernible and is not material to the intended uses of the information;

(2) no person discloses any information or data collected for the report unless the information or data has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person or firm who supplied particular information; and

(3) procedures are established to require the withholding of any information or data collected for the report if the Secretary determines that withholding is necessary to protect proprietary information, including any trade secrets or other confidential information.

#### SEC. 3309. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.

(a) WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year and 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor

(in consultation with the Secretary, the Director of the National Science Foundation, institutions of higher education with substantial expertise in mining, institutions of higher education with significant expertise in minerals research, including fundamental research into alternatives, and employers in the critical minerals sector) shall submit to Congress an assessment of the domestic availability of technically trained personnel necessary for critical mineral exploration, development, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, education, and research, including an analysis of—

(1) skills that are in the shortest supply as of the date of the assessment;

(2) skills that are projected to be in short supply in the future;

(3) the demographics of the critical minerals industry and how the demographics will evolve under the influence of factors such as an aging workforce;

(4) the effectiveness of training and education programs in addressing skills shortages;

(5) opportunities to hire locally for new and existing critical mineral activities;

(6) the sufficiency of personnel within relevant areas of the Federal Government for achieving the policies described in section 3 of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1602); and

(7) the potential need for new training programs to have a measurable effect on the supply of trained workers in the critical minerals industry.

(b) CURRICULUM STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering under which the Academies shall coordinate with the National Science Foundation on conducting a study—

(A) to design an interdisciplinary program on critical minerals that will support the critical mineral supply chain and improve the ability of the United States to increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, production, manufacturing, research, including fundamental research into alternatives, and recycling;

(B) to address undergraduate and graduate education, especially to assist in the development of graduate level programs of research and instruction that lead to advanced degrees with an emphasis on the critical mineral supply chain or other positions that will increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, production, manufacturing, research, including fundamental research into alternatives, and recycling;

(C) to develop guidelines for proposals from institutions of higher education with substantial capabilities in the required disciplines for activities to improve the critical mineral supply chain and advance the capacity of the United States to increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, research, development, production, manufacturing, and recycling; and

(D) to outline criteria for evaluating performance and recommendations for the amount of funding that will be necessary to establish and carry out the program described in subsection (c).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a description of the results of the study required under paragraph (1).

(c) PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly conduct a competitive grant program under which institutions of higher education may apply for and receive 4-year grants for—

(A) startup costs for newly designated faculty positions in integrated critical mineral education, research, innovation, training, and workforce development programs consistent with subsection (b);

(B) internships, scholarships, and fellowships for students enrolled in programs related to critical minerals;

(C) equipment necessary for integrated critical mineral innovation, training, and workforce development programs; and

(D) research of critical minerals and their applications, particularly concerning the manufacture of critical components vital to national security.

(2) RENEWAL.—A grant under this subsection shall be renewable for up to 2 additional 3-year terms based on performance criteria outlined under subsection (b)(1)(D).

#### SEC. 3310. NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL DATA PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

Section 351(k) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15908(k)) is amended by striking "\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010" and inserting "\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2026, to remain available until expended".

#### SEC. 3311. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(d) of the National Superconductivity and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5202(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "with the assistance of the National Critical Materials Council as specified in the National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)."

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle or an amendment made by this subtitle modifies any requirement or authority provided by—

(A) the matter under the heading "GEOLOGICAL SURVEY" of the first section of the Act of March 3, 1879 (43 U.S.C. 31(a)); or

(B) the first section of Public Law 87-626 (43 U.S.C. 31(b)).

(2) SECRETARIAL ORDER NOT AFFECTED.—This subtitle shall not apply to any mineral described in Secretarial Order No. 3324, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 3, 2012, in any area to which the order applies.

#### SEC. 3312. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

##### Subtitle E—Coal

#### SEC. 3401. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON CARBON CAPTURE, USE, AND STORAGE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) carbon capture, use, and storage deployment is—

(A) an important part of the clean energy future and smart research and development investments of the United States; and

(B) critical—

(i) to increasing the energy security of the United States;

(ii) to reducing emissions; and

(iii) to maintaining a diverse and reliable energy resource;

(2) the fossil energy programs of the Department should continue to focus on research and development of technologies that

will improve the capture, transportation, use (including for the production through bio-fixation of carbon-containing products), and injection processes essential for carbon capture, use, and storage activities in the electrical and industrial sectors;

(3) the Secretary should continue to partner with the private sector and explore avenues to bring down the cost of carbon capture, including through loans, grants, and sequestration credits to help make carbon capture, use, and storage technologies more competitive compared to other technologies that are a part of the clean energy future of the United States; and

(4) the Secretary should continue working with international partners on pre-existing agreements, projects, and information sharing activities of the Secretary to develop the latest and most cutting-edge carbon capture, use, and storage technologies for the electrical and industrial sectors.

**SEC. 3402. FOSSIL ENERGY.**

Section 961(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16291(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) Improving the conversion, use, and storage of carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels.”.

**SEC. 3403. ESTABLISHMENT OF COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.**

(a) REPEALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) Sections 962 and 963 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16292, 16293) are repealed.

(B) Subtitle A of title IV of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15961 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Notwithstanding the amendments made by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall continue to manage any program activities that are outstanding as of the date of enactment of this Act under the terms and conditions of sections 962 and 963 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16292, 16293) or subtitle A of title IV of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15961 et seq.) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), as applicable.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 703(a)(3) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17251(a)(3)) is amended—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking the first and second sentences; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “including” in the matter preceding clause (i) and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “, including such geologic sequestration projects as are approved by the Secretary”.

(B) Section 704 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17252) is amended in the first sentence by striking “under section 963(c)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16293(c)(3)), as added by section 702 of this subtitle, and”.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (as amended by subsection (a)) is amended by inserting after section 961 (42 U.S.C. 16291) the following:

**“SEC. 962. COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) LARGE-SCALE PILOT PROJECT.—The term ‘large-scale pilot project’ means a pilot project that—

“(A) represents the scale of technology development beyond laboratory development and bench scale testing, but not yet advanced to the point of being tested under real operational conditions at commercial scale;

“(B) represents the scale of technology necessary to gain the operational data needed to understand the technical and performance risks of the technology before the application of that technology at commercial scale or in commercial-scale demonstration; and

“(C) is large enough—

“(i) to validate scaling factors; and

“(ii) to demonstrate the interaction between major components so that control philosophies for a new process can be developed and enable the technology to advance from large-scale pilot plant application to commercial-scale demonstration or application.

“(2) NET-NEGATIVE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS PROJECT.—The term ‘net-negative carbon dioxide emissions project’ means a project—

“(A) that employs a technology for thermochemical coconversion of coal and biomass fuels that—

“(i) uses a carbon capture system; and

“(ii) with carbon dioxide removal, can provide electricity, fuels, or chemicals with net-negative carbon dioxide emissions from production and consumption of the end products, while removing atmospheric carbon dioxide;

“(B) that will proceed initially through a large-scale pilot project for which front-end engineering will be performed for bituminous, subbituminous, and lignite coals; and

“(C) through which each use of coal will be combined with the use of a regionally indigenous form of biomass energy, provided on a renewable basis, that is sufficient in quantity to allow for net-negative emissions of carbon dioxide (in combination with a carbon capture system), while avoiding impacts on food production activities.

“(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means the program established under subsection (b)(1).

“(4) TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘transformational technology’ means a power generation technology that represents an entirely new way to convert energy that will enable a step change in performance, efficiency, and cost of electricity as compared to the technology in existence on the date of enactment of this section.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘transformational technology’ includes a broad range of technology improvements, including—

“(i) thermodynamic improvements in energy conversion and heat transfer, including—

“(I) oxygen combustion;

“(II) chemical looping; and

“(III) the replacement of steam cycles with supercritical carbon dioxide cycles;

“(ii) improvements in turbine technology;

“(iii) improvements in carbon capture systems technology; and

“(iv) any other technology the Secretary recognizes as transformational technology.

“(b) COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a coal technology program to ensure the continued use of the abundant, domestic coal resources of the United States through the development of technologies that will significantly improve the efficiency, effectiveness, costs, and environmental performance of coal use.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The program shall include—

“(A) a research and development program;

“(B) large-scale pilot projects;

“(C) demonstration projects; and

“(D) net-negative carbon dioxide emissions projects.

“(3) PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.—In consultation with the interested entities described in paragraph (4)(C), the Secretary shall develop goals and objectives for the program to be applied to the technologies developed within the program, taking into consideration the following objectives:

“(A) Ensure reliable, low-cost power from new and existing coal plants.

“(B) Achieve high conversion efficiencies.

“(C) Address emissions of carbon dioxide through high-efficiency platforms and carbon capture from new and existing coal plants.

“(D) Support small-scale and modular technologies to enable incremental capacity additions and load growth and large-scale generation technologies.

“(E) Support flexible baseload operations for new and existing applications of coal generation.

“(F) Further reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and reduce the use and manage the discharge of water in power plant operations.

“(G) Accelerate the development of technologies that have transformational energy conversion characteristics.

“(H) Validate geological storage of large volumes of anthropogenic sources of carbon dioxide and support the development of the infrastructure needed to support a carbon dioxide use and storage industry.

“(I) Examine methods of converting coal to other valuable products and commodities in addition to electricity.

“(4) CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

“(A) undertake international collaborations, as recommended by the National Coal Council;

“(B) use existing authorities to encourage international cooperation; and

“(C) consult with interested entities, including—

“(i) coal producers;

“(ii) industries that use coal;

“(iii) organizations that promote coal and advanced coal technologies;

“(iv) environmental organizations;

“(v) organizations representing workers; and

“(vi) organizations representing consumers.

“(c) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the performance standards adopted under subsection (b)(3).

“(2) UPDATE.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years after the initial report is submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the progress made towards achieving the objectives and performance standards adopted under subsection (b)(3).

“(d) FUNDING.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section, to remain available until expended—

“(A) for activities under the research and development program component described in subsection (b)(2)(A)—

“(i) \$275,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020; and

“(ii) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(B) for activities under the demonstration projects program component described in subsection (b)(2)(C)—

“(i) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020; and

“(ii) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020; and

“(i) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(C) subject to paragraph (2), for activities under the large-scale pilot projects program component described in subsection (b)(2)(B), \$285,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021; and

“(D) for activities under the net-negative carbon dioxide emissions projects program component described in subsection (b)(2)(D), \$22,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(2) COST SHARING FOR LARGE-SCALE PILOT PROJECTS.—Activities under subsection (b)(2)(B) shall be subject to the cost-sharing requirements of section 988(b).”

**SEC. 3404. REPORT ON PRICE STABILIZATION SUPPORT.**

(a) DEFINITION OF ELECTRIC GENERATION UNIT.—In this section, the term “electric generation unit” means an electric generation unit that—

(1) uses coal-based generation technology; and

(2) is capable of capturing carbon dioxide emissions from the unit.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

(1) on the benefits and costs of entering into long-term binding contracts on behalf of the Federal Government with qualified parties to provide price stabilization support for certain industrial sources for capturing carbon dioxide from electricity generated at an electric generation unit or carbon dioxide captured from an electric generation unit and sold to a purchaser for—

(A) the recovery of crude oil; or

(B) other purposes for which a commercial market exists; and

(2) that—

(A) contains an analysis of how the Department would establish, implement, and maintain a contracting program described in paragraph (1); and

(B) outlines options for how price stabilization contracts may be structured and regulations that would be necessary to implement a contracting program described in paragraph (1).

**Subtitle F—Nuclear**

**SEC. 3501. NUCLEAR ENERGY INNOVATION CAPABILITIES.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED FISSION REACTOR.—The term “advanced fission reactor” means a nuclear fission reactor with significant improvements over the most recent generation of nuclear reactors, including improvements such as—

(A) inherent safety features;

(B) lower waste yields;

(C) greater fuel utilization;

(D) superior reliability;

(E) resistance to proliferation;

(F) increased thermal efficiency; and

(G) ability to integrate into electric and nonelectric applications.

(2) FAST NEUTRON.—The term “fast neutron” means a neutron with kinetic energy above 100 kiloelectron volts.

(3) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(B) LIMITATION.—With respect to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Sandia National Laboratories, the term “National Laboratory” means only the civilian activities of the laboratory.

(4) NEUTRON FLUX.—The term “neutron flux” means the intensity of neutron radiation measured as a rate of flow of neutrons applied over an area.

(5) NEUTRON SOURCE.—The term “neutron source” means a research machine that provides neutron irradiation services for—

(A) research on materials sciences and nuclear physics; and

(B) testing of advanced materials, nuclear fuels, and other related components for reactor systems.

(b) MISSION.—Section 951 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16271) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct programs of civilian nuclear research, development, demonstration, and commercial application, including activities described in this subtitle, that take into consideration the following objectives:

“(1) Providing research infrastructure—

“(A) to promote scientific progress; and

“(B) to enable users from academia, the National Laboratories, and the private sector to make scientific discoveries relevant for nuclear, chemical, and materials science engineering.

“(2) Maintaining nuclear energy research and development programs at the National Laboratories and institutions of higher education, including programs of infrastructure of National Laboratories and institutions of higher education.

“(3) Providing the technical means to reduce the likelihood of nuclear weapons proliferation.

“(4) Ensuring public safety.

“(5) Reducing the environmental impact of nuclear energy-related activities.

“(6) Supporting technology transfer from the National Laboratories to the private sector.

“(7) Enabling the private sector to partner with the National Laboratories to demonstrate novel reactor concepts for the purpose of resolving technical uncertainty associated with the objectives described in this subsection.”

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) nuclear energy, through fission or fusion, represents the highest energy density of any known attainable source and yields low air emissions; and

(2) considering the inherent complexity and regulatory burden associated with nuclear energy, the Department should focus civilian nuclear research and development activities of the Department on programs that enable the private sector, National Laboratories, and institutions of higher education to carry out experiments to promote scientific progress and enhance practical knowledge of nuclear engineering.

(d) HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTATION AND SUPPORTIVE RESEARCH.—

(1) MODELING AND SIMULATION PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to enhance the capabilities of the United States to develop new reactor technologies and related systems technologies through high-performance computation modeling and simulation techniques (referred to in this paragraph as the “program”).

(B) COORDINATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall coordinate with relevant Federal agencies through the National Strategic Computing Initiative established by Executive Order 13702 (80 Fed. Reg. 46177) (July 29, 2015).

(C) OBJECTIVES.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall take into consideration the following objectives:

(i) Using expertise from the private sector, institutions of higher education, and National Laboratories to develop computational software and capabilities that prospective users may access to accelerate research and development of advanced fission reactor systems, nuclear fusion systems, and reactor systems for space exploration.

(ii) Developing computational tools to simulate and predict nuclear phenomena that may be validated through physical experimentation.

(iii) Increasing the utility of the research infrastructure of the Department by coordinating with the Advanced Scientific Computing Research program of the Office of Science.

(iv) Leveraging experience from the Energy Innovation Hub for Modeling and Simulation.

(v) Ensuring that new experimental and computational tools are accessible to relevant research communities, including private companies engaged in nuclear energy technology development.

(2) SUPPORTIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall consider support for additional research activities to maximize the utility of the research facilities of the Department, including research—

(A) on physical processes to simulate degradation of materials and behavior of fuel forms; and

(B) for validation of computational tools.

(e) VERSATILE NEUTRON SOURCE.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF MISSION NEED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2016, the Secretary shall determine the mission need for a versatile reactor-based fast neutron source, which shall operate as a national user facility (referred to in this subsection as the “user facility”).

(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consult with the private sector, institutions of higher education, the National Laboratories, and relevant Federal agencies to ensure that the user facility will meet the research needs of the largest possible majority of prospective users.

(2) PLAN FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—On the determination of the mission need under paragraph (1), the Secretary, as expeditiously as practicable, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a detailed plan for the establishment of the user facility (referred to in this section as the “plan”).

(3) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall make every effort to complete construction of, and approve the start of operations for, the user facility by December 31, 2025.

(4) FACILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) CAPABILITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that the user facility shall provide, at a minimum—

(i) fast neutron spectrum irradiation capability; and

(ii) capacity for upgrades to accommodate new or expanded research needs.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the plan, the Secretary shall consider—

(i) capabilities that support experimental high-temperature testing;

(ii) providing a source of fast neutrons—

(I) at a neutron flux that is higher than the neutron flux at which research facilities operate before establishment of the user facility; and

(II) sufficient to enable research for an optimal base of prospective users;

(iii) maximizing irradiation flexibility and irradiation volume to accommodate as many concurrent users as possible;

(iv) capabilities for irradiation with neutrons of a lower energy spectrum;

(v) multiple loops for fuels and materials testing in different coolants; and

(vi) additional pre-irradiation and post-irradiation examination capabilities.

(5) **COORDINATION.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall leverage the best practices of the Office of Science for the management, construction, and operation of national user facilities.

(6) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall include in the annual budget request of the Department an explanation for any delay in carrying out this subsection.

(f) **ENABLING NUCLEAR ENERGY INNOVATION.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR INNOVATION CENTER.**—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to establish a center to be known as the “National Nuclear Innovation Center” (referred to in this subsection as the “Center”)—

(A) to enable the testing and demonstration of reactor concepts to be proposed and funded, in whole or in part, by the private sector;

(B) to establish and operate a database to store and share data and knowledge on nuclear science between Federal agencies and private industry; and

(C) to establish capabilities to develop and test reactor electric and nonelectric integration and energy conversion systems.

(2) **ROLE OF NRC.**—In operating the Center, the Secretary shall—

(A) consult with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on safety issues; and

(B) permit staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to actively observe and learn about the technology being developed at the Center.

(3) **OBJECTIVES.**—A reactor developed under paragraph (1)(A) shall have the following objectives:

(A) Enabling physical validation of fusion and advanced fission experimental reactors at the National Laboratories or other facilities of the Department.

(B) Resolving technical uncertainty and increase practical knowledge relevant to safety, resilience, security, and functionality of novel reactor concepts.

(C) Conducting general research and development to improve novel reactor technologies.

(4) **USE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE.**—In operating the Center, the Secretary shall leverage the technical expertise of relevant Federal agencies and National Laboratories—

(A) to minimize the time required to carry out paragraph (3); and

(B) to ensure reasonable safety for individuals working at the National Laboratories or other facilities of the Department to carry out that paragraph.

(5) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the National Laboratories, relevant Federal agencies, and other stakeholders, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the

House of Representatives a report assessing the capabilities of the Department to authorize, host, and oversee privately proposed and funded reactors (as described in paragraph (1)(A)).

(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report shall address—

(i) the safety review and oversight capabilities of the Department, including options to leverage expertise from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the National Laboratories;

(ii) potential sites capable of hosting the activities described in paragraph (1);

(iii) the efficacy of the available contractual mechanisms of the Department to partner with the private sector and other Federal agencies, including cooperative research and development agreements, strategic partnership projects, and agreements for commercializing technology;

(iv) how the Federal Government and the private sector will address potential intellectual property concerns;

(v) potential cost structures relating to physical security, decommissioning, liability, and other long term project costs; and

(vi) other challenges or considerations identified by the Secretary.

(g) **BUDGET PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives 3 alternative 10-year budget plans for civilian nuclear energy research and development by the Department in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) **DESCRIPTION OF PLANS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The 3 alternative 10-year budget plans submitted under paragraph (1) shall be the following:

(i) A plan that assumes constant annual funding at the level of appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for the civilian nuclear energy research and development of the Department, particularly for programs critical to advanced nuclear projects and development.

(ii) A plan that assumes 2 percent annual increases to the level of appropriations described in clause (i).

(iii) A plan that uses an unconstrained budget.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—Each plan shall include—

(i) a prioritized list of the programs, projects, and activities of the Department that best support the development, licensing, and deployment of advanced nuclear energy technologies;

(ii) realistic budget requirements for the Department to carry out subsections (d), (e), and (f); and

(iii) the justification of the Department for continuing or terminating existing civilian nuclear energy research and development programs.

(h) **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REPORT.**—Not later than December 31, 2016, the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the extent to which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is capable of licensing advanced reactor designs that are developed pursuant to this section by the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date on which an application is received under part 50 or 52 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

(2) any organizational or institutional barriers the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will need to overcome to be able to license the advanced reactor designs that are developed pursuant to this section by the end of the 4-year period described in paragraph (1).

#### **SEC. 3502. NEXT GENERATION NUCLEAR PLANT PROJECT.**

Section 642(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16022(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

#### **Subtitle G—Workforce Development**

#### **SEC. 3601. 21ST CENTURY ENERGY WORKFORCE ADVISORY BOARD.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish the 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board (referred to in this section as the “Board”), to develop a strategy for the support and development of a skilled energy workforce that—

(1) meets the current and future industry and labor needs of the energy sector;

(2) provides opportunities for students to become qualified for placement in traditional energy sector and clean energy sector jobs;

(3) aligns apprenticeship programs and workforce development programs to provide industry recognized certifications and credentials;

(4) encourages leaders in the education system of the United States to equip students with the skills, mentorships, training, and technical expertise necessary to fill the employment opportunities vital to managing and operating the energy- and manufacturing-related industries of the United States;

(5) appropriately supports other Federal agencies;

(6) strengthens and more fully engages workforce training programs of the Department and the National Laboratories in carrying out the Minorities in Energy Initiative of the Department and other Department workforce priorities;

(7) supports the design and replication of existing model energy curricula, particularly in new and emerging technologies, that leads to industry-wide credentials;

(8) develops plans to support and retrain displaced and unemployed energy sector workers; and

(9) makes a Department priority to provide education and job training to underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities, Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), women, veterans, and socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board shall be composed of 9 members, with the initial members of the Board to be appointed by the Secretary not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **NOMINATIONS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology shall nominate for appointment to the Board under paragraph (1) not less than 18 individuals who meet the qualifications described in paragraph (3).

(3) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Each individual nominated for appointment to the Board under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be eminent in the field of economics or workforce development;

(B) have expertise in relevant traditional energy industries and clean energy industries;

(C) have expertise in secondary and post-secondary education;

(D) have expertise in energy workforce development or apprentice programs of States and units of local government;

(E) have expertise in relevant organized labor organizations; or

(F) have expertise in bringing underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities, women, veterans, and socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, into the workforce.

(4) REPRESENTATION.—The membership of the Board shall be representative of the broad range of the energy industry, labor organizations, workforce development, education, minority participation, cybersecurity, and economics disciplines related to activities carried out under this section.

(5) LIMITATION.—No individual shall be nominated for appointment to the Board who is an employee of an entity applying for a grant under section 3602.

(C) ADVISORY BOARD REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) DETERMINATION BY BOARD.—In developing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Board shall—

(A) determine whether there are opportunities to more effectively and efficiently use the capabilities of the Department in the development of a skilled energy workforce;

(B) identify ways in which the Department could work with other relevant Federal agencies, States, units of local government, educational institutions, labor, and industry in the development of a skilled energy workforce;

(C) identify ways in which the Department and National Laboratories can—

(i) increase outreach to minority-serving institutions; and

(ii) make resources available to increase the number of skilled minorities and women trained to go into the energy- and manufacturing-related sectors;

(D) identify ways in which the Department and National Laboratories can—

(i) increase outreach to displaced and unemployed energy sector workers; and

(ii) make resources available to provide training to displaced and unemployed energy sector workers to reenter the energy workforce; and

(E) identify the energy sectors in greatest need of workforce training and develop guidelines for the skills necessary to develop a workforce trained to work in those energy sectors.

(2) REQUIRED ANALYSIS.—In developing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Board shall analyze the effectiveness of—

(A) existing Department directed support; and

(B) developing energy workforce training programs.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Board is established under this section, and each year thereafter, the Board shall submit to the Secretary and Congress, and make public, a report containing the findings of the Board and model energy curricula with respect to the strategy required to be developed under subsection (a).

(d) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Board is established under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) describes whether the Secretary approves or disapproves the recommendations of the Board under subsection (c)(3); and

(2) provides an implementation plan for recommendations approved by the Board under paragraph (1).

(e) CLEARINGHOUSE.—Based on the recommendations of the Board, the Secretary shall establish a clearinghouse—

(1) to maintain and update information and resources on training and workforce development programs for energy- and manufacturing-related jobs; and

(2) to act as a resource, and provide guidance, for secondary schools, institutions of higher education (including community colleges and minority-serving institutions), workforce development organizations, labor management organizations, and industry organizations that would like to develop and implement energy- and manufacturing-related training programs.

(f) OUTREACH TO MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—In developing the strategy under subsection (a), the Board shall—

(1) give special consideration to increasing outreach to minority-serving institutions (including historically black colleges and universities, predominantly black institutions, Hispanic serving institutions, and tribal institutions);

(2) make resources available to minority-serving institutions with the objective of increasing the number of skilled minorities and women trained to go into the energy and manufacturing sectors; and

(3) encourage industry to improve the opportunities for students of minority-serving institutions to participate in industry internships and cooperative work-study programs.

(g) SUNSET.—The Board established under this section shall remain in effect until September 30, 2020.

**SEC. 3602. ENERGY WORKFORCE PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, shall establish a pilot program to award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities for job training programs that lead to an industry-recognized credential.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall be a public or nonprofit organization or a consortium of public or nonprofit organizations that—

(1) includes an advisory board of proportional participation, as determined by the Secretary, of relevant organizations, including—

(A) relevant energy industry organizations, including public and private employers;

(B) labor organizations;

(C) postsecondary education organizations; and

(D) workforce development boards;

(2) demonstrates experience in implementing and operating job training and education programs;

(3) demonstrates the ability to recruit and support individuals who plan to work in the energy industry in the successful completion of relevant job training and education programs; and

(4) provides students who complete the job training and education program with an industry-recognized credential.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—Eligible entities desiring a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(d) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities to receive grants under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize applicants that—

(1) house the job training and education programs in—

(A) a community college or institution of higher education that includes basic science and math education in the curriculum of the community college, institution of higher education; or

(B) an apprenticeship program registered with the Department of Labor or a State (as defined in 202 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6802)) (referred to in this section as the “State”);

(2) work with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or veteran service organizations recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code, to transition members of the Armed Forces and veterans to careers in the energy sector;

(3) work with Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), tribal organizations (as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code), and Native American veterans (as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code), including veterans who are a descendant of an Alaska Native (as defined in section 3(r) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(r));

(4) apply as a State or regional consortia to leverage best practices already available in the State or region in which the community college or institution of higher education is located;

(5) have a State-supported entity included in the consortium applying for the grant;

(6) include an apprenticeship program registered with the Department of Labor or a State as part of the job training and education program;

(7) provide support services and career coaching;

(8) provide introductory energy workforce development training;

(9) work with minority-serving institutions to provide job training to increase the number of skilled minorities and women in the energy sector;

(10) provide job training for displaced and unemployed workers in the energy sector;

(11) establish a community college or 2-year technical college-based “Center of Excellence” for an energy and maritime workforce technical training program; or

(12) are located in close proximity to marine or port facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, or Great Lakes.

(e) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall consider regional diversity.

(f) LIMITATION ON APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity may not submit, either individually or as part of a joint application, more than 1 application for a grant under this section during any 1 fiscal year.

(g) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of an individual grant for any 1 year shall not exceed \$1,000,000.

(h) COST SHARING.—

(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a job training and education program carried out using a grant under this section shall be not greater than 65 percent.

(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a job training and education program carried out using a grant under this section shall consist of not less than 50 percent cash.

(B) LIMITATION.—Not greater than 50 percent of the non-Federal contribution of the total cost of a job training and education program carried out using a grant under this section shall be in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or services fairly valued.

(i) REDUCTION OF DUPLICATION.—Prior to submitting an application for a grant under this section, each applicant shall consult with the appropriate agencies of the Federal Government and coordinate the proposed activities of the applicant with existing State and local programs.

(j) DIRECT ASSISTANCE.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall provide direct assistance (including technical expertise, wraparound services, career coaching, mentorships, internships, and partnerships) to entities that receive a grant under this section.

(k) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance and capacity building to national and State energy partnerships, including the entities described in subsection (b)(1), to leverage the existing job training and education programs of the Department.

(l) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly available on the website of the Department an annual report on the program established under this section, including a description of—

- (1) the entities receiving grants;
- (2) the activities carried out using the grants;
- (3) best practices used to leverage the investment of the Federal Government;
- (4) the rate of employment for participants after completing a job training and education program carried out using a grant; and
- (5) an assessment of the results achieved by the program.

(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020.

#### Subtitle H—Recycling

##### SEC. 3701. RECYCLED CARBON FIBER.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study on—

- (A) the technology of recycled carbon fiber and production waste carbon fiber; and
- (B) the potential lifecycle energy savings and economic impact of recycled carbon fiber.

(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—

(A) the quantity of recycled carbon fiber or production waste carbon fiber that would make the use of recycled carbon fiber or production waste carbon fiber economically viable;

(B) any existing or potential barriers to recycling carbon fiber or using recycled carbon fiber;

(C) any financial incentives that may be necessary for the development of recycled carbon fiber or production waste carbon fiber;

(D) the potential lifecycle savings in energy from producing recycled carbon fiber, as compared to producing new carbon fiber;

(E) the best and highest use for recycled carbon fiber;

(F) the potential reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from producing recycled carbon fiber, as compared to producing new carbon fiber;

(G) any economic benefits gained from using recycled carbon fiber or production waste carbon fiber;

(H) workforce training and skills needed to address labor demands in the development of recycled carbon fiber or production waste carbon fiber; and

(I) how the Department can leverage existing efforts in the industry on the use of production waste carbon fiber.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(b) RECYCLED CARBON FIBER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—On completion of the study required under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall consult with the aviation and automotive industries and existing programs of the Advanced Manufacturing Office of the Department to develop a carbon fiber recycling demonstration project.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

##### SEC. 3702. ENERGY GENERATION AND REGULATORY RELIEF STUDY REGARDING RECOVERY AND CONVERSION OF NONRECYCLED MIXED PLASTICS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENGINEERED FUEL.—The term “engineered fuel” means a solid fuel that is manufactured from nonrecycled constituents of municipal solid waste or other secondary materials.

(2) GASIFICATION.—The term “gasification” means a process through which nonrecycled waste is heated and converted to synthesis gas in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere, which can be converted into fuels such as ethanol or other chemical feedstocks.

(3) PYROLYSIS.—The term “pyrolysis” means a process through which nonrecycled plastics are heated in the absence of oxygen until melted and thermally decomposed, and are then cooled, condensed, and converted into synthetic crude oil or refined into synthetic fuels and feedstocks such as diesel or naphtha.

(b) STUDY.—With respect to nonrecycled mixed plastics that are part of municipal solid waste or other secondary materials in the United States (and are often deposited in landfills), the Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the manner in which the United States can make progress toward a cost-effective system (including with respect to environmental issues) through which pyrolysis, gasification, and other innovative technologies such as engineered fuels are used to convert such plastics, alone or in combination with other municipal solid waste or secondary materials, into materials that can be used to generate electric energy or fuels or as chemical feedstocks.

(c) COMPLETION OF STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete the study described in subsection (b) and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress reports providing findings and recommendations developed through the study.

(d) FUNDING.—The Secretary may use unobligated funds of the Department to carry out this section.

##### SEC. 3703. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.

Section 1703(b)(1) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “(excluding the burning of commonly recycled paper that has been segregated from solid waste to generate electricity)” after “systems”.

##### SEC. 3704. PROMOTING USE OF RECLAIMED REFRIGERANTS IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall issue guidance relating to the procurement of reclaimed refrigerants to service existing equipment of Federal facilities.

(b) PREFERENCE.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall give preference to the use of reclaimed refrigerants, on the conditions that—

(1) the refrigerant has been reclaimed by a person or entity that is certified under the laboratory certification program of the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute; and

(2) the price of the reclaimed refrigerant does not exceed the price of a newly manufactured (virgin) refrigerant.

#### Subtitle I—Thermal Energy

##### SEC. 3801. MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TO INCLUDE THERMAL ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) (as amended by section 3001(b)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “a number equivalent to” before “the total amount of electric energy”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) QUALIFIED WASTE HEAT RESOURCE.—The term ‘qualified waste heat resource’ means—  
“(A) exhaust heat or flared gas from any industrial process;

“(B) waste gas or industrial tail gas that would otherwise be flared, incinerated, or vented;

“(C) a pressure drop in any gas for an industrial or commercial process; or

“(D) such other forms of waste heat as the Secretary determines appropriate.”;

(C) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A))—

(i) by striking “produced from” and inserting “produced or, if resulting from a thermal energy project placed in service after December 31, 2014, thermal energy generated from, or avoided by.”; and

(ii) by inserting “qualified waste heat resource,” after “municipal solid waste.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) SEPARATE CALCULATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining compliance with the requirements of this section, any energy consumption that is avoided through the use of renewable energy shall be considered to be renewable energy produced.

“(B) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Avoided energy consumption that is considered to be renewable energy produced under subparagraph (A) shall not also be counted for purposes of achieving compliance with another Federal energy efficiency goal.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2410q(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 203(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b)(2))” and inserting “section 203(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b))”.

## TITLE IV—ACCOUNTABILITY

### Subtitle A—Loan Programs

#### SEC. 4001. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR INCENTIVES FOR INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) BORROWER PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY COST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) BORROWER PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY COST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the requirement in subsection (b)(1), no guarantee shall be made unless the Secretary has received from the borrower not less than 25 percent of the cost of the guarantee.

“(2) ESTIMATE.—The Secretary shall provide to the borrower, as soon as practicable, an estimate or range of the cost of the guarantee under paragraph (1).”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—No guarantee” and inserting the following: “Subject to subsection (1), no guarantee”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively, and indenting appropriately; and

(C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “subparagraph (A)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”;

(ii) by striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

(b) PROHIBITION ON SUBORDINATION OF DEBT.—Section 1702(d)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512(d)(3)) is amended by striking “is not subordinate” and inserting “(including any reorganization, restructuring, or termination of the obligation) shall not at any time be subordinate”.

(c) LOAN PROGRAM TRANSPARENCY.—Section 1703 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) LOAN STATUS.—

“(1) REQUEST.—If the Secretary does not make a final decision on an application for a loan guarantee under this section by the date that is 270 days after receipt of the application by the Secretary, on that date and every 90 days thereafter until the final decision is made, the applicant may request that the Secretary provide to the applicant a description of the status of the application.

“(2) RESPONSE.—Not later than 10 days after receiving a request from an applicant under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the applicant a response that includes—

“(A) a summary of any factors that are delaying a final decision on the application; and

“(B) an estimate of when review of the application will be completed.”.

(d) TEMPORARY PROGRAM FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION PROJECTS.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 1705 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16516) is repealed.

(2) RESCISSION.—There is rescinded the unobligated balance of amounts made available to carry out the loan guarantee program established under section 1705 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16516) (before the amendment made by paragraph (1)).

(3) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure rigorous continued management and oversight of all outstanding loans guaran-

teed under the program described in subsection (b) until those loans have been repaid in full.

#### SEC. 4002. STATE LOAN ELIGIBILITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1701 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16511) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) STATE.—The term ‘State’ has the meaning given the term in section 202 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6802).

“(7) STATE ENERGY FINANCING INSTITUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘State energy financing institution’ means a quasi-independent entity or an entity within a State agency or financing authority established by a State—

(i) to provide financing support or credit enhancements, including loan guarantees and loan loss reserves, for eligible projects; and

(ii) to create liquid markets for eligible projects, including warehousing and securitization, or take other steps to reduce financial barriers to the deployment of existing and new eligible projects.

“(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘State energy financing institution’ includes an entity or organization established to achieve the purposes described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) by an Indian tribal entity or an Alaska Native Corporation.”.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512) (as amended by section 4001(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or to a State energy financing institution” after “for projects”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(m) STATE ENERGY FINANCING INSTITUTIONS.—

“(1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a guarantee under this title, a State energy financing institution—

“(A) shall meet the requirements of section 1703(a)(1); and

“(B) shall not be required to meet the requirements of section 1703(a)(2).

“(2) PARTNERSHIPS AUTHORIZED.—In carrying out a project receiving a loan guarantee under this title, State energy financing institutions may enter into partnerships with private entities, tribal entities, and Alaska Native corporations.

“(3) PROHIBITION ON USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated to the Department of Energy before the date of enactment of this subsection shall not be available to be used for the cost of loan guarantees made to State energy financing institutions under this subsection.”.

#### SEC. 4003. GAO STUDY ON FOSSIL LOAN GUARANTEE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of, a study on the effectiveness of the advanced fossil loan guarantee incentive program and other incentive programs for advanced fossil energy of the Department.

(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) solicit industry and stakeholder input;

(2) evaluate the effectiveness of the advanced fossil loan guarantee incentive program, alone or in combination with other incentives, in advancing carbon capture and storage technology;

(3) review each Federal incentive provided by the Department and other Federal agen-

cies for carbon capture and storage demonstration projects to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of the combined Federal incentives in advancing carbon capture and storage and advanced fossil energy technologies;

(4) assess whether combinations of the incentive programs in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act could be effective to advance carbon capture and storage and advanced fossil energy technologies; and

(5) evaluate the impact and costs of implementing the recommendations described in the January 2015 National Coal Council report entitled “Fossil Forward: Revitalizing CCS, Bringing Scale and Speed to CCS Deployment” on the effectiveness of the advanced fossil loan guarantee program.

#### SEC. 4004. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY FOR VESSELS.

Subtitle B of title I of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17011 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 137. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING INCENTIVE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY FOR VESSELS.

“(a) DEFINITION OF VESSEL.—In this section, the term ‘vessel’ means a vessel (as defined in section 3 of title 1, United States Code), whether in existence or under construction, that has been issued a certificate of documentation as a United States flagged vessel under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code and that meets the standards established under section 4005(a) of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Subject to the terms and conditions of subsections (d) and (f) of section 136, projects for the reequipping, expanding, or establishing of a manufacturing facility in the United States to produce vessels shall be considered eligible for direct loans under section 136(d).

“(c) FUNDING.—

“(1) PROHIBITION ON USE OF EXISTING CREDIT SUBSIDY.—None of the projects made eligible under this section shall be eligible to receive any credit subsidy provided under section 136 before the date of enactment of this section.

“(2) SPECIFIC APPROPRIATION OR CONTRIBUTION.—The authority under this section to incur indebtedness, or enter into contracts, obligating amounts to be expended by the Federal Government shall be effective for any fiscal year only—

“(A)(i) to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in advance by appropriation Acts; and

“(ii) if the borrower has agreed to pay a reasonable percentage of the cost of the obligation; or

“(B) if the Secretary has received from the borrower a payment in full for the cost of the obligation and deposited the payment into the Treasury.”.

#### SEC. 4005. ADDITIONAL REFORMS.

(a) ISSUANCE OF RULE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and after consultation with, and taking into account comments from, the vessel industry, the Secretary shall issue a rule that specifies which energy efficiency improvement standards shall apply to applicants for loans under section 137 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (as added by section 4004) for the manufacturing, retrofitting, or repowering vessels that have been issued certificates of documentation as United States flagged vessels under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code.

(b) FEES.—Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:



“(f) FEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall charge and collect fees for loans provided under this section in amounts that the Secretary determines are sufficient to cover applicable administrative expenses associated with the loans, including reasonable closing fees on the loans.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be deposited by the Secretary into the Treasury; and

“(B) remain available until expended, subject to such other conditions as are contained in annual appropriations Acts.”

**SEC. 4006. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY INDIAN ENERGY EDUCATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

Section 2602(b)(6) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(b)(6)) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2026”.

**Subtitle B—Energy-Water Nexus**

**SEC. 4101. NEXUS OF ENERGY AND WATER FOR SUSTAINABILITY.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENERGY-WATER NEXUS.—The term “energy-water nexus” means the links between—

(A) the water needed to produce fuels, electricity, and other forms of energy; and

(B) the energy needed to transport, reclaim, and treat water and wastewater.

(2) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE.—The term “Interagency Coordination Committee” means the Committee on the Nexus of Energy and Water for Sustainability (or the “NEWS Committee”) established under subsection (b)(1).

(3) NEXUS OF ENERGY AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE; NEWS OFFICE.—The term “Nexus of Energy and Water Sustainability Office” or the “NEWS Office” means an office located at the Department and managed in cooperation with the Department of the Interior pursuant to an agreement between the 2 agencies to carry out leadership and administrative functions for the Interagency Coordination Committee.

(4) RD&D ACTIVITIES.—The term “RD&D activities” means research, development, and demonstration activities.

(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall establish the joint NEWS Office and Interagency Coordination Committee on the Nexus of Energy and Water for Sustainability (or the “NEWS Committee”) to carry out the duties described in paragraph (3).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) CHAIRS.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall jointly manage the NEWS Office and serve as co-chairs of the Interagency Coordination Committee.

(B) MEMBERSHIP; STAFFING.—Membership and staffing shall be determined by the co-chairs.

(3) DUTIES.—The Interagency Coordination Committee shall—

(A) serve as a forum for developing common Federal goals and plans on energy-water nexus RD&D activities in coordination with the National Science and Technology Council;

(B) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, issue a strategic plan on energy-water nexus RD&D activities priorities and objectives;

(C) convene and promote coordination of the activities of Federal departments and

agencies on energy-water nexus RD&D activities, including the activities of—

(i) the Department;

(ii) the Department of the Interior;

(iii) the Corps of Engineers;

(iv) the Department of Agriculture;

(v) the Department of Defense;

(vi) the Department of State;

(vii) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(viii) the Council on Environmental Quality;

(ix) the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(x) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(xi) the National Science Foundation;

(xii) the Office of Management and Budget;

(xiii) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;

(xiv) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(xv) such other Federal departments and agencies as the Interagency Coordination Committee considers appropriate;

(D)(i) coordinate and develop capabilities and methodologies for data collection, management, and dissemination of information related to energy-water nexus RD&D activities from and to other Federal departments and agencies; and

(ii) promote information exchange between Federal departments and agencies—

(I) to identify and document Federal and non-Federal programs and funding opportunities that support basic and applied research, development, and demonstration proposals to advance energy-water nexus related science and technologies;

(II) to leverage existing programs by encouraging joint solicitations, block grants, and matching programs with non-Federal entities; and

(III) to identify opportunities for domestic and international public-private partnerships, innovative financing mechanisms, information and data exchange;

(E) promote the integration of energy-water nexus considerations into existing Federal water, energy, and other natural resource, infrastructure, and science programs at the national and regional levels and with programs administered in partnership with non-Federal entities; and

(F) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, issue a report on the potential benefits and feasibility of establishing an energy-water center of excellence within the National Laboratories (as that term is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)).

(4) NO REGULATION.—Nothing in this subsection grants to the Interagency Coordination Committee the authority to promulgate regulations or set standards.

(5) REVIEW; REPORT.—At the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the Interagency Coordination Committee and NEWS Office are established, the NEWS Office shall—

(A) review the activities, relevance, and effectiveness of the Interagency Coordination Committee; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that—

(i) describes the results of the review conducted under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) includes a recommendation on whether the Interagency Coordination Committee should continue.

(c) CROSSCUT BUDGET.—Not later than 30 days after the President submits the budget of the United States Government under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the co-chairs of the Interagency Coordination Committee (acting through the NEWS Office) shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, an interagency budget crosscut report that displays at the program-, project-, and activity-level for each of the Federal agencies that carry out or support (including through grants, contracts, interagency and intraagency transfers, and multiyear and no-year funds) basic and applied RD&D activities to advance the energy-water nexus related science and technologies—

(1) the budget proposed in the budget request of the President for the upcoming fiscal year;

(2) expenditures and obligations for the prior fiscal year; and

(3) estimated expenditures and obligations for the current fiscal year.

**SEC. 4102. SMART ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY PILOT PROGRAM.**

Subtitle A of title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16191 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 918. SMART ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY PILOT PROGRAM.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a utility;

“(B) a municipality;

“(C) a water district;

“(D) an Indian tribe or Alaska Native village; and

“(E) any other authority that provides water, wastewater, or water reuse services.

“(2) SMART ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘smart energy and water efficiency pilot program’ or ‘pilot program’ means the pilot program established under subsection (b).

“(b) SMART ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a smart energy and water efficiency pilot program in accordance with this section.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the smart energy and water efficiency pilot program is to award grants to eligible entities to demonstrate unique, advanced, or innovative technology-based solutions that will—

“(A) increase the energy efficiency of water, wastewater, and water reuse systems;

“(B) improve energy efficiency of water, wastewater, and water reuse systems to help communities across the United States make measurable progress in conserving water, saving energy, and reducing costs;

“(C) support the implementation of innovative and unique processes and the installation of established advanced automated systems that provide real-time data on energy and water; and

“(D) improve energy-water conservation and quality and predictive maintenance through technologies that utilize internet connected technologies, including sensors, intelligent gateways, and security embedded in hardware.

“(3) PROJECT SELECTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make competitive, merit-reviewed grants under the pilot program to not less than 3, but not more than 5, eligible entities.

“(B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting an eligible entity to receive a grant under the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider—

- “(i) energy and cost savings;
- “(ii) the uniqueness, commercial viability, and reliability of the technology to be used;
- “(iii) the degree to which the project integrates next-generation sensors software, analytics, and management tools;
- “(iv) the anticipated cost-effectiveness of the pilot project through measurable energy efficiency savings, water savings or reuse, and infrastructure costs averted;
- “(v) whether the technology can be deployed in a variety of geographic regions and the degree to which the technology can be implemented in a wide range of applications ranging in scale from small towns to large cities, including tribal communities;
- “(vi) whether the technology has been successfully deployed elsewhere;
- “(vii) whether the technology was sourced from a manufacturer based in the United States; and
- “(viii) whether the project will be completed in 5 years or less.

“(C) APPLICATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), an eligible entity seeking a grant under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

“(ii) CONTENTS.—An application under clause (i) shall, at a minimum, include—

- “(I) a description of the project;
- “(II) a description of the technology to be used in the project;
- “(III) the anticipated results, including energy and water savings, of the project;
- “(IV) a comprehensive budget for the project;
- “(V) the names of the project lead organization and any partners;
- “(VI) the number of users to be served by the project;
- “(VII) a description of the ways in which the proposal would meet performance measures established by the Secretary; and
- “(VIII) any other information that the Secretary determines to be necessary to complete the review and selection of a grant recipient.

“(4) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall select grant recipients under this section.

“(B) EVALUATIONS.—

“(i) ANNUAL EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall annually carry out an evaluation of each project for which a grant is provided under this section that meets performance measures and benchmarks developed by the Secretary, consistent with the purposes of this section.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Consistent with the performance measures and benchmarks developed under clause (i), in carrying out an evaluation under that clause, the Secretary shall—

- “(I) evaluate the progress and impact of the project; and
- “(II) assesses the degree to which the project is meeting the goals of the pilot program.

“(C) TECHNICAL AND POLICY ASSISTANCE.—On the request of a grant recipient, the Secretary shall provide technical and policy assistance.

“(D) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall make available to the public through the Internet and other means the Secretary considers to be appropriate—

“(i) a copy of each evaluation carried out under subparagraph (B); and

“(ii) a description of any best practices identified by the Secretary as a result of those evaluations.

“(E) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of each evaluation carried out under subparagraph (B).

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.”.

#### Subtitle C—Innovation

##### SEC. 4201. AMERICA COMPETES PROGRAMS.

(a) BASIC RESEARCH.—Section 971(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16311(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

- “(8) \$5,423,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- “(9) \$5,808,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- “(10) \$6,220,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- “(11) \$6,661,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- “(12) \$7,134,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

(b) ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-ENERGY.—Section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “subsection (n)(1)” and inserting “subsection (o)(1)”;

(2) in subsection (i), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Director shall ensure that—

“(A) the activities of ARPA-E are coordinated with, and do not duplicate the efforts of, programs and laboratories within the Department and other relevant research agencies; and

“(B) ARPA-E does not provide funding for a project unless the prospective grantee demonstrates sufficient attempts to secure private financing or indicates that the project is not independently commercially viable.”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (n) as subsection (o);

(4) by inserting after subsection (m) the following:

“(n) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The following types of information collected by the ARPA-E from recipients of financial assistance awards shall be considered commercial and financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential and not subject to disclosure under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code:

“(1) Plans for commercialization of technologies developed under the award, including business plans, technology-to-market plans, market studies, and cost and performance models.

“(2) Investments provided to an awardee from third parties (such as venture capital firms, hedge funds, and private equity firms), including amounts and the percentage of ownership of the awardee provided in return for the investments.

“(3) Additional financial support that the awardee—

“(A) plans to or has invested into the technology developed under the award; or

“(B) is seeking from third parties.

“(4) Revenue from the licensing or sale of new products or services resulting from research conducted under the award.”; and

(5) in subsection (o) (as redesignated by paragraph (3))—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraphs (4) and (5)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) \$325,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018; and

“(G) \$375,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 and 2020.”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “(c)(2)(D)” and inserting “(c)(2)(C)”.

##### SEC. 4202. INCLUSION OF EARLY STAGE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION IN AUTHORIZED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES.

Section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16391) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) EARLY STAGE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION.—The Secretary shall permit the directors of the National Laboratories to use funds authorized to support technology transfer within the Department to carry out early stage and precommercial technology demonstration activities to remove technology barriers that limit private sector interest and demonstrate potential commercial applications of any research and technologies arising from National Laboratory activities.”.

##### SEC. 4203. SUPPORTING ACCESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS TO NATIONAL LABORATORIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(2) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term “small business concern” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(b) ACTIONS FOR INCREASED ACCESS AT NATIONAL LABORATORIES FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—To promote the technology transfer of innovative energy technologies and enhance the competitiveness of the United States, the Secretary shall take such actions as are appropriate to facilitate access to the National Laboratories for small business concerns.

(c) INFORMATION ON THE DOE WEBSITE RELATING TO NATIONAL LABORATORY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Directors of the National Laboratories, shall—

(A) publish in a consolidated manner on the website of the Department information relating to National Laboratory programs that are available to small business concerns;

(B) provide for the information published under subparagraph (A) to be kept up-to-date; and

(C) include in the information published under subparagraph (A), information on each available program under which small business concerns are eligible to enter into agreements to work with the National Laboratories.

(2) COMPONENTS.—The information published on the Department website under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a brief description of each agreement available to small business concerns to work with National Laboratories;

(B) a step-by-step guide for completing agreements to work with National Laboratories;

(C) best practices for working with National Laboratories;

(D) individual National Laboratory websites that provide information specific to technology transfer and working with small business concerns;

(E) links to funding opportunity announcements, nonfinancial resources, and other programs available to small business concerns; and

(F) any other information that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) ACCESSIBILITY.—The information published on the Department website under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) readily accessible and easily found on the Internet by the public and members and committees of Congress; and

(B) presented in a searchable, machine-readable format.

(4) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall issue Departmental guidance to ensure that the information published on the Department website under paragraph (1) is provided in a manner that presents a coherent picture of all National Laboratory programs that are relevant to small business concerns.

**SEC. 4204. MICROLAB TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MICROLAB.—The term “microlab” means a small laboratory established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(2) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “national laboratory” means—

(A) a National Laboratory, as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801); and

(B) a national security laboratory, as defined in section 3281 of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2471).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF MICROLAB PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the directors of national laboratories, may establish a microlab program under which the Secretary establishes microlabs that are located in close proximity to national laboratories and that are accessible to the public for the purposes of—

(A) enhancing collaboration with regional research groups, such as institutions of higher education and industry groups;

(B) accelerating technology transfer from national laboratories to the marketplace; and

(C) promoting regional workforce development through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (“STEM”) instruction and training.

(2) CRITERIA.—In determining the placement of microlabs under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—

(A) the commitment of a national laboratory to establishing a microlab;

(B) the existence of a joint research institute or a new facility that—

(i) is not on the main site of a national laboratory;

(ii) is in close proximity to a national laboratory; and

(iii) has the capability to house a microlab;

(C) whether employees of a national laboratory and persons from academia, industry, and government are available to be assigned to the microlab; and

(D) cost-sharing or in-kind contributions from State and local governments and private industry.

(3) TIMING.—If the Secretary, in collaboration with the directors of national labora-

tories, elects to establish a microlab program under this subsection, the Secretary, in collaboration with the directors of national laboratories, shall—

(A) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, begin the process of determining the placement of microlabs under paragraph (1); and

(B) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, implement the microlab program under this subsection.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of implementation of the microlab program under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that provides an update on the implementation of the microlab program under subsection (b).

(2) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of implementation of the microlab program under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the microlab program under subsection (b), including findings and recommendations of the Secretary.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.

**SEC. 4205. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON ACCELERATING ENERGY INNOVATION.**

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) although important progress has been made in cost reduction and deployment of clean energy technologies, accelerating clean energy innovation will help meet critical competitiveness, energy security, and environmental goals;

(2) accelerating the pace of clean energy innovation in the United States calls for—

(A) supporting existing research and development programs at the Department and the world-class National Laboratories (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801));

(B) exploring and developing new pathways for innovators, investors, and decision-makers to leverage the resources of the Department for addressing the challenges and comparative strengths of geographic regions; and

(C) recognizing the financial constraints of the Department, regularly reviewing clean energy programs to ensure that taxpayer investments are maximized;

(3) the energy supply, demand, policies, markets, and resource options of the United States vary by geographic region;

(4) a regional approach to innovation can bridge the gaps between local talent, institutions, and industries to identify opportunities and convert United States investment into domestic companies; and

(5) Congress, the Secretary, and energy industry participants should advance efforts that promote international, domestic, and regional cooperation on the research and development of energy innovations that—

(A) provide clean, affordable, and reliable energy for everyone;

(B) promote economic growth;

(C) are critical for energy security; and

(D) are sustainable without government support.

**SEC. 4206. RESTORATION OF LABORATORY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

The Secretary shall ensure that laboratory operating contractors do not allocate costs of general and administrative overhead to laboratory directed research and development.

**SEC. 4207. NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL COORDINATING SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Science and Technology Council shall establish a subcommittee to coordinate Federal efforts relating to high-energy physics research (referred to in this section as the “subcommittee”).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the subcommittee are—

(1) to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in high-energy physics; and

(2) to support a robust, internationally competitive United States high-energy physics program that includes—

(A) underground science and engineering research; and

(B) physical infrastructure.

(c) CO-CHAIRS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation and the Secretary shall serve as co-chairs of the subcommittee.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the subcommittee shall be—

(1) to provide recommendations on planning for construction and stewardship of large facilities participating in high-energy physics;

(2) to provide recommendations on research coordination and collaboration among the programs and activities of Federal agencies;

(3) to establish goals and priorities for high-energy physics, underground science, and research and development that will strengthen United States competitiveness in high-energy physics;

(4) to propose methods for engagement with international, Federal, and State agencies and Federal laboratories not represented on the subcommittee to identify and reduce regulatory, logistical, and fiscal barriers that inhibit United States leadership in high-energy physics and related underground science; and

(5) to develop, and update once every 5 years, a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and activities in support of high-energy physics research.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Annually, the subcommittee shall update Congress regarding—

(1) efforts taken in support of the strategic plan described in subsection (d)(5);

(2) an evaluation of the needs for maintaining United States leadership in high-energy physics; and

(3) identification of priorities in the area of high-energy physics.

(f) SUNSET.—The subcommittee shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

**Subtitle D—Grid Reliability**

**SEC. 4301. BULK-POWER SYSTEM RELIABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT.**

Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) RELIABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT.—

“(1) SOLICITATION BY COMMISSION.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which the head of a Federal agency proposes a

major rule (as defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) that may significantly affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, the Commission shall solicit from the ERO, who shall coordinate with regional entities affected by the proposed rule, a reliability impact statement with respect to the proposed rule.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A reliability impact statement under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed statement on—

“(A) the impact of the proposed rule on the reliable operation of the bulk-power system;

“(B) any adverse effects on the reliable operation of the bulk-power system if the proposed rule was implemented; and

“(C) alternatives to cure the identified adverse reliability impacts, including a no-action alternative.

“(3) SUBMISSION TO COMMISSION AND CONGRESS.—On completion of a reliability impact statement under paragraph (1), the ERO shall submit to the Commission and Congress the reliability impact statement.

“(4) TRANSMITTAL TO HEAD OF FEDERAL AGENCY.—On receipt of a reliability impact statement submitted to the Commission under paragraph (3), the Commission shall transmit to the head of the applicable Federal agency the reliability impact statement prepared under this subsection for inclusion in the public record.

“(5) INCLUSION OF DETAILED RESPONSE IN FINAL RULE.—With respect to a final major rule subject to a reliability impact statement prepared under paragraph (1), the head of the Federal agency shall—

“(A) consider the reliability impact statement;

“(B) give due weight to the technical expertise of the ERO with respect to matters that are the subject of the reliability impact statement; and

“(C) include in the final rule a detailed response to the reliability impact statement that reasonably addresses the detailed statements required under paragraph (2).”.

**SEC. 4302. REPORT BY TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATIONS ON DIVERSITY OF SUPPLY.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELECTRIC GENERATING CAPACITY RESOURCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “electric generating capacity resource” means an electric generating resource, as measured by the maximum load-carrying ability of the resource, exclusive of station use and planned, unplanned, or other outage or derating subject to dispatch by the transmission organization to meet the resource adequacy needs of the systems operated by the transmission organization.

(B) EFFECT.—The term “electric generating capacity resource” does not address non-electric generating resources that are qualified as capacity resources in the tariffs of various transmission organizations as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The term “transmission organization” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

(b) REPORT.—

(1) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission (as the term is defined in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796)) shall submit to each transmission organization that has a tariff on file with the Commission that includes provisions addressing the procurement of electric generating capacity resources, a notice that the transmission organization is required to file with the Commission a report in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a transmission organization receives a notice under paragraph (1), the transmission organization shall submit to the Commission a report that, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A)(i) identifies electric generating capacity resources that are available to the transmission organization as of the date of the report; and

(ii) describes the primary energy sources and operational characteristics of electric capacity resources available, in the aggregate, to the transmission organization;

(B) evaluates, using generally accepted metrics, the current operational performance, in the aggregate, of electric capacity resources;

(C) identifies, for the aggregate of electric generating capacity resources available to the transmission organization—

(i) over the short- and long-term periods in the planning cycle of the transmission organization, reasonable projections concerning the operational and economic risk profile of electric generating capacity resources;

(ii) the projected future needs of the transmission organization for electric generating capacity resources; and

(iii) the availability of transmission facilities and transmission support services necessary to provide for the transmission organization reasonable assurances of essential reliability services, including adequate voltage support; and

(D) assesses whether and to what extent the market rules of the transmission organization—

(i) yield capacity auction clearing prices that promote necessary and prudent investment;

(ii) yield energy market clearing prices that reflect the marginal cost of supply, taking into account transmission constraints and other factors needed to ensure reliable grid operation;

(iii) produce meaningful price signals that clearly indicate where new supply and investment are needed;

(iv) reduce uncertainty or instability resulting from changes to market rules, processes, or protocols;

(v) promote transparency and communication by the market operator to market participants;

(vi) support a diverse generation portfolio and the availability of transmission facilities and transmission support services on a short- and long-term basis necessary to provide reasonable assurances of a continuous supply of electricity for customers of the transmission organization at the proper voltage and frequency; and

(vii) provide an enhanced opportunity for self-supply of electric generating capacity resources by electric cooperatives, Federal power marketing agencies, and State utilities with a service obligation (as those terms are defined in section 217(a)) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824q(a)) in a manner that is consistent with traditional utility business models and does not unduly affect wholesale market prices.

**Subtitle E—Management**

**SEC. 4401. FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CADASTRE.—The term “cadastre” means an inventory of buildings and other real property (including associated infrastructure such as roads and utility transmission lines and pipelines) located on land administered by the Secretary, which is developed through collecting, storing, retrieving, or disseminating graphical or digital data and any in-

formation related to the data, including surveys, maps, charts, images, and services.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CADASTRE OF FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized—

(A) to develop and maintain a current and accurate multipurpose cadastre to support Federal land management activities for the Department of the Interior;

(B) to incorporate any related inventories of Federal real property, including any inventories prepared under applicable land or resource management plans; and

(C) to enter into discussions with other Federal agencies to make the cadastre available for use by the agency to support agency management activities.

(2) COST-SHARING AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into cost-sharing agreements with other Federal agencies, and with States, Indian tribes, and local governments, to include any non-Federal land in a State in the cadastre.

(B) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of any cost agreement described in subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost to a State, Indian tribe, or local government for the development of the cadastre of non-Federal land.

(3) CONSOLIDATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the real property inventories or any components of any cadastre or related inventories that—

(A) exist as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) are authorized by law or conducted by the Secretary; and

(C) are of sufficient accuracy to be included in the cadastre authorized under paragraph (1).

(4) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(A) participate (in accordance with section 216 of the E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 107-347)) in the establishment of such standards and common protocols as are necessary to ensure the interoperability of geospatial information pertaining to the cadastre for all users of the information;

(B) coordinate with, seek assistance and cooperation of, and provide liaison to the Federal Geographic Data Committee pursuant to Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16 and Executive Order 12906 (43 U.S.C. 1457 note; relating to coordinating geographic data acquisition and access: the National Spatial Data Infrastructure) for the implementation of and compliance with such standards as may be applicable to the cadastre;

(C) make the cadastre interoperable with the Federal Real Property Profile established pursuant to Executive Order 13327 (40 U.S.C. 121 note; relating to Federal real property asset management);

(D) integrate with and leverage, to the maximum extent practicable, cadastre activities of units of State and local government; and

(E) use contracts with the private sector, if practicable, to provide such products and services as are necessary to develop the cadastre.

(c) TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Secretary shall—

(1) make the cadastre required under this section publically available on the Internet in a graphically geoenabled and searchable format; and

(2) in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, prevent the disclosure of the identity of any buildings or facilities, or information related to the buildings or facilities, if the disclosure would impair or jeopardize the national security or homeland defense of the United States.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(1) creates any substantive or procedural right or benefit;

(2) authorizes any new surveying or mapping of Federal real property, except that a Federal agency may conduct a new survey to update the accuracy of the inventory data of the agency before storage on a cadaster; or

(3) authorizes—

(A) the evaluation of any real property owned by the United States for disposal; or

(B) new appraisals or assessments of the value of—

(i) real property; or

(ii) cultural or archaeological resources on any parcel of Federal land or other real property.

**SEC. 4402. QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7321) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 801. QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW.**

“(a) QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW TASK FORCE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish a Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force (referred to in this section as the ‘Task Force’) to coordinate the Quadrennial Energy Review.

“(2) COCHAIRPERSONS.—The President shall designate appropriate senior Federal Government officials to be cochairpersons of the Task Force.

“(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force may be comprised of representatives at level I or II of the Executive Schedule of—

“(A) the Department of Energy;

“(B) the Department of Commerce;

“(C) the Department of Defense;

“(D) the Department of State;

“(E) the Department of the Interior;

“(F) the Department of Agriculture;

“(G) the Department of the Treasury;

“(H) the Department of Transportation;

“(I) the Department of Homeland Security;

“(J) the Office of Management and Budget;

“(K) the National Science Foundation;

“(L) the Environmental Protection Agency; and

“(M) such other Federal agencies, and entities within the Executive Office of the President, as the President considers to be appropriate.

“(b) CONDUCT OF REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Quadrennial Energy Review shall be conducted to—

“(A) provide an integrated view of important national energy objectives and Federal energy policy; and

“(B) identify the maximum practicable alignment of research programs, incentives, regulations, and partnerships.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—A Quadrennial Energy Review shall—

“(A) establish integrated, governmentwide national energy objectives in the context of economic, environmental, and security priorities;

“(B) recommend coordinated actions across Federal agencies;

“(C) assess and recommend priorities for research, development, and demonstration;

“(D) provide a strong analytical base for Federal energy policy decisions;

“(E) consider reasonable estimates of future Federal budgetary resources when making recommendations; and

“(F) be conducted with substantial input from—

“(i) Congress;

“(ii) the energy industry;

“(iii) academia;

“(iv) State, local, and tribal governments;

“(v) nongovernmental organizations; and

“(vi) the public.

“(c) SUBMISSION OF QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President—

“(A) shall publish and submit to Congress a report on the Quadrennial Energy Review once every 4 years; and

“(B) more frequently than once every 4 years, as the President determines to be appropriate, may prepare and publish interim reports as part of the Quadrennial Energy Review.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The reports described in paragraph (1) shall address or consider, as appropriate—

“(A) an integrated view of short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term objectives for Federal energy policy in the context of economic, environmental, and security priorities;

“(B) potential executive actions (including programmatic, regulatory, and fiscal actions) and resource requirements—

“(i) to achieve the objectives described in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) to be coordinated across multiple agencies;

“(C) analysis of the existing and prospective roles of parties (including academia, industry, consumers, the public, and Federal agencies) in achieving the objectives described in subparagraph (A), including—

“(i) an analysis by energy use sector, including—

“(I) commercial and residential buildings;

“(II) the industrial sector;

“(III) transportation; and

“(IV) electric power;

“(ii) requirements for invention, adoption, development, and diffusion of energy technologies as they relate to each of the energy use sectors; and

“(iii) other research that informs strategies to incentivize desired actions;

“(D) assessment of policy options to increase domestic energy supplies and energy efficiency;

“(E) evaluation of national and regional energy storage, transmission, and distribution requirements, including requirements for renewable energy;

“(F) portfolio assessments that describe the optimal deployment of resources, including prioritizing financial resources for energy-relevant programs;

“(G) mapping of the linkages among basic research and applied programs, demonstration programs, and other innovation mechanisms across the Federal agencies;

“(H) identification of demonstration projects;

“(I) identification of public and private funding needs for various energy technologies, systems, and infrastructure, including consideration of public-private partnerships, loans, and loan guarantees;

“(J) assessment of global competitors and an identification of programs that can be enhanced with international cooperation;

“(K) identification of policy gaps that need to be filled to accelerate the adoption and diffusion of energy technologies, including consideration of—

“(i) Federal tax policies; and

“(ii) the role of Federal agencies as early adopters and purchasers of new energy technologies;

“(L) priority listing for implementation of objectives and actions taking into account estimated Federal budgetary resources;

“(M) analysis of—

“(i) points of maximum leverage for policy intervention to achieve outcomes; and

“(ii) areas of energy policy that can be most effective in meeting national goals for the energy sector; and

“(N) recommendations for executive branch organization changes to facilitate the development and implementation of Federal energy policies.

“(d) REPORT DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall provide such support for the Quadrennial Energy Review with the necessary analytical, financial, and administrative support for the conduct of each Quadrennial Energy Review required under this section as may be requested by the cochairpersons designated under subsection (a)(2).

“(e) COOPERATION.—The heads of applicable Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Secretary and provide such assistance, information, and resources as the Secretary may require to assist in carrying out this section.”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 801 in the table of contents of such Act is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 801. Quadrennial Energy Review.”.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section supersedes, modifies, amends, or repeals any provision of Federal law not expressly superseded, modified, amended, or repealed by this section.

**SEC. 4403. STATE OVERSIGHT OF OIL AND GAS PROGRAMS.**

On request of the Governor of a State, the Secretary of the Interior shall establish a program under which the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State to consider the costs and benefits of consistent rules and processes for the measurement of oil and gas production activities, inspection of meters or other measurement methodologies, and other operational activities, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

**SEC. 4404. UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND ENERGY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7132(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “for Science” and inserting “for Science and Energy (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Under Secretary’)”;

(2) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “for Science”;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “for Science”;

(B) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) establish appropriate linkages between offices under the jurisdiction of the Under Secretary; and

“(I) perform such functions and duties as the Secretary shall prescribe, consistent with this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 641(h)(2) of the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17231(h)(2)) is amended by striking “Under Secretary for Science” and inserting “Under Secretary for Science and Energy”.

**SEC. 4405. WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PILOT PROJECT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall establish a pilot project, as part of the continuous process improvement program and to provide increased transparency for customers, to publish on a publicly available website of the Western Area Power Administration, a searchable database of the following information, beginning with fiscal year 2008, relating to the Western Area Power Administration:

(1) By power system, rates charged to customers for power and transmission service.

(2) By power system, the amount of capacity or energy sold.

(3) By region, a detailed accounting of the allocation of budget authority, including—

(A) overhead costs;

(B) the number of contractors; and

(C) the number of full-time equivalents.

(4) For the corporate services office, a detailed accounting of the allocation of budget authority, including—

(A) overhead costs;

(B) the number of contractors;

(C) the number of full-time equivalents; and

(D) expenses charged to other Federal agencies or programs for the administration of programs not related to the marketing, transmission, or wheeling of Federal hydro-power resources, including—

(i) overhead costs;

(ii) the number of contractors; and

(iii) the number of full-time equivalents.

(5) Capital expenditures, including—

(A) capital investments delineated by the year in which each investment is placed into service; and

(B) the sources of capital for each investment.

(b) REPORT.—Not less than once each year for the duration of the pilot project under this section, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) describes the annual estimated avoided costs and the savings as a result of the pilot project under this section; and

(2) includes a certification from the Administrator that—

(A) the rates for each power system do not recover costs and expenses recovered by other power systems; and

(B) each expense allocated by the corporate services office to an individual power system is only recovered once.

(c) TERMINATION.—The pilot project under this section shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 4406. RESEARCH GRANTS DATABASE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a public database, accessible on the website of the Department, that contains a searchable listing of every unclassified research and development project contract, grant, cooperative agreement, task order for federally funded research and development centers, or other transaction administered by the Department.

(b) CLASSIFIED PROJECTS.—Each year, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant com-

mittees of Congress a report that lists every classified project of the Department, including all relevant details of the projects.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Each listing described in subsections (a) and (b) shall include, at a minimum, for each listed project, the component carrying out the project, the project name, an abstract or summary of the project, funding levels, project duration, contractor or grantee name, and expected objectives and milestones.

(d) RELEVANT LITERATURE AND PATENTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall provide information through the public database established under subsection (a) on relevant literature and patents that are associated with each research and development project contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, or other transaction, of the Department.

**SEC. 4407. REVIEW OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BSEE RULE ON SMALL ENTITIES.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “BSEE” means the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement;

(2) the term “Chief Counsel” means the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration;

(3) the term “covered proposed rule” means the proposed rule of the BSEE entitled “Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control” (80 Fed. Reg. 21504 (April 17, 2015)); and

(4) the term “small entity” has the meaning given the term in section 601 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the BSEE issues a final rule for the covered proposed rule, then not later than 1 year after the effective date of the final rule the BSEE, in consultation with the Chief Counsel, shall complete a review of the final rule under section 610 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC IMPACT.—In conducting the review required under paragraph (1), the BSEE, in consultation with the Chief Counsel, shall assess the economic impact of the final rule on small entities in the oil and gas supply chain.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the review is completed under this subsection, the BSEE, in consultation with the Chief Counsel, shall submit to Congress a report on the findings of the review.

**SEC. 4408. ENERGY EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

(a) CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.—Section 102 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7112) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(20) To facilitate the development and implementation of a strategy for responding to energy infrastructure and supply emergencies through—

“(A) continuously monitoring and publishing information on the energy delivery and supply infrastructure of the United States, including electricity, liquid fuels, natural gas, and coal;

“(B) managing Federal strategic energy reserves;

“(C) advising national leadership during emergencies on ways to respond to and minimize energy disruptions; and

“(D) working with Federal agencies and State and local governments—

“(i) to enhance energy emergency preparedness; and

“(ii) to respond to and mitigate energy emergencies.”.

(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND ENERGY.—Section 202(b)(4) of the Department of

Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7132(b)(4)) (as amended by section 4404(a)(3)) is amended, in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and applied energy” before “programs of the”.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—Section 203(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7133(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12) Emergency response functions, including assistance in the prevention of, or in the response to, an emergency disruption of energy supply, transmission, and distribution.”.

**SEC. 4409. GAO REPORT ON BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF HELICOPTER FUEL.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that defines the statutory and regulatory authority of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement with respect to legally procuring privately owned helicopter fuel, without agreement, from lessees, permit holders, operators of federally leased offshore facilities, or independent third parties not under contract with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement or an agent of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

**SEC. 4410. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND WITHIN THE SWAN LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT BOUNDARY.**

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall—

(1) survey the exterior boundaries of the tract of Federal land within the project boundary of the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2911) as generally depicted and labeled “Lost Creek” on the map entitled “Swan Lake Project Boundary—Lot 2” and dated February 1, 2016; and

(2) issue a patent to the State of Alaska for the tract described in paragraph (1) in accordance with—

(A) the survey authorized under paragraph (1);

(B) section 6(a) of the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85-508); and

(C) section 24 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 818).

**SEC. 4411. STUDY OF WAIVERS OF CERTAIN COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete a study on the ability of, and any actions before the date of enactment of this Act by, the Secretary to waive the cost-sharing requirement under section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352); and

(2) based on the results of the study under paragraph (1), make recommendations to Congress for the issuance of, and factors that should be considered with respect to, waivers of the cost-sharing requirement by the Secretary.

**SEC. 4412. NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL.**

(a) NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 104909. National Park Centennial Challenge Fund**

“(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish a fund in the Treasury—

“(1) to finance signature projects and programs to enhance the National Park System as the centennial of the National Park System approaches in 2016; and

“(2) to prepare the System for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CHALLENGE FUND.—The term ‘Challenge Fund’ means the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund established by subsection (c)(1).

“(2) QUALIFIED DONATION.—The term ‘qualified donation’ means a cash donation or the pledge of a cash donation guaranteed by an irrevocable letter of credit to the Service that the Secretary certifies is to be used for a signature project or program.

“(3) SIGNATURE PROJECT OR PROGRAM.—The term ‘signature project or program’ means any project or program identified by the Secretary as a project or program that would further the purposes of the System or any System unit.

“(c) NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the ‘National Park Centennial Challenge Fund’.

“(2) DEPOSITS.—The Challenge Fund shall consist of—

“(A) qualified donations that are transferred from the Service donation account, in accordance with subsection (e)(1); and

“(B) not more than \$17,500,000, to be appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury, in accordance with subsection (e)(2).

“(3) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts in the Challenge Fund shall—

“(A) be available to the Secretary for signature projects and programs under this title, without further appropriation; and

“(B) remain available until expended.

“(d) SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF LIST.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall develop a list of signature projects and programs eligible for funding from the Challenge Fund.

“(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives the list developed under paragraph (1).

“(3) UPDATES.—Subject to the notice requirements under paragraph (2), the Secretary may add any signature project or program to the list developed under paragraph (1).

“(e) DONATIONS AND MATCHING FEDERAL FUNDS.—

“(1) QUALIFIED DONATIONS.—The Secretary may transfer any qualified donations to the Challenge Fund.

“(2) MATCHING AMOUNT.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Challenge Fund for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2020 an amount equal to the amount of qualified donations received for the fiscal year.

“(3) SOLICITATION.—Nothing in this section expands any authority of the Secretary, the Service, or any employee of the Service to receive or solicit donations.

“(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall provide with the submission of the budget of the President to Congress for each fiscal year a report on the status and funding of the signature projects and programs.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections affected for title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(b)), is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104908 the following:

“§104909. National Park Centennial Challenge Fund.”.

(b) SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 101121. Second Century Endowment for the National Park System**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Park Foundation shall establish an endowment, to be known as the ‘Second Century Endowment for the National Park System’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Endowment’).

“(b) CAMPAIGN.—To further the mission of the Service, the National Park Foundation may undertake a campaign to fund the Endowment through gifts, devises, or bequests, in accordance with section 101113.

“(c) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—On request of the Secretary, the National Park Foundation shall expend proceeds from the Endowment in accordance with projects and programs in furtherance of the mission of the Service, as identified by the Secretary.

“(2) MANAGEMENT.—The National Park Foundation shall manage the Endowment in a manner that ensures that annual expenditures as a percentage of the principal are consistent with Internal Revenue Service guidelines for endowments maintained for charitable purposes.

“(d) INVESTMENTS.—The National Park Foundation shall—

“(1) maintain the Endowment in an interest-bearing account; and

“(2) invest Endowment proceeds with the purpose of supporting and enriching the System in perpetuity.

“(e) REPORT.—Each year, the National Park Foundation shall make publicly available information on the amounts deposited into, and expended from, the Endowment.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections affected for title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 101120 the following:

“§101121. Second Century Endowment for the National Park System.”.

(c) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)(1)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 104910. Intellectual property**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SERVICE EMBLEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Service emblem’ means any word, phrase, insignia, logo, logotype, trademark, service mark, symbol, design, graphic, image, color, badge, uniform, or any combination of emblems used to identify the Service or a component of the System.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘Service emblem’ includes—

“(i) the Service name;

“(ii) an official System unit name;

“(iii) any other name used to identify a Service component or program; and

“(iv) the Arrowhead symbol.

“(2) SERVICE UNIFORM.—The term ‘Service uniform’ means any combination of apparel, accessories, or emblems, any distinctive clothing or other items of dress, or a representation of dress—

“(A) that is worn during the performance of official duties; and

“(B) that identifies the wearer as a Service employee.

“(b) PROHIBITED ACTS.—No person shall, without the written permission of the Secretary—

“(1) use any Service emblem or uniform, or any word, term, name, symbol or device or any combination of emblems to suggest any colorable likeness of the Service emblem or Service uniform in connection with goods or services in commerce if the use is likely to cause confusion, or to deceive the public into believing that the emblem or uniform is from or connected with the Service;

“(2) use any Service emblem or Service uniform or any word, term, name, symbol, device, or any combination of emblems or uniforms to suggest any likeness of the Service emblem or Service uniform in connection with goods or services in commerce in a manner reasonably calculated to convey the impression to the public that the goods or services are approved, endorsed, or authorized by the Service;

“(3) use in commerce any word, term, name, symbol, device or any combination of words, terms, names, symbols, or devices to suggest any likeness of the Service emblem or Service uniform in a manner that is reasonably calculated to convey the impression that the wearer of the item of apparel is acting pursuant to the legal authority of the Service; or

“(4) knowingly make any false statement for the purpose of obtaining permission to use any Service emblem or Service uniform.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections affected for title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104908 (as added by subsection (a)(2)) the following:

“§104910. Intellectual property.”.

(d) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Division A of subtitle I of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 1007 the following:

**“CHAPTER 1008—EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

**“CHAPTER 1008—EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

“Sec.

“100801. Definitions.

“100802. Interpretation and education authority.

“100803. Interpretation and education evaluation and quality improvement.

“100804. Improved utilization of partners and volunteers in interpretation and education.

**“§ 100801. Definitions**

“In this chapter:

“(1) EDUCATION.—The term ‘education’ means enhancing public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the resources of the System through learner-centered, place-based materials, programs, and activities that achieve specific learning objectives as identified in a curriculum.

“(2) INTERPRETATION.—The term ‘interpretation’ means—

“(A) providing opportunities for people to form intellectual and emotional connections to gain awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the resources of the System; and

“(B) the professional career field of Service employees, volunteers, and partners who interpret the resources of the System.

“(3) RELATED AREA.—The term ‘related area’ means—

“(A) a component of the National Trails System;

“(B) a National Heritage Area; and

“(C) an affiliated area administered in connection with the System.

**“§ 100802. Interpretation and education authority**

“The Secretary shall ensure that management of System units and related areas is enhanced by the availability and utilization of a broad program of the highest quality interpretation and education.

**“§ 100803. Interpretation and education evaluation and quality improvement**

“The Secretary may undertake a program of regular evaluation of interpretation and education programs to ensure that the programs—

“(1) adjust to the ways in which people learn and engage with the natural world and shared heritage as embodied in the System;

“(2) reflect different cultural backgrounds, ages, education, gender, abilities, ethnicity, and needs;

“(3) demonstrate innovative approaches to management and appropriately incorporate emerging learning and communications technology; and

“(4) reflect current scientific and academic research, content, methods, and audience analysis.

**“§ 100804. Improved utilization of partners and volunteers in interpretation and education**

“The Secretary may—

“(1) coordinate with System unit partners and volunteers in the delivery of quality programs and services to supplement the programs and services provided by the Service as part of a Long-Range Interpretive Plan for a System unit;

“(2) support interpretive partners by providing opportunities to participate in interpretive training; and

“(3) collaborate with other Federal and non-Federal public or private agencies, organizations, or institutions for the purposes of developing, promoting, and making available educational opportunities related to resources of the System and programs.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for division A of subtitle I of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 1007 the following:

“1008. Education and Interpretation 100801”.

(e) PUBLIC LAND CORPS AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 203(10)(A) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1722(10)(A)) is amended by striking “25” and inserting “30”.

(2) PARTICIPANTS.—Section 204(b) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1723(b)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “25” and inserting “30”.

(3) HIRING.—Section 207(c)(2) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C., 1726(c)(2)) is amended by striking “120 days” and inserting “2 years”.

(f) NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION.—Subchapter II of chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 101112—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) MEMBERSHIP.—The National Park Foundation shall consist of a Board having as members at least 6 private citizens of the United States appointed by the Secretary, with the Secretary and the Director serving as ex officio members of the Board.”; and

(B) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) CHAIRMAN.—

“(1) SELECTION.—The Board shall select a Chairman of the Board from among the members of the Board.

“(2) TERM.—The Chairman of the Board shall serve for a 2-year term.”; and

(2) in section 101113(a)—

**SEC. 4413. PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES ON CERTAIN SPECIES.**

In carrying out a program of the Department relating to solar energy or the conduct of solar energy projects using funds provided by the Department, the Secretary shall establish a program to undertake research that—

(1) identifies baseline avian populations and mortality; and

(2) quantifies the impacts of solar energy projects on birds, as compared to other threats to birds.

**SEC. 4414. WILD HORSES IN AND AROUND THE CURRITUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.**

(a) GENETIC DIVERSITY.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in consultation with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Currituck County, North Carolina, and the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, shall allow for the introduction of a small number of free-roaming wild horses from the Cape Lookout National Seashore as necessary to ensure the genetic diversity and viability of the wild horse population currently found in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge, consistent with—

(1) the laws (including regulations) applicable to the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Cape Lookout National Seashore; and

(2) the December 2014 Wild Horse Management Agreement approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Currituck County, North Carolina, and the Corolla Wild Horse Fund.

(b) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the Corolla Wild Horse Fund to provide for the cost-effective management of the horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge while ensuring that natural resources within the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge are not adversely impacted.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall specify that the Corolla Wild Horse Fund shall pay the costs associated with—

(A) coordinating and conducting a periodic census, and inspecting the health, of the horses;

(B) maintaining records of the horses living in the wild and in confinement;

(C) coordinating and conducting the removal and placement of horses and monitoring of any horses removed from the Currituck County Outer Banks; and

(D) administering a viable population control plan for the horses, including auctions, adoptions, contraceptive fertility methods, and other viable options.

**Subtitle F—Markets**

**SEC. 4501. ENHANCED INFORMATION ON CRITICAL ENERGY SUPPLIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7135) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON CRITICAL ENERGY SUPPLIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure transparency of information relating to energy infrastruc-

ture and product ownership in the United States and improve the ability to evaluate the energy security of the United States, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies (as necessary), shall—

“(A) not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, develop and provide notice of a plan to collect, in cooperation with the Commodity Futures Trade Commission, information identifying all oil inventories, and other physical oil assets (including all petroleum-based products and the storage of such products in off-shore tankers), that are owned by the 50 largest traders of oil contracts (including derivative contracts), as determined by the Commodity Futures Trade Commission; and

“(B) not later than 90 days after the date on which notice is provided under subparagraph (A), implement the plan described in that subparagraph.

“(2) INFORMATION.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the plan of the Administrator for collecting company-specific data, including—

“(A) volumes of product under ownership; and

“(B) storage and transportation capacity (including owned and leased capacity).

“(3) PROTECTION OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—Section 12(f) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 771(f)) shall apply to information collected under this subsection.

“(o) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON STORAGE CAPACITY FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration shall collect information quantifying the commercial storage capacity for oil and natural gas in the United States.

“(2) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall update annually the information required under paragraph (1).

“(3) PROTECTION OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—Section 12(f) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 771(f)) shall apply to information collected under this subsection.

“(p) FINANCIAL MARKET ANALYSIS OFFICE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be within the Energy Information Administration a Financial Market Analysis Office.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

“(A) be responsible for analysis of the financial aspects of energy markets;

“(B) review the reports required by section 4503(c) of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 in advance of the submission of the reports to Congress; and

“(C) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection—

“(i) make recommendations to the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration that identify and quantify any additional resources that are required to improve the ability of the Energy Information Administration to more fully integrate financial market information into the analyses and forecasts of the Energy Information Administration, including the role of energy futures contracts, energy commodity swaps, and derivatives in price formation for oil;

“(ii) conduct a review of implications of policy changes (including changes in export or import policies) and changes in how crude oil and refined petroleum products are transported with respect to price formation of crude oil and refined petroleum products; and

“(iii) notify the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on



Appropriations, of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations, of the House of Representatives of the recommendations described in clause (1).

“(3) ANALYSES.—The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration shall take analyses by the Office into account in conducting analyses and forecasting of energy prices.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 645 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7255) is amended by inserting “(15 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.) and the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.)” after “Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978”.

**SEC. 4502. WORKING GROUP ON ENERGY MARKETS.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Working Group on Energy Markets (referred to in this section as the “Working Group”).

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be composed of—

- (1) the Secretary;
- (2) the Secretary of the Treasury;
- (3) the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
- (4) the Chairman of Federal Trade Commission;
- (5) the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- (6) the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; and
- (7) the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall serve as the Chairperson of the Working Group.

(d) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Working Group shall serve without additional compensation for the work of the member of the Working Group.

(e) PURPOSE AND FUNCTION.—The Working Group shall—

- (1) investigate the effect of increased financial investment in energy commodities on energy prices and the energy security of the United States;
  - (2) recommend to the President and Congress laws (including regulations) that may be needed to prevent excessive speculation in energy commodity markets in order to prevent or minimize the adverse impact of excessive speculation on energy prices on consumers and the economy of the United States; and
  - (3) review energy security implications of developments in international energy markets.
- (f) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall provide the Working Group with such administrative and support services as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of the Working Group.

(g) COOPERATION OF OTHER AGENCIES.—The heads of Executive departments, agencies, and independent instrumentalities shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Working Group with such information as the Working Group requires to carry out this section.

(h) CONSULTATION.—The Working Group shall consult, as appropriate, with representatives of the various exchanges, clearinghouses, self-regulatory bodies, other major market participants, consumers, and the general public.

**SEC. 4503. STUDY OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR ENERGY MARKETS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Working Group shall conduct a study—

- (1) to identify the factors that affect the pricing of crude oil and refined petroleum products, including an examination of the effects of market speculation on prices; and

(2) to review and assess—

(A) existing statutory authorities relating to the oversight and regulation of markets critical to the energy security of the United States; and

(B) the need for additional statutory authority for the Federal Government to effectively oversee and regulate markets critical to the energy security of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—The study shall include—

- (1) an examination of price formation of crude oil and refined petroleum products;
- (2) an examination of relevant international regulatory regimes; and
- (3) an examination of the degree to which changes in energy market transparency, liquidity, and structure have influenced or driven abuse, manipulation, excessive speculation, or inefficient price formation.

(c) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives quarterly progress reports during the conduct of the study under this section, and a final report not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, that—

- (1) describes the results of the study; and
- (2) provides options and the recommendations of the Working Group for appropriate Federal coordination of oversight and regulatory actions to ensure transparency of crude oil and refined petroleum product pricing and the elimination of excessive speculation, including recommendations on data collection and analysis to be carried out by the Financial Market Analysis Office established by section 205(p) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7135(p)).

**Subtitle G—Affordability**

**SEC. 4601. E-PRIZE COMPETITION PILOT PROGRAM.**

Section 1008 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16396) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) E-PRIZE COMPETITION PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

- “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—
  - “(i) a private sector for-profit or nonprofit entity;
  - “(ii) a public-private partnership; or
  - “(iii) a local, municipal, or tribal governmental entity.
- “(B) HIGH-COST REGION.—The term ‘high-cost region’ means a region in which the average annual unsubsidized costs of electrical power retail rates or household space heating costs per square foot exceed 150 percent of the national average, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) E-PRIZE COMPETITION PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an e-prize competition or challenge pilot program to broadly implement sustainable community and regional energy solutions that seek to reduce energy costs through increased efficiency, conservation, and technology innovation in high-cost regions.

“(B) SELECTION.—In carrying out the pilot program under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall award a prize purse, in amounts to be determined by the Secretary, to each eligible entity selected through 1 or more of the following competitions or challenges:

- “(i) A point solution competition that rewards and spurs the development of solutions for a particular, well-defined problem.
- “(ii) An exposition competition that helps identify and promote a broad range of ideas

and practices that may not otherwise attract attention, facilitating further development of the idea or practice by third parties.

“(iii) A participation competition that creates value during and after the competition by encouraging contestants to change their behavior or develop new skills that may have beneficial effects during and after the competition.

“(iv) Such other types of prizes or challenges as the Secretary, in consultation with relevant heads of Federal agencies, considers appropriate to stimulate innovation that has the potential to advance the mission of the applicable Federal agency.

“(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.”

**SEC. 4602. CARBON DIOXIDE CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY PRIZE.**

Section 1008 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16396) (as amended by section 4601) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) CARBON DIOXIDE CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY PRIZE.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

- “(A) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’ means the Carbon Dioxide Capture Technology Advisory Board established by paragraph (6).
- “(B) DILUTE.—The term ‘dilute’ means a concentration of less than 1 percent by volume.

“(C) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The term ‘intellectual property’ means—

- “(i) an invention that is patentable under title 35, United States Code; and
- “(ii) any patent on an invention described in clause (i).

“(D) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Energy or designee, in consultation with the Board.

“(2) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, as part of the program carried out under this section, the Secretary shall establish and award competitive technology financial awards for carbon dioxide capture from media in which the concentration of carbon dioxide is dilute.

“(3) DUTIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall—

- “(A) subject to paragraph (4), develop specific requirements for—
  - “(i) the competition process;
  - “(ii) minimum performance standards for qualifying projects; and
  - “(iii) monitoring and verification procedures for approved projects;
- “(B) establish minimum levels for the capture of carbon dioxide from a dilute medium that are required to be achieved to qualify for a financial award described in subparagraph (C);
- “(C) offer financial awards for—
  - “(i) a design for a promising capture technology;
  - “(ii) a successful bench-scale demonstration of a capture technology;
  - “(iii) a design for a technology described in clause (i) that will—
    - “(I) be operated on a demonstration scale; and
    - “(II) achieve significant reduction in the level of carbon dioxide; and
  - “(iv) an operational capture technology on a commercial scale that meets the minimum levels described in subparagraph (B); and
- “(D) submit to Congress—
  - “(i) an annual report that describes the progress made by the Board and recipients of financial awards under this subsection in achieving the demonstration goals established under subparagraph (C); and

“(ii) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, a report on the adequacy of authorized funding levels in this subsection.

“(4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out paragraph (3)(A), the Board shall—

“(A) provide notice of and, for a period of at least 60 days, an opportunity for public comment on, any draft or proposed version of the requirements described in paragraph (3)(A); and

“(B) take into account public comments received in developing the final version of those requirements.

“(5) PEER REVIEW.—No financial awards may be provided under this subsection until the proposal for which the award is sought has been peer reviewed in accordance with such standards for peer review as are established by the Secretary.

“(6) CARBON DIOXIDE CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an advisory board to be known as the ‘Carbon Dioxide Capture Technology Advisory Board’.

“(B) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed of 9 members appointed by the President, who shall provide expertise in—

“(i) climate science;

“(ii) physics;

“(iii) chemistry;

“(iv) biology;

“(v) engineering;

“(vi) economics;

“(vii) business management; and

“(viii) such other disciplines as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this subsection.

“(C) TERM; VACANCIES.—

“(i) TERM.—A member of the Board shall serve for a term of 6 years.

“(ii) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Board—

“(I) shall not affect the powers of the Board; and

“(II) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

“(D) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Board have been appointed, the Board shall hold the initial meeting of the Board.

“(E) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

“(F) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

“(G) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Board shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Board.

“(H) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Board may be compensated at not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule for each day during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Board.

“(I) DUTIES.—The Board shall advise the Secretary on carrying out the duties of the Secretary under this subsection.

“(7) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a financial award under this subsection, an applicant shall agree to vest the intellectual property of the applicant derived from the technology in 1 or more entities that are incorporated in the United States.

“(B) RESERVATION OF LICENSE.—The United States—

“(i) may reserve a nonexclusive, non-transferable, irrevocable, paid-up license, to have practiced for or on behalf of the United

States, in connection with any intellectual property described in subparagraph (A); but

“(ii) shall not, in the exercise of a license reserved under clause (i), publicly disclose proprietary information relating to the license.

“(C) TRANSFER OF TITLE.—Title to any intellectual property described in subparagraph (A) shall not be transferred or passed, except to an entity that is incorporated in the United States, until the expiration of the first patent obtained in connection with the intellectual property.

“(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended.

“(9) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Board and all authority provided under this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2026.”.

#### Subtitle H—Code Maintenance

##### SEC. 4701. REPEAL OF OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLES STUDY.

(a) REPEAL.—Part I of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6373) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Public Law 94-163; 89 Stat. 871) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to part I of title III; and

(2) by striking the item relating to section 385.

##### SEC. 4702. REPEAL OF METHANOL STUDY.

Section 400EE of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6374d) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

##### SEC. 4703. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS PROVISION.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 208 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6808) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Conservation and Production Act (Public Law 94-385; 90 Stat. 1126) is amended by striking the item relating to section 208.

##### SEC. 4704. REPEAL OF RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS STUDY.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 253 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8232) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (Public Law 95-619; 92 Stat. 3206) is amended by striking the item relating to section 253.

##### SEC. 4705. REPEAL OF WEATHERIZATION STUDY.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 254 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8233) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (Public Law 95-619; 92 Stat. 3206) is amended by striking the item relating to section 254.

##### SEC. 4706. REPEAL OF REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 273 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8236b) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (Public Law 95-619; 92 Stat. 3206) is amended by striking the item relating to section 273.

##### SEC. 4707. REPEAL OF REPORT BY GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 154 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 8262a) is repealed.

##### (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 154.

(2) Section 159 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 8262e) is amended by striking subsection (c).

##### SEC. 4708. REPEAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND COORDINATION WORKSHOPS.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 156 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 8262b) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 156.

##### SEC. 4709. REPEAL OF INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT SURVEY AND PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 160 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 8262f) is amended by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through “(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Each Inspector General” and inserting the following:

##### “SEC. 160. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.

“Each Inspector General”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 160 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 160. Inspector General review.”.

##### SEC. 4710. REPEAL OF PROCUREMENT AND IDENTIFICATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT PRODUCTS PROGRAM.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 161 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 8262g) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 161.

##### SEC. 4711. REPEAL OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR DEMAND RESPONSE.

(a) REPEAL.—Part 5 of title V of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8279 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (Public Law 95-619; 92 Stat. 3206; 121 Stat. 1665) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to part 5 of title V; and

(2) by striking the item relating to section 571.

##### SEC. 4712. REPEAL OF NATIONAL COAL POLICY STUDY.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 741 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8451) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-620; 92 Stat. 3289) is amended by striking the item relating to section 741.

##### SEC. 4713. REPEAL OF STUDY ON COMPLIANCE PROBLEM OF SMALL ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEMS.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 744 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8454) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-620; 92 Stat. 3289) is amended by striking the item relating to section 744.

##### SEC. 4714. REPEAL OF STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF INCREASED COAL PRODUCTION AND OTHER ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 746 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8456) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-620; 92 Stat. 3289) is amended by striking the item relating to section 746.

**SEC. 4715. REPEAL OF STUDY OF THE USE OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN COMBUSTORS.**

(a) REPEAL.—Section 747 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8457) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-620; 92 Stat. 3289) is amended by striking the item relating to section 747.

**SEC. 4716. REPEAL OF SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.**

(a) REPEAL.—Section 807 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8483) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-620; 92 Stat. 3289) is amended by striking the item relating to section 807.

**SEC. 4717. REPEAL OF ELECTRIC UTILITY CONSERVATION PLAN.**

(a) REPEAL.—Section 808 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8484) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-620; 92 Stat. 3289) is amended by striking the item relating to section 808.

(2) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 712 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8422) is amended—

- (A) by striking “(a) GENERALLY.—”; and
- (B) by striking subsection (b).

**SEC. 4718. EMERGENCY ENERGY CONSERVATION REPEALS.**

(a) REPEALS.—

(1) Section 201 of the Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979 (42 U.S.C. 8501) is amended—

- (A) in the section heading, by striking “FINDINGS AND”; and
- (B) by striking subsection (a).

(2) Section 221 of the Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979 (42 U.S.C. 8521) is repealed.

(3) Section 222 of the Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979 (42 U.S.C. 8522) is repealed.

(4) 241 of the Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979 (42 U.S.C. 8531) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-102; 93 Stat. 749) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 201 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 201. Purposes.”; and

(2) by striking the items relating to sections 221, 222, and 241.

**SEC. 4719. ENERGY SECURITY ACT REPEALS.**

(a) BIOMASS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLANS.—Subtitle A of title II of the Energy Security Act (42 U.S.C. 8811 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) MUNICIPAL WASTE BIOMASS ENERGY.—Subtitle B of title II of the Energy Security Act (42 U.S.C. 8831 et seq.) is repealed.

(c) USE OF GASOLIN IN FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLES.—Section 271 of the Energy Security Act (42 U.S.C. 8871) is repealed.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of contents for the Energy Security Act (Public Law 96-294; 94 Stat. 611) is amended—

- (A) by striking the items relating to subtitle A and B of title II;

(B) by striking the item relating to section 204 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 204. Funding. .... ”; and

(C) by striking the item relating to section 271.

(2) Section 203 of the Biomass Energy and Alcohol Fuels Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 8802) is amended—

- (A) by striking paragraph (16); and
- (B) by redesignating paragraphs (17) through (19) as paragraphs (16) through (18), respectively.

(3) Section 204 of the Energy Security Act (42 U.S.C. 8803) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “FOR SUBTITLES A AND B”; and

(B) in subsection (a)—

- (i) in paragraph (1), by adding “and” after the semicolon at the end;
- (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a period; and
- (iii) by striking paragraph (3).

**SEC. 4720. NUCLEAR SAFETY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1980 REPEALS.**

Sections 5 and 6 of the Nuclear Safety Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9704, 9705) are repealed.

**SEC. 4721. ELIMINATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN AMERICA COMPETES PROGRAMS.**

(a) ELIMINATION OF PROGRAM AUTHORITIES.—

(1) NUCLEAR SCIENCE TALENT EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Section 5004 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16532) is repealed.

(2) HYDROCARBON SYSTEMS SCIENCE TALENT EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 5005(e) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16533(e)) is repealed.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5005(f) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16533(f)) is amended—

- (i) by striking paragraph (2);
- (ii) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through “There are” in paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are”; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as paragraphs (1) through (6), respectively, and indenting appropriately.

(3) DISCOVERY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INNOVATION INSTITUTES.—Section 5008 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16535) is repealed.

(4) ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Sections 3181 and 3185 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 73811, 42 U.S.C. 7381n) are repealed.

(5) MENTORING PROGRAM.—Section 3195 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381r) is repealed.

(b) REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS RESEARCHERS.—Section 5006 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16534) is amended by striking subsection (h).

(2) DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST PROGRAM.—Section 5011 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16537) is amended by striking subsection (j).

(3) PROTECTING AMERICA’S COMPETITIVE EDGE (PACE) GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 5009 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16536) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(c) CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE PROGRAM AUTHORITIES.—

(1) UNIVERSITY NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SUPPORT.—Section 954 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16274) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “nuclear chemistry,” after “nuclear engineering,”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

- (i) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) award grants, not to exceed 5 years in duration, to institutions of higher education with existing academic degree programs in nuclear sciences and related fields—

“(A) to increase the number of graduates in nuclear science and related fields;

“(B) to enhance the teaching and research of advanced nuclear technologies;

“(C) to undertake collaboration with industry and National Laboratories; and

“(D) to bolster or sustain nuclear infrastructure and research facilities of institutions of higher education, such as research and training reactors and laboratories;”.

(2) CONSOLIDATION OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS RESEARCHERS PROGRAM AND DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST PROGRAM.—

(A) FUNDING.—Section 971(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16311(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) For the Department of Energy early career awards for science, engineering, and mathematics researchers program under section 5006 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16534) and the distinguished scientist program under section 5011 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 16537), \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, of which not more than 65 percent of the amount made available for a fiscal year under this paragraph may be used to carry out section 5006 or 5011 of that Act.”.

(B) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS RESEARCHERS.—Section 5006 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16534) is amended—

(i) in subsection (b)(1)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(aa) by inserting “average” before “amount”; and

(bb) by inserting “for each year” before “shall”; and

(II) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$80,000” and inserting “\$190,000”; and

(III) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$125,000” and inserting “\$490,000”; and

(ii) in subsection (c)(1)(C)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “assistant professor or equivalent title” and inserting “untenured assistant or associate professor”; and

(bb) by inserting “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(II) by striking clause (ii); and

(III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii);

(iii) in subsection (d), by striking “on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis” and inserting “through a competitive process using merit-based peer review.”;

(iv) in subsection (e)—

(I) by striking “(e)” and all that follows through “To be eligible” and inserting the following:

“(e) SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA.—To be eligible”; and

(II) by striking paragraph (2); and  
(v) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “non-profit, nondegree-granting research organizations” and inserting “National Laboratories”.

(3) **SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—Section 3164 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Office of Science (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Director’) shall provide for appropriate coordination of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs across all functions of the Department.

“(2) **ADMINISTRATION.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director shall—

“(A) consult with—

“(i) the Assistant Secretary of Energy with responsibility for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs; and

“(ii) the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration; and

“(B) seek to increase the participation and advancement of women and underrepresented minorities at every level of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.”; and

(i) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(III) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) represent the Department as the principal interagency liaison for all coordination activities under the President for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs; and”;

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Director shall submit a report describing the impact of the activities assisted with the Fund established under paragraph (1) to—

“(A) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.”.

(4) **PROTECTING AMERICA’S COMPETITIVE EDGE (PACE) GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**—Section 5009 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16536) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1) by striking “, involving” and all that follows through “Secretary”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) to demonstrate excellent academic performance and understanding of scientific or technical subjects; and”;

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(i), by inserting “full or partial” before “graduate tuition”; and

(C) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Director of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Education” and inserting “Director of the Office of Science.”.

(d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—The table of contents for the America COMPETES ACT (Public Law 110–69; 121 Stat. 573) is amended

by striking the items relating to sections 5004 and 5008.

**SEC. 4722. REPEAL OF STATE UTILITY REGULATORY ASSISTANCE.**

(a) **REPEAL.**—Section 207 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6807) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Energy Conservation and Production Act (Public Law 94–385; 90 Stat. 1126) is amended by striking the item relating to section 207.

**SEC. 4723. REPEAL OF SURVEY OF ENERGY SAVING POTENTIAL.**

(a) **REPEAL.**—Section 550 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8258b) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) The table of contents for the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (Public Law 95–619; 92 Stat. 3206; 106 Stat. 2851) is amended by striking the item relating to section 550.

(2) Section 543(d)(2) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253(d)(2)) is amended by striking “, incorporating any relevant information obtained from the survey conducted pursuant to section 550”.

**SEC. 4724. REPEAL OF PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY PROGRAM.**

(a) **REPEAL.**—Part 4 of title V of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8271 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (Public Law 95–619; 92 Stat. 3206) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to part 4 of title V; and

(2) by striking the items relating to sections 561 through 569.

**SEC. 4725. REPEAL OF ENERGY AUDITOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.**

(a) **REPEAL.**—Subtitle F of title V of the Energy Security Act (42 U.S.C. 8285 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Energy Security Act (Public Law 96–294; 94 Stat. 611) is amended by striking the items relating to subtitle F of title V.

**SEC. 4726. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **REPEAL.**—Subtitle F of title VII of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8461) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–620; 92 Stat. 3289) is amended by striking the item relating to subtitle F of title VII.

**SEC. 4727. REPEAL OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 1989.**

(a) **REPEAL.**—The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technology Competitiveness Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 12001 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 6(b)(3) of the Federal Non-nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5905(b)(3)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (Q), by adding “and” after the semicolon;

(B) by striking subparagraph (R); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (S) as subparagraph (R).

(2) Section 1204 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13313) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking “, in consultation with” and all that follows through “under section 6 of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Technology Competitiveness Act of 1989,”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “, in consultation with the Advisory Committee.”.

**SEC. 4728. REPEAL OF HYDROGEN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

The Spark M. Matsunaga Hydrogen Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12401 et seq.) is repealed.

**SEC. 4729. REPEAL OF STUDY ON ALTERNATIVE FUEL USE IN NONROAD VEHICLES AND ENGINES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 412 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13238) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 412.

**SEC. 4730. REPEAL OF LOW INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESS FLEET PURCHASES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 414 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13239) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 414.

**SEC. 4731. REPEAL OF TECHNICAL AND POLICY ANALYSIS FOR REPLACEMENT FUEL DEMAND AND SUPPLY INFORMATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 506 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13256) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 506.

(2) Section 507(m) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13257(m)) is amended by striking “and section 506”.

**SEC. 4732. REPEAL OF 1992 REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13381) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 1601.

(2) Section 1602(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13382(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), in the third sentence, by striking “the report required under section 1601 and”.

**SEC. 4733. REPEAL OF DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE PROTECTOR ESTABLISHMENT.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1603 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13383) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 1603.

**SEC. 4734. REPEAL OF 1994 REPORT ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE EMISSIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1604 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13384) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 1604.

**SEC. 4735. REPEAL OF TELECOMMUTING STUDY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2028 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13438) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 2028.

**SEC. 4736. REPEAL OF ADVANCED BUILDINGS FOR 2005 PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13454) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 2104.

(2) Section 2101(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13451(a)) is amended, in the third sentence, by striking “2104.”

**SEC. 4737. REPEAL OF ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DEMONSTRATION, AND COMMERCIAL APPLICATION ADVISORY BOARD.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13522) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 2302.

(2) Section 6 of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5905) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking “,” in consultation with the Advisory Board established under section 2302 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking “,” in consultation with the Advisory Board established under section 2302 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), in the second sentence, by striking “,” in consultation with the Advisory Board established under section 2302 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.”; and

(C) in subsection (c), in the first sentence, by striking “,” in consultation with the Advisory Board established under section 2302 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.”.

(3) Section 2011(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13411(c)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking “,” and with the Advisory Board established under section 2302”.

(4) Section 2304 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13523), is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “,” in consultation with the Advisory Board established under section 2302.”; and

(B) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking “,” with the advice of the Advisory Board established under section 2302 of this Act.”.

**SEC. 4738. REPEAL OF STUDY ON USE OF ENERGY FUTURES FOR FUEL PURCHASE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3014 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13552) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 3014.

**SEC. 4739. REPEAL OF ENERGY SUBSIDY STUDY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3015 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13553) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 2776) is amended by striking the item relating to section 3015.

**SEC. 4740. MODERNIZATION OF TERMS RELATING TO MINORITIES.**

(a) OFFICE OF MINORITY ECONOMIC IMPACT.—Section 211(f)(1) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7141(f)(1)) is amended by striking “a Negro, Puerto Rican, American Indian, Eskimo, Oriental, or Aleut or is a Spanish speaking individual of Spanish descent” and inserting “Asian American, Native Hawaiian, a Pacific Islander, African-American, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, Native American, or an Alaska Native”.

(b) MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.—Section 106(f)(2) of the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6705(f)(2)) is amended in the third sentence by striking “Negroes, Spanish-speaking, Orientals, Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts” and inserting “Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, African-American, Hispanic, Native American, or Alaska Natives”.

**TITLE V—CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION****SEC. 5001. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAINTENANCE AND REVITALIZATION CONSERVATION FUND.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 104908. National Park Service Maintenance and Revitalization Conservation Fund**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ‘National Park Service Critical Maintenance and Revitalization Conservation Fund’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Fund’).

“(b) DEPOSITS TO FUND.—Notwithstanding any provision of law providing that the proceeds shall be credited to miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury, for each fiscal year, there shall be deposited in the Fund, from revenues due and payable to the United States under section 9 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1338) \$150,000,000.

“(c) USE AND AVAILABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts deposited in the Fund shall—

“(A) be used only for the purposes described in subsection (d); and

“(B) be available for expenditure only after the amounts are appropriated for those purposes.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts in the Fund not appropriated shall remain available in the Fund until appropriated.

“(3) NO LIMITATION.—Appropriations from the Fund pursuant to this section may be made without fiscal year limitation.

“(d) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM CRITICAL DEFERRED MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary shall use amounts appropriated from the Fund for high-priority deferred maintenance needs of the Service that support critical infrastructure and visitor services.

“(e) LAND ACQUISITION PROHIBITION.—Amounts in the Fund shall not be used for land acquisition.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104907 the following:

“§104908. National Park Service Maintenance and Revitalization Conservation Fund.”.

**SEC. 5002. LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.**

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 200302 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “During the period ending September 30, 2018, there” and inserting “There”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “through September 30, 2018”.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Section 200304 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “There” and inserting “(a) In General.—There”; and

(2) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

“(b) ALLOCATION.—Of the appropriations from the Fund—

“(1) not less than 40 percent shall be used collectively for Federal purposes under section 200306;

“(2) not less than 40 percent shall be used collectively—

“(A) to provide financial assistance to States under section 200305;

“(B) for the Forest Legacy Program established under section 7 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c);

“(C) for cooperative endangered species grants authorized under section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535); and

“(D) for the American Battlefield Protection Program established under chapter 3081; and

“(3) not less than 1.5 percent or \$10,000,000, whichever is greater, shall be used for projects that secure recreational public access to Federal public land for hunting, fishing, or other recreational purposes.”.

(c) CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—Section 200306 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall consider the acquisition of conservation easements and other similar interests in land where appropriate and feasible.”.

(d) ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS.—Section 200306 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by subsection (c)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall take into account the following in determining the land or interests in land to acquire:

“(1) Management efficiencies.

“(2) Management cost savings.

“(3) Geographic distribution.

“(4) Significance of the acquisition.

“(5) Urgency of the acquisition.

“(6) Threats to the integrity of the land to be acquired.

“(7) The recreational value of the land.”.

**SEC. 5003. HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND.**

Section 303102 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking “of fiscal years 2012 to 2015” and inserting “fiscal year”.

**SEC. 5004. CONSERVATION INCENTIVES LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall establish a conservation incentives landowner education program (referred to in this section as the “program”).

(b) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The program shall provide information on Federal conservation programs available to landowners interested in undertaking conservation actions on the land of the landowners, including options under each conservation program

available to achieve the conservation goals of the program, such as—

- (1) fee title land acquisition;
- (2) donation; and
- (3) perpetual and term conservation easements or agreements.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that the information provided under the program is made available to—

- (1) interested landowners; and
- (2) the public.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—In any case in which the Secretary of the Interior contacts a landowner directly about participation in a Federal conservation program, the Secretary shall, in writing—

- (1) notify the landowner of the program; and
- (2) make available information on the conservation program options that may be available to the landowner.

#### TITLE VI—INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-DETERMINATION

##### SECTION 6001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016”.

##### Subtitle A—Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-determination Act Amendments

##### SEC. 6011. INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2602(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(a)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (2)—
  - (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” after the semicolon;
  - (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
  - (C) by adding at the end the following:
 

“(E) consult with each applicable Indian tribe before adopting or approving a well spacing program or plan applicable to the energy resources of that Indian tribe or the members of that Indian tribe.”;
- (2) by adding at the end the following:
 

“(4) PLANNING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program established by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide technical assistance to interested Indian tribes to develop energy plans, including—

  - “(i) plans for electrification;
  - “(ii) plans for oil and gas permitting, renewable energy permitting, energy efficiency, electricity generation, transmission planning, water planning, and other planning relating to energy issues;
  - “(iii) plans for the development of energy resources and to ensure the protection of natural, historic, and cultural resources; and
  - “(iv) any other plans that would assist an Indian tribe in the development or use of energy resources.

“(B) COOPERATION.—In establishing the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall work in cooperation with the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs of the Department of Energy.”.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY INDIAN ENERGY EDUCATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2602(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(b)(2)) is amended—

- (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “; intertribal organization,” after “Indian tribe”;
- (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) activities to increase the capacity of Indian tribes to manage energy development and energy efficiency programs;”.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.—Section 2602(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or a tribal energy development organization” after “Indian tribe”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “guarantee” and inserting “guaranteed”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) a tribal energy development organization, from funds of the tribal energy development organization.”; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking “The Secretary of Energy may” and inserting “Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016, the Secretary of Energy shall”.

##### SEC. 6012. INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE REGULATION.

Section 2603(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3503(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “on the request of an Indian tribe, the Indian tribe” and inserting “on the request of an Indian tribe or a tribal energy development organization, the Indian tribe or tribal energy development organization”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “or tribal energy development organization” after “Indian tribe”.

##### SEC. 6013. TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE AGREEMENTS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 2604 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) an electric production, generation, transmission, or distribution facility (including a facility that produces electricity from renewable energy resources) located on tribal land; or”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting “, at least a portion of which have been” after “energy resources”;

(bb) by inserting “or produced from” after “developed on”; and

(cc) by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end and inserting “or”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) pooling, unitization, or communitization of the energy mineral resources of the Indian tribe located on tribal land with any other energy mineral resource (including energy mineral resources owned by the Indian tribe or an individual Indian in fee, trust, or restricted status or by any other persons or entities) if the owner, or, if appropriate, lessee, of the resources has consented or consents to the pooling, unitization, or communitization of the other resources under any lease or agreement; and”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) a lease or business agreement described in paragraph (1) shall not require re-

view by, or the approval of, the Secretary under section 2103 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 81), or any other provision of law (including regulations), if the lease or business agreement—

“(A) was executed—

“(i) in accordance with the requirements of a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under subsection (e) (including the periodic review and evaluation of the activities of the Indian tribe under the agreement, to be conducted pursuant to subparagraphs (D) and (E) of subsection (e)(2)); or

“(ii) by the Indian tribe and a tribal energy development organization for which the Indian tribe has obtained a certification pursuant to subsection (h); and

“(B) has a term that does not exceed—

“(i) 30 years; or

“(ii) in the case of a lease for the production of oil resources, gas resources, or both, 10 years and as long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities.”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—An Indian tribe may grant a right-of-way over tribal land without review or approval by the Secretary if the right-of-way—

“(1) serves—

“(A) an electric production, generation, transmission, or distribution facility (including a facility that produces electricity from renewable energy resources) located on tribal land;

“(B) a facility located on tribal land that extracts, produces, processes, or refines energy resources; or

“(C) the purposes, or facilitates in carrying out the purposes, of any lease or agreement entered into for energy resource development on tribal land;

“(2) was executed—

“(A) in accordance with the requirements of a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under subsection (e) (including the periodic review and evaluation of the activities of the Indian tribe under the agreement, to be conducted pursuant to subparagraphs (D) and (E) of subsection (e)(2)); or

“(B) by the Indian tribe and a tribal energy development organization for which the Indian tribe has obtained a certification pursuant to subsection (h); and

“(3) has a term that does not exceed 30 years.”;

(3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) VALIDITY.—No lease or business agreement entered into, or right-of-way granted, pursuant to this section shall be valid unless the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way is authorized by subsection (a) or (b).”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION.—On or after the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016, a qualified Indian tribe may submit to the Secretary a tribal energy resource agreement governing leases, business agreements, and rights-of-way under this section.

“(B) NOTICE OF COMPLETE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the tribal energy resource agreement is submitted under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) notify the Indian tribe as to whether the agreement is complete or incomplete;

“(ii) if the agreement is incomplete, notify the Indian tribe of what information or documentation is needed to complete the submission; and

“(iii) identify and notify the Indian tribe of the financial assistance, if any, to be provided by the Secretary to the Indian tribe to assist in the implementation of the tribal energy resource agreement, including the environmental review of individual projects.

“(C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph precludes the Secretary from providing any financial assistance at any time to the Indian tribe to assist in the implementation of the tribal energy resource agreement.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “(2)(A)” and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(2) PROCEDURE.—

“(A) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 271 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a tribal energy resource agreement from a qualified Indian tribe under paragraph (1), the tribal energy resource agreement shall take effect, unless the Secretary disapproves the tribal energy resource agreement under subparagraph (B).

“(ii) REVISED TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE AGREEMENT.—On the date that is 91 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a revised tribal energy resource agreement from a qualified Indian tribe under paragraph (4)(B), the revised tribal energy resource agreement shall take effect, unless the Secretary disapproves the revised tribal energy resource agreement under subparagraph (B).”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “(B)” and all that follows through clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(B) DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall disapprove a tribal energy resource agreement submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) or (4)(B) only if—

“(i) a provision of the tribal energy resource agreement violates applicable Federal law (including regulations) or a treaty applicable to the Indian tribe;

“(ii) the tribal energy resource agreement does not include 1 or more provisions required under subparagraph (D); or”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “includes” and all that follows through “section—” and inserting “does not include provisions that, with respect to any lease, business agreement, or right-of-way to which the tribal energy resource agreement applies—”;

(bb) by striking subclauses (I), (II), (V), (VIII), and (XV);

(cc) by redesignating clauses (III), (IV), (VI), (VII), (IX) through (XIV), and (XVI) as clauses (I), (II), (III), (IV), (V) through (X), and (XI), respectively;

(dd) in item (bb) of subclause (XI) (as redesignated by item (cc))—

(AA) by striking “or tribal”; and

(BB) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(ee) by adding at the end the following:

“(XII) include a certification by the Indian tribe that the Indian tribe has—

“(aa) carried out a contract or compact under title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) for a period of not less than 3 consecutive years ending on the date on which the Indian tribe submits the application without material audit exception (or without any material audit exceptions that

were not corrected within the 3-year period) relating to the management of tribal land or natural resources; or

“(bb) substantial experience in the administration, review, or evaluation of energy resource leases or agreements or has otherwise substantially participated in the administration, management, or development of energy resources located on the tribal land of the Indian tribe; and

“(XIII) at the option of the Indian tribe, identify which functions, if any, authorizing any operational or development activities pursuant to a lease, right-of-way, or business agreement approved by the Indian tribe, that the Indian tribe intends to conduct.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by striking clauses (i) and (ii);

(II) by redesignating clauses (iii) through (v) as clauses (ii) through (iv), respectively; and

(III) by inserting before clause (ii) (as redesignated by subclause (II)) the following:

“(i) a process for ensuring that—

“(I) the public is informed of, and has reasonable opportunity to comment on, any significant environmental impacts of the proposed action; and

“(II) the Indian tribe provides responses to relevant and substantive public comments on any impacts described in subclause (I) before the Indian tribe approves the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking “subparagraph (B)(iii)(XVI)” and inserting “subparagraph (B)(iv)(XI)”;

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—A tribal energy resource agreement that takes effect pursuant to this subsection shall remain in effect to the extent any provision of the tribal energy resource agreement is consistent with applicable Federal law (including regulations), unless the tribal energy resource agreement is—

“(i) rescinded by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (7)(D)(iii)(II); or

“(ii) voluntarily rescinded by the Indian tribe pursuant to the regulations promulgated under paragraph (8)(B) (or successor regulations).”;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “date of disapproval” and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting the following: “date of disapproval, provide the Indian tribe with—

“(A) a detailed, written explanation of—

“(i) each reason for the disapproval; and

“(ii) the revisions or changes to the tribal energy resource agreement necessary to address each reason; and

“(B) an opportunity to revise and resubmit the tribal energy resource agreement.”;

(D) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “(B) Subject to” and inserting the following:

“(B) Subject only to”; and

(II) by striking “subparagraph (D)” and inserting “subparagraphs (C) and (D)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “to perform the obligations of the Secretary under this section and” before “to ensure”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) Nothing in this section absolves, limits, or otherwise affects the liability, if any, of the United States for any—

“(I) term of any lease, business agreement, or right-of-way under this section that is not a negotiated term; or

“(II) losses that are not the result of a negotiated term, including losses resulting

from the failure of the Secretary to perform an obligation of the Secretary under this section.”;

(E) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “has demonstrated” and inserting “the Secretary determines has demonstrated with substantial evidence”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “any tribal remedy” and inserting “all remedies (if any) provided under the laws of the Indian tribe”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking “determine” and all that follows through the end of the clause and inserting the following: “determine—

“(I) whether the petitioner is an interested party; and

“(II) if the petitioner is an interested party, whether the Indian tribe is not in compliance with the tribal energy resource agreement as alleged in the petition.”;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “determination” and inserting “determinations”;

(III) in clause (iii), in the matter preceding subclause (I) by striking “agreement” the first place it appears and all that follows through “, including” and inserting “agreement pursuant to clause (i), the Secretary shall only take such action as the Secretary determines necessary to address the claims of noncompliance made in the petition, including”;

(iv) in subparagraph (E)(i), by striking “the manner in which” and inserting “, with respect to each claim made in the petition, how”;

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Secretary shall dismiss any petition from an interested party that has agreed with the Indian tribe to a resolution of the claims presented in the petition of that party.”;

(F) in paragraph (8)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively; and

(iii) in subparagraph (A) (as redesignated by clause (ii))—

(I) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in clause (ii), by adding “and” after the semicolon; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) amend an approved tribal energy resource agreement to assume authority for approving leases, business agreements, or rights-of-way for development of another energy resource that is not included in an approved tribal energy resource agreement without being required to apply for a new tribal energy resource agreement;” and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to deny a tribal energy resource agreement or any amendment to a tribal energy resource agreement, or to limit the effect or implementation of this section, due to lack of promulgated regulations.”;

(5) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (j); and

(6) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN LIEU OF ACTIVITIES BY THE SECRETARY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any amounts that the Secretary would otherwise expend to operate or carry out any program, function, service, or activity (or any portion of a program,

function, service, or activity) of the Department that, as a result of an Indian tribe carrying out activities under a tribal energy resource agreement, the Secretary does not expend, the Secretary shall, at the request of the Indian tribe, make available to the Indian tribe in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) ANNUAL FUNDING AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall make the amounts described in paragraph (1) available to an Indian tribe through an annual written funding agreement that is negotiated and entered into with the Indian tribe that is separate from the tribal energy resource agreement.

“(3) EFFECT OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

“(A) the provision of amounts to an Indian tribe under this subsection is subject to the availability of appropriations; and

“(B) the Secretary shall not be required to reduce amounts for programs, functions, services, or activities that serve any other Indian tribe to make amounts available to an Indian tribe under this subsection.

“(4) DETERMINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall calculate the amounts under paragraph (1) in accordance with the regulations adopted under section 6013(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016.

“(B) APPLICABILITY.—The effective date of implementation of a tribal energy resource agreement under this section shall not be delayed or otherwise affected by—

“(i) a delay in the promulgation of regulations under section 6013(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016;

“(ii) the period of time needed by the Secretary to make the calculation required under paragraph (1); or

“(iii) the adoption of a funding agreement under paragraph (2).

“(h) CERTIFICATION OF TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which an Indian tribe submits an application for certification of a tribal energy development organization in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 6013(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the application.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall approve an application for certification if—

“(A)(i) the Indian tribe has carried out a contract or compact under title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); and

“(ii) for a period of not less than 3 consecutive years ending on the date on which the Indian tribe submits the application, the contract or compact—

“(I) has been carried out by the Indian tribe without material audit exceptions (or without any material audit exceptions that were not corrected within the 3-year period); and

“(II) has included programs or activities relating to the management of tribal land; and

“(B)(i) the tribal energy development organization is organized under the laws of the Indian tribe;

“(ii)(I) the majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization is owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes) the tribal land of which is being developed; and

“(II) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization requires that the Indian tribe with jurisdiction over the land maintain at all times the controlling interest in the tribal energy development organization;

“(iii) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization requires that the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes) the tribal land of which is being developed own and control at all times a majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization; and

“(iv) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization includes a statement that the organization shall be subject to the jurisdiction, laws, and authority of the Indian tribe.

“(3) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—If the Secretary approves an application for certification pursuant to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, not more than 10 days after making the determination—

“(A) issue a certification stating that—

“(i) the tribal energy development organization is organized under the laws of the Indian tribe and subject to the jurisdiction, laws, and authority of the Indian tribe;

“(ii) the majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization is owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes) the tribal land of which is being developed;

“(iii) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization requires that the Indian tribe with jurisdiction over the land maintain at all times the controlling interest in the tribal energy development organization;

“(iv) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization requires that the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes) the tribal land of which is being developed own and control at all times a majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization; and

“(v) the certification is issued pursuant to this subsection;

“(B) deliver a copy of the certification to the Indian tribe; and

“(C) publish the certification in the Federal Register.

“(i) SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.—Nothing in this section waives the sovereign immunity of an Indian tribe.”

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016, the Secretary shall promulgate or update any regulations that are necessary to implement this section, including provisions to implement—

(1) section 2604(e)(8) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(e)(8)), including the process to be followed by an Indian tribe amending an existing tribal energy resource agreement to assume authority for approving leases, business agreements, or rights-of-way for development of an energy resource that is not included in the tribal energy resource agreement;

(2) section 2604(g) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(g)) including the manner in which the Secretary, at the request of an Indian tribe, shall—

(A) identify the programs, functions, services, and activities (or any portions of programs, functions, services, or activities) that the Secretary will not have to operate or carry out as a result of the Indian tribe carrying out activities under a tribal energy resource agreement;

(B) identify the amounts that the Secretary would have otherwise expended to op-

erate or carry out each program, function, service, and activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) identified pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

(C) provide to the Indian tribe a list of the programs, functions, services, and activities (or any portions of programs, functions, services, or activities) identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) and the amounts associated with each program, function, service, and activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) identified pursuant to subparagraph (B); and

(3) section 2604(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(h)), including the process to be followed by, and any applicable criteria and documentation required for, an Indian tribe to request and obtain the certification described in that section.

#### SEC. 6014. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

Section 2602(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES.—In addition to providing grants to Indian tribes under this subsection, the Secretary shall collaborate with the Directors of the National Laboratories in making the full array of technical and scientific resources of the Department of Energy available for tribal energy activities and projects.”

#### SEC. 6015. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—Section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through (12) as paragraphs (10) through (13), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

“(9) The term ‘qualified Indian tribe’ means an Indian tribe that has—

“(A) carried out a contract or compact under title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) for a period of not less than 3 consecutive years ending on the date on which the Indian tribe submits the application without material audit exception (or without any material audit exceptions that were not corrected within the 3-year period) relating to the management of tribal land or natural resources; or

“(B) substantial experience in the administration, review, or evaluation of energy resource leases or agreements or has otherwise substantially participated in the administration, management, or development of energy resources located on the tribal land of the Indian tribe.”; and

(3) by striking paragraph (12) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) and inserting the following:

“(12) The term ‘tribal energy development organization’ means—

“(A) any enterprise, partnership, consortium, corporation, or other type of business organization that is engaged in the development of energy resources and is wholly owned by an Indian tribe (including an organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. 477) or section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936 (25 U.S.C. 503) (commonly known as the ‘Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act’)); and

“(B) any organization of 2 or more entities, at least 1 of which is an Indian tribe, that has the written consent of the governing



bodies of all Indian tribes participating in the organization to apply for a grant, loan, or other assistance under section 2602 or to enter into a lease or business agreement with, or acquire a right-of-way from, an Indian tribe pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) or (b)(2)(B) of section 2604.”

(b) INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.—Section 2602 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—  
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “tribal energy resource development organizations” and inserting “tribal energy development organizations”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “tribal energy resource development organizations” each place it appears and inserting “tribal energy development organizations”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “tribal energy resource development organization” and inserting “tribal energy development organization”.

(c) WIND AND HYDROPOWER FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Section 2606(c)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3506(c)(3)) is amended by striking “energy resource development” and inserting “energy development”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2604(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—  
(A) by striking “(3) The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(3) NOTICE AND COMMENT; SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—The Secretary”; and

(B) by striking “for approval”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “(4) If the Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(4) ACTION IN CASE OF DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary”;

(3) in paragraph (5)—  
(A) by striking “(5) If an Indian tribe” and inserting the following:

“(5) PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS TO SECRETARY.—If an Indian tribe”; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “approved” and inserting “in effect”;

(4) in paragraph (6)—  
(A) by striking “(6)(A) In carrying out” and inserting the following:

“(6) SECRETARIAL OBLIGATIONS AND EFFECT OF SECTION.—

“(A) In carrying out”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by indenting clauses (i) and (ii) appropriately;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “approved” and inserting “in effect”; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)—  
(i) in clause (i), by striking “an approved tribal energy resource agreement” and inserting “a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under this section”; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “approved by the Secretary” and inserting “in effect”; and

(5) in paragraph (7)—  
(A) by striking “(7)(A) In this paragraph” and inserting the following:

“(7) PETITIONS BY INTERESTED PARTIES.—

“(A) In this paragraph”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “approved by the Secretary” and inserting “in effect”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “approved by the Secretary” and inserting “in effect”; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)(iii)—  
(i) in subclause (I), by striking “approved”; and

(ii) in subclause (II)—

(I) by striking “approval of” in the first place it appears; and

(II) by striking “subsection (a) or (b)” and inserting “subsection (a)(2)(A)(i) or (b)(2)(A)”.

**SEC. 6016. REPORT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that details with respect to activities for energy development on Indian land, how the Department of the Interior—

(1) processes and completes the reviews of energy-related documents in a timely and transparent manner;

(2) monitors the timeliness of agency review for all energy-related documents;

(3) maintains databases to track and monitor the review and approval process for energy-related documents associated with conventional and renewable Indian energy resources that require Secretarial approval prior to development, including—

- (A) any seismic exploration permits;
  - (B) permission to survey;
  - (C) archeological and cultural surveys;
  - (D) access permits;
  - (E) environmental assessments;
  - (F) oil and gas leases;
  - (G) surface leases;
  - (H) rights-of-way agreements; and
  - (I) communitization agreements;
- (4) identifies in the databases—

- (A) the date lease applications and permits are received by the agency;
- (B) the status of the review;
- (C) the date the application or permit is considered complete and ready for review;
- (D) the date of approval; and
- (E) the start and end dates for any significant delays in the review process;

(5) tracks in the databases, for all energy-related leases, agreements, applications, and permits that involve multiple agency review—

- (A) the dates documents are transferred between agencies;
- (B) the status of the review;
- (C) the date the required reviews are completed; and
- (D) the date interim or final decisions are issued.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of any intermediate and final deadlines for agency action on any Secretarial review and approval required for Indian conventional and renewable energy exploration and development activities;

(2) a description of the existing geographic database established by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, explaining—

- (A) how the database identifies—
  - (i) the location and ownership of all Indian oil and gas resources held in trust;
  - (ii) resources available for lease; and
  - (iii) the location of—
    - (I) any lease of land held in trust or restricted fee on behalf of any Indian tribe or individual Indian; and
    - (II) any rights-of-way on that land in effect;
- (B) how the information from the database is made available to—
  - (i) the officials of the Bureau of Indian Affairs with responsibility over the management and development of Indian resources; and
  - (ii) resource owners; and
  - (C) any barriers to identifying the information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) or any deficiencies in that information; and

(3) an evaluation of—

(A) the ability of each applicable agency to track and monitor the review and approval process of the agency for Indian energy development; and

(B) the extent to which each applicable agency complies with any intermediate and final deadlines.

**Subtitle B—Miscellaneous Amendments**

**SEC. 6201. ISSUANCE OF PRELIMINARY PERMITS OR LICENSES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 800(a)) is amended by striking “States and municipalities” and inserting “States, Indian tribes, and municipalities”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not affect—

(1) any preliminary permit or original license issued before the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016; or

(2) an application for an original license, if the Commission has issued a notice accepting that application for filing pursuant to section 4.32(d) of title 18, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), before the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2016.

(c) DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.—For purposes of section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 800(a)) (as amended by subsection (a)), the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

**SEC. 6202. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish a biomass demonstration project for federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations to promote biomass energy production.

(b) TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-278; 118 Stat. 868) is amended—

(1) in section 2(a), by striking “In this section” and inserting “In this Act”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 3. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

“(a) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS OR SIMILAR AGREEMENTS.—For each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021, the Secretary shall enter into stewardship contracts or similar agreements (excluding direct service contracts) with Indian tribes to carry out demonstration projects to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and electricity generation) on Indian forest land and in nearby communities by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land.

“(b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In each fiscal year for which projects are authorized, at least 4 new demonstration projects that meet the eligibility criteria described in subsection (c) shall be carried out under contracts or agreements described in subsection (a).

“(c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to enter into a contract or agreement under this section, an Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application—

“(1) containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

“(2) that includes a description of—  
“(A) the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe; and

“(B) the demonstration project proposed to be carried out by the Indian tribe.

“(d) SELECTION.—In evaluating the applications submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

“(1) take into consideration—

“(A) the factors set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(e); and

“(B) whether a proposed project would—

“(i) increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;

“(ii) enhance the economic development of the Indian tribe;

“(iii) result in or improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Indian tribe with other electric transmission facilities;

“(iv) improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or Indian forest land or rangeland;

“(v) demonstrate new investments in infrastructure; or

“(vi) otherwise promote the use of woody biomass; and

“(2) exclude from consideration any merchantable logs that have been identified by the Secretary for commercial sale.

“(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) ensure that the criteria described in subsection (c) are publicly available by not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section; and

“(2) to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Indian tribes and appropriate intertribal organizations likely to be affected in developing the application and otherwise carrying out this section.

“(f) REPORT.—Not later than September 20, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, with respect to the reporting period—

“(1) each individual tribal application received under this section; and

“(2) each contract and agreement entered into pursuant to this section.

“(g) INCORPORATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS.—In carrying out a contract or agreement under this section, on receipt of a request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall incorporate into the contract or agreement, to the maximum extent practicable, management plans (including forest management and integrated resource management plans) in effect on the Indian forest land or rangeland of the respective Indian tribe.

“(h) TERM.—A contract or agreement entered into under this section—

“(1) shall be for a term of not more than 20 years; and

“(2) may be renewed in accordance with this section for not more than an additional 10 years.”

(c) ALASKA NATIVE BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means—

(i) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)) administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(ii) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(B) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(C) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service; and

(ii) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

(D) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(2) AGREEMENTS.—For each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement or contract with an Indian tribe or a tribal organization to carry out a demonstration project to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and electricity generation) by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land.

(3) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In each fiscal year for which projects are authorized, at least 1 new demonstration project that meets the eligibility criteria described in paragraph (4) shall be carried out under contracts or agreements described in paragraph (2).

(4) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to enter into a contract or agreement under this subsection, an Indian tribe or tribal organization shall submit to the Secretary an application—

(A) containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

(B) that includes a description of the demonstration project proposed to be carried out by the Indian tribe or tribal organization.

(5) SELECTION.—In evaluating the applications submitted under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall—

(A) take into consideration whether a proposed project would—

(i) increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;

(ii) enhance the economic development of the Indian tribe;

(iii) result in or improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Indian tribe with other electric transmission facilities;

(iv) improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or non-Federal land;

(v) demonstrate new investments in infrastructure; or

(vi) otherwise promote the use of woody biomass; and

(B) exclude from consideration any merchantable logs that have been identified by the Secretary for commercial sale.

(6) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) ensure that the criteria described in paragraph (4) are publicly available by not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Indian tribes and appropriate tribal organizations likely to be affected in developing the application and otherwise carrying out this subsection.

(7) REPORT.—Not later than September 20, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, with respect to the reporting period—

(A) each individual application received under this subsection; and

(B) each contract and agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection.

(8) TERM.—A contract or agreement entered into under this subsection—

(A) shall be for a term of not more than 20 years; and

(B) may be renewed in accordance with this subsection for not more than an additional 10 years.

#### SEC. 6203. WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM.

Section 413(d) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6863(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) RESERVATION OF AMOUNTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) and notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the Secretary shall reserve from amounts that would otherwise be allocated to a State under this part not less than 100 percent, but not more than 150 percent, of an amount which bears the same proportion to the allocation of that State for the applicable fiscal year as the population of all low-income members of an Indian tribe in that State bears to the population of all low-income individuals in that State.

“(B) RESTRICTIONS.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply only if—

“(i) the tribal organization serving the low-income members of the applicable Indian tribe requests that the Secretary make a grant directly; and

“(ii) the Secretary determines that the low-income members of the applicable Indian tribe would be equally or better served by making a grant directly than a grant made to the State in which the low-income members reside.

“(C) PRESUMPTION.—If the tribal organization requesting the grant is a tribally designated housing entity (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)) that has operated without material audit exceptions (or without any material audit exceptions that were not corrected within a 3-year period), the Secretary shall presume that the low-income members of the applicable Indian tribe would be equally or better served by making a grant directly to the tribal organization than by a grant made to the State in which the low-income members reside.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “The sums” and inserting “ADMINISTRATION.—The amounts”;

(B) by striking “on the basis of his determination”;

(C) by striking “individuals for whom such a determination has been made” and inserting “low-income members of the Indian tribe”; and

(D) by striking “he” and inserting “the Secretary”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “In order” and inserting “APPLICATION.—In order”.

#### SEC. 6204. APPRAISALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXVI of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following: “SEC. 2607. APPRAISALS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For any transaction that requires approval of the Secretary and involves mineral or energy resources held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe or by an Indian tribe subject to Federal restrictions against alienation, any appraisal relating to fair market value of those resources required to be prepared under applicable law may be prepared by—

“(1) the Secretary;

“(2) the affected Indian tribe; or

“(3) a certified, third-party appraiser pursuant to a contract with the Indian tribe.

“(b) SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an appraisal prepared by or for an Indian tribe under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) review the appraisal; and

“(2) approve the appraisal unless the Secretary determines that the appraisal fails to meet the standards set forth in regulations promulgated under subsection (d).

“(c) NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary determines that an appraisal submitted for approval under subsection (b) should be disapproved, the Secretary shall give written notice of the disapproval to the Indian tribe and a description of—

“(1) each reason for the disapproval; and

“(2) how the appraisal should be corrected or otherwise cured to meet the applicable standards set forth in the regulations promulgated under subsection (d).

“(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section, including standards the Secretary shall use for approving or disapproving the appraisal described in subsection (a).”

**SEC. 6205. LEASES OF RESTRICTED LANDS FOR NAVAJO NATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the “Long-Term Leasing Act”) (25 U.S.C. 415(e)(1)), is amended—

(1) by striking “, except a lease for” and inserting “, including a lease for”;

(2) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) in the case of a business or agricultural lease, 99 years;”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) in the case of a lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resource (including geothermal resources), 25 years, except that—

“(i) any such lease may include an option to renew for 1 additional term of not to exceed 25 years; and

“(ii) any such lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of an oil or gas resource shall be for a term of not to exceed 10 years, plus such additional period as the Navajo Nation determines to be appropriate in any case in which an oil or gas resource is produced in a paying quantity.”

(b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to Congress a report describing the progress made in carrying out the amendment made by subsection (a).

**SEC. 6206. EXTENSION OF TRIBAL LEASE PERIOD FOR THE CROW TRIBE OF MONTANA.**

Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended in the second sentence by inserting “, land held in trust for the Crow Tribe of Montana” after “Devils Lake Sioux Reservation”.

**SEC. 6207. TRUST STATUS OF LEASE PAYMENTS.**

(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this section, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) TREATMENT OF LEASE PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and at the request of the Indian tribe or individual Indian, any advance payments, bid deposits, or other earnest money received by the Secretary in connection with the review and Secretarial approval under any other Federal law (including regulations) of a sale, lease, permit, or any other conveyance of any interest in any trust or restricted land of any Indian tribe or individual Indian shall, upon receipt and prior to Secretarial approval of the contract or conveyance instrument, be held in the trust fund system for the benefit of the Indian tribe and individual Indian from whose land the funds were generated.

(2) RESTRICTION.—If the advance payment, bid deposit, or other earnest money received by the Secretary results from competitive bidding, upon selection of the successful bidder, only the funds paid by the successful bidder shall be held in the trust fund system.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the approval of the Secretary of a contract or other instrument for a sale, lease, permit, or any other conveyance described in subsection (b)(1), the funds held in the trust fund system and described in subsection (b), along with all income generated from the investment of those funds, shall be disbursed to the Indian tribe or individual Indian landowners.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—If a contract or other instrument for a sale, lease, permit, or any other conveyance described in subsection (b)(1) is not approved by the Secretary, the funds held in the trust fund system and described in subsection (b), along with all income generated from the investment of those funds, shall be paid to the party identified in, and in such amount and on such terms as set out in, the applicable regulations, advertisement, or other notice governing the proposed conveyance of the interest in the land at issue.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to any advance payment, bid deposit, or other earnest money received by the Secretary in connection with the review and Secretarial approval under any other Federal law (including regulations) of a sale, lease, permit, or any other conveyance of any interest in any trust or restricted land of any Indian tribe or individual Indian on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

**TITLE VII—BROWNFIELDS REAUTHORIZATION**

**SEC. 7001. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2016” or the “BUILD Act”.

**SEC. 7002. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

Section 104(k)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

“(J) a limited liability corporation in which all managing members are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I);

“(K) a limited partnership in which all general partners are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I); or

“(L) a qualified community development entity (as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).”

**SEC. 7003. MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.**

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) and (10) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (10) and (13) through (15), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “subject to paragraphs (4) and (5)” and inserting “subject to paragraphs (5) and (6)”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (D) and paragraphs (5) and (6), the Administrator shall establish a program to provide multipurpose grants to an eligible entity based on the considerations under paragraph (3)(C), to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, or remediation activities at 1 or more brownfield sites in a proposed area.

“(B) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

“(i) INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNTS.—Each grant awarded under this paragraph shall not exceed \$950,000.

“(ii) CUMULATIVE GRANT AMOUNTS.—The total amount of grants awarded for each fiscal year under this paragraph shall not exceed 15 percent of the funds made available for the fiscal year to carry out this subsection.

“(C) CRITERIA.—In awarding a grant under this paragraph, the Administrator shall consider the extent to which an eligible entity is able—

“(i) to provide an overall plan for revitalization of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area in which the multipurpose grant will be used;

“(ii) to demonstrate a capacity to conduct the range of eligible activities that will be funded by the multipurpose grant; and

“(iii) to demonstrate that a multipurpose grant will meet the needs of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area.

“(D) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this paragraph, each eligible entity shall expend the full amount of the grant not later than the date that is 3 years after the date on which the grant is awarded to the eligible entity unless the Administrator, in the discretion of the Administrator, provides an extension.”

**SEC. 7004. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.**

Section 104(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible entity that is a governmental entity may receive a grant under this paragraph for property acquired by that governmental entity prior to January 11, 2002, even if the governmental entity does not qualify as a bona fide prospective purchaser (as that term is defined in section 101(40)), so long as the eligible entity has not caused or contributed to a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at the property.”

**SEC. 7005. INCREASED FUNDING FOR REMEDIATION GRANTS.**

Section 104(k)(3)(A)(ii) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking “\$200,000 for each site to be remediated” and inserting “\$500,000 for each site to be remediated, which limit may be waived by the Administrator, but not to exceed a total of \$650,000 for each site, based on the anticipated level of contamination, size, or ownership status of the site”.

**SEC. 7006. ALLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

Paragraph (5) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42

U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 3(1)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (B)—  
 (A) in clause (i)—  
 (i) by striking subclause (III); and  
 (ii) by redesignating subclauses (IV) and (V) as subclauses (III) and (IV), respectively;  
 (B) by striking clause (ii);  
 (C) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and

(D) in clause (ii) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C)), by striking “Notwithstanding clause (i)(IV)” and inserting “Notwithstanding clause (i)(III)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may use up to 8 percent of the amounts made available under a grant or loan under this subsection for administrative costs.

“(ii) RESTRICTION.—For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘administrative costs’ does not include—

“(I) investigation and identification of the extent of contamination;

“(II) design and performance of a response action; or

“(III) monitoring of a natural resource.”.

**SEC. 7007. SMALL COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.**

Paragraph (7)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 7003(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Administrator may provide,” and inserting the following:

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

“(I) DISADVANTAGED AREA.—The term ‘disadvantaged area’ means an area with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the State-wide annual median household income, as determined by the latest available decennial census.

“(II) SMALL COMMUNITY.—The term ‘small community’ means a community with a population of not more than 15,000 individuals, as determined by the latest available decennial census.

“(ii) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide grants that provide;” and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) SMALL OR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY RECIPIENTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), in carrying out the program under clause (ii), the Administrator shall use not more than \$600,000 of the amounts made available to carry out this paragraph to provide grants to States that receive amounts under section 128(a) to assist small communities, Indian tribes, rural areas, or disadvantaged areas in achieving the purposes described in clause (ii).

“(II) LIMITATION.—Each grant awarded under subclause (I) shall be not more than \$7,500.”.

**SEC. 7008. WATERFRONT BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.**

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (10) (as redesignated by section 7003(1)) the following:

“(11) WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITE.—In this paragraph, the term ‘waterfront brownfield site’ means a brownfield site that is adjacent to a body of water or a federally designated floodplain.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing grants under this subsection, the Administrator shall—

“(i) take into consideration whether the brownfield site to be served by the grant is a waterfront brownfield site; and

“(ii) give consideration to waterfront brownfield sites.”.

**SEC. 7009. CLEAN ENERGY BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.**

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as amended by section 7008) is amended by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS AT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘clean energy project’ means—

“(i) a facility that generates renewable electricity from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; and

“(ii) any energy efficiency improvement project at a facility, including combined heat and power and district energy.

“(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide grants—

“(i) to eligible entities to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, feasibility analysis, design, or remediation activities to locate a clean energy project at 1 or more brownfield sites; and

“(ii) to capitalize a revolving loan fund for the purposes described in clause (i).

“(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant under this paragraph shall not exceed \$500,000.”.

**SEC. 7010. TARGETED FUNDING FOR STATES.**

Paragraph (15) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 7003(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) TARGETED FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, the Administrator may use not more than \$2,000,000 to provide grants to States for purposes authorized under section 128(a), subject to the condition that each State that receives a grant under this subparagraph shall have used at least 50 percent of the amounts made available to that State in the previous fiscal year to carry out assessment and remediation activities under section 128(a).”.

**SEC. 7011. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION FUNDING.—Paragraph (15)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 7003(1)) is amended by striking “2006” and inserting “2018”.

(b) STATE RESPONSE PROGRAMS.—Section 128(a)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9628(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2006” and inserting “2018”.

**TITLE VIII—MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEC. 8001. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.**

Public Law 101-479 (104 Stat. 1158) is amended—

(1) by striking section 2(d); and

(2) by adding the following new section at the end:

**“SEC. 4. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.**

“(a) The approximately 1-acre portion of the land referred to in section 3 that is used for purposes of a child care center, as authorized by this Act, shall not be subject to the use restriction imposed in the deed referred to in section 3.

“(b) Upon enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall execute an instrument to carry out subsection (a).”.

**TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEC. 9001. INTERAGENCY TRANSFER OF LAND ALONG GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “George Washington Memorial Parkway—Claude Moore Farm Proposed Boundary Adjustment”, numbered 850 130815, and dated February 2016.

(2) RESEARCH CENTER.—The term “Research Center” means the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center of the Federal Highway Administration.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TRANSFER.—

(1) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

(A) GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY LAND.—Administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 0.342 acres of Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary within the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, as generally depicted as “B” on the Map, is transferred from the Secretary to the Secretary of Transportation.

(B) RESEARCH CENTER LAND.—Administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 0.479 acres of Federal land within the boundary of the Research Center land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Transportation adjacent to the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, as generally depicted as “A” on the Map, is transferred from the Secretary of Transportation to the Secretary.

(2) USE RESTRICTION.—The Secretary shall restrict the use of 0.139 acres of Federal land within the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway immediately adjacent to part of the perimeter fence of the Research Center, generally depicted as “C” on the Map, by prohibiting the storage, construction, or installation of any item that may interfere with the access of the Research Center to the restricted land for security and maintenance purposes.

(3) REIMBURSEMENT OR CONSIDERATION.—The transfers of administrative jurisdiction under this subsection shall not be subject to reimbursement or consideration.

(4) COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENT.—

(A) AGREEMENT.—The National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration shall comply with all terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by the parties on September 11, 2002, regarding the transfer of administrative jurisdiction, management, and maintenance of the land described in the agreement.

(B) ACCESS TO RESTRICTED LAND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the terms of the agreement described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall allow the Research Center—

(I) to access the Federal land described in paragraph (1)(B) for purposes of transportation to and from the Research Center; and

(II) to access the Federal land described in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) for purposes of maintenance in accordance with National Park Service standards, including grass mowing, weed control, tree maintenance, fence maintenance, and maintenance of the visual appearance of the Federal land.

(c) MANAGEMENT OF TRANSFERRED LAND.—

(1) INTERIOR LAND.—The Federal land transferred to the Secretary under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall be—

(A) included in the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway; and

(B) administered by the Secretary as part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, subject to applicable laws (including regulations).

(2) **TRANSPORTATION LAND.**—The Federal land transferred to the Secretary of Transportation under subsection (b)(1)(A) shall be—

(A) included in the boundary of the Research Center land; and

(B) removed from the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

(3) **RESTRICTED-USE LAND.**—The Federal land that the Secretary has designated for restricted use under subsection (b)(2) shall be maintained by the Research Center.

(d) **MAP ON FILE.**—The Map shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

## TITLE X—NATURAL RESOURCES

### Subtitle A—Land Conveyances and Related Matters

#### SEC. 10001. ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The boundary of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado is adjusted to incorporate the approximately 92.95 acres of land generally depicted as “The Wedge” on the map entitled “Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment” and dated November 6, 2013, and described as lots three, four, eight, and nine of section 13, Township 4 North, Range 76 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado. A lot described in this subsection may be included in the boundary adjustment only after the Secretary of Agriculture obtains written permission for such action from the lot owner or owners.

(b) **BOWEN GULCH PROTECTION AREA.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall include all Federal land within the boundary described in subsection (a) in the Bowen Gulch Protection Area established under section 6 of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 539j).

(c) **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.**—For purposes of section 200306(a)(2)(B)(i) of title 54, United States Code, the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest, as modified under subsection (a), shall be considered to be the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest as in existence on January 1, 1965.

(d) **PUBLIC MOTORIZED USE.**—Nothing in this section opens privately owned lands within the boundary described in subsection (a) to public motorized use.

(e) **ACCESS TO NON-FEDERAL LANDS.**—Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6(f) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 539j(f)) regarding motorized travel, the owners of any non-Federal lands within the boundary described in subsection (a) who historically have accessed their lands through lands now or hereafter owned by the United States within the boundary described in subsection (a) shall have the continued right of motorized access to their lands across the existing roadway.

#### SEC. 10002. LAND CONVEYANCE, ELKHORN RANCH AND WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO.

(a) **LAND CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.**—Consistent with the purpose of the Act of March 3, 1909 (43 U.S.C. 772), all right, title, and interest of the United States (subject to subsection (b)) in and to a parcel of land consisting of approximately 148 acres as generally depicted on the map entitled “Elkhorn Ranch Land Parcel—White River National Forest” and dated March 2015 shall be conveyed by patent to the Gordman-Leverich Partnership, a Colorado Limited Liability Partnership (in this section referred to as “GLP”).

(b) **EXISTING RIGHTS.**—The conveyance under subsection (a)—

(1) is subject to the valid existing rights of the lessee of Federal oil and gas lease COC-75070 and any other valid existing rights; and

(2) shall reserve to the United States the right to collect rent and royalty payments on the lease referred to in paragraph (1) for the duration of the lease.

(c) **EXISTING BOUNDARIES.**—The conveyance under subsection (a) does not modify the exterior boundary of the White River National Forest or the boundaries of Sections 18 and 19 of Township 7 South, Range 93 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado, as such boundaries are in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **TIME FOR CONVEYANCE; PAYMENT OF COSTS.**—The conveyance directed under subsection (a) shall be completed not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The conveyance shall be without consideration, except that all costs incurred by the Secretary of the Interior relating to any survey, platting, legal description, or other activities carried out to prepare and issue the patent shall be paid by GLP to the Secretary prior to the land conveyance.

#### SEC. 10003. LAND EXCHANGE IN CRAGS, COLORADO.

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate the land exchange set forth herein; and

(2) to promote enhanced public outdoor recreational and natural resource conservation opportunities in the Pike National Forest near Pikes Peak, Colorado, via acquisition of the non-Federal land and trail easement.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **BHI.**—The term “BHI” means Broadmoor Hotel, Inc., a Colorado corporation.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 83 acres of land within the Pike National Forest, El Paso County, Colorado, together with a non-exclusive perpetual access easement to BHI to and from such land on Forest Service Road 371, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Crags Land Exchange—Federal Parcel—Emerald Valley Ranch”, dated March 2015.

(3) **NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “non-Federal land” means the land and trail easement to be conveyed to the Secretary by BHI in the exchange and is—

(A) approximately 320 acres of land within the Pike National Forest, Teller County, Colorado, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Crags Land Exchange—Non-Federal Parcel—Crags Property”, dated March 2015; and

(B) a permanent trail easement for the Barr Trail in El Paso County, Colorado, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Crags Land Exchange—Barr Trail Easement to United States”, dated March 2015, and which shall be considered as a voluntary donation to the United States by BHI for all purposes of law.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, unless otherwise specified.

(c) **LAND EXCHANGE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If BHI offers to convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of BHI in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall accept the offer and simultaneously convey to BHI the Federal land.

(2) **LAND TITLE.**—Title to the non-Federal land conveyed and donated to the Secretary

under this section shall be acceptable to the Secretary and shall conform to the title approval standards of the Attorney General of the United States applicable to land acquisitions by the Federal Government.

(3) **PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT TO BHI.**—The nonexclusive perpetual access easement to be granted to BHI as shown on the map referred to in subsection (b)(2) shall allow—

(A) BHI to fully maintain, at BHI’s expense, and use Forest Service Road 371 from its junction with Forest Service Road 368 in accordance with historic use and maintenance patterns by BHI; and

(B) full and continued public and administrative access and use of FSR 371 in accordance with the existing Forest Service travel management plan, or as such plan may be revised by the Secretary.

(4) **ROUTE AND CONDITION OF ROAD.**—BHI and the Secretary may mutually agree to improve, relocate, reconstruct, or otherwise alter the route and condition of all or portions of such road as the Secretary, in close consultation with BHI, may determine advisable.

(5) **EXCHANGE COSTS.**—BHI shall pay for all land survey, appraisal, and other costs to the Secretary as may be necessary to process and consummate the exchange directed by this section, including reimbursement to the Secretary, if the Secretary so requests, for staff time spent in such processing and consummation.

(d) **EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE AND APPRAISALS.**—

(1) **APPRAISALS.**—The values of the lands to be exchanged under this section shall be determined by the Secretary through appraisals performed in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

(C) appraisal instructions issued by the Secretary; and

(D) shall be performed by an appraiser mutually agreed to by the Secretary and BHI.

(2) **EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.**—The values of the Federal and non-Federal land parcels exchanged shall be equal, or if they are not equal, shall be equalized as follows:

(A) **SURPLUS OF FEDERAL LAND VALUE.**—If the final appraised value of the Federal land exceeds the final appraised value of the non-Federal land parcel identified in subsection (b)(3)(A), BHI shall make a cash equalization payment to the United States as necessary to achieve equal value, including, if necessary, an amount in excess of that authorized pursuant to section 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)).

(B) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Any cash equalization moneys received by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the “Sisk Act”; 16 U.S.C. 484a); and

(ii) made available to the Secretary for the acquisition of land or interests in land in Region 2 of the Forest Service.

(C) **SURPLUS OF NON-FEDERAL LAND VALUE.**—If the final appraised value of the non-Federal land parcel identified in subsection (b)(3)(A) exceeds the final appraised value of the Federal land, the United States shall not make a cash equalization payment to BHI, and surplus value of the non-Federal land shall be considered a donation by BHI to the United States for all purposes of law.

(3) **APPRAISAL EXCLUSIONS.**—

(A) **SPECIAL USE PERMIT.**—The appraised value of the Federal land parcel shall not reflect any increase or diminution in value due

to the special use permit existing on the date of the enactment of this Act to BHI on the parcel and improvements thereunder.

(B) BARR TRAIL EASEMENT.—The Barr Trail easement donation identified in subsection (b)(3)(B) shall not be appraised for purposes of this section.

(e) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—

(1) WITHDRAWAL PROVISIONS.—

(A) WITHDRAWAL.—Lands acquired by the Secretary under this section shall, without further action by the Secretary, be permanently withdrawn from all forms of appropriation and disposal under the public land laws (including the mining and mineral leasing laws) and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1930 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(B) WITHDRAWAL REVOCATION.—Any public land order that withdraws the Federal land from appropriation or disposal under a public land law shall be revoked to the extent necessary to permit disposal of the Federal land parcel to BHI.

(C) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND.—All Federal land authorized to be exchanged under this section, if not already withdrawn or segregated from appropriation or disposal under the public lands laws upon enactment of this Act, is hereby so withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, until the date of conveyance of the Federal land to BHI.

(2) POSTEXCHANGE LAND MANAGEMENT.—Land acquired by the Secretary under this section shall become part of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and be managed in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System.

(3) EXCHANGE TIMETABLE.—It is the intent of Congress that the land exchange directed by this section be consummated no later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) MAPS, ESTIMATES, AND DESCRIPTIONS.—

(A) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary and BHI may by mutual agreement make minor boundary adjustments to the Federal and non-Federal lands involved in the exchange, and may correct any minor errors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of any land to be exchanged.

(B) CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between a map, an acreage estimate, or a description of land under this section, the map shall control unless the Secretary and BHI mutually agree otherwise.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—Upon enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file and make available for public inspection in the headquarters of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest a copy of all maps referred to in this section.

#### SEC. 10004. CERRO DEL YUTA AND RÍO SAN ANTONIO WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Río Grande del Norte National Monument Proposed Wilderness Areas” and dated July 28, 2015.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term “wilderness area” means a wilderness area designated by subsection (b)(1).

(b) DESIGNATION OF CERRO DEL YUTA AND RÍO SAN ANTONIO WILDERNESS AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the Río Grande del Norte National Monument are designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) CERRO DEL YUTA WILDERNESS.—Certain land administered by the Bureau of Land

Management in Taos County, New Mexico, comprising approximately 13,420 acres as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the “Cerro del Yuta Wilderness”.

(B) RÍO SAN ANTONIO WILDERNESS.—Certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Río Arriba County, New Mexico, comprising approximately 8,120 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the “Río San Antonio Wilderness”.

(2) MANAGEMENT OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas shall be administered in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this section, except that with respect to the wilderness areas designated by this subsection—

(A) any reference to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) any reference in the Wilderness Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary.

(3) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.—Any land or interest in land within the boundary of the wilderness areas that is acquired by the United States shall—

(A) become part of the wilderness area in which the land is located; and

(B) be managed in accordance with—

(i) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

(ii) this section; and

(iii) any other applicable laws.

(4) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the wilderness areas, where established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be administered in accordance with—

(A) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(B) the guidelines set forth in appendix A of the Report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to accompany H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept. 101-405).

(5) BUFFER ZONES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the wilderness areas.

(B) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS AREAS.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside a wilderness area can be seen or heard within the wilderness area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

(6) RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.—Congress finds that, for purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the public land within the San Antonio Wilderness Study Area not designated as wilderness by this subsection—

(A) has been adequately studied for wilderness designation;

(B) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(C) shall be managed in accordance with this section.

(7) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file the map and legal descriptions of the wilderness areas with—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(B) FORCE OF LAW.—The map and legal descriptions filed under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included

in this section, except that the Secretary may correct errors in the legal description and map.

(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal descriptions filed under subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(8) NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM.—The wilderness areas shall be administered as components of the National Landscape Conservation System.

(9) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this section affects the jurisdiction of the State of New Mexico with respect to fish and wildlife located on public land in the State.

(10) WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights, any Federal land within the wilderness areas designated by paragraph (1), including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(11) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section enlarges, diminishes, or otherwise modifies any treaty rights.

#### SEC. 10005. CLARIFICATION RELATING TO A CERTAIN LAND DESCRIPTION UNDER THE NORTHERN ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND VERDE RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2005.

Section 104(a)(5) of the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-110; 119 Stat. 2356) is amended by inserting before the period at the end “, which, notwithstanding section 102(a)(4)(B), includes the N $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , the N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 34, T. 22 N., R. 2 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, comprising approximately 25 acres”.

#### SEC. 10006. COOPER SPUR LAND EXCHANGE CLARIFICATION AMENDMENTS.

Section 1206(a) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1018) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “120 acres” and inserting “107 acres”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by inserting “improvements,” after “buildings,”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows shall select” and inserting “Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows shall jointly select”;

(ii) in clause (ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “An appraisal under clause (i) shall” and inserting “Except as provided under clause (iii), an appraisal under clause (i) shall assign a separate value to each tax lot to allow for the equalization of values and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) FINAL APPRAISED VALUE.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), after the final appraised value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land are determined and approved by the Secretary, the Secretary shall not be required to reappraise or update the final appraised value for a period of up to 3 years, beginning on the date of the approval by the Secretary of the final appraised value.

“(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply if the condition of either the Federal land or the non-Federal land referred to in subclause (I) is significantly and substantially altered by fire, windstorm, or other events.

“(iv) PUBLIC REVIEW.—Before completing the land exchange under this Act, the Secretary shall make available for public review the complete appraisals of the land to be exchanged.”; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting the following:

“(G) REQUIRED CONVEYANCE CONDITIONS.—Prior to the exchange of the Federal and non-Federal land—

“(i) the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows may mutually agree for the Secretary to reserve a conservation easement to protect the identified wetland in accordance with applicable law, subject to the requirements that—

“(I) the conservation easement shall be consistent with the terms of the September 30, 2015, mediation between the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows; and

“(II) in order to take effect, the conservation easement shall be finalized not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016; and

“(ii) the Secretary shall reserve a 24-foot-wide nonexclusive trail easement at the existing trail locations on the Federal land that retains for the United States existing rights to construct, reconstruct, maintain, and permit nonmotorized use by the public of existing trails subject to the right of the owner of the Federal land—

“(I) to cross the trails with roads, utilities, and infrastructure facilities; and

“(II) to improve or relocate the trails to accommodate development of the Federal land.

“(H) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), in addition to or in lieu of monetary compensation, a lesser area of Federal land or non-Federal land may be conveyed if necessary to equalize appraised values of the exchange properties, without limitation, consistent with the requirements of this Act and subject to the approval of the Secretary and Mt. Hood Meadows.

“(ii) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN COMPENSATION OR CONVEYANCES AS DONATION.—If, after payment of compensation or adjustment of land area subject to exchange under this Act, the amount by which the appraised value of the land and other property conveyed by Mt. Hood Meadows under subparagraph (A) exceeds the appraised value of the land conveyed by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall be considered a donation by Mt. Hood Meadows to the United States.”.

**SEC. 10007. EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE.—The term “eligible”, with respect to an organization or individual, means that the organization or individual, respectively, is—

(A) acting in a not-for-profit capacity; and

(B) composed entirely of members who, at the time of the good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission, have attained the age of majority under the law of the State where the mission takes place.

(2) GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH-AND-RECOVERY MISSION.—The term “good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission” means a search conducted by an eligible organization or individual for 1 or more missing individuals believed to be deceased at the time that the search is initiated.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable.

(b) PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary shall develop and implement a process to expedite access to Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for eligible organizations and individuals to request access to Federal land to conduct good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The process developed and implemented under this subsection shall include provisions to clarify that—

(A) an eligible organization or individual granted access under this section—

(i) shall be acting for private purposes; and

(ii) shall not be considered to be a Federal volunteer;

(B) an eligible organization or individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section shall not be considered to be a volunteer under section 102301(c) of title 54, United States Code;

(C) chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”), shall not apply to an eligible organization or individual carrying out a privately requested good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section; and

(D) chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Employees Compensation Act”), shall not apply to an eligible organization or individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, and the conduct of the good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission shall not constitute civilian employment.

(c) RELEASE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM LIABILITY.—The Secretary shall not require an eligible organization or individual to have liability insurance as a condition of accessing Federal land under this section, if the eligible organization or individual—

(1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to the provisions described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (b)(2); and

(2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal Government from all liability relating to the access granted under this section and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States from any claims or lawsuits arising from any conduct by the eligible organization or individual on Federal land.

(d) APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF REQUESTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall notify an eligible organization or individual of the approval or denial of a request by the eligible organization or individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section by not later than 48 hours after the request is made.

(2) DENIALS.—If the Secretary denies a request from an eligible organization or individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, the Secretary shall notify the eligible organization or individual of—

(A) the reason for the denial of the request; and

(B) any actions that the eligible organization or individual can take to meet the requirements for the request to be approved.

(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Each Secretary shall develop search-and-recovery-focused partnerships with search-and-recovery organizations—

(1) to coordinate good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(2) to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for

missing individuals on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to Congress a joint report describing—

(1) plans to develop partnerships described in subsection (e)(1); and

(2) efforts carried out to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary pursuant to subsection (e)(2).

**SEC. 10008. BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CEMETERY.—The term “Cemetery” means the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means the approximately 200 acres of Bureau of Land Management land adjacent to the Cemetery, generally depicted as “Proposed National Cemetery Expansion” on the map entitled “Proposed Expansion of Black Hills National Cemetery-South Dakota” and dated September 28, 2015.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) TRANSFER AND WITHDRAWAL OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND FOR CEMETERY USE.—

(1) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land is transferred from the Secretary to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for use as a national cemetery in accordance with chapter 24 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice containing a legal description of the Federal land.

(ii) EFFECT.—A legal description published under clause (i) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the legal description.

(iii) AVAILABILITY.—Copies of the legal description published under clause (i) shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of—

(I) the Bureau of Land Management; and

(II) the National Cemetery Administration.

(iv) COSTS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall reimburse the Secretary for the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this subparagraph, including the costs of any surveys and other reasonable costs.

(2) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, for any period during which the Federal land is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Federal land—

(A) is withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, and the geothermal leasing laws; and

(B) shall be treated as property as defined under section 102(9) of title 40, United States Code.

(3) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The boundary of the Cemetery is modified to include the Federal land.

(4) MODIFICATION OF PUBLIC LAND ORDER.—Public Land Order 2112, dated June 6, 1960 (25 Fed. Reg. 5243), is modified to exclude the Federal land.

(c) SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—

(1) NOTICE.—On a determination by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that all or a portion of the Federal land is not being used for purposes of the Cemetery, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Secretary of the determination.

(2) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer to the Secretary administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land subject to a notice under paragraph (1).

(3) DECONTAMINATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall be responsible for the costs of any decontamination of the Federal land subject to a notice under paragraph (1) that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the Federal land to be restored to public land status.

(4) RESTORATION TO PUBLIC LAND STATUS.—The Federal land subject to a notice under paragraph (1) shall only be restored to public land status on—

(A) acceptance by the Secretary of the Federal land subject to the notice; and

(B) a determination by the Secretary that the Federal land subject to the notice is suitable for—

(i) restoration to public land status; and

(ii) the operation of 1 or more of the public land laws with respect to the Federal land.

(5) ORDER.—If the Secretary accepts the Federal land under paragraph (4)(A) and makes a determination of suitability under paragraph (4)(B), the Secretary may—

(A) open the accepted Federal land to operation of 1 or more of the public land laws; and

(B) issue an order to carry out the opening authorized under subparagraph (A).

#### Subtitle B—National Park Management, Studies, and Related Matters

##### SEC. 10101. REFUND OF FUNDS USED BY STATES TO OPERATE NATIONAL PARKS DURING SHUTDOWN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Park Service shall refund to each State all funds of the State that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the period in October 2013 in which there was a lapse in appropriations for the unit.

(b) FUNDING.—Funds of the National Park Service that are appropriated after the date of enactment of this Act shall be used to carry out this section.

##### SEC. 10102. LOWER FARMINGTON AND SALMON BROOK RECREATIONAL RIVERS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(213) LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK, CONNECTICUT.—Segments of the main stem and its tributary, Salmon Brook, totaling approximately 62 miles, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as follows:

“(A) The approximately 27.2-mile segment of the Farmington River beginning 0.2 miles below the tailrace of the Lower Collinsville Dam and extending to the site of the Spoonville Dam in Bloomfield and East Granby as a recreational river.

“(B) The approximately 8.1-mile segment of the Farmington River extending from 0.5 miles below the Rainbow Dam to the confluence with the Connecticut River in Windsor as a recreational river.

“(C) The approximately 2.4-mile segment of the main stem of Salmon Brook extending from the confluence of the East and West

Branches to the confluence with the Farmington River as a recreational river.

“(D) The approximately 12.6-mile segment of the West Branch of Salmon Brook extending from its headwaters in Hartland, Connecticut to its confluence with the East Branch of Salmon Brook as a recreational river.

“(E) The approximately 11.4-mile segment of the East Branch of Salmon Brook extending from the Massachusetts-Connecticut State line to the confluence with the West Branch of Salmon Brook as a recreational river.”.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The river segments designated by subsection (a) shall be managed in accordance with the management plan and such amendments to the management plan as the Secretary determines are consistent with this section. The management plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements for a comprehensive management plan pursuant to section 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(d)).

(2) COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall coordinate the management responsibilities of the Secretary under this section with the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee, as specified in the management plan.

(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to provide for the long-term protection, preservation, and enhancement of the river segment designated by subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements pursuant to sections 10(e) and 11(b)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with—

(i) the State of Connecticut;

(ii) the towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor in Connecticut; and

(iii) appropriate local planning and environmental organizations.

(B) CONSISTENCY.—All cooperative agreements provided for under this section shall be consistent with the management plan and may include provisions for financial or other assistance from the United States.

(4) LAND MANAGEMENT.—

(A) ZONING ORDINANCES.—For the purposes of the segments designated in subsection (a), the zoning ordinances adopted by the towns in Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor in Connecticut, including provisions for conservation of floodplains, wetlands and watercourses associated with the segments, shall be deemed to satisfy the standards and requirements of section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)).

(B) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—The provisions of section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)) that prohibit Federal acquisition of lands by condemnation shall apply to the segments designated in subsection (a). The authority of the Secretary to acquire lands for the purposes of the segments designated in subsection (a) shall be limited to acquisition by donation or acquisition with the consent of the owner of the lands, and shall be subject to the additional criteria set forth in the management plan.

(5) RAINBOW DAM.—The designation made by subsection (a) shall not be construed to—

(A) prohibit, pre-empt, or abridge the potential future licensing of the Rainbow Dam and Reservoir (including any and all aspects of its facilities, operations and transmission lines) by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as a federally licensed hydro-

electric generation project under the Federal Power Act, provided that the Commission may, in the discretion of the Commission and consistent with this section, establish such reasonable terms and conditions in a hydropower license for Rainbow Dam as are necessary to reduce impacts identified by the Secretary as invading or unreasonably diminishing the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values of the segments designated by subsection (a); or

(B) affect the operation of, or impose any flow or release requirements on, the unlicensed hydroelectric facility at Rainbow Dam and Reservoir.

(6) RELATION TO NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—Notwithstanding section 10(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(c)), the Lower Farmington River shall not be administered as part of the National Park System or be subject to regulations which govern the National Park System.

(c) FARMINGTON RIVER, CONNECTICUT, DESIGNATION REVISION.—Section 3(a)(156) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “14-mile” and inserting “15.1-mile”; and

(2) by striking “to the downstream end of the New Hartford-Canton, Connecticut town line” and inserting “to the confluence with the Nepaug River”.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the management plan prepared by the Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee entitled the “Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan” and dated June 2011.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

##### SEC. 10103. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF PRESIDENT STREET STATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means the President Street Station, a railroad terminal in Baltimore, Maryland, the history of which is tied to the growth of the railroad industry in the 19th century, the Civil War, the Underground Railroad, and the immigrant influx of the early 20th century.

(b) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(B) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(C) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(D) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(E) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under paragraph (1), the



Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the results of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

**SEC. 10104. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF THURGOOD MARSHALL'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means—

(A) P.S. 103, the public school located in West Baltimore, Maryland, which Thurgood Marshall attended as a youth; and

(B) any other resources in the neighborhood surrounding P.S. 103 that relate to the early life of Thurgood Marshall.

(b) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(B) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(C) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(D) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(E) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the results of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

**SEC. 10105. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF JAMES K. POLK PRESIDENTIAL HOME.**

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a special resource study of the site of the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, and adjacent property (referred to in this section as the “site”).

(b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall conduct the study under subsection (a) in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(c) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the site;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) include cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of the site;

(4) consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and

nonprofit organizations, or other interested individuals; and

(5) identify alternatives for the management, administration, and protection of the site.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings and conclusions of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

**SEC. 10106. NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE ADJUSTMENT.**

(a) ROUTE ADJUSTMENT.—Section 5(a)(8) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(8)) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “thirty two hundred miles, extending from eastern New York State” and inserting “4,600 miles, extending from the Appalachian Trail in Vermont”; and

(2) by striking “Proposed North Country Trail” and all that follows through “June 1975.” and inserting “‘North Country National Scenic Trail, Authorized Route’ dated February 2014, and numbered 649/116870.”.

(b) NO CONDEMNATION.—Section 5(a)(8) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(8)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “No land or interest in land outside of the exterior boundary of any Federally administered area may be acquired by the Federal Government for the trail by condemnation.”.

**SEC. 10107. DESIGNATION OF JAY S. HAMMOND WILDERNESS AREA.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The approximately 2,600,000 acres of National Wilderness Preservation System land located within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve designated by section 201(e)(7)(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 410hh(e)(7)(a)) shall be known and designated as the “Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the wilderness area referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area”.

**SEC. 10108. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION.**

Section 304101(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11) as paragraphs (9), (10), (11), and (12), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) The General Chairman of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.”.

**SEC. 10109. ESTABLISHMENT OF A VISITOR SERVICES FACILITY ON THE ARLINGTON RIDGE TRACT.**

(a) DEFINITION OF ARLINGTON RIDGE TRACT.—In this section, the term “Arlington Ridge tract” means the parcel of Federal land located in Arlington County, Virginia, known as the “Nevius Tract” and transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1953, that is bounded generally by—

(1) Arlington Boulevard (United States Route 50) to the north;

(2) Jefferson Davis Highway (Virginia Route 110) to the east;

(3) Marshall Drive to the south; and

(4) North Meade Street to the west.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF VISITOR SERVICES FACILITY.—Notwithstanding section 2863(g)

of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1332), the Secretary of the Interior may construct a structure for visitor services to include a public restroom facility on the Arlington Ridge tract in the area of the United States Marine Corps War Memorial.

**Subtitle C—Sportsmen’s Access and Land Management Issues**

**PART I—NATIONAL POLICY**

**SEC. 10201. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF NATIONAL POLICY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that Federal departments and agencies, in accordance with the missions of the departments and agencies, Executive Orders 12962 and 13443 (60 Fed. Reg. 30769 (June 7, 1995); 72 Fed. Reg. 46537 (August 16, 2007)), and applicable law, shall—

(1) facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities on Federal land, in consultation with the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, and the public;

(2) conserve and enhance aquatic systems and the management of game species and the habitat of those species on Federal land, including through hunting and fishing, in a manner that respects—

(A) State management authority over wildlife resources; and

(B) private property rights; and

(3) consider hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities as part of all Federal plans for land, resource, and travel management.

(b) EXCLUSION.—In this subtitle, the term “fishing” does not include commercial fishing in which fish are harvested, either in whole or in part, that are intended to enter commerce through sale.

**PART II—SPORTSMEN’S ACCESS TO FEDERAL LAND**

**SEC. 10211. DEFINITIONS.**

In this part:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means—

(A) any land in the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) that is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(B).

**SEC. 10212. FEDERAL LAND OPEN TO HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), Federal land shall be open to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, in accordance with applicable law, unless the Secretary concerned closes an area in accordance with section 6213.

(b) EFFECT OF PART.—Nothing in this part opens to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting any land that is not open to those

activities as of the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 10213. CLOSURE OF FEDERAL LAND TO HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2) and in accordance with section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(b)), the Secretary concerned may designate any area on Federal land in which, and establish any period during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting shall be permitted.

(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—In making a designation under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall designate the smallest area for the least amount of time that is required for public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws.

(b) **CLOSURE PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except in an emergency, before permanently or temporarily closing any Federal land to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting, the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) consult with State fish and wildlife agencies; and

(B) provide public notice and opportunity for comment under paragraph (2).

(2) **PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Public notice and comment shall include—

(i) a notice of intent—

(I) published in advance of the public comment period for the closure—

(aa) in the Federal Register;

(bb) on the website of the applicable Federal agency;

(cc) on the website of the Federal land unit, if available; and

(dd) in at least 1 local newspaper;

(II) made available in advance of the public comment period to local offices, chapters, and affiliate organizations in the vicinity of the closure that are signatories to the memorandum of understanding entitled “Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding”; and

(III) that describes—

(aa) the proposed closure; and

(bb) the justification for the proposed closure, including an explanation of the reasons and necessity for the decision to close the area to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting; and

(ii) an opportunity for public comment for a period of—

(I) not less than 60 days for a permanent closure; or

(II) not less than 30 days for a temporary closure.

(B) **FINAL DECISION.**—In a final decision to permanently or temporarily close an area to hunting, fishing, or recreation shooting, the Secretary concerned shall—

(i) respond in a reasoned manner to the comments received;

(ii) explain how the Secretary concerned resolved any significant issues raised by the comments; and

(iii) show how the resolution led to the closure.

(c) **TEMPORARY CLOSURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A temporary closure under this section may not exceed a period of 180 days.

(2) **RENEWAL.**—Except in an emergency, a temporary closure for the same area of land closed to the same activities—

(A) may not be renewed more than 3 times after the first temporary closure; and

(B) must be subject to a separate notice and comment procedure in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

(3) **EFFECT OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE.**—Any Federal land that is temporarily closed to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting under this section shall not become permanently closed to that activity without a separate public notice and opportunity to comment in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

(d) **REPORTING.**—On an annual basis, the Secretaries concerned shall—

(1) publish on a public website a list of all areas of Federal land temporarily or permanently subject to a closure under this section; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that identifies—

(A) a list of each area of Federal land temporarily or permanently subject to a closure;

(B) the acreage of each closure; and

(C) a survey of—

(i) the aggregate areas and acreage closed under this section in each State; and

(ii) the percentage of Federal land in each State closed under this section with respect to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—This section shall not apply if the closure is—

(1) less than 14 days in duration; and

(2) covered by a special use permit.

**SEC. 10214. SHOOTING RANGES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary concerned may, in accordance with this section and other applicable law, lease or permit the use of Federal land for a shooting range.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary concerned shall not lease or permit the use of Federal land for a shooting range, within—

(1) a component of the National Landscape Conservation System;

(2) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(3) any area that is—

(A) designated as a wilderness study area;

(B) administratively classified as—

(i) wilderness-eligible; or

(ii) wilderness-suitable; or

(C) a primitive or semiprimitive area;

(4) a national monument, national volcanic monument, or national scenic area; or

(5) a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (including areas designated for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System).

**SEC. 10215. FEDERAL ACTION TRANSPARENCY.**

(a) **MODIFICATION OF EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **AGENCY PROCEEDINGS.**—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “, United States Code”;

(B) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (i); and

(C) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e)(1) Not later than March 31 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, and every fiscal year thereafter, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, after consultation with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to Congress and make publicly available online a report on the amount of fees

and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year under this section.

“(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards.

“(3)(A) Each report under paragraph (1) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this section that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to a nondisclosure provision.

“(B) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under subparagraph (A) shall not affect any other information that is subject to a nondisclosure provision in a settlement agreement.

“(f) As soon as practicable, and in any event not later than the date on which the first report under subsection (e)(1) is required to be submitted, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing, with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section made on or after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the following information:

“(1) The case name and number of the adversary adjudication, if available, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

“(2) The name of the agency involved in the adversary adjudication.

“(3) A description of the claims in the adversary adjudication.

“(4) The name of each party to whom the award was made as such party is identified in the order or other court document making the award.

“(5) The amount of the award.

“(6) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

“(g) The online searchable database described in subsection (f) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or a court order.

“(h) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of subsections (e), (f), and (g).”.

(2) **COURT CASES.**—Section 2412(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) Not later than March 31 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, and every fiscal year thereafter, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publicly available online a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this subsection.

“(B) Each report under subparagraph (A) shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards.

“(C)(i) Each report under subparagraph (A) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this subsection that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to a nondisclosure provision.

“(ii) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under clause (i) shall not affect any other information that is subject to

a nondisclosure provision in a settlement agreement.

“(D) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall include and clearly identify in each annual report under subparagraph (A), for each case in which an award of fees and other expenses is included in the report—

“(i) any amounts paid under section 1304 of title 31 for a judgment in the case;

“(ii) the amount of the award of fees and other expenses; and

“(iii) the statute under which the plaintiff filed suit.

“(6) As soon as practicable, and in any event not later than the date on which the first report under paragraph (5)(A) is required to be submitted, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing, with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this subsection made on or after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the following information:

“(A) The case name and number, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

“(B) The name of the agency involved in the case.

“(C) The name of each party to whom the award was made as such party is identified in the order or other court document making the award.

“(D) A description of the claims in the case.

“(E) The amount of the award.

“(F) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

“(7) The online searchable database described in paragraph (6) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or a court order.

“(8) The head of each agency (including the Attorney General of the United States) shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (5), (6), and (7).”.

(3) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “United States Code.”; and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) by striking “of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code,” and inserting “of this section”; and

(ii) by striking “of such title” and inserting “of this title”.

(b) **JUDGMENT FUND TRANSPARENCY.**—Section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) Beginning not later than the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, and unless the disclosure of such information is otherwise prohibited by law or a court order, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the public on a website, as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after the date on which a payment under this section is tendered, the following information with regard to that payment:

“(1) The name of the specific agency or entity whose actions gave rise to the claim or judgment.

“(2) The name of the plaintiff or claimant.

“(3) The name of counsel for the plaintiff or claimant.

“(4) The amount paid representing principal liability, and any amounts paid rep-

resenting any ancillary liability, including attorney fees, costs, and interest.

“(5) A brief description of the facts that gave rise to the claim.

“(6) The name of the agency that submitted the claim.”.

### **PART III—FILMING ON FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY LAND**

#### **SEC. 10221. COMMERCIAL FILMING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1 of Public Law 106-206 (16 U.S.C. 4601-6d) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (f) as subsections (b) through (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(a) **DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, with respect to land under the respective jurisdiction of the Secretary.”;

(3) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture (hereafter individually referred to as the ‘Secretary’ with respect to land (except land in a System unit as defined in section 100102 of title 54, United States Code) under their respective jurisdictions)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, except in the case of film crews of 3 or fewer individuals” before the period at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **FEE SCHEDULE.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, to enhance consistency in the management of Federal land, the Secretaries shall publish a single joint land use fee schedule for commercial filming and still photography.”;

(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), in the second sentence, by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

(5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), in the heading, by inserting “Commercial” before “Still”;

(6) in paragraph (1) of subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by inserting “in accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.)” after “without further appropriation.”;

(7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The Secretary shall not consider subject matter or content as a criterion for issuing or denying a permit under this Act.”; and

(8) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) **EXEMPTION FROM COMMERCIAL FILMING OR STILL PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITS AND FEES.**—The Secretary shall not require persons holding commercial use authorizations or special recreation permits to obtain an additional permit or pay a fee for commercial filming or still photography under this Act if the filming or photography conducted is—

“(1) incidental to the permitted activity that is the subject of the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit; and

“(2) the holder of the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit is an individual or small business concern (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

“(i) **EXCEPTION FROM CERTAIN FEES.**—Commercial filming or commercial still photography shall be exempt from fees under this Act, but not from recovery of costs under subsection (c), if the activity—

“(1) is conducted by an entity that is a small business concern (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632));

“(2) is conducted by a crew of not more than 3 individuals; and

“(3) uses only a camera and tripod.

“(j) **APPLICABILITY TO NEWS GATHERING ACTIVITIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—News gathering shall not be considered a commercial activity.

“(2) **INCLUDED ACTIVITIES.**—In this subsection, the term ‘news gathering’ includes, at a minimum, the gathering, recording, and filming of news and information related to news in any medium.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Chapter 1009 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking section 100905; and

(2) in the table of sections for chapter 1009 of title 54, United States Code, by striking the item relating to section 100905.

### **PART IV—BOWS, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, AND ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION, HUNTING, AND FISHING**

#### **SEC. 10231. BOWS IN PARKS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“§ 104909. Bows in parks**

“(a) **DEFINITION OF NOT READY FOR IMMEDIATE USE.**—The term ‘not ready for immediate use’ means—

“(1) a bow or crossbow, the arrows of which are secured or stowed in a quiver or other arrow transport case; and

“(2) with respect to a crossbow, uncocked.

“(b) **VEHICULAR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED.**—The Director shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits or enforces any regulation that prohibits an individual from transporting bows and crossbows that are not ready for immediate use across any System unit in the vehicle of the individual if—

“(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the bows and crossbows;

“(2) the bows or crossbows that are not ready for immediate use remain inside the vehicle of the individual throughout the period during which the bows or crossbows are transported across System land; and

“(3) the possession of the bows and crossbows is in compliance with the law of the State in which the System unit is located.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(b)), is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104908 the following:

“104909. Bows in parks.”.

#### **SEC. 10232. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN PARKS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code (as amended by section 6231(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“SEC. 104910. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN PARKS.**

“(a) **USE OF QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS.**—If the Secretary determines it is necessary to reduce the size of a wildlife population on System land in accordance with applicable law (including regulations), the Secretary may use qualified volunteers to assist in carrying out wildlife management on System land.

“(b) **REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS.**—Qualified volunteers providing assistance under subsection (a) shall be subject to—

“(1) any training requirements or qualifications established by the Secretary; and

“(2) any other terms and conditions that the Secretary may require.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1049 of title 54 (as amended by section 6231(b)), United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104909 the following:

“104910. Wildlife management in parks.”.

**SEC. 10233. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION, HUNTING, AND FISHING ON FEDERAL LAND.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by—

(i) the Director of the National Park Service;

(ii) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(iii) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) STATE OR REGIONAL OFFICE.—The term “State or regional office” means—

(A) a State office of the Bureau of Land Management; or

(B) a regional office of—

(i) the National Park Service;

(ii) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; or

(iii) the Forest Service.

(3) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “travel management plan” means a plan for the management of travel—

(A) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, on park roads and designated routes under section 4.10 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

(B) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, on the land under a comprehensive conservation plan prepared under section 4(e) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(e));

(C) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, on National Forest System land under part 212 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

(D) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, under a resource management plan developed under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(b) PRIORITY LISTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, annually during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the first priority list is completed, and every 5 years after the end of the 10-year period, the Secretary shall prepare a priority list, to be made publicly available on the website of the applicable Federal agency referred to in subsection (a)(1), which shall identify the location and acreage of land within the jurisdiction of each State or regional office on which the public is allowed, under Federal or State law, to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes but—

(A) to which there is no public access or egress; or

(B) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted (as determined by the Secretary).

(2) MINIMUM SIZE.—Any land identified under paragraph (1) shall consist of contiguous acreage of at least 640 acres.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing the priority list required under paragraph (1), the

Secretary shall consider with respect to the land—

(A) whether access is absent or merely restricted, including the extent of the restriction;

(B) the likelihood of resolving the absence of or restriction to public access;

(C) the potential for recreational use;

(D) any information received from the public or other stakeholders during the nomination process described in paragraph (5); and

(E) any other factor as determined by the Secretary.

(4) ADJACENT LAND STATUS.—For each parcel of land on the priority list, the Secretary shall include in the priority list whether resolving the issue of public access or egress to the land would require acquisition of an easement, right-of-way, or fee title from—

(A) another Federal agency;

(B) a State, local, or tribal government; or

(C) a private landowner.

(5) NOMINATION PROCESS.—In preparing a priority list under this section, the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to nominate parcels for inclusion on the priority list.

(c) ACCESS OPTIONS.—With respect to land included on a priority list described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall develop and submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on options for providing access that—

(1) identifies how public access and egress could reasonably be provided to the legal boundaries of the land in a manner that minimizes the impact on wildlife habitat and water quality;

(2) specifies the steps recommended to secure the access and egress, including acquiring an easement, right-of-way, or fee title from a willing owner of any land that abuts the land or the need to coordinate with State land management agencies or other Federal, State, or tribal governments to allow for such access and egress; and

(3) is consistent with the travel management plan in effect on the land.

(d) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—In making the priority list and report prepared under subsections (b) and (c) available, the Secretary shall ensure that no personally identifying information is included, such as names or addresses of individuals or entities.

(e) WILLING OWNERS.—For purposes of providing any permits to, or entering into agreements with, a State, local, or tribal government or private landowner with respect to the use of land under the jurisdiction of the government or landowner, the Secretary shall not take into account whether the State, local, or tribal government or private landowner has granted or denied public access or egress to the land.

(f) MEANS OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND EGRESS INCLUDED.—In considering public access and egress under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall consider public access and egress to the legal boundaries of the land described in those subsections, including access and egress—

(1) by motorized or non-motorized vehicles; and

(2) on foot or horseback.

(g) EFFECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall have no effect on whether a particular recreational use shall be allowed on the land included in a priority list under this section.

(2) EFFECT OF ALLOWABLE USES ON AGENCY CONSIDERATION.—In preparing the priority

list under subsection (b), the Secretary shall only consider recreational uses that are allowed on the land at the time that the priority list is prepared.

**PART V—FEDERAL LAND TRANSACTION FACILITATION ACT**

**SEC. 10241. FEDERAL LAND TRANSACTION FACILITATION ACT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act is amended—

(1) in section 203(2) (43 U.S.C. 2302(2)), by striking “on the date of enactment of this Act was” and inserting “is”;

(2) in section 205 (43 U.S.C. 2304)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “(as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)”; and

(B) by striking subsection (d);

(3) in section 206 (43 U.S.C. 2305), by striking subsection (f); and

(4) in section 207(b) (43 U.S.C. 2306(b))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “96-568” and inserting “96-586”; and

(ii) by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “Public Law 105-263;” before “112 Stat.”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432; 120 Stat. 3028);

“(4) the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-424; 118 Stat. 2403);

“(5) subtitle F of title I of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 111-11);

“(6) subtitle O of title I of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 460www note, 1132 note; Public Law 111-11);

“(7) section 2601 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1108); or

“(8) section 2606 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1121).”.

(b) FUNDS TO TREASURY.—Of the amounts deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account, there shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**PART VI—FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

**SEC. 10251. AMENDMENTS TO PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT.**

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to facilitate the construction and expansion of public target ranges, including ranges on Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) DEFINITION OF PUBLIC TARGET RANGE.—In this section, the term “public target range” means a specific location that—

(1) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting;

(2) is open to the public;

(3) may be supervised; and

(4) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) the term ‘public target range’ means a specific location that—

“(A) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting;

“(B) is open to the public;

“(C) may be supervised; and

“(D) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting.”.

(2) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—Section 8(b) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669g(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(b) Each State” and inserting the following:

“(b) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each State”;

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking “construction, operation,” and inserting “operation”;

(C) in the second sentence, by striking “The non-Federal share” and inserting the following:

“(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share”;

(D) in the third sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary”; and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as designated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the limitation described in paragraph (1), a State may pay up to 90 percent of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.”.

(3) FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS.—Section 10 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h-1) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—Of the amount apportioned to a State for any fiscal year under section 4(b), the State may elect to allocate not more than 10 percent, to be combined with the amount apportioned to the State under paragraph (1) for that fiscal year, for acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.”;

(B) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) COST SHARING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out using a grant under this section shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the activity.

“(2) PUBLIC TARGET RANGE CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION.—The Federal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range in a State on Federal or non-Federal land pursuant to this section or section 8(b) shall not exceed 90 percent of the cost of the activity.”; and

(C) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) by striking “Amounts made” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), amounts made”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Amounts provided for acquiring land for, constructing, or expanding a public target range shall remain available for expenditure and obligation during the 5-fiscal-year period beginning on October 1 of the first fiscal year for which the amounts are made available.”.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CO-OPERATION.—It is the sense of Congress that, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations), the Chief of the Forest Service and the Director of the Bureau of Land Man-

agement should cooperate with State and local authorities and other entities to carry out waste removal and other activities on any Federal land used as a public target range to encourage continued use of that land for target practice or marksmanship training.

**SEC. 10252. NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.**

(a) CONSERVATION INCENTIVES LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM.—Any acquisition of land (including any interest in land) under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.) shall be subject to the notification requirements under section [50 (d)].

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.”.

**SEC. 10253. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act”.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties to promote fish conservation—

(1) to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities by—

(A) improving ecological conditions;

(B) restoring natural processes; or

(C) preventing the decline of intact and healthy systems;

(2) to establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by Fish Habitat Partnerships;

(3) to broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by—

(A) increasing fishing opportunities;

(B) fostering the participation of local communities, especially young people in local communities, in conservation activities; and

(C) raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitat play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities;

(4) to fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated database of the National Fish Habitat Assessment—

(A) to empower strategic conservation actions supported by broadly available scientific information; and

(B) to integrate socioeconomic data in the analysis to improve the lives of humans in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals; and

(5) to communicate to the public and conservation partners—

(A) the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships; and

(B) new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the National Fish Habitat Board established by subsection (d)(1)(A).

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) EPA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “EPA Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(6) NOAA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “NOAA Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(7) PARTNERSHIP.—The term “Partnership” means a self-governed entity designated by the Board as a Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership pursuant to subsection (e)(1).

(8) REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.—The term “real property interest” means an ownership interest in—

(A) land; or

(B) water (including water rights).

(9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States.

(11) STATE AGENCY.—The term “State agency” means—

(A) the fish and wildlife agency of a State; and

(B) any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources of the State pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

(d) NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) FISH HABITAT BOARD.—There is established a board, to be known as the “National Fish Habitat Board”, whose duties are—

(i) to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of this section;

(ii) to establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(iii) to approve Partnerships; and

(iv) to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of 25 members, of whom—

(i) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of the Interior;

(ii) 1 shall be a representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(iii) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Commerce;

(iv) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Agriculture;

(v) 1 shall be a representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(vi) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

(vii) 1 shall be a representative of either—

(I) Indian tribes in the State of Alaska; or

(II) Indian tribes in States other than the State of Alaska;

(viii) 1 shall be a representative of either—

(I) the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852); or

(II) a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions, which is composed of—

(aa) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(bb) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(cc) the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(ix) 1 shall be a representative of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council;

(x) 7 shall be representatives selected from each of—

(I) the recreational sportfishing industry;

(II) the commercial fishing industry;

(III) marine recreational anglers;

(IV) freshwater recreational anglers;

(V) habitat conservation organizations; and

(VI) science-based fishery organizations;

(xi) 1 shall be a representative of a national private landowner organization;

(xii) 1 shall be a representative of an agricultural production organization;

(xiii) 1 shall be a representative of local government interests involved in fish habitat restoration;

(xiv) 2 shall be representatives from different sectors of corporate industries, which may include—

(I) natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction;

(II) natural resource user industries; and

(III) industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation; and

(xv) 1 shall be a leadership private sector or landowner representative of an active partnership.

(C) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(D) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board.

(2) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a member of the Board described in any of clauses (vi) through (xiv) of paragraph (1)(B) shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(B) INITIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The initial Board will consist of representatives as described in clauses (i) through (vi) of paragraph (1)(B).

(ii) REMAINING MEMBERS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the representatives of the initial Board pursuant to clause (i) shall appoint the remaining members of the Board described in clauses (viii) through (xiv) of paragraph (1)(B).

(iii) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Board a recommendation of not fewer than 3 tribal representatives, from which the Board shall appoint 1 representative pursuant to clause (vii) of paragraph (1)(B).

(C) TRANSITIONAL TERMS.—Of the members described in paragraph (1)(B)(x) initially appointed to the Board—

(i) 2 shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(ii) 2 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(iii) 3 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(D) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in any of clauses (viii) through (xiv) of paragraph (1)(B) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(ii) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in clause (vii) of paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not fewer than 3 tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(E) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(F) REMOVAL.—If a member of the Board described in any of clauses (viii) through (xiv) of paragraph (1)(B) misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(i) vote to remove that member; and

(ii) appoint another individual in accordance with subparagraph (D).

(3) CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies appointed pursuant to paragraph (1)(B)(v) shall serve as Chairperson of the Board.

(B) TERM.—The Chairperson of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(4) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

(i) at the call of the Chairperson; but

(ii) not less frequently than twice each calendar year.

(B) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(5) PROCEDURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(i) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(ii) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of all members;

(iii) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this section;

(iv) procedures for designating Partnerships under subsection (e); and

(v) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(B) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

(e) FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE.—The Board may approve and designate Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this subsection.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

(A) to work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish and fish habitats;

(B) to engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation;

(C) to involve diverse groups of public and private partners;

(D) to develop collaboratively a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound;

(E) to leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships;

(F) to use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality;

(G) to develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures; and

(H) to implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

(3) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—An entity seeking to be designated as a Partnership shall—

(A) submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require; and

(B) demonstrate to the Board that the entity has—

(i) a focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats;

(ii) an ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership boundary;

(iii) a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat;

(iv) the ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat;

(v) a strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board;

(vi) the ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of the Partnership and the Board; and

(vii) the ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, the ability to measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects of the Partnership, and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data effort.

(4) APPROVAL.—The Board may approve an application for a Partnership submitted under paragraph (3) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(A) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include State or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

(B) is organized to promote the health of important fish species and important fish habitats, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, and estuaries;

(C) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decisionmaking;

(D) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(E) includes a governance structure that—

(i) reflects the range of all partners; and

(ii) promotes joint strategic planning and decisionmaking by the applicant;

(F) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address the decline in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms, in accordance with the goals and national priorities established by the Board; and

(G) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

(f) FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.—

(1) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—Not later than March 31 of each calendar year, each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of

priority fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this section.

(2) **RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARD.**—Not later than July 1 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary a priority list of fish habitat conservation projects that includes the description, including estimated costs, of each project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this section for the following fiscal year.

(3) **CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION.**—The Board shall select each fish habitat conservation project to be recommended to the Secretary under paragraph (2) after taking into consideration, at a minimum, the following information:

(A) A recommendation of the Partnership that is, or will be, participating actively in implementing the fish habitat conservation project.

(B) The capabilities and experience of project proponents to implement successfully the proposed project.

(C) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(i) fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership and is consistent with the purpose of this section;

(ii) addresses the national priorities established by the Board;

(iii) is supported by the findings of the Habitat Assessment of the Partnership or the Board, and aligns or is compatible with other conservation plans;

(iv) identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures;

(v) provides a well-defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes;

(vi) leverages other funds to implement the project;

(vii) addresses the causes and processes behind the decline of fish or fish habitats; and

(viii) includes an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community.

(D) The availability of sufficient non-Federal funds to match Federal contributions for the fish habitat conservation project, as required by paragraph (5);

(E) The extent to which the local or regional fish habitat conservation project—

(i) will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public;

(ii) will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian tribes, and private entities;

(iii) increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;

(iv) advances the conservation of fish and wildlife species that have been identified by the States as species of greatest conservation need;

(v) where appropriate, advances the conservation of fish and fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and other relevant Federal law and State wildlife action plans; and

(vi) promotes strong and healthy fish habitats so that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt.

(F) The substantiality of the character and design of the fish habitat conservation project.

(4) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(A) **REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION.**—No fish habitat conservation project may be rec-

ommended by the Board under paragraph (2) or provided financial assistance under this section unless the fish habitat conservation project includes an evaluation plan designed using applicable Board guidance—

(i) to appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities carried out using the assistance;

(ii) to reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;

(iii) to identify improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project; and

(iv) to require the submission to the Board of a report describing the findings of the assessment.

(B) **ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A State, local government, or other non-Federal entity is eligible to receive funds for the acquisition of real property from willing sellers under this section if the acquisition ensures 1 of—

(I) public access for compatible fish and wildlife-dependent recreation; or

(II) a scientifically based, direct enhancement to the health of fish and fish populations, as determined by the Board.

(ii) **STATE AGENCY APPROVAL.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—All real property interest acquisition projects funded under this section are required to be approved by the State agency in the State in which the project is occurring.

(II) **PROHIBITION.**—The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding for, any real property interest acquisition that has not been approved by the State agency.

(iii) **ASSESSMENT OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.**—The Fish Habitat Partnership shall conduct a project assessment, submitted with the funding request and approved by the Board, to demonstrate all other Federal, State, and local authorities for the acquisition of real property have been exhausted.

(iv) **RESTRICTIONS.**—A real property interest may not be acquired pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity, unless—

(I) the owner of the real property authorizes the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to acquire the real property; and

(II) the Secretary and the Board determine that the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity would benefit from undertaking the management of the real property being acquired because that is in accordance with the goals of a partnership.

(5) **NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under paragraph (2) or provided financial assistance under this section unless at least 50 percent of the cost of the fish habitat conservation project will be funded with non-Federal funds.

(B) **NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share of the cost of a fish habitat conservation project—

(i) may not be derived from another Federal grant program; but

(ii) may include in-kind contributions and cash.

(C) **SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or any other

provision of law, any funds made available to an Indian tribe pursuant to this section may be considered to be non-Federal funds for the purpose of subparagraph (A).

(6) **APPROVAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommended priority list of fish habitat conservation projects under paragraph (2), subject to the limitations of paragraph (4), and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in paragraph (3), the Secretary, after consulting with the Secretary of Commerce on marine or estuarine projects, shall approve or reject any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board.

(B) **FUNDING.**—If the Secretary approves a fish habitat conservation project under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use amounts made available to carry out this section to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(C) **NOTIFICATION.**—If the Secretary rejects any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under paragraph (2), not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary shall provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congressional committees a written statement of the reasons that the Secretary rejected the fish habitat conservation project.

(g) **TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, the NOAA Assistant Administrator, the EPA Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, may provide scientific and technical assistance to the Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—Scientific and technical assistance provided pursuant to paragraph (1) may include—

(A) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;

(B) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;

(C) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;

(D) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;

(E) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;

(F) ensuring the availability of experts to assist in conducting scientifically based evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and

(G) providing resources to secure state agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(h) **COORDINATION WITH STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.**—The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and Indian tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this section, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

(i) INTERAGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the NOAA Assistant Administrator, the EPA Assistant Administrator, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies (including at a minimum, those agencies represented on the Board) shall develop an interagency operational plan that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for the implementation of this section; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

(j) ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.—

(1) REPORTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of this section.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet, or other suitable measures of fish habitat, that was maintained or improved by partnerships of Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities in the United States during the 5-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(ii) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved during that 5-year period;

(iii) a description of the improved opportunities for public recreational fishing; and

(iv) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this section during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

(I) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under subsection (f)(2);

(II) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under subsection (f)(6), in order of priority for funding;

(III) a justification for—

(aa) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(bb) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(IV) a justification for any rejection of a fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under subsection (f)(2) that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in subsection (f)(3); and

(V) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(A) a status of all Partnerships approved under this section;

(B) a description of the status of fish habitats in the United States as identified by established Partnerships; and

(C) enhancements or reductions in public access as a result of—

(i) the activities of the Partnerships; or

(ii) any other activities carried out pursuant to this section.

(3) REVISIONS.—Not later than December 31, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall consider revising the goals of the Board, after consideration of each report required by paragraph (2).

(k) EFFECT OF SECTION.—

(1) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section—

(A) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(B) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(C) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(D) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of the Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS OR RIGHTS TO PROPERTY.—Under this section, only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, under State law, water rights or rights to property.

(3) STATE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section—

(A) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(B) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(4) EFFECT ON INDIAN TRIBES.—Nothing in this section abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(A) an agreement between the Indian tribe and the United States;

(B) Federal law (including regulations);

(C) an Executive order; or

(D) a judicial decree.

(5) ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666).

(6) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(7) EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.—

(A) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—Nothing in this section permits the use of funds made available to carry out this section to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest.

(B) MITIGATION.—Nothing in this section permits the use of funds made available to carry out this section for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(i) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(ii) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(iii) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4082); or

(iv) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(C) CLEAN WATER ACT.—Nothing in this section affects any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including any definition in that Act.

(1) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to—

(1) the Board; or

(2) any Partnership.

(m) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$7,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved under subsection (f)(6), of which 5 percent shall be made available for each fiscal year for projects carried out by Indian tribes.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING EXPENSES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

(i) for administrative and planning expenses; and

(ii) to carry out subsection (j).

(C) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance under, subsection (g)—

(i) \$500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(ii) \$500,000 to the NOAA Assistant Administrator for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(iii) \$500,000 to the EPA Assistant Administrator for use by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(iv) \$500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Geological Survey.

(2) AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary may—

(A) on the recommendation of the Board, and notwithstanding sections 6304 and 6305 of title 31, United States Code, and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 106-107), enter into a grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract with a Partnership or other entity for a fish habitat conservation project or restoration or enhancement project;

(B) apply for, accept, and use a grant from any individual or entity to carry out the purposes of this section; and

(C) make funds available to any Federal department or agency for use by that department or agency to provide grants for any fish habitat protection project, restoration project, or enhancement project that the Secretary determines to be consistent with this section.

(3) DONATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

(i) enter into an agreement with any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code to solicit private donations to carry out the purposes of this section; and

(ii) accept donations of funds, property, and services to carry out the purposes of this section.

(B) TREATMENT.—A donation accepted under this section—

(i) shall be considered to be a gift or bequest to, or otherwise for the use of, the United States; and

(ii) may be—

(I) used directly by the Secretary; or

(II) provided to another Federal department or agency through an interagency agreement.



**SEC. 10254. GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION REPORT ON GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF STATE BOUNDARY EXTENSION.**

(a) REPORT ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES.—Not later than March 1, 2017, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the economic, conservation and management, and law enforcement impacts of the implementation of section 110 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed accounting of how the implementation of section 110 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113) has affected—

- (1) the economies of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas;
- (2) the sustained participation of fishing communities;
- (3) conservation and management of living resources under all applicable Federal laws;
- (4) enforcement of Federal maritime laws; and
- (5) the ability of the governments of the States described in paragraph (1) to effectively manage activities pursuant to the fishery management plan for reef fish resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Commerce shall make available to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission \$500,000 to carry out the report required under subsection (a).

(2) SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall be available only to the extent specifically provided for in advance in subsequent appropriations Acts.

**SEC. 10255. GAO REPORT ON GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF STATE BOUNDARY EXTENSION.**

(a) REPORT ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES.—Not later than March 1, 2017, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the economic, conservation and management, and law enforcement impacts of section 110 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a detailed accounting of how section 110 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113) has affected—

- (1) the economies of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas;
- (2) the sustained participation of fishing communities;
- (3) conservation and management of living resources under all applicable Federal laws;
- (4) enforcement of Federal maritime laws; and
- (5) the ability of the governments of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to effectively manage activities pursuant to the fishery management plan for reef fish resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

**PART VII—MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEC. 10261. RESPECT FOR TREATIES AND RIGHTS.**

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle—

- (1) affects or modifies any treaty or other right of any federally recognized Indian tribe; or
- (2) modifies any provision of Federal law relating to migratory birds or to endangered or threatened species.

**SEC. 10262. NO PRIORITY.**

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle provides a preference to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting over any other use of Federal land or water.

**Subtitle D—Water Infrastructure and Related Matters**

**PART I—FONTENELLE RESERVOIR**

**SEC. 10301. AUTHORITY TO MAKE ENTIRE ACTIVE CAPACITY OF FONTENELLE RESERVOIR AVAILABLE FOR USE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the State of Wyoming, may amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskaadee Project authorized under the first section of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43 U.S.C. 620), to provide for the study, design, planning, and construction activities that will enable the use of all active storage capacity (as may be defined or limited by legal, hydrologic, structural, engineering, economic, and environmental considerations) of Fontenelle Dam and Reservoir, including the placement of sufficient riprap on the upstream face of Fontenelle Dam to allow the active storage capacity of Fontenelle Reservoir to be used for those purposes for which the Seedskaadee Project was authorized.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into any contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other agreement that is necessary to carry out subsection (a).

(2) STATE OF WYOMING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Wyoming to work in cooperation and collaboratively with the State of Wyoming for planning, design, related preconstruction activities, and construction of any modification of the Fontenelle Dam under subsection (a).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The cooperative agreement under subparagraph (A) shall, at a minimum, specify the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Wyoming with respect to—

- (i) completing the planning and final design of the modification of the Fontenelle Dam under subsection (a);
- (ii) any environmental and cultural resource compliance activities required for the modification of the Fontenelle Dam under subsection (a) including compliance with—
  - (I) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);
  - (II) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and
  - (III) subdivision 2 of division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code; and
- (iii) the construction of the modification of the Fontenelle Dam under subsection (a).

(c) FUNDING BY STATE OF WYOMING.—Pursuant to the Act of March 4, 1921 (41 Stat. 1404, chapter 161; 43 U.S.C. 395), and as a condition of providing any additional storage under subsection (a), the State of Wyoming shall provide to the Secretary of the Interior funds for any work carried out under subsection (a).

(d) OTHER CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into contracts with the State of Wyoming, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Wyoming may agree, for division of any additional active capacity made available under subsection (a).

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Unless otherwise agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Wyoming, a contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the terms and conditions of Bureau of Reclamation Contract No. 14-06-400-2474 and Bureau of Reclamation Contract No. 14-06-400-6193.

**SEC. 10302. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**

Unless expressly provided in this part, nothing in this part modifies, conflicts with, preempts, or otherwise affects—

(1) the Act of December 31, 1928 (43 U.S.C. 617 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Boulder Canyon Project Act”);

(2) the Colorado River Compact of 1922, as approved by the Presidential Proclamation of June 25, 1929 (46 Stat. 3000);

(3) the Act of July 19, 1940 (43 U.S.C. 618 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act”);

(4) the Treaty between the United States of America and Mexico relating to the utilization of waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande, and supplementary protocol signed November 14, 1944, signed at Washington February 3, 1944 (59 Stat. 1219);

(5) the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact as consented to by the Act of April 6, 1949 (63 Stat. 31);

(6) the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as the “Colorado River Storage Project Act”) (43 U.S.C. 620 et seq.);

(7) the Colorado River Basin Project Act (Public Law 90-537; 82 Stat. 885); or

(8) any State of Wyoming or other State water law.

**PART II—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TRANSPARENCY**

**SEC. 10311. DEFINITIONS.**

In this part:

(1) ASSET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “asset” means any of the following assets that are used to achieve the mission of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the people of the United States:

- (i) Capitalized facilities, buildings, structures, project features, power production equipment, recreation facilities, or quarters.
- (ii) Capitalized and noncapitalized heavy equipment and other installed equipment.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “asset” includes assets described in subparagraph (A) that are considered to be mission critical.

(2) ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT.—The term “Asset Management Report” means—

(A) the annual plan prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation known as the “Asset Management Plan”; and

(B) any publicly available information relating to the plan described in subparagraph (A) that summarizes the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to evaluate and manage infrastructure assets of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(3) MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION NEED.—The term “major repair and rehabilitation need” means major nonrecurring maintenance at a Reclamation facility, including maintenance related to the safety of dams, extraordinary maintenance of dams,

deferred major maintenance activities, and all other significant repairs and extraordinary maintenance.

(4) **RECLAMATION FACILITY.**—The term “Reclamation facility” means each of the infrastructure assets that are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation at a Reclamation project.

(5) **RECLAMATION PROJECT.**—The term “Reclamation project” means a project that is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, including all reserved works and transferred works owned by the Bureau of Reclamation.

(6) **RESERVED WORKS.**—The term “reserved works” means buildings, structures, facilities, or equipment that are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation for which operations and maintenance are performed by employees of the Bureau of Reclamation or through a contract entered into by the Bureau of Reclamation, regardless of the source of funding for the operations and maintenance.

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) **TRANSFERRED WORKS.**—The term “transferred works” means a Reclamation facility at which operations and maintenance of the facility is carried out by a non-Federal entity under the provisions of a formal operations and maintenance transfer contract or other legal agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation.

**SEC. 10312. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT ENHANCEMENTS FOR RESERVED WORKS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an Asset Management Report that—

(1) describes the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation—

(A) to maintain in a reliable manner all reserved works at Reclamation facilities; and

(B) to standardize and streamline data reporting and processes across regions and areas for the purpose of maintaining reserved works at Reclamation facilities; and

(2) expands on the information otherwise provided in an Asset Management Report, in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) **INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Asset Management Report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) a detailed assessment of major repair and rehabilitation needs for all reserved works at all Reclamation projects; and

(B) to the extent practicable, an itemized list of major repair and rehabilitation needs of individual Reclamation facilities at each Reclamation project.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—To the extent practicable, the itemized list of major repair and rehabilitation needs under paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

(A) a budget level cost estimate of the appropriations needed to complete each item; and

(B) an assignment of a categorical rating for each item, consistent with paragraph (3).

(3) **RATING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The system for assigning ratings under paragraph (2)(B) shall be—

(i) consistent with existing uniform categorization systems to inform the annual budget process and agency requirements; and

(ii) subject to the guidance and instructions issued under subparagraph (B).

(B) **GUIDANCE.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance that describes the applicability of the rating system applicable under paragraph (2)(B) to Reclamation facilities.

(4) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Except as provided in paragraph (5), the Secretary shall make publicly available, including on the Internet, the Asset Management Report required under subsection (a).

(5) **CONFIDENTIALITY.**—The Secretary may exclude from the public version of the Asset Management Report made available under paragraph (4) any information that the Secretary identifies as sensitive or classified, but shall make available to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a version of the report containing the sensitive or classified information.

(c) **UPDATES.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Asset Management Report is submitted under subsection (a) and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall update the Asset Management Report, subject to the requirements of section 6313(b)(2).

(d) **CONSULTATION.**—To the extent that such consultation would assist the Secretary in preparing the Asset Management Report under subsection (a) and updates to the Asset Management Report under subsection (c), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers); and

(2) water and power contractors.

**SEC. 10313. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT ENHANCEMENTS FOR TRANSFERRED WORKS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall coordinate with the non-Federal entities responsible for the operation and maintenance of transferred works in developing reporting requirements for Asset Management Reports with respect to major repair and rehabilitation needs for transferred works that are similar to the reporting requirements described in section 6312(b).

(b) **GUIDANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—After considering input from water and power contractors of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Secretary shall develop and implement a rating system for transferred works that incorporates, to the maximum extent practicable, the rating system for major repair and rehabilitation needs for reserved works developed under section 6312(b)(3).

(2) **UPDATES.**—The ratings system developed under paragraph (1) shall be included in the updated Asset Management Reports under section 6312(c).

**SEC. 10314. OFFSET.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of the project authorized by section 1617 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 390h–12c), the maximum amount of the Federal share of the cost of the project under section 1631(d)(1) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 390h–13(d)(1)) otherwise available as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be reduced by \$2,000,000.

**PART III—BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT  
Subpart A—Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement**

**SEC. 10321. SHORT TITLE.**

This subpart may be cited as the “Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Phase III Act of 2016”.

**SEC. 10322. MODIFICATION OF TERMS, PURPOSES, AND DEFINITIONS.**

(a) **MODIFICATION OF TERMS.**—Title XII of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4550) is amended—

(1) by striking “Yakama Indian” each place it appears (except section 1204(g)) and inserting “Yakama”; and

(2) by striking “Superintendent” each place it appears and inserting “Manager”.

(b) **MODIFICATION OF PURPOSES.**—Section 1201 of Public Law 103–434 (108 Stat. 4550) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife and the recovery and maintenance of self-sustaining harvestable populations of fish and other aquatic life, both anadromous and resident species, throughout their historic distribution range in the Yakima Basin through—

“(A) improved water management and the constructions of fish passage at storage and diversion dams, as authorized under the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619 et seq.);

“(B) improved instream flows and water supplies;

“(C) improved water quality, watershed, and ecosystem function;

“(D) protection, creation, and enhancement of wetlands; and

“(E) other appropriate means of habitat improvement;”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, municipal, industrial, and domestic water supply and use purposes, especially during drought years, including reducing the frequency and severity of water supply shortages for pro-ratable irrigation entities” before the semicolon at the end;

(3) by striking paragraph (4);

(4) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(5) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) to authorize the Secretary to make water available for purchase or lease for meeting municipal, industrial, and domestic water supply purposes;”;

(6) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (8), respectively;

(7) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(5) to realize sufficient water savings from implementing the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, so that not less than 85,000 acre feet of water savings are achieved by implementing the first phase of the Integrated Plan pursuant to section 1213(a), in addition to the 165,000 acre feet of water savings targeted through the Basin Conservation Program, as authorized on October 31, 1994;”;

(8) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by inserting “an increase in” before “voluntary”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(9) by inserting after paragraph (6) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(7) to encourage an increase in the use of, and reduce the barriers to, water transfers, leasing, markets, and other voluntary transactions among public and private entities to enhance water management in the Yakima River basin;”;

(10) in paragraph (8) (as redesignated by paragraph (6)), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(11) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) to improve the resilience of the ecosystems, economies, and communities in the Basin as they face drought, hydrologic changes, and other related changes and variability in natural and human systems, for the benefit of both the people and the fish and wildlife of the region; and

“(10) to authorize and implement the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan as Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement

Project, as a balanced and cost-effective approach to maximize benefits to the communities and environment in the Basin.”.

(c) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS.—Section 1202 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4550) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), and (14) as paragraphs (8), (10), (11), (13), (14), (15), (16), (18), and (19), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL.—The term ‘designated Federal official’ means the Commissioner of Reclamation (or a designee), acting pursuant to the charter of the Conservation Advisory Group.

“(7) INTEGRATED PLAN.—The terms ‘Integrated Plan’ and ‘Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Plan’ mean the plan and activities authorized by the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Phase III Act of 2016 and the amendments made by that subpart, to be carried out in cooperation with and in addition to activities of the State of Washington and Yakama Nation.”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(9) MUNICIPAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY AND USE.—The term ‘municipal, industrial, and domestic water supply and use’ means the supply and use of water for—

“(A) domestic consumption (whether urban or rural);

“(B) maintenance and protection of public health and safety;

“(C) manufacture, fabrication, processing, assembly, or other production of a good or commodity;

“(D) production of energy;

“(E) fish hatcheries; or

“(F) water conservation activities relating to a use described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (11) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(12) PRORATABLE IRRIGATION ENTITY.—The term ‘proratable irrigation entity’ means a district, project, or State-recognized authority, board of control, agency, or entity located in the Yakima River basin that—

“(A) manages and delivers irrigation water to farms in the basin; and

“(B) possesses, or the members of which possess, water rights that are proratable during periods of water shortage.”;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (16) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(17) YAKIMA ENHANCEMENT PROJECT; YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.—The terms ‘Yakima Enhancement Project’ and ‘Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project’ mean the Yakima River basin water enhancement project authorized by Congress pursuant to this Act and other Acts (including Public Law 96-162 (93 Stat. 1241), section 109 of Public Law 98-381 (16 U.S.C. 839b note; 98 Stat. 1340), Public Law 105-62 (111 Stat. 1320), and Public Law 106-372 (114 Stat. 1425)) to promote water conservation, water supply, habitat, and stream enhancement improvements in the Yakima River basin.”.

**SEC. 10323. YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

Section 1203 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4551) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking “title” and inserting “section”; and

(ii) in the third sentence, by striking “within 5 years of the date of enactment of this Act”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “irrigation” and inserting “the number of irrigated acres”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Department of Wildlife of the State of Washington, and” and inserting “Department of Fish and Wildlife of the State of Washington.”; and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (G);

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (C), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “, and” and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) provide recommendations to advance the purposes and programs of the Yakima Enhancement Project, including the Integrated Plan.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) AUTHORITY OF DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL.—The designated Federal official may—

“(A) arrange and provide logistical support for meetings of the Conservation Advisory Group;

“(B) use a facilitator to serve as a moderator for meetings of the Conservation Advisory Group or provide additional logistical support; and

“(C) grant any request for a facilitator by any member of the Conservation Advisory Group.”;

(3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) PAYMENT OF LOCAL SHARE BY STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State or the Federal Government may fund not more than the 17.5 percent local share of the costs of the Basin Conservation Program in exchange for the long-term use of conserved water, subject to the requirement that the funding by the Federal Government of the local share of the costs shall provide a quantifiable public benefit in meeting Federal responsibilities in the Basin and the purposes of this title.

“(B) USE OF CONSERVED WATER.—The Yakima Project Manager may use water resulting from conservation measures taken under this title, in addition to water that the Bureau of Reclamation may acquire from any willing seller through purchase, donation, or lease, for water management uses pursuant to this title.”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “To participate in the Basin Conservation Program, as described in subsection (b), an entity shall submit to the Secretary a proposed water conservation plan.”;

(5) in subsection (i)(3)—

(A) by striking “purchase or lease” each place it appears and inserting “purchase, lease, or management”; and

(B) in the third sentence, by striking “made immediately upon availability” and all that follows through “Committee” and inserting “continued as needed to provide

water to be used by the Yakima Project Manager as recommended by the System Operations Advisory Committee and the Conservation Advisory Group”; and

(6) in subsection (j)(4), in the first sentence, by striking “initial acquisition” and all that follows through “flushing flows” and inserting “acquisition of water from willing sellers or lessors specifically to provide improved instream flows for anadromous and resident fish and other aquatic life, including pulse flows to facilitate outward migration of anadromous fish”.

**SEC. 10324. YAKIMA BASIN WATER PROJECTS, OPERATIONS, AND AUTHORIZATIONS.**

(a) YAKAMA NATION PROJECTS.—Section 1204 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4555) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), in the first sentence, by striking “not more than \$23,000,000” and inserting “not more than \$100,000,000”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting “REDESIGNATION OF YAKAMA INDIAN NATION TO YAKAMA NATION.—”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) REDESIGNATION.—The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation shall be known and designated as the ‘Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.’; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “deemed to be a reference to the ‘Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation.’” and inserting “deemed to be a reference to the ‘Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.’”.

(b) OPERATION OF YAKIMA BASIN PROJECTS.—Section 1205 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4557) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by inserting “additional” after “secure”;

(bb) by striking “flushing” and inserting “pulse”; and

(cc) by striking “uses” and inserting “uses, in addition to the quantity of water provided under the treaty between the Yakama Nation and the United States”;

(II) by striking clause (ii);

(III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and

(IV) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated) by inserting “and water rights mandated” after “goals”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), in the first sentence, by inserting “in proportion to the funding received” after “Program”;

(2) in subsection (b) (as amended by section 6322(a)(2)), in the second sentence, by striking “instream flows for use by the Yakima Project Manager as flushing flows or as otherwise” and inserting “fishery purposes, as”; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Additional purposes of the Yakima Project shall be any of the following:

“(A) To recover and maintain self-sustaining harvestable populations of native fish, both anadromous and resident species, throughout their historic distribution range in the Yakima Basin.

“(B) To protect, mitigate, and enhance aquatic life and wildlife.

“(C) Recreation.

“(D) Municipal, industrial, and domestic use.”.

(c) LAKE CLE ELUM AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1206(a)(1) of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4560), is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “at September” and all that follows through “to—” and inserting “not more than \$12,000,000 to—”.

(d) ENHANCEMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES FOR YAKIMA BASIN TRIBUTARIES.—Section 1207 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4560) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SUPPLIES” and inserting “MANAGEMENT”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “supplies” and inserting “management”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and water supply entities” after “owners”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “that choose not to participate or opt out of tributary enhancement projects pursuant to this section” after “water right owners”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “non-participating” before “tributary water users”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through “(but not limited to)—” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, following consultation with the State of Washington, tributary water right owners, and the Yakama Nation, and on agreement of appropriate water right owners, is authorized to conduct studies to evaluate measures to further Yakima Project purposes on tributaries to the Yakima River. Enhancement programs that use measures authorized by this subsection may be investigated and implemented by the Secretary in tributaries to the Yakima River, including Taneum Creek, other areas, or tributary basins that currently or could potentially be provided supplemental or transfer water by entities, such as the Kittitas Reclamation District or the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, subject to the condition that activities may commence on completion of applicable and required feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and cost-benefit analyses that include favorable recommendations for further project development, as appropriate. Measures to evaluate include—”;

(ii) by indenting subparagraphs (A) through (F) appropriately;

(iii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including irrigation efficiency improvements (in coordination with programs of the Department of Agriculture), consolidation of diversions or administration, and diversion scheduling or coordination”;

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (H), respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) improvements in irrigation system management or delivery facilities within the Yakima River basin when those improvements allow for increased irrigation system conveyance and corresponding reduction in diversion from tributaries or flow enhancements to tributaries through direct flow supplementation or groundwater recharge;

“(D) improvements of irrigation system management or delivery facilities to reduce or eliminate excessively high flows caused by the use of natural streams for conveyance or irrigation water or return water;”;

(vi) in subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by clause (iv)), by striking “ground water” and inserting “groundwater recharge and”;

(vii) in subparagraph (G) (as redesignated by clause (iv)), by inserting “or transfer” after “purchase”; and

(viii) in subparagraph (H) (as redesignated by clause (iv)), by inserting “stream processes and” before “stream habitats”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the Taneum Creek study” and inserting “studies under this subsection”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “and economic” and inserting “, infrastructure, economic, and land use”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) any related studies already underway or undertaken.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), in the first sentence, by inserting “of each tributary or group of tributaries” after “study”;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the heading, by inserting “AND NON-SURFACE STORAGE” after “NONSTORAGE”; and

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and nonsurface storage” after “nonstorage”;

(5) by striking subsection (d);

(6) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d); and

(7) in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “and implementation” after “investigation”;

(ii) by striking “other” before “Yakima River”; and

(iii) by inserting “and other water supply entities” after “owners”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence.

(e) CHANDLER PUMPING PLANT AND POWER-PLANT-OPERATIONS AT PROSSER DIVERSION DAM.—Section 1208(d) of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4562; 114 Stat. 1425) is amended by inserting “negatively” before “affected”.

(f) INTERIM COMPREHENSIVE BASIN OPERATING PLAN.—Section 1210(c) of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4564) is amended by striking “\$100,000” and inserting “\$200,000”.

(g) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—Section 1211 of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4564) is amended by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”.

**SEC. 10325. AUTHORIZATION OF PHASE III OF YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.**

Title XII of Public Law 103-434 (108 Stat. 4550) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 1213. AUTHORIZATION OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN AS PHASE III OF YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.**

“(a) INTEGRATED PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall implement the Integrated Plan as Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project in accordance with this section and applicable laws.

“(2) INITIAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the State of Washington and Yakama Nation and subject to feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and the availability of appropriations, shall implement an initial development phase of the Integrated Plan, to—

“(i) complete the planning, design, and construction or development of upstream and downstream fish passage facilities, as previously authorized by the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619 et seq.) at Cle Elum Reservoir and another Yakima Project reservoir identified by the Secretary as consistent with the Integrated Plan, subject to the condition that, if the Yakima Project reservoir identified by the Secretary contains a hydropower project licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Secretary shall cooperate with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in a timely manner to ensure that actions taken by the Secretary are consistent with the applicable hydropower project license;

“(ii) negotiate long-term agreements with participating proratable irrigation entities in the Yakima Basin and, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, coordinate between Bureaus of the Department of the Interior and with the heads of other Federal agencies to negotiate agreements concerning leases, easements, and rights-of-way on Federal land, and other terms and conditions determined to be necessary to allow for the non-Federal financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of—

“(I) new facilities needed to access and deliver inactive storage in Lake Kachess for the purpose of providing drought relief for irrigation (known as the ‘Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant’); and

“(II) a conveyance system to allow transfer of water between Keechelus Reservoir to Kachess Reservoir for purposes of improving operational flexibility for the benefit of both fish and irrigation (known as the ‘K to K Pipeline’);

“(iii) participate in, provide funding for, and accept non-Federal financing for—

“(I) water conservation projects, not subject to the provisions of the Basin Conservation Program described in section 1203, that are intended to partially implement the Integrated Plan by providing 85,000 acre-feet of conserved water to improve tributary and mainstem stream flow; and

“(II) aquifer storage and recovery projects;

“(iv) study, evaluate, and conduct feasibility analyses and environmental reviews of fish passage, water supply (including groundwater and surface water storage), conservation, habitat restoration projects, and other alternatives identified as consistent with the purposes of this Act, for the initial and future phases of the Integrated Plan;

“(v) coordinate with and assist the State of Washington in implementing a robust water market to enhance water management in the Yakima River basin, including—

“(I) assisting in identifying ways to encourage and increase the use of, and reduce the barriers to, water transfers, leasing, markets, and other voluntary transactions among public and private entities in the Yakima River basin;

“(II) providing technical assistance, including scientific data and market information; and

“(III) negotiating agreements that would facilitate voluntary water transfers between entities, including as appropriate, the use of federally managed infrastructure; and

“(vi) enter into cooperative agreements with, or, subject to a minimum non-Federal cost-sharing requirement of 50 percent, make grants to, the Yakama Nation, the State of Washington, Yakima River basin irrigation districts, water districts, conservation districts, other local governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, and land owners to carry out this title under such terms and

conditions as the Secretary may require, including the following purposes:

“(I) Land and water transfers, leases, and acquisitions from willing participants, so long as the acquiring entity shall hold title and be responsible for any and all required operations, maintenance, and management of that land and water.

“(II) To combine or relocate diversion points, remove fish barriers, or for other activities that increase flows or improve habitat in the Yakima River and its tributaries in furtherance of this title.

“(III) To implement, in partnership with Federal and non-Federal entities, projects to enhance the health and resilience of the watershed.

“(B) COMMENCEMENT DATE.—The Secretary shall commence implementation of the activities included under the initial development phase pursuant to this paragraph—

“(i) on the date of enactment of this section; and

“(ii) on completion of applicable feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and cost-benefit analyses that include favorable recommendations for further project development.

“(3) INTERMEDIATE AND FINAL PHASES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the State of Washington and in consultation with the Yakama Nation, shall develop plans for intermediate and final development phases of the Integrated Plan to achieve the purposes of this Act, including conducting applicable feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and other relevant studies needed to develop the plans.

“(B) INTERMEDIATE PHASE.—The Secretary shall develop an intermediate development phase to implement the Integrated Plan that, subject to authorization and appropriation, would commence not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this section.

“(C) FINAL PHASE.—The Secretary shall develop a final development phase to implement the Integrated Plan that, subject to authorization and appropriation, would commence not later than 20 years after the date of enactment of this section.

“(4) CONTINGENCIES.—The implementation by the Secretary of projects and activities identified for implementation under the Integrated Plan shall be—

“(A) subject to authorization and appropriation;

“(B) contingent on the completion of applicable feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and cost-benefit analyses that include favorable recommendations for further project development;

“(C) implemented on public review and a determination by the Secretary that design, construction, and operation of a proposed project or activity is in the best interest of the public; and

“(D) in compliance with all applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

“(5) PROGRESS REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in conjunction with the State of Washington and in consultation with the Yakama Nation, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a progress report on the development and implementation of the Integrated Plan.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The progress report under this paragraph shall—

“(i) provide a review and reassessment, if needed, of the objectives of the Integrated Plan, as applied to all elements of the Integrated Plan;

“(ii) assess, through performance metrics developed at the initiation of, and measured throughout the implementation of, the Integrated Plan, the degree to which the implementation of the initial development phase addresses the objectives and all elements of the Integrated Plan;

“(iii) identify the amount of Federal funding and non-Federal contributions received and expended during the period covered by the report;

“(iv) describe the pace of project development during the period covered by the report;

“(v) identify additional projects and activities proposed for inclusion in any future phase of the Integrated Plan to address the objectives of the Integrated Plan, as applied to all elements of the Integrated Plan; and

“(vi) for water supply projects—

“(I) provide a preliminary discussion of the means by which—

“(aa) water and costs associated with each recommended project would be allocated among authorized uses; and

“(bb) those allocations would be consistent with the objectives of the Integrated Plan; and

“(II) establish a plan for soliciting and formalizing subscriptions among individuals and entities for participation in any of the recommended water supply projects that will establish the terms for participation, including fiscal obligations associated with subscription.

“(b) FINANCING, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF KACHESS DROUGHT RELIEF PUMPING PLANT AND K TO K PIPELINE.—

“(1) AGREEMENTS.—Long-term agreements negotiated between the Secretary and participating prorable irrigation entities in the Yakima Basin for the non-Federal financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Drought Relief Pumping Plant and K to K Pipeline shall include provisions regarding—

“(A) responsibilities of the participating prorable irrigation entities for the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure in consultation and coordination with the Secretary;

“(B) property titles and responsibilities of the participating prorable irrigation entities for the maintenance of and liability for all infrastructure constructed under this title;

“(C) operation and integration of the projects by the Secretary in the operation of the Yakima Project;

“(D) costs associated with the design, financing, construction, operation, maintenance, and mitigation of projects, with the costs of Federal oversight and review to be nonreimbursable to the participating prorable irrigation entities and the Yakima Project; and

“(E) responsibilities for the pumping and operational costs necessary to provide the total water supply available made inaccessible due to drought pumping during the preceding 1 or more calendar years, in the event that the Kachess Reservoir fails to refill as a result of pumping drought storage water during the preceding 1 or more calendar years, which shall remain the responsibility of the participating prorable irrigation entities.

“(2) USE OF KACHESS RESERVOIR STORED WATER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The additional stored water made available by the construction of

facilities to access and deliver inactive storage in Kachess Reservoir under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)(I) shall—

“(i) be considered to be Yakima Project water;

“(ii) not be part of the total water supply available, as that term is defined in various court rulings; and

“(iii) be used exclusively by the Secretary—

“(I) to enhance the water supply in years when the total water supply available is not sufficient to provide 70 percent of prorable entitlements in order to make that additional water available up to 70 percent of prorable entitlements to the Kittitas Reclamation District, the Roza Irrigation District, or other prorable irrigation entities participating in the construction, operation, and maintenance costs of the facilities under this title under such terms and conditions to which the districts may agree, subject to the conditions that—

“(aa) the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Wapato Irrigation Project, and the Yakama Nation, on an election to participate, may also obtain water from Kachess Reservoir inactive storage to enhance applicable existing irrigation water supply in accordance with such terms and conditions to which the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Yakama Nation may agree; and

“(bb) the additional supply made available under this clause shall be available to participating individuals and entities in proportion to the prorable entitlements of the participating individuals and entities, or in such other proportion as the participating entities may agree; and

“(II) to facilitate reservoir operations in the reach of the Yakima River between Keechelus Dam and Easton Dam for the propagation of anadromous fish.

“(B) EFFECT OF PARAGRAPH.—Nothing in this paragraph affects (as in existence on the date of enactment of this section) any contract, law (including regulations) relating to repayment costs, water right, or Yakama Nation treaty right.

“(3) COMMENCEMENT.—The Secretary shall not commence entering into agreements pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) or subsection (b)(1) or implementing any activities pursuant to the agreements before the date on which—

“(A) all applicable and required feasibility studies, environmental reviews, and cost-benefit analyses have been completed and include favorable recommendations for further project development, including an analysis of—

“(i) the impacts of the agreements and activities conducted pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) on adjacent communities, including potential fire hazards, water access for fire districts, community and homeowner wells, future water levels based on projected usage, recreational values, and property values; and

“(ii) specific options and measures for mitigating the impacts, as appropriate;

“(B) the Secretary has made the agreements and any applicable project designs, operations plans, and other documents available for public review and comment in the Federal Register for a period of not less than 60 days; and

“(C) the Secretary has made a determination, consistent with applicable law, that the agreements and activities to which the agreements relate—

“(i) are in the public interest; and

“(ii) could be implemented without significant adverse impacts to the environment.

“(4) ELECTRICAL POWER ASSOCIATED WITH KACHESS DROUGHT RELIEF PUMPING PLANT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 839 et seq.), shall provide to the Secretary project power to operate the Kachess Pumping Plant constructed under this title if inactive storage in Kachess Reservoir is needed to provide drought relief for irrigation, subject to the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C).

“(B) DETERMINATION.—Power may be provided under subparagraph (A) only if—

“(i) there is in effect a drought declaration issued by the State of Washington;

“(ii) there are conditions that have led to 70 percent or less water delivery to proratable irrigation districts, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(iii) the Secretary determines that it is appropriate to provide power under that subparagraph.

“(C) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Power under subparagraph (A) shall be provided until the date on which the Secretary determines that power should no longer be provided under that subparagraph, but for not more than a 1-year period or the period during which the Secretary determines that drought mitigation measures are necessary in the Yakima River basin.

“(D) RATE.—The Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration shall provide power under subparagraph (A) at the then-applicable lowest Bonneville Power Administration rate for public body, cooperative, and Federal agency customers firm obligations, which as of the date of enactment of this section is the priority firm Tier 1 rate, and shall not include any irrigation discount.

“(E) LOCAL PROVIDER.—During any period in which power is not being provided under subparagraph (A), the power needed to operate the Kachess Pumping Plant shall be obtained by the Secretary from a local provider.

“(F) COSTS.—The cost of power for such pumping, station service power, and all costs of transmitting power from the Federal Columbia River Power System to the Yakima Enhancement Project pumping facilities shall be borne by irrigation districts receiving the benefits of that water.

“(G) DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner of Reclamation shall be responsible for arranging transmission for deliveries of Federal power over the Bonneville system through applicable tariff and business practice processes of the Bonneville system and for arranging transmission for deliveries of power obtained from a local provider.

“(c) DESIGN AND USE OF GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any water supply that results from an aquifer storage and recovery project shall not be considered to be a part of the total water supply available if—

“(A) the water for the aquifer storage and recovery project would not be available for use, but instead for the development of the project;

“(B) the aquifer storage and recovery project will not otherwise impair any water supply available for any individual or entity entitled to use the total water supply available; and

“(C) the development of the aquifer storage and recovery project will not impair fish or other aquatic life in any localized stream reach.

“(2) PROJECT TYPES.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance for, and partici-

pate in, any of the following 3 types of groundwater recharge projects (including the incorporation of groundwater recharge projects into Yakima Project operations, as appropriate):

“(A) Aquifer recharge projects designed to redistribute Yakima Project water within a water year for the purposes of supplementing stream flow during the irrigation season, particularly during storage control, subject to the condition that if such a project is designed to supplement a mainstem reach, the water supply that results from the project shall be credited to instream flow targets, in lieu of using the total water supply available to meet those targets.

“(B) Aquifer storage and recovery projects that are designed, within a given water year or over multiple water years—

“(i) to supplement or mitigate for municipal uses;

“(ii) to supplement municipal supply in a subsurface aquifer; or

“(iii) to mitigate the effect of groundwater use on instream flow or senior water rights.

“(C) Aquifer storage and recovery projects designed to supplement existing irrigation water supply, or to store water in subsurface aquifers, for use by the Kittitas Reclamation District, the Roza Irrigation District, or any other proratable irrigation entity participating in the repayment of the construction, operation, and maintenance costs of the facilities under this section during years in which the total water supply available is insufficient to provide to those proratable irrigation entities all water to which the entities are entitled, subject to the conditions that—

“(i) the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Wapato Irrigation Project, and the Yakama Nation, on an election to participate, may also obtain water from aquifer storage to enhance applicable existing irrigation water supply in accordance with such terms and conditions to which the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Yakama Nation may agree; and

“(ii) nothing in this subparagraph affects (as in existence on the date of enactment of this section) any contract, law (including regulations) relating to repayment costs, water right, or Yakama Nation treaty right.

“(d) FEDERAL COST-SHARE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal cost-share of a project carried out under this section shall be determined in accordance with the applicable laws (including regulations) and policies of the Bureau of Reclamation.

“(2) INITIAL PHASE.—The Federal cost-share for the initial development phase of the Integrated Plan shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the initial development phase.

“(3) STATE AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may accept as part of the non-Federal cost-share of a project carried out under this section, and expend as if appropriated, any contribution (including in-kind services) by the State of Washington or any other individual or entity that the Secretary determines will enhance the conduct and completion of the project.

“(4) LIMITATION ON USE OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, other Federal funds may not be used to provide the non-Federal cost-share of a project carried out under this section.

“(e) SAVINGS AND CONTINGENCIES.—Nothing in this section shall—

“(1) be a new or supplemental benefit for purposes of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.);

“(2) affect any contract in existence on the date of enactment of the Yakima River

Basin Water Enhancement Project Phase III Act of 2016 that was executed pursuant to the reclamation laws;

“(3) affect any contract or agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation;

“(4) affect, waive, abrogate, diminish, define, or interpret the treaty between the Yakama Nation and the United States; or

“(5) constrain the continued authority of the Secretary to provide fish passage in the Yakima Basin in accordance with the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619 et seq.).

#### “SEC. 1214. OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF WATER SUPPLIES.

“The Secretary shall retain authority and discretion over the management of project supplies to optimize operational use and flexibility to ensure compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws, treaty rights of the Yakama Nation, and legal obligations, including those contained in this Act. That authority and discretion includes the ability of the United States to store, deliver, conserve, and reuse water supplies deriving from projects authorized under this title.”

#### Subpart B—Klamath Project Water and Power

#### SEC. 10329. KLAMATH PROJECT.

(a) ADDRESSING WATER MANAGEMENT AND POWER COSTS FOR IRRIGATION.—The Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-498; 114 Stat. 2221) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 4 through 6 as sections 5 through 7, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 3 the following:

#### “SEC. 4. POWER AND WATER MANAGEMENT.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED POWER USE.—The term ‘covered power use’ means a use of power to develop or manage water for irrigation, wildlife purposes, or drainage on land that is—

“(A) associated with the Klamath Project, including land within a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System that receives water due to the operation of Klamath Project facilities; or

“(B) irrigated by the class of users covered by the agreement dated April 30, 1956, between the California Oregon Power Company and Klamath Basin Water Users Protective Association and within the Off Project Area (as defined in the Upper Basin Comprehensive Agreement entered into on April 18, 2014), only if each applicable owner and holder of a possessory interest of the land is a party to that agreement (or a successor agreement that the Secretary determines provides a comparable benefit to the United States).

“(2) KLAMATH PROJECT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Klamath Project’ means the Bureau of Reclamation project in the States of California and Oregon.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘Klamath Project’ includes any dams, canals, and other works and interests for water diversion, storage, delivery, and drainage, flood control, and similar functions that are part of the project described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) POWER COST BENCHMARK.—The term ‘power cost benchmark’ means the average net delivered cost of power for irrigation and drainage at Reclamation projects in the area surrounding the Klamath Project that are similarly situated to the Klamath Project, including Reclamation projects that—

“(A) are located in the Pacific Northwest; and

“(B) receive project-use power.

“(b) WATER, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND POWER ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the reclamation laws and subject to appropriations and required environmental reviews, the Secretary may carry out activities, including entering into an agreement or contract or otherwise making financial assistance available—

“(A) to plan, implement, and administer programs to align water supplies and demand for irrigation water users associated with the Klamath Project, with a primary emphasis on programs developed or endorsed by local entities comprised of representatives of those water users;

“(B) to plan and implement activities and projects that—

“(i) avoid or mitigate environmental effects of irrigation activities; or

“(ii) restore habitats in the Klamath Basin watershed, including restoring tribal fishery resources held in trust; and

“(C) to limit the net delivered cost of power for covered power uses.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) authorizes the Secretary—

“(A) to develop or construct new facilities for the Klamath Project without appropriate approval from Congress under section 9 of the Reclamation Projects Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h); or

“(B) to carry out activities that have not otherwise been authorized.

“(c) REDUCING POWER COSTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the Secretary, in consultation with interested irrigation interests that are eligible for covered power use and representative organizations of those interests, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that—

“(A) identifies the power cost benchmark; and

“(B) recommends actions that, in the judgment of the Secretary, are necessary and appropriate to ensure that the net delivered power cost for covered power use is equal to or less than the power cost benchmark, including a description of—

“(i) actions to immediately reduce power costs and to have the net delivered power cost for covered power use be equal to or less than the power cost benchmark in the near term, while longer-term actions are being implemented;

“(ii) actions that prioritize water and power conservation and efficiency measures and, to the extent actions involving the development or acquisition of power generation are included, renewable energy technologies (including hydropower);

“(iii) the potential costs and timeline for the actions recommended under this subparagraph;

“(iv) provisions for modifying the actions and timeline to adapt to new information or circumstances; and

“(v) a description of public input regarding the proposed actions, including input from water users that have covered power use and the degree to which those water users concur with the recommendations.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall implement those recommendations described in the report that the Secretary determines

will ensure that the net delivered power cost for covered power use is equal to or less than the power cost benchmark, subject to availability of appropriations, on the fastest practicable timeline.

“(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to each Committee described in paragraph (1) annual reports describing progress achieved in meeting the requirements of this subsection.

“(d) TREATMENT OF POWER PURCHASES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any purchase of power by the Secretary under this section shall be considered to be an authorized sale for purposes of section 5(b)(3) of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 839c(b)(3)).

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Bonneville Power Administration to make a sale of power from the Federal Columbia River Power System at rates, terms, or conditions better than those afforded preference customers of the Bonneville Power Administration.

“(e) GOALS.—The goals of activities under subsections (b) and (c) shall include, as applicable—

“(1) the short-term and long-term reduction and resolution of conflicts relating to water in the Klamath Basin watershed; and

“(2) compatibility and utility for protecting natural resources throughout the Klamath Basin watershed, including the protection, preservation, and restoration of Klamath River tribal fishery resources, particularly through collaboratively developed agreements.

“(f) PUMPING PLANT D.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more agreements with the Tululake Irrigation District to reimburse the Tululake Irrigation District for not more than 69 percent of the cost incurred by the Tululake Irrigation District for the operation and maintenance of Pumping Plant D, on the condition that the cost benefits the United States.”.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF NON-PROJECT WATER; REPLACEMENT OF C CANAL.—

(1) DEFINITION OF KLAMATH PROJECT.—In this subsection:

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Klamath Project” means the Bureau of Reclamation project in the States of California and Oregon.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Klamath Project” includes any dams, canals, and other works and interests for water diversion, storage, delivery, and drainage, flood control, and similar functions that are part of the project described in subparagraph (A).

(2) CONVEYANCE OF NON-PROJECT WATER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity operating under a contract entered into with the United States for the operation and maintenance of Klamath Project works or facilities, and an entity operating any work or facility not owned by the United States that receives Klamath Project water, may use any of the Klamath Project works or facilities to convey non-Klamath Project water for any authorized purpose of the Klamath Project, subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C).

(B) PERMITS; MEASUREMENT.—An addition, conveyance, and use of water pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the requirements that—

(i) the applicable entity shall secure all permits required under State or local laws; and

(ii) all water delivered into, or taken out of, a Klamath Project facility pursuant to that subparagraph shall be measured.

(C) EFFECT.—A use of non-Klamath Project water under this paragraph shall not—

(i) adversely affect the delivery of water to any water user or land served by the Klamath Project; or

(ii) result in any additional cost to the United States.

(3) REPLACEMENT OF C CANAL FLUME.—The replacement of the C Canal flume within the Klamath Project shall be considered to be, and shall receive the treatment authorized for, emergency extraordinary operation and maintenance work in accordance with Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)).

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) COMPLIANCE.—In implementing this section and the amendments made by this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall comply with—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) all other applicable laws.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(A) modifies the authorities or obligations of the United States with respect to the tribal trust and treaty obligations of the United States; or

(B) creates or determines water rights or affects water rights or water right claims in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

#### PART IV—RESERVOIR OPERATION IMPROVEMENT

##### SEC. 10331. RESERVOIR OPERATION IMPROVEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RESERVED WORKS.—The term “reserved works” means any Bureau of Reclamation project facility at which the Secretary of the Interior carries out the operation and maintenance of the project facility.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Army.

(3) TRANSFERRED WORKS.—The term “transferred works” means a Bureau of Reclamation project facility, the operation and maintenance of which is carried out by a non-Federal entity, under the provisions of a formal operation and maintenance transfer contract.

(4) TRANSFERRED WORKS OPERATING ENTITY.—The term “transferred works operating entity” means the organization that is contractually responsible for operation and maintenance of transferred works.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report including, for any State in which a county designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a drought disaster area during water year 2015 is located, a list of projects, including Corps of Engineers projects, and those non-Federal projects and transferred works that are operated for flood control in accordance with rules prescribed by the Secretary pursuant to section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665), including, as applicable—

(1) the year the original water control manual was approved;

(2) the year for any subsequent revisions to the water control plan and manual of the project;

(3) a list of projects for which—

(A) operational deviations for drought contingency have been requested;

(B) the status of the request; and

(C) a description of how water conservation and water quality improvements were addressed; and

(4) a list of projects for which permanent or seasonal changes to storage allocations have been requested, and the status of the request.

(c) **PROJECT IDENTIFICATION.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of completion of the report under subsection (b), the Secretary shall identify any projects described in the report—

(1) for which the modification of the water operations manuals, including flood control rule curve, would be likely to enhance existing authorized project purposes, including for water supply benefits and flood control operations;

(2) for which the water control manual and hydrometeorological information establishing the flood control rule curves of the project have not been substantially revised during the 15-year period ending on the date of review by the Secretary; and

(3) for which the non-Federal sponsor or sponsors of a Corps of Engineers project, the owner of a non-Federal project, or the non-Federal transferred works operating entity, as applicable, has submitted to the Secretary a written request to revise water operations manuals, including flood control rule curves, based on the use of improved weather forecasting or run-off forecasting methods, new watershed data, changes to project operations, or structural improvements.

(d) **PILOT PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of identification of projects under subsection (c), if any, the Secretary shall carry out not fewer than 15 pilot projects, which shall include not less than 6 non-Federal projects, to implement revisions of water operations manuals, including flood control rule curves, based on the best available science, which may include—

(A) forecast-informed operations;

(B) new watershed data; and

(C) if applicable, in the case of non-Federal projects, structural improvements.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In implementing a pilot project under this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with all affected interests, including—

(A) non-Federal entities responsible for operations and maintenance costs of a Federal facility;

(B) individuals and entities with storage entitlements; and

(C) local agencies with flood control responsibilities downstream of a facility.

(e) **COORDINATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITIES.**—If a project identified under subsection (c) is—

(1) a non-Federal project, the Secretary, prior to carrying out an activity under this section, shall—

(A) consult with the non-Federal project owner; and

(B) enter into a cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other agreement with the non-Federal project owner describing the scope and goals of the activity and the coordination among the parties; and

(2) a Federal project, the Secretary, prior to carrying out an activity under this section, shall—

(A) consult with each Federal and non-Federal entity (including a municipal water district, irrigation district, joint powers authority, transferred works operating entity,

or other local governmental entity) that currently—

(i) manages (in whole or in part) a Federal dam or reservoir; or

(ii) is responsible for operations and maintenance costs; and

(B) enter into a cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other agreement with each such entity describing the scope and goals of the activity and the coordination among the parties.

(f) **CONSIDERATION.**—In designing and implementing a forecast-informed reservoir operations plan under subsection (d) or (g), the Secretary may consult with the appropriate agencies within the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce with expertise in atmospheric, meteorological, and hydrologic science to consider—

(1) the relationship between ocean and atmospheric conditions, including—

(A) the El Niño and La Niña cycles; and

(B) the potential for above-normal, normal, and below-normal rainfall for the coming water year, including consideration of atmospheric river forecasts;

(2) the precipitation and runoff index specific to the basin and watershed of the relevant dam or reservoir, including incorporating knowledge of hydrological and meteorological conditions that influence the timing and quantity of runoff;

(3) improved hydrologic forecasting for precipitation, snowpack, and soil moisture conditions;

(4) an adjustment of operational flood control rule curves to optimize water supply storage and reliability, hydropower production, environmental benefits for flows and temperature, and other authorized project benefits, without a reduction in flood safety; and

(5) proactive management in response to changes in forecasts.

(g) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary may accept and expend amounts from non-Federal entities and other Federal agencies to fund all or a portion of the cost of carrying out a review or revision of operational documents, including water control plans, water control manuals, water control diagrams, release schedules, rule curves, operational agreements with non-Federal entities, and any associated environmental documentation for—

(1) a Corps of Engineers project;

(2) a non-Federal project regulated for flood control by the Secretary; or

(3) a Bureau of Reclamation transferred works regulated for flood control by the Secretary.

(h) **EFFECT.**—

(1) **MANUAL REVISIONS.**—A revision of a manual shall not interfere with the authorized purposes of a Federal project or the existing purposes of a non-Federal project regulated for flood control by the Secretary.

(2) **EFFECT OF SECTION.**—

(A) Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to carry out, at a Federal dam or reservoir, any project or activity for a purpose not otherwise authorized as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) Nothing in this section affects or modifies any obligation of the Secretary under State law.

(C) Nothing in this section affects or modifies any obligation to comply with any applicable Federal law.

(3) **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION RESERVED WORKS EXCLUDED.**—This section—

(A) shall not apply to any dam or reservoir operated by the Bureau of Reclamation as a reserved work, unless all non-Federal project sponsors of a reserved work jointly provide

to the Secretary a written request for application of this section to the project; and

(B) shall apply only to Bureau of Reclamation transferred works at the written request of the transferred works operating entity.

(4) **PRIOR STUDIES.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate the efforts of the Secretary in carrying out subsections (b), (c), and (d) with the efforts of the Secretary in completing—

(i) the report required under section 1046(a)(2)(A) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2319 note; Public Law 113-121); and

(ii) the updated report required under subsection (a)(2)(B) of that section; and

(B) if the reports are available before the date on which the Secretary carries out the actions described in subsections (b), (c), and (d), consider the findings of the reports described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A).

(i) **MODIFICATIONS TO MANUALS AND CURVES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of completion of a modification to an operations manual or flood control rule curve, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report regarding the components of the forecast-based reservoir operations plan incorporated into the change.

## PART V—HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

### SEC. 10341. TERROR LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT UPPER HIDDEN BASIN DIVERSION AUTHORIZATION.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **TERROR LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.**—The term “Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project” means the project identified in section 1325 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3212), and which is Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project number 2743.

(2) **UPPER HIDDEN BASIN DIVERSION EXPANSION.**—The term “Upper Hidden Basin Diversion Expansion” means the expansion of the Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project as generally described in Exhibit E to the Upper Hidden Basin Grant Application dated July 2, 2014 and submitted to the Alaska Energy Authority Renewable Energy Fund Round VIII by Kodiak Electric Association, Inc.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The licensee for the Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project may occupy not more than 20 acres of Federal land to construct, operate, and maintain the Upper Hidden Basin Diversion Expansion without further authorization of the Secretary of the Interior or under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.).

(c) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—The Upper Hidden Basin Diversion Expansion shall be subject to appropriate terms and conditions included in an amendment to a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), including section 4(e) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 797(e)), following an environmental review by the Commission under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

### SEC. 10342. STAY AND REINSTATEMENT OF FERC LICENSE NO. 11393 FOR THE MAHONEY LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.



(2) LICENSE.—The term “license” means the license for Commission project number 11393.

(3) LICENSEE.—The term “licensee” means the holder of the license.

(b) STAY OF LICENSE.—On the request of the licensee, the Commission shall issue an order continuing the stay of the license.

(c) LIFTING OF STAY.—On the request of the licensee, but not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall—

(1) issue an order lifting the stay of the license under subsection (b); and

(2) make the effective date of the license the date on which the stay is lifted under paragraph (1).

(d) EXTENSION OF LICENSE.—On the request of the licensee and notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) for commencement of construction of the project subject to the license, the Commission shall, after reasonable notice and in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for not more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(e) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section prioritizes, or creates any advantage or disadvantage to, Commission project number 11393 under Federal law, including the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.) or the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), as compared to—

(1) any electric generating facility in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any electric generating facility that may be examined, proposed, or developed during the period of any stay or extension of the license under this section.

**SEC. 10343. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) project numbered 12642, the Commission may, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods from the date of the expiration of the extension originally issued by the Commission.

(b) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Commission shall reinstate the license effective as of the date of the expiration of the license; and

(2) the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on that expiration date.

**SEC. 10344. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR CERTAIN OTHER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) projects numbered 12737

and 12740, the Commission may, at the request of the licensee for the applicable project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the applicable project for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods from the date of the expiration of the extension originally issued by the Commission.

(b) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the period required for commencement of construction of a project described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Commission may reinstate the license for the applicable project effective as of the date of the expiration of the license; and

(2) the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on that expiration.

**SEC. 10345. EQUUS BEDS DIVISION EXTENSION.**

Section 10(h) of Public Law 86-787 (74 Stat. 1026; 120 Stat. 1474) is amended by striking “10 years” and inserting “20 years”.

**SEC. 10346. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR A FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT INVOLVING CANNONVILLE DAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 13287, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) may, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of the project for up to 4 consecutive 2-year periods after the required date of the commencement of construction described in Article 301 of the license.

(b) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the required date of the commencement of construction described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission may reinstate the license effective as of that date of expiration.

(2) EXTENSION.—If the Commission reinstates the license under paragraph (1), the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of that expiration.

**PART VI—PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER COMPENSATION**

**SEC. 10351. PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER COMPENSATION.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall initiate a proceeding to identify and determine the market, procurement, and cost recovery mechanisms that would—

(1) encourage development of pumped storage hydropower assets; and

(2) properly compensate those assets for the full range of services provided to the power grid, including—

(A) balancing electricity supply and demand;

(B) ensuring grid reliability; and

(C) cost-effectively integrating intermittent power sources into the grid.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

**MORNING BUSINESS**

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Alaska.

**ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL**

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their support of the Energy Policy Modernization Act. I think the vote we have just concluded is indicative of what I have been saying for years now. I have a relatively lengthy policy manual or handbook, if you will, of how I view the energy space and how we can work to advance our energy policies, but, as with so much nowadays, if you put down a 115-page book or if you have a multipage white paper, it kind of goes by the way. So I have framed my energy policy into three simple words. I don't have it on a chart this afternoon, but it is basically pretty simple: “Energy is good.” I think that is what we have concluded with passage of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, with 85 Members supporting us in this effort.

I thank my ranking member, Senator CANTWELL, for working with me throughout this very collaborative process. The way we built this bill was not just the two of us as colleagues on the Energy Committee but working with Members on the committee across the aisle, working with other Members of this body in a very open and transparent manner. And it was not just colleagues here within the Senate; it was the outreach we did with numerous listening sessions and the administration. I thank Secretary of Energy Moniz for his assistance in what we built. What we have in front of us and what we are recognizing today is truly a strong, committed process that yielded a strong product.

I wish to acknowledge the very, very hard work of our staffs. We all know we cannot do what we need to do as Senators without good people backing us at every turn. I am extraordinarily fortunate as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to have a team on the majority's side that is not only extraordinarily hard-working, but they are all amazing experts when it comes to the energy space.

I wish to particularly recognize my staff director, Colin Hayes. Colin came into this Energy bill midway. He came on as my staff director at the first of the year after my previous staff director, Karen Billups, who had served on the Energy Committee for close to 25 years, retires. So we had that experience and expertise leaving—and Karen worked so hard to help craft so much of

this bill, but then we needed the technician to move it through this process, and Colin Hayes stepped up in an extraordinary and remarkable way, and I thank him for all he did to guide us here.

I wish to recognize the others on my Energy Committee staff: Pat McCormick, Brian Hughes, Kellie Donnelly, and Lucy Murfitt.

I want to give a special shout-out to Lucy because she was able to help navigate some of the issues that perhaps were not seen upfront and in person, but behind the scenes were very important, not the least of which was the amendment we took a voice vote on yesterday relating to the wild horses in North Carolina. Managing interesting issues and doing it deftly was Lucy's strong suit.

I thank Severin Randall. I also thank Annie Hoefler, who made sure anything I needed in my book was there, Michael Tadeo, Tristan Abbey, Chester Carson, Isaac Edwards, Heidi Hansen, Chris Kearney, Chuck Kleeschulte, Kip Knudson, Brianne Miller, Jason Huffnagle, Ben Reinke, Krystal Edens, Melissa Enriquez, Deanna Mitchell, and Karen Dildei. They are all members of our team on the Republican side who have been working day and night for weeks and months now.

But we can't work a bill as successfully as we have today without working hand-in-glove with your counterparts on the other side. Just as Senator CANTWELL and I worked together, our staffs worked together, and they were led very ably by Angela Becker-Dippmann. Angela came to the committee after being pulled out of another place at the request of Senator CANTWELL, and her guidance has been extraordinary. I greatly appreciate her work.

I wish to recognize the other members of the minority Energy Committee staff as well. Sam Fowler has been around since time immemorial guiding us. I thank Rebecca Bonner, David Brooks, John Davis, Benjamin Drake, David Gillers, Rich Glick, Spencer Gray, Sa'Rah Hamm, Aisha Johnson, Faye Matthews, Scott McKee, Casey Neal, Bryan Petit, David Poyer, Betsy Rosenblatt, Samantha Siegler, Bradley Sinkaus, Carolyn Sloan, Rory Stanley, Melanie Stansbury, Al Stayman, Nick Sutter, Stephanie Teich-McGoldrick, and Brie Van Cleve.

This is kind of a list of Emmy Award winners in my book. But as good as our teams are, we need help here on the floor. The folks on the floor staff have been fabulous and extraordinary, and we thank them for their efforts. Laura Dove and Gary, thank you for what you have done. The other members of the Republican floor staff—Robert Duncan, Chris Tuck, Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Megan Mercer, Katherine Kilroy, Tony Hanagan, and Mike Smith—are great people to work with, and we appreciate their guidance.

We had good, strong support from the leader's office. Neil Chatterjee was a kind of energy whisperer for many of us and was a great help, as well as Kate Sterne and Monica Popp with Senator CORNYN's office, Eric Ueland and Becky Cole on the Budget Committee, Heather Burnham and Christina Jacquet at Senate Legislative Counsel, and Megan Carroll and Kathy Gramp at the Congressional Budget Office.

I am proud of the work so many have done in getting us here. We are looking forward to sitting down with our counterparts on the House side and getting to work to make sure the benefits we have achieved today in the Senate are replicated with our colleagues in the House so that we can see passage of an energy bill by both bodies and signed into law by the President.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask consent that I be permitted to make some remarks followed by the Senator from California, after which the Senate would go back into a quorum call.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator FEINSTEIN and I be allowed to speak, me first and Senator FEINSTEIN second.

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

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, in the next few minutes, Senator FEINSTEIN and I will submit for the Senate's consideration the first appropriations bill of the year. This will be the Energy and Water appropriations bill. It will be the earliest that any appropriations bill has been submitted since the Budget Act was passed in 1974. This is a good sign for the Senate. It means we are serious about our most basic constitutional responsibilities, which is the oversight of the spending of money, the setting of priorities, and doing it in a way that allows every Senator to participate.

I am privileged to be able to work with Senator FEINSTEIN, who is able to

come to a result after we have examined an important piece of legislation. She has a background as a manager, as a mayor, as a chairman of important committees, and I am very privileged to have the chance to work with her, whether we are in the majority or the minority.

Before I talk about the bill specifically, since this is the first bill, I wish to say a few words about the money we are spending. This year the Budget Control Act, which the Senate adopted in 2015—which was the law passed by the Senate by a vote of 64 to 35, October 30 of last year. This year the Budget Control Act sets the amount of money we are to spend at \$1.07 trillion. Our bill, the Energy and Water bill, will be \$37.5 billion of that approximately \$1 trillion. However, the entire Federal budget is a lot more than \$1 trillion. In fact, it is four times as much. The entire Federal budget this year is \$3.9 trillion—nearly \$4 trillion.

We are talking about appropriated dollars of about \$1 trillion, plus about 3 trillion other dollars we will spend this year through the Federal Government. Those dollars are what we call mandatory or automatic spending, plus interest on the debt.

Federal health care spending, as an example, is about \$1 trillion. It is about the same amount as all of the 12 appropriations bills that will be considered. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services head, Mr. Slavitt, is in charge of spending about \$886 billion every year—almost all mandatory spending. The part of the budget we are talking about, and we will be talking about for the next 12 weeks, is one-fourth of the total Federal spending.

I thank Senator MCCONNELL, the majority leader, for making this a priority. I thank Senator REID, the Democratic leader, for suggesting to Senator MCCONNELL and to all of us on behalf of the Democrats that they, too, want to see us move through the process. This gives the American people a chance to see how we spend their money.

The American people care about how we spend their money because we have a big debt. There is a lot of talk about that debt, which is \$19 trillion. This year, the total revenues of the Federal Government are about \$3.36 billion, but the spending is about \$3.9 trillion. Elementary school mathematics will show we are adding about \$534 billion more to our \$19 trillion debt this year.

It is important to point out that the spending we are talking about in this bill and the other 11 discretionary bills is not the problem. I would like to ask the Chair to look at the bottom line, the blue line. That is what we call the discretionary spending. That is the money the Appropriations Committee works on. That is the trillion dollars we are appropriating in these bills.

It has been flat since 2008, and it is rising at about the rate of inflation

over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. If the entire budget had followed the path of that blue line on the bottom—that is the money we are in charge of in the Appropriations Committee—we would not have a debt problem. Look where the debt problem is coming from. That is the automatic mandatory spending, that red line. That does not even include the interest on the Federal debt. I have suggested in our conference that maybe what the Senate would want to do is turn the entire budget over to the Appropriations Committee because we are doing our job, and apparently the rest of the Senate—or all of us as a whole—is not doing its job and is running up a big Federal debt.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have been presented an amount of money by the committee and by the Senate that we allocate. We have done that through four hearings. I will be talking about that. We have set priorities, we have cut wasteful spending, and we are beginning to get big construction projects under control.

We have eliminated funding for an infusion project in France. That saves \$125 million in a year, which we can then put on other priorities. We have the Uranium Processing Facility in Oak Ridge, TN, now on a project where it will be 90 percent designed before it is built, and it will be on time and on budget before it is finished.

We are working with the Armed Services Committee to try to do something similar with a mock facility in South Carolina. We have a red team—the kind of red team that helped us at Oak Ridge and South Carolina—working on the New Mexico construction projects. Working together, our oversight is saving the taxpayers money, staying within the budget, and I am glad to say we are not part of the debt problem.

Sometimes we as a full Senate will start working on that top line. Senator CORKER and I have a bill that would reduce that top-line growth by \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. The problem is, Senator CORKER and I are the only cosponsors of the bill, so we will not be talking about that much today.

I understand there may be an attempt to change the level of funding that we make, and I will talk about that at the time this afternoon when the amendments come up. So everybody is thinking about that beforehand, No. 1, we are following the law. That is where our budgeting is. No. 2, the Budget Committee of the Senate has begun to start its budget process based upon the number that the law sets. No. 3, our appropriations bills are not the debt problem. The problem is the mandatory spending and interest on the debt, and sooner or later we need to deal with it.

Last Thursday, Senator FEINSTEIN and I, and the Senate Appropriations

Committee, approved the fiscal year 2017 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill by a unanimous vote of 30 to nothing. Thirty of the 100 Members of this body who are on that committee all voted for it.

This bill includes some items very familiar to the American people, things that they would like for us to fund properly, such as flood control; navigation on our rivers; deepening harbors, whether it is in California, Mobile, Charleston, or Savannah; rebuilding locks, whether they are in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, or in inland waterways; the 17 National Labs, which are our secret weapon in job growth across our country; and supercomputing. We seek to lead the world in supercomputing, and it is another great source of job growth.

A big part of our budget has to do with nuclear weapons and national defense. At a time when our world is so unsafe, Americans are hoping we can deal with that.

We worked together in a fair and accommodating manner under challenging fiscal strengths to create a bipartisan bill. As I said earlier, the sum is \$37.5 billion, \$355 million more than last year. Reaching a bipartisan consensus wasn't easy. We received an allocation for defense spending that was higher than last year by \$1.163 billion but \$808 million lower for the non-defense parts of our budget.

The funding includes several Federal agencies that do important work, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

We also started with an unrealistic budget proposal from the President, which cut the Corps of Engineers by \$1.4 billion and proposed \$2.3 billion in new mandatory funding for the Department of Energy.

The bill Senator FEINSTEIN and I negotiated supports our waterways and puts us one step closer to doubling basic energy research, helps to resolve the nuclear waste stalemate, cleans up hazardous material at Cold War sites, and maintains our nuclear weapons stockpile. We also conducted intensive oversight of the President's budget request and the Department of Energy. As I mentioned earlier, we eliminated at least one low-priority program which will save about \$125 million to reduce waste. That program, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, is located in France and started in 2005 with an initial cost of \$1.1 billion, but we have already invested that much and the project will not likely be completed until after 2025.

As I mentioned earlier, we worked together to keep the big uranium projects on time and on budget. It is now on time and on budget. It will be

90-percent designed before it is constructed, and we are also working together to control the MOX facility and the facility in New Mexico.

Mr. President, 77 Senators submitted requests to us, and we worked hard to accommodate the request of every Senator. We have had many other Senators who have come to us since then with amendments they would like to offer. Most Senators—I would say in the eighties—have something they think is important in this bill. If Senators decide we need to spend less money, I guess they need to be prepared to send us letters suggesting what they would like to take out of the bill, since we put letters into the bill based upon the amount of money the law said we should spend.

The last time the Senate passed this bill, the Energy and Water appropriations bill, under regular order was 2009. I look forward to a regular appropriations process.

At this time, I will briefly highlight a few parts of the bill. No. 1 is waterways infrastructure. The bill restores \$1.4 billion that the President proposed to cut from the Corps of Engineers. It sets a new record level of funding for the Corps in a regular appropriations bill. Many Senators have urged us to do this. There is not a funding line in the bill that has more support than the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps rebuilds locks and dams, dredges our rivers and harbors, works to prevent floods and storm damage, and builds environmental restoration projects. If we had simply approved the President's request, the Corps would have received less than what Congress appropriated in 2006, setting us back more than a decade.

In Tennessee, we provided enough funding to continue building a new Chickamauga Lock in fiscal year 2017. Up to \$37 million will be available to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue work on the Chickamauga Lock. Only last month the Corps reiterated its most recent study that the Chickamauga Lock continues to be the fourth highest priority of essential American waterways to be rebuilt.

We included \$1.3 billion for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. This is the third consecutive year we funded the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund consistent with the funding level that Congress recommended in the Water Resources Development Act. This will permit us to deepen harbors, including Gulfport, Charleston, Mobile, Texas, Louisiana, Anchorage, Savannah, and harbors on the west coast.

Doubling basic energy research is a goal I have long supported and is one of the most important things we can do to unleash our free enterprise system.

Senator DURBIN and I worked together on an amendment to the Energy bill that increases the authorized funding levels for the Office of Science by

about 7 percent per year, which would double the budget of the Office of Science from a little over \$5 billion today to more than \$10 billion in 10 years. That is basically the money that the U.S. Government spends on energy research. The Senate adopted our amendment by a voice vote, which demonstrates how much support there is for this goal. The President proposed to spend even more on energy research, including the Mission Innovation proposal, the pledge launched by the United States and 19 other countries at the climate summit in Paris, to double Federal clean energy research over the next 5 years. The problem is that President Obama's budget request proposed \$2.259 billion in new mandatory funding for the Department of Energy. However, his commitment to doubling Federal clean energy research with mandatory funding comes at the expense of other resources and other agencies, which is at best unhelpful and at worse misleading. It is wishful thinking, and everyone knows it is not going to happen. Instead, we focused on priorities for discretionary funding annually approved by Congress. That is the bottom line that is under control, and it is not the source of our Federal debt problems.

Our top priority was the Office of Science, which includes \$5.4 billion to support basic energy research—\$50 million more than last year. This is the second year we have been able to increase funding for the Office of Science, which sets a new record level for funding for that office in a regular appropriations bill. This puts us one step closer to doubling funding for Federal basic energy research.

The bill includes \$292.7 million for ARPA-E, an agency that invests in high-impact energy technologies. The funding is a little more than last year's \$1.7 million. The bill also supports the Department of Energy's continued efforts to advance exascale computing and includes a total of \$285 million to produce these next-generation computers.

Nuclear power provides about 20 percent of our country's electricity and 60 percent of our carbon-free electricity. If we are going to have the abundance of clean, cheap, reliable energy that we want and need, we need to unleash nuclear power by removing obstacles in its way.

Our legislation sends a strong signal about our support for new technologies in the next generation of nuclear powerplants. We included \$94.5 million for advanced reactors, \$21 million more than the President's budget request. We included \$95 million for small modular reactors, \$32.5 million over last year.

One way our bill helps is by taking important steps towards solving our country's stalemate over what to do with nuclear waste—a bipartisan issue

and a goal that Senator FEINSTEIN and I agree on and have been working hard to accomplish. Our legislation, therefore, includes a pilot program, which was Senator FEINSTEIN's suggestion 3 years ago, for consolidated nuclear waste storage. She and I introduced that over the past 4 years. The new sites we are seeking to establish will not take the place of Yucca Mountain—we have more than enough useful fuel to fill Yucca Mountain to its legal capacity—but it would rather complement it. We also provide funding for the U.S. Department of Energy to store nuclear waste at private facilities approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, such as the one proposed in west Texas.

We are also supporting research in this bill that will help continue the work that is necessary to safely extend nuclear power operating licenses from 60 to 80 years. In my view, that is the simplest, easiest way to have a large amount of new carbon-free electricity in the near term.

Finally, this legislation provides a total of \$12.9 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration and fully funds the warhead life extension programs recommended by the Nuclear Weapons Council in the design of the Ohio-class replacement submarine. It also supports crucial weapons facilities related to our national security.

The bill provides \$575 million for the Uranium Processing Facility in Oak Ridge, TN. It keeps the project on track to be completed by 2025, at a cost of no more than \$6.5 billion.

The legislation also advances our efforts to clean up hazardous materials at Cold War sites. A total of \$5.4 billion is provided to support cleanup efforts, which is \$144 million above the President's budget request.

This bill adequately funds our Nation's energy and water priorities and fully complies with the spending limits established by the Budget Control Act. The Budget Control Act continues a line of spending for the appropriated dollars, which is the bottom line on the chart. The blue line on the chart, which has been flat since 2008 and only grows with the rate of inflation for the next 10 years according to the Congressional Budget Office, is not the source of the Federal debt problem. The rest of the line spends three times as much as the amount of money we are spending in the 12 appropriation bills we will be addressing for the next 2 weeks.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for her leadership and cooperation. I urge Senators to support the bill. We are already working on amendments with Senators that they seek to offer. We hope to begin voting on some this afternoon in an open amendment process and thereby proving that the appropriations process works.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the fiscal year 2017 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

I wish to begin by thanking my friend and colleague, Senator ALEXANDER. We have served together as chairman or ranking member of this subcommittee for the past 5 years. I know of no one in this body who is more intelligent or has a greater sense of fairness. I just want Senator ALEXANDER to know what a great treat it has been to work with him for 5 years. I think we have a bill that will stand the test of time. Each of us has had different views on different parts of the bill, but that is part of what makes this a great country.

I say to Senator ALEXANDER, I just want to thank you for being who you are and thank you for being the kind of U.S. Senator you are. Thank you very much.

As the chairman mentioned, this bill has reached the floor for the first time since 2009. It is also being considered as an appropriations bill on the floor with the quickest time since the budgeting process began in 1974. I just want to say thank you to our leadership on both sides for the desire to get us back to regular order and particularly on appropriations bills.

I wish to thank all of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for supporting this bill during last week's markup. As the chairman said, the vote was 30 to nothing, and that is a pretty good vote, so I thank my colleagues very much.

I believe this is a good bill. It is a fair bill. It does contain trade-offs and hard choices, and we have worked together to settle differences. Obviously, the chair is the chair and those views come No. 1, but in the case of this chair, he has been eminently fair and I am very grateful for that.

As he said, our allocation is \$37.5 billion. That is a \$350 million increase over fiscal year 2016, and given the top line budget constraints, this is a good allocation.

Let me first speak about the defense portion of the bill. Defense spending in this bill is \$20 billion, a \$450 million increase over fiscal year 2016. Our defense spending includes funding for cleaning up the environmental legacy of the cold war, maintaining our nuclear deterrent, supporting our nuclear Navy, and partnering with allies to keep nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists.

Funding for our nuclear deterrent this year is \$9.3 billion, \$438 million above last year and equal to the President's budget request.

The science and engineering activities needed to maintain the nuclear stockpile without explosive testing are fully funded at \$1.8 billion. The life extension programs for our nuclear warheads are also fully funded, including

for the new cruise missile warhead, which I will speak to a little bit more in a moment.

I wish to take a moment now, though, to discuss my concerns with the long-range standoff weapon, or the LRSO. I believe the Defense Department is wrong when it argues that this isn't a new nuclear weapon. I think it is, and it carries with it powerful ramifications. The LRSO would carry an upgraded W80 warhead capable of immense destruction, and it would be fitted on to a new missile specifically designed to defeat the world's most advanced missile defense systems.

I firmly believe that the LRSO is unnecessary. The United States has already developed and fielded a conventional cruise missile specifically designed to do the same job as the LRSO. Furthermore, the United States has a variety of nuclear ballistic missiles that can reach any target anywhere in the world.

Why do I feel so strongly about this? It is very personal with me. I am one of the few who have seen this. I was 12 years old when the United States of America—my country—dropped nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As the hundreds of thousands of bodies were seared with burns as the radiation spread, I have never quite gotten over what happened. I have reached the concept that nuclear weapons are really bad for this world. I will not go into it. When we see countries like North Korea practicing tests and other countries struggling to get a nuclear weapon and the high likelihood of terrorists also seeking out radioactive materials, I am very concerned about the probable use of this missile.

In a letter sent 2 years ago, Under Secretary of Defense Frank Kendall wrote the following: "Beyond deterrence, an LRSO-armed bomber force provides the President with uniquely flexible options in an extreme crisis."

This suggestion—that nuclear weapons should be a "flexible" option—is alarming. We should never lower the threshold for using nuclear weapons. In fact, I believe we can further reduce the role of nuclear weapons while still maintaining their deterrent effect by terminating the LRSO and instead relying on conventional nonnuclear weapons.

Obviously, this is a point of disagreement between the two of us. This is why I am very thankful to the chairman. He has agreed to include language in the committee report requiring Energy Secretary Moniz and the Nuclear Weapons Council to provide more information on this warhead, including its military justification and the extent to which conventional weapons systems can meet the same objectives. I think we should have that material.

I am also grateful to Senator ALEXANDER for his commitment to hold a subcommittee hearing on the new nu-

clear cruise missile. I believe this issue hasn't received the attention it deserves, and it requires some public discussion. So I want to say thank you to him. I have yielded to his point of view and exchange. I actually am happy with the report language and the hearing. So I thank the chairman very much.

Going back to the nonproliferation account, it is funded at the President's requested level of \$1.8 billion. But this is a \$120 million decrease from last year, and I hope we can do better next year.

Work with Russia on securing material and facilities in that country has slowed, but other threats remain at home and abroad, and I believe we should be investing more.

Funding for the environmental cleanup of legacy cold war sites is the highest it has been in many years—and that is very good—at \$5.4 billion, which is a \$126 million increase above last year. This reflects the importance this subcommittee has placed on addressing environmental contamination at sites in Washington, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Tennessee. I thank the chairman for what he said about putting a pilot nuclear waste facility reference in our bill. Nuclear waste is piling up all over this country, with no good place for it to go. I can reference my State alone.

Southern California Edison, a huge utility serving over 16 million people, has had two big nuclear reactors, each one 1,100 megawatts. They are now in the process of decommissioning those reactors. This facility sits in the heart of an urban area, and there are now 3,300 hot plutonium rods in spent fuel pools at that facility site. We need a place for nuclear waste in this country because it is very dangerous to have it spread all over and to have decommissioned reactors with hot plutonium waste in spent fuel pools right on the coast of the Pacific Rim where we see earthquakes happening, not the least of which was in Ecuador and a recent quake in Japan.

Now let me turn to the nondefense half of the bill. Our nondefense allocation this year is \$17.5 billion, and that is roughly a \$100 million decrease from fiscal year 2016. One of the anomalies of this portfolio is the fact that as defense goes up, it crowds out the nondefense—important things like the Army Corps of Engineers, important things like the Office of Science. So our nondefense allocation is at \$17.5 billion.

Despite this, the bill maintains funding levels for basic scientific research, energy technology development, and water infrastructure. Funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science sees a modest increase of \$50 million to \$5.4 billion this year.

The Office of Science is the largest single funder of physical science research in the United States—think of

that—and supports research at 300 universities in all 50 States. Its experimental facilities host more than 24,000 researchers each year.

Funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is \$2.1 billion, equal to fiscal year 2016, and that program funds activities to develop the technology that makes our homes, cars, and factories more efficient. It lowers the cost of renewable energy sources like solar and geothermal.

While I wish we could have funded the President's proposed mark for Mission Innovation climate change, I want my colleagues to know that we did the best we could, but we were simply unable to make it work with the allocation we received.

The chairman mentioned the Army Corps of Engineers. With the highway program and the Army Corps, this is really the Federal infrastructure program, and it is funded at \$6 billion. This is a historic high. It maintains level funding for the Bureau of Reclamation at \$1.275 billion. In particular, the bill provides an estimated \$1.3 billion from the harbor maintenance trust fund. That is the highest level ever.

While users of our Nation's harbors and ports pay into the fund, the money does not get disbursed by itself, and it is up to us to appropriate the money out of the fund. This has been a challenge under current budget caps, and it has been a challenge to me because my State—California—pays approximately 40 percent of the fund's receipts each year but gets shortchanged by the disbursement formula. So I am very pleased that the chairman and the members have agreed to provide an additional \$50 million for energy ports and donor ports like L.A.-Long Beach and Seattle-Tacoma that otherwise see little benefit from the harbor maintenance trust fund.

The bill, once again, includes \$100 million for the Bureau of Reclamation's Western Drought Response program. Ten of the 17 reclamation States are currently suffering from severe to exceptional drought conditions that have devastated the agricultural industry, left some rural communities without any water for drinking or bathing, and killed tens of millions of trees that could lead to yet another catastrophic wildfire season in these 10 States. We in California had hoped that El Nino storms would refill California reservoirs, but the drought persists and will persist. It is estimated that we need a snowpack, just for point of interest, of 150 percent of the average by April 1 in order to end the drought, and the snowpack was only 87 percent of the historical average. Therefore, this \$100 million is critical to operating water systems more flexibly and efficiently, restoring critical wetlands and habitat, and ensuring that the best

science and observational techniques are being brought to bear.

The bill also makes critical investments in new water supply technologies to help mitigate the current drought and lessen the impacts of future droughts such as desalinization, water recycling, and groundwater recharge.

As Members begin to bring amendments to the floor, I very much urge my colleagues, particularly on this side, to exercise restraint, particularly with policy amendments. The Senate has just completed a broad energy authorization bill, and I understand that the Environmental and Public Works Committee will soon be drafting a Water Resources Development Act. So I want my colleagues to know that the subcommittee has had to make some tough choices, but these decisions were made in a bipartisan way and have led us to draft a balanced bill, one that I believe and hope should satisfy Members on both sides of the aisle.

I thank the chairman and the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed on H.R. 2028 is withdrawn and the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

*That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:*

#### TITLE I CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

*The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.*

#### INVESTIGATIONS

*For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and*

*harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$109,000,000, to remain available until expended.*

#### CONSTRUCTION

*For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$1,641,000,000, to remain available until expended; of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund as authorized by Public Law 104-303; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover one-half of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law.*

#### MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

*For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$330,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.*

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

*For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$2,909,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; and of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: Provided, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field oper-*

*ating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities.*

#### REGULATORY PROGRAM

*For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.*

#### FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

*For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$101,500,000, to remain available until expended.*

#### FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

*For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$28,000,000, to remain available until expended.*

#### EXPENSES

*For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, \$178,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: Provided further, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.*

#### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

*For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.*

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in title I of this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title I of this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2016, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity for a different purpose, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;

(5) augments or reduces existing programs, projects or activities in excess of the amounts contained in subsections 6 through 10, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;

(6) INVESTIGATIONS.—For a base level over \$100,000, reprogramming of 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$150,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: Provided, That for a base level less than \$100,000, the reprogramming limit is \$25,000: Provided further, That up to \$25,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(7) CONSTRUCTION.—For a base level over \$2,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$3,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: Provided, That for a base level less than \$2,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$300,000: Provided further, That up to \$3,000,000 may be reprogrammed for settled contractor claims, changed conditions, or real estate deficiency judgments: Provided further, That up to \$300,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(8) OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.—Unlimited reprogramming authority is granted in order for the Corps to be able to respond to emergencies: Provided, That the Chief of Engineers must notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of these emergency actions as soon thereafter as practicable: Provided further, That for a base level over \$1,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount a limit of \$5,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: Provided further, That for a base level less than \$1,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$150,000: Provided further, That \$150,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation;

(9) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES.—The same reprogramming guidelines for the Investigations, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance portions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Account as listed above; and

(10) FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM.—Reprogramming of up to 15 percent of the base of the receiving project is permitted.

(b) DE MINIMUS REPROGRAMMINGS.—In no case should a reprogramming for less than \$50,000 be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

(c) CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity funded under the continuing authorities program.

(d) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Corps of Engineers shall submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: Provided, That the report shall include:

(1) A table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if applicable, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) A delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations; and

(3) An identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 102. (a) Of the funds made available in prior appropriations Acts for water resources ef-

forts under the headings "Corps of Engineers-Civil, Department of the Army, Construction" that remain unobligated as of the date of enactment of this Act, including amounts specified in law for particular projects, programs, or activities, \$128,000,000 is rescinded.

(b) None of the funds under subsection (a) may be rescinded from amounts that the Congress designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

SEC. 103. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$4,700,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definitions of the terms "fill material" or "discharge of fill material" for the purposes of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

#### PROJECT DEAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 105. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall execute a transfer agreement with the South Florida Water Management District for the project identified as the "Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Critical Restoration Project", carried out under section 528(b)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3768).

(b) The transfer agreement under subsection (a) shall require the South Florida Water Management District to operate the transferred project as an environmental restoration project to provide water storage and water treatment options.

(c) Upon execution of the transfer agreement under subsection (a), the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Critical Restoration Project shall no longer be authorized as a Federal project.

SEC. 106. Section 5032(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1205) is amended by striking "15" and inserting "20".

SEC. 107. (a) No funds made available in this Act or any prior Act shall be available to reallocate water within the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) river basin, or any study thereof, until the Corps of Engineers has executed a Partnering Agreement with Alabama and Georgia outlining the participation of each State in a water reallocation study for the ACT river basin.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall apply to the use of contributed or other non-Federal funds.

## TITLE II

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

##### CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$9,874,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,000,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: Provided, That, of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,350,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided further, That, for fiscal year 2016, of the amount made available to the Com-

mission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for administrative expenses.

#### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

#### WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, \$988,131,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$22,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$5,899,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: Provided, That such transfers may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: Provided further, That, of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: Provided further, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: Provided further, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That, of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706.

#### CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, \$49,528,000, to be derived from such sums as may be collected in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102-575, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102-575: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

#### CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$37,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: Provided, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: Provided further, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent

progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

#### POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the five regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2017, \$58,500,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;

(4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits—

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$300,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category; or

(7) transfers, when necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “transfer” means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joa-

quin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the “Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan” and the “SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan” described in the report entitled “Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995”, prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. Section 9504(e) of the Secure Water Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10364(e)) is amended by striking “\$300,000,000” and inserting “\$500,000,000”.

SEC. 204. Title I of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681), as amended by section 210 of Public Law 111–85, is amended by striking “2016” each place it appears and inserting “2020”.

SEC. 205. The Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 is amended by—

(1) striking “Construction” and inserting “Except as provided in section 5B, construction” in section 3; and

(2) inserting after section 5A (43 U.S.C. 509a) the following:

“SEC. 5B. Notwithstanding section 3, if the Secretary, in her judgment, determines that additional project benefits, including but not limited to additional conservation storage capacity, are necessary and in the interests of the United States and the project and are feasible and not inconsistent with the purposes of this Act, the Secretary is authorized to develop additional project benefits through the construction of new or supplementary works on a project in conjunction with the Secretary’s activities under section 2 of this Act and subject to the conditions described in the feasibility study, provided the costs associated with developing the additional project benefits are allocated to the authorized purposes of the project that have a benefit, a cost share agreement related to the additional project benefits is reached among State and Federal funding agencies and repaid consistent with all provisions of Federal Reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902, 43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.) and acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act.”

SEC. 206. Section 5 of the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 509) is amended in the first sentence—

(a) by inserting “and effective October 1, 2015, not to exceed an additional \$1,100,000,000 (October 1, 2003, price levels),” after “(October 1, 2003, price levels).”;

(b) in the proviso—

(1) by striking “\$1,250,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”; and

(2) by striking “Congress” and inserting “Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “For modification expenditures between \$1,800,000 and \$20,000,000 (October 1, 2013, price levels), the Secretary of the Interior shall, at least 30 days before the date on which the funds are expended, submit written notice of the expenditures to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate that provides a summary of the project, the cost of the project, and any alternatives that were considered.”

SEC. 207. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall—

(a) complete the feasibility studies described in clauses (i)(I) and (ii)(II) of section 103(d)(1)(A) of Public Law 108–361 (118 Stat. 1684) and submit such studies to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than December 31, 2015;

(b) complete the feasibility study described in clause (i)(II) of section 103(d)(1)(A) of Public Law 108–361 and submit such study to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than November 30, 2016;

(c) complete a publicly available draft feasibility study for the project described in clause (ii)(I) of section 103(d)(1)(A) of Public Law 108–361 and submit such study to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than November 30, 2016;

(d) complete the feasibility study described in clause (ii)(I) of section 103(d)(1)(A) of Public Law 108–361 and submit such study to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than November 30, 2017;

(e) complete the feasibility study described in section 103(f)(1)(A) of Public Law 108–361 (118 Stat. 1694) and submit such study to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than December 31, 2017; and

(f) provide a progress report on the status of the feasibility studies referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3) to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and each 180 days thereafter until December 31, 2017, as applicable. The report shall include timelines for study completion, draft environmental impact statements, final environmental impact statements, and Records of Decision.

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, funds provided by this Act for California Bay-Delta Restoration may be used to deliver water to the Trinity River above the minimum requirements of the Trinity Record of Decision or to supplement flows in the Klamath River.

SEC. 209. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, funds made available by this Act for Central Valley Project Restoration Fund may be used for all authorized activities necessary to supplement or enhance the instream flow requirements in the State of California that are mandated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

#### TITLE III DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY PROGRAMS

##### ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,950,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of such amount, \$160,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction: Provided further, That, of the amount provided under this heading, the Secretary may transfer up to \$45,000,000 to the Defense Production Act Fund for activities of the Department of Energy pursuant to the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2061, et seq.).



## ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity delivery and energy reliability activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$152,306,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of such amount, \$27,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$950,161,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of such amount, \$80,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$10,000: Provided, That, of such amount, \$24,000,000 shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

## FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$610,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of such amount, \$115,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

## NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$17,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

## STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

## NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$7,600,000, to remain available until expended.

## ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$122,000,000, to remain available until expended.

## NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$244,000,000, to remain available until expended.

## URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, \$614,000,000, to be derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which \$32,959,000 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

## SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 17 passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, including one ambulance and one bus, \$5,143,877,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of such amount, \$185,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

## ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69), \$291,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of such amount, \$28,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

## TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided, That, for necessary administrative expenses to carry out this Loan Guarantee program, \$42,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2017: Provided further, That \$25,000,000 of the fees collected pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account to cover administrative expenses and shall remain available until expended, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$17,000,000: Provided further, That fees collected under section 1702(h) in excess of the amount appropriated for administrative expenses shall not be available until appropriated: Provided further, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.10 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

## ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$6,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

## DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$248,142,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): Provided, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: Provided further, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$117,171,000 in fiscal year 2016 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$130,971,000: Provided further, That, of the total amount made available under this heading, \$31,297,000 is for Energy Policy and Systems Analysis.

## OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$46,424,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

## ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$8,882,364,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$97,118,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,705,912,000, to remain available until expended.

## NAVAL REACTORS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion,

\$1,300,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$42,504,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

#### FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$375,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$12,000.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

##### DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of not to exceed one fire apparatus pumper truck and one armored vehicle for replacement only, \$5,180,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of such amount, \$281,951,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction: Provided further, That the Office of Environmental Management shall not accept ownership or responsibility for cleanup of any National Nuclear Security Administration facilities or sites without funding specifically designated for that purpose in an Appropriations Act at the time of transfer.

##### DEFENSE URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities for Department of Energy contributions for uranium enrichment decontamination and decommissioning activities, \$614,000,000, to be deposited into the Defense Environmental Cleanup account which shall be transferred to the "Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund".

##### OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$764,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of such amount, \$249,137,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

#### POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93-454, are approved for the Shoshone Paiute Trout Hatchery, the Spokane Tribal Hatchery, the Snake River Sockeye Weirs and, in addition, for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: Provided, That, during fiscal year 2016, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

#### OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operations and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary

services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, \$6,900,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$6,900,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$0: Provided further, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$66,500,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That, for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

#### OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operations and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$47,361,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$35,961,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$11,400,000: Provided further, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$63,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That, for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

#### CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, \$307,714,000, including official reception and representation

expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended, of which \$302,000,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: Provided, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$214,342,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$93,372,000, of which \$87,658,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: Provided further, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$352,813,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That, for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

#### FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

For operations, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$4,490,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): Provided, That, notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$4,262,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$228,000: Provided further, That, for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: Provided further, That, for fiscal year 2016, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$460,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: Provided further, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$319,800,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$319,800,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2016 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2016 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSIONS OF  
FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(D) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs", enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government's obligation on the availability of

future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the "Bill" column in the "Department of Energy" table included under the heading "Title III—Department of Energy" in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

SEC. 302. The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 303. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414) during fiscal year 2016 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Independent Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 305. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 306. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFECTED INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "affected Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(2) HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE.—The term "high-level radioactive waste" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(3) NUCLEAR WASTE FUND.—The term "Nuclear Waste Fund" means the Nuclear Waste Fund established under section 302(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10222(c)).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(5) SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.—The term "spent nuclear fuel" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), the Secretary is authorized, in the current fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years, to conduct a pilot program, through 1 or more private sector partners, to license, construct, and operate 1 or more government or privately owned consolidated storage facilities to provide interim storage as needed for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, with priority for storage given to spent nuclear fuel located on sites without an operating nuclear reactor.

(c) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals for cooperative agreements—

(1) to obtain any license necessary from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the construction of 1 or more consolidated storage facilities;

(2) to demonstrate the safe transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable; and

(3) to demonstrate the safe storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable, at the 1 or more consolidated storage facilities pending the construction and operation of deep geologic disposal capacity for the permanent disposal of the spent nuclear fuel.

(d) CONSENT-BASED APPROVAL.—Prior to siting a consolidated storage facility pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement to host the facility with—

(1) the Governor of the State;

(2) each unit of local government within the jurisdiction of which the facility is proposed to be located; and

(3) each affected Indian tribe.

(e) APPLICABILITY.—In executing this section, the Secretary shall comply with—

(1) all licensing requirements and regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and

(2) all other applicable laws (including regulations).

(f) PILOT PROGRAM PLAN.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the request for proposals under subsection (c), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan to carry out this section that includes—

(1) an estimate of the cost of licensing, constructing, and operating a consolidated storage facility, including the transportation costs, on an annual basis, over the expected lifetime of the facility;

(2) a schedule for—

(A) obtaining any license necessary to construct and operate a consolidated storage facility from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

(B) constructing the facility;

(C) transporting spent fuel to the facility; and

(D) removing the spent fuel and decommissioning the facility; and

(3) an estimate of the cost of any financial assistance, compensation, or incentives proposed

to be paid to the host State, Indian tribe, or local government;

(4) an estimate of any future reductions in the damages expected to be paid by the United States for the delay of the Department of Energy in accepting spent fuel expected to result from the pilot program;

(5) recommendations for any additional legislation needed to authorize and implement the pilot program; and

(6) recommendations for a mechanism to ensure that any spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste stored at a consolidated storage facility pursuant to this section shall move to deep geologic disposal capacity, following a consent-based approval process for that deep geologic disposal capacity consistent with subsection (d), within a reasonable time after the issuance of a license to construct and operate the consolidated storage facility.

(g) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—Prior to choosing a site for the construction of a consolidated storage facility under this section, the Secretary shall conduct 1 or more public hearings in the vicinity of each potential site and in at least 1 other location within the State in which the site is located to solicit public comments and recommendations.

(h) **USE OF NUCLEAR WASTE FUND.**—The Secretary may make expenditures from the Nuclear Waste Fund to carry out this section, subject to appropriations.

**SEC. 307. (a) NOTIFICATION OF STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE DRAWDOWN.**—None of the funds made available by this Act or any prior or subsequent Act, or funds made available in the SPR Petroleum Account, may be used in this fiscal year or each subsequent fiscal year, to conduct a drawdown (including a test drawdown) and sale or exchange of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve unless the Secretary of Energy provides notice, in accordance with subsection (b), of such exchange, or drawdown (including a test drawdown) to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(b)(1) **CONTENT OF NOTIFICATION.**—The notification required under subsection (a) shall include at a minimum—

(A) the justification for the drawdown or exchange, including—

(i) a specific description of any obligation under international energy agreements; and

(ii) in the case of a test drawdown, the specific aspects of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to be tested;

(B) the provisions of law (including regulations) authorizing the drawdown or exchange;

(C) the number of barrels of petroleum products proposed to be withdrawn or exchanged;

(D) the location of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve site or sites from which the petroleum products are proposed to be withdrawn;

(E) a good faith estimate of the expected proceeds from the sale of the petroleum products;

(F) an estimate of the total inventories of petroleum products in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve after the anticipated drawdown;

(G) a detailed plan for disposition of the proceeds after deposit into the SPR Petroleum Account; and

(H) a plan for refilling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, including whether the acquisition will be of the same or a different petroleum product.

(2) **TIMING OF NOTIFICATION.**—The Secretary shall provide the notification required under subsection (a)—

(A) in the case of an exchange or a drawdown, as soon as practicable after the exchange or drawdown has occurred; and

(B) in the case of a test drawdown, not later than 30 days prior to the test drawdown.

(c) **POST-SALE NOTIFICATION.**—In addition to reporting requirements under other provisions of

law, the Secretary shall, upon the execution of all contract awards in this fiscal year and each subsequent fiscal year associated with a competitive sale of petroleum products, notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the actual value of the proceeds from the sale.

(d)(1) **NEW REGIONAL RESERVES.**—The Secretary may not establish any new regional petroleum product reserve unless funding for the proposed regional petroleum product reserve is explicitly requested in advance in an annual budget submission and approved by the Congress in an appropriations Act.

(2) The budget request or notification shall include—

(A) the justification for the new reserve;

(B) a cost estimate for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the reserve, including funding sources;

(C) a detailed plan for operation of the reserve, including the conditions upon which the products may be released;

(D) the location of the reserve; and

(E) the estimate of the total inventory of the reserve.

**SEC. 308. (a)** Unobligated balances available from appropriations for fiscal years 2005 through 2010 are hereby permanently rescinded from the following accounts of the Department of Energy in the specified amounts:

(1) “Energy Programs—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy”, \$16,677,000.

(2) “Energy Programs—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability”, \$900,000.

(3) “Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy”, \$1,665,000.

(4) “Energy Programs—Fossil Energy Research and Development”, \$12,064,000.

(5) “Energy Programs—Science”, \$4,717,000.

(6) “Power Marketing Administrations—Construction, Rehabilitation, Operation and Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration”, \$4,832,000.

(b) No amounts may be rescinded by this section from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

**SEC. 309. (a)** Unobligated balances available from appropriations are hereby permanently rescinded from the following accounts of the Department of Energy in the specified amounts:

(1) “Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities”, \$65,135,000.

(2) “Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation”, \$19,324,000.

(3) “Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Naval Reactors”, \$628,000.

(b) No amounts may be rescinded by this section from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

**SEC. 310. (a)** Of the amounts made available by this Act for “National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities”, up to \$50,000,000 may be reprogrammed within such account for Domestic Uranium Enrichment, subject to the notice requirements in section 301.

#### TECHNICAL CORRECTION

**SEC. 311. (a) CONTRACTS FOR STORAGE.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary is authorized, in this year and each subsequent fiscal year, to enter into contracts to store spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable, to which the Secretary holds the title or has a contract to accept

title, at any facility licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for such storage.

(b) **TRANSFER OF TITLE.**—Delivery, and acceptance by the Secretary, of any spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste for storage under this section shall constitute a transfer of title to the Secretary of such spent fuel or waste.

(c) **CONTRACT MODIFICATION.**—The Secretary is authorized to enter into new contracts or modify existing contracts with any person who generates or holds title to high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel, of domestic origin for the acceptance of title, subsequent transportation, and storage of such high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel at a facility described under subsection (a).

**SEC. 312.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the provisions of 40 U.S.C. 11319 shall not apply to funds appropriated in this title to Federally Funded Research and Development Centers sponsored by the Department of Energy.

#### TITLE IV

##### INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

###### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, notwithstanding 40 U.S.C. 14704, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$105,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100-456, section 1441, \$29,150,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

###### DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382C(b)(2), 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$11,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: Provided, That funds shall be available for construction projects in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (division C, title III, Public Law 105-277), as amended by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1501A-280), and an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities.

###### NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$7,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

###### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act

of 1954, \$990,000,000, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$25,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$7,500,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which, notwithstanding section 201(a)(2)(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5841(a)(2)(c)), the use and expenditure shall only be approved by a majority vote of the Commission: *Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$872,864,000 in fiscal year 2016 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2016 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$117,136,000.

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$12,136,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$10,060,000 in fiscal year 2016 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2017, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2016 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than \$2,076,000: *Provided further*, That, of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$958,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, which shall not be available from fee revenues.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100-203, section 5051, \$3,600,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogram-

ming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(d) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

- (1) total budget authority;
- (2) total unobligated balances; and
- (3) total unliquidated obligations.

SEC. 402. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011, version of Chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information.

SEC. 403. Public Law 105-277, division A, section 101(g) (title III, section 329(a), (b)) is amended by inserting, in subsection (b), after “State law” and before the period the following: “or for the construction and repair of barge mooring points and barge landing sites to facilitate pumping fuel from fuel transport barges into bulk fuel storage tanks.”.

#### TITLE V

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semi-annual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

SEC. 503. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, carry out, modify, revise, or enforce Executive Order 13690 (entitled “Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input”).

This Act may be cited as the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3801

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I call up the substitute amendment No. 3801.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. ALEXANDER] proposes an amendment numbered 3801.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3804 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to call up amendment No. 3804.

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

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. ALEXANDER] proposes an amendment numbered 3804 to amendment No. 3801.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify provisions relating to Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees)

Beginning on page 55, line 23, strike “*Provided*” and all that follows through page 56, line 13, and insert the following: “*Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$823,114,000 in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear reactor technologies, and \$5,000,000 of that amount shall not be available for fee revenues, notwithstanding section 6101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 2214): *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$115,886,000.”.

Mr. ALEXANDER. The senior Senator from Louisiana is here to speak, but I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for her remarks and her leadership.

I would remind our colleagues we are open for business, in terms of amendments. Fortunately, 77 of the Senators had made requests that we were able to accommodate in our basic bill. We have talked to maybe a dozen more since then, and are accommodating amendments whenever we can.

We would like to begin voting on any other amendments that we need to vote on this afternoon, if possible, so we can move on through the bill and hopefully get to the next appropriations bill.

Mr. President, I thank especially the staff of Senator FEINSTEIN—Doug Clapp, Chris Hanson, Mark Mendenhall, and Samantha Nelson—for the way they have worked with us, whether we are in the majority or the minority. I also would like to thank my own staff—Tyler Owens, Adam DeMella, Meyer Seligman, Jen Armstrong, and Hayley Alexander—for extraordinarily good work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

COMMEMORATING THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEEPWATER HORIZON EXPLOSION AND OILSPILL

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oilspill that took the lives of 11 men and devastated so many gulf coast communities. It was a horrible event, but I think it is very important and appropriate that we always recognize the lives lost in that disaster.

The 11 lives lost were Jason Anderson, then 35, of Midfield, TX; Aaron Dale “Bubba” Burkeen, 37, of Philadelphia, MS; Donald Clark, 49, of Newellton, LA; Stephen Ray Curtis, 40, of Georgetown, LA; Gordon Jones, 28, of Baton Rouge, LA; Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, of Jonesville, LA; Karl Dale Kleppinger, Jr., Natchez, MS; Keith Blair Manuel, 56, of Gonzales, LA; Dewey Revette, 48, of State Line, MS; Shane Roshto, 22, of Liberty, MS; and Adam Weise, 24, of Yorktown, TX.

The gulf coast is one of the most resilient parts of the country, of the world, having faced a variety of disasters and yet always bounces back, always continues to push forward. In Louisiana, offshore oil and gas development is more than just our State’s largest economic driver, it is a way of life, supporting countless jobs and families across the region. That is why our top priority must always be maintaining the highest level of safety standards. In the last 6 years, we have been working to make sure this kind of human tragedy that we commemorate today on this sixth anniversary never happens again.

It has been a real uphill battle, but the good news is that we have had a few solid wins during that time. Louisiana’s resilience and recovery cannot be easily measured in terms of numbers and figures, but I can say with confidence that each and every Louisianian should be proud of how far we have come, including in these last 6 years. That is why as a region it continues to be imperative that we fight misguided attempts coming out of Washington that would hinder the progress we have made. From fighting

President Obama’s misguided drilling moratorium to working to pass the RESTORE Act, our region has continually shown our ability to work together to produce the right positive results, but the battle certainly is ongoing.

The current dramatic downturn in energy production has had ripple effects across Louisiana and the country, which is why the very last thing the government should be doing now is imposing new obstructive rules and regulations. Instead, we should be focusing on finding commonsense solutions to improve safety and buoy our Louisiana-based businesses and preserve thousands of crucial jobs. We must support policies that create a strong balance between having a solid regulatory scheme that certainly promotes strong safety standards while also allowing the energy industry to thrive and prosper.

In the 6 years since the tragic Deepwater Horizon explosion and spill, Louisiana has done what we do best: recover, rebuild, and progress. In order to build a broader future for our families, businesses, and communities, we must also protect the symbiotic relationship between Federal regulations and the oil and gas industry and not allow the former to strangle the positive livelihood so many depend on in that industry.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on Friday, representatives from more than 130 countries are going to be gathering at the United Nations in New York to sign a broad new climate change agreement. This is the same agreement that countries negotiated in Paris last year.

Back in December, President Obama said that it was a “strong” agreement. Hillary Clinton called it a “historic step forward.” But for many Americans, it is actually going to be a giant step backward.

First, I believe this agreement is terrible for our economy. The Obama administration is using this international agreement to force new regulations on American energy producers and new restrictions on the American people. There are new rules on coal producers, and there are new rules on exports of American crude oil and liquefied natural gas.

This administration has spent years—years—targeting the men and women who produce American energy,

energy in our country. Well, Democrats and Republicans in Congress rejected the President’s radical ideas. We knew that all of these regulations would cripple America’s energy industries and would throw Americans out of work, many in my home State of Wyoming. We knew that all of these destructive rules would cost billions of dollars and produce little or no positive benefit. The Obama administration went ahead and ignored what the people wanted, and they wrote these destructive new rules anyway.

All of these regulations have consequences. My home State of Wyoming has seen thousands of hard-working men and women lose their jobs in the energy fields. Just over the past few years, people working in oil, gas, coal, and uranium—just a few weeks ago, two of the largest coal mines in Wyoming announced that they would let go 15 percent of their workers. Some 465 families were affected by the job losses.

Despite all of this pain, the Obama administration went out and promised the rest of the world that it was going to keep pushing for more restrictions on American energy, on red, white, and blue energy. The other countries getting together in New York on Friday need to be aware that there are serious doubts about whether this administration is actually going to be able to actually do that.

This administration has promised huge cuts to America’s greenhouse gas emissions, but the promise has already run into legal problems. The Supreme Court ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to stop enforcing the so-called Clean Power Plan—stop enforcing it completely—until the courts can decide if it is even legal. I believe it is not legal.

Now the Obama administration has promised \$3 billion to the United Nations for its climate change efforts. Well, it turns out that giving away this money will violate U.S. law. The money the administration pledged was supposed to go to the Green Climate Fund. This is the money the United Nations plans to use to coerce—really coerce—developing countries to go along with the climate change—what I believe is a sideshow.

President Obama asked for \$500 million for this fund in his budget last year. So what happened when the budget came here to the Senate where the President had a request? Congress rejected the President’s budget 98 to 1. Talk about bipartisan rejection. That is it. But the administration went ahead and transferred the money anyway, even though the money was never authorized by Congress. Now the President wants to give this Green Climate Fund another \$750 million in taxpayer money.

There is a second climate change organization; it is called the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This organization is the

foundation for funding this whole climate change agreement. The administration has contributed to it in the past. It wants to send another \$13 million next year.

Here is the problem and the legacy the administration faces: As the administration tries to give away money to these international climate change groups, it is now prohibited by law. You may ask why. Well, it is because last month, on March 17, the United Nations officially recognized the so-called State of Palestine. They said that the State of Palestine is a full member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Well, according to a 1994 law passed by the House, passed by the Senate, and signed into law, the United States cannot give any money to any affiliated organization of the United Nations that grants the Palestinians membership as a state. It is called the 1994 Foreign Relations Authorization Act.

These climate change groups are clearly affiliated organizations of the U.N. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change—the organization that the Palestinian group, this so-called State of Palestine, just joined as a member state—says on its own Web site that it is institutionally linked to the United Nations. There is no denying it. It says that the Green Climate Fund is one of its “constituted bodies.” So there is a direct link. The law of the United States on this is clear, it is simple, and it is unmistakable.

The pipeline of money the Obama administration is planning to send to these organizations is shut off. That is what happened in 2011 when the Palestinian group joined the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, commonly known as UNESCO. That triggered a similar 1990 law, and the United States has not given any money to UNESCO ever since.

The Palestinians have been trying to get international organizations connected to the United Nations to recognize them as a state for a long time. It is part of their strategy. They think that if they can get the rest of the world to recognize the “State of Palestinian,” then it strengthens their hand in negotiations with Israel.

That strategy absolutely undercuts U.S. policy that says the Palestinians and the Israelis should be negotiating these things on their own without the rest of the world getting involved. That is the best way for Middle East peace negotiations to go forward, and that is what both the Palestinians and the Israelis have agreed to in the past. So U.S. law says that when the Palestinians try to go around that process, as we just saw with this climate change organization, there are legal consequences. That is why a group of 28 Senators wrote to Secretary of State

John Kerry earlier this week. We wrote to demand that he follow the law, obey the law of the land. We wanted to make sure the rest of the world understands clearly that it is unlawful for the United States to give another dime to these U.N. climate change groups.

The Obama administration has skirted the will of Congress in the past when it sent \$500 million of U.S. taxpayer money to these groups. It will not get away with sending any more money in violation of the law. The administration needs to understand this fact, and so do the rest of the countries getting together in New York on Friday.

The American people do not support shutting down our economy, hurting our economy, to support the administration’s promises on greenhouse gases. The American people don’t support the administration spending billions of their hard-earned taxpayer dollars to support this alarming climate change agreement. What the American people expect is their President and his administration to follow and to obey the law.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SENATE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday this Chamber passed a bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration, another bipartisan accomplishment that without a doubt has helped return this Chamber to operating the way that I think we all believe it should function. After that, today we were finally able to move forward with an energy bill, the Energy Policy Modernization Act. We have all been working on that legislation for some time now, and I am pleased we got it done earlier today. I give special credit to Chair MURKOWSKI, the bill manager, and her counterpart Senator CANTWELL for their incredible patience and diligence in dealing with this legislation that had been stuck on this Senate floor for some time.

Senator MURKOWSKI, in particular, didn’t shy away from addressing some of the most difficult challenges head on. Needless to say, her tirelessness, her diligence, and hard work finally paid off earlier today.

This legislation is important to the country because it helps update our energy policies and helps America produce more energy, use it more efficiently, and save money in the process. One of the most significant portions of that legislation was streamlining the

approval process for the liquefied natural gas export. This is really an example of how our energy future has been transformed so dramatically.

You may recall that years ago there were terminals being built around the country on the shorelines that were going to be the recipients of natural gas produced in some other part of the world and then brought to the United States. But thanks to modern drilling technology and the use of fracking—I know in some quarters this is a dirty word, but we have been doing it successfully in the United States for 70 or more years. Thanks to horizontal drilling in fracking and modern drilling technologies, America is now producing more natural gas than we have any use for. It is good for our economy, good for our jobs, and good for the world, really, for America to be able to export more of its natural gas—and oil, for that matter. It is something we dealt with at the end of last year when we lifted the antiquated export ban on crude oil.

This legislation, like the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill, is another example of how the Senate is back to work. When I talk to constituents and folks back home, I say: Well, you may not have heard—or if you heard it, you may not actually believe it—but we are actually getting some work done in this Congress under new leadership. I think it has been beneficial not only to the country, not just to those directly affected by the legislation we are passing—things such as the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to deal with the opioid prescription drug abuse and heroin issue—not only are the people directly affected by the legislation benefiting, but the entire country is, and particularly Members of the Senate. We have actually been able to debate, discuss, and ultimately vote on legislation. What a concept.

It was not too long ago—when the Democratic leader was majority leader—that this Senate was virtually shut down. Even if you were in the majority party, even if you were a Democrat when Democrats held the majority in the Senate, basically because of the decision to shut down the legislative process and to deny anyone an opportunity to offer an amendment, when it came to election time, many of our Democratic colleagues didn’t have anything to show for their service representing their constituents in the Senate, even though they were in the majority party.

Under the new leadership of the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, the Senate majority leader is committed to an open process that benefits all Members of the Senate and all 320 million or so people in the United States who we represent. Now any Senator, regardless of whether they are in the majority or minority, can call up

and seek votes on amendments to legislation to help make legislation better. I think we have learned an invaluable lesson from the mistakes of the past. Only by working together in a bipartisan way can we try to find consensus and get things done. The American people deserve that.

Now that we have finished our work on the Energy bill, I hope we can work together to address other problems facing the country. One of the most fundamental jobs the Congress has to perform is the appropriations process because somebody has to pay for the policies to actually make the policies that we pass work.

This week we have a chance to start that process with the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. This is another example of great bipartisan work and commitment, a bill that unanimously passed out of committee. This legislation will invest in our Nation's waterways and fund critical infrastructure projects.

Yesterday I spoke about the flooding that has been affecting much of Texas this week, particularly the Houston area, and that we are struggling to deal with. This appropriations bill, for example, would invest in projects to mitigate risks associated with flooding like that which Texas has been experiencing over this week. It would also invest in our nuclear arsenal to make sure we are ready to meet existing and future nuclear threats.

To put it simply, this appropriations bill plays a big role, not only in terms of our national security but also in terms of our public safety. That is both at home and abroad.

Last year we got stuck. We tried to move the appropriations bills through the regular process, but because of a dispute over spending levels, our Democratic friends basically blocked any ability we had to move the appropriations bill through the regular order or the regular process. Unfortunately, at the end of the year, what that left us with was the need to pass one big Omnibus appropriations bill, something that nobody said they liked. In fact, on the Senate floor I called it not an Omnibus appropriations bill but an ominous appropriations bill. The problem with that is there is very little transparency, and only a handful of people are really directly involved in crafting a bill that spends over \$1 trillion. That is a terrible way to do business. Now we are trying to get back to the old-fashioned way—one bill at a time.

I commend Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN for the good work they have done so far. This is going to take a little bit of cooperation and maybe even a little bit of self-restraint, something that Washington isn't necessarily known for. Even though all 12 appropriations bills were sent out of their respective committees last year for the first time since 2009,

we weren't able to get it done. I am hoping this year will be different.

So far our colleagues across the aisle have said they believe we ought to proceed with a markup of different appropriations bills, voting on them one at a time. This is our first test. Believe me, people are watching to see how we proceed on this legislation and on other appropriations bills, including our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Stop passing some stopgap funding bill at the brink at the end of a fiscal year where people are talking about shutdowns. That is not the way we are supposed to work. We could do better and we could avoid those pitfalls if we would just do our best, show a little restraint, and get our work done.

I hope the Energy and Water bill is the first of 12 appropriations bills that we consider, discuss, and ultimately pass because that is what the American people deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, while the assistant Republican leader is on the floor, I wish to say a word about this chart that I mentioned earlier.

He mentioned this is the first bill where we are spending \$1 trillion. Most of us on both sides of the aisle, I know especially on the Republican side of the aisle, are concerned about the Federal debt, which is \$19 trillion, and we make great speeches about it. But as we begin to talk about the \$1 trillion we are about to appropriate in 12 bills, I would like to invite my colleagues to look once again at the bottom line. That is the money we are talking about. This is the \$1 trillion that we are working on. It has been flat since 2008. It is going up at the rate of inflation or a little less, but that is \$1 trillion.

We are spending \$4 trillion this year. The other \$3 trillion is not what we are working on in these 12 bills; the other \$3 trillion is automatic mandatory spending and interest on the debt. If we add interest to that red line, it would be even higher. So I may offer an amendment at some point—maybe not on this bill—to turn the entire budget over to the Appropriations Committee because we are doing our job. We have kept spending down. That is not the problem.

I hear that some people may want to say: Well, let's further reduce the blue line. I invite my friends and colleagues to say—we have letters from more than 80 Senators requesting support for projects important in their States, for flood control, nuclear weapons, national labs, deepening harbors, and for inland waterways. We have included in our bill requests from all those Senators.

If we cut that blue line by \$2 billion, we will need to ask for requests from

those 80 Senators about what they would like to cut—which flood would they like not to clean up, which lock would they like to close, and which nuclear operation needs to be slowed down. We need to be reasonable about this, and we need to be straightforward about it.

I want to see us deal with that red line. That is where the real spending problem is. I would like to see us be responsible on the blue line.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have cut a \$125 million program. We have control of one big construction project; we are getting control of two others. We are doing our job.

As we enter into this discussion, I respectfully ask my colleagues: Let's keep a focus on the two lines. The \$1 trillion is the blue line. It is under control; it is not the problem. If that were the debt, we wouldn't have a problem. It is that red line that we are not doing anything about on either side of the aisle.

Senator CORKER and I have a bill to reduce the growth of that spending by \$1 trillion. We are the only two cosponsors.

After we do these 12 bills, we can talk about the blue line. But I am going to make sure during this whole process that, if Senators want to talk about cutting spending, they focus on where the problem is. It is the red line—not the blue line—that we are working on, starting with this bill.

I thank the Senator for his remarks.

Mr. CORNYN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would just ask the distinguished Senator from Tennessee, the bill manager—the point he makes is exactly right, and I think most Americans would be surprised at this blue line and the fact that this is the money the appropriations process spends each year, but it is only about 30 percent of what the Federal Government spends—to his point.

My recollection is that under current projections, that red line is growing at about 5.3 percent, it seems like, over the next 30 years or so, while the blue line remains roughly flat. But that is a product of a lot of things that need to be fixed, such as the fact that for every \$1 put into Medicare, \$3 is spent, and the fact that in the not too distant future, the Social Security trust fund is going to run out of money because people are getting older, more people are benefiting, and fewer people are paying into it.

But the Senator is exactly right. We actually have been pretty disciplined in dealing with discretionary spending because of the Budget Control Act and sequestration. And many people have decried the fact that we actually renegotiated the sequester numbers, but one reason we did that is for national



security purposes, that about half a trillion dollars of the money we spend is for national security.

I know the Senator is aware, as I am, that there is good work being done at the Budget Committee level to come up with some budget reforms, but unless we get control of not just the discretionary spending but the nondiscretionary—the mandatory spending, that red line—we are going to continue to see the deficits and the debt grow. And when interest rates go back up to normal levels, we are going to be spending more money on interest on the debt than we will, perhaps, on national security.

I told the Senator this was a question and I guess it is more of a statement, but I just wanted to thank him and Senator FEINSTEIN and the Committee on Appropriations for getting us back to regular order and back to work, and I hope we will take up and pass this legislation without undue delay.

I would also add that this is not an opportunity for people to empty their out basket on different pieces of legislation they would like. Because of the rules of the Senate, that would create a lot of problems. So, again, I guess we would counsel for some of the self-restraint that was talked about earlier.

I thank the Senators from Tennessee and California for bringing this important piece of legislation to us. I hope we can get this done sometime today or tomorrow.

I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas for his leadership and for his comments. He is exactly right. Over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office, that red line is projected to increase by nearly 80 percent—nearly 80 percent. The blue line—the one that is reasonably under control—will go up about 23 percent. But the bigger problem is that the blue line, as a share of the Federal budget, will decrease from 33 percent to 22 percent. That is the money for national defense in an unsafe world. That is the money for national laboratories in an economy that needs the job growth that comes from that research. That is the money that cleans up after the Missouri River, the Tennessee River, and the Mississippi River flood. It deepens the harbors in Savannah, Los Angeles, San Diego, Gulf Port, and all around.

After a big spring flood, I have been to Environmental and Public Works Committee hearings where we have had 17 U.S. Senators come in and ask for more money. Well, we have record levels of funding for the Army Corps of Engineers in this budget for the purpose of locks, dams, flooding, and environmental cleanup, and it is all within the Budget Control Act. We set priorities. We reduced projects. We cut some

out that weren't as important. And we have kept that blue line flat. We have done our job on financial oversight.

There are a number of advantages to having a full 10 or 12 weeks to deal with appropriations bills.

The first advantage is that it allows Senators, such as the Senator from Nebraska, who is not a member of the Appropriations Committee, to have a chance on the floor to offer their amendments if they would like to. The way our system works, Senators may ask us—and, as I mentioned, 77 did ask us—to include some of their ideas and policies in our bill, and we did in every case in some way—in some way. Now we are up in the eighties. Everybody has had a shot at this and will have more of a shot in the next day or two on the floor. So the whole Senate will be involved. That is one advantage.

The second advantage is that it will show the American people that we are doing our job, that we are conducting oversight of the government agencies, that we have had four hearings, that we have set priorities, that we have cut out lower priority projects and are getting other projects under control.

The third advantage is that maybe we can put a spotlight on the difference between the top line and the bottom line—the red line and the blue line. The blue line is an example of good government. The red line is an example of malpractice. By whom? By us. By which party? By both. By both.

So let's be specific. If you are a surgeon, you don't cut off the left arm because your nose is hurting; you work on the left arm. And we don't need to cut off the blue line if the red line is the problem—if the red line is the problem.

So as often as I have a chance over the next 2 days, I am going to do my best to remind our colleagues and the American people that we are doing our job on the \$1 trillion we appropriate, and Senators will have a chance to help us do our job if they come to the floor with their suggestions.

We are not doing our job on the red line, which is mandatory spending, and if we don't do our job, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has said it is our greatest national security problem.

So maybe it will help over these 12 weeks to have a contrast: the way we should be doing it, the bottom line; and the way we shouldn't be doing it, which is that line that is growing out of control.

I welcome the opportunity, and I thank both the majority leader and the Democratic leader for getting things in order so we can have a regular appropriations process for the first time.

I remind our colleagues that this is the earliest we have started an appropriations process since the Budget Control Act became law in 1974.

The Senator from California has suggested that I remind our colleagues and

their staff members that if they have amendments, bring them to our staff, and we will work with them and see if we can include them in the bill, or if Senators would like to offer the amendments, we would like to do that today or tomorrow. There is no need to waste time here. We have 11 other bills we can get to very quickly and other important legislation that is awaiting the Senate's action.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am extremely pleased to rise to express my support for the open debate we are going to have on the fiscal year 2017 Energy and Water appropriations bill.

I would certainly like to thank the Senator from California and my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, and I would like to thank Senator ALEXANDER for his leadership and work on their collaboration. As a person who has only been in the Senate for a year and a half and on the Appropriations Committee for about that amount of time, it has been fun for me to watch seasoned pros as they weave their way through the appropriations process. So I thank them for that. But this is what our constituents sent us here to do: to legislate, to express an opinion, to amend and debate. And I appreciate my colleagues' willingness to do that with this piece of legislation.

This is a fiscally responsible, bipartisan bill which unanimously passed out of the Committee on Appropriations last week.

It is also worth noting—and I have heard it noted already today and will probably hear it many more times—that we are considering appropriations bills on the Senate floor at the earliest point since 1974. I look forward to the bill passing with many priorities that are important to my home State of West Virginia, and I also look forward to passing the other 11 appropriations bills as we move through this process.

We can all agree that governing by continuing resolution is not ideal. The leadership in the Senate, and through the work of the Appropriations Committee, of which I am a proud member, has put us on a path to passing bills that will fund our government in a reasoned manner, in a transparent manner, and in a manner which is an open, deliberative, fair, and responsible process. Today marks an important step forward—one of many to come, I hope.

The bill before us has enormous importance to every State and particularly my State of West Virginia. It includes resources that ensure safe and stable infrastructure, promotes and stimulates research in the fossil fuel industry, and provides resources for rural areas most negatively impacted by the economic downturn and continued assault against coal-producing areas in Appalachia, where I live.

A few weeks ago, I visited the Bluestone Dam in Hinton, WV. It is an engineering marvel. It was built in the late 1940s and completed in the 1950s. But we must maintain and modernize to make sure we have the safest and the most technologically superior dams for the prevention of flooding. The importance of the Bluestone Dam to its surrounding area—and really all of West Virginia—cannot be overstated. It is protecting the neighboring capital city of Charleston, where I live, from massive and catastrophic flooding.

This bill provides construction funds for the Army Corps of Engineers for projects such as Bluestone, as well as operation and maintenance funds for hundreds of locks and dams across the country, including many in my State besides Bluestone—from Elkins, to Beech Fork Lake, to Tygart Lake. Disappointingly, the President's budget cut funding for the Corps of Engineers. I don't know how you can do that. That irresponsible action is eliminated in this bill. We restore the cut and fund the Army Corps of Engineers by more than \$1 billion above the President's request.

A smaller but equally important investment in West Virginia is the Appalachian Regional Commission, known as the ARC. I am pleased the Senate is again proposing to boost funding for the ARC following the increase in last year's omnibus bill. While it might not be familiar to a lot of people, the ARC really spearheads many worthwhile efforts in the Appalachian region, including actions to help communities impacted by the downturn of the coal industry through worker training, economic diversification, and job services.

One way to provide our citizens with greater opportunities is to provide them with broadband access. West Virginia is not wired for broadband like a lot of our other States. We need to meet the acceptable standards set by the FCC. We understand we have mountains and it is difficult, but if we don't do this, if we don't make this change, West Virginia will be left further behind. This is an economic, educational, and health care tool.

The ARC is one of the entities that are helping West Virginia connect to the Internet, and by doing so, it connects the possibilities for commerce, education, health care, and other things that all of us—particularly these young people in front of me—have come to think of as essential to life as bread and water.

This bill maintains the funding level for fossil fuel energy research and development at \$632 million. Sixty-seven percent of the electricity generated in the United States is from fossil fuels—coal, natural gas, and petroleum—and this will not change anytime soon. The Department of Energy's own Energy Information Administration predicts

that coal will still make up about one-third of U.S. electricity generation for decades to come.

If the administration itself acknowledges that fossil fuels will be critical to electricity generation, we must ensure that we are using these in the cleanest way possible. Therefore, we must continue to make that investment in research and development for clean coal technologies, which is a large component of this funding. This funding is \$272 million above the President's request. The President's proposed cut and those proposed by some of my colleagues—and as we move through the markup we anticipate proposed cuts to fossil fuel research—in my view, are shortsighted because they fail to realize the value of the research being done in places like the National Energy Technology Lab in Morgantown, WV, known as NETL.

NETL has reorganized and restructured its budget to be more transparent, so we can understand what is actually going on, where the dollars are being appropriated, and better focus on research and maximize those funds. I applaud these efforts. Frankly, I think we should all applaud them. Their work is very important to each and every one of us.

There are many other provisions in this bill that are very noteworthy, but I wish to close with this: For West Virginia, this legislation provides funding and support that will help us in many ways. I am proud to have supported it in committee and now on the floor. I will be very excited to see my first appropriations bill actually come to the Senate floor. Well, we maybe did do one last year, but this will be the first time Energy and Water has been on the floor. I look forward to this debate by my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

#### FAA AND ENERGY BILLS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I first wish to congratulate my colleagues for the work they have accomplished this week, work on reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration. For those in Colorado, it is important work. For Denver International Airport and for multiple airports around the State, the aviation industry in Colorado accounts for tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of revenue generated by not only DIA, but whether it is Vail, Durango, Grand Junction, or any number of airports across the State, we have benefited from the work this FAA reauthorization has accomplished. I commend the chairman, Senator THUNE, for his work, as well as the chairman, Senator MURKOWSKI, for the work she has accomplished on the Energy bill—legislation that will accomplish greater opportunities for the United States to achieve North American energy security, including thousands of jobs that can be created by

legislation I was able to secure within the bill on performance contracting—a very great accomplishment for the Senate. I urge the House and the Senate to come together quickly in order to find a compromise on the Energy bill and to get this signed into law.

#### CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN DAY

Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about an event I participated in last week with General Hyten in Colorado Springs, based in Cyber Command, to talk about an event that was shared by Governor Hickenlooper as well from the great State of Colorado.

Since 1966, the U.S. Air Force at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station in Colorado Springs has been at the forefront of our Nation's capacity to track foreign threats worldwide, providing an essential component of North American defense and global security.

Today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the operational capability of Cheyenne Mountain, an event General Hyten, Governor Hickenlooper, and I were able to participate in last week.

Many people across this country probably know Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station. They know it through popular culture, they know it through movies like "Dr. Strangelove" or through "WarGames," for those who aren't quite of the "Dr. Strangelove" generation, and perhaps for newer generations yet, they know Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station from "Stargate."

Colorado is proud to be at the center of the effort to provide for the defense of North America through this facility which has far-reaching consequences and whose multiuse services are critical to national and global security.

Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station is one of the greatest engineering marvels of its time, representing an \$18 billion facility, unrivaled anywhere in the world, bored into the front range of the Rocky Mountains. At this world-class facility, countless space and ground sensor data collections are assimilated to provide our Nation's national security leadership apparatus key information to determine threat assessments and ensure the safety and security of millions of people around the world.

The 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs provides operational support and infrastructure sustainability, the 721st Mission Support Group provides the dedicated daily sustainment to more than 13 mission partners performing the national security mission inside the mountain complex—or the "mountain fortress," as it has been nicknamed—and over 1,000 U.S. and Canadian military members and civilians remain vigilant around the clock to defend our great Nation at this facility.

I am proud the Senate came together last week to approve my resolution, which designates today, April 20, 2016,

as Cheyenne Mountain Day, to recognize the 50th anniversary of Cheyenne Mountain achieving full operational capability.

Today we recognize the strategic importance of Cheyenne Mountain and celebrate the efforts of the 21st Space Wing, the 721st Mission Support Group, and the men and women who work for the common defense of North America at Cheyenne Mountain.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to once again share the devastating story of the nationwide opiate epidemic that America currently faces, which is pain pills. It is a crisis I have been dealing with since my days as Governor of the great State of West Virginia, and each and every one of us as Senators representing our great States are dealing with it also.

It is ravaging my State. West Virginia has been hit harder than most States in our country. The drug overdose deaths have soared by more than 700 percent since 1999. Just last year, we lost 600 West Virginians alone to opiate abuse. That is prescription drug abuse.

Let me explain what we are dealing with. We are dealing with a product that is manufactured legally by pharmaceutical companies, a product that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration—the Federal Government—a product that is distributed and prescribed by our doctors—the most trusted people we have in our lives. It goes on and on.

Basically, people don't understand and have not understood for the last two decades the devastating effect that it has. But our State is not unique. This is happening everywhere, and 51 Americans die every day. Every day, 51 Americans die. You have to think about that. Every 30 minutes or less, someone is dying because of an overdose from a prescription drug to which they became addicted. Since 1999, we have lost almost 200,000 Americans to prescription opioid abuse. We need a serious culture change in America to get to the root of the problem. We need to change the approval of all these new, more potent painkillers coming on the market.

The scope of the problem is this: In the United States of America, we have less than 5 percent of the world population. Seven billion people live on this beautiful planet Earth of ours. We have

approximately 330 million people. How in the world can we explain how 5 percent of the population consumes 80 percent of all the addictive opioids produced in the world? Our country is the most addicted country on Earth. There is not another one like us. We allow pharmaceuticals to advertise their products on television. We are the only ones who allow drugs that are addictive and have the ability to destroy lives to be advertised, and so naturally people are asking for them. They want to go out and buy something because the market is so slick. How we approach this is totally wrong. There needs to be an overhaul of our culture.

My office continues to get flooded with letters. Today I will read a letter from my State of West Virginia and the Presiding Officer's State of Georgia. We are encouraging people to continue to share their experiences. The reason I am encouraging people to share their letters is because for far too long this has been a silent killer. There is not a person watching this or a person in this Chamber who doesn't know somebody in their immediate family or extended family who has been affected by drug abuse. Most of the time, it is legal prescription drug abuse. We have an epidemic on our hands.

We talk about Ebola, Zika, and all the other things that are of concern to us, but not one of those is killing 51 Americans every day, and people are still silent about it. Well, people are breaking their silence and sending these letters to me. I will read them every week so I can put a personal touch on this epidemic we face. I don't want people to be ashamed. We have all had it happen to us. It could be your father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousins, or children.

We basically have to look at addiction as an illness. For far too long, we have looked at addiction as a crime. We put people in jail because they have committed a crime. Most of them are charged with grand larceny because they had to steal to support their habit and as a result end up with a felony on their record. When they get out of jail, they are no better. They are still addicted, and now they have a felony and can't get a job. We have taken them out of the productive part of our society. Our society is losing a whole generation of productive, unbelievable, beautiful people.

This is Debbie's story. Debbie is from West Virginia. She said:

My daughter started using drugs off and on around the age of 13. It really escalated after her second child was born, her "husband" being from Baltimore, MD with access to lots of different kinds of drugs.

She told me that after the birth of her baby the doctor prescribed percoet after a vaginal birth. She started off snorting and then injecting them. Her drug abuse spiraled out of control to using meth, on to heroin and cocaine, and who knows what else. Then

she started buying Suboxone illegally, supposedly to get off the other drugs.

Suboxone is supposed to help you get off your addiction, but it is also an opioid.

When she had her third child, CPS stepped in, but then they walked away 90 days later. She took off to Baltimore, MD, putting her two youngest children in danger, leaving her oldest behind with us. However, we finally got her to bring the children back to us, but she wasn't willing to stay with her children. The drugs were more important. We now have temporary guardianship and she is finally taking steps in recovery.

I don't understand why these doctors hand out opioid drugs like it's candy.

I can tell Debbie why they do it. They don't have the training. They don't understand the effects these drugs are having on people. They are basically told whatever the manufacturer or salesperson has told them. If the drug is a 30-day prescription, they give you 30. If it is 60, they will give you the maximum of 60.

Her letter continues:

I have another daughter that was in a car accident and broke her leg. She had to have surgery and the doctor prescribed her 80 percoet all at one time.

Can you believe that?

Already battling one child with addiction I VERY closely monitored her medication. Not all people are strong willed.

This has to stop. These are dangerous drugs and they lead to more dangerous drugs! These drugs are killing our children, pulling our families apart!

Why are doctors prescribing so many at a time?

Why do we have Suboxone, another addictive drug to treat addiction?

Methadone is another one, methadone clinics. They are the same thing.

Why isn't Suboxone an in care monitored drug so it can't be sold on the streets?

Why don't we have free treatment centers in every county to help with addiction so our children aren't dying?

I am going to talk about the treatment centers—or lack of treatment centers—and what we can and what we should be doing as a country.

My daughter is 24 years old with a lifetime of fighting addiction. My mom and sister had to bury their sons because of addiction. I DON'T want to bury my daughter!!!

That was Debbie's story from West Virginia.

This is Winnie's story from Augusta, GA.

My name is Winnie Garrett.

She wanted me to use her full name because she is not ashamed and she wants to fight this addiction and she needs help.

I have been living in Augusta, GA, for 15 years with my husband, son, and daughter. My daughter Erin is 21 and a heroin addict. She started opiates when she was 16. She met a guy who was shooting pills and heroin, so in September of 2014 she started shooting too.

She had a great job, an apartment, and was a highly functioning addict. In May she asked if her boyfriend and she could come

and move into our house so they could save money and get an apartment together.

In July, her boyfriend attempted suicide and was hospitalized and then sent to rehab. Erin's heroin use skyrocketed at that time.

In September, we caught Erin and her friends in our house about to shoot up together, but we intervened. Erin agreed that she needed help and she started methadone at a methadone clinic.

So we have methadone and Suboxone.

In October of 2015, one of her "friends" that was in our house back in September overdosed and died at her grandmother's house. Erin started to abuse opioids again. In December, she lost her job. By Christmas she had no new job and no money to pay for methadone. She was going downhill fast.

On January 2, 2016, she called me and asked me to come and get her. Her friends had left her alone, she had no phone, and she was sick. My husband and I found her and told her she must go to the hospital as we were not prepared to help her go through withdrawal. We just didn't have the ability or the knowledge to do it. She fought with us and didn't want to go.

As we drove closer to the hospital and stopped for a light, she jumped out of our moving vehicle and proceeded to walk away from us. We had to walk her into the hospital and commit her.

After the hospital went through her belongings, she was civilly committed for a minimum of 72 hours. Erin went through withdrawal and was clean for about 2 weeks but wouldn't consider going to a rehab place because she wouldn't want to leave her "friends." She has relapsed, and I have tried to talk to her, but she is not ready for rehab.

It breaks my heart to see my baby girl now. It has affected our entire family. Her brother wants nothing to do with her and her father and I can only pray that God will look after her and keep her safe from harm.

She is living on the streets and at anyone's house who will take her in for a day or two. My daughter graduated from Fine Arts Magnet School and was accepted to Savannah College of Art and Design. Erin is smart, beautiful and very capable when she is clean. I don't recognize my little girl on drugs. Something must be done.

Thank you for listening.

Three or four years ago, these people probably wouldn't have written these letters to us. They are desperate and need help. They are willing to put their names to it. They want to put a face on this epidemic. They really do.

Let me tell you the problem. We do not have—Georgia and West Virginia—treatment centers. When people are begging for help, there is no place to send them. We have day courts and drug courts, but there is really no treatment center. They end up with a felony on their record. I am not talking about those who have a violent or sexual crime; I am basically talking about grand larceny. They end up getting a felony. If we do get them clean, they can't get a job with that felony.

There are some things we have to do. Let me tell you what we can do. The first thing we can do is address the treatment centers. Think about this: We have a fee on cigarettes. We know cigarettes are dangerous. They have proved that cigarettes are addictive

and dangerous to your health, and you pay a tax when you buy cigarettes. Most of those States use those taxes for their health clinics. We know alcohol is dangerous. We shouldn't drink alcohol, but we partake in it, and they charge a tax.

We have no way of funding or supporting the treatment centers. We are looking at and working on this almost every day. I am going to propose to my colleagues that one penny per milligram of every opioid produced by manufacturers be used to go to a treatment fee. It strictly cannot be used for anything except for treatment centers throughout the United States of America so we can help the people who need help.

We should also consider how to get people back to having a productive lifestyle. Let's say they go through an approved treatment center for 1 year and then go into a mentoring program. Not only do they become clean, but they are mentoring and helping other people become clean. They don't have a violent or sexual crime against them, but they have a crime of larceny. Should that person not be considered—basically from their good standing of finishing a 1-year rehabilitation program, which they passed with flying colors and are clean and have committed another year of their lives to giving back and helping other people through mentoring—to have that felony basically expunged from their record so they can get back into the workforce? If not, we are losing a whole generation of quality workers. These are all bright, smart people who can do something and contribute back to the economy.

I will be coming down here every week, and I will make sure the people of America know they are not alone. We hear you and we are going to do something.

I thank the Presiding Officer for listening.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

#### PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as Secretary of State John Kerry prepares to sign the United States on to the Paris climate agreement on April 22—that is Earth Day—2 days from now, there are lessons from past international climate agreements, namely the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, that we would be remiss to ignore.

Let's keep in mind that the meeting they had was the 21st annual meeting. This is the big United Nations meeting, when everyone tries to get 196 countries to come in and have mandatory emissions reductions. It hasn't worked in 21 years, and it will not work this year either.

The situation they are facing now is kind of embarrassing. Let's just call the Paris Agreement what it is. It is a political stunt for the President to do what President Clinton was going to do in the Kyoto Protocol back in 1997. To recap, in 1997, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which set forth binding targets and timetables for greenhouse gas emission reductions for developed countries such as the United States and the European Union. Meanwhile, developing countries such as China, India, and Brazil got a free pass. In fact, the Kyoto Protocol exempted 80 percent of the world from greenhouse gas emission reductions. That was back in 1997.

I could talk extensively about how it was known then that without developing countries, Kyoto would produce no meaningful impact on global climate change or reductions. What is most important in advance of the Paris Agreement signing, which is 2 days from now, is holding the Obama administration accountable to the lessons learned from the fallout of Kyoto.

Let's not forget that the Kyoto Protocol—which was a legally binding treaty, as opposed to the Paris treaty, which is all voluntary—was signed by the Clinton administration in late 1998 but was never submitted to the Senate for ratification. This was because the Senate had already voted, and they knew they weren't going to ratify it.

About that time in 1997, we had the Byrd-Hagel resolution, which warned that if the United States came back from Kyoto with a signed product that economically harmed the United States or exempted developed countries from participating, we would not ratify it. The resolution passed 95 to 0 in this Chamber. They knew when they came back that it wasn't going to be signed. With a vote of 95 to 0, not one Senator would have voted to ratify.

Ultimately, the 36 developed countries were legally bound to the greenhouse gas targets, and 17 of them failed to meet the greenhouse gas targets. First of all, they are not even meeting the targets. Some countries that joined Kyoto, like Iceland, had targets that actually granted increases in greenhouse gas emissions, while others, like Russia, had a target of zero that required them to do nothing.

The same thing is true for Russia today with the Paris Agreement. Russia pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by 30 percent but made their promise based on emission levels from 1990, not their current emission levels

today. So they could actually increase their emissions and still comply with the commitment that they made in Paris.

Of course, they were looking at—and I remember from all the other meetings that Russia is sitting back there with areas such as Siberia, without any development, and they could use that as land that is not being developed, where there are no emissions, so it sounded as though they are really doing something.

I had an occasion many years ago to fly a small Cessna airplane around the world, emulating the trip of Wiley Post, the aviator from Oklahoma. He was the one who was flying the airplane when Will Rogers was killed. I was emulating his flight around the world. I will never forget going all the way from Moscow to Provideniya, across Siberia. There is time zone after time zone, and there is nothing down there. It is bare down there—no houses, no industry, nothing down there. That is the land Russia has been using to give them the advantage that they have.

Others, including Japan, the host country for the signing of the Kyoto Protocol significantly missed its greenhouse gas reduction targets, and instead they increased. Here is the host country, and they increased their emissions.

There were warning signs that the countries would fail to meet the Kyoto targets. For example, in 2005, the year Kyoto went into force, as then-chairman of the EPW committee, I held hearings on Kyoto where I questioned the U.S. senior climate change negotiator, Harlan Watson, about the European Union countries meeting their targets. Watson testified at the time that only two of the EU countries, the U.K. and Sweden, were on track to reach their targets. In other words, they all had targets, but only two countries met them.

Another witness, Dr. Margo Thorning of the American Council for Capital Formation, told the Committee at the hearing that the European Union “policymakers are beginning to worry about the additional steps required to meet the targets.”

We now know they were right. The EU, one of the staunchest advocates for the global greenhouse gas emission cuts, barely reached half of the targets required by Kyoto.

If developed countries like those in the European Union have ignored legally binding gas emission targets in Kyoto, it is highly unlikely that they would meet the voluntary reductions that are in the Paris Agreement. Within the EU, some individual countries, such as Poland, have already shown fierce opposition to the Paris Agreement due to the fact that they are relying on coal power to run their country. There also has been vigorous de-

bate over EU emissions reductions, and so far further cuts are off the table due to climate leadership fatigue from Kyoto. Everybody is tired of it.

Some have said Paris is different because developing countries like China agreed to the greenhouse gas targets. However, as is normally the case, you have to read a little bit closer. China's climate change commitment to peak their emissions by 2030 is business as usual. Yes, they signed on. They are a developing country. But what did they sign? They agreed to increase their emissions until 2030, and then they will reconsider.

After making their pledge, the New York Times uncovered that China dramatically underreported the amount of coal it burns per year, burning 17 percent more than what China had previously reported during climate talks. Just last month, a London School of Economics and Political Science researcher found that it is possible that Chinese emissions have already peaked. It is no wonder when the country is bringing online a new coal-powered powerplant every 10 days.

We keep hearing from all of our do-good friends: Just give China a chance. They are going to follow our leadership. Yes, they are going to follow our leadership, all right. They are anxious for us to meet our reductions as we chase our manufacturing base to someplace like China, which would be the recipient of it.

China is putting online a new coal-fired plant every 10 days. Why would China bother putting forth such a commitment and why would the Obama administration promote it as historic? First, it is in the interest of China to ensure this commitment is ratified because it makes it more difficult for the United States and the European Union to get out of economically damaging regulations. Second, it is in the interest of President Obama to sign this agreement since his own legacy hinges on its ratification. For the agreement to come into force, 55 countries representing at least 55 percent of emissions are going to have to sign.

We have seen this before. Think back to Kyoto. Clinton did not have the support of the Senate, yet Clinton delegated his U.S. Ambassador to sign it.

That is exactly what is happening today. President Obama doesn't want to go there because President Obama is fully familiar with the fact that they can't reach their targets, and besides that, we have the U.S. Supreme Court stepping in and saying that they can't do it.

The Obama administration should take note that history does repeat itself. If Secretary Kerry signs the Paris Agreement—which he will—it will be an act in defiance of the lessons from the past and in defiance of the best interests of the American people, all while achieving no meaningful impact on global temperatures.

Just like Kyoto, countries will not comply. Here at home, the President's means to force the United States to achieve a 26- to 28-percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2025—primarily through the so-called Clean Power Plan, which is likely to get struck by the courts—is extremely limited. Its implementation has already been blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court.

We have 27 countries that have filed lawsuits against the plan. We actually had someone from the National Chamber of Commerce and the Sierra Club come before our committee just a few weeks ago saying: Look, there is no way in the world that you can have this kind of a reduction. So it is dead in the water anyway, with 40 percent doing business as usual. Only 15 percent could have an effect from the power plan, and then the rest—45 percent—are not even in the middle of it. Besides that, the Supreme Court has now said that until all the litigation has cleared up, nothing is going to happen. They intervened in that as well as the WOTUS regulations—the waters of the United States. So it is not going to happen. They are going to have their party there. The President is embarrassed, and he is sending John Kerry to do his dirty work.

I hope all 196 of the countries send their representatives to New York because I would love to have them get to know America, travel around, spend their money, and go down historic Highway 66 that goes through my State of Oklahoma. They will have a wonderful time while they are here, but they might as well skip the New York part.

I see my good friend from Indiana, and, with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

NOMINATIONS OF MARK MCWATTERS AND ADAM SZUBIN

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, for more than a month, many of my colleagues and I have come to this floor to talk about our responsibility as Senators to do our job and consider the President's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland. That is right. Here in one of the world's greatest deliberative bodies, where we have debated war and peace, civil rights, and the right of women to vote, we are now engaged in a debate about whether the Senate should carry out one of its most basic constitutional responsibilities.

Even more troubling than the refusal of some Senators to consider the Supreme Court nominee is that this is one in a series of failures over the past year. It is not an isolated incident; it is a pattern.

Back home in Indiana, our priorities are clear. We want good jobs and safe communities. Hoosiers are asking important questions of their elected officials, such as: What is the Senate doing to strengthen our economy? What are we doing to keep Americans safe?

Today I want to talk about two additional simple things that the Senate can do to strengthen our economy and to keep our country safe. Both have strong bipartisan support already. We just have to do our job. The first relates to the Export-Import Bank. Last December, after months of negotiations, and a 5-month lapse, Congress agreed, with bipartisan support, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, the official export credit agency of the United States of America, which helps American companies, including small businesses from my home State and from everyone else's, compete in the global economy.

It does not get more common sense than approving an agency whose sole purpose—sole purpose—is to help create more American jobs at no cost to taxpayers. In fact, in 2014, the Bank supported \$27.5 billion in U.S. exports and more than 164,000 American jobs and returned over \$675 million to the U.S. Treasury.

The Bank creates jobs, reduces the deficit, and spurs economic growth. It is a win-win-win. Yet, despite bipartisan approval last December, Senate inaction continues to hamstring the Bank, which keeps it from fully functioning. You see, in order to approve certain financing, the Bank needs a minimum of three Senate-approved board members. Today, we have only two.

That is because board nominee Mark McWatters, a Republican, has been stuck in the Senate Banking Committee for more than 3 months. At a time when American companies are struggling to compete in an economy that is often rigged by other countries manipulating their currency, by intellectual property theft, and by insurmountable foreign regulatory barriers, there are a few Members of this body who are intent on obstructing this important economic tool by refusing to consider Mr. McWatters' nomination in order to advance an extreme ideological agenda.

So here we are again, willfully allowing an important tool for economic growth to sit idle simply because some in the Senate refuse to do their job. While most Americans find it hard to believe we cannot agree on something as common sense as supporting the American economy, perhaps more troubling is the refusal to confirm an official to lead our Nation's efforts to combat terrorist financing around the world.

Mr. Adam Szubin is the nominee to be Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes. His job is to identify and to disrupt the lines of financial support to international terrorist organizations, proliferators of weapons of mass destruction, narcotics traffickers, and other actors posing a threat to U.S. national security or foreign policy.

It is a critical job. Just about anyone you ask will tell you that Adam Szubin is the guy we want doing this job. He has helped shape and enforce U.S. sanctions against our adversaries for nearly a decade, under both Republican and Democratic administrations. He is recognized as a leading expert on terrorism financing and is widely considered one of our Nation's best tools in taking the financial footing out from under terrorist groups like ISIS and Al Qaeda and countering adversaries like Iran, North Korean, and, increasingly, Russia.

Today marks 1 year since Mr. Szubin was nominated—an entire year. For 1 full year, our country has worked to combat terrorist financing and enforce and expand sanctions against key adversaries without a confirmed official to lead the charge. At a time when our sanctions regimes are critical to countering Iran's ballistic missile program, North Korea's nuclear weapons development, and Russia's renewed aggression, and at a time when U.S. military personnel are serving in harm's way in locations around the world, combatting ISIS and Al Qaeda and their affiliates, the Senate is undermining the ability of one of our Nation's top counterterrorism officials to do his job.

By failing to act on the nomination of Mr. Szubin, who people on both sides of the aisle agree is the perfect person for the job, we are undermining his credibility with the very countries we need on our side to effect these sanctions and to cut off funding flows to terrorists.

The American people expect us to use every single resource—every single resource we have—to keep our Nation safe. Yet, when it comes to putting our strongest team on the field to fight back and to cut off terrorist financing, some in this body continue to put politics ahead of our national security.

Why has Mr. Szubin not yet been confirmed as the Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes? Simply put, the Senate refuses to do its job, to have a vote. I understand it is an election year and there is much discussion in Washington about what is good political strategy for the different parties. While the timing may be inconvenient for some, I will remind my colleagues that every day outside of Washington, law enforcement officers, among many others, rely on a fully functioning Supreme Court for the legal guidance that serves as the basis of our founding promise of liberty and justice for all.

I remind my colleagues that every day across our country, millions of hard-working men and women go to work to support their families, many of whom rely on jobs supported by the Export-Import Bank. Every day across the globe, our service men and women put their lives on the line to protect our country from terrorists and from

foreign nations intent on doing us harm.

Many of those terrorists and foreign nations are targets of the crippling sanctions the U.S. Treasury implements and enforces to help keep Americans safe. Adam Szubin is leading that team. These men and women who go to work to support their families, the law enforcement officers who protect our communities, and the service men and women who fight for our great country every single day do not stop doing their job because it is an election year. They do not pass on confirmations because it is inconvenient timing.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. Most Americans believe Congress can do something to help move our country forward. At the very least, we should do no harm. We are falling short of this most basic standard. But we can change that right now by simply doing our job, by considering Merrick Garland's nomination to the Supreme Court, by doing our job to support the economy by considering the nomination of Mark McWatters to sit on the board of the Export-Import Bank, and by doing our job to support our troops and protect our country by considering the nomination of Adam Szubin to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

This should be the very least that we do. We need to do it now. Let's follow the example of those who elected us, who roll up their sleeves every day and go to work. It is time for us to roll up our sleeves and go to work and do our job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I just wanted to compliment the Senator from Indiana on the remarks he has just made and thank him very much.

I also want to urge Members: Please bring amendments to the Energy and Water appropriations bill to the floor. We hope to finish this bill. The only way we are going to do it is if Members bring and file their amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, 1 year ago today, the President nominated Adam Szubin to serve as Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes at the Treasury Department. Mr. Szubin's nomination was pending in the Banking Committee for more than 11 months before we finally acted on it.

So far in this Congress—not this session, but the entire Congress—the Senate has not acted on a single nominee

from the Banking Committee, even those who play critical national security roles like Mr. Szubin. We have not even acted yet on certain nominees eligible for expedited consideration by the full Senate. In the past, the Senate acted on these “privileged nominees” as a routine manner.

The hard-working people of Ohio, Arkansas, and Georgia expect the Senate to do its job. Part of our job is to give the President’s nominees fair, respectful, and timely consideration. Unfortunately, the unprecedented partisan obstruction we have seen over Judge Merrick Garland’s nomination to the Supreme Court has been a fact of life longer than that at the Banking Committee.

The Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes is one of the most important national security posts in our government. Mr. Szubin serves in an acting capacity in that position. Despite having bipartisan support, as evidenced by the vote out of committee and as evidenced by his initial appointment to the executive branch by President Bush, his nomination has languished for a year—a full year—because of one thing: Republican obstruction.

Allowing this proven leader to remain unconfirmed weakens his position and undermines American influence in our efforts to track terrorists and stop them from raising money on the black market or elsewhere. The mission of Treasury’s Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence is too important right now for us to have anything less than our best person in that role with the full backing of this Senate.

Mr. Szubin served Republican and Democratic administrations in senior positions related to economic sanctions and countering terrorist financing. His job is focused on leading our country’s efforts to disrupt terrorist financing by ISIS, Al Qaeda, and other groups.

There is absolutely no question that he is qualified. Over the last decade and a half, Mr. Szubin has distinguished himself as a tough and aggressive enforcer of our Nation’s sanctions laws against Russia, Iran, and North Korea, against money launderers and terrorists and narcotraffickers.

Given all the concerns surrounding terrorist financing, you would think a nomination for this position would be a priority. In the Senate Banking Committee and in the Senate in 2015 and 2016, that has not been the case.

I repeat. One year ago he was nominated. One year ago the Senate Banking Committee got his nomination.

Mr. Szubin’s mentor, Bush administration Under Secretary Stuart Levy, was confirmed by the Senate 3 weeks after his nomination came to the Banking Committee, when the Democrats were in control of this Senate. Mr. Szubin’s immediate predecessor took the Senate just 2½ months to consider.

This is a critical national security post that must be filled permanently. Szubin heads what is, in effect, Treasury’s economic war room, managing U.S. efforts to combat terrorist financing and fight financial crimes. He leads the charge to choke off ISIL’s funding sources and prevent it from developing additional capacity to strike targets around the world.

Cutting off the money supply, including profits from illicit oil sales, money-laundering extortion, and other crimes by ISIS actors is a critical part of our strategy to defeat this terrorist organization. He works to hold Iran to its commitment under the nuclear deal and to lead a campaign against the full range of Iran’s other terrorizing, destructive, and destabilizing activities, including its support for Hezbollah and other terror proxies.

He has broad support across the political spectrum. Even groups opposed to the Iran nuclear deal support his nomination. Banking Chair Shelby described Szubin as “eminently qualified.”

The recent Panama Papers scandal shows how some of the richest and most powerful people may have used shell companies in offshore accounts to evade taxes, launder money, and dodge sanctions. The leak of these documents underscores the role that Mr. Szubin and the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence play in combatting money laundering and terrorist finance networks. It is yet another reminder of why Szubin’s confirmation is so urgent.

Mr. Szubin is well-regarded around the world for his intellect, his courage, his experience, his expertise, and his integrity. He deserves the strong backing of the Senate. Confirming him would demonstrate the commitment of the United States to disrupt and destroy the global financial networks of terrorist organizations. Without it, his ability to operate here and abroad is undermined.

Treasury must have in place an experienced watchdog with the know-how and with the authority to lead U.S. efforts to track and choke off the financial lifeblood of terrorist organizations.

The bottom line is Republicans in Congress need to stop holding our national security apparatus hostage to political demands. We need to allow Adam Szubin and other national security nominees to be approved. The Senate needs to do its job.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 478, the nomination of Adam J. Szubin to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes; that the Senate proceed to vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that following disposition of the nomination, the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). Is there objection?

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Reserving the right to object, and I will object.

Until just a few weeks ago, I did not object to Mr. Szubin’s nomination.

I did oppose the nomination in the Banking Committee because he supports a clearly inconsistent interpretation of the Iran threat reduction act because it would hinder the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal. To be fair to Mr. Szubin, he is well respected on both sides of the aisle, having worked in the former Bush administration. I suspect this is not his interpretation. This is the interpretation of the community organizer, the failed novelist, and the political operative who are in charge of implementing these parts of the Iran nuclear deal. However, I couldn’t, in good conscience, support the nomination given that clearly flawed interpretation.

But just 2 or 3 weeks ago, Secretary Jack Lew gave a speech in which he all but announced that the U.S. Government would allow Iran access to the U.S. dollar. This would truly unravel every last sanction we have against Iran, not just for their nuclear program but for their campaign of aggression and terror throughout the Middle East.

This is in direct contradiction to what Secretary Lew said and in direct contradiction to what Mr. Szubin said. In fact, I would note Mr. Szubin’s testimony before the Banking Committee last summer:

Iranian banks will not be able to clear U.S. dollars through New York, hold correspondent account relationships with U.S. financial institutions, or enter into financing arrangements with U.S. banks. . . . In short, Iran will continue to be denied access to the world’s principal financial and commercial market.

Further, in another quote, he said:

. . . nor will Iran be able to access the U.S. banking sector, even for that momentary transaction to, what we call, dollarize a foreign payment.

Yet Secretary Lew has all but announced that the U.S. Government will allow Iran to dollarize their foreign transactions. In fact, Secretary of State John Kerry just this week is meeting with his Iranian counterpart to try to figure out more ways we can reap economic benefits on the world’s worst state sponsor of terrorism.

So until President Obama, Secretary Kerry, and Secretary Lew publicly and conclusively renounce any intent to allow Iran to dollarize a foreign transaction, I will object to this nomination.

If the Senator from Ohio and 41 other Democrats don’t like that, they should have considered that before they voted for a deal that gave over \$100 billion to the world’s worst state sponsor of terrorism.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I find it ironic. This is the first time we have actually heard specific reasons—all seeming fairly recent, mostly seeming fairly recent about objections to Mr. Szubin. But I also find it interesting that they talk about sanctions not being fully enforced. Well, don't you need someone in place who has the imprimatur of a full appointment to the position, not just nomination and serving as interim or acting but full appointment with Senate confirmation?

I just stand puzzled by that, but I also understand the partisan nature of this. I remember my colleague's letter to the country of Iran that 46 Republican Senators signed saying, for all intents and purposes: Don't negotiate with President Obama.

This is a lot about President Obama, but I don't care about that. What I care about is that he is acting in that position, and not confirming him makes no sense for our country.

A full year has gone by. I intend to continue to press for approval of Adam Szubin and others before our committee in the weeks ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the conflict over the Supreme Court vacancy created by the untimely death of Justice Antonin Scalia. This conflict has two dimensions, one focusing on the nominee and the second focusing on the confirmation process.

America's Founders established a system of government that preserves liberty by limiting government and including a defined role for judges. Three of America's Founders provide principles helping to define that judicial role. James Wilson signed the Declaration of Independence, helped draft the Constitution, and was one of the six original Supreme Court Justices appointed by President George Washington. He explained our system of government by saying that "here, the people are the masters of the government."

The second principle is from President Washington himself, who said in a farewell address, on behalf of our system of government, that the basis of our system of government is that authority to control the Constitution belongs to the people.

Alexander Hamilton served in the Continental Congress, helped draft the Constitution, and became the first Sec-

retary of the Treasury. He wrote 51 of the 85 installments of the Federalist Papers, the single most important reference for understanding the Constitution. In Federalist No. 78, he wrote that the judiciary is the weakest and least dangerous branch because judges exercise judgment but not will.

These three principles outline the proper role for judges in our system of government. The people are the masters of government. They alone have the authority to control the Constitution, and judges may exercise judgment but not will. Our system of government and the liberty it makes possible requires judges who leave control of the law in the hands of the people.

The conflict over the appointment of judges is really a conflict over the power of judges—a conflict over whether this should still be the proper judicial job description. Those whose political agenda fares poorly with the American people and their elected representatives want a very different kind of judge. They want willful judges who will impose their political agenda by manipulating statutes or the Constitution.

This is the first dimension of the conflict over filling the Scalia vacancy. I have spoken and written extensively about how the Senate owes the President some deference regarding nominees who are qualified by both legal experience and judicial philosophy. Those considerations are relevant when the confirmation process takes place.

However, the second dimension of the conflict over filling the Scalia vacancy focuses on the process, rather than the nominee. When and how the nomination process should occur is rarely a question at all, but it is a serious one under the circumstances we face today. Ignoring the integrity of the process, acting as if the ends always justify the means, would be a serious dereliction of the Senate's duty.

The President has the constitutional power to nominate judges, but he cannot appoint them without the advice and consent of the Senate. However, the Constitution does not tell either the President or the Senate how to exercise their powers. Deciding when and how to conduct the confirmation process is as valid an exercise of the Senate's advice-and-consent power as is taking a final confirmation vote at the end of that process.

Our late colleague Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York once said that everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts. The majority leader recently offered a similar axiom when he said that "no matter how many times you tell a falsehood, it is still false." When it comes to falsehoods, Democrats and their liberal allies are telling some real whoppers. For example, the minority leader has said the Senate's obligation to hold a hearing and a floor vote for President

Obama's nominee is "in the Constitution." He has made that claim in different forms on the Senate floor more than 40 times.

I understand Democrats want the Senate to confirm the President's nominee to the Scalia vacancy, but I cannot understand why they would put all their eggs in this completely fictional basket. As falsehoods go, this one is especially easy to expose because the Constitution obviously says no such thing. This is why the Washington Post Fact Checker called the Democrats' claim that the Constitution requires Senate consideration a politically convenient fairytale.

One of the reasons the Constitution says nothing about Judiciary Committee hearings is that the committee was not created until 29 years after the Constitution was written. In fact, the committee's practice of nominees regularly appearing in public hearings did not begin until the 1960s. During the 110th Congress, Chairman PATRICK LEAHY denied a hearing to dozens of President George W. Bush's judicial nominees. If the minority leader is right that the Constitution requires such a hearing, then Chairman LEAHY was guilty of serially violating the Constitution.

Between 2003 and 2007, Senators PATRICK LEAHY, CHARLES SCHUMER, and RICHARD DURBIN voted dozens of times to deny floor votes to Republican judicial nominees. So did Senators HILLARY CLINTON, JOSEPH BIDEN, and JOHN KERRY. If the minority leader is right that the Constitution requires a floor vote on every nominee, then these Senators were guilty of deliberately attempting to violate the Constitution over and over again. So was the minority leader, himself, because he voted 25 times to deny the very floor votes that today he claims the Constitution requires.

The Constitution does not require committee hearings, and it does not require floor votes. The Constitution leaves to the Senate the judgment about when and how to conduct the confirmation process in each situation. Republicans have made that judgment by deciding that the confirmation process for filling the Scalia vacancy should be deferred until after the Presidential election season is over. We are following the recommendation of Vice President JOE BIDEN in 1992, when he chaired the Judiciary Committee. The circumstances compelling his recommendation to defer the confirmation process exist in equal or greater measure today.

Neither Democrats nor their leftwing allies have even attempted to argue that the 1992 Biden speech and his recommendation do not apply today. Instead, they have had three different reactions. First, some have simply dismissed it as not worth taking seriously. For example, President Obama



responded by saying that “we know Senators say stuff all the time.” Others have complained that Republicans are misconstruing that speech or somehow taking it out of context. Just as anyone can test the minority leader’s claim about the Constitution by reading the Constitution, however, they can test our discussion of Chairman Biden’s 1992 speech by reading that speech—a rather long one indeed. The Washington Post read it, and reported this on February 23:

Biden’s remarks were especially pointed, voluminous and relevant to the current situation. Embedded in the roughly 20,000 words he delivered on the Senate floor were rebuttals to virtually every point Democrats have brought forth . . . to argue for the consideration of Obama’s nominee.

In his 1992 speech, Chairman BIDEN addressed how the confirmation process should be conducted in two different scenarios. First, he spoke about a Supreme Court vacancy in a Presidential election year. This was his recommendation:

It would be our pragmatic conclusion that once the political season is under way, and it is, action on a Supreme Court nomination must be put off until after the election campaign is over.

That was then-Senator BIDEN, chairman of the committee.

Second, Chairman BIDEN separately discussed how the confirmation process “might be changed in the next administration, whether it is a Democrat or a Republican.” He used the phrase “the next administration” no less than four times. This was his recommendation:

If the President consults and cooperates with the Senate or moderates his selections absent consultation, then his nominees may enjoy my support. . . . But if he does not, as is the President’s right, then I will oppose his future nominees as is my right.

Two separate scenarios, two separate recommendations. The first scenario involved a Supreme Court vacancy in a Presidential year like 1992, and the recommendation involved the entire appointment process. Those circumstances and that recommendation apply fully today.

The second scenario Chairman BIDEN addressed involved the next administration, outside a Presidential election year, and his recommendation involved his personal support or opposition. Those circumstances and that recommendation do not apply today.

I understand Chairman BIDEN’s recommendation for deferring the confirmation process in a Presidential election year is a very inconvenient truth for his party today. However, the only ones misconstruing that speech today are those trying to create confusion where none exists by conflating these two separate scenarios and recommendations.

The third reaction to Chairman BIDEN’s 1992 speech is to pretend that he said something he simply did not say. For example, I have heard the

claim that Chairman BIDEN would have gone forward with the confirmation process in 1992 if the President consulted the Senate before choosing a nominee. Let me once again quote the minority leader. It is pretty clear: “No matter how many times you tell a falsehood, it is still false.” Read the speech. Chairman BIDEN said no such thing.

I also want to comment on the President’s recent remarks at the University of Chicago on the Scalia vacancy. For example, he said that “there has not been a circumstance in which a Republican President’s appointee did not get a hearing.” Of course, the Senate’s power of advice and consent applies across the board. If the Constitution requires hearings and floor votes for some nominees, it requires them for all nominees.

Last month, the Congressional Research Service confirmed in a new memo that during the 102nd Congress, when Democrats controlled the Senate, 52–52—Republican judicial nominees never even got a hearing. Vice President BIDEN chaired the committee and denied those hearings. In September 1992, the New York Times reported on page 1 that this was part of a deliberate strategy to keep judicial vacancies open in the hope that Bill Clinton would be elected.

The President also said there has not been a circumstance when a Republican President’s nominee did not get a floor vote. Obviously, none of the dozens of nominees denied a hearing ever got a floor vote. The 52 Republican judicial nominees I just mentioned were not only denied a hearing, they were never confirmed at all. When the President served in this body, he voted to deny floor votes to multiple Republican judicial nominees. In fact, he has the distinction of being the only President ever to have voted to filibuster a Supreme Court nominee. The President was a Senator during the 110th Congress, when Chairman LEAHY denied a hearing to dozens of Republican nominees. I could find no record that then-Senator Obama objected in any way that these nominees were being denied full consideration.

The President also said that the increasing use of the filibuster to defeat nominees is unacceptable. Democrats first used the filibuster to defeat a majority-supported judicial nominee in 2003. They are the ones who started this. They led nearly two dozen filibusters during the 108th Congress alone, preventing one appeals court nominee after another from being confirmed. President Obama should know this because, as I mentioned, he participated in and supported this filibuster campaign. The President should also know filibusters of judicial nominees declined by 65 percent after he took office in January 2009. That did not matter to Democrats who, in November of 2013,

abolished the very filibusters they had used so aggressively.

The President also expressed concern that an increasingly partisan confirmation process would erode the judiciary’s institutional integrity and that the American people would lose confidence that courts can fairly decide cases. I submit that the kind of judge a President advocates has a much bigger impact on the American people’s view of the courts.

When he was a Senator, the President said judges decide cases based on their personal views, core concerns, and what is in their hearts. When he ran for President, he told Planned Parenthood that he would appoint judges who have empathy for certain groups. As President, he has nominated men and women who share this politicized, activist approach, believing that judges may make the Constitution conform to current social practices and evolving cultural norms. I think our fellow citizens can easily see that relying on personal empathy and personal concerns is the opposite of impartiality.

Since President Obama took office, the percentage of Americans disapproving of the way the Supreme Court is handling its job has risen by more than 20 points, and the percentage saying the Court is too liberal has risen steadily. Three-quarters of Americans now believe Supreme Court Justices decide cases based on their personal or political views, even though most Americans think they should not do so. The kind of judge President Obama and other liberals favor has much more to do with such trends than how we handle some procedural matters within the United States Senate.

Finally, I want to respond to the minority leader’s recent attack on the Judiciary Committee and its distinguished chairman, Senator GRASSLEY. The minority leader recently made the bizarre claim that Chairman GRASSLEY “forced his committee members to sign loyalty oaths.” I first thought I must have heard wrong. That statement is completely detached from reality, and, I thought, no Senator would utter something so strange on the Senate floor, but there it is in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The minority leader may be referring to the letter dated February 23, signed by the Republican members of the Judiciary Committee affirming that there will be no hearing for any nominee from President Obama for the Scalia vacancy. The chairman did not force anyone to sign anything. It may come as a surprise to the minority leader, but we sincerely and freely came to the conclusion that the confirmation process should be deferred.

If the minority leader really wants to characterize Senators acting together as evidence of a “loyalty oath,” then I have another example for everyone to

consider. When Democrats led 20 filibusters of President George W. Bush's judicial nominees during the 108th Congress, not a single Democrat voted even once to end debate—not one. Every one of the 868 total votes for those filibusters was cast by a Democrat, 20 of them by the minority leader himself. Now, that is loyalty.

I have yet to hear an argument from the other side regarding the Scalia vacancy that is not contradicted by present facts, by their own past actions or both. The Constitution assigns to this body the responsibility of advice and consent as an important check on the President's power to appoint. Advice and consent begins with a judgment about the best way to exercise that power in each situation. We have done so in different ways, at different times, under different circumstances.

Democrats and their leftwing allies are peddling the false claim that the Constitution requires the Senate to conduct the confirmation process now for this President's nominee to the Scalia vacancy. Of course, they are free to claim the Constitution requires today the very hearings and floor votes they denied to Republican nominees in the past. They may say those falsehoods as often as they wish, but they are still false.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF ADAM SZUBIN

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today to remind everybody that today is the 1-year anniversary of Adam Szubin's nomination to a key Federal post that works to stop financing for terrorism; yet he still waits a confirmation vote in the full Senate.

Mr. Szubin, if you have met him—I think almost anyone would agree he is one of the most qualified people for this job to enforce U.S. sanctions on terrorism, finance laws against countries such as Syria, Iran, North Korea, as well as against terrorist organizations, narcotraffickers, and money launderers. The Senate needs to do its job by holding a vote on Mr. Szubin's nomination, as well as the nominations of so many other Federal nominees. We have to stop putting politics above national security.

Exactly 1 year ago today, Adam Szubin was nominated to serve as the U.S. Treasury Department's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes. For 1 year, Adam Szubin and his family have been waiting for a vote in the Senate—and his family. I think way too often when we delay votes,

when we string out these nomination processes, we forget that it is not just the nominee, it is also the families of the nominees who are waiting for a final decision. Mr. Szubin received a vote in the Senate Banking Committee in March. Now the Senate needs to do its job and vote up or down on his confirmation.

I have a particular soft spot for Adam because I am convinced that he is one of the most intelligent people I have ever had in my office, and especially in this critical and important job. He has 15 years of experience countering the financing of terrorism in both Republican and Democratic administrations. During Mr. Szubin's confirmation in the Senate Banking Committee last September, Chairman SHELBY called Mr. Szubin eminently qualified.

If we are serious about enforcing sanctions against Iran and defeating terrorist organizations such as ISIL and Al Qaeda, we have to stop the financing of terrorism. That means we need Adam Szubin to be able to do his job at the U.S. Department of Treasury.

In January, I visited the Mideast on an official Senate trip with seven other Senators. We visited Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Israel, and Austria. The goal was to learn more about the ongoing threats posed by terrorist groups such as ISIL and the progress we have made to roll back Iran's nuclear program. We met with allies in the region to learn more about how to best prepare the United States to face these issues. This trip was about protecting the safety and well-being of our country.

During our meetings, the issue that came up over and over again was, how do we stop the financing of terrorism? We know that financing is the linchpin of a terrorist organization being able to do everything they do, threatening our country and threatening the world. For the United States to ably and effectively do that work, Adam Szubin needs to be confirmed to the job for which he has been recommended.

Some would say that it doesn't really matter, that Adam Szubin is still at the Department of the Treasury and we really don't need to do this. I think we need to look at, No. 1, what it means for the individuals and their families when we delay these confirmation votes. I am not saying—and Members on both sides of the aisle will have to make up their minds on how they are going to vote on that confirmation, but why is it that we can't even get a vote? Why is it that we can't even get our job done?

Here is a position which most people in this body would say is absolutely critical to the security of our country. If Adam Szubin isn't the right guy for the job, the right person for the job, then let's find that out—according to the advice and consent of this body—

and nominate somebody else. But why are we holding back on this critical job against a nominee who I would tell you is eminently qualified? We should be so lucky as to have someone with his qualifications, his capability helping protect our country. Yet we ask him to wait. We ask other nominees to wait. We ask that they sit by the sidelines with their professional lives in limbo while we have political discussions here in the Senate.

Is this a political decision? It might be. You know what. Let's take the vote. Why is this so hard? Why is it so hard to actually put up a number of nominees, take the vote, make the decision, and move on? I think that as I and many of my colleagues spend a lot of time talking to young people, encouraging them to be involved in public service, encouraging them to be part of a system that really does benefit all the people of this country. We ask people to go into public service, and then, when they aspire and work to achieve some of the highest positions in our country, we say: Not only are we not going to consider your nomination, we are not going to vote on it even after it comes out of committee. That is not a formula that speaks well to our recruitment of the best and brightest to serve the American people.

A year later, Adam Szubin remains in limbo. His family remains in limbo. His confirmation remains in limbo. Please, let's just vote. There are plenty of votes probably on the other side to say "We are not going to confirm you," but it is not right. It is not right. It is not fair to his family, it is not fair to him, and it is not fair to the people of this country to not have a confirmed person in the position for which Adam Szubin has been nominated.

I hope we can take a look at all of these nominees, break this logjam, and eventually get folks put in positions that are essential for American security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from California and myself, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute to H.R. 2028 be withdrawn and that amendment No. 3801 remain pending and be considered the committee-reported substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## PRESCRIPTION OPIOID ABUSE

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to talk about a huge problem that I am pretty sure is affecting every one of our States. It is certainly affecting my State in a very serious way, and the abuse of opioid painkillers often leads to the abuse of heroin, overdoses, and death. This is wreaking havoc all across Pennsylvania. It is affecting every geographic part of the State. It is in urban areas, suburban, and rural areas. It affects every demographic group and every age group. The scale of the problem is shocking. The increase in the number of people who are overdosing and becoming addicted is disturbing. I began hearing about this issue immediately when I became a Senator in 2011, and frankly this problem is getting worse.

I recently became the chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health, and that has given me an opportunity to delve into this ever more deeply. We have had a series of hearings across Pennsylvania to get as much expertise as possible so we can learn about what is causing this and how we should deal with it. There are three areas that have come to my attention—three directions—that I think the Federal Government can pursue to help deal with this very complex and very widespread problem of opioid addiction. No. 1, we need to improve the access and quality of treatment for people who are addicted. There is no question that this is a very difficult disease to treat. There is so much we don't understand. We don't understand what predisposes someone to be more likely to develop an addiction. We don't understand the genetic implications. We know there are some behavioral issues, but we don't understand as much as we need to know about it. We do know there are often underlying mental health issues which contribute to this problem. Whatever these causes are, we need to learn more so we can treat and prevent them better, and we need to treat the people who currently find themselves in the very difficult situation of facing addiction. As I said, that is category No. 1.

There is another thing we can do in the Federal Government. We need to take steps to reduce the diversion of these powerful prescription narcotics to the black markets. In fact, prescription opioids are available on the street for a price. There is a market for them, and they contribute to the addiction problem we have. They don't get there because a burglar broke in and stole them from a pharmacy. That is not the typical way these narcotics get to the street. They get there because someone prescribed it and a prescription was filled. We need to look at ways to reduce that phenomenon.

I introduced legislation with Senator CASEY, my Pennsylvania colleague, Senator PORTMAN, Senator BROWN, and

Senator KAINE. That legislation is designed to reduce the frequency and occurrence of prescription opioids finding their way into the black market. Our bill provides Medicare with a tool that Medicaid and private insurers have long had, and that tool is called Lock-In. When an insurer—in the case of our legislation it would be Medicare—discovers that a patient is doctor shopping, which is systematically going to multiple doctors and getting multiple prescriptions for opioids, filling them at multiple pharmacies, and ending up with a commercial scale quantity, our legislation would allow Medicare to lock that patient into a single prescriber and single pharmacy. Any person with a legitimate need can get that need met, but we can put an end to some of these very large quantities reaching the black market.

The good news is our legislation was offered as an amendment. Senator CASEY and I offered it as an amendment to the CARA legislation a few weeks ago. It was adopted by the Senate, and of course the underlying CARA legislation was passed by the Senate. I am hoping the House will take this up, pass it, and get it to the President, and I am confident he will sign it. That would be a big step in the right direction.

The third category of action that I think we need to consider are steps that would reduce overprescribing in the first place. One of the things I have learned from the many hearings I have had across Pennsylvania are doctors who have told and described to me a culture within medicine in recent decades which has put so much emphasis on eliminating all pain that doctors are tending to prescribe these opioids in far greater quantities than would have been imagined a couple of decades ago. That is an important piece.

I have raised questions about whether it is appropriate to use opioids to treat long-term chronic pain as opposed to short-term acute pain. That is another area we ought to be raising questions with health care professionals so they can help us understand so we have an answer. There is yet another way I think we can address this in the Senate, and that is an unintended consequence of ObamaCare—a provision in ObamaCare that I think is encouraging doctors to overprescribe opioids in the hospital setting. That is what I want to talk about today.

First, a little background on this. ObamaCare created a system that provides financial rewards to hospitals that perform well on certain outcomes, such as reducing readmissions and hospital-acquired infections, for instance. If they do badly in those areas, then they are penalized and get lower reimbursements. It is a financial set of incentives to get better outcomes. Those two examples I just mentioned, readmissions and hospital-acquired infec-

tions, are objective, measurable, quantifiable, and there is little doubt we want to see less of those things. You can argue that it makes sense to have financial incentives to deal with that.

ObamaCare also links reimbursement for hospitals to a much more subjective outcome separate and apart from the ones I just mentioned; that is, patient satisfaction as defined by the government. Specifically, the Federal Government mandates that hospitals survey their patients about their stay at a hospital using a form known as the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers and Systems, or HCAHPS. It is known as HCAHPS. That is the survey hospitals are required by ObamaCare to administer to their patients. Hospitals that have a higher score on this survey get more money and hospitals that have lower scores on this survey get less money. There is a roughly \$500 million swing nationally across the country based on these personal patient satisfaction scores alone.

It is not just that the government is saying these scores are important, the government is making it financially important to these hospitals. This raises a question, and the question is, Is the hospital score on some bureaucrat's test always in the patient's best interest? It is not clear to me that it always is. There is no doubt that hospitals, physicians, nurses, and health care providers generally want to have satisfied patients. We all do. We want to be a satisfied patient when we go to see a doctor or go to a hospital. It is obviously a good thing if a patient has as good an experience as possible, but it is specifically the survey questions on pain management per se that are raising a lot of red flags and not just with me but with health care professionals and those who have been studying it. There was a recent Time magazine article entitled "How ObamaCare is Fueling America's Opioid Epidemic." This article is a lengthy investigation into the unintended but as I said predictable consequences of this ObamaCare-created HCHAP survey and specifically the questions in the survey that relate to pain management and the prescription of opioids.

One of the questions from the study is: "During this hospital stay, did you need medicine for pain?" Second question: "During this hospital stay, how often was your pain well controlled?" Finally, during this hospital stay: "How often did the hospital staff do everything they could to help you with your pain?"

These are the questions that patients respond to, and they contribute to the overall score on the test. The score on the test determines, in part, the level at which the hospital is reimbursed by Medicare. There is a very powerful financial incentive for hospitals to make sure that patients are answering these

questions in a way that will get the desired response from CMS—from Medicare. They are graded on these questions. So it is a big incentive. When you tie the measurement of these kinds of questions to reimbursement, you are very likely to get changes in behavior. In fact, that seems to be what is happening.

I think we need to ask ourselves whether we are striking the appropriate balance here when 27,000 people are dying from heroin and prescription painkiller overdoses. Many of the people who are dying from heroin overdoses began with prescription opioids, and they moved on to heroin when they discovered that it was cheaper and more available than the prescription opioid that they got addicted to in the first place.

So there is increasing evidence now that physicians and hospitals are, in fact, responding to these financial incentives, and they are responding by prescribing more opioids.

Dr. Nick Sawyer, a health policy fellow at the UC Davis Department of Emergency Medicine told *Time Magazine*:

The government is telling us we need to make sure a patient's pain is under control. It's hard to make them happy without a narcotic. This policy is leading to ongoing opioid abuse.

A survey by the South Carolina Medical Association found that almost half of over 150 doctors responding reported that they were prescribing inappropriate narcotic pain medication because of the patient satisfaction questions. One doctor wrote that drug seekers "are well aware of the patient satisfaction scores and how they can use these threats and complaints to obtain narcotics."

Here are two examples from a story entitled "Patient Satisfaction is Overrated," published by the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, about Press Ganey, a company that administers patient satisfaction surveys that often include these HCAHPS questions.

One doctor reported that he had to give Dilaudid—and that is a powerful prescription opioid—for minor pain because his score on this test was too low in the previous month.

An emergency room doctor with poor survey scores started offering hydrocodone goody bags to discharged patients to improve his ratings.

Now, as I said, I have had multiple field hearings across Pennsylvania to hear firsthand from health care providers, recovering addicts, law enforcement—people who are dealing with this epidemic in a variety of ways. One of our witnesses in Pittsburgh last October was Dr. Jack Kabazie. He is the system director of Allegheny Health Network's Division of Pain Medicine. He testified: "Physicians who have compensation or employment tied to

patient satisfaction scores may feel pressured to prescribe opioids in response to patient pain complaints."

Another ER doctor told my office how his hospital administrator informed him that the ER patient satisfaction scores are in the 50th percentile—or average—and that he should find a way to get them higher or "I'll find someone who can."

This is a big concern. There is a range of evidence that doctors and hospitals have been changing their prescribing habits in response to these pain questions.

Now, let me be clear about one thing. None of us wants to see anyone needlessly suffer. None of us wants to themselves go through pain that is unnecessary. None of us want to see a loved one or anybody experiencing pain if it could be appropriately managed. For the terminally ill, of course, it makes sense to do everything possible to make those folks as comfortable as they can be in their final days. But what I am asking is this: Are we appropriately weighing the risks and the benefits here?

Sure, there is a benefit to complete and immediate elimination of all pain that a powerful narcotic can temporarily provide, but we know that there is also a risk of addiction to that narcotic. That risk is very significant, and it has increased exponentially. That addiction is incredibly dangerous because it can spiral out of control and even lead to heroin abuse, addiction, and death.

Have we gone too far in creating an expectation that the results for every patient must be zero pain? Or are there some circumstances in which it is better to treat pain as best we can with nonnarcotics—other ways or other medicines? There are other treatments, including physical therapy. There are other ways to diminish pain. It may not be 100 percent effective all the time, but if it is temporary and it has zero risk of opioid addiction, then maybe we ought to be considering that a little more frequently.

So this is definitely a complicated issue. There are many factors contributing to the heroin epidemic, the opioid epidemic. But it is increasingly looking like one of the contributing factors at some level is the financial incentives created by this aspect of ObamaCare, this particular questionnaire that focuses significantly on complete elimination of pain. I think we need to ask ourselves whether this is appropriate.

Last week, the group Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing sent a petition signed by more than 60 non-profit groups and medical experts—including Pennsylvania's Department of Health Secretary Karen Murphy—to CMS, calling for the removal of the pain questions from the HCAHPS survey. Now, that is one approach.

Senator JOHNSON from Wisconsin has introduced a bipartisan bill that has a lot of merit. His bill is called the Promoting Responsible Opioid Prescribing Act. What his bill does is it removes the results of the pain questions from Medicare's calculations of reimbursement. So the questions would still be asked, and we would still learn about how patients feel about the extent to which their pain was managed. But it wouldn't affect the hospital's reimbursement. I think there is a lot of merit for that proposal. Again, it is because we are in the midst of a deadly crisis. It is killing people every day.

The impact of opioid addiction and heroin addiction and overdose on a family is so devastating. I can only imagine the grief, but I know people who have been through the grief of losing a child, losing a loved one to this terrible scourge. That is why I am here on the Senate floor today. That is why I want to continue to focus on this.

I think there are many things that we need to consider, but one of them is decoupling the results of these pain questions from the level of reimbursement, because the evidence is starting to mount that the financial tie is creating incentives to change behavior.

So I hope we will, as a body, address this issue seriously, because there is a lot that needs to be done on this.

I appreciate the recognition, and I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, the faces and voices of the opioid and heroin epidemic are all around us. The victims and survivors are everywhere, in Connecticut and across the country.

Just this past weekend, one of them perished. A young woman, Erikka Lyn Hughes, was found unconscious in her boyfriend's apartment, later dying from a heroin overdose. Erikka was only 21 years old. She had her whole life ahead of her, and her future was destroyed as a result of this epidemic. Her family, bravely and strongly, has chosen to speak out and stand up in the midst of their shock and grief to say that they hope that Erikka's story will inspire action to combat this epidemic of overdose and addiction.

Rampant opioid overdose and abuse and misuse in our country has reached epidemic proportions, and it shows no signs of slowing. In Connecticut, I have seen these stories firsthand. This public health hurricane has swept our State and our Nation, crashing down on the lives of families and innocent

people, much as a natural disaster would destroy homes or landscapes, leaving a path of pain, heartbreak, and addiction in its wake.

The numbers in Connecticut are as shocking as they are tragic. Last year in my State, a record number of people—nearly 700—died from opioid overdoses. Sadly, this number is abstract, but it reflects a disheartening trend that has led to a 75-percent increase in prescription drug overdoses in Connecticut since 2012. I have heard stories, seen faces, and heard voices firsthand in roundtables that I conducted around the State of Connecticut—nine in all—involving public health experts, doctors, specialists, public officials, law enforcement, and—maybe most movingly and profoundly—recovering addicts and their families.

I heard from parents who have buried children far too young. I heard from first responders whose quick action saved lives using Narcan. I heard from doctors who understand that change is needed to prevent this disease from spreading further and from families and professionals from Torrington and Rocky Hill, Willimantic and Wethersfield, Bridgeport and New London, New Britain and New Haven—across our State—people who came forward to break the silence and defeat the denial that is one of our greatest enemies in this fight against opioid addiction and abuse.

This problem knows no boundaries and no distinctions in income, race, religion, ZIP Code. It afflicts and affects everyone everywhere, and that is the beginning truth to solve the problem.

I heard heartbreaking stories from a woman who lost both of her sons to addiction. The sobering conversations I had with her family and others, while not always easy, were absolutely crucial to my understanding how widespread and pervasive this problem is. What I heard from them and what I believe is necessary is a call to action. It is more than an effort to honor the legacy of Connecticut citizens who were lost last year—mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, and brothers—but to teach every one of us to reach those who are still fighting their own private battle against this disease.

Make no mistake. It is a disease. It is every bit a disease—as much as any we have discussed on this floor—requiring research and action and urgent and drastic steps that we can and must provide because it is demeaning and reducing our Nation's fabric. It goes to the core of America.

These conversations led me to do a report. I was inspired by the loved ones and families who have lost the most to do a call to action. It is called "Opioid Addiction: A Call to Action," and it has 23 specific and definite recommendations. Some require funding, but others are without fiscal impact. I

hope to discuss them at length in a series of speeches on the floor and not to leave this issue at one talk, one speech, one remark, but to talk about it continuously, as we all should be doing in our communities, because, again, denial and silence are the enemies here.

This report outlines 23 policy proposals focused on curing our Nation's addiction to opioids. The proposals are all grassroots, community-based solutions suggested by people who have firsthand knowledge. They are experts—maybe not in academic training, maybe without Ph.D.s and qualifications based on formal studies, but they know this pervasive problem. They have seen it firsthand, and they have observed the wreckage and destruction that opioid addiction causes. They cannot bring back the lives of their loved ones, but they are determined that others will be spared this hurricane's effects.

These proposals, which touch on prescribing practices, adequate treatment, emergency medical response, law enforcement, and help for our veterans, have the common goal of ending this crisis. They are a response to the most pressing issues I heard throughout our conversations. While none is a panacea, none is a single bullet, all of them together are the beginning of a long process that must be undertaken toward curbing this epidemic.

A place to start is with our prescribing practices, which is where misuse and abuse so often begin. Our Nation makes up 5 percent of the world's population; we use 80 percent of its opioid painkillers. In 2012, doctors wrote 259 million prescriptions for painkillers, enough for every American adult to have a bottle of these controlled substances for themselves.

Many of us have children. My wife Cynthia and I have four. Every one of them plays sports and every one of them has suffered sports injuries. Most of them could have availed themselves of these painkillers. We drew the line and said no. Other parents should be doing the same, but more importantly, the providers should be exercising greater discipline and self-restraint because every one of those bottles, even if prescribed for legitimate injuries such as broken bones, repaired LCLs, and other kinds of injuries, is potentially a risk.

Just last week a couple in Connecticut was arrested for selling painkillers out of their home. For 2 years they collected 1,400 powerful painkillers from their local pharmacy, abusing their own prescriptions in the process. In the pharmacy that got them arrested, the couple picked up 300 oxycodone and 140 oxymorphone tablets. This flagrant abuse of the system should not be possible in our State or any others.

There are legitimate reasons for painkillers to be prescribed, especially

in chronic pain or end-of-life situations. There is no need to deprive people of those painkillers when they need them for those inevitable reasons, but my call to action outlines steps to confront this issue where it can be addressed so as to minimize the risk of abuse or misuse or overuse, especially when young people such as our children are involved.

It would mandate training for medical professionals to reduce opioid overprescribing. It would call for drug enforcement agency guidelines for partial fills of these prescription opioids, meaning fewer of these prescription drugs would make it onto our streets.

Of course, reducing prescriptions can't be the only answer, particularly when so many who need care go without it. My report also seeks to improve treatment options, calling for meaningful mental health parity, implementation of the law requiring it, and much more vigorous and effective enforcement to ensure that people who need help actually receive it. This step includes access to medication-assisted therapy that can prove essential to the recovery process.

We can do more to guarantee that Naloxone, a powerful antidote to heroin overdose, remains both affordable and successful. This means holding manufacturers accountable when they begin raising prices to astronomical levels. The prices have been skyrocketing. Local police and firefighters are often unable to afford it in their current budgets. It means also pushing for elimination of copays when it is prescribed at pharmacies. Insurance ought to cover it. It also means that the Federal Government must do its part and increase funding for Narcan so that cash-strapped first responders can actually afford it to save lives.

Our law enforcement officials require both the training and resources needed to keep our streets safe and our communities healthy and drug-free. That means funding to establish prescription drug monitoring programs—effective programs to facilitate training so that police officers can recognize when suspected criminals are actually people struggling with addiction and to assist drug take-back programs throughout our States and Nation that allow the return of unused prescription drugs.

Finally, in my role as ranking member on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I have encouraged the establishment of more consistent and safe VA prescribing practices and the creation of an integrated service model for mental health and pain management.

I am pleased that the Senate raised this issue and addressed it and passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act earlier this year, but that measure is a downpayment. It is only the beginning. I hope policy levels at all levels of government will draw on

the strategies delineated in this legislation and in my report and elsewhere to combat the devastating epidemic of addiction and abuse.

Passing new laws is not the only answer. Enforcement and implementation of existing ones is necessary too. The prime example is mental health care, where still, years after President Bush signed that measure in 2008, its implementation is inconsistent and inadequate, and enforcement of mental health parity remains an aspiration, not an action. Part of what we need to do is make sure that existing laws are implemented effectively and fairly and that the investment is made in commonsense, practical measures like the 23 recommendations I have outlined in this report—by no means an exclusive way to deal with this problem.

I have no pride of authorship in these 23 recommendations. I would yield to wiser and better suggestions, but the point is that action is necessary. It is necessary now because every day we lose lives. Despite the best efforts of our first responders and our medical community, we continue to lose lives and futures, and our families continue the grief and heartbreak that I saw in my roundtables and that families in Connecticut feel today.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

PUERTO RICO

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I want to speak today about the fiscal crisis that faces Puerto Rico. In addition to some thoughts on what the island's own leaders need to do, I would like to commend the House leadership for their efforts to solve this problem with the recent bill they proposed. We need to take a close look at their proposed solutions, but they are right to tackle this problem head-on, and I look forward to offering more ideas as the debate reaches the Senate.

Whenever I speak about Puerto Rico, I like to start by reminding people of a very basic fact: The people of Puerto Rico are American citizens and right now they are living in dire economic conditions. More than 3.5 million of our fellow Americans on the island are facing tremendous economic hardship, in large part because of irresponsible leadership from the government in San Juan.

As we all know, Puerto Rico has a debt crisis of enormous proportions, and it has thrown off the stability of its economy from top to bottom. While some have suggested that Washington can deliver a silver-bullet solution to help Puerto Rico out of its debt, the reality is that nothing Washington does will be effective unless Puerto Rico's leaders turn away from decades of failed policies.

The debt crisis goes hand in hand with a deeper problem: Puerto Rico's

economy is not growing, and if the economy in Puerto Rico does not start growing, they will never generate the revenue necessary to pay their debt or the billions of dollars in unfunded liabilities they currently have on their books; in other words, the promised payments they have made to future generations that are completely unrealistic.

Why is their economy not growing? The primary reason is decades of left-leaning policies that have made it too expensive to do business. Tax revenue is too high. Government regulations are stifling. The island is unattractive to investors. Their leadership has simply been irresponsible. This year alone, even with all the fiscal problems they are having, they barely reduced their budget from last year. In that sense, the problem in Puerto Rico is not unlike the problem we have here in Washington, DC. Puerto Rico's government is spending more than it takes in, and any time you spend more than you take in, you are going to have debt. No restructuring is going to solve that unless you restructure the way you spend money. Bankruptcy protection alone is not going to solve it either. Without reforms, if we grant bankruptcy protection by itself, Puerto Rico will simply be bankrupt again not far down the road.

As a result of all of these problems, there is a massive exodus of professionals and others from Puerto Rico. They are leaving and heading to Florida and other places in the mainland United States. If we don't solve the problem on the island, we are going to continue seeing thousands of Puerto Ricans leave, which is going to further cripple the island's economy and reduce its revenue.

The leadership in San Juan has to show its willingness to get their fiscal house in order. They need to accept that their decades of liberal policies have not succeeded and must now be traded in for pro-growth policies. If they keep refusing to do this, our options in Washington will be more limited and we won't have support.

To help Puerto Rico, first and foremost, we need to do the same things that are necessary to help the rest of the United States. We need pro-growth and pro-family tax reform at the Federal level. We also need to repeal and replace ObamaCare so we can end the disproportionate damage the Obama administration has inflicted on the island by raiding its Medicare Advantage funding and reducing reimbursement payments for Medicare, which have left patients with fewer health options and higher costs.

Puerto Rican consumers need to be treated the same as other American consumers on the mainland.

It may be that the best path forward for Puerto Rico would be at some point to include a limited opportunity to re-

structure its debt, but that will require a serious discussion first to ensure that the solution is responsible and fair to creditors as well. Any mechanism for debt restructuring must be a last resort. It must come after Puerto Rican leaders have shown seriousness, initiative, and courage in tackling the problem, and it cannot be seen as the silver bullet that leaves the creation of conditions for economic growth by the wayside. Otherwise, protection will only amount to a cosmetic solution that does nothing to deal with the underlying disease.

In closing, the problem must be addressed for the sake of the people of Puerto Rico. While there is a significant amount of responsibility on the shoulders of the government on the island, we cannot ignore that crisis here either. We, too, have a responsibility to our fellow Americans who live on the island of Puerto Rico to tackle this issue with the same urgency and the same attention we would if this fiscal crisis were confronting one of our 50 States.

I hope we will take up this calling and act. I again congratulate the leadership in the House for trying to do something. We hope they will continue that work to arrive at something that can pass there. But I think it is important for us to take up the cause here as well.

For over a century, Puerto Ricans have contributed to our economy, enriched our culture, and nobly sacrificed in our wars. Puerto Ricans are Americans. They deserve better than indifferent leadership in Washington and atrocious Big Government mismanagement in San Juan. Puerto Rico's leaders must answer the challenge, but by taking some of the steps outlined here, leaders in Washington can and must do their part as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

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

MILITARY READINESS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last week a story appeared on FOX News that captured a glimpse of the real damage being done to our military by years of senseless budget cuts known to many of us here as sequestration. I don't think there are 100 Americans who know what the word "sequestration" means. What it means is senseless budget cuts that have emasculated our military and dramatically harmed our ability to defend this Nation. This poses a risk to the lives of the men and women who are serving our Nation in uniform.

In a story entitled "Budget cuts leaving Marine Corps aircraft grounded," senior marine officers warn FOX News

that the “[Marine] Corps’ aviation service is being stretched to the breaking point.”

I quote from the story:

Today, the vast majority of Marine Corps aircraft can't fly. . . . Out of 276 F/A-18 Hornet strike fighters in the Marine Corps inventory, only about 30 percent are ready to fly. Similarly only 42 of 147 heavy-lift CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters are airworthy.

In short, Marine Corps aviation is in a crisis and being left grounded. What is the cause of this crisis? According to dozens of marines interviewed by FOX News:

The reason behind the grounding of these aircraft includes the toll of the long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the fight against ISIS, and budget cuts—

For example, sequestration—

precluding the purchase of the parts needed to fix an aging fleet.

The report goes on to say:

U.S. military spending declined from \$691 billion to \$560 billion in 2015.

So, as the world has become more dangerous, as conflict has spread throughout the world, the cuts have taken place in an unscheduled, unplanned, and unorchestrated operation.

The cuts came just as the planes are returning from 15 years of war, suffering from overuse and extreme wear and tear. . . . Lack of funds has forced the Marines to go outside the normal supply chain to procure desperately needed parts. Cannibalization, or taking parts from one multi-million dollar aircraft to get other multi-million dollar aircraft airborne, has become the norm.

One marine likened the difficult job of maintaining this aircraft to “taking a 1995 Cadillac and trying to make it a Ferrari.”

This job is only more difficult because 30,000 marines have been cut from the force as a result of sequestration and its misguided budget cuts. As Maj. Michael Malone put it:

We don't have enough Marines to do the added work efficiently. We're making it a lot harder on the young Marines who are fixing our aircraft.

Lt. Col. Matthew Brown added that this burden “is coming on the backs of our young Marines. . . . They are the ones who are working 20 to 21 hours a day to get them ready to go on deployment.”

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert Neller said, “we don't have enough airplanes that we could call ‘ready basic aircraft,’” and that aviation readiness is his No. 1 concern. It is no wonder, because this readiness crisis is literally putting the lives of our marines at risk.

Lt. Col. Harry Thomas commands a squadron of Marine Corps F/A-18s. He told FOX News that last year he deployed to the Pacific with 10 jets, but only 7 made it. His own jet caught on fire in Guam. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas was able to land the aircraft safely, but the incident nearly cost taxpayers \$29 million and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas his life. Now his

squadron is getting ready to deploy in 3 months, but only 2 of his 14 Hornets can fly.

The aircraft shortage also means training is suffering and our pilots could be losing their edge. As the FOX News report details:

Ten years ago, Marine pilots averaged between 25 and 30 hours in the air each month. Today, in Lieutenant Colonel Thomas's squadron, the average flight time per pilot over the last month was just over 4 hours.”

I assure my colleagues, you cannot maintain readiness and capability in a modern-day fighter aircraft flying 4 hours a month. It can't be done.

Super Stallion helicopters have flown thousands of marines into combat over the past three decades, but these aging aircraft, filled with a tangled web of hundreds of wires and fuel lines, present a daunting challenge for young marines assigned to inspect each and every one. As the FOX News report explained, “One failure can be catastrophic, as happened in 2014 when [a Navy version of the aircraft] crashed off the coast of Virginia after a fire engulfed the aircraft due to faulty fuel lines.”

The bottom line is this: Years of budget cuts have left us with a Marine Corps that is too small and has too few aircraft. The aircraft it does have are too old and can barely fly and only by cannibalizing parts from other aircraft. Young marines are being asked to muddle through this crisis with shrinking resources, knowing that if they fail, their comrades flying and riding in those aircraft could pay a fatal price.

The crisis in Marine Corps aviation would be shocking if it were not such a tragically common story throughout each of our military services. Arbitrary budget cuts and sequestration have shrunk the Army by nearly 100,000 soldiers since 2012, bringing the Army to a size that Army Chief of Staff GEN Mark Milley testified has put the Army at “high military risk.”

These budget-driven reductions were decided before Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the rise of ISIL. As the force has shrunk, readiness has suffered. Just one-third of Army brigade combat teams are ready to deploy and operate decisively. Indeed, just 2—just 2—of the Army's 60 brigade combat teams are at the highest level of combat readiness.

To buy readiness today, as lackluster as it is, the Army is being forced to mortgage its future readiness and capability by reducing end strength and delaying modernization needed to meet future threats.

The result of budget cuts, forced reductions, and declining readiness is clear: In an unforeseen contingency, General Milley testified this month before the Armed Services Committee that the Army “risks not having ready forces available to provide flexible options to our national leadership . . .

and most importantly, [risks] incurring significantly increased U.S. casualties.

I repeat: “significantly increased U.S. casualties.”

Likewise, by any measure, the Navy's fleet of 272 ships is too small to address critical security challenges. Even with recent shipbuilding increases, the Navy will not achieve its requirement of 308 ships until 2021. There is no plan to meet the bipartisan National Defense Panel's unanimous recommendation for a fleet of 325 to 346 ships.

A shrinking fleet operating at high tempo has forced difficult tradeoffs. For example, the last five carrier strike group deployments have exceeded 8 months. Keeping sailors at sea for 8 months is damaging to morale and will sooner or later affect retention. It takes a toll on sailors, ships, and aircraft.

Unable to continue years of deferred maintenance, the Navy is no longer able to provide constant carrier presence in the Middle East or the Western Pacific.

The Air Force is the oldest and the smallest in its history. The combination of decades of relentless operational tempo and misguided reductions in defense spending in recent years has depleted readiness. Today, less than 50 percent of the Air Force's combat squadrons are ready for full-spectrum operations—well below the Air Force's stated requirement of 80 percent. The Air Force does not anticipate a return to full-spectrum readiness for another decade. In other words, after flying in uncontested skies over the Middle East for more than a quarter of a century, our Air Force is not ready for a high-end fight against a near-peer adversary.

The truth is this: The ongoing war in Afghanistan, the rise of ISIL, Russia's aggression in Europe, and China's assertiveness in the Pacific have all increased the demands imposed upon our servicemembers and their families. But at the same time, the requirements of our military have continued to grow.

For 5 years—5 years now—the Budget Control Act of 2011 has imposed caps on defense spending. Despite periodic relief from those caps, including the Bipartisan Budget Act passed last year, every one of our military services—the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and, yes, the Marine Corps—remains undersized, unready, and underfunded to meet current and future threats.

Unfortunately, the President's defense budget request for the coming year does little to nothing to address this problem. Instead, it continues down the dangerous path of budgeting based not on what our military needs but on what arbitrary defense spending constraints allow. In order to strictly adhere to the defense spending floor in last year's Bipartisan Budget Act, the

Department of Defense cut \$17 billion from what it said it needed last year.

Does anybody believe the situation in the world has improved to the point where you can reduce by \$17 billion from what we paid last year, what we spent last year? Those are billions of dollars of cuts for things our military needs right now: Army helicopters, Air Force fighters, Navy ships, Marine Corps fighting vehicles, and critical training and maintenance across the services.

The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN Martin Dempsey, described last year's budget as "the lower ragged edge of manageable risk in our ability to execute the defense strategy."

One year later, the President of the United States has sent us a budget request that is less in real dollars than last year and \$17 billion less than what our military needed and planned for. The military service's unfunded requirements totaled nearly \$23 billion for the coming fiscal year alone. Meanwhile, sequestration threatens to return in 2018, taking away another \$100 billion from our military through 2021.

I don't know what lies beneath "the lower ragged edge of manageable risk," but this is what I fear it means; that our military is becoming less and less able to deter conflict. If, God forbid, deterrence does fail somewhere and we end up in conflict, our Nation will deploy young Americans into battle without sufficient training or equipment to fight a war that will take longer, be larger, cost more, and ultimately claim more young American lives than it would otherwise would have.

If that comes to pass, who will be responsible, who is responsible for the military's readiness crisis? Who is to blame for the increasing risk to the lives of the men and women who volunteer to serve and defend our Nation? The answer is clear: We are—the White House, Congress, Democrats, and Republicans, every politician who designed, agreed to or went along with the Budget Control Act and the mindless mechanism of sequestration, and every politician who in the past 5 years has failed to realize our mistake or, perhaps having realized it, failed to do anything and everything possible to fix it.

What is worse is the two-faced hypocrisy of it all: Democrats who will say they favor more funding for our military but only if they get dollar-for-dollar increases for their pet domestic programs first and Republicans who say they favor a strong defense, but when it comes time to do the hard work of funding it, are nowhere to be found.

For 5 years, we have been playing politics with funding that our military servicemembers need and deserve. For 5 years, we have been playing a rigged game, where the politicians win and our military loses.

This must all end before it is too late. We cannot continue to avert our eyes and ignore the grave impact budget cuts are having on our military. The warning signs are clear: a marine aircraft that can't fly, pilots who can't train, and young marines trying to hold it all together by stealing parts from one aging airplane to give to another.

The potential consequences are clear. Our Nation could soon find itself in a position where it must either abandon an important national interest or send young Americans into a conflict for which they are not prepared.

This is the reality our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are facing. It is our urgent and solemn task to confront it. This Congress can begin to chart a better course, one that is worthy of the service and sacrifice of those who volunteer to put themselves in harm's way on our behalf.

I am committed to doing everything I can as chairman of the Armed Services Committee to accomplish this task, and I will work with any of my colleagues to find a solution. Despite the odds, I am ever hopeful we can live up to our highest constitutional duty and moral responsibility to provide for the common defense.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I rise to thank the Senator from Arizona for his comments.

One of the advantages of having a full appropriations process is it puts the spotlight on the money we spend. I am asking to put this chart where the Senator from Arizona can see it.

We will be debating 12 appropriations bills hopefully in the next few weeks. This is the first one. It is \$37.5 billion. A little more than half of it is defense spending—our weapons, plutonium enrichment, and necessary things for our country—but all of the spending we are talking about in these 12 bills adds up to \$1 trillion.

The Federal spending for this year is \$4 trillion. The money the distinguished Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, was talking about is our defense money. It is down here on this blue line. It is in the trillion dollars. It is nearly half of that. As we look back since 2008, this blue line has stayed level. Over the next 10 years it is projected to rise at about the level of the rate of inflation.

At the same time, this line, which is the \$3 trillion line—mandatory spending, entitlements, all that—is going up. After about 10 years, the end result will be that this will go from about 32

percent of our total spending to about 22 percent. What is that going to do to our defense spending?

We have strong speeches made sometimes about let's get the spending under control, but on both sides of the aisle there is not a lot of courage shown when it comes to this red line because this is Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, entitlements, and other benefits. It is squeezing out not only our national defense but our cancer research and the other things we need to do as a country.

It is important over these next few weeks that we use this as an occasion on both sides of the aisle to recognize what we are doing with money. No one can say this is part of the budget problem. In fact, we have just heard an eloquent speech from the Senator from Arizona, who said we have not spent enough to defend ourselves in an unsafe world. Nobody is doing anything about this.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Of course.

Mr. MCCAIN. Is the interest on the national debt included in that red line?

Mr. ALEXANDER. The answer to the Senator from Arizona is, no, it is not. In fact, if it were, this line would be higher. So it is this line plus the interest on the debt.

Mr. MCCAIN. Obviously, it makes it much more compelling. Obviously, that all would be moved one way or another. Obviously, it is going to go up, but a return to inflation would dramatically increase that red line, would it not?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Yes, it would.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Senator.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from Arizona.

I have heard there might be an effort to commit our bill back to the committee in order to reduce spending to a lower level. If we do that, someone needs to say which division needs to lose troops, which country do we not want to defend, which airplane do we not want to fly, and which pilot do we not want to train.

We are talking about real decisions, and we are talking about not setting priorities. I don't think most of the American people know that when we talk about the Federal debt, it is not national defense that is driving up the Federal debt. It is in the blue line. It is our unwillingness on both sides of the aisle to confront this.

One statistic that I was reminded of by my colleague the Senator from Tennessee is an American family today—I think of an average age couple, 50 years of age, would pay about \$140,000 into Medicare. They will get back about \$430,000 in Medicare. We can understand how people who pay into Medicare would want to get their Medicare back, but we can also understand how that is not a sustainable program, and I think all of us as Americans can see that.



One of the things I hope we do over the next several weeks is talk honestly about that problem. We are not solving that problem in this debate. We are talking about this \$1 trillion. What are we going to do about the other \$3 trillion that adds to our \$19 trillion debt? Thank you.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, my amendment is pretty straightforward. It eliminates duplicative and wasteful spending. It eliminates \$200 million from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Commission, and the Northern Border Regional Commission.

These entities have a mission to provide "strategic investments" for economic development, broadband deployment, infrastructure improvements, and housing. You name it; there is funding for it. That is laudable, but there are already several Federal, State, and local programs that fund these types of projects.

What is worse is that a quick look at some of the grants awarded from these entities show questionable choices: Should \$100,000 be awarded to the Lake Placid Ski Club to build ski jumps? Should \$125,000 be awarded for a Chinese medicine herb growers consortium? Should \$250,000 be awarded to a tribe in Maine to build a maple processing facility—after it was awarded about \$100,000 from USDA to launch maple syrup ventures? This is through the Federal Government. I don't believe so.

I ask us to support my amendment and stop such duplicative and wasteful spending.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I understand that it is likely that we will shortly be considering Ernst amendment No. 3803, eliminating funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Commission, and the Northern Border Regional Commission. I want to talk about the Appalachian Regional Commission. I know a little bit about this.

The western part of my State, known as Mountain Maryland, is a beautiful part of Maryland. I visit there frequently. There are not a lot of people, and it is certainly a hearty life. It is not easy. It is not easy to attract business to the western rural part of Maryland. These people work hard, and they are preserving a way of life in an economy that is critically important to the State of Maryland.

The Appalachian Regional Commission is absolutely essential for the economic growth of western Maryland. The Appalachian region is a region of a proud history, and we have given them a future. The Ernst amendment would take away one of the most important tools towards their future.

Let me just mention a few things about the Appalachian Regional Commission and the projects they fund on an annual basis.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request so we can call the amendments up?

Mr. CARDIN. I am glad to yield to the Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from Maryland.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3802 AND 3803 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, on behalf of Senator FEINSTEIN and myself, that the following amendments be called up and reported by number: 3802, Schatz; and 3803, Ernst; further, that at 4:55 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20—today—the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed and that no second degree amendments be in order to either of the amendments prior to the votes, and that there be 2 minutes, equally divided, prior to each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. ALEXANDER], for others, proposes amendments numbered 3802 and 3803 to amendment No. 3801.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3802

(Purpose: To modify funding for certain projects of the Department of Energy)

On page 28, line 16, strike "\$292,669,000" and insert "\$325,000,000".

On page 46, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

(4) "Energy Program—Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program", \$9,500,000.

(5) "Energy Program—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy", \$20,600,000.

(6) "Energy Program—Nuclear Energy", \$231,000.

(7) "Energy Program—Strategic Petroleum Reserve", \$150,000.

(8) "Energy Program—Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves", \$150,000.

(9) "Energy Program—Science", \$1,700,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3803

(Purpose: To eliminate funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Commission, and the Northern Border Regional Commission)

On page 53, strike lines 3 through 12.

Beginning on page 53, strike line 20 and all that follows through page 55, line 8.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Maryland for allowing me to interrupt his comments.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am glad to see we have the ability to vote on a couple of amendments. I am glad I was able to accommodate and yield the floor. If I might, let me continue.

AMENDMENT NO. 3803

Now that the Ernst amendment is going to be voted on in a few moments, I urge my colleagues to reject that amendment. The Appalachian Regional Commission approves funding for more than 400 projects annually throughout this 13-State region.

As I was saying, the western part of our State—in order for them to be able to have a viable economy, to have a valuable future, they need help on economic opportunities. They need help in improving health care.

The Appalachian Regional Commission has helped the communities of western Maryland improve health care. The ARC funding was used for the Garrett County Hospital telehealth initiative to enhance community health care.

Just by happenstance, the CEO of Garrett County Hospital was in my office yesterday. That is a hospital located in Oakland, MD. For those who are not familiar with where Oakland, MD, is, it is on the border with West Virginia. It is not too far from Pennsylvania in the western part of Maryland.

People who use the Garrett County Hospital come from West Virginia and they come from Maryland. It provides hospital service in a rural area that otherwise would not be there. But for the type of help they get through the Appalachian Regional Commission, it is difficult to see how they could perform the quality access to affordable health care that is absolutely essential for the economic growth of Mountain Maryland, for the Appalachian region.

Appalachian Regional Commission funding was used for phase III of the last-mile wireless broadband network so that they could have high-speed broadband access in the western part of Maryland. I know the Presiding Officer and my colleagues know that if you don't have broadband, it is difficult to see how you can attract industry. The Appalachian Regional Commission has been critically important in making sure we can effectively provide high-speed access to the western part of our State.

ARC grants have also been used to assess the impacts of energy production and consumption on our economy and the environment. ARC funding was used for the "Garrett County Marcellus Shale Impact Study," which assessed the impact of hydraulic fracturing on the economy and environment of western Maryland.

ARC has been essential for the development in the Appalachian region. It has worked, and it is continuing to work. I urge my colleagues to make sure this tool continues for the benefit of the people in the Appalachian region—a commitment that we made.

Lastly, let me remind my colleagues of what my friends who are actively engaged in the Appalachian Regional Commission in all of the 13 States tell me. Since 1978, this program—every dollar that has been invested by the Appalachian Regional Commission has leveraged an average of \$6.40 from the private sector. It leverages private sector investment in the Appalachian region, which is critically important to the economic growth of the Appalachian region. Otherwise, this is a tough area.

If we are committed to economic growth in this country, I would urge my colleagues to reject the Ernst amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to support the comments of the distinguished Senator from the State of Maryland. I must say that when I first came to the Senate, I looked at these perhaps with not as full an understanding of them as I have now. But I think the committee supports it, the bill supports it, and the Appropriations Committee supports it. I certainly agree with the Senator and support him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the amendment for 3 minutes, if I might.

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I appreciate that.

First of all, I don't think the Senate is going to adopt the Ernst amendment because we authorized—reauthorized this important ARC program just last year on a bipartisan basis in both the House and the Senate.

I want to make this point: This is discretionary spending that is largely under control. This is discretionary spending. It is 2008 projected out to 2026. As you can see, it hardly keeps up with inflation. We have a spending problem in this country, but it is mandatory programs—the red line—not this discretionary line from which comes the Appalachian Regional Commission. I want to make that point. This amendment is targeted at the wrong type of spending.

What do we get out of ARC? My friend from Maryland is exactly right. We leverage private dollars for investments to create jobs. We build infrastructure that creates jobs and supports jobs. We have revolving loan programs that have created 50,000 jobs since 1977 and retained 51,000 jobs.

Let's attack spending. Let's get together and talk about Bowles-Simpson and do what we need to do about the problem that has given us this \$19 trillion debt. But for heaven's sake, we have a program that was reauthorized almost unanimously last year that helps people get a job and persuades private industry to contribute to that effort at a 6- or 7-to-1 ratio. We want to keep that type of investment to create jobs for our families.

I will be voting against the Ernst amendment and urge my colleagues to do so.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

AMENDMENT NO. 3802

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I wish to call up my amendment No. 3802.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

Mr. SCHATZ. I wish to thank the chair and the vice chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee for their great work, and especially their staff, who were instrumental in finding offsets to increase funding for a great, successful, bipartisan program, ARPA-E, which funds research at the cutting edge of clean energy.

This amendment takes unspent money from prior years' appropriations for expired programs. This is an important point. CBO has confirmed that this amendment does not score. This amendment does not score. This amendment uses unspent balances to increase funding for ARPA-E.

I again thank the chair and the vice chair for helping us to find some resources for this very successful program and for cosponsoring this amendment. I ask all of my colleagues for their support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I congratulate Senator SCHATZ. I support and cosponsored the Schatz amendment. He has identified a priority that Senator FEINSTEIN and I already made a priority. It is one of the two parts of the Department of Energy that got any increase in the nondefense area—the Office of Science and this one.

He has worked with us in committee. He has worked with us on the floor. He found an offset so that it is paid for. We are reducing other spending to increase this spending. This is called setting priorities in discretionary spending, which is under control. It is not the part of the budget that creates Federal debt.

We should do more of this energy research, but we should do it by reducing other spending. I would suggest that reducing subsidies to wind power, oil, and gas would be a good way to start.

I ask for a "yes" vote on the Schatz amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I heard what our chairman said. I thoroughly support him.

I commend the Senator from Hawaii for seeing this and proposing this amendment. We recommend that it be adopted.

Can we call the vote?

We yield back any time.

Mr. ALEXANDER. We yield back any time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3802.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 55 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alexander	Gardner	Murray
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Nelson
Baldwin	Graham	Perdue
Bennet	Hatch	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boozman	Hoeben	Rounds
Boxer	Inhofe	Schatz
Brown	Isakson	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson	Shaheen
Capito	Kaine	Stabenow
Cardin	King	Sullivan
Cassidy	Kirk	Tester
Coats	Klobuchar	Toomey
Cochran	Leahy	Udall
Collins	Manchin	Vitter
Coons	Markey	Warner
Corker	McCaskill	Warren
Cornyn	Menendez	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Merkley	Wicker
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	
Franken	Murphy	

NAYS—26

Barrasso	Fischer	McConnell
Burr	Flake	Moran
Cotton	Grassley	Paul
Crapo	Heller	Risch
Daines	Lankford	Roberts
Enzi	Lee	Rubio
Ernst	McCain	

Sasse Sessions Thune  
Scott Shelby Tillis

NOT VOTING—4

Carper Cruz  
Casey Sanders

The amendment (No. 3802) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to make an announcement on behalf of Senator FEINSTEIN and myself. This is important. This is scheduling.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I wish to thank all of the Senators on both sides—Senator MCCONNELL, Senator REID—for creating an environment in which we could get so much done. We have more than 80 Senators who have policy that is already a part of this bill. That has happened over the last few weeks. Several amendments have been adopted and accepted. We are voting on two this afternoon.

Tomorrow, we expect to have two votes in the morning and one vote after lunch.

We have a request of Senators. This doesn't always work, but we would like to get an agreement to have all of our amendments in by 1 o'clock tomorrow. If we can do that, we can finish the bill early next week. So if Members can ask their staff and legislative counsel to do that, we would like to do that by consensus as much as possible. That is the old-fashioned way of doing a bill. I would like to set a good example for the other 11 bills that are coming.

So that is the schedule as we look forward. Senator ERNST has the remaining amendment, and there will be no further votes after her vote.

AMENDMENT NO. 3803

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote in relation to amendment No. 3803, offered by the Senator from Iowa, Mrs. ERNST.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, my amendment is straightforward. I am asking for support on amendment No. 3803.

I ask unanimous consent to call up amendment No. 3803.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

The Senator has 1 minute to debate the amendment.

Mrs. ERNST. Thank you, Mr. President.

The amendment is pretty straightforward. What we are doing is eliminating duplicative programs. Many programs exist out there already which will provide for housing needs, for infrastructure needs, many other needs. What we are doing is stating that we shouldn't be providing separate funds for very specific regions and duplicating processes that are found in the Federal Government.

Just a few examples: \$100,000 awarded to Lake Placid Ski Club to build ski

jumps, \$125,000 awarded for Chinese Medicine Herb Growers Consortium, and \$250,000 awarded to a tribe in Maine to build a maple-processing facility after it received \$100,000 from the USDA to launch Maple Syrup Ventures.

I don't believe this is activity the Federal Government should be engaged in. Again, these are duplicative programs. There are many other programs available out there. So I am asking for the support of my colleagues on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would certainly oppose this amendment. The regional commission is a joint Federal-State economic development effort that includes some of the most economically distressed counties of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and northern New York. For decades, these people have faced tough economic circumstances. These programs have helped.

More importantly, every Federal dollar invested leverages, on average, 2.6 dollars in matching funds in return. New jobs are created. Thousands of jobs are retained. That is how we should be investing our Federal dollars.

We invest in other countries around the world, and we ought to be investing them in our own country and support programs like the Northern Border Regional Commission and not eliminate them.

I hope Senators will oppose this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, as the manager of the bill, I was going to take that time. I ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes and to allow Senator ERNST 2 more minutes to make her point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President.

The issue is spending. This is discretionary spending. This is an opportunity, as we consider these 12 bills, to consider where the spending problem is. This is discretionary spending. It includes defense, it includes cancer research, it includes roads, it includes locks and dams, and it includes the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Denali Commission, and other commissions that would be defunded by this amendment.

This is not our spending problem. That is \$1 trillion we are spending through these 12 bills. We are spending \$3 trillion more through mandatory spending and interest on top of that.

We have not been very brave on the Republican side of the aisle or the Democratic side of the aisle on the real spending problem. We have done pretty well on this.

I have said to some of my colleagues that maybe the Senate should turn over to the Appropriations Committee the real spending problem and see if we can make the red spending line like the blue spending line because that is what we have done.

So we have set a priority for projects like sewer improvement in Alabama and planning and development in Mississippi, automotive workforce in Georgia, rural dental in Kentucky. These are all priorities within spending that are under control.

This is not under control. We can't fix that in these 12 weeks, but I hope we pay attention to this difference and sooner or later have the courage to deal with it.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, again, this is \$200 million. I would beg to differ that this is not a lot of spending, and \$200 million is a lot of money for folks back in Iowa.

Iowa does not have one of these funds. Many other States don't have these same types of funds. This is just an additional way for certain regions to tap into Federal dollars. So there are many programs. As I stated earlier. I have heard folks say this is about jobs. We have workforce investment programs that everyone across the Nation can dive into to provide opportunity for everyone. Everyone needs opportunity, so everyone should be able to tap into these Federal dollars.

Mr. President, \$200 million is a lot of Federal spending.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CASPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 25, nays 71, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 56 Leg.]

YEAS—25

Barrasso	Enzi	Grassley
Coats	Ernst	Heller
Cornyn	Fischer	Hoeven
Crapo	Flake	Inhofe
Daines	Gardner	Johnson

Lankford	Risch	Thune
Lee	Rubio	Toomey
McCain	Sasse	
Moran	Scott	

## NAYS—71

Alexander	Gillibrand	Perdue
Ayotte	Graham	Peters
Baldwin	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Blunt	Hirono	Roberts
Booker	Isakson	Rounds
Boozman	Kaine	Schatz
Boxer	King	Schumer
Brown	Kirk	Sessions
Burr	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Shelby
Capito	Manchin	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Sullivan
Cassidy	McCaskill	Tester
Cochran	McConnell	Tillis
Collins	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Vitter
Corker	Mikulski	Warner
Cotton	Murkowski	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wicker
Feinstein	Nelson	Wyden
Franken	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—4

Carper	Cruz
Casey	Sanders

The amendment (No. 3803) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3811 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendment be called up and reported by number: Hoeven No. 3811; further, that at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, the Senate vote on that amendment and that it be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold for adoption; and further, that no second-degree amendments be in order prior to the vote.

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

The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. ALEXANDER], for Mr. HOEVEN, proposes an amendment numbered 3811 to amendment No. 3801.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds relating to a certain definition)

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations and guidance in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including the provisions of the rules dated November 13, 1986, and August 25, 1993, relating to such jurisdiction, and the guidance documents dated January 15, 2003, and December 2, 2008, relating to such jurisdiction.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank Senators for their cooperation today. As I indicated earlier, Senator FEINSTEIN and I have been in touch with every Senate office over the last

few weeks, asking for advice, policy, and amendments. Senators have been terrific in getting that to us. For example, there is Senator SCHATZ' amendment. He offered and withdrew it in committee. We worked with him and were able to adopt it once it came to the floor. That is typical of what has happened.

I would judge that about 83 or 84 Senators have contributed policy to this bill. There are really not many more amendments that will be offered. But we will have this one amendment, at least, tomorrow morning at 11:45. Then, the last vote will be at about 2:00 p.m., tomorrow after lunch. There may be other votes before that.

I would ask, as I did earlier, that Senators and their staffs get any other amendments that we do not know about to us by 1 o'clock tomorrow. Then, perhaps we can come to an agreement about how to proceed from there to the end of the bill, maybe even without the necessity of cloture.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I wanted to reassure the Senate and thank Chairman ALEXANDER for making sure that this legislation has \$285 million in it for advanced computing. It also includes the Kirk language to ensure that the United States is home to the No. 1 supercomputer in the world.

Today, China has the fastest computer in the world. It is called the Tianhe-2. It is clocked at 33.8 petaflops per second. Computers in the U.S. National Labs should soon topple China. It is a priority issue that I share with Chairman ALEXANDER.

The Titan computer, which is now at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, is ranked at No. 2 in the world. At Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, we are working on a computer to be upgraded which will soon be No. 1 in the world. It will clock in at 180 petaflops per second. That is 18 times faster than the current computer that is at Argonne called Mira and three times faster than China's top computer today.

With that, supercomputing is essential for American competitiveness in the future. I think it is essential that we pass this legislation to make sure that we are all No. 1 in supercomputing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Illinois for his advocacy of keeping America No. 1 in the world in supercomputers and exascale computing. He has a special knowledge of that because of his intimate knowledge of Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. I know something about it because of the work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

The Obama administration has consistently funded exascale and supercomputing, and we have consistently supported that recommendation of funding. We have been able to do that for the last 4 or 5 years, Senator FEINSTEIN and I. There has been no more vigorous advocate to cause our country to be No. 1 in supercomputing than Senator KIRK of Illinois. I thank him for his leadership and his contributions to this bill.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

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

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here for the 134th time to urge the Senate to wake up to the growing threat of global climate change. I am afraid my chart here is getting a little bit beat up after all of these speeches. I hope we can begin to make progress.

But we continue here in this body to be besieged by persistent and meretricious denial. Of course, the polluters want us to do nothing. They are so happy to offload to everybody else the costs of the harm from fossil fuels: the cost of heat waves, the cost of sea level rise, the cost of ocean acidification, the cost of dying forests, and the rest of it. They are running a very profitable "we keep the profits, you bear the costs" racket. They spend rivers of money on lobbying and on politics and on a complex PR machine that fills the airwaves with sound bites of cooked-up, paid-for doubt about climate change.

I believe the worst of them actually know better, but they do it any way. In this turbulence, the Wall Street Journal editorial page regularly sides with the rightwing climate denial operations. So, naturally, they have challenged my call for an appropriate inquiry into whether the fossil fuel industry's decades long and purposeful campaign of misinformation has run afoul of Federal civil racketeering laws.

Now, it is very hard for them to argue that the fossil fuel industry should be exempt from fraud laws. It is very hard for them to argue that the tobacco lawsuit years ago was ill funded, although certainly they tried right up until the government won the case. So they turn, instead, to invention.

The Wall Street Journal repeatedly and falsely has accused me of seeking to punish anyone who rejects the scientific evidence of climate change. That is, of course, a crock. I never said anything close to that, but that does not stop them.

In fact, this line of counterattacks fits the Journal's playbook for defending polluting industries. The Wall Street Journal's editorial page has a record on acid rain, on the ozone layer, and now on climate change. There is a pattern. They deny the science, they question the motives of those who call for change, and they exaggerate the costs of taking action.

At all costs, they protect the polluting industry. When the Journal is wrong, as they have repeatedly been proven to be, they keep at it, over and over. In the 1970s, scientists first warned that chlorofluorocarbons could erode the ozone layer of the Earth's stratosphere, and that would increase human exposure to cancer-causing ultraviolet rays.

The Wall Street Journal editorial page doggedly fought back against the science, questioning it, and attacking any regulation of the CFCs.

In at least eight editorials between 1976 and 1992, the Wall Street Journal proclaimed that the connection between CFCs and ozone depletion "is only a theory and will remain only that until further efforts are made to test its validity in the atmosphere itself." They called the scientific evidence "scanty" and "premature," suggested that the ozone layer "may even be increasing," insinuated that "it is simply not clear to us that real science drives policy in this area," and warned of "a dramatic increase in air-conditioning and refrigeration costs," with "some \$1.52 billion in foregone profits and product-change expenses" as well as 8,700 jobs lost. Those are all actual quotes from the ed page.

Well, back then Americans listened to the science. Congress acted, the ozone layer and the public's health were protected, and the economy prospered. All those terrible costs that the Journal predicted, according to the EPA's 1999 progress report, "Every dollar invested in ozone protection provide[d] \$20 of societal health benefits in the United States"—\$1 spent, \$20 saved.

When scientists began reporting that acid rain was falling across our Northeastern States, out came the Wall Street Journal again saying the "data are not conclusive and more studies are needed"; arguing that "nature, not industry, is the primary source of acid rain"; claiming "the scientific case for acid rain is dying"; and charging that "politics, not nature, is the primary force driving the theory's biggest boosters."

Again, those are all actual quotes, even as President Reagan's own sci-

entific panel said that inaction would risk "irreversible damage," which brings us to the Wall Street Journal on climate change.

In June 1993, they claimed "growing evidence that global warming just isn't happening."

September 1999, they reported that "serious scientists" call global warming "one of the greatest hoaxes of all time."

June 2005, they asserted that the link between fossil fuels and global warming had "become even more doubtful."

February 2010, they said: "We think the science is still disputable."

June 2011, they called global warming a "fad-scare."

December 2011, an editorial said that the global warming debate requires "more definitive evidence."

As recently as last January, the page called extreme weather "business as usual," while still erroneously clinging to the "hiatus" argument.

Just this week they published an editorial that any link people have talked about between climate change and national security threats—something we hear from our armed services, from our intelligence services—that all is "silliness," to use the word of the author they quoted.

The polluter playbook also produced the usual Journal warnings about costs, that "a high CO<sub>2</sub> tax would reduce world GDP a staggering 12.9 percent in 2100—the equivalent of \$40 trillion a year," making "the world poorer than it otherwise would be"; about motivations, that this was all really motivated by what they called "political actors" seeking to gain economic control; and about the science, claiming that "global service temperatures have remained essentially flat."

This is my particular favorite. A December 2009 Wall Street Journal claimed that climate scientists were suspect because they "have been on the receiving end of climate change-related funding," the Journal continues "so all of them must believe in the reality (and catastrophic imminence) of global warming just as a priest must believe in the existence of God."

Set aside their suggestion that funding is why priests believe in God. Look at what they are saying about scientific funding.

If the Wall Street Journal can make it a conflict of interest for scientists to be on the receiving end of scientific funding related to their field of inquiry, that covers virtually all science. That would make virtually all science not discovered by accident a conflict of interest. That is a great trick, because if science itself is a conflict of interest, that neatly moots the real conflict of interest of the masquerade talk-show science produced by the polluting industry's PR machinery. And there is such machinery, according to numerous investigative books, journalists' reporting, and academic studies.

Look at the academic work of Professor Robert Brulle of Drexel University, Professor Riley Dunlap of Oklahoma State University, and Justin Farrell of Yale University, among others.

Look at the investigative works of Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway in their book "Merchants of Doubt" or David Michaels' book "Doubt is their Product" and Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner's book "Deceit and Denial." Look at Jeff Nesbit's new book "Poison Tea."

Look at the journalistic work of Neela Banerjee, Lisa Song, David Hasemyer, and John Cushman, Jr., in InsideClimate News, which is evidently now shortlisted for a Pulitzer Prize looking at what ExxonMobil knew about climate change versus the things that it chose to tell the public. Look at the parallel probe by the Energy and Environment Fellowship Project at the Columbia Journalism School, published in the Los Angeles Times, which brings us to the Journal's question: "Why even raise the possibility of RICO suits—and suggest it to the Justice Department—if Mr. WHITEHOUSE's goal isn't to punish those who disagree with him on climate?"

One reason is that a RICO suit was won by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Clinton and Bush administrations against the tobacco industry. So there is this little matter of this being the law. The Journal never seems to mention the fact that the government won the civil case against the tobacco industry.

Before the RICO lawsuit was won by the Department of Justice, the Wall Street Journal editorial page had worked it over pretty well, calling it "abuse," "hypocrisy," and "a shake-down." So I understand that they don't like that fact, but it is now a fact that the Department won that case.

A second reason is that if there is indeed a core of deliberate fraud at the heart of the climate denial enterprise, no industry should be too big to dodge the legal consequences. Most of the writers I mentioned noted themselves similarities between the tobacco fraud scheme and the climate denial operation—as has Sharon Eubanks, the lawyer who won the tobacco lawsuit for the Department of Justice—and, so it seems, have now more than a dozen State attorneys general who are looking at Big Oil and coal for misleading statements, which leads me to my last point.

Note the breadth of the Wall Street Journal editorial page's language that I want to "punish those who disagree with [me] on climate," but that is just false. As the RICO case itself shows—the tobacco RICO case that is the model we would like to have the Department look at—people who disagree with me on climate change would no more be the targets of such an investigation than smokers or people who

disagreed with the Surgeon General about tobacco's dangers were targets of the tobacco case. Those folks may very well have been victims of the tobacco industry's fraud. They may be the dupes.

For the record, fraud investigations focus on those who lie, knowing that they are lying, intending to fool others and doing it for gain, for money. Even fossil fuel companies should not be too big to answer for that conduct if it were proven in court.

Why would the Wall Street Journal editorial page and other rightwing editorialists be trying to saddle me with an argument I am not making? Well, one obvious reason would be because they don't have a good response to the one I am making. Let's say, if they were operating as a shill for the industry here and emitting industry propaganda, they would be providing their industry clients a very valuable service of misdirection. Like squid ink released to create a helpful distraction, an imaginary argument to quarrel with gives them an advantage. As I said, it is going to be tough to convince people that the fossil industry should be too big to sue, no matter what they did or that it should deserve different rules under the law than the tobacco industry.

If you are going to lose those arguments, you have to make another one, and they invented that I want to jail people—including contrarian scientists and skeptics.

This is not rational argument. This is not the kind of rational, fact-based argument that a court would demand. It is defensive behavior on behalf of a creature that feels itself threatened and desperately wants to avoid that fair courtroom forum, a forum where the evidence matters, where the truth is required, and where the industry doesn't get to put in the fix.

Everybody should know I take climate change very seriously. Rhode Island is the Ocean State. Just this week we had major news stories in our statewide paper about drowning sea coast marshes, endangered historic buildings, and ocean fisheries in upheaval, all from climate change. This is the first one.

"Drowning marshes: Buying time against the tide, they pour sand in an uphill fight."

As the climate warms, causing the ice caps to melt, currents to slow and ocean waters to expand, sea levels are rising at a rate that could eventually wipe out many of Rhode Island's salt marshes.

Just days later:

"Newport sees the firsthand threat of climate change."

But the confluence of rising seas and more extreme storms caused by climate change could present an insurmountable challenge for those trying to protect this and thousands of other historical structures near the coast.

Then, finally:

"Is commercial fishing sustainable? An industry at crossroads."

John Bullard, regional administrator with NOAA's Northeast Regional Office, said that he believes commercial fishing can be sustainable but a number of issues, including climate change, need attention for that to happen.

I represent a State whose fishing industry depends on doing something about climate change, whose historic buildings are at risk of being flooded and lost by the insurmountable problem of climate change, and whose salt marshes, which are very important to our State, are rising at a rate that could eventually wipe them out.

Am I supposed to ignore that? Am I supposed to ignore this? It is not going to happen.

I am proud to stand with our leading research institutions and scientists around the country, our national security experts, corporations such as Apple, Google, Mars, and National Grid. I am proud to stand with President Obama and Pope Francis, who both agree about the seriousness of climate change.

If the polluter machine wants to score more ink, so be it. I cannot stop them, but I am not going anywhere. My State is in the crosshairs. This is one of those fights worth having.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### ATVM LOAN PROGRAM AMENDMENT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I am thankful the Senate is taking up the appropriations bills. The appropriations process is the only way citizens can truly hold their elected representatives accountable. It also allows the American people to see just what the priorities are for the Senate.

Through my votes upon appropriations bills, I have to decide which government programs to prioritize and which government programs need to be cut. These are tough choices, but Nebraskans sent me to Washington to make these hard decisions.

Again, I am hopeful that the Senate is taking up these bills and that we can make important spending decisions on behalf of the American people. That is why I am proud to join Senators COATS, TOOMEY, and FLAKE to submit an amendment that targets what I see is overspending in the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

This amendment would wind down the Department of Energy's troubled Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program. The ATVM Program was designed to provide loans for businesses that produce fuel-efficient, advanced-technology vehicles and components in the United States. The program was created in 2007. In 2009, Congress appropriated \$7.5 billion

in subsidies to cover \$25 billion in loans authorized under that program.

Unfortunately, as Senator COATS and Senator TOOMEY have pointed out, this program has struggled for many years. The record speaks for itself. Take Fisker Automotive as an example. In April of 2010, Fisker received a loan through the ATVM program for the purpose of producing two lines of plug-in hybrid vehicles at its plant in Wilmington, DE. In 2011, because Fisker was not meeting its performance targets, the DOE suspended its original loan of \$529 million.

Unfortunately, \$192 million in taxpayer dollars had already been loaned to the company. Fisker halted operations, and they filed for bankruptcy in November of 2013. The company's ATVM loan was sold at auction for \$25 million and the DOE was able to recoup \$28 million from an escrow account. However, this loan still resulted in a \$139-million loss for taxpayers.

In February of 2014, Fisker's assets were auctioned to a Chinese manufacturer, Wanxiang, through the resulting bankruptcy proceedings. This was one of the many failures resulting from the ATVM Program.

In 2013, a Government Accountability Office report found few auto manufacturers and program applicants willing to participate in the program due to high costs and the limited benefits. As a result, the Secretary of Energy announced a number of changes to the ATVM Program in April of 2014. Not a single new loan has been approved since the announcement of these revisions.

This program is a clear example of waste. It reveals the dangers of allowing our government to pick winners and losers in the private sector. That is why I am here today to join Senators COATS and TOOMEY and FLAKE in offering an amendment that would prohibit new loan applications from being reviewed if they are not submitted by the date of this bill's enactment. Furthermore, our amendment would prohibit any loan credit subsidies after the end of fiscal year 2020. Through these provisions, we can responsibly wind down a very ineffective program.

Our national debt continues to grow, and it now exceeds \$19 trillion. According to the March 2016 report of the Congressional Budget Office, annual deficits will exceed \$1 trillion in 2022 and every year thereafter. This makes the need for commonsense provisions like ours all the more urgent. We simply cannot afford to continue spending money on programs that are not effective.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this sensible amendment when it is brought up for a vote.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

**BUDGET COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE—S. 2804**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I offer for the RECORD the Budget Committee's

cost estimate of S. 2804, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017.

The reported measure provides \$37.5 billion in discretionary budget authority for fiscal year 2017, which will result in new outlays of \$21.9 billion. When outlays from prior-year budget authority are taken into account, non-emergency discretionary outlays for the bill will total \$37.6 billion.

The reported bill matches its section 302(b) allocation for budget authority

for both the security and nonsecurity categories and is below the 302(b) allocation for outlays by \$1 million.

The bill is not subject to any budget points of order.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the table displaying the Budget Committee scoring of the bill.

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

**S. 2804, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS, 2017: SPENDING COMPARISONS—SENATE-REPORTED BILL**

(Fiscal year 2017, \$ millions)

	Budget authority		Outlays	
	Security	Nonsecurity	Total	Total
Senate-reported bill .....	20,023	17,514	37,537	37,560
Senate 302(b) allocation .....	20,023	17,514	37,537	37,561
2016 Enacted .....	18,860	18,325	37,185	37,216
President's request .....	19,343	17,933	37,276	36,340
SENATE-REPORTED BILL COMPARED TO:				
Senate 302(b) allocation .....	0	0	0	-1
2016 Enacted .....	1,163	-811	352	344
President's request .....	680	-419	261	1,220

Note: Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

**MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

**EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED**

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

**MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE**

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3714. An act to amend the Small Business Act to allow the Small Business Administration to establish size standards for small agricultural enterprises using the same process for establishing size standards for small business concerns, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4284. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue regulations providing examples of a failure to comply in good faith with the requirements of prime contractors with respect to subcontracting plans.

H.R. 4325. An act to amend the Small Business Act to modify the anticipated value of certain contracts reserved exclusively for small business concerns.

H.R. 4326. An act to amend the Small Business Act to expand the duties of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4332. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the duties of procurement center representatives with respect to reviewing solicitations for a contract or task order contract.

H.R. 4903. An act to prohibit the use of funds by the Internal Revenue Service to target citizens of the United States for exercising any right guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

**ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED**

At 12:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 719. An act to rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

S. 1638. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress information on the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project in the National Capital Region, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**ENROLLED BILL SIGNED**

At 2:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2722. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**MEASURES REFERRED**

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3714. An act to amend the Small Business Act to allow the Small Business Administration to establish size standards for small agricultural enterprises using the same process for establishing size standards for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 4284. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue regulations providing examples of a failure to comply in good faith with the requirements of prime contractors with respect to subcontracting plans; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 4325. An act to amend the Small Business Act to modify the anticipated value of certain contracts reserved exclusively for small business concerns; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 4326. An act to amend the Small Business Act to expand the duties of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 4332. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the duties of procurement center representatives with respect to reviewing solicitations for a contract or task order contract; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 4903. An act to prohibit the use of funds by the Internal Revenue Service to target citizens of the United States for exercising any right guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME**

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2666. An act to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.

## ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 20, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 719. An act to rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

S. 1638. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress information on the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project in the National Capital Region, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5158. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Finalizing Medicare Rules under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) for Calendar Year (CY) 2015"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5159. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report for fiscal year 2015 for the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5160. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012 for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5161. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to imported foods for fiscal year 2015; to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and Appropriations.

EC-5162. A communication from the Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a compilation of fiscal year 2015 reports from the Department of Defense Components relative to the implementation of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5163. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyprodinil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9943-85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5164. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of seventeen (17) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5165. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Flood Insurance Program: Update To Address Information for Claims Appeals" ((RIN1660-AA88) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5166. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5167. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5168. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hizballah Financial Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 566) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5169. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead, 2008 Ozone, 2010 NO<sub>2</sub>, 2010 SO<sub>2</sub>, and 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Montana" (FRL No. 9945-14-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5170. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Louisiana; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan; Fee Regulations" (FRL No. 9945-09-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5171. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments Related to: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards and 40 CFR Part 80" (FRL No. 9941-85-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5172. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Vermont; Stage I Vapor Recovery Requirements" (FRL No. 9945-12-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2016; to the

Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5173. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for Particle Matter, Ozone, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide" (FRL No. 9945-13-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5174. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Corrective Actions Programs for Fuel Cycle Facilities" (Regulatory Guide 3.75, Revision 0) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5175. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Format and Content for a License Application for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation or a Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility" (Regulatory Guide 3.50, Revision 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5176. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Site Suitability for Nuclear Power Stations" (Regulatory Guide 4.7, Revision 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5177. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Assistance for Palestinian Security Forces and Benchmarks for Palestinian Security Assistance Funds"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5178. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Demonstrating Improvement in the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program: A Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5179. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5180. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5181. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Feasibility of Mechanisms to Assist Providers in Comparing and Selecting Certified EHR"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5182. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative



Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Debt Collection Recovery Activities of the Department of Justice for Civil Debts Referred for Collection Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5183. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation entitled "Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-156. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to enact the Retail Investor Act and also to enact legislation that prohibits the United States Department of Labor from amending fiduciary duty regulations to define retirement savings brokers and agents as fiduciaries, including those previously not deemed fiduciaries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 223

Whereas, With over 10,000 people retiring every day, each year for the next 17 years, it is imperative that future retirees plan, save, and have choices about who they consult for retirement guidance. Financial professionals provide guidance to consumers about their investments, including investments in IRAs, 401(k) accounts, and other assets invested to produce retirement income; and

Whereas, Financial professionals are generally compensated through one of two business models. A majority of transactions fall into the broker-dealer model, in which compensation is paid by the product provider to the broker-dealer and registered representatives, and not by the consumer. In other transactions, the buyer is more financially sophisticated and has significant assets and may prefer to engage an advisor under a fee-based arrangement, paying the advisor directly; and

Whereas, For many, especially those with small- to medium-size accounts, consulting with a trusted professional using the broker-dealer model is more cost efficient, more accessible, and preferable to a fee-based arrangement; and

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Labor has proposed regulations that would define certain professionals operating under the broker-dealer model to be fiduciaries. And if receiving third-party compensation is a violation of the fiduciary standard, the effect will be to force retirement account savers to use a fee-based model or not receive advice; and

Whereas, The Retail Investor Protection Act (H.R. 1090) would prohibit the U.S. Department of Labor from prescribing any regulation pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 that defines the circumstances under which an individual is considered a fiduciary until 60 days after the Securities and Exchange Commission issues a final rule governing standards of conduct for brokers and dealers under specified law. Similar legislation passed the U.S. House on a bipartisan vote in the previous Congress; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, By the House of Representatives,* That we oppose efforts by the United States

Department of Labor to place onerous regulatory rules on the broker-dealer community that will adversely affect low- and middle-income investors' ability to have access to affordable, reliable, retirement advice; and be it further

*Resolved,* That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact the Retail Investor Protection Act and also to enact legislation that prohibits the United States Department of Labor from amending fiduciary duty regulations to define retirement savings brokers and agents as fiduciaries, including those previously not deemed fiduciaries; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the United States Secretary of Labor.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2820. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to update and modernize the reporting requirements for contaminants, including lead, in drinking water; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. REID):

S. 2821. A bill to improve drinking water quality and reduce lead exposure in homes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2822. A bill to continue the use of a 3-month quarter EHR reporting period for health care providers to demonstrate meaningful use for 2016 under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive payment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

S. 2823. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the section 45 credit for refined coal from steel industry fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2824. A bill to designate the Federal building housing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Headquarters located at 99 New York Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C., as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2825. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require compliance with domestic source requirements for footwear furnished to enlisted members of the Armed

Forces upon their initial entry into the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2826. A bill to ensure the effective and appropriate use of the Lowest Price Technically Acceptable source selection process; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 2827. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for an H-2C nonimmigrant classification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2828. A bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in The Dalles, Oregon, as the "Loren R. Kaufman Memorial Veterans' Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2829. A bill to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2830. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for a school and child care lead testing grant program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 432. A resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. Res. 433. A resolution recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, and the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of April 18, 2016, as "National Lineman Appreciation Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 434. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2016 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on

improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, *supra*.

S. 453

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 453, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive co-insurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 757

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 757, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to subject the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator

from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2030

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2030, a bill to allow the sponsor of an application for the approval of a targeted drug to rely upon data and information with respect to such sponsor's previously approved targeted drugs.

S. 2217

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2217, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to make grants to States for screening and treatment for maternal depression.

S. 2487

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2487, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that

are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2497

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2497, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide protections for retail customers, and for other purposes.

S. 2502

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2502, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure that retirement investors receive advice in their best interests, and for other purposes.

S. 2505

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2505, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that retirement investors receive advice in their best interests, and for other purposes.

S. 2540

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2540, a bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2551

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2551, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and mass atrocities, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States civilian capacities to prevent and mitigate such crises.

S. 2566

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2566, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide sexual assault survivors with certain rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2604

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2604, a bill to establish in the legislative

branch the National Commission on Security and Technology Challenges.

S. 2639

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2639, a bill to direct the Director of the Government Publishing Office to provide members of the public with Internet access to Congressional Research Service reports, and for other purposes.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 2697

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2697, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 to prevent wage theft and assist in the recovery of stolen wages, to authorize the Secretary of Labor to administer grants to prevent wage and hour violations, and for other purposes.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, nonprofit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2763

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2763, a bill to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to re-

cover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

S. 2799

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2799, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary patient registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 2800

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2800, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide an exclusion from income for student loan forgiveness for students who have died or become disabled.

S. 2817

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2817, a bill to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "fiduciary" and the conflict of interest rule with respect to retirement investment advice.

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to exercise its veto in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

S. RES. 368

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 368, a resolution supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and the end of the country's enduring internal armed conflict and recognizing United States

support for Colombia at the 15th anniversary of Plan Colombia.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 432—SUPPORTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENCOURAGING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN ETHIOPIA

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 432

Whereas the first pillar of the 2012 United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa is to strengthen democratic institutions, and the United States Agency for International Development Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Strategy states that strong democratic institutions, respect for human rights, and participatory, accountable governance are crucial elements for improving people's lives in a sustainable way;

Whereas the third pillar of the 2012 United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa is to advance peace and security, including supporting security sector reform;

Whereas democratic space in Ethiopia has steadily diminished since the general elections of 2005;

Whereas elections were held in 2015 in which the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front claimed 100 percent of parliamentary seats;

Whereas the 2014 Department of State Human Rights Report on Ethiopia cited serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, killings, and torture committed by security forces as well as restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of association, politically motivated trials, harassment, and intimidation of opposition members and journalists;

Whereas the Government of Ethiopia has repeatedly abused laws such as the 2009 Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to limit press freedom, silence independent journalists, and persecute members of the political opposition;

Whereas laws such as the 2009 Charities and Societies Proclamation have been used to restrict the operation of civil society and nongovernmental organizations in Ethiopia across a range of purposes, particularly those investigating alleged violations of human rights by governmental authorities;

Whereas the case of the "Zone 9 Bloggers", whose arrest, detention, and trials on terrorism charges brought international attention to the restrictions on press freedom in Ethiopia, is indicative of the coercive environment in which journalists operate;

Whereas the Ethiopian Human Rights Council reports at least 102 protestor deaths, and according to Human Rights Watch, Ethiopian security forces have killed at least 200 peaceful protestors in the Oromia region, and that number is likely higher;

Whereas state sponsored violence against those exercising their rights to peaceful assembly in Oromia and elsewhere in the country, and the abuse of laws to stifle journalistic freedoms, stand in direct contrast to

democratic principles and in violation of Ethiopia's constitution; and

Whereas, during President Barack Obama's historic visit to Addis Ababa in July 2015, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn expressed his government's commitment to deepen the democratic process and work towards the respect of human rights and improving governance, and noted the need to step up efforts to strengthen institutions: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns—

(A) killings of peaceful protesters and excessive use of force by Ethiopian security forces;

(B) arrest and detention of journalists, students, activists and political leaders who exercise their constitutional rights to freedom of assembly and expression through peaceful protests; and

(C) abuse of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to stifle political and civil dissent and journalistic freedoms;

(2) urges protesters in Ethiopia to refrain from violence;

(3) calls on the Government of Ethiopia—

(A) to halt the use of excessive force by security forces;

(B) to conduct a full, credible, and transparent investigation into the killings and instances of excessive use of force that took place as a result of protests in the Oromia region and hold security forces accountable for wrongdoing through public proceedings;

(C) to release dissidents, activists, and journalists who have been jailed, including those arrested for reporting about the protests, for exercising constitutional rights;

(D) to respect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and guarantee freedom of the press and mass media in keeping with Articles 30 and 29 of the Ethiopian constitution;

(E) to engage in open and transparent consultations relative to its development strategy, especially those strategies that could result in people's displacement from land; and

(F) to repeal proclamations that—

(i) can be used as a political tool to harass or prohibit funding for civil society organizations that investigate human rights violations, engage in peaceful political dissent, or advocate for greater political freedoms; or

(ii) prohibit or otherwise limit those displaced from their land from seeking remedy or redress in courts, or that do not provide a transparent, accessible means to access justice for those displaced;

(4) calls on the Secretary of State to conduct a review of security assistance to Ethiopia in light of recent developments and to improve transparency with respect to the purposes of such assistance to the people of Ethiopia;

(5) calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to immediately lead efforts to develop a comprehensive strategy to support improved democracy and governance in Ethiopia;

(6) calls on the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to improve oversight and accountability of United States assistance to Ethiopia pursuant to expectations established in the President's 2012 Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa; and

(7) stands by the people of Ethiopia, and supports their peaceful efforts to increase democratic space and to exercise the rights guaranteed by the Ethiopian constitution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 433—RECOGNIZING LINEMEN, THE PROFESSION OF LINEMEN, AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 18, 2016, AS “NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY”

Mr. TILLIS submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 433

Whereas the profession of linemen is steeped in personal, family, and professional tradition;

Whereas linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes;

Whereas linemen must work high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing;

Whereas linemen play a vital role in the economy of the United States by maintaining and growing the energy infrastructure of the United States;

Whereas linemen must often work under dangerous conditions while separated from their families to keep schools and businesses open;

Whereas linemen put their lives on the line every day with little recognition from the community regarding the danger of their work; and

Whereas April 18, 2016 would be an appropriate date to designate as “National Lineman Appreciation Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the efforts of linemen in keeping the power on and protecting public safety; and

(2) supports the designation of “National Lineman Appreciation Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 434—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2016 AS “PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 434

Whereas Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, but the disease affects an estimated 500,000 to 1,500,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas every day Parkinson's disease greatly impacts millions of individuals in the United States who are caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals with Parkinson's disease;

Whereas the economic burden of Parkinson's disease is an estimated \$14,400,000,000 each year, including indirect costs to patients and family members of \$6,300,000,000 each year;

Whereas although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease remains unknown;

Whereas an objective test or biomarker for diagnosing Parkinson's disease does not exist;

Whereas a cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease does not exist;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and include tremors, slowness of movement, rigidity, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking, cognitive impairment, dementia, mood disorders, and a variety of other nonmotor symptoms;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's disease and the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for Parkinson's disease and providing access to quality care to individuals with Parkinson's disease requires increased research, education, and community support services: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2016 as “Parkinson's Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to develop more effective treatments for Parkinson's disease and to ultimately find a cure for the disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals with Parkinson's disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in the United States working to improve the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's disease and the families of those individuals.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3801. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

SA 3802. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 3803. Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 3804. Mr. ALEXANDER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 3805. Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3806. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3807. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3808. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3809. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3810. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3811. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 3812. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3813. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3814. Mr. COATS (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3815. Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3816. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3817. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3818. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3819. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3820. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3821. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R.

2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3822. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3823. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3824. Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3825. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3826. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3827. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3828. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3829. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3830. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3831. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3832. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3833. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3834. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3835. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3836. Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3837. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. CASEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1252, to

authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3801.** Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

#### TITLE I

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

#### INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, design work, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects, and related efforts; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$126,522,000, to remain available until expended.

#### CONSTRUCTION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, design work, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$1,813,649,000, to remain available until expended; of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund as authorized by Public Law 104-303; and of which such sums as are

necessary to cover one-half of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law.

#### MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$368,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$3,173,829,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Army Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas managed by the Army Corps of Engineers at which outdoor recreation is available; and of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: *Provided*, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities.

#### REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

#### FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$103,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters and the division offices; and for costs allocable to the civil works program of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center, \$180,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, of which not more than \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund such activities in the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters and division offices: *Provided further*, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

#### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in title I of this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title I of this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2017, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;
- (4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity for a different purpose, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;
- (5) augments or reduces existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of the amounts contained in paragraphs (6) through (10), unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;
- (6) INVESTIGATIONS.—For a base level over \$100,000, reprogramming of 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$150,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than \$100,000, the reprogramming limit is \$25,000: *Provided further*, That up to \$25,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(7) CONSTRUCTION.—For a base level over \$2,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$3,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than \$2,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$300,000: *Provided further*, That up to \$3,000,000 may be reprogrammed for settled contractor claims, changed conditions, or real estate deficiency judgments: *Provided further*, That up to \$300,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(8) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Unlimited reprogramming authority is granted for the Corps to be able to respond to emergencies: *Provided*, That the Chief of Engineers shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of these emergency actions as soon thereafter as practicable: *Provided further*, That for a base level over \$1,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$5,000,000 per project, study, or activity is allowed: *Provided further*, That for a base level less than \$1,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$150,000: *Provided further*, That \$150,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation;

(9) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES.—The reprogramming guidelines in paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) shall apply to the Investigations, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance portions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Account, respectively; and

(10) FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM.—Reprogramming of up to 15 percent of the base of the receiving project is permitted.

(b) DE MINIMUS REPROGRAMMINGS.—In no case should a reprogramming for less than \$50,000 be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

(c) CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity funded under the continuing authorities program.

(d) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year which shall include:

(1) A table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if applicable, and the fiscal year enacted level; and

(2) A delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations; and

(3) An identification of items of special congressional interest.

(e) The Secretary shall allocate funds made available in this Act solely in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, including the determination and designation of new starts.

(f) None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 102. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$5,400,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers civil works projects.

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definitions of the terms "fill material" or "discharge of fill material" for the purposes of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

SEC. 104. None of the funds provided in this act may be used for open lake disposal of dredged sediment in Lake Erie unless such disposal meets water and environmental standards agreed to by the administrator of a State's water permitting agency and is consistent with a State's Coastal Zone Management Plan. If this standard is not met, the Corps of Engineers will maintain its long-standing funding obligations for upland placement of dredged material with cost sharing as specified in section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Public Law 99-662, as amended by section 201 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Public Law 104-303 (33 U.S.C. 2211) and section 217(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Public Law 104-303, as amended by section 2005 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Public Law 110-300 (33 U.S.C. 2326a(d)).

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,300,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,350,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2017, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, \$1,114,394,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$158,841,000 shall be available for additional funding for work and are authorized to be used consistent with ac-

tivities described in the Commissioner's transmittal to Congress dated February 8, 2016; \$22,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$5,551,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: *Provided*, That such transfers may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: *Provided further*, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: *Provided further*, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, \$55,606,000, to be derived from such sums as may be collected in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102-575, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102-575: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$36,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: *Provided further*, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the five regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2018, \$59,000,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources, or provided by previous or subsequent appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2017, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

- (1) initiates or creates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity unless the program, project or activity has received no appropriated funding for at least five fiscal years;
- (3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate;
- (4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate;
- (5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate:

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$400,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate; or

(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term transfer means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San

Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the "Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan" and the "SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan" described in the report entitled "Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995", prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. Title I of Public Law 108-361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681), as amended by section 210 of Public Law 111-85, is amended by striking "2017" each place it appears and inserting "2019".

SEC. 204. Section 9504(e) of the Secure Water Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10364(e)) is amended by striking "\$350,000,000" and inserting "\$400,000,000".

### TITLE III

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### ENERGY PROGRAMS

##### ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$2,073,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$153,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

##### ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity delivery and energy reliability activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$206,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$28,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

##### NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any

facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of no more than three emergency service vehicles for replacement only, \$1,057,903,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, the Secretary of Energy may obligate up to \$10,000,000 under existing authorities, for contracting for the management of used nuclear fuel to which the Secretary holds the title or has a contract to accept title: *Provided further*, That of such amount, \$80,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

##### FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$632,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading in this Act, \$60,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

##### NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$14,950,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

##### STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That as authorized by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-74), the Secretary of the Department of Energy shall drawdown and sell not to exceed \$375,400,000 of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in fiscal year 2017: *Provided further*, That the proceeds from such drawdown and sale shall be deposited into the Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund during fiscal year 2017 and shall remain available until expended for necessary expenses in carrying out construction, operations, maintenance, repair, and replacement activities of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

##### NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$6,500,000, to remain available until expended.

##### ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$122,000,000, to remain available until expended.

##### NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and ac-

quisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$255,000,000, to remain available until expended.

##### URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, \$717,741,000, to be derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which \$30,000,000 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

##### SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 17 passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, including one ambulance and one bus, \$5,400,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$191,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

##### ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69), \$292,669,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$29,250,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

##### OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

For necessary expenses for Indian Energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$4,800,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

##### TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided*, That for necessary administrative expenses to carry out this Loan Guarantee program, \$37,000,000 is appropriated from fees collected in prior years pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 which are not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That if the amount in the previous proviso is not available from such fees, an amount for such purposes is also appropriated from the general fund so as to result in a total amount appropriated for such purpose of no more than \$37,000,000: *Provided further*, That



fees collected pursuant to such section 1702(h) for fiscal year 2017 shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and shall not be available until appropriated: *Provided further*, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.10 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES  
MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$232,142,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): *Provided*, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: *Provided further*, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$103,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$129,142,000.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$44,424,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY  
ADMINISTRATION

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$9,285,147,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$106,600,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et

seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,821,916,000, to remain available until expended.

NAVAL REACTORS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, \$1,351,520,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$47,100,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$408,603,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$12,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE  
ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of not to exceed one fire apparatus pumper truck, one aerial lift truck, one refuse truck, and one semi-truck for replacement only, \$5,379,018,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount \$290,050,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

DEFENSE URANIUM ENRICHMENT  
DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities for Department of Energy contributions for uranium enrichment decontamination and decommissioning activities, \$717,741,000, to be deposited into the Defense Environmental Cleanup account which shall be transferred to the "Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund".

OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$791,552,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$258,061,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93-454, are approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: *Provided*,

That during fiscal year 2017, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN  
POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, \$1,000,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$1,000,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$60,760,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,  
SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$45,643,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$34,586,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$11,057,000: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$73,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means

expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

**CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION**

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, \$307,144,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended, of which \$299,742,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$211,563,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$95,581,000, of which \$88,179,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$367,009,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

**FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUND**

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$4,070,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$3,838,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$232,000: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2017, the Administrator of the

Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$323,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: *Provided further*, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$346,800,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$346,800,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(D) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs", enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government's obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the "Final Bill" column in the "Department of Energy" table included under the heading "Title III—Department of Energy" in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances

may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. (a) Unobligated balances available from appropriations are hereby permanently rescinded from the following accounts of the Department of Energy in the specified amounts:

(1) "Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities", \$50,400,000.

(2) "Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation", \$14,000,000.

(3) "Energy Program—Fossil Energy Research and Development", \$240,000,000.

(b) No amounts may be rescinded by this section from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 303. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2017 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 305. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 306. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFECTED INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "affected Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(2) HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE.—The term "high-level radioactive waste" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(3) NUCLEAR WASTE FUND.—The term "Nuclear Waste Fund" means the Nuclear Waste Fund established under section 302(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10222(c)).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(5) SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.—The term "spent nuclear fuel" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), the Secretary is authorized, in the current fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years, to conduct a pilot program, through 1 or more private sector partners, to license, construct, and operate 1 or more government or privately owned consolidated storage facilities to provide interim storage as needed for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, with priority for storage given to spent nuclear fuel located on sites without an operating nuclear reactor.

(c) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals for cooperative agreements—

(1) to obtain any license necessary from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the construction of 1 or more consolidated storage facilities;

(2) to demonstrate the safe transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable; and

(3) to demonstrate the safe storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable, at the 1 or more consolidated storage facilities pending the construction and operation of deep geologic disposal capacity for the permanent disposal of the spent nuclear fuel.

(d) CONSENT-BASED APPROVAL.—Prior to siting a consolidated storage facility pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement to host the facility with—

(1) the Governor of the State;

(2) each unit of local government within the jurisdiction of which the facility is proposed to be located; and

(3) each affected Indian tribe.

(e) APPLICABILITY.—In executing this section, the Secretary shall comply with—

(1) all licensing requirements and regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and

(2) all other applicable laws (including regulations).

(f) PILOT PROGRAM PLAN.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the request for proposals under subsection (c), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan to carry out this section that includes—

(1) an estimate of the cost of licensing, constructing, and operating a consolidated storage facility, including the transportation costs, on an annual basis, over the expected lifetime of the facility;

(2) a schedule for—

(A) obtaining any license necessary to construct and operate a consolidated storage facility from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

(B) constructing the facility;

(C) transporting spent fuel to the facility; and

(D) removing the spent fuel and decommissioning the facility; and

(3) an estimate of the cost of any financial assistance, compensation, or incentives proposed to be paid to the host State, Indian tribe, or local government;

(4) an estimate of any future reductions in the damages expected to be paid by the United States for the delay of the Department of Energy in accepting spent fuel expected to result from the pilot program;

(5) recommendations for any additional legislation needed to authorize and implement the pilot program; and

(6) recommendations for a mechanism to ensure that any spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste stored at a consolidated storage facility pursuant to this section shall move to deep geologic disposal capacity, following a consent-based approval process for that deep geologic disposal capacity consistent with subsection (d), within a reasonable time after the issuance of a license to construct and operate the consolidated storage facility.

(g) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Prior to choosing a site for the construction of a consolidated storage facility under this section, the Secretary shall conduct 1 or more public hearings in the vicinity of each potential site and in at least 1 other location within

the State in which the site is located to solicit public comments and recommendations.

(h) USE OF NUCLEAR WASTE FUND.—The Secretary may make expenditures from the Nuclear Waste Fund to carry out this section, subject to appropriations.

#### TITLE IV

##### INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

###### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$151,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100-456, section 1441, \$31,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

###### DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382C(b)(2), 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: *Provided*, That funds shall be available for construction projects in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (division C, title III, Public Law 105-277), as amended by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1501A-280), and an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.

###### NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

###### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, \$939,000,000, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$25,000, to remain available until expended:

*Provided*, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$7,500,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2018, of which, notwithstanding section 201(a)(2)(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5841(a)(2)(c)), the use and expenditure shall only be approved by a majority vote of the Commission: *Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$822,240,000 in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear reactor technologies, and \$5,000,000 of that amount shall not be available from fee revenues, notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 2214: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$116,760,000.

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$12,129,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$10,044,000 in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2018, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$2,085,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$969,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, which shall not be available from fee revenues.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100-203, section 5051, \$3,600,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiv-

er under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b), and (d), the amounts made available by this title for "Nuclear Regulatory Commission—Salaries and Expenses" shall be expended as directed in the report accompanying this Act.

(d) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(e) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

- (1) total budget authority;
- (2) total unobligated balances; and
- (3) total unliquidated obligations.

#### TITLE V

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semiannual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

This Act may be cited as the "Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017".

**SA 3802.** Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 28, line 16, strike "\$292,669,000" and insert "\$325,000,000".

On page 46, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

(4) "Energy Program—Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program", \$9,500,000.

(5) "Energy Program—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy", \$20,600,000.

(6) "Energy Program—Nuclear Energy", \$231,000.

(7) "Energy Program—Strategic Petroleum Reserve", \$150,000.

(8) "Energy Program—Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves", \$150,000.

(9) "Energy Program—Science", \$1,700,000.

**SA 3803.** Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 53, strike lines 3 through 12.

Beginning on page 53, strike line 20 and all that follows through page 55, line 8.

**SA 3804.** Mr. ALEXANDER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 55, line 23, strike "*Provided*" and all that follows through page 56, line 13, and insert the following: "*Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$823,114,000 in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear reactor technologies, and \$5,000,000 of that amount shall not be available for fee revenues, notwithstanding section 6101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 2214): *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$115,886,000.".

**SA 3805.** Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER) submitted an amendment

intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 204, strike “and inserting ‘\$400,000,000’” and insert “and inserting ‘\$450,000,000, on the condition that of that amount, \$50,000,000 is used to carry out section 206 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (43 U.S.C. 620 note; Public Law 113-235)’”.

**SA 3806.** Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the general provisions of title I, add the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Corps of Engineers to implement the Dredged Material Management Plan for Long Island Sound.

**SA 3807.** Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be used to issue any draft or final rule that would provide to any nuclear power plant carrying out decommissioning activities an automatic or permanent exemption from any requirement relating to emergency preparedness.

**SA 3808.** Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_\_. Section 2006 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2242) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting “in which the project is located or of a community that is located in the region that is served by the project and that will rely on the project” after “community”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or of a community that is located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project” after “community”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “local population” and inserting “regional population to be served by the project”; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “community” and inserting “local community or to a community that is located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project”.

**SA 3809.** Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. Section 10(h) of Public Law 86-787 (74 Stat. 1026; 120 Stat. 1474) is amended by striking “10 years” and inserting “20 years”.

**SA 3810.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **NO BUDGET, NO PAY.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “No Budget, No Pay Act”.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Member of Congress”—

(1) has the meaning given under section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) does not include the Vice President.

(c) **TIMELY APPROVAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—If both Houses of Congress have not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget as described under section 301 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) for a fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year and have not passed all the regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year, the pay of each Member of Congress may not be paid for each day following that October 1 until the date on which both Houses of Congress approve a concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year and all the regular appropriations bills.

(d) **NO PAY WITHOUT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be appropriated or otherwise be made available from the United States Treasury for the pay of any Member of Congress during any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e).

(2) **NO RETROACTIVE PAY.**—A Member of Congress may not receive pay for any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the

House of Representatives under subsection (e), at any time after the end of that period.

(e) **DETERMINATIONS.**—

(1) **SENATE.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Secretary of the Senate shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for certification of determinations made under clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Senators may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Senators may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for certification of determinations made under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on February 1, 2017.

**SA 3811.** Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations and guidance in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including the provisions of the rules dated November 13, 1986, and August 25, 1993, relating to such jurisdiction, and the guidance documents dated January 15, 2003, and December 2, 2008, relating to such jurisdiction.

**SA 3812.** Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, line 15, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of such amount, \$95,400,000 shall be available for wind energy.”.

**SA 3813.** Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. None of the funds made available by this title may be used for any acquisition that is not consistent with section 225.7007 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

**SA 3814.** Mr. COATS (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 30, line 9, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used to administer, review, or approve any loan or loan application that was not submitted as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, that none of the funds available to the Secretary of Energy to provide any credit subsidy under subsection (d) of section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be obligated for new loan commitments under that subsection on or after October 1, 2020.”.

**SA 3815.** Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 204, strike “and inserting ‘\$400,000,000’” and insert “and inserting ‘\$400,000,000, on the condition that of that amount, \$50,000,000 is used to carry out section 206 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (43 U.S.C. 620 note; Public Law 113-235), except that none of that \$50,000,000 shall

be used to carry out any project that creates Colorado River System water that could be released or delivered in the same calendar year during which the project is carried out”.

**SA 3816.** Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 11, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided herein, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation shall use such amounts as are necessary to conduct a study on the feasibility of the Bureau of Reclamation or a water user group taking over management of 1 or more irrigation projects managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the date of enactment of this Act.”.

**SA 3817.** Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, line 11, strike “\$151,000,000” and insert “\$120,000,000”.

On page 54, line 1, strike “\$25,000,000” and insert “\$15,936,000”.

On page 55, line 4, strike “\$10,000,000” and insert “\$5,000,000”.

**SA 3818.** Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. No funding shall be made available under this Act for any river or harbor, flood or storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, or other similar project, as determined by the Chief of Engineers—

(1) with respect to which each non-Federal sponsor and each affected Member of Congress states there exists no interest or support for continuing the project; or

(2) that has been suspended for an indefinite period (including any project for which a non-Federal sponsor fails to provide the non-Federal cost-share or for which the applicable tax base is insufficient), subject to the condition that such a project may be reclassified as an active project at a later date.

**SA 3819.** Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water de-

velopment and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, line 10, strike “\$1,114,394,000” and insert “\$1,070,553,000”.

**SA 3820.** Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 11, strike “\$1,813,649,000” and insert “\$1,744,699,000”.

**SA 3821.** Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, after line 5, add the following:

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the amount made available under the heading “CONSTRUCTION” under the heading “CORPS OF ENGINEERS-CIVIL” under the heading “CORPS OF ENGINEERS-CIVIL DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY” in this title shall be \$1,803,649,000.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this title may be used for beach nourishment or beach renourishment.

**SA 3822.** Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to facilitate the development or management of training and workforce development programs (other than the joint Solar Ready Vets program of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense) that assist and support workers in trades and activities required for the continued growth of the United States energy efficiency and clean energy sectors.

**SA 3823.** Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 54, line 7, strike “\$15,000,000” and insert “\$0”.

**SA 3824.** Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, line 22, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further.* That of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of the Army shall use \$12,000,000 to fund all or a portion of the costs to review or revise operational documents, including water control plans, water control manuals, water control diagrams, release schedules, rule curves, operational agreements with non-Federal entities, and any associated environmental documentation for any Corps of Engineers project, non-Federal project regulated for flood control by the Secretary of the Army, or Bureau of Reclamation facilities regulated for flood control by the Secretary of the Army.”.

**SA 3825.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, strike lines 12 through 18.

**SA 3826.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 24, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 25, line 11.

**SA 3827.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 23, strike line 16 and all that follows through page 24, line 2.

**SA 3828.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, strike lines 4 through 15.

**SA 3829.** Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

**SEC. 2.** None of the funds made available by this title or any other Act may be used by the Director of the National Park Service or the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to purchase or lease additional vehicles for the National Park Service or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, respectively, until the date on which the Director of the National Park Service or the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as applicable, certifies that the applicable agency has taken corrective action to address each leased vehicle of the applicable agency that has not—

- (1) met the utilization criteria of the applicable agency; or
- (2) passed the justification process of the applicable agency.

**SA 3830.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 3.** **PROTECTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for activities relating to section 906(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2283(d)) if the Secretary of the Army does not ensure evaluation of and mitigation for impacts to fish and wildlife resources consistent with recommendations developed by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior, and the States pursuant to section 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 662), including recommendations to properly evaluate impacts and avoid adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of the Army shall not select a recommended alternative for a water resources project if the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service concludes that the impacts of that alternative cannot be successfully mitigated.

(2) **MITIGATION.**—The mitigation requirements under this section shall be in addition to any other mitigation measures required under section 906 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2283) and any other applicable Federal or State law (including regulations).

**SA 3831.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 4.** **LOW-IMPACT, COST-EFFECTIVE PLANNING.**

(a) **DEFINITION OF NONSTRUCTURAL MEASURE.**—In this section:

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “nonstructural measure” means an action that, without using a structural measure—

(A) uses, enhances, facilitates, protects, or restores naturally occurring hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological functions and processes; and

(B) protects or restores the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a stream, river, floodplain, wetland, or coast.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “nonstructural measure” includes—

(A) acquisition of land or an easement;

(B) relocation, demolition, or elevation of a flood-prone property;

(C) removal of a structure such as a dam, levee, or culvert, or modification of the structures to restore a natural hydrology, form, function, or process of a river, stream, floodplain, wetland, or coast;

(D) reestablishment of a natural hydrology, form, function, or process of a river, stream, floodplain, wetland, or coast;

(E) a living shoreline;

(F) a measure to increase water conservation, increase water efficiency, or improve water management;

(G) a building or construction requirement or standard;

(H) a land use restriction or limitation; and

(I) removal of a nonnative species or re-introduction of a native species.

(b) **PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), none of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for a water resources project for which, in formulating and evaluating a water resources project in a feasibility study, environmental review, or pursuant to section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), the Secretary of the Army did not select and recommend nonstructural measures to address all or a portion of a water resources project wherever those nonstructural measures are practicable.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a water resources project if the Secretary of the Army issues a written finding stating that it is not in the Federal interest to use nonstructural measures for the project.

(c) **PRESUMPTION.**—A nonstructural measure shall be presumed to be available and practicable unless clearly demonstrated otherwise.

(d) **REQUIREMENT.**—A nonstructural measure recommended under this section shall be cost-effective, as determined pursuant to section 904(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2281(b)).

**SA 3832.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 5.** None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for an emergency project under section 5(a) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n(a)), if the Secretary of the Army does not consider nonstructural alternatives (including natural or nature-based solutions) for the project where

available and practicable and in consultation with a non-Federal sponsor.

**SA 3833.** Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

**TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM**

For the cost of loan guarantees provided under section 2602(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(c)), \$8,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the cost of those loan guarantees (including the costs of modifying loans, as applicable) shall be determined in accordance with section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a): *Provided further*, That, for necessary administrative expenses to carry out that program, \$500,000 is appropriated, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That, of the subsidy amounts provided by section 1425 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112-10; 125 Stat. 126), for the cost of loan guarantees for renewable energy or efficient end-use energy technologies under section 1703 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513), \$9,000,000 is permanently canceled.

**SA 3834.** Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive study, to be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, on the effectiveness and environmental impact of salt cedar control efforts (including biological control) in increasing water supplies, restoring riparian habitat, and improving flood management.

(b) Not later than 1 year after the date of completion of the study under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall prepare a plan for the removal of salt cedar from all Federal land in the Lower Colorado River basin that includes—

- (1) provisions for revegetating Federal land with native vegetation;
- (2) provisions for adapting to the increasing presence of biological control in the Lower Colorado River basin;
- (3) provisions for removing salt cedar from Federal land during post-wildfire recovery activities;
- (4) strategies for developing partnerships with State, tribal, and local governmental entities in the eradication of salt cedar; and

(5) budget estimates and completion timelines for the implementation of plan elements.

**SA 3835.** Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. None of the funds made available by this title may be used to carry out any prioritization criteria of the Bureau of Reclamation for use in developing budget requests and allocating funding for ongoing work for rural water projects that does not include the consideration of the non-Federal resources, including those above the non-Federal cost share, committed to the project.

**SA 3836.** Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECTS**

SEC. 3. (a) GIBSON DAM.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 12478-003, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) may, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice and in accordance with the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of the project for a 6-year period that begins on the date described in paragraph (2).

(2) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this paragraph is the date of the expiration of the extension of the period required for commencement of construction for the project described in paragraph (1) that was issued by the Commission prior to the date of enactment of this Act under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806).

(3) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in paragraph (2) has expired before the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) the Commission shall reinstate the license effective as of the date of the expiration of the license; and

(B) the first extension authorized under paragraph (1) shall take effect on that expiration date.

(b) CLARK CANYON DAM.—Notwithstanding the time period described in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Commission project

numbered 12429, the Commission shall, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice and in accordance with the procedures of the Commission under that section, reinstate the license and extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of project works for the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 3837.** Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. CASEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1252, to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 23, line 20, strike “security”.

On page 24, beginning on line 23, strike “align” and all that follows through “science” on line 25 and insert “demonstrably meet, align with and leverage broader United States strategies and investments in trade, economic growth, national security, science”.

On page 33, line 24, strike “producers; and” and insert “producers;”.

On page 34, line 6, strike “8(b)(4).” and insert “8(b)(4); and”.

On page 34, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(17) demonstrably support the United States national security and economic interest in the countries where assistance is being provided.

Beginning on page 40, strike line 16 and all that follows through page 44, line 18, and insert the following:

**SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

(a) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year and 2 years after the date of the submission of the strategy required under section 5(c), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees reports that describe the status of the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy for 2017 and 2018, which shall—

(1) contain a summary of the Global Food Security Strategy as an appendix;

(2) identify any substantial changes made in the Global Food Security Strategy during the preceding calendar year;

(3) describe the progress made in implementing the Global Food Security Strategy;

(4) identify the indicators used to establish benchmarks and measure results over time, as well as the mechanisms for reporting such results in an open and transparent manner;

(5) describe related strategies and benchmarks for graduating target countries and communities from assistance provided under the Global Food Security Strategy over time, including by building resilience, reducing risk, and enhancing the sustainability of outcomes from United States investments in agriculture and nutrition security;

(6) indicate how findings from monitoring and evaluation were incorporated into program design and budget decisions;

(7) contain a transparent, open, and detailed accounting of spending by relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, including, for each Federal department and agency, the statutory source of spending,



amounts spent, implementing partners and targeted beneficiaries, and activities supported to the extent practicable and appropriate;

(8) describe how the Global Food Security Strategy leverages other United States food security and development assistance programs on the continuum from emergency food aid through sustainable, agriculture-led economic growth and eventual self-sufficiency;

(9) describe the contributions of the Global Food Security Strategy to, and assess the impact of, broader international food and nutrition security assistance programs, including progress in the promotion of land tenure rights, creating economic opportunities for women and small-scale producers, and stimulating agriculture-led economic growth in target countries and communities;

(10) assess efforts to coordinate United States international food security and nutrition programs, activities, and initiatives with key stakeholders;

(11) assess United States Government-facilitated private investment in related sectors and the impact of private sector investment in target countries and communities;

(12) identify any United States legal or regulatory impediments that could obstruct the effective implementation of the programming referred to in paragraphs (8) and (9);

(13) contain a clear gender analysis of programming, to inform project-level activities, that includes established disaggregated gender indicators to better analyze outcomes for food productivity, income growth, control of assets, equity in access to inputs, jobs and markets, and nutrition; and

(14) incorporate a plan for regularly reviewing and updating strategies, partnerships, and programs and sharing lessons learned with a wide range of stakeholders in an open, transparent manner.

(b) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CROSSCUT REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the President submits the budget to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report including—

(1) an interagency budget crosscut report that—

(A) displays the budget proposed, including any planned interagency or intra-agency transfer, for each of the principal Federal agencies that carries out global food security activities in the upcoming fiscal year, separately reporting the amount of planned funding to be provided under existing laws pertaining to the global food security strategy to the extent available; and

(B) to the extent available, identifies all assistance and research expenditures at the account level in each of the five prior fiscal years by the Federal Government and United States multilateral commitments using Federal funds for global food security strategy activities;

(2) to the extent available, a detailed accounting of all assistance funding received and obligated by the principal Federal agencies identified in the report and United States multilateral commitments using Federal funds, for global food security activities during the current fiscal year; and

(3) a breakout of the proposed budget for the current and budget years by agency, categorizing expenditures by type of funding, including research, resiliency, and other food security activities to the extent that such information is available.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The information referred to in subsections

(a) and (b) shall be made available on the public website of the United States Agency for International Development in an open, machine readable format, in a timely manner.

**SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

(a) EFFECT ON OTHER PROGRAMS.—Nothing in the Global Food Security Strategy or this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to supersede or otherwise affect the authority of the relevant Federal departments and agencies to carry out programs specified in subsection (b), in the manner provided, and subject to the terms and conditions, of those programs, including, but not limited to, the terms, conditions, and requirements relating to the procurement and transportation of food assistance furnished pursuant to such programs.

(b) PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The programs referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.).

(2) The Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o).

(3) Section 416(b) of the Agriculture Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1431).

(4) McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1).

(5) Local and Regional Procurement Program (7 U.S.C. 1726c).

(6) Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1).

(7) Any other food and nutrition security and emergency and non-emergency food assistance program of the Department of Agriculture.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled “The State of the U.S. Maritime Industry: Stakeholder Perspectives.”

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

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled “New Approaches and Innovative Technologies to Improve Water Supply.”

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

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 5 p.m.

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

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Administrative State: An Examination of Federal Rulemaking.”

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

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Nominations.”

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

**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 2:15 p.m. in room SR-301 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

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

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2016, at 2 p.m.

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

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Tim Dykstra, a detailee for the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, have full floor privileges during the consideration of this bill.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my Corps

of Engineers fellow, Jen Armstrong, and my Department of Energy fellow, John Rivard, be granted floor privileges through the remainder of the 114th Congress.

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 495; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

#### ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as the Chief of Engineers/Commanding General, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 3036:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Todd T. Semonite

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

## GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2015

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Calendar No. 393, S. 1252, and that the Casey amendment be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1252) to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which

had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Global Food Security Act of 2016".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress makes the following findings:*

(1) According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (referred to in this section as the "FAO"), 805,000,000 people worldwide suffer from chronic hunger. Hunger and malnutrition rob people of health and productive lives and stunt the mental and physical development of future generations.

(2) According to the January 2014 "Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community"—

(A) the "[l]ack of adequate food will be a destabilizing factor in countries important to US national security that do not have the financial or technical abilities to solve their internal food security problems"; and

(B) "[f]ood and nutrition insecurity in weakly governed countries might also provide opportunities for insurgent groups to capitalize on poor conditions, exploit international food aid, and discredit governments for their inability to address basic needs".

(3) A comprehensive approach to sustainable food and nutrition security should not only respond to emergency food shortages, but should also address malnutrition, resilience to food and nutrition insecurity, building the capacity of poor, rural populations to improve their agricultural productivity and incomes, removing institutional impediments to agricultural development, value chain access and efficiency, including processing and storage, enhancing agribusiness development, access to markets and activities that address the specific needs and barriers facing women and small-scale producers, education, and collaborative research.

#### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES.—*It is in the national security interest of the United States to promote global food security, resilience, and nutrition, consistent with national food security investment plans, which is reinforced through programs, activities, and initiatives that—*

(1) place food insecure countries on a path toward self-sufficiency and economic freedom through the coordination of United States foreign assistance programs;

(2) accelerate inclusive, agricultural-led economic growth that reduces global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, particularly among women and children;

(3) increase the productivity, incomes, and livelihoods of small-scale producers, especially women, by working across agricultural value chains, enhancing local capacity to manage agricultural resources effectively and expanding producer access to local and international markets;

(4) build resilience to food shocks among vulnerable populations and households while reducing reliance upon emergency food assistance;

(5) create an enabling environment for agricultural growth and investment, including through the promotion of secure and transparent property rights;

(6) improve the nutritional status of women and children, with a focus on reducing child stunting, including through the promotion of highly nutritious foods, diet diversification, and nutritional behaviors that improve maternal and child health;

(7) align with and leverage broader United States strategies and investments in trade, eco-

nomie growth, science and technology, agriculture research and extension, maternal and child health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene;

(8) continue to strengthen partnerships between United States-based universities, including land-grant colleges, and universities and institutions in target countries and communities that build agricultural capacity; and

(9) ensure the effective use of United States taxpayer dollars to further these objectives.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—*It is the sense of the Congress that the President, in providing assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, should—*

(1) coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy;

(2) seek to fully utilize the unique capabilities of each relevant Federal department and agency while collaborating with and leveraging the contributions of other key stakeholders; and

(3) utilize open and streamlined solicitations to allow for the participation of a wide range of implementing partners through the most appropriate procurement mechanisms, which may include grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments as necessary and appropriate.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—*The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—*

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LABS.—*The term "Feed the Future Innovation Labs" means research partnerships led by United States universities that advance solutions to reduce global hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.*

(3) FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY.—*The term "food and nutrition security" means access to, and availability, utilization, and stability of, sufficient food to meet caloric and nutritional needs for an active and healthy life.*

(4) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.—*The term "Global Food Security Strategy" means the strategy developed and implemented pursuant to section 5(a).*

(5) KEY STAKEHOLDERS.—*The term "key stakeholders" means actors engaged in efforts to advance global food security programs and objectives, including—*

(A) relevant Federal departments and agencies;

(B) national and local governments in target countries;

(C) other bilateral donors;

(D) international and regional organizations;

(E) international, regional, and local financial institutions;

(F) international, regional, and local private voluntary, nongovernmental, faith-based, and civil society organizations;

(G) the private sector, including agribusinesses and relevant commodities groups;

(H) agricultural producers, including farmer organizations, cooperatives, small-scale producers, and women; and

(I) agricultural research and academic institutions, including land-grant universities and extension services.

(6) **MALNUTRITION.**—The term “malnutrition” means poor nutritional status caused by nutritional deficiency or excess.

(7) **RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**—The term “relevant Federal departments and agencies” means the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Peace Corps, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the United States African Development Foundation, the United States Geological Survey, and any other department or agency specified by the President for purposes of this section.

(8) **RESILIENCE.**—The term “resilience” means the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses to food security in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

(9) **SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER.**—The term “small-scale producer” means farmers, pastoralists, foresters, and fishers that have a low asset base and limited resources, including land, capital, skills and labor, and, in the case of farmers, typically farm on fewer than 5 hectares of land.

(10) **STUNTING.**—The term “stunting” refers to a condition that—

(A) is measured by a height-to-age ratio that is more than 2 standard deviations below the median for the population;

(B) manifests in children who are younger than 2 years of age;

(C) is a process that can continue in children after they reach 2 years of age, resulting in an individual being “stunted”;

(D) is a sign of chronic malnutrition; and

(E) can lead to long-term poor health, delayed motor development, impaired cognitive function, and decreased immunity.

(11) **SUSTAINABLE.**—The term “sustainable” means the ability of a target country, community, implementing partner, or intended beneficiary to maintain, over time, the programs authorized and outcomes achieved pursuant to this Act.

(12) **TARGET COUNTRY.**—The term “target country” means a developing country that is selected to participate in agriculture and nutrition security programs under the Global Food Security Strategy pursuant to the selection criteria described in section 5(a)(2), including criteria such as the potential for agriculture-led economic growth, government commitment to agricultural investment and policy reform, opportunities for partnerships and regional synergies, the level of need, and resource availability.

#### **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.**

(a) **STRATEGY.**—The President shall coordinate the development and implementation of a United States whole-of-government strategy to accomplish the policy objectives set forth in section 3(a), which shall—

(1) set specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, timetables, performance metrics, and monitoring and evaluation plans that reflect international best practices relating to transparency, accountability, food and nutrition security, and agriculture-led economic growth, consistent with the policy objectives described in section 3(a);

(2) establish clear and transparent selection criteria for target countries, communities, regions, and intended beneficiaries of assistance;

(3) describe the methodology and criteria for the selection of target countries;

(4) support and be aligned with country-owned agriculture, nutrition, and food security policy and investment plans developed with input from key stakeholders, as appropriate;

(5) support inclusive agricultural value chain development, with small-scale producers, especially women, gaining greater access to the inputs, skills, resource management capacity, networking, bargaining power, financing, and market linkages needed to sustain their long-term economic prosperity;

(6) support improvement of the nutritional status of women and children, particularly during the critical first 1,000-day window until a child reaches 2 years of age and with a focus on reducing child stunting, through nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs, including related water, sanitation, and hygiene programs;

(7) facilitate communication and collaboration, as appropriate, among local stakeholders in support of a multi-sectoral approach to food and nutrition security, to include analysis of the multiple underlying causes of malnutrition, including lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene;

(8) support the long-term success of programs by building the capacity of local organizations and institutions in target countries and communities;

(9) integrate resilience and nutrition strategies into food security programs, such that chronically vulnerable populations are better able to build safety nets, secure livelihoods, access markets, and access opportunities for longer-term economic growth;

(10) develop community and producer resilience to natural disasters, emergencies, and natural occurrences that adversely impact agricultural yield;

(11) harness science, technology, and innovation, including the research and extension activities supported by relevant Federal Departments and agencies and Feed the Future Innovation Labs, or any successor entities;

(12) integrate agricultural development activities among food insecure populations living in proximity to designated national parks or wildlife areas into wildlife conservation efforts, as necessary and appropriate;

(13) leverage resources and expertise through partnerships with the private sector, farm organizations, cooperatives, civil society, faith-based organizations, and agricultural research and academic institutions;

(14) strengthen and expand collaboration between United States universities, including public, private, and land-grant universities, with higher education institutions in target countries to increase their effectiveness and relevance to promote agricultural development and innovation through the creation of human capital, innovation, and cutting edge science in the agricultural sector;

(15) seek to ensure that target countries and communities respect and promote land tenure rights of local communities, particularly those of women and small-scale producers; and

(16) include criteria and methodologies for graduating target countries and communities from assistance provided to implement the Global Food Security Strategy as such countries and communities meet the progress benchmarks identified pursuant to section 8(b)(4).

(b) **COORDINATION.**—The President shall coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies in the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy by—

(1) establishing monitoring and evaluation systems, coherence, and coordination across relevant Federal departments and agencies;

(2) establishing linkages with other initiatives and strategies of relevant Federal departments and agencies; and

(3) establishing platforms for regular consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders and the appropriate congressional committees.

(c) **STRATEGY SUBMISSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than October 1, 2016, the President, in consultation with the head of each relevant Federal department and agency, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the Global Food Security Strategy required under this section, including a detailed description of how the United States intends to advance the objectives set forth in section 3(a) and the agency-specific plans described in paragraph (2).

(2) **AGENCY-SPECIFIC PLANS.**—The Global Food Security Strategy shall include specific implementation plans from each relevant Federal department and agency that describes—

(A) the anticipated contributions of the department or agency, including technical, financial, and in-kind contributions, to implement the Global Food Security Strategy; and

(B) the efforts of the department or agency to ensure that the activities and programs carried out pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

#### **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.**

(a) **FOOD SHORTAGES.**—The President is authorized to carry out activities pursuant to section 103, section 103A, title XII of chapter 2 of part I, and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a, 2151a–1, 2220a et seq., and 2346 et seq.) to prevent or address food shortages notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development \$1,000,600,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018 to carry out those portions of the Global Food Security Strategy that relate to the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, respectively.

(c) **MONITORING AND EVALUATION.**—The President shall seek to ensure that assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy is provided under established parameters for a rigorous accountability system to monitor and evaluate progress and impact of the strategy, including by reporting to the appropriate congressional committees and the public on an annual basis.

#### **SEC. 7. EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the crisis in Syria, which is characterized by acts of terrorism and atrocities directed against civilians, including mass murder, forced displacement, aerial bombardment, ethnic and religious persecution, torture, kidnapping, rape and sexual enslavement, has triggered one of the most profound humanitarian crises of this century and poses a direct threat to regional security and the national security interests of the United States;

(2) it is in the national security interests of the United States to respond to the needs of displaced Syrian persons and the communities hosting such persons, including with food assistance; and

(3) after four years of conflict in Syria and the onset of other major humanitarian emergencies where, like Syria, the provision of certain United States humanitarian assistance has been particularly challenging, including the 2013 super-typhoon in the Philippines, the 2014 outbreak of Ebola in west Africa, the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, ongoing humanitarian disasters in Yemen and South Sudan, and the threat of a major El Nino event in 2016, United States international disaster assistance has become severely stressed.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States, in coordination with

other donors, regional governments, international organizations, and international financial institutions, to fully leverage, enhance, and expand the impact and reach of available United States humanitarian resources, including for food assistance, to mitigate the effects of manmade and natural disasters by utilizing innovative new approaches to delivering aid that support affected persons and the communities hosting them, build resilience and early recovery, and reduce opportunities for waste, fraud, and abuse.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—

(1) Section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitations in section 492, and notwithstanding any other provision of this or any other Act, the President is authorized to make available emergency food assistance, including in the form of funds, transfers, vouchers, and agricultural commodities (including products derived from agricultural commodities) acquired through local or regional procurement, to meet emergency food needs arising from manmade and natural disasters.

“(2) DESIGNATION.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be known as the ‘International Disaster Assistance – Emergency Food Security Program’.”

(2) Section 492 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “\$25,000,000 for the fiscal year 1986 and \$25,000,000 for the fiscal year 1987.” and inserting “\$2,794,184,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, of which up to \$1,257,382,000 should be made available to carry out section 491(c).”; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsections:

“(c) AMOUNTS IN ADDITION TO OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to the authorizations of appropriations under section 491(c) are in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes.

“(d) FLEXIBILITY.—

“(1) UNITED STATES POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that the funds made available to carry out section 491 are intended to provide the President with the greatest possible flexibility to address disaster-related needs as they arise and to prepare for and reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that any amendments to applicable legal provisions contained in this Act are not intended to limit such authorities.

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of each fiscal year, the President shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes the activities undertaken by the President over the course of the prior fiscal year pursuant to section 491(c), including the amounts of assistance provided, intended beneficiaries, monitoring and evaluation strategies, anticipated outcomes, and, as practicable, actual outcomes.”

#### SEC. 8. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the submission of the strategy required under section 5(c), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the status of the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) contain a summary of the Global Food Security Strategy as an appendix;

(2) identify any substantial changes made in the Global Food Security Strategy during the preceding calendar year;

(3) describe the progress made in implementing the Global Food Security Strategy;

(4) identify the indicators used to establish benchmarks and measure results over time, as well as the mechanisms for reporting such results in an open and transparent manner;

(5) describe related strategies and benchmarks for graduating target countries and communities from assistance provided under the Global Food Security Strategy over time, including by building resilience, reducing risk, and enhancing the sustainability of outcomes from United States investments in agriculture and nutrition security;

(6) indicate how findings from monitoring and evaluation were incorporated into program design and budget decisions;

(7) contain a transparent, open, and detailed accounting of spending by relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, including, for each Federal department and agency, the statutory source of spending, amounts spent, implementing partners and targeted beneficiaries, and activities supported to the extent practicable and appropriate;

(8) describe how the Global Food Security Strategy leverages other United States food security and development assistance programs on the continuum from emergency food aid through sustainable, agriculture-led economic growth and eventual self-sufficiency;

(9) describe the contributions of the Global Food Security Strategy to, and assess the impact of, broader international food and nutrition security assistance programs, including progress in the promotion of land tenure rights, creating economic opportunities for women and small-scale producers, and stimulating agriculture-led economic growth in target countries and communities;

(10) assess efforts to coordinate United States international food security and nutrition programs, activities, and initiatives with key stakeholders;

(11) assess United States Government-facilitated private investment in related sectors and the impact of private sector investment in target countries and communities;

(12) identify any United States legal or regulatory impediments that could obstruct the effective implementation of the programming referred to in paragraphs (8) and (9);

(13) contain a clear gender analysis of programming, to inform project-level activities, that includes established disaggregated gender indicators to better analyze outcomes for food productivity, income growth, control of assets, equity in access to inputs, jobs and markets, and nutrition; and

(14) incorporate a plan for regularly reviewing and updating strategies, partnerships, and programs and sharing lessons learned with a wide range of stakeholders in an open, transparent manner.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The information referred to in subsection (b) shall be made available on the public website of the United States Agency for International Development in an open, machine readable format, in a timely manner.

#### SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) EFFECT ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND EMERGENCY AND NONEMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Nothing in the Global Food Security Strategy or this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to supersede or otherwise affect the authority of the relevant Federal departments and agencies

to carry out food and nutrition security and emergency and nonemergency food assistance programs specified in subparagraph (b), in the manner provided, and subject to the terms and conditions, of those programs.

(b) PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The food and nutrition security and emergency and non-emergency food assistance programs referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.).

(2) The Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o).

(3) Section 416(b) of the Agriculture Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1431).

(4) McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1).

(5) Local and Regional Procurement Program (7 U.S.C. 1726c).

(6) Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1).

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

The amendment (No. 3837) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 23, line 20, strike “security”.

On page 24, beginning on line 23, strike “align” and all that follows through “science” on line 25 and insert “demonstrably meet, align with and leverage broader United States strategies and investments in trade, economic growth, national security, science”.

On page 33, line 24, strike “producers; and” and insert “producers;”.

On page 34, line 6, strike “(8)(b)(4).” and insert “(8)(b)(4); and”.

On page 34, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(17) demonstrably support the United States national security and economic interest in the countries where assistance is being provided.

Beginning on page 40, strike line 16 and all that follows through page 44, line 18, and insert the following:

#### SEC. 8. REPORTS.

(a) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year and 2 years after the date of the submission of the strategy required under section 5(c), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees reports that describe the status of the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy for 2017 and 2018, which shall—

(1) contain a summary of the Global Food Security Strategy as an appendix;

(2) identify any substantial changes made in the Global Food Security Strategy during the preceding calendar year;

(3) describe the progress made in implementing the Global Food Security Strategy;

(4) identify the indicators used to establish benchmarks and measure results over time, as well as the mechanisms for reporting such results in an open and transparent manner;

(5) describe related strategies and benchmarks for graduating target countries and communities from assistance provided under the Global Food Security Strategy over time, including by building resilience, reducing risk, and enhancing the sustainability of outcomes from United States investments in agriculture and nutrition security;

(6) indicate how findings from monitoring and evaluation were incorporated into program design and budget decisions;

(7) contain a transparent, open, and detailed accounting of spending by relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, including, for each Federal department and

agency, the statutory source of spending, amounts spent, implementing partners and targeted beneficiaries, and activities supported to the extent practicable and appropriate;

(8) describe how the Global Food Security Strategy leverages other United States food security and development assistance programs on the continuum from emergency food aid through sustainable, agriculture-led economic growth and eventual self-sufficiency;

(9) describe the contributions of the Global Food Security Strategy to, and assess the impact of, broader international food and nutrition security assistance programs, including progress in the promotion of land tenure rights, creating economic opportunities for women and small-scale producers, and stimulating agriculture-led economic growth in target countries and communities;

(10) assess efforts to coordinate United States international food security and nutrition programs, activities, and initiatives with key stakeholders;

(11) assess United States Government-facilitated private investment in related sectors and the impact of private sector investment in target countries and communities;

(12) identify any United States legal or regulatory impediments that could obstruct the effective implementation of the programming referred to in paragraphs (8) and (9);

(13) contain a clear gender analysis of programming, to inform project-level activities, that includes established disaggregated gender indicators to better analyze outcomes for food productivity, income growth, control of assets, equity in access to inputs, jobs and markets, and nutrition; and

(14) incorporate a plan for regularly reviewing and updating strategies, partnerships, and programs and sharing lessons learned with a wide range of stakeholders in an open, transparent manner.

(b) **GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CROSSCUT REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the President submits the budget to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report including—

(1) an interagency budget crosscut report that—

(A) displays the budget proposed, including any planned interagency or intra-agency transfer, for each of the principal Federal agencies that carries out global food security activities in the upcoming fiscal year, separately reporting the amount of planned funding to be provided under existing laws pertaining to the global food security strategy to the extent available; and

(B) to the extent available, identifies all assistance and research expenditures at the account level in each of the five prior fiscal years by the Federal Government and United States multilateral commitments using Federal funds for global food security strategy activities;

(2) to the extent available, a detailed accounting of all assistance funding received and obligated by the principal Federal agencies identified in the report and United States multilateral commitments using Federal funds, for global food security activities during the current fiscal year; and

(3) a breakout of the proposed budget for the current and budget years by agency, categorizing expenditures by type of funding, including research, resiliency, and other food security activities to the extent that such information is available.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.**—The information referred to in subsections (a) and (b) shall be made available on the public website of the United States Agency for International Development in an open, machine readable format, in a timely manner.

#### **SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

(a) **EFFECT ON OTHER PROGRAMS.**—Nothing in the Global Food Security Strategy or this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to supersede or otherwise affect the authority of the relevant Federal departments and agencies to carry out programs specified in subsection (b), in the manner provided, and subject to the terms and conditions, of those programs, including, but not limited to, the terms, conditions, and requirements relating to the procurement and transportation of food assistance furnished pursuant to such programs.

(b) **PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.**—The programs referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.).

(2) The Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o).

(3) Section 416(b) of the Agriculture Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1431).

(4) McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1).

(5) Local and Regional Procurement Program (7 U.S.C. 1726c).

(6) Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1).

(7) Any other food and nutrition security and emergency and non-emergency food assistance program of the Department of Agriculture.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1252), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 1252

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

#### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Global Food Security Act of 2016”.

#### **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (referred to in this section as the “FAO”), 805,000,000 people worldwide suffer from chronic hunger. Hunger and malnutrition rob people of health and productive lives and stunt the mental and physical development of future generations.

(2) According to the January 2014 “Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community”—

(A) the “[l]ack of adequate food will be a destabilizing factor in countries important to US national security that do not have the financial or technical abilities to solve their internal food security problems”; and

(B) “[f]ood and nutrition insecurity in weakly governed countries might also provide opportunities for insurgent groups to

capitalize on poor conditions, exploit international food aid, and discredit governments for their inability to address basic needs”.

(3) A comprehensive approach to sustainable food and nutrition security should not only respond to emergency food shortages, but should also address malnutrition, resilience to food and nutrition insecurity, building the capacity of poor, rural populations to improve their agricultural productivity and incomes, removing institutional impediments to agricultural development, value chain access and efficiency, including processing and storage, enhancing agribusiness development, access to markets and activities that address the specific needs and barriers facing women and small-scale producers, education, and collaborative research.

#### **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES.**—It is in the national interest of the United States to promote global food security, resilience, and nutrition, consistent with national food security investment plans, which is reinforced through programs, activities, and initiatives that—

(1) place food insecure countries on a path toward self-sufficiency and economic freedom through the coordination of United States foreign assistance programs;

(2) accelerate inclusive, agriculture-led economic growth that reduces global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, particularly among women and children;

(3) increase the productivity, incomes, and livelihoods of small-scale producers, especially women, by working across agricultural value chains, enhancing local capacity to manage agricultural resources effectively and expanding producer access to local and international markets;

(4) build resilience to food shocks among vulnerable populations and households while reducing reliance upon emergency food assistance;

(5) create an enabling environment for agricultural growth and investment, including through the promotion of secure and transparent property rights;

(6) improve the nutritional status of women and children, with a focus on reducing child stunting, including through the promotion of highly nutritious foods, diet diversification, and nutritional behaviors that improve maternal and child health;

(7) demonstrably meet, align with and leverage broader United States strategies and investments in trade, economic growth, national security, science and technology, agriculture research and extension, maternal and child health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene;

(8) continue to strengthen partnerships between United States-based universities, including land-grant colleges, and universities and institutions in target countries and communities that build agricultural capacity; and

(9) ensure the effective use of United States taxpayer dollars to further these objectives.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of the Congress that the President, in providing assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, should—

(1) coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy;

(2) seek to fully utilize the unique capabilities of each relevant Federal department and agency while collaborating with and

leveraging the contributions of other key stakeholders; and

(3) utilize open and streamlined solicitations to allow for the participation of a wide range of implementing partners through the most appropriate procurement mechanisms, which may include grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments as necessary and appropriate.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LABS.**—The term “Feed the Future Innovation Labs” means research partnerships led by United States universities that advance solutions to reduce global hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

(3) **FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY.**—The term “food and nutrition security” means access to, and availability, utilization, and stability of, sufficient food to meet caloric and nutritional needs for an active and healthy life.

(4) **GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.**—The term “Global Food Security Strategy” means the strategy developed and implemented pursuant to section 5(a).

(5) **KEY STAKEHOLDERS.**—The term “key stakeholders” means actors engaged in efforts to advance global food security programs and objectives, including—

(A) relevant Federal departments and agencies;

(B) national and local governments in target countries;

(C) other bilateral donors;

(D) international and regional organizations;

(E) international, regional, and local financial institutions;

(F) international, regional, and local private voluntary, nongovernmental, faith-based, and civil society organizations;

(G) the private sector, including agribusinesses and relevant commodities groups;

(H) agricultural producers, including farmer organizations, cooperatives, small-scale producers, and women; and

(I) agricultural research and academic institutions, including land-grant universities and extension services.

(6) **MALNUTRITION.**—The term “malnutrition” means poor nutritional status caused by nutritional deficiency or excess.

(7) **RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**—The term “relevant Federal departments and agencies” means the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Peace Corps, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the United States African Development Foundation, the United States Geological Survey, and any other department or agency specified by the President for purposes of this section.

(8) **RESILIENCE.**—The term “resilience” means the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses to food security in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

(9) **SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER.**—The term “small-scale producer” means farmers, pastoralists, foresters, and fishers that have a low asset base and limited resources, including land, capital, skills and labor, and, in the case of farmers, typically farm on fewer than 5 hectares of land.

(10) **STUNTING.**—The term “stunting” refers to a condition that—

(A) is measured by a height-to-age ratio that is more than 2 standard deviations below the median for the population;

(B) manifests in children who are younger than 2 years of age;

(C) is a process that can continue in children after they reach 2 years of age, resulting in an individual being “stunted”; and

(D) is a sign of chronic malnutrition; and

(E) can lead to long-term poor health, delayed motor development, impaired cognitive function, and decreased immunity.

(11) **SUSTAINABLE.**—The term “sustainable” means the ability of a target country, community, implementing partner, or intended beneficiary to maintain, over time, the programs authorized and outcomes achieved pursuant to this Act.

(12) **TARGET COUNTRY.**—The term “target country” means a developing country that is selected to participate in agriculture and nutrition security programs under the Global Food Security Strategy pursuant to the selection criteria described in section 5(a)(2), including criteria such as the potential for agriculture-led economic growth, government commitment to agricultural investment and policy reform, opportunities for partnerships and regional synergies, the level of need, and resource availability.

#### SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

(a) **STRATEGY.**—The President shall coordinate the development and implementation of a United States whole-of-government strategy to accomplish the policy objectives set forth in section 3(a), which shall—

(1) set specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, timetables, performance metrics, and monitoring and evaluation plans that reflect international best practices relating to transparency, accountability, food and nutrition security, and agriculture-led economic growth, consistent with the policy objectives described in section 3(a);

(2) establish clear and transparent selection criteria for target countries, communities, regions, and intended beneficiaries of assistance;

(3) describe the methodology and criteria for the selection of target countries;

(4) support and be aligned with country-owned agriculture, nutrition, and food security policy and investment plans developed with input from key stakeholders, as appropriate;

(5) support inclusive agricultural value chain development, with small-scale producers, especially women, gaining greater access to the inputs, skills, resource management capacity, networking, bargaining power, financing, and market linkages needed to sustain their long-term economic prosperity;

(6) support improvement of the nutritional status of women and children, particularly during the critical first 1,000-day window

until a child reaches 2 years of age and with a focus on reducing child stunting, through nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs, including related water, sanitation, and hygiene programs;

(7) facilitate communication and collaboration, as appropriate, among local stakeholders in support of a multi-sectoral approach to food and nutrition security, to include analysis of the multiple underlying causes of malnutrition, including lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene;

(8) support the long-term success of programs by building the capacity of local organizations and institutions in target countries and communities;

(9) integrate resilience and nutrition strategies into food security programs, such that chronically vulnerable populations are better able to build safety nets, secure livelihoods, access markets, and access opportunities for longer-term economic growth;

(10) develop community and producer resilience to natural disasters, emergencies, and natural occurrences that adversely impact agricultural yield;

(11) harness science, technology, and innovation, including the research and extension activities supported by relevant Federal Departments and agencies and Feed the Future Innovation Labs, or any successor entities;

(12) integrate agricultural development activities among food insecure populations living in proximity to designated national parks or wildlife areas into wildlife conservation efforts, as necessary and appropriate;

(13) leverage resources and expertise through partnerships with the private sector, farm organizations, cooperatives, civil society, faith-based organizations, and agricultural research and academic institutions;

(14) strengthen and expand collaboration between United States universities, including public, private, and land-grant universities, with higher education institutions in target countries to increase their effectiveness and relevance to promote agricultural development and innovation through the creation of human capital, innovation, and cutting edge science in the agricultural sector;

(15) seek to ensure that target countries and communities respect and promote land tenure rights of local communities, particularly those of women and small-scale producers;

(16) include criteria and methodologies for graduating target countries and communities from assistance provided to implement the Global Food Security Strategy as such countries and communities meet the progress benchmarks identified pursuant to section 8(b)(4); and

(17) demonstrably support the United States national security and economic interest in the countries where assistance is being provided.

(b) **COORDINATION.**—The President shall coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies in the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy by—

(1) establishing monitoring and evaluation systems, coherence, and coordination across relevant Federal departments and agencies;

(2) establishing linkages with other initiatives and strategies of relevant Federal departments and agencies; and

(3) establishing platforms for regular consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders and the appropriate congressional committees.

(c) STRATEGY SUBMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2016, the President, in consultation with the head of each relevant Federal department and agency, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the Global Food Security Strategy required under this section, including a detailed description of how the United States intends to advance the objectives set forth in section 3(a) and the agency-specific plans described in paragraph (2).

(2) AGENCY-SPECIFIC PLANS.—The Global Food Security Strategy shall include specific implementation plans from each relevant Federal department and agency that describes—

(A) the anticipated contributions of the department or agency, including technical, financial, and in-kind contributions, to implement the Global Food Security Strategy; and

(B) the efforts of the department or agency to ensure that the activities and programs carried out pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

**SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.**

(a) FOOD SHORTAGES.—The President is authorized to carry out activities pursuant to section 103, section 103A, title XII of chapter 2 of part I, and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a, 2151a-1, 2220a et seq., and 2346 et seq.) to prevent or address food shortages notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development \$1,000,600,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018 to carry out those portions of the Global Food Security Strategy that relate to the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, respectively.

(c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The President shall seek to ensure that assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy is provided under established parameters for a rigorous accountability system to monitor and evaluate progress and impact of the strategy, including by reporting to the appropriate congressional committees and the public on an annual basis.

**SEC. 7. EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the crisis in Syria, which is characterized by acts of terrorism and atrocities directed against civilians, including mass murder, forced displacement, aerial bombardment, ethnic and religious persecution, torture, kidnapping, rape and sexual enslavement, has triggered one of the most profound humanitarian crises of this century and poses a direct threat to regional security and the national security interests of the United States;

(2) it is in the national security interests of the United States to respond to the needs of displaced Syrian persons and the communities hosting such persons, including with food assistance; and

(3) after four years of conflict in Syria and the onset of other major humanitarian emergencies where, like Syria, the provision of certain United States humanitarian assistance has been particularly challenging, including the 2013 super-typhoon in the Philippines, the 2014 outbreak of Ebola in west Africa, the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, ongoing humanitarian disasters in Yemen and South

Sudan, and the threat of a major El Nino event in 2016, United States international disaster assistance has become severely stressed.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States, in coordination with other donors, regional governments, international organizations, and international financial institutions, to fully leverage, enhance, and expand the impact and reach of available United States humanitarian resources, including for food assistance, to mitigate the effects of manmade and natural disasters by utilizing innovative new approaches to delivering aid that support affected persons and the communities hosting them, build resilience and early recovery, and reduce opportunities for waste, fraud, and abuse.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—

(1) Section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitations in section 492, and notwithstanding any other provision of this or any other Act, the President is authorized to make available emergency food assistance, including in the form of funds, transfers, vouchers, and agricultural commodities (including products derived from agricultural commodities) acquired through local or regional procurement, to meet emergency food needs arising from manmade and natural disasters.

“(2) DESIGNATION.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be known as the ‘International Disaster Assistance – Emergency Food Security Program’.”

(2) Section 492 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “\$25,000,000 for the fiscal year 1986 and \$25,000,000 for the fiscal year 1987.” and inserting “\$2,794,184,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, of which up to \$1,257,382,000 should be made available to carry out section 491(c).”; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsections:

“(c) AMOUNTS IN ADDITION TO OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to the authorizations of appropriations under section 491(c) are in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes.

“(d) FLEXIBILITY.—

“(1) UNITED STATES POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that the funds made available to carry out section 491 are intended to provide the President with the greatest possible flexibility to address disaster-related needs as they arise and to prepare for and reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that any amendments to applicable legal provisions contained in this Act are not intended to limit such authorities.

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of each fiscal year, the President shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes the activities undertaken by the President over the course of the prior fiscal year pursuant to section 491(c), including the

amounts of assistance provided, intended beneficiaries, monitoring and evaluation strategies, anticipated outcomes, and, as practicable, actual outcomes.”

**SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

(a) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year and 2 years after the date of the submission of the strategy required under section 5(c), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees reports that describe the status of the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy for 2017 and 2018, which shall—

(1) contain a summary of the Global Food Security Strategy as an appendix;

(2) identify any substantial changes made in the Global Food Security Strategy during the preceding calendar year;

(3) describe the progress made in implementing the Global Food Security Strategy;

(4) identify the indicators used to establish benchmarks and measure results over time, as well as the mechanisms for reporting such results in an open and transparent manner;

(5) describe related strategies and benchmarks for graduating target countries and communities from assistance provided under the Global Food Security Strategy over time, including by building resilience, reducing risk, and enhancing the sustainability of outcomes from United States investments in agriculture and nutrition security;

(6) indicate how findings from monitoring and evaluation were incorporated into program design and budget decisions;

(7) contain a transparent, open, and detailed accounting of spending by relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, including, for each Federal department and agency, the statutory source of spending, amounts spent, implementing partners and targeted beneficiaries, and activities supported to the extent practicable and appropriate;

(8) describe how the Global Food Security Strategy leverages other United States food security and development assistance programs on the continuum from emergency food aid through sustainable, agriculture-led economic growth and eventual self-sufficiency;

(9) describe the contributions of the Global Food Security Strategy to, and assess the impact of, broader international food and nutrition security assistance programs, including progress in the promotion of land tenure rights, creating economic opportunities for women and small-scale producers, and stimulating agriculture-led economic growth in target countries and communities;

(10) assess efforts to coordinate United States international food security and nutrition programs, activities, and initiatives with key stakeholders;

(11) assess United States Government-facilitated private investment in related sectors and the impact of private sector investment in target countries and communities;

(12) identify any United States legal or regulatory impediments that could obstruct the effective implementation of the programming referred to in paragraphs (8) and (9);

(13) contain a clear gender analysis of programming, to inform project-level activities, that includes established disaggregated gender indicators to better analyze outcomes for food productivity, income growth, control of assets, equity in access to inputs, jobs and markets, and nutrition; and

(14) incorporate a plan for regularly reviewing and updating strategies, partnerships, and programs and sharing lessons

learned with a wide range of stakeholders in an open, transparent manner.

(b) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CROSSCUT REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the President submits the budget to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report including—

(1) an interagency budget crosscut report that—

(A) displays the budget proposed, including any planned interagency or intra-agency transfer, for each of the principal Federal agencies that carries out global food security activities in the upcoming fiscal year, separately reporting the amount of planned funding to be provided under existing laws pertaining to the global food security strategy to the extent available; and

(B) to the extent available, identifies all assistance and research expenditures at the account level in each of the five prior fiscal years by the Federal Government and United States multilateral commitments using Federal funds for global food security strategy activities;

(2) to the extent available, a detailed accounting of all assistance funding received and obligated by the principal Federal agencies identified in the report and United States multilateral commitments using Federal funds, for global food security activities during the current fiscal year; and

(3) a breakout of the proposed budget for the current and budget years by agency, categorizing expenditures by type of funding, including research, resiliency, and other food security activities to the extent that such information is available.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The information referred to in subsections (a) and (b) shall be made available on the public website of the United States Agency for International Development in an open, machine readable format, in a timely manner.

#### SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) EFFECT ON OTHER PROGRAMS.—Nothing in the Global Food Security Strategy or this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to supersede or otherwise affect the authority of the relevant Federal departments and agencies to carry out programs specified in subsection (b), in the manner provided, and subject to the terms and conditions, of those programs, including, but not limited to, the terms, conditions, and requirements relating to the procurement and transportation of food assistance furnished pursuant to such programs.

(b) PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The programs referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.).

(2) The Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o).

(3) Section 416(b) of the Agriculture Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1431).

(4) McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1).

(5) Local and Regional Procurement Program (7 U.S.C. 1726c).

(6) Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1).

(7) Any other food and nutrition security and emergency and non-emergency food assistance program of the Department of Agriculture.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to

reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

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

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 18, 2016 AS “NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY”

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 433, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 433) recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, and the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of April 18, 2016 as “National Lineman Appreciation Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 433) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2016 AS “PARKINSON’S AWARENESS MONTH”

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 434, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 434) supporting the designation of April 2016 as “Parkinson’s Awareness Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 434) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2666

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2666) to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.

Mrs. FISCHER. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

#### ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, April 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that following morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2028.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:40 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DAVID V. BREWER, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2016. (REAPPOINTMENT)

GAYLE A. NACHTIGAL, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEETA PASI, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD.



April 20, 2016

4817

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. MARSHALL B. LYTLE III

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by  
the Senate April 20, 2016:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS/COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, AND AP-

POINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3036:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. TODD T. SEMONITE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, April 20, 2016

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 20, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### PUERTO RICO AND WHO WILL BAIL OUT AMERICA?

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, America has blown through the \$19 trillion debt mark and rapidly approaches the \$20 trillion debt mark.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office warns Washington that America faces an unending string of trillion-dollar-a-year deficits beginning a mere 6 years from now and that America's debt will blow through the \$29 trillion debt mark in a decade. Further, as debt principal and interest rates surge, America's debt service costs will increase by \$600 billion a year within a decade.

For perspective, \$600 billion is more than America spends on national defense, which begs the question: Where will that \$600 billion in additional debt service cost come from?

America must learn from financially reckless nations like Greece and Venezuela, and from Puerto Rico, an American territory that has had its credit rating cut to junk bond status and is defaulting on its \$70 billion in debt. For

emphasis, Puerto Rico owes roughly 40 percent of all Puerto Rican tax collections, \$4.1 billion, in debt payments this year. That is tax revenues not building roads, not educating children, and not growing the economy.

Puerto Rico, like America, suffers from a bloated central government, welfare programs that undermine the work ethic, decades of financial mismanagement by elected leaders, and a resulting anemic economy and shrinking job market that causes roughly 7,000 citizens to flee Puerto Rico each month.

Only 40 percent of Puerto Ricans are employed or looking for work. Why bother to get a job when American taxpayers pay Puerto Ricans to not work by doling out free food, free health care, and other welfare worth \$1,743 per month, almost \$600 more than minimum wage take-home earnings?

Puerto Rico's debt defaults and resulting economic morass have forced Puerto Rico to delay tax refunds, fire public sector workers, raise sales taxes to a record 11.5 percent, and close over 100 schools.

Unfortunately, these austerity measures, and more, are inadequate because Puerto Rico's self-serving and financially irresponsible elected officials waited too long. Puerto Rico still cannot pay its bills or creditors.

Puerto Rico Governor Alejandro Padilla recently stated that, if Congress does not intervene, "a humanitarian crisis will envelop the 3.5 million American citizens on the island."

Puerto Rico asks Congress to let Puerto Rico default on its legal operations via bankruptcy or force American taxpayers to bail out Puerto Rico's decades of financial mismanagement. Never mind that, according to a 2010 Government Accountability Office report, mainland American taxpayers already subsidize Puerto Rico to the tune of \$16 billion per year, or roughly \$4,500 per Puerto Rican.

As Puerto Rico desperately seeks an American taxpayer bailout, Americans should ask: Who will bail out America when America defaults on its debt?

Mr. Speaker, America must learn from Puerto Rico, a territory that is spiraling into bankruptcy and insolvency because of a \$20,000-per-capita debt burden—a debt burden, I might add, that is three times better than America's \$60,000-per-capita debt burden.

If America's creditors stop loaning America money, if America is forced to go cold turkey on its debt addiction,

America could be forced to slash military pay or eliminate the volunteer Army altogether and go back to a draft, cut Social Security and Medicare benefits, and the like.

Mr. Speaker, America's spending binge and accompanying debt and deficits are unsustainable. If voters do not elect financially responsible officials to Washington, America will endure the same debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy that wrecks havoc in Greece and Puerto Rico—with one major difference. Unlike Greece, which has been bailed out three times by the European community, and unlike Puerto Rico, which may yet be bailed out by American taxpayers, there is no one—no one—who can or will bail out America.

### AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, an open letter to President Barack Obama.

Dear Mr. President:

In 2009, less than a year after assuming the Presidency, you accepted the Nobel Peace Prize. You began your acceptance of this honor by acknowledging that it was bestowed at the "beginning, and not the end of, my labors on the world stage."

You spoke on that day with eloquence and conviction about fundamental human rights, rights that are endowed not by accidents of birth like nationality or ethnicity or gender, but by our common humanity. And the principles that you articulated have indeed guided and defined your Presidency.

In your foreign policy, you have emphasized the rights of ethnic and religious minorities worldwide and put these causes closer to the center of our foreign policy. You have extended aid to refugees fleeing horrific violence. You established the Atrocities Prevention Board to coordinate and monitor our efforts to prevent mass atrocities and genocide.

In a few days, you will have a chance to add to your legacy. On April 24, the world will mark 101 years since the systemic extermination of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire, from 1915 to 1923. The facts of the slaughter are beyond dispute, and I know that you are well-acquainted with these horrors visited upon the Armenian people, having spoken eloquently about them as a Senator.

I have sat with survivors of the genocide, men and women, their numbers dwindling year after year, and heard them recall the destruction of their lives and their families and all they had known. As children, they were forced from their homes and saw their family beaten, raped, and murdered. They fled across continents and oceans to build lives in our Nation.

Mr. President, for them and for their descendants, the word "genocide" is sacred because it means that the world has not and

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

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

will not forget. To deny genocide, on the other hand, is profane. It is, in the words of Elie Wiesel, a “double killing.”

This April 24 will be your final opportunity to use the Presidency to speak plainly about the genocide. In past years as President, you have described the campaign of murder and displacement against the Armenian people as a “mass atrocity,” which it surely was.

But, of course, it was also much more; and you have avoided using the word “genocide,” even though it has been universally applied by scholars and historians of the period. In fact, as you know better than most, the Ottoman Empire’s campaign to annihilate the Armenian people was a prime example of what Raphael Lemkin was trying to describe when he coined the very term, “genocide.”

I know that, as you consider your words this year, you will hear the same voices as in the past who will tell you to hold your tongue and speak in euphemisms. They will say that the time is not right, or that Turkey is too strategically important, or that we should not risk their ire over something that happened a century ago. Mr. President, regardless of what you say on April 24, there can be little doubt that Turkey will do exactly as it has always done in its relations with the United States, and that is whatever Turkey believes to be in its self-interest.

Many of our European allies and world leaders, including Pope Francis, have recognized the genocide, yet they have continued to work closely with Turkey because that has been in Turkey’s interest. The same will be true after U.S. recognition of the genocide.

I dearly hope, as do millions of Armenians descended from genocide survivors around the world, that you take this final opportunity to call the Armenian genocide what it was—genocide; to say that the Ottoman Empire committed this grotesque crime against the Armenians, but their campaign of extermination failed; and that, above all, we will never forget and we will never again be intimidated into silence. Let this be part of your legacy, and you will see future administrations follow your example.

When you spoke in Oslo more than 7 years ago, you closed your remarks by returning to the counsel of Dr. Martin Luther King and said: “I refuse to accept the idea that the ‘isness’ of man’s present condition makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal ‘oughtness’ that forever confronts him.”

Mr. President, confronting painful, difficult but vital questions “is” who you are. Help us be the America we “ought” to be, that beacon of freedom and dignity that shines its light on the darkness of human history and exposes the vile crime of genocide.

Sincerely, Adam Schiff.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

#### CELEBRATING SOUTH FLORIDA’S NATIONAL PARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight south Florida’s wild and wonderful national parks—Biscayne, Dry Tortugas, and Ever-

glades—during National Park Week and the National Park Service Centennial.

American Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and historian Wallace Stegner is quoted as having said that our national parks were “the best idea we have ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.”

Indeed, south Florida is supremely fortunate to have Superintendent Pedro Ramos in charge of Dry Tortugas and Everglades National Parks. Superintendent Ramos understands and appreciates the importance of public access, the importance of the public’s experiences, and the importance of continuing to reconnect the people of south Florida with the natural lands and waters that surround and support our community.

Ultimately, enhancing public access and recreational opportunities in our national parks are vital to conserving America’s natural and cultural heritage. That is why I am so troubled, Mr. Speaker, by the fishing access restrictions included in the 2015 general management plan of another iconic south Florida park, Biscayne National Park.

The plan’s marine reserve zone imposes a permanent moratorium on fishing across 10,500 acres of State waters, including 30 percent of the reef tract, denying fishing access to families and professional fishermen alike, without adequate scientific evidence to back it up.

My Preserving Public Access to Public Waters Act, which passed the House in February as part of the SHARE Act, and its newly introduced Senate counterpart, from Senators BILL CASSIDY and MARCO RUBIO, would help ensure that Federal bureaucrats and special interest groups do not overrule local community needs and concerns in this way anymore.

□ 1015

If our national parks are to remain absolutely American and absolutely democratic, then it is long since time for the National Park Service to consistently represent the Federal Government at its best rather than at its worst once again.

The Park Service’s stated mission is to preserve “unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations by cooperating with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resources conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the country and the world.”

Everglades National Park Superintendent Ramos has demonstrated that he is a true ambassador for this lofty and worthy mission. He represents the National Park Service and the Federal Government at its best:

open and inclusive, seeking balanced solutions, and guided by a profound sense of service to the American people.

Meanwhile, Biscayne’s general management plan represents some of the worst aspects of the National Park Service and the Federal Government. It is focused so much on a narrow definition of preservation that it continually and completely fails the National Park Service’s mission and disregards a whole community of park users.

What is worse, with the varied threats facing south Florida’s coral reefs, from changing ocean conditions to water quality issues, today fishing is a relatively minor contributor to coral reef decline in Biscayne.

The real effect of Biscayne’s marine reserve zone plan will be to continue losing coral at a drastic pace while also undercutting the public support needed to develop and implement real solutions to what ails our reefs.

The National Park Service can, should, and must do better, and they should look to Superintendent Ramos and his leadership over similar issues at Everglades National Park for inspiration.

Everglades National Park’s own recently finalized general management plan, lauded by both fishermen and environmentalists, clearly represents what is possible when guided by a true sense of the Park’s mission.

#### CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate our 46th Earth Day, it is critical that we recognize the opportunities that stem from addressing some of our most pressing environmental problems.

All too often we hear the argument that environmental policies are agents of economic destruction. From the Clean Power Plan to renewable energy development and energy-efficient technologies, every time a new environmental policy is proposed, we hear the same rhetoric: This will kill jobs, drive up costs, destroy trade, and stifle America’s ability to succeed.

But the reality is those claims are simply not true. They have been debunked and proven wrong time and again, but the truth doesn’t seem to matter when it comes to protecting our environment.

Without a doubt, one of America’s greatest assets is the ingenuity of its people. Throughout our Nation’s history, American innovation has triumphed in the face of great challenges. Unleashing that American innovation can bring big wins for both the environment and the economy.

There is no better example of this than when we look at our renewable

energy sector. For decades, America has chased the promise of clean, domestic energy.

In recent years, costs for numerous critical clean energy technologies—wind power, solar panels, super-energy-efficient LED lights and electric vehicles—have fallen dramatically.

The accompanying surge in deployment has been impressive. While these technologies still represent a small percentage of their respective markets, that share is expanding at a rapid pace and influencing other markets.

Today the U.S. generates 3 times as much wind power and 20 times as much solar power as we did in 2008. This kind of thinking will help States meet the EPA's requirements laid out in the Clean Power Plan.

Compared with fossil fuel technologies, which are typically mechanized and capital-intensive, the renewable energy industry is more labor-intensive.

This means that, on the average, more jobs are created for each unit of electricity generated from renewable sources than from fossil fuels.

In addition to creating new jobs, increasing our use of renewable energy offers more important economic development benefits. Local governments collect property and income taxes and other payments from renewable energy project owners while owners of the land that wind projects are built on also receive lease payments ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per megawatt of installed capacity.

A new study from the U.S. Energy Information Administration suggests that, in the coming year, the booming solar sector will add more new electricity-generating capacity than any other energy sector, including natural gas and wind.

The more we support clean energy innovation and new technological ideas, the better positioned we are to reap the economic rewards.

Examples of those wins are all around, leading to States and communities investing in clean energy innovation and developing smart, low-cost technologies to help reduce energy costs.

On this front, my home State of Illinois is moving full steam ahead. The city of Chicago has partnered with utility companies and citizen groups to work on a new initiative to get 1 million smart thermostats into northern Illinois homes by 2020.

The innovative partnership offers rebates that will nearly halve the cost of thermostats that allow residents to control the temperatures of their homes via mobile devices. This helps us once again move the needle against climate change.

Of course, clean energy technology isn't our only energy innovation success story. Energy efficiency is truly our Nation's greatest energy achievement.

Without the gains in energy efficiency made since 1973, it is estimated that today's U.S. economy would require 60 percent more energy than we currently consume.

Energy efficiency improvements over the last 40 years have reduced our national energy bill by more than \$700 billion.

Instead of working from the assumption that tighter regulations will hurt our government's export share, we should focus on the edge that we gain from innovation.

This Earth Day, I challenge my colleagues to realize the opportunity that climate change provides us and support solutions that allow us to turn what used to be daunting challenges into profitable opportunities.

#### MINNESOTA'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IS THE LAND OF HOCKEY

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two young men from my district, Riley Tuft and Nick Althaus; Nick Althaus for his memorable performance at the Minnesota High School State Hockey Tournament last month, and Riley Tuft for his performance on the hockey rink all year.

Riley Tuft of Blaine has been named Mr. Hockey, an award given to the best high school senior hockey player in our great State of Minnesota. This season alone, Tuft scored an incredible 49 goals and had 36 assists for 85 points in only 31 games. That is an amazing 2.74 points per game.

Nick Althaus of St. Cloud won the Frank Brimsek Award, an annual award given to Minnesota's top senior goaltender.

In Minnesota, hockey is not just a sport, it is a way of life. Many young men and women work and train to win and participate in the best State hockey tournament in the country.

Congratulations to Nick and Riley for their hard work and incredible success this year, and best of luck in the future, both on and off the rink.

#### A STRONG WOMAN—INSIDE AND OUT

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strength and endurance of St. Cloud native Laura Knoblach, who just, last month, became the youngest woman to finish a double triathlon.

Laura finished the Double ANVIL Ultra Triathlon, a rigorous event that consisted of swimming 4.8 miles, biking 224 miles, and running two consecutive marathons. She finished all of this in less than 36 hours.

Not only did Laura complete an arduous triathlon, but she did so for a good cause. She created a GoFundMe page titled "A Tri to End Trafficking,"

which raised money to help educate South African girls and prevent them from becoming victims of sex trafficking.

Laura Knoblach is currently a junior at the University of Boulder in Colorado, where she studies secondary education and majors in English and Spanish. She hopes to one day teach English as a second language.

I have no doubt that Laura will accomplish all of her goals and more, as she is the perfect example that anything is possible if you work hard enough.

#### A COACH REMEMBERED

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the astounding life and legacy of Coach Dean Taylor, who recently passed away.

Coach Taylor founded the football program at Sartell High School and built it into the powerhouse program it is today.

From Sartell, he went on to become an assistant coach at St. John's University for eight seasons and then became head coach at St. Cloud Cathedral from 2009 to 2012. Coach Taylor's impressive football resume ultimately led to his induction into the Minnesota State Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

However, it is not just the X's and O's of coaching that we will remember about Coach Taylor. Coach Taylor will also—and maybe even more importantly—be remembered for the incredible impact he made on the lives of all the student athletes he touched.

Condolences to his wife, Kathy; his children, Steve and Kristi; as well as his many friends and loved ones. I thank you for sharing your husband and father with our community.

#### RESTORING AMERICANS' TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the fact that we just experienced yet another tax day in America, I rise today to discuss a Federal agency that the American people have become extremely disenchanted with, the Internal Revenue Service.

Over recent years, Americans have watched information coming out detailing the inappropriate and unfortunate conduct by the IRS playing politics rather than implementing policy.

The American people should not fear that a government agency will make decisions based on partisan politics, which is why it is crucial Congress address this problem now and not in the future.

This is why I cosponsored H.R. 1798, which will prohibit the Department of the Treasury from assigning a tax status to organizations based on their political beliefs and activities.

I thank my colleague, Congressman RANDY NEUGEBAUER, and Senator TED CRUZ for their efforts in this initiative to restore some of the faith and trust

the American people have lost in its institution of government.

#### END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, thousands of poor Americans started losing their SNAP, or food stamp, benefits.

All told, over the course of this year, as many as 1 million adults will be cut off from SNAP. That is because one of the harshest provisions in the 1996 welfare reform law says that adults working less than 20 hours a week or not enrolled in a job training program can only receive 3 months of SNAP in a 36-month period.

The problem is, however, that many areas of the country haven't fully recovered from the recession. There are no open jobs, and worker training slots are all full.

The economic recovery has been uneven across the country, and for many individuals—through no fault of their own—getting back to work has been difficult.

At the height of the recession, Governors across this country, both Democratic and Republican, asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to allow them to temporarily waive work requirements and provide SNAP benefits to unemployed, childless adults for longer periods of time.

But now some Governors are refusing to extend those work waivers even in areas of their States with high unemployment. For 1 million of the poorest Americans, to lose food assistance in the midst of this is unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about the poorest of the poor. These are childless adults whose income averages 29 percent of the poverty line, or about \$3,400 a year, a year. No one can live on that.

Many face multiple barriers to employment, including disability, limited education, and chronic homelessness. Their employment can be sporadic, often cycling in and out of low-wage jobs with unpredictable hours that do not lift them out of poverty.

What is most appalling is that about 60,000 of those who will be cut off from SNAP this year are veterans. That is right. These are the brave men and women who stood up to protect our country, and now we don't have the decency to help them put food on the table when they come home. We should be ashamed.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear about something. The 3-month limit on childless adults receiving SNAP is not a work requirement, despite what some of my Republican colleagues say. It is a time limit. There is no requirement that States offer work or job training

to those who are about to lose their benefit. There is nothing here that incentivizes work. Rather, it penalizes those who are struggling the most.

Work requirements and other Federal assistance programs typically require people to look for work or accept any job or job training slot that is offered, but do not cut people off who are willing to work and are looking for a job simply because they cannot find one.

But that is not the case with SNAP. So individuals who have been searching for a job for months, who have applied to every job posting they have seen, and who can't get into a job training program because the wait list is too long are punished.

Study after study shows that the longer someone is unemployed, the harder it is to get hired. It is baffling to me that the Republicans' answer to them is: Sorry. You are out of luck.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that it takes someone who is unemployed about 6 months of looking to find a job.

□ 1030

That is twice as long as the 3-month time limit. For the life of me, I can't understand how making someone hungrier helps them find a job faster. We should be making people's lives better, not harder.

This notion that some on the Republican side peddle that somehow SNAP is this overly generous program that people are just jumping to get into, it is ridiculous. It is false. The average SNAP benefit is \$1.40 per meal per day. That is meager. It is inadequate.

And this idea that SNAP is the root of our budget problems is outrageous. New data released from the Department of Treasury just last week shows that SNAP spending is falling. In the first half of the current fiscal year, SNAP spending was at its lowest level since 2010. Not only that, but SNAP caseloads are falling, too. That is due to the improving economy.

SNAP operated like it was supposed to during the recession. It was expanded to meet the needs of the millions who lost their jobs, of middle class families who never imagined they would need food assistance in the first place. And now, as our economy improves, fewer people need the assistance. But we are not there yet.

Cutting 1 million of the poorest Americans off from food assistance is wrong. Increasing hunger is wrong. And I would say to the Republican leadership of this House, the narrative that you have put forward about those in poverty does not reflect the reality. Rather than demonize the poor and diminish their struggle, we ought to come together to help, not hurt, people. We ought to end hunger now. This war on the poor has to stop.

#### IMPEACHMENT OF JOHN KOSKINEN

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the subject of justice.

As we look around the Capitol, there are effigies and paintings. Even in this Chamber, there are paintings of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, George Mason, the visionaries of this Nation who envisioned a Nation and a government that was committed to liberty, tempered by law and justice. Their idea of justice was an equal application of the law to everyone, that there weren't two sets of laws—one law for the citizen and a different law for the bureaucrat or the elected official—but all laws were equally applied to every person.

I want to tell you the story of two Johns and how the law doesn't apply equally. The first John is a Mr. John Yates who, in 2007, was fishing for grouper in the Gulf of Mexico when a State conservation officer, who had Federal authority, approached his boat and asked to inspect his catch. Upon the inspection, he found that there were 72 grouper that were suspected to be under the minimum size. He ordered Mr. Yates to return to shore.

Now, Mr. Yates understood that this was not a serious crime, it was actually a civil action, and he could face a fine or he could lose his fishing license, a license issued by the government that he made his living with. But Mr. Yates made a mistake. He made a bad decision, because he ordered those suspect fish to be thrown back into the water. It was a mistake.

But after being punished for what he did wrong, catching small fish, 4 years later, in 2011, Mr. Yates was convicted of a Federal offense of destroying evidence under the Sarbanes-Oxley statutes. He went to jail. He also spent 3 years on a supervised release program for a Federal offense of destroying or tampering with evidence.

When the government wants to seek justice upon a citizen, there are over 4,500 criminal statutes and an endless number of regulations that can be enforced criminally that they can use to find a way to punish you for a deed, regardless of how minor or major it was. But that doesn't always apply to the government itself.

The same year that John Yates was sent to jail for destroying small fish, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform issued a subpoena to another John, who was then, and is still, the Commissioner of the IRS, John Koskinen.

They demanded that he provide, under subpoena by the force of law, all of the documents relating to Lois

Lerner and the targeting of conservative groups by the IRS. However, instead of responding to that subpoena, the IRS destroyed over 24,000 of those documents. But yet, today, Mr. Koskinen is still the Commissioner of the IRS.

There are two types of enforcement of laws in this Nation—one for the citizen and one for the government official. You see, the Sarbanes-Oxley catchall that has been used to successfully prosecute for destruction of cars and weapons, even bodies, as well as documents and evidence, excludes government agencies.

The American people deserve justice. But we do have one tool, and that is the tool of this Congress to impeach those who violate the trust of the American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I have cosponsored, with the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House Resolution 494, which would bring the Commissioner of the IRS before this body on charges of impeachment for violating the trust of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that that resolution be brought forward and be brought forward in this House for a vote so that justice will be served and we can once again restore the confidence of the American people that there is one definition of justice in this Nation, and that is equal application of the law for everyone.

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#### COMMENDING STATE OFFICIALS ON SIGNING THE ABLE ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend lawmakers in Pennsylvania's House and Senate for their work on passing the Commonwealth's new ABLE, or Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, which was signed into law by the Pennsylvania Governor on Monday.

The measure's passage at the State level follows the signing of a 2014 Federal law, also known as the ABLE Act. I was happy to cosponsor that legislation along with a majority of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives. The law empowers people with disabilities and their families to create flexible accounts to help save for medical and dental care, education, community-based support, employment training, housing, and transportation.

The State law passed easily in the Pennsylvania House and Senate last week, clearing the way for the State to administer the new accounts created by the Federal law.

The State eliminates a \$2,000 cap on cash assets for medical assistance for those with certain intellectual and developmental disabilities, which acted

as a financial roadblock preventing individuals from reaching their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to this new law, parents of children with developmental and intellectual disabilities will be able to save up to \$100,000, with no impact on eligibility for medical assistance.

Last week here in Washington, I joined the National Down Syndrome Society, where I was proud to be presented with their Champion of Change Award. I also had the chance to connect with people from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, including Alek Masters. Alek is a wonderful young man who, despite living with Down syndrome, is an Eagle Scout, the highest honor earned by the members of the Boy Scouts of America.

I also was with Isabel Ross, a toddler from Centre County who attended the event with her parents, Steve and Raquel.

There are so many people such as Alek and Isabel across the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our great Nation. Alek is already making a difference in his community, and this new law ensures that he and Isabel, along with the help of their parents, can work towards achieving their goals.

I know that the ABLE Act, on both the State and the Federal level, will play a role in improving the lives of those who are living with developmental and intellectual disabilities. I firmly believe that our communities will be much better because of it.

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#### HONORING BROTHER JAMES GAFFNEY

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brother James Gaffney who, after 28 years, will retire from his storied career as president of Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois.

Born and raised on the west side of Chicago, Brother Gaffney attended St. Mel High School. While at St. Mel, he became involved in outreach and youth service programs with the De La Salle Christian Brothers. It was at this time that Brother Gaffney heard his calling to become a brother and elected to attend seminary at St. Mary's University in Minnesota.

Brother Gaffney went on to receive his BA from St. Mary's University and several master's degrees from both St. Mary's and Manhattan College in New York. He also holds a doctorate in pastoral theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

Brother Gaffney's teaching career started at the Christian Brothers High School in St. Joseph, Missouri. He also

served for 11 years at the provincial for the De La Salle Christian Brothers in the Chicago district.

Brother Gaffney was chosen to be president of Lewis University in 1988. Under his leadership, the school's student body nearly tripled in size, dozens of new programs were added, and several new educational sites were built around the Chicago area and the Nation, including one in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He guided the university to nationwide recognition and influenced students around the world.

In 2015, Lewis University honored Brother Gaffney by naming him an honorary founder of the university because of the tremendous contributions he made to the school's growth.

In addition to his service to the school, Brother Gaffney is active in numerous other organizations. He chairs the Community Foundation of Will County, as well as the Lasallian Association of College and University Presidents. He is a member and former chair of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, and a board member and former chair of the South Metropolitan Regional Higher Education Consortium and the Great Lakes Valley Athletic Conference.

Brother Gaffney has also been the recipient of countless awards in connection with Lewis University. Most recently, he was awarded with the Brother John Johnston FSC Award, which honors those dedicated to the Lasallian mission of providing education to all youth, as well as the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Rainbow Council Boy Scouts of America.

I have had a number of opportunities to spend time with Brother Gaffney since Lewis University was added to my district in 2013. I have always been impressed by his strong commitment to the university and its Catholic and Lasallian mission. It is obvious in his interactions with students, faculty, staff, trustees, and everyone who is a part of Lewis University. He knows his flock and they know him, and the respect and love between them is mutual. There could not be a higher dedication that anyone has as an educator and as a Catholic Brother.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Brother James Gaffney for all he has done in his 28 years as president of Lewis University, and to congratulate him on his retirement. Lewis University and its students have greatly benefited from his long tenure leading the school, and we all look forward to his continued service.

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#### WATER AND ESA

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the need to fix California's

broken water system, a broken water system that no longer can provide for the needs of the State of California, designed years ago for a population of 20 million and the agriculture that we had in the sixties. Today we have 41 million people. By the year 2030, it is estimated California will have 50 million people.

The water system we have today cannot sustain a growing State. As solutions are offered, I believe amending the Endangered Species Act to more effectively protect species while minimizing the harm to California communities should be a part of this conversation.

The ESA has an important role in ensuring species protection, but it is clear that there are major challenges with its implementation. In California, one of those challenges is the Act's implementation limits on the ability to move water from north to south when we have an excess of water in the system, as we have had over the last 5 months.

□ 1045

Simply put, California faced 4 record dry years, which was noted throughout the country and throughout the world; and, this year, we had El Nino conditions that gave us average and above average rain and snow in northern California.

Now, I don't believe anybody thought that 1 year of good rainfall would completely dig us out of the devastating circumstances that California farmers, farmworkers, and farm communities have faced; but, last December, I was hopeful because the rain and snow conditions that were occurring, coupled with the weather forecasting, indicated that there was a high likelihood that there would be enough water in the system to help recover—but not end—the devastating drought conditions that the San Joaquin Valley faced as well as other parts of California. However, as a result of what I believe are flawed biological opinions that govern the operations of the water projects that move water from north to south, we failed to pump over 244,000 acre-feet of water that would have been very helpful today in areas that were most impacted by the drought conditions and still are.

Some farmers, this year, are receiving only 5 percent of their total allocation. It is made worse because, over the last 2 years, they received a zero water allocation because of these conditions that I am stating. To put it in perspective, this year, 7 million acre-feet of water flowed through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta system out to the ocean, and only 963,000 acre-feet were pumped for human and agricultural use. Seven million acre-feet went through the delta out to the ocean, and we pumped less than 1 million acre-feet for human and agricultural use.

This is unconscionable in a State that has been ravaged by drought for the last 4 years. It also was avoidable. There is a host of technical reasons as to why this water flowed into the ocean, but the simple fact is that conservative decisionmaking, enabled by inflexible provisions in the biological opinions that were promulgated under the Endangered Species Act, led to this avoidable outcome.

Therefore, it is time to reform the Endangered Species Act because it needs to be more flexible in order to provide adaptability to changing conditions. It is time to reform the Endangered Species Act because it must effectively recover species, which it doesn't do, and not simply maintain an unsustainable status quo like that in California, especially when you have a drought crisis. Finally, it is time to reform the Endangered Species Act because both people and our environment deserve better.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to update the Endangered Species Act for today's conditions and not for those of the past.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend John DeSocio, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Elmira, New York, offered the following prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, and to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOLD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING REVEREND JOHN A. DESOCIO

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, and it is my pleasure and privilege to host the Very Reverend John A. DeSocio, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Elmira, New York, for today's opening prayer over the House of Representatives.

Father DeSocio has committed his life to both his faith and his country, displaying an extraordinary level of service and dedication to others.

The Elmira-Corning native dedicated his early years to service in his community by volunteer firefighting. He went on to complete his undergraduate career at St. John Fisher College in Pittsford, New York. He would later receive his master of divinity and master of arts from Saint Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, New York. Father DeSocio was ultimately ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1978. Father was also chaplain for Ithaca College.

Mr. Speaker, in 1992, which I am very proud of, Father DeSocio was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and served 17 years before being honorably discharged in 2009.

Following his military service, Father returned to his hometown and resumed working with groups like Lions International, the Knights of Columbus, and the Southport and Elmira volunteer fire departments.

He is a pillar in our community, Mr. Speaker, and we are tremendously honored to have him with us here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### VETERANS ACHIEVE JOBS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, just 5 years ago, South Carolina veterans struggled to find a job, facing an unemployment rate of over 20 percent. Today, veteran unemployment has dropped to just 4.4 percent, one of the lowest in the country. Veterans have unique training, education, and experiences that are valuable to any workplace.

Last month I hosted the fourth annual Veteran Resource Fairs in the Midlands and the Aiken/Barnwell communities. These resource fairs bring together over 40 agencies and employers to help returned veterans find a job.

I was grateful to partner with Operation Palmetto Employment under the leadership of Program Director Elisa Edwards, the South Carolina Army National Guard with Colonel Ronnie Taylor, Shannon Banks, Fred Pasley, led by Adjutant General Bob Livingston, and the Department of Employment and Workforce directed by Cheryl Stanton.

I appreciate the work of the community leaders; the National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB; and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for their work promoting efforts to hire veterans. I believe that we should assist those who defend our freedoms to be a top priority.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Col umbine, Colorado, April 20, 1999:

William "Dave" Sanders, 47 years old;

Isaiah Shoels, 18 years old;

Lauren Townsend, 18 years old;

Cassie Bernall, 17 years old;

Cory Depooter, 17 years old;

Rachel Scott, 17 years old;

John Tomlin, 16 years old;

Kyle Velazquez, 16 years old;

Mathew Kechter, 16 years old;

Kelly Fleming, 16 years old;

Daniel Rohrbough, 15 years old;

Daniel Mauser, 15 years old;

Steven Curnow, 14 years old.

#### CONGRATULATING DANIEL DENNIS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Daniel Dennis.

Just this past week, Daniel earned the right to represent the United States in the 2016 Olympic Games being held in Rio as a member of the United States Wrestling Team. He is one of only six wrestlers who were selected.

Throughout his career, Daniel has stood out as a rare talent in the sport. While he attended Grant Township High School in Fox Lake, Illinois, Daniel set the school record for career wins, technical defaults, and most team points.

Daniel built upon that success while wrestling at the University of Iowa, where he was a two-time All-American and placed second at the NCAA championships.

Congratulations to Daniel on being named to the Olympic Wrestling Team. We wish you good luck as you take your talents to the international stage. We are all rooting for you to bring home the gold to Illinois' 10th Congressional District.

#### DAPA AND SOPHIE

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, you might recognize this image. This is a photo of Sophie Cruz, my 6-year-old constituent from South Gate, California, who made headlines when she ran through the barricades to meet Pope Francis last year.

Sophie is one of 5 million children who is an American citizen but whose parents are undocumented and face deportation. She asked Pope Francis to support DAPA, a program which could prevent her family from being separated.

On Monday, DAPA was deliberated in the Supreme Court, and now the fate of millions of children like Sophie and their families is in the hands of the Justices.

Sophie was in D.C. on Monday ready to tell her story. She rallied a crowd of hundreds of people on the Supreme Court steps and asked the Justices to think about her family.

I could not be more proud of Sophie. But a 6-year-old girl, however courageous she may be, should not have to come all the way to Washington, D.C., to advocate for fixing the broken immigration system. That is our job.

The Supreme Court should unfreeze DAPA—but we in Congress need to finally pass comprehensive immigration reform—for Sophie and for millions of children she represents.

#### LOUISIANA IS STILL FEELING THE IMPACTS OF DEEPWATER HORIZON

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago on April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon exploded and resulted in the loss of 11 lives, destroying or disrupting many families, businesses, restaurants, and livelihoods of south Louisiana, which is known as the Sportsman's Paradise, profoundly impacting recreational and commercial fishing and oiling in my home State of Louisiana, over 600 miles of what is known as one of the most productive ecosystems on the North American continent.

Mr. Speaker, since that time, countless hours have been invested by State, local, and Federal employees trying to help restore and recover the Gulf. It resulted in one of the largest settlements, in fact, the largest settlement, from a single company in United States history.

Mr. Speaker, during the height of that disaster, we heard the administration, the President and others talking about the importance of this productive ecosystem. Yet, since that time, we have seen nothing but Federal actions to take funds away from restoring and protecting coastal Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, we are asking the administration to remain consistent and to honor those lives that were lost and to honor the coast of Louisiana.

#### EARTH DAY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, April 22, is Earth Day, a time to remember our responsibility to be good stewards of this planet and our urgent responsibility to respond to global climate change.

Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that human activity is causing global warming. The evidence is all around us. The last 11 months have been the hottest such months on record. Sea levels have risen more than half a foot in the last century. Glaciers around the world are in retreat.

We cannot afford to ignore this any longer. It is critical that Congress take up legislation to address the dangers of climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We have to end the subsidies to Big Oil companies, take up the Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism Anti-Drilling Act, which my colleague, Mr. PALLONE, has introduced, take up H.R. 1814 to permanently reauthorize the Land and Conservation Fund, and work together to respond to this urgent challenge.

History will not judge this Chamber kindly if we fail to act. All of us have a responsibility to address the threat of climate change before it is too late.

#### THANKING STEVE BEGNOCHE FOR HIS SERVICE

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address



the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Steve Begnoche for his service to the city of Ludington, Mason County, and the Second Congressional District in Michigan.

Last Thursday, Steve hung up his hat as the managing editor of the Ludington Daily News. For the past 29 years, Steve served the Ludington community with the type of journalistic integrity that all residents should expect from their newspapers.

As a newsman, Steve challenged the status quo while giving all sides a fair shake. Steve also played a vital role as a journalist on the national stage by reporting how economically important the S.S. *Badger*, the last of the Great Lakes ferries, was not only for Ludington, but also for the entire State of Michigan, the Great Lakes, and even Wisconsin.

Frankly, they don't make them like Steve anymore.

Steve, thank you for your countless hours of hard work to ensure residents of northwest Michigan had accurate and reliable reporting.

I hope you will be able to enjoy spending time with your grandchildren while still providing a thoughtful column for the Ludington Daily News now and again. Thanks, my friend.

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#### NEW JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE REPORT ON GENDER PAY IN- EQUALITY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week I released a new report by the Democratic staff of the Joint Economic Committee about the effects of the gender pay gap on women and families in America. This report on gender pay inequality is the most comprehensive, up-to-date report on the gender pay gap.

A typical woman working full time and year-round is paid only 79 cents to the male dollar. This adds up to a loss of roughly \$10,800 per year, and it compounds over a lifetime to roughly a half a million dollars in less pay than a man because of the pay gap.

Over a lifetime, this jeopardizes a woman's retirement because the lower pay results in a lower pension, lower Social Security, lower savings, and contributes to the fact that women over 75 years of age are twice as likely as their male counterparts to live in poverty. Millions of women, children, families, and husbands are hurt by unequal pay for equal work.

Let's finally make equal pay a reality by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act and finally putting women into the Constitution for equality.

#### YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, with education and opportunity, women can transform a society. This is true all around the world, but especially in America, where women still have untapped potential.

As a society, we must do a better job of showing girls they can be whatever they want to be and making sure they have the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.

That is why, on June 11, my office will hold southern Arizona's first ever Congressional Young Women's Leadership Program. This one-day event provides young women currently in high school with the opportunity to meet and interact with successful women from southern Arizona who hold leadership roles in a variety of fields.

Quite simply, this program is about encouraging young women to be fearless, dream big, and let nothing stand in their way.

The deadline for applications, which can be found on my Web site, [mcsallyhouse.gov](http://mcsallyhouse.gov), is May 9.

I encourage high school girls throughout the Second Congressional District to take advantage of this unique opportunity and apply at my Web site.

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□ 1215

#### FUNDING FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, as a mathematician, it is my pleasure to discuss recent developments in the topic of prime numbers. Historically, it was assumed that prime numbers were randomly distributed in the sense that any large section of consecutive integers would have an equal number of primes ending in 1, 3, 7, and 9.

Prime numbers are used in generating pseudo random numbers, found in all sorts of applications, and in some methods of encryption. Heck, even the lowly cicada insects only emerge after a prime number of years to avoid regularly appearing predators.

Recently, Dr. Soundararajan and Dr. Lemke Oliver, both of Stanford University working under NSF funding, discovered that consecutive prime numbers have preferences for the digits they end in. For example, consecutive primes don't like having the same digit, while primes ending in 9 prefer to be followed by primes ending in 1. We must provide funding to the National Science Foundation to investigate this

and other important mathematical questions.

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#### CONGRATULATING MID-AMERICA SCIENCE MUSEUM

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mid-America Science Museum in my hometown of Hot Springs, Arkansas, for being awarded the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Mid-America has not only made a difference in the lives of local families, but it has impacted generations of Arkansans. The museum's focus on bringing science education to the masses in a fun way has made it a leader in the State and Nation.

Mid-America's recent expansion continues its mission, bringing science to life for generations to come. The museum's 2016 national medal confirms what we in Arkansas have known for many years—that Mid-America is a world-class museum, providing world-class educational experience to Arkansas' next generation.

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#### LET'S GET BACK TO DOING AMERICA'S BUSINESS

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, when House Republicans came to power, they promised to effectively govern on behalf of the American people. But instead, over the last 5 years, House Republicans have majored in obstruction, minored in dysfunction, and pursued a degree in legislative malpractice.

House Republicans are responsible for painful sequestration cuts, responsible for a 16-day government shutdown that cost the American people \$24 billion in lost economic productivity, responsible for constantly undermining the full faith and credit of the United States of America, and are now responsible for the failure to deliver an on-time budget.

The American people have had enough. It is time to invest in transportation and infrastructure, invest in education and job training, invest in technology and innovation, and abandon the reckless efforts of House Republicans to obstruct any progress on behalf of the American people. Let's get back to doing their business.

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#### WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from the United Nations

where there is a special session on the drug problems. This is a serious and complex issue, but the war on drugs, where we have spent over \$1 trillion, has been an abject failure.

Drugs are still readily plentiful in the United States, the cost is down, and we have caught hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Latin American countries in the crossfire. Yet, the United States is on the sidelines here. There are countries that are stepping forward for reform, for harm reduction, trying to deal with the death penalty. Yet, the United States is trying to balance out the reformers of seeking a middle ground between them and Iran and China and Russia.

That is not what the United States should be doing. We should be involved in reform. We should minimize the danger that is a result of misguided practice. We can deescalate this and make a difference for people around the world and, in fact, do a better job of dealing with the drug problem in America.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 20, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 20, 2016 at 9:26 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H.R. 2722.

That the Senate passed S. 2755.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### IRS OVERSIGHT WHILE ELIMINATING SPENDING (OWES) ACT OF 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 687, I call up the bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 687, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-50 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 4885

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending (OWES) Act of 2016".*

#### SEC. 2. DEPOSIT OF IRS USER FEES INTO GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The second sentence of section 3 of title I of Public Law 103-329 (26 U.S.C. 7801 note), under the heading "ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS-INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE", is amended by striking "The Secretary of the Treasury may spend" and all that follows through "and thereafter:" and inserting the following: "Any fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury and shall not be expended by the Internal Revenue Service unless provided by an appropriations Act."

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—The last proviso of such section is amended by striking "and how they are being expended by the Service".

(c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to fees collected after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4885, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The IRS OWES Act is about protecting the American taxpayer, those who elected us to represent them, from an IRS proven incapable of best serving their interests.

President Thomas Jefferson said: "When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty."

Right now, the people of Missouri's Eighth District fear the IRS. They fear an unjust audit, political or religious targeting, and, most recently, they fear spending an average of 8 hours to complete their tax returns. That is simply not right.

This bill is about liberating the folks of Missouri, along with all Americans, from the IRS. It is about making the IRS beholden to them and not the other way around. And it is about ex-

erting our Article I authority of the power of the purse of Congress, making sure that unelected bureaucrats are not spending taxpayer money improperly and unwisely.

A Democrat Congressman from the State of Missouri once said: "I come from a State that raises corn and cotton, cockleburs, and Democrats. And frothy eloquence neither convinces, nor satisfies me. I'm from Missouri; you've got to show me."

The IRS has not shown this body, they have not proven to the Missourians whom I represent, and they have not proven to the American people that they are responsible stewards of user fees. Through user fees, the IRS collects almost \$500 million. It is nothing but a slush fund.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we filed the IRS OWES Act. It provides Congress and the American public with greater oversight in how the IRS is spending valuable taxpayer resources.

As is, the IRS collects various user fees that sit in an account where they can spend the money without Congressional approval. In the past, the IRS dedicated significant amounts of its collected user fees to improving the services provided to taxpayers who need assistance.

The IRS in the past few years has turned these fees into a slush fund, diverting this money away from serving the taxpayer and, instead, putting it towards whatever they want—in particular, the implementation of ObamaCare mandates, something Congress has specifically withheld funding for.

In 2014, the IRS allocated \$183 million in user fees to serving the needs of taxpayers. That is 44 percent of the entire slush fund. Yet, in 2015, the IRS allocated a mere \$49 million in user fees to help taxpayers. That is 10 percent. So in one year, they went from 44 percent of serving taxpayers to 10 percent in serving taxpayers, at their own discretion.

Just yesterday I asked the IRS Commissioner in a hearing whether it was Congress or the IRS that cut funding for taxpayer customer service. Here were my questions and his answers:

"In 2014, you appropriated \$183 million for taxpayer assistance; is that correct?"

The Commissioner said: "Yes."

I then followed up: "In 2015, you appropriated \$49 million for taxpayer assistance; is that correct?"

The Commissioner said: "That is correct."

I then followed up: "So it was your decision to cut taxpayer assistance by \$130 million; is that correct?"

The Commissioner of the IRS said: "Yes."

Instead of using those resources to grow taxpayer services, reduce wait times, and improve the public's interactions with the IRS, they are dedicating close to \$200 million on technology to help implement and track

the ObamaCare mandates. It is no wonder that last year the Commissioner of the IRS would call the level of taxpayer services abysmal. That is simply unacceptable.

The pattern here is alarming. When the IRS has discretion, the agency uses that discretion in ways that harm Americans. It is the duty of the IRS to work for the taxpayers, not against them.

I encourage my colleagues to do the citizens they represent a favor and support the IRS OWES Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Here is the story. Here are the honest facts.

Republicans have cut the IRS budget by close to \$1 billion over the past 5 years. This bill is just another budget cut, further reducing the IRS' budget by as much as \$500 million.

The consequences of these budget cuts for taxpayers are significant, as you can see from this chart. What has happened since 2011 is the appropriations have gone down and waiting times have gone up. The average wait is shown by this blue line. The dollars are in the yellow. The only improvement was when we appropriated a couple hundred million dollars at the initiative of Democrats, and the waiting times went down as money went up.

The Republicans who complain about poor IRS customer service, they have only to look in the mirror to see who is responsible. Here are the facts.

Republican cuts to the IRS budget from 2010 to 2015 resulted in—and everyone listen to this—13,000 fewer full-time IRS employees; a significant number of taxpayer phone calls being dropped, as indicated by this chart; delays in much-needed upgrades to information technology and cybersecurity; and the lowest level of audits in a decade with less than 1 percent of taxpayers being audited last year. This is all despite the fact that the number of tax returns being filed increased by \$9 million, or 7 percent, since 2010.

□ 1230

This effort today is motivated entirely by politics instead of good policy. The IRS has had the authority to offset the cost of taxpayer services with user fees since 1995. The Republicans have never tried to tamper with that. This is the first time the Republicans have tried to prevent the IRS from using these moneys.

We heard the Republicans argue that the IRS used some of this funding to implement the Affordable Care Act. True, as those are taxpayer services. Taxpayers are applying for help through the Affordable Care Act. It is the IRS' responsibility to implement that. The IRS is doing exactly what they should be doing: implementing a law passed by Congress, a law that has

resulted in there being 20 million more Americans with healthcare coverage.

This bill is, in essence, another effort—it might be—what?—No. 63, 64, 65—to undermine healthcare reform. That is really what this is all about, and the gentleman who presented the case made that case. The IRS' helping people get access to healthcare reform is a taxpayer service.

The White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy, which reads, if the President were presented with this bill, his senior advisers would recommend he veto it.

The statement reads as follows: "By further constraining IRS resources, H.R. 4885 would have detrimental effects on the IRS' ability to provide quality service to taxpayers, administer the Tax Code, and enforce tax laws."

That is really what this is all about. The statement continues: "The IRS needs more resources, not fewer, to deter tax cheats, serve honest taxpayers, and protect taxpayer data."

The Republicans are using these IRS bills this week to attack the IRS and its employees as a distraction. They don't want hardworking Americans to know what they missed the deadline on: to come up with a budget. They are doing absolutely nothing to help the people of Flint or of Puerto Rico, who so desperately need our help.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" for the reasons outlined by this chart: for the need of more resources for customer services and to thwart a further effort by the Republicans to undermine the ACA, which has meant so much to millions and millions and millions of Americans from all walks of life. This should be resoundingly voted down, surely by us Democrats, who believe in customer service and who want the ACA implemented, not destroyed by the Republican Party of this House or of the Senate.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. I thank my colleague from Missouri for bringing this bill to the floor and for his leadership in holding the IRS accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I guess we should start with the question of who is attacking whom. When you look at the actions of the IRS, especially in the last few years—and we have exposed this through our oversight here in this House majority—we have found it is the IRS that has been attacking the hardworking taxpayers of this country.

It has not only been documented, but it has come out in hearings that the IRS was actually targeting people—American citizens—based on their political views. The IRS was. You could expect this, maybe, in a Third World country where the government would actually be attacking people based on

their political views, but, here in America, this IRS was doing just that, and we exposed it.

One is seeing with the bill that Congressman SMITH is bringing forward that the IRS has created, in essence, a slush fund, using user fees for things that weren't even intended and that aren't even in the purview of Congress. What are they afraid of? Why are they afraid of having some real transparency so that we can actually hold the IRS accountable for these user fees? Hundreds of millions of dollars of user fees, by the way, are paid by hardworking families out there who are struggling to get by. When somebody actually calls the IRS hotline right now, estimates are that fewer than 40 percent of Americans who call the IRS hotline to get help are able to get help.

The IRS is not helping people they are supposed to be helping. They have these slush funds, and they don't want them to be under the purview of Congress? What are they afraid of hiding? Is it, maybe, that we are going to expose more things, like they are using taxpayer money to target people? Maybe we are going to expose more things, like they were actually hiring people who were fired from the IRS because they were improperly accessing people's taxpayer data, or the fact that they have given out bonuses to people when they can't even show they have a customer service plan.

When one is looking at so many abuses by the IRS, it is an agency that is out of control. Now we have a bill by the gentleman from Missouri to at least bring some of that into the purview of Congress so that it is exposed in the sunshine of transparency. Why be against transparency? Let's pass this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Look, as happened yesterday, I expect the Republicans to try to bring up the issue relating to the IRS and how it handled 501(c)(4) applications. As I did yesterday, I just want to read an answer given by the inspector general on this issue.

On May 17, 2013, I asked him as follows: "Did you find any evidence of political motivation in the selection of the tax exemption applications?"

Inspector George said: "We did not, sir."

Next, customer service. You have the gall to come forth here and complain about customer service when you cut the IRS' budget over 5 years by almost \$900 million. That really takes gall. It is so inconsistent. As I said earlier, look in the mirror, and you will see who is responsible for those problems.

I want to finish by saying: Slush fund? Implementing healthcare reform that has helped 20 million people, that is a slush fund? No. That is the implementation by the IRS of a necessary function that affects the lives and the health care of millions of Americans.

So you are really bankrupt to come forth here and support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) control the remainder of my time.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I would like to respond to the gentleman's prior comments.

As a matter of fact, since fiscal year 2013, in budget sequestration, Congress has either maintained or increased funding for taxpayer services each and every year—never cutting it one time. Any cuts to taxpayer services have come at the clear discretion of the IRS Commissioner.

Yesterday, in committee, the IRS Commissioner said that it was his discretion to cut taxpayer services. In fact, in the last year, they cut \$134 million. In the last 4 years, Congress has not cut \$1 in taxpayer services; so let's get the record straight while we are on the House floor.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the vice chair of the Conference.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come to the House floor in support of the IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending Act, sponsored by my colleague, Mr. SMITH.

I spent many years practicing in the tax area as a certified public accountant, so I understand firsthand why tax day has become a dreaded annual burden to so many Americans. The economy has yet to rebound from the recession, and wage growth is stagnant; but, in 2016, individuals will spend more on their taxes than on clothing, food, and housing combined.

While Americans continue to face the threat of increasing taxes—thanks to this administration—the tax process has gotten only more complicated and confusing. On top of that, the IRS has mishandled taxpayer funds, has provided inadequate customer service, and has proven to be unwilling or unable to change.

This commonsense legislation brings us one step closer to providing the proper oversight over the IRS' activities. At the moment, the IRS currently charges user fees, and Congress has no say as to how these fees are used.

I am extremely disappointed this agency is playing politics with these fees. They cut the fees allocated to customer service by 73 percent this year, and they reallocated those funds in an effort to extract additional fees

from the American taxpayer. Folks are already paying more than enough in taxes.

If the IRS wants taxpayers to pay fees, then they need to account for how they are using every last cent of that money. Oversight from Congress will ensure no frivolous use by a wasteful IRS.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. We cannot continue to reward inefficient bureaucracies. The American people deserve to have a say in how the IRS spends our hard-earned tax dollars.

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

It is painful to listen to some of the rhetoric here on the floor that suggests that, somehow, the use of resources by the IRS is not dealing with customer service. The gentleman admitted that, under Republican leadership, they have worked to not fund the necessary resources for the Affordable Care Act. Now, this is a bill that is law. This is a bill that is impacting 16 million Americans, and 7.3 million people have gotten the tax credits.

I would ask the gentleman from Missouri what the impact would be on 7.3 million taxpayers if we had no money available to implement the Affordable Care Act.

I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the question that we have before us is: Did we appropriate adequate funding for taxpayer services?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. In reclaiming my time, I am asking the gentleman: What would be the impact on the 7.3 million people who are claiming the tax credit under the Affordable Care Act, which you have not yet repealed and which still is the law of the land? What would the impact be on them if you had your way and there was no money?

I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the law of the land is Article I of the Constitution. Congress has the power of the purse to appropriate funds, and Congress appropriated the funds in 2016, but the IRS is not following that appropriately. This is wrong.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. In reclaiming my time, if I may reframe the question, because I am not trying to trick the gentleman. I want to know what the impact would be on 7.3 million people if there were no money available to implement the Affordable Care Act.

I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, what I am talking about is that Congress appropriated the necessary resources. The gentleman is talking about there being over \$11 billion to the IRS, and they cannot appropriate the funds correctly.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in reclaiming my time, I would appreciate the gentleman, on his own time, elaborating on this, and the gentleman is not answering.

What would be the impact, as the gentleman said in his opening statement, if the money were not allocated to implement the Affordable Care Act? It is sort of a backdoor way via the budget process, which you can control, to defund the Affordable Care Act.

The fact is, for those 7.3 million people who get the tax credit and for the over 17 million Americans who have received health care under the Affordable Care Act, being able to implement the law is customer service. I would think that my Republican friends would become very cranky if the bureaucracy in the IRS just decided that they weren't going to implement part of the law. So what the IRS has done within some areas that it does have budgetary discretion is to make sure that there are adequate people to try and implement these provisions.

□ 1245

Now, it is true that the Tax Code becomes more and more complex, but that is not the fault of the IRS. Those are the people who are charged with implementing what Congress does.

Since I have been in Congress—and my Republican friends have been in charge most of this time—the Tax Code has become longer, more complex, even as they have cut back the resources to that critical agency.

What business assaults its accounts receivable department?

The Internal Revenue Service is the largest customer service agency in the world, and they have a very difficult job because Congress in the last 25 years has cut 30,000 people out of the workforce. In the last 10 years, we have seen an additional reduction.

I am glad that our Republican friends were embarrassed because of their continued cuts to the IRS budget and the service got so bad that they restored almost \$300 million.

But it is not, by any stretch of the imagination, enough to give the service that we want, and it does not make up for the fact that the IRS has a legal obligation to administer the Affordable Care Act, which is still on the books, which is serving millions of Americans and has become more complex and actually more onerous for individual taxpayers.

Remember, they have made changes to make a sharper cliff if people make a mistake in the estimate of their income because it is graduated. You get less help the more money you make.

Under the Republican assault on the Affordable Care Act, there is more of a cliff that faces people if they have a change in circumstance. If they misallocate, if they lose a job, if they get a bonus, that can have significant consequences.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Internal Revenue Service has been a whipping boy for everybody. This a service that people love to hate. Republicans have taken their war against taxes to high art by assaulting the IRS, making it hard to serve, and attacking it repeatedly.

Mr. Speaker, this has significant consequences. The United States relies on voluntary compliance from the taxpayers. Every 1 percent less voluntary compliance costs the taxpayers \$30 billion that could be used to reduce the deficit or to pay for badly needed services or maybe rebuild our fraying infrastructure. This has consequences.

Now, I would respectfully suggest that this is a cut of a half billion dollars to a budget that is already stressed and can't deal with the needs of today.

People in the IRS are dealing with a computer system that those of you who took computer science in the 1960s—I didn't—but you would feel comfortable with some of the programming language they have.

It is hopelessly out of date. The employees are overwhelmed on the phone lines. And Congress keeps changing the Tax Code.

Taking away a half billion dollars in user fees and throwing it into the general fund makes it very unlikely that it will be available for the priorities that are going to be necessary to administer the IRS.

My friend doesn't care if the Affordable Care Act is not administered. In fact, he would rather that it not be administered, but that is not the law. That is not fair to the taxpayers.

Taking away these user fees, putting it in the appropriations process, is going to have sort of a grab bag in Congress for those moneys, and I don't know where those would end up.

But given the composition and the attitude of the people who control it now, it wouldn't be available to administer the Affordable Care Act, something the IRS is obligated to do and which we owe to the American people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with the IRS and rightfully so. With such a troubled and incompetent record, it is hard to imagine how anyone could trust this corrupt agency.

This week the House will take action, thanks in large part to my friend and colleague from Missouri (Mr. SMITH). We will pass a series of bills to rein in the IRS and bring much-needed accountability to this broken and dysfunctional agency.

We will take steps to end the politicization of the IRS, which has illegally and intentionally targeted conservative Americans.

We will vote to eliminate the IRS slush fund—and I call it a slush fund—that has allowed this agency to skirt congressional authority.

We will vote to make sure that IRS employees are held to the same standards as the taxpayers by firing those who are delinquent in their own taxes.

These are commonsense steps that need to be taken, but we cannot truly solve these problems and bring real change to the Internal Revenue Service under the current leadership of Commissioner John Koskinen.

Mr. Koskinen has blatantly lied under oath and misled congressional investigators. He has supported Lois Lerner's track record of deceit and obstruction. It is time for him to go.

As a cosponsor of legislation to impeach Commissioner Koskinen, I call on congressional leaders to bring that bill forward as well.

American taxpayers deserve much better than they are getting, and we need to turn the page on Mr. Koskinen's failed leadership.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee and someone who understands the value of protecting the Federal Government's accounts receivable department.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Monday, as all Americans know, was, of course, Tax Day. Today should be officially designated as "Republican Tax Distraction Day" because that is exactly what is going on here.

Rather than address the many inequities and complexities in our tax system, Republicans distract by attacking the tax collector, which is one of the oldest tactics around that goes back, I guess, many civilizations.

I believe it was Mark Twain who suggested the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector is that the taxidermist only takes your skin.

The problem we have today is that there are many of our largest and most profitable corporations that don't have any skin in the game.

For the patriotic taxpayers that were out there last weekend trying to figure out how they would complete their taxes and how they would make the payments or who were lined up on Monday night at the post office to make their payments—those taxpayers have a lot of boxes on their tax form, but they don't have one that they can check that shifts their income off to some offshore tax haven. They can't decide that they will just defer paying on some of their income until they feel like it.

Yet, some of America's largest and most profitable companies use just these type of tax loopholes to dramatically lower their tax bill. These Republicans, especially on the House Ways and Means Committee, have shown no interest in addressing the problem whatsoever.

Only last week a major development before this Republican tax development was a report that found that 20 percent of large, profitable corporations paid no Federal income tax in 2012, the last year of the survey.

That is no. That is none. That is zero. That is zilch. It is not what those folks that were working last weekend trying to figure out their taxes were faced with, but it is what is occurring.

If Republicans were serious about making the Internal Revenue Service work better, they would be addressing injustices like this instead of making it worse by slashing the IRS budget. Shorting that budget is short-circuiting the collection of taxes from all those people that are out there trying to dodge their taxes.

Under these Republican budgets, almost one in four of the enforcement tax staff at the IRS have been eliminated over the last 7 years. Every additional dollar that we spend on tax enforcement yields an estimated \$4 in increased revenue.

Even a remarkable return on investment like that is modest compared to the return that America's largest corporations are getting by lobbying this Congress and participating in the political process. Oxfam America this month reported that tax dodging by multinationals is costing the United States perhaps as much as \$111 billion each year.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, recovering that revenue could pay for the entire budget of The National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Department of Education.

Tax dodging is not a victimless crime. It is like those seaside resorts where you hear: Grandpa went to the Caymans and all I got was this lousy T-shirt.

Well, you don't get a T-shirt out of this kind of tax dodging, but you do get a tax bill, because the hardworking American families and small businesses that are picking up the tab for all of those loopholes are having to pay more than their fair share.

What we should be doing on this Republican Tax Distraction Day is getting about those loopholes and seeing that the IRS enforces our laws fairly and equitably. That is not being done today.

This and the rest of this package should be rejected in favor of a system that is fair to all Americans.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the fine gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that most folks in this room today and right now understand that there is an effort underway to pursue tax reform, to make our

Tax Code simpler, easier to enforce, and to actually prevent the need to even pass legislation such as the IRS OWES Act.

Until such time, we need legislation like this because it will bring much-needed transparency to an agency with a proven track record of poor management.

The IRS' offenses include targeting taxpayers and irresponsibly directing resources away from its core function of taxpayer services, resulting in the abysmal 2015 tax filing system.

It has probably been said in this room before, but this simple bill would subject IRS user fees to congressional oversight by directing them to the Treasury's general fund and subjecting them to the congressional appropriations process.

In 2014, the IRS only used 44 percent of its user fees account on taxpayer services. Last year this number dropped significantly, with the IRS using only 10 percent of its user fees account on taxpayer services.

American taxpayers all over the country felt the pain of that choice last year. Our tax system depends on voluntary compliance. Poor taxpayer assistance like the IRS provided last year would likely encourage taxpayers to perhaps cheat and actually make it more difficult for taxpayers to even comply.

According to a GAO report, last year only 38 percent of callers wanting to speak to an IRS representative were able to reach one. This is unacceptable from an agency whose core function is revenue collection.

H.R. 4885 will strengthen congressional oversight over the IRS not by limiting funding, but by ensuring the IRS uses its funding for its core functions of revenue collection and taxpayer assistance and not for unrelated purposes, which make it harder for taxpayers to comply with an already complicated Tax Code.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Who are the 7.3 million people who get the tax credit under the Affordable Care Act? Does helping them fall within your definition of taxpayer assistance?

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I don't want innocent people to be hurt. And with what has taken place at the IRS, I would hope all of us would agree it is unacceptable.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Let me rephrase my question:

Does assisting the 7.3 million people who get tax credits under the Affordable Care Act qualify in your definition of taxpayer assistance?

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Well, I don't have the actual definition at the top of my mind. But, clearly, the IRS has chosen priorities—some over others—that I think—

Mr. BLUMENAUER. If I have more time later, I would be happy to be involved in a colloquy with you on this.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill.

□ 1300

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 20 seconds.

It is striking that somehow giving assistance to 7.3 million people who get the tax credits—16 million people who are under the Affordable Care Act—to implement that does not fall within the definition of taxpayer assistance. And my friends, Smith, neither one of them, could actually answer that, and I think it is telling.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), the distinguished leader of the Democratic Caucus and a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, who thinks that we ought to provide service to our taxpayers.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, one of the easiest things you can do to get people to cheer for you is to bash someone or something that everyone loves to hate, as you have heard it said before. I don't know if there is a better example of this than the IRS. Everyone loves to hate the IRS.

At the end of the day, though, if you want to have our troops paid, if you want to have our security handled at our airports, if you want to make sure that our national parks are protected, you need to have the revenues; and so we need the IRS so that all of us who voluntarily are supposed to pay our taxes do so and pay our fair share.

Again, we could all point to the story of the case where the IRS flubbed it, didn't do a good job, and so it is easy to pile on. If we could create a pinata that looked like the IRS, I guarantee you it would be the hottest selling pinata in the history of pinata making. So let's just put that on the table. Let's grant that to everyone. It is easy to bash the IRS.

Let's go to this bill, though. What will this bill do?

First, it does some really strange things, and then it does some really harmful things. But worse than that, it is never going to become law. So we are spending time talking about something that is never going to become law.

But on what the bill does, let me give you a clear example of why it is so unfortunate that we do this IRS bashing. One of these provisions tells the IRS that it cannot retain the dollars it collects as user fees for having provided services to individuals or corporations that seek out special services from the IRS.

You have got a big corporation; you just broke it up into pieces; you want to make sure you are filing your taxes correctly. You need a special advisory opinion from the IRS, which isn't something they typically do for most

Americans, so they say: Well, that is extra stuff; we are going to have to charge you a user fee for having done that for you.

Principally, these user fees come from wealthier companies or wealthier individuals who have more complicated tax filings that they have to submit. We charge them that because not every American has to request that kind of service from the IRS. IRS collects that fee.

This bill says: IRS, you don't get to keep the money, even though you had to provide the service and pull your resources and your personnel from doing the regular taxpayers' filings and examining those to do this special work. You cannot keep that even though you expended resources to do that work.

The best way I could compare it is to a situation I encountered recently. I participated in a funeral service, and it was a very dignified service. At the end of the service in the place of worship in the church, we all caravanned together with the hearse and the family of the deceased individual to the cemetery. It was a long line of vehicles. It was a great service. A lot of people showed up.

We were fortunate to have the assistance of police officers who directed traffic because we went through a whole bunch of intersections. We had to make sure that, to the degree possible, we didn't disrupt traffic a whole lot and we didn't have a whole bunch of accidents on the way to the cemetery. It all worked out perfectly. At the end, once we reached the cemetery, the officers left.

Now, the officers did that job not because that is the usual course of business for police officers in our cities and our counties. They did that because the police department offers that service so that we don't disrupt the greater activity around our city when there is a funeral. That way you offer the dignity to that family as well in the services for that deceased individual. You pay for that service to the police department because you pulled police officers off their regular beat to do that work. That is a user fee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, this bill's proposal on user fees is tantamount to telling the police department: You must provide that service for people to be able to have their funeral service, but you will not get compensated for your police officers being pulled from their regular duty of protecting our streets to help with that funeral service.

It is insane. It is crazy to do that. So rather than do bills that are going to go nowhere, let's get our job done. We

get elected to do some very important things. On the tax side, we certainly could do what Mr. DOGGETT mentioned earlier. Let's go after those Benedict Arnolds who decide they are going to leave the country not because they want to go live somewhere else, it is that they don't want to pay taxes in America. So they are going to leave their place of legal residency as America. They are still going to have their home here, but they are just going to call home somewhere else for legal purposes so they don't pay taxes. Billions of dollars we are losing, we know, as a result of corporations and all our wealthy individuals incorporating in places like the Cayman Islands.

Secondly, all the money that is being spent in campaigns today is being done by what are called not-for-profit organizations that we used to think used to do social welfare.

Now guess what they are doing?

They are spending their money on campaigns. We need to stop that as well. That is what we should be doing—doing our job, not taking money out of an agency that is trying to make sure that we do this the right way for everyone who pays their fair share of taxes.

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

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

I hope that there is an opportunity here for us to take a hard look at some of the issues surrounding the Republican assault on the IRS. We have documented that they have dramatically cut not just the resources, but the ability of people to implement it. There has been a refusal to hire people in some cases who make for the government \$5,000 an hour or more.

Now, these are people who would be dealing with audits for the people who, you know, for one reason or another give themselves the benefit of the doubt when it comes to filling out the tax form. So this audit function makes a significant amount of money for the taxpayers, money that doesn't have to come from increased taxes or reduced services.

Mr. Speaker, there is a tax gap. It is well known and well documented, \$400 to \$450 billion or more a year. Being able to adequately fund the Internal Revenue Service will enable the government to deal with an amount of money that is due and payable and owing, and it is usually because they have more money to lose track of or to be able to have different alternatives for how they characterize it or how they choose to move forward. It tends to be larger, they tend to be business enterprises and people who have more money.

But it is not just dealing with the audit function. I had a fascinating roundtable discussion in my hometown last month where I had attorneys and

accountants who specialize in the practice dealing with tax practices. They were lamenting the problems, not just the fact that there isn't effective audits anymore. They think there are very few. But it is more fundamental than that.

They often will look one of their clients in the eye and say: Yes, you are right, there is a problem. The mistake is in your favor, but because the service level has been allowed to deteriorate so badly, it will cost you more money in my fees to get the \$500 or \$2,000 error corrected.

That just makes one cringe. Now, the notice that somehow putting money to implement the Affordable Care Act is not customer service is ludicrous, and I tried to get my friends on the other side of the aisle to talk to me about customer service.

How is it not customer service to help people with the tax credits that are involved with the Affordable Care Act, which over 7 million people get?

How is it not customer service to make sure that it is administered fairly for over 16 million people who fall under the Affordable Care Act?

Absolutely it is. This \$500 million cut would further degrade the ability to provide the service that not only should we require, but our employees in the IRS want. I would strongly urge the rejection of this ill-guided proposal.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The IRS has not shown this body, they have not shown the Missourians that I represent, and they have not shown all of the American taxpayers that they have been good stewards of user fees. They have a slush fund of nearly \$500 million. This body, over a course since fiscal year 2013, has not cut \$1; not \$1 has this body cut in assistance to taxpayer services to the IRS.

The Commissioner yesterday testified before the Committee on Ways and Means and said that he is the one who cut \$134 million last year alone in taxpayer services. The government is supposed to help serve the people. The people are not supposed to serve the government.

Mr. Speaker, there should not be one agency that is independent of Congress. Agencies were created by Congress. They should be funded by Congress. And no agency should have a \$500 million slush fund that they can decide to spend the money any way that they want. This is not an uncommon practice for us to require agencies, when they collect user fees, to have congressional oversight and to be subject to appropriations. We are just trying to make sure that the IRS is held accountable, like numerous other agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the body to support this great piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 687, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE ADOPTION OF MOTION TO RECOMMIT ON H.R. 1206, NO HIRES FOR THE DELINQUENT IRS ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 1206 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1315

NO HIRES FOR THE DELINQUENT IRS ACT

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 687, I call up the bill (H.R. 1206) to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 687, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-47 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 1206

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act".*

**SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON IRS HIRING OF NEW EMPLOYEES UNTIL CERTIFICATION THAT NO IRS EMPLOYEE HAS A SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—No officer or employee of the United States may extend an offer of employment in the Internal Revenue Service to any individual until after the Secretary of the Treasury has submitted to Congress either the certification described in subsection (b) or the report described in subsection (c).

(b) *CERTIFICATION.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The certification referred to in subsection (a) is a written certification by the Secretary that the Internal Revenue Service does not employ any individual who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(2) *SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT.*—For purposes of this section, the term “seriously delinquent tax debt” means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code, except that such term does not include—

(A) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code;

(B) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending;

(C) a debt with respect to which a levy has been made under section 6331 of such Code (or a debt with respect to which the individual agrees to be subject to a levy made under such section); and

(D) a debt with respect to which relief under section 6343(a)(1)(D) of such Code is granted.

(c) *REPORT.*—The report referred to in subsection (a) is a report that—

(1) states that the certification described in subsection (b) cannot be made;

(2) provides an explanation of why such certification is not possible;

(3) outlines the remedial actions that would be required for the Secretary to be in a position to so certify; and

(4) provides an indication of the time that would be required for those actions to be completed.

(d) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—This section shall apply to offers of employment extended after December 31, 2016.

**SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in House Report 114-502, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read and shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1206, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1206, the No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act, prohibits the IRS from expanding its workforce unless the agency either certifies to Congress that IRS employees do not have seriously delinquent tax debts or explains why the agency is unable to provide this required certification.

I want to commend my friend and colleague from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for helping bring attention to the fact that some of the IRS' own employees, Mr. Speaker, have serious delinquencies on their personal tax obligations.

The American public expects IRS employees—the same people, the same employees that audit American taxpayers—to abide by the Federal tax laws they enforce. However, Mr. Speaker, just last year, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration reviewed the IRS' handling of employees that were found to have willfully violated the tax laws. So, that is how the IRS is handling the matter of their own employees who have willfully violated the tax law.

Shockingly, Mr. Speaker, in 61 percent of those cases of IRS employees who have willfully violated the tax law, the IRS decided to retain the employees and failed to document why these employees were not fired.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable and the American people deserve better. Allowing IRS employees to continue administering our tax laws when they, themselves, are in violation of that law undermines the trust of the American taxpayer.

My friend Mr. ROUZER's legislation is an important step forward towards creating accountability and restoring the public's trust in the IRS.

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

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

This is really a couple of sad days for this institution. Here we are filling in time with bills that are going nowhere and are deeply mistaken. No action on the budget, no action on the tragedy in Flint, no action on the needs of Puerto Rico, no action on Zika—essentially, the Republicans are about no action. So instead, they bring up this series of bills, and now, H.R. 1206.

Let's look at it carefully. What this bill says is that the IRS cannot hire a single person until the Secretary of the Treasury issues a written certification that not a single employee in the en-

tire agency has a serious tax debt. So when an employee quits or is terminated, that position could not be filled until an examination was completed of the tax status of every one of the 80,000 IRS employees.

Realistically, to certify that no single employee has a significant tax debt, the IRS would need to immediately and continuously terminate any employee with a Federal tax lien. The IRS already has the authority to terminate an employee for delinquent taxes. This was established in 1998 in section 1203 of the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act.

The White House's Statement of Administration Policy says that the bill is “unworkable in operation, as ‘seriously delinquent’ debts could be as low as \$1 and tax liens are recorded on a case-by-case basis.”

This bill is yet another politically motivated attack on the IRS and its 80,000 employees, who have one of the lowest rates of tax delinquency in the Federal Government at around 1 percent.

I wish you would just look at the chart and see where the IRS is compared to the Congress. If you are really worried, ladies and gentlemen, about tax delinquency, we would need to look no further than here in the House, where tax delinquency among employees is more than 5 percent.

The administration opposes this bill, stating further: “These bills would impose unnecessary constraints on the Internal Revenue Service's operations without improving the agency's ability to administer the Tax Code and serve taxpayers.”

As I said at the beginning, there is a lot of work that should be undertaken in this House. Instead, this is essentially an empty Chamber with empty legislation. These bills are nothing more than a distraction to cover up the basic failure of the Republican majority to bring on legislation that would truly meet the needs of the American people. I urge that we oppose this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), a most distinguished member of our committee, control the remainder of my time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. ROUZER. I thank my colleague and friend from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for yielding time to discuss this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I filed this bill, H.R. 1206, the No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act, in response to reading news



reports of more than 1,500 employees at the IRS who willfully failed to follow their own tax guidelines and, in a number of cases, were found to be seriously delinquent on their taxes.

For starters, it is the height of hypocrisy for the very agency that is charged with collecting taxes to have employees who refuse to adhere to the standards and guidelines which the rest of us must follow and abide by. Of course, this is in addition to the egregious behavior and abuse of power some in the agency displayed when they targeted organizations for their political affiliations and beliefs. We all remember how the IRS misled taxpayers and the Congress in an effort to deny that such activity ever even occurred. Thankfully, the truth always has a way of being revealed, at least eventually.

I think we can all agree that the American people deserve a government that works for them, not against them. Certainly, the IRS is one of the most cumbersome, customer-unfriendly agencies in the Federal Government, regardless of how much they are funded. Anyone who denies this hasn't been listening to the American people.

Now, let me be clear. There are plenty of fine civil servants working hard at the IRS and in all other agencies of the Federal Government. It is the culture of arrogance and unchecked bureaucratic power that has developed within these agencies that is the problem and is the catalyst for the type of disregard and double standard this bill aims to help address. This culture starts with the leadership at the top.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very simple. It prohibits the IRS from hiring any new additional employees until the agency can certify that every one of their employees who are out of step with the tax requirements imposed on the American people have a plan to achieve compliance. Now, who can argue against this?

For all the moaning and groaning I have heard from the other side of the aisle the past couple of days, this is not a bill that merits even one vote of opposition. This is a commonsense bill that will help encourage the IRS to clean up its act, and I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the bill, H.R. 1206, preventing the IRS from hiring anyone—not one person, not one individual—until the IRS proves that there is not a single employee in the entire agency with a serious tax debt.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: How can a hiring freeze possibly help taxpayers? Every person in this body knows that the IRS already has the authority to fire anyone—any employee—for serious Federal tax issues. Congress gave the IRS this power in section 1203 of the IRS

Restructuring and Reform Act. It was signed into law in 1998, and it is working.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, the Department of the Treasury had a lower tax delinquency rate than any Federal agency and lower than the American public. It was lower than the Congress.

This is a mean piece of legislation and it is not right. It is not fair. It is mean-spirited. So, I ask you: Why do we want to punish these Federal employees? Why do we want to go after the majority of IRS workers who are just hardworking, dedicated public servants? More importantly, Mr. Speaker, what good does this bill do?

Every year—not one year, but every year—the IRS is expected to do more with less. We cannot get blood from a turnip. This legislation does nothing to help taxpayers get the service they need and deserve. It does nothing—not one thing—to fight identity theft. This does nothing to stop stolen returns. It does nothing to help the taxpayers speak to a live IRS staff person in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is all about a message. It is a talking point. It is so sad that we have come to this point. As a Congress, we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, some of us here are ready to do the people's work. This is purely a waste of time. As Mr. LEVIN stated, this piece of legislation is not going anywhere.

Last week, I introduced the Taxpayer Protection Act. My bill responds to the real needs of American taxpayers.

□ 1330

There are many other good ideas to help taxpayers, but these bills are not being considered by this body this week.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, we are considering a bill, as I said before, that is mean, downright mean, a bill that is unnecessary, a bill that would do more harm than good.

We owe it to ourselves and we owe it to the American people, to the American taxpayer, to do better. We can do better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge each and every one of my colleagues to vote "no" on this pointless and harmful piece of legislation. It is the right thing to do, to vote "no." This is not good for the Congress. It is not good for the Ways and Means Committee.

Why do we want to point? It is pointless to punish one IRS worker. More than 80,000 employees, and for one person, just one person, one individual, for tax debt, then they cannot hire an employee.

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve and expect all IRS employees to abide by the Federal tax laws that the IRS is charged with administering, period, end of story.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act.

Between 2004 and 2013, nearly 1,600 IRS employees intentionally violated tax laws, according to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

Just last year, the same Inspector General reported that the IRS rehired 141 former employees who had bungled their own tax returns. Five of those rehires had intentionally failed to file their returns at all.

Think about that for a moment. The Federal bureaucrats who are responsible for ensuring the American people pay their taxes are not paying their own taxes, and they face no repercussion for botching their own returns.

This is one more example of how Washington is out of touch with the people it is meant to serve. It is no wonder the American people do not have faith in this Federal agency.

This bill will require the IRS to exclusively hire employees who pay their own taxes. It is essential to protecting American taxpayers and ensuring the IRS is held accountable. It is just common sense.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1206.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

This bill is just the next segment of Republican Tax Distraction Day.

Certainly, we should focus on misconduct, on delinquencies, from whatever the source. But here, on Republicans Tax Distraction Day, they are about distracting attention from their failure to address the real problem with reference to delinquencies and misconduct, and that is a problem that they have just shown total indifference about.

For anyone who was listening even a little bit last week, world news around the globe focused on something called the Panama Papers, 11.5 million files explored over the course of an entire year by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists detailing how some people, especially the very wealthy, have used the secrecy of an offshore tax haven in Panama to avoid paying their taxes and, in some cases, illegal money laundering by organized crime and other forms of official corruption. This isn't just an American problem, but there is no American exceptionalism to it either. It is an international problem.

Our European allies have responded to the Panama Papers by initiating new efforts to try to get at this problem of tax abuse. And the truth of the

matter is, this is just the tip of the iceberg with this 11.5 million papers because it is only about abuse in one of a number of secret tax havens.

But, of course, it did not attract universal attention. If you were in Beijing today and you were to search for the Panama Papers on the Web, what you would find is: Sorry, no relevant material.

There is another place that you will find nothing about the Panama Papers, and that is in the House Ways and Means Committee and the Republican Caucus because they haven't been interested. They have shown constant indifference to problems that are generated from these tax havens, from the dodging, from the avoidance, from the evasion that has been going on, when that ought to be the focus of our attention. Instead of real abuse, they focus on imagined abuse.

And keep in mind, by the way, this particular piece of legislation is designed to cover IRS employees for their delinquencies. They bother to exempt the Congress of the United States from that provision.

But I think the focus ought to be on these abuses and delinquencies that are occurring in other places that are costing us real dollars. The Panama Papers show the importance of our working together with our allies to address lawlessness and money laundering and tax evasion. They show why we need to be participating in the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting initiative.

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

Mr. LEWIS. I yield the gentleman another 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. They show why the Stop Tax Haven Abuse legislation that I have introduced and the Corporate EXIT Fairness Act, to deal with those who renounce their citizenship, why they deserve a hearing and attention, the attention that they are not getting today or any day from this Republican Congress.

If this Congress will do nothing to address this tax evasion and avoidance, the least we can do is to do no harm. But today's action does do harm. Rather than getting at the real problems, they seek to limit an already underfunded agency.

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

Mr. LEWIS. I yield the gentleman another 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. They seek to limit, impair, and hinder an already underfunded agency in doing its job of tax avoidance so that everyone contributes to the costs of our national security and vital services.

We need to be strengthening the law, ensuring fair enforcement, and ensuring that we have the resources necessary to keep America the strongest country in the world.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, it is pretty straightforward. The IRS needs to earn and keep the trust of the American taxpayer. And I say "earn" with emphasis because the IRS has lost the trust of the American taxpayer.

Allowing IRS employees to continue administering our tax laws when they are in violation of the law undermines the people's trust. It does not earn the people's trust.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I say thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to my colleagues for their hard work on this package of bills to rein in the IRS and make it more accountable to taxpayers.

Earlier this week, the taxpayers in my home State of Michigan and across the country reflected on another year of a tax burden that is too high and take-home pay that is too low. But not only is our current tax system broken, the agency in charge of enforcing it is, too. Time after time, the IRS has proven that it can't be trusted to clean up its act and fails to practice what it preaches.

In a report last year, the IRS inspector general found that hundreds of employees are violating IRS guidelines and failing to pay their personal tax obligations. Those are obligations, and I tend to think that the good employees of the IRS would be encouraged as well if their colleagues paid their taxes.

The No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act would simply—and this is what we are talking about—prevent the IRS from any additional hiring until it verifies that its current employees have paid their own taxes.

Now, a good friend and colleague of mine has described this as a waste of time. The single mom in Monroe, Michigan, doesn't think that this is a waste of time. The family farmer in Jackson doesn't think that this is a waste of time. The small-business owner in Charlotte doesn't think that this is a waste of time. Why? Because they all have to pay their taxes on time.

People who work at the IRS should have to play by the same rules as everyone else does. And, in fact, that might assist them in making sure that congressional employees pay their taxes too, and any other department of the Federal Government pays their taxes too, because why? They pay their taxes, and now they can do what their job asks them to do.

The good colleague and gentleman from Georgia understands, I am certain, the principle that we both know well, where it says: To whom much is given, much is required. Much responsibility has been given to the IRS, and much is required. Pay your taxes.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed listening to my friend from Michigan, and I would just say why shouldn't we lead by example here in Congress, to whom much has been given? Shouldn't we have the credibility?

I would have supported this bill in Ways and Means, with one simple amendment. I offered an amendment to apply the same provisions to Congress.

The House of Representatives has a worse record of compliance with our employees than the IRS. The IRS has the best record in the Federal Government. Every single department in the executive branch has a better record in Congress.

Why should we have over 500 people on that chart not paying their taxes?

If it is such a great idea that you can implement this smoothly and simply for the IRS, why shouldn't it be easier to implement with Congress, which has about 10 percent of the employees but has four times more delinquency?

Well, people on the committee were all aflutter. They did not, on a technical basis, allow me to offer this amendment, so I went to the Rules Committee.

I think this is a good principle. People ought to pay their taxes. But if you are going to use a sledgehammer like this and it is possible to administer, why doesn't it apply to Congress?

Congress sets the rules. Congress funds the IRS. Congress passes that crazy Internal Revenue Code that people hate and then blame the IRS for administering what Congress passed.

Now, I am mystified. If this is not just a stunt to try and divert attention from the fact that Congress and the Republican leadership has been attacking the IRS, defunding it, making its job a difficult job under the best of circumstances, why not apply it to Congress?

Why shouldn't we set the example, particularly when we have more people under our employment who are on that big list? Don't we lead by example? Shouldn't people look to us?

The hypocrisy in not allowing my amendment to apply to Congress may be one of the reasons why Congress is the only entity in the Federal Government that has probably lower ratings than the IRS. It is because we are not willing to be accountable, because we play games, because we do things that we know will never be enacted into law but would be a good sound bite on somebody's Web site or a quick interview.

□ 1345

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I am going to give all of my colleagues an opportunity to step up and to cosponsor legislation that would extend to Congress the same degree of scrutiny as they want to have for the IRS.

Even though the IRS problem is much smaller than ours—it is less than one-quarter—what is good for the goose is good for the gander. I don't know if this is sauce, but I would invite my colleagues to step up and not play games. Have Congress be accountable.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve and expect IRS employees to follow the same tax laws that they administer. It is very simple.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, there are several things that come to mind here. Number one, each Member of Congress is held accountable every 2 years by the voters of their respective district.

The last time I checked, this is referred to as the people's House. We are either here to represent our constituencies and our people back home or we are representing the bureaucracy of the Federal Government.

Now, I don't know what side my other colleagues, particularly on the other side of the aisle, care to be on as it relates to this, but I personally think it is important to represent our people back home, not the bureaucracies here in Washington, D.C.

The other thing I have heard as it relates to this bill is it is mean. My goodness. What is mean about this? All it says is, when the IRS can certify that their employees who are delinquent have a plan to get back into compliance, they are able to hire again. Until then, there is a freeze on hiring.

There is nothing mean about that. It is just good common sense. It is an encouragement, and it is an incentive for the IRS to clean up its act.

Then we hear about the funding issue. I have never ever, ever once heard the other side say that there was plenty of funding for any Federal agency, the IRS or any agency.

I will tell you what is mean and what is destructive is an obstructive, intrusive Federal Government that does not allow the individual American people and our families to do what they do best, and that is grow a business, make a profit, and create jobs.

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ROUZER. I read somewhere not long ago that rules and regulations of the IRS and elsewhere have cost this economy \$2 trillion in the last fiscal year—\$2 trillion.

If we got rid of the rules and regulations that are harming the economy

and that are keeping our economy from growing at a robust pace, then the IRS would end up having a whole lot more money.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. ROUZER. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Why shouldn't we have the same rule apply to the 10,000 employees of the House of Representatives?

Mr. ROUZER. This bill is about accountability. Every Member of this Congress is held accountable every 2 years.

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1206, which would restrict the IRS' ability to hire qualified personnel until it has documented that each one of its 80,000 employees has not violated an unusual, uncertain tax standard. This legislation is totally unnecessary and promises to further undermine taxpayer service and tax enforcement.

First of all, it is totally unnecessary, suggesting that IRS employees are tax delinquent when, in reality, IRS employees demonstrate a tax compliance rate much higher than that of Members of Congress or other Federal agencies.

Indeed, 99 percent of IRS employees are tax compliant in contrast to only 95 percent of the House of Representatives.

Further, IRS employees already are subject to the Federal Payment Levy Program that can levy Federal salaries to recover tax debts. Certainly, this is a bill in search of a problem.

Secondly, this bill would further impede the ability of the IRS to serve taxpayers and enforce tax laws. Due to Republican insistence on dramatically reducing the IRS funding by over \$1 billion in the last 5 years, the IRS has already experienced extraordinary reductions in personnel and service.

Seven former IRS Commissioners from both parties have spoken about this unprecedented reduction and its negative impact on our tax system.

My constituents, your constituents, and constituents all over the country have suffered enough. Our national debt has suffered. Every time we collect \$1, that yields another \$4 in revenue.

So I would urge my colleagues to vote against this bill. I certainly will do so.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman notes the Federal Payment Levy Program. I

would like to clarify that this bill would only treat an employee as seriously delinquent in the most egregious case where no payments were being made because wages can be levied under the Federal Payment Levy Program. Most employees would fall within one of the exceptions and would be within the definition of seriously delinquent.

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, I like the notion of accountability. It is true that we are up for election every other year, and I am sure that my friend from North Carolina has a system in his office to make sure that the 18 people who work for him are not on this list of over 500 people. But that is not a suitable accountability. We are talking about an entire agency.

I think there is no good reason that we shouldn't have the same sort of accountability for almost 10,000 people who work for the House of Representatives.

Shouldn't we collectively set an example? After all, there are four times as many people who have tax delinquency who work for the House of Representatives.

Why shouldn't we set an example? If it can be easily administered and we want to send a message, why don't we send a message that we care about it?

We can learn from the gentleman about his system to make sure there are no tax delinquencies in his office. I would like to know that, and I am sure the leadership of the House of Representatives would like to implement it here.

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill. It would hamstring the IRS and would make no real impact on tax avoidance in the United States. This bill is shameful.

If we are serious about cracking down on tax dodging, we would focus on ending corporate inversions. Our government must stand up and say to these corporations: Stop cheating the American people.

We cannot continue to allow corporations to pretend that they are American companies reaping the benefits that this country has to offer and all the while claiming to be a foreign corporation when the tax bill comes. They don't pay their fair share of taxes in the United States.

Corporations are cheating the American people out of revenue that could

make such a real difference in the lives of children and families so that they can dodge taxes and gouge prices.

A quote from an article in *The New York Times* last week by Nicholas Kristof says: “The Real Welfare Cheats. One academic study found that tax dodging by major corporations costs the U.S. Treasury up to \$111 billion a year. By my math, less than one-fifth of that annually would mean more than enough to pay the additional costs of full-day prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds—that is about \$15 billion—“prevent lead poisoning in tens of thousands of children (\$2 billion), provide books and parent coaching for at-risk kids across the country (\$1 billion) and end family homelessness (\$2 billion).”

The administration has issued new rules to curb inversions, but the Congress—the Congress—needs to work to end this abhorrent practice.

It is absurd that the U.S. Treasury does not have the authority to share a list of inverted corporations with other government agencies. Congress can give them that authority.

It is up to us to make sure that Treasury can provide such a list. Congress also needs to strengthen the definition of an inverted corporation in the Tax Code. We should also consider inversions a deal breaker when we dole out Federal contracts.

Inverted corporations should not receive Federal contracts. They are bad actors, and we should not be rewarding them with lucrative contracts for moving their mailboxes to avoid paying their taxes in the United States.

That is why Congressman DOGGETT and I introduced the No Federal Contracts for Corporate Deserters Act, so that inverted companies will no longer be able to benefit from Federal contracts at the expense of companies who do pay their fair share.

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. DELAURO. Instead of pursuing this unnecessary and misguided bill that would punish the IRS, but honestly makes very little impact on tax avoidance, what we should do is we need to go after those corporations. They game our system at the expense of the American taxpayer of up to almost \$11 billion.

Wouldn't every American like to have an opportunity to be able to say that they can send their kid to school, that they don't have to risk homelessness, and that they can provide their kid with an education instead of these corporations taking and ripping off the United States?

Let's get real on the floor of this House of Representatives. Do you want to do the right thing? Do you want to do what is morally responsible? Then, let us end these inverted corporations.

Let them pay their fair share of taxes or tell them that it is illegal and that we can prosecute them.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me make a point that is being lost in the debate here. Current law actually requires that the IRS fire willfully noncompliant employees unless they have reasonable cause for not paying their taxes. That is current law.

Yet, in most cases—61 percent of cases, Mr. Speaker—the IRS fails to even document why delinquent employees were not penalized.

In addition, Mr. Speaker—and I think the American people would be stunned to hear this—there are instances of IRS employees who are delinquent in their taxes who have not only not been fired, but have received bonuses.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to this debate today and the discussion about inversions. There is a broader point that is missed here.

Inversions aren't even an issue if America is the most attractive place to do business. Capital investment goes where it is welcome, not where it is unwelcome.

Why do you hear about inversions today? It is because we have an outdated Tax Code that significantly needs reform. It is because we have more rules and regulations than we have ever had before that are stifling the economy to the tune of \$2 trillion annually. It is because we have a healthcare law in place that is killing the economy and job growth.

I can't tell you how many businesses I meet and go and visit all across the district that are sitting right at 49 employees. I wonder why. It is because of the healthcare law that is unworkable and destroying the American economy.

Again, capital and investment goes where it is welcome. How do we make that possible again? We reform our Tax Code so that this is the most attractive place to do business in the world. We get rid of the rules and regulations that make it so difficult to do business, all the rules and regulations coming out of labor, EPA, and everywhere else.

□ 1400

It is not just one, it is all of them. It is death by a thousand cuts. I can't tell you how many people I have talked to all across my district who say: DAVID, do you know what? Business is just no fun anymore.

And so they are plotting their exit strategy. They are not plotting the strategy of growth. They are plotting a strategy to exit and retire with what they have been able to achieve so far.

Here is the fundamental question of this bill. Are we going to be on the side of the American people? Or are we

going to be on the side of the bureaucracy? Are we going to defend the EPA? Are we going to defend the IRS? Are we going to defend the Department of Labor? Are we going to defend all these rules and regulations that are killing the American economy? Or are we going to stand with the American people? That is the question before us today.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN)

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

Mr. Speaker, this week represents another missed opportunity for Congress to take action on the challenges facing the American people.

I understand that we are at this point because the majority can't pass a budget, they can't take action to combat the Zika virus, they can't help the people of Flint, Michigan, and they can't address the opiate crisis.

Unfortunately, your right wing and your extreme right wing can't seem to agree with each other. Instead of taking real action, we are going to vote today to prohibit the IRS from hiring any new employees until the Treasury certifies that none of the agency's existing employees have unpaid taxes.

This legislation is both unworkable and unnecessary. IRS employees have a tax compliance rate of over 99 percent, but a hiring freeze will hinder our ability to go after the real tax cheats in this country, and that is something we should all be able to agree on.

Instead of arbitrary changes to the IRS, Congress needs to take action to make our Tax Code work for the American people instead of corporate interests, something that is conspicuously absent from your debate today.

Let's talk about how we can close loopholes that allow multinational corporations to pay nothing in Federal income taxes while working class Americans and small businesses pay their fair share.

Let's have a debate about the corporate tax dodgers who are able to shift their headquarters out of the country with a stroke of the pen, all while continuing to use our American infrastructure resources and customer base.

Let's talk about the thousands and thousands of tax-dodging corporations, including the 18,000 corporations that are registered to a single building in the Cayman Islands, a building full of post office boxes.

Today corporate profits are at an all-time high, but the share of Federal revenue from corporate taxes continues to shrink, dropping from 33 percent of the revenue in 1952 to less than 10 percent today.

While many corporations complain about the 35 percent statutory tax rate, the reality is the effective tax rate is much lower. In fact, a 2013 GAO report

found that U.S. corporations pay an effective tax rate of just 12.6 percent. A recent study from Oxfam found that U.S. corporations are currently hiding \$1.4 trillion in profits from domestic taxation in tax havens like in Panama and the Cayman Islands.

While corporations dodge paying their fair share in taxes, the burden falls to the middle class and the small businesses in all of our districts, and that is just wrong. That is the reality of why we are here with these useless bills in consideration this week. Once again, the majority can't pass a budget well past the required deadline. Let's have a serious conversation about how we can adjust our Tax Code away from the corporate interests and in favor of working families.

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, we owe it to ourselves and we owe it to the American taxpayers to do better. As a body, we can do better, much better.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage each and every one of my colleagues to vote "no," to vote "no" on this pointless and harmful piece of legislation. This bill is not worthy of the paper that it is written on. Vote "no" on this mean-spirited bill. It is not the way to go.

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

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

The Internal Revenue Service, the people who work there, most of them, like most Americans, pay their taxes. The Internal Revenue Service is charged, obviously, with administering the Tax Code, they are charged with collecting taxes.

I served a long time in the U.S. Attorney's Office, and I can tell you that the Internal Revenue Service is probably the most intimidating Federal agency of the whole panoply of Federal agencies. The American people have a right to expect IRS employees, these IRS employees who are auditing taxpayers, collecting taxes, to abide by Federal tax laws.

Mr. Speaker, that is why there is a law on the books that says the IRS can fire an employee who is delinquent on their taxes. That is why I found it so amazing that when the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration went and did an investigation, they found that the IRS, the bureaucrats that run the IRS, in 61 percent of the cases where you had an IRS employee that was delinquent on their taxes, that they were not fired.

Further, it was shocking to find that there were cases when these employees who were delinquent on their taxes were not only not fired, but they received a bonus.

This is unacceptable and the American people deserve better. Allowing IRS employees to continue administering our tax laws when they them-

selves are in violation of that law undermines the trust of the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yea," on my colleague, Mr. ROUZER's legislation, H.R. 1206. It is an important step forward in creating accountability and restoring the public's trust in the IRS.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). All time for debate on the bill has expired.

The Chair understands that the amendment printed in House Report 114-502 will not be offered.

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

#### MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. KILDEE. I am opposed.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Kildee moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1206 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 3, after line 11, insert the following:

(d) SPECIAL RULE OF APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not apply for any year if the Federal tax delinquency rate for either chamber of Congress is greater than the Federal delinquency tax rate for the Department of Treasury, as published by the Internal Revenue Service in its Federal Employee/Retiree Delinquency Initiative (FERDI) for the prior year.

Page 3, line 12, strike "(D)" AND INSERT "(E)".

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

This Republican bill is unnecessary because the IRS already, as has been said, has rules in place to terminate employees that are delinquent on their taxes. But it is important to note that out of the entire Federal Government, the employees of the Treasury Department have the lowest tax delinquency rate, a rate of 1.19 percent, one-fourth the delinquency rate for the U.S. House of Representatives, which is over 5 percent, and substantially lower than the delinquency rate for the general public, which is about 9 percent.

My motion would stop this bill from going into effect in any year that the Federal tax delinquency rate of either

the House or the Senate is more than that of the Treasury Department. It is that simple.

You know what we are doing here. We are taking precious time on the floor of this House of Representatives to deal with a bill that will go nowhere, that has no impact, and is simply a talking point to continue to beat up the IRS.

Meanwhile, we have public health crises taking place. The Zika crisis, which endangers pregnant women, what have we done on the floor of the House to deal with that real crisis? What have you brought to the floor for us to vote on? Nothing.

And in my own hometown of Flint, Michigan, a city of 100,000 people who now for 2 years have not been able to drink water that comes from the tap because it has been poisoned by the terrible decisions of its State government, a community in crisis that has every right to expect that its government, its Federal Government, would come to the aid of these people, 100,000 people poisoned by their own State government in crisis, 9,000 children under the age of 6 who for 2 years have had lead going into their bodies. Lead is a neurotoxin.

Three people today in Michigan have been criminally charged for inflicting this terrible tragedy on my hometown, a city in America in crisis, facing a disaster. And what is the response of the United States Congress? What is the response of the Republican leadership?

Not 1 minute devoted to coming up with a solution for the people in Flint. Nothing. More messaging bills, more talk, no help for people in crisis, no effort to deal with the Zika crisis, and nothing, nothing for this great American city facing an existential threat and facing generations of impacts, unless the State, that so far has failed to step up, and the Federal Government act.

I sat through the hearings that have been held here in the United States Congress and listened to Members, Democrats and Republicans, offer concern and offer sympathy. But when I introduced the Families of Flint Act, an effort that would share equally the responsibility for solving this terrible crisis between the State and Federal Government, rather than arguing about who was at fault—we all have a sense that the State of Michigan is at greatest fault—but rather than litigating that question, we seek to solve the problem.

Not only do I not yet have one Republican cosponsor who has been willing to step up, nearly 100 Democrats have, and I am sure there will be more. And I asked for help from my friends on the other side, but no time on this floor has been devoted to what is clearly one of the biggest crises facing this Nation—a great American city facing a threat, a literal threat to its existence,

a threat to the health of those people, a threat to the future of those children.

One of the first votes I cast when I came here to the House of Representatives was to cast a vote to provide relief to the victims of Hurricane Sandy, not my district, not my community, not my region, but fellow Americans.

□ 1415

I was proud of that vote. I was proud that, at that moment, on that day, as a Member of the House of Representatives, I was first an American, and when other Americans were suffering, we were willing to help. Why not Flint? Why spend time on these meaningless political messaging bills when there are real problems in this country that need to be addressed?

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we put aside this nonsense and get to the work that the American people sent us here to do.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, the motion to recommit is an attempt by the minority to gloss over the IRS' failure to enforce its rules for IRS employee conduct and over its failure to protect taxpayer dollars.

Quite simply, this bill would require the IRS to report to Congress as to whether it has employees with seriously delinquent tax debt or to report why it cannot provide that information to Congress.

As I have said multiple times, the American people deserve and expect IRS employees to follow the same tax laws that they administer. That is an expectation of the IRS; so it is not surprising that the IRS would have a low rate of delinquency amongst its employees. IRS employees should know that it is current law. Current law actually requires that the IRS fire willfully tax-noncompliant employees unless they have reasonable cause for not paying their taxes. What is shocking is that, in most cases, Mr. Speaker, the IRS leadership fails to even document why delinquent employees are not penalized, and 61 percent were not penalized for having delinquent taxes.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, is a critical step forward in restoring accountability and trust in the IRS. It is a trust that has been broken—a trust, I would argue, that doesn't exist between the people and the IRS.

I urge my colleagues to make the IRS accountable to the American people—to vote against the motion to recommit and to vote "yes" on H.R. 1206.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to recommit on H.R. 1206;

Passage of H.R. 1206, if ordered; and

Passage of H.R. 4885.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

NO HIRES FOR THE DELINQUENT IRS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 1206) to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt, offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 177, nays 245, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 159]

YEAS—177

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Napolitano
Aguilar	Fudge	Neal
Ashford	Gabbard	Nolan
Bass	Gallego	Norcross
Beatty	Garamendi	O'Rourke
Becerra	Graham	Pallone
Bera	Grayson	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Grijalva	Peters
Boyle, Brendan F.	Gutiérrez	Peterson
Brady (PA)	Hahn	Pingree
Brown (FL)	Hastings	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)	Polis
Bustos	Higgins	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Himes	Quigley
Capps	Hinojosa	Rangel
Capuano	Honda	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Huffman	Richmond
Carney	Jackson Lee	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Ruiz
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Keating	Sánchez, Linda T.
Ciçilline	Kelly (IL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kildeer	Schakowsky
Clay	Kilmer	Schiff
Cleaver	Kind	Schrader
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Kuster	Scott, David
Connolly	Langevin	Serrano
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Costa	Larson (CT)	Sinema
Courtney	Lawrence	Sires
Crowley	Lee	Slaughter
Cuellar	Levin	Smith (WA)
Cummings	Lewis	Speier
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lipinski	Takai
DeFazio	Loeb	Takano
DeGette	Loeb	Thompson (CA)
Delaney	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	Lowe	Titus
DelBene	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Tonko
DeSaulnier	Lynch	Torres
Deutch	Maloney	Tsongas
Dingell	Malone	Vargas
Doggett	Carolyn	Veasey
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Sean	Vela
Duckworth	McCollum	Velázquez
Edwards	McDermott	Visclosky
Ellison	McGovern	Walz
Engel	McNerney	Wasserman
Eshoo	Meeks	Schultz
Esty	Meng	Waters, Maxine
Farr	Moore	Watson Coleman
Foster	Moulton	Welch
	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth
	Nadler	

NAYS—245

Abraham	Carter (GA)	Duncan (TN)
Aderholt	Carter (TX)	Ellmers (NC)
Allen	Chabot	Emmer (MN)
Amash	Chaffetz	Farenthold
Amodei	Clawson (FL)	Fitzpatrick
Babin	Coffman	Fleischmann
Barletta	Cole	Fleming
Barr	Collins (GA)	Flores
Barton	Collins (NY)	Forbes
Benishek	Comstock	Fortenberry
Bilirakis	Conaway	Fox
Bishop (MI)	Cook	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (UT)	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Black	Costello (PA)	Garrett
Blackburn	Cramer	Gibbs
Blum	Crawford	Gibson
Bost	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Boustany	Culberson	Goodlatte
Brady (TX)	Curbelo (FL)	Gosar
Brat	Davis, Rodney	Gowdy
Bridenstine	Denham	Granger
Brooks (AL)	Dent	Graves (GA)
Brooks (IN)	DeSantis	Graves (LA)
Buchanan	DesJarlais	Graves (MO)
Buck	Diaz-Balart	Griffith
Bucshon	Dold	Grothman
Burgess	Donovan	Guinta
Byrne	Duffy	Guthrie
Calvert	Duncan (SC)	Hanna

Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul

NOT VOTING—11

Beyer  
Fattah  
Fincher  
Hoyer

Israel  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Matsui  
Payne  
Sewell (AL)  
Van Hollen  
Wilson (FL)

□ 1550

Messrs. BROOKS of Alabama, GOSAR, GOHMERT, RATCLIFFE, DESJARLAIS, MEADOWS, NUGENT, SCALISE, HANNA, LAMALFA, MICA, SANFORD, BISHOP of Utah, and ROONEY of Florida changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. TAKANO, DANNY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. NADLER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 254, noes 170, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 160]

AYES—254

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Ashford  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishek  
Bera  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Woodall  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Culberson  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Dold  
Donovan  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Graham  
Granger  
Graves (GA)

Adams  
Aguilar  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
Rothfus  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jolly  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Langevin  
Connolly  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Kind  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sherman  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Beyer  
Fattah  
Fincher  
Hoyer

Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Matsui  
Payne  
Sewell (AL)  
Van Hollen

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1558

Mr. NORCROSS changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 4498, HELPING ANGELS LEAD OUR STARTUPS ACT

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, the Rules Committee issued an announcement outlining the amendment process for H.R. 4498, the HALOS Act.

The amendment deadline has been set for Monday, April 25, at 3 p.m. For the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Financial Services and for more details, please contact me or the Rules Committee Web site. Our staff is also available to answer any questions that may arise from any Member of our body.

**IRS OVERSIGHT WHILE ELIMINATING SPENDING (OWES) ACT OF 2016**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 179, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 161]

YEAS—245

Abraham	Crenshaw	Harper
Aderholt	Cuellar	Harris
Allen	Culberson	Hartzler
Amash	Curbelo (FL)	Heck (NV)
Amodei	Davis, Rodney	Hensarling
Babin	Denham	Herrera Beutler
Barletta	Dent	Hice, Jody B.
Barr	DeSantis	Hill
Barton	DesJarlais	Holding
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Hudson
Billirakis	Dold	Huelskamp
Bishop (MI)	Donovan	Huizenga (MI)
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Hultgren
Black	Duncan (SC)	Hunter
Blackburn	Duncan (TN)	Hurd (TX)
Blum	Ellmers (NC)	Hurt (VA)
Bost	Emmer (MN)	Issa
Boustany	Farenthold	Jenkins (KS)
Brady (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Jenkins (WV)
Brat	Fleischmann	Johnson (OH)
Bridenstine	Fleming	Johnson, Sam
Brooks (AL)	Flores	Jolly
Brooks (IN)	Forbes	Jones
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Jordan
Buck	Fox	Joyce
Bucshon	Franks (AZ)	Katko
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Kelly (MS)
Byrne	Garrett	Kelly (PA)
Calvert	Gibbs	King (IA)
Carter (GA)	Gibson	King (NY)
Carter (TX)	Gohmert	Kinzinger (IL)
Chabot	Goodlatte	Kline
Chaffetz	Gosar	Knight
Clawson (FL)	Govdy	Labrador
Coffman	Granger	LaHood
Cole	Graves (GA)	LaMalfa
Collins (GA)	Graves (LA)	Lamborn
Collins (NY)	Graves (MO)	Lance
Comstock	Griffith	Latta
Conaway	Grothman	LoBiondo
Cook	Guinta	Long
Costello (PA)	Guthrie	Loudermilk
Cramer	Hanna	Love
Crawford	Hardy	Lucas

Luetkemeyer	Poe (TX)
Lummis	Poliquin
MacArthur	Pompeo
Marchant	Posey
Marino	Price, Tom
Massie	Ratcliffe
McCarthy	Reed
McCaul	Reichert
McClintock	Renacci
McHenry	Ribble
McKinley	Rice (SC)
McMorris	Rigell
Rodgers	Roby
McSally	Roe (TN)
Meadows	Rogers (AL)
Meehan	Rogers (KY)
Messer	Rohrabacher
Mica	Rokita
Miller (FL)	Rooney (FL)
Miller (MI)	Ros-Lehtinen
Moolenaar	Roskam
Mooney (WV)	Ross
Mullin	Rothfus
Mulvaney	Rouzer
Murphy (PA)	Royce
Neugebauer	Russell
Newhouse	Salmon
Noem	Sanford
Nugent	Scalise
Nunes	Schweikert
Olson	Scott, Austin
Palazzo	Sensenbrenner
Palmer	Sessions
Paulsen	Shimkus
Pearce	Shuster
Perry	Simpson
Pittenger	Smith (MO)
Pitts	Smith (NE)

NAYS—179

Adams	Ellison
Aguilar	Engel
Ashford	Eshoo
Bass	Esty
Beatty	Farr
Becerra	Foster
Bera	Frankel (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Fudge
Blumenauer	Gabbard
Bonamici	Gallego
Boyle, Brendan	Garamendi
F.	Graham
Brady (PA)	Grayson
Brown (FL)	Green, Al
Brownley (CA)	Green, Gene
Bustos	Grijalva
Butterfield	Gutierrez
Capps	Hahn
Capuano	Hastings
Cárdenas	Heck (WA)
Carney	Higgins
Carson (IN)	Himes
Cartwright	Hinojosa
Castor (FL)	Honda
Castro (TX)	Huffman
Chu, Judy	Israel
Ciilline	Jackson Lee
Clark (MA)	Jeffries
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)
Clay	Johnson, E. B.
Cleaver	Kaptur
Clyburn	Keating
Cohen	Kelly (IL)
Connolly	Kennedy
Conyers	Kildee
Cooper	Kilmer
Costa	Kind
Courtney	Kirkpatrick
Crowley	Kuster
Cummings	Langevin
Davis (CA)	Larsen (WA)
Davis, Danny	Larson (CT)
DeFazio	Lawrence
DeGette	Lee
Delaney	Levin
DeLauro	Lewis
DeBene	Lieu, Ted
DeSaulnier	Lipinski
Deutch	Loeb
Dingell	Lofgren
Doggett	Lowenthal
Doyle, Michael	Lowe
F.	Lujan, Ben Ray
Duckworth	(NM)
Edwards	Lynch

Smith (NJ)	Takano
Smith (TX)	Thompson (CA)
Stefanik	Thompson (MS)
Stewart	Titus
Stivers	Tonko
Stutzman	Torres
Reed	Thompson (PA)
Thornberry	Tsongas
Tiberi	
Tipton	
Trott	
Turner	
Upton	
Valadao	
Wagner	
Walberg	
Walden	
Walker	
Walorski	
Walters, Mimi	
Weber (TX)	
Webster (FL)	
Wenstrup	
Westerman	
Westmoreland	
Whitfield	
Williams	
Wilson (SC)	
Wittman	
Womack	
Woodall	
Yoder	
Yoho	
Young (AK)	
Young (IA)	
Young (IN)	
Zeldin	
Zinke	

Takano	Vargas
Thompson (CA)	Veasey
Thompson (MS)	Vela
Titus	Velázquez
Tonko	Visclosky
Torres	Walz
Tsongas	

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Beyer	Lujan Grisham	Sewell (AL)
Fattah	(NM)	Van Hollen
Fincher	Matsui	
Hoyer	Payne	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1609

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 159 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1206, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

On rollcall No. 160 on H.R. 1206, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

On rollcall No. 161 on H.R. 4885, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

**HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW**

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

**HONORING BOBBY ROBERTS**

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the lifetime of civic contributions and the legacy of one of Arkansas’ great leaders, Bobby Roberts.

Bobby will be greatly missed after his retiring earlier this year from a 27-year career of service to our library system, particularly in his helping assure the growth of educational libraries and humanities throughout our State.

In assuming the role of executive director of the Central Arkansas Library System in 1989, Bobby helped take the system to new heights—expanding from 6 libraries to a total of 14, including 9 branches in the city of Little Rock.

Bobby Roberts has made our central Arkansas community better read, better networked, and better led. I extend my best regards in this next chapter of his life.



### HACK THE PENTAGON BUG BOUNTY PROGRAM

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Department of Defense kicked off the first bug bounty program in the history of the Federal Government. Like similar programs used in industry, Hack the Pentagon is based on a coordinated vulnerability disclosure process. If a security researcher finds a security problem in public-facing Web sites that are operated by the DOD, he or she can submit it for review. Should the bug represent a security risk, the Department will then pay the researcher a bounty for his or her work.

Coordinated vulnerability programs allow us to crowdsource security, encouraging curious minds to share their discoveries responsibly while providing accountability for institutions that operate or develop software.

I congratulate Secretary Carter for his leadership in creating this program, and I hope other agencies consider adopting programs like this of their own.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage any hackers out there to check out Hack the Pentagon site and help make the pilot program a success.

### CAMERAS IN THE SUPREME COURT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of the United States heard the historical case of *United States v. Texas*, on Monday, regarding executive overreach.

People all over the country are interested in this case, but only a handful of spectators could see the public proceedings. The courtroom is small, and seating is limited. If the public has the right to be present in the courtroom of the Supreme Court, the public should be allowed to view the proceedings in their entirety on television or through live streaming.

Imagine the benefit to law school students to see actual proceedings of the Supreme Court. Also, the public is concerned and wants to know what happens behind those closed doors. It is time to educate the world about what actually occurs in the most important court in the world—the United States Supreme Court.

I was one of the first judges in Texas to allow cameras in the courtroom. All the naysayers said it wouldn't work, but it did. It was a benefit to all. Let the world know what happens in the Supreme Court. Allow these cameras.

Currently, Representative CONNOLLY from Virginia and I are cosponsoring a

bill to do exactly this. It is better to show all of the proceedings to the public than to rely on a 30-second sound bite from a news reporter on television during the 5 o'clock news.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 1615

### GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE ACT

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in this often colorful Presidential election, which has gotten much attention not only here in the United States but around the world, it occurred to me in watching the coverage last night that there is actually something the majority of Americans and probably a majority of both those who are supporting Donald Trump and those who are supporting BERNIE SANDERS agree on; that is that they believe Washington, D.C., is bought and paid for.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who has chosen public service as a profession, that deeply concerns me.

A majority of Americans believe right now that we are all tainted by this campaign finance process, even though I believe that most who have chosen this profession are good and honorable people who are wanting to do the right thing. The fact is we are all tainted by the way in which our campaigns are financed, but we can change that.

It is time for public financing of elections. It is time for H.R. 20, Government By the People Act. Let's get all of the outside money entirely out of the system and return the confidence that the people will have in their elected officials.

### HONORING DOYLE AND REBECCA CORMAN FOR THEIR IMPACT ON CENTRE COUNTY YOUTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Doyle and Becky Corman for earning the Joe and Sue Paterno Community Impact Award in recognizing their dedication and their contributions to the youth of Centre County, Pennsylvania.

The Juniata Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which I had spent more than three decades serving within the Council as a scoutmaster, executive board member, and president, offers the award. Given my history with the Council, I can tell you that the Cormans follow a long line of men and women who have dedicated

their lives to the service of their community.

Mr. Corman served as a State Senator from Centre County for more than 20 years, from 1977 to 1998. Over the years, he and his wife, Becky, have provided vital support for community organizations, including the Boy Scouts, the YMCA, a scholarship to Penn State University, and much, much more.

They are also the parents of Pennsylvania State Majority Leader Jake Corman. The Cormans are a real credit to Centre County and its communities.

I congratulate the Cormans on this award, and I look forward to many more years of their work for our region's youth.

### HOUSTON FLOODING ASSISTANCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from my district which I might say is under water with, again, another torrential rain that has caused so many Houstonians and those in the surrounding areas to suffer. We did this with Tropical Storm Allison last year in May 2015, and now again in 2016.

You see the depth of devastation by the families that I visited at M.O. Campbell and in apartment complexes. First, let me thank the mayor and county government officials who are working so hard.

We need to move as quickly as possible for the Presidential declaration of natural disaster. I know it is a process, and I accept that. But we also have to have a way of investing in the infrastructure of overcoming the terrible aspect of places where water comes with no place to go.

We need a national infrastructure effort and one that involves the State of Texas and Houston, Harris County, as well because we lost eight lives.

Finally, let me say, Mr. Speaker, as I indicate to the Texas Department of Transportation that receives Federal funds, we must put flashing lights and signals where there are underpasses where people have died. We have to save lives.

I will continue to fight for housing and for the Federal declaration and for FEMA. People are suffering, and we are going to work with them and give them hope.

### EARTH DAY

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Earth Day, which we will celebrate this Friday. Each year on Earth Day we recommit to preserving a healthy and sustainable environment for our future generations.

When Pope Francis addressed Congress over 6 months ago, he called for a courageous and responsible effort to redirect our steps and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity.

That is why I believe that the greatest thing that this Chamber can do right now in honor of Earth Day is to fully reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided critical funding to help protect and preserve our natural areas, our water resources, and our cultural heritage.

So it is an important source of funding that allows so many of our Nation's urban youth to understand the environment, to get to know the wilderness, to gain that valuable understanding and respect for wildlife and our environment.

We must act responsibly and permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

#### EARTH DAY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, this Earth Day, we celebrate the historic steps that most of the world's countries, from tiny island nations to the biggest polluters, are taking to reduce pollution and to improve the state of our climate.

On Earth Day, more than 160 countries, including the United States, are signing the landmark Paris climate agreement, taking the next step toward creating a healthier and a safer environment for our communities and protecting our families and our children's health.

I am proud that the United States is leading this effort. I urge my colleagues to throw out those tired and false talking points about international inaction.

Instead, capitalize on this global effort by supporting a swift transition away from dirty fuels toward a future of low-cost, locally made clean energy.

This is our time to lead. Happy Earth Day 2016.

#### HONORING TONY R. RICHISON

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Tony Richison, a veteran from Ohio's 11th Congressional District who died on March 30.

Mr. Richison and I were friends for many years. He was a respected leader in our community and served as a member of my selection panel for military service academy nominations.

Known for his big personality and love of service to his Nation, Mr.

Richison entered the Army at age 16. He served for 10 years during the Korean war and received a Bronze Star for his bravery.

As a champion for returning servicemen and -women, he founded Veterans for Ohio, a nonprofit that provided assistance to veterans in Cuyahoga County.

Through his work, more than 30 veterans won disability claims and more than 80 gained much-needed housing and medical assistance.

Mr. Richison was a patriot, a community leader, and an advocate. The State of Ohio is indebted to him for his service and sacrifice. He will be greatly missed.

#### CONGRATULATING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of East Brunswick High School's We the People team. We the People is a civic education program that has reached more than 28 million students since its inception in 1987.

Each year approximately 1,200 students from across the country demonstrate their knowledge of complex constitutional principles in both historical and contemporary contexts.

This week a talented group of young minds from East Brunswick High School in my district will compete for one of ten spots in the final round of competition. I wish both the coach and the team the best of luck and continued success.

#### CONGRATULATING SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT APPOINTEES TO MILITARY ACADEMIES

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the following young men and women from the Second Congressional District on their appointments to one of our Nation's military academies:

Miss Sara Elizabeth Burton from Hedgesville High School in Berkley County and Mr. Zane Kessler from Teays Valley Christian Academy in Putnam County have both received appointments to the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Drew Polczynski from Jefferson High School in Jefferson County received appointments from both the Merchant Marine Academy and West Point. His mother, Julie, informs me that he plans on attending West Point in the fall.

Mr. Charles Willis from Carlisle High School received a Presidential appointment to West Point.

Finally, Mr. Jeremy Hammes from Herbert Hoover High School in Kanawha County and Mr. Seth Kirby from Wirt County High School have both received appointments from West Point.

Congratulations to all of these hard-working, dedicated, intelligent, and patriotic young men and women on their appointments.

#### NATIONAL FINANCIAL CAPABILITY MONTH

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join President Obama in recognizing April as National Financial Capability Month and highlight the vital role that the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and State CPA societies play in educating all Americans.

CPAs have been leaders in increasing the financial capacity of Americans by creating and distributing free programs, tools, and resources.

Through the American Institute of CPAs' 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program, some tens of thousands of CPAs volunteer to educate Americans and to open doors to the middle class.

The AICPA National CPA Financial Literacy Commission leads a nationwide effort to advance financial literacy. This is the tenth year of the Feed the Pig program, the AICPA's public service campaign along with the Ad Council that provides free resources to make smart saving decisions.

Literacy begins with the letters A, B, C. Financial literacy begins with the letters C, P, A.

#### POVERTY, OPPORTUNITY, AND UPWARD MOBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, in today's Special Order, my colleagues and I will focus on the important work being done in all of our communities to expand opportunity, alleviate poverty, and promote upward mobility for all Americans.

I want to personally acknowledge Speaker RYAN for his focus and leadership on this important issue and his efforts to energize local leaders to explore new, effective policies for combating poverty in the United States.

In 2014, we marked 50 years since the Great Society program was commenced by President Johnson. Over the past 25 years, Congress has taken numerous steps intended to reduce poverty in the United States, but these have not had the long-term effects that many expected.

This is largely because of an undue focus on welfare reform rather than just identifying specifically and focusing on addressing the underlying causes of poverty.

Identifying opportunities for self-improvement, addressing the increased growth in poverty and the pernicious effects across the U.S. are of keen interest to me, particularly given Arkansas' elevated poverty rate of 19.7 percent of our population.

□ 1630

I believe it is crucial to focus our attention on identifying ways to empower individuals to take control of their own livelihoods and futures so that they no longer feel that they must rely on external programs that, at best, only play an ancillary role in improving economic circumstances and, at worst, perpetuate intergenerational cycles of poverty.

In these important discussions surrounding poverty in America, I also believe it is critical that we focus on our rural, as well as urban, populations. In my view, the President's policies and proposals have largely ignored the needs of our rural communities that continue to struggle.

Arkansas has a significant population of rural, low-income families, whose hardships are often overlooked in the bigger picture of poverty reduction. That is because rural poverty occurs in lower population concentrations, and some deem the plight of rural poverty to be less acute than that in urban areas. It is important that both faces of poverty be recognized and that solutions be applicable and readily adaptable to a variety of circumstances and regions.

This past year, all of us in the House were graced with a visit by the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The Holy Father has stated that the principle of subsidiarity affords freedom at every level of society to work and to innovate.

The Pope argued passionately that day that attempts to resolve all problems through uniform regulations or technical interventions can lead to overlooking the complexities of local problems which demand the active participation of all members of the community.

In tackling the social challenges of the globe, the Pope expressed there are

no uniform recipes. There is no one path to a solution. Instead, the Pope called on the principles of stewardship, subsidiarity, and collaboration to seek solutions.

Last year I started the Community Empowerment Initiative in my hometown of Little Rock to consider key strategies for tackling poverty reduction in Arkansas' Second Congressional District. The CEI also seeks to encourage community engagement and help educate communities to value their strength and identify their assets to foster community ownership and encourage individuals to be aware and involved in rejuvenating our communities and lives.

I am grateful for my colleagues who have joined me today to discuss this important topic. I look forward to sharing some of the success stories from my own district and highlighting action that Congress can take to support local initiatives.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER). I invite him to come to the podium and talk about his experiences. He is a freshman Member of Congress with me. I have very much enjoyed getting to know Representative WALKER. He brings a unique perspective to this. I welcome my friend from North Carolina.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for taking the lead on this and talking about some issues that are very important to us. I do agree, since President Johnson's War on Poverty began in 1964, the United States taxpayers have spent over \$22 trillion on anti-poverty programs. Yet, for many places in this country, poverty is worse, hunger is worse. Even in our district in the triad, we have places where there are food deserts and food insecurities.

After 50 years, we have to ask ourselves, have we seen any real progress in our communities. Families have been caught up in this generational cycle of dependence that has depleted the resources in many of our communities.

Somewhere along the way, the Federal Government missed the mark. We have created programs that measure success on how many people we put on Federal programs, not measured by how many people we are able to move off programs for upward mobility.

Last week, former Congressman J. C. Watts and I toured North Carolina's Sixth District, my home district. We saw passionate community members working to combat many aspects of poverty. Some were working with limited Federal Government assistance; some were doing so without any involvement from the Federal Government. These community members have found successful ways to feed the hungry in our food deserts and educate former inmates to become employable, contributing members of our society.

One nonprofit that we toured was the Welfare Reform Liaison Project in Greensboro, North Carolina. They work with a coalition of community partners under Project Re-Entry. Their goal is bringing the inside to the outside by assisting former offenders returning to the community after serving prison sentences.

It is not just about the program. We have to love the least of these—as people of faith, we are called to do so—and understanding that sometimes we must put the relationship before the policy to achieve maximum success.

Another wonderful nonprofit we toured was BackPack Beginnings, 100 percent volunteer driven and community run. They directly provide food and necessities to children in need to make a positive and lasting impact on their health and their future well-being.

One county has no State or federally funded weekend feeding programs. These people have come behind to offer assistance for schoolchildren, and BackPack Beginnings works to fill that gap, all without the Federal Government's involvement, serving 4,000 children in 38 county schools.

Members of the people's House are committed to finding ideas that work to address the underlying causes of poverty and empower local community. I am proud to be part of that with my dear friend and colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas, FRENCH HILL.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WALKER for his contributions. I appreciate his thoughts.

When I think about one of the most challenging things that we face in our country, I think about homelessness. When I first became a Member of Congress, it was one of particular interest to me to learn what was happening in Little Rock about homelessness because Arkansas has the third highest rate for children and families in homelessness, so it was a keen issue.

One place I found that was a major success story in using private money and some public money was an entity called Our House. It was founded back in 1987 to address the gap in services for central Arkansas' working homeless and homeless families. They now have a 7-acre campus in downtown Little Rock, and Our House empowers homeless and near-homeless families and individuals to succeed in the workplace.

Between 110 and 120 men, women, and children call Our House's campus home every night, and it serves about 1,800 people annually, about 75 percent of whom are coming to Our House completely homeless. But the shelter's goal is not just simply to provide a safe place for a few nights. It is to permanently break the cycle of homelessness by equipping the working homeless with the skills to be successful in the workforce.

In her decade of leadership of Our House as executive director, Georgia Mjartan has done a remarkable job overseeing the expansion and growth of the shelter into a one-stop shop to address the root causes of poverty. She has collected the many stories of hope from the people who have been touched by her work.

One that particularly touched me was the story of a young woman who didn't graduate from high school, was unable to pay her rent and support her children on the very little money that she made from working in the fast food industry.

When she got to Our House, she was dejected and without a sense of purpose or hope for the future. Within a few months, she was receiving training that she needed to earn her GED, and she was securing a job that paid a living wage.

Two years after leaving Our House, she went back to tell Georgia about the turn her life had taken. As the head teacher for a daycare center, she had acquired her own place, continued the saving practices that she had learned at Our House, and was putting money away for her own kids to go to college.

Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of model that we need in this country to make a permanent break for our working poor.

I now yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT). I ask my friend, a distinguished member of the Committee on Small Business, to talk about his views on what we can be doing in this area.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for his leadership in this very important area.

Mr. Speaker, when families in this country struggle, it is appropriate that we take reasonable steps to help them through a rough patch. We have several programs designed to do just that, like the Food Stamp program. It is also known now as the SNAP program, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides a short-term safety net for those who have fallen on hard times.

However, the Food Stamp program, like most welfare programs, was never intended to become a way of life for its recipients. Unfortunately, that is exactly what has happened. That is what has happened to far too many people in this country. It is supposed to be temporary help to the truly needy. Unfortunately, to many, it has become a permanent way of life.

To address this growing problem, we need to take steps to help people get off public assistance and back on their own feet. One way to do this is to enact strong work and job training requirements for those able to work.

That is why I introduced legislation, H.R. 4849, a couple weeks ago to restore

and strengthen work requirements for able-bodied adults enrolled in the Food Stamp program, or SNAP program. Under this legislation, in order to continue to receive benefits, those recipients able to work must either find employment—which is what we would certainly prefer—or participate in a job training program in order to enable them to get work or to volunteer for the community in some eligible capacity.

So real help to other people in need in the community. That seems very reasonable that somebody who is receiving benefits, tax dollars, would actually give something back to the community or be on the path to better themselves so that they can get off the need to rely on their fellow citizens and on their own two feet, as we said before.

The legislation also addresses waste and abuse in the Food Stamp—or SNAP—program by expunging unused benefits after a 90-day period. The intent of the Food Stamp program is to assist those families in need on an as-needed basis. If a recipient hasn't utilized all their benefits after 90 days, which is a reasonable period of time, I think, then the recipient has not really demonstrated the need for those funds. So let's use those unused funds to help some other truly needy people or let's give that money back to the taxpayers, where it came from in the first place.

Ohio did a study and they found that in 25 people, there was \$300,000 sitting in the SNAP account that they hadn't used, just building up. Unfortunately, that is often times funds that are going to end up in either fraud or are going to be used for other purposes that was never intended for food stamps.

Food stamps are supposed to help people, the truly needy, not be there to end up being used for gambling purposes, buying lottery tickets, or to buy drugs or alcohol or anything like that. So this takes some of the abuses, I think, out of the system.

Mr. Speaker, these are commonsense reforms that will help make sure that food stamps go to those who actually need them while at the same time protecting our tax dollars from those who would take advantage of the system.

I want to thank, again, the gentleman from Arkansas, FRENCH HILL, for his leadership on this issue. This is a very important issue. There is a lot of money, unfortunately, that gets wasted in a lot of these programs. Let's make sure that the safety net is really helping people and not being abused. I thank him for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. HILL. I thank my distinguished friend from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD). A distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means and a former member of the Committee on Financial Serv-

ices, Mr. DOLD has been quite keen on ways to improve opportunities for people throughout the metropolitan Chicago area. I welcome the gentleman and look forward to his remarks.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank my good friend from Arkansas for leading this Special Order on a topic that, frankly, is extremely important. It is a nonpartisan issue from my perspective because really what we are talking about is how do we enable some of the neediest folks among us in our communities all across our country to be able to provide for themselves. I think, obviously, one of those key ingredients is about getting a good job.

Ultimately, as we look over the past period of time, since the War on Poverty began, our country has spent over \$20 trillion—over \$20 trillion—to move the needle from about 15 percent in poverty to what it is today at about 14.6 percent in poverty. I submit to you that that is criminal, that so many today, after spending so many resources, are still in poverty.

Whether it be housing needs, whether it be nutrition needs, ultimately what this really boils down to, I would argue, is that we need to be focusing on how do we get evidence-based reforms. How do we focus on outcomes? How do we know that the assistance that is out there—because there isn't a community member out there who doesn't want to help a neighbor.

I would submit to you, the stories that I see when I go up into north Chicago, into Waukegan, into Des Plaines and into Round Lake, these are areas around my district where, honestly, we have people who are struggling to make ends meet, those who require assistance.

Frankly, we need to be able to have a springboard and, frankly, we need to think outside of the box about programs that are enabling individuals to be able to have better outcomes so that we don't have a cycle of poverty, but yet we are able to break that cycle and actually talk about TANF reforms, talk about how do we get some education reforms.

□ 1645

Just last week I spent some time over at the Lake County Jail talking to inmates who often times come out of prison with little hope of being able to find a job. And we know the statistics right off the bat. If they don't find a job within 6 months, they have a 66 percent chance of going right back into prison. That doesn't help them, that doesn't help our community. That is at a huge cost. We need to focus on our outcomes.

So one of the things that certainly I think that we ought to be looking at, one of the things that the Committee on Ways and Means has been looking at, and a piece of legislation that I

have offered, is talking about how we get people into a job, accelerating individuals, accelerating those hard-working Americans that want to be able to stand on their own two feet in a job.

And this would be a pilot program. Because the one thing that we do know, Mr. HILL, is that a one-size-fits-all mentality is not going to work. We know a one-size-fits-all mentality doesn't work with education, a one-size-fits-all mentality doesn't work with pick your program.

We need to allow innovators in our country that know what works well in Arkansas, what works well in New York. We are going to hear from our good friend, Mr. REED, if he ever decides to get up and get to a microphone. We are going to hear from all those folks that, again, a one-size-fits-all mentality does not work.

This would be a pilot program that would enable these institutions, that would enable different States to run a pilot program to enable employers to be able to pick up, let's say, half the cost of a person's salary for the first 12 months. So the government would pick up half, the employer would pick up half. The idea there is that we would be able to offset some of that on-the-job training that is so very, very critical.

The other thing that I think we ought to be looking at is social impact partnerships, another interesting idea. Representative TODD YOUNG, also a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, introduced a bill that I am a cosponsor of. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation that will allow private investment in local communities for new public-private partnerships.

I think this is enormously important. If the programs are successful, then the government will have reimbursed the investors, which is a practical way of doing it. We are going to reward success, and it will breed more success.

The unemployment rate today, if we were to go and pick up the paper, will say it is around 5 percent. And yet I know if you go into Waukegan, Illinois, today, for African American males, the unemployment rate is 43 percent. That is criminal. Frankly, we can and must do better. So it is about coming up with ideas about rewarding outcomes, about focusing on job training, about focusing on education.

At the Lake County Jail last week, I went in and they were actually doing GED classes. I am thrilled that we are actually trying to empower people with education and some of the skills necessary to empower them when they get out, but we have so much more work to do, so much more work to be able to allow them to be able to have a chance at getting that job to be able to provide food for their families, be able to put a roof over their head.

The Lake County Housing Authority, run by David Northern, again, is an or-

ganization that is working hard and is actually doing some innovative things. They are actually putting people into work, giving them a roof over their head, and actually having some forced savings. They are putting them through a program so that when they graduate from this program, they actually are graduating not only with a good job, they are graduating with a roof over their head. They are also graduating with the savings account full of about anywhere between \$4,000, \$6,000, and \$8,000—savings that they didn't know that they could have, putting them on a completely different path.

This weekend I was at the Eddie Washington Center up in Waukegan. They just had their graduation. These are grown men that have hit rock bottom. They have gone in for help. And the Eddie Washington Center is an agency that will provide a roof over their head for these men. They will get them jobs and tasks to do in order to help run the facility. They will get them put into a job, and then they work through this process. It is a program that lasts anywhere between 6 and 9 months. But at the end of that 6 to 9 months, they have a graduation.

Again, these are individuals that have a job. They have built up that ability, that discipline. They have got a roof over their head, they have had a change in their life, and they have been put on a different path. They, too, also are required to save and have a bank account.

It is about trying to do things differently. Again, I think that is what we are trying to do. We are trying to do things differently and have an outcome, because the one thing that we know is that poverty doesn't discriminate, in the sense that it can be in Arkansas, Illinois, New York, and Nevada. It can be all over the place. Frankly, we need to find a way that we minimize the amount of poverty in our Nation.

So I am delighted to be here today. And I want to thank my good friend from Arkansas for not only organizing this time here on the floor, but for shining a light on things that, frankly, we have so much more work to do on. So much more work to do. Frankly, we need to make sure that they know that we want better outcomes. We want better outcomes for these individuals that are struggling day in and day out.

So, again, I am honored to be up here again today. I want to thank my good friend for yielding to me. I look forward to working with you and, frankly, all the Members of this body because in the 114th Congress, we need to make it our mission to end poverty as we know it. I look forward to working with you all.

Mr. HILL. I thank the gentleman from Illinois. I appreciate his passion for this issue and his hands-on ap-

proach about finding things in his community and district that work. I believe that we all can share that information and learn from each other, which is a key purpose for this hour.

Mr. Speaker, last week, Representative TIPTON and I were up in Manhattan. We went to The Doe Fund. What an impressive operation that is. I came away so renewed in faith. What is going on there in New York, where they face an enormous avalanche of challenges, is so well tackled by the men and women of The Doe Fund. I look forward to talking about that, but it is a nice segue for me to yield to the gentleman from western New York, (Mr. REED), my good friend and a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means, for his views on how we can tackle poverty.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for yielding and for taking the leadership in putting this Special Order together to discuss poverty in America.

Before I get into some of the substance, I want to talk about this from a personal perspective. I have 11 older brothers and sisters. My father passed when I was 2. I was raised by a single mom. It was tough. But she always taught me the lessons of life that have carried me through, and that is to have a good attitude, a positive, optimistic attitude, a commitment to hard work, a commitment to discipline, and a commitment to respect our fellow man.

So I come here to this floor this evening as a Republican to say to all of America: We care. We care about our fellow American citizens that are stuck in poverty for generations.

As my colleague from Illinois had indicated, we have spent over \$20 trillion out of the Federal coffers of hard-working American taxpayer dollars on the war on poverty. And the harsh reality is that war has been lost.

The policies and the visions of old must change. We must attack this issue in a new model by, first, demonstrating to our fellow citizens that we do care, that we are not here to penalize, to judge, but what we are here to do is offer a new vision.

I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle often chastise us Republicans as people who want to take things away and that we don't really care about those people that are suffering in America. That frustrates me, that angers me, because we do care.

And what we are saying to those fellow American citizens is that we are offering a new way of dealing with this issue. We want to empower you. We want to provide an opportunity for you and your family to flourish.

How do we do that?

How we do that is what we are talking about here tonight, as my good friend from Arkansas has opened his remarks with. We empower people to

have an opportunity to have the tools that really will combat and cure poverty in America, and that is a good-paying job, a good education.

Before my father passed, my mom and dad had a promise to each other. They recognized and they talked to me and now I am passing it on to my kids in my household that education is key to the success that you will experience in life in America.

So what we need to do is make sure that education is provided to this generation in a way that empowers them with the tools to pull themselves out of poverty. We also have to recognize that the work ethic in America is what makes us strong, that provide these opportunities, and that we should not have policies out of Washington, D.C., on this war on poverty that have penalized work as people try to rebuild themselves and pull themselves out of poverty.

We should have a reform of what they call the welfare cliff. What that essentially is, if you are going back to work, you are essentially penalized because your benefits are pulled away from you.

What we need is a commonsense system that says: We are going to stand with you. Life is going to throw you curve balls. We will give you a helping hand and stand with you so long as we stand together and you move yourself and stand on your own two feet as you go forward.

That is what this welfare cliff reform is all about. It is about making sure that the programs have resources that encourage and promote education and technical training and skills that people can then put to their own uses so that they can have a job for themselves and their family.

I will end with this. We have a system, too, that essentially says: In this war on poverty, we are going to gauge success by how much money you spend on this program. We are going to gauge success by how many people come to the government office and see you on a day-to-day basis.

What we need is a system that changes that whole metric and that essentially says to the system: You know what we are going to gauge success on? How many people you move out of poverty and into that position where they stand on their own two feet. It is not just the money that is spent, but the lives that you fundamentally have changed because you stood with them through that difficult time.

So as we go forward, I applaud my colleague from Arkansas. I applaud my colleagues that have come here tonight to demonstrate that, as Republicans on this side of the aisle, we are not going to continue the status quo of decades of failure on the war on poverty.

We need to do better. We have an obligation. I will roll up my sleeves with any colleague on the other side of the

aisle and say: This is the time we come together. Because it is not a Democrat or Republican issue. That is an American issue. And enough is enough.

Mr. HILL. I thank the gentleman from New York. I appreciate his comments and I appreciate his personal testimony today about the importance of this issue. It is a bipartisan issue. It requires all of us working together.

The concept behind our discussion is new ideas, new directions, because what we have done for the last 50 years is not working. And somebody who has been a leader on the Committee on Financial Services for seeking out the best ideas, particularly in how we can tackle a housing solution for so many people in need of quality housing, is the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), chairman of our Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. I thank the gentleman from Arkansas. We certainly are appreciative of all the remarks of my colleagues who are here this evening—and Mr. HARDY, who is following—with regard to this important issue and something that the Speaker is focusing on, which is poverty and upward mobility.

Mr. HILL took time out of his schedule last year to invite me to his district. We were able to go down and visit with some of the residents in public housing units, and we had some great conversations with them.

□ 1700

We also met with some community leaders there in Little Rock and discussed the underlying causes of poverty and those charged with identifying opportunities for people in their communities.

I certainly appreciate the gentleman's commitment to this conversation. I know that he is patient about it. He has spent lots of time with it and is again, this evening, spending more time, so I congratulate him on that.

This past fall, I had the honor of joining several of my colleagues in New Orleans, and we were examining the state of housing in New Orleans 10 years after Hurricane Katrina. We wanted to find out what the local housing authority had done right, what they had done wrong, what their problems, what their pitfalls, and what their barriers have been in trying to get things done because, basically, they had to start from scratch.

Everybody saw the devastation of the hurricane, people living in houses that were devastated, if they were still standing at all, and so it was very interesting to visit that. We visited not just the sites, but the residents themselves.

I will never forget the story of one of the ladies who lived in public housing there. She lived there all her life, lived in public housing all her life, and she

was raising her children in public housing; but she had a goal that she was going to escape this public housing, and she was going to have her children escape public housing and someday own her own home.

To her credit, that particular day, she was so tickled, I will never forget, the smile was from ear to ear. Her son had just received notification that he was approved for a loan to be able to go buy his first house. He had escaped public housing and had fulfilled her dream for not only herself, but her children as well. It was very encouraging, rewarding, and you could see the pride in her.

I think that is the thing that we need to be looking for for all of the folks who don't want handouts, they want hands up. They want to be able to provide for themselves and lift themselves out of this. All we need to do is enable that to happen.

So we must replicate that story, and I think that we can do that.

I am proud to say that the House Republicans are leading the charge by doing this with this Speaker's Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility, and with the hard work of Mr. HILL this evening putting this together to explain to people our positions, to identify new ways to promote independence and dignity.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, we are a part of that task force. We are a part of this discussion that we are having, and I am glad to be a part of it as well.

We must develop 21st century solutions for housing assistance with a higher purpose than simply perpetuating programs that marginalize American families.

Over the past 16 months, as part of my duties as chairman, I have spent time meeting with public housing authorities from not just across my own State, but around the United States as well. One thing is clear: the status quo is not good enough.

In our committee, we have also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development by holding a series of hearings to examine whether or not HUD has fulfilled its mission of providing housing opportunities for those in need.

Since fiscal year 2002, the Federal Government has given more than \$550 billion to HUD, 60 percent of which, the annual funding goes to the Office of Public and Indian Housing. The Section 8 budget alone increased 71 percent between fiscal years 2002 and 2013.

Unfortunately, for HUD, success isn't measured in the number of Federal programs or in dollars spent. I have had no indication from anyone that the growing need is anywhere close to being met. The reality is that the funding situation isn't getting better, so asking for more Federal dollars isn't the solution. It is time to roll up our sleeves

and work together to build a stronger housing safety net.

I am proud to work with my colleague and my friend, Mr. CLEAVER from Missouri—two guys from the “Show-Me” State to show them how to get it done—and we passed H.R. 3700. I am the first to point out this legislation wouldn’t necessarily change the world, and it won’t end homelessness overnight or meet overwhelming need for affordable housing, but it does reform the outdated and duplicative housing policies and programs that haven’t been touched in decades and represents a first step in a long journey to reforming our housing system. The bill passed the House by a vote of 427–0, and I encourage the Senate to pass it without further delay.

Let me close by throwing a few more statistics and a couple of other little thoughts I have here as well out very quickly.

I had the opportunity to visit with some folks from Great Britain; and when we talk about a housing problem or discuss housing in this country, we don’t really know the size of the problem because, in Great Britain, they have 17 percent of their people living in public housing, where here it is about 4. The average age of the child living in Great Britain with their parents is 35. Holy Cow. This is not acceptable, but that is where they are with their housing programs in their country.

In our country, 60 percent of the people that live in public housing are seniors and disabled. So a lot of times, let’s remember, we are talking about the 40 percent whom we need to find ways to move them out, to empower them, to encourage them to be able to get out on their own, but the other 60 percent are folks that probably need to be in this particular subsidized situation where they can have an opportunity to live in their own home.

I mentioned a while ago I was in New Orleans, and it was interesting to see that the part that they had rebuilt was interesting from the standpoint that it wasn’t just building these tenements where people would be stacked on top of each other, but they were building communities. They would build mixed-use buildings, where you have not just people who would rent and be subsidized, but people who would rent and be able to afford to rent themselves, as well as people who owned the property. These mixed-use properties, by doing this, they were able to actually form communities.

So I think there is a model there for us to look at and to begin to consider how to get these things done.

Another thing, the PHA Administrator came by my office last week. He was in town, and we discussed, again, how to work with this 40 percent to get them to find ways to get out on their own and to enable them. Work requirements are something. He said: Hey, they work.

If you give people the opportunity to work and perhaps transition from what they have, as Mr. REED talked about a while ago, I believe it was, this welfare cliff, if you can find a way to sort of feather that thing so that they can slowly transition off, there are lots of folks who want to be able to move from subsidized apartments to their own home, to owning their own home.

I think, at the end of the day, we in Congress need to find a way to get our economy going because the best way to solve this whole problem is with a job. If people have a job, a good-paying job, they can afford to go out and begin to rent on their own and then, hopefully, be able to, at some point, own on their own.

That should be the dream for everyone, like this lady, a while ago, I was talking about from New Orleans. That was her dream. That is the dream of most people in this country. If that is the case, we need to find a way to do that, and the best way is to improve our economy so they have jobs to be able to pay that.

At the end of the day, I think we need to remember that we want people to have not just a place where they can live, but where they can have a life. I think if that is our goal, we will keep our priorities in perspective, and we will be able to do the job of helping our citizens, our constituents, and the folks of this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, the gentleman from Arkansas for his great work on this and having me be a part of it this evening.

Mr. HILL. I thank my colleague from Missouri. I enjoy so much our service together on the Financial Services Committee, and I appreciate his leadership in tackling the puzzle of how to create a housing mission that helps people that need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY), my good friend, who is a fellow member of the freshman class in this Congress.

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arkansas for coming and hosting this serious discussion on the serious issues in this country.

According to the Census Bureau, 15 percent of the population is living below the poverty level. For States that were hit hardest in the 2008 economic downturn, like Nevada, the recession is not just a memory for too many, it is still a reality.

At the lowest point, Nevada’s unemployment rate was an astronomical 13.7 percent, and the poverty rate was at 16.2 percent. The only thing that is more stark than that number is the fact that, despite the improvement of the national unemployment rate, the national poverty rate has not budged in the last 4 years.

But there is a silver lining here, and it is in the Silver State. Unlike national figures on poverty, Nevada has

seen poverty rates drop as the unemployment rate has dropped also.

One of the most effective ways that my State has been able to improve the lives of the most impoverished is through smart community involvement on the local level. Unlike so many Federal approaches that operate on a one-size-fits-all solution, local, community-based solutions are tailored and are specific to community and, in many cases, conditions of each individual’s needs.

These approaches work best because they are closest to the situation and usually have the best understanding of the factors on the ground. The impoverished aren’t always just a statistic to their community. They are neighbors; they are friends; they are loved ones.

In my community, there is an organization that not only has ideas, but it is actually acting on them and putting them to work in the community to improve the situation. The Hope for Prisoners program, whose mission is to help ex-offenders reintegrate into society and find gainful employment, is a model for success. Jon Ponder, the Hope for Prisoner leader, brings together families, religious leaders, business leaders, and law enforcement to break this vicious cycle that plagues many communities and ours, also.

The various community members act in a selfless service, often using their own time and their own money to make a difference. That is something that we need to get back in this country is that selfless service.

And remember: Who is your neighbor? Folks, where I grew up, everybody was your neighbor, even if you had never met them. We have a responsibility to reach out and give of ourselves.

These are things that Jon Ponder has done. Various community members like Jon Ponder have graduated individuals out of this program. One of those graduates has started a successful small business, Love’s Barbershop. Not only is Love’s owner a contributing member of the community, Love’s Barbershop lifts the entire community by creating jobs for other Nevada families.

In the case of Hope for Prisoners, the participants join the program on a voluntary basis. If an individual is not ready and willing to break the cycle of incarceration and poverty, no solution will find success.

Investment does not end with those going through the program, however. The success of local, community-based solutions has shown everyone involved to be fully invested. The local businesses employing the participants have bought in completely to working with the program and are willing to give ex-offenders a shot, a shot at working hard, earning a wage, and contributing to society.

Local law enforcement have also been invested. Rather than simply policing the streets as crime stoppers, they are active partners in the community. They work in tandem with the entire community.

The idea of mentoring individuals is such a powerful tool that we all have, and it is available to us. Are you using that tool that is available to you?

Remember: Who is your neighbor? We can make a difference.

Jon and Hope for Prisoners have taken this idea of mentoring and turned it into a job creator and, more importantly, a lifesaver. While Hope has been operating for only 5 years, they have been able to help more than 1,000 people in southern Nevada, with only a 6 percent re-incarceration rate.

Too often, individuals released from incarceration face the uncertainty of a future plagued by limited employment opportunities available to them. Without employment, these individuals become at risk for re-incarceration or poverty and homelessness.

Programs like Hope for Prisoners work. The numbers and the survivors speak for themselves.

While there is still much to do to address poverty in our country, we should all be looking to our States for examples. States are not only the national laboratories of industry, they can also be the laboratories for hope.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nevada. I am so inspired by the success that he talks about in Nevada on a local level that is working and how powerful mentoring is.

□ 1715

I mentioned a few minutes ago that our colleague, Representative TIPTON from Colorado, and I were up in New York last week. We visited The Doe Fund, which just recently celebrated 30 years of fighting homelessness and hopelessness in the boroughs of New York. They provide affordable and supportive housing for individuals and families struggling with chronic homelessness.

They are famous because of their Ready, Willing & Able program, the bright, colorful uniforms all across the boroughs of New York that provides homeless and formerly incarcerated individuals with transitional work, housing, case management, life skills, education assistance, occupational training, job readiness, and graduate services.

About 2,000 individuals per year are helped through The Doe Fund's extensive network of training and jobs. It is exactly the kind of thing, Mr. Speaker, that we want in all of our cities where citizens come together and help the least of these, those coming off parole and those trapped in alcohol or drug abuse.

My hats are off to Harriet McDonald, the executive vice president and co-

founder, and her husband of The Doe Fund and all that they are doing good and the success they have by the number of former Doe Fund beneficiaries, like Don Pridgen, who now is a case-worker helping his fellow citizens as an alumnus of The Doe Fund.

Arthur Brooks said recently at the American Enterprise Institute: "The Doe Fund is an extraordinary success not just because of its numbers (it has lower criminal recidivism and higher work attachment than virtually any other program for the homeless in New York City) but because it specializes in taking care of some of the most difficult members of society—the hardest cases."

That is what impressed Representative TIPTON and me on our visit last week. My friend from Nevada was talking about mentoring, and that is so essential, in my view, to the idea of educational attainment because, truly, if the best program to end poverty is a good job, we have got to stop the horrendous dropout rates that we have.

We have to have people that have the kind of mentoring they are not getting, potentially, from their family or in their school system only to be able to stay in school and think ahead about their future, to have aspirations for their future. If we can close that gap of staying in school, we can close that learning gap as well.

Some programs in my district that have impressed me in this regard are, first, Greenbrier High School. Greenbrier High School is a public school in a rural part of my district that is doing both skill workforce training while students are in high school as well as getting them up to 2 years—2 years, Mr. Speaker—of college credit by partnering with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to have a dual enrollment system.

This saves families money and gets people the kind of educational attainment that we want. This is all done in the confines of a successful, locally controlled local public school.

Representative BROOKS of Indiana stopped me this week and said that she couldn't be with us for this important hour of discussion about the ways and means of beating poverty in our society, and she wanted me to say—and I think it is illustrated by Greenbrier High School, Mr. Speaker—that, if we could lower dropout rates, we, in turn, could change the direction of family success and family income.

My friend from Nevada was talking about mentoring programs, and we have a bright story there in Little Rock with Donald Northcross, founder of the OK Program. OK stands for "our kids."

Donald is a former deputy sheriff in Sacramento, California, who moved to Little Rock, inspired by the work, vision, and leadership of Fitz Hill, president of Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock.

Donald was troubled by the violence and despair that he found in Black communities in California and the growing incarceration rates of young Black men.

Determined to make a difference, Donald founded the OK Program back in 1990 and is now spreading it across the United States with a goal of using it as a way to mentor young African American males while they are in their middle school years and through high school years to make sure that they are on the right track.

These are just a few examples of what you are hearing around all of our districts whenever I travel in the U.S. about how people are banding together as citizens in our great country to tackle poverty using local resources and local ingenuity.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we can come back in a few months and talk about this issue again and give more Members an opportunity.

I want to thank those that joined me today on the floor to discuss this important issue about how we alleviate poverty in our States and our local communities and how we overcome barriers of our existing Federal programs or other program barriers that are preventing success. There is no doubt that we have unique, successful opportunities throughout this country to beat this challenge.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House and the Speaker's Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility. I thank Speaker RYAN for his personal dedication and leadership to this topic across our country.

I want to thank our team in Arkansas and in Washington, D.C., and my staff for their commitment to this issue and how we are coming together to find solutions in the Second Congressional District to both urban and rural challenges.

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

#### DEMOCRACY SPRING: MONEY IN POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a 10-day march that started on April 11, thousands of Americans



came to Washington, D.C., from all over the country to fight for one thing: our democracy.

In peaceful protests right outside this building, Capitol Police arrested more than 1,300 of them as they called on this body to make basic changes to reinforce the institution that makes the United States so special.

The reason they marched is simple, Mr. Speaker. In a Nation founded on the will of the people, States have systematically disenfranchised those same people and it is the will of well-funded special interests that now run our elections.

We have found ourselves in this predicament primarily through inaction, the same kind of inaction poised to give the Supreme Court the longest vacancy in nearly 100 years.

These folks came to the Capitol to ask our leaders to do something, and their requests are pretty simple.

For starters, they want to see the restoration of the Voting Rights Act to prevent voter discrimination in the 21st century because voting discrimination does still exist, something Chief Justice Roberts acknowledged even as he struck down parts of the original Voting Rights Act.

It is targeted against voters of color, those with language barriers, and those with disabilities. And Congress should be doing something about it.

That is not the only call that came out of last week's rallies, though. They also want updates to our election day procedures, updates that are sorely needed.

In a world as technologically advanced as ours where you can pay for your lunch with your phone and use a fingerprint to unlock your computer, we have hours-long wait times at some voting polls. We have provisional ballots and ineffective, if not outright confusing, notification systems for how, when, and where to register to vote. It is another issue Congress should be doing something about.

But perhaps the most important issue that these rallies brought to the table is the need to make sure that the voices of real people, not those of corporations or special interests, are what are heard in our elections. For that, we need to create a path back from Citizens United that allows us to regulate how money is raised and spent in elections.

Because of that ruling, we need a constitutional amendment that makes clear what common sense already dictates: corporations are not people and shouldn't get a say in who governs our Nation.

What is really interesting here is that the work has already been done. The call of these protesters wasn't for Congress to investigate or draft or identify solutions to these problems.

The solutions already exist. They asked that we pass a few pieces of leg-

islation that will put our democracy back where it belongs: with the people.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the individuals who came to Washington last week for Democracy Spring. I stand in strong support of reforms to how we run elections and how we ensure the right to vote.

I urge my colleagues to follow suit in saving our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, a U.S. Representative.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank my colleague so much for taking the leadership this evening on such an important and central issue. It is really about our democracy.

Our country has long been known and respected around the world as a beacon of democracy. We aspire to let every person participate in our system of government and give each person's views and votes equal weight. But today our democracy itself is in jeopardy.

Instead of promoting voter participation, States are erecting barriers to keep Americans from voting. Instead of giving people an equal voice in our elections, corporations and the wealthy are claiming outsized influence. The Supreme Court, tasked with protecting our rights, is being crippled by congressional inaction.

Over the past days, thousands of Americans have come to Washington to demand that we restore American democracy. I join them in their call for action: Pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act, stop the outsized role that money plays in politics, and fill the vacancy on our Supreme Court.

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. The Voting Rights Act broadened access to democracy and fulfilled the promise of the 15th Amendment. It ensured that every American had the opportunity to take part in the democratic process.

But in recent years, courts and State legislatures have torn away at these rights. In 2013, the Supreme Court rolled back voter protections with its misguided Shelby County decision, striking down key provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

Before the Shelby County decision, the Voting Rights Act required States with a history of voter discrimination to clear any changes that they wanted to make to their voting laws in advance.

What happened when this provision got struck down? No surprise. Certain States rushed to pass new voting restrictions.

On the very day of the ruling, Texas officials announced they would implement a photo ID law that had previously been blocked.

North Carolina went even further, imposing a strict photo ID law as well as cutting back early voting and reduc-

ing the time period for voter registration. This law disproportionately affects communities of color.

This November is the first Presidential election since the weakening of the Voting Rights Act. Sixteen States now have new voting restrictions in place.

The Voting Rights Amendment Act, introduced by my Republican colleague, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, would restore key protections of the Voting Rights Act.

Despite bipartisan support for this bill, House leadership has simply failed to take action. The inaction is unforgivable.

But voting rights are not the only part of our democratic process that is under attack. Citizens United, another misguided Supreme Court decision, has unleashed a flood of money from rich donors and powerful corporations that is now drowning out the voice of the American people.

In the 2014 elections, the top 100 donors to super-PACs gave nearly as much as 4.75 million small donors combined. This election cycle, the Koch brothers alone have pledged to spend almost \$900 million.

□ 1730

Just in the early phase of the 2016 Presidential race, 158 families were responsible for more than half of all the money raised in Presidential campaigns.

The American people want action. They are demanding that we get money out of politics—the big money. Congress continues to ignore the will of the American people. Republican leadership has failed to take legislative action to address the egregious spending allowed by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. For example, they haven't brought up H.R. 20, the Government By the People Act, which would provide matching funds for candidates who agree to rely on small donors to fund their campaigns. This would empower individuals to support candidates and balance the influence of big money.

This is the sort of legislation the House ought to be considering. We don't just need legislative fixes, though. Repairing our democracy also requires confirming justices who understand that corporations are not people and money is not speech. But here, too, Republicans are refusing to do their job.

On March 16, President Obama fulfilled his constitutional duty—you can read it in the Constitution—by nominating D.C. Circuit Court Judge Merrick Garland to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. But even before Garland's nomination was announced—in fact, just about an hour after Judge Antonin Scalia passed away—Senator Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL promised nothing but obstruction. He

said he would not hold a hearing, he would not have a vote, and that this was going to wait until the next election.

Republican Senators have refused to hold hearings, they have refused to have an up-or-down vote, and many of them have refused to even meet with the nominee at all. Even those Senate Republicans who haven't publicly endorsed this obstruction are doing the bare minimum. They may have courtesy meetings, they may even say they would support hearings, or maybe even a vote, but words are not enough. We need action, not photo ops.

The Constitution makes clear that the President—the sitting President, this President, Barack Obama—nominates judges to the Supreme Court. Then the Senate's job is to advise and consent on the President's nominee. It doesn't say: and you only do it in the first 7 years of a President's term, and you don't do anything in the last year of a President's term. There is simply no excuse for the Senate to resist taking any action.

I find it really disrespectful to the American people and I find it disrespectful to this President that they are saying that he cannot have the right; as every other President in history, even in the last year of his term, has had to nominate and have considered, and, in fact, all of those nominated in the last year were actually approved. So there is no excuse for the Senate to resist taking any action.

Senate Republicans are putting politics ahead of the Constitution. That is not democracy. Big donors are not democracy. Taking away voting rights is not democracy.

It is time for this House of Representatives to really represent the American people, listen to their calls for change, and take action to strengthen our democracy.

Again, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for her very eloquent and very important remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey, who has led these Special Orders for communicating to the American people, and the gentlewoman from Chicago, Illinois, who has a history and record of reform. I thank the Congresswoman for her very well-stated challenge in a message and effort.

Let me also thank those hundreds who have seen the inside of a Washington, D.C., jail. They have done so in the name of those who cannot speak for themselves—the millions of Americans who sit languishing because decisions are made against them and not for them. Unfortunately, big money, inertia, and the Congress not doing its

job has taken the dominant place in American history.

Hundreds of Democracy Spring protestors were arrested on Capitol Hill. We heard them repeatedly over the last week. Having had the experience of standing before the Sudanese embassy, standing in a fight for immigration reform myself, as well participating by way of fight and registering people to vote in the deep South in the aftermath of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, I think that protest and petition is a right of the American people—peaceful protest and petition—and I want to applaud those who sacrificed or stood their ground protesting the inertia of this Congress and the help that is needed by millions of Americans.

Democracy Spring should be an agenda that all of us can support. It is, in fact, one that speaks to the question of how we are going to treat the least of those and how we are going to do what is right for the American people.

There is no doubt, I think, if you were to ask one of our leading fighters in one of the States with the most draconian voter right laws, Reverend William Barber, who will be on the Hill tomorrow, he will know firsthand what voter suppression is all about. Clearly, it is an indictment of the undermining of the Bill of Rights, due process under the Fifth Amendment, and equal protection under the law.

There are examples of voter ID laws where thousands are barred from voting. Maybe mistakenly the States did not realize that they did not have the offices, like Texas in over 80 counties, where individuals were supposed to get their voter ID; or in Alabama, where the Governor closed offices where people were to get their voter ID; or in other States, of course, where other reasons have been put forth—the stopping of early vote or the lessening of early vote by North Carolina, and, of course, the voter ID law.

After section 5 of the Voting Rights Act was eviscerated, destroyed, in the Shelby case by the United States Supreme Court, despite having the right to have a disagreement with me—they are the Supreme Court—they were absolutely wrong. As Justice Ginsburg said: For you would not stop using polio vaccine because you have not seen polio in the United States in any large way for a very long time.

That is what we stand here on the floor today to talk about. That there is a need for a reckoning in this country that those who are part of Democracy Spring are standing up for. That is to ensure the restoration of the Voting Rights Act that is fair.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Voting Rights Act protects all of our rights to vote, irrespective of color. It does not respect color. It only indicates that if you have been barred from voting unfairly, then we have the right—the Federal Government, the Department of Justice—to review that.

Lo and behold, section 5 saved money, millions of dollars, in fact. My own State has used millions of dollars, millions of tax dollars, to pursue and fight the Voting Rights Act, when in actuality the Voting Rights Act saves money.

If a jurisdiction like, for example, Pasadena, Texas, which redid their city council structure that eliminated Hispanics from being able to even win in that city—if they had been able to have their particular process reviewed and found that it is in violation of the Voting Rights Act and unconstitutional to one vote, one person, then they may not have foolishly constructed that scheme and done one that maybe all parties could work together on. I believe in that.

I have done some wonderful things with bipartisan friends, Republicans and Democrats, working on important issues. Criminal justice happens to be one of them. But that did not happen. So now section 2 becomes the arm of the way of trying to solve these problems, and, of course, in doing so, we have lost our way.

Let me say that I was here when President Bush signed into law the 1965 reauthorization, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, worked on it extensively and submitted amendments. Happily, it was voted for with a large margin by a bipartisan Congress 98-0 in the United States Senate, and a big celebration in the White House celebrating the signing of the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act with section 5 after 15,000 pages of testimony.

Why can't we do that?

The American people deserve that kind of response. Democracy Spring, you are right, let us reauthorize the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

That draws me as well to the issue of the Supreme Court Justice and to recognize that constitutionally we are in a no man's land. No man's land is that we have taken the Constitution and, unfortunately, we burned it. The Senate has the responsibility of advice and consent, and it has a responsibility to address the question of the missing Supreme Court Justice.

Justice Scalia was grounded in conservatism. All of us respected that. We disagreed on many occasions, but Justice Scalia wrote opinions that everybody agreed with. When it was a majority court, when there were others who had previously disagreed on other matters, they agreed.

That is the way the Supreme Court works, but if you block from even a consideration or a meeting or a hearing, then you are literally tearing up the Constitution, ripping it up, and burning it up. Democracy Spring were willing to go to jail because they believe that is wrong, and I join them and stand with them in their protests and their petition.

Now, let me step away for just a moment—my colleague and I will get

back—but I must say that I am, again, mourning the loss of those in my district who lost their lives through this terrible storm over these last couple of days. We expect rain to continue. I wanted to just make sure that, as I indicated yesterday when I was in my district, we are praying for their families.

As Members of the United States Congress, I am hoping that we will find a way to work with places like New Orleans and Houston, Texas, who are 50 feet below sea level, that we are not just getting a hurricane. People understand hurricanes, they understand tornados, and they understand earthquakes. They don't understand just plain rain that comes up to 20 inches or more and you are literally under water, as we were in the spring of 2015 and now we are again. Homes destroyed of the most vulnerable of my constituents, those who are most impoverished.

I cite this because I am in the midst of discussing that we should be doing our job. One of those issues is to look at the cost and the relationship to lives lost, to doing an infrastructure system, a retention system, and other systems that have been represented as being helpful, trying to work with various constituencies so they don't have to go through that again.

Dying in one's car in an underpass, dying in one's car, can't get out, we had at least four people. We are up to eight. As I said, no one would understand it. It is not a flaring hurricane: Oh, you had a terrible hurricane, we understand it. Tornado. Oh, you had an earthquake, like the tragedy in Ecuador and Japan. We offer our sympathy to them.

They don't understand just rain that causes loss of life—truck drivers, a young mother, a mechanical engineer. What are the horrors of dying in your car, drowning, and you are thinking someone is coming? You are using your cell phone, you think you see lights, and no one is showing up.

I am burdened by this. I wanted to acknowledge them and offer my sympathy, and hope that tomorrow I will again come to the floor for a moment of silence.

Let me step back to this because it ties in that we have to do our job here in Congress. All of us in our districts have had instances where the Congress' failure or the Federal Government's failure probably has impacted in some way some terrible loss of life.

As I continue, we need a Supreme Court Justice, we need the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, and, as I just indicated, we need an infrastructure bill. We passed one, but we need one that gets into the weeds of these questions dealing with flooding and the loss of life and the loss of property that we have.

□ 1745

Finally, let me say this since I was here during this, and I use the Con-

stitution in a way that, I think, is very, very important.

I had a bill that I introduced that said a corporation is not a person. Citizens United is premised on that fact. The decision came down from the United States Supreme Court 5 years ago. That decision was the opening of the door of the dominance of big money over politics, and politics and policy has grown, seemingly without restraint and with dire consequences for representative self-government.

"A functioning democracy requires a government responsive to the people"—we call ourselves the 'people's House'—"considered as political equals, where we each have a say in the public policy decisions that affect our lives. It is profoundly antidemocratic for anyone to be able to purchase political power and when a small elite makes up a donor class that is able to shape our government and our public policy."

I offer that as an article written by Liz Kennedy on January 15, 2015: "Top Five Ways Citizens United Harms Democracy and Top Five Ways We're Fighting to Take Democracy Back."

She goes on to talk about how big money allows the wealthy elite few to overpower other voices. That sounds very familiar in the fight against gun violence and in the inability to get any gun legislation passed whether it has to do with gun storage bills that I have, whether it has to do with protecting our children, whether it has to do with background checks or with immunity that has been given to gun manufacturers and keeping away people like the Sandy Hook families or, maybe, families out of Chicago, where my colleague has been working so hard, Congresswoman KELLY.

"Secret political spending exploded after Citizens United because the disclosure requirements relied on by the Court do not yet exist."

No. 3: "The purported 'independence' of outside spending is often a farce, allowing for evasion of contribution limits and disclosure requirements."

She goes on to cite that big money in politics distorts representation and makes one group bigger than the other group.

Then No. 5: "The Supreme Court's decisions have distorted the Constitution by preventing commonsense rules to protect representative self-government." Might I say that that deals with the gun legislation as well.

I think I will close with the simple words that we must do our jobs. We need to do our jobs. One of the reasons that we are in Court on the DACA and DAPA is that Congress did not do its job, and the President has the constitutional authority that says to take care, which means that that President, whoever he is, does have prosecutorial authority and discretion on how laws should be enforced, i.e., the immigration laws.

The President is absolutely right. I do not know how the Supreme Court is going to rule. I would ask that they be very attentive to doing this in a constitutional manner, which means they have the ability to look at the Take Care Clause. That may not work, but they have the ability to look at standing; and I would make the argument that none of the States have been injured, because, as for all of the things that they are arguing about—driver's licenses and otherwise—they don't have to do anything.

The President is saying that these individuals will not be deported because they are not dangerous. He is not saying that States need to provide them with benefits, and they should not, by interpretation, suggest that he is dictating to them unfunded mandates of items that he has not asked. That is not in his executive order. It does not say what benefits they are supposed to get. In essence, in the President's doing his work, unfortunately, he is now being penalized for helping and following the Constitution.

We have a Presidential campaign going on, and the one thing that I can be proud of is that the candidates who are now running in the Democratic primary have made it very clear of their opposition to big money in politics, of their opposition to Citizens United, and of their willingness to fight against it.

In particular, I want to quote from the Boston Globe on then-Secretary Clinton: "She took a mostly hands-off approach to Wall Street regulation." She stayed away from it. She is not immersed in big money, which is a plus for all of us. She understands the people's voice must be heard and realizes that we must do something with Citizens United.

I have joined in cosponsoring a constitutional amendment to change it, but in whatever way that we can move forward to change it, the voices of the people must speak. Public finance is a reputable and reasonable way to run Presidential campaigns and to run all of our campaigns, but until it is done, it is important for us to listen to the voices of the people and to make sure that, however big money comes in, it does not carry this House—this body and the other body—on its back, marching towards legislation that will not help the American people.

Democracy Spring was a movement of quality and dignity, and I am here today to thank them for their willingness to peacefully petition and protest. Over the years and decades, America has seen those protests peacefully leading to, as Dr. King might say, a promised land in which all of us can enjoy the benefits of what America truly stands for.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I am always grateful for the gentlewoman from Texas who comes and shares her wisdom and her passion and her concern.

Mr. Speaker, as we close out this Special Order hour, I just want to share a few more comments.

We should be doing whatever we can to ensure that every American is able to participate in the democratic process and ensure that elected officials truly represent the voices of their constituents. The right to vote and the elections in which we cast our ballots are the foundations of our democracy, and policymakers should be strengthening those systems and expanding that right whenever and wherever possible. Instead, for the past few years, we have been restricting it.

In a Nation whose founding documents begin with “we the people of the United States,” the local, State, and Federal Government should champion the cause of ensuring that every single American can make his voice heard with as little difficulty as possible. I support every effort to do so, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

#### RESTORING RESPECT FOR AMERICA'S RULE OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOOLENAAR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to have the opportunity to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I listened to a lot of discussion here with which I disagree, of course; but I keep hearing this term “do your job” that seems to echo out of the left constantly. “Do your job.”

One of the arguments is that the President of the United States has a constitutional right to nominate to the Supreme Court. He does. That is pretty clear in the Constitution. However, the Senate determines what advice is, and the Senate determines that which is consent, and no nomination to the Federal court can move forward without the Senate's advice and consent. It is the Senate's job then to evaluate the President's nominations, and they can do so with or without hearings, with or without interviews. The Senate writes its own rules just like the House writes its own rules, Mr. Speaker. I would like to put this back in perspective here.

We have a lameduck President who has made appointments to the Supreme Court, which seems to believe that the Constitution means what they want it to mean, and they want to read it to say what they want it to say rather than what it actually says and rather than what it actually was understood to mean at the time of its ratification.

When you have Justices on the Supreme Court who embody that belief,

who act on that belief, then we here who take an oath to support and defend the Constitution—and that is, actually, all of us here in the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, and everyone in the United States Senate for that matter—recognize that, if we are going to support and defend the Constitution and encourage the nomination and the advice and the consent and the confirmation of the Senate and encourage then a Presidential appointment to the Supreme Court of someone, we know the President is incapable of nominating anyone to the Supreme Court who actually believes what the Constitution says and what it was understood to mean at the time of its ratification. He has demonstrated that in the past with his appointments to the Court. He will demonstrate that again.

We have a Constitution to preserve, protect, defend, and support and defend, so our obligation then is to say: Mr. President, you are a lameduck. Let's stick with the tradition; let's stick with the practice; let's stick with the statements that have been made by a number of Democrats in the past when the shoe was on the other foot. People like JOE BIDEN and HARRY REID and CHUCK SCHUMER all would agree with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY: no hearing, no confirmation in the Senate, no vote in the Judiciary Committee, and no vote on the floor of the Senate for this lameduck President's appointments because we have a Constitution that has got to be restored, and instead of being restored, it would be destroyed by another Presidential appointment.

We were sitting with a deadlocked Court that sat 4½ to 4½ out of a 9-member Court, and you could kind of toss a coin on whether you would get a decision that came down on what the Constitution said and what the law said or what they preferred the policy was. There are a couple of bad examples of that. This is even with the stellar Justice Scalia's sitting on the bench not even a year ago on June 24 and June 25.

On the 24th of June, the Court came down with a decision in *King v. Burwell*, in which the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court decided that he could write words into ObamaCare that didn't exist. They were not passed by this Congress—not by either Chamber of this Congress, as a matter of fact. It wasn't a phrase that was conferenced out or was something that was contested. It was never in the bill. It was the phrase that read, “or Federal Government.” Had that component been in ObamaCare, then the Federal Government could have gone into the States and established the exchanges in the States that refused to establish exchanges to comply with the suggestion that came from this Congress, by the way, by hook, by crook, by legislative shenanigans, just to quote some Demo-

crats who lamented at the methodology they had to go through to push ObamaCare down the throats of the American people.

In any case, the law never enabled the Federal Government to establish exchanges in the States, and the Constitution doesn't allow that authority. In my opinion, there is no enumerated power for the Federal Government to create exchanges for health insurance policies within the States; but the Supreme Court ruled with the majority opinion, which was written by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, that they could add words into ObamaCare. Where it reads that the States may establish exchanges, they added that the States or Federal Government may establish exchanges. They made it up, and they wrapped themselves in the cloak of constitutional authority in *Marbury v. Madison* and in a whole series of, presumably, precedent cases along the line. That was June 24, on Thursday.

That would kick the breath out of your gut to hear that, if you are a constitutionalist, and it would bring you to a sad state of mourning. You would lay your head down on the pillow at night, having trouble sleeping, thinking: What am I going to do tomorrow? I couldn't react today. What am I going to do tomorrow? Lord, wake me up with an idea on how to preserve our Constitution.

The Supreme Court of the United States believes that they can write law when here, in Article I of our Constitution, Mr. Speaker, it reads: “All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.” That is here, in the House and the Senate. Article I, which are the first words of our Constitution, reads: “all legislative powers”; but the Supreme Court, wrapped in the cloak of *Marbury v. Madison* and their imagination of what “precedence” and “stare decisis” might mean to them decides that they can write words into the law. A Supreme Court writing law.

Then the next morning—that morning that I was hopeful that I would wake up with an idea on how to address a Supreme Court that has overreached—there came the next decision at 9 my time, 10 D.C. time. It was the decision of *Obergefell*, in which the Supreme Court created a new command in the Constitution. Not just discovered a right that never existed—they manufactured a command.

There is no right in the Constitution for a same-sex marriage. There is no reference in there at all. There is not one single Founding Father who would have ever accepted an idea that they had founded a nation that embodied within our Declaration or our ratified Constitution or the subsequent amendments that there was some right, let

alone a command, to a same-sex marriage. That is a completely manufactured—not just a right but a command—by the Supreme Court of the United States.

I have some history with this. The Supreme Court of the State of Iowa did the same thing to Iowans in 2009. I sat in the legislature and was an author of the Defense of Marriage Act in about 1998.

□ 1800

One of the pieces of debate was why do we need to bother to do this. Yes, it would make sense if marriage were threatened. But it was so far beyond the pale that why would we bother to do this. We saw litigation coming in Hawaii at that period of time that was trying to force same-sex marriage on America.

We wrote—and I was one of the authors of it—the Defense of Marriage Act and put it into Iowa law. And from 1998, 11 years later, the Supreme Court of the State of Iowa created a command for same-sex marriage in Iowa.

Iowans rose up and threw three of them off the bench the following election in November of 2010 not because of the policy decision, but because they had not kept their oath of office to support and defend the Constitution.

They are obligated to read and understand and believe the Constitution and then issue their judgments based upon the law, the text of the law, and, as an ancillary component of this, the intent of the legislature itself.

Because, after all, the legislature is the voice of the people. The judges are not. They are unelected. They are appointed for life. They are unaccountable.

So there it was on June 25, 2015, on Friday, that the Supreme Court manufactured a command for same-sex marriage. Now, this is appalling to me, Mr. Speaker, because I can read this Constitution and understand what it means. I could read the precedent cases along the way that have flowed from Marbury on down to today.

It is no longer possible to look at this Supreme Court and discern what a likely decision of the Court might be by studying the text of the Constitution and the text of the law because we have a Court that will make it up as they go along, write law as they go, and discover what they would call a new right in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, equal protection under the law. There is equal protection already. There has long been equal protection.

That amendment was about making sure that babies who were born to the newly freed slaves post-Civil war would be American citizens and they would enjoy all of the rights and all of the privileges of being a citizen of the United States. A person that enjoyed personhood in good standing, that is

what the—the 13th Amendment ended slavery, and the 14th Amendment guaranteed equal rights.

Now this Court has twisted it into a command that there is not a difference between a man and a woman when it comes to joining them together in matrimony. Well, there is a difference. It has been husband and wife in every one of these States until such time as the activists got busy.

Those are the kinds of things that, if the States want to establish same-sex marriage, so be it. That is the voice of the people. It is constitutional, and it fits the structure of our United States Constitution, along with the various State constitutions and the structure of the rule of law.

But if a court wants to manufacture a new right, let alone a new command, that is wrong. And this Congress ought to speak up. We need a President that will appoint Justices to the Supreme Court that will rule on the text of the Constitution, its original meaning, and on the understanding of what the text of that Constitution says.

So I would back up to the King v. Burwell decision, Mr. Speaker, and add this for the benefit of those folks that are listening in. And maybe there are some staff at the Supreme Court that are listening.

If you discover a law, if it is a law like ObamaCare that comes before the Supreme Court and you read the text of that and it doesn't include "or Federal Government" and you believe that Congress wanted the Federal Government to be able to establish the exchanges or intended to write that into the law, you don't get to just write it in and say that is what they really meant. You have to remand it back to Congress and tell us: This is what the law says.

So, therefore, if Congress wants the law to say something different, we have to amend it here in the House and the Senate and get a Presidential signature on it. That is the constitutional structure of this government that we have, Mr. Speaker.

It is a bit frustrating for me to listen to the dialogue otherwise that the Senate is not doing their job because they withhold a Presidential appointment when you have a President that has proven that he is not going to put up an appointment that will protect our Constitution.

This is the time we must defend our Constitution. We must nominate and elect a President of the United States who will make those appointments to the Supreme Court, who believe the Constitution means what it says.

Mr. Speaker, I didn't actually come here to talk about that. That is my rebuttal to what I have listened to for the last 40 minutes or so.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I came here to talk about the rule of

law, for sure. Part of this is stimulated by an immigration hearing that we had yesterday in the House Judiciary's Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee.

This is the type of hearing that I have listened to too many times. It was one of the hardest hearings I have sat through in my time here in this Congress, Mr. Speaker.

This was a hearing that had witnesses, such as Sheriff Jenkins from Frederick County, Maryland, who has been enforcing immigration law and standing up for the rule of law.

He has been prudently using the legal and justifiable evidence that he had before him, and he has been criticized for his effectiveness by the people that don't want to enforce the law. He is a good witness, Sheriff Jenkins.

Additionally, we had witnesses from two families that were suffering tragically. One of them was the mother of Joshua Wilkerson. Her name is Laura Wilkerson. She has testified before the Judiciary Committee in the past at least once.

I have met her at an immigration event in Richmond, Virginia, on another occasion and listened to the tragic, tragic story of her son, Joshua, who was essentially abducted from his school—he was about a sophomore in high school or so—and hauled outside of town where he was beaten mercilessly and bludgeoned and finally murdered.

The perpetrator, an illegal alien who law enforcement had encountered and released onto the streets of America, who had no business being in America in the first place and who law enforcement already had picked up at least once—this illegal alien beat this boy to death.

Then he went and bought gasoline and burned his body. He hauled his body out and poured gasoline on it and burned Joshua Wilkerson's body. Then he went and took a shower and went to a movie, as if it was just another day in the life of.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it was another day in the life of America and Americans. It was another life lost to an illegal criminal alien who was unlawfully present in America and who had no business to be here, one who had been encountered by law enforcement officers in the past, one whom I believe ICE declined to pick up and place into removal proceedings. This happens every day in this country. It happens hundreds of times in this country each year.

These incidents of illegal aliens that are arrested and turned loose on the street because the President has this idea of prioritization or prosecutorial discretion are costing lives in America. They are costing, in the end, thousands of lives in America.

It was a sad, sad story told by Laura Wilkerson yesterday. She had the courage and the heart to come here and

share her story with us and to place that awful, brutal, ghastly memory again into her mind's eye and pour that forth into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that some of us will soak that up and be mobilized to do something more, to do something more to resist the President's policy of amnesty, de facto amnesty, amnesty by executive edict, that has been part and parcel of the Obama policy since the beginning of his time here in office, and it has been getting worse and worse every month.

I thank God for Laura Wilkerson. I ask God to bless the life and the memory and the soul of Joshua Wilkerson, who has paid a tremendously high price because we have an ideological President who, I would say to the other side of the aisle, is not doing his job. In fact, he is ordering law enforcement officers not to do their job.

Federal law requires that, when immigration law enforcement officers encounter an individual who is unlawfully present in the United States, "he shall be placed in removal proceedings." That is the law.

Our Border Patrol officers are told that, if you are here to enforce the law and you are determined to do so, you better get yourself another job. They have become the welcome wagon on the southern border.

Now, most anybody that crosses that border and makes it across the Rio Grande River or across the land border that stretches from Texas all the way across through New Mexico, Arizona, California, to the Pacific Ocean knows, if you just claim asylum, you can be a refugee and this Federal Government will roll out the welcome wagon.

Former Member of Congress Michele Bachmann and I stood on the banks of the Rio Grande River at Roma, Texas, here a summer and a half or so ago and watched as they inflated a raft on the other side of the river, two coyotes.

It was a fairly good size raft. They helped a lady into that raft on a Sunday afternoon in broad daylight exactly at the shift change for the Border Patrol.

They helped a pregnant lady into the raft. She had two little bags of her property. They brought that raft across the river, brought it up to the shoreline under the eyes of the city police and the Border Patrol, but it was shift change.

One of the coyotes got out of the raft while the other one stabilized it. They helped the pregnant lady out of the raft and onto U.S. shores and then handed her two little ditty bags. He then got back into the raft.

The two coyotes went back across the river, deflated the raft, folded it up, put it in the trunk of their car. It was a car that we had watched go around and around over there, knowing that it was a coyote car because they recognized it from the U.S. side of the river.

The lady stood there. She and her unborn baby and her two ditty bags were waiting for the Border Patrol to show up. It takes a little longer during the shift change, but they show up, no doubt. I didn't follow this case any further, and they would have preferred that I didn't.

Here is what I will predict happened: She applied for asylum, the baby is now born, and the baby is an American citizen. She is the parent of an anchor baby.

Well, that is the kind of person that Barack Obama has granted a de facto, at least a temporary, amnesty to for the Deferred Action for Parents of—I keep wanting to tell you what that word means to me, but the parents of Americans is what the President would like to call it—Deferred Action for Parents of Americans, DAPA.

Well, I watched one of those parents of Americans—a parent now—come across the border in an inflatable raft with two coyotes. They got paid something to do that. I don't know how much.

Now the President has issued the edict that we grant this de facto permit, this amnesty, for the parents of anchor babies to be staying free in the United States.

That suspends the rule of law. It defies the rule of law. It defies the very law, the specified law, itself.

That case was heard before the Supreme Court this week, Mr. Speaker. The question is: Does the President have prosecutorial authority, prosecutorial discretion?

Well, the precedents along prosecutorial discretion—and I don't know that the Supreme Court has ever heard and ruled on a case of prosecutorial discretion. I believe they have not.

But the precedents that are out there in the lower courts and the practice has been that, if a chief executive officer can project his policy through his subordinates, they have to pick and choose which cases they will prosecute.

Well, when they do that, that is called prosecutorial discretion. It has to be on an individual basis only, and that is by the words of the former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, who testified before the Judiciary Committee to that extent.

In the first Morton memo that brought out this prosecutorial discretion, it creates four different categories or groups of people.

So they are utilizing categories or groups of people, declaring it to be prosecutorial discretion, when, in fact, it is not prosecutorial discretion because it applies to groups of people. It created four different groups of people.

That is the story of Joshua Wilkerson.

The witness sitting next to Laura Wilkerson is Michelle Root of Modale, Iowa. Michelle Root is the grieving mother of a 21-year-old daughter who

was a 4.0 student at Bellevue University.

She wanted to become a law enforcement investigator. She had the best grades that you could possibly have, living and loving life. She had graduated and enjoyed the graduation ceremonies the day before when an illegal, criminal alien, drunk-driving perpetrator, ran her down and rear-ended her in the street and killed Sarah Root.

Sarah Root was a 4.0 student with the world ahead of her, wanting to contribute to this country, to life, to society, living and loving life. Her life was abruptly ended by a criminal alien who had been encountered by law enforcement before whose immigration attorneys knew him.

□ 1815

Two of them have been quoted in the newspaper at this point. He had been released. He had been released onto the streets where he now had three times the blood alcohol content allowable by law, drag racing in the streets, killed Sarah Root. Her mother, Michelle, told the story yesterday of her daughter, whom she loved so deeply, and all through the rest of her life and her family's life, they will carry this hole, this ache in their heart that didn't need to be.

Sarah Root would be alive today if the President had done his job, if law enforcement had been allowed to do their job, if ICE had responded when local law enforcement called them, and if ICE—and on top of that, sometimes ICE issues a detainer, and local law enforcement releases them from a sanctuary city.

This is mixed up both ways. We have ICE, who is prohibited from doing its job, who sometimes won't when they want to; local law enforcement who won't cooperate with ICE because ICE sent out a letter a year-and-a-half ago or so that said ICE detainees are a recommendation, they are no longer mandatory.

Congress passed a law and directed the Department of Homeland Security to establish the rule that would have the force and effect of law that ICE detainees are mandatory. They wrote the rule that ICE detainees are mandatory, and Dan Ragsdale, the interim director of ICE, issued a letter that said to all local law enforcement: no, it is a recommendation, it is not mandatory.

Now we have in this confused, jumbled-up mess of the refusal to enforce the law, to take care that the laws are faithfully executed—we have the deaths of our children—our children—Joshua Wilkerson, Sarah Root.

And while Sarah Root's mother is in transit to come here to testify—by the way, this drunk driving, illegal alien, homicidal accident that killed Sarah Root, the 4.0 student happened—I keep hearing about the valedictorians that come across the river. Sarah was very

close to being the valedictorian of her college class. She didn't get a chance to live and love life beyond 1 day after her graduation.

While her mother is here with tears in her eyes, flying from Omaha where this tragedy took place, to testify before the United States Congress, there is another incident in Omaha, this time a very similar incident, another illegal alien who had been incarcerated before or picked up before and released again.

This illegal alien killed Margarito Nava-Luna, a 34- or 35-year-old man who was walking down the streets of Omaha. This driver, this illegal, had three times the blood alcohol content as well, as was the driver who killed Sarah Root.

Now, every one of these are preventable. They are preventable. Whether they are a willful homicide or whether they are preventable, but these are the cities, Mr. Speaker, where the Obama administration has released these criminals into. They have released over 30,000 of them. These are where their reoffenses have taken place, in multiple cities around, obviously, California and on up along the Pacific Coast. Where there is a lot of illegal immigration, that is where you see a lot of the recidivism crime. Here is Arizona. Here is Texas. You have got it in the heart of the heartland, though. That is Colorado. Over along the East Coast, something has happened in most of the States, and this is because of the prosecutorial discretion.

This President, his administration has released over 30,000 criminals, criminal aliens onto the streets of America. And of those that they released, there have been at least 124 of them who have been charged with homicide for 135 murders. That is 135 dead Americans who would be alive today if the President didn't have the policy of releasing criminal aliens onto the streets. Those are the ones we know of, those are the ones that are the recidivism within a 5-year window of time whose names we know, whose incidents we know, but that doesn't include anywhere near all of them, Mr. Speaker.

This is the locale. This is the face of one of these perpetrators, Mauricio Hernandez.

What did he do?

Mauricio Hernandez, a sexual predator who impregnated the 13-year-old daughter of his live-in girlfriend and repeatedly had sexual relations with her in ways that I won't repeat here on the floor, took her off to soccer games where he also gave her an abortion-inducing drug, and she went into a portapotty and had a baby who was alive. He went in and saw that baby, and this girl was then hauled home. The baby was left to die. That baby died.

Mauricio Hernandez was the perpetrator. He is another illegal alien, another one who had been encountered by

law, another one who had been granted this de facto amnesty because of the President's policy.

Mr. Speaker, I can stand here every night. I could come here and give you these stories, and I can give you the data on the thousands of Americans who are dead at the hands of the criminal aliens who have been incarcerated for a temporary period of time and released by multiple jurisdictions across this country, and every American who dies at their hands is a life that could be saved if we just followed our laws. That is what is at stake here.

But we are going to have to personalize it because people over on this side of the aisle have their fingers in their ears on data, but when they see the faces, when they hear the anguish in the voices, especially of the mothers—I will conclude with this, Mr. Speaker—or the voice of the father, Scott Root, who said when they arrested this perpetrator who killed his daughter, he was out before they could bury his daughter, he was out on \$5,000 bail, which was less than it cost him to bury his daughter, and that individual absconded back out of the United States now, not to be reached again by the arm of the law, which is not long enough because they put him out on bail.

I don't want to see any more bail to criminal aliens. I want to see law enforcement. I want an expectation that when the law is broken in the United States, that there is going to be an enforcement, that it be applied equally without regard to any of these categories that the President encourages us to be members of, that being one of God's children is good enough to be protected by the law, but everybody treated equally.

Secure our borders. Restore the respect for the rule of law. Save these lives. Send these people into prison, and when they are done, send them back to the country that they can live in legally for the rest of their lives if they don't stay in our prisons for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this is an infuriating topic that America needs to know a lot more about. I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that this country keep the families of these victims in their prayers every day until such time as we restore the respect for the rule of law again in America.

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

#### WHAT MEXICO REPRESENTS TO ALL OF US

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE) for 30 minutes.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, to listen to some in this country, and cer-

tainly some of my colleagues, Mexico represents nothing more than a threat to the well-being, the safety of this country, and to every son and daughter in every community within the United States.

It is also a threat, some will tell you, to our economy, to our financial well-being in our homes, in our cities, in our States. This vision of Mexico and our relationship with that country and where the two join at the U.S.-Mexico border is dominated by this kind of anxiety, this scare-mongering, and an attitude of fear that neglects the truth, the facts, and the opportunities that our relationship with our closest partner on the world stage truly presents.

It is my hope tonight to share with my colleagues the facts, the positive truth about what Mexico represents to all of us, certainly in the communities along the U.S.-Mexico border, El Paso, Texas, the city that I have the honor of representing and serving in Congress, the State of Texas, where I will be joined by colleagues who represent districts deeper into the interior of Texas, but really to everyone everywhere in the United States.

When I listen to some of my colleagues, who can be forgiven much like those in ancient history who, not having traveled to distant lands or across the oceans, could only envision monsters or frightening things that were going to come and get them should they venture past what they knew and what was safe and what was home to them, those who do not know Mexico, who do not live on the U.S.-Mexico border may understandably have their thoughts and their concerns dominated by this anxiety and fear.

It is my hope, as someone who lives in and represents part of the U.S. side of the U.S.-Mexico border, to shed some light using facts and using real people, real U.S. citizens, real Mexican citizens, and real people from El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, which together form the largest binational community in the Western Hemisphere and one of the largest binational communities anywhere in the world.

When you hear people who are concerned about Mexico and what it represents to the United States, that fear is often dominated by two different areas. One is economic and the other is fear about our security in this country. Let me lay some of those fears to rest. Let me address some of those concerns at face value using the facts and figures from the United States-Mexico relationship and, again, from the district that I represent in El Paso, Texas.

Let me start with some of the economic concerns and address them with the economic facts and the economic argument. Some of my colleagues may not know this, but Mexico is our third largest trading partner. And for some States—like the State of Texas, like the State of New Mexico, like the State

of Arizona, like the State of California—Mexico represents our number one trading partner. For many other States deeper into the interior, Mexico represents our second largest trading partner.

But the volume of trade between our two countries is unlike any other, even among our top trading partner, China, for with Mexico, for every dollar of import value that we bring into this country from Mexico, 40 cents of that dollar was value that originated here in the United States, components, manufactured goods that were built here in America by Americans, by U.S. citizens that were exported to Mexico for final assembly and manufacture before reimportation into the United States.

It is why when we export to Mexico, we win; when we import from Mexico, we win. That volume of trade between our two countries is responsible for one out of every four jobs in the community that I represent, El Paso, Texas. It is responsible for more than 400,000 jobs in the State of Texas, more than 6 million jobs throughout the United States.

I want to make clear that our relationship with Mexico does not just benefit border communities like mine or border States like Texas. You look at New York, 381,000 people depend on our relationship with Mexico for the jobs they go to each and every morning. In Ohio, the number is 224,000. In the State of Washington, 128,000. In fact, every single one of our 50 States has a significant trading and jobs-based dependent relationship with Mexico.

Were we to jeopardize that with harmful rhetoric or wrong-headed policies, we would not just jeopardize this historic relationship with our partner to the south, we would jeopardize the very well-being and lifeblood for 6 million American families spread throughout this country.

In fact, if we don't do a better job of facilitating the trade we have with Mexico right now, we run the risk of losing the jobs we already have. The Department of Commerce estimates that for every minute of delay on our international ports of entry that connect the United States and Mexico, because we are not getting more trade into the United States from Mexico and out of the United States into Mexico, we lose about \$166 million. For every minute of delay, \$166 million lost to the United States economy.

Now, let me talk about the security argument. I just heard from my colleague from Iowa that Mexico and Mexican immigrants, whether they are undocumented, whether they are pursuing a better life in this country, whether they are—as almost all of them are—net contributors to our economy, to our communities, to the safety of our cities, that somehow they represent this terrible threat, the primary threat for our country, and the

sky and everything with it is falling should we not be able to deport these 11 million undocumented immigrants from communities like Washington, D.C., from El Paso, Texas, from Fort Worth, from throughout the United States.

□ 1830

I would like to share something with my colleagues and with you, Mr. Speaker, about the effect that immigrants have on the safety of our communities. As I mentioned, I represent El Paso, Texas, which, with Ciudad Juarez, forms one-half of the largest binational community anywhere in the world. Twenty-four percent of the people that I represent were born in another country, most of them, the country of Mexico. And I will tell you, it is not in spite of that fact that we have so many migrants in our community but, in large part, because of it that El Paso is this country's safest city of over 500,000.

So of all large cities in this country, from Los Angeles on the West Coast to New York on the East Coast, El Paso is this country's safest city. And it has been not just in the past year, but for years before this last one; and for the last 10 or 15 years, it has been rated one of the top five safest cities in the United States. And that is because the relationship that we have with Mexico.

The migrants who come from that country are coming to this one to build a better life for themselves, certainly; but more importantly and connected to our relative safety, they are building a better life for their kids. They are keeping them focused on their studies, on contributing to their communities, on staying out of trouble and getting ahead and doing better. That is what I want you to know when we talk about security connected to immigration and when we talk about security relative to Mexico.

I also want my colleagues, who themselves are taxpayers, and the taxpayers they represent to know that today we spend \$18 billion a year to secure the U.S.-Mexico border. In the last 10 years, we have doubled the size of the Border Patrol force, from 10,000 agents to 20,000 agents, and we are reaching, if not already past, a point of diminishing returns where we can do no more good by spending more dollars and by adding more agents to already swollen ranks of the Border Patrol. Let me give you some facts that bear that out.

In the year 2000, we had 1.6 million apprehensions at our border with Mexico. This last year, in 2015, we had 330,000 apprehensions.

Another way to look at this is that, in 2005, the average Border Patrol agents on the southern border, our border with Mexico, made 106 apprehensions a year. Ten years later, 2015, last year, the average agent made 17 apprehensions

the entire year; and in El Paso, again, one of the most critical sectors for our connection with Mexico, the average agent made 6 apprehensions all year—not in a week, not in a month, but 6 apprehensions for the entire year.

So El Paso is the safest city. Other border cities on our side of the U.S.-Mexico border are much safer than the interior of the United States. We are spending record sums, and we are seeing record-low levels of apprehensions. We are literally seeing less than zero migration from Mexico now, and we have been for a number of years.

When I hear my colleagues about securing the border before we proceed with immigration reform or any other sensible, realistic, logical policy with regard to Mexico, it begs the question when they ask if we secure the border: How much more secure can we get? How many more billions of dollars do you want to spend? How many more miles of walls do you want to construct? How many more thousands of agents do you want to hire? How many fewer apprehensions can we have? How far below zero can our immigration from Mexico reach?

The last point on the security issue that I want to stress for my colleagues is this one. Despite the rhetoric, despite the anxiety, despite the fear that is often provoked on cable TV or even in this Chamber, there has never been nor is there now any credible terrorist organization, terrorist threat, or terrorist who is using the southern border—our border with Mexico—to infiltrate the United States. And I have that on public record from the Director of the FBI, the Director for the National Counterterrorism Center, and the Secretary of Homeland Security.

The danger of continuing to surge more resources where we don't have a problem is that we take our eye and our money and our men and women off those places where we know we have had threats in the past, like our international airports. In fact, even at our northern border with Canada, attempts have been made in the past, and certainly with homegrown, home-radicalized terrorists or potential terrorists in our communities.

That is where we know we have a threat. That is where we need to pursue that threat. It doesn't mean that we do not remain vigilant against the potential for a terrorist threat coming along our border with Mexico; but I would argue that, with 20,000 agents, \$18 billion spent a year, drones flying overhead, 600 miles of wall, we are very vigilant against the potential for any terrorist incursion from Mexico.

Before I yield to my good friend from Dallas-Fort Worth, I want to talk a little bit about the people who actually live in this binational community that I have been talking about, El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, where, between the two



communities last year, there were 32 million crossings. Thirty-two million times someone crossed from El Paso into Ciudad Juarez or Juarez into El Paso. I thought I would share with you, through these pictures to my right, some of the remarkable people that I live with in the El Paso-Juarez community and some of the amazing people that I represent.

The first person that we are looking at is Armando. I started with Armando at the end of his day as he closed up the plant that he manages in Ciudad Juarez. Even though he and his children live in the United States, are U.S. citizens, and attend U.S. public schools in El Paso, Texas, he crosses over the border into Mexico every morning. He works a hard day managing a plant there; and then he comes back over into the United States, where he pays his U.S. property taxes, his U.S. income taxes, where he contributes by going and helping to coach his son's soccer game, which is where we took this picture with Armando and his wife. He is one of these 32 million people that is crossing the border. He is somebody that has come from Mexico that is contributing to this country, whose children are growing up here. He is someone that I am very proud to have in my community.

This next slide shows a picture of Israel. Israel lives in Ciudad Juarez but attends school at the University of Texas in El Paso.

In its infinite wisdom, the State of Texas granted instate coverage for citizens of Mexico to attend schools in our communities in the State of Texas because we know that Texas will be the net beneficiary of their talent and their human capital.

So Israel gets up very early every morning, sometimes before 5 o'clock, so that he can make it over the international bridge in time to get to the University of Texas at El Paso, where he is an all-star student and also works at the Keck Lab, which is one of the premier additive manufacturing facilities at any academic community in the United States. These are 3-D printing jobs that are the future of manufacturing technology. And if we do right by Israel, Israel is going to want to spend his life and his career and add value and add tax base and add tax income and create jobs in our country, in the community that I represent. That is why I crossed the bridge with Israel to learn a little bit about him and his experience.

This slide shows a picture of Vicky, whom I joined in downtown Ciudad Juarez. She is walking up Avenida Juarez. Another block or two and we will pass the Kentucky Club, which I want everyone to know we did not go into. It was before 5 o'clock. But Vicky, who is a Mexican national, is carrying her shopping bags because at least once a month she comes over to

the United States, to my community, to spend her hard-earned money in our local retail establishments and other stores to do the shopping for her and her family.

In fact, Mexican nationals like Vicky spend about \$1.4 billion in the El Paso community annually. That supports tens of thousands of retail jobs and small-business owners that I represent here in the House.

This is the face of the border, the face of Mexico, the face of our connection. This was Vicky, with whom I crossed the border a couple of weeks ago.

This next slide shows Manuel, who is driving a load of Werner ladders.

Werner is the largest ladder manufacturer in the world. They manufacture about 70 percent of those ladders in Ciudad Juarez. The inputs for those ladders come from all over the United States. They are connected to jobs in this country that go over to Mexico. They are connected to jobs there and then reimported here for export for benefit of the United States and Mexico.

Here he is crossing his load—his part of the \$90 billion in U.S.-Mexico trade that crosses our ports of entry that are connected to those 6 million jobs spread throughout the United States.

If we could get those bridges moving a little faster, get more CBP officers to facilitate that trade, we can get more loads of ladders moving across, more jobs connected in the United States to trade and manufacture in Mexico. It is good for my community, good for each of the communities represented by the Members here in the Chamber tonight.

And the last slide I will show you is Lisa, and you can see that I jumped into the backseat of her car as she left the plant that she works in in Ciudad Juarez.

She moved down to El Paso from Michigan about 20 years ago. She has been working in Ciudad Juarez every day with other U.S. and Mexican citizens, creating value in both countries, economic growth in both countries.

And so here we are in her car, about to cross back into El Paso, Texas, where, again, she pays her taxes, where she contributes to her community, and where she is the face of the U.S.-Mexico relationship and why it is so important not just to preserve it, not just to respect it, but to grow it and to capitalize on it and create more jobs, more opportunities, more growth in both of our countries.

I thought these five El Pasoans and Juarenses, whom I have the pleasure of living with in El Paso, the honor of representing here in the House, might tell you a little bit of a different story than the one that has prevailed and dominated from people who do not live on and, frankly, do not understand the border or our relationship with Mexico.

But someone who does and who is here with me tonight, represents a con-

gressional district in Fort Worth and Dallas, who understands the importance of our relationship with Mexico better than almost any other person that I have worked with, is MARC VEASEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. Thank you very much, Representative O'ROURKE. I really appreciate your work on this issue. You have been doing a great job of really kind of setting the facts straight about this issue.

There has been a lot of rhetoric out there about what immigration means. And the fact that you have worked so hard to bring recognition about the economic benefits that the border has, particularly to our State of Texas, and you have been very tremendous in your efforts, I really, really do appreciate that.

I wanted to just talk about the fact how important the relationship is—the economic impact that you talk about all the time—how important it is to Texas and the United States.

According to the United States Trade Representative, U.S. goods and services traded with Mexico totaled an estimated \$500-plus billion in 2015. Mexico was the United States' second largest goods export market in 2015. In 2013, Texas, our home State of Texas exported over \$109 billion in goods with Mexico, and that was a 63 percent increase since 2008.

It is really hard to argue with those numbers. It just shows how healthy the relationship is with Mexico and about how incredibly foolish it would be to try to create barriers between our two countries that would cause economic harm to both Mexico and the United States and our border State of Texas.

The United States' relationship with Mexico, again, when you look at the economic picture, agriculture is something that people oftentimes take for granted—how they get their milk, how they get their fruit, how they get their vegetables.

Agriculture is how we eat in this country. I have met with different organizations that represent agriculture. I just had some cattle raisers from the Fort Worth area here. They talked about the fact that we don't have a comprehensive immigration reform bill and how we need to improve our guest worker program and how it is really hurting their industry.

□ 1845

And these are conservative Republicans that are telling me this, Representative O'ROURKE. These aren't liberal Democrats or advocacy groups. These are people that are concerned about economic growth and prosperity in the United States and in border States that are saying that, hey, we have a huge problem here in agriculture.

One of our conservative institutes in the State of Texas, Texas A&M University down in College Station, did a

study back in 2012 that looked at dairy farms and found that the dairy farms are very heavily dependent upon migrant labor. Three-fifths of the milk in this country is dependent upon migrant labor.

I think that that speaks in and of itself.

Without these employees, the study predicts economic output would decline by \$22 billion, and 133,000 workers would lose their jobs. And what are we going to do if that happens? Like, what are we really going to do? What are Republicans going to do if that happens, if they were able to create borders and barriers between our southwest border?

They are certainly not going to make it up with any sort of social services to help people because they are always hollering about how they don't want to expand government. So what are they going to do if we lose all of that money? They are going to do absolutely nothing, and it would be very detrimental.

Then there is also immigrant entrepreneurship. In addition to providing a reliable workforce, immigrants are also a boost to local economies when they open up businesses in their communities. More than 40 percent of the Fortune 500 companies here were founded by immigrants or by their children according to the Partnership for a New American Economy.

I want to highlight one of my friends that has a business in my district, Gloria Fuentes. She was actually my guest, Representative O'ROURKE, at the State of the Union earlier this year. She was someone, back in the 1970s, that was fleeing her home country of El Salvador. She immigrated to the United States, and her visa expired. Later, she became a permanent resident in 1986. And because of her hard work, working extra jobs, going to nightclubs at night to sell tamales and tacos, now she has a restaurant chain of 15, all across the State of Texas. That was done by someone that came here as an immigrant.

Why wouldn't we want to make it easier for people like Gloria to migrate to this country? Why wouldn't we want to make it easier for us to be able to exchange and trade ideas with people from countries that are south of our border?

We are really moving too slowly on the immigration issue. And again, the rhetoric about the southwest border is really hurting our country, particularly when you look at the net migration and how many people have decided that—you know what?—they don't want to live in the United States anymore just because of all of the rhetoric, the hateful rhetoric that is out there, mainly coming from the Republican side. I think that it is time that it stop because I think that our country—I know that our country—is better than that.

I just want to thank you for getting this conversation started. I want to thank you for your expertise and depth on this issue. Particularly with you coming from El Paso, it is certainly great to have you talking about this so much and reminding people about the facts, because there are a lot of things out there that are floating around the Congress—again, coming from the Republican side—that are completely untrue and deliberately false and meant to spread fear across our country. But the fact that you are here and you are educating the country on this very important issue means a lot to our State and to the United States. So thank you very much, Representative O'ROURKE, and thank you for letting me share this time with you.

Mr. O'ROURKE. I thank my friend from Texas, amidst all this heat and the rhetoric around Mexico, our relationship with that country, the cost or benefit of immigration, that he is able to shed some light using the facts, sharing the truth, so that we understand our shared interdependence, shared benefit, and the value of the relationship between the United States and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has about 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues who have used the excuse—because they believe it—that we must first secure the border before we can do anything else, before we can improve our relationship with Mexico, before we can capitalize on the shared production platform that is the United States and Mexico today, where 40 percent of the value of everything that we import from Mexico originated in this country, is connected to jobs in this country; I invite my friends who use securing the border as an excuse not to move forward on immigration reform, despite the fact that we have 11 million people here who are living in the shadows, who, despite that, do their best to contribute to this country each and every day in service to this country and creating jobs in this country, in serving those in this country; I invite you to see the truth, to look at the facts, and to understand that our relationship with Mexico has never been more important, our border with Mexico has never been more secure, by any metric we want to look at.

Whether it is apprehension, whether it is the total spent on the security of that border, whether it is the number of men and women, 20,000, who are patrolling that border with our closest partner—certainly the closest trading partner in the State of Texas, I would argue the most important country for the United States—whether you look at it economically, demographically, historically, or culturally, I hope these facts, this truth, this light that we are

working to shed on the issue, will help my colleagues to make better decisions, better policies, and move forward in the self-interest of this country, every district, and every person we represent, to do the right thing when it comes to Mexico, to do the right thing when it comes to immigration reform, and to do the right thing in the interest of the United States.

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

#### CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come here to the House floor today to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the grave financial challenges facing the Chicago State University, which is located in my district on the south side of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, due to the enormous budget crisis currently taking place in my home State of Illinois, the university has not received the State funding that is essential to maintaining its multifaceted operations. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, after 7 months of utilizing its financial reserves, Chicago State University is now in a dire position. Chicago State University must confront the real possibility of closing its doors in the immediate future.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of this pending reality is far reaching in its scope, and it would adversely affect thousands of students and hundreds of faculty and staff, many of whom reside in my district, the First District of Illinois. The entire Chicagoland region would be severely adversely affected by the closing of the Chicago State University. Mr. Speaker, my district is home to 4,300 students who are enrolled at Chicago State. Fifty-eight percent of these students are my constituents.

The great need for this institution is demonstrated by the fact that almost 88 percent of enrolled students receive financial aid. Of those students on financial aid, 44 percent are first-generation college students, and 54 percent of these students are low-income individuals. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Chicago State University is renowned for recruiting and graduating nontraditional minority students who, due to a variety of reasons, have been denied many of the economic, social, and educational benefits enjoyed by the greater American society.

As U.S. News and World Report notes, Chicago State University ranks first in Illinois in awarding bachelor's degrees to African Americans in the physical sciences, health professions,

and other related sciences. Additionally, the school also ranks fourth in Illinois in awarding baccalaureate degrees to Latino students in the education sector.

Mr. Speaker, closing Chicago State University, even on a temporary basis, would have a profound impact on the lives of all these students who have worked so hard to beat the odds and who desperately seek to provide a better life for themselves and for their families.

Additionally, as one of my district's largest employers, if the university were to close, it would have a devastating rippling effect on the economics of Chicago's greater south side and also in the lives of the 850 faculty and staff who are employed by Chicago State University. Undoubtedly, the school's closing would also stifle any opportunity for economic recovery in communities on Chicago's south side and in the nearby suburban area of the city of Chicago.

To help address this pending dire situation, in the coming days I will be introducing a bill in the House to provide Federal assistance to the university until this budget impasse in the State of Illinois can be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, Chicago State University is far too important to the families, to the communities that I represent, to simply leave its fate to chance or to the political gamesmanship and indifference of its governmental leaders.

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner should not allow this historically crucial, minority-serving institution of higher education that so faithfully serves the needs of African Americans and Latino American students to shut down on his watch. Legislative leaders in the State of Illinois must not allow this legendary institution to close its doors on current and future generations of upward-bound students.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, April 29 will be forever be known as the Day of Educational Infamy in my State of Illinois. It will be regarded as the day that Illinois lawmakers let the students of Chicago State University down. It will be regarded as the day that Illinois lawmakers let the citizens of the State of Illinois down.

It will be regarded as the day that Illinois lawmakers stood in the schoolhouse door to deny access to the universally acknowledged benefits of higher education to predominantly minority students who study and matriculate at the Chicago State University.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to not afford to fund the Chicago State University. We must do everything in our power to address this ominous situation and provide help to this critical institution that has proven to be so vital to the needs of my constituents,

to the needs of the citizens of the State of Illinois, and to our Nation as a whole.

We must act, and we must act now. Save Chicago State. Save Chicago State. Save Chicago State University.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for April 19 on account of unforeseen circumstances.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2722. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 719. An act to rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

S. 1638. To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress information on the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project in the National Capital Region, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 19, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1670. To direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on April 20, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2722. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5095. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safety Standard for Automatic Residential Garage Door Operators [Docket No.: CPSC-2015-0025] received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5096. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund [WC Docket No.: 10-90] ETC Annual Reports and Certifications [WC Docket No.: 14-58] Rural Broadband Experiments [WC Docket No.: 14-259] received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5097. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Folic Acid [Docket No.: FDA-2012-F-0480] received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5098. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Indexing Adjustments for Sections 36B and 5000A (Rev. Proc. 2016-24) received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5099. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula (Rev. Rule. 2016-10) received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5100. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Procedure: Purchase Price Safe Harbors for sections 143 and 25 (Rev. Proc. 2016-25) received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5101. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2016 Automobile Price Inflation Adjustment (Rev. Proc. 2016-23) received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5102. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Inversions and Related Transactions [TD 9761] (RIN: 1545-BM88) received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. KLINE; Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 4293. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure that retirement investors receive advice in their best interests, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-511). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas; Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4294. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that retirement investors receive advice in their best interests, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-512, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. KLINE; Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 4294. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that retirement investors receive advice in their best interests, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-512, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NEAL, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 4996. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to return the estate, gift, and generation skipping transfer tax to 2009 levels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. BARR, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. HILL):

H.R. 4997. A bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to specify which depository institutions are subject to the maintenance of records and disclosure requirements of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 4998. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for consultation with State and local governments, the consideration of State and local concerns, and the approval of post-shutdown decommissioning activities reports by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 4999. A bill to ensure the effective and appropriate use of the Lowest Price Technically Acceptable source selection process; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5000. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina (for herself, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KIND, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 5001. A bill to continue the use of a 3-month quarter EHR reporting period for health care providers to demonstrate meaningful use for 2016 under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive payment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5002. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the section 45 credit for refined coal from steel industry fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 5003. A bill to reauthorize child nutrition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 5004. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow certain biodiesel and alternative fuel tax credits for fuels derived from animal fats; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 5005. A bill to prohibit the hiring of additional employees of any office of the legislative branch until the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President pro tempore of the Senate certifies that no employee of the office has a seriously delinquent tax debt; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 5006. A bill to amend section 214(c)(8) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the data reporting requirements relating to nonimmigrant employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. ESTY, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 5007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt private foundations from the tax on excess business holdings in the case of certain philanthropic enterprises which are independently supervised, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MACARTHUR (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 5008. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to improve tax compliance in the construction industry, including clarifying the employment status of service providers in the construction industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 5009. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. NOR-TON, Mr. GRJALVA, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY):

H.R. 5010. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require the inclusion of credit scores with free annual credit reports provided to consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 5011. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the "Tom Stagg Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 5012. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit the grounds of deportability for certain alien members of the United States Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. TROTT, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 5013. A bill to provide assistance to communities for the emergency improvement of water systems, and other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 5014. A bill to protect the legal production, purchase, and possession of marijuana by Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 5015. A bill to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5016. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to provide student borrowers with instruction in general principles of financial literacy through its online counseling tool, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DESANTIS (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUM, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. YOHO):

H.J. Res. 89. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the

United States relating to the equal application to the Senators and Representatives of the laws that apply to all citizens of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself and Mr. YOHO):

H.J. Res. 90. A joint resolution to provide limitations on the transfer of certain United States munitions from the United States to Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIREN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H. Res. 694. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that a standing committee (or subcommittee thereof) hearing be held whenever there is a moment of silence in the House for a tragedy involving gun violence; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. LEE (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H. Res. 695. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for

consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

202. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Georgia, relative to Senate Resolution 924, urging the United States Congress to enact legislation for the purpose of enhancing hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as strengthen conservation efforts nationwide; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

203. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 70, urging the President and Congress to take immediate action to protect citizens and lawful residents from the consequences resulting from the uncontrolled influx of undocumented immigrants into this country; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

204. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, relative to Senate Resolution 1371, condemning the structures and mechanisms being considered by the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives in its discussion draft entitled Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act that are contrary to democratic processes and the rights of the People of Puerto Rico; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 4996.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 4997.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 4998.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 4999.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution provides Congress the power to "provide for the common Defence" and "to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval forces".

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5000.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina:

H.R. 5001.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5002.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 5003.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 5004.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5005.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution Article I

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida:

H.R. 5006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 5007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 5008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 5009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(a) Article I, Section 1, to exercise the legislative powers vested in Congress as granted in the Constitution; and

(b) Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the authority "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof;

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 5010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate foreign and interstate commerce) of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 5011.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article III, Section 1, which gives Congress the authority to "ordain and establish" courts inferior to the Supreme Court.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 5012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 5013.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 5014.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 5015.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debt and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5016.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.J. Res. 89.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.J. Res. 90.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section I, which includes an implied power for the Congress to regulate the conduct of the United States with respect to foreign affairs; and U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, which authorizes the Congress to: (1) "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States," and (2) "make all Laws

which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers."

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 194: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. WALKER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 403: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 446: Mr. HONDA and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 509: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 556: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 634: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 635: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 664: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 729: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 923: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 953: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 969: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MICA, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1150: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1197: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1211: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1218: Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. FITZPATRICK,

Mr. CLAY, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1220: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1221: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 1247: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1256: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 1312: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1336: Ms. LEE, Mr. PAULSEN, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1343: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1356: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1538: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 1594: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 1603: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1610: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 1655: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1688: Mr. DUFFY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MICA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1706: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1718: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 1733: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 1779: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1818: Mr. YODER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 1961: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2035: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 2255: Mr. BRAT and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 2622: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 2698: Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 2759: Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2866: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2889: Ms. NORTON and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2894: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2901: Mr. HECK of Washington and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 2903: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2911: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2920: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2992: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HINO-

JOSA, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 2993: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 3222: Mr. RUSSELL and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 3223: Mr. LIPINSKI and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3237: Ms. LEE and Mr. TAKAI.

H.R. 3294: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 3308: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 3323: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3326: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 3351: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3355: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 3406: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 3520: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. LANDEVIN.

H.R. 3533: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 3546: Ms. LEE and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 3623: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 3632: Mr. PETERS and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 3688: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3691: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3706: Mr. SIREs and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 3815: Mr. SIREs, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 3832: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3861: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 3865: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 3880: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 3892: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 3929: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 3982: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 4016: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 4137: Mr. HARPER, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 4219: Mr. BRAT and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4251: Mr. TAKAI.

H.R. 4309: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 4320: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 4365: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. YODER, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 4447: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4448: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 4479: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 4488: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 4561: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 4562: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 4592: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 4614: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4615: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4625: Ms. NORTON, Ms. EDWARDS, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4626: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 4640: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4656: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 4665: Mr. POLIS and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 4667: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4668: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 4683: Mr. DOLD and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 4684: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4694: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4697: Mr. COURTNEY.

- H.R. 4700: Miss RICE of New York.  
 H.R. 4715: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.  
 H.R. 4732: Mr. HECK of Nevada.  
 H.R. 4740: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 4768: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.  
 H.R. 4769: Mr. BURGESS.  
 H.R. 4773: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LABRADOR, and Mr. YODER.  
 H.R. 4775: Mrs. LOVE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. HARPER.  
 H.R. 4798: Mr. COHEN, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
 H.R. 4803: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 4816: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
 H.R. 4843: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 4893: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.  
 H.R. 4905: Mr. TAKANO.  
 H.R. 4923: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DENT, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. MESSER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KIND, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POLIS, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. BOUSTANY.  
 H.R. 4963: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 4969: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.  
 H.R. 4978: Mrs. BLACK.  
 H.R. 4986: Ms. MATSUI.  
 H.R. 4989: Mr. DOLD.  
 H.R. 4991: Mr. O'ROURKE.  
 H.R. 4992: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
 H.J. Res. 88: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HILL, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. FOX, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. KLINE.  
 H. Con. Res. 39: Mr. AGUILAR.  
 H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mrs. LUMMIS.  
 H. Con. Res. 100: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
 H. Con. Res. 112: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mrs. NOEM.  
 H. Res. 290: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H. Res. 313: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.  
 H. Res. 360: Ms. MENG, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Miss RICE of New York.  
 H. Res. 494: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
 H. Res. 540: Mr. POLIS.  
 H. Res. 569: Mr. ENGEL.  
 H. Res. 582: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
 H. Res. 590: Mr. ISRAEL.  
 H. Res. 647: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. BYRNE.  
 H. Res. 675: Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. MACARTHUR, and Mr. JOYCE.

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 PETITIONS, ETC.

## Under clause 3 of rule XII,

57. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the St. Charles Parish Council, relative to Resolution No. 6216, urging the Federal Congressional Committees to include local and state stakeholders in the process of drafting legislation to craft an affordable and sustainable reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. ROY DEDA UPON  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to applaud Mr. Roy Deda and wish him well upon his retirement. Roy has dedicated his life to public service through his career with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He has served in numerous capacities throughout his illustrious career and is retiring from his position as the Deputy for Project Management for the Chicago District. I am grateful for his expertise and leadership, and I honor him for his many years of outstanding service to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

In 1975, Roy earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Notre Dame. He began an internship with the Chicago District that same year. Mr. Deda worked in various positions in the Construction-Operations Division for the Chicago District until 1983, when he became a civil engineer for the North Central Division's Construction and Operations Directorate. In 1993, Roy was named chief of the Construction-Operations Division for the North Central Division and then for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. In 1988, he returned to the Chicago District, where he took over as the chief of the Chicago District's Construction Operations Division. As the Deputy for Project Management for the Chicago District since 2002 Roy has excelled in his responsibilities and will be greatly missed upon his retirement. In addition to his remarkable work with the Army Corps, Mr. Deda is also a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and is involved with the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

During his tenure with the USACE—Chicago District, Roy Deda has been particularly instrumental in the development and implementation of projects within Indiana's First Congressional District, projects that have changed the landscape of this region. Under his leadership, the levees along the Little Calumet River were constructed, and to date, the obligation to pay substantial flood insurance premiums have been removed for more than 4,000 home and business owners. The dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal, a project many in the community believed would never occur in their lifetime, is underway and will increase the efficiencies of the canal users and significantly improve the quality of the water entering Lake Michigan. Federal, state, and local partners are working to restore the Grand Calumet River, one of our country's most polluted waterbodies, thanks to the research undertaken by the USACE under Mr. Deda's oversight.

Finally, residents of Northwest Indiana are able to recreate and enjoy the beauty of Lake Michigan through the Portage Lakefront Park, which Roy Deda helped spearhead. The scope of the Portage Lakefront Park project has been further expanded to include the restoration of an additional sixty-nine acres recently acquired by the City of Portage. Thanks to Roy's direction, the Portage Lakefront Park embodies the essence of the Lake Michigan Waterfront Authority, the intent of which is to increase public access to the Lake Michigan shoreline in Indiana. The success of these transformational projects improves the quality of life in Northwest Indiana and increases opportunities for economic development in our region, and for that I am grateful for Mr. Deda's exceptional work and dedication to bring these initiatives to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all our colleagues join me in commending Roy Deda for his exceptional career, and in wishing him well as he spends time with his friends and family in retirement, including his children Erin and Donald. Roy's work and life of dedicated public service will enrich generations to come, and for his many contributions, he is worthy of the highest praise.

ENCOURAGING NATO PARTICIPATION  
FROM MEMBER NATIONS

**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a disturbing trend that deserves increased scrutiny in the wake of Russia's growing aggression in the Baltics, Ukraine, Eastern Europe, and the South Caucasus. Recently, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg met with members of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees to discuss how to counter an assertive Russia, a phenomenon he describes as "a chief threat."

To be sure, recent events have led some to question the relevance of the NATO alliance. Indeed, that the U.S. accounted for more than 72 percent of NATO members' total defense expenditures, spending about \$649.9 billion last year, exemplifies the need to reform the 28-member defense alliance to restore it to a body that collectively wields the power to deter aggression and secure peace.

Currently, only 5 members of the 28 nation alliance spend the NATO recommended 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense. This statistic is troublesome and indicative of a vastly disproportionate burden sharing that has existed for far too long and has potentially compromised NATO's effectiveness.

Perhaps as a result, Putin has successfully increased pressure on NATO's perimeter in an

attempt to solidify control of the "Near Abroad." Moscow's invasion of Georgia in 2008 set in motion what has become an increasingly obvious pattern. Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, ongoing military campaign in the eastern part of Ukraine, and most recently, its confrontation with Azerbaijan through its proxy Armenia, epitomize Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Witold Waszczykowski's characterization: Russia is "an aggressive neighbor that is openly proclaiming the redrawing of the borders of Europe."

As NATO members in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe continue to face antagonism from Russia, including a substantial military buildup in Armenia where it has deployed advanced fighter aircraft and attack helicopters to bases in Armenian territory just 25 miles from the Turkish border, the time to address the systemic issues that have plagued the NATO alliance is now.

European countries must step up to the plate to counter aggression and send a clear message to Russia that their actions will not be allowed to continue.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MARY WASHINGTON'S FEDERAL  
DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the University of Mary Washington celebrating their 75th anniversary as a Federal Depository Library on Thursday, March 10. The public has a right to information contained in Government documents, which have been published at public expense and the Government has an obligation to ensure the availability of, and access to, these documents at no cost. Federal Depository Libraries serve that goal by providing free, ready, and permanent public access to Federal Government information for present and future generations. UMW has shown true service to the community by highlighting the diversity and excellence of government information. I am thrilled to have the UMW Federal Depository Library Program as a part of the First District and want to again congratulate them on this amazing achievement.

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

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



RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ALUMINUM INDUSTRY

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, two days prior to Earth Day, in my capacity as a member of the bipartisan Congressional Aluminum Caucus, to note the many ways in which the aluminum industry has contributed to the environmental goals we all share.

The list of contributions the aluminum industry has made to protect our nation's air and land is long, but allow me to mention just two ways in which aluminum deserves recognition on Earth Day.

Let's start with recycling. The aluminum industry's record as a contributor to driving up the nation's recycling rate is formidable. In the United States, 70 percent of all aluminum produced is recycled. And recycling that aluminum requires only 8 percent of the energy it took to make it the first time.

Because the metal is infinitely recyclable, as well as durable, a remarkable 75 percent of all aluminum ever made is still in use. Recycled aluminum is so valuable that it more than pays for itself in the consumer recovery stream.

We all benefit from clean air, and aluminum has a lot to be proud of here, too. As auto companies commit to increased fuel economy, many are realizing that using aluminum in the bodies of cars and trucks significantly increases performance because it's strong and light weight.

This, in turn, means that drivers go further on a tank of gas, saving vast amounts of money over the life of a vehicle. It means that a lighter weight vehicle will be responsible for reduced greenhouse gases and increased fuel efficiency, which benefits everyone. And aluminum is increasingly being used in modern building construction, which in turn makes buildings more energy efficient.

I am proud to have major aluminum plants in my district that generate \$755.7 million in economic output. It creates great jobs, and is putting into commerce a material that is being used increasingly in all aspects of our lives from cars, planes and buildings and construction.

On this day, when we take note of the great strides we have made in protecting the planet, but also realize the work ahead of us, I wanted to take special note of the contributions made by my friends in the aluminum industry. I applaud their efforts.

JOHN ENGLANDER TESTIMONY TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

**HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the July 28, 2015, testimony of John Englander to

the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Chairman Lamborn, Ranking Member Lowenthal, and members of the Committee: I am John Englander, an oceanographer, independent consultant, and author of the book, *High Tide on Main Street: Rising Sea Level and the Coming Coastal Crisis* (2nd Ed, 2013, The Science Bookshelf).

Thank you for inviting me to comment on the implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Your oversight of that important legislation is a good opportunity to consider the profound changes in the coastline that are just beginning to occur and will almost certainly accelerate in the decades ahead. I believe that looking forward to new perspectives about our coastal zone management is a truly important role for your subcommittee and the Natural Resources Committee and deserves a high priority.

Throughout human civilization we have recognized the highly dynamic aspects of the broad coastal zone, particularly the varying tides and storms, and shoreline erosion or accretion. Yet, it was generally assumed that the base sea level was rather stable. That was a commonsense belief as the fundamental height of the ocean had changed little in all of recorded human history, going back some five or six thousand years.

Understanding of the ice age cycles, however, gives a critical perspective that is key to recognizing the new era we are now entering. Thus I would like to briefly explain the ice ages and the implications for future sea level change, as that will directly impact how we define and manage the coastal zone. Over long periods of time, centuries and millennia, the amount of ice and sea level vary inversely, in response to climate shifts, that is, long-term average temperature change.

With the natural cycles of glacial advance and retreat, sea level moves up and down roughly 300 to 400 feet, moving typical coastlines many miles inland or seaward. This phenomenon has been occurring in a regular pattern roughly every hundred thousand years (more precisely varying between 95 and 125 thousand years).

The most recent ice age extreme (Last Glacial Maximum) was some twenty thousand years ago. At that time ice sheets miles thick covered much of the northern hemisphere. Sea level was 390 feet lower than at present. As the ice melted, the sea rose for some fifteen thousand years when it stabilized at roughly the current height. That sea level change is shown in attached Exhibit A, illustrating how sea level rose since the last glacial maximum.

In Exhibit B, a chart of the last four hundred thousand years, that last glacial warming period is put in a larger perspective, looking at several full ice age cycles with the accompanying up and down of sea level. The red graph in the middle, shows global average temperature, and easily identifies four ice age cycles. The blue graph at the bottom shows the respective sea level. The green graph at the top, represents the carbon dioxide (CO2) concentration.

At the last warm point in the cycle, 120,000 years ago, average global temperature was approximately the same as present and base sea level reached a height approximately twenty-five feet above the present. It is almost inevitable that our future sea level will eventually exceed that height. The key question of course is how long it will take to occur. The consensus thinking among scientists is that it will take centuries, though the evidence of increased melting in key locations continues to accumulate in recent years.

Over the last twenty-five years, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has published projections for SLR, though even they have rather consistently been on the low side. In Exhibit C, the 1990 projections are shown in blue with various spreads of possibility. The 2002 projections are shown in green, a little higher than the previous projection. Actual sea level is shown in gold, with a smoothed out trend line in red. While there is considerable variation, it is clear that even for the last decade or two, that official projections for sea level, underestimate the rise, more often than not.

The fact is that there is large uncertainty as to just how quickly the glaciers and ice sheets on land will melt. That depends on how warm the planet becomes, which in turn largely depends on the levels of the 'greenhouse gases' (GHG) and the unknown tipping points and feedback loops for the collapse of the ice.

Again referring to the three-part chart in Exhibit B, there is a long-term close correlation of sea level, average global temperature and carbon dioxide levels, with CO2 being the GHG of greatest concern.

In that regard, I was very pleased to see the statement by your subcommittee featuring the support of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, hydropower, biomass, and nuclear. They are most likely the key to reducing the growth of GHG and slowing the warming.

However, it needs to be noted that even if all GHG emissions were stopped today there is enough heat already stored in the ocean to guarantee sea level will rise for centuries. The rate of rise can be slowed but it can no longer be stopped in the foreseeable future.

We need to recognize that rise sea level rise is quite different than the temporary flooding from storms along the coast. The damaging wave action of storms is typically confined to the shoreline with storm surge affecting adjacent coastal waterways, all of which recedes in a very short time.

With rising sea level saltwater percolates through porous rock, getting into the fresh water table, flooding highly productive and ecologically sensitive marshlands, and extending up tidal rivers. Though not as dramatic as a severe storm, the affected area is far broader. As a result for each foot of vertical sea level rise the average shoreline is estimated to move inland roughly three hundred feet.

Given the importance of higher sea level to coastal facilities such as refineries, transfer terminals, wind farms, hydropower, ocean energy, and the infrastructure associated with traditional energy sources, I submit that this is a very important topic for consideration by your Committee.

There will be tremendous losses of assets, "write offs", as vast areas of land go underwater with increasing frequency during flood events, and eventually permanently. What is often overlooked is that there will also be tremendous opportunities for economic growth as we adapt to this new reality.

Now is the right time to see the future that is just over the horizon and will soon be at our shores—just like a tsunami racing invisibly across the sea at four hundred miles an hour, only becoming visible moments before impact. In this case I am using the tsunami as a metaphor for the relatively slow sea level rise.

But make no mistake the speed of the ice that is now melting on Greenland and Antarctica is happening at "warp speed" in geologic time. The pace of warming is tens or even a hundred times faster than at any

known period in the last five hundred million years of geologic history.

Since this is without precedent in recorded human history and is often misunderstood, it may be worth reviewing the factors that contribute to sea level rise. Primarily it is the melting of ice on land, the glaciers and ice sheets, which can enter the ocean as icebergs (glacier fragments) or melt water. Another factor is the slight expansion of seawater as it warms. Such thermal expansion has been a major factor in the last century causing nearly four inches of global sea level increase, but that will almost certainly be overwhelmed by the ice melt in the coming century. (There are also other nuanced factors that can affect sea level, such as changing ocean currents and global mass redistribution, though I suspect those are beyond the scope of the subcommittee's inquiry.)

Certain locations vary considerably from the global average sea level change and warrant special attention even sooner. Over the last century, global average sea level has been approximately eight inches as shown in Exhibit D. However during the same period of time the New Orleans region has had approximately forty six inches of SLR, Norfolk thirty inches, Miami twelve, but Los Angeles only four. Most of Alaska has had lower SLR in the same period. The differences are mostly due to land subsidence or uplift, which increases or reduces the global average sea level change. The point is that historical and future sea level change will not be the same everywhere and in fact will vary greatly.

The effects of sea level rise are often confused with storm surge, coastal erosion and the regular extreme high tide events, ('king tides'). Except for erosion, those other types of flooding are temporary, making it possible to rebuild and recover. Sea level rise is different in that it is essentially permanent, and will not recede for at least a thousand years.

I trust you will see that this insight has strong relevance for critical assets and infrastructure including ports, power plants, and military bases that have long durability and are difficult to elevate or relocate. Of course there will be an even broader effect on homeowners, businesses, communities, local and regional economies in the vulnerable low elevation coastal areas, where a majority of the US population resides.

I encourage this Subcommittee, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Congress to revise and reauthorize the CZMA taking this seminal change in the land ocean boundary—the coastline—into full consideration.

I would expect that your subcommittee is also interested in the changing Arctic given its potential role for energy exploration and shipping. Regardless of the associated concerns with those activities, it is worth noting that the melting of the polar ice cap has no effect on sea level, as it is floating sea ice. The disappearance of that perennial ice across the Arctic Ocean does however illustrate some key points. The fact that it will be essentially ice-free for increasing periods of time starting in some late September, almost certainly within the next decade or two, points to the profoundness of this new era. The sea around the North Pole has been frozen for roughly three million years.

I recall my first expedition in 1985 diving under the polar ice cap, when we had to drill through ten feet of ice. That multi-year ice is almost gone. Now we just have thin ice that builds up and then melts each year. That thin ice, or lack of ice, has very different energy characteristics, which has a huge impact on the planet's weather.

The changes to the Arctic are truly profound and raise new issues. As I am sure you have considered there is the opening of sea routes, the challenge of treacherous waters for our Navy and Coast Guard to operate, and new areas of shoreline rapidly eroding as the coastline is exposed by the disappearing ice and melting permafrost.

Your subcommittee has the opportunity to mark a place in our nation's history by recognizing and planning ahead for the dynamic changes in store for our coastal zone. Sea level will almost certainly reach the upper limit cited in the 2014 National Climate Assessment regardless of exactly when it occurs. That report explicitly said they had a 90 percent confidence that SLR this century would be between upper and lower bounds of 8 inches and 6.6 feet. It is difficult to quantify the collapse rate of the West Antarctic marine glaciers, due to the phenomenon of "tipping points", which defy accurate modeling until they can be observed in detail.

That challenge leads to an inadvertent conservative or low figure, not because of a lack of risk, but rather due to the inability to put a precise number on it. With other phenomena where we have had prior experience such as earthquakes, tornados, and hurricanes we plan for low probability high-risk events. In the case of sea level rise, the worst-case scenarios for this century now exceed ten feet, yet hardly anyone is putting that scenario in their range of planning.

A key point in that National Climate Assessment that is often overlooked is that they acknowledge a one-in-ten chance that it will not be within those bounds. In risk terms, a ten percent chance is huge. In fact a risk assessment is exactly how we should be considering the effect of rising sea level on the coastline and our management thereof.

We are already seeing the destructive effects of sea level rise today. Just to cite a few examples: In Miami Beach, they recently installed \$15 million of pumps to keep salt water off the streets that now occurs every 28 days with the full-moon high tide. It is just the first phase of a \$400 million plan that they admit has limitations as sea level continues to rise. In Hampton Roads, both military and private locations are seeing steadily worsening flooding, a combination of higher global sea level, a slowing of the Gulf Stream, and subsidence.

From the Carolina banks to Cape Cod, coastal changes are noticeable from year-to-year. Along San Francisco's seven-mile Embarcadero well inside the Bay, saltwater now comes over the seawall onto the street with increasing frequency. I could cite examples from Annapolis, Boston, Seattle, and the Gulf Coast or dozens of others. These are manifestations of rising sea level already increasing the problem of storm impacts and abnormal high tides. It will continue to get worse.

In the longer term, mid-century and beyond, rising sea level will dramatically change the coastal zone, probably beyond what most of us can imagine, within the lifetimes of our children and grandchildren. We can ignore reality and leave future Americans to suffer the consequences.

Or we can see the future in front of us and plan for intelligent adaptation. Recent evidence from Antarctica makes clear that the melting forces are well ahead of nearly all the models and projections, similar to the way that the melting of the polar ice cap is far ahead of the models. Those who understand the dynamics of glacial collapse and the uncertainty of specific projections, ap-

preciate that the models will almost certainly continue to underestimate the rate of their collapse, and the sea level rise that will directly result.

To close my remarks, the sea does not care what we think or want, or what laws we pass. Throughout history the ocean has taught man humility. We ignore its power at our peril. Along with crisis, there is opportunity. There can be tremendous innovation and adaptation in the coming decades as we anticipate and change our coastal oriented society and economies. But getting a good return on investment requires that we see where things are headed.

I often cite the Dutch as an example of how it is possible to do bold engineering, but also to illustrate the potential trap of inadequate design. Many have seen pictures of the amazing gates at Rotterdam harbor, the Maeslantkering. Designed in the 1980s with construction finished in the early '90s, it is a key part of their innovative coastal defense system. The cost was almost a billion dollars. It was designed for a one-in-ten thousand-years storm, and the worst historical downstream flooding from the three rivers that merge there.

Plus they added an allowance for one foot of sea level rise, as that was the worst they considered possible when it was designed. Now they recognize that will soon be inadequate. If they had been able to foresee the possibility of five to ten feet of SLR back in the 1980's they admit they would have designed the barrier with greater height for longer effectiveness and a better ROI—return on investment.

Our coastline is largely unchanged since the founding of the United States, a nation founded in recognition of truth and science. Our founders specifically recognized that the world of man and nature was dynamic and would need to adapt accordingly.

Our changing coastline, a significant feature of the United States, is an appropriate place to implement that attitude, respecting the collaborative relationship between the Federal government and the States. From my perspective the CZMA seems like the right forum to have that discussion about public policy. The sea is rising and the shoreline is shifting. We have time to adapt, but no time to waste.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be pleased to answer questions.

HONORING REAVELYN PRAY

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, Reavelyn Pray is among 60 students selected from across the country out of 300 highly competitive applications for Council on Undergraduate Research "Posters on the Hill" presentations in Washington, D.C. Pray's selection is the first time a Del Mar College student has been accepted for Council on Undergraduate Research's "Posters on the Hill," and she will present her research findings illustrated on her poster titled "Engineering Plants to Produce Petrochemical Alternatives in Vegetative Tissues." Research projects submitted for "Posters on the Hill" went through a rigorous review process and were selected as the best from around the country.

RECOGNIZING MASTER-AT-ARMS 1ST CLASS CARL S. RANDOLPH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. NAVY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Carl S. Randolph. He will be retiring from the Navy on May 1, 2016 after 22 years of dedicated service to our nation.

On July 10, 1995 Mr. Randolph joined the U.S. Navy and reported to Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduating from recruit training he attended Ships Serviceman Class A School where upon graduation, MA1 Randolph was assigned to the USS *Russell* DDG 59 in Pearl Harbor, HI. In 1996 and 1998, Randolph was deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Northern Watch. During his time assigned to the USS *Russell*, Petty Officer Randolph received numerous awards which included: a Maritime Unit Commendation, a Navy Unit Commendation, and a Meritorious Service Medal.

On March 20, 2000, MA1 Randolph reported to NTTC Pensacola, FL for Aviation Machinist Mate Class A School. After graduation, MA1 Randolph received orders and was then assigned to VF-211 at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA. MA1 Randolph was assigned to the USS *Stennis* CVN 76 and was deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Northern Watch. In August 10, 2001, MA1 Randolph was honorably discharged from active service duty to attend college. On December 18, 2004, MA1 Randolph graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, in Criminal Justice and a minor concentration in Sociology, from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. MA1 Randolph began his employment as a Federal Police Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Louis, Missouri, after graduation from college.

MA1 Randolph was voluntarily mobilized to Bagram Afghanistan for a Detainee Operation mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on October 15, 2007. During this deployment, MA1 Randolph earned his Aviation Warfare Specialist Pin from VAQ 134. MA1 Randolph had numerous responsibilities during his deployment including: cell guard, escort guard, segregation cell guard, and main floor NCO.

MA1 Randolph was assigned to COMNAVFORKOREA Det D on February 7, 2012. Then on November 6, 2014, MA1 Randolph was assigned to NSWGDG in Virginia Beach, VA. From there he was deployed to support AFRICOM and returned back to COMNAVFORKOREA Det D in November of 2015. Additionally, MA1 Randolph has completed numerous Navy schools: Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor, Security Reaction Force Advanced, Non-Lethal Weapons Instructor, Anti-Terrorism Training Supervisor, Reserve Career Information, Beamhit Instructor, and Security Reaction Force Basic.

Since September of 2009, MA1 Randolph has been employed as an Inspector for the

Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service. With this employment, MA1 Randolph oversees the law enforcement of all federal buildings in the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. The primary assignment location for MA1 Randolph is the St. Louis, MO area.

There are numerous professional schools that MA1 Randolph has graduated from; including: Department of Veterans Affairs Police Academy, Federal Protective Service Advance Individual Training Program, Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Threat Instructor Training Program, Federal Protective Service Contract Officer Technical Representative, and the Federal Protective Service Electronic Control Device Instructor training.

MA1 Randolph has received many personnel awards including: Letter of Commendation from Rear Admiral G. R. Jones Commander of Amphibious Forces U.S. Seventh Fleet, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Award Ribbon, Afghanistan Service Medal, Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Pin, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

With this retirement, MA1 Randolph can now spend more time with his family which includes: his wife Terri, 11-year-old son William, and 5-year-old daughter Katherine.

I ask you to join me in recognizing MA1 Randolph on his retirement after 22 years of commitment to his country, community, and state.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF COLLIN KEIL ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Collin Keil of Whitehouse, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Collin's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Collin brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Anthony Wayne High School in Whitehouse, Ohio, Collin earned scholastic honors, served as a link leader, and was named an AAU All-American in wrestling.

Throughout high school, Collin was a member of his school's football, wrestling, and crew teams, earning multiple varsity letters. I am

confident that Collin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Merchant Marine Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Collin Keil on the offer of his appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Collin will excel during his career at the Merchant Marine Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

H.R. 4161 SCRA RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT

**HON. TULSI GABBARD**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress, one of our most sacred responsibilities is to serve those who protect our nation. As far back as the Civil War, Congress has enacted laws to safeguard the rights of our military men and women, so they may devote their full attention to the defense of the United States.

These laws, like the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Military Lending Act, provide protection from repossessions, foreclosures, predatory lending, and other civil actions that could occur while a servicemember is on active duty or deployed. Those protections allow the servicemember to remain solely focused on protecting the nation while on active duty or deployed. One of the protections the SCRA provides is to require banks and businesses to obtain a court order before repossessing a servicemembers' car or home. Requiring a court order ensures that any action to take away a servicemembers' property will be reviewed by a judge, where the judge can evaluate whether the servicemembers' military duties will inhibit him or her from responding to the action in a timely manner. Through the court system, the judge can also ensure the servicemember wasn't victim to predatory lending practices, or other actions protected under the SCRA.

Unfortunately, banks and businesses have found a way around those protections. Many mortgages, car loans and other financial agreements now include fine print that requires any dispute over the property to be resolved through a new process that avoids the courts: Forced arbitration. By including that clause in the fine print, banks can still threaten servicemembers' homes, cars and other property by requiring them to enter into a costly arbitration process while they are still in active duty service. This process has resulted in men and women finding out that a bank is taking away their family car, or home, while they are in Iraq or Afghanistan. For example, Army National Guard Sergeant Charles Beard was serving in Tikrit, Iraq when he found out that his family car had been illegally repossessed. His wife was threatened and told she would be imprisoned if she resisted. Sergeant and Mrs. Beard spent four years fighting the case, and ultimately did not get back their car or receive compensation. Sadly, they are not

alone. In 2012, the Government Accountability Office found 300 cases of improper foreclosures on servicemen and women while they were still on active duty, along with 15,000 other violations of the SCRA. We must ensure that our brothers and sisters in combat don't have to worry about whether or not their families will not become homeless while they are gone. We must close this loophole.

I am proud to partner with Congressman JONES as the Democratic lead sponsor of H.R. 4161, the SCRA Rights Protection Act of 2015, to do just that. The SCRA Rights Protection Act restores the rights enshrined in the SCRA by not allowing forced arbitration for contracts governed by the SCRA unless the servicemember agrees to that process after a dispute has arisen.

Our military men and women sacrifice so much in the service of our nation. It is our duty to defend their rights here at home.

LANE JUDSON—EVA MURILLO  
UNSUNG HERO AWARD

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) works as an advocate for crime victims. JIM COSTA (CA) and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10 year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA (CA) and myself, we are proud to honor Lane Judson with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. Mr. Judson was nominated for the Unsung Hero award by Congressman DAVID REICHERT of the 8th District of Washington. This award honors the memory of Eva Murillo, a prominent crime victim advocate in the state of California. Murillo, who passed away in 2005, was best known for her twelve years of distinguished service to the Kings County Victim Witness Assistance Program, where she pioneered efforts to help women in abusive relationships. The honoree is a crime victim or survivor, who has experienced a personal tragedy and triumphed over adversity. This award recognizes a person who has utilized his or her experiences as a crime victim or survivor to promote public education and awareness, public policy development, and/or greater awareness about crime victims' rights and needs. Through his or her efforts, the recipient has given hope to other crime victims and survivors.

Mr. Lane Judson has done just that—on April 26, 2003, Lane Judson's daughter, Crystal was fatally shot by her husband who also

happened to be the Police Chief of the Tacoma, Washington Police Department. The shooting came one day after city officials publicly announced that Crystal's claims of abuse and threats would not be investigated because it was a "private matter." After losing his daughter, Mr. Judson dedicated his life to helping and supporting victims of domestic violence.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center in Tacoma, WA, which was established in 2005 to serve the needs of the domestic violence victims and their children by providing comprehensive victim services in order to help families heal and bring them hope. Mr. Judson also led the fight to incorporate the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program into the 2006 Violence Against, which created a grant available to law enforcement agencies to use in training their officers in the area of domestic violence.

Mr. Judson has turned unimaginable tragedy into positive action to advocate on behalf of all domestic violence victims. Mr. Judson is an incredible person. We know his daughter's memory lives on in his fight to end domestic violence. We are proud to honor him with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award.

And that is just the way it is.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
ADAM HUG ON HIS OFFER OF  
APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED  
STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Adam Hug of Bryan, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Adam's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Adam brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Bryan High School in Bryan, Ohio, Adam was named an Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Academy Award winner, earned academic booster club awards, served on student council, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was ranked first in his class.

Throughout high school, Adam was a member of his school's cross country, track and field, and swimming teams, earning varsity letters. Adam was also selected to attend Buckeye Boys State. I am confident that Adam will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Adam Hug on the offer of his

appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Adam will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LATE RANDY  
NAYLOR, SR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a philanthropist, the late Randy Naylor, Sr. Mr. Naylor has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Randy Naylor, Sr. was born June 23, 1953, in Vicksburg, MS to George Washington and Lillian B. Naylor. He was a humble and caring man who was always in good spirit.

Randy was a graduate of Rosa A. Temple High School Class of 1973, where he served as a Drum Major. He also attended Hinds Community College where he studied Criminal Justice.

Randy was employed with Vicksburg Warren School System as a bus driver and ISD Teacher. He also worked nights at the Merchant Company as well as a security guard for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He joined the Vicksburg Police Department in 1988. Randy was the recipient of the "Officer of the Year" award on numerous occasions. He had extensive training in all aspects of law enforcement, criminal and juvenile investigation. In 2008, Randy was elected Constable for Warren County where he served until his death. Naylor was also a Notary Public for the state of Mississippi.

Randy volunteered his time to the Salvation Army, Kings Head Start, which he later adopted and provided clothes and books to the kids at the center. He also volunteered at the River City Rescue Mission. Randy spoke to various youth groups at churches throughout the city.

Randy also worked diligently with the city summer program, "Street Ball" which is now called the Randy Naylor Summer Youth Program. He secured various partnerships throughout the city for supplies for the program. Mr. Naylor's work as a Resource officer in the Vicksburg/Warren School District allowed him to develop good relationships with the youth that made his impact on the "Street Ball" program extremely important in the realm of community policing. Students and young people would listen to him when no other officer could get them to cooperate. Parents trusted him with their kids and criminals knew better than to cross him all because of the relationships he built through his work in the community.

As a member of Calvary Baptist Church he served as an Usher and the President of the Layman's Ministry. He was married to Dorothy Naylor for 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Mr. Randy Naylor, Sr.

for his dedication to serving our great city in the Vicksburg/Warren community.

ANTON ZHOU IS A MASTER OF  
THE ARTS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anton Zhou of Sugar Land, Texas for being named a Texas Young Master in visual arts for the spring of 2016. This is one of the most impressive awards given to a young artist in their state.

Anton currently attends Clements High School and previously attended the XinSheng Wang Art School. At 17 years of age, Anton has won multiple awards and recognition for his well-known impressionist and contemporary art style. Founded in 2002, the Texas Young Master program was developed by the Texas Cultural Trust and the Texas Commission on the Arts. They recognize students from 8th through 11th grade who have proven incredible artistic talent in either visual, performing, or literary arts. Students recognized as a Texas Young Master are awarded \$5,000 in scholarships each year for two years, to assist with continuing education in their selected art form.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Anton Zhou for being named a Texas Young Master. We can't wait to see what the future brings for him.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
ALEXANDER DOLAN ON HIS  
OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO AT-  
TEND THE UNITED STATES MILI-  
TARY ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Alexander Dolan of Bryan, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Alexander's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Alexander brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Bryan High School in Bryan, Ohio, Alexander was named an Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Academy Award winner, earned academic booster club awards, served as class president, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was ranked first in his class.

Throughout high school, Alexander was a member of his school's soccer and track and field teams, serving as the teams' captain and earning varsity letters. Alexander was also active and excelled in orchestra and was selected to attend Buckeye Boys State. I am confident that Alexander will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alexander Dolan on the offer of his appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Alexander will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE COLUMBIA  
MUSEUM OF ART

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Columbia Museum of Art received the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor given to museums for service to their community.

For decades the Columbia Museum of Art has been revitalizing the city center of Columbia. Today, it is the center of a vibrant and culturally diverse Main Street community. The museum engages students in creative and new ways that showcase the importance of the arts in our school system. As the 2016 Co-Chair of the Congressional Art Competition, I am grateful for their role in encouraging and developing the talents of young artists.

This award highlights the Columbia Museum of Art's long-standing commitment to outreach efforts in at-risk, rural, and underserved communities. I am grateful for the tireless work of Executive Director, Karen Brosius, President of the Board, Claude M. Walker, Jr., museum staff, and all of their dedicated volunteers for their commitment to promoting art in our community. Congratulations to the Columbia Museum of Art on this well-deserved honor; I am grateful to serve you in Congress.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

BETH HASSETT, EXECUTIVE DI-  
RECTOR, WEAVE—ED STOUT ME-  
MORIAL AWARD FOR OUT-  
STANDING VICTIM ADVOCACY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) advocates for the silent voices of crime

victims. During its 10 year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA (CA) and myself, we are honored to present Sacramento resident Beth Hassett with the Ed Stout Memorial Award. Nominated by Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI of the 6th Congressional District of California, Beth is incredibly deserving of this award. The award honors the memory of Ed Stout, the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, MO, one of the nation's three oldest victim assistance organizations—who died in 2005 following a 30 plus year career of inspiring crime victims and those who serve them. The honoree is a professional or volunteer whose efforts directly benefit victims and survivors of crime.

Beth has been an outspoken and effective champion for women and children in Sacramento through her leadership as the Executive Director at WEAVE. Beth leads a team of advocates who share a common goal of creating a community that does not tolerate domestic violence and sexual assault and offers victims the support they need to be safe and thrive. Established in 1978, WEAVE is Sacramento's oldest and most comprehensive domestic violence agency and sole Rape Crisis Center. The agency provides in-person and telephone support to more than 12,000 survivors each year.

For 23 years, Beth has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in the Sacramento Region. Beth has been an active volunteer in our community, received several community leadership awards, and served as the Governor's appointee to the statewide Domestic Violence Advisory Committee from 2010 through 2015. She has made it her mission to educate our community and spread the word about violence prevention and intervention. Her leadership on behalf of survivors has made such a difference in Sacramento. She could not be more deserving of the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING THE THOMPSON-  
CLEMONS POST NUMBER 200

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Thompson-Clemons Post Number 200 of Greenwood, Mississippi.

The Thompson-Clemons Post Number 200 of Greenwood, Mississippi was the first African American Post established in the State of Mississippi and came about due to the perseverance of eighteen determined Black Veterans

of World War I and World War II in the Mississippi Delta.

These veterans attempted to join Keeler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post Number 29 which refused them membership. Given that this was the 1940s and Mississippi being a segregationist state, Post Number 29 could not get a majority vote of its members to allow black veterans to join their post.

The eighteen black veterans filed a petition to start a new post and presented it to the Mississippi Department of the American Legion. Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson, a black veteran, postal worker and co-worker of Mr. Author H. Ritchter, the Adjutant of Post Number 29, worked to get the petition through the District. It was due to their vigorous and persistent correspondence to the District and the Mississippi Department of the American Legion that they were allowed to form a separate post if they could find a sponsor.

Keesler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post Number 29 agreed to serve as a sponsor to assist Thompson-Clemons Post Number 200 in getting the temporary charter, paving the way for other charters to be granted to other black veteran's groups throughout the state of Mississippi.

Originally, the post was called the Mississippi Delta Post Number 200. Mr. L.H. Threadgill, principal of Stone Street High School, a veteran of World War II, proposed that the post be named after two former students of Stone Street High School, that were killed in action during WWII. The motion carried and the name was adopted. Thompson-Clemons Post Number 200 was granted a permanent charter on July 28, 1949, becoming the first Black post in the State of Mississippi. The first Post Commander was Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson.

Mr. L.H. Threadgill and others in the community were instrumental in purchasing the property, obtaining a deed, and getting a building to establish a post headquarters where it is still located today.

The Thompson-Clemons Post Number 200 of Greenwood, Mississippi has a distinct track record of encouragement to veterans with issues, be they be from serving abroad; in combat situations or statewide service. Issues range from transportation to Regional Office and VA Hospital for medical disability claims, educational and skill training, housing and other activities including establishing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to provide emergency services such as utilities, homes for the homeless, counseling and assistance in understanding the myriad of services provided by the VA.

The VA community activities include sponsorship of little league baseball teams, voter education classes, veterans day celebration, adopt a school program, donations to needy families, Boys State Program and the National American Legion Oratorical Contest, where candidates sponsored by Post Number 200, have won the Mississippi State Championship four times, and three out of the past four years.

Leadership activities include a weekly live call in radio talk program aired on WGNL 104.3 FM in Greenwood, Mississippi where veterans can actually dial up and talk about issues that affect them and their community.

Partnering with organizations such as the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Greenwood Voters League, Mississippi Valley State University and other community based groups that advocate for social justice.

Thompson-Clemons Post Number 200 is well integrated into the fabric and culture of the Mississippi Delta and should be recognized as a Post that has the interest of our service men, their families and community at heart.

The American Legion Post Number 200 is moving forward to continue the legacy of those early veterans who honorably served their country and had the vision that through the American Legion and its core principles, they could continue to protect and build an America and Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a remarkable organization, The Thompson-Clemons Post Number 200, for its dedication to serving our veterans and giving back to the African American community.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
THOMAS KOIZUMI ON HIS OFFER  
OF APPOINTMENT TO THE  
UNITED STATES MILITARY  
ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. Latta. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Thomas Koizumi of Findlay, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Thomas' offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Thomas brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Liberty-Benton High School in Findlay, Ohio, Thomas earned top student of class awards, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was ranked first in his class.

Throughout high school, Thomas was a member of his school's cross country team, serving as its captain and earning his varsity letter. Thomas was also active and excelled in gymnastics and Kendo. I am confident that Thomas will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Thomas Koizumi on the offer of his appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Thomas will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending

their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX THOMSEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. Young of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Thomsen of Underwood High School for winning the Class 1A, 126-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning two state championships back to back is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Mr. Thomsen, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Alex demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alex on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PRE-LAW  
PROGRAMS AT CARL WUNSCH  
SR. HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. Poe of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 22, 2016, the Criminal Justice and Pre-Law Programs at Carl Wunsche Sr. High School, a Career Academy operating within my district, were selected for Advance Career Technical Education's (CTE) 2016 Excellence in Action Award in the Law Career Cluster. The following day, Harris County Sheriff Ron Hickman visited the campus Law Enforcement Explorers meeting to evaluate the programs and congratulate and encourage the students. Exemplary programs such as these cannot go unnoticed; Advance CTE understands this, which is why they honor and award programs who meet their high standards.

Advance CTE's Excellence in Action Award recognizes programs who "show a true progression from secondary to postsecondary education, provide meaningful work-based learning opportunities, and have a substantial and evidence-based impact on student achievement and success." Each program chosen for recognition is honored in an award ceremony, in an active blog series, in a monthly Congressional newsletter, and in the 2015 Celebrating Innovations in Career Technical Education ceremony at the White House. Carl Wunsche Sr. High School's Criminal Justice and Pre-Law programs are deserving of all of these honors, but the programs wouldn't

be where they are without the instructors who cultivated them.

Great programs reflect the experience and leadership of the instructors who run them. This could not be truer for Curtis Doss who heads up the Criminal Justice program and Mary Scherzer who directs the Pre-Law program. Mr. Doss has over 25 years of law enforcement experience serving in a myriad of roles. His career stretches as a U.S. Marshall, 8 years as a member of SWAT, as a member of the honor guard, as OIC of the national fugitive recovery unit, and as an undercover agent.

Instructors and programs like this develop our young men and women into competent, experienced graduates ready for their careers. Our criminal justice system is well served to have graduates of Carl Wunsche Sr. High operating within its ranks. It makes me proud to represent students and instructors who conduct themselves with such distinction.

And that is just the way it is.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
JAMES RENEAU, JR. ON HIS  
OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO  
THE UNITED STATES NAVAL  
ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that James Reneau, Jr., of Findlay, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

James' offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

James brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Findlay High School in Findlay, Ohio, James was a member of the National Honor Society, the Distinguished Honor Roll and a Scholar Athlete.

Throughout high school, James was a member of his school's football and track teams, serving as his teams' captain. He also volunteered with community youth sports teams and Special Olympics. I am confident that James will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Reneau, Jr. on the offer of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that James will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

THE VIRGINIA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP (VWIL) AT MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia is home to a number of first-rate educational institutions. The Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL) at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Va., is no exception. In addition to rigorous academic standards and leadership training, VWIL is the only all-female corps of cadets in the nation.

VWIL has been developing women leaders for 20 years through its elite program. Opened in 1995, VWIL is a public-private partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia and Mary Baldwin College. This four-year program integrates academics, fitness, leadership development, ethics, and military training. Following graduation, VWIL cadets have the opportunity to receive a commission into any branch of the United States military.

The mission of VWIL over the past 20 years has been to prepare and develop women to become active and engaged leaders in the military, public service, and private sector. This is a mission they have lived up to today. VWIL demands that cadets achieve their highest level of performance, and that is seen clearly in the caliber of graduates produced by the program. To date, 382 women have graduated from the VWIL program. This community of alumnae has gone on to seek higher education as well as careers in a variety of fields, including government and management. Additionally, 130 graduates have been commissioned into military service. A VWIL alumna also made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. USAF 1Lt Sarah K. Small, a member of VWIL's Class of 2002, was killed in the line of duty in 2005 and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

On Friday, April 22, VWIL will hold a 20th Anniversary Parade and Awards Ceremony to commemorate the history and achievements of the Institute, honor the program's alumnae, and celebrate the future. I congratulate Brigadier General Teresa Djuric (USAF, Ret.), Commandant of Cadets, as well as faculty and staff, current cadets, and alumnae on this milestone. I wish VWIL many more years of success in developing future leaders.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICK J. SOLANO, RECIPIENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH AWARD

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick J. Solano, who will receive the Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award on April 22, 2016 during the

118th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Society. Since 1976, the Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award has been bestowed upon an individual whose actions have stood out in benefiting the Commonwealth. Mr. Solano is renowned across Pennsylvania for dedicating a lifetime of service to his country, state, and community.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Solano was with the Eighth U.S. Air Force Heavy Bombardment Group from 1943 to 1946. Mr. Solano completed twenty-three combat missions aboard a B-17 named "Hangover." His valor earned him the Group Presidential Citation, the Air Force Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European Combat Theatre Medal with two Bronze Stars.

Following his military service, Mr. Solano advised nine governors of Pennsylvania. He offered counsel to William Scranton, Raymond P. Shafer, Milton Shapp, Dick Thornburg, Robert P. Casey, Tom Ridge, Mark Schweiker, Ed Rendell, and Tom Corbett, as well as Pennsylvania State Senate Majority Leader Dominick Pileggi. Mr. Solano earned a reputation for working behind the scenes to find bipartisan solutions and funding for projects. In addition to advising Pennsylvania's chief executives, Mr. Solano served as Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forests at the Department of Environmental Resources and as the Acting Secretary of the then newly created Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

After forty years of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Mr. Solano retired in 2002. Today, he resides in Hughestown with his wife Marie. They are the parents of six daughters and have eleven grandchildren.

It is an honor to recognize Patrick J. Solano for receiving the Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award. I am deeply grateful for his outstanding service to Pennsylvania.

TRINITY SETS THE PACE AT  
QUICK DRAW ART CONTEST

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trinity Pace for winning first place in the 2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Quick Draw Art Contest.

Trinity is in eighth grade at St. Laurence Catholic School in Sugar Land, Texas. This talented student won both first place in the Quick Draw Art Contest and was also titled "Junior High Champion," where she earned a cash reward, scholarship to the Glassell Junior Art School, and finally a Junior High Gold Ribbon of Excellence. Out of 600 students who applied for the contest, only 26 were selected to move forward. The Houston Rodeo Art Programs have produced 50 years of talented students and phenomenal art. We are so proud of Trinity, and look forward to seeing the fantastic art she will create in her bright future.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Trinity for her success at the Quick Draw Art Contest at the Houston Rodeo. We can't wait to see what she does next.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ANDREW HAMMOND ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Andrew Hammond of Van Wert, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Andrew's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Andrew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Van Wert High School in Van Wert, Ohio, Andrew was a member of the National Honor Society, a Renaissance Program—Gold Card Recipient, a member of the Spanish Club, and a choir district participant.

Throughout high school, Andrew was a member of his school's wrestling and football teams, earning various awards. He was also active with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I am confident that Andrew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Andrew Hammond on the offer of his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Andrew will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN Huddle ON RECEIVING THE BRIGHTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S GOLD MEDAL

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Megan Huddle, who was recently honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal Award, the highest achievement in the Assemblies of God Girls Ministries program.

To be honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal is the culmination of a 13-year journey of devotion to God that begins in kindergarten and finishes at the end of high

school. The Girls Ministries program strives to instill Christian values and virtues in the young women who will be the future of our nation.

To be honored with a gold medal, girls must go above and beyond the requirements for completing the five levels of clubs offered by the ministries. Medal awardees must also have read the Bible twice, the New Testament three times, memorized portions of scripture and have met weekly with a sponsor who helps to guide them spiritually.

Mr. Speaker, Megan Huddle has not only displayed an uncommon level of spiritual devotion during her time in the Girls Ministries program, but also a measure of determination and commitment that will undoubtedly serve her well through her life. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues in congratulating her on this well-earned achievement.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN IOWA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (SIRHA), Creston, Iowa on their 40-year anniversary. This is an important milestone in their history of service to southern Iowa and the Third Congressional District.

SIRHA provides rent assistance and rent subsidy to low income citizens, elderly and disabled persons of the Third Congressional District in Iowa. They also rent apartment units to citizens in communities that are scattered throughout a six-county area. SIRHA programs have helped to create a positive environment to promote self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its many years of service, Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority has successfully provided necessary services to the communities of Iowa's Third Congressional District. I congratulate SIRHA on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent its employees in the United States Congress. I wish SIRHA nothing but continued success for another 40 years and beyond.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF TREY SMITH ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Trey Smith of Delphos, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Trey's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending

one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Trey brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Delphos Jefferson High School in Delphos, Ohio, Trey was a member of the National Honor Society, an Honor Roll selection every quarter, earned the Best in Class Award for three consecutive years, and was ranked first in his class. He also served as a class officer.

Throughout high school, Trey was a member of his school's basketball team, earning various awards and becoming Delphos Jefferson High School's all-time leading scorer. I am confident that Trey will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trey Smith on the offer of his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Trey will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH'S SERVICE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, who has served the people of the County of Los Angeles and the State of California for over four decades.

Since 1980, Supervisor Antonovich has effectively represented the two million residents of Los Angeles County's 5th Supervisorial District, which includes all or part of the San Gabriel, San Fernando, Crescenta, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys.

As a government and history teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1966, Mike credits his fifth grade teacher for the inspiration to enter public life. He entered the teaching profession as a government and history teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1966, and subsequently, he was elected to the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees in 1969. In 1972, he was elected to the California State Assembly, where he served three terms and rose to the rank of Republican Whip, before serving the County of Los Angeles.

His 36 years as a County Supervisor has been characterized by his dedication to public safety and support for foster children, seniors, veterans and the mentally ill. He has been a strong advocate for the environment, successfully preserving thousands of acres of open space and enhancing parks, trails and recreational programs and facilities. The Supervisor also serves on the Board of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Metrolink (Southern California Regional



Rail Authority), Southern California Association of Governments, San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

His experience and accomplishments have been recognized nationally. Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush appointed Antonovich to numerous presidential committees and commissions, including the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, the U.S.-Japan Advisory Committee, the Commission on Privatization, and the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees.

His many significant accomplishments over the years include:

The High Intensity-Criminal Alien Apprehension and Prosecution Program, involving federal, state and local law enforcement collaborative efforts targeting repeat criminal illegal alien offenders which served as a prototype for future federal law enforcement programs;

The DISARM program which has seized over 10,000 weapons and \$700 million in illegal drugs and money from convicted felons on probation;

The construction of a state-of-the-art courthouse expanding access to justice for the residents of the Antelope Valley;

The Child Abduction Regional Emergency (CARE) Alert program, a model for the nationwide Amber Alert system;

State legislation extending foster care services for emancipated foster youth between the age of 18 and 21 and the Youth Self-Sufficiency Initiative providing housing, education and job training for emancipating foster youth;

The co-founding of the award-winning L.A. County High School for the Arts;

The Veterans Internship Program and the annual "Salute to Veterans" event providing programs and services to veterans and their families;

Laura's Law which provides treatment for the chronically homeless mentally ill;

The Quality and Productivity Commission to streamline government services and programs saving taxpayers more than \$4 billion;

The rebuilding of the Olive-View/UCLA Medical Center which had been destroyed by the 1971 Sylmar earthquake;

The development of the Gold Line rail system serving the San Gabriel Valley;

The expansion of the county's parks and trail system including the preservation of over 2,300 acres of open space;

The Pet Adoption program rescuing over 1,000 dogs, cats and other pets;

The restaurant and nursing home grading system protecting public health;

Successful economic development and job creation efforts including attracting international companies to the region.

Over the years, I have had the distinct honor of being able to work with Supervisor Antonovich to help our community and constituents in the Antelope Valley. His advice and counsel have been invaluable—whether offered in Washington or Los Angeles or from the back of a horse in chaps and cowboy hat during one of the famous Antonovich Trail Dusters Rides.

On behalf of the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, and our constituents,

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for Supervisor Antonovich's commitment to public service and inestimable contributions as a member of the Board of Supervisors. As he completes his final Board term this year, I look forward to Mike's continuing contributions to our communities, and wish him, his wife Christine, and his children Michael and Mary, all the best in this next chapter of his life.

IN SUPPORT OF APRIL AS NATIONAL FINANCIAL CAPABILITY MONTH

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join President Obama in recognizing April as National Financial Capability Month, and highlight the vital role that the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or AICPA, state CPA societies, and CPAs across the country play in educating all Americans about their personal finances.

National Financial Capability Month is a yearly reminder of how important it is to improve Americans' understanding of their personal finances. The Great Recession showed the need to support informed financial decision-making and help ensure economic security for all. Financial education is an essential component to making smart financial choices and protecting hard-earned income.

In May 2004, the CPA profession launched a unified financial literacy initiative: 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy. The effort brings together the AICPA, state CPA societies and individual CPAs to address a growing public issue: financial illiteracy. The program combines grassroots financial literacy efforts with free resources for the public and tools that CPAs can use at a local level to volunteer to educate Americans of all ages on financial topics. CPAs are deeply concerned about Americans' high financial illiteracy levels and are working to ensure they have tools and knowledge to make educated financial decisions. The initiative sends the message that financial education should be a lifelong endeavor—from encouraging children to save their allowance to helping adults plan for a secure retirement.

The AICPA National CPA Financial Literacy Commission is leading the CPA profession in a national effort to advance the financial literacy of Americans. Toward this end, this group works to increase awareness of the importance of financial literacy education, builds liaisons within the financial literacy community, and serves as media spokespeople.

Educating young adults about their finances is a difficult task. To help solve this problem, the AICPA recently launched a new financial literacy version of the Bank On It game for high school students. Bank On It is a free, online game. The financial literacy version covers topics students need to master to be money-savvy in the real world, such as balancing a checkbook, understanding credit scores and student loans, and even investing in a cool startup company. Game questions

were reviewed by CPAs across the country, giving students have an opportunity to learn financial management skills in an engaging and positive way.

This year is the 10th anniversary of Feed The Pig, the AICPA's public service campaign with the Ad Council that provides Americans ages 25–34 with free tools and resources to make smart saving decisions. Over the past 10 years, millions of young adults have benefited from AICPA's free resources by creating and keeping personal financial goals. And the profession's leadership in this area is working. According to a new survey from the AICPA and the Ad Council, one in three millennials (34 percent) ranked saving as their number one goal for the year—ahead of living a healthy lifestyle (20 percent), paying off debt (19 percent), and losing weight (14 percent). But while saving was a top priority, a majority of millennials attributed their lack of saving to impulse buying (65 percent).

Additionally, according to recent data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, young people now have less debt overall than they did in 2003, even in the face of significant increases in college tuition since that time. But there is still much work to be done. The same Federal Reserve survey shows that debt held by borrowers between the ages of 50 and 80 increased almost 60 percent over the same time period.

We must ensure that everyone, from elementary school to older Americans, has the knowledge to make educated decisions about their finances. It is essential to restoring the faith in our financial system and keeping the American dream alive.

A.R. WILFLEY & SONS, INC.

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud A.R. Wilfley & Sons, Inc. for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. This fifth-generation manufacturer of heavy duty centrifugal pumps for chemical and mineral processing has been in business for almost 100 years. In 2014, the company acquired a site in Commerce City with two buildings totaling 121,000 sq. ft. Extensive capital investments were made at the site and helped create 90 new manufacturing jobs. A.R. Wilfley & Sons also takes part in extensive community service work with the Boys and Girls Club and the George M. Wilfley Club, and looks forward to further developing their relationship with the Commerce City location.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the A.R. Wilfley & Sons, Inc. for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

WOMEN OF HISTORY—MARGARET  
UTINSKY**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are some truly remarkable women in history. History helps us learn who we are, and where we came from. Margaret Utinsky is one such woman.

In the heat of an August summer of 1900 Margaret Utinsky was born in St. Louis, Missouri. 40 years later, World War II broke out. When the Japanese invaded the Philippines on January 2nd, 1940, Margaret was serving as a volunteer nurse with the Red Cross. As all strong women seem to do, she worked not only as a nurse, but also became the manager of the servicemen's canteen.

My mother, Dorrace Poe, served as a volunteer nurse with the Red Cross during World War II in Temple, Texas. Nurses like my mother and Margaret were called upon by Congress in the 1905 congressional charter to "furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war" and to "act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their Army and Navy."

As the U.S.S. *Washington* sailed off into the murky ocean waters, Utinsky stood resolved. She did not leave with the Army wives, ferried off to safety. Her husband returned to serve in Batann as a civil engineer, safe from harm. Utinsky is best known for her work with the Filipino resistance movement to provide medicine, food, and other items to aid Allied prisoners of war in the Philippines during World War II.

As the Japanese took the capital city of Manila, Margaret rushed off, hid in an abandoned apartment complex, and stocked it with food and medicine that she stole from the Army and Navy commissaries. For 10 weeks she hid out, desperate to save herself from the internment camps, teaching herself to type and listening to the radio.

Undiscovered after ten weeks in hiding, Utinsky ventured out and sought help from the priests at Malate Convent. Through her various contacts, she obtained false papers, creating the identity of Rena Utinsky, a Lithuanian nurse. (Lithuania was a nonbelligerent country under armed occupation by Nazi Germany.)

With her new identity she finally was able to find work in a Red Cross unit that was headed to Bantaan. Upon her arrival she was able to help American Soldiers who were captured by the Japanese. While treating the soldiers, she found and concealed an American flag and documents describing spy activity. After witnessing the Bataan Death March, she resolved to do all that was in her power to aid those in need. She helped build a clandestine resistance network that provided food, medicine and money to those in the POW camps at Camp O'Donnell and then later at Cabanatuan prison camp. After learning of her husband's death in a prison camp she redoubled her efforts, determined to avenge her husband's death.

Suspected of aiding and saving prisoners, the Japanese arrested her. She was subjected to 32 days of torture at Fort Santiago prison. She survived daily beatings, was hung with her arms tied behind her back and was sexually assaulted. Cold bloodily, five Filipinos were beheaded directly in front of her cell. On another night, an American soldier was tied to her cell gate and beaten to death, his body disintegrating as they beat him. She then was confined to a dungeon cell, starved and malnourished for four days. Not once did she reveal her true identity.

She was finally released after signing a statement attesting to her good treatment. Utinsky spent six weeks in a hospital recovering from a multitude of injuries. The doctors wanted to amputate her gangrenous leg, but she refused, terrified that she would reveal secrets while under anesthesia. The hospital was full of Japanese spies. She directed the surgeons to remove the gangrenous flesh without any type of anesthesia. Despite not having fully recovered, she left the hospital and escaped to the Bataan Peninsula. She continued to serve as a nurse with the Philippine Commonwealth troops, moving from camp to camp until liberation in February 1945.

When the Allies arrived, Utinsky was taken through the Japanese lines to the Americans. She had lost 45 pounds and an inch in height. Her hair had turned solid white and she appeared to have aged 25 years. Within a few days she wrote for the Americans a list from memory, of soldiers she knew had been tortured, the names of the torturers and the names of collaborators and spies.

In 1946, Utinsky was awarded the Medal of Freedom for her heroic actions, defending the lives of Americans abroad. Strong women like Utinsky are the backbone of America. They fought valiantly against those who seek to kill, destroy, and harm our men. They are unsung heroes of the Second World War.

And that is just the way it is.

## TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH LAIRD

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Elizabeth Laird, fondly known as Fort Hood's beloved "Hug Lady." While she became an angel late last year, the impact she had on our soldiers will live on.

It all began in 2003, when Elizabeth volunteered with the Salvation Army to shake the hands of deploying soldiers. One day, instead of a handshake, Elizabeth received a hug from a soldier. From that moment on, her handshakes became hugs, and the "Fort Hood Hug Lady" was born. Over the next thirteen years, she would go on to hug over 500,000 servicemen and women as they deployed from and returned to Fort Hood.

Without fail, Elizabeth would be there upon the soldiers' deployments and later for their homecomings, often waiting at the airport in the middle of the night for their arrival. Eliza-

beth became a beloved figure to these American soldiers as they shipped out for deployment. Her simple gesture of a hug provided them with comfort and a powerful reminder of what they are fighting for.

She described hugging as something the Lord guided her to do. Along with her hugs, Elizabeth handed out cards etched with the stirring words from Psalm 91: "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty . . . you will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day." How reassuring these sentiments must have been to our brave warriors venturing forth to defend freedom. All who've been blessed by Elizabeth's presence know that these words weren't a meaningless expression but a deep and lasting creed that was the guiding force of her life.

When she became bedridden due to breast cancer, many of the soldiers came to visit her in the hospital to return the gesture and show their appreciation. Sadly, Elizabeth Laird passed away on Christmas Eve of last year, leaving behind both a loving family and a legion of admirers.

Some people go through life wondering if they made a difference. Elizabeth Laird, the Fort Hood Hug Lady, didn't have that problem. Her kindness and commitment to being of service to others touched thousands and reminds us how the simplest of gestures can have the largest of impacts.

## STRYKER BY DESIGN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stryker by Design for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award recognizes a company or entrepreneur that demonstrates a pioneer spirit toward new product development, a business start-up, or growth into new markets. Stryker by Design is a woman-owned, contract manufacturing company that has been in business since 2000.

Stryker by Design specializes in "soft-sewn" products, made by highly-trained and talented operators including refugees from war-torn countries in Africa and the Middle East. Stryker manufactures backpacks, military and tactical gear, fashion bags and more at their facility located on Monaco Street in Commerce City. The company uses an innovative approach to contract manufacturing. The owners not only make their clients' products, but they also offer office, design and warehouse space to some of their clients and even allow the companies access to their production floor. Their success has enabled them to double their employee count, invest in new machinery, and fully utilize their 10,000 square foot space.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Stryker by Design for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

THIS "HOLY COW" WINS "BEST IN SHOW"

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Emily Fiedler for her artwork earning the title of "Best in Show" at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Junior High Contest.

Emily is in eighth grade at St. Laurence Catholic School in Sugar Land, Texas. This talented student earned the Junior High title of "Best in Show" for her artwork, "Holy Cow." In addition to this elite award, Emily received a scholarship to the Glassell School of Art. The Houston Rodeo Art Programs have produced 50 years of talented students and phenomenal art. We are so proud of Emily, and look forward to seeing the fantastic art she will create in her bright future.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Emily for her success at the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Junior High Art Contests. We can't wait to see what she does next.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RABBI HERBERT BAUMGARD

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Rabbi Herbert Baumgard, who passed away this past Friday, at the age of 95.

Rabbi Baumgard founded Temple Beth Am, which is an important institution in my congressional district that has brought the South Florida Jewish community together for over 60 years.

A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Rabbi Baumgard served as an assistant to a Chaplain in World War II.

He credited that experience with his motivation for becoming a Rabbi.

One of Rabbi Baumgard's strongest ideals was the continuing friendship and alliance with the State of Israel.

The Rabbi was committed to not only strengthening our ties with our great ally, but to seeing that the United States continues to support and defend the Jewish State, which is an idea that I shared with him.

I am so honored and privileged to have had the opportunity to represent Temple Beth Am and to experience all that Rabbi Baumgard has done to improve South Florida.

May his memory be a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA AND MERLIN MCALLISTER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sylvia

and Merlin McAllister of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on April 7, 1946.

Merlin and Sylvia have enjoyed many adventures together throughout their 70 years. Mr. McAllister said, "We've been here, there, and everywhere, and just have a good time and enjoy life. We work together and we make a good team." They have visited all 50 states and traveled throughout Europe. Merlin and Sylvia are active members of the Farragut United Methodist Church in Farragut, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, Merlin and Sylvia's lifelong commitment to each other and their two children, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE, INC.

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Old Dominion Freight Line is a motor carrier providing regional, inter-regional and national less-than-truckload (LTL) and value-added logistics services. The company has been in Commerce City for 20 years. In 2015, the company expanded its footprint to a 65,000 square foot facility which enabled them to add 70 jobs and 125 trucks departures a day, delivering 275,000 packages annually.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

HONORING SANDRIDGE FOOD CORPORATION ON RECEIVING THE 2016 SMART BUSINESS EVOLUTION OF MANUFACTURING AWARD

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Sandridge Food Corporation on receiving the 2016 Smart Business Evolution of Manufacturing Award. Sandridge Food Co. is a family-owned refrigerated foods manufacturer located in Medina, Ohio.

For more than 50 years, Sandridge Food Co. has produced fresh deli salads, soups,

entrees, desserts, sauces, and dips for the food service and retail sectors. A leader in the refrigerated foods industry in North America, Sandridge has built its rich heritage with an unparalleled commitment to food safety, culinary excellence, and innovation.

Small businesses across the country work hard every day to produce the goods and services needed to drive our nation's economy.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to this valued business and community partner.

HONORING NORTH PANOLA HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, North Panola High School of Sardis, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

North Panola High School is a rural high school situated on the eastern edge of the Mississippi delta. For many years the high school has been a part of a school district that had been plagued by low test scores, violence and a negative school culture. The school district had been taken over by the state several times due to year after year of low test scores.

In July of 2011, Robert King, Conservator of the North Panola School District, hired Jamone Edwards as the principal of North Panola High School. Jamone Edwards, a graduate of Mississippi State University and The University of Mississippi, was the youngest principal the school had ever witnessed. He brought innovative ideas and worked tirelessly to increase teacher morale and create a positive school culture. Under his leadership and the staff's support, the school has made significant gains in the accountability model in which schools are rated. Prior to the new leadership, for many years the school was considered low performing and on academic watch. During his tenure, the school rose to Successful, which is equivalent to a C school. In the 2013-14 school year, Mr. Edwards led the school to its first ever High Performing Status, which is equivalent to a B school. This is a remarkable achievement as the school had never experienced such success and recognition.

Additionally, since 2010, the school has many successes to celebrate. The school's graduation rate was at an all-time low of 49 percent in 2010. Since that time, the graduation rate has risen to 73 percent for the 2013-14 academic school year. Currently, the high school is projected to have a graduation rate of 85 percent for the 2014-15 accountability rating. In addition, Algebra I and U.S. History subject area test scores have surpassed the state's average, and English II and Biology I state test scores are slightly trailing the state's average.

North Panola High School has also made significant improvement in preparing students for college and acquiring scholarships. In 2010, the mean ACT score was 14.8. Since

that time, several students of North Panola High School has scored 20 or better on the ACT. In 2010, the high school graduating seniors had generated \$150,000 in scholarship monies. In 2014, the high school graduating class of approximately 80 students received in excess more that \$2 Million in scholarship monies creating more opportunities for our children to succeed in college and careers after high school.

In March 2015, North Panola High School received an award from the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Carey M. Wright and the Mississippi Department of Education, for closing the achievement gap between black and white students in the area of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. North Panola was one of the only predominantly minority high schools to be recognized with the Distinguished School Award. As a result, North Panola High School received \$23,750.05 to further enhance the students' overall educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing North Panola High School for its dedication to serving our great state of Mississippi and country.

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UNITED PARCEL SERVICE (UPS)

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud United Parcel Service (UPS) for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Business of the Year Award.

The Business of the Year Award is given to a company showing leadership within its industry and the community. UPS has been in the Commerce City community for over 44 years and employs 2,700 people as the largest private-sector employer in the city. They recently added 90 full-time jobs and constructed a large high capacity Compressed Natural Gas fueling station for their local fleet of 300 UPS cars and tractors.

The employees at the UPS facility are an integral part of the transportation and logistics sector in Colorado and in the western U.S. but also an integral part of the local community. They give countless hours in volunteer services, donate to local charity programs and are stewards of the economy and the environment. They have assisted in many community projects including the relocation of the old Commerce City Civic Center to the new Historical Society Property, the renovation efforts in local schools, and the remodel of the Hope Center, which helps individuals with developmental disabilities and at-risk children and adults.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the United Parcel Service for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

HONORING 41 PALM BEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENLISTING IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 41 high school seniors from Palm Beach County, Florida for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduating this year. Of these 41 enlistees, nineteen are Army enlistees, three are Army Reserves enlistees, eleven are Marine Corps enlistees, four are National Guard enlistees, and four are Navy enlistees.

These young men and women have demonstrated a tremendous sense of bravery and patriotism in their commitment to our nation. I am proud of them, this institution is proud of them, and their families, friends, and communities are proud of them. Their dedication reminds us that in the face of a diverse set of challenges, the United States remains an example of freedom, justice, and perseverance throughout the world.

I want to personally thank these 41 local graduating seniors for their commitment to our nation and recognize their selflessness. They are: Dylan Smith, Cristian Machuca, Bradley Scaccia, Denzel Persaud, Christon Fitzpatrick, Breana Williams, Jean Decime, Mark Brown, Shantel Johnson, Lashonda Darrisaw, Davarie McCarthy, Precious Montgomery, Emerson Charles, Lawrence Hamilton, Mayco Saincere, Jahnque Miller, Keisha Oreste, Reginald Mehu, Bailey Federer, Richard Rodriguez, Moses Louis-Charles, Joshua Brewer, Nicklaus Lawrence, Delinson Tomas Velasquez, Destinee Allen, Joshua Cruz Pozuelos, Joshua Wilkes, Oshane Wilson, Allen Gonzalez, Kristen Dodd, Luis Sepulveda, Wadson Dieujuste, Montus Desulma, Ian Little, Natalia Ruiz, Maikyria Lawson, Francis Fevrier, Cristy Guillen Beltre, Fritznick Thelusca, Carlos Gonzalez Vega, and Raja Pargan.

Mr. Speaker, our nation is blessed with the best trained and strongest fighting force in the world. We owe a debt of gratitude to each and every American serving in our armed forces, and to the many veterans who have served before them. Their spirit of service is something we can all be proud of. It is my distinct honor to recognize these young leaders here today, and to thank each of them for stepping forward on behalf of this great nation.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the National Association of University Women of Houston, Texas for hosting their 57th South Central Conference in serving young women.

The National Association of University Women (NAUW) was established in 1910 in Washington, DC by Mary Terrell, Dr. Sara Brown, and Mary Cromwell. The internationally known, non-profit organization directs their efforts toward young women, inspiring them to strive for success regardless of their circumstance. The NAUW works to accomplish this by granting high school seniors with scholarships and advocating women's rights, educational issues, and inspiring young women of tomorrow to make a difference. The 57th South Central Sectional Conference will be held from June 16th to the 18th at the Hilton Westchase Hotel in Houston, Texas.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the National Association of University Women for hosting their 57th South Central Conference in Houston. We appreciate their public service.

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IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN GREG KEITHLY

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Greg Keithly on his retirement from the United States Navy after thirty five years of dedicated service.

Captain Keithly enlisted in the Navy in July of 1981 and began his long career of loyal service to our nation. After his completion of U.S. Hull Maintenance Technician School at Treasure Island, California and later Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he would go on to serve as a Hull Technician on the USS *McKee* and the USS *Fletcher* which was deployed to the Western Pacific.

Captain Keithly later attended the University of San Diego under the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. Upon his graduation in 1989, Captain Keithly continued his career with the United States Navy as a commissioned officer.

Captain Keithly subsequently began his first fleet tour, during which he served aboard the USS *Kitty Hawk* in support of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, as well as Operation Southern Watch in Iraq. Additionally, he completed a second tour duty in the Western Pacific.

His faithful service continued in 1997 with his assignment as the squadron Training Officer and Operations Officer to the "Black Knights" of Atsugi, Japan. In December 2000, Captain Keithly moved on to serve as the Operations Officer for the Navy's first Super Hornet Fleet Replacement Squadron in Lemoore, California.

In July 2002, Captain Keithly furthered his education at the United States Naval War College located in Newport, Rhode Island where he received a master's degree. He simultaneously completed the Naval Operations Planners Course and was designated a Naval Operational Planner.

After his graduation from the Naval War College, Captain Keithly reported to the "Black

Aces” where he diligently served as the Commanding Officer until July 2008. During his time with the “Black Aces,” he was deployed twice onboard the USS *Nimitz* where he led his squadron during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Captain Keithly reported to the Third Fleet in August of 2008 and served in various roles including Chief of Plans, N5 Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Policy, and Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for the N5/N7.

In 2012, Captain Keithly was promoted to Deputy-Commander of the Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Lemoore, California and he would soon thereafter assume full command of the largest type wing in the U.S. Navy. He would serve in this position until December 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Captain Greg Keithly for his years of dedicated and unwavering service to the United States Navy.

DENVER MACHINE SHOP

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Denver Machine Shop for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Denver Machine Shop is a fourth generation family business that was founded in 1916 and services the Rocky Mountain region in the mining, petroleum, and manufacturing industries with replacement parts and heavy machinery rebuild services. They repair industrial machinery including heavy mining equipment, rock crushers, steel making production lines, food industry equipment, and sand and gravel screening equipment. In 2013, they moved to a 30,000 square feet facility allowing for a full service machine shop, welding service trucks, field machining, and welding capabilities. Since their move, they have hired eight new employees.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Denver Machine Shop for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,208,277,938,656.01. We've added \$8,581,400,889,742.93 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.5 trillion in debt our na-

tion, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ELVERA AND WENDELL JOHNSON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elvera and Wendell Johnson of Red Oak, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their wedding anniversary on March 17, 2016.

Wendell and Elvera's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 55th year, weathering Iowa's many seasons in their lifelong journey. Much has changed since that spring day in 1961. It is with great pride that I wish them many more years together. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING HAZLETON LODGE NUMBER 200, BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF THE ELKS, UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hazleton Lodge Number 200, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. With its humble roots in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, the order was founded in 1891 and has continued to reflect the founding principles of charity, justice, and brotherhood. The Elks work to empower the communities around them through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, institute projects that address local needs, and honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. Having been formally inducted into the club during my time as the mayor of Hazleton, I can attest first hand to the humanitarian and philanthropic services provided by the Elks.

With help from members of Philadelphia Lodge Number 2, Hazleton Lodge Number 200 was formally instituted in 1891 with the initiation of 26 members. Occupying several locations over the course of its history, Hazleton Lodge Number 200 settled into its current home in 1956. With such a vast network spanning across diverse communities, the Elks have exemplified an unwavering commitment to Pennsylvania as they continue to expand their membership and community services.

Deeply rooted in principle and character, Hazleton Lodge Number 200 embodies the

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.'s motto, "Elks care and Elks share." Through 125 years of service to the Hazleton community, the Elks have encountered over a century's worth of diverse issues and unmet needs. Whether it was through youth programs, educational scholarships, aid to disabled children, food for the less fortunate, or due acknowledgement for our veterans, the Elks have raised the standard of living for all Pennsylvanians. The veterans committee hosts VA picnics and donates Christmas gifts to the veterans in the local nursing homes through the Veterans Christmas Giving Tree. The Flag Day Program salutes the flag, Boy Scouts, and veterans, with the ultimate goal of recognizing those that have sacrificed so much in the past, and to inspire the next generation of valiant leaders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Hazleton Lodge Number 200, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks as it celebrates its 125th anniversary. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish to thank the Elks Lodge and its members for their tireless service to the community and unwavering commitment to our nation's veterans.

COMMERCE CITY FAMILY DENTIST

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Commerce City Family Dentist for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Commerce City Family Dentist is a woman- and minority-owned business that provides orthodontics, cosmetic dentistry, and pediatric dentistry in the Derby area. It has made an impact in Commerce City since the August 2012 opening, growing to 22 employees. Because they believe in giving back, Commerce City Family Dentist offers services to low-income residents and those who do not have health and dental insurance.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Commerce City Family Dentist for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

HONORING ETHEL C. MANGUM

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Ethel C. Mangum who is a native of Madison County. Many of her formative years were spent in the Virden Addition Area. She attended school at Walton Elementary and Brinkley High School. At Jackson State University she earned a B.S. and Master's degree in Social Work and Guidance.

For twenty-eight years she has been an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church and its E. B. Topp Missionary Circle.

Mrs. Mangum has done extensive volunteer work which included: teaching and reading at Powell Middle School; serving as Co-Chairperson of Lake Hico Eubanks Creek Neighborhood Association; working as an HIV/AIDS educator for the American Red Cross; working with children to prevent teenage pregnancy; and motivating them toward moral and academic excellence.

Mrs. Mangum has been a "first" in opening opportunities for others by becoming the first African-American woman to hold a professional position at Baptist Children's Village; the first African-American woman to work for Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. Consulting Engineers; and for SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect). She was one of two females who integrated the lunch room at St. Dominic's Hospital.

Mrs. Mangum currently strives for excellence in the community through her position as Administrative Assistant for Ward 3.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ethel C. Mangum for her dedication to serving others.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF PENN  
STATE EXTENSION IN ADAMS  
COUNTY

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the 100th Anniversary of the Adams County Penn State Extension Program. From its beginnings at the Adams County Courthouse in 1916 until today, Adams County Extension has provided practical agriculture education to empower the citizens, businesses, and local communities in Adams County to solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

The Adams County Penn State Extension program has been a community leader in supporting productive, profitable, and competitive businesses as well as a strong agriculture and food system. The Extension has helped to ensure the long-term vitality of our natural resources and strengthened families and communities throughout Adams County.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I'm proud to have this program in our District and congratulate the staff, volunteers and supporters on the 100th Anniversary of the Adams County Penn State Extension program.

KIMBERLY HUNOLD EARNS NURSE  
OF THE QUARTER AWARD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kimberly Hunold, RN, for being the first recipient of the Pearland Medical Center Nurse of the Quarter Award on March 29, 2016.

Kimberly was selected for this special award by Emergency Room Director Rhonda Abbe. It

was awarded to her by the Pearland Medical Center CEO Matt Dixon and Chief Nursing Officer Jody Noirot. Kimberly earned this distinguished award thanks to her daily efforts to serve her patients, and her commitment to Pearland Medical Center and its residents.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kimberly Hunold for being awarded the Nurse of the Quarter Award. We appreciate her hard work and all that she does for the city of Pearland.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVER-  
SARY FOR ST. MARK'S EPIS-  
COPAL CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia on its 150th anniversary.

Founded in 1866, St. Mark's was originally a mission church of St. James and the congregation grew rapidly. After outgrowing three buildings in their first 50 years, church leaders moved the congregation to a new building in the West End of Richmond. The Georgian Revival style building opened in 1922, was consecrated in 1946, and is still in use today.

Under the leadership of Rev. Edward Meeks "Pope" Gregory, St. Mark's was the first Episcopal church in Richmond to integrate its parish in 1967. Rev. Gregory invited the members of the Osgood Memorial Episcopal Church to join St. Mark's congregation after they were displaced by the building of the downtown expressway.

Over the last 150 years, St. Mark's has continued to be a leader in the Richmond community. In the 1980s, the church offered compassionate responses and funeral services to victims of HIV/AIDS, as well as starting the Richmond AIDS Ministry. More recently, St. Mark's has proudly performed wedding ceremonies for all couples.

Today, St. Mark's hosts fundraisers for the Fan Free Clinic, provides cooling centers in the summer months, serves as a food pantry twice a month, provides school supplies to a nearby school, and is continuously involved with the Richmond community. Additionally, this summer, in honor of their 150th anniversary, St. Mark's will re-launch a neighborhood summer reading program for elementary school students.

Mr. Speaker, as St. Mark's Episcopal Church celebrates this historic anniversary, the congregation can rejoice in 150 years of fellowship. I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the Richmond community.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Food for

Thought for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Image Award.

With support and initial funding from the Arvada Sunrise Rotary Foundation, Food for Thought today serves a tremendous need with free or reduced meals in public schools across the Denver metro area. The Food for Thought program has expanded into Denver and now delivers more than 1,600 weekly "Power-sacks" and has delivered over 4,300 tons of food in total to children in need. The support from the Arvada Sunrise Rotary Foundation was instrumental in this program and the expansion of the program into Denver.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Food for Thought for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING MR. JAMES HALL AND  
MR. TIMOTHY LAVALLEE

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. James Hall and Mr. Timothy Lavallee. Mr. James Hall is a World War II veteran who had the opportunity to participate in Honor Flight Syracuse's fifth mission in April, 2015. Mr. Timothy Lavallee is a VNA Homecare Physical Therapist who works with Mr. Hall and accompanied him as his Honor Flight Guardian.

Mr. Lavallee encouraged Mr. Hall to apply for the Honor Flight mission and together they embarked on an adventure that deepened the strong bond the two men share. At 90 years old, Mr. Hall embarked on a journey during which he and Mr. Lavallee spent a day in Washington, D.C., exploring our nation's monuments and spending time at the World War II memorial. Mr. Hall describes his experience as "bittersweet." Mr. Hall states that the "trip brought back a lot of memories, both happy and sad."

Mr. Hall enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942, at just 17 years old. Mr. Hall was stationed on submarine chaser PC 1119 in the Pacific Theater and participated in five major battles during the invasion of the Philippines.

Mr. Lavallee is a veteran of the Air National Guard. Mr. Lavallee has made a profound difference in the lives of his patients, especially that of Mr. Hall. He believes the success of caring for someone at home goes beyond clinical care, saying, "It's about caring for the whole person, not just the patient."

It is evident that Mr. Hall and Mr. Lavallee share a very special bond and I am pleased to honor both men today. I wish both men the best and I want to personally thank both Mr. Hall and Mr. Lavallee for their service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during the votes held on April 20th, 2016, I was inescapably detained and away handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted YES on the Motion to Re-commit to H.R. 1206, the No Hires for the Delinquent IRS Act, NO on Final Passage of H.R. 1206, and NO on Final Passage of H.R. 4885, the IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending Act of 2016.

TRIBUTE TO SUE AND DAVID  
STROUGH

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sue and David Strough of Gravity, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary which they celebrated on March 17, 2016.

David and Sue's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 55th year, weathering Iowa's many seasons in their lifelong journey. Much has changed since that spring day in 1961. It is with great pride I wish them many more years together. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA  
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MEN'S  
BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Indiana Wesleyan University Men's Basketball team for winning the 2016 NAIA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship. Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU), a Christian university located in Marion, Indiana, has a long history of excellence in academics, spiritual guidance, and athletics. The IWU men's basketball team defeated the Saint Francis Cougars to claim their second national title in three years.

The Wildcats played in the spotlight of the NAIA throughout this astounding season, with an impressive final record of 33-5. In his eleventh season with the Wildcats, Head Coach Greg Tonagel was instrumental in leading the

team to victory. Coach Tonagel joined the Wildcats as head coach in 2005 and has demonstrated exceptional leadership, mentorship, and commitment throughout his years as head basketball coach. His notable guidance both on and off the court was publicly recognized when he was honored as the 2009 Best NAIA Head Coach, as well as the NABC/NAIA Division II Coach of the Year in both 2014 and 2016, both years he led the team to national titles. As the daughter of a high school football coach, I understand the tireless dedication, time commitment, and personal sacrifices required to lead young athletes to victory, and I applaud Coach Tonagel's dedication to excellence.

In addition to the Wildcats' national title, individuals from the team were recognized for excellence. Senior Jonny Marlin was named 2016 Championship Most Outstanding Player, recipient of the Pete Maravich Award, NCCAA Player of the Year, and was the first player in the history of Indiana Wesleyan men's basketball program to be selected twice for the NAIA All-American First Team. Two additional Wildcats, Sophomores Lane Mahurin and Bob Peters, were selected for the 2016 NAIA Division II Men's Basketball All-Championship Team. An impressive three players on the team were recognized as 2016 NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Jonny Marlin added this to his long list of individual accomplishments along with Junior Josh Mawhorr and Freshman Aaron Murray. Being a student athlete is no easy feat, and I am proud of these young men for their commitment to their sport and their academics. These significant distinctions exemplify the incredible quality and character of IWU's athletes as well as their momentous athletic talent. The coaches and players of the IWU men's basketball team display a strong commitment to their faith and demonstrate the highest virtues of the community: teamwork, integrity, sportsmanship, and dedication.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th Congressional District, I'd like to extend huge congratulations to the Indiana Wesleyan Men's Basketball Team. I am proud to represent such a distinguished group and I look forward to cheering the team on through another spectacular season next year.

HONORING LANIER HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lanier High School. It takes its name from the late, distinguished, William Henry Lanier, a former President of Alcorn College and the first Supervisor of Jackson Colored Public Schools.

Lanier was born a slave in Huntsville, Alabama in 1851. He attended Tougaloo College, Oberlin College, and Fisk University and received his B.A. degree from Roger Williams University. He served as president of Alcorn A&M for six years. Lanier taught school in Forest, Winona, Black Hawk, Carrollton, Yazoo City, and Jackson. He was principal of the Robertson School from 1912-1929.

Lanier was first organized as a junior-senior high school in 1925, providing instruction for pupils from the seventh through the twelfth grades. A new chapter was added to our history when, on February 8, 1954, they transferred from the old Lanier at 136 East Ash Street and occupied the new Lanier Junior-Senior High School building at 833 West Maple Street. On January 27, 1972, the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered that Lanier School be designated as a center for the enrollment of 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. In 1991, 9th grade students were added to the enrollment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lanier High School.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF  
DAVID O. FRAZIER

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of legendary actor David O. Frazier whose extraordinary career in the theatre spanned a half century rousing and enchanting audiences around the world with an artistic repertoire which one critic described as bringing "fire from the sky."

David O. Frazier appeared in more than 150 theatrical productions, many at the Cleveland Playhouse through four decades. He co-wrote 30 original musicals with his life partner and husband, Joseph Garry. One revue, "Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," received such rave notice that though booked for only a few weeks audience response kept it at Cleveland's State Theatre for two and a half years. Frazier's stellar performances in Jacques Brel helped spark a renewal of a performing arts complex at Playhouse Square which stands today as one of the largest in America.

Frazier's memorable role as playwright Brendan Behan in "Conversations With an Irish Rascal," also directed by Joseph Garry, went from 90 performances at Playhouse Square to cheers at the Edinburgh Festival, to a rollicking reception off-Broadway and then to audiences worldwide. David Frazier infused his magic into every performance and added to his fame as a performer of great magnitude which "grabbed the audience by the throat."

The native of Kankekee, Illinois journeyed to the Cleveland area as a young man where he met the love of his life, Joseph Garry, who was directing "Carnival." Joe took on a new capacity, directing David to audition at the Cleveland Play House which led to him starring in 50 theatrical productions and to nearly 50 years as a couple with Joe, in an eternal partnership of love which marked Joe and David as courageous, celebrated and beloved with great intensity by all who know them.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues in the House of Representatives, please join me in honor and recognition of the life and the memory of actor David O. Frazier and to celebrate a man, a couple and a career which has enriched the lives of people everywhere. I submit the following article.

LEGENDARY 'JACQUES BREL' ACTOR DAVID O. FRAZIER REMEMBERED AS A TITAN OF THE CLEVELAND STAGE (APPRECIATION)

(Andrea Simakis, The Plain Dealer)

CLEVELAND, OHIO.—There is a fine musical to be written about the life and times of David O. Frazier, who died Sunday at age 76.

It would be filled with music both sad and joyous, and feature lavish costumes and exotic locales to reflect his love of travel, a passion he indulged with Joseph Garry Jr., his collaborator in art and life for 49 years.

The two spanned the globe like characters plucked from a Jules Verne novel, Cleveland's version of Phileas Fogg and his resourceful French valet, *Passepartout*.

The tuner would be a resounding hit, one audiences would want to return to again and again, a show as warm, witty and wise as Frazier himself, as anyone lucky enough to spend even minutes in his orbit can attest.

During his tenure as one of Cleveland's most notable artists, Frazier appeared in more than 150 productions—many at the Cleveland Play House, where he acted for nearly four decades—and co-wrote 30 original musicals with Garry. Despite that resume, he is best known for his part in "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," the revue directed by Garry and performed in the lobby of the dilapidated State Theatre in the pre-renovation 1970s.

A showcase for the songs of Belgian composer and enigmatic showman Jacques Brel, the cabaret opened in April of 1973.

Though booked for a few weeks, it proved so popular it ran for an astonishing two-and-a-half-years, launching what critics called "the Brel era," the beginning of a renaissance that not only saved Playhouse Square and its grand, crumbling houses from the wrecking ball but led to its becoming the second-largest performing-arts complex in America.

Gina Vernaci, architect of the KeyBank Broadway Series at Playhouse Square, offered her sympathies by celebrating that remarkable legacy.

"David and Joe Garry have been beloved fixtures at Playhouse Square since the days of 'Jacques Brel,'" Vernaci wrote.

"With his cast mates Cliff Bemis, Terry Piteo and Prov Hollander, and under the direction of Joe and musical director David Gooding, David gave his all in 522 performances of the show that was the catalyst for the saving of our historic theaters. His passing leaves a hole in our hearts that will not be filled. Our condolences go out to Joe and to David's family, friends and all those who knew him."

And so many did.

As news of his death spread, emails began arriving to Garry's inbox—from Nepal, Rio, Paris and London. There was even a note from the Princess of Kuwait, the result of Frazier and Garry's performing on cruise ships, a run that lasted 10 years, from 2000 to 2010.

Their residencies aboard the Queen Mary and other storied vessels took them from Tierra del Fuego to the North Pole, Frazier mostly doing cabaret, Garry onstage also as narrator and storyteller. Their shows weren't the usual "Love Boat" cliché.

"For example," remembered Garry, "we would perform a musical piece on Gauguin and then take the audience to his gravesite [next to Brel] in the South Pacific."

Though they stayed closer to home as Frazier's health declined, they were never far from the Cleveland theater scene they helped create, attending performances in and around Playhouse Square, Frazier balancing

on a cane and then later, ferried along by Garry in a wheelchair.

"During David's long illness, Joe was the perfect caretaker," said longtime Cleveland critic Roy Berko, recalling how Garry carefully transferred Frazier to his seat in the orchestra.

Ever the performer, Frazier "worked at an illusion of wellness," said Garry. "Even in the wheelchair."

Without Frazier, there might well have been no "Brel era" and, consequently, no gala unveiling of the world's largest outdoor chandelier, no home for touring Broadway, no downtown arts mecca. There would only be more parking lots.

"As a matter of fact I didn't like 'Jacques Brel' at all when I first saw it in London," Garry explained to The Plain Dealer's theater critic Peter Bellamy in 1977, "and only after hearing David play the recording for five years did I consent to direct the musical. Then I grew to love it."

First staged by Garry for the Berea Summer Theatre before taking up residence at the State, "Jacques Brel's" devotees flocked to it with the zeal of "Rocky Horror" groupies. Bill Rudman, founder and artistic director of the Musical Theater Project, was among them.

"My girlfriend and I saw it six times—it was Our Show!" Rudman remembered in an email. "And the same could be said for hundreds of other couples in town."

"David was just plain riveting. Whatever he was doing on stage—whatever he was saying—he was so present that you felt you were right there with him."

"Just ask Clevelanders who were here when 'Brel' ran," wrote John David Sidley in The Plain Dealer's magazine on the occasion of a 10th anniversary revival in 1985. "And if you can find some who never attended, you will discover them almost apologetic—as if they were being forced to admit they voted for Nixon."

In his rave, Bellamy explained the oddball allure of "Jacques Brel."

"The production has no plot, consisting of a little dialogue and many songs. They treat of angels and devils, of dreams and hope, of despair and the hell of war. They also deal with youth, old age, drunks, prostitutes, dogs, rainbows, cotton candy, carousels and calliopes.

"Brel is a poet and philosopher as well as a composer. He is concerned not only with man's atrocities, but his nobility. He comments, but does not preach. He mentions Vietnam and Hiroshima, but is not bitter. He has compassion for the human condition.

"... Frazier, remembered for his many fine roles at the [Cleveland] Play House, has a voice of great power and provides many moments of hilarity with his clowning and pantomime."

Fans so identified Frazier with the project they often thought he was the Belgian songwriter himself, remembered friend Frank Dutton in a Facebook tribute to Frazier. Dutton was a self-described "mangy teenager" in the 1970s, working coat check during the initial run of "Brel."

"For some reason some people thought David was Brel!" Dutton wrote. "They would usually say things like 'I just love that Jacks Brel (sic), you tell Mr. Brel how much we enjoyed his show.' We always wondered why no one thought Cliff was Brel. In actuality, neither of them looked like Brel, but maybe David is what people thought Brel would look like."

Frazier followed that success with his turn as playwright and personality Brendan

Behan in "Conversations With an Irish Rascal" in 1975, a musical biography filled Irish songs and ballads that Frazier wrote with the late publicist Kathleen Kennedy.

Bellamy dubbed Frazier, who learned to play the harmonica for the role, "magnificent." After clocking a healthy 90 performances at Playhouse Square, "Rascal," also directed by Garry, went on to a celebrated stand at the Edinburgh Festival and an off-Broadway premiere at the Top of the Gate Theater, later known as the Village Gate, a famous Greenwich Village spot that once hosted jazz greats John Coltrane and Dizzy Gillespie, rockers Patti Smith and Jimi Hendrix, and Broadway darling Tommy Tune.

Frazier tore his pants the night of the opening, sending Garry running to find a costumer at a show that was playing downstairs. No luck, quipped Garry, as "Let My People Come" was an explicit musical about sex that featured a nude cast.

Though The New York Times' Clive Barnes dismissed "Rascal," it won fans on tour.

"We performed 'Rascal' all over the world," Garry wrote in a guest column for The Plain Dealer in 1976, "everywhere from the National Theatre of Scotland to a brothel in the Caribbean. We have performed it before 50 people and 1000 people and its ability to leave an imprint on your soul never dies. There is that kind of nakedness to it."

Certainly, that had something to do with the man himself. Despite his celebrity, Frazier threw himself into parts with the eagerness of a novice, no matter the size of the stage.

As the star in a production of "The King and I" for Berea Summer Theatre in 1977, Frazier shaved his head, pierced his ear ("at a Miss Bojangles' establishment," Frazier reported), grew a "Fu Manchu mustache" and lost 40 pounds. ("I did not wish the show to be known as 'Anna and the Fat of Siam.'")

He also nearly severed a middle toe colliding with a metal coat rack racing to the dressing room for a quick change on the second night of the show. He wrapped the injured digit in masking tape and made it through the polka in "Shall We Dance."

Inspired by pain, his death scene that night "was the best . . . of my career." He was admitted to the hospital as "King of Siam."

The only member of Actors' Equity, the professional actors' union, in the production, Frazier, in order to defray costs, helped sew his own costumes and styled the hair of his 12 stage wives.

In an especially delicious anecdote, the Kankakee, Illinois, native dropped out of hairdressing school to join the resident company of the Cleveland Play House in 1966.

(He also picked cotton in Texas; worked as an Air Force supply clerk in Missouri; sold stationery in Kansas City, Missouri, where he once moonlighted as a female impersonator; and hawked men's sportswear at Higbee's in Cleveland, among other pursuits.)

The versatile song-and-dance man who could also rivet in straight plays became an elite member of the Tony Award-winning theater's Hall of Fame in July of 2001.

Frazier "sings with zest and acts with gusto," Bellamy wrote in his review of the "King and I," another Garry production, and those who knew and loved him best say he approached his days the same way.

"David Frazier had a raucous, ebullient love of life, on stage and off," said Cleveland Scene theater critic and performer Christine Howey.



"His performances in 'Jacques Brel' as well as many other productions were always fiery, intense and memorable. But more than that, he was a loving and compassionate friend. I can still hear his booming laughter that punctuated most conversations, and I trust I always will."

But no one knew him better than Garry. In truth, there is no way to celebrate one without speaking of the other.

They met at Berea Summer Theatre, where Garry was helming "Carnival." With a keen eye for talent, Garry advised him. "to give up all this other nonsense," including those barbershop dreams, and audition for K. Elmo Lowe, then artistic director of the Play House.

Frazier did, appearing in some 50 productions, everything from Garry's rocked-out version of Aristophanes' "The Birds" to the Sam Shepard modern masterpiece "Buried Child." He was known, said managing director Kevin Moore, for his immense talent to create a wide variety of characters and as "a gregarious and loving gentleman."

In a short, poignant video shot during the 100th anniversary celebrations at Cleveland Play House in October 2015, Frazier recollected his almost 40 years as an actor there, holding the theater's Tony.

"I had great moments here," he said, surrounded by Garry and artistic director Laura Kepley. "too many to mention, so I just think this is the best moment of all," he said, spinning the little silver disc on the statuette.

After the first rehearsal of "Carnival," he asked to store some of his things at Garry's place for a weekend during a move. The stuff—and Frazier—stayed. "His timing," said Garry, "was always perfect."

Their sultanate of a condo in Bratenahl is legendary, a museum of artifacts from their voyages—elaborate masks and statuary and rainbows of wall hangings—and framed photos of the couple with friends they'd met: Patricia Neal, Rue McClanahan, Elaine Stritch, Tony Walton and Cliff Robertson. They threw Kitty Carlisle a birthday party when she turned 92 and swam laps with her in the pool. ("She won," Garry said.)

"He lived his life in Capital Letters . . ." Garry wrote in an email addressed to "Dear Family and Precious Friends" the morning of Frazier's death.

"... as Peter Bellamy, the PD Drama Critic said 'He brought fire from the sky.' I witnessed his life for 49 glorious years and I cherish every golden moment. David had an intensity and energy that infused everything he ever did. When he performed 'Irish Rascal' at The National Theatre of Scotland a critic said 'his towering performance grabbed the audience by the throat.' He grabbed my heart in the same way."

Though the pair married two years ago on March 18, they would have celebrated 50 years together on Aug. 1.

"David kept pushing to make plans but I knew we would never reach the date," Garry wrote.

"We lived our lives as one . . . we were singular. The first gift I gave David included a card which read 'You are the We of Me' and so he will remain."

"Brel, above all, is concerned with the power of love," wrote Bellamy of their most famous collaboration. "One of his lines is: 'Without having anything else but the strength of loving, you have in your hands the whole world.'"

That they did.

"Celebrating A Rascal," a memorial to David O. Frazier, will be held in the State

Theatre on Monday, April 25 at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

ESSAY BY SMRITI AHUJA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Smriti Ahuja attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. In your opinion, what makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

From 5140 bills in Congress every year, less than five percent of them are passed and become laws. That is only 257 bills. The United States Congress has been known to be extremely slow in terms of passing laws, but what most people don't realize is that passing a law is harder than it sounds. There are many obstacles that result in the political process in Congress being so challenging.

First, the process to pass a law itself is extremely long winded. First, the bill is assigned to a committee for study. This study could take months in order to fully develop the bill completely. Then, if the committee releases the bill, it must be debated on, revised, and approved by a simple majority. After approval, it moves to the Senate where it is assigned to another committee, and another simple majority is needed for the bill to move to the joint committees of the Senate and the House to work out any tweaks that are necessary. Then, the resulting bill goes to the House and the Senate to be approved. Overall, this whole process could take months which is why the process is so challenging. Every single aspect of the process has to go smoothly in order for the process to flow well.

Second, Congress members must work together even with different opinions. Most Congress members are split between two political parties, Republican and Democrat. These two political parties tend to have opposing views which results in political polarization, and laws aren't able to be passed because of conflicting opinions. Even more than that, Congress members usually have their own opinions as well, that can also result in incompatible ideas between not just parties, but specific members. Also, Congress members are split between the House and the Senate, and these two parts of Congress have their own agenda. Since both houses must approve the bill, different agenda can lead to challenges and obstacles.

The political process in Congress is extremely challenging, with 535 individuals all debating and advocating for their own opinions. Hopefully, in the future, Congress can become less polarized and pass more laws for the benefit of the nation.

IN HONOR OF LEEANNE HASBROUCK

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Leeanne Hasbrouck on her retirement from my Congressional Office and to thank her for nearly 26 years of dedicated service to the people of the First Congressional District of New Jersey.

Leeanne began her career working for the First District in December of 1990 for my predecessor, then newly elected Congressman Robert Andrews. She quickly rose through the ranks to become his Director of Casework, a capacity in which she still serves. Caseworkers are the heart and soul of Congressional offices. They advocate on behalf of constituents and help navigate the maze of agency bureaucracy to deliver life changing assistance. Over the years, Leeanne has helped thousands upon thousands of our friends and neighbors obtain social security benefits, get the care they earned at the VA, and access emergency aid programs in the wake of disasters like Super Storm Sandy. These are only a few of her many accomplishments. It takes a huge amount of love and patience to do casework. Fortunately for my office and the constituents we serve, Leeanne has an abundance of both.

For Leeanne, serving our community was not merely a day job, it was a calling. When she wasn't working, she was an active member of the Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Commission, where she acted as Chairwoman of Scotland Run Park; she served as the President of the Friends School Mullica Hill PTA, chairing the school's annual fundraising auction and annual Art and Craft Fair; and she was the Vice President of both the Greater Woodbury Area Junior Woman's Club and the Woodbury Old City Restoration Committee. Leeanne was even the President of the Woodbury Soccer Club and found time to coach her children's soccer teams.

Active in local politics, she also served as a member of the Gloucester County Democratic Committee and as Chairwoman of the Woodbury Democratic Committee, where she left a legacy of success and service.

Born in New Milford, Connecticut, Leeanne graduated from Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont, with an Associate's Degree in Science. Married to Bruce Hasbrouck for 37 years before his passing in 2015, they have three children, Ethan, Seth, and Heidi and three grandchildren, Tyler, Dylan, and Francis.

Mr. Speaker, Leeanne Hasbrouck exemplifies the sort of dedication and selfless service that makes America great. She will be sorely missed by not only my staff and I, but also the countless constituents whose lives she touched. I join my staff, our community, and all of South Jersey in thanking her for her outstanding service and wishing her well in her retirement.

96TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH  
NATIONAL DAY**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call our attention to the 96th anniversary of Turkish National Day on April 23rd, 2016. On this day 96 years ago, the Grand National Assembly was established, which led to the founding of the modern Republic of Turkey and the election of the first President, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing the unique contributions to America's culture from those of Turkish and Turkish-American descent.

As you may know, the Republic of Turkey has been paramount in its stride towards secular democracy since 1920. Turkey is the first secular democracy with a predominantly Muslim population in the world. As a key ally to U.S. for over 60 years, Turkey is a critical U.S. partner in countering terrorism, security and defense, trade, education, science, and innovation. Turkey has been invaluable in its role of hosting over 1.7 million Syrian refugees during the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. Turkey also stands as a vital NATO ally in a region with escalated accounts of violence and tension and has been a partner in pushing back ISIL's control of certain territories.

Since 1927, Turkey has also designated April 23rd as Children's Day to signify the role of future generations in the modern Turkish statehood. Turkey commits every year by emphasizing the important role the younger generations have in succeeding their predecessors. As I and many of my colleagues acknowledge, children are the future of our nation. On this day, children from all across Turkey come together and take over the Grand National Assembly to voice their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that the Congress has set aside this national day of celebration again in 2016. Turkish-Americans have left a unique imprint that has positively contributed to America's diverse cultural spectrum. Each year, it seems, we have a greater appreciation for the remarkable contribution of Turkey to our American values and democracy. We stand in deep appreciation and gratitude with our ally, Turkey on this Turkish National Day.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JANET HART  
HEINICKE**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Janet Hart Heinicke of Indianola, Iowa, as a 2016 Artist Art Within Everything Award winner.

Dr. Heinicke has been an artist and educator all of her life with her artwork on worldwide display. She exhibits her work internationally

and has been a visiting artist in Vietnam, China, Tanzania, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia and Africa. Simpson College students have benefitted directly as she developed their full potential as artists. Dr. Heinicke holds a Doctorate of Education and Master of Science in Art Education from the University of Wisconsin and a Master of Fine Arts from Northern Illinois University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Janet Hart Heinicke is an Iowan who has made its citizens very proud. She has dedicated her life to teaching, and creating art for the world. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Dr. Heinicke for her work, and wishing her continued success in all her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS E.  
CIRILLO III**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Ms. ESTY. Mr Speaker, last weekend, the State of Connecticut lost a true champion, and I lost a friend, with the unexpected passing of Francis E. Cirillo III. A lifetime Waterbury resident, Frank passed away just days before his 56th birthday.

A graduate of Wilby High School, Frank proudly served our country in the U.S. Navy during the Cold War. He served aboard the USS *Ranger* from 1978 to 1982 and earned the rank of Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class. He was awarded the Naval Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and National Defense Service Medal.

After his military service, Frank returned home to Waterbury where he began his civilian career at Connecticut Light and Power (now known as Northeast Utilities). Frank fell in love with Milena, his wife of 31 years, and together they raised a wonderful family, which he was immensely proud of—as anyone who spent time in Frank's office immediately learned through photos and mementos.

After 20 years at Northeast Utilities, Frank became a full-time union official in March 2004. He was famous and admired for his strong advocacy for the members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 420 in Waterbury. Frank's outspokenness and passion served him well in his positions with the CT AFL-CIO, the Western CT Central Labor Council, the New England Utility Council, and the Local 420's COPE. His commitment to working families helped ensure that they received the services, benefits, and recognition they deserved. In 2013, he received the Paul A. Loughran Memorial Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Frank was frequently recognized for his hard work and community service. He was actively involved in civic and charitable organizations, serving as Waterbury's Good Jobs Liaison Commissioner, a member of the Waterbury Democratic Town Committee, and a member of Waterbury's American Italian Civic Club. He was honored in 2014 by the Water-

bury Veterans Memorial Committee for his outstanding service to the city, state, and nation.

And I also note that Frank was frequently "recognized" as Al Pacino—his resemblance to the famous actor was so striking that Frank proudly hung a large Godfather poster behind his desk. Frank will be sorely missed by all those who were fortunate enough to know him. His contributions to the City of Waterbury and the State of Connecticut will not be forgotten. My heart and condolences go out to his family and friends as we remember the legacy and the glorious life of Frank Cirillo.

On a personal note, I will miss Frank's friendship, his directness, his guidance, and his love of life. He inspired and challenged me in all the best ways. And it simply will not be October without chilly Saturday morning door knocking with Frank. It's hard to imagine that Frank is not still with us—passionately advocating for working families, cracking jokes, and freely offering his assessment of anyone who he believed to be "full of it."

I have no doubt that Frank is stirring things up in heaven, letting St. Peter know exactly what he thinks.

## HONORING LILLIE V. DAVIS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lillie V. Thompson Davis.

Mrs. Lillie V. Thompson Davis, a life time resident of Quitman County, MS, has a strong belief in God; she is a friend to education, a retired school teacher of 42 years, and lives in Marks, MS. She has a teaching experience of more than forty-two years which include seventeen years as assistant principal, Adult Education teacher, teaching in the prison system, and in the state of Indiana. She is a graduate of Rust College Holly Springs, MS and earned a Master of Education from the University of MS Oxford, MS. She was one of the first of four teachers who taught in an integrated school system in an all white school in Marks, MS. Mrs. Davis is an advocate for education and has tutored students in reading and math without a fee, and made generous donations to an educational program. She is sustaining her teaching career as an advanced adult Sunday School teacher at her membership church in Marks, MS.

She initiated the idea to build a much needed gym for the Quitman County Middle School, by the passing of a bond issue. The first attempt to pass the bond issue failed by 23 votes November of 2013, but because of her fervent prayers, profound determination, and help of many dedicated hard working individuals, the bond issue of four million dollars was tried a second time and passed in November, 2014. She has been a member of the Quitman County School Board since 2006, and has worked untiringly trying to bring about positive changes for the boys and girls of the Quitman County School System. And also since she wanted to share her knowledge of

some undocumented history of the early life of Blacks in the Delta, she wrote a book entitled "Drifting Into Falcon."

Mrs. Davis is the mother of three daughters: Pamela, Jamesetta and Wanda, who is deceased. She has five grandchildren: Larry, Brandon, Darnell, Steve and Ashley; and four great grandchildren: Debrisha, Marian, Lauren and Laila.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lillie V. Davis because she is definitely the epitome of an unsung hero.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday during the last series of votes. Had I been here, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote No. 155, I would have voted NAY.

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IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICK HOFFENBERG AND THE MARYWOOD CAMPUS CHOIR

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marywood Campus Choir under the direction of Dr. Rick Hoffenberg. The choir filled the rotunda on Marywood University's campus on May 2-3 2015 for a program entitled "Almost A Cappella." The performance was unique in that it featured musical accompaniment for the first time in the four years that the University has been giving choral concerts inside the rotunda.

The concert opened with Richard Rodney Bennett's "A Farewell to Arms" with the Campus Choir singing to cello accompaniment, beginning with a cello solo elegy performed by Mrs. Christiane Appenheimer-Vaida. This memorable piece was followed by Henryk Gorecki's "Lobgesang" featuring the glockenspiel performed by Christopher Morrison.

Next on the program were two selections by Stephen Chatman, "Alas, that Spring should vanish with the rose" and "Thou whose harmony is the Music of the Spheres." The former featured the florid accompaniment of a clarinet performed by Ms. Katie Morell who did ascending scales and trills as part of the flowery duet with the choir. The latter featured accompaniment by oboe performed by Mr. Thomas Heinze, and here the musical embellishment was melancholy and blended with the wistful sounds of the choir.

The Chatman selections were followed by Stephen Paulus' "Meditations of Li Po." The piece concluded with a draining of the voices to the sound of hand bells performed by Ms. Mary Ann Rutkowski. The concert concluded with two selections of Giovanni Gabrieli, his "O Quam Suavis" and his "Angelus Domini

Descendit," to the accompaniment of oboe courtesy of Thomas Heinze, clarinet courtesy of Katie Morell, bassoon courtesy of Alyssa Speicher, and horn courtesy of Sarah Schouten. These selections were caught in the jaws of articulation between the Renaissance and Baroque periods of music and sounded a bit like music from both time periods.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Rick Hoffenberg and the Marywood Campus Choir for their excellent performance. May they continue to contribute to the cultural value of Marywood University and its surrounding community in greater Scranton, Pennsylvania.

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ESSAY BY SAKU GOPINATH

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Saku Gopinath attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. In your opinion, what makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

Anyone can see that Congress as it operates today is largely ineffective, failing to represent its constituents, and the numbers support this opinion. As a Gallup poll stated, the approval rating for Congress was at an all time low during the 2013-2014 period at 14.5%, indicating the lack of faith the American people have developed in it. In my opinion, it is the attitude towards politics that makes the political process in Congress so challenging—an attitude that sacrifices democratic values to pursue victory above all else.

The political process of Congress is essentially the rules, procedures, and practices by which the majority organizes the institution to achieve its goals of policymaking and resource allocation; this process creates a power struggle, five different struggles to be exact, but each is necessary for Congress to function per its design. Of the struggles between the President and Congress, the House and the Senate, the political parties, the elected majority party leaders and majority party committee chairmen, and the individual members to get the most for their districts and states from the Federal government and thereby ensure their reelection, I will focus on that between the political parties. A clash of contrasting ideals is an old story in America, its origins dating back all the way to America's creation with the opposition between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists with differing ideas of the scope and purpose of the new government. At that

time, however, the parties chose to compromise, and incorporated principles from each belief to create stronger policies. The fact is that the rivalry between these two broad philosophies often proved highly productive, and this cooperation was able to take place because they shared a commitment to democracy.

The competition between opposing views has begun to degenerate into something toxic, however, creating an environment in which politics is treated as war, and compromise is seen as a weakness. While it is unclear what the exact cause of this problem is, its symptom is clear: ineffectiveness. Evidence of this is provided by the 234 bills passed by the 113th Congress, the lowest recorded total in congressional history. It is obvious that the fervor to win too often trumps everything else—including respect for opponents, the integrity of institutions, and even the health of the democracy itself. A clear example of the detrimental effect this attitude is having on the political process of Congress is the 16 days the government was shut down in October of 2013 due to Congress's inability to compromise. The time has come to remedy this problem, and for politicians to adopt a new attitude—or rather, return to an old state of mind.

The only way to simplify the political process of Congress is to create a renewed sense of commitment to democracy—above party interests and ideology, or economic interests. It is only in the context of such a shared commitment that differences in opinions and beliefs can be fruitful and benefit the American people.

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CONGRATULATING NETHALINE HOPE NOTHNAGEL ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nethaline Hope Nothnagel, of Willard, Missouri, on her 90th birthday. Hope, as she's known by loved ones, has led a truly remarkable and full life over the course of her 90 years.

Starting in her home state of Minnesota, she has lived in states far and wide, ranging from Alaska to North Carolina due to the military career of her husband Ervin—to whom she has been married for more than 50 years. Hope has 6 children: Ervin, Monica, Nelda, Joe, Jim and Norm. She additionally has 7 grandchildren: Renee, Eric, Perrin, Adam, Matt, Sam and Katie. Finally, Hope has 9 great-grandchildren: Cassie, Cruize, Kelsey, Kylie, Brooks, Owen, Davis, Gavin and Everett.

Even with a family this large, Hope was not content to merely serve as a matriarch. She worked various jobs during her life, ranging from executive secretary, to managing libraries and bookstores to serving as a professional seamstress for many years. Currently, Hope keeps occupied through her passion for reading and love of the outdoors. She often feeds and observes the wildlife on her 18 acre farm, and still shows off her green thumb with her love of gardening.

Mr. Speaker, Nethaline Hope Nothnagel has lived an accomplished life and raised a wonderful family. I urge my colleagues to join me

in congratulating Hope for reaching this tremendous milestone and living her life as a role-model for the younger generations in her family.

CONGRATULATING TORI McCOY

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tori McCoy on being selected as a member of the 2016 McDonald's All American Basketball Team.

Since 1978, the McDonald's All American Basketball Games have helped raise more than \$11 million for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Tori will join athletes like Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, and Shaquille O'Neal in this distinguished honor.

She was selected from more than 750 nominees to represent some of the best high school basketball talent in the country. Born and raised in Champaign, Tori is a senior who currently plays as a forward for the St. Thomas More Sabers. She first earned the attention of many college recruiters two years ago when she helped the Sabers win a state title as a sophomore. Since then, she has been considered a top prospect for many basketball programs across the country, but will join the Ohio State Buckeyes after graduation.

The first Girls Game for the McDonald's All American Basketball Games was held in 2002, and Tori is the first from my district to achieve such an honor. I am very proud of Tori's talent as a student athlete. I congratulate her on the outstanding accomplishment of being a member of the 2016 McDonald's All American Girls Game winning team, played at the United Center on March 30th.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—COY GARDNER

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coy Gardner from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Coy attends Katy High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Mas-

sachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Coy was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Coy and all of his hard work, and know he will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Coy for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING SUNFLOWER COUNTY FREEDOM PROJECT

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, Sunflower County Freedom Project.

Founded in 1998, the Sunflower County Freedom Project was started by three Teach for America teachers who saw a need for an educational program in the Mississippi Delta that would challenge and engage young people in the area. Initially, the organization was a summer program at Mississippi Delta Community College that grew into a year-round program at the University of Mississippi. In 2002, the organization purchased the LEAD Center in Sunflower, which houses all of their programs. They target students in Sunflower County to complete a six-year fellowship with the organization beginning with the summer before they begin seventh grade. The overall goal is to have 100 percent of their "fellows", also known as students, go on to enroll in four year colleges and universities. To this date they have met that goal.

The Freedom Project is for students in 7th–12th grade who want to discipline themselves into becoming leaders in their homes, schools and communities. The middle school students partake in Freedom Summer, which is named for and rooted in the Civil Rights history of Freedom Summer '64. The high school students can participate in ACT Camp or summer opportunities around the country including Philips Exeter Summer Academy and Explo at Yale University.

They seek to provide students with opportunities and challenges that will allow them to grow and mature into leaders for the Mississippi Delta. The multi-faceted approach includes rigorous academic work, arts enrichment, fitness and wellness training, educational travel and character development for every student. They travel the country, live in college dorm rooms, and camp in the wilderness to develop our students and enrich their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sunflower County Freedom Project for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

CASA OF MERCED COUNTY— ALLIED PROFESSIONAL AWARD

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) advocates for the silent voices of crime victims. JIM COSTA (D-CA) and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10 year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA (D-CA) and myself, we are proud to recognize an organization that makes a big difference in the San Joaquin Valley: Court Appointed Special Advocates also known as CASA of Merced County. Nominated by Congressman COSTA, the CASA of Merced County is the recipient of the VRC Allied Professional Award.

With a mission to place every child in a safe, loving, and permanent home, CASA relies on the work of volunteer advocates for the interests of children overlooked by society. In order to ensure that every child is properly taken care in the eyes of both the law and the community, these volunteers provide judges with detailed information of a child's home life and legal situation to help judges better understand each and every child's unique story.

The Executive Director, Shar Herrera and her staff work diligently to support children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Sadly, children who are victims of neglect and are in the foster care system are too often in a situation where they do not have a single person in their life that they can trust and rely on. But Merced CASA has changed that horrible reality for hundreds of children throughout Merced County.

CASA volunteers are often there for the children beyond just the courtroom; they are friends, mentors, and confidants for the children they support. The volunteers who are trained by CASA for Merced County change children's lives for the better every single day. CASA and their advocates have done right by their community, and, most importantly, right by children in need. I am proud to recognize them as the recipient of the Allied Professional Award.

And that is just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD FORRISTALL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Richard

Forristall of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on his recent retirement as a Deputy with the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department. For more than 33 years, Deputy Forristall has served Pottawattamie County citizens. He began his career in court security, later joining the road division where he became a K-9 handler.

Deputy Forristall said, "When I started, I was one of the only K-9 handlers in the area. I helped other surrounding counties, the Iowa State Patrol, and the Department of Transportation." He said he enjoyed meeting and helping people. Pottawattamie County Sheriff Jeff Danker said, "He's done a great job. He's done a lot of things for us. You hate to see him go, but I know he's done a great job for the citizens of Pottawattamie County."

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Forristall made a difference by serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to Pottawattamie County and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GLEN AND POLLY BARTON

**HON. DARIN LaHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Mr. and Mrs. Glen and Polly Barton for their tireless contributions to Peoria, Illinois and the surrounding communities. Glen and Polly Barton have dedicated their time, money, and most importantly their passion to making the community a better place to live. The Barton's are recognized as leaders and philanthropists where their generosity and guidance have touched the lives of so many.

Polly Barton's steadfast work and leadership within the Peoria Park District made the vision of Peoria Zoo a reality. Her fundraising expertise combined with her commitment to serving the community led the way for the beautiful entryway, Barton Pavilion, of the Peoria Zoo that opened in 2012. Her active involvement with the Junior League of Peoria made the Peoria PlayHouse a reality where children are given the opportunity to explore, imagine, and play.

WTVP, the PBS station for Peoria and surrounding areas, was also impacted by Glen and Polly's generosity and financial support. The campaign, assisted by Caterpillar during Glen's CEO tenure, raised enough money to move the station into the beautiful downtown studio on State Street, where it resides today.

The Barton's have contributed considerably to their community, but their focus has always been to improve education by providing the resources necessary for students to excel. Illinois Central College and Eureka College have been fortunate to receive patronage from the Barton's through scholarships, mentorships, and fellowships. Their strong support has awarded students an educational opportunity to engage in their field of study, volunteer within the community, and exceed in their

schoolwork. Understanding the importance of education for all students, Glen and Polly played a leadership role with their time and financial support to create Quest Charter Academy in Peoria.

As former CEO of Caterpillar, Inc., Glen noticed that there were a shortage of technical skilled workers and realized that the school district was facing challenges in meeting the basic requirements in math and sciences. Glen expressed that, "College education was a springboard to another world and set of opportunities," that children in his community were not receiving because of their limited education. Quest Charter Academy prepares students for secondary education by focusing on an innovative education rich in math, science, and technology. The school prides itself on their six core values: respect, responsibility, integrity, courage, curiosity, and effort, principles that have made the Barton's such successful and charitable people. Quest has given students, who otherwise would not have the opportunity, the resources available to be prepared for the competitive global world.

Our Peoria area is lucky to have people like Glen and Polly who have tirelessly given back to our community. Central Illinois has benefited immensely under the leadership, contributions, and generosity from the Barton's. Their efforts have made the community, just like Quest Charter Academy, a better place to grow, learn, and play.

BLANCA KLING, HISPANIC LIAISON, MEDIA SERVICES DIVISION MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD DEPARTMENT OF POLICE—SUZANNE MCDANIEL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) is a proven and effective leader in advocating for crime victims. JIM COSTA and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10-year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA (D-CA) and myself, we are pleased to honor Ms. Blanca Kling as this year's Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award recipient and recognize all of her hard work for the community. Nominated by Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of the 8th Congressional District of Maryland, Ms. Kling is deserving of this recognition for all of her hard work in her community. This award honors Suzanne McDaniel, one of the first prosecutor-based victim advocates in Texas and in

the nation. McDaniel created Harris County's first community interagency council on sexual assault and family violence and the first rape exam protocol for Houston Hospital and Medical Associations. She also formed the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, the first statewide resource in the nation, and helped draft and pass the Texas Crime Victim Bill of Rights, the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Act, and the Texas Constitutional Amendment on Crime Victim Rights. McDaniel passed away in May 2012 after an eight-year battle with pancreatic cancer. This honoree is an individual or organization that has used her voice, throughout the media, to promote and to bring about change at the National level for crime victims.

Ms. Kling's role as the Hispanic Liaison for the Media Services Division of the Montgomery County Maryland Police Department qualifies her for this distinguished recognition. Since 2005, Ms. Kling has worked tirelessly to develop open and productive lines of communication between the police department and various communities, particularly to the Hispanic community. Previously, MCPD recognized that there was significant distrust between their department and the Hispanic community. This caused a detrimental impact on the effectiveness in responding to crime and community issues.

Ms. Kling conducts outreach to more than 170,000 Hispanics who live and work in Montgomery County, Maryland. She is instrumental in supporting the Hispanic community, particularly newly arrived immigrants who face challenges in assimilating to a new culture, language, and legal system. Thanks to her outstanding work, people are less fearful about reporting crimes that have been committed against them or that they have witnessed. These efforts have had a significant impact on individual and public safety in Montgomery County.

Ms. Kling has been extremely effective in disseminating information to Spanish-language media in order to provide support to victims and prevent crimes in the Hispanic community. She has also worked with local, national, and international leaders to ensure that they have the tools to ensure safety for their constituencies. Her work as a media spokesperson, community leader, and a victim rights advocate has helped thousands of victims and survivors of crime, and their families.

On behalf of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I would like to congratulate Ms. Blanca Kling and the Montgomery County Maryland Police Department for all that they do to keep our communities safe, each and every day.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING MRS. FLORINE LEWIS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable unsung hero, Mrs. Florine Lewis.

For some retired educators, retirement means a time to relax and take it easy. Not for

longtime Holmes County, Mississippi resident, Mrs. Florine Lewis. She served the Second Congressional as an outstanding educator for 37 years. Now retired for 15 years, she is still going like the "Energizer Bunny."

Mrs. Lewis continues to actively serve her community. She volunteers at the UMC Hospital of Holmes County; is active in the Holmes County Teachers Association, the Mississippi Valley State University Holmes County Alumni Chapter, and in her church, Asia Missionary Baptist Church of Lexington. She annually serves as a Spelling Bee judge for the Community Students Learning Center's Spelling Bee contest in which she has received several awards. "I am just always willing to serve where I can and when I can," she said.

In addition to her busy community service, Mrs. Lewis is also the principal caregiver for her elderly mother, who lives miles away in Greenville, MS.

The Itta Bena, Mississippi native began her teaching career at Montgomery Elementary School in Mount Bayou, Mississippi and later relocated to Holmes County where she has taught at the former Tchula Attendance Center (TAC) and the Holmes County Vocational Center. She is the widow of the late Robert Earl Lewis, who was also a principal and teacher in Holmes County. The two of them have six children who are adults in various professions such as teaching, librarian, business and engineering. During her own teaching career, Mrs. Lewis was recognized as a STAR teacher.

Former students and community members alike say that whenever they see Mrs. Lewis, she always greeted them as "Florine Lewis." She just keeps on going and going and going . . . doing what she can to help others, never looking for anything in return. She is truly an unsung hero.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Florine Lewis for her dedication in serving the community.

RECOGNIZING DON KNABE'S SERVICE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Supervisor Don Knabe, who has served the County of Los Angeles for the past two decades.

Supervisor Knabe was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in November of 1996 and has represented the Fourth District, a uniquely diverse area that is home to over two million residents and includes two of the nation's largest economic hubs: the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the Los Angeles International Airport.

Supervisor Knabe has spent much of his political career working to protect innocent and vulnerable children in Los Angeles County. He established the Safe Surrender program in Los Angeles County, which allows for the sur-

render of an infant within 72 hours of birth at a County hospital or fire station. Since 2001, over 140 babies have been safely surrendered in Los Angeles County. In 2015, Supervisor Knabe launched a scholarship program to benefit children who have been safely surrendered.

Supervisor Knabe also is a national leader on combating child sex trafficking. He launched a County-wide awareness campaign to bring attention to the heinous practice of young children being sexually exploited in southern California. In 2013, he testified on the issue of child sex trafficking at a hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, Supervisor Knabe was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council, which worked with the White House to establish national programs to prepare and protect communities across the nation from terrorist attacks.

Supervisor Knabe has a passion for the arts and attributes his own personal success to an early involvement with music. His enthusiasm for the arts has led to the creation of several innovative youth programs, such as the Pediatric Arts Program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and the Arts Education Partnership Program that provides grants to schools and community-based organizations to fund visual art, dance, music, and theatre programs for students.

In addition, Supervisor Knabe has led the County's efforts to improve overall water quality, including 19 projects within the Fourth District that will lower pollution and divert storm water from the ocean, including the Dominguez Gap Wetlands Project that was completed in 2008. This also enhanced recreation opportunities for residents and visitors through environmental cleanup efforts, creating an open space habitat for the community.

Supervisor Knabe is an avid golfer and hosts the Knabe Cup in cooperation with the California Interscholastic Federation, a golf tournament for high school boys and girls. He also supports junior golf clinics for kids to develop a love for golf at a young age.

While these are just some of Supervisor Knabe's significant accomplishments, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles and the State of California, I want to extend my gratitude for his valuable contributions throughout his illustrious career to helping our communities. With sincere best wishes, I congratulate Supervisor Knabe upon his retirement from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and wish him and his wife, Julie, well as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

CONGRATULATING KELSIE ELTRINGHAM ON RECEIVING THE BRIGHTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kelsie Eltringham, who was recently

honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal Award, the highest achievement in the Assemblies of God Girls Ministries program.

To be honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal is the culmination of a 13-year journey of devotion to God that begins in kindergarten and finishes at the end of high school. The Girls Ministries program strives to instill Christian values and virtues in the young women who will be the future of our nation.

To be honored with a gold medal, girls must go above and beyond the requirements for completing the five levels of clubs offered by the ministries. Medal awardees must also have read the Bible twice, the New Testament three times, memorized portions of scripture and have met weekly with a sponsor who helps to guide them spiritually.

Mr. Speaker, Kelsie Eltringham has not only displayed an uncommon level of spiritual devotion during her time in the Girls Ministries program, but also a measure of determination and commitment that will undoubtedly serve her well through her life. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues in congratulating her on this well-earned achievement.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AVANTI'S RISTORANTE

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Avanti's Ristorante of Peoria, Illinois for celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Avanti's Ristorante first opened their doors in 1966. Founder and CEO Albert Zeller, by embracing the American entrepreneurial spirit, successfully expanded his business and now employs nearly 500 people and currently operates five Avanti's Ristorantes in the Greater Peoria area.

Avanti's Ristorante is known throughout Central Illinois for their famous Italian cuisine, from their pastas to pizzas and, most notably, the beloved Gondola sandwich. Zeller's famously delicious creation, the Gondola, a submarine-like sandwich, features freshly baked sweet bread only found in his restaurants. No party in Peoria is complete without a platter of Gondolas.

The Greater Peoria area has benefitted from Avanti's corporate goodwill and generosity. I extend my sincere congratulations to Avanti's Ristorante, Albert Zeller, and staff and I hope Avanti's keeps fulfilling the appetites of Central Illinoisans for another fifty years.

TRIBUTE TO BRADY KYNER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brady

Kyner of Southeast Warren/Melcher Dallas High School for winning the Class IA, 120-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning two state championships in a row is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Brady, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Brady demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent his family and him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Brady on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

CONGRATULATING THADDEUS HUGHES

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thaddeus Hughes on winning the 4-H Youth in Action STEM Award.

The 4-H Youth in Action Award honors 4-Hers who have excelled in one of four areas: agriculture and animal sciences, citizenship, healthy living, and STEM. I'm very proud that, out of six million 4-H youth nationwide, Thaddeus was chosen as the Youth in Action STEM winner for his work to advance education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

In the past year, he spent over 300 hours volunteering and mentoring. He currently serves as a mentor for the FIRST Lego League and the Illinois State Robotics Competition. He also created the curriculum for Spinning Robots, a 14-week after school organization focused on engaging students who lack the resources for involvement in the STEM fields. Last year, Thaddeus was selected among twenty individuals to be named one of Illinois' High School Innovators of 2015.

Thaddeus is a wonderful example of the many talented students in my district. I look forward to celebrating many more of this bright young man's accomplishments in the future.

Congratulations, Thaddeus. I wish you the best of luck as you continue your education studying Mechanical Engineering.

YASMIN VAFA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RIGHTS4GIRLS—LOIS HAIGHT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus

(VRC) is a proven and effective leader in advocating for crime victims. JIM COSTA (D-CA) and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10-year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

The Lois Haight Award for Excellence and Innovation pays tribute to California Judge Lois Haight. She was the Chair of President Ronald Reagan's 1982 President's Task Force on Victims of Crime. Judge Haight led pioneering efforts on behalf of crime victims that resulted in significant public policy advances to promote crime victims' rights and services. The honoree who receives this award is a professional whose efforts have had a significant impact on local, state, national or international public policy development and implementation that promote dignity, respect, rights and services for victims of crime.

Yasmin Vafa embodies the vision, drive and accomplishment of Judge Haight. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of Rights4Girls, a human rights organization focused on gender-based violence against young women and girls in the U.S. As the award recipient that my office nominated I am proud to recognize her significant contributions in advocating for Victims' Rights. She is a fearless fighter against injustice, educating not only my office, but offices across the Capitol about the scourge of human trafficking—especially on the unique needs of domestic victims and the need to prosecute buyers.

The voice of survivors like "T" Ortiz Walker Pettigrew that Yasmin and Rights for Girls brings to the Hill changes the conversation on human trafficking. Yasmin knows and works with these survivors both in DC and around the country through advocacy, training, and survivor retreats, and won't stop until victims are treated as victims and we put all the bad guys where they belong.

Yasmin's principled passion, activism and persistence have been critical in the passage of a number of bills to fight human trafficking and protect vulnerable women and girls. One bill especially close to my heart, which would not have crossed the finish line without her help, is the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. Yasmin helped conceive, advocate and fight for the bill through ups and downs until the right thing was done and the bill became law. In addition to the incredible accomplishments she's had for victims of crime on Capitol Hill, she has also designed and implemented a national judicial institute on child trafficking, co-authored a seminal report mapping girls' unique pathways into the juvenile justice system: The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story.

She also currently serves as a faculty adjunct educator and consultant for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, served on the Advisory Board for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's

National Girls Initiative, and was as a member of the Department of Justice's National Task Force on the Use of Restraints with Pregnant Women and Girls under Correctional Custody. Yasmin is so deserving of the Lois Haight Award for Excellence and Innovation Award, we are grateful for her persistence and passion.

And that is just the way it is.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—MARIA BENNETT

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maria Bennett from Katy, TX, for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Maria attends Cinco Ranch High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29 through July 1. Maria was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Maria and all of her hard work, and know she will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Maria for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING MR. HAROLD WARD, JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable unsung hero, Mr. Harold Ward, Jr. a resident of Winstonville, Mississippi.

Harold Ward, Jr. was born and raised in the small town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where he graduated from John F. Kennedy Memorial High School in 1999. After graduating from high school, Harold attended Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi. Harold is a member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist

Church in Mound Bayou. He is the son of Judge Harold Ward Sr. and Patricia White-Ward; the youngest of four children: Ms. Chauncila M. Ward (deceased), Dr. Kendria Ward, and Attorney Yumekia Ward; the grandson of the late Napoleon White, Sr. and Mrs. Earline J. Hill, Reverend Henry Ward and Mrs. Iola Ward.

Mr. Ward was born with sickle cell disease. At the age of 25, Harold's oldest sister, Chauncila, passed away from complications of sickle cell disease. Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects nearly 100,000 Americans. Sickle Cell Disease causes red blood cells to form into crescent shapes like sickles that cuts off the oxygen supply to the blood causing excruciating pain. Even though Mr. Ward suffers from this debilitating disease, he does not allow it to completely make him bedridden and on his good days he does volunteer work.

Always unselfish with his time and immensely involved with community service activities in the City of Mound Bayou and the town of Winstonville, Mississippi, Mr. Ward has been a constant inspiration to others.

In 2007, he began volunteering his services at Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where he assisted nurses with triage patients, filing documents, and read Christmas stories to patients' children. He also aided in the recruitment of patients to the facility by going door to door informing people of the services available at Delta Health Center. In 2014, Mr. Ward was lead sales representative with Humana and guided qualified individuals through the sign-up process for Obamacare.

Mr. Ward reorganized the town of Winstonville Volunteer Fire Department where he currently serves as Fire Chief. He encouraged people in the community between the ages of 21–35 to volunteer their services to the town by becoming a volunteer firefighter.

On February 22, 2015, he received an award from Chi Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, in recognition for his outstanding contributions and dedicated services in the field of health.

Mr. Ward compassionately volunteers with the City of Mound Bayou serving as assistant to Mayor Darryl Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this amazing unsung hero.

CONGRATULATING COURTNEY  
ELTRINGHAM ON RECEIVING THE  
BRIGHTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S  
GOLD MEDAL AWARD

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Courtney Eltringham, who was recently honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal Award, the highest achievement in the Assemblies of God Girls Ministries program.

To be honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal is the culmination of a 13

year journey of devotion to God that begins in kindergarten and finishes at the end of high school. The Girls Ministries program strives to instill Christian values and virtues in the young women who will be the future of our nation.

To be honored with a gold medal, girls must go above and beyond the requirements for completing the five levels of clubs offered by the ministries. Medal awardees must also have read the Bible twice, the New Testament three times, memorized portions of scripture and have met weekly with a sponsor who helps to guide them spiritually.

Mr. Speaker, Courtney Eltringham has not only displayed an uncommon level of spiritual devotion during her time in the Girls Ministries program, but also a measure of determination and commitment that will undoubtedly serve her well through her life. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues in congratulating her on this well-earned achievement.

TRIBUTE TO WEST CENTRAL  
COMMUNITY ACTION

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Central Community Action of Harlan, Iowa for 50 years of service to southwest Iowa. The 50th anniversary is a testament to the great work performed daily by the staff professionals at the West Central Community Action Agency.

Established 50 years ago, West Central Community Action provides program services to low-income families and individuals in ten southwest Iowa counties (Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby). The mission of West Central Community Action is "empowering families and individuals to achieve their highest potential." During 2015, the agency received grant revenues of over \$17 million to provide services to 7,203 families and 17,206 individuals. The agency has 200 employees which provides work experience and training opportunities to 70 senior aide participants. West Central focuses on assisting low-income families and individuals to acquire useful skills and while gaining access to new opportunities to have economic self-sufficiency.

I commend West Central Community Action of Southwest Iowa and its staff for providing dedicated, committed and crucial services to families and individuals. There is great work being accomplished every day at West Central Community Action. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating West Central Community Action for achieving 50 years of service. I wish them and all of the staff continued success in the future.

MAUREEN MAHONEY—EVA  
MURILLO UNSUNG HERO AWARD

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) advocates for crime victims. JIM COSTA (CA) and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10 year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA and myself, we are proud to honor Maureen Mahoney with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. Nominated by Congressman SETH MOULTON, Maureen is recognized for her efforts in preventing domestic violence. This award is named for Eva Murillo—an individual who cared deeply about advocating for victims and survivors of violent crime. Each year, an award bearing Eva Murillo's name recognizes an individual—or pair of individuals—who utilized his or her experiences to triumph over personal tragedy and raise awareness for the needs of crime victims.

Maureen tragically lost her parents, Dr. Hugh and Ruth Mahoney, and her brother John to an incident of violent crime in December 1975. On the 40th anniversary of this tragedy, Maureen and her family organized a community event in Tewksbury, Massachusetts to celebrate and honor the lives of their parents and brother. This event tribute was dedicated to addressing domestic violence, as Maureen recognized that violent criminals are often impacted by domestic violence situations in their youth.

Maureen donated all of the money raised at the event to local organizations in the Tewksbury area, including the Center for Hope and Healing, The Michael B. Christensen Community and Family Support Center, The United Teen Equality Center, and the Tewksbury Police Department. Maureen's own experiences translate in her work as a life coach, where she works with survivors of tragedy like herself. I am proud to recognize her efforts today with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award.

And that is just the way it is.

CLAIRE LEFEVERS EARNS GIRL  
SCOUTS GOLD AWARD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Claire LeFevers for earning the



prestigious Girl Scouts Gold Award, their highest honor.

Claire is a senior at St. Thomas Episcopal School in Sugar Land, Texas. Her extraordinary community service project that earned her the Girl Scouts Gold Award consisted of a group effort, led by Claire, to fix up the outer grounds of a Care Center, located in Schulenburg, Texas. There, the service group built outside furniture and brought decorative potted plants. In addition to this project, Claire also worked with outside organizations in the community, in efforts to provide the Care Center with necessary materials for their residents. Through her hard work, Claire's group directly helped 70 people. The Gold Award is administered to less than five percent of high school aged scouts who exemplify incredible leadership measures through practical, yet impactful projects. We are so proud of Claire, and we thank her for graciously serving her community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Claire LeFevers for receiving the Girl Scouts Gold Award.

HONORING JERUSALEM OUTREACH CHILD & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jerusalem Outreach Child and Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS. It is locally referred to as JOCI (Jerusalem Outreach Center Incorporated).

JOCI was established as a nonprofit organization in the year 2000. JOCI was one of the partners in a county wide effort to provide service to citizens living in hard to reach and underserved communities in Tallahatchie County like Paynes and Glendora. JOCI's goal is to meet the educational and health and social welfare needs of both children and adults regardless of race. Their partner Glendora Economic and Community Development Corporation (GECDCo) focused on the development needs of the communities like housing, recreation, jobs, and more.

In order to achieve the above goals JOCI hosts health fairs and provides a long list of services. The services include, but are not limited to: personal counseling, referrals to outside resources, depending on the issue; social therapy for special needs clients; child care; after school care and services; educational classes; tutoring; and more. Since 2000, JOCI's record of achievement has attracted new partners to their effort: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute, Quality Stars, the Department of Human Services, and the Tallahatchie Early Learning Alliance (TELA).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Jerusalem Outreach Child & Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS for their work in those hard to reach communities in Tallahatchie County, MS.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRUCE HUGHES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Bruce Hughes, as the 2016 Art Within Everything Award winner.

Dr. Hughes received this award because of his contributions to art through leadership roles at the Des Moines Art Center and Des Moines Metro Opera. He is known for founding the Iowa Shakespeare Experience. For 20 years, Dr. Hughes has served as the Director of the Ruan Multiple Sclerosis Center at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. As a neurologist, he recognizes the positive effects that the arts can have on the brain and nurturing the human soul.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hughes is an Iowan who has made its citizens very proud. He has dedicated his life to medicine while ensuring that the arts are an important part of central Iowa's quality of life. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dr. Hughes for his work and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine challenges and opportunities for oil

and gas development in different price environments.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine navigating business tax reform.

SD-215

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, focusing on the need for more timeliness and transparency.

SD-226

APRIL 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine government reform, focusing on ending duplication and holding Washington accountable.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine counterfeits and their impact on consumer health and safety.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the waters of the United States rule and the case for reforming the Renewable Fuels Association.

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine better budgets and better results.

SD-608

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States-China relations, focusing on strategic challenges and opportunities.

SD-419

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on "Telecommunications: Additional Coordination and Performance Measurement Needed for High-Speed Internet Access Programs on Tribal Lands."

SD-628

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine Valeant Pharmaceuticals' business model, focusing on the repercussions for patients and the health care system.

SH-216

APRIL 28

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine the impacts of invasive species on the productivity, value, and management of land and water resources; to conduct oversight

on the National Invasive Species Council's new framework for early detection and rapid response; to examine improved cooperative tools for control and management, including S. 2240, to improve the control and management of invasive species that threaten and harm Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

SD-366

MAY 9

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Airland

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-232A

MAY 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on SeaPower

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-232A

11 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Personnel

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SD-G50

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SD-G50

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-232A

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222

## POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine terror in Europe, focusing on implications of ISIS's Western external operations.

SD-342

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 21, 2016**

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. There are many important issues to be considered, with multiple interests and priorities dividing the House in its deliberations.

May the inertia of habit that has solidified various blocs of opinion be stirred to productive action, and grant that a new light might shine on creative solutions to longstanding and vexing disagreement.

The benefit of so many Americans depends on the creativity and intentions of those who serve here. May their hopes and prayers for constructive legislation be satisfied through Your divine grace and the goodwill of all in this Chamber.

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

**THE JOURNAL**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Mr. TAKANO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

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

**BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS**

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I represent a rural district in northern Cali-

fornia where many of my constituents can only access the Internet through dial-up or low-speed DSL. Lack of access to broadband in rural areas is a drag on economic growth and impacts our small businesses, schools, hospitals, and much more.

Recently, the House took action to ensure the FCC cannot regulate the rates charged for broadband Internet access by passing H.R. 2666.

There is no regulatory scheme the FCC can create that will magically solve the challenge of expanding broadband access in high-cost areas. Instead, likely, it will be a hindrance as it creates more barriers to that access.

Expanding broadband in rural areas requires an understanding of the economic realities, recognizing the need for greater access, and removing the regulatory uncertainty.

Adoption of H.R. 2666 will encourage investment by letting Internet service providers know they will not have to face the threat of Federal regulations on the rates they charge and continue the push for broadband access and investment in rural areas, which will be very helpful for people who have to drive a long distance for education and the telemedicine that is so critical in rural areas.

**PRESIDENT OBAMA SHOULD VISIT HIROSHIMA, JAPAN**

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage President Obama to become the first sitting American President to visit Hiroshima, Japan.

A visit to Hiroshima is not an apology on America's behalf. It is a signal that the Commander in Chief of the world's largest arsenal of nuclear weapons appreciates their power, and it sets an example for other world leaders to follow.

I did not fully grasp the horror of Hiroshima until I traveled there for the first time in 2002. Only then did I develop a personal and lasting connection to the incredible destruction caused by nuclear weapons. Every leader who has the capacity to use these weapons should have that same experience and feel that same connection.

One of America's greatest strengths is the power to lead by example. The President should use that power to lead the world to Hiroshima and away from nuclear weapons.

**GOD BLESS A TRUE TEXAN, BOB SCHULTZ**

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I come from Texas. The world thinks that Texans take care of Texans, and Texans always brag about Texas. We do.

The Fort Bend Star introduced me to Bob Schultz. I work for Bob. Bob lives in Richmond, Texas. He is 51 years old.

Bob was given a death sentence—pancreatic cancer. After 19 rounds of chemotherapy, tons of radiation, and endless surgeries, Bob beat his cancer.

Bob recovered by volunteering almost daily at the MD Anderson Hospital in Sugar Land, to make sure that coffee is made at 5:30 in the morning and that the linens are prepared for the 6 a.m. opening of that great facility.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to close with seven words of Texas pride: God bless a true Texan, Bob Schultz.

**GALESBURG WATER SAFETY**

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, whether you are a mayor, a city council member, or a Member of Congress, it is the job of all elected officials to be problem solvers for the families we serve.

For almost 25 years, the city of Galesburg has had a problem. The majority of water tests there have had lead content exceeding the Federal action level, and the most recent health report shows that more than 14 percent of children tested in Knox County had high lead levels in their small bodies.

When there is a problem, especially a serious problem like this, leaders come together to solve it. They don't point fingers, and they certainly do not deny facts. Government officials at all levels have the responsibility to work constructively to solve the problem and protect our children.

That is why I have assigned a watchdog task force within my office to investigate lead contamination throughout my congressional district and develop comprehensive solutions to overcome this challenge.

We need to work together to solve this problem because that is what leaders do.

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

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT  
APPRECIATION

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize heroes in our communities who ask for no recognition, too often receive none, and every day are deserving of it: our law enforcement officers.

Their mission is simple: keep our communities safe.

They are often overlooked, yet they are the first ones we call when we need help.

It is a dangerous job. Each day these selfless servants put on a badge symbolic of their unique position to ensure the safety of the families and individuals of their communities, and they go do their duty.

We enjoy the fruits of their labor without knowing of the tireless dedication that makes it happen. Whether they are encouraging a child to make wise decisions, patrolling a neighborhood, or stopping a crime, their tireless dedication is often taken for granted. They sacrifice so we don't have to.

So, Mr. Speaker, to our law enforcement officers around the country and to their families whose sacrifices are not forgotten, I rise to say thank you. Thank you for protecting us. Thank you for defending us, for being ever vigilant, ever ready, and ever courageous. We appreciate you and stand with you as you serve as the guardians of our communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WE THE  
PEOPLE

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding group of students in my district from Highlands High School in Fort Thomas. These students are members of the We the People team at their high school.

They recently won the State championship and will compete in the national-level program here in Washington, D.C., this weekend, representing the State of Kentucky. This is the 12th consecutive year this team has won this competition in Kentucky.

We the People is a civics education program that promotes teaching and learning about our Nation's history, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Each year, the program hosts a national competition in Washington, D.C., in which individual State-level winning teams compete and participate in simulated congressional hearings.

I am so proud of these students in my district, their parents, their teachers, and the administration of Highlands High School for their hard work and dedication.

Congratulations again, and I wish you all the best in the National Finals.

A LIFE OF SERVICE

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of the Honorable James Roddey, a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, successful businessman, public servant, and United States marine. Jim, a native of North Carolina, found opportunity where generations of Americans have—western Pennsylvania.

Last month, Jim stepped down as chairman of the Allegheny County Republican Committee. His tenure as county GOP chairman was the latest act in a career that included his historic election as Allegheny County's first-ever county executive in 1999.

Throughout his successful business career, Jim applied his acumen and heart of service to community development and the nonprofit sector. Undoubtedly, Jim developed many of the values he applied in his career from his Marine Corps days, where he reached the rank of captain.

Jim's peers and colleagues admire him for his ability to get the job done. He approached his career with exuberance and unmitigated diligence, creating a lasting impact on western Pennsylvania.

I wish him as well as his wife of more than 60 years, Elin, all the best in their future endeavors.

ENSURING INTEGRITY IN THE IRS  
WORKFORCE ACT OF 2015

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 688, I call up the bill (H.R. 3724) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to House Resolution 688, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-48, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 3724

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act of 2016".*

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON REHIRING ANY EMPLOYEE OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WHO WAS INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM SERVICE FOR MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7804 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) PROHIBITION ON REHIRING EMPLOYEES INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED.—The Commissioner may not employ any individual previously employed by the Commissioner who was removed for misconduct under this subchapter or chapter 43 or chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, or whose employment was terminated under section 1203 of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note)."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any employee removed from employment before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The gentleman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3724, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 3724, Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act.

With tax day just behind us, most Americans have finished their tax returns. They filled out form after form, giving the IRS some of the most sensitive information possible, including their Social Security numbers, their birth dates, wage data, and more.

In 2014, the inspector general for the IRS released a report that raised serious questions about whose hands this information falls into once it arrives at the IRS. More specifically, an audit of the agency's hiring practices found that the IRS rehired hundreds of former employees whom the IRS had previously fired because of conduct problems.

And we are not talking about small infractions. The IRS rehired employees

who had falsified documents. They failed to pay their own taxes. They accessed sensitive taxpayer information without permission.

To think that someone could inappropriately access tax information, get fired for doing so, and then be rehired just a few months later is completely unacceptable. But it has happened, and it has happened more than once.

These stories border on the absurd. One employee had been absent without leave for a total of 8 weeks worth of work. As a result, that employee was fired, and the words "do not rehire" were stamped on that personnel file. Still, the IRS rehired that person.

IRS leadership has failed to acknowledge its mistakes or change its processes. Instead, they stuck their heads in the sand. According to the inspector general, the IRS' response to the report was that it believed its current process was good enough. Well, I don't buy it, and if the IRS leadership thinks its current processes are protecting taxpayers, they need a reality check.

□ 0915

The Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act is a simple, bipartisan fix to a serious problem. The bill does what the IRS bureaucracy in Washington won't: it stops the IRS from rehiring former employees who had been fired for cause.

Now, my staff and I met with numerous frontline IRS employees from South Dakota who are sincere and hardworking individuals. My bill is not aimed at them.

This legislation is aimed at the IRS bureaucracy in Washington and is intended to address a very real problem that they have refused to fix.

There is no reason that IRS leadership in Washington shouldn't be held to the same standard to which it holds you, the taxpayers. With this legislation, we can hold the IRS accountable to us for its hiring practices and ensure a high-quality workforce for the agency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

We all agree that the IRS faces serious consumer service challenges and needs to be more responsive to the American taxpayer, but this bill is not a serious attempt at oversight of the IRS.

In fact, with respect to making the IRS more responsive to taxpayers, this bill is a move in the wrong direction.

But the fact that Republicans are moving in the wrong direction on tax policy really shouldn't be a surprise to any of us.

They are not only starving our entire government of the resources that it needs to operate efficiently for the American public, but they are delib-

erately standing in the way of actual productive policies.

Forget real tax reform that would bring positive benefits. They aren't even doing anything to fix what is broken in the system today.

For example, the Republicans refuse to crack down on large corporations that seek to avoid paying their fair share of taxes simply by changing their mailing address from the United States to a low-tax foreign country.

We see these stories on TV all the time, corporations renouncing their American citizenship to not have to pay any—any—U.S. taxes.

But congressional Republicans have refused to take any action to stop these corporate tax dodgers and the resulting offshoring of American jobs.

In fact, the Republicans who run Congress have protected these companies not only through their refusal to act to stop these tax inversions, but by also refusing to repeal the tax break that incentivizes U.S. companies to ship jobs overseas.

Yes, American companies can claim a tax break for firing American workers and moving their jobs overseas, and my Republican colleagues are doing nothing about that.

The real-world effect of the Republicans' refusal to go after these corporations that invert themselves to avoid paying their share of taxes is a heavier tax burden on the rest of our honest constituents who are playing by the rules.

To address this problem, the Treasury Department recently issued new rules to stop large corporations from simply changing their post office box to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

Could my constituents imagine simply changing their post office box address to eliminate their Federal taxes? Of course not. Because they can't. But somehow multinational companies, which seem to have more rights than American citizens, can.

Now, you would think the American Congress would support the efforts of the American President to stop American companies from not paying the taxes here in America. But, Mr. Speaker, you would be wrong.

The majority is threatening to stop the Treasury from advancing these types of commonsense rules to make multinational corporations pay their fair share of U.S. taxes just like everyone else.

Wouldn't our time be better spent and served if my Republican colleagues held hearings—and passed bills—to stop companies from moving their jobs and profits overseas?

Democrats stand ready to work with them to enact commonsense policies to close the loopholes in our Tax Code that encourage companies to send their profits and their jobs overseas.

Unfortunately, we will have to wait for another day before the majority is

serious about working together to make our tax system fairer for working people.

But let me be clear. Americans will not wait any longer. They demand that we act to close these loopholes to ensure that American corporations don't cheat the system to try to avoid paying their fair share of taxes here in the United States, letting the little guy have a greater burden in their absence.

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have a gentlemen here to speak on behalf of my bill who has been a strong leader in bringing integrity to the IRS.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, we are at a crossroads with our tax system. Our Tax Code is outdated, overly complicated, and the IRS has proven that it, in and of itself, is in need of serious reform.

Here is an opportunity for us to work together. From the opening remarks of my colleague across the aisle, I am not sure if that is an attitude of cooperation, but certainly this is a bill we can work together on, I would hope.

Our Tax Code was last updated in 1986, a generation ago. It is increasingly burdensome in this global 21st century economy. American taxpayers need a simpler code that they can easily comply with.

Finally, they deserve an accountable and consistent IRS which provides exceptional taxpayer customer service. It is long past time for the status quo to change on these problems. We need tax reform.

This is why I stand in support of my colleague's bill, the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act. The legislation would prohibit the IRS from rehiring any individual who was previously employed by the IRS, but fired for cause. This is inconsistent and unacceptable behavior from an agency which requires the highest standard of tax compliance from taxpayers. The IRS should apply the same rigorous standard inside the agency itself.

Mr. Speaker, I wish we didn't need an act of Congress such as this, but, apparently, we do. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I have a friend and colleague here today who has fought daily for years for hardworking taxpayers across America and for his home district.

I am proud to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Hamlin County, South Dakota, a very dear friend not only of every Member of Congress, but, in particular, a great Representative representing South Dakota at a time when South Dakota

needs not only strong representation, but a strong voice.

I want to thank the young Congresswoman for bringing this legislation to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, today is quite simple. The United States Congress has a say in the matter about how our government is run and the conduct of the government.

The Internal Revenue Service has, for quite some time, been at odds, I believe, not only with their mission statement, but also at odds with their duty to publicly serve, provide information, and to do the things that enable taxpayers, who want to follow the law and need to follow the law, to comply respectfully.

The Internal Revenue Service, over the last few years, has run afoul, I believe, of the American people because the commonsense obligations that they have have not been met.

Today we are here on the floor with Congresswoman NOEM to talk about H.R. 3724 that prohibits the Commissioner of the IRS from rehiring any employee who was involuntarily—that means forced—out or involuntarily separated from service for misconduct at the Internal Revenue Service.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration reported in February 2015 that the IRS had rehired those employees who had been fired from the Service for misconduct, hundreds of former employees who were terminated for well-documented conduct or performance issues.

In fact, the IRS rehired 141 former employees who had substantial tax issues. That means they were not paying their own tax bills.

Mr. Speaker, if we were going to hire a person in our office, we would attempt to gain information about that employee.

Yesterday, as we were talking about this on the rule, a fellow colleague said: What about your own employees? Do you make sure they pay their taxes?

I said: That would be a good question.

No, I don't ask that question. But I would not have any idea what the real answer was—the truth—if an employee did not tell me the truth.

The IRS does have the answer. They know who is paying their taxes, and they know why they fired an employee, Mr. Speaker.

We are here saying that the Internal Revenue Service should not rehire these employees who were unfaithful, unfaithful to their job and unfaithful to the American taxpayer.

One hundred forty-one employees who substantially did not pay their taxes represent 60 percent of all terminated for misconduct.

I think I know why: because the Internal Revenue Service at the highest levels allows this to go on, and then

they rehire the employees who didn't even follow the law.

Mr. Speaker, that is not just misconduct. That is another level giving them an opportunity that a normal taxpayer would not have to get away with not paying their own taxes.

Other misconduct issues of rehiring employees include accessing taxpayer information improperly without authorization, falsification of official forms, unacceptable behavior and performance, and abuse of IRS leave and property policies while on public time.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman NOEM is doing the right thing and so is the House of Representatives. I would like to see this be a bipartisan issue, not a partisan issue.

We need the IRS. We need them to do a good job. But if this were at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, would we allow that to happen? If this were at the CIA, would we allow that to happen?

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SESSIONS. If this were at the Department of Justice, would we allow that to happen? Why is this not a bipartisan issue?

Why can't we get together and say: Mr. Koskinen, you are the Commissioner of the IRS. We respectfully would like to see you correct what you are doing.

We are not on a witch hunt. We have the facts of the case, and we believe the right thing to do is to offer some remedy.

That is why Republicans are on the floor today, and that is why our young Congresswoman is leading this charge.

I stand behind her. I voted for the rule, and I am going to vote for this. It does the right thing.

I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I would just add to that list of the gentleman from Texas: If it were Congress, would we allow this to happen?

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, we have another colleague here on the floor today who serves on the Ways and Means Committee and has diligently worked on IRS issues and has been a leader on bringing some clarity to the situations that we deal with in trying to bring integrity to the IRS.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RENACCI).

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3724, the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act of 2015, a bill sponsored by my good friend and colleague, Representative KRISTI NOEM of South Da-

kota. As the previous colleague said, this should be a bipartisan issue. This is an American issue.

I spent most of my life in the business world. I have owned and operated over 60 different businesses, employed over 3,000 people, and created thousands of new jobs. Throughout my 30-year business career, I have had the privilege of hiring many new, talented individuals.

When it comes to hiring at the IRS, the Treasury inspector general stated, "Selecting the best candidates for employment is essential to providing the best service to America's taxpayers, maintaining public trust in tax administration, and safeguarding taxpayer's rights and privacy."

However, the inspector general report from December 2014 found that the IRS fell short of that standard. Last year the IRS hired hundreds of employees who were terminated for misconduct. Those serious offenses included willful failure to file tax returns, unauthorized access to taxpayer information, falsification of official forms, and abuse of IRS leave and property policies.

□ 0930

As a businessman, but more importantly as a representative of the American taxpayer, I find this IG report inexcusable. It seems obvious to me, but not once did I rehire someone in the real world—in the real world—who I had previously fired for misconduct.

The IRS needs to earn the trust of hardworking American taxpayers. Rehiring employees who were fired for these serious offenses further erodes that trust.

H.R. 3724 directly addresses this issue. It prohibits the IRS from rehiring employees that were fired for misconduct. This is common sense.

As a former businessowner, I know it is a very difficult decision to let someone go, but rehiring an individual who was asked to leave due to gross misconduct would be insulting to other employees who have faithfully served the business, and would present a significant risk to the health of the organization and its customers.

The IG report found the IRS doesn't take those risks seriously. In fact, "IRS officials stated that prior conduct and performance issues do not play a significant role in deciding the candidates who are best qualified for hiring." Because the IRS hasn't taken those risks seriously, this straightforward, commonsense legislation is needed to restore accountability and trust in the IRS.

I would like to commend Mrs. NOEM for her leadership on this legislation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in support.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that America will have to continue to wait for action

to stop companies from shifting American jobs overseas and stopping corporate tax dodgers.

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3724.

I would think as we look around the country right now, the integrity of what our government is and how our voters are represented and our citizens are represented, is really the case here.

I thank the gentlewoman for bringing such a commonsense piece of legislation forward because we know in this town there is nothing less common than common sense.

The faith and trust of the American people is based on their belief that the people who work for them are acting in their best interest, always acting in their best interest—the interest of the American people. Not in their personal interest, but in the interest of the American people. We find out that there are folks who are working on behalf of the American people, but they have somehow betrayed that faith and that trust. And folks have lost confidence in their government. They have lost confidence because of things that happened, not things that were imagined, not some whimsical idea that somehow we can get at somebody for doing this.

There is no agency that is feared more in this country than the IRS. The question is: Why would they be so feared? Because they can completely shut you down, they can freeze your bank account, they can make you stay up late at night worrying about what is going to happen.

When you get that letter from the IRS, the next thing you do is contact an attorney to represent you because you don't want to make a mistake, you just don't want to do it. But then you find out that within the IRS, people working for that agency, but, more importantly, working for the people of the United States, have violated that trust.

These are substantiated results. This is not somebody's idea or way of getting back at somebody. This is removing bad apples and saying: you have violated, you have betrayed the trust of the American people, you are going to leave the agency, but, more importantly, you are never coming back in.

This isn't any way to somehow get back at a political party or get back at anybody. This is a fact that if we cannot restore the confidence the American people have in us—their faith and their trust—why are we here? Why do we go through elections?

I don't come here to represent my ideas and my beliefs. I come here to represent the values and beliefs of

Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District. That is 705,687 Americans, not Republicans, not Democrats, not Libertarians, not Independents, but Americans.

This piece of legislation takes into account that these are wrongdoers. These are not people who we want to associate ourselves with. These are people who have used the power of their office or of their position to somehow work against the very people who employ them.

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I would just say, at this moment in our history, I thank the gentlewoman for standing up for every hardworking American taxpayer and doing the best we can to restore the faith and confidence of the American people that they can trust who it is that they elect to represent them and they can trust us to make sure that wrongdoers are punished and, once are asked to leave, are not allowed to come back in.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 24½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from South Dakota has 15½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mrs. NOEM and her drive to address this very important issue.

I believe that the overwhelming majority of the people who work at the IRS are good, hardworking, patriotic people who want to do the right thing. I have a serious problem with management and I have a serious problem with the head of the IRS, but on this issue, this is just unbelievable that we can't come to a conclusive and absolute 100 percent agreement.

All we are asking for is that the bad apples, the people who will disturb what is going on in the workplace, who aren't going to act in the best interest of the United States of America, that they be excluded from participation.

One of the things that is fascinating, Mr. Speaker, as we look at this, is in response to the independent review that was done of the IRS and their hiring practices. And the question here is: Should we go back and review the personnel employment file prior to rehiring somebody?

This is what they said: "Additionally, while it did find that a review of performance and conduct issues could be accomplished earlier in the process, the Department of Treasury, the Office

of Personnel Management, and the Internal Revenue Service believed that it was not feasible to move the review of these issues earlier in the hiring process. This action would greatly increase the cost of hiring, likely increase cycle time beyond the Presidential mandate of 80 days, require additional resources, and not likely yield a reasonable return on investment."

Come on. Come on. Are you kidding me? How long could it possibly take to actually go back and review somebody's performance reviews, look back at their employment history, and see if they have been acting in the best interest of the United States of America?

Clearly, in the examples that are there, there are people that willfully don't even file their own tax returns, there are people that are doing some bad, stupid stuff.

They don't think they have the time and resources to look at it in advance; we have to actually pass a piece of legislation requiring this?

That seems entirely reasonable. It is not overly burdensome. Here you have an organization, the IRS, that can actually destroy somebody's life by a mere letter showing up in your mailbox, and they can't even take the time to look at somebody's employment history, somebody who has already worked at the IRS?

That is how absurd this organization is, and that is why this piece of legislation is so easy to understand, it is so easy to vote for. It is not a partisan issue. This is just saying: Do you know what? For all the good people who work at the IRS, let's make sure that the new people who come on, or the rehires who come on, in this case, are actually addressed and we look at their information prior to hiring.

It is that simple. That is why I am in favor of this bill.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

I am still waiting for a bill to keep American jobs in America and not export them overseas through the Tax Code. I will continue to wait for that bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, today, we are talking about a bill that will bring integrity to the IRS, which will better serve our taxpayers into the future.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I really want to thank the gentlewoman from South Dakota for her leadership in bringing this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about restoring trust. This bill is about holding the IRS accountable. Here we are, in a week where Americans had to file their tax returns. And so often, just the letters I-R-S send a chilling effect through people when they hear those letters. Yet, you look at the arrogance over at the IRS, just the attitude that

they have and the disdain it seems that they have towards the very people who pay their bills—the taxpayers.

Here you have a case where people who have been fired by the IRS for abusing their positions are actually being rehired back to the IRS. Again, this is the kind of disdain that disgusts people as they fear the IRS. The IRS ought to have the same fear towards the people who pay their salaries as people get when they get that letter from the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, we have had inspector general reports in the Treasury Department. The inspector general found over 140 IRS agents aren't even accurate in their taxes. The very people who are responsible for auditing American citizens aren't even paying their own taxes.

This is the kind of disregard for the American people that we are seeing over at the IRS, and it is time to rein it in. It is time to bring some accountability and transparency back to the IRS.

Who is afraid of that? What is so wrong with saying: If somebody has been fired for cause over at the IRS, with the access they have to such sensitive personal information of taxpayers, why should they be rehired back?

It is just basic common sense that if somebody has abused their position at the IRS, enough is enough, and they shouldn't be able to return and have access to that sensitive information anymore.

I want to applaud, again, the gentlewoman from South Dakota for bringing this commonsense bill forward. I would urge adoption later on when we have this vote on the House floor.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my friend from South Dakota for her leadership in holding the IRS accountable for what we are seeing today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3724, the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act, to join in the outrage with my colleagues today on what we are seeing at the IRS. With tax day hitting earlier this week, I think this is an ideal time to highlight the need for continued oversight and, perhaps, ramped-up oversight of the Internal Revenue Service.

Last February, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration reported that the IRS had a tendency to rehire former employees with serious misconduct and performance issues. In their review, they found more than 100 former employees were rehired by the IRS despite having significant performance and misconduct problems, like

willfully failing to file tax returns: a rather important thing for most of us, but apparently not for IRS employees.

Mr. Speaker, the families in my district and I are 100 percent fed up with adhering to a standard that the IRS doesn't even hold their own employees to. We simply will not tolerate the rehiring of incompetent individuals who fail to do their job in the first place. It is time to put a leash on the IRS and prevent taxpayers from further double standards and further abuse.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 3724.

Again, I thank my colleague from South Dakota for her excellent leadership on this. I look forward to open debate and voting on this matter as soon as possible.

□ 0945

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

No disrespect to the sponsor of this bill whatsoever. I have great admiration for her, as she knows, but I believe that this bill could have been taken up on the consent calendar, quite frankly, with all of this discussion about the support on both sides.

The reality is, though, that we are using precious time here on the floor on an issue that, as I say, could have been on the consent calendar. We are not addressing the real issue of concern to the American people, which is of the continuing loss of jobs here in America because of our Tax Code, which we refuse to fix, that is shifting jobs and American corporations overseas to inversion and also shifting American jobs overseas because of those inversions.

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

Mr. CROWLEY. I yield myself an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we are not having a hearing on this. We are not doing anything here on the floor to address this issue. Instead, we are taking up issues that, quite frankly, could have been on the consent calendar.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am ready to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I believe this should be the beginning and not the end of a discussion on how to best plug the giant corporate loopholes that are allowing companies to skip out on paying the same taxes that all of our constituents have to pay. This is one of the many major issues this Congress should undertake; but, instead, we are all too busy governing by press releases.

This Congress has done nothing to address the Zika virus, which could be a threat to all women who are pregnant or who are looking to become pregnant; but we have this consent bill here on the floor for debate.

This Congress has done nothing to address the crisis of lead in our drinking water—a crisis vividly on display in Flint but one that lurks in the pipes of hundreds of cities and towns across our great land; yet we have this consent bill here on the calendar for debate.

This Congress hasn't even attempted to pass a budget for our country—the majority has not proposed a budget for our country—which is one of the most basic functions we can do as an institution to make sure we make the necessary investments possible while also getting our economic house in order; yet we have what I would consider to be a consent calendar bill here on the floor today, taking up an hour's debate.

But we will always have time for message bills. Sure, they don't create a job for an unemployed person in New York or in Flint or in Houston or in L.A., and they don't increase the take-home pay of any underpaid worker or make college more affordable for middle class kids or strengthen Social Security for our seniors of today and tomorrow, but they will sound great on talk radio tonight and over the weekend—we are going after the IRS again. They don't even deal with the Tax Code even though this bill is advertised as the Republicans' idea of tax reform. It does not reform the Tax Code in any way, shape, or form, but that is what they portray it as.

Let me explain something about the Tax Code to my Republican colleagues.

Our Tax Code is inefficient. You see that when large corporations are paying less tax than the employees who work for them. It is overly complicated. You see that when multinational corporations avoid paying the same taxes as our constituents back home have to pay simply by their hiring expensive lawyers that our constituents, quite frankly, cannot afford. It is unfair. You see that when corporations can dodge paying their fair share of taxes by simply switching their post office boxes to foreign countries—something our neighbors back home, if they attempted to do, would be arrested for, for tax evasion, but not corporations. Individuals, if you do that, you are arrested for tax evasion, but not an American corporation; yet my Republican colleagues continue to refuse to address this issue.

Maybe more importantly than anything else, it does not promote job growth here in the United States. You see this when Congress refuses to repeal the tax breaks for companies to fire their workers here and move their jobs overseas.

This Congress must tackle these serious issues, but we are not doing that today. We continue to wait for legislation—for a hearing—on these important issues.

Democrats stand ready to work with you all, my Republican colleagues, on



commonsense legislation that plugs the corporate tax loopholes that are literally draining the funds our country needs in order to function properly. Democrats stand ready to work with you to fix the Tax Code that is not only inefficient, not only complicated, not only unfair, but that does not promote job growth here in the United States. That is something we want to work with you on in a bipartisan way. Unfortunately, we have to continue to wait for another day before the majority is serious about working together, in a bipartisan way, to make our tax system fairer for all working men and women in the United States. Let me be clear, once again, that the American people will not wait any longer.

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We have heard repeatedly from my colleague on the other side of the aisle about why we should not be spending time on this topic today, about why we shouldn't have dedicated an hour's worth of debate to making sure that we talk about H.R. 3724, Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act.

I think he has forgotten about what kind of information the people of this country turn over to the IRS. They turn over their Social Security numbers, their financial information; a lot of the security that they have for their families, their homes, and their businesses they completely trust the IRS to take care of, to protect, and to make sure that they use in the correct manner so that they might abide by the law and pay their taxes like honest, hardworking Americans do. To say that we shouldn't spend time in making sure that criminals and people who are fired for misconduct don't have access to that information, to me, is silly. That is exactly what our job is. The IRS needs integrity, and we are here to bring it today.

Mr. Speaker, the White House has issued a veto threat against this bill. They said that the IRS would be forced to fire people, because of this bill, if it were signed into law. I read the White House's Statement of Administration Policy on my bill, and the statement reads that it is unnecessary because current IRS processes already ensure that the agency does not rehire former employees who have significant conduct issues.

I guess the White House didn't read the report, for the inspector general expressed concerns that the IRS continues to hire individuals who have significant prior conduct and performance issues even after the agency supposedly made upgrades to its hiring practices.

I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the inspector general's review of former employees who were fired for serious misconduct and who were then rehired included employees with histories of

fraud, a falsification of documents, workplace disruption, absence, and an unauthorized accessing of taxpayer information. The inspector general identified approximately 140 individuals who are currently, today, with the IRS who had been previously fired for cause. We are talking about an agency that employs 80,000 people. Surely, it can find 140 people who haven't committed fraud or falsified documents.

Mr. Speaker, the inspector general recommended that the IRS reassess its hiring practices to determine in what part of the process it should fully vet candidates in terms of their prior performance. In fact, the IRS was given an opportunity to fully respond to the inspector general's report. In its response, the agency insisted its processes were sufficient. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the agency still only begins to vet the candidates for employment only after the entire hiring process is completed and after a formal offer of employment has been extended. So, regardless of any changes the IRS has made to its hiring practices, the inspector general said he remains very concerned because IRS documents indicate it is hiring individuals who have significant prior conduct and performance issues.

Mr. Speaker, because the IRS hasn't taken action is why we are here today. This bill is simple. It just says that the IRS cannot rehire employees who have been fired for misconduct. It is something the IRS should have taken action on; and because they didn't, that is why we are here today. It is our job to protect the taxpayers and to make sure their information is safe with the agency that they, by law, need to turn over to the IRS.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 688, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

BAN ON IRS BONUSES UNTIL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY DEVELOPS COMPREHENSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4890.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 688 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4890.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0957

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4890) to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy, with Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

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

I am before the House today—really, before the Nation—on behalf of all of those frustrated taxpayers who have spent a great part of the last month, if not months before, in preparing their taxes in what is an increasingly complex Code. While we have a mission to simplify that Code, the fact of the matter is they have to deal with the challenges that they face today.

One of the agencies that they interact with or hope to interact with when they have questions is something called the Internal Revenue Service. I want to focus on that third word—“service”—because the idea here is we don't have some oversight agency, and we don't have some agency whose obligation and purpose in life is to make it harder on the average hardworking taxpayers, who are supporting the government with the money that they earn; it is to be a service—to use their resources to help the hardworking

Americans who must pay taxes—and to simplify the process, particularly when they have questions of a very, very complex Code and its requirements that are being put on each and every one of them. When we talk about service, what we need to see is a pattern; and what we see is a pattern by which, unfortunately, the service of the IRS is deteriorating rapidly.

Let me give you the facts, and I am talking about what they call the answer time.

When an individual gets on the telephone because he is frustrated and he calls the IRS and says, "I have a question," this year, the IRS estimates it will receive 48.4 million calls with people asking for assistance. Do you know how many they will answer? Sixteen million. That means that 32 million taxpayers will call the service, and their calls will go unanswered.

□ 1000

What kind of private entity could survive in this day and age if that was the kind of service that they were providing? What we are seeing is that this is going in a backwards fashion.

If you are able to get through and finally talk to somebody, the wait times a few years ago were 18.7 minutes. Well, how many people who are working at home, have other jobs, are doing things, have 18.7 minutes just to wait for a phone call to be answered on an issue that they already have anxiety about? Well, those were the good old days, Mr. Chairman, 18.7 minutes, because today it is 34.4 minutes. If you are one of the lucky 30 percent who even gets their call answered, you wait 34.4 minutes.

It even gets better because what the IRS has implemented is a program now called a courtesy disconnect. Well, if that isn't the most oxymoronic thing that I have heard—a courtesy disconnect. In other words, we are going to tell you ahead of time, when you call, we are going to disconnect your call right away because we are going to tell you you are not going to be able to get through in time, so don't waste your time trying to contact the IRS. Now, that just exacerbates the level of frustration.

So what do we do about it? What is a solution? Let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, this isn't something that the Republicans on this side of the aisle have sat and said: Oh, let's go get the IRS.

Mr. Chairman, the GAO, which has overlooked this agency for, now, 3 straight years has been calling on the IRS to do something very simple. What they say is create a strategy and a plan to do a better job of answering those calls, of being responsive to those very taxpayers that your service requires you to do so. Just create a plan. It is that simple.

The GAO issued recommendations to the IRS that they first outline a strat-

egy that defines appropriate levels of telephone and correspondence service and wait time lists and get specific steps to manage service based on an assessment of timeframes, demand capabilities, and resources. Just tell us how you can do it better.

Number two was direct the appropriate officials to systematically and empirically compare its telephone service to the best in business to identify gaps between actual and desired performance; in other words, see how it is being done in other places and aspire to do it as well. Well, as I said again, go back to the private sector. I imagine the people aren't making 60 percent of the people that call, they don't even answer it.

Lastly, just improve taxpayer service by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to develop a comprehensive customer service strategy. That is what the GAO asked them to do. This recommendation has been repeated year after year. Unfortunately, the response of the IRS to the GAO was that their existing efforts were sufficient. They have yet to devise this plan.

Mr. Chairman, you tell me, when 60 percent of the calls are unanswered and those that are calling have wait times of over 35 minutes, tell me where that is sufficient. And therein lies the heart of the problem, the complete unwillingness to do a simple issue and to be responsive.

Now, there are other reasons, perhaps, that the IRS is diverting the very resources that have been put in by this Congress to support taxpayer services. In fact, the commitment to those taxpayer services has gone down dramatically each and every year:

In 2013, they put \$190 million into ensuring that there were appropriate taxpayer services; and then, in 2014, they decreased it to \$183 million to ensure that there were appropriate taxpayer services; and then, in 2015, they put \$45 million into it.

So at a time when the GAO is telling them to do better, they are speaking with their own specific acts to say: We think it is sufficient. And not only do we think it is sufficient, we are actually pulling resources away from relations to the very taxpayers that we have an obligation to service.

Mr. Chairman, the bill is really quite simple, and it is in response to that continuing unresponsiveness of those who manage the IRS. It is simply saying to do what you have been requested to do.

Now, despite three GAO reports and continuing oversight by Congress, the refusal to be responsive to that, we looked and said a very simple thing. It says do not pay bonuses to the employees until you have fulfilled the very simple requirement of coming up with this plan.

Now, somebody might say to me: Well, that is outrageous. Put new obli-

gations on the IRS. They have not done it in 3 years.

But guess who has? The Department of Labor does it. The Department of Agriculture does it. The Department of Education does it. The Office of Management and Budget does it. Each and every one of them, I would suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, probably have a lot less interaction with everyday Americans, but they have taken the time to put together that plan.

So there is a template. We are not asking a whole lot. It has been specific, laid out in the GAO report, simply to do that.

So we are asking very simply in the bill, do your job; and until you have done that job, which other agencies are very capable of doing, no bonuses get paid.

It doesn't say no bonuses get paid at all. In fact, this is not antiworker. In fact, hardworking people at the IRS—and there are many—they can get rewarded for appropriate work that they do. But don't pay those bonuses until you, management, answer to them why you won't do the service agreement or service plan. You tell your employees why you won't do it. Don't go blaming it on somebody else. That is the very simple request that we have, which is to make the plan before you write the bonuses.

Mr. Chairman, that is not asking for much. It is certainly not asking for much on behalf of the frustrated taxpayers of the United States who are seeing a demonstrated inability to communicate with the very agency that is responsible for helping them solve the questions that they have with respect to the complexities of the Tax Code.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to continuing to debate this issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

What we are facing today is the worst kind of demagoguery, and really it descends to propaganda.

Look, the reason the phones aren't being answered is because the Republican majority has failed to answer to its responsibilities. The appropriations have been going down. The last 5 years, the budget cut for IRS has been close to \$1 billion.

So you try to hide from your failure and you point your finger everywhere except where it belongs—yourselves. You want to say no bonuses to the 80,000 people because this House majority has failed to meet its basic responsibility, and that is to fund so that there can be adequate resources to answer the phones. You are the ones who have shut it off.

So the problem is not a lack of strategy; it is a lack of resources. The House Republicans are trying to pass the buck because they are not providing the bucks necessary for adequate taxpayer services.

We had this chart yesterday, and here it is again. This shows, in the yellow, the amount of resources. In the blue, it shows the average time to answer the phone. As the resources have gone down, the time it takes has gone up. That is a simple fact. The only time that changed was when this institution provided some adequate resources, and so the time to answer the phones went down.

Now you are back at it again, diminishing the resources, and you are essentially blaming the 80,000 people who don't get the adequate resources to do their jobs.

Now you say let's have a plan. There is already a system, but you don't provide the resources to carry it out. You are saying come up with a plan that will be looked at and approved by the inspector general that doesn't have that responsibility. So that is why the White House stands in opposition, and I read:

“Legislation constraining the IRS's ability to retain and recruit highly qualified employees is not needed and could be counterproductive to the Service's mission.”

So I am going to point out other things you haven't done. Mr. CROWLEY laid them out very, very well.

This place, under your leadership, has been bankrupt in terms of addressing the critical needs of the budget, the problems in Flint, the problems faced by Puerto Rico, the problems faced by thousands of people because of Zika. So you come here and you say, well, the IRS isn't doing its job. You are not doing your job. Don't go after an agency for not being able to answer the telephone when you essentially are cutting the lines of resources. It is outrageous. It is outrageous, and I think the people will know.

I say this to my constituents. When you call up and it takes hours, call up your local Member of Congress, especially if he or she is a member of the majority here. Call them up. If they don't answer the phone, try email. And if there is no response, call one of us who are working to provide the adequate resources for the IRS to answer the phones, and we will try to find a way for you to communicate with your Member, if that person has failed to meet his responsibilities. The blame is on your doorstep. Don't try to shift it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). Members of the House are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to each other in the second person.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) control the remainder of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey will be recognized.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY).

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding and his work.

Mr. Chairman, every year the American people pay their taxes; and every year to do that, they have to deal with an agency that is inept and increasingly unethical.

You can't make this stuff up. The IRS failed to answer 8 million calls during tax season last year. Yet, over a short 5-year period, they handed out nearly \$6 million in bonuses to themselves.

□ 1015

Just to make this clear, that means the IRS can't take the taxpayers' phone calls, but they sure as heck can take the taxpayers' money for their bonuses.

Or how about this? The inspector general found that nearly 1,600 IRS employees willfully avoided paying their own taxes over a 10-year period; yet, we trust these same people to collect taxes from their fellow citizens.

How is it that the agency charged with collecting taxes employs people who don't pay their own taxes and that agency does nothing about it?

Now, it doesn't stop there. The IRS has a slush fund of money it collects from fees that it uses however it wants. No accountability. No transparency.

Meanwhile, about 500 IRS employees have been fired for misconduct, such as snooping on private taxpayers' information; yet, they have been hired back again.

The IRS selectively targeted for sanctions taxpayers who donated to Romney, intimidated nonprofit citizen groups, and sent out millions in potentially fraudulent tax refunds all in the past few years alone. You wonder why American people don't trust their government.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to look at these bills on the floor. We are not trying to make some partisan statement here. We just want our government to work for the people and work well. But, to do that, we can't leave the IRS the way it has been.

We had bills yesterday on the floor by Congressmen JASON SMITH and DAVID ROUZER that put an end to the slush funds and to make sure the people working at the IRS actually paid their taxes, and today we are going to pass more bills by KRISTI NOEM and PAT MEEHAN to stop the IRS from hiring people who can't be trusted and to fix the agency's absolutely terrible customer service.

These are good bills. They are smart bills. Frankly, they are bills that make you wonder how any reasonable person could ever vote against them.

But I forgot how irrational some people could be. Just a few days ago the Obama administration said they were against all four of these bills. Really?

They are against accountability? They are against IRS agency employ-

ees paying their taxes? They want the IRS to fail to answer the vast majority of customer service calls? They want to rehire bad employees?

I couldn't understand it. Frankly, the administration's statement didn't clear things up either. The Office of Management and Budget actually said this: “These bills would impose unnecessary constraints on the Internal Revenue Service's . . . operations . . .”.

Now, let me get one thing out of the way. The administration is worried about imposing constraints on the IRS, but it has no problem imposing constraints and regulations on small businesses, energy producers, manufacturers, to the point that it is driving them out of business.

That shows you how backwards this administration's priorities are. The IRS targets conservative groups, fails at basic tasks, and employs people who don't pay their own taxes.

But the people who are trying to earn an honest living and power their homes and produce products right here in America? The administration thinks they are the problem. They think they need to be regulated.

That is wrong. That is not what our country stands for, and it is not what this majority is going to stand for either.

But there is another principle here. The House is not trying to write some laws and impose some rules on the IRS just because.

We are trying to restrain government because unaccountable and unelected bureaucrats have shown that they can't be trusted with the power they have been given.

When you say “IRS,” I can assure you that the last words people think of are honest, fair, transparent, or even trustworthy.

That is not how our government should be, especially the arm of government entrusted with collecting our taxes.

Because when people can't trust that their government is treating them fairly, they lose faith in politics. They become cynical, and it increases the divisions within our country.

Now, good government shouldn't be a one-party issue. I love the debates about how small or how large government should be or how high or how low taxes should be.

But we can and we should agree that government should do its job well without abusing the trust of the American people. That should never be a one-party argument.

That is what these bills are about. That is what this debate is about. The American people are watching, Mr. Chairman, and they want us to make our choice, good government or bad.

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

Mr. Chairman, I have to respond to the previous speaker, whose simplistic

analysis has been exposed during this Presidential election.

We have selective memories. That is our problem, because how can you come before the American people, Mr. Chairman, and explain how X amount of IRS workers have not paid their taxes?

We all want everybody to pay their taxes because when insufficient revenue is in the coffers, we can't pay our bills.

But if the truth be known and we didn't have selective memory, when you point out how many people in the IRS of the 80,000 employees—1,500—haven't paid their taxes or are in default of their taxes, the gentleman fails to mention that one of the biggest culprits in not paying their taxes is the very House of Representatives. My Lord. Five percent of the Members default on their taxes.

Now, what about us and our responsibilities? We are the guardians. We are the guardians. We are the protectors of the taxpayers. Beware, taxpayers. Beware.

I have a great deal of respect—and I hope I have proven it in the past—for the gentleman who has introduced this legislation, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN). I just think we are off on the wrong foot on this one.

In your support for the bill, H.R. 4890, you claim to be concerned about IRS customer service. This bill would prohibit any bonuses being paid to IRS employees until the agency comes up with a customer service strategy approved by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

Customer service is critical. But how can you come here and complain about customer service when you have cut the IRS budget \$1 billion in the last 5 years? That is 13,000 fewer full-time employees.

At the same time—listen to this, Mr. Chairman—there have been 9 million more tax returns being filed. Think about that just for a second: 9 million more tax returns, 13,000 fewer employees, \$1 billion less in appropriations. I mean, that is not rocket science. It is simply arithmetic.

Your budgets have consistently starved the IRS of the resources it needs to do its job, and, true to form, this bill expressly forbids any additional appropriations to carry out this mandate.

Here is the reality. The IRS customer service didn't decline because of lazy employees. It declined because of significant budget cuts. This year, thanks to an extra \$290 million in funding, it has rebounded to about mediocre, still a disservice to many Americans who need help.

So I agree with the ranking member when he says to look in the mirror and you will see who is responsible.

Instead of helping the struggling people of Puerto Rico or Flint, Michigan,

or passing a budget—tax day passed a few days ago—this Congress is fiddling with weakening the IRS. You can't deny that all these attempts to harm the IRS are really harming taxpayers.

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, let me take a moment just to be responsive to a couple of things.

In point of fact, I don't think that I could have had a better setup for the real issues here than the very arguments that have been made by my colleagues because, in fact, when you look behind what is actually going on, you see the scheme that is taking place here, which has put the IRS and the service that it gives to taxpayers right in the middle of the conflict.

What they have done is created a circumstance in which, if you purposely starve the very thing that will relate to the taxpayers, you can get the taxpayers worked up to come back to scream for more money for the Service: Let's blame this on Congress.

But let's talk about what is actually going on here, Mr. Chairman. There may have been budget cuts, as there have been budget cuts all across the government.

One of the budget cuts related to the \$50 million that the IRS has used for conferences. And so, just like every other agency in government, just like the 14 percent cut we have taken in our own offices, there have been cuts at a time in which our government doesn't have money.

But that is not the issue. Because what has happened here has been the diverting of funding. What nobody is saying is that this same agency has been hit with \$1.7 billion of diverted expenditure to service the Affordable Care Act, the healthcare law that was pushed on us and pushed on all America; \$1.7 billion has been diverted, will be dedicated this year, but never accounted for when that program was created.

They put this responsibility, another unfunded mandate put on the agency by this law. What they have done is divert the attention. Take the resources away and then use it as a way to compel to see if we can force Congress to get pulled into this debate.

Our thing is very, very simple. Again, it is not a funding issue. It is a service issue. We are not getting into that with this particular bill. It is a very simple thing that says: Create a plan for how you do it.

I am glad that the gentleman from New Jersey, who I respect enormously, has been able, Mr. Chair, to touch on the very point that was also made, this idea that somehow we have been unresponsive and starved this agency. Mr. Chairman, \$290 million just sent purposely for this issue, \$290 million.

So in addition to saying to give us a plan, we are saying: Here is \$290 mil-

lion of focused funding to say this is behind the plan. Tell us how you are going to use it.

This whole thing is a smokescreen on the part of the other side to create the tension when, in fact, we are asking for a very simple thing that we have already funded.

Mr. Chairman, I have no other speakers at this time.

I reserve the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR (Mr. KELLY of Mississippi). The Committee will rise informally.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 1252. An act to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

S. 2012. An act to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

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

#### BAN ON IRS BONUSES UNTIL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY DEVELOPS COMPREHENSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY

The Committee resumed its sitting.

□ 1030

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

Mr. Chairman, just in response to my friend from the Keystone State, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act is not an IRS slush fund. There are mandates within the Affordable Care Act which necessitate, obviously, the involvement of the IRS agency. So any attempts to make it or create a slush fund in people's minds is totally, totally inaccurate.

That is not the issue. The issue is we have cut \$5 billion. This year we restored \$290 million. Again, do the math. We have 13,000 less employees. So that means a lot of those 13,000 less employees came to the end, perhaps, of their career, but were never replaced. It had nothing to do with the budget. It was beyond the budget, even, or within the budget.

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I have no other speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Seven former IRS Commissioners wrote, and we need to take a look at it because obviously they weren't all Democrats and they weren't all Republicans, but seven former IRS Commissioners have said: "Over the last 50 years, none of us has ever witnessed anything like what has happened to the IRS appropriations over the last 5 years and impact these appropriations reductions are having on our tax system."

The percentage of callers able to reach a live person at the IRS in the 2015 filing season was just 43 percent. The average wait time was 28 minutes. At one point during the filing season, the Taxpayer Protection Program line, which answers calls for victims of identity theft—a growing issue day by day—was not answering 90 percent of the calls.

That is not acceptable to your side. It is certainly not acceptable to our side, but your solution is, by no means, the solution. If you were truly concerned about improving customer service at the IRS, you would fully fund the agency. And we would support that. Penalizing the IRS is misguided and, in the long run, the consequence hurts the taxpayer.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. KELLY of Mississippi). Members are again reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I want to once again actually appreciate the comments that were made by the other side in the entirety of this debate because they really speak to, in essence, what they are trying to do.

And I start again with this effectively unfunded mandate that was put on the IRS by the other side. They talk about funding. They gave them \$1.7 billion of responsibility under the Affordable Care Act, but never a penny to pay for it. As my parents used to say when I was a kid: You should have thought about that when you did it.

Where was the recognition that these responsibilities that you are putting on them, you have got to pay for them?

We have seen costs rise exponentially in so many different factors, but that is the essence of what is being done here. So we are not going to pay for it, but let's create tension and anxiety at the one place where the taxpayers will uprise, because we will stop talking to them. That is the essence of what is being done here.

Mr. Chairman, once again, we are not asking for anything radical in response. In fact, we have already responded quite appropriately by putting \$290 million more into the very issue that is at stake here.

All we are saying is: Come up with a plan. Show us how you are going to do it. Show us how, when 48 million people call you and ask for help with their taxes at a time when they don't have 34 minutes to wait on a phone, to be one of the lucky 30 percent that even get their phone call answered. Do what a number of other agencies already do, give us a plan on how you are going to improve that.

It is that simple. Our purpose isn't to punish diligent IRS employees, but rather to compel management to finally put the taxpayers first and take the need to improve the customer service experience seriously.

Upon learning that this legislation was in development, the IRS reported to the GAO that they have established a team to consider its customer service recommendations. How about that? After 3 years, no response.

The IRS Commissioner himself says service is abysmal. And they say it has been satisfactory up to this point in time. But as soon as this legislation is introduced, we have customer service recommendations and a team being established. I don't think that is a coincidence. Passing the bill into law will ensure that the process continues in good faith.

Mr. Chairman, Congress has a duty to oversee the IRS and ensure that it is meeting the needs of American taxpayers. When the IRS fails to meet those needs, it is up to Congress to act.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-49. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 4890

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

**SECTION 1. BAN ON IRS BONUSES UNTIL IRS DEVELOPS COMPREHENSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary's delegate, may not pay a bonus, award, or similar cash payment to any employee of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary, or the Secretary's delegate, develops and submits to Congress a comprehensive customer service strategy that has been reviewed and approved by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Such strategy shall include—*

(1) *appropriate telephone and correspondence levels of service, which shall be based on service provided by the best in business and customer expectations;*

(2) *a thorough assessment of which services the Internal Revenue Service can shift to self-service options; and*

(3) *proposals to improve customer service in the short term (the current and following fiscal year), medium term (approximately three to five fiscal years), and long term (approximately ten fiscal years).*

(b) *PROGRESS REPORTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's delegate, shall submit reports to the Congress on the status of its customer service strategy and actions taken to improve customer service. Such reports shall be submitted on a semiannual basis until the comprehensive customer service strategy under subsection (a) is fully implemented.*

**SEC. 2. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

*No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated or made available.*

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114-503. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MEEHAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114-503.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 23, strike "or made available".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 688, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is a technical amendment to clarify section 2 of the bill. This section states that no additional funds are authorized or otherwise made available to carry out the requirement of this bill. The language in the amendment makes it abundantly clear that we are not authorizing a new appropriation here.

The IRS needs to create a customer service agency. If they want to claim that they don't have enough money in the budget to be serving the taxpayers with an appropriate topnotch customer service strategy, then we are saying:

Give us a plan to do so, and withhold the bonuses until you do so. It is very, very simple.

This amendment makes a technical correction to make our intentions here crystal clear. The IRS doesn't need additional funding to make customer service the top priority when, in fact, it has already been given \$290 million to do just this.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Chairman, once again, my friends on the other side of the aisle are cutting off their nose to spite their face: more mandates on the IRS with fewer resources and somehow expecting them to improve services.

As I have said, the IRS is servicing 9 million more people with \$1 billion less. This amendment would only exacerbate that problem. The words of the seven former IRS Commissioners ring out here.

Why don't we just cut congressional office budgets by 17 percent, as we did with the IRS, and then mandate that we improve constituent services or increase our workloads?

That doesn't make any sense either.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. SANFORD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-503.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, after line 17, insert the following:

(c) CONSULTATION WITH TAXPAYER ADVOCATE.—In developing the comprehensive customer service strategy pursuant to this section, the Secretary, or the Secretary's delegate, shall consult with the National Taxpayer Advocate.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 688, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have a small but, I think, perfecting amendment that I think, whether Republican or Democrat, we can agree on. Because I think as Republicans and Democrats, we may have different perspectives on this equation, but we would agree that

money is power and that the IRS has an immense amount of power, given the amount of money that it is, in essence, steward to and controls as money is moved from individuals across this country to the Federal Government.

I think that we would agree that money without a plan is chaos. That is why in the military they have a five-paragraph order. That is why if you think about the business rule, you have a business plan. If you think about sports, you have got a game plan. You need to go through a planning process to effectively use money.

I think we would agree that the government's role is to serve. I think it disturbed a lot of us that the Lincoln Memorial was closed back during the government shutdown. Some people saw that as a way of maximizing inconvenience for folks, as a way of highlighting some rule we agreed or disagreed on as opposed to, again, staying focused on this larger notion of service.

So I applaud the overall work of this bill and what it is about. I think that there is a problem when wait times move up threefold over the last 5 years. I think that there is a problem with dropped calls and infinity holds and all the other things that people have seen come their way as a result of dysfunction at the IRS. We might see different remedies as to how we get there, but I think we would agree on those things.

And so I applaud what is being done with this notion of saying: Let's hold on bonuses. Let's actually come up with a plan as we deal with how this additional \$20 million is dispensed and used within the IRS.

This amendment simply says that as you go in consultation with the Treasury, as you go in consultation with the IG, let's also include the National Taxpayer Advocate there at the IRS. Because I think it is important. You may deal with technology experts, you may deal with phone call experts, you may deal with taxation specialists, but to keep the bull's-eye the ultimate customer out there—and that is the taxpayer.

Too often the taxpayer is indeed the forgotten man or forgotten women in this equation. The idea of consulting with the National Taxpayers Union as you formulate those plans, again, I think make this a simply perfecting amendment, as you listen to the different constituencies that will be dealt with in coming up with this plan.

I think that perspective is key in holding the taxpayers' viewpoint to be vital in the creation of this plan. That is all the amendment does.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

□ 1045

Mr. MEEHAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, let me just take a moment to say that the National Taxpayer Ad-

vocate has a long history of not only working on behalf of taxpayers, but working with the IRS to improve customer service. I think having the National Taxpayer Advocate involved in this process of creating comprehensive service strategy will actually improve the final outcome.

I thank the gentleman for taking his time not only to look at the totality of this bill, but to find a way to improve its implementation with that support.

I support the addition, and I urge others to vote "yes" on the amendment.

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

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Chairman, so let's get this amendment straight. This bill would have the IRS work with the National Taxpayer Advocate, in addition to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, as I read it correctly, in coming up with a customer service plan. Sounds good.

However, you forget to mention one thing, Mr. Chairman, because the National Taxpayer Advocate and the Treasury Inspector General Tax Administrator have publicly stated, for the record, that the severe budget cuts enacted by the other side, Mr. Chairman, in Congress have forced the IRS to reduce its workforce, reduce training, reduce technology, and that these steps have weakened the ability to enforce the Nation's tax laws—is that what you are looking for?—and serve taxpayers effectively.

They said it, I didn't. You can't make this stuff up.

So, instead of forcing the IRS to work with the National Taxpayer Advocate, why don't we, in Congress, listen to them, and fund the IRS so it can do its job?

This is the height of misdirection. I am only going by the words you have in this amendment. And I will tell you, they have made a statement very loud and clear to all of us.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House

on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4890) to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy, and, pursuant to House Resolution 688, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of H.R. 4890 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of H.R. 3724.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 260, nays 158, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 162]

YEAS—260

Abraham	Chabot	Fitzpatrick
Aderholt	Chaffetz	Fleischmann
Aguilar	Cicilline	Fleming
Allen	Clawson (FL)	Flores
Amash	Coffman	Forbes
Ashford	Cohen	Fortenberry
Babin	Cole	Fox
Barletta	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Barr	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Barton	Comstock	Garrett
Benishek	Conaway	Gibbs
Bera	Cook	Gibson
Bilirakis	Cooper	Gohmert
Bishop (MI)	Costa	Goodlatte
Bishop (UT)	Costello (PA)	Gosar
Black	Cramer	Gowdy
Blackburn	Crawford	Graham
Blum	Cuellar	Granger
Bost	Culberson	Graves (GA)
Boustany	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (LA)
Brady (TX)	Davis, Rodney	Graves (MO)
Brat	DeFazio	Griffith
Bridenstine	Dent	Grothman
Brooks (AL)	DeSantis	Guinta
Brooks (IN)	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Brownley (CA)	Diaz-Balart	Hahn
Buchanan	Dold	Hanna
Buck	Donovan	Hardy
Bucshon	Duffy	Harper
Burgess	Duncan (SC)	Harris
Byrne	Duncan (TN)	Hartzler
Calvert	Ellmers (NC)	Heck (NV)
Carter (GA)	Emmer (MN)	Hensarling
Carter (TX)	Farenthold	Herrera Beutler

Hice, Jody B.	McSally
Hill	Meadows
Holding	Meehan
Hudson	Messer
Huelskamp	Mica
Huizenga (MI)	Miller (FL)
Hultgren	Miller (MI)
Hurd (TX)	Moore
Hurt (VA)	Moolenaar
Issa	Mooney (WV)
Jenkins (KS)	Mullin
Jenkins (WV)	Mulvaney
Johnson (OH)	Murphy (PA)
Johnson, Sam	Neugebauer
Jolly	Newhouse
Jones	Noem
Jordan	Nugent
Joyce	Nunes
Katko	Olson
Kelly (MS)	Palazzo
Kelly (PA)	Palmer
King (IA)	Paulsen
King (NY)	Pearce
Kinzinger (IL)	Perry
Kirkpatrick	Peters
Kline	Pittenger
Knight	Pitts
Kuster	Poe (TX)
Labrador	Poliquin
LaHood	Posey
LaMalfa	Price, Tom
Lamborn	Ratcliffe
Lance	Reed
Latta	Reichert
Lipinski	Renacci
LoBiondo	Ribble
Long	Rice (NY)
Loudermilk	Rice (SC)
Love	Rigell
Lucas	Roe (TN)
Luetkemeyer	Rogers (AL)
Lummis	Rogers (KY)
MacArthur	Rohrabacher
Maloney, Sean	Rokita
Marchant	Rooney (FL)
Marino	Ros-Lehtinen
Massie	Roskam
McCarthy	Ross
McCaul	Rothfus
McClintock	Rouzer
McHenry	Royce
McKinley	Ruiz
McMorris	Ruppersberger
Rodgers	Russell

NAYS—158

Adams	Deutch
Bass	Dingell
Beatty	Doggett
Becerra	Doyle, Michael
Bishop (GA)	F.
Blumenauer	Duckworth
Bonamici	Ellison
Boyle, Brendan	Engel
F.	Eshoo
Brady (PA)	Esty
Brown (FL)	Farr
Bustos	Foster
Butterfield	Frankel (FL)
Capps	Fudge
Capuano	Gabbard
Cárdenas	Gallego
Carney	Garamendi
Carson (IN)	Green, Al
Cartwright	Green, Gene
Castor (FL)	Grijalva
Castro (TX)	Gutiérrez
Chu, Judy	Hastings
Clark (MA)	Heck (WA)
Clarke (NY)	Higgins
Clay	Himes
Hinojosa	Meng
Clyburn	Moore
Connolly	Moulton
Conyers	Murphy (FL)
Courtney	Nadler
Crowley	Napolitano
Cummings	Neal
Davis (CA)	Nolan
Davis, Danny	Norcross
DeGette	O'Rourke
Delaney	Pallone
DeLauro	Pascarell
DeBene	Payne
DeSaulnier	Pelosi

Salmon	Perlmutter
Sanford	Peterson
Scalise	Pingree
Schrader	Pocan
Schweikert	Polis
Scott, Austin	Price (NC)
Sensenbrenner	Quigley
Sessions	Rangel
Shimkus	Richmond
Shuster	Roybal-Allard
Simpson	Rush
Sinema	Ryan (OH)
Smith (MO)	Sánchez, Linda
Smith (NE)	T.
Smith (NJ)	Sanchez, Loretta
Stefanik	Sarbanes
Stewart	
Stivers	
Stutzman	
Thompson (PA)	
Thornberry	
Tiberi	
Tipton	
Trott	
Turner	
Upton	
Valadao	
Wagner	
Walberg	
Walden	
Walker	
Walorski	
Walters, Mimi	
Weber (TX)	
Webster (FL)	
Wenstrup	
Westerman	
Westmoreland	
Whitfield	
Williams	
Wilson (SC)	
Wittman	
Womack	
Woodall	
Yoder	
Yoho	
Young (AK)	
Young (IA)	
Young (IN)	
Zeldin	
Zinke	

NOT VOTING—15

Amodei	Fincher	Sewell (AL)
Beyer	Grayson	Smith (TX)
Crenshaw	Hunter	Smith (WA)
Denham	Lujan Grisham	Van Hollen
Edwards	(NM)	
Fattah	Pompeo	

□ 1110

Ms. SPEIER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. LANGEVIN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today, Thursday, April 21, 2016, I was unable to be present for the first recorded vote of the day. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote No. 162 (on passage of H.R. 4890).

ENSURING INTEGRITY IN THE IRS WORKFORCE ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3724) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 345, nays 78, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 163]

YEAS—345

Abraham	Bishop (MI)	Brooks (AL)
Aderholt	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (IN)
Aguilar	Black	Brownley (CA)
Allen	Blackburn	Buchanan
Amash	Blum	Buck
Ashford	Blumenauer	Bucshon
Babin	Bonamici	Burgess
Barletta	Bost	Bustos
Barr	Boustany	Butterfield
Barton	Boyle, Brendan	Byrne
Benishek	F.	Calvert
Bera	Brady (TX)	Cárdenas
Bilirakis	Brat	Carney
Bishop (GA)	Bridenstine	Carter (GA)

Carter (TX) Hice, Jody B.  
 Cartwright Higgins  
 Castro (TX) Hill  
 Chabot Himes  
 Chaffetz Holding  
 Chu, Judy Hoyer  
 Cicilline Hudson  
 Clawson (FL) Huelskamp  
 Coffman Huizenga (MI)  
 Cohen Hultgren  
 Cole Hunter  
 Collins (GA) Hurd (TX)  
 Collins (NY) Hurt (VA)  
 Comstock Israel  
 Conaway Issa  
 Connolly Jenkins (KS)  
 Cook Jenkins (WV)  
 Cooper Johnson (OH)  
 Costa Johnson, Sam  
 Costello (PA) Jolly  
 Courtney Jones  
 Cramer Jordan  
 Crawford Joyce  
 Crenshaw Kaptur  
 Crowley Katko  
 Cuellar Keating  
 Culberson Kelly (MS)  
 Curbelo (FL) Kelly (PA)  
 Davis, Rodney Kilmer  
 DeFazio Kind  
 Delaney King (IA)  
 DeLauro King (NY)  
 DelBene Kinzinger (IL)  
 Denham Kirkpatrick  
 Dent Kline  
 DeSantis Knight  
 DeSaulnier Kuster  
 DesJarlais Labrador  
 Diaz-Balart LaHood  
 Dingell LaMalfa  
 Doggett Lamborn  
 Dold Lance  
 Donovan Langevin  
 Doyle, Michael Larson (CT)  
 F. Latta  
 Duckworth Lawrence  
 Duffy Levin  
 Duncan (SC) Lieu, Ted  
 Duncan (TN) Lipinski  
 Ellmers (NC) LoBiondo  
 Emmer (MN) Loebsock  
 Eshoo Lofgren  
 Esty Long  
 Farenthold Loudermilk  
 Farr Love  
 Fitzpatrick Lowenthal  
 Fleischmann Lowey  
 Fleming Lucas  
 Flores Luetkemeyer  
 Forbes Lujan, Ben Ray  
 Fortenberry (NM)  
 Foster Lummis  
 Foxx MacArthur  
 Franks (AZ) Maloney,  
 Frelinghuysen Carolyn  
 Fudge Maloney, Sean  
 Gabbard Marchant  
 Garamendi Marino  
 Garrett Massie  
 Gibbs Matsui  
 Gibson McCarthy  
 Gohmert McCaul  
 Goodlatte McClintock  
 Gosar McCollum  
 Gowdy McDermott  
 Graham McHenry  
 Granger McKinley  
 Graves (GA) McMorris  
 Graves (LA) Rodgers  
 Graves (MO) McNerney  
 Green, Al McSally  
 Green, Gene Meadows  
 Griffith Meehan  
 Grothman Meeks  
 Guinta Meng  
 Guthrie Messer  
 Hahn Mica  
 Hanna Miller (FL)  
 Hardy Miller (MI)  
 Harper Moolenaar  
 Harris Mooney (WV)  
 Hartzler Moulton  
 Heck (NV) Mullin  
 Heck (WA) Mulvaney  
 Hensarling Murphy (PA)  
 Herrera Beutler Neugebauer

Newhouse  
 Noem  
 Nolan  
 Nugent  
 Nunes  
 O'Rourke  
 Olson  
 Palazzo  
 Palmer  
 Paulsen  
 Pearce  
 Perlmutter  
 Perry  
 Peters  
 Peterson  
 Pingree  
 Pittenger  
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 Poe (TX)  
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 Posey  
 Price (NC)  
 Price, Tom  
 Quigley  
 Ratcliffe  
 Reed  
 Reichert  
 Renacci  
 Ribble  
 Rice (NY)  
 Rice (SC)  
 Rigell  
 Roby  
 Roe (TN)  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rohrabacher  
 Rokita  
 Rooney (FL)  
 Ros-Lehtinen  
 Roskam  
 Ross  
 Rothfus  
 Rouzer  
 Royce  
 Ruiz  
 Ruppertsberger  
 Russell  
 Salmon  
 Sanford  
 Scalise  
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 Schiff  
 Schrader  
 Schweikert  
 Scott, Austin  
 Scott, David  
 Sensenbrenner  
 Sessions  
 Sewell (AL)  
 Sherman  
 Shimkus  
 Shuster  
 Simpson  
 Sinema  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Speier  
 Stefanik  
 Stewart  
 Stivers  
 Stutzman  
 Swalwell (CA)  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Thornberry  
 Tiberi  
 Tipton  
 Torres  
 Trott  
 Tsongas  
 Turner  
 Upton  
 Valadao  
 Veasey  
 Vela  
 Visclosky  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Walden  
 Walker  
 Walorski  
 Walters, Mimi  
 Walz

Whitfield  
 Williams  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Woodall  
 Yarmuth  
 Yoder  
 Yoho  
 Young (AK)  
 Young (IA)  
 Young (IN)  
 Zeldin  
 Zinke

NAYS—78

Adams  
 Bass  
 Beatty  
 Becerra  
 Brady (PA)  
 Brown (FL)  
 Capps  
 Capuano  
 Carson (IN)  
 Castor (FL)  
 Clark (MA)  
 Clarke (NY)  
 Clay  
 Cleaver  
 Clyburn  
 Conyers  
 Cummings  
 Davis (CA)  
 Davis, Danny  
 DeGette  
 Deutch  
 Ellison  
 Engel  
 Frankel (FL)  
 Gallego  
 Grijalva  
 Gutiérrez  
 Hastings  
 Hinojosa  
 Honda  
 Huffman  
 Jackson Lee  
 Jeffries  
 Johnson (GA)  
 Johnson, E. B.  
 Kelly (IL)  
 Kennedy  
 Kildee  
 Larsen (WA)  
 Lee  
 Lewis  
 Lynch  
 McGovern  
 Moore  
 Murphy (FL)  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neal  
 Norcross  
 Pallone  
 Pascrell  
 Payne  
 Pelosi  
 Pocan  
 Rangel  
 Richmond  
 Roybal-Allard  
 Rush  
 Ryan (OH)  
 Sánchez, Linda  
 T.  
 Sanchez, Loretta  
 Sarbanes  
 Scott (VA)  
 Serrano  
 Sires  
 Slaughter  
 Smith (WA)  
 Takai  
 Takano  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Titus  
 Tonko  
 Vargas  
 Velázquez  
 Waters, Maxine  
 Watson Coleman  
 Welch  
 Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Amodei  
 Beyer  
 Edwards  
 Fattah  
 Fincher  
 Grayson  
 Lujan Grisham  
 (NM)  
 Pompeo  
 Smith (TX)  
 Van Hollen

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1119

Ms. JACKSON LEE changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. KEATING changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, during roll-call Vote No. 163 on H.R. 3724, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yes" when I should have voted "no."

□ 1130

As the gentleman knows, the budget was passed out of the Budget Committee last month. We understand, of course, obviously, the Appropriations Committee is proceeding to mark up bills notwithstanding the fact that the budget has not been passed.

We are not sure exactly what the allocations for each subcommittee are going to be because, apparently, there has been no 302(b) allocation, which is the allocation to the 12 subcommittees.

It is going to be hard for us to tell exactly how much money is left if, in fact, appropriations bills are brought to the floor without knowing fully the distribution of funds for both defense and domestic priorities.

First, let me ask the gentleman: Does the gentleman expect the budget to be brought to the floor prior to the bringing of appropriations bills to the floor?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We will continue to work through the budget process, and I will update the Members once there is more information.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for the depth of that information.

We do have a serious problem. And I want to tell my friend, the majority leader, as someone who had served on the Appropriations Committee for 23



years, obviously, one of the important facts to know is how much will be allocated for each one of the 12 subcommittees so you can make judgments, as bills come to the floor or as they come to full committee, about whether the funding levels for those are appropriate or whether there ought to be other priorities that ought to be brought to the floor.

I appreciate the gentleman's response. I know that the Speaker has indicated that doing a budget is absolutely the responsible thing to do, that that is the regular order to do, and I know the budget has passed out of the committee. So I am wondering: What is holding the budget up, Mr. Leader? Why aren't we considering it?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding and asking again.

As for the schedule, we are not scheduled for next week. We continue to work through. We think the budget is very important. When we have it scheduled, I will notify.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, I suppose, for that additional information.

Of course, it goes without saying that it is not scheduled next week, and we still don't have the knowledge that I think is necessary for us to have before you bring the appropriations bills to the floor. In having said that, I understand the gentleman's answer.

There are three items that I have brought up before, Mr. Leader, that we think are critical items to be brought sooner rather than later that we need to deal with.

First, I want to reiterate what I said last week. I appreciate the majority leader's and I appreciate the Speaker's action and the chairman of the committee, Mr. BISHOP, in working with Treasury and with our side of the aisle to try to get a bill that we can agree on—that can enjoy bipartisan support—that will address the crisis that confronts the American citizens who live in Puerto Rico.

I also want to thank the gentleman—we had a meeting in his office—in that he and I shared the view that we ought to have a bill that is simple and straightforward so that we can forge a bipartisan agreement and get this bill done.

The Speaker has set May 1 as the deadline. It would appear that we are not going to meet that deadline. And we did not meet the March 31 deadline. But I know we had a meeting yesterday with our staffs. It was a positive meeting, and I hope it will lead to a productive meeting as well.

I would like to yield to my friend to see if the gentleman has any comments about where we stand on our moving forward on a bill to address the fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Yes, the gentleman is correct in that we have been working together, especially with the Natural Resources Committee, on the proposal.

I appreciate the gentleman's commitment as well in making sure that we produce a bill that has solid financial footing and no financial bailout, which the work we are doing right now does not.

As the gentleman knows, the discussions are ongoing, and part of the challenge of finishing it is the Treasury Department. The Treasury Department still had some concerns.

I know there were some meetings this week, and I know there were Members on your side of the aisle who did not feel comfortable in moving forward until the Treasury Department had finished some of those negotiations.

But we look forward to getting the bill finished and moving it forward on a bipartisan basis, a bill that has no bailout, but that meets the needs with what is going on in Puerto Rico.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

I would reiterate what he and I both stated last week, which is that, clearly, this is not a bailout. There is no money contemplated that is going to Puerto Rico, and there is no extension of U.S. credit backing from the United States to Puerto Rico.

What it is, as the gentleman knows, is just setting up a process for a restructuring of debt that everyone knows cannot be paid, and there needs to be some sort of rational way that Puerto Rico can work itself to both repay that which it can repay while, at the same time, maintain the absolutely essential services of education, health care, and public safety for the American citizens who live in Puerto Rico. So I would hope that we would continue to work on that.

Again, the majority leader's staff and my staff, Treasury, and Mr. BISHOP's staff, the leader's staff and Mr. RYAN's staff all have been working towards that end, and I appreciate that.

But I think we all feel a sense of urgency. Even if we could work it out over the weekend or before we end next week, if we could bring it to the floor next week, if we had an agreement, I think that would be a good thing for us to do. I don't know whether it is possible—I hope it is possible—but I look forward to working with the majority leader towards that end.

There are two other items, as you know, that I have mentioned in the past.

Zika. There was a very compelling editorial in *The Washington Post* today about Zika. The administration has asked for \$1.9 billion to address that crisis, which, clearly, almost every week, the CDC says is a growing one, with more exposure, with more of the United States' mainland being implicated as being at risk.

In addition to that, of course, Ebola continues to be a continuing health

challenge both in Africa and in this country, but mainly in Africa. As you know, we appropriated money.

Mr. ROGERS and the Appropriations Committee and the gentleman said: Look, we can take some of that money and move it over to the Zika effort.

The problem with that, Mr. Leader, as I think you have heard me say before, is that Ebola continues to be a crisis.

Is there any expectation that we could bring a supplemental appropriations bill for this emergency that confronts the health of our people here, in Puerto Rico, in the Caribbean, and, frankly, in other parts of the world? Is there any chance of bringing a supplemental to the floor to address both of those?

In addition, Flint continues to be on bottled water because they have not yet been provided with a water system that works for their people.

So those three items, in addition to Puerto Rico, I think are compelling, timely issues for us to address.

Will the gentleman give me any additional information as to when that might occur?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the gentleman for working with us on Zika.

As he knows, I approached him early on to make sure we dealt with this in a bipartisan manner. As to any threat, we want to make sure it is not a partisan issue.

As the gentleman knows, there was somewhere around \$2 billion in unobligated Ebola money. One of the ideas, especially when the administration had requested money, was to have time to go through and ask the question, and many of those questions have not been answered yet.

We wanted to make sure no funding problems would happen. We are proud of the administration for its being able to take our idea and move almost \$600 million into Zika as we go forward. That will take us quite a ways into this fiscal year.

We are continuing to look at and to ask questions. I have a whole list here of questions that have been asked from a standpoint of an updated spending plan from HHS, which still hasn't been planned, of where they go, of what activities will the funds carry out, of how much funding do the agencies anticipate needing in 2016.

I mean, as the gentleman knows, never should we write a blank check, but never should we turn a blind eye to a problem. I am proud of the fact that we have not and that we have responsibly made sure that close to \$600 million is used right now.

We have asked the questions of what we need to go forward. I know the Appropriations Committee is continuing

to work on that. We have the appropriations process going through, and that will probably be the ideal time to deal with it and anything going any further because we would have the questions answered and the ability to fund it.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Let me make a couple of observations.

I hear there is some discussion about the appropriations process. As the gentleman well knows, the appropriations process hasn't done too well lately.

Forgetting about who is to blame or who is not to blame, the appropriations process, essentially, has not worked, as the gentleman knows. Of course, last year, as we had done the year before, we passed an omnibus and didn't pass the appropriations bills.

My view is we have an emergency. It is doubtful that appropriations bills are going to get done in time. My own supposition is we are going to have a CR in September.

We have, really, 40 days left between now, I think, and the August break of legislative days. It is going to be problematic, at best, to get appropriations bills done by October 1, much less to respond to an emergency, which is why we believe that a supplemental, really, is called for.

We have two emergencies that are ongoing and a third in Flint, Michigan, and we believe that we ought to respond to those long before the possibility, much less the probability, of the appropriations bills passing this House, the Senate, and being signed by the President.

Does the gentleman have any thoughts on that? Because, if you are contemplating an appropriations process, Mr. Leader, with all due respect, past history would tell us, over the last few years—again, forgetting about who is to blame for it—the appropriations process does not get done in a timely fashion.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman knows, the Appropriations Committee has already marked up three bills. The gentleman having served on Appropriations, he also understands that that is where you get a lot of questions answered, that that is where you get a lot of the good information from both sides of the aisle.

There is close to \$600 million for Zika right now. I have the same concern that you have. That is why I am telling the administration and the agencies that it would be very helpful if they would answer the questions needed.

Where would this money go? There are so many from the perspective of: Is Ebola no longer a public health risk? You have \$2 billion, unobligated, sitting in there that we could use.

If we want to solve the Zika problem, I think we should all work together. I am looking for the administration to answer some questions. I think that is the most responsible way to go about solving this problem.

I haven't given up on the appropriations process. I think it is a perfect opportunity, and I would think, for Members on both sides of the aisle, maybe it would give them a little incentive, in knowing the challenges that are out there for the American public, that this is the process that was created. And we could all have input.

One thing that we know, since this majority has taken over, is that we have an open process in appropriations as well; so, anybody can offer an amendment. I think that would be the best place to deal with this.

I do have a very personal compassion in talking about water. I know the situation that happened in Flint. I have lived with water problems in California for quite some time. For the last three Congresses, I have fought very hard to solve that for California.

Unfortunately, the other Chamber has done nothing. I have kids in the Central Valley who do not have water, people who are on bottled water they bring in, people who have portable water, where they have to come in and bring the tanks.

We have lived this for quite some time; so, you will find, on this side of the aisle, someone who is very compassionate about it and who wants to deal with that water issue at the same time as well. I think it would be appropriate.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments and for his concern, which I think is sincere, about California.

Let me say to him that I would certainly be open on this side of the aisle, as, I am sure, my Members would be, to working with him to address those issues.

It is not a question of Flint, per se, but it is a question of some 6,000 to 9,000 children who have been exposed immediately, and it is an emergency now as they are not able to drink the water; they are drinking bottled water.

My point is not that we ought not to address problems in California or, very frankly, in Maryland or in Ohio or in Florida or wherever else they may occur in league with the States and municipalities. Obviously, this is a partnership, not just our responsibility.

□ 1145

I would again reiterate, Zika and Ebola are both emergencies that need to be dealt with now. I think the gentleman is absolutely correct that we ought to know how much is needed, how it is going to be spent, and what effect it will have.

I will tell you that one of my members in the whip meeting this morning,

Mr. Leader, said that her understanding from her local health department was that their efforts with respect to Ebola and other infectious diseases are being adversely affected by the fact that that \$589 million, which didn't just come out of the air, was transferred, as you pointed out and as I pointed out, to the Zika response. It was money that was—not obligated—planned to be spent in communities and in other areas to effect a solution to the challenge that confronts us.

So it is not just as if that \$589 million didn't have a purpose when we originally appropriated it. The gentleman supported it and I support it, so we allocated that money. I know the Appropriations Committee supported it. And I presume, as the gentleman points out, they had hearings to know exactly the answers to the questions. But we will work with you on getting answers to those questions from the administration.

We would urge that, within the next few weeks, we have a supplemental on the floor, having those questions answered and being confident that the money is going to be spent, but knowing full well that people's health is at risk in this country. We have an empathy and a concern about that and want to respond to it. So I would hope that we could move it before the appropriations process because I think, unfortunately, the experience is, under all the parties that have been in control of this House over the years, that sometimes it happens slower than this emergency requires.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016, TO MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 25, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KATKO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING KENNETH KANE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenneth Kane of Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, who will be honored at a banquet tomorrow night in State College, Pennsylvania, as an outstanding alumnus of the Penn State University School of Forest Resources.

I have long been impressed by Ken's broad knowledge on forestry policy and

regarding our Commonwealth's forests. Kenneth served in a variety of positions for forestry organizations, including as chairman of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, chairman of the Penn Chapter Association of Consulting Foresters, northeast regional director of the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, and as an adviser to various State-level planning committees, including the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Joint Legislative Task Force. When I am looking to draw on expertise regarding Pennsylvania's forests, including the Allegheny National Forest, Ken Kane is one of the first people I turn to.

In addition to that, I am proud to call him my friend. I congratulate him on this honor, and I look forward to his future work on forestry policy.

#### NUCLEAR FORCES BUDGET

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the rising cost of our Nation's nuclear forces budget.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that between 2015 and 2024, the administration's plans for nuclear forces will cost us about \$348 billion. That is about \$35 billion a year on our nuclear enterprise. According to the CBO, this is about 5 to 6 percent of the total cost of the administration's plans for our national defense for the next 10 years.

Next week, the House Armed Services Committee will mark up the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, our military bill, if you will.

One of my main priorities in the committee has been to reduce our Nation's nuclear weapons spending and to reduce our nuclear stockpile. Unfortunately, year after year, the Congress authorizes funding for more weapons while capping the funding that we use to dismantle nuclear weapons. I think it is a far safer world without these nuclear weapons.

Mr. Speaker, rather than spend on the legacy of the cold war, we should be investing in our most important military asset: our men and our women in uniform.

#### EARTH DAY

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Earth Day.

As an Eagle Scout and a Scoutmaster for many years, I know firsthand why we must all work to strengthen conservation programs and other policies

that promote public health, protect our environment, and keep our air and waterways clean. I care deeply about protecting our environment, and I am committed to preserving the outdoors.

The 10th Congressional District of Illinois borders one of the Nation's greatest treasures, Lake Michigan, which provides miles of beaches, natural habitat, recreation for millions across the Midwest, and drinking water to millions of Americans. That is why I am a strong supporter of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and a co-sponsor of legislation to ensure that this vital program is reauthorized and funded at robust levels.

I have also introduced the Great Lakes Water Protection Act, which will stop sewage dumping in the Great Lakes and provide clean water for future generations.

In commemoration of Earth Day, I encourage all of my colleagues to join me and to take some time to appreciate the natural beauty of their communities and to work together to preserve our environment for future generations.

And that is just the way it is.

#### HARRIET TUBMAN \$20 BILL

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Secretary of the Treasury Lew announced that for the first time U.S. paper currency will feature portraits of great American women. I am very proud that a Maryland native, an abolition hero, Harriet Tubman, was selected to be the new face on the \$20 bill.

Born into slavery on Maryland's eastern shore, she escaped to freedom but returned to rescue her family members. It was dangerous and could easily have cost Tubman her life or her freedom.

After rescuing her family, she kept coming back for others who sought freedom, using the alias, Moses. How appropriate. She brought dozens of people out of slavery, never once losing a passenger on her Underground Railroad route.

During the Civil War, she was an agent for the Union. In the decades following the war, she was active in the movement for women's suffrage.

I can think of no one more suited to be honored with a portrait on the \$20 bill. I am also pleased that other women will be featured on our currency.

#### SAN JACINTO DAY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the marshy plains where the San

Jacinto River meets Buffalo Bayou, now near Houston, General Sam Houston and his volunteer Army of Texians—men from most States and several countries, including Mexico, England, and Germany—faced the invading army under dictator Santa Anna of Mexico. Texas was fighting for independence from Mexico because Mexico had abolished its democracy and became an oppressive dictatorship.

It was the afternoon of April 21, 1836—180 years ago today. The Texian volunteers, although outnumbered 2-1, caught the enemy literally by surprise. On that hot afternoon, General Sam, with his Tejano Cavalry protecting the flank, charged the invaders with the battle cry: Remember the Alamo. Remember Goliad.

In 18 minutes, the battle was over. Half of the enemy were killed, and the other half were captured. On that day, Texas gained freedom and independence.

Sam Houston became President of the Republic of Texas. Texas was an independent country for 9 years and then joined the United States.

Mr. Speaker, our past has allowed us to have today's freedom. We thank those Texian freedom fighters, on April 21, 1836, San Jacinto Day, for their bold sacrifices, for choosing freedom over tyranny and creating Texas.

And that is just the way it is.

#### HOUSTON FLOOD VICTIMS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago in Harris County, in Houston, and in my congressional district and many other places, again, the State of Texas experienced a terrible rain. It was not a hurricane and it was not a tornado, but it was a downpouring of 20 inches-plus of rain. Our bayous overran, people were standing on furniture, babies had to be rescued, and people died.

Today, I want to call the names of seven people who died untimely in this terrible, terrible storm. Next week, I will ask my colleagues to stand with me for a minute of silence, but I wanted in this week to call their names. They were mothers and fathers, truck drivers, mechanical engineers, teachers. They were Americans, they were Houstonians, they were Texans, and, unfortunately, they died.

The government must work better to ensure that there are flashing lights on underpasses and toward many other solutions. We look forward to the declaration of disaster to help the people remaining.

My sympathy to their families: German Antonio Franco, Claudia Melgar, Sunita Vikas Malhara, Pedro Rascon Morales, Charles Edward Odom, Suresh Kumar Talluri, Teri White Rodriguez.

Mr. Speaker, may they rest in piece. God bless their families in this terrible, terrible time.

#### RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN BANGLADESH

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, in Bangladesh, the horrendous, brutal street assassinations of members of minority religions, secularists, and atheists violate every single value that we hold dear.

Just 2 weeks ago, 28-year-old Nazimuddin Samad was hacked to death in Dhaka, Bangladesh, after speaking out against the persecution of religious minorities on social media.

Evelyn Beatrice Hall, the late British author, wrote: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

In Bangladesh, discrimination and deadly violence against atheists, secularists, Hindus, Buddhists, and other religious minorities have unfortunately become a regular occurrence. This underscores the absolute necessity of not only defeating this global wave of intolerance, but standing up and fighting for the right of others to freely express their views regardless of whether you agree with those views or not.

I introduced H. Res. 396 to call on the Government of Bangladesh to protect the rights of all of its religious minorities, including Christians, Hindus, atheists, and others. They have a responsibility to uphold the principles of its secular constitution, including freedom of religion and freedom of expression, and take action against this senseless violence.

I encourage my colleagues to take action and support this resolution's passage.

#### REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, in October of this year, the Republic of Georgia will hold elections. More than just an election to determine its national leadership, this election will likely determine whether the Republic of Georgia remains a semi-free country that will continue on a path to self-determination or whether it will succumb to corruption, Russian oligarch influence, and Russian domination.

Georgia has a long history of fighting to protect its identity against evil tyrants, bullying neighbors, corrupted officials, and outright invasion. A small but important nation with its distinct

language and people, Georgian territory forms a vital land bridge between Eastern Europe and West Asia that is nestled on the Black Sea. With the exception of her neighbor Armenia, much of her history has been fighting for survival against her neighbors wanting to force her into Russian, Turkish, or Persian domination.

Since Georgia's reassertion of independence from her Russian masters in 1991, her struggle has not been easy. Balanced between a crumbling Soviet Union and internal unrest, Georgia emerged from several years of civil strife to defend her independence. Georgia saw her first President, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, ousted by Russian-backed leaders, such as Eduard Shevardnadze. During attempts to restore elected government, President Gamsakhurdia later would lose his life in still mysterious circumstances.

After a period of domination by Russian-backed forces and political leaders, the nascent Republic of Georgia strove for great reforms in the Rose Revolution of 2003, finally breaking her chains and setting a path toward self-determination. The United States and the international community embraced this effort, and global monitors affirmed the legitimate vote of the people that exposed the corruption of the election results.

□ 1200

Shevardnadze's government attempted to ignore the true results, but the Georgian people had a different plan and peacefully forced Shevardnadze to succumb to the will of the people as they stormed the parliament with roses. It was one of the most inspirational episodes of freedom in world history.

Since then, Georgia has enjoyed a period of self-determination, Western engagement, human rights improvements, and trade. This has not been without cost. Separatists in the Georgian districts of Ossetia and Abkhazia, encouraged by Moscow, cast the Republic of Georgia into turmoil. Russia used this unrest as pretext to invade Georgia and still occupies these territories while denouncing earlier agreements to close Russian bases on Georgia's Black Sea coast.

Still, President Mikheil Saakashvili was able to take his rightful place as the duly elected President of Georgia, and his reforms brought Georgia from a backward status in the world to a much improved financial structure, with marked increases in economic growth and foreign investment.

For all of Georgia's struggles, for all of her self-determination, outside neighbors once again are vying to make Georgia subservient to their wishes. Russia has been stung by free peoples in independent states that she once dominated in the Soviet era that now choose instead to preserve their

language, culture, history, and restore their freedom.

Russia, for its part, has done everything in its power to force these peoples back into a serf status. Whether in Crimea, Ukraine, the Baltic States, or Georgia, the pattern has been the same.

Russia's playbook starts with flooding opposition groups with cash from oligarchs loyal to Moscow. Separatists are courted in areas with some Russian ethnicity and then encouraged to foment division against these struggling republics, demanding their rights for Russian peoples in these territories.

Russia then aids militias to create violence that strains the local political and law enforcement structure, causing the people living there to wish for anything—even the bad old days—to somehow restore order.

Then national political parties are infiltrated and flushed with oligarch cash and promises of power as they convert legitimate parliaments into calls for pro-Moscow governance that, in essence, become nothing more than the old Soviet Socialist structure ruled by Moscow.

In Georgia, it has been no different. Despite Georgia casting off outside invaders and attempting to push off the chains of Russia in the early 1800s or in 1918 or in 1991, Russia somehow feels it is her right to treat Georgians as a subclass of human beings that only exist to serve the interests of Moscow and her territory should only merely be a transitway for Russian interests.

After the successful removal of Russian chains in the Rose Revolution in 2003, Russia has continually bullied Georgia's political system, fomented unrest in Abkhazia and Ossetia, invaded Georgia, and violated her agreement to withdraw from bases in Georgian territory. Amazingly, through all of this, Georgia has remained resolute.

So, in classic form, Russia has moved to infiltrate the political process in the hopes of creating its own pro-Moscow government in the Georgian capital to hand them everything on a silver political platter.

Chief among the funding efforts and political infiltration is oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili, a close ally of Vladimir Putin. The aim is to rig votes along the same lines as was attempted in 2003 by buying votes, punishing political opponents, using Georgia's own administrative and political resources to influence the elections while using Georgian special forces to influence the outcomes.

Combined with the full privatization of the election commissions, who one source estimates is now 98 percent controlled by Ivanishvili, the Georgian people face an alarming prospect in their right to free elections in October of this year.

Faced with such bullying, the Georgian people are looking to the world for

support. It is somehow fitting, Mr. Speaker, that this Saturday marks St. George's Day in world history.

St. George, the Christian martyr and mythical slayer of dragons, is the namesake from whom the country of Georgia takes its name, according to some legends.

The Georgian people are willing to slay this political dragon and stand for their freedom as they have before, but they need our help.

We can ignore their pleas—after all, most Americans don't even know where Georgia is on the map—or we can give them a megaphone to shout their message, and the message is this: They wish to remain free.

Here are some simple steps that we, in our country, can take: We call on the President of the United States to assist in monitoring of this fall's election processes in Georgia, as we once assisted them in the pivotal 2003 elections.

We call upon the Georgian electoral commissions to be restored to representative membership to counter the private buyout being conducted by Moscow and their proxy, oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili.

We call upon the United States Department of Treasury and Western banks to freeze the assets of Ivanishvili for violations as an illegal arms trader.

We call upon the State Department to flag Georgian officials and business leaders who are discovered to be complicit in tampering with free elections to have their visas revoked and their assets frozen.

We also call upon Western journalists in our free press to give the Georgian people a chance to have their story heard by investigating and covering the remaining few months of what could be the last free months of a Republic of Georgia.

Finally, we call upon the self-determined, free, and resolute people of Georgia to stand in the spirit of St. George.

Hold your head high, grasp the lance, and pierce the attacking dragon. You have been threatened before. By your commitment, as in 2003, you can show the world again that freedom will not succumb to corruption and intimidation.

The people of Georgia should also know the God of the universe does not slumber. We, the people of the United States, join with the people of Georgia in our prayers for your freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

#### THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I so much appreciate my colleague and

friend talking about the Georgia election. We should be encouraging fair elections everywhere and, when they are not fair, calling those to account.

Not that we are the policemen of the world, but it becomes so much more unfortunate when you have a nation like Egypt that gets pushed into elections before they are ready, the Muslim Brotherhood takes over the country, as in Egypt when Morsi became President.

He began shredding the Constitution and taking more and more power as it happened in Venezuela with Chavez and other countries. He had taken a lesson: This is the way you do it. You get elected, and then you start seizing more and more power.

To the credit of the Egyptian people, their story in recent years is the greatest peaceful uprising in the history of the world. It wasn't entirely peaceful because of the violence of the Muslim Brotherhood.

They want a world caliphate, and they want to start with something resembling the old Ottoman Empire, that caliphate that came around North Africa and on around the Mediterranean, and they need Egypt in order to make the beginning of the caliphate work.

And so they were quite happy when radical Islam, Muslim Brotherhood, took over Egypt through Morsi. But when the Egyptian people, a third of the population, basically—30 million or so of the 90 million there in the nation of Egypt—rose up together, yes, you had Muslims marching with Christians.

The Coptic Christian Pope himself has told me more than once how moving it was to have Muslims and Christians and Jews and secularists walking together through the streets in Egypt demanding an end to radical Islamic control, demanding that the President, who was constantly violating the Constitution, be removed.

The Coptic Pope told me that it was moving when Muslims, who just wanted peace in Egypt—they didn't want radical Islamic control—would come up to him and apologize for the way that Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood and radical Islamists were acting.

And, yes, among Muslims, they are able to recognize that there is a part of Islam—the radical Islamists—that they don't like, but it is a part of Islam.

When the administration in this country tells the world that there is no such thing as radical Islam, then they are demeaning and degrading those courageous Muslims who stand up and say: We need to stop radical Islam within Muslims, within the Islamic movement. They actually do damage to the people who want to live in peace.

So we are grateful to the people of Egypt for stopping the caliphate before it could be really set in concrete around North Africa and, of course, Syria, all the way around. They want to get back to the old Ottoman Empire and spread and cover the world under the caliphate.

It is really most interesting. We have a President who went to elementary school in Muslim school and was trained in Islam in elementary school, and that is the main part of his training on Islam. Because, as we know, he sat under Jeremiah Wright's teaching in church for 20 years or so.

So the basic teaching on Islam was in elementary school, whereas there is the ultimate world expert on what is or is not Islam that most of the world recognizes.

They don't down the street here, down Pennsylvania Avenue. They don't at the State Department under Secretary Kerry. But most of the world recognizes that a man who got degrees, including his doctor of philosophy, his Ph.D., in Islamic studies from the University of Baghdad, is an expert on Islam.

He says radical Islam is Islam. He didn't just get a little elementary school training on Islam. He studied Islam his whole life, has a Ph.D. in Islamic studies, and has continued to pour himself into study of the Koran, and he happens to be the head of the Islamic State.

□ 1215

It would seem that if somebody who spent his life studying—rather than just studying Islam in elementary school—says the Islamic State is truly Islam, perhaps the so-called experts in our State Department and our White House ought to listen to that and take notice as well that perhaps maybe it is not as they have been saying, that it is not Islam. It is Islam, but it is a part of Islam, the radical Islamists, and we should be standing against it.

So, again, the Iran treaty clearly is a treaty. It needs to be called for what it is: a treaty. And we need to have people in the Senate with courage to step up and say we need a vote on the Iran treaty, because it is a treaty. The Corker bill doesn't apply because it is a treaty. Take the vote. Two-thirds will not vote for it. It will not be confirmed. Then we can call the Iran treaty at an end, because it never was properly agreed to.

But in the meantime, since this administration put so much of what credibility it has on the table and at risk by backing the Iran deal, Iran—it may be the run-in leaders, their radical Islamic leaders, want to take over the world. They may be crazy in that regard, they may be power crazy in that regard, but they are very intelligent. You can be crazy and still be highly intelligent. That is how you can be crazy enough to fly a plane into a building and kill thousands of innocent people, but you are intelligent enough to have your engineers look at the plans and figure out what kind of load it would take to bring down a building like the World Trade Center.

An article by Joel Pollak from last year—this is last year—and he says:

"In his State of the Union address" last year, "President Barack Obama claimed: 'Our diplomacy is at work with respect to Iran, where, for the first time in a decade, we've halted the progress of its nuclear program and reduced its stockpile of nuclear material. Between now and this spring, we have a chance to negotiate a comprehensive agreement that prevents a nuclear-armed Iran; secures America and our allies, including Israel; while avoiding yet another Middle East conflict.'"

Mr. Pollak's article says: "None of that is true. The chances of an agreement have dropped sharply, and even the most optimistic analysts do not expect a deal that 'prevents a nuclear-armed Iran,' but only one that puts nuclear 'breakout' out of reach for a while. Most important of all, we have not 'halted the progress' of Iran's nuclear program. Earlier this month, the Tehran regime announced that it was building two new reactors, and is thought to be behind a suspected facility planned in Syria as well.

"In a lengthy essay in Commentary magazine, the invaluable Omri Ceren summarizes the history of President Obama's appeasement of the Iranian's, from the first failed 'suckers deal,' as the French called it, through the new veto threats against congressional sanctions.

"The scale of the Obama administration's incompetence is simply daunting. Far from rallying international unity against Iran, President Obama has destroyed it by giving away global demands decades in the making.

"Suddenly, the reason for . . . invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Congress—without consultation from the White House—becomes clear . . . it is not the pro-Israel nature of Congress that drove the Bibi"—Netanyahu—"invitation. It is the fact that Obama"—

Well, it says he misrepresented things, but that is this article.

But it goes on to point out that "there at least five ways in which Iran has explicitly violated the interim agreement" and spells those out.

This is over a year old. They have never stopped violating the agreement—not the interim agreement—they were violating it, the executive agreement that this President entered with Iran.

They so much sank their reputation into the Iran treaty that has not been ratified that these constant violations by Iran have the administration defending Iran, sending them money, covering for Iran, making excuses for Iran.

This article was from less than a year ago by Cory Bennett from The Hill: "A diplomatic deal with Iran to limit its nuclear program could inadvertently jumpstart the country's cyber warfare efforts.

"Experts say Tehran might use the economic sanctions relief from the nu-

clear pact to buttress its growing cyber program, which has already infiltrated critical networks in over a dozen countries, including the U.S."

So the article goes on to point out: "We are in a lose-lose situation."

It is clear to most of us that the Iranian agreement was a huge mistake. They are the largest state supporters of terrorism in the world, and this administration is ongoing right now in giving billions and billions of dollars.

And though the Iranian leaders have lied about so many things, when they say that the money that President Obama gives to them, which they don't currently have—the \$100 billion to \$150 billion in the first year, perhaps \$100 billion or so each year after that; it remains to be seen—their Iranian leaders say:

We are going to be able to fund more terrorist organizations.

That is a statement we should take seriously. That is something that we should believe when they tell us these things.

So the President is giving them the money. This article says this week that, of the \$3 billion that was recently provided to Iran, this administration can't really tell if they have used it to support additional terrorism or not.

But this article that was written in May of last year that the Iran deal could help fund Iran's cyber war, I bring that up now—it is from May 10 of last year from Mr. Bennett—because it was just in the last 4 or 5 months that John Hayward wrote the article: "Iran Hacks State Department Social Media Accounts."

We know they have hacked a New York dam Web site. They have explored defenses of the United States Government's Internet.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to look back and see that, wow, in May of last year, there were reporters that were warning that this deal with Iran may help them in their cyber warfare against us greater than we even know. Then we find out that this administration put a hold on charges against the Iranians that hacked into our government system until after the deal was made so that people didn't raise more of a fuss to try to stop the Iranian treaty.

Well, it is still not too late. The Senate could go ahead and take a vote. We know that HARRY REID had said:

Ge, there are some low-level confirmations that are so important to the country, we are going to set aside the cloture rule. It only takes 51 votes to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that this Iranian treaty—I keep saying it because it is so critical to the world and to any chance at a semblance of world peace—has to be stopped because it is enriching the largest supporter of terrorism in the world.

The Iranian leaders have made clear to the Iranian people that they have no

intention of being bound by any agreement with President Obama, John Kerry, or the people here in the U.S. They are still going to do what they want to.

So all the Senate has to do is take a vote—51 votes; there are plenty of Republicans to do that—and they might just get some Democrats that are too afraid to be seen as supportive of Iran and this nuclear deal that they may get some Democrat votes. Vote with 51 votes to set aside the cloture rule so you can bring treaty to the floor, have a vote on confirmation—it won't get the two-thirds—and then you would have all kinds of people that should have standing to go into Federal court and put a stop to the billions of dollars that this administration is releasing illegally to Iran. That is, funding—this administration says they know not what—it could be terrorism, they are not sure. I would submit they would—Iran would be supporting terrorism.

But here are five things that the article pointed out that they were—even a year ago—breaking the interim agreement: "Trying to buy equipment for plutonium reactor at Arak, breaking commitment to suspend work. The Obama administration actually complained about the purchases to the U.N. Security Council, even as it told the world that Iran had 'lived up to its end of the bargain.'"

They are "feeding uranium hexafluoride gas into a plant where it had agreed to suspend nuclear enrichment. The Institute for Science and International Security noted that Iran had begun enrichment at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant at Natanz. It notified the Obama administration, which complained to the Iranians, which then claimed to have stop the enrichment activity."

Three: "Withholding camera footage of nuclear facilities, defying the International Atomic Energy Agency. A leading International Atomic Energy Agency official recently said the agency was 'not in a position to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran' . . . The interim deal was to provide surveillance footage of Iranian nuclear facilities, but Iran has only provided what it wants to reveal."

And that is consistent with what STEVE KING and I and a couple of other Members were told by the IAEA inspectors who were in charge of inspecting Iran, that they can only go by what they are given. They are not given access to military facilities. They are not being given this footage.

I am very proud to yield to my dear friend from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), a proud graduate of MIT on the floor.

Mr. MASSIE. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me.

This is a very interesting topic that you are speaking on, and I have never

had the chance on the floor to explain my feelings on this vote nor the reason why I voted as I did on the Iran bill. So I appreciate the opportunity to say a little bit about this.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the gentleman from Texas is basically qualifying the Iran deal as a treaty, and I agree with that position. In fact, I believe I was the only Congressman to vote “present” on that bill. And the reason that I did vote “present”—I just wanted a chance to clarify this—is that I felt that it was a treaty.

I know a lot of us felt that way and we had different ways of dealing with that vote, but I voted “present” to indicate it was a treaty and that it really shouldn’t have even been here in the House of Representatives.

□ 1230

According to the Constitution, only the Senate shall agree to the treaties, and not the House. We shouldn’t really have a say in that. So I just wanted the opportunity, and I appreciate the gentleman from Texas giving me this opportunity, to explain the reason that I voted “present.” I think it was only the second time since I have been in Congress, and it was for a constitutional reason. I felt strongly that was a treaty.

I thank the gentleman from Texas for this opportunity.

Mr. GOHMERT. If the gentleman would hang on for a moment, I voted for the bill, but I did not feel like it adequately dealt with the issue that my friend from Kentucky raised, but I completely respect that position.

Since the gentleman from Kentucky and I have had a lot of discussions about Iran and the Iranian treaty and his feelings, I have always felt that his vote, “present,” made eminent sense, was consistent with our position.

Really, the vote on what we took didn’t really matter so much as the point that the gentleman has just made. This is a treaty. The Senate needs to vote on it. Our vote, though nice, was not particularly relevant to the fact that it is a treaty.

I would like to ask, if the gentleman would yield for a question, because I saw that there was a handsome young man in a blue shirt that came in with him, and wondered if he might identify who has accompanied him onto the floor.

Mr. MASSIE. As the gentleman from Texas knows, we are allowed to bring younger constituents and visitors, and we have a visitor from Kentucky; that is true. His name is Joe.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thought perhaps he might be from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. His name is Joe.

Mr. GOHMERT. That is wonderful. He looks quite comfortable here on the floor, looks like he would be a good fit some day.

I thank my friend for making that point.

The vote that we took last year pointed out that the Iranians had not complied; the administration had not complied, as I recall, with the requirements to provide proper information.

But the gentleman from Kentucky is exactly right. The real issue was a vote in the Senate on it being a treaty. The Senate has not yet voted on the Iranian treaty as a treaty, and if they would do that, when it didn’t get the two-thirds votes, then we could stop the outrage of sending billions of dollars to a country that has a massive amount of American, precious American blood on its hands because of the way in which they have funded terrorism.

They were the largest provider of IEDs when Americans were fighting for Muslim freedom in Iraq, and yet Iran continued to build and furnish IEDs. It needs to be dealt with. People are suffering in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned Egypt, and what a great day for world history when a third of the population rose up, 30 million people that had never risen up in the history of the world, in peaceful demonstration, despite the Muslim Brotherhood’s violence to try to make it appear otherwise. They had never risen up like those people did in Egypt. They are to be commended.

I would humbly submit that if this administration would help Egypt and be the friend to Egypt that it is being in helping Iran and providing money to Iran, then the world would be a far better place than it is with all the help that this administration is providing to Iran.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the ultimate result of the Clinton, Wendy Sherman deal with North Korea, in which, in essence, the Clinton administration says: Hey, we will give you nuclear—we will let you have nuclear power. We will give you what you need to have if you will just sign and say you won’t ever use it to develop nukes.

And then, big shocker for some in the Democratic administration—it wasn’t to most of us that were watching from afar in different places in the United States—North Korea lied. They did use what we provided to create nuclear weapons, and now the world is a much less safe place.

So I have no doubt that someday, maybe, some Iranian will kill me; but somebody will be here on the floor, if the Capitol still exists, and will point out that this deal that Obama and Kerry and Wendy Sherman did with Iran, in allowing them to move forward with nuclear activity, providing them with \$100 billion or so to start off, hundreds of billions in the future, that they ended up lying when they said they agreed, initially, to the agreement—even though they have said pub-

licly: We are not going to abide by it—that they ended up using results from the Obama administration’s treaty to develop nuclear weapons, and that, just like the Clinton-Albright-Sherman deal with North Korea, the Obama-Kerry-Sherman deal with Iran has resulted in Iran having nukes sooner than they would have otherwise, despite the promises previously by the Obama administration to prevent Iran from having nukes. Actually, they helped them get the nukes.

NORTH CAROLINA’S PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL 2

Mr. GOHMERT. I want to turn to one other subject that has been very controversial—North Carolina has gotten a bad rap—and this article from ABC News, “North Carolina’s Controversial ‘Anti-LGBT’ Bill Explained.”

The article says: “Several civil rights groups and LGBTQ advocates are organizing a rally tonight in Raleigh”—this is from March 24 of this year—“North Carolina, to protest the State’s controversial passage of its House Bill 2, which critics have called ‘the most anti-LGBT bill in the country.’”

The article says: “Here’s everything you need to know about the bill, also known as The Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, which was signed into law by Governor Pat McCrory on Wednesday.

“What does it do?

“House Bill 2 declares that State law overrides all local ordinances concerning wages, employment, and public accommodations.”

“Thus, the law now bars local municipalities from creating their own rules prohibiting discrimination in public places based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Though North Carolina does have a statewide nondiscrimination law, it does not include specific protections for LGBTQ people.”

We keep adding letters, you know. We kept adding letters until we got to LGBT, and now we have added Q.

“The law also directs all public schools, government agencies, and public college campuses to require that multiple-occupancy bathrooms and changing facilities, such as locker rooms, be designated for use only by people based on their ‘biological sex’ stated on their birth certificate. Transgender people can use the bathrooms and changing facilities that correspond to their gender identity only if they get the biological sex on their birth certificate changed.”

“Under the law, public institutions can still offer single-occupancy facilities.”

And nobody has a problem with that. If you have got a single bathroom facility that has just got one facility for going to the bathroom, that is fine. It can be for whoever needs to use it.

But they are saying, as has been consistent with the history of the world for most of the world’s existence, that

if you, according to documentation, are a female, you use the female restroom when it is for multiple people's use at the same time; and if, by documentation, you are a male, you use the male facilities.

It has really been shocking to see how many people, including singers and entertainers and different groups—I understand Target now wants to make sure that boys can use girls restrooms as they please.

But it has been amazing that such people have been demanding that we have to let boys who want to go in little girls bathrooms go in there. If a man wants to go in a little girls bathroom, according to the big popular movement now, for heaven's sake, let's let the man go in the little girls bathroom.

North Carolina has taken action consistent with the position of the world since the world began. If you are going to have a multiple-use restroom, normally, you have a female go to a female multiuse restroom, a male go to a male multiuse restroom.

This article goes on. It says: "Republican lawmakers, who make up the majority of North Carolina's General Assembly, publicly unveiled the language of the bill Wednesday morning."

It goes on and talks about its passage: "In less than 12 hours"—I am talking about after its passage—"the bill was approved by the house and senate"—or after it was brought forward, the bill was passed, signed by the Governor.

Lawmakers in the House voted 83-25 to pass the bill. The Senate approved the bill, 32-0 after Democrats, who make up the minority, walked out of the Chamber in protest.

Obviously, they want men to go to little girls restrooms, too.

"Republicans and allies supporting the bill argued that it was necessary to protect the safety of women and children from 'radical' action by Charlotte."

"Critics of Charlotte's ordinance said it could have allowed men who may be sexual offenders to enter a woman's restroom or locker room by claiming a transgender identity."

Well, critics of the Charlotte ordinance is what the article says, but actually, that is not just a claim; that is a fact.

Under what North Carolina was objecting to, if someone who is a sexual offender has decided he wants to go in and meddle in a little girls restroom where he has no business, people like the entertainer that doesn't want to go to North Carolina, they are saying, by golly, you have got to let that man go in that little girls restroom.

What has happened to the sense that used to be such a prominent part of this country?

I mean, there was a very intelligent man on Fox News, Bill O'Reilly, who

actually asked a lawyer on a panel with him on the show: So they passed this law. They don't want men going into the women's restroom, basically, was the crux of it, or boys going in where little girls go. He asked the question, actually: Who are they trying to protect?

I couldn't believe that we have come to the point where an intelligent person would have to ask such a stupid question. Whether you agree or disagree with what North Carolina did, whom they were trying to protect, it is almost rhetorical. Clearly, whether you agree or disagree, they were trying to protect the little girls.

□ 1245

It is shocking that anybody would have to ask such a question: Gee, whom are they trying to protect by saying men can't go into girls' restrooms? Incredible. The outrage aimed at North Carolina has just been incredible.

I see an article today by Ryan Lovelace from the Washington Examiner: Trump slams North Carolina bathroom law, says state should "leave it the way it is."

The way, apparently, Charlotte was going to have it was that men could go in little girls' restrooms. Of course, sexual predators who are male, all they have to do is say they are transgender and they get to go in the little girls' restrooms and wreak the havoc that made them a sexual predator.

Whom are they trying to protect in North Carolina? They are trying to protect innocent kids who cannot protect themselves. They count on adults to keep them from harm. It is incredible that people are outraged at North Carolina.

Anyone who has children who are female, do you really want men to say: I am transgender and get to go in where your little girl is going to the bathroom, where you can't go because you are not transgender? You are the girl's father.

This article says "What Do Proponents of the Bill Argue?" It says: "Republicans and allies supporting the bill argued that it was necessary to protect the safety of women and children from 'radical' action by Charlotte."

"John Rustin, president of the North Carolina Family Policy Council, testified before the Senate, saying that the Charlotte ordinance 'means men could enter women restrooms and locker rooms—placing the privacy, safety, and dignity of women and the elderly at great risk.'"

Parenthetically, I noticed an article in recent days, last week, that indicated that one of the leading colleges in pushing for transgender restrooms has had a problem—and it has come up a couple of times—where men would come in where women were showering,

go into the restroom and use their cell phone, hold it up over the stall so they can film or take pictures of the female who was trying to have some privacy in a very personal act of showering or going to the bathroom.

What is wrong with saying: Do you know what? When it comes to going to the restroom, females will go to female, males will go to male, and, look, if you want to have a single facility for one person at a time to use or families to use to change diapers or whatever, those are really handy? Those are very helpful. My wife and I have used them ourselves raising girls. It is a handy thing to have.

But why condemn North Carolina when they are just trying to protect the privacy of girls? It has already been shown that, if you give guys a chance to say: I am transgender, and I can get to go in and film a girl in a shower, there will be people that do that.

Why not let the transgender LGBTQRST—whatever the initials are—let them have their activities where they don't impose upon the privacy of someone who wants to go to the restroom or shower without someone from the opposite sex being there with them?

Governor McCrory wrote this statement: "The basic expectation of privacy in the most personal of settings, a restroom or locker room, for each gender was violated by government overreach and intrusion by the mayor and city council of Charlotte . . . As a result, I have signed legislation passed by a bipartisan majority to stop this breach of basic privacy and etiquette which was to go into effect April 1."

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that I understand Target may now be changing their restrooms. I will have to double-check because, if they are going to be having women come to men's restrooms, I won't be going to Target to shop unless and until that changes.

Usually, Target is great. They have the restroom right there where you go in the door to the store, normally. You don't have to go clear to the back of the store. It is a handy thing.

If you have to go shopping, it is handy, but not anymore. Anybody that wants to go to the restroom and have privacy from the opposite sex may need to shop elsewhere. We will have to look at what they have actually done.

Anyway, this article seems to make the point that it is not such a crazy thing that North Carolina has done, and that is why for 99.999 percent of human history, since civilization exists since we got past the caveman era, when there have been public restrooms, you recognize there is a difference between males and females.

Some day it will be written in the "Rise and Fall of the United States" that the greatest, freest, and most powerful country in the history of the



world showed symptoms of insanity when it reached the pinnacle of its greatness and success—and this will be one of the symptoms that was written about—that they thought they were so much smarter than civilization for most of our history of the world that a difference was recognized between men and women for purposes of facilities. It is a sad day for the country.

Now, I see this article from yesterday that Curt Schilling, an ESPN analyst, was fired over what they deemed as an offensive social media post. Here is what Schilling said:

The post showed an overweight man wearing a wig and women’s clothing with parts of the T-shirt cut out to expose his chest. It says, “Let him into the restroom with your daughter or else you are a narrow-minded, judgmental, unloving racist bigot who needs to die.”

Apparently, this kind of thing offends ESPN. Although at one time their job was covering sports, now their job is being social managers, apparently, in making sure that, if men want to go to little girls’ restrooms, then we let the men go to little girls’ restrooms.

This article from yesterday talking about Target stores says: “Target says transgender customers may use the bathroom of the gender with which they identify.”

How about that. Et tu, Target?

So here we are at the place in our history where insanity in the name of political correctness rules the day, common sense is no longer common, and to the point that the current leader in the Republican campaign for President even says that North Carolina should not have taken action that, in essence, says men—which would include sexual predators—should not be allowed to go in women’s restrooms. He wanted it left like it was.

So if Charlotte wants to say that, if you are a man and you are a sexual predator and you say you are transgender and want to go into the restroom where little girls are, go ahead.

That is the position of the leading Republican candidate? I don’t know. Hopefully, that will be another one of the positions he will change.

But, in the meantime, we need to get common sense back in charge in America while we are still the great country we have been.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). Members are reminded not to make reference to guests on the floor of the House.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 676, 113TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, DC, April 21, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(b) of H. Res. 676 of the 113th Congress, as continued by section 3(f)(2) of H. Res. 5 of the 114th Congress, I write with the following enclosure which is a statement of the aggregate amount expended on outside counsel and other experts on any civil action authorized by H. Res. 676.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS

[H. Res. 676]

July 1–September 30, 2014	\$0.00
October 1–December 31, 2014	42,875.00
January 1–March 31, 2015	50,000.00
April 1, 2015–June 30, 2015	29,915.00
July 1–September 30, 2015	21,000.00
October 1–December 31, 2015	45,707.67
January 1–March 31, 2016	15,124.00
Total	204,664.34

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 25, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

5103. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled “2013 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Active Duty Members: Overview Report”, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 481(e); Public Law 103-337, Sec. 554(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 107-314, Sec. 561(a)(1)); (116 Stat. 2554); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5104. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 114th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5105. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations; Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, and Incorporated Areas [Docket ID: FEMA-2016-0002] received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5106. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security,

transmitting the Department’s final rule — National Flood Insurance Program: Update To Address Information for Claims Appeals [Docket ID: FEMA-2016-0009] (RIN: 1660-AA88) received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5107. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled “Report on the Feasibility of Mechanisms to Assist Providers in Comparing and Selecting Certified EHR Technology Products”, pursuant to Public Law 114-10, Sec. 106(b)(3)(B); (129 Stat. 140); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5108. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department’s final determination — Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products and Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Determination of Portable Air Conditioners as a Covered Consumer Product [Docket No.: EERE-2013-BT-STD-0033] (RIN: 1904-AD02) received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5109. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Federal Plan Requirements for Sewage Sludge Incineration Units Constructed on or Before October 14, 2010 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0319; FRL-9940-50-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR77) received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5110. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s withdrawal of direct final rule — Clarification of Requirements for Method 303 Certification Training [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0492; FRL-9945-34-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR97) received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5111. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final supplemental finding — Supplemental Finding that it is Appropriate and Necessary to Regulate Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234; FRL-9945-33-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS76) received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5112. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; State Board Requirements [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0127; FRL-9945-44-Region 3] received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5113. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-

OAR-2015-0751; FRL-9944-38-Region 9] received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5114. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Attainment Plan for the Lower Beaver Valley Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0112; FRL-9945-45-Region 3] received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5115. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; AR; Redesignation of the Crittenden County, 2008 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0852; FRL-9945-40-Region 6] received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5116. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Tennessee: Knox County VOC Limits Revision for Permits [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0618; FRL-9945-22-Region 4] received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5117. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Plans; North Carolina; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0150; FRL-9945-62-Region 4] received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5118. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; 2011 Base Year Inventories for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Lancaster, Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley, and Reading Areas, and the Pennsylvania Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0002; FRL-9945-47-Region 3] received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5119. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2464; Public Law 93-618, Sec. 504 (as amended by Public Law 99-514, Sec. 1887(a)(6)) (100 Stat. 2923) and 22 U.S.C. 2304(b); Public Law 87-195, Sec. 502B(b) (as amended by Public Law 113-276, Sec. 208(b)(2)(A)); (128 Stat. 2993); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5120. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-

019, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5121. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled "U.S. Support for Taiwan's Participation as an Observer at the 69th World Health Assembly and in the Work of the World Health Organization", pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 290 note; Public Law 108-235, Sec. 1(c); (118 Stat. 658); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5122. A letter from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a discontinuation of service in an acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5123. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and a notification of a discontinuation of service in acting role and action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5124. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5125. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5126. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Mill Creek Flood Risk Management Study, Nashville, Tennessee feasibility report and environmental assessment for March 2016 (H. Doc. No. 114-125); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

5127. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Brazos Island Harbor, Texas Final Integrated Feasibility Report — Environmental Assessment for July 2014 (H. Doc. No. 114-126); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

5128. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements (Announcement 2016-12) received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5129. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2016-25] received April 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5130. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "Demonstrating Improvement in the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home

Visiting Program: A Report to Congress March 2016", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 711(h)(4); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title V, Sec. 511(h)(4) (as added by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2951); (124 Stat. 342); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5131. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on the Implementation of Agreement between the United States and China on Science and Technology, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6901 note; Public Law 107-314, Sec. 1207(d); (116 Stat. 2666); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4698. A bill to enhance aviation by requiring airport security assessments and a security coordination enhancement plan, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-513). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3826. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon; with an amendment (Rept. 114-514). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 894. A bill to extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act (Rept. 114-515, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 894 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 5017. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Maritime Administrator, to release all remaining right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property in Richland, Washington, to the Port of Benton; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms.

KELLY of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. LEE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 5018. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize Federal assistance to State adult protective services programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 5019. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 5020. A bill to require the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service to submit to Congress a report on the effects on public health of the increased rate of use of synthetic drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 5021. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to follow rule-making procedures for costly Medicaid sub-regulatory policies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ASHFORD (for himself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BERA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 5022. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to ensure dislocated workers are provided consultation and advice for starting a small business as part the rapid response activities for dislocated workers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 5023. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues related to the extension of consumer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 5024. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish criminal penalties for knowingly bypassing, defeating, or rendering inoperative air pollution control parts or components in motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 5025. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the Army Corps of Engineers for flood control projects and storm damage reduction projects in areas affected by flooding in the city of Houston, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5026. A bill to direct the President to develop and submit to Congress a comprehensive strategy to combat cybercrime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 5027. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to adjust the circumstances under which Federal reserve bank stock is callable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 5028. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10721 E Jefferson Ave in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Mary Eleanor McCoy Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 5029. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to clarify certain guarantee fees for loans repayable in 1 year or less; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. COMSTOCK:

H.R. 5030. A bill to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 5031. A bill to enhance Federal response and preparedness with respect to Zika virus; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRAT (for himself and Mr. GOODLATTE):

H.R. 5032. A bill to allow certain property in the town of Louisa, Virginia, to be used for purposes related to compliance with water quality standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. RUSSELL):

H.R. 5033. A bill to improve the Governmentwide management of unnecessarily duplicative Government programs and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FORBES (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H.R. 5034. A bill to nullify any generalized, routine or ongoing reporting requirement imposed on a person licensed under section 923 of title 18, United States Code, that is based on the geographic location in which the licensee is located or on the sale of multiple rifles or shotguns, or any specific type of rifle or shotgun, to the same person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. COOK, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. SALMON, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. JONES, and Mrs. COMSTOCK):

H.R. 5035. A bill to reauthorize the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 5036. A bill to clarify the application of spousal impoverishment protections for

recipients of home and community-based services under Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5037. A bill to authorize the establishment of a program of voluntary separation incentive payments for nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia courts and employees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 5038. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for economic recovery in the territories; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 5039. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for economic recovery in the possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 5040. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase for 2 years the residential energy credit and the investment tax credit with respect to solar property with a nameplate capacity of less than 20 kilowatts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5041. A bill to prohibit the National Science Foundation from conducting a study to determine which facets of social interaction about politics are most stress inducing, for which kinds of people, and in which contexts; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 5042. A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 5043. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from implementing certain proposed rules on establishing criteria for imposition of fines under child nutrition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. DEUTCH):

H. Con. Res. 129. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to reaffirm its commitment to this goal through a financial commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCHRAMMER, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa):

H. Con. Res. 130. Concurrent resolution supporting the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) and recognizing 50 years of organized academic veterinary medicine in the United States; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. RICHMOND):

H. Res. 696. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding jazz heritage in the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. ENGLER):

H. Res. 697. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the courageous work and life of Russian opposition leader Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov and renewing the call for a full and transparent investigation into the tragic murder of Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov in Moscow on February 27, 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BRAT (for himself, Mr. AMASH, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. BABIN):

H. Res. 698. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the Committee on Appropriations to maintain proposed and historical budget authority and outlays for each category of spending; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. LEE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H. Res. 699. A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2016, which includes bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans, African-Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H. Res. 700. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of Cascade Head Preserve, an Oregon natural icon; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

mitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 5017.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Property Clause of Article IV, Section 3—The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulation respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5018.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8—to provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 5019.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 5020.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution (“Congress shall have the power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution . . . all other Powers vested in this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof”).

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 5021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. ASHFORD:

H.R. 5022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution allows Congress to regulate interstate commerce.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, is the necessary and proper clause, allowing Congress to enact all laws necessary and proper for executing any of their enumerated powers.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5024.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 5025.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority to enact this legislation can be found in:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18)

Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3)

Appropriations Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 9 Cl. 7)

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5026.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, which provides Congress the power “to . . . provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 5027.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: “To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes”

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 5028.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 5029.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. COMSTOCK:

H.R. 5030.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States provides that “The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . .”

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 5031.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, The Commerce Clause

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 5032.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress purports to have power to establish the underlying program as a “necessary and proper” (Article I, Section 8, Clause 18) power for exercising a wide variety of spending programs under the “Power . . . to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States” (Article I, Section 8, Clause 1). If Congress has such a power, it may subsequently grant such exceptions as it also considers “necessary and proper.”

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 5033.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 5034.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5035.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 4, of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to “establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.” The Supreme Court has long found that this provision of the Constitution grants Congress Plenary power over immigration policy. As the Court found in *Galvan v. Press*, 347 U.S. 522, 531 (1954) “ that the formulation of policies [pertaining to the entry of aliens and the right to remain here] is entrusted to Congress has become about as firmly imbedded in the legislative and judicial tissues of our body politic as any aspect of our government.”

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 5036.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

205. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 70, urging the President and Congress to take immediate action to protect citizens and lawful residents from the consequences resulting from the uncontrolled influx of undocumented immigrants into this country; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

206. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Nebraska, relative to Legislative Resolution 381, notification that the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature passed LR381, ratifying the Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

207. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 507, supporting a sustainable energy-abundance plan for Tennessee to meet future energy needs with affordable, abundant, and environmentally friendly energy; jointly to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Energy and Commerce.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are sub-

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution  
By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5037.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 5038.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, grants the federal government of the United States its power of taxation. While authorizing Congress to levy taxes, this clause permits the levying of taxes for two purposes only: to pay the debts of the United States, and to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States. Taken together, these purposes have traditionally been held to imply and to constitute the federal government's taxing and spending power.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 5039.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, grants the federal government of the United States its power of taxation. While authorizing Congress to levy taxes, this clause permits the levying of taxes for two purposes only: to pay the debts of the United States, and to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States. Taken together, these purposes have traditionally been held to imply and to constitute the federal government's taxing and spending power.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 5040.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5041.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—"No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5042.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States;

"the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States;

"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 5043.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing pow-

ers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 183: Mr. YOHO, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 230: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 303: Mr. TAKAI and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 346: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 556: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 557: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 664: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 923: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 952: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 980: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 1192: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1312: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1459: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 1591: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 1602: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1608: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1655: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1688: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 1717: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1733: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 1814: Mr. ASHFORD and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1818: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 2083: Ms. MENG and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.

H.R. 2103: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2148: Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 2293: Ms. GRAHAM.

H.R. 2430: Mr. TAKAI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. KIND, and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 2488: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 2656: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2694: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 2697: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 2698: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 2713: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2737: Mr. SABLON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 2799: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 2817: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 2844: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2901: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 2920: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2993: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3084: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 3119: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BERA, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 3222: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 3283: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3353: Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H.R. 3381: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BLUM, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3632: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 3691: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 3722: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 3781: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3815: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 3832: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 3880: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 3882: Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 4007: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 4062: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 4073: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4165: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 4167: Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 4177: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 4268: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 4365: Mr. GARRETT and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4447: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 4479: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. KEATING, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. McNERNEY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 4480: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4499: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 4514: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 4534: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 4535: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4539: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4594: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 4606: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4646: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MENG, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Miss RICE of New York, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 4658: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 4673: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 4681: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4730: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 4773: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 4828: Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. FLORES, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 4841: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4848: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 4869: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 4897: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 4904: Mr. COSTA, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 4907: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 4938: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4939: Mr. CICILLINE and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 4965: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 4980: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 4992: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5013: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.J. Res. 88: Mrs. BLACK.

H. Con. Res. 50: Mr. CARNEY, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H. Con. Res. 97: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H. Res. 14: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H. Res. 438: Ms. MENG.  
H. Res. 451: Mr. HOLDING.  
H. Res. 520: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
H. Res. 551: Mr. NEAL.

H. Res. 569: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia  
and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H. Res. 631: Ms. ESHOO.  
H. Res. 647: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Caro-  
lina.

H. Res. 683: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H. Res. 691: Mr. HONDA.  
H. Res. 693: Mr. LAMALFA.

## SENATE—Thursday, April 21, 2016

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

### PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the Most Reverend Paul J. Swain, bishop of the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese, Sioux Falls, SD.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon us and our country, especially those of personal freedom and self-government. Continue to watch over and guide Members of this Senate and all who serve in public office, a high calling with grave responsibilities that affect the lives of so many. May they seek the common good with civility and charity, assuring that these blessings are secured for future generations.

Protect those who defend these blessings around the world and reassure their families who worry about them. Be with those who are suffering this day in any way, especially from forces imposed upon them, including persecution and violence. As each of us seeks to do what is right and just, may we do so by looking out for those around us and looking up for inspiration and guidance.

May You continue to bless this land of the free and home of the brave which, thanks to those who have gone before, is also a magnificent beacon of hope.

Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The senior Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. I thank the Presiding Officer.

### WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise to welcome Bishop Swain to the U.S. Senate. On behalf of myself, my colleague from South Dakota who is currently presiding over the Senate, and thousands of grateful believers in South Dakota, I thank Bishop Swain for his

service to our Lord and to our communities of faith.

Bishop Swain was sworn in as the eighth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls in late 2006, but his journey of faith and service to his country began far before that. Paul Joseph Swain was born in Newark, NY, and is one of eight children.

After graduating from Northern Ohio University with a degree in history and earning his master's at the University of Wisconsin, Bishop Swain joined the Air Force as an intelligence officer. He served our Nation in the Vietnam war, where he earned a Bronze Star.

Bishop Swain should feel right at home on the floor of the U.S. Senate because after serving in Vietnam, he tried his hand in politics. He completed his law degree and went on to work on the campaign and in the administration of Gov. Lee Sherman Dreyfus, who served as the Governor of Wisconsin until 1983.

After a short stint in politics, Bishop Swain answered a much higher calling. He was received into the Catholic Church, graduated divinity school in 1988, and entered the priesthood. Years of dedicated pastoral work ensued in the Diocese of Madison, WI, and a decade ago we were truly blessed when Pope Benedict named him bishop of Sioux Falls.

On the day of his ordination, Archbishop Flynn gave the homily at high mass. He noticed that as successors to the apostles, the service of bishops is to spread the word of God and promote the sanctity of their flock. Bishop Swain has never forgotten that counsel. He understands that the church has a role to play in the public square, particularly on moral issues. He never shies away from the challenges facing the poor and disenfranchised, and he never hesitates to stand for values that protect life and family. He is a pillar of our community and a spiritual leader to over 100,000 Catholics in East River, SD.

Bishop Swain's episcopal motto is to "Give praise to the Lord." Today we are giving praise for Bishop Swain's unwavering devotion to the word of the Lord and to the service of His people.

I thank the bishop for joining us today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2666

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2666) to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

### ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we have seen what can be accomplished on behalf of the American people with a Senate that is back to work under the Republican majority.

We just passed two broad bipartisan bills aimed at protecting consumers and modernizing our energy policies, respectively, and both bills take important steps to bolster national security as well.

The passage of the Energy Policy Modernization Act yesterday marks the first broad energy legislation to move through the Senate since the Bush administration. In the years since that time, our country "has gone from fearing oil and gas shortages to becoming the leading producer of both fuels" as one paper put it.

It is clear this energy legislation is much needed when it comes to bringing our aging infrastructure and policies in line with current and future demands.

I thank the Energy Committee chair, Senator MURKOWSKI, and the ranking member, Senator CANTWELL, for working to advance this legislation. It is important for our country. It will help Americans save more energy, produce more energy, and pay less for energy. To paraphrase Senator MURKOWSKI, it is another example of how the Senate is back to work.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let us continue that work today. The Republican-led Senate has made important strides to get the legislative process functioning again. We know the impact that can have on restoring the appropriations process. We also know cooperation is going to be important as we move forward.

It was good to see our Democratic colleagues yesterday, recently pledging cooperation in the appropriations process, writing that this "is a win-win opportunity, and we should seize it together."

I have been pleased to see the headway that has already been made by the Appropriations Committee. The committee has held dozens of hearings so far and, later this morning, members will mark up 2 more of the 12 funding bills, adding to the two the committee has already reported out unanimously. We will continue floor consideration of one of those unanimously endorsed measures today: the energy security and water infrastructure funding bill.

The legislation before us includes provisions that impact each of our States. It will support our waterway infrastructure, boost energy innovation, and promote American competitiveness. It will strengthen national security and support our nuclear security program. It will also reduce wasteful spending.

I appreciate the leadership of Senators ALEXANDER and FEINSTEIN on this bill and recognize the hard work and research that have gone into it. I also appreciate the Appropriations chairman, Senator COCHRAN, for working with Senator MIKULSKI to move these appropriations bills through committee and to the floor. This is a responsible bipartisan bill. It invests in the future of American energy and waterways. It will keep our country safe. So let's continue working today to advance it.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, I want to take a minute to say something about an amendment yesterday that would have defunded regional commissions such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, or ARC.

While I did not support that effort, it did raise some important questions about the direction of ARC. I have been a long supporter of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the only government agency whose main purpose is to help poor and disadvantaged communities in the Appalachian region. However, I am deeply concerned that after 50 years, ARC's focus has become clouded.

For instance, ARC's internal guidelines cap at 30 percent the amount of

area development funds that can be used in the most impoverished areas of Appalachia. It seems utterly illogical to me that at a government agency, whose mission should be to alleviate poverty, 70 percent of the funds go to counties that are not among the poorest.

What does ARC stand for if not to help the poorest areas of Appalachia? Is ARC a specialized agency with a coherent mission or is it just another Federal bureaucracy that simply allocates funds among 13 selected States regardless of the need?

I hope the vote last night will serve as a wake-up call for management at the ARC—a wake-up call that it is time for the agency to reform itself and focus on the counties that most need assistance.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is difficult for me to be here to talk about what I am going to talk about because I believe that the Senate operates only when there is trust among the Members of this body.

A man whom I served with whom I have such great respect for, and that is former Republican Majority Leader Bob Dole, said:

I knew that nothing else I did would matter very much if I ever forfeited the trust of my colleagues. As we all learn around here, if you don't keep your word, it doesn't make much difference what agenda you try to advance.

The trust which Senator Dole spoke of has been broken. The Republican leader MCCONNELL broke his word to me.

In December of 2014, the Republican leader and the Senator from South Dakota, Mr. THUNE, came to me on the floor, asking if I would agree to confirming a Republican Commissioner to the Federal Communications Commission. That man's name is Michael O'Rielly, and he had worked for Jon Kyl and JOHN CORNYN. Of course, CORNYN is still here and Kyl left. I have great respect for Jon Kyl, being from my neighboring State of Arizona.

So I said that this is kind of an unusual request, since everyone knows that two leaders, when we have a Commission we are going to staff with our selections, he and I have a right to do that, and we always pair them—a Democrat, a Republican, and a Democrat and a Republican. We pair them together.

So I said to my friend from South Dakota and my friend from Kentucky that doesn't sound like the right thing

to do for me, but they talked a while longer, and my heart said do it, my head said don't. My heart won, and I relented, after having made an arrangement, an agreement with them that we would go ahead and do O'Rielly right then; that I would agree to do that provided that when the new Congress convened in less than a month, we would take care of the Democrat. Her name is Jessica Rosenworcel. That was our agreement. That is how we would pair one Republican with a Democrat, as is our custom.

But—and I repeat—I said: I agree, we will go ahead and do him now. He didn't have a job, so I was told, and so he could do that. They promised me they would confirm Rosenworcel the next Congress. I wasn't there alone. I had my staff with me. So it is not me saying one thing. I don't think anyone denies the conversation. I didn't have to agree to this. I did it because the Republican leader said he would do his part and get her confirmed.

I am sorry to report to the world, to the Senate, I was wrong. Over the last 16 months, the Republican leader has refused to fulfill his commitment. He hasn't kept his word. Republicans assumed control of the Senate in January 2015. I waited patiently for the Republican leader and Senator THUNE to keep their word regarding Rosenworcel's nomination.

To his credit—JOHN THUNE and I have served here a long time. I know him well. I worked against him once and was successful. I worked against him a second time and wasn't successful. He beat my dear friend Tom Daschle, but he is a fine man. He and I used the gym together in the House. To his credit, Senator THUNE did everything he could to fulfill the commitment. He was having pressure not to do anything, I am sure, but he called his committee together. He is the chairman of the Commerce Committee. He reported Rosenworcel out to the Senate floor. There his authority stops. He doesn't have any power to do any more. He did what he felt he was obligated to do, and I felt he was obligated to do. It is now Senator MCCONNELL's problem, I guess. But a year went by. She still wasn't sent to the floor. That is when I talked to Senator THUNE—the first of many times. He did what he said he would do and reported her out.

A few months ago, in December of 2015, a year after we had made our agreement, I reminded Senator MCCONNELL of his commitment to do what he said he would do to quickly advance the nomination. He told me that the Senate would confirm her when we returned in 2016. January 2016 passed with no action. Before we left for the President's Day recess, I spoke again with Senators MCCONNELL and THUNE about Rosenworcel's nomination. February passed with no movement. March passed. Here we are, 21 days into April, with no confirmation.



I have waited. I have waited patiently for my friend to do the right thing. I have held off for months coming to the floor. What else would I do? What else could I do? I held off, hoping the Republican leader would deliver on the pledge that he gave to me.

I spoke again with him yesterday on the telephone, urging him to move her forward. He said to me: We'll do it next year. Next year she is out of a job. Her term expires at the end of this year. Her career will basically be over because of my accepting my counterpart's word. I told the Republican leader and I told Senator THUNE that I would not remain silent forever on this. I told both of them yesterday I was going to come to the floor.

The Republican leader, I hope, was aware of the words of Bob Dole, which I talked about earlier in my remarks. Dole said:

I knew that nothing else I did would matter very much if I ever forfeited the trust of my colleagues. As we all learn around here, if you don't keep your word, it doesn't make much difference what agenda you try to advance.

That was Robert Dole.

To say I am disappointed is an understatement. This is a commitment that was made to me about a year and a half ago. We have to keep our trust. This isn't an issue of my being offended. I have been offended. The Presiding Officer has been offended. We have all been offended. This isn't only personal with me, in taking the Republican leader's promise as a personal affront. It is not a personal affront to me. If it is, I will have to bear that. I think it is, but I can handle that. What I am concerned about is what it means for the Senate and what it means for a human being, a woman who works very hard every day, trying to do the right thing for a very important part of our country.

I understand the Republican leader has a tough job. I know that. I had that job a lot longer than he has. Because of the dysfunction in his caucus, it is difficult, I am told and as we see, for him to get things done. But that is no excuse for someone not keeping their word. He could go into executive session. We would agree to that. He could file cloture. He could do this in many different ways.

I still expect him to live up to his commitment and get Commissioner Rosenworcel confirmed. I don't want this to be a bad time for the Senate if it continues. It is a bad day for the Senate now because you have to keep your word. That is all we have around here.

I see no one on the floor, and I will ask the Chair to announce what the Senate is going to do the rest of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Missouri.

#### ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the bill that is on the floor. The very fact that we have this bill on the floor deserves some attention. We have an appropriations bill on the energy and water responsibilities of the Federal Government. I think this is the first time this bill has been on the Senate floor in 7 years.

With the current majority, the Appropriations Committee is 1 month ahead of any time in recent history that bills have been marked up and brought to the floor. The majority leader set aside 12 weeks to do the work that for decades—in fact, for a couple of centuries—was the core work of what the Congress did. The Congress set the priorities of the country by having an open and free debate on how the Congress and the country would spend the money that was entrusted to the Congress—the long-ranging discussion of the power of the purse. You know, you don't have to be a great student of American history to say: Well, don't you men and women in the Congress have the power of the purse? Well, we do have it, according to the Constitution, but we have not had it in the practice of the last 6 or 7 years when the work of the Congress simply was not done in a way that people could see what was going on or that Members could freely weigh in.

One of the things about the debate we are having on this Energy and Water bill is that any Member of the Senate can come to the floor and they can say: Don't spend this money at all. In this bill, spend the money here rather than there. They can say some combination of those two things, and then the Senate votes on that before we approve the final bill.

I am pleased that we are debating this bill. That may actually be more important than the bill itself. But the bill itself is important as well.

This bill provides the critical resources to support the safety and long-term viability of our waterway systems. One of the reasons we are so competitive internationally and so competitive in our own domestic economy is that we have had the ability to use the waterways of the country—particularly the internal as well as the external waterways—in a way that makes us more competitive than we would be otherwise.

Our inland waterways in particular are critical to economic growth. We

are right on the edge of a time when world food demand doubles from the Presiding Officer's State, from my State. Agriculture, which is the biggest economic sector of the economy, is in a great position not only to meet those food needs in our country but to meet food needs worldwide. That position is dramatically enhanced if we have a transportation system that doesn't just include highways and doesn't just include railroads but also includes the waterways of the country.

Another thing our two States have had in common—the Upper Missouri and the Lower Missouri—is the devastating challenges that flooding can present. This bill makes it possible for us to deal with flood control and navigation. Once again, this emphasizes that the Corps of Engineers can't just say these are the top two priorities of managing the Mississippi River Valley system, particularly the Missouri and Mississippi, but those really need to be apparent in their commitment to both flood control and navigation as things we want to do.

I am pleased this bill prioritizes things like the bank stabilization and navigation project on the Mississippi River, the tributaries project that is central to our flood control efforts in our State. I am also glad the bill increases funding for small ports and harbors to serve as vital places for us to compete.

You know, the inland ports are basically export ports. There is nothing wrong with buying things from other people, but it is better to sell things to other people. The inland ports serve a geographic area that is roughly twice as big as the coastal ports. That doesn't mean there is anything wrong with the coastal ports; it just means, let's get realistic about where we are making investments that allow us to compete. If a coastal port effectively really supports an area, say, 300 miles inland from that coastal port, an inland port supports an area 300 miles in all directions. So this is an effective thing for us to do.

Also, we need to ensure that we are looking at our port systems as a system, not just as one individual port. The old days of the Congress being able to say "This is what you want to do in this port or this harbor" are now being replaced by being sure the Corps of Engineers understands its responsibility to do this.

Another agency that needs to understand its reasonable responsibility is the EPA. So once again I am on the floor for the third time in about as many months—and heaven knows how many times in the last several years—talking about this incredible overreach EPA is making when they want to decide they don't want to change the law that says navigable waters of the United States are under the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency—not a new concept in law at all.

Navigable waters have seemed to be a Federal responsibility since the 1840s in law, in bills that have passed the Congress. So in the early 1970s, the Clean Water Act was passed, and the EPA was formed. The Clean Water Act said the EPA will have jurisdiction over navigable waters. But with this outrageous waters of the United States rule, the EPA wants to now define "navigable waters" as basically all the water in the country.

They want to say it is any water that can run into any water that can run into any water. I don't know how many iterations of that there would be that can run into any water that eventually runs into navigable water. There is a case before the Supreme Court right now where the EPA is challenging a company in Minnesota based on navigable waters. The location they are challenging is 120 miles away, by no argument, from the nearest thing that anybody would truly consider a navigable water.

The Farm Bureau in Missouri has a map that I have brought to the floor now a number of times—the Farm Bureau map of where the jurisdiction of the EPA would be under waters of the United States. This is anything that deals with water: a building permit, runoff from your driveway, resurfacing a parking lot, fertilizer on a farm field, drilling a hole for a utility pole. Anything that involves water, theoretically, under this rule, could come under the jurisdiction of the EPA.

In my State, anything that would meet the EPA definition of what could be the definition of their new sense of waters of the United States covers 99.7 percent of the State.

The Presiding Officer is a little further from this map. He may not be able to see the two dozen white dots on the map that would clearly still under the jurisdiction of the State of Missouri or under the jurisdiction of a county government or under the jurisdiction of a city. That would be three-tenths of 1 percent.

Senator HOEVEN, who has fought to not allow this rule to go forward, as I have since the day it was proposed, has once again proposed an amendment to this bill. We all get to vote on it. A majority of the Senate has shown its concern about this particular regulation, this outlandish regulation—enough that the Senate and the House have put a bill on the President's desk in the last few months that the President vetoed, which said: Don't go forward with this regulation.

What this amendment says is: No money can be spent to go forward with this regulation. I certainly encourage my colleagues to once again step up, as they are already on the record as having been willing to do, to stop this regulation. This amendment—the way to stop this regulation is to say that no money can be spent to move forward

with this regulation, which a majority of the Congress, Democrats and Republicans, organizations all over America, government at virtually every level, county governments, city governments, and State governments, have said they don't want. The Attorney Generals of about half of the States have a case before the Supreme Court. But none of that seems to get through to the all-knowing EPA on this issue.

Today I urge my colleagues to once again step up and say: We want this stopped.

One way to stop it is not to have any money available to move forward with this outlandish rule.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, April is actually Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I rise to speak about two extraordinary women who were accepted into their dream colleges and then after they arrived on campus were sexually assaulted. They tried to seek help from their school, and they were blamed for their assaults by their school's administrators.

A couple of years ago, these two young women walked into my office. They didn't have an appointment. They didn't have any connections on Capitol Hill. They certainly didn't have an expensive lobbyist to lead them in. Annie and Andrea had heard about my work to fight sexual assaults in the military, and they simply wanted to help.

The same crisis was unfolding on college campuses across the country. When they tried to report their rapes, they were not believed. They were actually retaliated against. For them, justice seemed impossible. But instead of doing nothing, Annie and Andrea joined together and they created an organization called End Rape on Campus. They took their stories to college campus after college campus to be heard, to help other survivors like themselves, to make a difference, to achieve justice, and to hold these schools accountable.

Together, Annie and Andrea have helped many other sexual assault survivors file dozens of title IX complaints for how their schools mishandled their sexual assault claims. These young women are changing lives. They are helping their peers find justice. They took a risk to raise their voices, and now we are closer than ever to passing a comprehensive, bipartisan piece of legislation to make sure campus sexual assault cases are handled with the professionalism and fairness all our students deserve. We are closer than ever to passing a bill that would finally give our colleges and universities an incentive to solve the problem of sexual as-

sault rather than stay silent and pretend it doesn't exist because they are worried about application numbers or press releases.

I urge all of my colleagues in the Senate to support this bipartisan bill, the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, because when surveys keep confirming that one out of five of our women in college are sexually assaulted before they graduate, we know we have more work to do. We need to follow the example of Annie and Andrea and speak out about this crisis.

I am going to use this moment to tell one story—the story of Andrea, what actually happened to her. She wrote a book with Annie called "We Believe You." It is an incredible compilation of survivor stories. It is quite heart-breaking and very tough to read, but it is one of the most inspiring books I have ever read. There are thousands of stories just like hers. I have others to tell on the Senate floor, but now I am going to tell you Andrea's in her own words:

After I publicly came forward as a survivor, I learned that the biggest triggers aren't actually the nightmares of my assault, but the nightmares of the betrayals that I've had to survive.

When the media tells your story, it feels like open season on your truth. It's exposed to commentary, and a part of you loses control over it, and the vulnerabilities that you intended to share.

When you tell your story to the media, you're at the mercy of their portrayal, and the portrayal of others.

I've been betrayed by friends who struggled to understand what happened to me, and to accept that the same person who put forth strength and composure could fall apart.

I wish I could have said the right things to get them to understand that I was broken, and that my confidence was a lie to both of us.

I've been betrayed by the university that I love so dearly, whose seal I wear around my neck, and whose quads and bricks hold pieces of me—pieces of who I was before, and of who I am today.

Andrea is one of many young men and women whose lives have been shattered by a violent sexual crime and then shattered again by a second betrayal when their schools chose not to believe them or to offer justice. These survivors deserve better. They need Congress to act. We have to do the right thing. We have to be their voice. We have to stand for them. The bipartisan Campus Accountability and Safety Act does exactly that. Please, let's all do our jobs and pass the bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

(The remarks of Mr. NELSON pertaining to the introduction of S. 2843 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

## ATVM LOAN PROGRAM

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise to address an amendment that has been filed, and on which I hope we are going to have a vote. That is amendment No. 3814. It is called End Crony Capitalist Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program.

Let me describe what this is about. We are all watching this Presidential election campaign unfold, and a big theme on both sides of the aisle is about how the Obama economy is not working for so many millions of ordinary Americans—middle-income, middle-class, working-class Americans who are working as hard as ever and falling behind. It is true. It has absolutely been a fact that this economy is not anywhere near where it should be. Part of that and part of the theme is how Washington works for the well-connected—for the few who get to figure out how to get special benefits from taxpayers. But that doesn't apply if you are an ordinary man or woman who is just working hard to feed their family and take care of their family and who doesn't have the lobbyists and the connections to get special treatment. It is infuriating for people, and they are right.

One of the most egregious examples is the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program. This is a program that forces taxpayers to lend money to especially preferred—very affluent, generally—and well-connected businesses. It was created in 2007, and it requires the Department of Energy to lend this money—up to \$25 billion of taxpayer money—to private corporations that ought to be funding their activity privately.

Why should my constituents in Pennsylvania be made to take the risk for some company that has an idea they want to float? Why in the world should it be that my constituents and your constituents, Mr. President, have to subsidize a particular business because some politicians decide they like it? This is completely outrageous, and this program is particularly egregious.

So far this program has made five loans worth \$8.4 billion. Of the five, two of them have already defaulted. Two have already gone under. Why should our taxpayers have to make these loans to companies that then fail, and the taxpayers end up holding the bag?

Fisker Automotive is one of them. They got a \$529 million loan in 2010. It took less than 1 year for them to default. The Department of Energy—which is to say, our constituents, taxpayers—then took a \$139 million loss, just on that one transaction.

The Vehicle Production Group got a \$50 million loan in 2011. Two years later, they defaulted. Taxpayers lost almost all of it—\$42 million.

But it gets even more absurd. In 2011, the Department of Energy, under this

program, tried to make a \$730 million loan to a company owned by a Russian oligarch so he could build a steel plant to compete with American steel companies and steelworkers that are already making this product. Why in the world should my constituents be forced to subsidize a Russian oligarch? This is ridiculous. And by the way, the plant had already been built. It was retroactively funding facilities that he already had the resources to build. This is just crazy. This is what drives people crazy.

The GAO has recommended three times that this program be terminated. They have estimated that if the program continues, they are going to lose another \$400 million. So here we have Washington picking a handful of preferred companies to get huge taxpayer subsidies. It has proven it is a losing program. Why are we doing this in the first place?

So we have an amendment that would end this program. Senator COATS, Senator FISCHER and myself want to end this. We don't want taxpayers to continue to subsidize these companies. We don't think crony capitalism is the way our system should work. We think our economy should work for everybody who shows up and punches a clock and works hard, not the well-connected who can get a big subsidy from Washington. So we have an amendment that would end it.

Now, there is some controversy about whether we are even going to have a vote on this, which is really disturbing. I hope we can resolve this and have this vote. I will live with the consequences of this vote, as we all have to. But if there are people who like this program and think that our taxpayers should continue being forced to give away money and subsidize preferred special interests, OK, come on down to the floor and make the case. Argue for why we should continue this crony capitalism, and why it is that politicians ought to put their thumbs on the scale of our economy and divert taxpayer dollars to preferred interests. Come on down and make the case. At least have the courage of your convictions, and let's have a vote. That is all I am asking for.

So I am hoping we will get this. I am hoping we will have a vote and, of course, I am hoping we will end a terrible program that undermines the confidence the American people have in our government. We could take a step in the right direction of restoring some confidence that this town can figure out what to do and can take steps to help our economy be fairer, more open, and more successful for all Americans.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

## FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I recently had the opportunity to convene a roundtable at the University of Baltimore School of Law entitled: "Why Nine? A Discussion on the Importance of a Fully Functioning Supreme Court." I want to particularly thank the dean of the University of Baltimore Law School, Ronald Weich, for moderating this roundtable and bringing his extensive experience to this discussion. Ron Weich is well known here. He is the former chief counsel to Senate Minority Leader REID and former Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Justice Department.

I want to share with my colleagues some of the comments that were made by the people who were at that roundtable discussion.

Caroline Frederickson, the president of the American Constitution Society, discussed the lengthy delays for trial and appellate court decisions. Lengthy delays in filling vacancies mean that justice delayed is justice denied. We have seen a growing number of judicial emergencies as a result of the Senate leadership's slow-walking of the consideration of judicial nominations, as I discussed recently on the floor of the Senate. One of these is my own State of Maryland's district court vacancy, in which Paula Xinis has been waiting for floor action now since she was reported out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously in September of 2015. She has waited over 7 months for action on the floor of the Senate.

Ms. Frederickson also noted the increasing number of 4-to-4 decisions being issued by the Supreme Court. She warned that a Court that is split on a tough 4-to-4 decision might be tempted to "legislate" a solution by asking the parties to reshape the legal questions before the Court and go beyond the narrow case or controversy that is properly before the Court. That is something all of us want to avoid. We don't want the Court legislating.

John Greenbaum, chief counsel and senior deputy director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, told the group that if Republicans hold to their pledge to block the filling of the Supreme Court vacancy until a new President takes office, this vacancy would span and negatively impact two terms of the Court and could last more than a year.

The Presidential election occurs in November of 2016, but the new President is not sworn into office until late January 2017. Allowing for several months, which is the standard time for consideration of a Supreme Court nominee, it could be next spring of 2017, more than a year after Justice Scalia's death before the vacancy is filled.

Mr. Greenbaum noted that the Court issued a number of 5-to-4 decisions in

the current term, many of which drew a wide range of amicus briefs from all sides on the issue, and that the Court was trying to resolve circuit splits in a number of these cases. It cannot resolve circuit splits with a 4-to-4 vote, leaving us with different laws in different parts of the country.

Michele Jawando, vice president of legal progress at the Center for American Progress, discussed focusing the American people's attention on the third branch of government—the judiciary—which often does not receive the same level of focus as the executive and legislative branches.

Professor Charles Tiefer, a professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law, previously served as deputy general counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives and served as assistant legal counsel for the U.S. Senate. He formerly clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the court that Chief Judge Garland currently sits. Professor Tiefer cited two interesting precedents we should keep in mind as the Senate considers—or, frankly, fails to consider—Chief Judge Garland's nomination.

In 1988, the Senate confirmed Justice Kennedy to the Supreme Court, even though the Senate was controlled by a Democratic majority and President Reagan was in his final year of office—very similar to the circumstances we have today. In 1991, when Democrats controlled the Senate, they allowed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to reach the Senate floor even though the Judiciary Committee had not favorably recommended him. The Judiciary Committee, under Chairman BIDEN, believed the full Senate should debate a nomination for the Supreme Court of the United States and that each Senator should cast their vote either for or against the nomination. Ultimately, the Senate narrowly confirmed Justice Thomas by a 52-to-48 vote.

Indeed, turning to Judge Garland, no nominee—and, really, no President—has ever been treated this way by the Senate. Since public confirmation hearings of Supreme Court nominations began a century ago in the Judiciary Committee, the Senate has never denied a Supreme Court nominee a hearing and a vote. This would be the first. By refusing to follow this practice, the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate leadership are abrogating their constitutional duties. This is an affront to the Constitution. It is not a political assault. This is an assault on the Constitution.

Turning to article II, the Executive power in the Constitution, the Senate Republican leadership is trying to unilaterally alter the term of the President from 4 years to 3 years and somehow argue that the President in his or her final year of office cannot do his or her job, which includes nominating Supreme Court Justices if a vacancy oc-

curs. This flies in the face of the plain text of the Constitution. The Constitution commands that the President “shall” nominate Supreme Court Justices in the event of a vacancy. The Senate is failing to exercise its constitutional duty to advise and consent.

Turning to article III, the judicial power of the Constitution, the Senate leadership is trying to unilaterally shrink the Supreme Court from nine justices to eight by creating an artificial vacancy for an indefinite period of time. Congress, by enacting a statute, has already set the size of the Supreme Court as consisting of nine justices. There is an odd number for a reason—to enable the Court to break tie votes. The Senate Republican leadership is pursuing a strategy that will hobble the Court for two terms.

This results in an increasing number of circuit splits and a nonuniform application of Federal law across the country, with no resolution in sight, meaning that an individual's rights and responsibilities under Federal law would depend on what circuit they happen to live in or do business in.

Article VI of the Constitution provides that “the Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath of Affirmation, to support this Constitution.” And I will say that what we are doing right now is abrogating that right.

Professor Michael Higginbotham is the Dean Joseph Curtis Professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law, and he was a former law clerk to a U.S. circuit judge. Professor Higginbotham agreed it is unprecedented for the Senate not even to consider or vote on a nomination for a Supreme Court Justice. He cited the famous case of *Marbury v. Madison*, decided by the Supreme Court in 1803. The case held that a constitutional right without a remedy is no right at all, and that a right must have a remedy. But what happens when the Supreme Court cannot issue a final decision on a complex or controversial case in the law? What is the remedy that follows that right? What happens when one branch of government refuses to do its job, endangering the operation of another equal and independent branch of government? A Supreme Court that divides by a vote of 4 to 4 in major decisions leads to uncertainty and lack of specificity in the law, due to splits in the various circuit courts of appeal around the Nation.

Amy Matsui is the senior counsel and director of government relations at the National Women's Law Center. She reminded us that women's lives are affected every day by the decisions of the Supreme Court and lower Federal courts. Lawyers have an innate respect

for the rule of law and legal process. If lawyers report to work and do their job every day, why can't the Senate? She asked a good question.

Thiru Vignarajah is the Deputy Attorney General of Maryland, serving under the leadership of Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh. He discussed the importance of the judiciary being able to function independently and efficiently. Out of the thousands of petitions for certiorari, the Supreme Court grants about 1 percent of the cases, ultimately deciding about 150 cases a year. Dozens of these cases were 5-to-4 decisions of a divided Supreme Court. These are hard cases where reasonable jurists can disagree, and indeed a number of these cases have split circuit courts around the Nation, with judges issuing conflicting decisions on differing interpretations of Federal law.

This uncertainty is bad for the marketplace, bad for business, bad for lawyers, bad for judges, bad for litigants, and ultimately bad for the American people. Quite frankly, in some cases, businesses would prefer any ruling because it at least gives certainty about what the law is. Businesses do not want Federal law to become a patchwork and vary from circuit to circuit and State to State because a divided Supreme Court cannot resolve the issue.

Kyle Barry, the director of justice programs at the Alliance of Justice, discussed the importance of judicial independence. While the President has the power of the sword and controls government agencies and the Congress has the power of the purse and the ability to enact or change laws, the judiciary relies on the other branches of government and the American people to carry out its decisions.

The Framers of our Constitution gave the Justices lifetime tenure because it insulates them from the political pressures under Article III, Section 1, of the Constitution, so that they would not have to worry about losing their job through congressional impeachment if they reached an unpopular decision. Note that these are the only lifetime positions in the Federal Government. The Framers forbade Congress from cutting the salaries of the Justices while in office under Article III, Section 1, of the Constitution, to avoid retribution from Congress for unpopular decisions of the Court.

By undermining the independence of the Supreme Court and by making the Court appear to be a political entity, Republican Senate leadership is undermining the public's confidence in the Court and ultimately the very legitimacy of the Court. Our Framers intended with these very specific constitutional provisions to protect the Court and the Federal judiciary from politics.

The Senate should do its job and carry out its mission to fill vacancies

of the Supreme Court, so that Americans will have confidence that the Supreme Court decides cases based on the law, Constitution, and facts of the case and so that politics does not play a role. The American public supports Congress doing its job and giving Judge Garland the hearing he deserves.

The stakes at the Supreme Court can involve matters of life and death. In death penalty cases, if the Court splits 4 to 4, a defendant would be put to death even though the Court decision did not definitively resolve the legal issue in the case.

Chief Judge Garland is a nominee for the Supreme Court and should be dealt with in this term of Congress. It is not a matter for the next President or the next Congress. There are 9 months left in this year, and to suggest that we don't have the time and the President doesn't have the authority to appoint a nominee is absolutely outrageous. It is an affront to the Constitution.

We need to go through the process and give Chief Judge Garland a chance. I have met with Chief Judge Garland and believe he is eminently qualified to be a Supreme Court Justice. But before the Senate makes a final decision, we need to do our job and vet the nominee, hold a hearing, and hold a vote that puts all Senators on the record. How can Senators in good conscience reject this Supreme Court nominee without a fair vetting and hearing or process? I think it is hard to understand how you can be excused from doing your job for 9 months by not having a confirmation hearing and vote. The President did his job, and it is now time for the Senate to do its job.

The American people want to see nine justices on the Supreme Court when it convenes its new term in October. The Senate now has the responsibility and duty to respect the independence of the Federal judiciary, the authority of the President to nominate Justices, and the powers of the Senate to advise and consent on nominations.

Let's remember our oaths to support the Constitution. Let's do our job. Let's take up the Garland nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

Alexander amendment No. 3804 (to amend-ment No. 3801), to modify provisions relating to Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees.

Alexander (for Hoeven) amendment No. 3811 (to amendment No. 3801), to prohibit the use of funds relating to a certain definition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

AMENDMENT NO. 3811

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I understand that shortly we are going to be voting on the Hoeven amendment. The Hoeven amendment would prevent the clean water rule from going into effect.

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act in response to what was happening around this country. We saw rivers literally catch on fire as a result of polluted waterways. We had Lake Erie, which was considered dead. The Chesapeake Bay was one of the world's first marine dead zones. That is nothing to be proud of. The environment and status of our water was a national disgrace, and through congressional leadership, we passed the Clean Water Act. We did that because we understood that the status of upstream water affects the status of downstream water—that we are all in this together. We understood that having clean water was a public health issue, from swimming in the water to the source of our drinking water supplies. One third of our drinking water supplies come from regulated waters.

We also understood it was important for our economy. The status of tourism very much depended upon the quality of our water. Literally, people were concerned about going close to some of our inner harbor water areas. The Baltimore Inner Harbor is a tourist attraction, as are the inner harbors of many of our cities. It is important for our economy for agriculture. Agriculture depends upon clean water. We understood that when we passed the Clean Water Act in 1972. And we also understood it was a matter of quality of life for the people in our country. From those who hike and do bird watching to those who enjoy fishing and hunting, the status of clean water very much affects the way we enjoy life.

As Senators from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI and I both understand the importance of clean water for the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay

is a national treasure and the largest estuary in our hemisphere. It was at great risk because of waters coming in from other States into the Chesapeake Bay watershed, affecting the quality of water of the Chesapeake Bay.

It was for all those reasons that we passed the 1972 Clean Water Act. We understood the enforcement of the waters that were regulated under the 1972 Clean Water Act. It was based upon best science.

Science told us what we needed to do in order to have clean water—clean water for our environment, clean water for safe drinking water—and it was well understood until a Supreme Court decision. That decision in 2006, known as the Rapanos decision, was a 5-to-4 decision of the Supreme Court, which remanded the case, but it was a 4-to-4 decision on the merits of the case. Since that time, there has been uncertainty as to what bodies of water can be regulated under the Clean Water Act. So this was a situation caused by the ambiguity of the Supreme Court case. It is interesting that the decision on the merits was 4-to-4, as we are now debating whether we are going to have a full Supreme Court in order to make decisions that affect the clarity of law in this country.

The Rapanos decision sent back to the lower courts a decision on how to decide this. Since that time, there has been uncertainty as to what bodies are legally regulated under the 1972 Clean Water Act. Remember, this was 2006. The easiest way to resolve this was for Congress to pass a law clarifying the Clean Water Act, but Congress has chosen not to do that. So the Obama administration has done what it should do, using its power to promulgate a regulation that would provide clarity as to which bodies of water are regulated. Guess what. They have done that in a way that is consistent with how the law was enforced prior to the Rapanos decision—without much complaint before the Rapanos decision. It basically goes back to best science and tells us logically what needs to be regulated. That is what this rule would do: Protect our clean water.

There is a lot of misinformation that has been given about the clean water rule. Quite frankly, normal farming activities don't require any permits under the Clean Water Act. If we listen to some of the arguments against the Clean Water Act, we would have a hard time comparing that to what, in fact, is in the bill.

The Clean Water Act would reestablish the well-thought regulatory framework for protecting our clean water so that we don't return to the days of jeopardizing the Chesapeake Bay or jeopardizing our rivers or jeopardizing our clean water supplies or our environment.

Tomorrow is Earth Day. Forty-six years ago, our colleague Senator Gaylord Nelson established Earth Day.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

What will this Congress's legacy be? What will we be remembered for in regards to protecting this planet, protecting our country, and protecting our environment for future generations? I hope we will work together to build on the proud accomplishments of our predecessors for clean air and clean water. The first thing we can do is to make sure we reject the Hoeven amendment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in support of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. I am pleased to see Senators ALEXANDER and FEINSTEIN working to put together a good, bipartisan bill with no ideological or partisan policy riders.

They remind us of the way that we should be doing business here in the Senate. This legislation provides increased funding for infrastructure across the Nation and in my home State of Illinois, and I was proud to support it in the Appropriations Committee.

The bill provides strong funding for the National Labs through the Department of Energy, including critical research programs at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. These labs are supporting thousands of scientists from across the country and around the world as they perform pioneering research and transform technologies for science and industry. Lab facilities in Illinois perform cutting-edge research and are a bright example of American innovation.

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill would invest \$6 billion in the Army Corps of Engineers, which will help support important investments in Illinois infrastructure. Waterways in Illinois, including the Mississippi River, are critical to commerce around the country. They provide access for shipped goods, connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico. The Army Corps also plays an important role in flood control projects, something we saw firsthand in Illinois and across the Mississippi valley area after flooding this past winter.

But there is always more work to be done. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America scores a D-minus in investment in levees and inland waterways, and a D in investment in dams. This bill is a good start to making the critical investments we need in American infrastructure.

So I am not sure why, after Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN pulled together such a strong bipartisan bill, Republicans would want to try to add a poison pill rider preventing an EPA rule that keeps our water clean.

Many economists and military leaders tell us that water will be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th century. Water is going to be that indis-

pensable commodity that makes progress possible; an essential commodity over which wars will be fought. The United States has more clean water today than any other nation on the planet, and it is because of the Great Lakes. Why would we knowingly, deliberately, spoil this precious commodity that is a source of conflict between other nations?

We can't afford to stop making a real difference in our clean water supply, and let me tell you why.

The EPA and Army Corps clean water rule provides stronger water quality standards to protect our Nation's streams, wetlands, and navigable water. These are all resources that we rely heavily on for drinking water and recreation. And one in three Americans, or 117 million people, get drinking water from sources that were vulnerable to pollution before the clean water rule. Now, more than ever, we must work to ensure our water is safe.

We know what can happen when our water supply isn't protected. The Flint, Michigan, water contamination crisis and high lead levels in the water supply in other communities across the country and in Illinois are reminders of this. But it is not just lead that we have to worry about. Pollutants from factories and sewage treatment plants; waste from confined animal feeding operations; pesticides used on crops; and mining wastewater all flow into tributaries that eventually flow into the Great Lakes, the source of clean water for 35 million people.

Attempts to roll back the clean water rule will not only return us to a patchwork of water protections that make it difficult for businesses, farmers, and others to know whether waterways are covered by the law. It will also risk one of our greatest commodities that supports agriculture, recreation, tourism, and energy production.

To see the impacts of rolling back these protections, we need to look no further than the Gulf of Mexico, which has one of the largest dead zones in the world. Let me tell you what a dead zone is: Dead zones are the result of an overabundance of algae growth, which eventually decompose and steal oxygen from the water, making it hard for anything to live. Nutrient runoff from 12 States along the Mississippi River trickles down into the Gulf of Mexico.

Last year, the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico reached 6,474 square miles, roughly the size of the State of Connecticut. The State of Illinois was one of the largest contributors to this nutrient overload, a combination of runoff from our farm fields and point source pollution such as wastewater plants. We need to reduce this nutrient runoff while protecting our agriculture economy in Illinois. The clean water rule does exactly that by exempting agricultural activities from its provisions.

I urge my colleagues to vote against any ideological poison pill amendment that would prevent clean water appropriations from moving forward to protect our children, our communities, and our economy.

Without ideological riders like the clean water rule amendment, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill is a bipartisan effort that proves we can make smart investments that make the most sense for our country—right now and as we plan for our future. The current lead crisis has shown that we need to get serious about investing in infrastructure programs and support regulations to ensure that every American—especially children—has access to safe, clean drinking water.

Now is the time for Congress to act responsibly to develop a budget that enables our country to thrive.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator from Indiana.

#### WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, this is No. 40 of "Waste of the Week." For the 40 weeks the Senate has been in session this cycle, I have come down to the Floor to talk about a waste of taxpayers' dollars through waste, fraud, and abuse. This week I am going to talk about yet another Federal program which has, at best, a questionable track record.

I filed an amendment to the Energy and Water appropriations bill currently in the Senate, which is related to this program, and hopefully we will be voting on the amendment I will be offering in a few moments to address this issue. This amendment, which I offered with Senators FISCHER, TOOMEY, and FLAKE, would finally wind down the Department of Energy's failed Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program.

Remember the stimulus? Remember how we were throwing all kinds of taxpayers' money out there? We talked about advanced vehicle programs, and many of these distributions of funds have been misused or simply have not come to fruition, and a great deal of money has been wasted.

The ATVM Loan Program continues to sit on billions of dollars of unused funds that could be put to better use. I am glad there are some unused funds there because it means that when we look at the history of this program, perhaps we will have an opportunity to better use those unused funds or to help return it back to the Treasury so the taxpayer isn't on the hook for this kind of thing going forward.

Let me explain this program. The Department of Energy's Advanced Vehicle Technology Manufacturing Loan Program was created in 2007. It was created to provide very low-interest loans to manufacturers that make vehicles or components of vehicles that use alternative energy.

I am not here to downplay the use of alternative energy. I think that is something that is happening throughout our country. Hopefully, it is on a market basis. To qualify for this loan, there were a couple of requirements applicants must meet: No. 1, the vehicle or component must be new or significantly improved from what is currently available in the U.S. marketplace; No. 2, it has to be manufactured in the United States. The purpose of the program, partly, was to encourage manufacturing here—not in China, not somewhere else.

Last month, nearly 10 years since the program's inception, the Government Accountability Office took a look at the program's finances and found that the Department of Energy has billions of unused and unspent funds. I am glad they do because a lot of things that have taken place under this program have not proven to be worth their weight.

I have spoken before on a number of programs, but in 2011, under this fund—the Alternative Vehicle Fund—the Obama administration approved a \$730 million loan to a company called Severstal Steel Company, a Russian-owned company with operations in Michigan.

Remember, to qualify for this loan, the alternative fuel vehicle or vehicle part needs to be manufactured in the United States and—here is the key—it must be a new product. Technically, Severstal was manufacturing in the United States, but the Obama administration certainly walked the line in this case. The U.S. Government was providing American taxpayer dollars to a Russian company owned by one of Russia's richest oligarchs, Alexei Mordashov.

The New York Times has reported that Mr. Mordashov has ties to the Kremlin and to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Apparently, this Russian looked at this program and said: Hey, here is a way I can get a low-cost, low-interest loan. All I have to do is operate this plant and the government will loan me \$750 million and I will produce a new part, a new component of steel that is used in automobile manufacturing.

After working with the Department of Energy's inspector general, Senator TOOMEY and I learned that the type of steel made by this Russian company was identical to the steel already being produced in my home State of Indiana and Senator TOOMEY's home State of Pennsylvania. Obviously, that violated one of the basic criteria in that the product has to be an alternative that is brand new or significantly improved and not something that is already being produced in Indiana.

Fortunately, with the help of the inspector general, we were able to ensure the Obama administration voided the loan. To their credit, when we brought

it to their attention, they said: OK. We have a Russian oligarch we are giving money to—and that doesn't sound very good. We are giving money to this multibillionaire in Russia with close ties to Vladimir Putin. Secondly, we now have learned what they are producing is already produced in the United States—in my State of Indiana and in Senator TOOMEY's State of Pennsylvania. Thus, fortunately, the administration canceled this loan.

This example calls into question the integrity of this program. The ATVM Program also has a lackluster success rate. For example, Fisker Automotive received a \$529 million loan to produce a \$100,000 plug-in hybrid sports car. You will not see any of these on the road because the company went bankrupt after drawing down \$193 million of taxpayer funds.

Another loan recipient, VPG, planned to sell natural gas-powered vans. It went bankrupt after receiving a \$50 million government loan.

Of the five projects funded by this program to date, two of them have gone bankrupt. I think these examples demonstrate what happens when the government tries to pick winners and losers instead of letting the free market determine how we are going to go forward.

The Coats-Fischer-Flake-Toomey amendment that will be offered would wind down this program and it would make much better use of the unspent funds from this program.

I want to be clear. This amendment prohibits DOE from reviewing any new loan applications after the bill's enactment. There are currently some pending applications. We do not address those pending applications. I hope serious evaluation will be made relative to whether they qualify under the criteria that is laid out and we will not end up with any more Severstals.

Those who argue that this shuts down an alternative energy program is not valid. Anything that is now being currently evaluated up through the end of 2020, the next 5 years—will be allowed to go forward and be evaluated under the program. The amendment doesn't take that away.

CBO scored this amendment as saving at least \$300 million over the next 10 years. I have been down here every week talking about a waste of the week. I have just identified another waste of taxpayer dollars. We are not counting that, but we are counting what we can save if this amendment is adopted. It is \$300 million. I think that is a significant amount it raises our waste, fraud, and abuse level to \$162 billion and change.

I encourage my colleagues to work with us so we can offer this amendment. Remember, it does not affect anybody who has a proposal before the Department of Energy under this loan program. If that is underway, it can be

evaluated—hopefully successfully evaluated, and if it doesn't qualify the criteria, won't be accepted. The amendment does not free funds for anything that is not currently before the evaluators of this program.

I trust we can gain the support of my colleagues in saving the taxpayers some dollars.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3811

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we are going to vote on the Hoeven amendment shortly. I rise to speak against that amendment, which would undermine one of our Nation's landmark environmental laws, the Clean Water Act. It is very difficult for me to understand how we could be at this point in time attacking a clean water rule—a clean water rule in light of what has happened in Flint, MI. This is what the water looked like as it came out of the tap in Flint at the height of the crisis. By the way, people were told this was safe. Why on Earth would we be going against the clean water rule at a time when we are fighting against this kind of problem?

This is what the pipes looked like in Flint: the corrosion, the obvious problems with lead. This was all getting right into the drinking water. While we look for ways to help the people of Flint—and I would love to do it on this bill. If we can't do it on this bill, I would love to do it on the WRDA bill. If we can't do it on the WRDA bill, I will do it on any bill. We need to take care of what happened there, and we also need to help other communities from the east coast to the middle of our Nation, to the west coast and help us help our families.

Here we have in the face of Flint an attack on the clean water rule. Let's see what else we have to say and what else we learned about what happened in Flint. Pregnant women, kids cautioned over Jackson water. This is in Mississippi. Jackson, MS, also has a problem with lead. What is our response to that today? To stop a clean water rule. What are my Republican friends thinking? It doesn't make sense.

The Associated Press wrote this: "Elevated lead levels found in Newark schools' drinking water."

Here we are talking about elevated levels of lead in Newark. We have places in California where the kids can't drink the water out of a water fountain. So what is the response of the Republican Senate? Turn back a clean water rule. It makes absolutely no sense.

What we have going on, on the Senate floor, is a very heated debate, as I speak, about how to handle the issue in Flint. Let me tell you this. The first thing to do in the light of Flint is not to weaken environmental law, is not to stop a clean water rule. It is completely ridiculous.

My friends will say: All we are doing is delaying implementation for a year while the court looks at it. We shouldn't be doing anything that plays into the hands of those special interests that simply don't want to clean up the water in our Nation. The clean water standards that are a target of this amendment are designed to safeguard drinking water for America's families and businesses.

This dangerous amendment rolls back protections of small streams and wetlands that provide drinking water to one in three Americans. That is 117 million people put at risk because this U.S. Senate, run by the Republicans, thinks the best thing to do in the light of Flint is to roll back the Clean Water Act. Come on. Get a life. Read the paper. Look at what happened to those people. This is the time to provide reliable drinking water to all Americans and to clean up our waterways. Now is not the time—and it should not be the time—to attack the Clean Water Act, which is vital to the health and safety of our families.

I want to mention that I have received opposition to the Hoeven amendment from numerous sportsmen's groups, including Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, International Federation of Fly Fishers, National Wildlife Federation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and Trout Unlimited. These groups understand the important link between clean water and the outdoor recreation economy. When you go right after the clean water rule, you are going after the people who enjoy outdoor recreation, and they are against the Hoeven amendment.

Leading environmental and conservation groups oppose the amendment, including American Rivers, Clean Water Action, Earthjustice, Earthworks, Environment America, Environmental Defense Fund, League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, Prairie Rivers Network, Sierra Club, and Southern Environmental Law Center. These are some of the most popular groups in the country.

Does anyone know what the rating of this Republican Congress was in the last polls I saw? It was 14 percent.

Do you know what the rating of the President was in the last poll I saw? Over 50.

So what does the Republican Senate do today? They are going after the President with their 14-percent rating in the polls. I say to my friends on the other side—and believe me, they are

my friends: What are you doing? How do you expect people to support you when you, after seeing what happened in Flint, continue to go after landmark environmental clean water laws like you are doing today?

In addition, public health groups, including the American Public Health Association, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Trust for America's Health, have opposed similar legislation to block this important rule, and 200,000 businesses represented by the American Sustainable Business Council have called on Senators to oppose efforts to block the clean water rule. These experts understand the importance of the clean water rule, and they know that our drinking water remains vulnerable to pollution.

Just last month, EPA released a report showing that nearly half of U.S. waterways are in poor condition. In fact, one in four waterways have levels of bacteria that fail to meet human health standards, and our children go swimming in these very waterways. We have cities across the United States with sewer systems that discharge raw, untreated sewage in waterways—again, where our children swim. It is a disgrace. Despite enormous successes since passage of the Clean Water Act, we have more work to do. Nothing is more important than protecting the lives of the American people, whether it is through our military or through our public health laws. When we weaken the Clean Water Act, as the Hoeven amendment will do, we put our families and our children at risk. Why are we here?

Flint has put a spotlight on the need to keep our families safe from toxins and pollutants in their drinking water. The first thing the Republicans do in light of Flint is to try to roll back the clean water rule.

I have to say that one of my deepest regrets—and I have written about it—is how partisan this place has become over environmental laws. When I started a long time ago, Republicans were the ones leading the way on the environment. I remember there was a Republican State senator named Peter Behr, whom I supported because he understood how critical it was to protect and defend the environment, not only as a legacy to our children in terms of the beauty of our planet but also for the very health and safety of our families.

I have been in office for 40 years. It is hard to believe that it has been 40 years. I guess time flies when you like your work. The fact is that no one has ever come up to me and said: BARBARA, our water and air is too pure and way too clean. You need to do something about that. You need to dirty it up. Repeal the landmark laws, BARBARA, that protect our water.

They don't do that. They come up and say: We are worried about the fact

that we are not sure what contaminants are in our water.

I see my good friend is going to close out the debate, and I promised him that when he came to the floor, he wouldn't have to listen too long.

I say again: Please vote against the Hoeven amendment. This is not smart legislation in light of what we face.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I will yield the floor to the good Senator from Michigan for a minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I wanted to make a quick statement about an amendment that will come up for consideration on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, of course I support my friend from Michigan, but we need to quickly move to a vote on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I wanted to quickly take a moment to speak about the vehicle program from two sides. When I authored this legislation back in 2007, we began to see fuel economy standards increase in the United States. Part of our focus at that time was to keep jobs in America and make sure we had low-cost financing available for companies, such as retool plants, so that smaller, fuel-efficient vehicles would be made in the United States rather than have those jobs shipped overseas. We saw that with the initial loan made to Ford Motor Company. They were able to bring jobs back from Mexico and also focus on electric vehicles.

As we fast forward to today, we are looking at fuel economy for trucks and larger vehicles. A loan was recently made to Alcoa. They are focused on aluminum materials so companies can make lighter weight trucks in order to meet new fuel economy standards. There are positives, but there are also areas under this loan program that have not been successful.

I come to the floor to specifically say that when it is time to consider the Coats amendment, which will completely eliminate this program, my colleagues need to know that we are undercutting a carefully crafted bipartisan compromise with Senator INHOFE, Senator PORTMAN, and others to move forward on a water infrastructure plan to deal with lead in water that will not



only help 100,000 people in the city of Flint, but it will also help people in Jackson, MS, Cleveland, OH, and other States across the country.

Our proposal responsibly phases out this program and uses the funds for critical water infrastructure needs. We strongly oppose pulling the rug out from under not only Flint but also Jackson, MS, Cleveland, OH, and communities across the country that are counting on us to come together and pass what we have done in a bipartisan way to address critical water infrastructure needs and deal with the lead poisoning issues.

I ask colleagues to vote no on the Coats amendment and allow us to phase out this program in a way so that we will be able to use this investment in a critical way to address water infrastructure needs across the country.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I am willing to yield to the junior Senator from Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I concur with my colleague from Michigan, Senator STABENOW. We urge our colleagues to vote no on the Coats amendment. This is part of a very carefully crafted amendment to deal with water infrastructure around the country, and in particular Flint.

I think this will be a win-win for those folks who may want to see this program go away. We have a plan to do that while also dealing with an incredibly important issue not only for our State but that is also incredibly important to other States across the country.

I urge a "no" vote.

I thank the Senator for yielding the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

AMENDMENT NO. 3811

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support an amendment I offered, amendment No. 3811, that prevents the EPA and the Corps of Engineers from implementing its Waters of the United States final rule. The language for my amendment is actually identical to the waters of the United States provision in the underlying bill. It is already in the bill, H.R. 2028, which we are considering right now. My amendment will make sure that this Waters of the United States provision stays in the bill and that our bill is consistent with legislation supported by the House.

It is critical to preserve the prohibition on implementing the waters of the United States because this rule will greatly expand the scope of EPA regulations over nearly every water in the United States, threatening farmers and

job creators with permitting requirements and litigation that will make it more difficult for them to produce our Nation's food and complete needed construction projects.

Moreover, this regulatory overreach by the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA is inconsistent with the law. Let's look at what the courts are saying. When granting a preliminary injunction against this rule, the North Dakota Federal District Court stated:

The Rule allows EPA regulation of waters that do not bear any effect on the "chemical, physical and biological integrity" of any navigable-in-fact water.

It went on further to state:

The rule asserts jurisdiction over waters that are remote and intermittent waters. No evidence actually points to how these intermittent and remote wetlands have any nexus to navigable-in-fact water.

That is the key. EPA has jurisdiction over navigable bodies of water, not ephemeral water that might be in a ditch today and gone tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a nationwide stay of the rule, in Cincinnati, citing that EPA and the Corps of Engineers did not identify "specific scientific support substantiating the reasonableness of the bright-line standards they ultimately chose."

To get a sense of the size of the Federal power grab we are talking about here, consider that under the administration's final rule, all water located within 4,000 feet of any other water or within the 100-year floodplain is considered a water of the United States as long as the EPA or the Army Corps of Engineers decides that it has "significant nexus." That is the argument the EPA is making—"significant nexus." They are saying: Well, we can regulate navigable bodies of water. They just decided, without statutory authority provided by this Congress or any other authority, that because other waters run into navigable bodies, they can regulate all water, and they have issued a regulation to do that.

The Waters of the United States is clearly flawed from a legal perspective, but it is even more important to take a look at how this rule, if implemented, affects hard-working Americans with excessive regulations. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to visit with a farmer from my State or any farmers across this country, do so. They will tell you how difficult it is to deal with excess water on their property, particularly when they face an overbearing regulation like this one. Those farmers can tell you that just because there is water in a ditch or field one week doesn't mean that there will be water there next week. It certainly doesn't make the water worthy of being treated the same as a river, a lake, or a navigable body of water. A field with a low spot that has standing water—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask that the Members of this body not only consider the underlying issue and the impact it will have on farmers and ranchers. It will also affect everybody's private property rights. I also ask my colleagues to consider their own prerogative. Under our Constitution we have legislative, judicial, and executive branches, and each has its own authority. We have to stand up on this one when an agency overreaches and takes statutory authority we have not provided.

I ask that Members join with me in support of this vitally important amendment.

With that, I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following locking in the votes, the Senator from California have an opportunity to speak and then that we move to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to call up the following amendments: Franken amendment No. 3833, Coats amendment No. 3814, and Murray amendment No. 3813; further, that following the disposition of the Hoeven amendment No. 3811, the Senate vote on the Coats amendment No. 3814, with a 60-affirmative-vote threshold for adoption of the amendment; and that at 1:45 p.m. today, the Senate vote on the Franken amendment No. 3833; finally, that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25, the Senate vote on the Murray amendment No. 3813, with no second-degree amendments in order to any of the amendments prior to the votes, and that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote.

May I say before the Senator from California speaks, I see the Senators from Michigan are here and the Senator from Indiana. I wish to thank the three of them for working with Senator FEINSTEIN and me toward the goal of making sure that Senators who have a germane amendment have the opportunity to have an up-or-down vote. If we are able to follow that practice generally, we will be able to have an appropriations process and the Senate will function well. They all responded quickly and promptly on issues they feel very strongly about, and I thank them for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

AMENDMENT NO. 3811

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I want to say a few words.

The junior Senator from California has been speaking in opposition to the Waters of the United States amendment sponsored by Senator HOEVEN. I just want to put before the body a little bit of the history.

In 2006 the Supreme Court introduced real uncertainty regarding which wetlands and water bodies were subject to Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. Since 2006 the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working on new rules to clarify their jurisdiction and address the Supreme Court's ruling.

EPA and the Army Corps just finalized the new rule last May. This new rule helps resolve almost a decade of confusion by clearly stating which types of water bodies are subject to Federal jurisdiction and which are not. It will make Federal permitting easier, faster, and less costly for business and industry. It maintains all previous exemptions and exclusions for normal farming and ranching practices and agricultural discharges, such as irrigation return flow and storm water runoff.

Nevertheless, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has issued a stay suspending implementation of the rule. I strongly believe we should let the courts decide whether the executive branch has overreached in its interpretation of congressional statute, just like the Constitution calls for.

The President has threatened to veto the entire Energy and Water appropriations bill if this amendment is included in it. Right now, we have the best opportunity in 7 years to pass this bill as a stand-alone piece of legislation and get the Senate appropriations process working again.

So I am very hopeful and would strongly recommend that the Senate defeat the Hoeven amendment.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Hoeven amendment No. 3811.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heitkamp	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Corker	Johnson	Sessions
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Daines	Manchin	Tillis
Donnelly	McCain	Toomey
Enzi	McCaskill	Vitter
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Franken	Nelson
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Collins	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz  
Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, in a moment Senator COATS will call up his amendment, the Coats and Toomey amendment.

I want to thank the Michigan Senators and others for making the schedule work today. For the information of all Senators, after the Coats amendment, the next vote will be at 1:45 p.m. on the Franken amendment. That will be the last vote today.

The next vote will be on the Murray amendment on Monday afternoon.

Senators and their staffs have been very good about getting their amendments in. We think we have all the amendments. We have asked to have them by 1 p.m. so we could by consensus finish up on Monday and Tuesday, giving everybody a chance to have their vote if it is a germane amendment and to speak on the germane amendments.

My request on behalf of Senator FEINSTEIN and me is that if there are any amendments still out there, we would like to have them by 1 o'clock.

AMENDMENT NO. 3814 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 3814, to be offered by the Senator from Indiana, Mr. COATS.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3814.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] proposes an amendment numbered 3814 to amendment No. 3801.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To limit the use of funds made available for the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program)

On page 30, line 9, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used to administer, review, or approve any loan or loan application that was not submitted as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, that none of the funds available to the Secretary of Energy to provide any credit subsidy under subsection (d) of section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be obligated for new loan commitments under that subsection on or after October 1, 2020.”

Mr. COATS. Madam President, 205 loans issued by the Department of Energy under the alternative vehicle program have failed, costing taxpayers \$500 million in losses. DOE currently sits on \$4 billion of unused money. It is time to wind down this program. This will not affect any proposals that are currently with the Department of Energy on this program, but it will prevent any new programs going forward.

We can save the taxpayers a lot of money and use this for other alternatives if we adopt this amendment.

I yield the remainder of my time to the Senator from Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, this is exactly the kind of program our constituents hate. It is the crony capitalism where taxpayers are forced to subsidize preferred companies, special interests. How many hundreds of millions of dollars do taxpayers have to lose?

I understand there is some discussion that maybe on some bill in the future, this will get phased out as part of another deal, but who knows if that is ever going to happen. Here is a chance to wipe out some crony capitalism, some corporate welfare, and a huge loss for taxpayers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. TOOMEY. Let's adopt this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I would certainly urge all of my colleagues to oppose the Coats amendment. What this does is eliminate a program that basically pays for a very carefully crafted agreement on which we are working to deal with the Flint water issue, as well as water infrastructure issues all across this country. This is part of the proposal Senator STABENOW and I have been working on and have been building support.

We are looking to move to this very shortly to deal with this broad issue. A vote against this amendment allows us to continue to move forward with a bipartisan plan, critical for our whole country.

I yield my remaining time to the senior Senator from Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, the bottom line is that we have developed a bipartisan bill that phases out this program in a responsible way for the businesses that are currently involved and uses that to pay for water infrastructure needs across the country, not only in Flint but in Jackson, MI, and Cleveland, OH—across the country.

So we can achieve what the Senators are talking about in a way that helps us with water infrastructure.

I urge a “no” vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3814.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 58 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Cochran	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Isakson	Scott
Corker	Johnson	Sessions
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Daines	McCain	Tillis
Enzi	McCaskill	Toomey
Ernst	McConnell	Vitter
Fischer	Moran	Wicker

NAYS—49

Alexander	Cassidy	Kaine
Baldwin	Cooms	King
Bennet	Donnelly	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Durbin	Leahy
Booker	Feinstein	Manchin
Boxer	Franken	Markey
Brown	Gillibrand	Menendez
Cantwell	Heinrich	Merkley
Cardin	Heitkamp	Mikulski
Carper	Heller	Murkowski
Casey	Hirono	Murphy

Murray	Schatz	Warner
Nelson	Schumer	Warren
Peters	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Portman	Stabenow	Wyden
Reed	Tester	
	Udall	

NOT VOTING—3

Blunt	Cruz	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The Senator from Arizona.

TRIBUTE TO SANDY LEDY

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Sandy Ledy, a dedicated Senate staff member who will retire after more than two decades of public service in my office.

Soon after being elected to the Senate in 1994, Senator John Kyl was wise enough to offer Sandy—a standout campaign volunteer—a job on his new staff. Sandy was given two options: She could work as a staffer in Washington, DC, or she could serve in Arizona and serve as John Kyl’s military case worker. Sandy knew she couldn’t pass up an opportunity to serve those who serve our Nation. It was an easy decision for Sandy and a fortuitous one for Arizona’s military servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Sandy’s genuine passion for our military service men and women, combined with her meticulous approach to her work, has made her an invaluable staffer. Sandy is well-versed in all things military, from regulations, to benefits, to the service academies. Her vast knowledge has ensured that Arizona’s military service men and women have had nothing but the best assistance for more than the past two decades.

Her reputation preceded her, and when I was elected as Senator in 2012, I had an easy decision of my own—offering Sandy a job on my staff. Thankfully, she said yes.

Sandy is probably best known around the State as the point person for service academy nominations. Her understanding of that process and what it takes for a student to be an excellent nominee has helped so many students fulfill their dreams of attending one of our prestigious service academies. Her focus on preparation and attention to detail has turned what can be a very daunting task into a seamless production, resulting in countless nominations and appointments to the service academies.

While we all marvel at Sandy’s meticulousness, it is her compassion and calm demeanor that make her such an asset. This is never more evident than when she is working with students and parents in the long and complicated process of applying to attend one of these service academies.

Beyond her work on behalf of the military, she is an active and cherished member of her community in Cave Creek, AZ. She is a member of her

church choir, a regular volunteer at the Cave Creek Museum, and a long-time swim coach, sometimes judging local meets. But there is no better testament to Sandy’s example as a public servant than her two children, Amy and Joe. Amy is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy who herself recently retired after a career in the military. Joe served in the U.S. Marine Corps. They have made her the proud grandmother of three, and she is looking forward to spending a well-deserved retirement looking after those grandkids.

Sandy, thank you for more than 20 years of dedicated public service in the Senate and, in particular, for the 4 years of stellar service as a member of my staff. Your knowledge and passion will be greatly missed. I wish you well in your retirement.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am on the floor with my colleague Senator PORTMAN to join him in urging the House to take prompt action on the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which passed with such a stunning bipartisan vote in the Senate.

As Senator PORTMAN has pointed out, years of careful preparation went into the drafting of this bill. There were five separate national hearings held in Washington with people from all over the country. This is a very polished and carefully developed piece of legislative work that has the support not only of the addiction and recovery community but of the law enforcement community and many others.

Senator PORTMAN has been very diligent about coming to the floor to press for action from the House of Representatives. My view is that since the House of Representatives is under Republican control, they are more likely to be attentive to the urgings of a Republican Senator—particularly one who has served in the House of Representatives—than they are to me.

But I want to make sure the record is clear that I fully support rapid passage of this bill, whether it is something that is close enough that we can quickly get it through conference or whether it is our bill, to which they are free to add things as they wish over time, but can get to the President now—the reason I think it is important that it get to the President now is we are in the appropriations process. The appropriators for these accounts need to know what they are appropriating to. So time is of the essence, not just because of the lives that are being lost day-to-day and month-to-month out there but also because our appropriators need to know.

I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives, Democrats and Republicans alike, to listen to the distinguished Senator from Ohio. Let's try to get this done.

With that, I yield to Senator PORTMAN with my thanks and appreciation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. First, Madam President, I want to thank my colleague from Rhode Island who just spoke. We did work together for the past few years in putting together this legislation, and we did it, by the way, with the House of Representatives. So Senator WHITEHOUSE and I took good ideas wherever we could find them, in whatever part of the country it came from, including ideas from the House of Representatives. We didn't ask who had the idea; we asked whether it was a good idea. We kept this entirely non-partisan, not just bipartisan. Therefore, we built something that makes sense for our communities back home to deal with this epidemic of prescription drug and heroin addiction and overdoses.

I appreciate his partnership in this, and I appreciate the fact that he came to the floor today to talk about the importance of moving ahead with this legislation. After all, it is very rare around here to get a 94-to-1 vote on anything, and we did it on this bill. After 2½ weeks on the floor of the Senate talking about this heroin and prescription drug epidemic, every single Senator here realized this was a problem in their States, and 94 Senators stood up and agreed this legislation will help address it.

By the way, since we passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, as it is called, on March 10 in the Senate, 42 days have passed. That is more than a month. Every day, we lose about 120 Americans—120 Americans—to drug overdoses. That means in these 42 days we have lost over 5,000 fellow American citizens to drug overdoses. Think about that.

I do urge the House to act and act quickly. These numbers keep getting higher and higher. This is not getting better. Back in Ohio, this is getting worse, and I assume the same is true in your State, if you are a Senator or if you are a Member of the House of Representatives in your district.

Since 2007, we have looked at these numbers, and drug overdoses have killed more Ohioans than car accidents. It is now the No. 1 cause of accidental death in Ohio. It has tripled from 1999 to 2010. We are now told, by the way, that 200,000 Ohioans are addicted to opioids—opioids are prescription drugs—and heroin—200,000 Ohioans. That is the size of a significant city in any State represented here in this body or any district on the other side.

In fact, it is the same size as the city of Akron, OH, where I was on Monday of this week, meeting with their opioid task force. They are alarmed at what is happening, and they want to be sure we are making every possible effort we can on the prevention side, the education side, to get more people into treatment, to get them into longer term recovery, to provide police officers and other first responders with Narcan, the miracle drug they need to stop overdoses from turning into a death. They want our help. They support the CARA legislation. They need it, and they need it now.

The Cincinnati Enquirer had some really troubling news last week. They wrote a story about a new poll that is out. It is a group called Interact for Health. They do an annual Ohio health issues poll. They found in the poll in 2014 that 2 of every 10 Ohioans knew someone who was abusing prescription drugs. A year later, it is 3 in 10, so this is not getting better. This is getting worse. By the way, this is just prescription drugs. And by the way, of the 3 in 10 who knew somebody who is abusing prescription drugs, 4 in 10—4 in 10—knew somebody who had overdosed on those prescription drugs. So these percentages are increasing across the board—every age group, every education level, every income level. There is no demographic, no ZIP Code, no State, no city, and no county that is safe from this epidemic. It is spreading, and it is spreading everywhere.

This poll is another indication that we have a lot of work to do. This should be a motivation for us. This should get us to pass this legislation. And, yes, can we work on additional legislation? Of course, we can and should. I am encouraged that the House is taking up new bills and looking at this in different ways. That is good. But we know here in the Senate and over in the House that this CARA legislation will help and will help now.

By the way, there are over 120 cosponsors of the CARA legislation in the House. Not only did we work with them and introduce identical legislation in the House and the Senate, anticipating this day when we could pass it in one House, but we wanted to pass it quickly in the other House and get it to the President for his signature. There are over 120 cosponsors over there. It is bipartisan.

Think of the impact we could have on the community if we could get this passed. If we could turn around just one life, it matters, and we know this can save many lives and make many people begin to look at this issue differently—that this is a disease. Addiction is a disease and needs to be treated as such. Removing some of that stigma alone will bring a lot more people into treatment, and that is part of what is important about this legislation.

There is another issue that is not prescription drugs, and it is not heroin, but it is another issue related to it, and that is fentanyl. Fentanyl is being laced with heroin throughout the country. In Cleveland, OH, a couple of weeks ago, we lost 12 people—12 people—in 6 days to overdoses. That is one city. This was heroin, but it was laced with this even more dangerous toxic substance called fentanyl. By the way, it comes in the mail. The drug dealers are shipping it in the mail.

Fentanyl is so toxic—10 to 30 to 40 times more toxic than heroin—that it is dangerous even to open up the mail if you are an inspector, we are told. We had a hearing on this just this week. We talked to the Customs and Border Patrol people: Our question was, Why can't we stop this stuff from coming in? This, unfortunately, is something that is also increasing. Ohio, they say, is one of the top States in the country in terms of fentanyl overdoses. But I will tell those who have not dealt with this fentanyl issue yet that it creates even more issues because it is so deadly.

After 3 years of work on this CARA legislation, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I and others, including Senators on both sides of the aisle—we did hold five forums, as he said, on various aspects of this debate. We consulted with the experts on treatment and recovery, the experts who are focused on how to keep kids and other people from making these bad decisions in the prevention and the education community. We met with the drug experts from the administration, such as the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. We brought in people from all over the country, including from my home State of Ohio.

This is the third time I have come to the floor. I have come once every week that we have been in session since we passed it to say to the House: Let's move on CARA. Let's get it done. It will help immediately.

The majority leader in the House has said he wants the House to take on the drug epidemic and pass legislation soon. I believe him. He is a good man. I appreciate that. But I would ask him again to please work on the other legislation. It is fine to take them through hearings and markups, but we cannot delay. We know CARA will work, and it will work now. It is sitting over there and ready for action. It can be taken to the floor immediately under suspension and can be passed. We are one vote away from having this go to the President and having it go to help in our communities.

The chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, FRED UPTON, who is a good friend and a man with a big heart and cares about this issue, has said he would like the House to move quickly with, as he said, an "all hands on deck effort." Good for him.

One of his subcommittees, the Health Subcommittee, recently marked up a dozen bills. This happened yesterday; they marked up 12 bills. Look at those bills. A number of them are actually a part of CARA already. They are in CARA. They are smaller bills. None of them is comprehensive, like CARA.

One reason we have to get CARA passed is this is a problem that has to be addressed from all angles, from all sectors, and that is why it has to be comprehensive. But of those 12 bills that were marked up yesterday, many of them are identical, and others are very similar to the CARA legislation. So this shouldn't slow us down. In fact, it is even more an indication that if these are the kinds of bills the House thinks are the right way to go, let's get CARA passed and then we can work on the other legislative ideas Members may have.

I respect my colleagues—Chairman UPTON, the majority leader over there, and Chairman Pence, the chairman of the subcommittee and also a guy who cares a lot about this issue—but let's give CARA a vote. There are 125 co-sponsors. That is the latest number I have as of this morning, and the number keeps growing. It is bipartisan, it is bicameral, and it is the right thing to do.

Again, I know there are other ideas out there, and that is fine. We need to take those up as well. But let's go ahead and get this passed. Put it under suspension, and take it to the floor. It will pass. We are one vote away from having this help our communities.

CARA is not just comprehensive; it does the right thing in terms of focusing on what is evidence based. In other words, we didn't just say "Let's throw more money at this problem," we said "Let's actually find out what is working and what is not working."

I was in Dayton, OH, with a group called Project C.U.R.E. on Friday. I had the chance to visit with some of the administrators there, some of the recovery coaches, as they call themselves, many of whom, by the way, are recovering themselves. They are doing an amazing job. I talked to many of the patients who were there. They are people who are recovering addicts. Some have been clean for 2 weeks, some clean for 2 years. But I asked them the same question I ask all over our State: What works? What doesn't work? How did this happen?

Most of them, by the way, told me the same story you hear time and again: It started with prescription drugs. In fact, one story was from a man by the name of Anthony. He dropped out of high school at age 14, got into drugs, and made some mistakes in his life, which he readily acknowledges. He ended up in prison. He said he had eight convictions and was in and out of prison, in and out of the drug world. He decided to go straight.

He made a decision. For him, a lot of it was faith based and a lot was being sure he was going to be able to take care of his family and be a contributing member of his community, so he gave back.

Anthony had a good job, had gotten married, and was on the right track. He was on his way to work one day, and he was in a car accident. For those experts who are listening to this today, you probably know what happened. I don't even have to tell you. When he got in the car accident, he was injured. They sent him to the hospital. What did they give him at the hospital? Narcotic pain pills, Percocet, prescription drugs.

Immediately—immediately—Anthony became addicted again. He is now struggling, but he is back at the treatment center. He is getting his life back together again. But in the meantime he has lost his family because the drugs became everything. He lost his job because the drugs became everything.

We talk a lot about the overdoses, and they are horrible—120 Americans a day. We don't talk enough about those who aren't overdosing but who have lost their ability to achieve their own God-given purpose in life because the drugs are everything. So they have lost their families—torn apart. They have lost their jobs. They have lost their ability to be contributing members of our society. And those people who get into treatment and longer term recovery, as Anthony is doing, can turn their lives around. There is hope. It can work.

Anthony is back for a second chance. Having talked to him, I believe he is not just on the right track but he will work through this. This legislation is needed to help him.

When I do meet with recovering addicts, I ask them to look at the legislation, look at the summaries, and tell me what they think. What they tell me is they like it because they are convinced it would help others to have the access to treatment they have. Probably only 1 out of 10 of those people who are addicted are getting treatment. That is the best number I have. Maybe it is a little higher than that in your State or congressional district, but this is an issue where, if we provide more resources for treatment and begin to remove that stigma around treatment and get more people into a system where they can begin to get their lives back together with treatment, we know that works.

Our legislation supports veterans task forces and veterans courts because we know this will help with our veterans who are coming back with PTSD, 20 percent of whom have this addiction. People say it is self-medicating. They have self-medicated to the point that they are now addicts. We need to put them not into a prison cell but into a

treatment program. That is what these veterans courts do, and they surround these veterans with other veterans. They do an awesome job. I have been to them in Ohio. You have them probably in your State. If you don't, this legislation will help because it creates more veterans courts.

We have talked on the floor before about the fact that there has been a huge increase—a 750 percent increase in the State of Ohio—in babies born with addiction. That is just in the last 12 years in Ohio. Go to any neonatal unit in your State or congressional district, and you will see these babies. They are being lovingly cared for by doctors and nurses. They are taking these addicted babies you could hold in the palm of your hand, and they are literally taking them through withdrawal. They have to because these babies are addicted and showing the symptoms you might see in an adult of addiction.

We don't know what the long-term consequences are. We are having a hearing on this tomorrow in Cleveland, OH, at one of our great hospitals—University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. It is one of the best children's hospitals in the country. Their neonatal unit is doing awesome work. I have been there and seen it. We are going to talk to the experts about this and how we can do even better to help these babies. But wouldn't it be great if we didn't have so many babies born with addiction because mothers, knowing the consequences, dealt with their addiction problem to avoid it through prevention and education efforts? Wouldn't it be great if we didn't have this 750-percent increase in children whose futures are uncertain because of being born with this addiction?

Again, there is hope. I have been to a women's recovery center in Cleveland and Columbus and also in Eastern Ohio and Athens, OH, where I have met with women in long-term recovery with drug addiction. They are there with their kids. There is hope.

With this legislation, we do have the ability to give people more hope. Getting rid of that stigma, not judging people, is part of beating this epidemic, and CARA will do that by treating addiction like a disease.

There is an opportunity for us to move, and move quickly, to address this growing crisis we have in our States and our communities; that is, to pass this CARA legislation. Is it all we should do? No. Of course we should do more. I know the House of Representatives will have some great ideas. I know there are some great ideas in this body. The HELP Committee is working on additional ideas on how to get more medicine into this area of addiction, science, and treatment. They are working on ways to ensure that we can provide more help to people. That is great,

and we should continue to work on that.

Meanwhile, we know this legislation will help. We know that if it is sitting on the desk in the House of Representatives, having passed the Senate by a 94-to-1 vote, it is not going to help. But we know if it can get off the desk and onto the floor for a vote, we are one vote away from getting it to our communities to begin to help, to keep people from making the wrong decision—but then if they get into a drug addiction, it can help them to be able to turn their lives around and to achieve their potential in life, their God-given potential.

That is what this argument is about. It is not about the fact that the Senate has all the answers. By the way, we wrote this legislation with the House. They were engaged from the start. We introduced identical bills and they had 125 cosponsors. All we are saying is, let's let this one piece of legislation go, let's allow it to begin to help right away, and then let's continue to work on other ideas.

Again, we have lost nearly 5,000 Americans to drug overdoses since the Senate passed CARA with a 94-to-1 vote. To begin to reverse this tide—this trend of addiction, of overdoses—we can and should act now. It is urgent. There is a crisis. There is no time to waste.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I wish to thank my friend for his comments about addiction. I agree with the Senator from Ohio, talking about the victims from Ohio. I can assure him we have victims in Virginia and all across the country, and we need to get this legislation to the President's desk so people who are hurt by the scourge of drugs can get the treatment they need. Again, I thank him for his leadership.

#### NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Madam President, I rise to again express my disappointment that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have continued to obstruct consideration of an eminently qualified candidate to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

It has now been 36 days since President Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland; that is, 36 days that our highest Court has been relegated to falling short of its full constitutional obligations. Make no mistake. The Senate's inaction is already having a tangible impact on the Court's ability to function effectively. During the current session, we have seen our eight current Justices end up in a 4-to-4 deadlock in three separate cases since Justice Scalia's passing—effectively muting the Court's voice in consequential judicial proceedings.

President Reagan himself said: "Every day that passes with a Supreme

Court below full strength impairs the people's business in that crucially important body."

More recently, retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor put it quite simply, as she always does. She said: "I think we need somebody there now to do the job, and let's get on with it."

Indeed, the Supreme Court has granted only three cases since Justice Scalia died—a number experts say is extraordinarily low and an indication that the eight sitting Justices are acutely aware of the precarious position the Court is in with a vacancy.

Many Senators apparently believe that President Obama shouldn't be able to make appointments under article II because he is in the last year of his term. The record shows there is nothing in the Constitution that says the President is only President for 3 of the 4 years of his or her term. I don't understand that reasoning. Under that reasoning, any of those same Senators who have made that argument shouldn't be voting on any bill that comes before this body in the last year of their Senate term. If we continue with that rationale, the President's office and the Senate would lead to further dysfunction. Quite honestly, that logic is beyond the pale.

It is clear as well that the American people expect us to do our job. Recent polls show that by a 2-to-1 margin Americans want the Senate to hold hearings and vote on Judge Garland's nomination. That is why I remain so perplexed by the logical contortions that many of my colleagues are undertaking to justify their obstruction and quite honestly their failure to do their job.

I had the chance to meet with Judge Garland last week. His qualifications and dedication to public service are beyond reproach. He has received strong bipartisan support in the past, but what also stood out to me are his measured view of the role of the judiciary, his strong record on national security, and commitment to keeping our country safe.

This past Tuesday marked the 21st anniversary of the bombing of a Federal building in Oklahoma City. On that tragic day in 1995, 168 people, including 19 children, lost their lives. To this day, the Oklahoma City bombing remains the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in our Nation's history.

Judge Garland at that time was Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. He was the guy who led the criminal investigation and supervised the prosecution of the bombers. Merrick Garland fought for justice for the victims and the families in Oklahoma City. Through his tireless efforts, deep understanding of the law, and attention to detail, he ensured that the prosecution had an airtight case. Ultimately, both bombers were successfully convicted.

This is the highest profile instance in which Judge Garland exhibited his commitment to making and keeping our country safe, but it is far from the only one. In my meeting with him, it was clear that the safety and security of our citizens is an issue that quite honestly keeps him up at night.

What also stands out about my conversation with Judge Garland is his sense of humility. Our conversation and his judicial record demonstrate to me that he is a moderate, thoughtful, consensus candidate. As Judge Garland said in the Rose Garden on the day he was nominated:

People must be confident that a judge's decisions are determined by the law and only the law. For a judge to be worthy of such trust, he or she must be faithful to the Constitution, and to the statutes passed by Congress.

He or she must put aside his personal views or preferences and follow the law; not make it. Fidelity to the Constitution and the law has been the cornerstone of my professional life, and is the hallmark of the kind of judge I have tried to be for the past 18 years.

These are not the words nor the track record of a judicial activist. In my opinion, this is the kind of judge that Merrick Garland has been: not a judicial activist but someone who recognizes the important role and the important balance between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

I am encouraged that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have at least begun to give Judge Garland the courtesy of a meeting, but meetings alone are not sufficient. The American people deserve the opportunity to hear Judge Garland's qualifications debated in a public hearing in the Judiciary Committee, and they deserve an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. That is all we ask.

I again urge my colleagues to give Judge Garland the consideration other nominees have received. At the end of the day, if they choose to vote against him, that is their right, but the idea that somehow they are interpreting the Constitution to say that in the last year of a Presidency a qualified judge should not even receive consideration of a hearing and a vote is quite honestly beyond the pale.

Too often these debates end up going on and become extraordinarily complicated. In many ways, what I hear from Virginians—regardless of whether they want me to support Judge Garland—is a very simple message: Do your job. In the coming days and weeks, I hope the Senate will do its job and give Judge Garland the consideration of a hearing before the Judiciary Committee and then take up this eminently qualified jurist's nomination on the floor and give him the vote he deserves.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I rise to recognize the importance of the signing of the Paris Agreement.

Tomorrow marks the 46th anniversary of Earth Day—the first Earth Day—the Earth Day that occurred when I was in seventh grade. My seventh grade teacher made a point of making sure all the students were aware of it. They made sure we had a chance to do a field trip to the community college to learn about some of the issues related to stewardship of the planet.

It is a day to appreciate the extraordinary beauty of our blue-green planet but also to recognize, to remind ourselves of the fact that we have a huge responsibility to be good stewards of the wonderful planet we have.

It was Theodore Roosevelt who said that “our greatest central task [is] leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.” That is the definition of stewardship, and that is what Earth Day is all about. This is why it is so fitting that tomorrow, on Earth Day, America will join other nations in signing the Paris Agreement.

This international climate accord is a tremendous step forward. It makes clear the world recognizes that global warming is a very significant and grave concern facing human civilization on this planet. It is, indeed, the moral challenge of our generation.

I am proud and inspired by the global community’s unprecedented commitment to avert global warming, to avert a climate crisis. We know what the stakes are. We don’t need computer models to look 50 years into the future because the impacts are here today. We see it in our own communities. We see it in our own States. We see it through the impact of droughts, the impact of wildfires, the impact of heat waves, the storms, the hurricanes, the tornadoes. We see it through story after story of this year or this month being the warmest ever recorded by humans. These events have profound costs that can be measured in lost lives, lost homes, lost businesses, billions of dollars in disaster relief.

It is important to understand that global warming’s major assault is on our rural communities, on our farming, our fishing, and our forestry. You can see it across the world. You can see it across the country. You can see it just inside my home State of Oregon. We have had significant droughts greatly impacting our agricultural community in my State.

We have had a loss of snowpack in the Cascades, a trend over decades im-

pairing the availability of water for irrigation in farming. We have seen the impact on fishing, with streams that are warmer and smaller than they were in the past. We have seen it on our oyster population on the coast, where now the oysters are having trouble reproducing because the Pacific Ocean is 30 percent more acidic than it was before we started burning fossil fuels on this planet. That greater acidity is affecting the ability of baby oysters to form shells. That should frighten us all—the ability of shellfish to form shells being threatened.

It is hard to imagine that we have burned enough fossil fuels to actually impact the acidity of the oceans. But we have, and the problem is getting worse. We see the impact on our forests. We see it in my home State of Oregon through the red zone. That is the term given to the vast swaths of forests that have been killed by pine beetles because the winters now are not cold enough to kill off the pine beetle. So the infestations are much more aggressive, much more widespread.

We see the impact on our forests from more vigorous wildfires and a longer forest fire season—a season that has grown by 60 days over 40 years. That is 2 months. In fact, we have even had forest fires in Oregon in the month of January. It is a huge loss, a huge impact on the ecosystem, and a huge impact on the economy.

If you care about rural America and our farming, our fishing, and our forestry, you must care about carbon pollution and global warming. Scientists agree that we must keep the warming of our planet under 2 degrees Celsius in order to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change—impacts much worse than what we are seeing now. But we have already warmed the planet by 1 degree. So we are halfway toward that boundary, which is why an important component of the Paris agreement is not just the substance of the agreement itself but also a compact that the international community will revisit every 5 years, because the measures taken in the Paris agreement are not enough to fend off catastrophe.

What they do represent is virtually every nation in the world coming together and saying we understand the challenge to our planet, and we understand that we must be part of the solution. To have more heads of state come together in December for the Paris agreement than at any other time in human history is very impressive. But the commitments made, even if they are fully fulfilled, don’t go far enough. We are going to have to come back together every 5 years to add to our understanding and to increase the speed with which we are pivoting from fossil fuels to renewable fuels.

At those 5-year gatherings, we will strengthen our pledges, we will work to reduce the emissions even further, and

we will review the changing technologies. There is so much investment going on. There is a program called Mission Innovation, which is a number of countries coming together, private companies coming together, and foundations coming together to develop the best ideas—out-of-the-box ideas—to be able to take on the challenge of global warming. Those technologies are going to be a key part of accelerating our ability to tackle this challenge.

We have to keep working to drive down the cost curve on renewable energy so that it makes a positive contribution to our economy in every possible way, lowering the cost of power while at the same time putting thousands or, in some technologies, millions of individuals to work. We have to make sure developing countries can afford these options in solar, wind, and other renewable strategies.

Together, we must invest in paradigm-shifting technology. One of those might be battery storage, to make better use of solar energy when the solar energy exceeds current demand, or to capture wind energy when the wind is blowing strongly and our wind turbines are producing more than the current demand.

It means we have to do things such as investing in a broader grid to ship those amps of electricity around the country—those watts of energy around the country. Here at home, we can’t keep up business as usual. If we need to pivot from fossil fuels to renewables, then we shouldn’t keep subsidizing fossil fuels. We can’t keep drilling oil offshore and opening up drilling in new places like the Arctic. The Arctic nation should come together and reach a pact not to drill in the Arctic and to put it off-limits.

As American citizens, you and I own a lot of oil, a lot of coal, and we must recognize that we need to keep those fossil fuels that we own in the ground because here is the size of the problem. For us to succeed in keeping the temperature of our planet below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial age, we have to leave 80 percent of the identified proven fossil fuel reserves in the world in the ground.

If we are going to do that, then it makes no sense at all—for what you and I own as citizens—to be pulling it out of the ground. It makes no sense to be doing contracts today—leases—that provide a legal contract for extraction of our coal, our oil, and our gas, which you and I own as citizens, three decades, four decades, or five decades into the future—long after the world has to have pivoted off of fossil fuels.

It is said that when you are in a hole, stop digging. In this case, we are in a carbon pollution hole, and we need to stop digging fossil fuels out of the ground. Instead, we must seize the opportunity to invest in the infrastructure of the future, to spur a clean energy revolution, and to build a green

economy creating living-wage jobs. It has been said that we are the first generation to feel the impact of global warming, and we are the last generation that can do something about it.

That is a huge responsibility. The signing of this agreement consists of doing something about it, something major about it, something important about it, something that all the Nations in the world have come together to do together to take this on and to recognize our collective responsibility. It is a breakthrough moment in the fight—the international fight, the human civilization fight—to take on this moral, major challenge to our planet.

While this deal is by no means the end of the work we must do, having the global community come together around a vision of action is a huge milestone in the path to averting climate catastrophe. This agreement should only strengthen our Nation's resolve to build a sustainable future, to protect our beautiful blue-green planet, and to work harder to fight climate change not just on Earth Day but every day of the year. In fact, this agreement is very much central to the task that Theodore Roosevelt put before us: to leave our land a better land for our descendants than it is for us. Let's get to work.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3833 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3833.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Minnesota, [Mr. FRANKEN] proposes an amendment numbered 3833 to amendment No. 3801.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide funding for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program)

On page 29, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For the cost of loan guarantees provided under section 2602(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(c)), \$8,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the cost of those loan guarantees (including the costs of modifying loans, as applicable) shall be determined in accordance with section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a); *Provided further*, That, for necessary administrative expenses to carry out that program, \$500,000 is appropriated, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That, of the subsidy amounts provided by section 1425 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law

112-10; 125 Stat. 126), for the cost of loan guarantees for renewable energy or efficient end-use energy technologies under section 1703 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513), \$9,000,000 is permanently canceled.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, Federal programs in Indian Country are chronically underfunded. I have served on the Indian Affairs Committee for the past 7 years, and I have been shocked by what I hear almost every week from tribal leaders about the challenges in Indian Country. Tribes struggle with crumbling schools, dilapidated roads, lack of housing, and lack of basic infrastructure. Many of the crises we hear about in Indian Country come from lack of opportunity, lack of hope. Indian youth have the highest rate of suicide among all ethnic groups in the United States. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for Native youth aged 15 to 24. The Indian suicide rate is 62 percent higher than it is for the general population. Unemployment on Indian reservations averages 19 percent, and on some reservations it is above 50 percent.

Senators MURKOWSKI, HEITKAMP, and UDALL understand the dire needs of Indian Country, which is why they have cosponsored my amendment. Chairman BARRASSO also understands the needs of Indian Country, and that is why he also supports this amendment. They understand that we have to support economic development for tribes whenever we can.

My amendment sets aside \$9 million, which can be leveraged into about \$50 to \$85 million worth of loans for energy projects in Indian Country. Developing tribal energy resources will help tribes bring power to the most remote parts of Indian Country—improving access to reliable and resilient energy and providing much needed jobs. That is why Congress authorized the loan program in the Energy Policy Act of 2005—to help tribes access the capital they need for energy projects. But this program has never received funding.

My amendment doesn't cost anything. We are simply putting \$9 million of already-appropriated money toward a new use.

I thank Senators HEITKAMP, UDALL, and MURKOWSKI for cosponsoring my amendment. I thank Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN for their leadership. Finally, I thank Secretary Moniz, who has been a champion for this program.

I urge my colleagues to support Franken amendment No. 3833 to bring jobs to Indian Country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I thank Senator FRANKEN for the way he worked with our committee. I will vote for the amendment, and I recommend that others do as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3833.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 59 Leg.]

YEAS—76

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Baldwin	Franken	Murray
Barrasso	Gardner	Nelson
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Graham	Reed
Booker	Grassley	Reid
Boxer	Hatch	Risch
Brown	Heinrich	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cantwell	Heller	Rubio
Capito	Hirono	Schatz
Cardin	Hoeben	Schumer
Carper	Inhofe	Shaheen
Casey	Isakson	Stabenow
Cassidy	Kaine	Sullivan
Coats	King	Tester
Cochran	Klobuchar	Thune
Collins	Leahy	Toomey
Coons	Manchin	Udall
Corker	Markey	Warner
Cornyn	McCaïn	Warren
Crapo	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Daines	Menendez	Wicker
Donnelly	Merkley	Wyden
Enzi	Mikulski	
Feinstein	Moran	

NAYS—19

Ayotte	Lankford	Scott
Boozman	Lee	Sessions
Cotton	McConnell	Shelby
Ernst	Paul	Tillis
Fischer	Perdue	Vitter
Johnson	Portman	
Kirk	Sasse	

NOT VOTING—5

Blunt	Durbin	Sanders
Cruz	Murphy	

The amendment (No. 3833) was agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from this afternoon's vote on Franken amendment No. 3833, which was adopted to the pending business—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, H.R. 2028.

On rollcall vote No. 59, had I been present, I would have voted to support the amendment. Senator Franken's amendment will further strengthen the deployment of clean energy by creating a Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program to fund energy projects in Indian Country. This amendment will help Indian tribes access much needed financing as they seek to develop energy projects and create well-paying jobs.●



The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise as the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee to express my appreciation to the majority leader of the Senate, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senator COCHRAN, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, for moving the process forward.

We have on the floor today the Energy and Water Committee bill. This is the first bill of the Appropriations Committee to come to the floor. It signals that we are ready to do regular order. I so appreciate the leadership's commitment to do that, so we don't end up with a big omnibus bill at the end. Every bill comes, they can be amended, and everyone can have their day and their say.

It is an excellent kickoff to what I hope will be the ability to move all 12 bills and some crucial, urgent supplementals. I also compliment Senators ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN for the excellent job they have done on this particular subcommittee. They have followed the bipartisan agreement. They have a bill that is free of poison pill riders. When you look at what they have done in terms of energy and water, it is an excellent bill from the standpoint of national security and economic development, whether it is the funding for the Army Corps of Engineers that is so important to those of us who have ports, to science in terms of our fields of energy. We win Nobel prizes, but we need to win the markets. It has an excellent approach in terms of tech transfer.

Maryland benefits from this bill. It provides over \$100 million for the Port of Baltimore. That is going to support the port's nearly 14,000 jobs and a tax base of over \$300 million. The Port of Baltimore has always been the gateway to Ohio and the West. First, supported by the B&O—Baltimore and Ohio—Railroad and now CSX. Funding in this bill dredges the port's 50-foot channel, making it ready for megacontainer ships coming through the expanded Panama Canal and supporting the port's competitive edge over its East Coast competition. The bill also funds construction of Poplar Island, where clean dredge material is rebuilding the natural ecosystem of a former Chesapeake Bay island.

This bill exceeds the target level for the harbor maintenance trust fund, providing approximately \$1.3 billion. Dredging is the primary activity of the trust fund. This funding is knocking out the nationwide backlog of dredging projects, supporting the U.S. economy and local economies.

Across Maryland, this bill makes critical investments, protecting Assateague Island, a national seaside treasure, for future generations, protecting Cumberland from flooding, and protecting this area's water supply at

the Jennings Randolph Lake in Garrett County.

This bill also supports a unique public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy and commercial truck manufacturers. Together, they are developing the next generation of fuel-efficient heavy-duty trucks. Total funding is \$20 million. Volvo has been a partner and is competing again for a portion of this funding. Its Hagerstown, MD plant produces Mack Trucks with 1,600 jobs. Their talented professionals have been leaders on truck engine research and development, discovering technologies to reduce oil consumption and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

For the Appalachian Regional Commission, this bill provides \$75 million for the base program, an increase of \$5 million. The commission meets both physical and human infrastructure needs. This is a hands-across-the-aisle program that all Appalachia Senators support. There are 13 States in the commission.

Maryland has three counties in the commission: Washington, Allegany, and Garrett.

Maryland's mountain counties receive nearly \$5 million annually, making investments to rebound from lost manufacturing jobs. The recession was another setback.

Now, through their community colleges, they are retraining and retooling their residents. The commission's grants, matched with local and other Federal funding, are making a big difference.

I recently visited Garrett College where I announced two grants. The first was to establish new allied health programs with a simulation manikin. This was a grant award for \$110,000.

The second grant was to buy Westernport a new water tank. This grant for \$400,000 was matched with \$2.4 million in other Federal loans and grants. It means more capacity for Westernport, new service to nearby towns of Luke and Bloomington, and a huge cost savings to Luke Mill. The paper mill has been supplying drinking water to the town of Luke. This grant is protecting the 880 employees at Luke Mill and 3,000 regional jobs in timber and trucking.

If this is the way it is going to be to move appropriations, I think it is a good day. It is not only a good bill, but it shows when the Senate practices the ability to work together to bring legislation to the floor, to follow regular order, we can get our job done. It can be open, it can be transparent, and we can have amendments. I so look forward to this being the tone and the tempo of the rest of the appropriations season.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

#### NATIONAL PARK WEEK

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, this week I encourage Arkansans and all Americans to take a moment and enjoy your local national parks as we celebrate National Park Week 2016. This year National Park Week is particularly important because it also happens to be the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, a milestone we will celebrate all year long.

For those of you who don't know, our National Park System began in 1872 with the establishment of Yellowstone National Park. The organization charged with managing these parks, the National Park Service, was established four decades later in 1916. Today we have over 400 national parks and historic sites around the country, all full of wildlife, beautiful landscapes, and rich culture. These sites are all cared for by over 20,000 dedicated employees of the National Park Service, including park rangers who patrol our parks and keep visitors safe.

Arkansas is home to several national parks and national historic sites, some of the prettiest and most interesting in the country, in my opinion. For those of you who have not been to Arkansas, I encourage you to visit Hot Springs National Park to see our natural springs and thermal pools.

If you are a history buff, you can visit Arkansas Post, the site of the only Revolutionary War activity in the State of Arkansas. If you are into the outdoors, you can float the Buffalo River. The list goes on. Each of the national parks and historic sites in Arkansas and around the country has its own unique appeal and holds its own adventure.

So happy National Park Week and happy 100th birthday to the National Park Service. I encourage everyone to take advantage of free admission to all national parks in Arkansas and across the country through this Sunday, April 24. Have a little fun, learn a little bit about your great country, and show your support and thanks for the men and women who serve us in the national parks.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to complete this speech.

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

#### CORPORATE INVERSIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, over the past couple of years I have spoken numerous times on corporate inversions,

the problems they cause, and various proposed solutions. I wish to take a few minutes today to comment on some of the recent developments with regard to this important issue.

Inversions are a matter of great concern in our country. This is true among members of both parties, both in and out of government. As the chairman of the Senate's tax-writing committee, I have to say that for years now, most major discussions I have had on tax policy and reform with various private sector stakeholders eventually end up focusing on inversions.

Virtually everyone acknowledges that inversions are a problem. When a U.S. company reidentifies itself as a foreign entity and moves its tax headquarters overseas, it shrinks our tax base. It means lost investment and growth for our country and a further demonstration of the failure of the government to create a tax environment in this country that allows businesses to flourish, create jobs, and, of course, help grow our economy.

As I said, members of both parties see inversions as a problem, one that needs fixing. Sadly, the debate surrounding this national issue has too often become mired in politics and partisanship, which thus far has prevented Congress from making any real progress. Some in Washington—in the Capitol and on the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue—would rather talk about inversions than solve the problem.

When a wave of U.S. companies announce that they are merging with other entities and moving their headquarters offshore, the strategy seems to be to publicly attack those companies; accuse them of, among other things, lacking "economic patriotism"; and put forward unworkable policy proposals while labelling anyone opposing those proposals as somehow being in favor of or at least indifferent to inversions. Most of the policy ideas that get put forward tend to be punitive and burdensome, with the goal, not of incentivizing companies to stay in the United States, but to forcibly prevent them from leaving.

Over the past year or so of political campaigning, we have heard a lot of talk about building walls and who will be made to pay for them. Some are proposing that we build a literal physical wall to keep certain people from coming into the United States, with a supposedly clever plan to force other countries to pay for it. Well, at the same time, most of the proposals we have seen to deal with inversions would amount to building a virtual wall—a wall forged in regulation and punitive tax treatment—around the country to keep companies from leaving and making every business in America and all of their employees and individual customers pay the cost.

The latest wall-building exercise came earlier this month with Treas-

ury's temporary anti-inversion regulations and proposed regulations aimed at earnings stripping. Of course, the administration's anti-inversion approach is essentially the regulatory equivalent of a doctor who wastes all of his time and energy treating a patient's symptoms one by one as they arise without making any effort to diagnose, let alone treat, the underlying illness.

Inversions are not in and of themselves a disease; they are merely symptoms of a much broader illness that will continue to infect our economy so long as we refuse to treat it. I won't keep you in suspense, Mr. President. That illness is not a lack of proper regulation; it is an overly burdensome tax system and an environment that is, on the whole, unfriendly to American businesses.

U.S. companies don't move their tax headquarters offshore because they like the weather in other countries. If that were the case, I don't think so many of them would be moving to Ireland or the U.K. No. American companies invert because they face global competition, and our system forces them to compete on an uneven playing field with at least one, if not both arms tied behind their back. For example, we have the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world, and we have a tax code that effectively pays U.S. multinationals to keep their foreign earnings offshore and punishes them when they decide to bring capital back into the country. It is these factors—not a lack of appropriate regulation by the government or a shortage of "economic patriotism" on the part of American businesses—that make foreign countries more attractive destinations for American companies.

If we want to prevent future inversions, we should spend less time tinkering around the regulatory edges and engaging in partisan rhetoric and more time trying to find common ground to actually fix our Tax Code.

For the record, it isn't just inversions that are the problem. As I have noted repeatedly, even if the administration and Congress found a way, through punitive and burdensome means, to block all inversions, our tax system would still make American companies even more attractive targets for foreign takeovers, which are every bit as problematic as inversions, if not more so, and much harder to address through a purely regulatory approach. Foreign takeovers are already a problem. According to an Ernst and Young study released last year, the U.S. economy suffered a net loss of \$179 billion—with a "b"—in business and assets to foreign buyers in the decade between 2003 and 2013. The same study also found that a reduced corporate tax rate would have greatly reduced these losses, possibly eliminating them entirely.

Keep in mind that unlike most inversion transactions, U.S. management is almost always fired after a foreign takeover. Other employees—local service providers and suppliers—are often targeted for elimination as well.

Sadly, many Democrats in Washington, both here in Congress and in the administration, don't seem to grasp the full nature of this problem. They talk a great deal about inversions and the need to prevent them. Because the picture of a big American company moving offshore to escape taxation is particularly distressing for populist audiences, they tend to ramp up that talk and couple it with ideas on how to punish inverters in even-numbered years. Yet they have taken precious little action to fix the underlying problems that lead companies to want to invert in the first place.

There was a glimmer of hope with the findings and recommendations of the Finance Committee's bipartisan International Tax Reform Working Group. However, as is far too often the case, that glimmer of hope may very well be overtaken by the politics of the moment.

So instead of acknowledging that our tax system is the cause of the inversion problem, my friends on the other side have generally opted to put forward regulations that may very well be effective in curbing inversions in the short term but will do nothing to improve business conditions in the United States and could be in the order of causing companies to sell themselves to foreign buyers, which is what is happening.

Within days of the release of the Treasury's latest regulations, Pfizer, a major American drug company, announced it was backing out of its proposed inversion deal with Allergan. Many observers were quick to credit the Obama administration for a supposed job well done while Democratic candidates for President openly celebrated the fact that an American company chose to subject itself to hundreds of millions of dollars in losses and penalties in order to avoid even greater losses as a result of these regulations.

That is the kind of world we are living in—one where there is a willingness to demonize an iconic American company that employees tens of thousands of American workers and to cheer when it suffers massive losses. That is viewed as an affirmative qualification to be the Democratic nominee for President.

Now, to be fair, I will acknowledge that, in addition to unveiling the proposed anti-inversion measures, the Obama administration also laid out a basic framework for corporate tax reform. Of course, this framework, which closely resembles similar proposals the President has included in past budgets, is woefully short on details. It is not a

reform proposal with any serious potential for bipartisanship nor one with a detailed list of specific goals and objectives. It is more or less just a vaguely worded wish list of tax ideas they would like to see enacted at some point. The reaction from many sectors of the business community, including from CEOs who more often than not support my friends on the other side, proves the point.

We know, basically, that the President's version of international tax reform consists of a one-time mandatory repatriation of foreign earnings to be taxed at a rate designed not to maximize any benefit but to hit a revenue target for increased spending—in other words, so they can spend more money. This would be coupled with a high minimum tax on foreign earnings, also designed specifically for increased spending, not for significantly bringing down the statutory tax rate, which, after all, is one of the few ways you can really help our American companies.

Put simply, there is virtually nothing in the President's nebulous tax reform framework that would discourage companies from moving offshore. In fact, one could argue—and many have—that the President's proposed high minimum tax on foreign earnings would actually encourage more U.S. companies to invert.

For example, this past November, the vice president of global taxes at Procter & Gamble, another iconic American company, was quoted as saying: "If we take a step towards a [minimum] tax at the corporate level, we're exacerbating the problem; we're actually guaranteeing that inversions are more attractive."

On top of these new taxes, there is no real effort in the President's tax framework to improve the business climate in the United States more generally. After all these changes, the framework would still leave the United States with a corporate tax that would be well above the average in the developed world, leaving us right where we have been. In short, this framework is par for the course with this administration.

We have heard quite a bit of blame thrown in Congress's direction for not acting to prevent inversions. What we haven't heard is any serious effort on the part of the President or anyone in his administration to engage with Congress on meaningful tax reform. Like I said, the President and his supporters are far more willing to assign blame for the problems caused by our tax system than to actually work toward a solution. This is particularly true in election years, when the motto seems to be this: Why fix a problem when you can blame it on the other side?

For my part, I am working to take specific steps to address these problems. I have been the Republican leader on the Senate Committee on Fi-

nance for about 4½ years now, and for 4½ years I have been calling on my colleagues and imploring officials in the administration to engage on tax reform. To date, I have seen little in the way of a meaningful response.

Currently, I am working on a relatively simple but potentially effective tax reform proposal that I believe will be bipartisan and many believe would relieve a great deal of the inversion pressure on American companies and, at the very least, significantly alter the economic calculation for inversion transactions. Best of all, it would do so without punishing companies or imposing burdensome mandates. In short, my proposal would provide more carrots to keep companies from inverting and fewer sticks to punish companies that try to go in that direction.

While I am still working with the Joint Committee on Taxation to finalize the details of this proposal, the basic idea behind my proposal would be to streamline the taxation of business income and eliminate instances in which profits and earnings are subject to multiple layers of taxation at the company and shareholder levels.

I will have more to say on this proposal in the coming weeks. Today, I am simply trying to counter the narrative that American companies can and should be forced to remain in the United States by regulation. I am trying to demonstrate that you cannot fix the inversion problem by building a virtual wall around the country to keep businesses from leaving, while at the same time keeping tax rates so high that they have to leave to be able to compete.

I am trying to show why you can't build that wall expecting some other country to pay for it. Indeed, if an anti-inversion wall goes up without any real changes to improve the tax and business environment in the United States, it will be American workers and consumers that will end up footing the bill.

What we are working on is corporate integration. Right now the work we have done seems to be getting some positive feedback from the Joint Taxation Committee, but they are not through with their work yet and so we are going to wait until they are. They should be through by the end of May, or at least that is what they have indicated will be their target. Hopefully, they will have some preliminary results before the end of May.

But let me say, if we are right on corporate integration, then both parties should come together to resolve these problems so that we can compete with any company anywhere in the world.

I can just say, in short, that this program we are devising will allow the companies themselves to bring down their own tax rates without worrying about what the wonderful Members of Congress are going to do. At the same

time, by bringing down those rates, they will be able to help this economy to go forward.

So far this has been revenue positive. All we want for this program is to be revenue neutral. But I think we can get there, and I hope my friends on the other side will seriously look at this because this is something we could do this year to help this country resolve its problems with regard to corporate inversions. I believe it will work. I believe it will work. But a lot will depend on the Joint Taxation Committee, and we will see what they are doing. So far the work they have done is positive. They have worked on it for a number of months now. They want to cover every possible ramification, and we are very appreciative of the work they are doing.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I filed two amendments very important to my home State of Florida that I want to discuss. The first is an amendment that would authorize the Central Everglades Planning Project. The Florida Everglades are a national treasure. We have to work together to restore these lands.

The State has experienced a wetter-than-average winter. The rains have elevated the levels of Lake Okeechobee which triggered the Army Corps of Engineers to discharge billions of gallons of water to the east through the St. Lucie River and to the west through the Caloosahatchee River. These discharges have been ongoing for months and have negatively impacted the delicate ecosystem in the area as well as the agricultural and tourism industries.

In order to diminish these discharges, we must authorize the Central Everglades Planning Project. Once complete, this project will allow water to flow south from Lake Okeechobee to Everglades National Park and to Florida Bay.

I had hoped this project would be authorized in 2014 by the administration, but the administration delayed the Army Corps of Engineers' Chief's report, which is the final step before Congress can authorize new projects, but this year we have a real chance to get this done. Thanks to the good work of Chairman INHOFE of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I expect the Central Everglades Planning Project to be included in the forthcoming water bill, which is slated to be marked up in committee next week.

I will not ask for a vote on this amendment today, but I want to draw attention to this essential Everglades restoration project. I am hopeful this body can come together to restore our Everglades, but in the meantime I will continue to push for this vital authorization.

Mr. President, the other amendment I filed today, cosponsored by Senators SHELBY, NELSON, and SESSIONS, also highlights the importance of water management. The issue at hand there involves water that is naturally supposed to flow south, but it has not done so due to the Army Corps' actions in and around the State of Georgia.

The results of this mismanagement have led to a 2013 Department of Commerce fishery disaster. It was declared for oysters in the Apalachicola Bay. During that same year, Senator NELSON and I held a field hearing in Apalachicola, where we heard from local fishermen whose livelihoods and family traditions were injured by the collapse of these fisheries.

While we must continue to explore ways to fish more sustainably, a large part of the fisheries' collapse was the lack of freshwater flows. I have long supported the role Governors play in water allocation when the water in question greatly impacts multiple States. However, absent such an agreement between Governors, water continues to be withheld, and the situation has now become dire in my home State of Florida.

The bottom line is, the status quo is only working for one State. I, along with the senior Senator from Florida and our colleagues from Alabama, have stood lockstep to bring our respective States to the table to finalize water allocations that will take into account our shared goals.

Today we filed an amendment to do just that—to require the Governors to agree on water allocation before the Army Corps of Engineers can reallocate waters between the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin. The amendment also stipulates no funds would be available for reallocation of water within the States if an agreement between the Governors is not finalized. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

#### EUREKA GARDENS

Mr. President, on a different matter, I want to take this moment to applaud the residents of Eureka Garden Apartments in Jacksonville, FL, for coming together as a community during a time of hardship. While they face dangerous living conditions and bureaucratic indifference to their concerns, they have remained united and resilient.

The bottom line is, the Federal Government has failed them. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has for years certified a living facility that has put hundreds of families

at risk. When HUD inspected the property in question last summer, they passed the apartment complex, and they passed it with flying colors. Eureka Gardens received an 85 out of 100, but less than a month later, residents were complaining at tenants' association meetings and to their city council members about how bad their living conditions had become.

When my staff visited the complex, what they witnessed was literally unbelievable. They saw crumbling stairs and black mold. They saw exposed electrical wiring that had been covered up by a trash bag. They smelled the natural gas that would soon hospitalize residents just days later.

That was and that is unacceptable. My office, along with Mayor Curry of the city of Jacksonville and the city council and the tenants association, pushed for months to have improvements and repairs done to this complex. In February, HUD finally had a date by which all repairs must be completed.

When they came back to reinspect Eureka Gardens, it passed the inspection, and they eventually renewed their contract with the property's owner, but the residents continued to say what they have been saying all along—HUD's inspections weren't working.

Just recently, HUD revealed that Eureka Gardens passed with a score of 62. The passing score is a 60. However, a senior HUD official admitted that HUD officials do not believe the property would currently pass another inspection. So HUD has just admitted it has certified a failing facility. Something is clearly wrong with the HUD inspection process and Floridians are being hurt because of it.

I would like to read part of an article from the Florida Times-Union, which was published on Monday that quotes one of the residents at Eureka Gardens.

Dwan Wilson, who said she has had to go to the hospital at least six times with asthma issues since the mold remediation, cried as she spoke about her apartments' problems.

"We thank you all for what you're trying to do," Wilson said. "We thank you all for pushing. But we're telling you they aren't doing anything."

How many more years must the residents of Eureka Gardens suffer under this mismanagement? How many more children have to be put at risk due to lead poisoning and gas leaks? How many more facilities will HUD continue to rubberstamp approval of only to further sell slumlike conditions for the most vulnerable tenants? How many taxpayer dollars will be wasted by this agency on failing projects such as this?

These are the questions HUD must answer. In the meantime, the residents of Eureka Gardens are forced to deal with the consequences of HUD's failures. I will continue to look for solutions to make sure what has happened

at Eureka Gardens isn't repeated elsewhere. Americans deserve better from their government.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter I wrote to the Secretary of HUD, and it is dated April 18.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, April 18, 2016.

Hon. Secretary JULIAN CASTRO,  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CASTRO: For over five months, my office has been involved in the investigation of shocking health and safety conditions at Eureka Garden Apartments (Eureka Garden) in Jacksonville, Florida. It is appalling that American taxpayer dollars have been wastefully spent over the years to fund a facility that has repeatedly put hundreds of people and their families at risk. I am writing to highlight these many problems and to ask for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to conduct a thorough review of its inspection process.

As you may know, following reports of code violations at the Westside complex, my Jacksonville staff toured Eureka Garden in early October 2015. They witnessed crumbling stairs disguised with duct-tape and covered with apparent black mold, faulty electric wiring covered with a garbage bag, and a distinguishable natural gas odor being sucked from an outdoor piping system into residents' air-conditioning, among other obvious health and safety issues. HUD confirmed these conditions in an inspection of the property in October 2015, in which physical deficiencies were found in at least 340 of the 400 units. According to HUD's own criteria, almost 50 of those deficiencies represented "Exigent Health and Safety Concerns," including mold, water damage, exposed wires, carbon monoxide hazards and leaking gas pipes.

Despite these findings, just three months earlier in July 2015, HUD gave Eureka Garden Apartments an 85 out of 100 score in its Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) inspection. Although many of the problems were witnessed during the summer inspection, HUD representatives defended the passing score to my staff in a meeting last October, saying they did not contribute to the assessment of the property as they are not relevant criteria under HUD's inspection process. Had it not been for the residents calling attention to their dire situation, the facility would not have been reviewed again for another two years.

Your Department recently notified my office that the most recent inspection of Eureka Garden gave the complex a REAC score of 62 out of 100, despite the many repairs that have been completed since the last REAC inspection. This discrepancy indicates something is clearly wrong with the REAC scores. Your Department visited Eureka Garden again on March 17th and 18th and witnessed what my staff and the city of Jacksonville has seen all along—Eureka Garden remains in poor condition.

After visiting Eureka Garden most recently, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing wrote in a letter that "HUD officials do not believe the property would currently pass another REAC inspection." However, HUD's protocol has placed enough confidence in the previous inspection

that it has renewed GMF's \$6 million contract for Eureka Garden. In doing so, HUD has knowingly certified a substandard facility because of a faulty inspection process.

Your Department is ultimately responsible as the steward of the taxpayer funding that supports this property. Therefore, to address these concerns, I respectfully request a timely response to the following questions:

With conditions at Eureka Garden going unidentified for so long, what does HUD plan to do about reforming its inspection process to identify problems earlier and to ensure passing grades are not given to failing properties?

Will HUD explore a broader reform of inspection that expands the role of and resources available for state and local partners to regularly check the status of HUD-certified facilities to ensure greater accountability?

Does the Department plan a re-inspection of the complex?

During this difficult time, I am proud of the Eureka Garden community for standing up and coming together on behalf of their vulnerable neighbors. This community has demonstrated great strength by collectively voicing their concerns and showing resiliency in the face of bureaucratic indifference and property mismanagement. It is time they are given the respect and quality of life they so deserve after waiting far too long for critical improvements to be made at Eureka Garden.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and continued work on this issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

MARCO RUBIO,  
*U.S. Senator.*

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF RAIF BADAWI  
AND WALEED ABU AL-KHAIR

Mr. President, one last item I want to discuss today, and I think it is appropriate, given where the President finds himself at this moment in Saudi Arabia. It is regarding a letter I sent earlier this week, along with Senators DURBIN, RISCH, LEAHY, and JOHNSON to President Obama asking him to raise human rights issues during his meetings in Saudi Arabia—in particular, the case of Raif Badawi and his lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair. Raif Badawi is a Saudi blogger. He was arrested in 2012 on the charge of insulting Islam and indicted on several charges, including apostasy. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes.

In January of 2015, Raif received his first set of 50 lashes in public. This resulted in an international outcry. Raif's subsequent lashes have been postponed. They have been postponed on health grounds. They have been postponed because just the first 50 lashes were so brutal, there were doubts whether he would survive 50 more, but he continues to serve his sentence in prison.

Last week I met with Raif's wife to discuss his case. Raif and his lawyer should be immediately and unconditionally released. While I deeply value and think it is a very important alliance between the United States and Saudi Arabia, this alliance cannot allow our country to turn a blind eye to human rights abuses. I hope we will take up this cause.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD our letter, dated April 19, 2016, that we wrote to the President.

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

U.S. SENATE,  
*Washington, DC, April 19, 2016.*

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,  
*The President, The White House,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As you prepare for your upcoming trip to Saudi Arabia, we are writing to express concern regarding the Government of Saudi Arabia's continued treatment of human rights advocates, particularly the documented prosecutions of non-violent activists who are engaging in freedom of expression. Intolerance for freedom of speech and the imposition of travel bans and lengthy prison terms for peaceful dissidents harm Saudi Arabia's reputation internationally and stifle Saudi innovation and creativity. We are concerned that unless you make these issues a priority during your trip, human rights abuses will continue to occur with impunity and the full potential of the U.S.-Saudi relationship will continue to be impeded.

Specifically, we request you raise the case of blogger Raif Badawi, who was sentenced to 10 years in jail and 1,000 lashes for launching a website that suggested a peaceful discussion about religion. Mr. Badawi endured a first round of 50 lashes in January of 2015 but the remainder of his lashes has been postponed due to his health condition. During his unjust imprisonment, Mr. Badawi has been a recipient of prestigious international awards such as the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. We are also concerned for the case of Mr. Badawi's lawyer, prominent human rights activist Waleed Abu al-Khair, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Additionally, we are concerned about the 2014 travel ban placed on Mr. Badawi's sister Samar Badawi, for her activism defending human rights. In 2012, Ms. Badawi received the U.S. State Department's International Women of Courage Award. In recent months, Ms. Badawi has been called in for questioning by security forces on several occasions and is subject to ongoing harassment.

In your meeting with King Salman, we urge you to advocate for the immediate and unconditional release of Raif Badawi and Waleed Abu al-Khair. Additionally, we urge you to request that Ms. Badawi's travel ban be lifted and ensure that she is not harassed further for her work. This is an important time for Saudi Arabia to play a leadership role in the region and the world by setting an example of religious tolerance and civility.

We value the United States and Saudi Arabia close partnership and support efforts to find common approaches to addressing such critical issues as combating terrorism. However, true partners need to be able to have a frank dialogue about disagreements and areas of concern in our relationship. It is thus essential that the United States does not turn a blind eye to Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses.

Sincerely,

MARCO RUBIO.  
JAMES E. RISCH.  
RON JOHNSON.  
RICHARD J. DURBIN.  
PATRICK LEAHY.

Mr. RUBIO. I yield the floor.  
I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the bipartisan Energy Policy Modernization Act, which passed the Senate yesterday with my strong support. This bill will help improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and appliances, saving Michiganders money on their heating and electric bills by incentivizing weatherization and other activities. Many of these cutting-edge building efficiency technologies, such as insulation and window sealing, are designed and developed in my great State of Michigan.

The bill also included a number of conservation provisions that will not only protect our environment, but they will boost our economy by supporting the \$646 billion outdoor recreation industry. Permanent authorizations of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and reauthorization of the North American Wetland Conservation Act are just two examples that will protect wildlife habitat and improve access to public lands for all kinds of outdoor recreation.

Mr. President, I would also like to take a moment to focus on a bipartisan provision that I authored with my colleagues Senator STABENOW and Senator ALEXANDER, the Vehicle Innovation Act. This legislation will provide the tools that researchers, engineers, manufacturers, and others need to create the next generation of cars and trucks built in Michigan and in States all across our country.

Southeast Michigan is home to more engineers per capita than anywhere else in the country. We must ensure that our automakers, part suppliers, and other advanced manufacturers have the right tools to develop and incorporate new vehicle innovations that will improve safety, innovation, and vehicle performance in the cars and trucks of the future.

Exciting innovations are already underway. Cars and trucks are being made with high-strength, light-weight materials that can improve fuel economy without compromising safety. Improved combustion technologies can increase the efficiency of traditional engines while decreasing emissions. Researchers are making batteries more affordable and recyclable while enhancing battery range and performance, making hybrids and electric vehicles even more competitive.

The Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Program is leading this effort, working with a wide range of

partners, manufacturers, material suppliers, universities, energy suppliers, and our National Laboratories. The Department of Energy's vehicle technology activities are authorized by a patchwork of different laws, and these authorities were last renewed almost a decade ago. A lot has changed in that time. Vehicles today are wired with cutting-edge electronics and sensors.

While my favorite part of Detroit cars and trucks remains horsepower and torque, advances in onboard computers and new technologies are making our cars safer, more efficient, and more competitive globally.

The Peters-Alexander-Stabenow Vehicle Innovation Act provides for a steady increase in funding for critical DOE programs through the year 2020. This will create more certainty for companies and entrepreneurs engaged in public-private partnerships and ensure that critical research and development can keep up as technologies continue to emerge.

Our bill also establishes a clean authorization for DOE's advanced vehicle technology activities. This will improve collaboration with light-duty automobile and medium- and heavy-duty commercial truck engineers, manufacturers, and suppliers to conduct cutting-edge technology-neutral research that will improve fuel economy and minimize fossil fuel use.

With over 256 million vehicles on our roads, it takes decades of sustained effort to turn over our fleet. It is absolutely critical that we continue developing these advanced technologies here in the United States in order to achieve major fuel savings in the future and become truly energy independent.

The Vehicle Innovation Act has support from major manufacturers, labor, and environmental groups. This is something that just makes sense. I appreciate the support of Senators MURKOWSKI and CANTWELL and all my colleagues who supported including this legislation in the bipartisan energy package. While I was pleased to see this commonsense measure included, I continue to be frustrated and disappointed that this body has held up an up-or-down vote on a bipartisan package authored by Senator STABENOW and me to help the people of Flint, MI.

Flint is still in crisis mode as families still do not have safe, reliable water flowing from their taps. Senator STABENOW and I will continue pursuing all paths to fight for the assistance that the people of Flint deserve. We will not give up. We remain fully committed to delivering to Flint families the assistance they need to be able to use their tap water for bathing, cooking, and drinking without the fear that it may harm them or their children.

I know that many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are willing and able to join us in our efforts to

help Flint. I urge them to continue working with us to pass this package through the Senate as soon as possible. The people of Flint cannot wait any longer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### JUDICIARY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to take this time to respond to Senator REID's juvenile attacks on my Judiciary Committee's investigations and to Senator REID's frequent crying about my previous State Department holds.

Over the past several months, Senator REID has been obsessed with mentioning holds on nominees—holds which I no longer have. Holds are often necessary to force the executive branch to comply with congressional investigations. If you want proof of that, just ask the Obama administration. In a Federal court filing during the Fast and Furious litigation, the Obama administration argued that the court should not even consider that particular case. The Justice Department's brief said courts should not enforce subpoenas at all. Instead, the Justice Department reasoned that Congress should use other powers to get documents.

Here is exactly what the government brief said: "Among other powers, Congress can withhold funds from the Executive Branch, override vetoes, decline to enact legislation, refuse to act on nominations, and adjourn." Later in the brief, the Obama administration specifically suggested that Congress can "tie up nominations" in order to get documents.

If the administration can say that, why would Senator REID think that is a wrong act for Congress to take? It is this simple: If the minority leader doesn't like Senators using holds to get documents from agencies, perhaps Senator REID should talk to his friends in the Obama administration who suggested that in the first place.

In addition, Senator REID shows his hypocrisy since Members on his own side have held up Obama nominees, and Senator REID never said a peep about Democrats exercising their rights. Further, Senator REID's attempts to politicize the Judiciary Committee's oversight work are very uninformed and result in misguided statements, and Senator REID's accusation that taxpayer money is being wasted by engaging in oversight of the executive branch rings hollow.

Secretary Clinton's nongovernment server and private email arrangements effectively walled off her official communications from the normal Freedom of Information Act and other Federal recordkeeping requirements. So to Senator REID, I say: The Freedom of Information Act is squarely within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee and subject to oversight.

The former Secretary's use of a secret, private server to conduct all of her official business led to an avalanche of Freedom of Information Act litigation. It also caused inaccurate responses to Freedom of Information Act requests. For example, in December 2012, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for records of Secretary Clinton's email addresses. The Department responded by stating: "No records responsive to your request were located." That response is very misleading, at best. Senior Department officials knew about Secretary Clinton's use of private email for official correspondence since they were sending emails to her nongovernment email address. They would have known instantly of records responsive to that request that the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington submitted. Yet those senior officials apparently failed to communicate with the State Department's Freedom of Information Act office. Even then, if State's FOIA office were to search Secretary Clinton's government email account, they would find nothing since she operated a private account not subject to freedom of information.

Separate from her email address, Secretary Clinton's nongovernment server was a secret to high-level officials at the State Department who were responsible for information technology and security.

These officials had no idea the Secretary was operating a separate unofficial system. She did not get their approval to do so, so how would they know?

The Judiciary Committee has interviewed the Chief Information Officer, the former Chief Information Officer, the former Deputy Chief Information Officer, and the Director of Diplomatic Security at the State Department. The Chief Information Officers oversaw the work of the information technology staffer who Secretary Clinton secretly paid to maintain her nonpublic server, yet all of these people knew nothing about that nonpublic server. That staffer didn't ask permission to have outside employment. While working at the State Department, he didn't disclose his outside income on his financial disclosure forms. Now, think about that. Officials whose job it is to know were kept in the dark about this "home brew" email server. If a government agency hopes to be transparent with the American people—and that is the point behind the Freedom of Information Act legislation—it must first be transparent with itself.

Now we know that highly classified material was transmitted to and stored on Secretary Clinton's secret server. What is important about that is this is an issue of national security.

State Department diplomatic security personnel have informed the Judiciary Committee that they were unaware of Secretary Clinton's using a nongovernment server for official business. So how, then, could they possibly secure it from security threats?

Now, the FBI is investigating this matter as well as several other investigations. We keep hearing that the FBI's inquiry is just a security review and not a criminal inquiry. So let me tackle that. However, one witness asserted his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination rather than answer questions about his work on Secretary Clinton's secret server. And he is relying on the Fifth Amendment to withhold his personal emails as well. Recently, the Department of Justice granted him immunity. So, quite naturally, we are searching for other ways to get information before deciding whether it might be appropriate to seek an immunity order for his testimony.

Now, to Senator REID: These are legitimate oversight inquiries for the Judiciary Committee.

Further, Secretary Clinton did not turn over all of her official emails. Emails between GEN David Petraeus and Secretary Clinton, which Secretary Clinton failed to provide to the State Department, were later turned over to the Defense Department. Secretary Clinton also failed to turn over emails with Sydney Blumenthal, whom Secretary Clinton views as an off-the-books intelligence resource, while Secretary of State.

If Secretary Clinton had used a government email address for official emails, we wouldn't have this problem in the first place.

So how many more official emails were not turned over but should have been? The Judiciary Committee cannot ignore these important issues simply because the former Secretary decided to run for President. And to be perfectly clear, I started this investigation before Secretary Clinton announced her candidacy.

Senator REID suggested that the committee's work on these issues is a waste of money. Senator REID, that is nonsense. Congressional oversight is not a waste of money; it is a constitutional responsibility. The minority leader fails to understand that Congress is obligated to oversee that the executive branch of government faithfully executes the laws and faithfully spends the money the way Congress intended. Without such constitutional oversight, Congress will not know if there are failures in the executive branch's duty to faithfully execute the laws that we pass.

But do my colleagues know what is a real waste of money? This administration fought tooth and nail in the courts against Congress for more than 4 years. Why? Just to avoid disclosing docu-

ments in the Fast and Furious scandal that they eventually turned over. That is a waste of money—a 4-year waste of money.

The Obama administration has fought against the press and watchdog organizations for years in the Freedom of Information Act litigation over former Secretary Clinton's email records.

Senator REID, that is a waste of money.

It is shocking that the Obama Justice Department devotes so much taxpayer resources to avoiding the very transparency that President Obama promised on January 21, 2009—1 day into office. This administration was going to be the most transparent in the history of the entire country, and it has turned out to be the most stonewalling. None of that would be necessary if the administration would just comply with congressional subpoenas and the Freedom of Information Act. That is the way to save money.

By the way, I would like to ask how much taxpayers' money does Senator REID spend having his staff write daily speeches trying to undermine the work of the Judiciary Committee.

Senator REID also fails to understand that we are not only focused on Secretary Clinton. The committee is conducting dozens of investigations on a broad range of issues under the jurisdiction of the committee.

Some of the executive branch agencies have complained about the amount of oversight work the committee does on other matters. To justify my statements for this part of my remarks, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD two letters. The first is from the Department of Homeland Security, and the second is from the Department of Justice.

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY,

Washington, DC, November 18, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY: Since I became Secretary of Homeland Security almost two years ago, I have worked to make the Department more responsive to congressional correspondence, directives, request for reports, briefings and hearings, and other requests for documents and information. Given that some 108 committees and subcommittees of Congress (depending on how you count) assert oversight jurisdiction over this Department, this is a full-time, time-consuming task. We have also participated in about 100 hearings and over 2000 non-hearing engagements with Congressional members and staff since the beginning of the 114th Congress. Members on both sides of the aisle have acknowledged our increased responsiveness.

So far in 2015, I have received 46 letters from you alone—almost one per week. I know because I read them all. Many of these letters request reams of information, data,

and documents that take hundreds of hours and dozens of staff to compile. We work diligently to respond to your letters promptly, but there is a huge cost to this.

Senator, I ask for your help in focusing and prioritizing these oversight letters. I want to continue to be responsive to your requests, and I want to do so as quickly as possible. At the same time, I must ensure that my staff remains focused on all our other priorities.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you.

Sincerely,

JEH CHARLES JOHNSON.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, September 18, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This responds to your letters to the Attorney General, dated June 12, 2015, July 10, 2015, August 13, 2015, September 14, 2015, and September 15, 2015, regarding the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). The Department of Justice (the Department) has provided responses in our letters of August 14, 2015, August 25, 2015, and September 11, 2015. As noted in those letters and discussed with your staff, we continue to collect and review information, including the information noted in your letters, so we may provide a complete and thorough response to all of your inquiries as expeditiously as possible. We will continue to keep an open line of communication with your staff as we work toward additional responses to your questions. The Department takes these issues seriously, and we thank you for bringing them to our attention.

As you know, this year the Department has received from your office almost 100 letters containing more than 825 questions and document requests, including the five letters received to date on this matter. While we have made and will continue to make all reasonable efforts to meet your stated deadlines, our ability to respond in a timely manner to your inquiries is impacted by the significant volume of letters we receive.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

PETER J. KADZIK,  
Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, both of the letters note the many dozen letters and hundreds of requests that I have sent, and both essentially complain about the volume of our investigation and requests for information.

The Judiciary Committee is hard at work doing the people's business, and the committee is doing much more than just oversight. The committee has reported 16 executive nominees and 37 judicial nominees. It has processed 27 bipartisan bills out of committee, and every bill that has come out of committee is a bipartisan bill. Eighteen of those bills were passed out of the Senate over to the House, eight of which have been signed into law by the President.

Just last week, the committee unanimously adopted bipartisan legislation to finally protect FBI whistleblowers

who report wrongdoing to their supervisors and provide for independent review of FBI whistleblower cases for the first time.

So reviewing that record, it seems to me we can ask Senator REID to justify his claim that this committee is partisan.

The committee concluded an investigation into the abuse and misuse of paid administrative leave. The committee took the results and worked hard with Members on both sides of the aisle to actually fix that problem.

In February, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved the bipartisan, commonsense reforms in the Administrative Leave Act of 2016. Similarly, the committee has worked with Democrats and Republicans alike to overturn an Office of Legal Counsel opinion that allows the agencies across government to stone-wall their inspectors general.

Now let me tell my colleagues how Senator REID is involved in stonewalling that effort. We came up with a legislative solution called the IG Empowerment Act and attempted to pass it in December by a live unanimous consent request. But Senator REID objected to the bill even though it is supported by seven Members of his own caucus and supported by the New York Times editorial board and a host of civil liberties and good-government groups. Even the largest circulating daily newspaper in the home State of Senator REID urged him to work with us on a compromise. But rather than engaging us in a productive and civil manner, Senator REID publicly slandered the bill as a legislative overreach. He claimed that he was concerned about a provision that allowed inspectors general to issue testimonial subpoenas to fight waste, fraud, and abuse.

In fact, Senator REID voted—Senator REID actually voted—to give the exact same authority to the Office of Special Counsel in 1989. That 1989 bill passed the Senate unanimously and is now law.

Senator REID, was that legislative overreach when you did it?

Like that bill, the IG Empowerment Act has near unanimous support and is designed to root out wrongdoing from government, while ensuring proper safeguards of the use of subpoenas. So there is no reason to object to this bill on policy grounds. Yet Senator REID stands in the way of getting that done.

The Judiciary Committee will continue its work. I say that to just one Senator: Senator REID. And during the course of my oversight work, I will use every tool at my disposal to obtain answers for the American people.

So, Senator REID, I will keep faith with my oath of office and “we the people.”

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING ANNIVERSARY AND  
NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, 21 years ago this week, the families of 168 people—19 of those 168 people children—received some of the worst news of their lives. That news was that a beloved member of each of their families had been killed in the bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City.

We all watched the news that day, that night, the next day, and that week and beyond, as we took in the devastation caused by that blast. That horrible crime was carried out by a radical, anti-government extremist. It remains the deadliest act of homegrown terrorism in our Nation's history.

For the families who lost a loved one that day in 1995, there is no way to fill the void left by a life taken too soon, but I know that our government's pursuit of justice for the lives lost that day serve as a small source of comfort for the people who were left in mourning.

At the time of that heinous crime, Judge Merrick Garland, President Obama's nominee to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court, was the Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice. He immediately flew to Oklahoma City to lead the criminal investigation and supervise the prosecution of the bombers. In fact, he insisted on being sent. He didn't just volunteer. He didn't just say: Well, OK, I will go. He told his supervisors they had to let him go. He was the highest ranking Justice Department official on the ground in Oklahoma City following the bombing. He helped oversee every aspect of the investigation and the subsequent trial. His colleagues at the time have attested to Judge Garland's commitment to following the letter of the law in every aspect of that investigation. He refused to take any shortcuts that could somehow compromise the integrity of the case that he and his team were building. Through their tireless efforts, his tireless leadership, his deep understanding of the law, and scrupulous attention to detail, Judge Garland ensured the prosecution had an airtight case.

Ultimately, both bombers were convicted, giving the families of the 168 victims not their sons, their daughters, their children, their moms or dads back again, but at least providing a small measure of vindication for the losses they had incurred.

Judge Garland's work was so appreciated by the families and friends of those victims 21 years ago that last year, on the 20th anniversary of the bombing, the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum awarded Judge Garland its annual Reflections of Hope distinction—not the year after the bombing but 20 years after the bombing.

Judge Garland has established an unparalleled reputation as a brilliant,

dedicated prosecutor and jurist. He has received strong bipartisan support in the legal community, including from Alberto Gonzales, the former U.S. Attorney General and White House Counsel in the administration of President George W. Bush. So today it is not just discouraging that most of my Republican colleagues are refusing to consider Judge Garland's nomination to serve on our highest Court; personally, I believe it is outrageous.

I served for 8 years as Governor of Delaware, a State that is renowned for its own courts—supreme court, court of chancery, superior court—courts that play a national role, not just on a State level. As Governor of my State for 8 years, I nominated men and women to serve on those courts. In every one of those nominations there were hearings held, whether they were Democrat or Republican. I think during that period of time I nominated an equal number of Democrats and Republicans to the judiciary. That is the constitution of our State, and, frankly, that is a great example because in Delaware we have one of the highest regarded judiciaries.

My obligation as Governor was to nominate outstanding candidates for these judgeships as they became vacant. The role of the State Senate in Delaware was to consider them. They never waited a year and left a seat vacant for a year awaiting the end of my time as Governor or any other Governor's time. That would never happen. We wouldn't waste 10 months. State senators in our State wouldn't wait 10 weeks. They did their jobs. They did their jobs.

We are not doing ours, and we need to. The fact that we haven't is outrageous. When we elect Presidents to this country, we elect them for 4 years, and if they are reelected, then it is for another 4 years. They are not Presidents for 3 years and 11 months; they are not elected to a term of 3 years and 10 months. We elect them to a term of 4 years. They need to be on the job for 4 years.

Our President is doing what he is supposed to do, and that is sending us the names of exceptional people who serve in incredibly important positions like the Supreme Court. He has done his job.

I very much want to do mine, and I want to be joined by Democrats and Republicans in doing our jobs. Every Member of this body has taken at least one oath to uphold the Constitution—some of us, many times over.

At 17 years old, not much older than the young interns who are sitting here in the Chamber, I took my first oath as a midshipman. I was a freshman at the Ohio State Navy ROTC, where I was privileged to go on a Navy scholarship. Four years later, I took another oath and raised my right hand as an ensign in the Navy. I took an oath to defend



the Constitution and the country and headed to Pensacola, FL, to become a naval flight officer right in the middle of the Vietnam war. I ended up serving three tours over there during that conflict.

As a Congressman, I took an oath to defend the country and Constitution. As Governor, I also took a similar oath to defend our country's Constitution—at least to defend our State's constitution. Then, as a U.S. Senator I have taken an oath any number of times.

I am regarded by my colleagues as one of the least partisan people here, but I think the refusal of the majority to even consider this nomination is more than an abdication of our responsibility. I believe it is an example of playing politics with the very Constitution we have sworn to uphold.

For those who don't know, Delaware is known as the First State. We are known as the First State because on December 7, 1787, before any other State had ratified the Constitution, we did. I joke with people that for 1 week Delaware was the entire United States of America. We opened things up and let in Maryland; we let in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and eventually Louisiana—even Iowa. I think for the most part it has turned out pretty well, but the idea of playing politics with the Constitution that we have sworn to uphold is deeply troubling to me. I hope that is not what is going on here, but I fear that it is.

The right and just way to proceed is to begin consideration of Judge Garland's nomination, not next month and not some other year, but now—first in committee and then on the Senate floor.

We have something we call the Delaware way. We are focused on the three C's—communicate, compromise, and collaborate. That is a good example for 49 other States, and I think it is a good example right here. After all, we have been sent by the people to this hallowed place, this Senate Chamber, to put democracy into action, to protect liberty and to protect justice for all.

Nearly 50 years ago, former Chief Justice Warren Burger, a conservative—I believe he was from California and was appointed or nominated by Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger said, "A sense of confidence in the courts is essential to maintain the fabric of ordered liberty for a free people."

He went on to say that "inefficiency and delay will drain even a just judgment of its value." I think the shorthand version of that is justice delayed is justice denied. Justice delayed is justice denied. By dragging our feet and trying to get into a new Congress, maybe with a new President—certainly, with a new President—that is delaying justice, I believe.

In the face of the prospect of any number of potentially 4-to-4 divided

verdicts in the Supreme Court with only eight members, we cannot just stand aside and let that happen.

Justice Burger was right when he said those words all those years ago, and he is right today.

Mr. President, I think it is time to stop this delay. It is time for us to serve the people. It is time for us to deliver justice.

It is time for us to give this President's nominee the consideration demanded of us by the Constitution, which we are sworn to uphold.

Mr. President, I see no colleague seeking recognition, and with that I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### REMEMBERING PRINCE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today to speak of the loss of one of Minnesota's own, and that is Prince.

Like all Minnesotans, today we were shocked and saddened. I grew up with Prince's music, starting with "Little Red Corvette" in the seventies and eighties. We won't forget "Purple Rain" in Minnesota. We were so proud of that movie, and everyone would point at every spot in the movie they knew from growing up.

He was a superstar, composer, amazing performer, and a music innovator with a fierce belief in the independence of his art. He lived his art. He believed his words were his own, his name was his own, and he wasn't going to let anyone own him. There was absolutely nobody like him, and there never will be.

Prince sold more than 100 million records worldwide. He released 39 studio albums. He had five No. 1 Billboard hits and 40 in the top 100. He won seven Grammys, an Oscar, and a Golden Globe. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, the first year he was eligible.

But even with all that success, even with all that fame, Minnesota never lost that sense that he was a beloved son—our neighbor, the superstar next door. I was always so proud to say: "Prince—you know he's from Minnesota." He was born there, and he still lives there.

The fact that Prince was a proud native of my State came through in all of his music. He pioneered the Minneapolis sound—that mixture of funk, rock, and pop that emerged in the late 1970s and 1980s and influenced music for decades to come. Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Janet Jackson, Bruno Mars, Mark Ronson, Justin Timber-

lake, The Weeknd, Beyoncé—these are just some of the many artists who were influenced by that sound.

But that sound didn't just influence artists, it influenced everyone who heard it. Prince's music touched our hearts, opened our minds, and made us want to dance. That is his legacy, and that is what we will always remember.

Prince made "Purple Rain" a household name. Like most Minnesotans, I remember the first time I listened to that album. It was, as his band was then called, a revolution. It changed music forever and is considered among the best in music history.

Two of the songs on that album—"When Doves Cry," which is especially notable because he plays all of the instruments in the song, and "Let's Go Crazy"—rose to the top of the charts. "Let's Go Crazy" includes a lesson important to remember on days like today. There is a world waiting for us after this life, Prince sang, "a world of never ending happiness, where you can always see the sun, day or night." I know that today all of us hope Prince is standing in that Sun.

Prince sang that song at First Avenue—the venue in downtown Minneapolis—when he introduced his band to the city in 1983. There, too, Prince shot some of the scenes for his classic "Purple Rain" film. Today the club is a landmark and a must-play venue for some of the best artists. I personally stood in Prince's dressing room surrounded by pictures of him. The building is covered in stars with the names of artists who have performed there, and there will always be one star that will shine the brightest, and that is the man who made it the landmark it is—Prince.

Minnesota loves Prince, and Prince loved Minnesota. He was born in Minneapolis. He went to Central High School, where he played piano and guitar for a band called Grand Central. He recorded his early demo tapes with Chris Moon and at Sound 80 Studios in Minneapolis.

Throughout his life, he called Minnesota home. He wrote a song about the Minnesota Vikings—he was always a big fan—appropriately titled "Purple and Gold."

At the end of last year when the Minnesota Lynx—our women's basketball team—won the WNBA championship, he held a concert at his recording studio, Paisley Park, for local fans, who got to enjoy his music well into the night. Just a few days ago, he hosted a dance party there and made a brief appearance. In some way, it was his last gift to our State. But his best and lasting gift? His music, his innovation, his energy.

When accepting BET's Lifetime Achievement Award, Prince said:

The future's in your hands now. And the world really is yours.

Well, that world is a whole lot cooler because Prince was in it, and it is a

whole lot sadder today now that he is gone.

My heart goes out to his friends and family and to all who mourn his loss today. We will miss the artist Prince.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am on the floor I guess just a few moments ahead of the ranking member of our Senate Foreign Relations Committee, my friend BEN CARDIN, who is on his way but has authorized me to proceed with a few remarks on the topic that he and I, and perhaps others, would like to address, which is tomorrow's signing in New York of the Paris climate agreement.

Over 160 nations around the world are going to be participating in signing that agreement that will move many of them immediately into their program of compliance and signify for others a statement of intention to join. I think it is the largest international agreement, in terms of the number of countries involved, ever, certainly the biggest one I can think of. So it is very significant in that respect.

One other thing about Paris that I think was also very significant is what took place in America's corporate sector in support of a strong Paris Agreement. The President and groups like Ceres, with particular leadership from companies like Unilever, got together and created a remarkable American corporate coalition with more than 150 companies, including ones like Bank of America and Goldman Sachs, Ford and GM, Nike, and VF industries, General Mills, Cargill, Apple, Google—a terrific coalition; kind of the who's who of corporate America. They got together to urge the countries of the world to be bold in Paris, to have it be a strong agreement, and to show their support for an international program to address climate change, which I think is terrific.

The distinguished junior Senator from Louisiana is presiding, and I can't think off the top of my head what Louisiana-based companies are part of that coalition, but certainly companies that are based in virtually every State we represent in the Senate—major companies: Walmart, for instance, out of Arkansas; Coca-Cola, out of Georgia; VF industries, out of North Carolina; some of our biggest electric utilities; the bulk of the property casualty insurance and reinsurance industry. It is very significant that America's cor-

porate community came so strongly together. I hope very much that is a message that not only resonated in Paris but that will resonate in Congress as well because I would bet that every single one of us have a significant home State corporation that has signed that pledge, and some of us will have many significant home State corporations that will have signed that pledge.

So when you have gotten to the point where the leadership of America's corporate community has signed on to the fact that something needs to be done and that America ought to lead—that is our role in the world—that will begin more and more to have an effect in this body to counter some of the nonsense and mischief that a very small slice in the fossil fuel industry has been propagating at the expense of the broader American corporate community, which, by and large, has been pretty outstanding on this.

Let me also mention one other thing that has happened just this afternoon, which I am very encouraged by; that is, an amendment that has been filed by 10 Senators—bipartisan, 5 and 5. It is the Graham-Whitehouse amendment. The cosponsors on the Republican side are Senators GRAHAM, KIRK, AYOTTE, COLLINS, and PORTMAN. On the Democratic side, they are WHITEHOUSE, MERKLEY, SCHATZ, MARKEY, and BROWN.

The amendment reads: Climate change is real, and human activity contributes to climate change. Climate change is already affecting the American people and poses an increasing risk to our health, security, economy, and infrastructure. Over 180 nations, including China, India, and Brazil, have made commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, creating opportunities for American workers and innovative private industry benefits from global clean energy markets. Therefore, it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should be a world leader in addressing climate change; that Congress is best positioned to address policies that leave a prosperous economy and healthy environment for future generations; that Congress has a responsibility to take actions that reduce emissions and combat climate change; and, finally, that Congress should support research and development to bolster clean energy technology.

In that latter regard, let me note the Mission Innovation Initiative that has come out of Secretary Moniz's Department of Energy and out of a significant group of major investors around the world. The deal basically is that countries involved will try to double our clean energy R&D, and in return these major investors from around the world, led by Bill Gates, will set up a significant fund that will take the emerging technologies that early R&D can discover and bring them through the various early investment stages of what

investors and startup folks call the valleys of death on the way to becoming a sustainable company so those technologies can be brought forward on an accelerated basis.

So when you look at Paris, you not only see this enormous array of nations coming together in a common cause, you see right behind it virtually the entirety of the leadership of America's corporate sector coming right in with it and saying: This is what we want. This is what we encourage. We want it to be strong. You have the biggest investors in the world, most of them coming together and saying: We are going to have your back with investment into new types of clean energy funding. And then you have the governments of the world not only signing up for—not all of them but the ones participating in Mission Innovation—signing up, in addition to the treaty, for this commitment to increase R&D and press innovation in this space forward.

So for all those reasons and more, tomorrow is a good news day for our country. It is a good news day for progress and innovation, it is a good news day for the enormous array of American corporate leaders who have supported and cheered on this particular occasion, and I think it is an occasion for pride on the part of the United States of America that the signing will be taking place in the United States in New York, that Secretary Kerry will be attending, that the Chinese leader will be attending, and that people from all around the world will be there not only recognizing the need to do this but recognizing America's leadership in getting us to this place.

I will close with a personal note of appreciation for a gentleman named Todd Stern. Todd was the climate negotiator for the Department of State for many years, and some of those were rather bleak years in which the United States was not showing leadership. So Todd had to hang in there and endure that frustration and keep his candle of faith burning until the day came when we finally began to kick in at last. His role was very important in getting us prepared for and through the Paris Agreement. He is retiring and has served his country well. So I will close with a word of good will for that particular public servant who has done right by his duty and done right by his country.

With that, I yield the floor, and with any luck, we can await the arrival of Senator CARDIN in due course.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING PRINCE

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks today regarding climate change, I wish to say a few words about a Minnesota icon who passed away today.

Prince was a phenomenal artist who was beloved by people all over the world, but as Minnesotans, we are particularly proud to call him one of our own.

Prince got his start in a Minneapolis jazz band and went on to share his talent throughout Minnesota and all over the globe. His artistry, his innovation, and his unparalleled presence inspired and will continue to inspire millions of people. In Minneapolis, he put one of our most cherished venues, First Avenue, on the map. Up until just a few days ago, he was still performing, having held a concert in Atlanta. He is truly going to be missed.

Someone once said: A brain isn't a mind, and a mind isn't a soul, and that is why we need the artists.

I think the outpouring of appreciation we are seeing today for Prince has to do with that unique role artists play, and it speaks to the importance of the arts and to human beings.

PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in celebrating the official signing of the Paris climate agreement.

Tomorrow, more than 160 countries will send representatives to New York to sign onto this historic agreement. This gathering is set to become the most well-attended signing event in the history of the United Nations—highlighting the importance of this issue for people around the entire world. I think it is very fitting that this event is taking place on Earth Day.

This agreement has been nearly 25 years in the making. International climate efforts date back to 1992, when governments met in Rio with the objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations. Nations have met every year since then to further this goal. While some meetings have been more successful than others, most have been met with disappointment and lack of action. After all, climate change is a complex issue, and achieving consensus for any international issue is no small feat, which is why this agreement is truly, truly impressive.

Last December, I traveled to Paris with nine of my colleagues. We met with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, with U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, and with our then top climate change negotiator Todd Stern. I would like to congratulate all of them for their stellar work. I would also like to thank Todd Stern for his service at the State Department and his dedication to combating climate

change. Mr. Stern played a critical role in achieving a successful resolution in Paris, and I have no doubt that his successor, Dr. Jonathan Pershing, will effectively continue his work.

Climate change is an existential threat to our planet and to future generations. My colleagues have been on the floor of the Senate today to talk about the impacts of climate change on their States and the need to address it. So I wish to take a minute to talk about how it is going to impact Minnesota.

Minnesota is one of the top producing agricultural States in the country, where one out of five jobs is tied to agriculture. Climate change will have significant impact on our food system, both through warmer temperatures and more intense droughts. A recent study estimates that global crop production could decrease by more than 40 percent by the end of the century. That is why I joined Dave MacLennan, the CEO of Cargill—the largest privately owned company in the country—in penning an op-ed in the Minneapolis StarTribune to highlight this threat, especially considering that the global population will reach 9 billion by midcentury. As the CEO of a company focused on agriculture, David is concerned about what climate change is going to do to our food supply.

Climate change will also impact our waters. Minnesota is the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Actually, it is about 14,000 lakes, including Lake Superior, which contains about 10 percent of the world's fresh surface water. Lake Superior has about 10 percent of the fresh surface water on Earth. Lake Superior is warming by 2 degrees per decade. We are seeing more evaporation and lower water levels in the lake. Plus, rising temperatures allow for more favorable conditions for invasive species and hazardous algal blooms. Warmer temperatures could also have severe consequences to fish like walleye and trout, which are so important to Minnesota fisheries and to our ecosystems.

Let's not forget the threat of climate change to our forests. Like our lakes, warmer temperatures elevate the threat of invasive species—invasive species such as the emerald ash borer and gypsy moth, which are rapidly changing the composition of our forests. In other parts of the country, we are seeing longer wildfire seasons—wildfires that are burning hotter, more intense, and bigger. The Forest Service is spending more and more fighting these fires—now more than half of its entire budget.

So we can see that climate change poses a very serious threat to Minnesota, our country, and the world.

The Paris Agreement that we will sign tomorrow marks an important step forward to address this threat. But, of course, our job is not done. We have to remain vigilant and build upon

the success of the agreement. Internationally, we have to hold other nations accountable, ensure that they commit to stronger emission reduction targets over time, and make sure that those reductions are transparent and verifiable. Domestically, we have to build on the success of our cities and States—like Minnesota—that have been working hard for a long time now to become more energy efficient and reduce emissions.

I have two grandchildren, and I am expecting a third later this year. God willing, they will live through this century and into the next. I want them to know that when we had the opportunity to put the Earth on a safer path, we seized the moment.

Let's recognize the historic nature of this year's Earth Day, and let's celebrate this climate agreement because it is an important milestone. Let's build on it to make the planet a safer and more habitable place for our grandchildren, their children, and their grandchildren.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend from Minnesota, Senator FRANKEN, for his comments concerning an important day tomorrow. It is important for many reasons. We have worked a long time to get the global community engaged on climate change.

As Senator FRANKEN pointed out, tomorrow is Earth Day. It will be the 46th anniversary of Earth Day, which was started by our former colleague Senator Gaylord Nelson. He did that because he recognized it is important for this country to recognize our global responsibilities to our environment and to our future.

There is no greater challenge that we face than climate change because climate change has been caused, in part, by our own activities here on Earth, by the emission of greenhouse gases. We have a responsibility to reverse the current trends. We can do that.

Tomorrow in New York City, many leaders will come to sign the COP21 agreement that was negotiated in Paris earlier this year by 16 nations representing 98 percent of the global greenhouse emissions. This is a historic moment.

I want to reflect for a moment about the U.S. leadership that has brought us to this moment in which we now have an agreement among so many countries of the world. We have been trying to do this now for a long time. We have not been successful. At last, the global community has come together with meaningful commitments that will put us on the right path, and the U.S. leadership made this possible.

I want to congratulate President Obama for his leadership on this. I was with Secretary Moniz in Paris. Ten

members of the U.S. Senate went to Paris during the COP21 negotiations. We were there less than 48 hours, but I think we were able to broadcast the united support for U.S. leadership for a global commitment.

Secretary of Energy Moniz took us to the exhibit where we saw firsthand U.S. technology that will help us meet the challenges of climate change—how we can produce energy more efficiently and how we can use energy more efficiently. It was U.S. technology, and that technology will be used around the world.

I mention that because U.S. global leadership is critically important to help save our planet from the adverse impacts of climate change, yes, but it also will help our economy. It will help our economy, obviously, in dealing with the effects of climate change but also in U.S. technology being used around the world, creating jobs here in the United States.

This is an urgent issue. If I might, let me first quote from Pope Francis. He said:

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. . . . I urgently appeal, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. . . . Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political, and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.

I couldn't agree with him more. This is a global challenge with global, grave consequences if we don't get it right.

I see that in my own State of Maryland's Smith Island, which is disappearing into the Chesapeake Bay. I see it in the Chesapeake Bay with the loss of sea grasses because of warmer water temperatures. Sea grasses are critically important to the survival of the Maryland blue crab. I see it in our coastal safety, as we see more and more storms with more consequences.

Recently I traveled to the southern part of Africa, and I had a chance to see from a helicopter the impact of climate change. In the southern part of Africa, they have only two seasons: the rainy season and the dry season. They are now at about one season: the dry season. We were there during the rainy season, and by helicopter we flew over land that should have been part of a pond. Instead, it was dry, no water. We saw the carcasses of animals that couldn't survive because of the drought.

Climate change is real and is affecting our planet. There are vulnerable nations—from the Marshall Islands to Bangladesh and so many others—whose very existence is at risk because of climate change.

This is an urgent issue that requires an urgent response. But here we can make a difference. We can make a difference through conserving and using less energy and producing our energy in a more environmentally friendly way in a carbon-free environment.

I am joined by Congressman DELANEY and many Members of both the House and Senate in saying that the United States should make a commitment to produce at least 50 percent of our electricity through a carbon-free source by the year 2030. We can do that.

Here is the good news. It will not only be good for our environment, it will be good for our economy and good for our national security. Renewable energy sources can be produced here in America. You don't have to depend on the fossil fuels from countries who disagree with our way of life. For the sake of our national security, for the sake of our national economy, there are more jobs in clean energy than there are in fossil fuel industry.

For all those reasons—for our economy, for our security, and for our environment—U.S. leadership in dealing with these solutions can help America's security. Yes, U.S. leadership is absolutely vital. We saw that in COP21. Without U.S. leadership, it could not be done.

Here is where I really call upon our colleagues. I have said this many times on the floor of the Senate. It is a great honor to serve in the Senate; it is a great honor to represent the people of Maryland. Every Congress has tried to add to its record to protect the future generations as it relates to our environment.

The protection of our environment has never been a partisan issue. I would urge our colleagues to find ways that we can work together to build the legacy of this Congress to further protect our environment for future generations. We should be part of the solution.

Tomorrow is Earth Day. Let's make a difference. With what we see happening in New York and by our actions, let us protect future generations.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator ALEXANDER, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to call up the following first-degree amendments: Merkley amendment No. 3812, Reid amendment No. 3805, and Flake amendment No. 3820; further, that at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, April 26, the Senate vote on the amendments in the order

listed and with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes, and that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT SIGNING AND EARTH DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Some may know that there is a section of the Washington Post called the Kids Post—a section of interesting stories written for kids in the Washington area. The writers ask area grade schoolers about their favorite books, tv shows, hobbies, and sports. Sometimes the kids are asked what they think is one of the biggest problems in the world. Last week, a fifth-grade class in Virginia was asked this question.

About half the class mentioned an environmental problem such as global warming. In other recent editions when this question was asked, climate change is something these young people consistently worry about. It only makes sense.

Failure to do anything about climate change today, when we still have a chance, will leave future generations—our grandchildren and their children—with a changed world—and not for the better.

I know every time I look at my beautiful young grandchildren, I feel a responsibility—a moral responsibility—to address this problem for them and future generations. It makes me wonder why there are still so many here in this chamber and among the leading Republican Presidential candidates who deny climate change even exists, not to mention refuse to even do anything about it. How will future generations look back upon such denial and obstinance in the face of overwhelming evidence? Not kindly, I expect.

I know that science tells us that our human brains evolved to address more immediate dangers, and slowly evolving dangers, especially ones that may take decades or more to materialize, don't trigger the same sense of importance. But that is not the only thing at work here.

For decades, the fossil fuel industry and those in their pocket have tried to blur the debate—to blur the science—and create divisions among us instead of looking for what we have in common to solve this shared problem. Make no mistake. This is a deliberate campaign financed by the fossil fuel industry, a

campaign that peddles the pseudo-science of manufactured doubt.

As we approach Earth Day, all you need to do is look at the daily news to see the destructive impact of climate change. Scientists recently gained an improved understanding of the complex climate science of Antarctic ice, and they showed that, if carbon emissions were to continue unabated over the next few decades, the oceans could rise as much as 3 or 4 feet by 2100. The situation would then grow far worse in the 22nd century and beyond, likely forcing people to abandon many coastal cities. How can any member of the Senate ignore this potentially catastrophic and costly disaster?

Just the other week, scientists announced troubling evidence in the South Pacific that we are reaching a point where many coral reef ecosystems may not be able to adapt to the relentless progression of climate change. Whole ecosystems that affect all of us and our food chain are being impacted.

And just recently, the New York Times reported that forest fires in parts of the United States, from Alaska to New Mexico, were no longer just happening in a single season, as was the case historically. They have become year-around threats. New Mexico has had 140 such fires this year alone, double the number over the same period last year. Such fires have arrived earlier each year, are happening in winters, and in some cases burning all year along. The culprit for the drier conditions leading to these fires? Climate change.

Climate change also has significant national security implications, ones we simply cannot ignore because they will impact our shores. The crisis in Syria and the flow of refugees from unstable parts of the world is an early warning of how humanitarian crises, particularly from less stable parts of our shared planet, are likely to get worse if we continue to let climate change go unaddressed. Back in 2011, when pro-democracy protests began in Syria, many of those joining were displaced farmers, who had suffered their fourth year of drought made worse by the effects of climate change. The National Academy of Sciences published findings earlier this year showing that extreme drought in Syria between 2006 and 2009 was most likely due to climate change and that the drought was a factor in the uprisings in 2011.

Just last week, Pulitzer Prize Winner New York Times columnist Tom Friedman wrote about massive migration out of parts of West Africa, through the Sahara Desert, to Libya hoping to eventually cross the Mediterranean Sea into Europe. I ask unanimous consent that his April 13, 2016, column "Out of Africa" be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

He writes, "Just as Syria's revolution was set off in part by the worst

four-year drought in the country's modern history—plus overpopulation, climate stresses and the Internet—the same is true of this African migration wave."

Friedman further explains that a United Nations official in the region showed him three maps of Africa with an outline around dots clustered in the middle of the continent. The first map showed the most vulnerable regions of desertification, made worse by recent droughts, in Africa in 2008. The second map showed conflicts and food riots in Africa during 2007 and 2008. And the third map showed terrorist attacks in Africa in 2012. All three outlines cover the same territory.

Anyone serving in the U.S. Senate or running for President who claims to be serious about national security simply isn't credible without addressing the long-term threats posed by weak states and climate change in the decades to come.

And now, insurance companies are tuning in because they understand the threat is real and that business assets are at stake. Lloyd's of London, the world's oldest and biggest insurance market, has recognized the threat climate change represents to business assets, risks ranging from property damage to forced displacement to food insecurity. Lloyd's has issued a call for the insurance industry to take into account the effects of climate change in their insurance modeling.

The London School of Economics studied the economic impacts of climate change and put out a new report earlier this month. What they found is that, on a global scale, climate change could cost the world as little as \$2.5 trillion—or, within the range of possibilities, as much as \$25 trillion.

This is not only a problem in the Arctic or Africa or in remote corners of the world. This is a problem close to home for us, right here and right now. In the past 6 years, Illinois has experienced historic storms, floods, and droughts that have caused millions of dollars in damage. The city of Chicago has been hit by four historic storms in the last 7 years, meaning that the flooding of basements and overflowing of wastewater systems has become an annual event.

Because of climate change, U.S. growing seasons have shifted so drastically that crops which previously could survive only in the southern half of the country can now be successfully grown in northern Illinois. If current global warming trends continue, climate models estimate that Illinois will have a climate similar to that of the Texas Gulf coast by 2100. For Illinois farmers, these changes to the environment have a direct effect on their livelihood.

The need to act is urgent. We are reaching the tipping point. The science is clear; the debate is settled. The de-

structiveness of climate change is clear and growing. Climate change is a dire threat to the global economy and global stability. It will cause catastrophic consequences for global health, food security, and habitats on land and in the ocean. If we don't act in time, there is no backup plan.

No one nation can do this alone. The good news is that, together, the nations of the world can act to avoid irreversible disaster. President Obama, Secretary of State Kerry, and climate envoy Todd Stern have helped lead the way. The Paris climate agreement is a historic step in that direction. Never before have so many nations come together to tackle this threat. The draft Paris climate treaty was negotiated and adopted by consensus by 195 countries, unprecedented international cooperation in the face of the crisis.

I want to congratulate President Obama for his leadership in this complex but crucial task. He and his team lead the way for an ambitious, balanced, and fair agreement. And I would like to thank Todd Stern for his contributions, steadily working over several years to build up to the success of the Paris negotiations. I wish him and his family well as he retires from the climate envoy position.

Getting 195 countries to consent on the treaty is no small feat, and he achieved all this in the face of so much opposition at home.

The agreement opens for signatures on April 22, Earth Day. The United States and China made a joint announcement that we will be signing the agreement on that day, the earliest possible time. I encourage other nations to follow our lead.

Our generation has a moral obligation to leave the world in at least as good a shape as we inherited from our parents and grandparents. We cannot run away from our responsibility.

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

[Apr. 13, 2016]

OUT OF AFRICA

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

AGADEZ, NIGER.—It's Monday and that means it's moving day in Agadez, the northern Niger desert crossroad that is the main launching pad for migrants out of West Africa. Fleeing devastated agriculture, overpopulation and unemployment, migrants from a dozen countries gather here in caravans every Monday night and make a mad dash through the Sahara to Libya, hoping to eventually hop across the Mediterranean to Europe.

This caravan's assembly is quite a scene to witness. Although it is evening, it's still 105 degrees, and there is little more than a crescent moon to illuminate the night. Then, all of a sudden, the desert comes alive.

Using the WhatsApp messaging service on their cellphones, the local smugglers, who are tied in with networks of traffickers extending across West Africa, start coordinating the surreptitious loading of migrants from safe houses and basements across the

city. They've been gathering all week from Senegal, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Chad, Guinea, Cameroon, Mali and other towns in Niger.

With 15 to 20 men—no women—crammed together into the back of each Toyota pickup, their arms and legs spilling over the sides, the vehicles pop out of alleyways and follow scout cars that have zoomed ahead to make sure there are no pesky police officers or border guards lurking who have not been paid off.

It's like watching a symphony, but you have no idea where the conductor is. Eventually, they all converge at a gathering point north of the city, forming a giant caravan of 100 to 200 vehicles—the strength in numbers needed to ward off deserts bandits.

Poor Niger. Agadez, with its warrens of ornate mud-walled buildings, is a remarkable Unesco World Heritage site, but the city has been abandoned by tourists after attacks nearby by Boko Haram and other jihadists. So, as one smuggler explains to me, the cars and buses of the tourist industry have now been repurposed into a migration industry. There are now wildcat recruiters, linked to smugglers, all across West Africa who appeal to the mothers of boys to put up the \$400 to \$500 to send them to seek out jobs in Libya or Europe. Few make it, but others keep coming.

I am standing at the Agadez highway control station watching this parade. As the Toyotas whisk by me, kicking up dust, they paint the desert road with stunning moonlit silhouettes of young men, silently standing in the back of each vehicle. The thought that their Promised Land is war-ravaged Libya tells you how desperate are the conditions they're leaving. Between 9,000 and 10,000 men make this journey every month.

A few agree to talk—nervously. One group of very young men from elsewhere in Niger tell me they're actually joining the rush to pan for gold in Djado in the far north of Niger. More typical are five young men who, in Senegalese-accented French, tell a familiar tale: no work in the village, went to the town, no work in the town, heading north.

What's crazy is that as you go north of here, closer to the Libya border, to Dirkou, you run into streams of migrants coming back from Libya, which they found ungoverned, abusive and lacking in any kind of decent work. One of them, Mati Almani, from Niger, tells me he had left his three wives and 17 children back in his village to search for work in Libya or Europe and returned deeply disillusioned. In Libya, say migrants, you can get beaten at any moment—or arbitrarily arrested and have the police use your cellphone to call your family in Niger and demand a ransom for your release.

Just as Syria's revolution was set off in part by the worst four-year drought in the country's modern history—plus overpopulation, climate stresses and the Internet—the same is true of this African migration wave. That's why I'm here filming an episode for the "Years of Living Dangerously" series on climate change across the planet, which will appear on National Geographic Channel next fall. I'm traveling with Monique Barbut, who heads the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification, and Adamou Chaifou, Niger's minister of environment.

Chaifou explains that West Africa has experienced two decades of on-again-off-again drought. The dry periods prompt desperate people to deforest hillsides for wood for cooking or to sell, but they are now followed by increasingly violent rains, which then

easily wash away the topsoil barren of trees. Meanwhile, the population explodes—mothers in Niger average seven children—as parents continue to have lots of kids for social security, and each year more fertile land gets eaten by desertification. "We now lose 100,000 hectares of arable land every year to desertification," says Chaifou. "And we lose between 60,000 and 80,000 hectares of forest every year."

As long as anyone could remember, he says, the rainy season "started in June and lasted until October. Now we get more big rains in April, and you need to plant right after it rains." But then it becomes dry again for a month or two, and then the rains come back, much more intense than before, and cause floods that wash away the crops, "and that is a consequence of climate change"—caused, he adds, primarily by emissions from the industrial North, not from Niger or its neighbors.

Says the U.N.'s Barbut, "Desertification acts as the trigger, and climate change acts as an amplifier of the political challenges we are witnessing today: economic migrants, interethnic conflicts and extremism." She shows me three maps of Africa with an oblong outline around a bunch of dots clustered in the middle of the continent. Map No. 1: the most vulnerable regions of desertification in Africa in 2008. Map No. 2: conflicts and food riots in Africa 2007–2008. Map No. 3: terrorist attacks in Africa in 2012.

All three outlines cover the same territory.

The European Union recently struck a deal with Turkey to vastly increase E.U. aid to Ankara for dealing with refugees and migrants who have reached Turkey, in return for Turkey restricting their flow into Europe.

"If we would invest a fraction of that amount helping African nations combat deforestation, improve health and education and sustain small-scale farming, which is the livelihood of 80 percent of the people in Africa, so people here could stay on the land," says Barbut, "it would be so much better for them and for the planet."

Everyone wants to build walls these days, she notes, but the wall we need most is a "green wall" of reforestation that would hold back the desert and stretch from Mali in the west to Ethiopia in the east. "It's an idea that the Africans themselves have come up with," she adds. It makes enormous sense.

Because, in the end, no wall will hold back this surging migrant tide. Everything you see here screams that unless a way can be found to stabilize Africa's small-scale agriculture, one way or another they will try to get to Europe. Some who can't will surely gravitate toward any extremist group that pays them. Too many are now aware through mass media of the better life in Europe, and too many see their governments as too frail to help them advance themselves.

I interviewed 20 men from at least 10 African countries at the International Organization for Migration aid center in Agadez—all had gone to Libya, tried and failed to get to Europe, and returned, but were penniless and unable to get back to their home villages. I asked them, "How many of you and your friends would leave Africa and go to Europe if you could get in legally?"

"Tout le monde," they practically shouted, while they all raised their hands.

I don't know much French, but I think that means "everybody."

## ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I want to applaud Senators MURKOWSKI and CANTWELL, the chair and ranking member of the Energy Committee, for their leadership and tenacity in passing yesterday's bipartisan Energy bill on the floor. This kind of bipartisanship has always been the political fuel that has driven some of our most important energy legislation. I thank them for their commitment to working together in a bipartisan fashion to pass this bill, and I look forward to working with them and all of my colleagues going forward to capture all of the potential for America's clean energy future.

There are many good provisions in this bill. The bill promotes energy efficiency in our buildings and appliances. It will help to modernize our electrical grid and support energy storage technologies. It permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The bill includes a number of provisions and amendments that I authored that were accepted on the floor.

I was pleased that my bipartisan legislation with Senators INHOFE, ROUNDS, and BOOKER to reauthorize EPA's brownfields program through 2018 was included in the Energy bill. This legislation will help clean up the decades of abuse our lands have experienced at the hands of corporate polluters. It will help to create jobs and spur economic activity in Massachusetts and around the country, while revitalizing underutilized and polluted lands.

In December, Congress voted to lift the 40-year old restrictions on exporting U.S. oil overseas. During that debate, I and other Senators raised concerns regarding the impacts that exporting American oil abroad could have on U.S. consumers and refined fuel prices, independent refineries, and other sectors of the U.S. economy such as shipbuilding. However, the final legislation did not even include any requirement for analyzing and reporting on any potential impacts that exports could have on these industries or on U.S. consumers. Therefore, I offered an amendment, which the Senate adopted, that would require the Government Accountability Office, GAO to review and report back annually for 3 years on the impacts of crude oil exports on U.S. consumers, independent refineries, shipbuilders, and energy production.

Exporting American crude oil could be a disaster for independent refineries in regions such as the east coast. Upwards of 55 percent of our refining capacity on the east coast could potentially close as a result of oil exports. The Energy Department has said that exports could lead to as much as \$9 billion less investment and 1.6 million barrels less refining capacity in 10 years. It could lead to up to \$200 billion less revenue for the U.S. refining sector

over the next decade. It could raise prices for consumers who are currently saving \$700 a year at the pump and \$500 on heating oil this winter because of low oil prices. And it could harm U.S. shipbuilders. We have been having a shipbuilding renaissance in this country. We are currently seeing the biggest shipbuilding boom in 20 years. But exports could stop all of this in its tracks.

We should know how exporting American oil is affecting American consumers. We should know how it is affecting key sectors of our economy such as refining and shipbuilding. And we should know how it is affecting energy production in the United States. That is what my amendment would help us do, and I am pleased that it was adopted into the bill.

The bill also includes a bipartisan amendment that I authored with Senator CASSIDY to improve the way that we are going to be selling oil under a law passed last year to better protect taxpayers.

Our Nation's oil stockpile is supposed to be there to protect American consumers and our security in the event of an emergency. We shouldn't use it as a piggybank to fund other priorities. But that is precisely what we did in two bills passed last year.

But if we are going to sell oil from our strategic stockpile, we should do so strategically to get the best deal for taxpayers and drive down prices for consumers. That is what the Cassidy-Markey amendment would help us do.

For the sales of SPR oil required by the Budget Act that became law last year, the Cassidy-Markey amendment would give the Secretary of Energy more flexibility to sell oil when prices are high. This fix should allow us to sell fewer overall barrels from the SPR and get a better return on these sales for American taxpayers. I am pleased that the Senate voted to adopt this commonsense amendment.

However, there are a number of provisions in the bill with which I have concerns. The bill would apply a 45-day shot-clock to the Department of Energy's review of liquefied natural gas export applications. There is no problem with the Energy Department delaying its review of LNG export applications. If there is any problem, it is that the Energy Department is moving too fast to approve these exports of American natural gas overseas.

Exporting less than half of the volumes of natural gas that the Department has already approved for export could drive prices up by more than 50 percent for American consumers and businesses. This would be a disaster for consumers in many regions of the country, such as the Northeast. It would be a disaster for domestic manufacturing, where low U.S. prices give us a competitive advantage with the rest of the world. I have urged the Depart-

ment to take a time-out from approving new LNG exports until we more fully understand how the volumes we have already approved will affect various regions of our country and our energy security. That is what we should be doing, not artificially truncating the review process.

I am similarly concerned that a provision about forest bioenergy would interfere with the EPA's scientific review process of the carbon pollution implications of biomass electricity and potentially interfere—with EPA's statutory responsibilities. The provision directs Federal policies to "reflect the carbon neutrality of forest bioenergy." But not all biomass energy is created equal. The timeframe for any climate benefits from biomass energy can vary. In many instances that timeframe can be very long—on the order of 50 to 100 years. Some practices, like clear-cutting forests and burning whole trees for energy should never be considered carbon neutral. That is why it is critical to incorporate what science tells us about forests and their interaction with the global carbon cycle into policies governing biomass energy. Biomass energy is already contributing to the U.S. energy mix in ways that help reduce carbon pollution that causes global warming. I look forward to working with my colleagues as this bill moves through conference to ensure that the United States has a smart, sustainable, and scientifically-backed policy for biomass energy.

The bill also contains provisions regarding hydropower relicensing. I appreciate the willingness of Senators MURKOWSKI and CANTWELL to engage with stakeholders on hydropower relicensing and that they have crafted language that is a vast improvement compared to the House version.

It took me much of 1985 and 1986 to reach consensus on the bipartisan Electric Consumers Protection Act of 1986 that for the first time required FERC to give equal consideration to the environment, fish and wildlife, and other nonpower values as it gives to power and development objectives in making licensing decisions. I know how challenging it can be to find solutions that all stakeholders can support. But these hydropower licenses are good for decades, and we need to make sure that FERC's decisions are informed by the best, most up-to-date information, especially in the face of changing rainfall patterns driven by global warming. So I am concerned that this provision in the Energy bill could limit the ability of Federal agencies to require companies to undertake new analyses on the impacts of their dams by emphasizing the use of existing studies and data.

I am also concerned that the provision could require agencies to evaluate the impact of their recommendations on issues beyond their core abilities. Rather than speeding up the reli-

censing process, this could slow it down. Rather than saving taxpayers money, it could require more financial resources for Federal agencies.

Finally, I am concerned about what is not in this bill. The tax breaks for the oil, gas, and coal industries are permanent pieces of the TAX CODE that never expire. Meanwhile, tax breaks for wind power will begin phasing down in 8 months and be gone by the end of 2019. The tax breaks for solar will expire in 2021. That schedule would be a disaster for offshore wind in particular, which has the potential to create tens of thousands of jobs in Massachusetts and up and down the east coast. In fact, the Department of Energy has found that that there would be no offshore wind projects that would be able to qualify for these tax credits before they expire. That is just wrong. We need to put clean energy technologies on equal footing with mature fossil fuel industries, whose tax breaks date as far back as 100 years.

Senators CANTWELL and WYDEN put forward a Democratic energy bill which I was pleased to be an original cosponsor of, which would repeal these fossil fuel tax breaks and invest in clean energy. It would create a goal for reducing our emission of carbon pollution. And it would create an energy efficiency standard such as I have proposed. These are some of the measures that we should be considering to truly allow us to be a leader in developing clean energy technologies and jobs here in the United States.

As we work with the House on this Energy bill, we need to build on the bipartisan efforts that have been done in this bill and ensure that the Senate continues to reject the damaging and highly partisan provisions that the House has included in its bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure a final Energy bill that improves America's economy and environment.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my hometown of Scranton, PA, as it celebrates its 150th anniversary, or sesquicentennial.

Ever since William Penn invited carpenters, masons, weavers, and other skilled workers to settle in Pennsylvania, the story of our Commonwealth, and in particular northeastern Pennsylvania, has been the story of working people.

At the dawn of the 19th century, what would become known as the city of Scranton became a home to new immigrants who fought desperately to escape the horrors of religious persecution, famine, and poverty in Europe and dreamed of a better life. Many of the new settlers worked in the darkness and danger of the anthracite coal

mines in order to provide for their families. My grandfather, Alphonsus Casey, at the age of 11, was one of those workers. He was a "mule boy" who was once kicked in the face by a mule, sustaining a deep cut from his forehead, across his face. As my father would recall years later, "There were no benefits—no worker's compensation, no safety net in place to take care of the adult worker, much less an injured child."

A 2002 book, "A History of the Commonwealth," described the lives of our region's coal miners as ones of "danger and economic uncertainty." The great novelist Stephen Crane recounted a visit to one mine in the region by describing an "extraordinary, black puzzle" in which the "shouts of mule-boys" were sometimes the only sounds.

The work ethic of those who descended into the depth and darkness of those mines shaped Scranton and impacts the city all these years later. As the coal jobs were lost, the city and the region went through a painful transition that left scars on our land and our people. What has undergirded the city of Scranton's resilience over all these years has been a heritage of hard work and sacrifice and an enduring belief in the promise of tomorrow.

Today Scranton's economy has been transformed by so-called "meds and eds." The city is home to some of our State's top universities and medical facilities. It is a community of entrepreneurs and is being shaped by a new generation of immigrants seeking the same better life as Scrantonians of an earlier era.

Driving the city's education sector are the five colleges and universities that are preparing thousands of students for careers in the 21st-century economy—advanced manufacturing, technology, and energy. The Commonwealth Medical College, which is the first M.D.-granting medical school built in Pennsylvania since 1962, is providing state-of-the-art medical education to medical students from across the globe. In addition, Commonwealth Health and Geisinger have entered the medical market in Lackawanna County and are investing over \$300 million in innovative technology and improved medical care.

For the last 150 years, Scranton's story has been part of the fabric of our Nation. As the city looks forward to the next 150 years, it is uniquely positioned to create its own future.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the city of Scranton on its 150th anniversary and highlight the rich and industrious heritage that has continued to drive the Electric City well into the 21st century.

The story of Scranton is unique and yet distinctly American. The city's visionary founders, brothers George and Selden Scranton, arrived in the Lackawanna Valley in the early 1840s and,

after early failures, became the first Americans to produce iron rails on a mass scale. Railroads expanded dramatically throughout the United States once these crucial components became available, and Scranton became a hub of commerce, manufacturing, and transportation. By the 1860s, the Scranton family's company had grown into the second largest iron-manufacturing center in America, employing thousands of people. With 35,000 residents at the time, Scranton was officially incorporated as a city on April 23, 1866, and would become the county seat for the newly formed Lackawanna County in 1878.

The success of Scranton's coal, iron, and steel industries served as a catalyst for other important enterprises in the region. Large-scale textile, printing, and food-processing operations, together with increased educational opportunities, all played a vital role in the region's growth. Between 1860 and 1910, Scranton's flourishing industrial activity drew thousands of new immigrants.

The story of the Scranton family's endeavor, now known as the Lackawanna Steel Company, is one of the greatest success stories of American manufacturing. Through perseverance and dedication, Scranton grew from a small, agrarian village to a thriving, multicultural city.

Today Scranton is a leader in higher education, medicine, and manufacturing. Driving Scranton's development are five institutions of higher education preparing thousands of students for a 21st century economy. For example, the Commonwealth Medical College provides state-of-the-art medical education to students from across the globe, and companies in Lackawanna County have made significant investments in innovative technology and improved medical care. Scranton is well-positioned to be a beacon for entrepreneurs and businesses looking to take advantage of the high-quality workforce that Scranton's colleges and technical schools are producing.

Today I wish to recognize the profound contributions that the city of Scranton and its residents have made to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania over the last 150 years. I wish them all the best as the people of Scranton celebrate the city's sesquicentennial anniversary on April 23, 2016.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Civil Air Patrol as it celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. The Civil Air Patrol has been a tremendous contributor in our great State, and I am honored to recognize and congratulate it on this important milestone.

The Civil Air Patrol was founded on December 1, 1941, the week before the

Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, by a group of brave civilians interested in donating both their aviation skills and free time to protecting the Nation's coastlines during World War II, in addition to contributing to other civil defense missions. During this time, pilots volunteering with the Civil Air Patrol flew more than 500,000 hours and helped in a variety of ways, including patrolling the coastline for submarine activity, monitoring our forests and southern borders, and searching for ships and personnel in distress.

On July 1, 1946, the Civil Air Patrol was established as a federally chartered nonprofit corporation by President Harry Truman. Following this, on May 26, 1948, Congress passed a law, designating the Civil Air Patrol as the Air Force Auxiliary and establishing primary missions for the Civil Air Patrol. The legislation established that the Civil Air Patrol would focus on emergency services, cadet programs, and aerospace education. Today this important organization is a national community service group with 31,000 professionally trained civilian volunteers and serves as a partner to the U.S. Air Force as a member of its total force. The Civil Air Patrol serves to assist Federal, State, and local governments and offers assistance for homeland security missions, counterdrug efforts, search and rescue missions, and disaster relief.

The Nevada Wing Civil Air Patrol upholds these values, maintaining strong search and rescue programs, cadet programs, and aerospace education, and has a far-reaching positive impact on both urban and rural communities throughout the Silver State. The many volunteers contributing to the Nevada Wing have helped at a variety of events, departments, and facilities across the State, including the State Veterans Home, the Boulder City and Fernley Veterans Cemeteries, Operation Home Front, Blue Star Widows, Nevada Department of Emergency Management Search and Rescue Board, and many more.

In addition, the Nevada Wing has strengthened its relationship with the Nevada Department of Emergency Management and has reinforced its incident management action team, triggering a quicker and more thorough response to support calls from across the Nation. This incredible wing's contributions to both adults and children across the State are invaluable. I extend my deepest gratitude to the many men and women who volunteer for the Nevada wing for their genuine concern and services in helping others. The legacy they have built for the Nevada Wing will live on for generations to come.

For three-quarters of a century, the Civil Air Patrol has proven its unwavering dedication to our State and to our country. The hard work of those



that have served both nationally at the Civil Air Patrol and within the Nevada Wing has not gone unnoticed. These courageous men and women stand as role models in their pursuits to help others in states of emergency and in everyday events. I ask Nevadans across the Silver State and my colleagues to join me in honoring the Civil Air Patrol on its 75th anniversary and in thanking the Civil Air Patrol for its commendable missions.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUTHERFORD B. HAYES PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUMS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 100th anniversary of the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums in Fremont, OH. On May 30, 1916, COL Webb Hayes, son of President Rutherford B. Hayes, made his father's papers and artifacts available to the public for research with the opening of a library and museum on his parents' estate, Spiegel Grove. It was the first in what is now a Federal presidential library system.

Spiegel Grove is unique in that the former President's home, tomb, museum, and library are all on the same site, which sits on 25 acres surrounded by six sets of gates originally located at the White House. The site has continued to grow and change since its opening. In 2012, a \$1.5 million restoration of the Hayes Home was completed. Major additions to the museum in 1922 and 1968 brought the building to its present configuration comprising of 52,640 square feet. In January 2016, the museum temporarily closed to the public to undergo a \$1.6 million renovation, which will premiere Memorial Day weekend 2016.

It is the mission of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums "to enrich lives through the historical preservation of Spiegel Grove and to provide a greater understanding of President Hayes and his contributions to the State of Ohio, the country, and his fellow Americans." In keeping with that mission, the organization uses its resources, including 21,000 artifacts, 80,000 books, and 6,000 linear feet of manuscript collections, to illustrate the life and times of Rutherford B. Hayes, his family, and his Presidency.

We are honored to have this American treasure located in the State of Ohio.

#### TRIBUTE TO FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor 461 high school seniors in eight northeast Ohio counties for their commendable decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. Of these 461 seniors from 127 high schools in 94 towns and cities, 141 will enter the Army, 126 will enter the Marine Corps,

61 will enter the Navy, 25 will enter the Air Force, 1 will enter the Coast Guard, 103 will enter our Ohio Army National Guard, and 4 will enter the Ohio Air National Guard. In the presence of their parents/guardians, high school counselors, military leaders, and city and business leaders, all 461 will be recognized on May 4, 2016, by Our Community Salutes of northeast Ohio.

In a few short weeks, these young men and women will join with many of their classmates in celebration of their high school graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees or are uncertain about their future, these young men and women instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our rights, our freedoms, and our country. They should know that they have full support of this Senate Chamber and the American people, who are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

These 461 young men and women are the cornerstone of our liberties. It is thanks to their dedication and the dedication of an untold number of patriots just like them that we are able to meet here today in the U.S. Senate and openly debate the best solutions to the many diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a dangerous world. We are grateful to them, and we are grateful to their parents and their communities for instilling in them not only the mental and physical abilities our Armed Forces require but, more importantly, the character, the values, and the discipline that leads someone to put service to our Nation over self.

I would like to personally thank these 461 graduating seniors for their selflessness and the courage that they have shown by volunteering to risk their lives in defense of our Nation. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of the 461 high school seniors.

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

#### UNITED STATES ARMY—141

Achterhof—Medina; Addison—South Euclid; Alexander—Medina; Artis—Brooklyn; Baldyga—Broadview Heights; Basile—Maple Heights; Bell—Akron; Berry—North Ridgeville; Boggs—Bedford; Bost—Chardon; Bradshaw—Newburgh Heights; Brandt—Broadview Heights; Brasty—Parma; Brewer—Cleveland; Broeckel II—Vermilion; Brown—Parma; Burgos—Lorain; Burt—Barberton; Cannon—Cleveland; Chauvin—Hudson; Clark—Cleveland; Colon—Berea; Cook—East Cleveland; Cooper—Sheffield Township; Crowder—Akron; Curiale—Olmsted Falls; Daniels—Akron; Davis—Lorain; DeJesus—Cuyahoga Falls; Delgado—Lorain; Dingess—

Wadsworth; Dominquez—Lorain; Felix—Parma Heights; Finkel—Wellington; Fuss—Wadsworth; Gant—Ashtabula; Gary—Garfield Heights; Giavonette—Parma; Golan—Brunswick; Grays—South Euclid; Griffith—Jefferson; Hanrahan—Parma Heights; Hardin—Martinez—Geneva; Hawkins—Painesville; Hawthorne, J—Lorain; Hawthorne, N—Lorain; Hawthorne, J—Lorain; Hayes—Ravenna; Hoch—Middleburg Heights; Holian—Lakewood; Hughes III—Willoughby.

Irby—Garfield Heights; Jackson—Elyria; James, B—Broadview Heights; James, D—Cleveland; Jennings—Warrensville; Johnson, D—Akron; Johnson, J—Akron; Jones—Barberton; Kelly—Ravenna; LaRiche—Geneva; Larsen—Stow; Lausin—Kirtland; Lawson—Berea; Lewis—Elyria; Loozli—Amherst; Lopez, L—North Ridgeville; Magrell—Cuyahoga Falls; Martinez—Ashtabula; McFall—Fairlawn; Mendez—Painesville; Mickels—Akron; Milich—North Royalton; Miller—North Royalton; Mongenel—Ashtabula; Montesano—Northfield; Moore—Cleveland; Neely—Amherst; Nelson—Cleveland; Nemitz—Conneaut; Nethers—Broadview Heights; Nowagarski—Grafton; Page—Akron; Parella—Stow; Perrigan—Lorain; Poling—Lakewood; Pullman—Parma; Purnell—Cleveland; Quinões, Jr.—North Olmsted; Radke—Parma Heights.

Raduka—Barberton; Raeburn—Cuyahoga Falls; Ramos—Ashtabula; Rawdon—Akron; Reitz—North Ridgeville; Rhodes—Akron; Richardson—Akron; Richmond—Cleveland; Ridenour—Lodi; Rider—Kent; Rivera—Lorain; Roberts—Akron; Robertson, J—Elyria; Robertson, N—Parma; Rodriguez—Cabalero—Cleveland; Rukule—Lyndhurst; Sack—Middleburg Heights; Sanchez, E—Medina; Schmitt—Barberton; Schraner—Parma; Schveder—Perry; Shaw—Cleveland; Sibits—Brunswick; Sistrunk—Akron; Smith, L—Wadsworth; Spurlock—Oberlin; Starcher—Windham; Sullivan—Windham; Terrasi—Willoughby; Thacker—LaGrange; Thomas—Geneva; Toensing—Cleveland; Tousley—Wadsworth; Vaughn, J—Lorain; Vaughn, T—Cleveland; Walker, C—Cleveland; Walker, T—Conneaut; Ward—North Royalton; Ware—Twinsburg; Webster—Lorain; Weintz—Brunswick; White—Ashtabula; Wildhaber—Elyria; Williams, D—Garfield Heights; Williams, M—Shaker Heights; Wilyard—Ravenna; Wojnowski—Wellington; Woodrum—Stow; Woods—North Ridgeville; Workman—Wellington; Young—Elyria.

#### UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS—126

Adler—Middlefield; Ady—Euclid; Allan—North Olmsted; Arbogast—North Royalton; Augustine—Euclid; Bacik—North Olmsted; Bailey—Brunswick; Bakita—Barberton; Barnett—Ashtabula; Bischoff—Norton; Bodkins—Wellington; Bosak—Cleveland; Braman—Elyria; Brandt—Cuyahoga Falls; Brill—Sheffield Lake; Brown—Elyria; Buckwald—Brunswick; Burchard—Cleveland; Burgess—Wellington; Bush—Euclid; Calafato—Kent; Campbell—Conneaut; Cannell—Northfield; Carlyn—Akron; Carson—Akron; Castro—Cleveland; Cole—Garfield Heights; Collins, J—Twinsburg; Collins, R—Ashtabula; Cousin—Middleburg Heights; Crespo—Olmsted Township; Crookston—Doylestown; Curry—Garfield Heights; Cushing—Sheffield Lake; Cushman—Northfield; Durigon—Painesville; Eaton—Wadsworth; Eberhardt—Fairlawn; Elliott—Olmsted Falls.

Fairman—Madison; Fields—Oberlin; Figler—Northfield; Fisher, C—Medina; Fisher, G—Medina; Flege—Stow; Foster—Cruz—Cleveland; Frey—Sheffield; Gabel—Wadsworth; Grabowy—Macedonia; Grasso—North

Royalton; Gruber—Medina; Gutierrez Rodriguez—Painesville; Hahn—Parma; Hall—Medina; Harrold—Elyria; Hetrick—Cleveland; Hill—Akron; Holmes, Ja—Medina; Holmes, Jo—Barberton; Jackson—Akron; Jerome—Bay Village; Jones, A—Garrettsville; Jones, J—Cleveland; Jurgens—Medina; Kahl—North Kingsville; Kisil—Cleveland; Kontz—North Ridgeville; Kramer—Medina; Law—Bedford Heights; Leisure—Chesterland; LeMire—Strongsville; Lepley—Barberton; Locksey—North Olmsted; Maag—Berea; Maciech—Parma; McCandless—Painesville; McCauley—Silver Lake; McGarvey—Painesville; McLelland—Wadsworth; Medina—Lorain; Mercedes—Lakewood; Mills—Wadsworth; Mori—Garfield Heights; Morris—Cuyahoga Falls; Murray—Bedford; Nashroyal—Akron; Newhart—Ashtabula.

Nye—Richfield; Parham—Warrensville; Parker, D—Vermilion; Parker, B—Cleveland; Parks—Olmsted Falls; Patton—Ashtabula; Pescirilli—Willoughby; Pokorny—Akron; Porter—Brooklyn; Rath—Macedonia; Reynolds—Akron; Robinson—North Olmsted; Romosca—Deerfield; Rude—Medina; Rutherford—Elyria; Savander—Euclid; Scherer—Ravenna; Serafin—Aurora; Shaffstall—Brunswick; Sheridan—Cuyahoga Falls; Smith—Euclid; Spang—Jefferson; Sterle—Macedonia; Turoslebron—Cleveland; Vigilante—Cleveland; Vincent—Medina; Walling—Mentor; Walsh—South Euclid; Walts—Amherst; Westfall—Barberton; Wiggins—Elyria; Williams—Cleveland; Wise—Munroe Falls; Yankie—Geneva; Yontosh—Parma Heights; Youngblood—Maple Heights; Zadravec—Vermilion; Zamborsky—Independence; Zamlen—Hinckley.

## UNITED STATES NAVY—61

Akron—Garfield Heights; Ashe—Parma; Baker—Middleburg Heights; Barnett—Westlake; Batman—Hinckley; Bell—Sullivan; Berrios—Cleveland; Berry—Painesville; Besses—Bedford; Boston—Willoughby; Brown—Bay Village; Chandler—Jones—Cleveland; Cruz—Cleveland; DeHoff—Mantua; Fenner—Geneva; Fowlkes—Cleveland; Garcia—Strongsville; Gunsalus—Parma Heights; Haavisto—Wickliffe; Hada—Eastlake; Harrison, B—Vermilion; Harrison, L—Orwell; Hegedeos—North Royalton; Herron—Barberton; Jatzek—Grafton; Kerby—Ashtabula; Knox—Ashtabula; Kolenz—Columbia Station; Leach—Chardon; Leclerc—Amherst; Luther—Eastlake; McBride—Cleveland; Menough—Garrettsville; Mitchell—Wadsworth; Mizak—Geneva; Moosman—Strongsville; Pieczokna—Lodi; Readinger—Cleveland; Reavis—Lorain.

Reynolds—Mentor; Richardson—Maple Heights; Rizzell—Elyria; Roberts, A—University Heights; Roberts, M—Barberton; Rodriguez—North Olmsted; Santiago—Cleveland; Seaton—Todd—Mentor; Sinatra—Medina; Skvarek—Jefferson; Stankiewicz—Medina; Strickland—Elyria; Tahir—Cleveland; Vasiloff—Vermilion; van't Veer—Ashtabula; Weir—Akron; Weise—Thompson; Wessel—Parma; Williamson—Ashtabula; Wilson—Novelty; Yourich—Wellington; Zanick—North Ridgeville.

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE—25

Arnern—Madison; Aslaksen—Wakeman; Battenhouse—Fairview Park; Boles—Medina; Davis—Amherst; Duber—Olmsted Falls; Fye—Lorain; Haslage—Avon; Honoshofsky—Wellington; Hylton—Brook Park; Johnson—Amherst; Kuzak—Amherst; Lemieux—Elyria; Linden—Elyria; Medina—Lorain; Miracle—Elyria; Newsome—North Ridgeville; Sabin—Kirtland; Sapp—Rocky River; Schneider—Wellington; Singh—Berea;

Torres—Cleveland; Voiers—Westlake; Wilhelm—Fairview Park; Yandell—Chesterland.

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD—1

Karlovec—Akron.

## OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD—103

Alexander—Richmond Heights; Anderson, Jr.—Maple Heights; Aumann—Mentor; Barnes—Owens—Cleveland; Barr—Barberton; Bevins—Jefferson; Blankenship—Wellington; Boyes—Hartville; Brantley—Cleveland; Brooks—Sheffield Lake; Brown—Wadsworth; Burk—Olmsted Falls; Clack—Euclid; Clark, C—Akron; Clark, Jr., R—Richmond Heights; Coblentz—Middlefield; Colston—Cleveland; Conley—Akron; Cope—Norton; Diaz—Brooklyn; Dunning—Chardon; Ellis—Cleveland; English—Jefferson; Fagan—Olmsted Falls; Fifer—Munroe Falls.

Filiaggi—Elyria; Florence—Streetsboro; Ford—Cleveland; Frazier—Mentor; Frindt—North Olmsted; Frolo—North Olmsted; Garlak—Chesterland; Giron—Cleveland; Gonzalez—Sanabria—Lorain; Gower, Jr.—Hinckley; Grace—North Olmsted; Hadlock—Berea; Hardwick—Barberton; Hayes, C—North Olmsted; Hayes, S—Medina; Heatwall—Tallmadge; Heim—Windham; Hilliard—Brook Park; Howard—Wellington; Jackson, D—Cleveland; Johnson, O—Hudson; Johnson, W—South Euclid; Jones—Cleveland; Jordan—Cleveland; Karasek—Mogadore; Kelly—Brecksville; Kiarie—Solon; Korylak—Cleveland; Lee—Akron; Legky—Hartville; Lewis—Ravenna; Livengood—Mentor; Maxwell—Howe—Barberton; Maybaugh—Wellington; McKenzie—Cleveland.

Mendez—Cleveland; Messina—Concord Township; Mize—Sheffield Lake; Moore—Barberton; Myers—Rocker—Akron; Nichols—Barberton; Nicodemus—Uniontown; Norwalk—North Royalton; Novak—North Olmsted; Nunn—Elyria; Ocheltree—Barberton; Omeara—Conneaut; Osborne—Brunswick; Parker, I—Cleveland; Parker, M—Cleveland; Peebles—North Ridgeville; Pishner—Elyria; Pool—Elyria; Prebonick—Akron; Proctor—Akron; Pryor—Cleveland; Puzder—Parma; Querry—Barberton; Rahman—Garfield Heights; Riddle—Lash—Cleveland; Rodriguez—Santana—Lorain; Rosado—Elyria; Rose—Cleveland; Shaffstall—North Ridgeville; Shukys—Ravenna; Simmons—Garfield Heights; Slover—Mentor; Smith—North Olmsted; Stanic—Euclid; Stecklein—Roaming Shores; Storrow—Clinton; Tavano—Mentor; Terrell—Mogadore; Wanton—Tallmadge; Ware—Maple Heights; Weenink—Gates Mills; Wills—Maple Heights; Wiltrout—Columbia Station.

## OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD—4

Koltas—Sheffield Lake; Laswell—Bernhard—North Warren; Wilch—Hudson; Boukzam—Strongsville.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO WYATT ZYLAWY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I would like to honor Wyatt Zylawy, of Superior, MT, for his outstanding achievements in his recent Coast Guard training and for his noble commitment to serving our country.

Wyatt is the youngest of three brothers who seem to do almost everything together—from playing the same sports, to playing in a band together, to eventually all joining the U.S. Coast Guard.

Wyatt graduated from basic training on January 22, 2016, and won 3 out of 7 awards that were given out amongst the other 57 members in his unit. He received recognition for his high levels of academic and athletic abilities. To make this ceremony even more special, one of Wyatt's brothers, Roman, Junior, presented Wyatt with his awards.

Currently Wyatt is attending "A" School in Yorktown, VA, where he is training to be an electrician's mate and will graduate on July 1, 2016. He has been named as the class leader and is responsible for overseeing his fellow officers' marching formations, ensuring their timeliness, and making sure they are keeping up with their physical training.

His father, Roman Zylawy, describes Wyatt as always being a hard worker, highly motivated, and taking the initiative with his schoolwork, as well as any sports teams he played on. "Whenever he set his mind on something, he did it and he did it well," Mr. Zylawy remarks. "Wyatt has a high ability to excel and to consistently be on top of his game."

Wyatt hopes to be stationed somewhere in the Pacific Northwest after graduation so he will be close to home.

Good luck in all your endeavors, Wyatt, and I thank you for your current and future service to our State and to our Nation. You are a true representation of the brave, honorable, and exceptional type of young person who is the future of our State and country, and to that end, I am immensely grateful.●

## CONGRATULATING THE MARIAN UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL KNIGHTS

• Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I congratulate the Marian University Knights on winning the 25th Annual Division II Women's Basketball NAIA National Championship.

Marian University established its women's basketball program in 1976 and has committed itself to competing at the highest level both academically and athletically. The program has secured three Crossroads League regular season championships—1994-95, 2001-02, 2015-16—and one Crossroads League tournament championship—2014-2015. The program has made three NAIA Tournament appearances. In 2016, the women's basketball team secured its first national championship title with a 59-48 victory over Southern Oregon in Sioux City, IA.

Under the guidance of head coach Katie Gearlds since 2013, the women's basketball team has become increasingly engaged in community outreach and service activities. As a team, they participate in community improvement efforts including Indy DO Day and form active relationships with grade schools in central Indiana.

Congratulations to Head Coach and NAIA Coach of the Year Gearlds, assistant coaches Vicky Volonaki and Mark Parker, athletic director Steve Downing, and all of the student-athletes on winning the 25th Annual Division II Women's Basketball NAIA National Championship on March 15, 2016. In addition, congratulations to university president Daniel J. Elsener, executive vice president and provost Thomas J. Enneking, the Marian University student body, and alumni. On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Marian University Knights on their successful women's basketball program, and I wish them continued success in the future.●

#### CONGRATULATING THE MARIAN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL KNIGHTS

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Marian University Knights on winning the 60th Annual National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, Football National Championship.

Marian University established its football program in 2006 and has committed itself to competing at the highest level both academically and athletically. In 2012, the Knights won the 57th Annual NAIA National Championship. In 2014, despite ultimately losing the title game, the Knights played with grit in determination in the 59th Annual NAIA National Championship. In December of 2015, the Knights won the 60th Annual NAIA National Championship against Southern Oregon 31-14.

Under the guidance of head coach Mark Henninger since 2013, the football team has become increasingly engaged in community outreach and service activities. As a team, they participate in community improvement efforts like Indy DO Day and form active relationships with local grade schools. Through the Team Impact program, the football team was able to form a powerful relationship with young fan Cole Winnefeld as he fought a courageous battle against neuroblastoma.

Congratulations to Head Coach Henninger, the NAIA Coach of the Year, the entire coaching staff, athletic director Steve Downing, and all of the student-athletes on winning the 60th Annual NAIA Football National Championship on December 19, 2015. In addition, congratulations to university president Daniel J. Elsener, executive vice president and provost Thomas J. Enneking, the Marian University student body, and alumni. On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Marian University Knights on their successful football program, and I wish them continued success in the future.●

#### CONGRATULATING THE MARIAN UNIVERSITY CYCLING KNIGHTS

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I applaud the Marian University

Knights on earning USA Cycling's No. 1 collegiate cycling team ranking for the 2014-2015 season, as well as winning the 2015-2016 USA Cycling Collegiate Division I Track, Cyclo-cross, and BMX National Championships.

Marian University established its cycling program in 1992. The program is committed to competing at the highest level and developing strong character in each team member through academic and athletic excellence. Since the inception of its competitive cycling program, the Marian University Knights have won 33 national championship titles in road, cyclo-cross, track, and BMX cycling.

Head Coach Dean Peterson and his staff promote the University's goals by bringing team-focused concepts to a sport that traditionally emphasizes the individual. Peterson leads the team with a school-first philosophy, reminding student-athletes that they are students first and that being a responsible citizen and community member is as important as being a top-notch cyclist. It is this philosophy that serves as the cornerstone for the cycling team's three straight—2013, 2014, 2015—USA Cycling Club of the Year awards, which evaluates not only on-bike performance, but team GPA, retention, postgraduation success, and community engagement. The Marian University Cycling Team is also giving back to the local and national cycling community, as well as the Indianapolis area, by hosting informal riding clinics, cycling for charity, and participating in campus volunteer opportunities.

Congratulations to Head Coach Peterson, director of cycling operations Michael Kubancsek, athletic director Steve Downing, and all the student-cyclists and assistant coaches on winning the USA Cycling Collegiate Division I 2014-2015 Team Omnium and national championship titles in track, cyclo-cross, and BMX in the 2015-2016 collegiate season. And congratulations to university president Daniel J. Elsener, executive vice president and provost Thomas J. Enneking, the Marian University student body, and alumni. On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Marian University Knights on the triumph of their competitive cycling program, and I wish them continued success in the future.●

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

● Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize and congratulate the University of North Dakota, UND, men's hockey team for winning the 2016 National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, Frozen Four Division I Men's Hockey National Championship. I was proud to join my colleague from North Dakota, Senator JOHN HOEVEN,

in sponsoring an adopted resolution honoring the hard work of the men's hockey team and commending UND students, fans, and alumni for their tremendous support throughout the 2015-16 season.

On April 9, 2016, the UND men's hockey team won the men's hockey national championship game held in Tampa, FL, defeating the Quinnipiac University Bobcats of Connecticut by a score of 5-to-1. The hockey team, under the leadership of athletic director Brian Faison and Coach Brad Berry, had an incredible season with a record of 34-6-4, which culminated in UND winning its eighth Division I men's hockey national championship.

Coach Berry also became the first head coach to win a Division I men's hockey national championship in a head coach's inaugural season. Coach Berry and his staff have instilled character and perseverance in the UND players and have done an outstanding job with the UND hockey program. Under the university's leadership, UND has worked to support and further both academic and athletic excellence, so students have the opportunity to excel in the classroom as well as in sports.

I am excited that thousands of UND fans attended the championship game to support the Fighting Hawks, reflecting the tremendous fan base of the University of North Dakota and highlighting the spirit and dedication of UND hockey fans. The enthusiasm and steadfast support of the fans has helped propel the team's success. Year after year, the UND men's hockey team has provided the Nation a glimpse of North Dakota values: playing honestly with heart, determination, and sportsmanship. This year, Coach Berry and his team of hard-working young men strengthened UND's proud legacy of dedication and respect for the game.

The 2016 NCAA Frozen Four Division I Men's Hockey National Championship was a victory not only for the UND men's hockey team, but for the entire State of North Dakota. As UND looks to the future, I look forward to seeing the Fighting Hawks hockey program build on this moment of excellence to strengthen the school's already proud legacy. Congratulations again to all involved who made this national championship possible, and thank you for your hard work and service to the University of North Dakota and our great State.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. RON ARYEL

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Ron Aryel, pediatrician, biosurveillance expert, and founder of Reno Center for Child and Adolescent Health. The advanced health care this facility provides to our citizens is invaluable to northern Nevada, bringing an improved quality of life to children who are disabled or

chronically ill and, in turn, the lives of their parents as well.

Dr. Aryel founded Reno Center for Child and Adolescent Health in January of 2010. Prior to that, he served as a pediatrician and disaster response officer for the Public Health Service, treating patients in a variety of settings, including private offices, emergency rooms, psychiatric treatment centers, homes, field hospitals, and at the rear of utility vehicles in national emergency situations. During the 1999 North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit, he served on a team that included a disaster response unit and the U.S. Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incidence Response Force Unit, protecting the U.S. President from radiological chemical and biological threats. In addition, he has volunteered as a clinical supervisor at the University of Nevada, Reno Student Outreach Clinic and served on the board of directors for Project Restart in Reno.

Dr. Aryel has received a number of accolades, including the 2008 Good Neighbor Award from Kansas City, MO, Reno Center for Child and Adolescent Health and was also recognized with a Silver Syringe Award for its significantly high vaccination rates. Dr. Aryel's unwavering dedication to bringing first-class medical care to those around him goes without question. I am grateful to have him working to help those in need in the Silver State, and I extend my deepest gratitude for all he has done to help Nevada's youth.

Reno Center for Child and Adolescent Health offers preventive and medical care to infants, children, adolescents, and young adults who require attention for serious or life-threatening illnesses and disabilities, as well as those requiring complex health care management. The facility is truly one of a kind in that it welcomes all children, including those with extremely difficult medical cases, and has the highest quantity of chronically and seriously ill children and adolescents in northern Nevada. Those leading the way at the center, including Dr. Aryel, are truly role models, demonstrating a genuine concern in improving the health and well-being of Nevada's future generations. Our State is fortunate to have a facility like this available to those in need.

I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Dr. Aryel for his outstanding work, especially for what he has done for families throughout northern Nevada, and I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors. Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing an upstanding Nevadan, Dr. Ron Aryel.●

#### RECOGNIZING DELTA CONTRACT INTERIORS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in recent weeks our State has faced disas-

trous storms and flooding, but with true Louisiana strength, families and communities are already banding together for the recovery. In that spirit, I would like to recognize Delta Contract Interiors as Small Business of the Week, whose community has rallied together to respond to and recover from the recent storms.

In 1976, John and Martha Peters founded Delta Contract Interiors in their hometown of Homer in northwest Louisiana with the goal of providing quality interior design services and unique gifts to clients in their community. Offering additional services in custom drapery and design in their factory in Homer, they produce draperies, hospital curtains, blinds, and other items for hotels and hospitals nationwide, from Massachusetts to Washington to California to Florida. One of their most well-known projects was providing the interior designs for the historic Waldorf Astoria hotel in New Orleans.

Today, the company boasts a statewide and nationwide clientele, largely due to their commitment to personally measuring, producing, and installing each order that many large corporations sometimes cannot provide. The company has earned a reputation among large hotel brands, enabling Delta Contract Interiors to grow and employ more and more local workers in their manufacturing factory.

In the aftermath of a strong upper level storm system that brought dangerous thunderstorms and flooding across Louisiana this month, the Peters found themselves in a seemingly impossible situation: their life's business was literally underwater. The Homer community came together to help the Peters recover all undamaged products and remove what had been destroyed by the rising water. With friends, family, and neighbors coming to their aid, the Peters have been inspired to pick up the pieces and rebuild their small business.

In the next several months, countless businesses like Delta Contract Interiors will put the pieces of their businesses back together again with the help of family, friends, and neighbors. As the Peters family and their team at Delta Interiors rebuild after these disastrous storms, I am honored to name Delta Interiors as Small Business of the Week, and I wish them a quick recovery and many more years of growth and success.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:24 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1206. An act to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employ-

ees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

H.R. 4885. An act to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2666. An act to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1206. An act to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

H.R. 4885. An act to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2837. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-239).

By Mr. VITTER, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

Report to accompany S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs (Rept. No. 114-240).

Report to accompany S. 999, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers (Rept. No. 114-241).

Report to accompany S. 1000, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-242).

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2844. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-243).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2831. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide priority for applicants for a license to operate as a small

business investment company that are located in a disaster area; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2832. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fairness in Medicare hospital payments by establishing a floor for the area wage index applied with respect to certain hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2833. A bill to amend section 214(c)(8) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the data reporting requirements relating to nonimmigrant employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2834. A bill to improve the Government-wide management of unnecessarily duplicative Government programs and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2835. A bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance for the rehabilitation and repair of high hazard potential dams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2836. A bill to clarify the application of spousal impoverishment protections for recipients of home and community-based services under Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 2837. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2838. A bill to improve the HUBZone program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 2839. A bill to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2840. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2841. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil, gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2842. A bill to amend and reform the Johnson-O'Malley Act to award contracts to certain tribal organizations, Indian corpora-

tions, school districts, States, and consortia of tribal organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2843. A bill to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to address the Zika crisis; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2844. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. Res. 435. A resolution designating May 21, 2016, as "Kids to Parks Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 436. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. Res. 437. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2016, as "Silver Star Service Banner Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 438. A resolution designating September 2016 as "National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Con. Res. 36. A concurrent resolution expressing support of the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to reaffirm its commitment to that goal through a financial commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordina-

tion program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 667

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 667, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 827

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1149, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require reporting of certain data by providers and suppliers of air ambulance services for purposes of reforming reimbursements for such services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1679

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1679, a bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1979

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to direct the Chief of Engineers to transfer an archaeological collection, commonly referred to as the Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, to the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

S. 2040

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2040, a bill to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2373, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 2540

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2540, a bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2566

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2566, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide sexual assault survivors with certain rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 2679

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2679, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, nonprofit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 2759

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2777, a bill to modernize the prescription verification process for contact lenses, to clarify consumer protections regarding false advertising of contact lenses, and for other purposes.

S. 2803

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2803, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to deposit certain funds into the general fund of the Treasury in accordance with provisions of Federal law with regard to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's Transitional Reinsurance Program.

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to exercise its veto in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

S. RES. 344

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Mis-

souri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 344, a resolution expressing the Sense of the Senate regarding the use of electronic devices on the floor of the Senate.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

AMENDMENT NO. 3808

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3808 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3811

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3811 proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3814

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3814 proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3833

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3833 proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal

year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED  
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2835. A bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance for the rehabilitation and repair of high hazard potential dams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be introducing, along with Senator CAPITO, the High Hazard Potential Small Dam Safety Act. This legislation seeks to provide grant assistance for the rehabilitation and repair of non-Federal high hazard potential dams.

High hazard potential dams are those dams where failure is probable to cause loss of human life and endanger population centers and ecosystems, especially in periods of extreme weather and flooding. According to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, ASDSO, the number of high-hazard potential dams increased nationally from 9,281 in 1998 to more than 14,700 in 2013. In testimony before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, on February 10, 2016, the president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, ASCE, Norma Jean Mattei, indicated that the average age of dams in the United States is 52 years, and she called for a dam rehabilitation program to address this growing problem. In Rhode Island, we have dozens of high hazard potential dams in need of rehabilitation, many of which date back to the nineteenth century.

Currently, there is no Federal program to assist states with the repair or removal of non-agricultural, non-hydroelectric, non-Federal high hazard potential small dams. Such a program does exist to address dams built by the Department of Agriculture, but this leaves many dams vulnerable and some states without the ability to address the risks posed by small dams whose failure would likely result in the loss of human life.

The bill Senator CAPITO and I are introducing today expands FEMA's existing National Dam Safety Program to allow non-Federal entities to apply for matching grants for the repair and removal of non-Federal, non-agricultural, non-hydroelectric small dams that have been identified by a state dam safety agency as a high hazard potential. The program is non-mandatory, allowing states to determine which, if any, dams they would submit for assistance. The allocation of funds is based on a one-third equal distribution and 2/3 need-based formula, with a 65-35 percent cost share, to ensure the participation of a wide number of

states. This legislation builds upon a bipartisan bill introduced in the 110th Congress by our former colleague, Senator Akaka of Hawaii, of which I was a cosponsor.

By assisting in the repair or removal of high hazard dams before they fail, the bill makes an investment in future cost savings, not to mention lives and property saved. Estimates show that one dollar of pre-disaster mitigation spending can save between \$3-\$14 in post-disaster spending.

This bipartisan bill, which is supported by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials and the American Society of Civil Engineers, will improve dam safety across the Nation. I look forward to working with these and other stakeholders as well as Senator CAPITO and our colleagues to pass the High Hazard Potential Small Dam Safety Act.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2840. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2840

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Our Lives by Initiating COPS Expansion Act of 2016" or the "POLICE Act of 2016".

**SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USE OF COPS FUNDS.**

Section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (16), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (17) as paragraph (18);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

"(17) to participate in nationally recognized active shooter training programs that offer scenario-based, integrated response courses designed to counter active shooter threats or acts of terrorism against individuals or facilities; and"; and

(4) in paragraph (18), as redesignated, by striking "(16)" and inserting "(17)".

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2843. A bill to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to address the Zika crisis; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I rise to announce that Senator REID of Nevada and I will be introducing legislation that is the President's emergency funding request to respond to the Zika virus. I have been on the floor many times talking about the ravages of the Zika virus. It is up to 91 cases in my State of Florida. Fortunately, none of them originated in the State. It is all because of a mosquito bite or some other means of transmission, such as sexual contact, that has been done outside of Florida. That is particularly true in the warmer climates of the Caribbean, Central America, and Latin America.

We know the devastating consequences of someone getting this virus—not as a virus, because it has the effects of a mild flu, but if a mosquito infects a pregnant woman, the researchers understand that if it is any time during the 9 months of the pregnancy, it has the disastrous consequences of severe deformities. What is the result of that? The result is not only trauma to the family involved, enormous tragedy, but look at what the social cost is going to be.

The World Health Organization declares this a public health emergency of international concern. The last time the World Health Organization declared such an emergency was for Ebola.

Last week our CDC announced that it is "scarier than they had initially thought" and that it could be linked to other birth defects, not just the shrunken head and brain that is so horrendous to see pictures of.

This isn't just in Florida; 800 Americans in 40 States and territories have been infected. Of course, my State, with 91 cases, has been hit the hardest, and it has spread across 15 counties. The three most recent cases were in the Miami area, and in Florida it includes five pregnant women.

Now we are going into the warmer summer months, and this is when the mosquitos breed all the more. This particular mosquito carries the dengue virus, which has its own drastic consequences.

This mosquito is all over Puerto Rico. There is an estimate that 20 percent of the population of Puerto Rico may eventually be infected. If that is the case, you can wonder, out of that 20 percent of the population, how many are pregnant women. In a territory of the United States where American citizens reside, you can start to see the extreme depravity and social cost that will result, all at the same time that Puerto Rico is going through this tremendous financial crisis.

Yesterday I spoke at length to Senator HATCH, the chairman of the Finance Committee. I believe he and his staff director are quite sincere about trying to do something about the financial condition of Puerto Rico, but

now, on top of that, this additional plague is added.

At the end of the day, we have to do whatever we can to help Puerto Rico in its financial crisis but now especially to help curb the spread of this virus.

It is also in Haiti. It just so happens that we have a large Haitian American population in Florida. It is particularly running rampant throughout South America, including Brazil. Guess what is going to happen this summer. The Olympics will be in Brazil, and people from all over the world will be going.

It is time to address this problem head-on with the administration's request for \$1.9 billion in emergency funding. There are rumors that the Appropriations Committee is looking at a figure of \$1.1 billion by stripping out the \$250 million that would go through CMS because of the Federal Medicaid assistance increase to support Puerto Rico's Medicaid Program.

What have I just said? They are already in crisis, their Medicaid funds have already been cut, and now we are not going to give this assistance to a population where 20 percent is going to be infected? The Appropriations Committee shouldn't cut out that \$250 million.

There is also the rumor that the Appropriations Committee is going to cut out some \$589 million of the request that would go back to replenish the Ebola crisis fund; that in order to meet the emergency, the administration took that money—just under \$600 million—over to address the Zika crisis until we can get off our duffs here in Congress and appropriate the emergency appropriations.

I hope the Appropriations Committee will think twice before they cut out the money for Medicaid in Puerto Rico and replenishing the Ebola fund. That crisis still goes on, but the success of our being able to get on the Ebola crisis from 2 years ago is why we need to receive that added source to stop it. Otherwise, the consequences will be that the Ebola crisis will come back to the United States.

This is truly an emergency. I am calling on our colleagues to approve the President's \$1.9 billion emergency funding request now, in the immediate future, not later. The cost of inaction would be great and the consequences devastating. We don't want to have to say in the future: I told you so.

I am introducing this legislation. More than likely, it will later be considered possibly as a stand-alone bill but possibly also as an amendment to one of these appropriations bills.

I urge our colleagues to support this \$1.9 billion emergency assistance request.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows.

S. 2843

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

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Health and Human Services and the Department of State, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support", \$743,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally; and to carry out titles II, III, and XVII of the Public Health Service (referred to in this title as the "PHS Act") with respect to domestic preparedness and global health: *Provided*, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries: *Provided further*, That the provisions in section 317S of the PHS Act shall apply to the use of funds appropriated in this paragraph as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") to be appropriate: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-Federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at the State and local level: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for acquisition of real property (including long-term ground leases) and equipment, and construction, demolition, or renovation of facilities, including construction on leased land: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred by the Director of CDC to other accounts of the CDC for the purposes provided in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
EMERGENCY FUND  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund", \$233,000,000, to remain available until

expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally; to develop necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary medical supplies, and administrative activities; for carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to domestic preparedness and global health; and for carrying out title III of the PHS Act and title V of the Social Security Act to provide health care and related services in areas affected by Zika virus: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to procure security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F-2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act, as amended by this Act): *Provided further*, That paragraphs (1) and (7)(C) of subsection (c) of section 319F-2 of the PHS Act, but no other provisions of such section, shall apply to such security countermeasures procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That products purchased with funds appropriated in this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred to the fund authorized by section 319F-4 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may, for purposes of providing primary health services in areas affected by Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, be used to assign National Health Service Corps ("NHSC") members to Puerto Rico and other Territories, notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limitations in or under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), or 333A(a) of the PHS Act, and to make NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards under section 338B of such Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be awarded for projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and other Territories authorized under section 501 of the Social Security Act, notwithstanding section 502 of such Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be used for the alteration or renovation of non-Federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at the State and local level: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred to other appropriations of the Department of Health and Human Services, as determined by the Secretary to be appropriate, to be used for the purposes specified in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That any transfers of these funds shall be made in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).



NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For an additional amount for “National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases”, \$277,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally, including expenses related to carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred by the Director of the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”) to other accounts of the NIH for the purposes provided in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally, and to develop necessary medical countermeasures and vaccines, including the review, regulation, and post market surveillance of vaccines and therapies, and administrative activities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. For purposes of preventing, preparing for, and responding to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes domestically and internationally, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may use funds provided in this Act—

(1) to acquire, lease, construct, alter, renovate, equip, furnish, or manage facilities outside of the United States, as necessary to conduct such programs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, either directly for the use of the United States Government or for the use, pursuant to grants, direct assistance, or cooperative agreements, of public or nonprofit private institutions or agencies in participating foreign countries; and

(2) to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)), within the United States and abroad: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for

the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

SEC. 102. Section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) The heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, and the Agency for International Development may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319, candidates needed for positions to perform critical work in direct response to a public health threat requiring an immediate response for which—

“(1) public notice has been given; and

“(2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that such a public health threat exists.”.

SEC. 103. Funds appropriated by this title may be used to reimburse accounts administered by the Department of Health and Human Services for obligations incurred for Zika virus response prior to the enactment of this Act.

TRANSFER AUTHORITY

SEC. 104. Funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services in this Act may be transferred to and merged with other Federal accounts for purposes specified in this Act following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided*, That such transfer authority shall be in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation.

SEC. 105. Section 319F-2(c)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(c)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)(III)(bb), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding the following new clause:

“(iii)(I) the Secretary determines to be a necessary countermeasure to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, or treat harm from any infectious disease that may pose a threat to the public health; and

“(II)(aa) is approved or cleared under chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or licensed under section 351 of this Act; or

“(bb) is a countermeasure for which the Secretary determines that sufficient and satisfactory clinical experience or research data (including data, if available, from pre-clinical and clinical trials) support a reasonable conclusion that the countermeasure will qualify for approval or licensing within 10 years after the date of a determination under subclause (I).”.

SEC. 106. (a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) For purposes of title XIX of the Social Security Act, for the one year period beginning with the first day of the first full fiscal quarter following enactment of this section, the Federal medical assistance percentage (“FMAP”) under section 1905(b) of such Act for the Territories specified in paragraph (2) shall be raised from 55 percent to 65 percent. Any net increase in payment to such a territory under section 1903(a) of such Act, which is attributable to such raised FMAP, shall be disregarded in applying sections 1108(f) and 1108(g) of such Act to the territory.

(2) The Territories specified in this paragraph are the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING INCREASED FMAP.—With re-

spect to the amount needed for purposes of implementing the raised FMAP under subsection (a) for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017, such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, \$14,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That up to \$2,419,000 may be made available for medical evacuation costs of any other Department or agency of the United States under the Chief of Mission authority, and may be transferred to any other appropriation of such Department or agency for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND  
CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Services”, \$4,000,000 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for “Repatriation Loans Program Account” for the cost of direct loans, \$1,000,000, to support the response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such funds are available to subsidize an additional amount of gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,880,406: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

## OTHER

## GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Global Health Programs”, \$325,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for assistance or research to prevent, treat, or otherwise respond to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for multi-year funding commitments to incentivize the development of global health technologies: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

## NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM, DEMINING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, \$8,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response and research efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

## MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “International Organizations and Programs”, \$13,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response and research efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

## GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

## USE OF EBOLA BALANCES FOR OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SEC. 201. Unobligated balances of amounts appropriated under title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235) shall also be available for necessary expenses for operations, assistance, or research to prevent, treat, or otherwise respond to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amounts shall be available only if the President designates such amounts as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

## TRANSFER AUTHORITY

SEC. 202. (a) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Global Health Programs”, “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, “International Organizations and Programs”, and “Operating Expenses” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under such headings to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, and “Repatriation Loan Programs” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under such headings to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(c) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(d) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

## REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORITY

SEC. 203. Funds appropriated by this Act may be used to reimburse accounts administered by the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of State for obligations incurred for Zika virus response prior to the enactment of this Act.

## AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

SEC. 204. Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2227(a)) shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

## NOTWITHSTANDING AUTHORITY

SEC. 205. Funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act and prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs that are made available to support Zika virus response and related activities may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law.

## PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. 206. Funds available in this Act to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal

services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)) in the United States or abroad: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 435—DESIGNATING MAY 21, 2016, AS “KIDS TO PARKS DAY”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

## S. RES. 435

Whereas the sixth annual Kids to Parks Day will be celebrated on May 21, 2016;

Whereas the goals of Kids to Parks Day are to promote healthy outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship, empower young people, and encourage families to get outdoors and visit the parks and public land of the United States;

Whereas, on Kids to Parks Day, individuals from rural and urban areas of the United States can be reintroduced to the splendid national, State, and neighborhood parks located in their communities;

Whereas communities across the United States offer a variety of natural resources and public land, often with free access, to individuals seeking outdoor recreation;

Whereas the people of the United States, young and old, should be encouraged to lead more healthy and active lifestyles;

Whereas Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and come together for a day of active, wholesome fun; and

Whereas Kids to Parks Day will broaden an appreciation for nature and the outdoors in young people, foster a safe setting for independent play and healthy adventure in neighborhood parks, and facilitate self-reliance while strengthening communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 21, 2016, as “Kids to Parks Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation and the preservation of open spaces to the health and education of the young people of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution to designate May 21, 2016, as Kids to Parks Day.

From the Painted Hills to Crater Lake and from Mt. Hood to the Oregon Caves, nature has given Oregon many wondrous treasures in every corner of my State. As a whole, Oregon boasts some of the most beautiful landscapes, varied ecosystems, and unrivaled outdoor recreation opportunities in the nation. Given Oregon’s unmatched scenery, enjoying the outdoors is imbedded in the DNA of Oregonians, and opportunities to get outside and enjoy our treasures brings in visitors from all over the world.

Kids to Parks Day builds on Oregon's outdoor culture, inspiring children and families to spend time together, enjoy nature and parks, and recreate on public lands across the country. Over 70,000 people have pledged to participate in this year's Kids to Parks Day, and over 200 cities have proclaimed May 21 as the day in which to celebrate Those who choose to celebrate Kids to Parks Day will find that communities all across the country offer a variety of natural resources and public lands—often with free access—that promote healthy outdoor recreation and empower young people to become stewards of the environment.

I am pleased to be joined on this resolution by my colleague from Utah, Senator ORRIN HATCH, who has worked with me over the years to promote healthy recreation.

This resolution promotes the values of healthy outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship, for kids of all ages, by encouraging them to get outside and visit local parks and public lands. Research shows that outdoor recreation has positive impacts on children's performance in school and their overall health. In addition, when kids have a connection to nature, they are more likely to get involved in efforts to preserve public lands for future generations of young conservationists.

This resolution—designating Kids to Parks Day—is about more than just one day of recreation. It is about promoting the year-round use of parks and public lands by kids and their families. While National Parks are the crown jewels of this country's parks system, State and neighborhood parks serve as important year-round conduits to the outdoors, attracting the everyday dog walker, jogger, and birdwatcher. Neighborhood parks are easily accessible, and can broaden the appreciation for nature and the outdoors in young people, while fostering a safe setting for healthy adventure. Local parks and the miles of trails on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land, not to mention the widely-used reservoirs managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, are the backbone that supports recreation and access to public lands all across the country.

Kids to Parks Day recognizes the significance of all open spaces and the need to preserve these areas for the health and education of young people. Today, I am pleased to celebrate the importance of our public lands and the importance of recreation. I want to take this time to encourage children and their families to spend time in the outdoors and celebrate Kids to Parks Day on Saturday, May 21, 2016.

SENATE RESOLUTION 436—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 436

Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;

Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being preventable and treatable;

Whereas fighting malaria is in the national interest of the United States, as reducing the risk of malaria protects members of the Armed Forces and other people of the United States serving overseas in malaria-endemic regions, and reducing malaria deaths helps to lower risks of instability in less developed countries;

Whereas the elimination of malaria remains a bipartisan priority of the United States Government;

Whereas, on December 14, 2006, President George W. Bush stated at the White House Malaria Summit, "So we are acting, and we're leading. And with partners across the world, we are helping the people of Africa turn the tide against malaria. The goal of defeating malaria is a challenging goal, yet it can be done. It's not going to require a miracle, it just requires a smart, sustained, focused effort.";

Whereas, on September 27, 2015, President Barack Obama stated at the United Nations General Assembly, "Billions of our fellow human beings are at risk of dying from diseases that we know how to prevent. Many children are just 1 mosquito bite away from death. And that is a moral outrage. It is a profound injustice. It is literally a matter of life and death, and now the world must act.";

Whereas support for efforts to fight malaria is in the diplomatic and moral interest of the United States, as that support generates goodwill toward the United States and highlights the values of the people of the United States through the work of governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations of the United States;

Whereas efforts to fight malaria are in the long-term economic interest of the United States because those efforts help developing countries—

- (1) identify at-risk populations;
- (2) provide a framework for critical emergency disease treatment;
- (3) provide better health services;
- (4) increase local governance needed to address substandard and counterfeit medicines that exacerbate malaria resistance;
- (5) produce healthier and more productive workforces;
- (6) advance economic development; and
- (7) promote stronger trading partners;

Whereas, in 2015, malaria transmission occurred in 95 countries and territories;

Whereas an estimated 3,200,000,000 people are at risk for malaria, with 214,000,000 active cases, the vast majority of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for 90 percent of malaria deaths in the world;

Whereas young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by malaria;

Whereas malaria greatly affects the health of children, as children under the age of 5 ac-

count for an estimated 70 percent of malaria deaths each year;

Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal and neonatal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, and estimates indicate that malaria infection causes approximately 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and between 75,000 and 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas heightened national, regional, and international efforts to prevent and treat malaria during recent years have made significant progress and helped save hundreds of thousands of lives;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 by the World Health Organization states that, in 2014, approximately 55 percent of people in sub-Saharan Africa slept under an insecticide-treated mosquito net, and household surveys indicated that 90 percent of people used an insecticide-treated mosquito net if such a net was available in the household;

Whereas, in 2014, approximately 116,000,000 people were protected by indoor residual spraying;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 further states that, between 2000 and 2015—

- (1) malaria mortality rates decreased by 60 percent around the world;
- (2) in the African Region of the World Health Organization, malaria mortality rates decreased by 66 percent; and
- (3) an estimated 6,200,000 malaria deaths were averted globally, primarily as a result of increased interventions;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 further states that, out of 95 countries and territories with ongoing transmission of malaria in 2015—

- (1) 10 countries are classified as being in the pre-elimination phase;
- (2) 10 countries are classified as being in the elimination phase; and
- (3) 9 countries are classified as being in the prevention of malaria reintroduction phase of malaria control;

Whereas continued national, regional, and international investment in efforts to eliminate malaria, including prevention and treatment efforts, the development of a vaccine to immunize children from the malaria parasite, and advancements in insecticides, are critical in order to—

- (1) continue to reduce malaria deaths;
- (2) prevent backsliding in areas where progress has been made; and
- (3) equip the United States and the global community with the tools necessary to fight malaria and other global health threats;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative (referred to in this preamble as the "PMI") and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

Whereas an independent, external evaluation, prepared by Boston University, examining 6 objectives of the PMI, found the PMI to be a successful, well-led program that has "earned and deserves the task of sustaining and expanding the United States Government's response to global malaria control efforts";

Whereas the PMI Strategy 2015-2020 articulates the malaria goal of the United States Government of working with countries and partners to further reduce malaria deaths and substantially decrease malaria morbidity, towards the long-term goal of elimination;

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to ending malaria deaths through the PMI, which is led by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private sector entities;

Whereas the PMI focuses on helping partner countries achieve major improvements in overall health outcomes through improved access to, and quality of, healthcare services in locations with limited resources; and

Whereas the PMI, recognizing the burden of malaria on many partner countries, has set a target by 2020 of reducing malaria mortality by  $\frac{1}{3}$  from 2015 levels in PMI-supported countries, achieving a greater than 80 percent reduction from original 2000 baseline levels set by the PMI, reducing malaria morbidity in PMI-supported countries by 40 percent from 2015 levels, and assisting not fewer than 5 PMI-supported countries to meet the criteria of the World Health Organization for national or sub-national pre-elimination: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria morbidity, mortality, and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(4) welcomes ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination;

(5) recognizes the goals, priorities, and authorities to combat malaria set forth in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria and to work with developing countries to create long-term strategies to increase ownership over malaria programs; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and increase their support for and financial contributions to efforts to combat malaria worldwide.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 437—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 1, 2016, AS “SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY”**

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 437

Whereas the Senate has always honored the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were wounded or became ill in combat in the wars fought by the United States;

Whereas the Silver Star Families of America was formed to help the people of the United States remember the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces by designing and manufacturing Silver Star Service Banners and Silver Star Flags for that purpose;

Whereas the sole mission of the Silver Star Families of America is to evoke memories of the sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces and veterans on behalf of the United States through the presence of a Silver Star Service Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying;

Whereas the sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces and veterans on behalf of the United States should never be forgotten; and

Whereas May 1, 2016, is an appropriate date to designate as “Silver Star Service Banner Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports the designation of May 1, 2016, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day” and calls upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 438—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL BRAIN ANEURYSM AWARENESS MONTH”**

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 438

Whereas a brain aneurysm is an abnormal saccular or fusiform bulging of an artery in the brain;

Whereas an estimated 1 out of every 50 individuals in the United States has a brain aneurysm;

Whereas brain aneurysms are most likely to occur in individuals between the ages of 35 and 60;

Whereas there are typically no warning signs before the occurrence of a brain aneurysm;

Whereas brain aneurysms are more likely to occur in women than in men by a 3 to 2 ratio;

Whereas young and middle-aged African-Americans have a higher risk of brain aneurysm rupture compared to Caucasians in the United States;

Whereas, based on a 2004 study (the most recent year with readily available data), the combined lost wages of survivors of a brain aneurysm rupture and the caretakers of the survivors for 1 year were \$138,000,000;

Whereas various risk factors can contribute to the formation of a brain aneurysm, including smoking, hypertension, and a family history of brain aneurysms;

Whereas approximately 6,000,000 individuals in the United States have a brain aneurysm;

Whereas an unruptured brain aneurysm can lead to double vision, vision loss, loss of sensation, weakness, loss of balance, incoordination, and speech problems;

Whereas a brain aneurysm is often discovered when it ruptures and causes a subarachnoid hemorrhage;

Whereas a subarachnoid hemorrhage can lead to brain damage, hydrocephalus, stroke, and death;

Whereas, each year, more than 30,000 individuals in the United States suffer from ruptured brain aneurysms, 50 percent of whom die as a result;

Whereas, annually, between 3,000 and 4,500 individuals in the United States with ruptured brain aneurysms die before reaching the hospital;

Whereas a number of advancements have been made in recent years regarding the detection of brain aneurysms, including the computerized tomography scan, the magnetic resonance imaging test, and the cerebral arteriogram;

Whereas early detection of brain aneurysms can save lives;

Whereas various research studies are currently being conducted in the United States in order to better understand, prevent, and treat brain aneurysms;

Whereas the United States spends only \$1.30 per individual for research on brain aneurysms each year for the approximately 6,000,000 individuals in the United States who suffer from brain aneurysms;

Whereas the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, a nonprofit organization, remains a globally recognized leader for brain aneurysm awareness, education, support, advocacy, and research funding; and

Whereas the month of September is an appropriate month to designate as “National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as “National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month”; and

(2) continues to support research to prevent, to detect, and to treat brain aneurysms.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36—EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE GOAL OF ENSURING THAT ALL HOLOCAUST VICTIMS LIVE WITH DIGNITY, COMFORT, AND SECURITY IN THEIR REMAINING YEARS, AND URGING THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO THAT GOAL THROUGH A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO COMPREHENSIVELY ADDRESS THE UNIQUE HEALTH AND WELFARE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS, INCLUDING HOME CARE AND OTHER MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED NEEDS**

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 36

Whereas the annihilation of 6,000,000 Jews during the Holocaust and the murder of millions of others by the Nazi German state constitutes 1 of the most tragic and heinous crimes in human history;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Jews survived persecution by the Nazi regime despite being imprisoned, subjected to slave labor, moved into ghettos, forced to live in hiding or under false identity or curfew, or required to wear the “yellow star”;

Whereas in fear of the oncoming Nazi Einsatzgruppen, or “Nazi Killing Squads”, and the likelihood of extermination, hundreds of thousands of Jewish Nazi victims fled for their lives;

Whereas whatever type of persecution suffered by Jews during the Holocaust, the common thread that binds Holocaust victims is

that they were targeted for extermination and they lived with a constant fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas Holocaust victims immigrated to the United States from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and the former Soviet Union between 1933 and the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas it is estimated that there are at least 100,000 Holocaust victims living in the United States and approximately 500,000 Holocaust victims living around the world, including child survivors of the Holocaust;

Whereas tens of thousands of Holocaust victims are at least 80 years old, and the number of surviving Holocaust victims is diminishing;

Whereas at least 50 percent of Holocaust victims alive today will pass away within the next decade, and those living victims are becoming frailer and have increasing health and welfare needs;

Whereas Holocaust victims throughout the world continue to suffer from permanent physical and psychological injuries and disabilities and live with the emotional scars of a systematic genocide against the Jewish people;

Whereas many of the emotional and psychological scars of Holocaust victims are exacerbated in the old age of the Holocaust victims;

Whereas the past haunts and overwhelms many aspects of the lives of Holocaust victims when their health fails them;

Whereas Holocaust victims suffer particular trauma when their emotional and physical circumstances force them to leave the security of their homes and enter institutional or other group living residential facilities;

Whereas tens of thousands of Holocaust victims live in poverty and cannot afford, and do not receive, sufficient medical care, home care, mental health care, medicine, food, transportation, and other vital life-sustaining services that allow individuals to live their final years with comfort and dignity;

Whereas Holocaust victims often lack family support networks and require social worker-supported case management in order to manage their daily lives and access government-funded services;

Whereas in response to a letter sent by members of Congress to the Minister of Finance of Germany in December 2015 relating to increased funding for Holocaust victims, German officials acknowledged that "recent experience has shown that the care financed by the German Government to date is insufficient" and that "it is imperative to expand these assistance measures quickly given the advanced age of many of the affected persons";

Whereas German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer acknowledged, in 1951, the responsibility of Germany to provide moral and financial compensation to Holocaust victims worldwide;

Whereas every successive German Chancellor has reaffirmed that acknowledgment, including Chancellor Angela Merkel, who, in 2007, reaffirmed that "only by fully accepting its enduring responsibility for this most appalling period and for the cruelest crimes in its history, can Germany shape the future"; and

Whereas Congress believes it is the moral and historical responsibility of Germany to comprehensively, permanently, and urgently provide resources for the medical, mental health, and long-term care needs of all Holocaust victims: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) acknowledges the financial and moral commitment of the Federal Republic of Germany during the 7 decades prior to the date of adoption of this resolution to provide a measure of justice for Holocaust victims;

(2) supports the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims in the United States and around the world are able to live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years;

(3) applauds the nonprofit organizations and agencies that work tirelessly to honor and assist Holocaust victims in the communities of the nonprofit organizations and agencies;

(4) acknowledges the ongoing process of negotiations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (referred to in this resolution as the "Claims Conference") in order to secure funding for Holocaust victims and for vital social services provided through nonprofit organizations and agencies around the world;

(5) acknowledges that the Federal Republic of Germany and the Claims Conference have established a new high level working group that will develop proposals for extensive assistance for homecare and other social welfare needs of Holocaust victims;

(6) urges the working group described in paragraph (5) to recognize the imperative to immediately and fully fund medical, mental health, and long-term care needs of surviving Holocaust victims, with full transparency and accountability, to ensure all funds for Holocaust victims from the Federal Republic of Germany are administered efficiently, fairly, and without delay; and

(7) urges the Federal Republic of Germany to reaffirm its commitment to fulfill its moral responsibility to Holocaust victims by—

(A) ensuring that each Holocaust victim receives all of the prescribed medical care, home care, mental health care, and other vital services necessary to live in dignity; and

(B) providing, without delay, additional financial resources to address the unique needs of Holocaust victims.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3838. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3839. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3840. Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3841. Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3842. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3843. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3844. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3845. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3846. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3847. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3848. Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3849. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3850. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3851. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3852. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3853. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3854. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3855. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3856. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3857. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3858. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3859. Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3860. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3861. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3862. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3863. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3864. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3865. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. SASSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3866. Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3867. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3868. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3838.** Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 11, before the period at the end, insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, \$48,000,000 shall be used for rural water programs, of which \$4,200,000 shall be derived from amounts otherwise made available for the Northern Border Regional Commission”.

**SA 3839.** Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 11, before the period at the end, insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, \$48,000,000 shall be used for rural water programs, of which \$4,200,000 shall be derived from amounts otherwise made available for Western drought”.

**SA 3840.** Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, line 8, strike “\$5,400,000,000” and insert “\$5,398,000,000”.

**SA 3841.** Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, line 15, before the period at the end, insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of such amount \$220,600,000 shall be available for the Weatherization Assistance Program, of which \$6,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the amount otherwise available for Building Technologies.”.

**SA 3842.** Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_ . Section 205 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113; 129 Stat. 2242), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “feasibility studies described in clauses (i)(II) and (i)(I)” and inserting “feasibility study described in clause (i)(II)”;

(B) by striking “such studies” and inserting “such study”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

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

“(3) not later than November 30, 2017, complete and submit to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate the feasibility study described in section 103(d)(1)(A)(i)(I) of the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act (Public Law 108-361; 118 Stat. 1684);”.

**SA 3843.** Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) examines the use of a provision described in subsection (b) in any power contracts of the Western Area Power Administration that were executed before or on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) explains the circumstances for not including a provision described in subsection (b) in power contracts of the Western Area Power Administration executed before or on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) A provision referred to in subsection (a) is a termination clause described in section 11 of the general power contract provisions of the Western Power Administration, effective September 1, 2007.

**SA 3844.** Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_ . Of the amounts made available under this title for operation and maintenance, \$2,000,000 shall be available for Upper Missouri River Basin flood and drought monitoring under section 4003(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1310).

**SA 3845.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_\_. Of the amounts made available by this title for flood and coastal storm damage reduction investigations, construction, and operations and maintenance, the Secretary of the Army shall use not less than \$100,000,000 for coastal projects.

**SA 3846.** Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 11, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That the amounts provided under this heading for facilities operation and maintenance may be used for operations and maintenance, including upgrades, of community water systems included in a congressionally authorized water project and in existence during the period in which that water project was authorized.”.

**SA 3847.** Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_\_. Of the funds made available under this title for construction that are in excess of the amount requested for that purpose in the budget of the United States Government most recently submitted by the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, not less than \$100,000,000 shall be used for projects related to deep-draft navigation.

**SA 3848.** Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act, or any contributed or non-Federal funds, may be used—

(1) to study reallocation of water within the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa or Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basins until the Secretary of the Army has executed a Partnering Agreement—

(A) with—

(i) in the case of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa basin, each of the States of Alabama and Georgia; and

(ii) in the case of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin, each of the States of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia; and

(B) that outlines the participation of each State in separate water reallocation studies for each basin; or

(2) to reallocate water within the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa or Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basins until the Secretary of the Army executes a final agreement with each State through which the relevant river basin flows that provides the explicit consent of each relevant State to any reallocation.

**SA 3849.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_\_. Section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-541; 114 Stat. 2693) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (p) as subsection (q); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (o) the following:

“(p) CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT, FLORIDA.—In accordance with subsection (d), the project for environmental restoration, Central Everglades planning project, Florida, is authorized to be carried out by the Secretary substantially in accordance with the plans, and subject to the conditions, recommended in the final report of the Chief of Engineers signed on December 23, 2014.”.

**SA 3850.** Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to reevaluate or revise any jurisdictional determination for wetland delineations for the Atlantic and Gulf Coast region that was valid as of January 1, 2008, or that has an effective approval date of January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2014.

**SA 3851.** Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 56, line 13, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That the amounts appropriated under this heading, not less than \$543,000 shall be used to implement the requirements of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-101; 128 Stat. 1146).”.

**SA 3852.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028,

making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Out of amounts collected by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall fund the Office of Public Participation under section 319 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 825q-1) with the resources necessary for the Office to fulfill the statutory duties of the Office.

**SA 3853.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The portion of the project for navigation, Stonington Harbor, Connecticut, authorized by the Act of May 23, 1828 (4 Stat. 288; chapter 73) that consists of the inner stone breakwater that begins at coordinates N. 682.146.42, E. 1231.378.69, running north 83.587 degrees west 166.79' to a point N. 682.165.05, E. 1.231.212.94, running north 69.209 degrees west 380.89' to a point N. 682.300.25, E. 1.230.856.86, shall no longer be authorized as a Federal project as of the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 3854.** Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **RESTORING THE PROMISE OF BUDGET CONTROL ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Restoring the Promise of Budget Control Energy and Water Appropriations Act”.

(b) **REDUCTION IN SPENDING.**—The amounts appropriated under this Act shall be reduced on a pro rata basis by the amount necessary to reduce the total amount of spending under this Act by \$1,959,000,000.

**SA 3855.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out

any water supply reallocation study with respect to the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the first section of the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, chapter 595).

**SA 3856.** Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:  
SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Energy to adopt, implement, administer, or enforce a new or revised regulation or issue guidance regarding enforcement of an existing regulation for which the total direct and indirect monetary cost to the non-Federal sector of complying with the new or revised regulation or regulatory guidance exceeds \$100,000,000, unless specifically approved by Congress.

**SA 3857.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 14, line 6, strike "\$10,000,000" and insert "\$9,725,000".

On page 15, line 10, strike "\$1,114,394,000" and insert "\$1,083,837,000".

On page 16, line 15, strike "\$55,606,000" and insert "\$54,081,000".

On page 17, line 8, strike "\$36,000,000" and insert "\$35,012,000".

On page 17, line 24, strike "\$59,000,000" and insert "\$57,382,000".

On page 23, line 13, strike "\$2,073,000,000" and insert "\$2,016,158,000".

On page 23, line 25, strike "\$206,000,000" and insert "\$200,351,000".

On page 24, line 13, strike "\$1,057,903,000" and insert "\$836,418,000".

On page 25, line 8, strike "\$632,000,000" and insert "\$614,670,000".

On page 25, line 15, strike "\$14,950,000" and insert "\$14,540,000".

On page 25, line 25, strike "\$200,000,000" and insert "\$194,516,000".

On page 26, line 18, strike "\$6,500,000" and insert "\$6,321,000".

On page 26, line 22, strike "\$122,000,000" and insert "\$118,654,000".

On page 27, line 10, strike "\$255,000,000" and insert "\$248,007,000".

On page 27, line 18, strike "\$717,741,000" and insert "\$698,060,000".

On page 28, line 8, strike "\$5,400,000,000" and insert "\$5,251,932,000".

On page 28, line 16, strike "\$292,669,000" and insert "\$284,644,000".

On page 28, line 22, strike "\$20,000,000" and insert "\$19,451,000".

On page 29, line 11, strike "\$37,000,000" and insert "\$35,985,000".

On page 30, line 8, strike "\$5,000,000" and insert "\$4,862,000".

On page 30, line 14, strike "\$232,142,000" and insert "\$225,776,000".

On page 35, line 10, strike "\$1,000,000" and insert "\$972,000".

On page 36, line 20, strike "\$45,643,000" and insert "\$44,391,000".

On page 38, line 1, strike "\$307,144,000" and insert "\$298,722,000".

On page 39, line 11, strike "\$4,070,000" and insert "\$3,958,000".

On page 53, line 11, strike "\$151,000,000" and insert "\$146,859,000".

On page 53, line 18, strike "\$31,000,000" and insert "\$30,149,000".

On page 54, line 1, strike "\$25,000,000" and insert "\$24,314,000".

On page 54, line 7, strike "\$15,000,000" and insert "\$14,588,000".

On page 55, line 4, strike "\$10,000,000" and insert "\$9,725,000".

**SA 3858.** Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:  
SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of the Army to enforce any compensatory mitigation requirement under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) for a project that is being constructed in an existing right-of-way.

**SA 3859.** Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of—

(1) energy production in the United States; and

(2) the effects, if any, of crude oil exports from the United States on consumers, independent refiners, and shipbuilding and ship repair yards.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing each review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a statement of the principal findings of the review; and

(2) recommendations for Congress and the President to address any job loss in the shipbuilding and ship repair industry or adverse impacts on consumers and refiners that the Comptroller General of the United States attributes to unencumbered crude oil exports in the United States.

**SA 3860.** Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:  
SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in any way to authorize construction of a repository (as defined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)) for the permanent disposal of nuclear energy waste within—

(1) Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron (including Lake St. Clair), Lake Michigan, or Lake Superior;

(2) the connecting channels (including Saint Mary's River, Saint Clair River, Detroit River, Niagara River, or Saint Lawrence River to the Canadian Border); or

(3) any stream, river, lake, or other body of water within the drainage basin of the lakes described in paragraph (1).

**SA 3861.** Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, line 15, strike the period at the end and insert the following: "": *Provided further*, That of such amount \$10,000,000 shall be available for onshore distributed wind research, development, and demonstration."

**SA 3862.** Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the general provisions of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to enforce, pursue, implement, or otherwise require compliance with license conditions or requirements that apply or may be applied to any dam project that—

(1) operates as a water storage facility;

(2) does not generate power onsite;

(3) is connected to a downstream power-generating facility, through ownership or impact, that—

(A) is authorized by any law that predates the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.); and

(B) is subject to the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission; and

(4) is on land that—

(A) is not Federal land; or

(B) is Federal land held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior for an Indian tribe.

**SA 3863.** Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to



amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 21, before the period at the end, insert the following: “: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading for shore protection shall be prioritized for projects in areas that have suffered repetitive losses outside of the normal beach renourishment cycle and in which the normal beach renourishment cycle has been delayed”.

**SA 3864.** Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

- SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Congress finds that—
- (1) climate change is real;
  - (2) human activity contributes to climate change;
  - (3) climate change is already affecting the people of the United States and poses an increasing risk to—
    - (A) the health of the people of the United States; and
    - (B) the security, economy, and infrastructure of the United States; and
  - (4) over 180 countries, including China, India, and Brazil, have made commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, which creates opportunities for workers of the United States and innovative private industries to benefit from global clean energy markets.
- (b) It is the sense of Congress that—
- (1) the United States should be a world leader in addressing climate change;
  - (2) Congress is best positioned to address policies that leave for future generations a prosperous economy and healthy environment;
  - (3) Congress has a responsibility to take actions that reduce emissions and combat climate change; and
  - (4) Congress should support research and development to bolster clean energy technology.

**SA 3865.** Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. SASSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act that would be provided to, or impact, any Bureau of Reclamation reservoir project, operations, administration of water rights, or other action in the Republican River Basin may be used in a manner that does not comply with, or is not in accordance with, each applicable—

- (1) resolution of the Republican River Compact Administration; and
- (2) State order necessary to carry out such a resolution.

**SA 3866.** Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to carry out a project approved under section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16421).

**SA 3867.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 2102 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1273) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall publish on the website of the Corps of Engineers guidance on the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section.”.

**SA 3868.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The Secretary of the Army shall—

- (1) carry out a study of the oyster aquaculture industry in the Chesapeake Bay, including—
  - (A) an examination of existing Federal and State regulations in each relevant district of the Corps of Engineers;
  - (B) the number, structure, funding, and regulation of oyster hatcheries in each relevant State;
  - (C) the number of oyster aquaculture leases in place in each relevant district of the Corps of Engineers;
  - (D) the period of time required to secure an oyster aquaculture lease from each relevant jurisdiction; and
  - (E) the experience of the private sector in applying for oyster aquaculture permits

from different jurisdictions of the Corps of Engineers and different States; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the findings of the study under paragraph (1).

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2016, at 9:15 a.m.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2016, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “Enabling Advanced Reactors and a Legislative Hearing on S. 2795, the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act.”

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 1, 2016, AS “SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY”

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 437, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 437) expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2016, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 437) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

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#### NATIONAL BRAIN ANEURYSM AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 438, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 438) designating September 2016 as "National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be

considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 438) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

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#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1206 AND H.R. 4885

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1206) to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

A bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

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#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, April 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that following morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2028.

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

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:58 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 25, 2016, at 3 p.m.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF PINE CASTLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the 110th anniversary of Pine Castle United Methodist Church in Orlando, Florida, and commend their strong heritage of service within Orange County, Florida.

On July 30, 1900, a group of women in the community organized a church community that housed the Methodist, Baptist, and Missionary Alliance congregations under one roof. In December 1906, nineteen congregation members laid the foundation for what would become Pine Castle United Methodist Church. Pine Castle United Methodist Church has served as a beacon of hope in our local community. Many lives have been impacted through the church's ministry, and I am honored to recognize their long history of dedication and service.

This is a momentous year for Pine Castle United Methodist Church, and they deserve to be commended for their 110 years of service to our community. It is my pleasure to join Pastor Scott George and the congregation at Pine Castle United Methodist Church in celebrating this historical milestone. I would like to thank them for their many years of faithful ministry to our community and their dedication to Christian leadership. May God continue to bless their church and ministry throughout future generations.

**HONORING FATHER LAWRENCE W. "BILL" CARMODY**

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Father Lawrence W. "Bill" Carmody, beloved priest of the Colorado Springs Diocese and tireless warrior for the unborn. He passed away on February 23, at the age of 58 after a long battle with cancer.

A Colorado native ordained in 1990, Father Carmody faithfully served the Colorado Springs area for more than 25 years. In 1995 he was named the pastor of Corpus Christi Parish. Later, Father Carmody led the movement to found St. Dominic Catholic Church in Security, where he also served as pastor. St. Dominic's is the largest Catholic church in the Colorado Springs area.

Father Carmody was also a devoted leader of the pro-life movement. He led the Diocese's

Respect Life Office, dedicated to the promotion of a greater understanding of the Church's teachings to respect life in all its phases. For over a decade, Father Carmody lovingly celebrated mass every week outside a local abortion clinic. In 1994, he introduced the Project Rachel program in Colorado Springs. The Project Rachel program is dedicated to helping those suffering after an abortion. Father Carmody called his work with the Project Rachel program as the "most profound experience I have as a priest—watching people heal from what they believe is an unforgivable sin and find God's forgiveness."

Father Carmody was truly a great man who spent his time on earth defending life and lovingly ministering to those our Heavenly Father entrusted to his care. He touched the lives of many while living out his calling to serve the Colorado Springs community. I pray that his legacy continue to be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

**HONORING PORTER EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM**

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Porter Early College High School on their victory in the Texas 5A Boys Soccer State Championship game which was played last Saturday in Georgetown. The win marks the second time the Porter Cowboys have won the state-wide soccer championship, earning the first title in 2006.

After a long season marked by hard work and dedication by students, parents, coaches, teachers, support staff and administrators, the team clinched the state championship defeating Frisco Wakeland 10-9 in penalty kicks to secure the 3-2 victory. It is my great pleasure to honor the team members:

- Alexis Anzures
- Alexis Armendariz
- Daniel Briseño
- Robert Briseño
- Caleb Castillo
- Anthony Cuellar
- Marco Don Juan
- Omar Estrada
- Harambe Garcia
- Oscar Garcia
- Jaime Gomez
- Luis Lara
- Esteban Mata
- Jose Nava
- Jose Pardillo
- Jerry Perez
- Agustin Pizano
- Josue Reyna
- Luis Reyna

- Mario Rios
- Diego Rivera
- Uriel Sepulveda
- Angel Silva
- Enrique Soto—Captain
- Fernando Trigo
- Ricky Vidal
- Managers: Franco Gonzalez and Haziel Treviño

Coaches: Jose Espitia, Eddie Buentello, Adrian Navarro and Antonio Serrano

Video: Maria Esteves  
Porter Early College High School, located in the heart of Southmost neighborhood, is an important community institution. Countless teachers, police officers, entrepreneurs, lawyers, doctors and engineers are Porter alumni, and the school bears the name of a woman who made important contributions to the City of Brownsville. Gladys Porter, daughter of philanthropist Earl C. Sams, who was the first president of the J.C. Penney retail chain, was devoted to South Texas. Ms. Porter was a well-known civic leader in Brownsville and was the driving force behind the Gladys Porter Zoo, which today attracts thousands of visitors annually to the Rio Grande Valley.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the families of these young men. Parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members make great sacrifices to support student athletes during the competitive season and all year long. Porter parents have spent years driving to practices, washing uniforms, cleaning cleats, cheering from the sidelines, and generally making sure these student athletes have everything they need to succeed both on and off the field.

The coaches, teachers, and administrators deserve recognition for all they do to provide students with a high quality education that balances academic and athletic achievement. Teachers and coaches serve as role models, providing critical motivation and support for these young athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the Porter Cowboys boy's soccer team for their victory in the Texas 5A State Championship. Each of them, their parents, teachers, coaches and support staff make the Rio Grande Valley proud, and I wish them success in all their future endeavors.

**HONORING JACOB DEAN BEESON**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Dean Beeson. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop

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

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

1417, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob built two cello and two bass racks for the Liberty North High School Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Dean Beeson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING HOPEY'S DAY

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge Hopey's Day in New York City, which is on April 22, 2016. Hopey's Day was initiated by the Hopey's Heart Foundation, which works to raise awareness of sudden cardiac arrest, particularly among student athletes, and helps to place automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at schools and at community and recreational centers.

The driving force behind Hopey's Day has been WNBA New York Liberty center Tina Charles, who founded the Hopey's Heart Foundation in honor of her late aunt, Maureen "Hopey" Vaz. As an athlete, Tina recognized that too many promising young athletes lose their lives to sudden cardiac arrest on basketball courts and sports fields before they can attain the same dreams she achieved. Under Tina's leadership, the Hopey's Heart Foundation has provided over 200 AEDs to schools around the U.S. and in other parts of the world.

To mark Hopey's Day, the Hopey's Heart Foundation, along with Safe Kids Worldwide, will be holding sports safety clinics at New York City schools, including P.S. 127 in Queens and in P.S. 55 in the Bronx. These clinics will help kids, parents, and coaches understand how they can prevent risks encountered in sports, like sudden cardiac arrest, as well as teach about proper hydration and concussions. Notably, attendees will learn emergency response and how to use an AED.

These clinics also mark the beginning of the Hopey's Heart Foundation Build UP NYC program to expand its work across New York City, and I look forward to seeing more schools have the opportunity to present these experiences to their students.

I am so proud of the work that Hopey's Heart Foundation, Safe Kids NYC and Safe Kids Queens have done, as well as of the tremendous leadership shown by Tina Charles, a native of East Elmhurst, Queens, where one of the Hopey's Day clinics will take place. Tina has committed herself to giving back to her home community and elsewhere in so many ways.

I thank the Hopey's Heart Foundation and Tina Charles for their commitment to protect the hearts of so many children playing sports.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE IBBOTSON

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Marjorie Ibbotson on the occasion of her 100th birthday on April 22, 2016.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Ms. Ibbotson's life. We have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Ms. Ibbotson has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Ms. Ibbotson in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Marjorie Ibbotson on reaching this incredible milestone, wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING MORNINGSTAR MISSION AS AN OUTSTANDING HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY AND GLEN MARCUM AS AN OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL IN HUMAN SERVICES

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MorningStar Mission as the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Agency in Human Services Award and Glen Marcum as the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Individual in Human Services Award.

Established in 1909 because of the great need to feed and house homeless men, MorningStar Mission now serves men, women, and families with children—providing critical services ranging from meals, to transitional housing, to permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans and a 72-bed facility to allow families to remain intact. For its many contributions to our community, MorningStar Mission is to be commended.

Also deserving of commendation is Glen Marcum, who has been an active member of our community for over 25 years. In addition to serving as President of the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners, Glen has been involved in numerous activities in our area's education and nonprofit community, including his current position as a Regional Board Member for the American Cancer Society.

I would also like to recognize the Community Service Council of Will County for its commitment to our community and for identifying and honoring leaders in the Human Services sector annually since 1972.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MorningStar Mission and Glen Marcum, and in thanking them for the service they have given to our community.

#### HONORING LOGAN JAMES PALMER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan James Palmer. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and became a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Logan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Logan constructed a duck house at Shiloh Springs Golf Course outside of Platte City, Missouri, to provide shelter for an endangered species of duck.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan James Palmer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTY McVEY

### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise to offer a tribute to Marty McVey for his continued public service, including his 4 year tenure at the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD).

We would like to congratulate Marty on his many successful years as a mentor and beacon of the community. An accomplished entrepreneur and public servant, Marty has served as a voice for people around the world. His strong leadership is demonstrated in a variety of selfless accomplishments. He has been a major supporter of charitable organizations that include Halo House Foundation, Human Rights Watch and the World Affairs Council. Marty is a lifetime member of the NAACP, a National Advisory Board Member of the Tahirih Justice Center, a committee member of the Bush-Clinton Ike Coastal Recovery Fund, and former Chairman for the Haitian

Reconstruction Task Force, and the BIFAD Budget Committee.

In 2011, he was honored to be appointed by President Barack Obama to travel worldwide as a Director of the United States Agency for International Development's Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD). Marty's work at USAID is a perfect example of Mr. McVey's life as a problem solver in which he seeks to provide solutions to conflict.

Over the years, Marty has lent his voice and leadership to the many issues concerning the community of Houston, Texas. He actively promoted the economic development and sustainability of the City of Houston, and served as an Executive Committee Member and former Chair of the Political Engagement Committee of the Greater Houston Partnership.

Today we pay tribute to Marty McVey, a public servant, entrepreneur, humanitarian, and friend.

Congratulations to Marty McVey for his many years of service to the citizens of Houston, Texas and women, children, and small businesses throughout the world.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—GABRIEL AGU

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gabriel Agu from Richmond, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Gabriel attends Strake Jesuit College Prep School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Gabriel was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate to the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Gabriel and all of his hard work, and know he will make Richmond proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Gabriel for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING MICHAEL FLETCHER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Fletcher. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Michael led his troop as Den Chief and as the Patrol Leader. Michael also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Michael collected donated materials from area businesses and led a team to construct 25 dog beds that were donated to three local animal shelters in Smithville, Liberty and Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Fletcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN LIN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kevin Lin of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being selected to receive the 2016 Horatio Alger Association National Scholarship. Kevin Lin is a student at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Kevin and other selected students for the scholarship earned a point grade average of 5.76 with an outstanding ACT score. Kevin will receive a scholarship that will help him benefit from a variety of resources such as college preparation, counseling, and mentoring programs. Sarah Steinmetz, the Talented and Gifted Strategist at Abraham Lincoln High School said, "Kevin is an exceptional young man who is a leader and works extremely hard. His resume is incredible for a 16-year-old."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Kevin on his recognition from the Horatio Alger Foundation. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kevin Lin and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DAVIS-SEAMON POST 812 OF EL PASO, TEXAS

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Davis-Seamon Post 812 as an exceptional veteran service organization in my district of El Paso, Texas. Post 812 is named in honor of First Lieutenant Hart Davis and First Lieutenant Alexander Rives Seamon, both of whom were killed while serving our country during World War I. The Davis-Seamon Post was founded in 1921 and is the largest Veterans Service Organization in El Paso, with 835 members dedicated to serving veterans, active duty service members, reservists, their families as well as others in the El Paso community.

As part of its commitment to serving El Paso veterans after they have transitioned out of the military, the Davis-Seamon Post enlists the help of a service officer that advises veterans on their eligibility for VA benefits. This relationship ensures that our community's veterans receive updates on changes within the VA as well as timely access to the benefits they have earned and deserve. Members of the Post have also organized numerous welcome back and farewell dinners for soldiers and their families, feeding more than 140,000 people since 2001. The Davis-Seamon Post has also taken great pride in preparing and serving Thanksgiving Day meals for service members and their families returning home from Afghanistan.

In the spirit of helping others and creating a community of inclusivity within El Paso, the Davis-Seamon Post regularly donates its space to other local veteran service organizations and has partnered with different community groups to address the issue of veteran homelessness in El Paso. The Davis-Seamon Post also furthers its ties to the community by encouraging its membership to invite guests to its events so they may become familiar with its mission and service to veterans and members of the military.

I am proud to know that a veterans service organization like the VFW Davis-Seamon Post 812 exists in El Paso. Their support and care for our veterans is longstanding and their efforts will help in continuing to make El Paso and our region a better place to live.

HONORING FRANK GUSTAV REINSCH

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Frank Gustav Reinsch. Frank is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247,

and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Frank has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Frank has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Frank led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Frank has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Frank installed a flag pole and laid a textured patio around the pole at Platte Ridge Park, north of Platte City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Frank Gustav Reinsch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### HONORING BERINGER VINEYARDS

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Beringer Vineyards, which today celebrates its first annual Founders Day ceremony, commemorating the vineyard's founding in 1876 and 140 years of continuous operation. The success of Beringer is of particular importance to me, as I worked as a maintenance supervisor at Beringer after returning from serving in Vietnam.

Since the winery began operations in 1876 under founders Frederick and Jacob Beringer, it has not missed a harvest or wine vintage, making Beringer California's longest continually operating winery. In another contribution to the history of St. Helena, the founding brothers planted the now-famous tunnel of elm trees along Main Street shortly after Beringer Vineyard's founding. Beringer Vineyards became the first California winery to offer visitors tours in 1934 after the repeal of Prohibition, contributing to the influx of visitors to Napa Valley. The winery was named a State Historical Landmark in 1967, and the Rhine House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

During its long history, Beringer has earned numerous accolades among wine professionals. It is the only winery to win the 'Wine of the Year' from Wine Spectator for both a red and a white wine, the 1986 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon and the 1994 Private Reserve Chardonnay. Indeed, Beringer has had more placements on the Wine Spectator's Top 100 list than any other winery in the world. In a further testament to the winery's longevity and quality, from 1988 to March 2016, Beringer earned 450 90 plus scores in premiere wine scoring publications.

Mr. Speaker, Beringer Vineyards has been a resolute leader of the California wine industry for 140 years. It is truly a Napa Valley institution, and its success has brought acclaim to Napa Valley growers and winemakers. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Beringer Vineyards here today.

#### TRIBUTE TO EMILY McDERMOTT

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Emily McDermott of Atlantic, Iowa, for receiving the coveted Iowa Future Farmers of America Degree. The prestigious award is the highest award presented by the Iowa FFA Association. Emily is a member of the Atlantic FFA Chapter.

Emily said that winning this award is a great achievement because her father also won the award. She said, "I did something that my Dad did. I lived up to it." Emily said one of the things she enjoys most about being a member of the local FFA Chapter is the people she meets. They are so "enthusiastic and just fun to be around." Emily plans to pursue a career in agriculture. She has been an active member in the Atlantic FFA Chapter, exhibited livestock, and participated in numerous activities and contests as a member of her local FFA Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Emily for earning this award. She is a shining example of how hard work, determination, and dedication can help you reach your goals. It is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring her accomplishments and in wishing her nothing but continued success in her future endeavors in agriculture.

#### MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

### HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, brave Americans from every walk of life have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Many of those military personnel are parents whose children make significant sacrifices, too. The average child in a military family will move six to nine times during a school career, three times more frequently than non-military families.

During deployments, military children face separation and loss, and they face the joys and the challenges of reunification when deployments end. If a parent suffers an injury, the military child must also adapt to the new reality of that parent's limitations. Some military-connected children end up in the foster care system, bringing with them particular needs and circumstances. And if a parent is killed, the child's life is changed forever.

In recognition of this, April has been designated as the Month of the Military Child. According to the Department of Defense, 1.88 million children have parents in the active duty or reserve branches of the military, and many more children have parents who are veterans. Los Angeles is home to the highest population of military veterans in California.

On Sunday, April 17, Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative—Families & Children Working Group will hold their 3rd annual celebration of this occasion at the Los Angeles Public Library. Organized under the auspices of the USC Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families in my district, their work offers an opportunity for us to applaud these children's strength and resilience, and to honor their unique contributions and sacrifices.

I salute military children and all of the parents, family members, friends, professionals and organizations who support them.

#### HONORING BRETT CHRISTIAN MASON

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brett Christian Mason. Brett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brett has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and become a Ordeal member of the Order of the Arrow. Brett has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Brett constructed two benches for a sitting area in the foyer at Gracemor Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brett Christian Mason for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS—ARYAN SINGH

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aryan Singh from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

Aryan is one of eight high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, a program for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school and supported to continually strive toward their aspirations of

working in the medical field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 25th through the 27th. Aryan was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress because of his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing a medical science. We are proud of Aryan and all of his hard work, and know he will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Aryan for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Keep up the great work.

THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE  
U.S.-MEXICO AND U.S.-CANADA  
BORDER

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a topic very near and dear to my heart: My home of Deep South Texas.

I was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, a region situated along the U.S.-Mexico border in the southernmost tip of Texas, which encompasses Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo and Starr Counties. Rich in history and culture and built on enduring family bonds. The Rio Grande Valley is home to more than 1.3 million residents.

For nearly twenty years, I have had the honor and privilege of representing the fifteenth congressional district of Texas, a dynamic and unique district that stretches from Guadalupe County, southeast from San Antonio all the way down to Deep South Texas along the border with Mexico.

I feel extremely fortunate to call a border community my home. As the proud son of Ed Couch, Texas, I am surprised by news reports that depict the border as violent and "in crisis." Unlike the fear mongers who wish to scapegoat all our problems on immigrants, when I talk about the border, I know what I am talking about.

First, our border communities are some of the safest in our nation, providing great quality of life with the low crime rates. In fact, state and federal crime data show that border cities are safer than many larger U.S. cities, with violent crime rates remaining the same or dropping in the last five years.

Moreover, the idea that undocumented immigrants are more likely to commit crimes is simply false. A Texas Tribune analysis of incarceration and immigration records found there is little evidence that undocumented immigrants commit crime at higher rates than the general population and they appear to be underrepresented in Texas prisons. As a matter of fact, the U.S.-Mexico border has never been more secure in the history of the United States. In the past ten years, border security funding has tripled and we have doubled the size of the Border Patrol from about 10,000 agents to approximately 20,000 today.

Second, our border is not being overrun. We are seeing record low apprehensions at our southern border. Today, a majority of those apprehensions are immigrants from Central America who fear violence in their home countries and their only hope is to seek refuge in the United States. Our great nation is made up of immigrants, many of whom landed on our shores tired, poor and in huddled-masses, yearning to be free. We should not close our borders and turn back on them now. That is not who we are.

This brings to mind a quote from the first Mexican-American federal district Judge Reynaldo Garza who was appointed by President Kennedy in 1961 and sat on the bench in Brownsville, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley. When swearing in new citizens, Judge Garza used to say:

"I do not worry that people want to come to the United States, I would worry if people did not want to come because then it would mean we would no longer be the country of freedom and opportunity that we are."

As a son of immigrants and as former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I am proud to represent my district along the U.S.-Mexico border with a large population of immigrants, who contribute to the vibrancy of our national economy, job growth and rich culture.

Indeed, the stories of our immigrant neighbors, friends, and colleagues are very real, enriching the overall narrative of what it means to be an American. They are Americans and part of our national fabric.

I invite all my fellow Americans to come down to the U.S.-Mexico border region to experience firsthand the rich culture and wonderful people who make up our border communities and my home of Deep South Texas.

HONORING CLAYTON BRESHEARS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Clayton Breshears. Clayton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Clayton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Clayton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Clayton led his troop as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Clayton has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Clayton painted a precise outline of the United States on the Lewis and Clark Elementary School playground in Liberty, Missouri, giving teachers at the school another tool to teach their students basic geography.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Clayton Breshears for his ac-

complishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING LILLIE RUTH BARLOW LINDSEY ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Lillie Ruth Barlow Lindsey. She will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on May 26, 2016.

Lillie was born in Bay Springs, Mississippi on May 26, 1936. At age 10, Lillie's family moved to Laurel, Mississippi, where she remained until she married A.C. Lindsey in August of 1951. After they married, A.C. and Lillie moved to Kansas City, Missouri. They remained in Kansas City until 2006, when they moved to Wentzville, Missouri. A.C. and Lillie had eight children. From those eight children, they have 30 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. Lillie and A.C. were married for 63 years, until A.C.'s passing on January 14, 2014. In her retirement, Lillie focused on caring for her husband, A.C., throughout his battle with Alzheimer's disease. Lillie has always been a dedicated wife and mother. When her last child began junior high school, Lillie began working at Halls in Kansas City, Missouri where she worked until her retirement. Lillie enjoys sewing and has been an active member of her church throughout her life, during her time in Kansas City and currently in Wentzville, Missouri.

I ask you to join me in celebrating Lillie Ruth Barlow Lindsey on her 80th Birthday.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE TANIMURA

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great American, George Tanimura, who passed away on April 15, three months short of his 101st birthday. I offer my deepest condolences to George's wife of 72 years, Masaye, and to George's close-knit family: his son Glenn and his daughter Leslie, and their spouses; his grandchildren Chris, Erin, Ryan and Kelly and their spouses, and to his great grandchildren Makenzie, Jaklyn, and Karter, and to his siblings.

George lived a remarkable life that spanned the Great Depression, WWII, and the rise of the modern information economy. In that time, George confronted prejudice, helped to rebuild a dislocated Japanese-American community in the Salinas Valley, nurtured a large extended family, and fostered the development of the modern fresh produce industry. George was a farmer's farmer. As one of the founders of the Tanimura & Antle, he helped build one of the nation's largest private lettuce producers. So while you may have never heard of George

Tanimura, I can guarantee that every Member of this House has eaten something that George and his family have grown. He has planted and nurtured a legacy that will produce a crop for generations to come.

George was born in San Juan Bautista on July 2, 1915. His parents had emigrated from Japan to build a better life in the United States. While attending grammar school in Castroville, George thinned iceberg lettuce on his father's small farm. After his mother died, George, the eldest of 12 siblings, had to leave high school to farm with his father. Then when George was just 16, his father died leaving George with the responsibility for the family and their farm. In the midst of the depression, George became the patriarch of his large family. Under his leadership, the Tanimura children began their own prosperous farming operations.

However, just as they were recovering, the U.S. entry into WWII turned the Tanimuras' lives upside down. In 1942, they found themselves imprisoned by our government along with other Americans of Japanese descent in remote internment camps across the desert West. And even though the Tanimuras lost everything, two of his brothers fought with the U.S. Army in Europe. For George, his time in the camp offered him another opportunity to find fortune in the midst of adversity. He met Masaya Yamauchi and they were married on September 21, 1944.

When George, Masaya, and their family returned to the Salinas Valley, they resumed lettuce farming. In the late 1950s, the Tanimuras began to grow exclusively for Bud Antle, another legendary Salinas Valley grower. Bud, and his son Bob, had been working closely with the Tanimura family for many years. Finally, in 1982, George and Bob combined over 30 years of mutual friendship, respect, and experience to create Tanimura & Antle. The new company combined the Antle's shipping and marketing savvy with the Tanimura's growing expertise. That combination has helped T&A grow into one of the world's premier fresh produce companies. And it forms the basis of T&A's continued success.

Throughout his life, George was extremely active in countless community efforts, giving his leadership, commitment and wealth to making the Salinas Valley a better place for all farm families to live. Even though he was a living legend in the farming community and widely respected by all who knew him, it was his deep sense of humility that kept him from claiming any recognition other than his simple refrain, "it doesn't matter, I'm just a farmer."

While George Tanimura thought of himself as a humble farmer, his hard work and integrity created one of the pillars of the American agricultural economy. The Buddha said, "in the end only three things matter: how much you loved, how gently you lived, and how gratefully you let go of things not meant for you." In the end, George Tanimura will be remembered for his love for his family, how he lived his life and his willingness to encourage and support others in the fresh produce industry. It is a legacy for all of us to remember in these turbulent times.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

**HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the National Collegiate Honors Council and their commitment to collegiate honors education. Since their inception, the National Collegiate Honors Council has been dedicated to excellence in education in diverse subject and curriculum areas. They serve over 800 colleges and universities and over 325,000 students across the country.

I also want to recognize the Kingsborough Community College, in Southern Brooklyn, for their outstanding dedication to academic enrichment and achievement. Kingsborough Community College serves about 14,000 full and part-time students each year in a wide array of liberal arts and career education courses. Kingsborough Community College provides its students with a high level of education through its associate degree programs that prepare students to transfer to senior colleges or enter directly into a professional career.

Kingsborough Community College offers qualifying students the opportunity to challenge themselves in the Honors Program with rigorous coursework, the ability to study with other gifted students and benefit from increased contact with top faculty.

Characterized by smaller classes, individual research projects, internships, study-travel opportunities and community service, Kingsborough Community College Honors program enhances their students' global awareness and cultivates America's future leaders.

Having produced notable alumni that include Sid Rosenberg, the accomplished sports radio personality, Jeff Koinange, Emmy award winning journalist and Andrew Weyman, Director of shows such as the Big Bang Theory and The King of Queens, Kingsborough Community College continues to educate the global leaders of tomorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARK RANGERS AT YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the state and federal park rangers who have served Yosemite National Park over the last 150 years. Specifically, I rise to honor Mr. Galen Clark, the first appointed "guardian" (park ranger) of Yosemite in 1866.

As the first ranger, Mr. Clark served 22 years while dedicating his life to protect and administer the nation's first great outdoors natural park at Yosemite. Since then, the park has served over 185 million visitors.

Set aside by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864 with the express intent "to be held for

public use, resort, and recreation for all time," the Yosemite Valley is a national treasure that belongs to the American people in perpetuity.

President Lincoln made this land available to the public by understanding and respecting the government's role "of the people, by the people, and for the people," describing the philosophy behind the dedication of Yosemite.

Today, the National Park Service administers more than 400 national parks throughout the United States by partnering with communities to preserve historical landmarks and create outdoor recreational places.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation manages 280 parks, preserving some of the finest resources found in California.

Ranger Clark served honorably as Yosemite's first park ranger, creating a prestigious fraternal order for those who have followed in his footsteps, embodying Thomas Jefferson's words: "When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property."

Recognition of Mr. Clark's appointment as the first park ranger is a momentous event, offering an opportunity to reflect, highlight, and honor the history and contribution of park staff over the last 150 years.

Mr. Speaker, Ranger Clark and all other park rangers who have committed their lives to the preservation of Yosemite National Park as a place of "public use, resort, and recreation for all time" deserve to be remembered for their service and dedication for ensuring public access and enjoyment of this extraordinary national treasure.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT SYRACUSE

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Honor Flight Syracuse. Honor Flight Syracuse is a private, not-for-profit organization and is one of more than 130 regional hubs of the National Honor Flight Network. Honor Flight Syracuse became an official hub in the Honor Flight Network in May of 2012.

Honor Flight Syracuse's mission is to honor America's veterans by transporting them to Washington, D.C. to visit the national memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. The goal of Honor Flight Syracuse is to help every single war veteran in the greater Syracuse area, willing and capable, to obtain a flight to visit their memorial at no cost to them.

Since May of 2012, Honor Flight Syracuse has completed six missions to Washington, D.C., with a seventh mission scheduled for this month. Honor Flight Syracuse gives top priority to America's most senior-citizen heroes—veterans of World War II and any war veteran with a terminal illness.

Thanks to Honor Flight Syracuse's dedicated leadership team, board members and volunteers, hundreds of Veterans from the greater Syracuse area, Northern New York State, and the Mohawk Valley have been able to travel to Washington, D.C. and visit the memorials that honor their service and sacrifice.



I am honored to recognize such an incredible organization dedicated to helping veterans in our community. I want to pay tribute to all who have made Honor Flight Syracuse such a remarkable program and to thank all of the veterans who have participated in Honor Flight Syracuse for their sacrifice and dedication to our country.

CONGRATULATING KATHRYN  
SZYMANSKI ON HER RETIRE-  
MENT FROM THE ROCK ISLAND  
ARSENAL

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathryn Szymanski, who is retiring from the Rock Island Arsenal on April 28th. Currently, she serves as Chief Counsel for the U.S. Army Sustainment Command and the Joint Munitions Command. For decades, Ms. Szymanski has served honorably in different levels of government and public service.

Ms. Szymanski began her career in public service at the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, where she was a procurement attorney, general law attorney, and procurement fraud advisor. Later in her career at the U.S. Army Materiel Command Headquarters, she served as counsel and continued to protect our armed forces from fraud. Before coming to the Rock Island Arsenal, Ms. Szymanski served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Infrastructure Analysis at the Army Headquarters in Washington D.C.

Ms. Szymanski also has a demonstrated history of going above and beyond her daily responsibilities. Earlier this year, she was named the U.S. Army Sustainment Command 2015 Equal Employment Opportunity Champion of the Year for her commitment to promoting equality, inclusion, and access for women and minorities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ms. Szymanski for her commitment not only to public service, but also for working to open doors for women, for minorities, and for those who may be underserved or underrepresented.

I congratulate her again on her well-earned retirement and wish her luck in her future endeavors.

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS IN  
MINNESOTA'S SIXTH

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the four businesses that received MetroNorth Chamber's 2015 Excellence in Business Awards last month.

Stepping Stone's Emergency Housing in Anoka received the not-for-profit award, Essentially Massage in Blaine received the 2015

micro-business of the year award, Schaaf Floral in Fridley received the small business award, and Walters Recycling and Refuse in Blaine received the general business award.

Opening and running a business is not an easy task, but it is definitely a worthwhile venture. One of the reasons Minnesota is so incredible is because of these types of award winning businesses. Not only do they bring commerce, jobs, and a great product or service to their area; but they also add a unique touch to the community.

I thank each and every one of the owners of these businesses for everything they contribute to our community, and I wish them nothing but success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF  
SCRANTON

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Scranton, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on April 23, 2016. Scranton has a long history of significant contributions to the economic, civic, and social development of our nation. The city was the center of America's anthracite coal industry, a major transport hub during the golden era of railroads, and home to the first electric streetcar.

In 1778, Isaac Tripp settled the village of Slocum Hollow in the Lackawanna Valley. With the founding of the Lackawanna Steel Company by Seldon and George Scranton in the 1840s, the small agrarian community rapidly transformed into a multicultural, industrial center responsible for producing T-rails, which were used to construct railroads all across the country. In February 1856, Scranton was officially established as a borough. On April 23, 1866, Scranton was incorporated as a city of 35,000 people and was merged with the neighboring communities of Hyde Park and Providence. When Lackawanna County was formed in 1878, Scranton was named as the county seat.

Today, Scranton is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with more than 75,000 citizens residing in the "Electric City." Many of the city's attractions, such as the Steamtown National Historic Site, Everhart Museum, and the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, commemorate Scranton's history as an industrial and cultural center. Scranton is home to a thriving, welcoming, diverse community committed to celebrating the ethnic heritage on which the city was built. It hosts one of the nation's largest St. Patrick's Day parades and La Festa Italiana. A hub for higher education, Scranton is also home to five colleges and universities: Marywood University, The University of Scranton, The Commonwealth Medical College, Lackawanna College, and Johnson College.

It is an honor to recognize Scranton on its sesquicentennial celebration. I am proud to represent a city so rich in history with so bright a future. May the citizens of Scranton honor

their past with pride and look forward with confidence to great things as they celebrate the city's 150th anniversary.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE  
SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLO-  
GISTS—CHANDLER GARRISON

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chandler Garrison from Pearland, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Chandler attends Glenda Dawson High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Chandler was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Chandler and all of her hard work, and know she will make Pearland proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Chandler for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

RECOGNIZING THE FREEPORT  
HIGH SCHOOL PRETZELS

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Freeport High School in Freeport, Illinois, for their unique and historic mascot known as the "Pretzels."

Freeport has been known as "The Pretzel City" for over a hundred years, and Freeport High School's mascot helps reflect this tradition. The city's namesake serves as a reminder of its unique cultural heritage, in which early German immigrants brought over their love of pretzels to establish bakeries that helped introduce this staple into the United States. As the mother of three sons who were educated by our public schools, I am proud of the students of Freeport High School for their school spirit and continued enthusiasm in promoting this iconic mascot.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again recognize the Freeport "Pretzels" for the important role their

mascot has played in defining this region over the years.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING  
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
BEACH CITY

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Beach City, in Chambers County, Texas.

Located between Trinity Bay and San Jacinto River, Beach City sits about eight miles southeast of Baytown, in western Chambers County. Through the 1800s this area was host to a number of bayside settlements and camps, and many scenes from the struggle for Texas independence.

In March 1836, following the fall of the Alamo and massacre at Goliad, Gen. Sam Houston ordered a retreat known as The Runaway Scrape. On the way to join up with the fleeing Texian Army, the famed Twin Sisters cannons passed through present-day Beach City, just in time to provide Gen. Houston with the firepower necessary to defeat the Mexican Army, and secure Texas' independence at the Battle of San Jacinto.

By the 1960s, facing possible annexation by nearby Baytown, Beach City residents overwhelmingly voted to incorporate. On April 11, 1966, Beach City's nearly 500 permanent residents officially incorporated. Newly established, Beach City had its first election on May 21, 1966, where the people chose Eloice Jordan to serve as their first mayor. Billy Combs currently serves as the 11th mayor of Beach City, a position he has held since 2010.

It is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Beach City. May God bless Beach City even more richly in these next 50 years.

H.R. 4482, THE "SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2016"

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office regarding H.R. 4482.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
U.S. CONGRESS,

*Washington, DC, April 20, 2016.*

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4482, the Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act of 2016.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4482—*Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act of 2016*

H.R. 4482 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to conduct an analysis of potential threats and security gaps along the southwest border of the United States. The bill also would require DHS, not later than June 30, 2017, to issue a strategic plan to protect U.S. borders. Based on information from DHS, CBO estimates that conducting analysis and preparing the strategic plan as required by H.R. 4482 would cost about \$1 million in 2017; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Because enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4482 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 4482 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CONGRATULATING THE WHITESIDE  
COUNTY AIRPORT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Whiteside County Airport in Rock Falls, IL, which has been recognized as the "2016 Illinois General Aviation Airport of the Year" by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics.

This award recognizes the Whiteside County Airport for excellence based on a variety of criteria, including their service to the local community, safety record, and coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The airport and its staff have hosted numerous community events in recent years, including Boy Scout Camporees and several "Last Time" celebrations for historic aircraft. I applaud the efforts of Airport Manager Michael Dowell, along with the entire staff, for their commitment to excellence for the airport and its facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate the Whiteside County Airport and its staff for this remarkable achievement and I thank them for their service to our community.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR  
EDUCATORS

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate three educators from Minnesota's Sixth District who have been selected as finalists in the 2016 Teacher of the Year Program for our great state. There are

currently eleven finalists that have been chosen from the 115 original Teacher of the Year candidates.

The finalists are Julie Beaver, a math teacher at Zimmerman Middle/High School, Joe Lawrence, a language arts teacher at Delano High School, and Erin Rehnblom, a teacher at Otsego Elementary School.

A good teacher opens doors, inspires curiosity and positively affects a child's life forever. They provide students with all tools necessary for them to reach the highest levels of success. That is why I am so grateful that there are awards like Minnesota Teacher of the Year, which guarantees that these individuals hard work does not go unnoticed.

Our children are this nation's future, and I thank Julie, Joe, and Erin for helping to ensure a bright one.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC  
DEFENDER SERVICE VOLUNTARY  
SEPARATION INCENTIVE  
PAYMENTS ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act. The bill would make a minor change to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (D.C. Courts) and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

The bill would give the D.C. Courts and PDS the same authority federal agencies and federal courts already have to offer voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts, to their employees. The fiscal year 2016 omnibus bill already gives D.C. Courts buyout authority—but my bill would make this authorization permanent, and would extend it to PDS in addition to the courts. Buyouts would allow the D.C. Courts and PDS to respond to their future administrative and budget needs, and would provide the flexibility to extend buyout offers to their employees.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has determined that voluntary separation incentive payments may be made only where statutorily authorized. While federal agencies and federal courts have the statutory authority to offer buyouts, PDS and the D.C. Courts have not been expressly permitted to permanently provide them to their employees. PDS and the D.C. Courts seek the same buyout authority in order to manage their workforce as budget conditions and needs change.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MYERS AND  
PILLAR TECHNOLOGY GROUP

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Bob Myers, CEO of Pillar Technology Group for its innovative vision while creating Des Moines, Iowa's newest technology office space, aptly called "The Forge". The Ohio-based technology firm works with large companies to develop unique software for autonomous vehicles and "The Internet of Things."

Pillar Technology Group prides itself for being in direct competition to many of California's Silicon Valley firms, stating that Des Moines, Iowa lends itself to a venue which "constantly pushes us." Pillar Technology Group has other "Forge" locations in Michigan and Ohio. Des Moines was selected, said CEO Myers, because it is close to several universities, has a good talent pool and is increasingly innovative. Calling Des Moines, Iowa "the Silicon Prairie," Myers revealed they have hired at least 30 employees in Iowa to join their current staff of 200 nationwide.

Bouyed by a loan from the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board in 2015, Pillar Technology Group established its foothold in central Iowa. Myers explained that "The Forge" is a philosophy, not a place. Upon entering their doors, said Myers, there is an aura of "no constraints." Nothing is impossible. That's the Iowa way. With hard work, determination, innovation and an open mind, anything can be accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Pillar Technology Group and CEO Bob Myers for locating its innovative vision in Iowa. I am proud to represent the Pillar Technology Group and its employees in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the firm and wishing Pillar Technology Group's "The Forge" nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
KEN CHRISTY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Ken Christy, who was tragically taken from us on March 26, 2016. Ken was a dear friend and will be greatly missed by all those in the Aurora community who were touched by his years of service as a union and community leader.

Mr. Christy was the local Aurora Township Clerk and served as President of the Illinois State Association of Letter Carriers for 25 years. As a letter carrier himself, Ken understood the challenges his union members faced and sought to be a voice for the men and women of the U.S. Postal Service.

Ken was elected to the Illinois Hall of Fame for Letter Carriers in 2012 and was a recipient

of the Kane County Democrat Harry S. Truman Award. His engagement with his community is one to be honored and admired.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Ken Christy's tireless efforts fighting for middle class workers and my thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JACOB  
GANN

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mr. Jacob Gann, a senior at Cherokee High School, in Georgia's 11th District, for his efforts to understand the legislative process, and for his interest in issues that affect the American people. He crafted his very own bill—to clarify and improve our immigration process. Young people who are devoted to understanding the issues are our nation's future leaders.

I would like to recognize Jacob for his hard work and perseverance over the last year to learn about our government's bill-making process. Immigration reform is one of the battles of our time, and Jacob's diligence to understand the issue and the process will serve him well wherever he goes. Congratulations, Jacob.

HONORING BUENO FOODS

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 65th anniversary of Bueno Foods, a local company that has become synonymous with our traditional and cherished New Mexican dishes.

In 1946, several brothers from the Baca family returned from serving in World War II and they scraped together enough money to buy a small neighborhood grocery store called the Ace Food Store. The small business was successful, until the larger chain grocery stores moved into the area. The Baca brothers wanted to compete and knew they must find innovative ways to keep the business profitable.

They added a carry-out component using their mother's delicious home cooked New Mexican food and began manufacturing corn and flour tortillas on a pie crust roller and making tamales and posole for sale. Then they had an idea. Everyone was getting a freezer and Birds Eye frozen vegetables were very popular. They decided to roast green chile over an open flame in the early fall and freeze it so that people could have chile year-round.

There was no equipment to flame-roast green chile on a commercial scale, and the brothers had to design and build equipment, and implement the process for large scale production. Bueno Foods was founded in 1951.

For over 65 years, Bueno Foods has grown from a small neighborhood grocery store into one of the Southwest's premier producers of New Mexican and Mexican foods, serving restaurants and retail customers throughout the United States. It is still owned and operated by the Baca family, with Jacqueline "Jackie" Baca serving as President since 1986.

Bueno Foods symbolizes the spirit and determination of true entrepreneurs who turned their idea into a thriving business that preserves and promotes our heritage. I would like to congratulate the Baca family and their employees for 65 years of supplying quality products, providing excellent customer service and creating opportunities to give back to the community.

THE VISIT OF ZAMBIAN VICE  
PRESIDENT INONGE WINA

**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to welcome the Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, the Honorable Inonge Mutukwa Wina, to my Los Angeles district for a visit. Vice President Wina is the highest ranking woman in Zambian government history, and she brings a delegation of officials to the U.S. with the assistance of Robert Sichinga, Jr., Honorary Consul for Zambia in Los Angeles.

A major purpose of Vice President Wina's visit is to raise awareness of the tremendous opportunities for economic investment in her home country. Some of the fastest-growing economies in the world are in Africa. In particular, Mrs. Wina comes to promote the Jubilee Women's Integrated Highway Markets Program as a support for entrepreneurship that will begin to build wealth among rural families.

The Jubilee Women's Integrated Highway Markets Program is a three year program to transform makeshift markets along Zambian highways into thriving economic engines, run cooperatively by the women who make up the majority of businesses found in these locations. It aims to create modern, integrated economic hubs, one in each of Zambia's ten provinces. The markets would offer not only sturdy structures, plumbing and solar power, but would also offer literacy and skills training, banking and other services, and child care facilities.

Women play an essential role in lifting families out of poverty and promoting a nation's fortunes. Studies show that investing in women's businesses correlates closely with better-fed children who stay longer in school, and women tend to reinvest profits in expanding their business, thereby building wealth for the longer term.

I wish Vice President Wina and all of those traveling with her a pleasant, rewarding and successful trip, and I look forward to partnering with her in the future.

CONGRATULATING DAN BEBBER  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Dan Bebbber, a friend of the Rock Island, Illinois community and a dedicated public servant to veterans from all across our state.

Dan is a U.S. Navy veteran, retiring from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs after more than 22 years of service. As a Veterans' Service Officer, Dan provided support to thousands of veterans seeking compensation from the VA over the course of his career.

In addition to his work in the Department, Dan is an active member of the community and has spent much of his time assisting veterans in other ways, such as serving as a volunteer for VA Stand Downs and our local veterans' resource fair.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Bebbber once again for his outstanding service to our nation and his dedicated service to our veterans and our community. I congratulate him on a well-earned retirement and wish his family nothing but the very best going forward.

TRIBUTE TO RUBY AND BRUCE  
BENTLEY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ruby and Bruce Bentley of Macedonia, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on March 19, 2016.

The Bentleys are known for their commitment to their family and community. Their marriage blessed them with five children and many grandchildren. The community of Macedonia knows the Bentleys as a close-knit family, living their faith and committed to one another. The entire generation of this union lives within seven miles of each other, calling the Bruce and Ruby homestead, "Bentley East." This marriage is a union of dedication to a strong work ethic with their cattle-feeding business, recognized as Producers of the Year in 2006 and Cattleman's Association Brand Wall operation in 2011.

But even working with their 2,000 head of cattle for the past 50 years, the Bentleys are dedicated to volunteerism. Bruce is involved in his grandchildren's school activities, having served on the Carson-Macedonia School Board and active in the Riverside Pride and Booster clubs. Ruby has served on the Pottawattamie County Tourism Committee, Macedonia Development Committee, other civic activities and boards, and was even named Iowan for A Day at the Iowa State Fair.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce and Ruby's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this

great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,221,832,717,891.35. We've added \$8,594,955,668,978.27 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THOMAS "TOMMY"  
BAKER JR.

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to honor the life of Thomas "Tommy" Baker Jr., who passed away on April 15, 2016.

Tommy was born on October 3, 1956 in Radford, Virginia. He graduated from Radford College and the Washington and Lee School of Law. He served as the town attorney in Dublin, Virginia, and ran his own law practice there for many years. Additionally, Tommy served in the General Assembly from 1990 to 2000.

Dublin Mayor Benny Skeens, a friend of Tommy's since both were in high school, told the Roanoke Times, "[Tommy] had probably one of the brightest minds, as far as municipal law goes, of anyone I've known. . . . He taught me so much."

Mayor Skeens also said, "Anything that's happened in the town of Dublin in the past 20 years, Tommy had his hand in it."

I went to law school with Tommy, and also served in the Virginia House of Delegates with him. Tommy's son Jefferson told the Roanoke Times that his father's love of Pulaski County and of public service transcended party politics. I would agree.

Additionally, Tommy was a fun-loving practical joker, and he kept the entire House entertained. As Mayor Skeens said, Tommy ". . . was one of those people, when he walked in the room, the atmosphere changed. . . . He brightened people up."

I am saddened by Tommy's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with Tommy's parents, his son Jefferson, and the rest of his family.

TRIBUTE TO OLGA BRUNO DE  
MUNOZ

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Olga Bruno de Munoz of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the celebration of her 100th birthday on March 21, 2016.

Ms. Munoz attended high school in Guayama, Puerto Rico and graduated with a secretarial degree, later moving on to work for the Puerto Rican government. Ms. Munoz and her late husband, Bartolome M. Munoz, were the parents of two daughters, Olga and Margie, and she has seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two great-great granddaughters. Ms. Munoz enjoys reading and shopping and says her favorite foods are Puerto Rican and Chinese. While living in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Olga was an active volunteer with the Presbyterian Hospital and loved to design dresses for her daughters.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Ms. Munoz's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Ms. Munoz has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I am honored and pleased to congratulate Olga Bruno de Munoz on her 100th birthday. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ms. Munoz on reaching this incredible milestone, and I wish her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CELEBRATING AMBER ECKSTEIN

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Amber Eckstein, who has been selected as the 2015-2016 ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign state exemplar in Minnesota.

In order to receive this prestigious honor, an individual must prove their strong effort towards college and career readiness, and Amber certainly embodies these requirements.

Education is the key that opens all of life's doors. In the United States today, a college degree has become more necessary than ever before, with the majority of jobs requiring some sort of post-secondary education. That is why it is imperative that students across the nation strive to achieve academic success and earn a higher education.

I would like to commend Amber for working so hard to earn a better future; her impressive efforts make her a leader among her generation and lead me to believe that she is a

young woman who we will see great things from. I would also like to commend the ACT organization for working to promote higher education among our nation's students.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MARY ANN WASIL

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to take a moment to pay tribute to an incredible woman who I consider one of my personal heroes, Mary Ann Wasil who lost a brilliant battle with breast cancer late last week. Mary Ann possessed a tenacious spirit, an unyielding faith, a heart full of love, and an infectious smile—she was one-of-a-kind and will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known and worked with her.

For one whose life was cut so short, Mary Ann had an extraordinary story. She was a police officer, an actor, a development officer for her church and its elementary school, the founder of a non-profit organization, a health activist, and, most importantly and above all others, a mother of three. She gave 110 percent to everything that she did, every project she undertook, and every battle she fought.

Breast cancer was what took Mary Ann from us, but it is also what one of her lasting legacies was born from. Battling to remission after her first diagnosis with Stage II breast cancer in 2004, Mary Ann took her experience and turned it into, not only a teachable moment, but a successful and much needed breast health initiative, the Get in Touch Foundation. Mary Ann discovered the initial lump in her breast while doing a self-breast examination and her cancer was only diagnosed correctly and quickly because she was so familiar with her body and her breasts. Even with some doctors telling her not to worry, to wait, Mary Ann pushed on because she knew it was more than a simple fluctuation.

As Mary Ann waged her war with breast cancer, she looked into the eyes of her two young daughters and knew she wanted to do something to make sure that they, as well as young girls everywhere, were armed with all of the information and tools they would need to be strong and smart in breast health. Thus, the Get in Touch Foundation was born. The Get In Touch Girls Program and Daisy Wheel teaches girls to “get in touch” with their bodies through self-examination. Developed by board members and members of the medical community, including focus-groups of girls ages 8 through 18, the interactive Daisy Wheel teaches the importance of and how to do a breast self-examination. The Daisy Wheel is given to girls in grades 9 through 12 when health educators discuss hygiene and the girls’ changing bodies. The program has been implemented in more than twenty-six countries across the globe and the Daisy Wheel has been downloaded in more than eighty countries. The impact of this program is as extraordinary as its founder.

In 2010 Mary Ann won a contract from Balboa Press to publish her memoir, A Diary of

Healing: My Intense and Meaningful Life with Cancer. Throughout its pages you can hear Mary Ann’s laughter, feel her outrage, and you will often find yourself crying with her, experiencing the twists and turns of her journey. Mary Ann battled back to remission several times over the last decade, always grateful for the additional time she had with family and friends. And though she lost this last battle, her story will continue to be an inspiration.

My heart goes out to her children, Betsy, Mary, and Eddy. Just thirteen, twelve, and ten at the time of their mother’s diagnosis, they were forced to grow-up remarkably quickly but always in the warmth of Mary Ann’s smile and secure in the knowledge of her love for them. I know that, in each their own way, they will carry-on Mary Ann’s legacy of love, courage, education, and hope.

Over the years, I developed a deep friendship with Mary Ann and I consider myself so fortunate to have known her. She was, quite simply, an extraordinary human being. Activist, author, mentor, friend, and mother—Mary Ann Wasil was a woman whose time with us, though short, left an indelible mark on all our lives. Though we will all miss her tenacity, dedication, and, of course, her smile, family and friends will gather in their brightest, most vividly colored clothes, wearing their fanciest shows and celebrate the life of Mary Ann Wasil and the many gifts she brought to all of our lives. As Mary Ann would say—Hope Lives.

TRIBUTE TO LEONE DIERENFIELD  
PETTY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Leone Dierenfield Petty for celebrating her 100th birthday on April 12, 2016.

Mrs. Petty was born on a small farm south of Wall Lake, Iowa along with her twin sister, Leola. Life was off to a slow start, weighing in at 2½ pounds at birth. She tells the story that she was so tiny, a coffee cup would fit over her head. But she survived and prospered in the Iowa countryside. She was later joined by several brothers and sisters. She went on to raise a family of six, which now includes a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. All of them attest to her wonderful meals as a farm wife, noting that there is nothing much better than her homemade bread.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mrs. Petty’s life. We have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mrs. Petty has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mrs. Petty in the United States Congress and it is

my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday with family and friends. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Petty on reaching this incredible milestone, wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEHEMIAH  
COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT  
FUND

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund as it celebrates the milestone of renovating over 500 properties. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great organization for its contributions to the Sacramento region.

The Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund (NCRF) is a nonprofit and federally-certified community development financial institution (CDFI). NCRF provides capital and technical assistance to organizations working to revitalize low-income neighborhoods and provide housing, services, and jobs to underserved people throughout the United States. Through creative, flexible financing and investments, NCRF makes capital available to community- and faith-based nonprofits, as well as mission-based for-profit organizations, that otherwise might be unable to obtain needed capital. NCRF was founded by Nehemiah Corporation of America, which provided the start-up capital that enabled NCRF to begin making loans and investments. In addition to its community development loan fund, NCRF also developed the Nehemiah Sacramento Valley Fund, a triple bottom-line, real estate equity fund, to bring market-rate capital into low-income neighborhoods in the six county Sacramento region.

In 2010, NCRF launched the Neighborhood Restoration Program in response to the foreclosure crisis. The mission of this program is to advance community revitalization by providing homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families. Building on Nehemiah’s long history of encouraging and facilitating responsible homeownership, Nehemiah acquires properties located in communities that are affordable to low- and moderate-income homebuyers. Once acquired, each house is renovated to exceed Federal Housing Administration lending standards, and marketed for sale exclusively to first time homebuyers and low- to moderate-income households.

In 2012, Nehemiah created Roofs for Troops to benefit the men and women who serve and have served our country. Through Roofs for Troops, financial institutions donate foreclosed properties to NCRF. Properties are renovated to exceed Veterans Administration lending standards and are marketed for sale exclusively to veterans and active duty military. A percentage of properties NCRF receives and renovates are donated 100 percent mortgage free to deserving veteran and active

duty military families. In total, the Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund has created 500 affordable homeownership opportunities through its Neighborhood Restoration and Roofs for Troops Programs.

Mr. Speaker, as community members gather to celebrate this significant milestone for the Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Fund for its contributions and commitment to the Sacramento region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
JOHN ULMSCHEIDER

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen Maryland firefighter and recognize his colleague who is recovering from severe injuries. As the funeral and interment of this esteemed firefighter occurred yesterday, I want to remember the legacy he leaves behind.

Prince George's County firefighter and paramedic (FF/Medic) John Ernest Ulmschneider was responding to a "check on welfare" call that took a turn for the worse. Known as "Skillet," this brave firefighter died tragically in the line of duty on Friday, April 15, as a result of a shooting in Temple Hills, Maryland.

Line-of-duty deaths are always difficult to bear. A firefighter or another first responder leaves their home, their station, or their vehicle to do their job of public service, and their loved one, coworker, or partner expects to see them return. My heart breaks for John's loved ones and for the tight-knit community that is the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department.

The details of FF/Medic Ulmschneider's death are heartbreaking. He, fellow firefighter Kevin Swain of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, and other first responders arrived at a residence after a relative had contacted them worried about the health of a family member. They knocked on the door a few times and announced themselves without receiving a response. With the concern of a potential health emergency in mind, they tried to enter the home by breaking down the door.

It was a fateful decision. As the firefighters entered the home, the person inside fired a weapon, hitting FF/Medic Ulmschneider and FF Swain. Both firefighters were severely injured, FF/Medic Ulmschneider fatally, despite the rapid and capable care they received. On behalf of the citizens of Maryland's Fourth Congressional District, I would like to recognize the paramedics and the doctors and nurses for their compassionate care and treatment of these firefighters.

I would like to remember the legacy FF/Medic Ulmschneider leaves behind. He was born in Baltimore and graduated from Surrattsville High School in Clinton, Maryland in 1997. Friends called him "Skillet" because his head was as tough as a cast iron skillet.

FF/Medic Ulmschneider had been a member of the Prince George's County Fire Department for 13 years. He was married to

Dawn and a proud and doting father to Abigail. One colleague of his remembers him as a particularly caring person who went the extra mile and on calls would make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for those patients who had low-blood sugar or were simply panicked. Another coworker recalled that FF/Medic Ulmschneider had two speeds, "fast and faster."

Mr. Speaker, I want to send my appreciation to these individual firefighters and all their colleagues for their relentless dedication to public service. Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and firefighters across this country are committed every day to keep our communities safe by putting their own lives at risk during times of our greatest need. They each have made the ultimate contribution to our communities—the contribution of personal sacrifice to ensure our safety and well-being. These men and women rightfully are our heroes.

As a dedicated firefighter, husband, father, and human being, Firefighter and Paramedic John Ulmschneider deserves all of the honor and praise this Chamber can bestow upon him. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District and this House, I extend my sincerest gratitude and condolences to his wife Dawn and daughter Abigail; Cheryl Ulmschneider, his mother; his entire family; friends; Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc Bashoor; the entire Department; and the Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics Association International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1619.

TRIBUTE TO CANDY HEYER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Candy Heyer of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being recognized by the Horatio Alger Foundation to receive the 2016 State-Level Award for Iowa. Candy is a student at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Candy was selected for this award for her commitment in continuing her education and for serving her community. Candy maintained an "A" grade and scored at one of the highest levels on her ACT test. Candy will receive substantial funds to use towards her college tuition costs. Sarah Steinmetz, the Talented and Gifted Strategist at Abraham Lincoln High School said, "Candy is a young lady who strives 110 percent to go above and beyond what is expected of her and is deserving of this award."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Candy for being selected to receive this award. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Candy and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PORT OF  
BENTON RESTRICTION RELEASE  
ACT OF 2016

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Port of Benton Restriction Release Act of 2016. This legislation will lift the conveyance restrictions on a 71.5 acre parcel of land that was deeded to the Port of Benton (Port) in 1996 by the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD). The Port acquired this parcel of land as part of an effort to transfer excess and unneeded land from the "Former 3000 Area" of the Hanford nuclear reservation, located in the Tri-Cities region of Central Washington, back to the local communities. Recently, the Port has explored economic development opportunities on this parcel, however the existing conveyance restrictions have inhibited their ability to develop the land for the economic benefit of the Tri-Cities region.

In recent years, there has been an increase in economic activity near this property, including over \$70 million in investments, the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park in 2014, and the transfer of 1,641 acres of Hanford land back to the local communities for further economic and industrial development. The Port of Benton has targeted uses for this land that include clean energy manufacturing, bio products, solar array, and industrial operations, which could yield investments of \$1 billion for the local communities and the creation of 1,500 jobs for the region.

However, the conveyance restrictions on this property have inhibited the Port's ability to attract private and small businesses to make investments in the Former Hanford 3000 Area. These restrictions require that all sub-leases over five years on the property be submitted to MARAD for approval. Additionally, the Port is required to submit annual reports to MARAD for the parcel.

This important legislation will release all remaining federal deed restrictions on the 71.5 acre property, which will allow the Port of Benton and the surrounding communities to continue their hard work to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and retain a skilled workforce in the area, and this parcel of land is a critical component of this effort. For these reasons I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, which will have a positive and lasting impact on the economic viability and competitiveness of the Tri-Cities region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted No on Recorded Vote No. 162.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD CLOTHING  
AND SPORTING GOODS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Howard Clothing and Sporting Goods of Shenandoah, Iowa. Howard Clothing and Sporting Goods has been serving customers for over 65 years since it was founded in 1951 by Jim and Gladys Howard.

Darlene and Dennis Howard are the second generation owners of Howard Clothing and Sporting Goods. Darlene and Dennis purchased the store from Dennis' parents in 1976, later joined by their son, Derek, to operate the business each day. The store handles a variety of items, such as athletic shoes, tuxedos, ties, baseball bats, uniforms, and trophies. Dennis travels a 60-mile radius as he serves the public and local schools, assisting with their clothing and sporting needs. Darlene said, "You never know, anything can happen. Regardless, it's been a great business. We've both enjoyed it over the past four decades."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Howard Clothing and Sporting Goods and their staff for their 65 years of dedicated service to Shenandoah and southwest Iowa. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Howards for surpassing this incredible milestone and in wishing them and their family nothing but continued success.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, the first and fundamental purpose of government is to provide for the common defense.

Of the 17 powers granted to the Congress under Article One, Section Eight of the Constitution, 6 of them deal exclusively with the national defense.

Providing for our national defense is the only mandatory function of our government.

It follows, then, that we must take this responsibility very seriously.

And I do.

As a senior Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am working to ensure that we reverse the troop cuts made by this Administration, and to provide the necessary materials and equipment we need to respond to the threats we face.

Whether this Administration admits it or not, there are many that seek the "death of America."

We must recognize that we are at war with terrorists—they are constantly devising means and methods to injure our citizens, whether they are home or abroad.

As Iran, China, and Russia continue to provoke—and even detain—our armed forces. We must show that we will not be disrespected, mistreated, or intimidated.

The best offense is a good defense and I will continue to ensure that we have both.

TRIBUTE TO JULIA C. "JUDY"  
RUNNEBOHM

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of my good friend Julia C. "Judy" Runnebohm of Shelbyville, Indiana.

Born on September 27, 1936, to Thomas and Nell "Morris" Jenkins, Judy lived a long, full life dedicated to her family and her community.

As the Good Book says in Acts 20:35, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." And, Judy truly lived this scripture throughout her life. Everyone who knew her, knew of her love for Shelbyville and her desire to serve. Judy was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, where she was an energetic contributor in the St. Vincent Altar Society. She served on the Board of Directors of SCUFFY, Shelby County Welfare, and Girls, Inc., and also served as secretary of the Shelby County Republican Central Committee. In her "spare time" she volunteered many late afternoons calling shut-ins for the Major Hospital Foundation.

Her philanthropic spirit and volunteerism didn't go unnoticed. In 2013, Governor Mike Pence awarded her a Distinguished Hoosier Award, which is one of the highest honors given by the State of Indiana. Judy also received two awards from the Shelby County

Chamber of Commerce, including Citizen of the Year in 2000 and the Athena Award in 2014.

Judy Runnebohm was also my friend. And, there is no better friend than Judy. She will always be remembered as loyal, honest and a fierce advocate for those she believed in. I will never forget her support and belief in me.

Judy will certainly be missed by her family and her community. I will always be grateful for the encouragement and support that Judy and her husband Nick have given me throughout my career. And, I know the city of Shelbyville and the State of Indiana will always be grateful for their dedication.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Judy Runnebohm. My thoughts and prayers go out to Judy's family, and may God comfort those she left behind with His peace and strength.

TRIBUTE TO ADLENA MCLAIN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Adlena McLain of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being recognized by the Horatio Alger Foundation to receive the 2016 Regional AKSARBEN Award for Iowa. Adlena is a student at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Adlena was selected for this award for her commitment in continuing her education and for serving her community. She maintained excellent grades and scored at the top level on her ACT test. She will receive substantial funds to use towards her college tuition costs. Sarah Steinmetz, the Talented and Gifted Strategist at Abraham Lincoln High School said, "Adlena gives so much and goes above and beyond what is expected of her. She really deserves this award."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Adlena for being selected to receive this award. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Adlena. We wish her nothing but continued success in her education endeavors.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, April 25, 2016

The House met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 25, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED WHITFIELD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Reverend William Gurnee, St. Pius X Catholic Church, Bowie, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, as the gift of new life surrounds us in nature, we turn with gratitude for the people of this Nation and those who represent them.

Send Your spirit of right judgment upon the Members of this body so that they may guard the dignity of the poor and protect the opportunity for all to succeed.

Give them courage, give them fortitude, and give them, above all else, the knowledge that they have served their country well.

We humbly ask all this in Your Holy Name.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

### COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, April 21, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On April 20, 2016, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider two resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

The Committee continues to work to reduce the cost of federal property and leases. The two resolutions considered for alteration

projects address serious health and life safety issues and will consolidate agencies out of leased space into owned space reducing the costs to the taxpayer. The amounts authorized are consistent with existing funding. In total, these resolutions represent more than \$27 million in avoided lease costs.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on April 20, 2016.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,  
*Chairman.*

Enclosures.

### AMENDED COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE, SAN DIEGO, CA

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for the design and construction for the reconfiguration and alteration of space in the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building-Courthouse to backfill vacant space resulting from the opening of the San Diego Courthouse in FY2013, allowing federal tenants to reduce their overall footprint, the relocation of childcare operations currently housed in leased space, and correcting life safety and security deficiencies at an additional design and review cost of \$5,795,000, an estimated additional construction cost of \$49,800,000 and an additional management and inspection cost of \$5,250,000 for an additional total estimated project cost of \$60,845,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends the resolution adopted by the Committee on September 17, 2014 related to prospectus PCA-0167-SD14.*

*Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.*



GSA

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**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0167-SD16  
Congressional District: 53

**FY2016 Project Summary**

Through amended prospectus, the General Services Administration (GSA) proposes design and construction for the reconfiguration and alteration of space in the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building-Courthouse (FB-CT) to backfill vacancy resulting from the opening of the San Diego Courthouse in FY2013. In addition to recapturing vacant space, the project allows federal tenants to reduce their overall footprint by consolidating their operations in federal space, relocate childcare operations currently housed in leased space, and correct significant life safety and security deficiencies in the facility. Approximately 94,000 rentable square feet will be reconfigured, allowing the Government to release costly leased space reducing the Government's rental payment to the private sector by approximately \$2,723,000 annually.

This prospectus amends Prospectus No. PCA-0167-SD14, to reflect scope changes since the submission of the FY2014 prospectus and to complete work that was not previously approved or funded in FY 2014. Of the \$61,136,000 requested in FY14, GSA received approval for a portion of the proposed project request and apportioned \$19,729,000 of funding as part of its FY2014 Major Repair and Alteration Expenditure Plan.

**FY2016 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested**

(Design, ECC and M&I).....\$60,845,000

**Major Work Items**

Interior construction; security, electrical, fire protection and plumbing systems upgrades; exterior construction

**Project Budget**

Design and Review (FY 2014) .....	\$1,997,317
Additional Design and Review .....	5,795,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) (FY 2014) .....	16,042,940
Additional ECC.....	49,800,000
Management and Inspection (M&I) (FY 2014).....	1,688,743
Additional M&I .....	5,250,000
<b>Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)* .....</b>	<b>\$80,574,000</b>

\*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

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**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number:      PCA-0167-SD16  
Congressional District:      53

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Design and Construction	FY2016	FY2020

**Building**

The 895,247 gross square foot (rsf) Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and US Courthouse, at 880 Front Street in downtown San Diego, was built in 1973. It consists of two adjacent structures: a six-story federal office wing, a five-story court wing, and underground parking and basement offices. The building's two wings share an upper basement and are connected by a bridge between the fifth and sixth floors.

**Tenant Agencies**

Judiciary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Probation; U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Treasury Department, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, GSA, and Childcare.

**Proposed Project**

Approximately 67,000 RSF of vacant space will be built out for backfill occupancy by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), the U.S. Coast Guard, Probation, Grand Jury, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Two public restrooms will be remodeled for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS). Security upgrades, including hardening on several facades and the installation of bollards and an anti-ram barrier at the entrance to the garage will be undertaken. Building system upgrades including new automatic transfer switches, a new electric fire pump, new domestic water shut-off valves, a new emergency generator and new quick response fire sprinkler heads will be installed. Precast concrete panels on the south elevation of the building's office wing will be cleaned and sealed. Approximately 13,000 rsf of space will also be built out for a childcare center currently housed in leased space. In addition, approximately 5,000 rsf of vacant storage will be returned to parking for government vehicles in the upper basement and 10,000 rsf of basement space will be prepared for tenant occupancy.

GSA

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**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0167-SD16  
Congressional District: 53

**Major Work Items**

Plumbing Upgrade/ABAAS	\$1,511,000
Blast Mitigation	3,452,000
Site Security Upgrade	1,300,000
Fire Protection Upgrade	1,372,000
Electrical Upgrade	4,623,000
Interior Construction	37,132,000
Exterior Construction	<u>410,000</u>
<b>Total ECC</b>	<b>\$49,800,000</b>

**Justification**

In FY2014, GSA submitted Prospectus Number PCA-0167-SD14, proposing a \$61,136,000 repair and alteration project to alter vacant space, consolidate multiple agencies, and upgrade building systems. In the absence of full funding for the FY2014 Capital Investment and Leasing Program, GSA's FY2014 Expenditure Plan for Major Repairs and Alterations Program funded the project at \$19,729,000. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved the reduced scope and funding. This amended prospectus allows GSA to accomplish scope that was not funded in FY2014 and to undertake additional scope items including conversion of vacant storage space, childcare and consolidate multiple agencies.

The project will allow GSA to backfill approximately 94,000 rsf vacated by certain District Court Judges and staff, and the Court clerk's operations when they moved to the new San Diego Courthouse in FY2013 as well as additional space vacated by the Internal Revenue Service when they relocated to Courthouse.

Currently the building does not meet blast and security standards. In addition, failure to repair or replace the outdated and inefficient building systems will cause operating costs to continue to increase and would likely lead to costly system failures. Further deterioration of the building's systems will make it difficult to backfill the space vacated by tenants that relocated to the San Diego Courthouse Annex.

**Summary of Energy Compliance**

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

GSA

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**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number:      PCA-0167-SD16  
Congressional District:      53

**Prior Appropriations**

<b>Prior Appropriations</b>			
<b>Public Law</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
113-76	2014	\$19,729,000	Design and Construction
<b>Appropriations to Date</b>		<b>\$19,729,00</b>	

**Prior Committee Approvals**

<b>Prior Committee Approvals</b>			
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
House T&I	9/17/2014	\$19,729,000	Design = \$1,997,317 ECC = \$16,042,940 M&I = \$1,688,743 (ICE consolidation and backfill)
Senate EPW	9/18/2014	\$19,729,000	Design = \$1,997,317 ECC = \$16,042,940 M&I = \$1,688,743 (ICE consolidation and additional building improvements)
<b>Approvals to Date</b>		<b>\$19,729,000</b>	

GSA

PBS

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**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number:      PCA-0167-SD16  
Congressional District:      53

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**Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)**

New Construction.....	\$282,604,000
Alteration.....	\$262,434,000
Leasing.....	\$487,736,000

The 30-year, present value cost of alteration is \$20,170,000 less than the cost of new construction with an equivalent annual cost advantages of \$1,152,000.

**Recommendation**

ALTERATION

GSA

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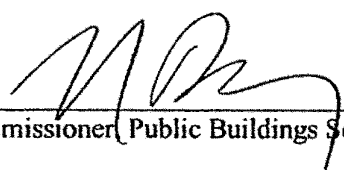
**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
 EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE  
 SAN DIEGO, CA**

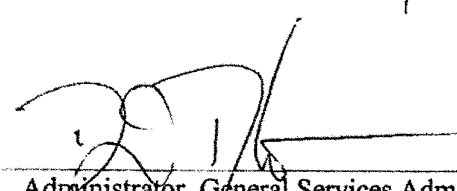
Prospectus Number:      PCA-0167-SD16  
 Congressional District:      53

**Certification of Need**

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on February 2, 2015

Recommended:   
 Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:   
 Administrator, General Services Administration

PCA-0167-SD16  
San Diego, CA

Housing Plan  
Edward J. Schwartz FB-CT

April 2016

	Current						Proposed							
	Personnel			Usable Square Feet (USF) <sup>1</sup>			Personnel			Usable Square Feet (USF)				
	Office	Total		Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total		Office	Storage	Special	Total
<b>GSA Leased Locations</b>														
401 West A Street														
Executive Office For Immigration Review	35	35		4,079	-	9,500	13,579	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
475 West Broadway														
Childcare	15	15		450	-	8,813	9,263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
101 West Broadway														
Probation	175	175		43,955	-	-	43,955	-	-	-	24,955	-	-	24,955
610 West Ash														
Environmental Protection Agency	11	11		3,973	-	-	3,973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
495 La Tortuga														
Probation	-	-		8,495	-	1,600	10,095	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
303 "H" Street														
Probation	-	-		13,365	-	-	13,365	-	-	-	7,500	-	-	7,500
<b>Subtotal (GSA Leased Locations):</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>236</b>		<b>74,317</b>	-	<b>19,913</b>	<b>94,230</b>	-	-	-	<b>32,455</b>	-	-	<b>32,455</b>
<b>Edward J. Schwartz FB-CT</b>														
Senate	2	2		788	-	266	1,054	-	-	-	788	-	266	1,054
Court of Appeals	10	10		-	-	6,180	6,180	-	10	10	-	-	-	6,180
Circuit Library	3	3		4,920	134	1,733	6,787	-	3	3	4,920	134	1,733	6,787
District Court	45	45		22,130	-	69,832	91,662	-	12	12	15,616	-	49,064	64,680
Magistrate Court	25	25		2,536	-	19,050	21,586	-	25	25	6,514	-	20,469	26,983
District Court Clerk	3	3		182	-	168	350	-	-	-	182	-	168	350
Grand Jury	3	3		1,686	-	1,748	3,434	-	3	3	1,536	-	1,535	3,071
Probation	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	95	95	17,853	450	1,550	19,853
DHS-Immigration and Customs Enforcement	500	500		68,320	2,500	15,452	86,272	-	500	500	68,320	2,500	15,452	86,272
Federal Protective Service	25	25		3,512	195	1,163	4,870	-	25	25	3,512	195	1,163	4,870
DHS-Customs & Border Protection	6	6		287	-	234	521	-	3	3	521	-	-	521
GSA FAS Telecommunications Facilities	1	1		562	-	-	562	-	1	1	562	-	-	562
Federal Bureau of Investigation	1	1		153	-	-	153	-	1	1	153	-	-	153
GSA - FAS, All Other	1	1		201	-	-	201	-	1	1	201	-	-	201
Internal Revenue Service	27	27		5,824	387	-	6,211	-	27	27	5,824	387	-	6,211
Office Of U.S. Attorneys (1)	373	373		104,611	3,944	13,213	121,768	-	373	373	104,611	3,944	13,213	121,768
Treasury IG for Tax Administration (TIGTA)	5	5		499	-	200	699	-	5	5	499	-	200	699
US Marshals Service	52	52		10,331	4,429	19,831	34,591	-	51	51	11,187	1,575	20,939	33,701
US Tax Court	3	3		128	-	434	562	-	5	5	144	-	2,194	2,338
US Trustee	19	19		4,679	-	2,184	6,863	-	19	19	4,679	-	2,184	6,863
Environmental Protection Agency	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	11	11	3,623	-	350	3,973
Executive Office For Immigration Review	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	36	36	7,189	-	11,400	18,589

April 2016

Housing Plan  
Edward J. Schwartz FB-CT

PCA-0167-SD16  
San Diego, CA

	Current				Proposed			
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) <sup>1</sup>		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Special	Office	Total	Office	Special
National Labor Relations Board	8	8	2,165	302	2,165	8	2,165	302
Joint Use*	-	-	13,972	326	13,972	-	13,972	326
Vacant space**			51,130	1,942	24,383	-	24,383	981
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>298,616</b>	<b>14,159</b>	<b>298,953</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>298,953</b>	<b>10,794</b>
* Joint use space is not occupied by tenant agencies and includes such things as Food Preparation, Snack bar, Credit Union and Childcare Center.								
** Proposed vacancy is made up of small pockets throughout the building (including basement) and will be filled over time.								

	Office Utilization Rate <sup>2</sup>	
	Current	Proposed
Building Office Tenants (excluding Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with less than 10 employees)	134	136
All Building Office Tenants (including Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with less than 10 employees)	174	176

	Total Building USF Rate <sup>3</sup>	
	Current	Proposed
Building Tenants (excluding Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with less than 10 employees)	254	269
All Building Tenants (including Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with less than 10 employees)	375	368

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

<sup>2</sup> Office Utilization Rate = total office space available for office personnel. UR calculation excludes office support space USF.

Special Space	
ADP	1,797
Child care	9,976
Conference	18,898
Courtroom	39,046
Food Service	5,327
Holding Cell	13,486
Judicial Chambers	36,102
Judicial Hearing	10,833
Laboratory	2,126
Law Enforcement Legal, Communication	4,043
Mail Rooms	268
Physical Fitness	2,356
Restroom	7,059
Sally Port, USMS	5,135
SCIF	1,050
Secured Circulation	3,890

Current Office UR excludes 23,460 usf of office support space. Proposed Office UR: 24,998 usf of office support space.

Current Office UR excludes 51,130 USF of vacant and 54,447 usf of office support space. Proposed Office UR excludes 24,383 of vacant and 60,405 usf of office support space.



April 2016		Housing Plan		PCA-0167-SD16	
Edward J. Schwartz FB-CT		San Diego, CA			
Current		Proposed			
Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) <sup>1</sup>		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
					1,130
					767
					688
					163,977

<sup>6</sup>Total Building USF Rate = total building USF (office, storage, special) available for all building occupants (office, and non-office personnel).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—DISTRICT COURTHOUSE,  
PENSACOLA, FL

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a repair*

and alteration project to remediate mold, eliminate water infiltration, replace the building facade, and undertake system and site upgrades at the Pensacola District Courthouse located at 1 North Palafox Street in Pensacola, Florida at a design cost of \$2,673,000, an estimated construction cost of \$25,259,000 and a management and inspection

cost of \$2,849,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$30,781,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

*Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.*

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
DISTRICT COURTHOUSE  
PENSACOLA, FL**

Prospectus Number: PFL-2245-PE15  
Congressional District: 1

**FY 2016 Project Summary**

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project to remediate mold, eliminate water infiltration, replace the building facade, and undertake system and site upgrades at the Pensacola District Courthouse located at I North Palafox Street in Pensacola, FL (the "District Courthouse").

The District Courthouse is a leased facility that was constructed on land owned by the City of Pensacola and made available to GSA's selected developer pursuant to a Ground Lease. It was constructed for use by the Courts and leased by GSA since 1997. The firm term of the current space lease between GSA and the owner of the courthouse, Palafox Street Associates, LP, expires on July 31, 2017 (the "Courthouse Lease"). GSA has an unconditional right to accept an irrevocable Offer of Donation from the City of Pensacola to take fee simple ownership of the site and improvements at the end of the current 20-year Courthouse Lease term. GSA plans to acquire ownership of the site and improvements by accepting the Offer of Donation, thereby taking ownership from the City of Pensacola upon expiration of the initial term of the Courthouse Lease.

**FY 2016 Committee Approval Requested**

(Design, Construction, Management and Inspection) .....\$30,781,000

**FY 2016 Appropriation Requested<sup>1</sup>** .....\$0

**Major Work Items**

Exterior construction; interior construction; mold abatement; roof replacement; heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC)/mechanical, life safety/emergency and plumbing systems upgrades; site work; security upgrades; demolition.

**Project Budget**

Design .....\$2,673,000  
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) .....\$25,259,000  
Management and Inspection (M&I).....\$2,849,000

<sup>1</sup> Although no funds are being requested in this prospectus, approval of the prospectus is needed for this repair and alteration project. Concurrently, GSA will request approval to reprogram previously appropriated project funds to pay for this proposed repair and alteration project.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
DISTRICT COURTHOUSE  
PENSACOLA, FL**

Prospectus Number: PFL-2245-PE15  
Congressional District: 1

**Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)\*.....\$30,781,000**

\*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for tenant improvements above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Design	FY 2016	FY 2016
Construction	FY 2016	FY 2018

**Building**

The District Courthouse in Pensacola is a five-story leased building built for use by the Federal judiciary and occupied in August 1997 under a 20-year, below-prospectus lease (including two options of 5 additional years each). The building is owned by GSA's current Lessor, Palafox Street Associates, and was constructed on land owned by the City of Pensacola pursuant to a Ground Lease between the City of Pensacola and the building's developer. The ground lease agreement is coterminous with the Courthouse Lease. This Court's function in this building is in conjunction with the court and court-related functions housed in the federally owned Winston E. Arnow U.S. Courthouse, located at 100 N. Palafox Street. The Arnow Courthouse is 79,840 rentable square feet (RSF) and provides 5 inside parking spaces and 22 outside surface parking spaces.

The Courthouse Lease expires on July 31, 2017. Upon expiration of the Courthouse Lease, GSA has the right, through an Offer of Donation provided from the City of Pensacola, to assume ownership of the underlying land and improvements. With the end of the current lease term nearing, GSA plans to accept the donation, enabling the Government to take ownership of the District Courthouse land and improvements from the City, at no cost.

**Tenant Agencies**

Judiciary, U.S. Department of Justice Office of the U.S Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice - Marshals Service, U.S. Congress Senate, GSA

**Proposed Project**

GSA proposes alterations to the District Courthouse that will correct the water intrusion issues in the building by replacing the building's facade, installing a new standing seam metal roof system, repairing structural damage to the building caused by the water

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
DISTRICT COURTHOUSE  
PENSACOLA, FL**

Prospectus Number: PFL-2245-PE15  
Congressional District: 1

intrusion, and completely abating the presence of mold created by the water intrusion. The new building envelope will be weathertight and meet the State of Florida hurricane requirements. GSA will also install a new security blast protection system to the exterior during the facade repairs consistent with current security standards. Interior finishes throughout the building damaged by the water intrusion will also be repaired or replaced. In addition, the project will modernize the outdated fire safety system and the heating ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system by adding additional variable air volume boxes and a new building automation system to better control the interior humidity. The restrooms in the building will also be upgraded, including the installation of floor drains, replacement of wall finishes, and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard compliant unisex restrooms will be installed on each floor. Grounds and approaches will be repaired after facade demolition and replacement. Parking will be repaved and waterproofing and drainage will be installed on the site.

**Major Work Items**

Superstructure/Exterior Repairs	\$9,750,000
Interior Construction & Finishes	5,090,000
HVAC Upgrades	2,181,000
Mold Abatement	2,078,000
Roof Replacement	1,485,000
Fire Protection Upgrades	1,327,000
Electrical Upgrades	1,308,000
Plumbing Upgrades	798,000
Site Repairs/Improvements	760,000
Demolition	482,000
<b>Total ECC</b>	<b>\$25,259,000</b>

**Justification**

The existing leased District Courthouse has experienced water intrusion issues dating back to initial occupancy. GSA under the Courthouse Lease is responsible for all maintenance and capital improvements, and has made numerous repairs over the term of the lease to attempt to resolve these issues. However, the selective repairs have not been able to adequately correct the building deficiencies, and water intrusion issues persisted. GSA identified significant water intrusion and mold issues in 2014, and, as a result, GSA is pursuing a comprehensive solution. Due primarily to the health-related concerns reported by building occupants, and the limited ability to move occupants within the building during the proposed renovation without disrupting agency missions, GSA

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
DISTRICT COURTHOUSE  
PENSACOLA, FL**

Prospectus Number: PFL-2245-PE15  
Congressional District: 1

relocated all building tenants out of the leased District Courthouse and into a 14,946 rentable square foot lease in June 2015 and the Arnow Courthouse. The 1 N. Palafox Street courthouse is currently vacant and will remain so for the duration of the renovation project.

**Summary of Energy Compliance**

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

**Prior Appropriations**

N/A

**Prior Committee Approvals**

N/A

**Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years):**

N/A

**Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)**

Alteration: .....	\$56,120,271
New Construction: .....	\$53,371,076
Lease .....	\$100,838,333

GSA has determined that taking ownership of the courthouse and executing the repair and alterations project identified in this prospectus is the most efficient means of housing the U.S. District Courts in Pensacola, FL. The 30-year, present value cost of alteration is \$2,749,195 more than the cost of new construction with an equivalent annual cost disadvantage of \$147,610, and \$44,718,062 less than the cost of a lease with an equivalent annual cost advantage of \$2,548,623. At this time, the GSA Federal Building Fund has the necessary funds available to support the limited alteration of the District Courthouse allowing for re-occupancy of the District Courthouse. Utilizing existing Federal Building Fund resources, the Alteration alternative also provides a long-term housing solution for building occupants more quickly than the New Construction alternative.

**GSA**

**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
DISTRICT COURTHOUSE  
PENSACOLA, FL**

Prospectus Number: PFL-2245-PE15  
Congressional District: 1

**Recommendation**

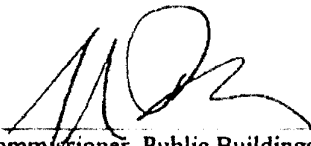
**ALTERATION**

**Certification of Need**

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on March 31, 2016

Recommended:

  
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:

  
Administrator, General Services Administration

There was no objection.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at noon for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5132. A letter from the Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled, "Evaluation of the TRICARE Program: Access, Cost, and Quality" for Fiscal Year 2016, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1073 note; Public Law 104-106, Sec. 717(c); (110 Stat. 376); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5133. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Business Conduct Standards for Security-Based Swap Dealers and Major Security-Based Swap Participants [Release No.: 34-77617; File No.: S7-25-11] (RIN: 3235-AL10) received April 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5134. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for Particle Matter, Ozone, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide [EPA-R01-OAR-2015-0402; FRL-9945-13-Region 1] received April 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5135. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Amendments Related to: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards and 40 CRF Part 80 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0135; FRL-9941-85-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS36) received April 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5136. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Vermont; Stage I Vapor Recovery Requirements [EPA-R01-OAR-2015-0243; A-1-FRL-9945-12-Region 1] received April 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5137. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cyprodinil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0180; FRL-9943-85] received April 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121,

Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5138. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Louisiana; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan; Fee Regulations [EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0132; FRL-9945-09-Region 6] received April 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5139. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for 2008 Lead, 2008 Ozone, 2010 NO<sub>2</sub>, 2010 SO<sub>2</sub>, and 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Montana [EPA-R08-OAR-2013-0556; FRL-9945-14-Region 8] received April 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5140. A letter from the Congressional Relations, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting the FY 2015 NO FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5141. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Financial Assistance and Social Services Programs; Burial Assistance [167A2100DD/AKCO01030/A0A501010.999900 253G] (RIN: 1076-AF29) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5142. A letter from the Regulations Specialist, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; Rural Determinations, Nonrural List [Docket No.: FWS-R7-SM-2015-0156; FXRS12610700000-156-FF07J00000; FBMS#4500086366] (RIN: 1018-BA82) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5143. A letter from the Regulations Specialist, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's affirmation of direct final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; Rural Determinations, Nonrural List [Docket No.: FWS-R7-SM-2015-0156; FXRS12610700000-156-FF07J00000; FBMS#4500087231] (RIN: 1018-BA82) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5144. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Louisiana Black Bear From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Removal of Similarity-of-Appearance Protections for the American Black Bear [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0014; FXES113090000C2-167-FF09E32000] (RIN:

1018-BA44) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5145. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2015-0034] [FF09M21200-167-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA70) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5146. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2016 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE383) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5147. A letter from the Regulations Specialist, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; Rural Determination Process [Docket No.: FWS-R7-SM-2014-0063; FXRS12610700000-156-FF07J00000; FBMS#4500086287] (RIN: 1018-BA62) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5148. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Big Sandy Crayfish and Endangered Species Status for the Guyandotte River Crayfish [Docket No.: FWS-R5-ES-2015-0015; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA85) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5149. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0014] [4500030114] (RIN: 1018-AZ32) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5150. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation and Nondesignation of Critical Habitat on Molokai, Lanai, Maui, and Kahoolawe for 135 Species [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2015-0071; 4500030114] (RIN: 1018-AZ25) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5151. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations



for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2016 Season [Docket No.: FWS-R7-MB-2015-0158] [FF09M21200-156-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BB10) received April 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 87. A bill to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-516). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3070. A bill to clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-517). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1684. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-518). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4923. A bill to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-519, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4359. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that Federal employees may not be placed on administrative leave for more than 14 days during any year for misconduct or poor performance, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-520). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4639. A bill to reauthorize the Office of Special Counsel, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide modifications to authorities relating to the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-521). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4901. A bill to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-522). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Rules discharged from

further consideration. H.R. 4923 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 5044. A bill making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 to respond to Zika virus; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina (for herself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 5045. A bill to impose a moratorium on the implementation of a proposed Medicare local coverage determination on lower limb prostheses; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Mr. GUINTA):

H.R. 5046. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 5047. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor to provide information to veterans and members of the Armed Forces about articulation agreements between institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

208. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 236, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

209. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 507, supporting the creation of a long-term energy plan that addresses the long-term energy needs of the state; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science, Space, and Technology.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5044.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina:

H.R. 5045.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 5046.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 5047.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have the power "To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 13 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have the power "To provide and maintain a Navy."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have the power "To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 224: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 379: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 494: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 539: Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. KATKO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 980: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

- H.R. 1198: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
 H.R. 1199: Mr. POMPEO.  
 H.R. 1209: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. ROSS.  
 H.R. 1608: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. LAMALFA.  
 H.R. 1706: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
 H.R. 1718: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DOLD, Mr. BARR, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 1818: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. LOEBACK.  
 H.R. 1859: Mr. KENNEDY.  
 H.R. 1911: Mr. GRAYSON.  
 H.R. 2274: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. RUIZ.  
 H.R. 2417: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. ROSS.  
 H.R. 2461: Mr. COLLINS of New York.  
 H.R. 2663: Mr. FATTAH.  
 H.R. 2713: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
 H.R. 2726: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. CLEAVER.  
 H.R. 2901: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 2902: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois and Mr. RUIZ.  
 H.R. 3012: Mr. STEWART.  
 H.R. 3237: Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
 H.R. 3280: Mr. POLIS.  
 H.R. 3326: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. SHUSTER.
- H.R. 3643: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 3863: Ms. ESHOO.  
 H.R. 3870: Mr. SABLAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. GRAHAM, Ms. MOORE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. HAHN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. PETERSON.  
 H.R. 4027: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 4212: Mr. KATKO and Mr. TONKO.  
 H.R. 4223: Ms. DELBENE.  
 H.R. 4247: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. COFFMAN.  
 H.R. 4277: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. QUIGLEY.  
 H.R. 4501: Mr. POE of Texas.  
 H.R. 4554: Mr. COLE.  
 H.R. 4585: Mr. PALLONE and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 4625: Mr. PITTS, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. LEVIN.  
 H.R. 4636: Mr. RUSSELL.  
 H.R. 4729: Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
 H.R. 4768: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. MEADOWS.  
 H.R. 4820: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FINCHER, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.  
 H.R. 4830: Ms. GABBARD.  
 H.R. 4880: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. FORBES.  
 H.R. 4904: Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
- H.R. 4917: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.  
 H.R. 4923: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. MCSALLY, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.  
 H.R. 4939: Mr. LEWIS.  
 H.R. 4955: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 4992: Mr. NUNES, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. GUTHRIE.  
 H.R. 5001: Mr. FARENTHOLD.  
 H.R. 5035: Mr. POMPEO.

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**PETITIONS, ETC.**
**Under clause 3 of rule XII,**

58. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to urging Congress to propose, for ratification by special conventions held within the individual states, an amendment to the United States Constitution which would allow the voters to petition for a nationwide referendum to either sustain or nullify any federal law enacted by Congress within the past year; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SENATE—Monday, April 25, 2016

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, our hearts rejoice with every remembrance of You. Make us eager to do Your bidding and worthy of Your generous mercy. We thank You that You hear and answer our prayers, providing us with the privilege of entering Your throne room whenever we desire.

Today, inspire our lawmakers with Your wisdom, infusing them with the steadiness of purpose that glorifies You. Give them power to follow after goodness, striving passionately to please You in their thoughts, words, and deeds. Lord, bless all their undertakings and cause them to prosper.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1206 AND H.R. 4885

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1206) to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

A bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar en bloc.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee recently said that the energy security and water infrastructure funding legislation before us marks an “excellent kickoff” to the appropriations process.

This is the first bill of the “Appropriations Committee to come to the floor,” she said, and “it signals that we are ready to do regular order.” I share Senator MIKULSKI’s sentiment. It has been good to see colleagues working across the aisle expressing an interest and working cooperatively this appropriations season because we know continued cooperation will be essential to a successful appropriations process.

We have seen plenty of positive signs in the Appropriations Committee already. The committee has already approved one-third of the 12 funding bills on a bipartisan basis. With continued cooperation, we will have an opportunity to pass the first of these bills on the floor this week. The energy security and water infrastructure funding legislation before us is the result of many hours of hard work and research. It will reduce wasteful spending, it will bolster national security, and by advancing priorities like public safety, waterway infrastructure, economic development, and energy innovation it will impact all 50 of our States.

This excellent kickoff to the appropriations season enjoys bipartisan support. It advanced out of committee by a unanimous vote. It represents yet another example of what is possible in a Senate that is back to work. I thank the subcommittee chairman, Senator ALEXANDER, for working with Ranking Member FEINSTEIN to move this important bill out of committee. Let’s continue our work today to get one step closer to passage.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic Leader is recognized.

### COMMENDING THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. REID. Madam President, I commented to my able assistant who is at my desk with me, Bill Dauster—I have always—whenever the Presiding Officer

says the Pledge of Allegiance, I am amazed at how she stands at attention. It brings back her old military mind, I am sure. Very impressive.

### FBI INVESTIGATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, as each day passes, the senior Senator from Iowa further distinguishes himself as the most political and partisan Judiciary Committee chairman in history. Last Friday, Senator GRASSLEY took his political partisanship to a new low when he encouraged the FBI to join the political crusade against Secretary Hillary Clinton.

The Senator from Iowa is confused about the role of the FBI. By law, the FBI is obligated to do its job and conduct an independent review for everything it has to work on free from political interference.

It is wrong for any Senator, especially the chairman of the Judiciary Committee who deals with these issues day after day, to urge the selective leaking of any Federal investigation. The FBI is not in the business of disclosing information to appease political operatives, but according to press reports, that is just the sort of thing the Republican Judiciary Committee has done.

Remember, there has been a lot of speculation that under Chairman GRASSLEY’s leadership the personal information of a Clinton staffer was leaked to the press, including payroll records and a Social Security number, but urging a leak of the FBI investigation for political purposes was not the only thing Senator GRASSLEY said. The Senator from Iowa was asked what he thought was the worst change in Congress during his tenure. He responded that the increasing partisanship was disappointing to him.

The audacity and even the hypocrisy of that statement is staggering. Senator GRASSLEY decries partisanship, while he denies a hearing and a vote to an eminently qualified Supreme Court nominee. For what? No one has a good answer on that. The Senator from Iowa complains of partisanship, even as he uses the Judiciary Committee to wage a political war against Secretary Clinton and her staff.

Under the guise of oversight, Senator GRASSLEY has been wasting taxpayer dollars trying to besmirch Hillary Clinton’s good name. This has been going on for years. The Senator’s singular focus on Secretary Clinton borders on an obsession. Senator GRASSLEY has written dozens of letters containing hundreds of requests. He has held hearings. He has issued press releases. What

have he and his committee achieved? Nothing. All the chairman has done is waste taxpayer dollars.

The Judiciary Committee chairman is so desperate to legitimize his attacks against Hillary Clinton he is willing to encourage a selective leak of a Federal investigation by, of all people, the FBI.

All this in an effort to award the Presidential nomination to Donald Trump. I agree in one respect with Senator GRASSLEY. Partisanship in this Chamber is awful. It is paralyzing the Senate and is preventing us from doing our constitutional duties, but much of this is the handiwork of the Judiciary Committee and Senator GRASSLEY.

I ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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#### CHILD POISONINGS FROM LAUNDRY PODS

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use articles as examples relevant to the subject of my speech.

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

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the rapid rise in child poisonings caused by single-use laundry products. Earlier today, we had an update on the number and severity of these poisonings from the American Academy of Pediatrics. It was in an indepth study just published in their journal, Pediatrics.

The news is not very good, because in 2013 and 2014 that academy reports that there were over 22,000 child exposures to laundry products, resulting in the deaths of at least two children due to the chemicals in these pods, and many others have faced serious injury, with at least 17 children in that time period going into comas because of exposure to these chemicals.

What am I talking about? This is a laundry pod. It is very colorful on the outside, and it smells very good. It is quite soft. Its texture, particularly to the touch of an infant—an infant's hand and face—is very soft and reassuring. The problem is that if it gets into an infant's hand, where is it going to end up? It is going to end up in their mouth, and these packages are soluble. So, naturally, the plastic exterior is going to dissolve, and all of these chemicals are going to end up in the child's digestive system.

As a result of these pods, we have had two children die, and we had 22,000 child exposures in that 2-year period the study covers, with 17 children going into comas. Others have suffered seizures or internal burns to their lips, mouths, and the esophagus. If it gets into their esophagus and burns, then you have a problem.

Now, what we have been advocating, Senator DURBIN and I, in our legislation is to make them as safe as possible and to get the Consumer Product Safety Commission involved in these things. This Senator has met with the industry. Let me show you some of the things in which, indeed, they have made progress.

This is a detergent pod package, and in order to get in it—and this pod came in this packaging—you have to tear it open. That is one good thing. They have designed this container so that it would be very difficult to get into. Even I am having difficulty getting into it. The pods would be in this container—something that would be child proof.

They designed this container. This has one of those slide bars, such as on a plastic sealant freezer package, where you have to push down on it and apply pressure in order to get the slide that unzips the seal. That is also a good thing.

But let me show you what the industry is resistant to doing. Children are naturally attracted to colorful candy. Here shown on this chart are a variety of candies, such as gummy bears, but among all of these are interspersed some of these pods. This is one. This is another. This is another, and this is another—not unlike the colors on this pod. So if we don't have the packaging preventing the child from getting to this pod, then we are going to have a problem, which is why we lost two children and 17 others went into comas in the last 2 years.

Now, a lot of people like these products, and so does the Nelson family. They serve a very useful purpose. At the same time, we need to make them as safe as possible. So why not just remove the color from the package and make it less attractive to the child.

Last year, Senator DURBIN and I introduced legislation that would require better labeling, more child-resistant packaging and safer chemical formula-

tions for these single-use laundry pod products. The bill has been referred to our Commerce Committee, and as the ranking member of that committee, I am going to talk again to Senator THUNE, who is the chairman of the committee, to see if we can get the committee to take up the bill as soon as possible.

Earlier this year, we were able to get both the House and the Senate to pass legislation requiring childproof packaging for bottles of liquid nicotine, some of which had injured children and, in some cases, resulted in death as well and had poisoned thousands of others. If we could get that done in a bipartisan manner, which we did and that is now law, then there is no reason why we can't, in a bipartisan way, address the issue posed by this problem. Keeping children safe is not a partisan issue. It is just common sense.

In the interim, we want to encourage the manufacturers to keep working on new standards to reduce the poisonings. We appreciate very much the efforts at things such as this and this. That is helpful. Last week, one manufacturer announced plans to put many of the laundry pods they sell into new, more child-resistant packaging. They also announced a public education campaign urging parents to keep laundry pods away from their children. That is certainly helpful. But at the same time, we need to keep working to make these pods less attractive to children and, perhaps more importantly, make the chemicals inside these less toxic so that when a child does get hold of one and it goes into their mouth, it is not going to turn into tragedy.

I thank the American Academy of Pediatrics for their very important study, and I look forward to working with our colleagues to put an end to the accidental deaths and poisonings that we see as a result of these attractive products.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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#### TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, on Sunday, during a joint press conference in Hannover, Germany, with Chancellor Angela Merkel, the President of the United States said this:

And with respect to Congress and the Trans-Pacific Partnership—

That is the big 5,000-page trade agreement the President is trying to move through Congress—

I think after the primary season is over—

After the primary season is over—the politics settle down a little bit in Congress, and we'll be in a position to start moving forward. Because I know that we had a majority of members in the past who were in favor of this deal. Otherwise we wouldn't have gotten the authority for me to go ahead and fast track the agreement. But I think we all know that elections can sometimes make things a little more challenging, and people take positions, in part, to protect themselves from attacks during the course of election seasons.

I would suggest the American people should be very uneasy about their President making such a statement as that. We have already heard that there are plans by a number of forces and interest groups to try to slip this TPP through after the election in a lame-duck congressional session.

Why would that be the case? Well, the President says it right here: The American people are uneasy about it. They are not for this. Support for it is sinking. Elections are turning on it. And it does not need to become law.

I am firmly opposed to this agreement. I believe it is bad for our country. It bothers me that if it is such a good deal, why don't they bring it forward? Why don't we have a debate here while elections are on? Why aren't people willing to go home and explain to their constituents how and why they voted the way they did and how and why they believe the way they do? What is wrong with that? Why wait until after, when things settle down a little bit, in the President's words, when people can't be held accountable by their constituents for the votes they cast or they think they may be able to slide away afterward?

I don't like this. I don't think it is the right thing to do. I think it is arrogant. What the President is fundamentally saying and what a lot of these special interest groups are saying is, well, we know you in Congress are so smart, and we know the President is smart. But, the people out here, they don't understand how smart we all are, and we just need to get this done, and so we will have this trade agreement. But we understand you probably shouldn't do it right now while elections are going on because, well, you might get your clock cleaned. They might vote you out of office. So we will see if we can't work up a way to pass it sometime in the future.

The President has made it clear that he intends to continue to push through this 5,544-page trade agreement that the American people don't want. Polls show consistent disapproval of the TPP. A March poll by Americans for Limited Government found that 51 percent of Americans did not know anything about it. I would say at least 50 percent of the Members of Congress don't know much about it. It is more than 5,000 pages. I have probably spent more time on it than the vast majority

have, and it is rather difficult to read. No wonder the American people say they don't know a lot about it. But of those who claim to be familiar with it, 58 percent oppose it. There are a lot of reasons for this, and we will talk about it more.

Today, U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman announced that they are beginning the 13th round of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership—TTIP, they call it—with the European Union in New York. So this is the second part of the fast-track. The fast-track guarantees a fast vote—without amendments, without the option to filibuster, on the floor of the Senate for less than 2 days, and you get an up-or-down vote. That is what fast-track does.

So we will have the Pacific agreement probably coming up first, and then we will have the TTIP, the Atlantic agreement, and then there is a third one, the Trade in Services Agreement. All of these are huge trade agreements, unlike anything we have seen before, creating in the Pacific an international trade union similar to the beginning of the European Union that Britain is trying to get out of. I think we should be very dubious about that.

How is the trade agreement faring in Europe? How about Germany, which is probably one of the leading trading countries in Europe? A poll by the Bertelsmann Foundation, a nonprofit organization that studies domestic and international politics, found that only 17 percent of Germans feel that TTIP—the transatlantic partnership—would be a good deal even though less than 2 years ago it had a 55-percent positive rating. This study found that the more people learn about the agreement, the more they oppose it. The same thing is happening in the United States, in my opinion.

The President has referred to the TPP as the “most progressive trade deal in history.” Its chapters create new labor and environmental provisions that the public really knows nothing about.

Even the economic data the White House promotes as proving the validity of the TPP, if we look at it carefully, we can see that their own report and study that they cite the most—that signing the agreement will decrease the rate of American manufacturing jobs by 120,000. How is this good for America? By their own study, we are going to lose 120,000 manufacturing jobs that we would have maintained had we not signed the agreement. Another study by Tufts University said the country will lose 400,000 jobs. We are going to go into the differences in the studies, we are going to see the assumptions utilized in the model the President cites, and we are going to see that the assumptions they made are not reasonable. They are extreme assumptions—assumptions that would

never occur in the next 15 years as they assume they will occur. No wonder they can justify positive numbers with those kinds of assumptions.

I think all of us have to begin to reveal—and the American people need to be more alert—how bad this international agreement really is, how it will not positively affect the lives of most Americans. It is just not going to do so.

We will look at how the Korean trade deal that I supported in 2011 came nowhere close to being beneficial to the United States. In 2011, when President Obama signed the deal, the President said that it would increase American exports by \$10 billion to South Korea. I thought that was a good thing. It sounded pretty good, but their estimates were way off.

The model that experts used to study the Korean trade deal is the same one they are using to study the TPP, and so we have a pretty good test: Did we increase exports by \$10 billion each year to South Korea, as the model suggested? Well, their imports to us increased by \$12 billion, and as of last year, we only increased our exports to Korea by less than a couple of hundred million dollars more than in 2011. So we didn't get any increase at all—virtually none. They had a huge increase to us, and our trade deficit with our allies and friends in South Korea increased 280 percent. This is a serious matter.

The same thing happened: They used this same computer model when we signed the agreement with China in 2000. We then had a little less than \$70 billion in trade deficit with China. They assumed our exports to China would grow at the same rate as China's exports to the United States would grow. Did that happen? No. What is the trade deficit with China today? Pushing \$400 billion. Our trade deficit went up 6 percent again last year.

So who is right here: The American people, who are worried about their jobs, their wages, their incomes, or the experts who promised all these grand things if we would just sign these agreements and everybody is going to be better off for it? I think the American people are the ones who have been proven right by this data.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator's time has expired.

**MR. SESSIONS.** Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have 1 additional minute.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

**MR. SESSIONS.** Madam President, the President does not need to be threatening our allies in Britain about the decision of their own people on whether to exit from the European Union. They are not happy with how things are going in the European Union. A lot of people are concerned

about it. It is heading toward a close vote. The people of the United Kingdom can make their own decision without hearing advice or threats from the President of the United States. I don't blame them for being offended by it. This is certainly not an acceptable position for the President to take.

Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to share these remarks. I want to push back from the President's recent statements about this trade agreement, how he plans to move it through when people aren't watching. I also think Congress needs to speak and assert that we affirm the right of the people of the UK to decide whether to remain in the European Union.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

### F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today in support of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. I have previously addressed this body on the progress of the F-35 program and its importance to our national defense. On one of those occasions, I stated that this weapons system provides the capabilities we need to protect our freedoms and those of our allies. That statement resonates even more today as the international security landscape grows even more precarious.

When the F-35 program started over 20 years ago, the strategic backdrop for the program of record was significantly different than it is today. The Cold War had recently drawn to a close, and the menace of Islamic extremists, rogue states, and nonstate actors was just beginning to surface. Today, these groups pose the most salient threat to our national security—and we all know it. To find examples of their deviant behavior, look no further than the headlines of today's papers.

In Eastern Europe, Putin's invasion of a sovereign nation threatens not only the security of the Ukrainian people but also tests the resolve of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—perhaps our country's most important defense alliance.

In the Middle East, Iran grows more emboldened with its ballistic missile tests, rattling a region already on the verge of violent conflict. And none of this is to mention the metastasis of ISIS in Iraq and a seemingly endless civil war in Syria.

In Asia, the North Korean regime constantly threatens South Korea with war. Meanwhile, tensions over territorial waters in the South China Sea grow more strained, escalating the possibility of conflict between China and our Asian allies. All the while, China continues to leverage its economic largesse to build highly advanced weapons systems.

I believe many Members of this body would agree that the dangers facing our country today are more immediate and far-reaching than they were just 20 years ago.

As threats to our national security proliferate across the globe, we need a next-generation weapon system of unparalleled capability. We need a strike fighter powerful enough to deter the aggression of our foes. We need an aircraft that can penetrate advanced enemy air defenses and neutralize targets on the ground. In short, we need the F-35.

In fact, we need the F-35 today more than ever. Even so, there are those who seek to reduce or delay the number of F-35s being produced. I strongly advise against this action. Reducing procurement numbers for the F-35 will only make the aircraft more expensive in the long run.

To ensure that our country continues to dominate airpower for decades to come, we must stay the course and resist the urge to cut aircraft. That is why I believe we must increase, not decrease, the number of F-35s scheduled for production.

Recently, several of my colleagues, led by Senators CORNYN and SHAHEEN, sent a letter to the Armed Services Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in both the House and the Senate. Their letter was clear: The need for the F-35 in today's environment is crucial. Therefore, the committees of jurisdiction should not follow the President's budget reduction plan but should maintain the program of record.

I realize the frustrations that many of my colleagues have with the acquisition process of the Department of Defense. During the first two decades of the F-35's journey, the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office experienced its fair share of setbacks, broken promises, missteps, and faulty leadership decisions—decisions made by both government leaders and industry partners. Even from within the Pentagon itself, we have heard the title of "acquisition malpractice" bestowed upon this program at the highest levels after the Nunn-McCurdy breach for cost growth.

Time and again, my much esteemed colleague, the senior Senator from Arizona, has pointed out these shortfalls and missteps. I echo his frustrations and stress the need for an acquisition and sustainment strategy that focuses on delivering and sustaining the most available, capable, and affordable weapon systems for the warfighter.

Nevertheless, we must recognize that reducing procurement numbers for the F-35 will only put an unnecessary strain on our Armed Forces. Given the dangerous state of global affairs, now is not the time to hamstring our military's capabilities.

Amid the many criticisms of the F-35 program, I wish to call attention to its

successes. In terms of both capability and performance, the F-35 program has made tremendous strides. On the affordability front, the price of each F-35 has dropped dramatically over the past 5 years to under \$100 million per aircraft. This trend is expected to continue for at least the next 5 years in order to achieve a flyaway cost of \$85 million per aircraft by 2019.

In an affordability and capability sense, the F-35 is a bargain, but in addition to being a bargain, the F-35 is also an indispensable asset to our defense arsenal. The F-35 has the ability to destroy some of the most advanced air-to-air and air-to-ground systems in existence today. Many of these systems are being developed by the Russians and the Chinese. The F-35's stealth technology, advanced sensors, and weapons allow it to defeat those integrated air-defense environments. That is to our advantage, no question about it.

Currently, even the most advanced versions of the F-16 and F/A-18 would be hard-pressed to defeat such threats alone. That is why we need the F-35. With the F-35, we can maintain our ability to strike any target anywhere in the world.

The F-35 is not only a tremendous strike aircraft, but it is also a war-winning dogfighter. In fact, when facing legacy aircraft such as the F-16 and F/A-18 in air-to-air combat scenarios, the F-35 consistently wins these engagements. The aircraft's combination of stealth, maneuverability, and superior battlespace awareness allows the F-35 to enter the fight against legacy aircraft with a great advantage. If you ask our Marine, Navy, and Air Force pilots flying this aircraft today, they will tell you what they told me: This is the best fighter aircraft they have ever flown and the plane they want to take into battle above all others.

This conclusion is shared not just by American pilots who have flown the aircraft, but also by our allies who have chosen to purchase the F-35 out of a wide variety of aircraft that are currently available in other countries as well.

As the Israeli Defense Minister recently said, "I'm very happy that we'll know how to preserve the qualitative military edge of the Israeli Defense Forces and of the Israeli Air Force through acquisition of this important plane."

Military might is useful only if three things occur: One, the capability is present to counter and engage the threat; two, the capacity and numbers are present for all of the threats; and three, those in power have the resolve to use them to protect the sovereignty of our Nation and its citizens.

The current demand on our military requires every ounce of capability made available by advanced weapon systems and, just as important, the

numbers needed to counter threats the globe over.

Consider how in the past we chose to reduce the number of F-22 advanced fighters made available to combatant commanders. Originally, the program of record for the F-22 was 750 aircraft, yet we procured only 195. Today, the demand for the F-22 and its capabilities dwarfs the available jets in the inventory. In hindsight, we should have bought 1,000.

Similar situations have also occurred with the B-2 bomber, the C-17 transport, and numerous other aircraft. The lesson is clear: The program of record for 1,763 F-35 A models for the Air Force and 680 B and C models for the Navy and Marine Corps have to materialize and be realized. The committees of jurisdiction should also insist to the Department that the F-35 Joint Program Office also acquire the spare parts needed to sustain the numbers and accelerate that purchase to ensure that F-35s are sustained at the level of readiness demanded by the current world dynamic. As the old adage goes, if we do not learn from history, then we are doomed to repeat it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

Alexander amendment No. 3804 (to amendment No. 3801), to modify provisions relating to Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

#### GAO REPORT

Mr. COATS. Madam President, it is the beginning of the appropriations season here in Washington. I am glad we are doing that. We are a little bit ahead of schedule from past experiences, although we haven't been doing

appropriations bills during my second term in the Senate. I am glad we are doing them because that is really what we are here for.

For those listening, this is for when Congress determines how we spend taxpayer money. There are a number of people in the gallery today—they are all taxpayers—wondering: Where does this money that is sent to Washington go?

When Hoosiers from Indiana send their hard-earned tax dollars to Washington to be spent by the Federal Government, they expect their elected leaders to be good stewards of their resources. After all, they worked hard to earn this money. Before they get their net paycheck, their taxes are deducted and sent to Washington. They have every right to expect us to be good stewards.

It is no wonder taxpayers are furious with Washington when the Federal Government wastes the money they work so hard to make. When they hear about or read about some of the ludicrous ways we spend their money or the wasteful ways we spend their money, they have every reason to be concerned and to be angry.

Clearly, there are essential functions the Federal Government has to undertake, but we can't continue to ignore the fact that our national debt has now passed \$19 trillion. Borrowing money in order to pay for expenditures and then having obligations to pay that money back, along with interest rates, puts us in a very deep hole that we have talked about a lot, but we have not done what is necessary to address this continued plunge into debt.

Seemingly every day, we see examples of mismanagement and wasteful spending in Washington, which is one of the reasons I give my weekly "Waste of the Week" addresses. I have come to the floor now more than 40 times in this Congress to talk about documented cases of waste, fraud, and abuse within the Federal Government. It is not something made up but documented abuses by, generally, the Government Accountability Office, whose job is to examine how we spend our money and to publicize how that money is spent.

Now we have racked up nearly \$160 billion of documented waste, fraud, and abuse. This has included the ridiculous, such as Federal grant spending on rabbit massages, as well as the serious, such as double-dipping in the Social Security Disability Insurance funds.

While many Americans struggle every day to pay their mortgage or to put food on the table, it is infuriating that the Federal Government is wasting money renting empty warehouses or funding a study to determine if being "hangry" is a real thing.

I talked about the word "hangry" in one of my speeches several weeks ago. "Hangry" is a modification of the

words hungry and angry. A considerable amount of taxpayer money was spent on a study to determine if a person gets angrier with their spouse when he or she is hungry and so they coined the word "hangry." It refers to someone who is hungry, and because they are hungry, they get a little anxious or a little difficult to live with. This study determined and came to the conclusion that, yes, if you are hungry, you tend to be a little bit angry and you tend to take it out on the person nearest to you, who is usually your spouse.

I think any of us could have come up with that conclusion without spending \$400,000 or so in order to determine that that is the case. The word "hangry" has now been added to Webster's dictionary. You can look it up. How can we spend \$400,000 of the taxpayer's money to do this study when people are having trouble paying their bills, their mortgage, or saving money so they can send their kids to school? This is the kind of thing that infuriates the American people. This is the kind of thing that has put our approval ratings in single digits. This is the kind of thing that causes people to say that Washington needs to be shaken up. Why do we keep taking the American people's hard-earned tax dollars and spending them on things like this?

Many Americans struggle every day to put food on the table and pay their mortgage. It is infuriating to them that the Federal Government is wasting money doing these kind of things. Eliminating this wasteful spending can go a long way to restoring trust in Washington, and it needs to start now. That is why, as I said, the studies by the government's only watchdog agency, the Government Accountability Office, are so important to the work we do here.

The GAO, or the Government Accountability Office, just released its "2016 Annual Report" on additional opportunities to reduce fragmentation, overlap, and duplication. The GAO report presents 92 new actions we can take—either the Congress or the administration—to improve government efficiency and effectiveness to achieve cost savings. This report and some of its findings include programs I already talked about, such as the failed advanced technology vehicles program I highlighted last week. Unfortunately, in an amendment I offered here on the floor, we came up short with a vote of 48 to 49, but we raised the awareness of a program that is sitting on nearly \$4 billion of unspent money. Of the five proposals that were released—money was released on these five proposals—two of the companies have already gone bankrupt. Instead of sitting on \$4 billion worth of additional money that we had to award, we simply said: Look, we have wasted \$500 million in this program. Why don't we take that \$4 billion and use it for a better purpose,

like returning it to the taxpayer. If not that, we could have returned that money to the taxpayer or used the money to offset something essential, such as work that prolongs life and brings better health at NIH or perhaps put the money towards something else that is needed, such as infrastructure, but, unfortunately, we came up one vote short of a majority.

I am looking forward to exploring ways in which we can use examples in our continued efforts through "Waste of the Week." We are looking at several things. We know the IRS is paying billions in fraudulent refunds to criminals who steal people's IDs over the Internet, or whatever method they use, and then file for IRS returns. We are looking at consolidating programs that are scattered across 22 different Federal agencies and have all kinds of duplications or selling unused Federal property, which could save billions of dollars a year. The list doesn't end. It just continues.

I will be coming down here week after week. I will have another "Waste of the Week" later this week. Exposing the waste, fraud, and abuse is only the first step that the administration and Congress must take. According to this report, the actions Congress has already taken—and Congress ought to be commended for this—by using GAO's recommendations over the past 5 years has saved \$56 billion. That is not small change.

I have documented another \$160 billion worth of savings in the last 40 speeches—not million, billion. There is still plenty left to do.

In 2010, I asked Hoosiers to send me to Washington to rein in the Federal Government's runaway spending. Whether it is through my continued "Waste of the Week" speeches, legislation, or highlighting reports like the GAO report, as I am doing today, I will continue to pour every ounce of effort I have into doing as much as I can to reduce wasteful government spending.

We will be back later this week with speech No. 41 of "Waste of the Week." Hopefully, we can continue to alert this Congress and this government to the hard-earned money that is being wasted and could be used for much better purposes.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am here to join Senator MERKLEY in offering amendment No. 3812 regarding funding for wind energy research.

This is a straightforward amendment. It simply restores funding for

wind energy research to the amount provided for just last year—\$95.4 million.

The underlying bill provides \$80 million, so the Merkley-Grassley amendment will increase funding by just \$15.4 million. These additional funds will come from within the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program, so we can see there is no cost to this amendment from the bottom line of the bill. It does not raise overall spending levels. It simply redirects \$15 million from other renewable and efficiency programs to wind energy research.

This funding will allow the Department of Energy to continue the advancement of wind technologies and innovations. These advances have greatly increased the competitiveness of wind and facilitated rapid growth in wind energy across the country.

In Iowa, wind energy now accounts for more than 30 percent of the State's total electricity supply. Wind supported 88,000 jobs in 2015, an increase of 20 percent from the previous year. Wind was also the No. 1 source of new generating capacity in 2015—greater than natural gas and solar.

Some of my colleagues oppose wind energy and Federal policies that support this clean and renewable energy. They argue we shouldn't pick winners or that wind is a mature industry. Don't kid yourself. Wind, while nearly mature, is just an infant compared to the Federal dollars and incentives provided for fossil and nuclear energy.

It is quite amusing to me that some of the strongest opponents of wind energy in this body are the biggest proponents of other much more costly programs for mature, traditional energy sources. For example, the 100-year-old oil and gas industry continues to benefit from tax preferences that benefit only their industry that result in the loss of more than \$4 billion annually in tax revenue.

Nuclear energy is another great example. The first nuclear powerplant came online in the United States in 1958. That was 58 years ago. Nuclear received special tax treatment, including—would you believe it—a production tax credit. Nuclear also benefits from Price-Anderson Federal liability insurance that Congress provided as a temporary measure way back in 1958. This temporary measure—can you believe it—has been renewed through 2025. Nuclear energy has also received more than \$74 billion in Federal research and development dollars since 1950. This bill includes over \$1 billion for nuclear research. This is an increase of \$71 million, or 7.3 percent, over fiscal year 2016 for wind energy research. We are just asking for the same amount of money appropriated for next year as this year.

Fossil energy research and development is another one I can point out,

which is allocated \$632 million in this bill, equal to the 2016 levels. Even prominent conservative advocacy groups have called for the nuclear and fossil fuel energy funds to be cut or eliminated altogether.

Again, this amendment will simply provide level funding for wind energy research by providing an additional \$15 million. This is not new money, so there is no score by the CBO. I urge my colleagues to support the Merkley-Grassley amendment.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes on another subject as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

STATE OF OUR POLITICAL DISCOURSE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I recently gave a speech to the Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference, which was held at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. It dealt with the current state of our political discourse and what we should all do as Americans to try and elevate that political discourse.

The election-year rhetoric is already heating up in the Senate, so I think it is appropriate to share with the Senate what I told these political science students and their professors.

This is an election year, so there is a lot of talk about how Americans have voted and will vote, as well as which Americans will vote and which ones will not vote. There is something that is evident in this election season, and it is also something I have seen increase steadily since I have served in elected office, and that happens to be cynicism. Americans are increasingly cynical about their system of government and those who serve in that government. Candidates of all political stripes are tapping into this cynicism by railing against so-called elites. Sometimes it is the notion of elites within a political party, elites in Washington generally, or elites even in the private sector. Regardless, there is a perception that elites of some kind or another have an undue influence over decisionmaking and ordinary citizens are being ignored.

I am not saying that such concerns are all illegitimate, but I think the cynicism is made worse by a lack of understanding when it comes to how our government works and, more importantly, why it works the way it does. It seems to me there has been a decline in interest in teaching American students about our constitutional system and especially the principles on which it was founded. You cannot understand how our government works and how it is supposed to work without understanding the Constitution. I would add that the best guide to the Constitution is the Federalist Papers.

You also cannot understand the Constitution without understanding the



Declaration of Independence, but you cannot understand the Declaration of Independence without understanding the natural rights philosophy. You also cannot separate the study of history from political science.

To understand our current political debate, it is important to understand how we got where we are today. For instance, the debate between anti-Federalists and Federalists sheds a great deal of light on what our founding generation agreed upon and what they disagreed upon. Subsequent events such as the Civil War, the progressive movement, and the civil rights movement all drew upon earlier American political ideas, either borrowing from or rejecting them. Our political discourse today is inevitably influenced by this heritage, but it also seems disconnected from it.

From cable news shows to the local diner, people with different views shout past each other without comprehending the opposing arguments. In recent years, there has been a realignment of political parties that follows more closely along philosophical lines. That has led to more party-line votes, but you would think that would make our debate more about principles instead of pure partisanship, but it hasn't.

There has been a lot written about how Americans are increasingly sorting themselves into groups—where they live and work with people who think like they do and only consume like-minded media. As a result, when people do encounter a view they don't agree with, there is a tendency to think there must be something wrong with the person who holds that view. Moreover, if a policy you disagree with gets enacted but almost no one you know supports it, naturally you feel there must be something amiss. That leads to anger, resentment, and cynicism, and that makes for fertile ground for demagogues.

There are real differences of philosophy reflected in the two major political parties, so I am not arguing there shouldn't be vigorous debate. In fact, the clash of ideas is an essential part of our representative system of government, but you cannot effectively challenge an opponent's philosophy if you don't understand that philosophy, and you cannot understand your opponent's philosophy unless you understand what you believe and why you believe it. That is why it is so important Americans study American history and civics.

Thomas Jefferson said:

If a Nation expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be. If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed.

In an election year, we talk a lot about voting being a civic duty, but

that is incomplete. Our civic duty goes well beyond the simple act of voting. We have a responsibility to understand what we believe and why before we go into the voting booth.

Representative government doesn't work very well if citizens are only engaged in the month or two before an election. Our system of government relies on an informed and active citizenry. We need more Americans to write their Members of Congress and to ask their positions, attend town meetings, and seek to understand both sides of an issue. Still, we have to come to terms with the fact that we are a closely divided nation. Better understanding of each other's principles will elevate the debate, which is good for representative government, but it will not eliminate and shouldn't eliminate political differences.

The next step is to respect other people's right to live according to their principles. I believe that calls for a renewed commitment to federalism. The Father of our Constitution, James Madison, designed a system for what he called an extended republic. The classical understanding of a republic as small, unitary, and homogeneous did not apply to the new United States and it certainly doesn't now. In fact, Madison argued that our large, diverse country could better prevent a majority faction from forming and trampling on the rights of others. However, it also required decentralizing power and allowing different States and communities to do things their own way.

Whenever a government takes an action, there will almost certainly be some people unhappy with it. That is why the presumption should be to let individual Americans live their lives as they see fit. When government action is warranted, the decision should be made as close as possible to those it affects. In my view, the extent to which the Federal Government now makes a great many decisions that affect the lives of Americans beyond the limited role envisioned in the Constitution leads to a great deal of unnecessary conflict.

Since our government is so closely divided, a great many decisions will upset almost half of the American people. That is not a sustainable situation. So my preferred solution—which, of course, is based upon my political philosophy—is to let States and communities make more of their own decisions when it comes to issues such as health care and education. Of course, others may disagree and do disagree, and we should have that debate, but it should be an honest and respectful debate based upon very basic principles.

That was the end of my substantive remarks to those students at Wartburg College. I then commended the students for their interest in exploring political issues. I also said to the students that the fact that they are inter-

ested and that they are engaged and many of their peers are not gives these students a very special calling.

I ended my speech with a challenge. I said: I would challenge you to continue developing your understanding of your political beliefs and those of others with whom you may disagree and then do your part to elevate the political dialogue. I would issue the same challenge to my colleagues here in the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I want to thank the distinguished Senator from Iowa for his remarks and also his chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee. I found his remarks very interesting.

I note that the distinguished chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee is now on the floor. I have been very fortunate to serve as his ranking member, and I think that we have put a very good bill together and that his leadership has been very strong.

Last week Senator ALEXANDER brought to the floor a chart, and on that chart there were red and blue lines, and they depicted a lot about the spending patterns of this Nation, which absolutely is relevant, considering we are talking about spending. Well, I wanted to put my rendition before us since no one on the floor is asking to speak at this time.

Since 2006 I have asked my staff to put together some charts on spending, which I share every week at my constituent breakfast with the constituency from California.

I want to tell you a little bit about this chart. The source of this chart is the Congressional Budget Office, and it is the budget and economic outlook part of that. Going back to 2006, we looked at budget numbers, but the actual way to look at it is really outlays. What does the Federal Government spend every year? That is the number which creates the debt and creates interest on the debt.

In 2006 the Federal Government spent \$2.654 trillion in total. Here is how it was spent: This big red part is what are called entitlements. These are mandatory payments to programs to which an individual is entitled. If you are entitled to it, you get it regardless of what impact it has on the budget. They were 53 percent of what the Federal Government spent in 2006, and interest on the debt was 8 percent. So if we add 53 percent and 8 percent, that was about 61 percent of everything that was spent

during that year. Nondefense discretionary was 19 percent and defense was 20 percent. So the green and the blue were the discretionary programs, the yellow was interest on the debt, and the rest were entitlements.

This year the total outlay is \$3.919 trillion. Entitlements have gone up to 63 percent of what the Federal Government will pay out this year. Interest on the debt has dropped 2 percent to 6.5 percent, largely because interest rates are low. Defense discretionary is 15 percent, and nondefense discretionary is 15.5 percent. So if we put these two things together, which we are now passing appropriations bills on, they comprise only about 30.5 percent of what the Federal Government will spend this year. The rest is entitlements and interest on the debt.

If you are entitled to Social Security, you get it. If you are entitled to Medicare, you get it. If you are entitled to Medicaid; disabled; women, infants, and children; and a whole host of very good programs because they help people—but they are expensive and they cost. This isn't often talked about, and I think it is not talked about because individuals don't want to worry people. But it is a problem, and it is a problem that needs some solutions.

If you project these numbers 10 years forward to 2026, we go from total outlays, total government payments in 2016 of \$3.9 trillion, to \$6.401 trillion, and entitlements are then 65 percent of what the government will spend in the year 2026. Interest on the debt will double from what it is today to 13 percent because it is estimated that interest rates will go up. So, adding the two together, you see that we are well over 70 percent in spending. If we look at discretionary spending, defense discretionary and nondefense discretionary, we will see they are both 11 percent. That is the economic outlook.

So only 22 percent of the budget will be what the Appropriations Committee will be doing in 10 years from now because the rest of it will not be able to be controlled. So we have a constantly escalating picture.

In my own view, those things like the Army Corps of Engineers, which in a sense is the only infrastructure program this country really has outside of the highway program, will be compressed more, and everything we spend to make this a better country will be compressed more because of the growth in entitlements and interest on the debt.

Well, I believe the time has come for Members on both sides of the aisle to sit down and see what we can do to work out solutions to this ever-growing problem. Is it additional taxes? Are there ways we can change these programs so that they become more efficient to cover people and pay for them in a better way than putting them on the debt, which is effectively what we are doing?

So I want to state to our distinguished chairman, who is now here, last week we had his red and blue lines, so this week I brought my charts that I have been using since 2006, and I believe the numbers are correct, and I believe they are also astonishing and they need our concern.

I would like to work with the chairman in the future, and perhaps we could bring together Republicans and Democrats to sit down and consider some remedies that will not be punishing for people but will bring this huge red mark and thereby the interest mark into better control than today.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I congratulate the Senator from California. With her usual precision, she has identified the big problem, and she approached it as she usually does—in a very direct way. The picture she presents is not one we can tolerate in the United States of America. The good news is, we have done a good job on discretionary spending. That is what we are working on in these bills.

The chart I showed last week, which shows about the same things in a little different way than hers, points out that the spending in 12 appropriations bills has been flat and will be flat for the next 10 years. In other words, if the work the Appropriations Committee is doing on \$1 trillion were all that there was to the Federal budget, we would not have a Federal debt problem. That blue line is Federal spending under control. We set priorities. We have oversight. Senator FEINSTEIN and I have eliminated programs. We do that every year. We are getting control of this budget of big cost overruns that persistently happened on large construction projects. So I am proud of that blue line. I am not proud of the red one. That is the one Senator FEINSTEIN is talking about. This is \$1 trillion, but on top of that is \$3 trillion. That is the automatic spending.

There has been very little courage shown on the Republican side of the aisle or on the Democratic side of the aisle. We make big speeches sometimes about the blue line, which isn't a problem, but very few speeches about the red line that are as straightforward as Senator FEINSTEIN's remarks today.

We have a responsibility to taxpayers, to ourselves, and to the next generation to deal with this line because that is the line which is causing the Joint Chiefs of Staff to say that our Federal debt is our biggest national security problem, which is quite a thing to say in a world as unsafe as we have today.

I thank the Senator from California. Her prestige in the Chamber makes her remarks today even more important. I look forward to working with her to

gradually bring this red line under control while we still can.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3813 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator MURRAY, I call up Murray amendment No. 3813 and ask unanimous consent that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], for Mrs. MURRAY, proposes an amendment numbered 3813 to amendment No. 3801.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add a provision relating to certain requirements in the acquisition of welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain)

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. None of the funds made available by this title may be used for any acquisition that is not consistent with section 225.7007 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, is it appropriate for me to speak on the Murray amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I say to the body that I support this amendment. The Murray amendment would reinforce "Buy American" provisions that have been in place for decades. These provisions say that when American tax dollars are being spent, the preference should be to buy American products.

Despite current Federal regulations, there are concerns that the Corps of Engineers is circumventing these "Buy American" provisions and acquiring welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain manufactured by foreign sources. The Murray amendment simply reiterates current requirements to support American-made products, echoing language from our colleagues in the House and the 2016 appropriations bill.

The amendment is good for families and workers across the country, and I urge this body to support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Murray amendment No. 3813 simply restates an existing regulation, so I have no objection to it. I am going to vote for it.

I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3813.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 60 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Durbin	Murphy
Ayotte	Feinstein	Murray
Baldwin	Franken	Nelson
Bennet	Gardner	Peters
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Kirk	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall
Casey	Manchin	Warner
Cassidy	Markey	Warren
Cochran	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Collins	Menendez	Wyden
Coons	Mikulski	
Donnelly	Murkowski	

NAYS—38

Barrasso	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeben	Rounds
Corker	Inhofe	Rubio
Cornyn	Isakson	Sasse
Cotton	Johnson	Scott
Crapo	Lankford	Sessions
Daines	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	McCain	Sullivan
Ernst	McConnell	Thune
Fischer	Moran	Tillis
Flake	Paul	Wicker
Grassley	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—7

Boxer	Merkley	Vitter
Cruz	Sanders	
Graham	Toomey	

The amendment (No. 3813) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3841; 3842; 3851; 3843; 3844; 3808; 3869, AS MODIFIED; AND 3870 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from California and myself, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be called up en bloc and reported by num-

ber: Reed, No. 3841; Feinstein, No. 3842; Warner, No. 3851; McCain, No. 3843; Rounds, No. 3844; Murkowski, No. 3808; McCain, No. 3869, as modified; and Carper, No. 3870.

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

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. ALEXANDER], for others, proposes amendments numbered 3841; 3842; 3851; 3843; 3844; 3808; 3869, as modified; and 3870 en bloc to amendment No. 3801.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3841

(Purpose: To transfer funding to the Weatherization Assistance Program account from the Building Technologies account)

On page 23, line 15, before the period at the end, insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of such amount \$220,600,000 shall be available for the Weatherization Assistance Program, of which \$6,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the amount otherwise available for Building Technologies.”

AMENDMENT NO. 3842

(Purpose: To modify the deadline for the completion of a feasibility study relating to the Sites Reservoir in Colusa County, California)

At the end of title II, add the following: SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_ Section 205 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113; 129 Stat. 2242), is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (2)—
- (A) by striking “feasibility studies described in clauses (i)(II) and (ii)(I)” and inserting “feasibility study described in clause (i)(II)”; and
- (B) by striking “such studies” and inserting “such study”;
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and
- (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) not later than November 30, 2017, complete and submit to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate the feasibility study described in section 103(d)(1)(A)(ii)(I) of the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act (Public Law 108-361; 118 Stat. 1684);”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3851

(Purpose: To ensure that certain amounts are used to implement the requirements of the DATA Act)

On page 56, line 13, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not less than \$543,000 shall be used to implement the requirements of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-101; 128 Stat. 1146).”

AMENDMENT NO. 3843

(Purpose: To require the Western Area Power Administration to prepare a report on the use of certain provisions in power contracts)

At the end of title III, add the following: SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

- (1) examines the use of a provision described in subsection (b) in any power con-

tracts of the Western Area Power Administration that were executed before or on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) explains the circumstances for not including a provision described in subsection (b) in power contracts of the Western Area Power Administration executed before or on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) A provision referred to in subsection (a) is a termination clause described in section 11 of the general power contract provisions of the Western Power Administration, effective September 1, 2007.

AMENDMENT NO. 3844

(Purpose: To make certain funds available for Upper Missouri River Basin flood and drought monitoring)

At the end of title I, add the following: SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_ Of the amounts made available under this title for operation and maintenance, \$2,000,000 shall be available for Upper Missouri River Basin flood and drought monitoring under section 4003(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1310).

AMENDMENT NO. 3808

(Purpose: To improve a program relating to remote and subsistence harbors)

At the end of title I, add the following: SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_ Section 2006 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2242) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting “in which the project is located or of a community that is located in the region that is served by the project and that will rely on the project” after “community”; and
- (2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or of a community that is located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project” after “community”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “local population” and inserting “regional population to be served by the project”; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “community” and inserting “local community or to a community that is located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3869, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study and develop a plan for the removal of invasive salt cedar)

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_ (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Agriculture, may enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive study, to be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, on the effectiveness and environmental impact of salt cedar control efforts (including biological control) in increasing water supplies, restoring riparian habitat, and improving flood management.

(b) Not later than 1 year after the date of completion of the study under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, may prepare a plan for the removal of salt cedar from all Federal land in the Lower Colorado River basin based on the findings and recommendations of the study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences that includes—

- (1) provisions for revegetating Federal land with native vegetation;
- (2) provisions for adapting to the increasing presence of biological control in the Lower Colorado River basin;

(3) provisions for removing salt cedar from Federal land during post-wildfire recovery activities;

(4) strategies for developing partnerships with State, tribal, and local governmental entities in the eradication of salt cedar; and

(5) budget estimates and completion timelines for the implementation of plan elements.

AMENDMENT NO. 3870

(Purpose: To allow certain funds for shore protection to be prioritized for certain projects)

On page 3, line 21, before the period at the end, insert the following: “: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading for shore protection may be prioritized for projects in areas that have suffered severe beach erosion requiring additional sand placement outside of the normal beach renourishment cycle or in which the normal beach renourishment cycle has been delayed”.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on these amendments en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 3841; 3842; 3851; 3843; 3844; 3808; 3869, as modified; and 3870) were agreed to.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, the Democratic leader, Senator REID, and my colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN.

What we have done is approved eight more amendments by Senators with a voice vote, and we have already agreed to have three more votes at 11 a.m. tomorrow. We are making good progress. We hope to continue to do that and wrap up the bill soon.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to support two crucial programs important to Utah and the West in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill pending before us.

The bill includes \$10 million for the Central Utah Project in the Department of the Interior. This funding makes great strides in supporting rural water infrastructure. Over the decades-long life of this project, I have always advocated for appropriate funding levels to ensure timely completion of this project.

This vital program was authorized in the 1956 Colorado River Storage Project Act and allows the State of Utah to develop its share of the Colorado River for irrigation and water supply. This program also reaches into five other States and provides for construction of water delivery infrastructure.

Over the past few years, the Obama administration has constantly tried to

underfund the Central Utah Project, but Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN have been able to restore funding to levels that enable construction to move forward.

Continuing funding for this project is important to taxpayers. Once the project is built and begins to deliver water, the people of Utah will start to repay their share of the costs to the Treasury.

This funding also allows mitigation work to continue, which restores and protects lands that are important to fish and wildlife that have been impacted by Federal water development for this project.

While we all wish additional funding were available for the important projects in our State, I believe that Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN have done a good job in balancing priorities, and I appreciate them including funding to continue this vital program.

Another important program funded in this bill is the section 595 environmental infrastructure program in the Corps of Engineers.

Section 595 is a program that provides funding to rural areas in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming for water construction projects.

The bill includes \$10 million for this program, which the Corps of Engineers will allocate competitively among the eligible States.

Section 595 funding is particularly important for projects in rural areas surrounded by Federal lands. Often, local sponsors can't meet the general 50/50 cost share required for construction projects, but section 595 reduces the non-Federal cost-share.

An example of where this program made a big difference in my State is in the small town of Escalante, where section 595 funds were used to rehabilitate and enlarge the Wide Hollow Reservoir.

Before the project began, irrigation water that was held in the reservoir only lasted until mid-July, leaving most farmers with wilted crops during the heat of the summer.

The Corps of Engineers provided \$5.5 million under the section 595 program, which was matched with nearly \$8 million in State grants and loans.

Today, because of Section 595, Escalante farmers can expect to receive water throughout the growing season, which allows them to harvest hay and other critical crops that, in the past, they would have had to purchase.

There are projects just like Wide Hollow Reservoir throughout the State of Utah—in fact, all throughout the West—and taxpayers can be assured that the \$10 million provided in the Energy and Water bill will be put to good use.

I appreciate Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN working with me to

include these critical funds, especially given the tight budgets that we face this year and the competing priorities they had to consider.

To conclude, Mr. President, I believe that the Energy and Water bill that Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN have before the Senate is a balanced, prioritized bill that includes important priorities not only for my State of Utah, but also for the Nation and I urge its passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HONORING NEBRASKA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST  
THEIR LIVES IN COMBAT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to continue my tribute to Nebraska's heroes and the current generation of men and women who lost their lives defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Each of these Nebraskans has a special story to tell. Throughout this year and beyond, I will continue to honor their memory here on the Senate floor.

MASTER SERGEANT LINDA TARANGO-GRIESS

Mr. President, today, I wish to highlight the life of MSG Linda Tarango-Griess of Sutton, NE.

Linda was known to everyone as one proud soldier. From an early age, she was disciplined and focused on the future. Her Aunt Marie remembers this future soldier as “a great kid” who was always helping others. Marie would know because she raised Linda from the age of 11.

Linda attended Kearney High School, where she enjoyed playing softball and volleyball. She was also active in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Linda's willingness to serve as a role model and mentor for others came as no surprise to those who knew her. As one of her high school classmates recalled, Linda was “someone who always had a smile and a positive attitude.”

After graduating from Kearney High School in 1989, Linda was determined to go to college, but she struggled to find a way to pay for it. She learned about tuition assistance opportunities offered by the National Guard and she decided to enlist.

Through the National Guard, Linda discovered her passion for being a soldier in the U.S. military. It also allowed her to complete her college education.

Linda graduated from the University of Nebraska in Kearney with a degree in criminal justice.

As part of her service, Linda was required to train one weekend a month in York, NE. It was there that Linda met her soulmate, Doug Griess. After dating for a few years, they were married in 1994.

For the next several years, the young couple formed a new bond and they began planning for the future while continuing their service in the National Guard.

Less than a decade after they were married, their roles in the military would bring them both to the frontlines of a new war a world away from home in Iraq. Linda and Doug wondered which of them would be called up first. Then the news came for Linda to deploy with the 267th Ordnance Company.

After deployment training, the 267th arrived at Camp Speicher near Tikrit, Iraq, in February of 2004. As one of the unit's senior sergeants, Linda's helpful nature and her insistence on doing every job well quickly stood out. Her professionalism and caring nature boosted the morale of her platoon.

An officer from a nearby unit said Linda "was always a true professional—not only a mentor but also a friend. She served her country honorably."

The summer of 2004 was shaping up to be a complicated period. Doug was at annual training back home, and rumors were flying about his unit deploying. At the same time, Linda was planning to return home on leave to be with Doug and her family for a short time.

On July 10, Doug's unit received deployment orders. The following day, on July 11, 2004, the unthinkable happened. Linda was driving in a convoy through a high-threat area in Samarra, Iraq. The convoy was attacked by Al Qaeda insurgents, and Linda's vehicle took a direct hit from an improvised explosive device. Linda and another soldier were killed.

She was only 2 weeks from returning to Nebraska.

Doug was at home with his friends discussing their upcoming deployment. Suddenly, a car pulled up with three soldiers dressed in Class A uniforms, and Doug knew why they were there.

Linda was buried in Sutton, NE, and over 1,000 mourners traveled to this small town in Central Nebraska to honor this brave soldier. A month later, Doug deployed to Iraq with his unit. His grief over the loss of Linda was held at bay for a year as he focused on his mission and his fellow soldiers. Linda would have wanted it that way. Doug's commitment to fulfilling his oath and serving his Nation would have made her proud.

MSG Linda Tarango-Griess was the first woman to lose her life in combat while serving in the Nebraska National Guard. She earned the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and was promoted posthumously to Master Sergeant.

Doug would later remarry, and he is now the proud father of three wonderful children. Linda's Aunt Marie lives in Lincoln, where she is active in Yellow Ribbon activities for troops serving abroad. Linda's sister Vicki lives in North Platte with her three children, not far from her brother Augie and her father Augustin.

To this day, one of Linda's cousins keeps an email from Linda that was

sent before she departed on her final mission. In the email, Linda proudly describes how her platoon competed in a 5-mile run which the 267th nicknamed the "Desert Dash." Linda said: "None of us won the race, but in our hearts we are winners, our reward is the self-satisfaction for just finishing the race."

I hope all Nebraskans remember her as an example of what it means to serve our Nation with bravery, compassion, and joy.

MSG Linda Tarango-Griess is a hero. She embodied the grit and determination of an American soldier, and I am honored to tell her story.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we have a great opportunity in the Senate to recognize and reconfirm an extraordinarily distinguished and dedicated public servant who happens to be from West Hartford, CT, Jessica Rosenworcel of the Federal Communications Commission.

I understand there was an agreement as part of the approval of Commissioner O'Rielly and that Michael O'Rielly, in fact, was reconfirmed as part of a very unusual request that there be that agreement. The President renominated Ms. Rosenworcel for a new 5-year term in 2015, and she was easily and unanimously confirmed by the Commerce Committee. I think we ought to keep that agreement in the Senate, that anyone a party to that agreement when the Democratic leader, Senator REID, agreed to reconfirm Republican FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly—that we ought to move forward. But apart from the politics and the internal agreements that may have been reached—and they deserve to be honored—Commissioner Rosenworcel is supremely well qualified, and she is needed on the Commission, which is sorely in need of her expertise and experience in specific areas.

Let me give just a few examples. No. 1, as an example of her leadership, she led the effort to provide for writing rules that will enable enforcement of the 9/11 locating standards for all 9/11 services across the country. The GPS location services require those rules. She has written standards and will enable those standards to become the guiding light for all 9/11 services. That is important in cases of emergency. It is important in cases of physical and emotional trauma or crashes—an acci-

dent. It is important in cases of opioid or heroin overdoses, which are becoming increasingly prevalent across the country. In fact, in Connecticut and, my guess, Oklahoma and all across the country, there is an epidemic of opioid and heroin addiction tragically taking a toll in deaths and financial costs. When there are overdoses, the administration of Narcan or naloxone within a limited period of time may be the difference between life and death and, in fact, can bring people back from the brink of death.

Those types of location standards will help emergency responders go to the places they are needed. The standards applied to the 9/11 services that enable the first responders to go to those places are a result of the work that Commissioner Rosenworcel has done on the FCC. That is only one example of the kind of work she has done.

She has been outspoken on the cruel struggle faced by students left out of the broadband revolution, as countless are in areas that have no Internet access at home and face obstacles, literally, to complete homework they are given at school and to apply for scholarships they need financially. Today, roughly 7 in 10 teachers assign homework that requires access to broadband, but the data from the FCC suggests that almost 1 in 3 households lacks subscriptions to broadband services. They simply do not subscribe to those services at any speed with any server due to lack of affordability and, frankly, lack of interest.

Ms. Rosenworcel has made this "homework gap"—a term, by the way, that she coined—one of her top priorities and has pushed all of us to think creatively to provide all students with the connectivity they need for a fair chance to succeed. That is really the American dream—a fair chance to succeed, closing the gap that results from this lack of access to the Internet, which in turn creates a homework gap and a scholarship gap and generally deprives those students of a fair chance.

As Commissioner, Ms. Rosenworcel has visited schools across the country in Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, and many more and witnessed how the Internet can support greater learning opportunities and also how limited broadband capacity prevents students from developing the skills essential for them to compete in the global, digital economy. Drawing from these experiences and her experience in the Senate working on this program, she called for an E-Rate 2.0 to ensure that the E-Rate Program is reinvigorated to meet the future connectivity needs for libraries and schools through stronger broadband capacity standards and robust funding. That robust funding is an investment this Nation needs to make.

She is continuing the legacy of Senator Rockefeller to fight for strong public safety, not only on the FCC 9/11

rules, which keep communities safe and provide emergency responders the ability they need to go to places where there are overdoses or other health emergencies, but she has also worked on a bipartisan policy, a spectrum policy leading the FCC to raise record-breaking amounts in the last year's wireless spectrum auction and ensuring that there is more than enough to fully fund FirstNet, the nationwide interoperability network for public safety officials to communicate during emergencies.

She has taken her own time—and she has a young family—on multiple occasions when she is back home in Connecticut to join me in helping to educate wireless customers and consumers on what they can do to avoid cramming—those are the charges on phone bills that consumers never consent to and never know about in many instances—and where they can go to seek refunds when they are victims of these kinds of cramming scams. She has been a champion of consumer interest on cramming refunds, on preventing cramming, and on helping to reach wise and prudent settlements with the carriers.

She has joined me to call on telephone companies to offer consumers new tools to block robocalls. What I find—and it is a relevant point during the campaign season in which we find ourselves—is that voters, consumers, residents, people from all walks of life in both parties, and a lot with no party at all, deeply resent the robocalling we see so often. Those robocalls come from commercial interests and sometimes from political interests. I approve banning robocalls. Whether or not we agree to ban them, consumers ought to have the ability to block them if they choose to. That is the cause she has championed with me.

I deeply respect her commitment to consumer interests. She is widely acknowledged for her keen judgment and insight on all these issues, advancing smart telecommunications policy for the public benefit.

She is a graduate of Wesleyan University and New York University Law School. Her career has been about telecommunications law, which included time as senior communications counsel for the Senate Commerce Committee under the leadership of both Senator Rockefeller and Senator Inouye.

In her time on the Commission, she has been a champion of consumers, students, emergency responders, of everyday working men and women who deserve the best system and protection of their interests when it comes to telecommunications.

There was an agreement that ought to be respected, but as important or even more important than an agreement, she deserves and the country needs for her to serve as a Commissioner.

I urge my colleagues to reconfirm her swiftly and overwhelmingly so that she

can continue to do this vital and important work she has been doing.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Roger F. Wicker, Mark Kirk, John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the underlying bill, H.R. 2028.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Roger F. Wicker, Mark Kirk, John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the cloture motions be waived.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to both the

Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801 and the underlying bill, H.R. 2028, be at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 26.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### EARTH DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last Friday marked the 46th annual Earth Day, and we cannot ignore that we are at a crossroads in time. Human-caused climate change is accelerating with each passing year and is now taking a severe toll on our planet. We see it in our scorched farmlands and burnt forests in the West and in the flood ravaged river valleys and superstorm battered coastlines in the East. Climate change is not a hoax, and we must act now to protect our future and our future generations.

Earth Day is an opportunity to recognize that climate change is not only the greatest threat to our environment today, but it also poses a threat to public health and to our national and economic security. In coming years, the economy of Vermont, the United States, and every country on Earth will be altered. We must guide that economic transformation to protect future generations.

We are really just beginning to grapple with the serious economic consequences of climate change across the country. In Vermont, we saw the warmest winter on record this year, with mean temperatures 5 to 10 degrees above normal and snowfall several feet below normal. On Christmas Eve, the mercury hit 68 degrees in the State capital of Montpelier, beating the previous record by 17 degrees. The abnormally high temperatures and lack of snow hurt our ski and tourism industries. Many ski areas saw business down 20 percent, and some saw a drop of as much as 40 percent. This does not just impact the ski areas and the mountains, but also our restaurants, local hotels, contractors, and other businesses that are driven by the ski industry.

Climate change could also impact Vermont's maple industry, which contributes more than \$300 million in sales to Vermont's economy every year. While 2016 has been a successful year for producing maple syrup, if temperatures continue to rise each year, in the short term we could face reduced sap quality and even a decrease in the amount of sap produced. I am also very concerned that, in the long term, our

sugar maple stands could be decimated by invasive pests or threatened by drought and forest fires. The agriculture and fisheries sector is highly dependent on specific climate conditions, and maple production will not be the only agricultural industry affected. The Pacific Northwest's winemakers, Alaska's salmon fisheries, the Southeast's peanut producers, and corn growers in the Midwest could all face significant climate-related challenges.

The threats posed by climate change are numerous and can be downright frightening. However, Earth Day—and every day—we must remember that, if we can have such a profound negative impact on our environment, we can also have a profound positive affect on the drivers of climate change. If we make climate the top priority around which we organize and refocus economic decisions, we can find solutions to climate risk through creative thinking and innovation. While climate change does represent one of the greatest challenges of our time, we should see it as opportunity to nurture and attract entrepreneurship, rather than dragging our heels or denying that there is a problem.

I am proud that time after time Vermonters continue to come together to identify solutions to big problems. I am amazed and energized every day by Vermont innovators who are thinking creatively and already leading nationally and internationally. Vermont businesses, nonprofits, and educational institutions are already tackling big problems and finding solutions to climate change, solutions that are being readied to be deployed in Vermont and exported around the world. Just last week, I had joined leaders from the University of Vermont to announce a National Science Foundation competitive award of \$20 million to Vermont EPSCoR, which will support research of the Lake Champlain Basin and its watersheds to find out what has made some parts of the basin resilient in the face of extreme weather events, while other parts fail to recover and rebound. Work like this on Lake Champlain will give Vermont and other regions new tools to help build resiliency in areas that have been vulnerable in the past.

Recently, I was pleased to hear that not just one, but two Vermont companies, Green Mountain Power and Vermont Electric Power Company, or VELCO, are finalists for the Edison Electric Institute's prestigious Edison Award this year for their innovation and contribution to the advancement of the electric industry. Green Mountain Power is working to expand renewable energy production in Vermont and is taking their Cow Power model to the next level with a large multifarm bio-digester. Meanwhile, VELCO's Vermont Weather Analytics Center will help to build a more reliable grid as customers, communities,

and energy businesses work to prepare for the more severe storms brought by climate change and will also help garner renewable energy's full value and potential in the State. These are cutting-edge projects, generating jobs and knowledge while generating energy.

Some people see climate change simply as an environmental issue, but it is about so much more than that. Creating a green energy sector is not just about cutting greenhouse gas emissions. It is about providing jobs for Americans in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. This is about strengthening national security through energy independence. This is about breaking the stranglehold of oil on the transportation system by developing alternative transportation energy sources. Addressing climate change is also about ensuring that our children and grandchildren have clean air to breathe on Earth Day and every day for generations to come.

We have come together before, across the aisle and across regions, to solve large problems. We must do so again. We owe it to the planet and to future generations.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that in the Senate the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0K-16. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 14-44 of 17 September 2014.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0K-16

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Poland.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 14-44; Date: 17 September 2014; Military Department: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On 17 September 2014, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 14-44 of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of 40 AGM-158A Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles (JASSM), 2 AGM-58A JASSM Live with Test Instrumentation Kit (TIK) and Flight Termination Systems (FTS), 2 AGM-158A JASSM Inert with TIK and FTS, and 2 Flight Certification Test Vehicles. Also included: Operational Flight Plan upgrade to M6.5 tape for the Polish F-16C/D Block 52 aircraft to include JASSM integration, missile containers, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was \$500 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$270 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of twenty-eight (28) AGM-158A Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles (JASSM) to the previously notified sale. Upon completion of contract negotiations between the U.S. Government and the vendor, the per-missile price was significantly lower than anticipated, resulting in residual funds available to Poland. Poland decided to use these funds to procure twenty-eight (28) additional missiles. Increasing the quantity of missiles will not result in a net increase in the value of MDE originally notified. The total case value will remain \$500 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed increase in quantity will improve Poland's capacity to deter regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense as well as to strengthen its air-to-ground strike capabilities.

(v) Justification: The proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and the national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally. Poland continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Central Europe.

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 21, 2016.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-19, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.22 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-19

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$1.08 billion.

Other \$ .14 billion.

Total \$1.22 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to 450 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AIM-120D).

Up to 34 AIM-120D Air Vehicles Instrumented (AAVI).

Up to 6 Instrumented Test Vehicles (ITVs).

Up to 10 spare AIM-120 Guidance Sections (GSs).

Non-MDE: This request also includes the following Non-MDE: containers, weapon system support equipment, support and test equipment, site survey, transportation, repair and return warranties, spare and repair parts, publications and technical data, maintenance, personnel training, and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor representative engineering, logistics, and technical support services, and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (YLD).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-D-YKX-01 DEC 98, AT-D-YLB-06 OCT-11 AT-D-YLC-25 FEB-15

(vi) Sales Commission. Fee, etc.. Paid. Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 21, 2016.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

## POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—AIM-120D Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles

The Government of Australia requested a possible sale of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to 450 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AIM-120D).

Up to 34 AIM-120D Air Vehicles Instrumented (AAVI).

Up to 6 Instrumented Test Vehicles (ITVs).

Up to 10 spare AIM-120 Guidance Sections (GSs).

This request also includes the following Non-MDE: containers, weapon system support equipment, support and test equipment, site survey, transportation, repair and return warranties, spare and repair parts, publications and technical data, maintenance, personnel training, and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor representative engineering, logistics, and technical support services, and other related elements of logistics support.

The total estimated value of MDE is \$1.08 billion. The total overall estimated value is \$1.22 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner and major contributor to political stability, security, and economic development in the Pacific region and globally.

This proposed sale is in support of the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) F/A-18, E/A-18G, and F-35 aircraft. This proposed sale will provide the RAAF additional air-to-

air intercept capability and increase interoperability with the U.S. Air Force. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor for production is Raytheon in Tucson, Arizona. The principal contractor for integration is unknown and will be determined during contract negotiations. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-19

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-120D AMRAAM hardware, including the missile guidance section, is classified CONFIDENTIAL. State-of-the-art technology is used in the missile to provide it with unique beyond-visual-range capability. The increase in capability from the AIM-120C-7 to AIM-120D consists of a two-way data link, a more accurate navigation unit, improved High-Angle Off-Boresight (HOBS) capability, and enhanced aircraft to missile position handoff.

2. AIM-120D features a target detection device with embedded electronic countermeasures, an electronics unit within the guidance section that performs all radar signal processing, mid-course and terminal guidance, flight control, target detection, and warhead burst point determination.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0E-16. This report relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 14-23 of 23 July 2014.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER ZAKRISKI,  
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral,  
USN, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0E-16

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Tunisia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 14-23; Date: 23 July 2014; Military Department: Army.

(iii) Description: On 23 July 2014, Congress was notified by Congressional Notification Transmittal Number 14-23, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of twelve UH-60M Black Hawk aircraft as well as spare and repair parts, weapon systems, configurations updates, communications security equipment and radios, integration studies, support equipment, aircraft ferry and tanker support, repair and return, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated total cost was \$700 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$440 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of eighteen (18) sets of Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) equipment as MDE. Although the value of the GPS/INS was included in the total value of the case, it was not enumerated or valued as MDE in the original notification. Upgrading the status of this equipment to MDE will increase the MDE cost by \$7.5 million.

Additionally, this transmittal reports the inclusion of two (2) M36-E9 Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM) in the weapons configuration (Hellfire training missiles) as MDE. Although the value of the CATM was included in the total value of the case, it was not enumerated or valued as MDE in the original notification. Upgrading the status of this equipment to MDE will increase the MDE cost by \$105,000.

Finally, this transmittal report designates the Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS) as the specific Precision Guided Rocket System listed in the original notification. It has now been determined that the APKWS will be the Precision Guided Rocket System integrated into the aircraft and will include 515 all up rounds. The APKWS all-up rounds consist of guidance sections, MK66 MOD 4 2.75 inch rocket motors, and M152 High Explosive (HE) warheads. The value of the APKWS was included in the total case value of the original notification but was not included in the MDE cost. The inclusion of the APKWS as MDE will increase the MDE cost by \$17.5 million. The revised total MDE cost is \$465.1 million. The total case value will remain \$700 million.

(iv) Significance: The GPS/INS provides highly accurate all-altitude, all-weather navigation and timing information to the UH-60M Black Hawk aircraft, allowing more precise flight pattern and rendezvous. The CATM consists of a functional guidance section coupled to an inert missile bus and is used for flight training but cannot be launched. The inclusion of APKWS rounds will improve Tunisia's capacity to sustain security operations and strengthen its internal and external defense capabilities and increase its ability to carry out operations against terrorist forces while significantly reducing risk to civilians.

(v) Justification: The United States is committed to the security of Tunisia, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Tunisia to develop and maintain a strong



and ready self-defense capability. This upgrade to a previously approved sale will further enhance Tunisia's interoperability with the U.S. Army.

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 21, 2016.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0E-16

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The CATM consists of a functional guidance section coupled to an inert missile bus and is used for flight training but cannot be launched. The missile has an operational semi-active laser seeker that can search for and lock-on to laser-designated targets. It functions like a tactical missile (without launch capability) during captive carry on the aircraft, making it suitable for training the aircrew in simulated Hellfire missile target acquisition and lock. The Sensitive Technology is contained within the operational semi-active laser seeker. The highest level for release of the M36-E9 CATM is SECRET, based upon the semi-active seeker. Reverse engineering could reveal CONFIDENTIAL information. Vulnerability data, countermeasures, vulnerability/susceptibility analyses, and threat definitions are classified SECRET or CONFIDENTIAL.

2. The APKWS II All-Up-Round (AUR) is an air-to-ground weapon that consists of an APKWS II Guidance Section (GS), legacy 2.75-inch MK66 Mod 4 rocket motor and legacy MK152 and MK435/436 warhead/fuze. The APKWS is a tactical rocket system that can be launched from several platforms, offering multi-mission, multi-target capability and precision-strike lethality. These guided rockets are steered to the target by following reflected laser beam energy directed onto the target either by the launching aircraft, a second aircraft, or ground-based troops operating a laser designator. Hardware is Unclassified; information related to performance, effectiveness, vulnerabilities and counter-measure is classified up to SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Tunisia.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER.

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-07, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Ac-

ceptance to Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$260 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,

Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$227 million.  
Other \$33 million.  
Total \$260 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Two-hundred and fifty-two (252) RIM 116C-2 Rolling Airframe Tactical Missiles.

Two (2) RIM 116C-2 Rolling Airframe Telemetry Missiles.

Also included are the following non-MDE items; support equipment, publications, technical documentation, personnel training, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, live fire test event support, and other related integration elements. The estimated cost is \$260 million.

(iv) Military Department: U.S. Navy (AAD).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Delivered to Congress: April 21, 2016.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Qatar—RIM-116C and RIM-116C-2 Rolling Airframe Missiles

The Government of Qatar has requested a possible sale of two-hundred and fifty-two (252) RIM-116C Rolling Airframe Tactical Missiles, and two (2) RIM 116C-2 Rolling Airframe Telemetry Missiles. Also included are support equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, live fire test event support, and other related integration elements. The total estimated value of MDE is \$227 million. The overall total estimated value is \$260 million.

This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country. Qatar is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Persian Gulf region. This proposed sale will provide Qatar with military capabilities to protect its naval forces and nearby oil/gas infrastructure from air and missile threats. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment, services, and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Arizona. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips by U.S. Government

and contractor representatives to participate in program and technical reviews, system integration, as well as training and maintenance support in country for a period of thirty-six (36) months.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

The RIM-116C Rolling Airframe Missile is an autonomous (i.e., "fire and forget") lightweight, supersonic, surface-to-air tactical missile for ship self-defense against current and evolving anti-ship cruise missile threats. Advanced technology in the RIM-116C includes dual-mode RF/IR (radio frequency/infrared) guidance with IR all-the-way capability for non-emitting threats. The highest classification of the hardware, embedded software, and maintenance is CONFIDENTIAL. The RIM-116C-2 is a non-tactical telemetry round, used primarily for test and training purposes; it includes an unclassified telemeter which replaces the warhead section. The data set, generated by R1114-116C-2 is UNCLASSIFIED.

The Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) is a product of a cooperative program with Germany and has been executed, since 1976, under a series of governing Memoranda of Understanding/Memoranda of Agreements (MOU/MOAs) for the development, production, and in-service support between the United States and Germany.

A determination has been made that the Government of Qatar can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Qatar.

HONORING JOHN E.  
ULMSCHNEIDER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I recognize the tragic death of a Marylander. John E. Ulmschneider of the Prince George's Fire/EMS Department was killed in the line of duty on Friday, April 15, 2016.

John Ulmschneider is survived by his wife and daughter. He was known to his friends and colleagues as "Skillet," a nickname he received after sustaining an injury in high school. It was while he was attending Surrattsville High School in Clinton, MD, that John decided to dedicate his life to serving others as firefighter.

Before graduating high school, John Ulmschneider worked on the farm of a family friend. It was on that farm that he met Dawn, and the two would later get married. A colleague fondly remembered him as "a hard-working country boy." He enjoyed helping people. Personally and professionally, he was selfless and generous. This altruism made him not only a good person, but an ideal public servant.

John Ulmschneider worked out of the Landover Hills Fire/EMS Station 830. He was a 13-year veteran of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and was described as dedicated, humble, and funny. The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department is composed of nearly 2,000 volunteers, career professionals, and support personnel covering approximately 580 square miles and protecting almost 900,000 people. Marylanders should take solace in knowing that John was able to leave his mark on a department with such immense responsibilities.

Maryland's first responders are some of the best in the country. Their dedication, bravery, and skill are worthy of the highest praise. John Ulmschneider had all of these traits in abundance.

I thank the Ulmschneider family for sharing John with the people of Prince George's County. I also thank John's fellow first responders and staff at Med Star Southern Maryland Hospital Center in Clinton, MD, for doing their utmost to save John. His legacy will never be forgotten, and I join the people of Prince George's County in mourning his loss.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN COMPTON

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Stephen Compton for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Stephen is a native of Utah. He currently attends Utah State University, where he studies communications and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Stephen for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO HOLLY HEUSSNER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Holly Heussner for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Holly is a native of Sugar Land, Texas. She recently graduated from the University of Wyoming, where she received a degree in international rela-

tions. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Holly for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL LEPINSKI

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Gabriel Lepinski for his hard work as an intern in the Republican Policy Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Gabe is a native of Illinois. He currently attends the University of Kansas, where he studies political science and Arabic. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Gabe for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO KYLE PALADINO

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kyle Paladino for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kyle is a native of New Jersey. He currently attends the University of Georgia, where he studies political science. Kyle will attend the University of Georgia School of Law this fall. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kyle for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO NOLAN RAP

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Nolan Rap for his hard work as an intern in the

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Nolan is a native of Cheyenne and a graduate of Cheyenne East High School. He currently attends the University of Wyoming, where he studies political science and Russian. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Nolan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE KELLER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Christine Keller, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Christine is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Christine is attending Augustana University, where she is majoring in government, international affairs, and economics. Christine is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Christine Keller for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

##### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

##### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3724. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service

from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct.

H.R. 4890. An act to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3724. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4890. An act to impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy; to the Committee on Finance.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1206. An act to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

H.R. 4885. An act to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5184. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Afghanistan for the period of June 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5185. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "2013 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Active Duty Members"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5186. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products and Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Determination of Portable Air Conditioners as a Covered Consumer Product" ((RIN1904-AD02) (Docket No. EERE-2013-BT-STD-0033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5187. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Skokomish River Basin Ecosystem Restoration project in Mason County, Washington, for the purpose of aquatic ecosystem restoration; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5188. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements" (Announcement 2016-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5189. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2016-25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5190. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inversions and Related Transactions" ((RIN1545-BM88) (TD 9761)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5191. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula" (Rev. Rul. 2016-10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5192. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Purchase Price Safe Harbors for Sections 143 and 25" (Rev. Proc. 2016-25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5193. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indexing Adjustments for Sections 36B and 5000A" (Rev. Proc. 2016-24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5194. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2016 Automobile Price Inflation Adjustment" (Rev. Proc. 2016-23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5195. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-019); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5196. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Automatic Residential Garage Door Operators" (RIN3041-AD35) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on April 18, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5197. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connect America Fund; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications; Rural Broadband Experiments" ((RIN3060-AF85) (FCC 16-28)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5198. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5199. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Fiscal Year 2017 Staff Years of Technical Effort and Estimated Funding for Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Centers"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5200. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Business Conduct Standards for Security-Based Swap Dealers and Major Security-Based Swap Participants" (RIN3235-AL10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5201. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Finding that it is Appropriate and Necessary to Regulate Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units" (FRL No. 9945-33-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5202. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Plan Requirements for Sewage Sludge Incineration Units Constructed on or Before October 14, 2010" (FRL No. 9940-50-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5203. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification of Requirements for Method 303 Certification Training" ((RIN2060-AR97) (FRL No. 9945-34-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5204. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9944-38-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5205. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; AR; Redesignation of the Crittenden County, 2008 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment" (FRL No. 9945-40-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5206. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Attainment Plan for the Lower Beaver Valley Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9945-45-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5207. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; 2011 Base Year Inventories for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Lancaster, Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley, and Reading Areas, and the Pennsylvania Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City Area" (FRL No. 9945-47-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5208. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; State Board Requirements" (FRL No. 9945-44-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5209. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Plans; North Carolina; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9945-62-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5210. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Knox County VOC Limits Revision for Permits" (FRL No. 9945-22-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5211. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Late-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations" (RIN1018-BA70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5212. A communication from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Big Sandy Crayfish and Endangered Species Status for the Guyandotte River Crayfish" (RIN1018-BA85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5213. A communication from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation and Nondesignation of Critical Habitat on Molokai, Lanai, Maui, and Kahoolawe for 135 Species" (RIN1018-AZ25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5214. A communication from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse" (RIN1018-AZ32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5215. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Louisiana Black Bear From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Removal of Similarity-of-Appearance Protections for the American Black Bear" (RIN1018-BA44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5216. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2016 Season" (RIN1018-BB10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5217. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Assistance and Social Services Programs; Burial Assistance" (RIN1076-AF29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5218. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Folic Acid" (Docket No. FDA-2012-F-0480) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5219. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Kansas City Plant, Kansas City, Mis-

souri, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5220. A communication from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Seventy-Fourth Financial Statement for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5221. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2016 Annual Report: The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Status of Actions Addressing the Safety Issue Areas on the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) Most Wanted List"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5222. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Portable Hook-On Chairs" (RIN3041-AD40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-157. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Delegates of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to provide funding for the West Virginia National Guard to sustain and enhance its capabilities in its role in a regional catastrophe and to modernize the antiquated avionics of its fleet of C130s and other aircraft to meet global airspace requirements for 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, In the event of a regional catastrophe, West Virginia's east-west highways, including I-68 and I-64 are links to the major exit corridors from the FEMA National Capital Region (NCR) westward and, assuming that a regional catastrophe will likely include Baltimore to the north of the NCR and Richmond to the south of the NCR, westward evacuation utilizing these highways is highly likely and is, in fact anticipated; and

Whereas, The routes through West Virginia will traverse rural areas that do not have infrastructure adequate for what could be a mass of evacuees in the worst-case scenario; experience in regional emergencies, such as Superstorm Sandy in 2012, illustrates some shortcomings in planning that is less focused on regions and more on states; and

Whereas, West Virginia is perfectly (and geographically) postured to support any emergency or disaster response to the NCR, including mass evacuation westward; and

Whereas, FEMA regions do not necessarily represent grouping of states likely to be involved in some scenarios; FEMA region III contains the NCR and West Virginia as its western-most edge and in a major catastrophe, Regions V, with Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, VII with Missouri, and IV with Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina are likely to be involved in some combinations; and

Whereas, The National Guard, through the use of Emergency Management Assistance Compacts, can operate across state lines to provide vital response capability in security,

transportation, medical, housing, communications, command and control, and others based on its dual role in military preparedness and state civil support; and

Whereas, Military Force Structure assigned to the National Guard must be considered by Federal Military planners for the dual use they can encounter; National Guard Organizations require personnel, equipment, organization, training, leadership and funding to maintain federal military standards and to be prepared to respond to a domestic emergency or disaster; and

Whereas, Regional catastrophic planning is dependent on National Guard assets, capabilities and responsiveness; consequently, it is also critical that federal military planners assess the impact of their force structure changes on regional capability needs as I well as those that are state specific; and

Whereas, The C-130 H3 "Hercules" aircraft assigned to the 130th Airlift Wing of the West Virginia National Guard at Yeager Airport in Charleston, West Virginia will eventually become obsolete without system modernization to the communication, navigation, and surveillance (CNS) components; National Air Traffic Control (ATC) agencies and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) are modernizing airspace faster than the US Air Force is updating C-130 avionics capabilities; and

Whereas, Aircraft component acquisition becomes increasingly difficult as fewer C-130 H aircraft remain in the Air Force inventory and the unique components of the C-130, including its self contained navigational system (SCNS), face short term supply chain shortages that could be remedied with aircraft avionics modernization; and

Whereas, The contract to perform maintenance on aircraft flight computers is renewed annually and this perpetual reliance on short term contracts increases sustainment cost and challenges mission effectiveness and operational planning; and

Whereas, Reliance on short term contracts and antiquated avionics will increase Air Force expense in the long run as it translates to more expensive mission-essential contracts and increased fuel expenditures due to inefficient routing: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia,* That the Legislature hereby urges the United States Congress to provide funding for the West Virginia National Guard to sustain and enhance its capabilities in its role in a regional catastrophe and to modernize the antiquated avionics of its fleet of C-130s and other aircraft to meet global airspace requirements for 2020; and be it

*Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives and to the members of West Virginia congressional delegation.

POM-158. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Tennessee urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take immediate action to protect citizens and lawful residents from the consequences resulting from the uncontrolled influx of undocumented immigrants into this country; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 70

Whereas, the federal Department of Homeland Security has set forth in a report, entitled Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United

States: January 2011 that the unauthorized immigrant population totaled 11.5 million in 2011; and

Whereas, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency apprehended 486,651 individuals crossing the borders of the United States in fiscal year 2014 alone; and

Whereas, the power to control immigration and naturalization is reserved to the federal government by the provisions of Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, which tasks the legislative branch with establishing uniform rules of naturalization; and

Whereas, the explosive growth in numbers of illegal immigrants, including a substantial increase in unaccompanied alien children, over the past few years reflects a failure by the President of the United States, his administration, and the various members of Congress to implement procedures that adequately address this issue; and

Whereas, despite the lack of authority granted to the states to fully address the issue of illegal immigration, as evidenced by recent court decisions, including *Arizona v. United States*, 132 S. Ct. 2492 (2012), the costs of supporting illegal immigrants in this country continues to fall directly to the several states, and their counties and cities; and

Whereas, according to the complaint filed by several states against certain officials in the administration in charge of immigration enforcement, the Texas Department of Public Safety estimated that it was spending \$1.3 million per week on troopers and resources to deal with the immigration surge, as well as deploying 1,000 National Guard troops to the border at a cost of \$38 million; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States has decreed in *Plyler v. Doe*, 102 S. Ct. 2382 (1982), that education cannot be denied even to those who have entered this country illegally; and

Whereas, Congress has likewise decreed that emergency medical care, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §§1611 and 1621, cannot be denied even to those who have come here illegally; and

Whereas, this General Assembly is fully aware of the growing existence of illegal immigrants in the various counties of this State, including the 1,294 unaccompanied alien children released to sponsors in this State by the Office of Refugee Resettlement in fiscal year 2014; and

Whereas, the costs of illegal immigration present a significant financial burden to each state in the form of expenditures for education, criminal justice, and emergency medical care, a burden this State cannot absorb without jeopardizing the quality of life for its U.S. citizens and lawful immigrant population: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate Concurring,* That even as the members of this General Assembly take decisive steps to address the issue of illegal immigration to the fullest extent of our powers, we strongly urge the President and the Congress of these United States to resolve this issue in a timely and efficient manner, to pass a comprehensive immigration policy that allows those wishing to immigrate to this country to do so only in a lawful manner, and to ensure that American society is not threatened by a decline in public safety, educational standards, medical accessibility, and the overall standard of living resulting from those who knowingly choose to enter this country in violation of the law; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the President and the Congress of these United States include in any

comprehensive immigration policy a revision to existing federal law that would favor U.S. citizens and lawful residents in receiving benefits such as health care, education, and any other government benefits before offering any benefits to those individuals entering this country illegally; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the President and the Congress of these United States incorporate into any comprehensive immigration policy a system in which the several states may be fully compensated by the federal government for any financial burdens that result from decisions made in Washington, D.C., with regard to illegal immigrants.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 710. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-244).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

\*Carol Waller Pope, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2019.

\*Julie Helene Becker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years.

\*Patrick Pizzella, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2020.

\*Steven Nathan Berk, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Elizabeth Carroll Wingo, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2845. A bill to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2846. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. ERNST:

S. 2847. A bill to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2848. A bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SASSE (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2849. A bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. SASSE):

S. Res. 439. A resolution congratulating the University of Nebraska-Lincoln women's bowling team for winning the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association Bowling Championship; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 240

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to promote competition, to preserve the ability of local governments to provide broadband capability and services, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 510

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 510, a bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 821

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to establish requirements with respect to bisphenol A.

S. 859

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 859, a bill to protect the public, communities across America, and the environment by increasing the safety of crude oil transportation by railroad, and for other purposes.

S. 884

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 884, a bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1426

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1426, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1474

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1474, a bill to provide for the development and use of technology for personalized handguns, to require that all handguns manufactured or sold in, or imported into, the United States incorporate such technology, and for other purposes.

S. 1684

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1684, a bill to amend the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 to provide

for liability protection for organizations and entities.

S. 1915

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2304

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2304, a bill to provide for tribal demonstration projects for the integration of early childhood development, education, including Native language and culture, and related services, for evaluation of those demonstration projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2325

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2325, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 2531

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2531, a bill to authorize State and local governments to divest from entities that engage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2540

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2540, a bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2598

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2598, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 2655

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2655, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2795

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2795, a bill to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.

S. 2821

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2821, a bill to improve drinking water quality and reduce lead exposure in homes, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2825, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require compliance with domestic source requirements for footwear furnished to enlisted members of the Armed Forces upon their initial entry into the Armed Forces.

S. 2841

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2841, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil-, gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term “fiduciary” and the conflict of interest rule with respect to retirement investment advice.

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to exercise its veto in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

S. RES. 397

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 397, a resolution supporting the recognition of 2016 as the “Year of Pulses” and acknowledging the nutritional benefit and important contribution to soil health of pulse crops.

AMENDMENT NO. 3844

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3844 proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2015 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. SASSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 439

Whereas, on April 11, 2015, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cornhuskers won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Bowling Championship in Richmond Heights, Missouri, defeating Stephen F. Austin by a score of 4 to 2;

Whereas the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has won 10 national bowling championships;

Whereas all of the members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln women's bowling team, Kelly Belzeski, Julia Bond, April Campbell, Melanie Crawford, Bethany Hedley, Lizabeth Kuhlkin, Gazmine Mason, Alexandra Mosquera, Andrea Ruiz, and Briana Zabierek, contributed to this outstanding victory;

Whereas head coach Bill Straub, assistant coach Paul Klempa, and office manager Kim Straub guided this outstanding group of women to a national championship;

Whereas Julia Bond was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player and Liz

Kuhlkin was named to the All-Tournament Team; and

Whereas Liz Kuhlkin was named the National Tenpin Coaches Association Women's Collegiate Bowler of the Year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Nebraska-Lincoln women's bowling team as the winner of the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association Bowling Championship;

(2) commends the players, coaches, and staff of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln women's bowling team for their hard work and dedication;

(3) recognizes the students, alumni, and loyal fans who supported the Cornhuskers on their journey to achieve another championship for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the president of the University of Nebraska;

(B) the athletic director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and

(C) the head coach of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln women's bowling team.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3869. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

SA 3870. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 3871. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3872. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3873. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3874. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1579, to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3869. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations

for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Agriculture, may enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive study, to be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, on the effectiveness and environmental impact of salt cedar control efforts (including biological control) in increasing water supplies, restoring riparian habitat, and improving flood management.

(b) Not later than 1 year after the date of completion of the study under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall prepare a plan for the removal of salt cedar from all Federal land in the Lower Colorado River basin based on the findings and recommendations of the study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences that includes—

(1) provisions for revegetating Federal land with native vegetation;

(2) provisions for adapting to the increasing presence of biological control in the Lower Colorado River basin;

(3) provisions for removing salt cedar from Federal land during post-wildfire recovery activities;

(4) strategies for developing partnerships with State, tribal, and local governmental entities in the eradication of salt cedar; and

(5) budget estimates and completion timelines for the implementation of plan elements.

**SA 3870.** Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, line 21, before the period at the end, insert the following: “: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading for shore protection may be prioritized for projects in areas that have suffered severe beach erosion requiring additional sand placement outside of the normal beach renourishment cycle or in which the normal beach renourishment cycle has been delayed”.

**SA 3871.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROTECTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available to carry out project or project operation studies unless the Secretary of the Army ensures

evaluation of and mitigation for impacts to fish and wildlife resources consistent with recommendations developed by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior, and the States pursuant to section 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 662), including recommendations to properly evaluate impacts and avoid adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of the Army shall not select a recommended alternative for a water resources project if the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service concludes that the impacts of that alternative cannot be successfully mitigated.

(2) MITIGATION.—The mitigation requirements under this section shall be in addition to any other mitigation measures required under section 906 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2283) and any other applicable Federal or State law (including regulations).

**SA 3872.** Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the general provisions of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. The Secretary of the Army shall conduct a review that—

(1) examines the actions and decisions of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) relating to the excavation at Gold King Mine on August 5, 2015; and

(2) determines whether the Administrator likely violated the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) by discharging contaminated mine water without a permit.

**SA 3873.** Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended—

(1) to purchase heavy water produced in Iran; or

(2) to issue a license for the purchase of heavy water produced in Iran.

**SA 3874.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1579, to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act” or the “NATIVE Act”.

**SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to enhance and integrate Native American tourism—

(A) to empower Native American communities; and

(B) to advance the National Travel and Tourism Strategy;

(2) to increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets to support Native American tourism and bolster recreational travel and tourism;

(3) to expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States to spur economic development, create jobs, and increase tourism revenues;

(4) to enhance and improve self-determination and self-governance capabilities in the Native American community and to promote greater self-sufficiency;

(5) to encourage Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to engage more fully in Native American tourism activities to increase visitation to rural and remote areas in the United States that are too difficult to access or are unknown to domestic travelers and international tourists;

(6) to provide grants, loans, and technical assistance to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations that will—

(A) spur important infrastructure development;

(B) increase tourism capacity; and

(C) elevate living standards in Native American communities; and

(7) to support the development of technologically innovative projects that will incorporate recreational travel and tourism information and data from Federal assets to improve the visitor experience.

**SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(3) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term “Native Hawaiian organization” means a nonprofit organization—

(A) that serves the interests of Native Hawaiians;

(B) in which Native Hawaiians serve in substantive and policymaking positions; and

(C) that is recognized for having expertise in Native Hawaiian culture and heritage, including tourism.

(4) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

**SEC. 4. INTEGRATING FEDERAL TOURISM ASSETS TO STRENGTHEN NATIVE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES.**

(a) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior shall update the respective management plans and tourism initiatives of the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior to include Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.



(b) OTHER AGENCIES.—The head of each agency that has recreational travel or tourism functions or complementary programs shall update the respective management plans and tourism strategies of the agency to include Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(c) NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The plans shall outline policy proposals—

(A) to improve travel and tourism data collection and analysis;

(B) to increase the integration, alignment, and utility of public records, publications, and Web sites maintained by Federal agencies;

(C) to create a better user experience for domestic travelers and international visitors;

(D) to align Federal agency Web sites and publications;

(E) to support national tourism goals;

(F) to identify agency programs that could be used to support tourism capacity building and help sustain tourism infrastructure in Native American communities;

(G) to develop innovative visitor portals for parks, landmarks, heritage and cultural sites, and assets that showcase and respect the diversity of the indigenous peoples of the United States;

(H) to share local Native American heritage through the development of bilingual interpretive and directional signage that could include or incorporate English and the local Native American language or languages; and

(I) to improve access to transportation programs related to Native American community capacity building for tourism and trade, including transportation planning for programs related to visitor enhancement and safety.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN TRIBES AND NATIVE AMERICANS.—In developing the plan under paragraph (1), the head of each agency shall consult with Indian tribes and the Native American community to identify appropriate levels of inclusion of the Indian tribes and Native Americans in Federal tourism activities, public records and publications, including Native American tourism information available on Web sites.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement with an entity or organization with a demonstrated record in tribal communities of defining, introducing, developing, and sustaining American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian tourism and related activities in a manner that respects and honors native traditions and values.

(2) COORDINATION.—The memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement described in paragraph (1) shall formalize a role for the organization or entity to serve as a facilitator between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce and the Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations—

(A) to identify areas where technical assistance is needed through consultations with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to empower the Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to participate fully in the tourism industry; and

(B) to provide a means for the delivery of technical assistance and coordinate the delivery of the assistance to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations in collaboration with the Secretary

of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and other entities with distinctive experience, as appropriate.

(3) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the head of each Federal agency, including the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Labor shall obligate any funds made available to the head of the agency to cover any administrative expenses incurred by the organization or entity described in paragraph (1) in carrying out programs or activities of the agency.

(4) METRICS.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall coordinate with the organization or entity described in paragraph (1) to develop metrics to measure the effectiveness of the entity or organization in strengthening tourism opportunities for Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and occasionally thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall each submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the manner in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce, as applicable, is including Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations in management plans;

(2) the efforts of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce, as applicable, to develop departmental and agency tourism plans to support tourism programs of Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations;

(3) the manner in which the entity or organization described in subsection (d)(1) is working to promote tourism to empower Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to participate fully in the tourism industry; and

(4) the effectiveness of the entity or organization described in subsection (d)(1) based on the metrics developed under subsection (d)(4).

**SEC. 5. NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM AND BRAND-ING ENHANCEMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall—

(1) take actions that help empower Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to showcase the heritage, foods, traditions, history, and continuing vitality of Native American communities;

(2) support the efforts of Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations—

(A) to identify and enhance or maintain traditions and cultural features that are important to sustain the distinctiveness of the local Native American community; and

(B) to provide visitor experiences that are authentic and respectful;

(3) provide assistance to interpret the connections between the indigenous peoples of the United States and the national identity of the United States;

(4) enhance efforts to promote understanding and respect for diverse cultures and subcultures in the United States and the relevance of those cultures to the national brand of the United States; and

(5) enter into appropriate memoranda of understanding and establish public-private partnerships to ensure that arriving domes-

tic travelers at airports and arriving international visitors at ports of entry are welcomed in a manner that both showcases and respects the diversity of Native American communities.

(b) GRANTS.—To the extent practicable, grant programs relating to travel, recreation, or tourism administered by the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, or the head of an agency with assets or resources relating to travel, recreation, or tourism promotion or branding enhancement for which Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or Native Hawaiian organizations are eligible may be used—

(1) to support the efforts of Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to tell the story of Native Americans as the First Peoples of the United States;

(2) to use the arts and humanities to help revitalize Native communities, promote economic development, increase livability, and present the uniqueness of the United States to visitors in a way that celebrates the diversity of the United States; and

(3) to carry out this section.

(c) SMITHSONIAN.—The Advisory Council and the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution shall work with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and nonprofit organizations to establish long-term partnerships with non-Smithsonian museums and educational and cultural organizations—

(1) to share collections, exhibitions, interpretive materials, and educational strategies; and

(2) to conduct joint research and collaborative projects that would support tourism efforts for Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations and carry out the intent of this section.

**SEC. 6. EFFECT.**

Nothing in this Act alters, or demonstrates congressional support for the alteration of, the legal relationship between the United States and any American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian individual, group, organization, or entity.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 25, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

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

**NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM AND IMPROVING VISITOR EXPERIENCE ACT**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 345, S. 1579.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1579) to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3874) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The bill (S. 1579), as amended, was passed.

#### NATIONAL MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 404.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 404) designating March 2016 as "National Middle Level Education Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 404) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.  
(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 17, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2015 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 439, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 439) congratulating the University of Nebraska-Lincoln women's bowling team for winning the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association Bowling Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President as a proud alumnae of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), I congratulate the UNL women's bowling team on an outstanding season.

The UNL bowling program has a long history of excellence and success. During the program's history, the team has won 10 national championships. This year, the team had an incredibly strong season and, once again, advanced to the NCAA championship match. Although the team fell short of winning the national championship this year, I know I join all Nebraskans when I say how proud we are of this team's accomplishments. The Huskers finished the season with a match record of 100 to 34.

Each of the young women on this team played an important role in the many victories the team enjoyed throughout the season. In addition to their group success, several players received individual honors. Julia Bond was named first team All-American by the National Tenpin Coaches Association. Gazmine Mason earned third team and Briana Zabierek earned honorable mention All-America honors.

The members of this team and their coaches are a testament to hard work. They are part of a proud, time-honored tradition of UNL athletics. I thank them for representing the university so well, and I wish them good luck next season. Go Big Red.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 439) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2028, with the time until 11 a.m. equally divided between the two managers or their designees; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PEGGY E. GUSTAFSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, VICE TODD J. ZINSER, RETIRED.

##### NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

ANNETTE ADELE EVANS SMITH, OF ALASKA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, VICE IRVIN M. MAYFIELD, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8033:

##### To be general

GEN. DAVID L. GOLDFEIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KENNETH S. WILSBACH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

ALINE TUYISENGE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aline Tuyisenge for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Aline Tuyisenge is a 10th grader at Aurora Central High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aline Tuyisenge is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aline Tuyisenge for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**MOURNING THE LOSS AND HONORING THE LIFE OF THE ARTIST WHO WILL ALWAYS BE KNOWN AS PRINCE**

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sadness and heavy heart that I rise today in tribute to Prince, whose extraordinary talent, creativity, innovation, and imagination touched the hearts and moved the feet of millions of music lovers in America and around the world.

Prince transitioned from this life on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at Paisley Park, his Chanhassen, Minnesota, residential and recording complex.

He was just 57 years young.

Mr. Speaker, it seems inadequate to note that Prince was a singer, songwriter, musician, producer, performing artist, and actor.

Whoever said that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts had to be talking about the artist who was formerly known as, but will always be remembered simply as Prince by the legions of fans who loved the way he made them feel about themselves.

So renowned were Prince's innovations, so electrifying was his guitar playing, so soul-affirming were the songs he penned, and so mesmerizing was his stage presence and unmatched vocal range that Rolling Stone Magazine lists Prince as one of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

Prince's musical career began in 1978, when his debut album "For You" was released, launching one of the most influential and culture shaping careers in the history of the music industry.

Prince produced some of the most memorable music of his generation, including the signature anthem, the soul-stirring "Purple Rain," regarded by many as the greatest song of the 1980s.

Prince's unwavering courage and talent lifted him to a realm rarely accessible to musicians.

Although his prolific body of work was the focus of his fame, Prince was a citizen of the world and humanitarian whose life could be best summed up by the lyrics in "Diamonds and Pearls," the hit single he penned: "If I could I would give you the world."

Prince anonymously supported and funded many community improvement organizations, such as "Yes We Code," which worked with over 15 major technology companies to provide technology training to marginalized inner city youth.

Due to his faith as a Jehovah's Witness he would not speak publicly about his numerous good works but all that knew him celebrated his tireless efforts to make the world a better place.

Prince sold over 100 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling artists of all time, and the recipient of seven Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and the Academy Award for Best Music Original Score.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest guitarists of all time, Prince was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, in his first year of his eligibility.

In addition to possessing one of the world's most distinctive voices and dance moves, Prince was a virtuoso on every instrument he played—guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboards, and Linn drum.

Mr. Speaker, witnessing in person a performance by Prince was an incredible and unforgettable experience.

Prince was proudly different and he inspired generations of fans to unapologetically embrace, celebrate, and love their authentic selves.

My heart goes out to Prince's family and friends and the infinite number of fans mourning the loss of this music icon, this unique spirit, this incredible force of nature.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly what it sounds like when doves cry.

With the passing of Prince, the world has lost one of the greatest gifts of all; the pure joy we felt whenever Prince performed one of those songs that made us go crazy and party like it's 1999.

Yes, Prince left us too soon; just like that little red Corvette.

As Horatio said of Hamlet: "Good night sweet Prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

Mr. Speaker, I request that the House observe a moment of silence in memory of the dearly beloved Prince.

We will always remember him and in our hearts will always see him laughing in the Purple Rain.

ANICEE LAMOREAUX

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anicee Lamoreaux for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Anicee Lamoreaux is a 7th grader at Rocky Top Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anicee Lamoreaux is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anicee Lamoreaux for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**AUTISM AFTER 21 DAY**

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, in America today, there is a population that has gone unrecognized. The conversation on autism has long ignored Autistic adults. For this reason, I rise to recognize April 21 to be noted as "Autism after 21 Day"—representing the age when services for children end and services for adulthood begins.

In declaring this day, we draw attention to the fact that there are many adults that need to have a country aware of their gifts and challenges. This is a step in helping to create a brighter future for these adults and the people who care about them.

I am proud to have organizations in my Congressional district that work hard to address these needs. In conjunction with their work and the needs of those that are adults on the Autism Spectrum, we are calling for "Autism after 21 Day" to acknowledge the many people who are navigating adulthood and wanting to reach their full potential. With

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

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

our help, that journey may not be as lonely and isolated; rather, the individuals can be recognized as an important part of our community. Twenty-six years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Autistic adults deserve access to the goals set by the ADA: equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

CHAZITI EATON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chaziti Eaton for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Chaziti Eaton is a 12th grader at Brighton High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chaziti Eaton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chaziti Eaton for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE 2016 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT "CREATE, GROW, SUSTAIN: PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY AT WORK"

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, we celebrated Earth Day. Every year on April 22 we recognize how much we have at stake in preserving the wondrous natural resources of not just the United States, but of the entire planet. As someone who has sponsored important legislation to upgrade pipeline safety standards and keep microbeads out of our waters while helping to broker a landmark deal that opened up markets for energy exports and extended tax credits for renewables, I understand the many momentous ways in which we have improved the environment within our great country since the first Earth Day in 1970. And no organization has captured the many ways in which our private businesses have made, and continue to make, huge strides toward sustainability than the Business Roundtable.

But to me and so many of our colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, the unsung heroes in the effort to make our nation cleaner and more abundant are the private companies that develop technologies that are responsible for a cleaner environment.

They are the ones who have developed technologies that have helped to clean our Nation's vital waterways, including the Great Lakes.

They have cleaned the air in Los Angeles, where the "brown layer" over the entire basin of 30–40 years ago is a distant memory. This is thanks to breakthroughs from auto manufacturers and oil refiners alike.

Chemical companies are enhancing energy efficiency in our homes and businesses, and increasing the productivity of our farmland.

The ability to tap into natural gas that seemed out of reach, if we even knew it existed, has enabled us to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

The Business Roundtable has done us all a great service by canvassing its members and compiling a document, entitled "Create, Grow, Sustain: People and Technology at Work" that acquaints us with the technologies that these very companies have used so effectively, and the cutting-edge approaches they have developed that will facilitate sustainability long into the future.

This report represents a catalog of technologies promise to bring about advances under the heading of sustainability at an even more rapid pace than we seen over the past decades. The future is bright indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues will take the time to review the Business Roundtable 2016 sustainability report so they can see for themselves the exciting technologies being put into commerce by our leading companies.

COLE ARNOLD

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cole Arnold for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Cole Arnold is a 12th grader at North Valley School for Young Adults and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cole Arnold is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cole Arnold for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN COMMEMORATION OF DR. LAMUEL STANISLAUS' 95TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus' 95th birthday. Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus celebrated his 95th birthday on April 22, 2016 in Brooklyn, NY, with close friends and relatives.

Born in Petite Martinique, Grenada, Lamuel A. Stanislaus, has been the recipient of numerous professional, civic and political awards which include the Insignia of Commander of the British Empire from her Majesty the Queen of England, (CBE), The Lifetime Achievement Award from the District Attorney of Brooklyn, and a Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from St. George's University, to name the few.

On February 7th, 2016, Dr. Stanislaus was recognized under Grenada's National Hero's legislation and was named Knight Commander which provides for him to be referred to as Sir Lamuel—KONG.

His exemplary work done as the UN ambassador of Grenada furthermore cements his legacy, contributing to the well-being of not only his country, but the host of eleven other small commonwealth countries; in particular the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in which I deeply express my gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I ask we recognize Dr. Lamuel A. Stanislaus not only for his achievements he's done for the global community but most importantly being a family man, a father to his children, a loving husband and a true hero in our society.

DYLAN COAD

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dylan Coad for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Dylan Coad is an 8th grader at Scott Carpenter Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dylan Coad is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dylan Coad for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

ANGELIQUE VARGAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelique Vargas for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Angelique Vargas is a 9th grader at Connections Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelique Vargas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angelique Vargas for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CAROL ANN GRANT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carol Ann Grant for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Carol Ann Grant is an 8th grader at Bennett Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carol Ann Grant is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carol Ann Grant for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CHARLES ELACHI, DIRECTOR OF THE JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2016

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Dr. Charles Elachi, the Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), who plans to retire this June after 45 years of service to the people of the United States of America.

Dr. Elachi's journey to become the Director of JPL is a source of inspiration and encouragement to every young person in America who dreams of making great discoveries or changing the world around them. Charles Elachi's life is a true Horatio Alger story. As Dr. Elachi wrote recently in an essay for the Smithsonian, "How did a boy from an ordinary, middle-class family in a little Lebanese village come so far? The answer is deeply connected with what I believed as a child and I still believe today: The United States is a land of freedom and opportunity, where anything is possible, and where dreams can and do come true."

Growing up in the small Lebanese town of Rayak, Charles remembers meeting "quite a few American visitors. Over and over again," he said, "I was struck by their open, positive attitude toward life, their attitude that anything is possible, no holds barred, regardless of family background, religion or color." As a boy, he loved watching the stars at night, and he says watching those stars helped inspire him to study hard at school. He was so successful at his studies that he distinguished himself as Lebanon's top science student, an honor which enabled him to attend any university he chose.

He first earned a degree in physics at the University of Grenoble, France, and then earned a degree in engineering at the Polytechnic Institute. When it was time to decide on graduate school, those early positive memories of optimistic fearless Americans inspired him to go to California, where he earned admission to the California Institute of Technology. He fell in love with southern California, and earned a master's degree and a doctorate in electrical sciences from Caltech, a master's degree in geology from UCLA, and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Southern California.

His lifelong dreams about exploring the stars and his exceptional work in college brought him to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1970. He first worked on Earth observing missions, and then moved on to planetary exploration and astrophysics. His scientific and engineering gifts and his natural talent as a leader led NASA to select Charles as the Science Team Leader on the Space Shuttle's Imaging Radar. JPL recognized his unique skills and assigned him to be a key part of the Magellan Imaging Radar which was so essential to visualize the surface of Venus through its permanent and total cloud cover for the first time.

NASA and JPL were so impressed with his work that he was then chosen to lead the radar science team for the extraordinarily successful Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn. Once again, his skill with orbital imaging radar systems proved essential in visualizing the surface of an alien world otherwise forever hidden beneath a permanent worldwide cloak of clouds—Titan. Charles' work as the leader of this radar team was a vital part of selecting the site for humanity's first successful landing on an alien world beyond the moon and Mars when the Huygens spacecraft landed on Titan in January, 2005. The Cassini orbiter continues to thrive far beyond its predicted lifespan and return groundbreaking scientific discoveries about Saturn, its ring system and its immense family of moons.

Charles Elachi was appointed as director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 2001, and under his visionary leadership, JPL scientists and engineers have discovered: conclusive evidence of water ice and long lasting rivers and lakes on Mars; created history's most detailed gravity field and ice maps of Earth; returned history's first samples and close up images of a comet; landed three complex and highly successful spacecraft on Mars; blasted the first artificial crater in a comet to learn what comets are truly made of; landed the first spacecraft on Titan and sampled its surface and atmosphere; discovered lakes and seas of liquid methane on Titan using Charles' imaging radar; created the first deep space telescopes to see the universe in ultraviolet and infrared; returned our first true close up images of dwarf planets and asteroids; created the most detailed map ever made of the Moon; discovered millions of black holes; discovered the first Earth like exoplanet in the habitable zone of another star; discovered conclusive evidence for immeasurable millions of exoplanets in our galaxy; set a still growing record for driving a spacecraft across the surface of another world with the unstoppable Opportunity lander on Mars; discovered the most luminous galaxy in the universe; discovered conclusive evidence for liquid water today on the surface of Mars; discovered immense geysers of frozen water erupting from a worldwide ocean beneath the frozen surface of Saturn's moon Enceladus; and laid the groundwork for what most planetary scientists predict could be the first discovery of life beyond Earth in the vast oceans of Europa.

These discoveries will be remembered throughout human history. "Only the United States could do this!" as Charles vividly remembers a foreign visitor saying on the night a rocket sky crane gently landed the Mars Science Lab on the surface of Mars in August of 2012. Charles was reminded that night of another day he felt the same sort of immense pride in his nation when he took the oath to become a United States citizen in August of 1979. "In this nation of immigrants," Charles wrote for the Smithsonian, "especially in science and engineering, where people try new things and solve problems, they don't ask where you're from. Instead, they ask who is the best person to help overcome a challenge."

"In other countries, you just don't find this merging of cultures, this melting pot. I think diversity truly enriches our society and makes the United States more intellectually and economically powerful. People from different backgrounds bring different ideas and thought processes. The best ideas rise to the top. I see that happen at NASA and JPL all the time. How else do you land a rover on a planet no human has ever visited, or design a robot to capture an asteroid?"

Charles tells us that "I believe this uniquely American spirit of optimism, the sense that anything is possible for anyone, is a key reason our nation is the world leader in space exploration. . . . That wonderful, very American spirit of opening doors, of pushing the frontier, of pursuing the seemingly impossible—that's what exploration is all about. When the United States landed on the moon and Neil Armstrong took that one 'small step' on the surface, when we landed a rover on Mars, when

we deliberately collided with a comet to study its interior, all those milestones made people here feel deep pride as Americans. But I also believe and hope that they made people around the globe feel deep pride as humans, pride in all the positive and amazing things we can accomplish when we work together."

Charles Elachi embodies everything that has made America the most prosperous and powerful and freest nation in the history of the world. His life and the scientific discoveries he has left us all as his legacy will inspire us and our children and grandchildren and their descendants for all time. Charles Elachi and his extraordinary team of scientists and engineers have made our lives as Americans and as members of the human race far, far richer because he and his team have dared and succeeded in achieving mighty things.

All Americans owe this wonderful good man an immeasurable debt of gratitude. We will reap the harvest of his visionary leadership for many, many generations to come. It is my great privilege to be his friend and to stand here today, on behalf of the people of Texas I represent who love NASA and its mission, and on behalf of the United States Congress, to thank Charles Elachi for his devoted service to America, to NASA, to JPL, to science and for helping lead humanity in our greatest era of discovery. May God always bless you and you and your family, Charles.

CLAUDIA VARGAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Claudia Vargas for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Claudia Vargas is a 12th grader at Mapleton Early College High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Claudia Vargas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Claudia Vargas for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CORA HOLSAPFEL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cora Holsapfel for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Cora Holsapfel is a 12th grader at Northglenn High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cora Holsapfel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cora Holsapfel for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

GABRIEL GALLEGOS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabriel Gallegos for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Gabriel Gallegos is an 11th grader at Westminster High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabriel Gallegos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gabriel Gallegos for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on April 21, 2016, I was unable to vote on H.R. 4890, To impose a ban on the payment of bonuses to employees of the Internal Revenue Service until the Secretary of the Treasury develops and implements a comprehensive customer service strategy. I would have voted in support of final passage of H.R. 4890, roll call No. 162, had I been present.

Additionally, I would have voted in support of final passage of H.R. 3724, the Ensuring Integrity in the IRS Workforce Act, roll call No. 163.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED  
APRIL 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 2644, to reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, S. 421, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, S. 2607, to ensure appropriate spectrum planning and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things, S. 2508, to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, S. 2829, to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, S. 2325, to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, S. 2817, to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, the nomination of Andrew J. Read, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine government reform, focusing on ending duplication and holding Washington accountable.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine counterfeits and their impact on consumer health and safety.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine S. 2812, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize and improve the Small Business Innovation Research Program and

the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, S. 2831, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide priority for applicants for a license to operate as a small business investment company that are located in a disaster area, S. 2838, to improve the HUBZone program, an original bill entitled, "Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2016", an original bill entitled "Microloan Program Modernization Act of 2016", and an original bill entitled, "Prove It Act of 2016"; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the waters of the United States rule and the case for reforming the Renewable Fuels Association.  
SR-428A

10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Department of Defense  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Defense.  
SD-192

Committee on the Budget  
To hold hearings to examine fixing the budget process, focusing on better budgets and better results.  
SD-608

Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine United States-China relations, focusing on strategic challenges and opportunities.  
SD-419

2 p.m.  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219

2:15 p.m.  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
Business meeting to consider S. 1928, to support the education of Indian children, S. 2205, to establish a grant program to assist tribal governments in establishing tribal healing to wellness courts, S. 2304, to provide for tribal demonstration projects for the integration of early childhood development, education, including Native language and culture, and related services, for evaluation of those demonstration projects, S. 2421, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, S. 2468, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a 5-year demonstration program to provide grants to eligible Indian tribes for the construction of tribal schools, S. 2564, to modernize prior legislation relating to Dine College, S. 2643, to improve the implementation of the settlement agreement reached between the Pueblo de Cochiti of New Mexico and the Corps of Engineers, and S. 2717, to improve the safety and address the deferred maintenance needs of Indian dams to prevent flooding on Indian reservations; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on "Telecommunications: Additional Coordination and Performance Measurement Needed for High-Speed Internet Access Programs on Tribal Lands."  
SD-628

3:30 p.m.  
Special Committee on Aging  
To hold hearings to examine Valeant Pharmaceuticals' business model, focusing on the repercussions for patients and the health care system.  
SH-216

APRIL 28

9 a.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Business meeting to consider S. 2848, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, S. 2808, to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, S. 2824, to designate the Federal building housing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Headquarters located at 99 New York Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C., as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building", Army Corps of Engineers Study Resolutions, and General Services Administration resolutions.  
SD-406

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine counter-ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) operations and Middle East strategy.  
SH-216

10 a.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
Business meeting to consider proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of State, and H.R. 2494, to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries.  
S-116

Committee on the Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 2348, to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, S. 2577, to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and S. 2840, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training.  
SD-226

2 p.m.  
Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine mental health in America.  
SD-215

Select Committee on Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining  
To hold hearings to examine the impacts of invasive species on the productivity, value, and management of land and water resources; to conduct oversight on the National Invasive Species Council's new framework for early detection and rapid response; to examine improved cooperative tools for control and management, including S. 2240, to improve the control and management of invasive species that threaten and harm Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.  
SD-366

MAY 9

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Airland  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.  
SR-232A

MAY 10

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on SeaPower  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.  
SR-232A

11 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Personnel  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.  
SD-G50

2 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.  
SD-G50

3:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.  
SD-G50

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-232A

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222



## SENATE—Tuesday, April 26, 2016

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

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Loving Father, You are high above all nations, and Your glory is above the Heavens. The Earth belongs to You. You own the silver and gold and the cattle upon a thousand hills. We confess that we often forget that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people. We thank You for Your mercies that come to us new each day. May we live lives of gratitude because of Your generous kindness.

Today, use our Senators as instruments of Your glory. Fill them with Your peace as they keep their minds fixed on You.

Lord, bless our Nation. Make it a beacon of freedom and righteousness in these challenging times.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

### THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when the new majority resolved to get the Senate back to work, we knew we would have to get committees functioning first. We believed that would be critical to helping Members on both sides rediscover their voices and find common ground and then develop real stakes in the outcome. That certainly is what we have seen this appropriations season.

The Appropriations Committee has already held dozens of hearings. It has marked up funding bills at a steady clip. It is sending good legislation to the floor.

One of those bills is the energy security and water infrastructure appropriations measure which is before us now. This legislation is important for

American energy, for American waterways and ports, and for American commerce and safety. It will also maintain our nuclear deterrence posture by ensuring nuclear stockpile readiness, which is important for national security.

I would like to recognize the bill managers for their diligent work to bring this legislation to the floor for consideration. I would also like to recognize the leadership of the Appropriations Committee for its work in getting this process moving. By returning to regular order, we have opened up the process and empowered Senators—both those who sit on the Appropriations Committee and those who do not—to have more of a say in the appropriations legislation. That is important because these funding bills can affect each of our States.

The progress we have seen already is encouraging. It shows what is possible when the Senate gets back to a productive legislative process.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the good work, the exemplary work done on the Energy and Water appropriations bill by Senators FEINSTEIN and ALEXANDER. I managed that legislation for many years. Most of the time, it was with Pete Domenici from New Mexico. I was the chair most of the time but not all of the time. But it didn't matter—our job was to move the bill forward.

What people don't realize about this most important bill is that most of the funding is not for energy and water as we look at it, it is defense related—making sure our nuclear weapons are safe and reliable and things of that nature, making sure our National Labs are funded. So I appreciate their good work. It has been very good. I appreciate it.

Last night the Republican leader filed cloture. Cloture was filed not because of any problems on our side. We should finish the work on the bill tomorrow or maybe Thursday. But I am glad we are going to get it done. It is an extremely important piece of legislation. I am glad we started here. I am glad to hear my friend the Republican leader talk about the appropriations process moving forward. But we have

to understand that we have a lot more bills to go. This is only one—one out of many, one out of a dozen.

### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to be clear about something else, something that is vitally important, something that is imperative. The Senate must do something now to address the outbreak of the Zika virus. We are not going to interfere with the Energy and Water appropriations bill, but we must do something to confront this scourge that is facing our country and the western part of the world.

Anyone who has followed the news over the past few months has undoubtedly heard about the spread of Zika. Zika is a virus spread by mosquitos in warmer tropical areas. We have warmer areas in the United States—not tropical but warm—and they breed mosquitos. Zika has been linked to many health problems, but most notable is a terrible birth defect called microcephaly. We have all seen pictures of these babies with these small heads, caused by a mosquito bite.

Dr. Anthony Fauci from the National Institutes of Health—he is the leader of the institute dealing with infectious disease—came to the Capitol last Thursday. He briefed us about this thing called Zika. He described how dangerous it is. He was accompanied by people from the Centers for Disease Control. He is, of course, representing the National Institutes of Health. We also had the Secretary of Health and Human Services. They were here to tell us how serious the situation is, how dangerous it is.

There are a number of problems as a result of this virus, but the one that has been most illustrated is the fact that in infants the skull does not fully form. So the skull never completely pushes out to form around the brain. So when they are born, these babies have tiny, undeveloped skulls. Sometimes the skulls collapse.

Aside from the damaged brains and skulls, these babies also have, of course, developmental delays. Earlier this year a baby in Hawaii was born with this disease, but, sadly, the worst is on its way.

We have seen cases of this virus all over the continental United States. These have been linked to travel or transmitted from someone who has traveled to Zika-affected areas. Most Americans are afraid to travel abroad—and, I am sorry to say, rightfully so—for fear of mosquitos carrying Zika, that Zika will infect them. But Zika is

already upon us in Puerto Rico and in Florida, and it is going to spread to other places. These mosquitos can breed in something smaller than a bottle cap of water.

Puerto Rico is battling the local transmission of the virus as we speak. As of last Friday, the island already had more than 500 confirmed cases of Zika, and they are concerned that 1 in 5 Puerto Ricans could have been infected.

Our fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico have limited funding to fight this growing epidemic. We have heard about the financial problems they are having. The Puerto Rican government doesn't even have enough money to pay contractors to empty the septic tanks in schools, which are breeding grounds for mosquito larvae, capable of producing billions of mosquitos—not millions but billions.

Experts tell us it won't be long before the mosquitos carrying Zika are infecting people here in the continental United States. We can't wait for that before we act. This is an emergency situation, if anything ever were. The Senate must do something now to counter the spread of this virus. The White House has taken money—they asked for money 2 months ago, but during that period of time, they took money from Ebola funding, which is also vitally important. We are doing pretty well stopping the spread of that. But taking that money away, we are going to be right back with the problem with Ebola if it is not replaced.

We have a bill ready to go. Senator NELSON of Florida, who is going to feel this as much as any Senator in the country, has provided a bill to give the President the money he has asked for: \$1.9 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations. Democrats believe this \$1.9 billion is a good start. Our Nation's public health and infectious disease experts say this is roughly how much money they need to fight this virus. We would be irresponsible not to provide this money and do it now. Senator NELSON's bill will bolster our defense against Zika by funding the development of vaccines, mosquito control methods, and testing and services to those who are infected.

So I say to my Republican colleagues, I say to the Republican leader: Do we want to wait until more babies are born with these permanent disabilities—disabilities caused by a virus that the vaccine could help prevent, if not for all children, then for many? Do we want to wait until people in the United States start to suffer from paralysis caused by Guillain-Barre syndrome, which is also linked to Zika? It has already been more than 2 months since the President requested this emergency funding. The longer we wait, the worse it will be.

States are already scrambling to address Zika. A story in the Washington

Post highlighted the danger of inaction. I quote:

Cities and states preparing for possible Zika outbreaks this spring and summer are losing millions of federal dollars that local officials say they were counting on, not only for on-the-ground efforts to track and contain the spread of the mosquito-borne virus but also to respond to other emergencies that threaten public health.

Los Angeles County, for example, says it won't be able to fill 17 vacancies at its public health laboratory or buy equipment to upgrade its capability for Zika testing. Michigan is concerned about providing resources to help Flint contend with its ongoing water-contamination crisis. Minnesota plans to reduce its stockpile of certain medications needed to treat first responders during emergencies.

The across-the-board funding cuts are part of a complicated shift of resources that the Obama administration blames on Congress for its refusal to approve the White House's \$1.9 billion emergency request to combat Zika.

The President is right. He is pointing the finger where it belongs—right here at Congress.

So I implore my Republican colleagues, I implore my friend the Republican leader: Let's act now. We have done the work. We have a bill to provide what experts need to fight this devastating virus. Let's get it done.

For more than a week, we have heard about Republicans and the appropriations folks working toward an agreement. I have yet to see it. I have heard about it. If the Republican leader and Appropriations have an alternative, they should bring it to the floor now. Democrats are happy to work toward a solution, but we have to get started. We need to get the experts the resources they need to prevent the spread of Zika. It is not acceptable to do nothing. The Senate should not leave this week without addressing legislation that fights Zika. We cannot go on break without taking care of this emergency. When the Senate finishes the work on Energy and Water, we must move to the Zika legislation. The National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the entire Health and Human Services Cabinet office—they need Congress to send them the funding necessary to start working on a solution to Zika.

#### ADDRESSING DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN THE WEST

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Benjamin Franklin said: "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water."

The drought is here. It has been going on for 15 to 20 years in the western part of the United States. All over the West, we are perilously close to running dry. The water situation is as dangerous as it has been in our lifetime.

The States of California, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming don't have these huge rivers like we see

west of the Mississippi. We have, basically, the little Colorado River. It is a tiny little river. In the past, it has become mighty, but for very short periods of time. That little river is called upon to respond to everything.

One of the things that is happening is that Lake Powell, the largest man-made lake in America, is going dry. There is no end in sight. This drought has dropped Lake Mead, which is the resource for water that goes everywhere in the West. Most of the water in California they get out of the Colorado. It all comes out of Lake Mead.

Lake Mead levels have dropped to levels not seen since the Great Depression. That is, of course, when the lake was born. It hasn't been full in over three decades. To make matters worse, El Nino is supposed to ease the pain, but it hasn't—only a little bit more.

Some say up to 50 million people rely on the Colorado River. We know the State of California, with almost 40 million people, depends on it as much as any other source of water. We have to work to reverse current trends or face a future where water shortages become the new normal. The Federal Government can and should work with States on solutions that make our precious water supplies more sustainable. We need to work together, as the States of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and even Wyoming, which is a long way away, have worked to solve the issues.

Today the Senate continues deliberation on the Energy and Water bill. Later this morning we will consider three amendments. One is a Reid-Heller amendment, which seeks to address drought conditions throughout the West. Our amendment would build on that spirit of collaboration by trying to address the fact that we need to stretch every drop of water as far as it will go.

This legislation isn't for any one city or region. It will help every State that relies upon the water in the Colorado River system: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

I hope this amendment will be adopted. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. President, will the Chair announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

Alexander amendment No. 3804 (to amend No. 3801), to modify provisions relating to Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, by now we have all seen reports of the neurological damage that is done by the Zika virus. We have seen the damage it can do to newborn infants. It has been clinically linked to serious birth defects in pregnant women who contract it.

Since the start of the outbreak, nearly 900 Americans in 41 States, Washington, DC, and 3 U.S. territories—including over 80 pregnant women—have already contracted Zika. In my State of Illinois, 13 people have already tested positive, including at least two pregnant women.

But because we have the best scientists and researchers in the world at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we know more today about the virus and prevention measures than we did when most of us first heard the word “Zika” a few months ago.

We know that mosquitoes spread the disease. We know that the arrival of warm weather signals the start of mosquito season, but America is currently unprepared to deal with an outbreak of this dangerous virus. We must improve vector control. We must expand access to family planning, education, and contraception. We must accelerate efforts to develop a vaccine as quickly as humanly possible.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention desperately needs funding to deal with this crisis, and they need it now before the summer months, when mosquitoes spread north across the United States.

Congress has failed to even consider President Obama’s emergency Zika

funding request. What on Earth is Congress waiting for?

Last week Senate Democrats sent a letter to Senate Republican leadership calling for immediate action to pass the Zika supplemental request. I hope this call for action will be heard by all of my Republican colleagues, but I especially hope that it resonates with my colleagues from the Southern States. These are the States that are the most likely to be hit first and hardest by the Zika mosquito virus: Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, and the list goes on.

In the absence of congressional action—immediate congressional action—the administration has been forced to divert funding and resources away from other important public health efforts in order to respond to Zika.

This morning’s Washington Post headline in a few words tells the story: “Zika crisis costs states funds for emergency preparedness.” What does that mean? The President asked for this supplemental request weeks ago. The refusal of the Republican-led Congress to respond to the President’s request for emergency public health funds to fight Zika means that we are cutting back on public health preparedness in States all across the Nation. Frankly, we are endangering people whom we represent because the Republican majority in Congress refuses to give the President his supplemental request to deal with the Zika virus. For instance, the administration just had to divert \$2 million in public health emergency preparedness grants away from Illinois in order to fight Zika in Southern States.

Well, let me tell you, I want to help people everywhere, including those in Southern States who are likely to be hit first, but not at the expense of the public health of the people I represent.

There is an answer. President Obama suggests it—an emergency public health supplemental for the Zika virus.

The Republican majority in Congress has refused to act. Both the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Chicago Department of Public Health received grants to prepare for and to respond to all kinds of public outbreaks, such as Ebola, Zika, and Elizabethkingia, which I will talk about in a moment. These cuts, which are being proposed in order to have the administration have enough resources to respond, are unacceptable and unexplainable.

They come at a time when Illinois, my State, is in the middle of the longest budget crisis in our State’s history. This current Governor has been unable to reach an agreement on a budget for almost 11 months, making it difficult for Illinois families and State agencies in ordinary circumstances.

But because congressional Republican leaders have failed to pass a Zika emergency public health supplemental

requested by President Obama, the administration has had to divert money away from States such as Illinois to respond to the threat of the Zika virus in other States. Is this any way to govern a great Nation?

Illinois should not have to lose precious funding to deal with public health threats because Republican congressional leaders—from Southern states, I might add—have refused to pass the necessary additional funding to deal with Zika, a virus that will likely impact their States first and hardest.

We have to do both. We should pass the Zika supplemental so Illinois and other States can keep the funding they need to deal with current public health threats and receive additional funding to deal with Zika.

Let me talk about why diverting \$2 million from my State of Illinois to Southern States for Zika is a challenge.

Last week the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed 10 cases of a bacterial infection known as Elizabethkingia. It has resulted in six deaths in my State. This bacterial outbreak is separate from an outbreak in Wisconsin that resulted in over 60 cases of this infection. So in the middle of this outbreak, Illinois is losing 8 percent in core funding for public health contingencies because of the failure of Republican leaders in Congress to pass President Obama’s emergency public health supplemental appropriation.

This means that the Illinois State Department of health is not going to be as prepared as it should be to conduct the needed epidemiology, laboratory testing, and outbreak control. And four of our health experts say there will be major cuts that hurt our ability to respond to public health crises. What happens tomorrow if there is another outbreak?

Last year our State dealt with unexpected serious outbreaks of Legionnaires’ disease. Taking money from one State’s public health defense effort to give it to another to deal with a public health threat makes no sense in a great nation, particularly when the President showed the appropriate leadership in asking for the \$1.9 billion emergency supplemental to deal with the Zika crisis, and the President asked over 2 months ago.

I know many Republicans are in denial when it comes to climate change, but if they would have been in Springfield, IL, my home, last Sunday—just 2 days ago—sitting out on the deck in 80-degree weather in April, they might understand warm weather is coming sooner across the United States and with that warm weather, mosquitoes, and with those mosquitoes, the threat of the Zika virus.

I don’t come to raise an alarm that is unmerited and unwarranted. I believe

this is a serious public health challenge, so serious we should not leave Congress this week and take a recess without passing the President's emergency budget supplemental for public health and the Zika virus. The mosquitoes are not going to be on recess next week, they are going to be working, and sadly they are going to be infecting people across the South and across the United States while congressional leaders dither.

The supplemental request would provide more than \$1.8 billion in emergency funding to improve CDC vector control to control the mosquitoes that threaten us. It would accelerate efforts at the National Institutes of Health to develop a vaccine. I have heard testimony, so I know it takes time to develop a vaccine. Let's do it in an expeditious, safe, thoughtful, and professional way, but let us not shortchange NIH or any other agency that is facing this crisis.

We need to expand education. We need to expand access to women's health planning services. The administration provided a comprehensive plan. It cannot be implemented successfully without resources, and we should act on it this week—get it done before we leave.

I joined my colleagues Senator NELSON, Leader REID, Senator SCHUMER, and Senator HIRONO in introducing a bill to fully fund the administration's request. I am pleased to hear my Republican colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations are interested in working with Democrats to reach a deal. I see Senator ALEXANDER on the floor. I know he is sensitive to this, and I hope he will join in calling for leadership on both sides of the Rotunda to move on this issue before we take our recess.

Let us not delay this any longer. We need to ensure we aren't diverting necessary Ebola money to be used for the Zika virus. It is naive to believe the Ebola threat is gone and we can ignore the possibility of its reemergence. In my State and others, we know all too well what happens when you divert money from one public health fund to another.

This brings to mind the Biblical story of Noah and the great flood. Noah built the arc before the rain, not after it started. It is reckless, it is dangerous to delay. The cases of Zika are continuing to grow, and inaction and further delay put many families, pregnant women, and children in jeopardy.

We have seen the Zika threat coming for many months. We have had the President's request for over 2 months. I urge my colleagues this week, before we go home, to take this appropriate action to begin to protect Americans in every State.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, at 11 a.m. we will have three votes on the Merkley, Flake, and Reid amendments. That will bring to a total of 17 the number of amendments we will have disposed of on the floor.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have worked with Members on both sides of the aisle to include many of their policy suggestions and requests in our basic bill. The last count I saw said 77 Members of the Senate had at least part of their requests or policy suggestions in our basic bill. So we are doing very well. Cloture has been filed. There are only a few amendments remaining that are in question. We hope to conclude that quickly and bring the bill to a conclusion.

My hope is that when a Senator has a germane amendment, we can have a vote. Sometimes, if they are controversial, they will be at 60. We have done pretty well with that so far—giving Senators a chance to have a say and to have a vote.

I would like to spend about 4 or 5 minutes on an amendment we will be voting on at 11, when we will have limited time to talk—unless Senator FEINSTEIN has something she would like to say before I do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, as I understand it, the filing deadline for first-degree amendments is this afternoon at either 1:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. So everybody should get their amendments in.

I thank Senator ALEXANDER again for the cooperative spirit with which he is working on this bill. It is very much appreciated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I want to speak to the amendment from the Senator from Oregon, which would increase the funding for the wind energy program by \$15.4 million. This is in addition to the \$30 million that our subcommittee has recommended at the request of Senator GARDNER of Colorado for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the \$50 million Senator COLLINS of Maine has recommended for offshore wind research. Within the priorities in the bill, we have already put \$80 million, and this would add \$15 million more.

That may not seem like much, but here is my question: I wonder if the American taxpayers wouldn't think that \$23 billion is enough to spend on giant windmills—\$23 billion. That is the amount the Congressional Research Service has said Congress has spent of taxpayer money to subsidize wealthy people so they can build giant wind turbines across America. That money has been spent from 1992 through 2016 this year. It started out as an effort to help wind turbines get started in 1992, and it has been renewed

10 times. You would think this is a mature industry. In fact, the previous Energy Secretary said it was.

What do we get for this \$23 billion? Four percent of our electricity is produced by wind turbines in the United States. This is a country that uses 25 percent of all the electricity in the world, and we spend \$23 billion for 4 percent of our electricity. Thirty-seven percent of all the subsidies, all the spending we have for different forms of energy produces 4 percent of the electricity.

The President of the United States and a number of private people in the United States, such as Bill Gates, have announced they would like to double energy research. I support that. The Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, and I introduced legislation that would authorize increased funding at the level of 7 percent for energy research this year so we can move more rapidly toward the goal of doubling research for energy.

We spend \$5 billion a year for energy research for the U.S. Government. We spend nearly \$5 billion a year on subsidizing wealthy people so they can build giant wind turbines. We spend as much subsidizing windmills as we spend on all our energy research. If we stop the subsidies, we could double the research, which is what we should be doing.

What are we getting for this? We are getting energy—electricity—that is true, but it mostly blows at night, when we don't need it. It can't be stored for use when we do need it. So it is unreliable. The wind only blows about one-third of the time. In Tennessee it is 18 percent of the time. It can't be stored and we don't need it. We don't need it. At the same time, it destroys the landscape.

I am astonished at the environmental groups that would support putting these huge giant turbines in the most beautiful part of our country and then building transmission lines across the country through everybody's backyard.

If we replace the 100 nuclear reactors in this country that produce 60 percent of the carbon-free electricity we have—60 percent of the carbon-free electricity—it would take enough windmills to cover a State the size of West Virginia, and I think you would have to have about 17,000 miles, 19,000 miles of new transmission lines.

The Presiding Officer is the Senator from Arkansas. In Arkansas, a windmill company is building 700 miles of transmission lines across Arkansas that the State doesn't want and has objected to. Yet the administration is allowing the wind mill company to use Federal preemption for the first time to build transmission lines where people don't want them.

Not only is this a wasteful amount of money, not only is it a kind of energy that a country this big cannot rely on,

the size of the subsidies create preposterous results. For example, in some cases the subsidy is so large the windmill-producing companies pay the utilities to take their power and they still make a profit. They can pay the utilities to take their power and still make a profit because the taxpayers have spent \$23 billion subsidizing wealthy people so they can build windmills.

These aren't your grandma's windmills. You can see them for 20 miles away—the flashing lights. They are twice as tall as the football stadium at the University of Tennessee, and only one of these would fit within the football stadium at the University of Tennessee.

It would take four nuclear reactors, each taking about 1 square mile, to produce enough electricity to equal the same amount of electricity produced by wind if you strung 45-foot windmill towers along the entire 2,178-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail. You may say that is a stretch, that will not happen, except that is exactly where the wind towers would be most likely to go—on our scenic mountain tops where more wind blows, and then the transmission lines come down the mountain tops through your backyard.

My objection is a very simple one. I think \$23 billion is enough to spend on windmills. I have other objections to wind. I think we should focus on nuclear power instead of unreliable wind power. I believe trying to use wind turbines to power a country that uses 25 percent of all the electricity in the world is the energy equivalent of going to war in sailboats when the nuclear navy is available, but I certainly think there is no need at all for Senators to say yes to an amendment that spends more money for wind than our subcommittee recommended. We are already spending \$23 billion. The taxpayers have been bamboozled into allowing that to happen, and I don't think they would want us to spend more.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of Flake amendment No. 3820, which would lower the construction appropriation for the U.S. Corps of Engineers by just under \$69 million and eliminate funding for environmental infrastructure projects.

Ostensibly, the Corps of Engineers uses these funds to build water supply, water treatment, and wastewater projects. I am not here to argue against the need for environmental infrastructure projects. There are a great many municipalities that consider these projects essential and have made an effort to fund them on their own. That is usually done through a combination of utility bills and municipal bonds. Typically, the users pay for this.

However, despite the fact that these projects have traditionally been funded by State and local governments, Federal support is actually duplicative. The Federal Government already offers resources for similar projects through the EPA. Specifically, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs provide States with low-interest loans based on the merits of these projects and the needs of the communities.

Taxpayers deserve better than to be expected to provide the U.S. Corps of Engineers \$69 million it never asked for to fund projects they already support in a program that has been described by many as a slush fund for parochial interests. That is certainly how the program started years ago. Frankly, it has never seemed clear that the Corps of Engineers understands how these projects fit into its mission. Because of a years-old congressional carve-out, these environmental undertakings are not subject to the environmental studies, economic analyses, and cost-effectiveness standards that are required for more traditional Corps projects. As far as I can tell, there is really no rhyme or reason as to how one project gets funding over another.

With a national debt of over \$19 trillion, it is time that we get a little more serious about putting our fiscal house in order. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and eliminate this duplicative funding.

Mr. President, I wish to say a couple words about Reid-Heller amendment No. 3805.

I support the Colorado River System Conservation Program. Voluntary efforts like these in Arizona are estimated to have kept Lake Mead at about 3 feet higher than it would have been otherwise. Not coincidentally, last week the Bureau of Reclamation announced that at the end of this year, Lake Mead is predicted to be 3 feet above the level that would trigger a shortage declaration. What I want to make sure happens is that any conserved water actually stays in Lake Mead and keeps these levels up above the shortage declaration area.

I note that this amendment simply authorizes funds to go to the conservation program. I hope that before this money is actually spent, we can develop assurances that the water will go to its intended purpose. The Lower Colorado River Basin States have developed such language, and I look forward to ensuring that our Federal dollars are well spent in this area.

AMENDMENT NO. 3820 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3820 and ask unanimous consent that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. FLAKE] proposes an amendment numbered 3820 to amendment No. 3801.

The amendment is as follows:  
(Purpose: To withhold certain funds for the construction of environmental infrastructure)

On page 3, line 11, strike "\$1,813,649,000" and insert "\$1,744,699,000".

Mr. FLAKE. I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

AMENDMENT NO. 3812 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

(Purpose: To provide for funding for wind energy)

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3812.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. MERKLEY] proposes an amendment numbered 3812 to amendment No. 3801.

On page 23, line 15, strike the period at the end and insert the following: "Provided further, That of such amount, \$95,400,000 shall be available for wind energy."

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to add a few remarks about this, as we are preparing shortly to consider a number of amendments.

This particular amendment is a bipartisan amendment, which I am pleased to sponsor with my partner from Iowa, stating that wind energy is particularly important. This amendment would restore funding for wind energy research to fiscal year 2016 levels of \$95.4 million. Otherwise, research in wind energy would suffer a substantial reduction.

This program is indispensable to the success of wind energy in the United States. The wind energy program works to advance innovations in the grid integration, manufacturing, and deployment that are key to reducing the cost of wind energy. For example, the Wind Program helps to address market barriers through including wind-forecasting tools in power system operations, which helps utilities and regulators better integrate large amounts of wind energy into the grid. The Wind Program provides research, development, and technical support to manufacturers and distributors of wind technologies that are still emerging. This enhances small wind manufacturing, supports offshore demonstration projects, and will improve the economic viability of distributed wind.

Currently, eight National Laboratories across our Nation conduct research or testing related to wind energy. The proposed fiscal year 2017 funding level is only \$80 million, which is over \$15 million less than last year's funding—thwarting our ability to realize the true potential for wind energy.

During debates, we have sometimes heard that wind is a mature industry and that is why the funding for research should be revoked or lowered.

But in fact, as wind is emerging, we are seeing continuous innovations resulting in different designs and different strategies for integrating intermittent wind energy into the grid. As that wind component becomes substantially larger, we need to understand the details of how we accommodate it effectively. If we were to talk about mature industries, then we wouldn't be doing studies for the fossil fuel industry, which is about as mature as an industry can get. Clearly, this is an evolving industry with great potential to assist us with clean energy and, moreover, a program that can affect the economy of rural America.

In 2015 wind energy supplied about 5 percent of the total electricity generated in the United States. So it is no longer just a fraction of a percent; it has grown enormously in the last few years. But the Department of Energy estimates that wind could provide as much as 35 percent—or more than one-third—of the electricity generated in our country by the year 2050.

As my colleague and partner on this bill, the Senator from Iowa, knows, wind energy can be a huge boon to a State's economy. Iowa is already getting over 30 percent of its electricity from wind. And because wind energy is less expensive in the forecast of potential other sources, it could result in billions of dollars of savings to energy consumers in that State.

In my home State of Oregon, we already have over 10 percent of our electricity being generated from wind energy. The savings for our State down the road could be enormous, but we can only reach these goals if we support wind energy research.

With the development of wind energy comes hundreds of thousands of jobs in manufacturing, in installation, in maintenance, and in supporting services. The estimate is around 600,000 jobs—generally good-paying jobs—by the year 2015.

I do a lot of townhalls back home in Oregon, one in every county every year. Much of Oregon is very rural. I hear about the impact property taxes on these wind installations have on our rural counties, enabling them to do things—for example, to build libraries or assist in the development of their local schools. There is no question that this is a boon to the rural economy.

It is our job in Congress to look at what policies will be the most successful and give the most bang for the buck in terms of creating jobs now and in the future. We should be supporting programs that spur economic development and support families in rural areas. That is what this amendment calls for. When we create jobs, local communities benefit, certainly the energy industry benefits, and our environment benefits. All of this depends upon robust research, and we are simply asking that research continue at the same level it did in fiscal year 2016.

Let's back red, white, and blue, American-made wind energy and support this bipartisan amendment. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

There are now 2 minutes equally divided on amendment No. 3812.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, we will be voting on amendment No. 3812, which my colleague from Iowa and I have put together to restore research on wind development to the level it was last year. When you see these wind turbines, what you should see is economic development in highly deserving rural communities, putting clean electrons onto the grid, putting jobs into the community, and putting money into the property tax coffers in local communities to do good work.

I wish to reserve the rest of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Does the Senator from Tennessee wish to use his time on the amendment?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I do, but I will wait until the end.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If no one uses time, time will be charged equally to both sides.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, can I not reserve the rest of my time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Not at this point.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, don't you think \$23 billion is enough to spend on windmills? That is what we have spent since 1992—\$23 billion for 4 percent of America's electricity. This is electricity that is unreliable. The windmills blow about one-third of the time, often at night, and it can't be stored. We will spend \$5 billion this year and \$4.4 billion next year. We could double our energy research spending if we would stop subsidizing wealthy people to build giant wind turbines. Sixty percent of our carbon-free electricity comes from nuclear reactors. Relying on giant wind turbines and new transmission lines to power a country that uses 25 percent of all the electricity in the world is like going to war in sailboats when the nuclear Navy is available.

We already have \$80 million going to research, which Senator GARDNER and Senator COLLINS have asked us to include in the legislation. It is in the bill. We don't need to spend more.

We have already spent \$23 billion since 1992. Spending \$4 or \$5 billion a

year is more than enough to spend on giant wind turbines.

I urge a "no" vote on the Merkley amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, these subsidies are a tiny dot compared to the \$52 billion spent annually on fossil fuel subsidies and the massive subsidies spent on nuclear. Yet these subsidies are creating jobs in rural America, and that matters. These communities need these jobs. These are clean electrons, these are terrific middle-class jobs, and this is an industry that is still on a curve where research is truly beneficial in making it a success.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 61 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Graham	Murphy
Bennet	Grassley	Murray
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Nelson
Booker	Heitkamp	Peters
Boxer	Heller	Portman
Brown	Hirono	Reed
Cantwell	Hoeven	Reid
Cardin	Kaine	Rounds
Carper	King	Schatz
Casey	Kirk	Schumer
Collins	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Donnelly	Markey	Tester
Durbin	McCaskill	Thune
Ernst	Menendez	Udall
Franken	Merkley	Warren
Gardner	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Moran	Wyden

NAYS—42

Alexander	Daines	Murkowski
Ayotte	Enzi	Paul
Barrasso	Feinstein	Perdue
Blunt	Fischer	Risch
Boozman	Flake	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott
Coats	Johnson	Sessions
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Corker	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Vitter
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz Toomey  
Sanders Warner

The amendment (No. 3812) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

AMENDMENT NO. 3805 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator REID, I call up the Reid-Heller amendment No. 3805 and ask unanimous consent that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. HELLER], for Mr. REID, proposes an amendment numbered 3805 to amendment No. 3801.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To make funding for water management improvement subject to a condition)

In section 204, strike “and inserting ‘\$400,000,000’” and insert “and inserting ‘\$450,000,000, on the condition that of that amount, \$50,000,000 is used to carry out section 206 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (43 U.S.C. 620 note; Public Law 113-235)’”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, the Colorado River is the lifeblood of the West. It supplies many of our communities with the majority of its water. The ongoing drought is threatening shortages, reviving the old Mark Twain saying that “whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over.”

In response, the West has teamed up to establish the Colorado River System Conservation Pilot Program, an innovative effort to improve levels in our reservoirs. It is very clear the program is working well. Nineteen agreements have come together, saving 80,000 acre-feet, enough western water for 160,000 households. Increasing our region’s water security is essential to Western States.

Without water, we cannot grow. I would urge this body to support this extremely important western initiative.

I yield the floor.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, this amendment does not increase funding in the bill and the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and I intend to vote for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.  
The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Alexander	Feinstein	Menendez
Ayotte	Fischer	Merkley
Baldwin	Flake	Mikulski
Barrasso	Franken	Murphy
Bennet	Gardner	Murray
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Nelson
Blunt	Graham	Peters
Booker	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Reed
Boxer	Heinrich	Reid
Brown	Heitkamp	Rubio
Burr	Heller	Schatz
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Capito	Inhofe	Shaheen
Cardin	Isakson	Stabenow
Carper	Kaine	Sullivan
Casey	King	Tester
Cassidy	Kirk	Udall
Cochran	Klobuchar	Vitter
Collins	Leahy	Warren
Coons	Manchin	Whitehouse
Daines	Markey	Wicker
Donnelly	McCain	Wyden
Durbin	McCaskill	
Enzi	McConnell	

NAYS—23

Coats	Lankford	Rounds
Corker	Lee	Sasse
Cornyn	Moran	Scott
Cotton	Murkowski	Sessions
Crapo	Paul	Shelby
Ernst	Perdue	Thune
Hoeven	Risch	Tillis
Johnson	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz Toomey  
Sanders Warner

The amendment (No. 3805) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3820

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 3820, offered by the Senator from Arizona, Mr. FLAKE.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, this amendment would simply cut \$69 million in unrequested funding for Corps of Engineers projects. This is kind of the outgrowth of the bad old days when we had earmarks, when all of this funding came about. We now have an earmark ban, but some of the funding still goes to some projects that have not even been requested.

If we have a debt of \$19 trillion and a deficit of \$500 billion, it is time that we actually make some cuts somewhere. I would submit that this is a place ripe for cutting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am going to oppose the Flake amendment. The Army Corps of Engineers rebuilds locks and dams, dredges our rivers and harbors, works to prevent floods and storm damage, and builds environmental restoration projects. There is not a funding line in the budget that more Senators seek for their States.

Our spending is under control on the discretionary side. It is the mandatory spending, the entitlement spending, that is out of control.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I also strongly oppose this amendment. This would eliminate funding for our environmental infrastructure projects of the Army Corps of Engineers. Funding for these projects enables communities to solve local problems in a way that protects the environment.

Problems are being solved, such as upgrading wastewater treatment facilities, so that our drinking water and marine resources are protected, and replacing deteriorated distribution systems with efficient systems that help conserve water.

I hope we will vote this amendment down.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3820.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 12, nays 84, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Leg.]

YEAS—12

Barrasso	Gardner	Lee
Coats	Heller	McCain
Enzi	Johnson	Moran
Flake	Lankford	Sasse

NAYS—84

Alexander	Cardin	Durbin
Ayotte	Carper	Ernst
Baldwin	Casey	Feinstein
Bennet	Cassidy	Fischer
Blumenthal	Cochran	Franken
Blunt	Collins	Gillibrand
Booker	Coons	Graham
Boozman	Corker	Grassley
Boxer	Cornyn	Hatch
Brown	Cotton	Heinrich
Burr	Crapo	Heitkamp
Cantwell	Daines	Hirono
Capito	Donnelly	Hoeven

Inhofe	Murphy	Scott
Isakson	Murray	Sessions
Kaine	Nelson	Shaheen
King	Paul	Shelby
Kirk	Perdue	Stabenow
Klobuchar	Peters	Sullivan
Leahy	Portman	Tester
Manchin	Reed	Thune
Markey	Reid	Tillis
McCaskill	Risch	Udall
McConnell	Roberts	Vitter
Menendez	Rounds	Warren
Merkley	Rubio	Whitehouse
Mikulski	Schatz	Wicker
Murkowski	Schumer	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Toomey
Sanders	Warner

The amendment (No. 3820) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 307, 357, 358, 359, 362, 363, 364, 459, 460, 461, and 508; that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I understand our Democratic friends are going to propound a number of different unanimous consent requests here with regard, I assume, to the judiciary. The core question here is whether President Obama has been treated fairly, and I think it is noteworthy that at this point in President Bush's 8 years, 303 of his judicial nominees had been confirmed. At this point in President Obama's term, the number is 324. That is 21 more judges the current President has gotten at this point than President Bush.

Clearly, President Obama has been treated fairly and, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I am very disappointed the Republicans are blocking dozens of qualified nominees—nominees who have been reported to the Senate floor on a bipartisan basis. This is certainly, in my view, not about whether the President is being treated fairly, but it is about the Senate doing its job. The Senate is on track to confirm the lowest number of judicial nominees in our history.

Let me mention a nominee from Hawaii: Clare Connors. She was confirmed

or voted on unanimously by the Judiciary Committee last month, a statement to her qualifications. Her wide-ranging experience includes district and appellate venues, criminal and civil arenas, and litigation on issues ranging from tax law to tough cases such as crimes against children.

Clare and the other nominees before us today will be kept from serving on the Federal bench because of Republican inaction. My Republican colleagues intend to stop all judicial nominations in July, although there are 79 vacancies pending, 28 of which are considered emergencies. If Ms. Connors is not confirmed, the Hawaii district court seat will be left vacant for over a year.

Our judiciary should be composed of the full complement of judges accorded to each district court. One of the fundamental jobs of the Senate to engage in is its advice and consent function with regard to these judicial nominees, and we are not doing that.

I call upon my colleagues, my Republican friends, to enable all of us to do our jobs and begin again the advice and consent process which we are, under the Constitution, required to do.

I see some other colleagues on the floor, so I yield to my good friend from New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I will have a unanimous consent request after I make a few brief remarks. I thank my friends, the Senators from Hawaii and Maryland, for joining me here today.

We all know it is the job of the Senate to keep up with the need to confirm judges, but our friends on the other side of the aisle aren't holding up their end of the bargain. The judicial confirmation process has been at a crawl for years. Now it has come to a functional standstill, as noncontroversial nominations—some of which were approved out of committee by overwhelming votes, the majority of Republicans and the majority of Democrats—languish on the Executive Calendar.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle did their best to slow the pace of confirmations when the Senate was under Democratic leadership, and now they are sluggishly moving nominations under a Senate they control. That has culminated in an irresponsible partisan blockade of President Obama's Supreme Court pick.

Let's talk about some real numbers. More than 1 year into this new Congress, the Republican leadership has allowed only 17 judges to be confirmed. How many months do we have here? We had 12 in the last year of this Congress, and we are now at the end of April, so that is 4. So that is 16—1 a month.

Let me show the contrast. I say to my dear friend, our majority leader, this is the number that counts because the analogy was the last 2 years of the Bush administration when there was a Democratic majority. Then, a Republican President and a Democratic majority; now, a Democratic President and a Republican majority. They confirmed 17 and we confirmed 68. This has consequences—real consequences.

The number of vacancies has risen from 43 to 79 since the Republicans took over the majority. That didn't happen when President Bush was President and made nominations. Twenty-eight judicial emergencies. For people seeking justice—they can't get it very speedily because of the obstruction of judges.

There are 20 noncontroversial judges on the Executive Calendar. We are urging our colleagues to let these noncontroversial judges go through. Very simply, we are urging our colleagues to do their job.

I know the leader wants to have the Senate move along, and we have tried to go along whenever it is possible. But this is a glaring example where it is easy to do your job, where it is easy to move things forward, and all we face is obstruction and for no voiced reason.

I would like to know why the judges who I will ask for unanimous consent—it is a smaller list than my colleague from Hawaii has asked to go forward with. I would love to know a single reason why any of them shouldn't be sitting on the bench.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 307, 357, 358, 359, 362, and 363; further, that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would say to my Democratic friends that no effort to redefine what this is about will be successful.

The issue before the Senate is, has President Obama been treated fairly with regard to the confirmation of judges during his tenure in office? We are to a point where we know that so far during the Obama years, he has gotten 23 more judges than President Bush got to this point. That is the fundamental question. Has President Obama been treated in some way differently from President Bush? The answer, of course, is no. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I will continue to try here, and I thank the



Senate majority leader for his patience.

This is really not a matter of fairness to the President but fairness to the American people. As my colleague Senator HIRONO pointed out, this is a matter of justice delayed is justice denied. We have judicial emergencies—many on our list—that have not been filled.

As Senator SCHUMER pointed out, this is about comparing what has been done on the workload of this Congress to any previous Congress on the confirmation of judges, and we are dead last as far as action that has been taken.

I think the critical number is the number of vacancies. Compare the number of vacancies. When the Republicans took the majority, there were 43 vacancies in our courts. That number has almost doubled to 79 vacancies.

When we take a look at the pace of confirmation—because we could say maybe there were a lot that had to be taken up over a President's term. But, as Senator SCHUMER pointed out, there have been only 17 judges confirmed to date. That is one of the lowest numbers in the modern history of our country. In the last year of President Bush's administration, in the same period of time of that 2-year cycle, 68 judges had been confirmed by a Democratically controlled Senate.

What makes matters more difficult for the American people to understand is that 20 judicial nominations have currently passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. I believe every one has been passed by unanimous voice vote, so they are not controversial. It is just a matter of getting them up for confirmation—20 of them that have yet to be acted on the floor of the Senate.

I will make two unanimous consent requests that will deal with 4 of these 20 currently pending. All passed the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice votes. Two are from States that have Democratic Senators and two are from States that have Republican Senators.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 307, Xinis of Maryland; Calendar No. 357, Martinotti of New Jersey; Calendar No. 358, Rossiter of Nebraska; and Calendar No. 359, Stanton of Tennessee; that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, for the reasons previously expressed by the majority leader, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I want to make one further request in the series with Senator HIRONO and Senator SCHUMER, and that is to deal with the next nominee who would be up, considering the length of time she has been on the calendar. It is the nomination of Paula Xinis of Maryland made in March 2015—over 1 year ago—by President Obama. She was recommended by Senator MIKULSKI and me after an exhaustive vetting process that we go through before making recommendations to the President of the United States. She was nominated over 1 year ago. She had a hearing in the Judiciary Committee in July of 2015. As I said earlier, she was reported out of the committee by unanimous voice vote in September of last year, and she has been waiting all this time for action on the Senate floor.

We need this vacancy filled. We now have two vacancies in the Maryland District. The chief judge has related to us several times that this position is critical for the administration of justice for the people of Maryland and our Nation. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 307, Xinis of Maryland; that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, for reasons previously given, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to inject a few comments in this discussion too. This isn't all about Republicans. This isn't all about Democrats.

I had a nominee from Wyoming. Incidentally, he wasn't nominated by me; he was nominated by our Democratic Governor. It took me about 9 months to get a hearing in committee. This was for a district judge. This wasn't for the Supreme Court. This wasn't for a circuit court. This was for a district court. It took me about 9 months to get a hearing for him. At the end of 2 years, he had not gotten a vote in committee. His life was in suspense for 2 years. That is not right. Neither party

should do that. But as long as the other side is saying that we are holding things up, I have to point out that it is not just a one-sided thing.

I hope some of the criticism can end and some of the work can be done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I just want to share in the frustration of my colleague from Wyoming. This should not be a partisan issue. I agree, it is wrong to hold people's lives in abeyance. We are trying to get the very best people to serve on our courts. If they have to put their lives on hold for a year or two, will they come forward and seek to serve as a judge?

We know that for the ones we are trying to get on the bench, it is going to be a financial sacrifice. They can make more money in the private sector. We want the very best on our courts. If someone is put on hold for 2 years or for 1 year, it compromises their ability if they are in the private practice of law, and it is not the right thing to do—whether it is a Democrat or a Republican in the White House. We have to act on these appointments a lot faster.

The point I raised is that during this term of Congress, during this year and a half, we have seen the number of judicial vacancies go up from 43 to 79. At this particular moment, there are 20 nominees on the Executive Calendar who have cleared the committee by voice vote and who are not controversial. Some have been waiting over a year since their nomination.

We can do something about it right now, and we should do something about it right now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to say a few more things regarding our request for action on these judicial nominations.

The group of nominations on which I requested action includes nominees from Maryland, New Jersey, Nebraska, Tennessee, New York, California, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and Hawaii. They are all waiting.

I have just one comment about the Supreme Court vacancy. The last time the Senate refused to deal with a Supreme Court vacancy was during the Civil War. They so objected to dealing with the President's nomination that the Congress actually changed the number of Justices on the Supreme Court. The number of Justices is set by law, so the Congress changed the law and changed the number of Justices from 10 to 7 so that they would not have to deal with the President's nominee to the Supreme Court vacancy. The President vetoed that bill, the Congress overrode that veto, and so they changed the makeup and number of

Justices on the Supreme Court. Certainly that is not what I am suggesting Republicans should do. In fact, we have had a nine-member Supreme Court for almost 150 years.

I agree with my friend, the Senator from Wyoming, that this should not be a partisan issue. Certainly, I agree with my friend from Maryland that we should get on with it. We should get on with these judicial nominations. We should do our advice and consent role, and clearly with regard to the Supreme Court vacancy, where, with this inaction, we are going to leave that Court with eight members for a year. That is not acceptable to the people of our country. We need to do our job.

I ask my Senate colleagues, my Republican friends, to enable the Senate to do our advice and consent role and do our job as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

I yield the floor.

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#### RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:45 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

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#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

##### NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the vacancy on the Supreme Court and the majority's ongoing refusal to consider the nomination of Chief Judge Merrick Garland. Forty days have passed since the President of the United States nominated Judge Garland to fill Justice Scalia's seat. This is longer than it took for the Senate to confirm Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981. In fact, 75 percent of all Supreme Court Justices have been confirmed within 31 days, but today—40 days after his nomination—many Senators haven't even extended Judge Garland the simple courtesy of a meeting. The majority's refusal to hold a vote is without precedent, and the majority has cited none. Instead, the majority is trying to shift the blame.

Incredibly, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee recently came to the floor to blame, of all people, not other Senators, not other politicians, but the Chief Justice of the United States of America for politicizing the Court. Ten days before Justice Scalia's death, the Chief Justice said: "The process is not functioning very well." That turns out to have been something of an understatement. The Chief Justice went on

and said that the process "is being used for something other than ensuring the qualifications of the nominees." Again, he was not referring to what is going on now in the Senate. This happened before Justice Scalia passed away. There was no way that the Chief Justice could have known there was going to be a vacancy. He continued: "[Supreme Court Justices] don't work as Democrats or Republicans . . . and I think it's a very unfortunate impression the public might get from the confirmation process."

His words struck me—particularly given what has gone on since then—as a candid expression of his concern for the Court as an institution. This concern apparently upset the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He took to the floor and said:

The Chief Justice has it exactly backwards. The confirmation process doesn't make the Justices appear political.

He continued:

The confirmation process has gotten political precisely because the Court has drifted from the constitutional text, and rendered decisions based instead on policy preferences.

It is absolutely breathtaking that the Chief Justice would be criticized for "drifting from the constitutional text" when, for the past 10 weeks, the majority has drifted from article II, section 2, clause 2, which sets out our constitutional responsibility to advise and consent in very clear terms. Worse, the majority's drift isn't even about policy; it is about politics. It is about rolling the dice on an election instead of following the plain text of the Constitution.

This is absolutely unprecedented in the history of the Senate. Throughout our history, the Senate has confirmed 17 nominees in Presidential election years to serve on the Supreme Court. The last of these was Justice Kennedy in 1988. When the President made this nomination, he had more than 340 days left in his term. We are talking almost a quarter of the President's term. That is a lot more time than most of those 17 Justices had before this Senate.

In the last 100 years, every nominee to a Supreme Court vacancy who did not withdraw—and a couple did—received a timely hearing and vote. On average, the Senate has begun hearings within 40 days of the President's nomination and voted to confirm 70 days after the President's nomination. There is no excuse for not holding a hearing and a vote.

If that is what we are going to pay attention to in this Chamber and if that is what we are going to argue for—originalism, strict constructionism—the plain language of the Constitution is clear. There is a reason why no Senate has ever had the audacity to do what this Senate is doing right now—because of how clear that mission is and because there is no one else to do

it. The Constitution says: The Senate shall advise and consent. It doesn't say: The House of Representatives shall have a role. It doesn't say: Let the people decide. It says that this is the Senate's job. We should do our job just as every Senate, until now, has done its job since the founding of the country, including the Senate that was there when George Washington was in office. Three of those 17 appointments were confirmed by a Senate that actually contained people who had been at the constitutional convention, and they were consistent with their understanding of what the Founders had agreed to. They had a vote on the floor of the Senate.

I am not saying how people should vote. They should vote their conscience, but we should have a vote. The American people expect us to do our job.

I want to be clear that I believe there should be hearings. I think we should go through hearings to establish the qualifications of the nominee. I think that is really important. The point I am making about having this vote does not have to do with whom the President nominated. It has to do with our institutional responsibility. It has to do with the rule of law and the image we want to project to our country and overseas.

Finally, I have a word to say about the President's nominee. Merrick Garland is an honored and accomplished judge. Two weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet with him and learn about his judicial record and philosophy. I have known Chief Judge Garland for more than 20 years. I have actually worked for him at the Justice Department when we both worked for the Deputy Attorney General of the United States. I was fresh out of law school, but even then Judge Garland's humility, work ethic, and commitment to the rule of law inspired me and continue to inspire me.

Our meeting last week confirmed what I already know. Judge Garland is an intelligent and pragmatic judge who is extraordinarily well-qualified to serve on the Supreme Court. I have wondered whether that is the reason the majority is not holding hearings. They could simply hold the hearings and vote against Judge Garland, which is their prerogative. Why not hold hearings? Maybe they know that the American people, given the opportunity to hear directly from Judge Garland, would see that he is precisely the type of judge who should serve on the Court.

A vacancy on the Supreme Court is a rare thing. It doesn't come around very often. For those of us in this country, whether we are in the Senate or in a classroom somewhere, those vacancies, hearings, and debates on the floor present an unparalleled opportunity—a remarkable opportunity—for the American people to engage in a debate about

the Court, the Constitution, and all kinds of issues that the Court will consider. That is what these hearings are about. That is what could be going on this summer during this Presidential election year, and we would have a discussion about where we want to head as a country. We are not having it. We are not having it because of this unprecedented action.

Because of what the majority has done here, by not meeting with the nominee or holding a hearing, they are denying him the opportunity to make his case to the American people. In the meantime—and this is really critical—the Court will continue to be impaired. Impaired is the word that Justice Scalia himself used when he was asked to recuse himself from a case involving Dick Cheney, then the Vice President of the United States. In that case, he was asked if there would be a presumption of recusal. Justice Scalia's answer to that was this: Maybe if I were on the court of appeals—because if I were on the court of appeals, there would be somebody to replace me, but that is not how it works on the Supreme Court. When there is a vacancy on the Supreme Court, leaving the Court with only eight Justices, there is nobody who can fill in. There is nobody to become the ninth Justice. He said that the Court would therefore be impaired.

The action that is being taken right now threatens to impair the Supreme Court not for one session but for two sessions of the Court before there is another election. In fact, for the third time since Justice Scalia's death, the Supreme Court could not resolve a dispute because of a 4-to-4 split. The longer this vacancy remains, the more uncertainty and confusion the American people will suffer. As I said, two terms of the Court will be jeopardized by petty politics.

Believe me, I know it has become fashionable for Washington to tear down rather than work to improve the democratic institutions that generations of Americans have built, but to do so cavalierly impair the judicial branch of our government is pathetic.

It is time for the Senate to do its job as every Senate has done before us. Again, I am not asking my colleagues to support Judge Garland's nomination. That is a matter of conscience for each of us. But we must fulfill our basic constitutional obligation of holding a hearing and a vote. This is literally—because it is in the Constitution and no one else is granted this power—the least we can do to demonstrate that we are a legislative body that functions as the Constitution requires.

We certainly have plenty of time. In view of that, if by contrast we leave for our scheduled 7 weeks of summer vacation—which is not enshrined in the Constitution but is a schedule that is set by the Senate—without having ful-

filled our responsibility, the American people should demand that we return to Washington and do our job.

It is past time for my colleagues to meet with Judge Garland, hold hearings on his record, and give the American people an up-or-down vote on this judicial vacancy.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate majority whip.

#### THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I fear that sometimes here in the Senate we get bogged down in the minutia and the process and don't really talk about the why of how things are done here. We talk a lot about the how, but we don't talk about the why. I just want to speak for a couple of minutes about why it is so important that we pass the regular appropriation bills and put what we are trying to do here in a larger context.

Our colleagues will remember that last year we were unable to pass the 12 regular appropriation bills because our Democratic colleagues filibustered those pieces of legislation in order to force a negotiation to raise the spending caps on discretionary spending. I regret that. I wish it hadn't happened, but it did and there is not much we can do about it. But in the process, what happened is that we ended up having to pass a fiscal year-end omnibus appropriations bill that lacked any basic transparency. There was about \$1 trillion-plus worth of spending, and I think most people's reaction is this: Why do you have to do business in such a terrible way that lacks transparency, doesn't let people know what is in the bill, and doesn't let all 100 Senators contribute to the product? The reason is because our Democratic colleagues blocked those bills.

I hope it is different this year because now those top-line numbers for discretionary spending are fixed in law. What we are trying to do, starting with the Energy and Water appropriations bill that Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN are working through the legislative process, is to begin the process of passing those regular appropriation bills. I hope and trust we will conclude with this piece of legislation this week and then we will move on to the next legislative vehicle, which will probably be the transportation, housing, and urban development legislation, the so-called THUD bill around here.

We have actually demonstrated that by providing an open process, we can actually get some things done. We all recall last Congress—a year and a half ago. The fact of the matter is that a decision had been made by the then-majority leader, Senator REID, not to allow Senators to participate in the amendment process on the floor. As a consequence, it wasn't just those of us in the minority who were prohibited

from offering legislation that would actually improve the product that was on the floor, it included Members of his own political party. So they had to go home at election time and explain to their constituents back home: I may be in the majority, but I couldn't get an amendment voted on, on the Senate floor.

Having learned from that experience, Senator MCCONNELL and we decided that the best thing to do is to have an open process by which Members of the majority party and minority party, Democrats and Republicans alike—anybody who has a good idea—can come forward and get a vote on that legislation. We had a couple of recent bipartisan successes. Yes, I know in some corners "bipartisanship" is a dirty word, but the fact is, you can't get anything done around here unless it is bipartisan. Our Constitution was written in a way to force consensus to be built. In an absence of consensus, nothing gets done.

So we have had a couple of recent successes, in addition to our work on appropriations bills, including the Energy Policy Modernization Act. One of the most important parts of that legislation from my perspective is that back in Texas we saw an expedited process for the approval of liquefied natural gas export terminals. That is very important to our economy and something that takes advantage of an incredible resource we have in America—natural gas—which we would like to sell to our allies and friends around the world when they don't have it. That is something that builds jobs in America. It helps grow our economy. It helps provide a lifeline to many of our allies around the world, for whom energy is being used simply as a weapon by people like Vladimir Putin.

We also voted to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration bill. Obviously, this is important for public safety—to make sure our skies are safe—but also to provide the appropriate regulatory regime for the airline industry.

Looked at individually, these bills may not seem like an end-all or be-all, but they are part of a bigger picture and part of a larger goal, which is getting this legislative body back to work again, as it was meant to do, considering and passing legislation that will impact our country for the better. Don't get me wrong. Sometimes the right answer is to stop bad ideas. Sometimes the right idea is to stop bad ideas, but where there is an opportunity for consensus and where we can actually craft something that helps move our country forward—I believe all 100 Senators came here with that sort of goal in mind.

The bottom line is, we are working again to advance the priorities of the American people. In the same way we debate and discuss the Energy and

Water appropriations bill, we have to keep the bigger picture in mind. It is not just about passing a single appropriations bill or to check items off our to-do list, it is part of a larger process, which is to fund the Federal Government in a fiscally responsible way, hopefully—that is our goal—and to make sure we review the programs that are funded by Federal appropriations and make sure they are still the priorities we believe they should be. If they aren't, then they shouldn't be funded. That is part of the process—to go back and look at what the programs are, whether they are still working, whether they are still necessary, and if they are not working or no longer necessary, then we simply no longer fund those as part of the appropriations process.

We know this sets our country's priorities by giving guidance on everything we support—from our veterans to how we provide for our energy structure needs, to how we equip and train our troops. Funding the government is actually one of the most important and basic duties of the Congress. As the Senator from Tennessee has pointed out, one of the biggest problems we have—one we are not going to solve here today or this week, unfortunately—is that so much of the money that gets spent by the Federal Government is on autopilot—so-called mandatory spending. In other words, it is not even subject to the appropriations process in the Senate. Currently, only about one-third of the money the Federal Government spends actually goes through this sort of transparent and open process, where everybody knows what is going on and can offer their input. The rest of the money is spent on autopilot, and it is projected to rise, according to one recent projection I saw, at a rate of roughly 5.3 percent over the next 30 years.

We know that is far beyond the rate of inflation, and it is an unsustainable amount of spending. Some of the most important programs that are government funded, such as Medicare or Social Security, cannot be sustained at the current level of spending unless we do everything we can within our ability to shore them up and save them for the next generation. That is what we actually need to be doing in the larger picture.

Until that day, we can continue to do what we can to deal responsibly with discretionary spending, and that is what we are trying to do. If we don't deal with these appropriations bills in a methodical and deliberate sort of way—all 12 of them—we are going to find ourselves at the end of September, at the end of the fiscal year, back in the same situation we were in last year—with the need for an omnibus appropriations bill or a continuing resolution, which is something I know there is not a lot of appetite for.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. President, let me just say a word about the Zika virus and the emergency funding request made by the President. Some of our colleagues—notably the Democratic leader and the Democratic whip—talked about this this morning and raised the question of whether we are going to responsibly deal with this threat of the Zika virus. I can tell my colleagues we will. We are committed on a bipartisan basis to try to make sure we respond responsibly both from a public safety point of view and from a fiscal point of view.

The President requested \$1.9 billion. Thankfully, there is money that has been identified that was left over from the Ebola threat—some \$500 million—that can be used as a downpayment to make sure our world-class scientists, like the ones I have met at the University of Texas medical branch in Galveston and just this last week at the Texas Medical Center, are doing the research that is necessary in order to identify how to stop this threat by controlling the mosquitoes that bring it into the country. We know the mosquito that carries the Zika virus is common in more temperate and warmer parts of the country, and that is why it has been primarily a threat in Brazil and places like Haiti and Puerto Rico. We also know that in places like Texas, Florida, and Louisiana, this mosquito is present and there are already established cases of Zika, primarily occurring in, I believe, either people who have traveled to Central America or South America and who have been bitten and brought it back with them or, in the case of—apparently it has now been discovered that this virus can be sexually transmitted. So one of the things we need to make sure of, particularly for every woman of child-bearing age, is that they get the sort of protection they need so these horrific birth defects that we have seen in the news don't occur. We are all committed to doing that.

We also ought to make sure we don't overshoot our goal and write a blank check for something when we don't even know what the plan of attack is. In some ways, this is like the President asking us to fund a war without telling us what his strategy is for fighting and winning that war. I think that is the sort of commonsense question our constituents want us to ask, and which we should ask.

I realize not everything is knowable. Hopefully, within a couple of years, our scientific community will have developed a vaccine which can protect people from this virus, but in the meantime we need to continue to fund the basic research. We need to continue to fund at the local level the mosquito eradication, and we need to keep our eye on this emerging threat.

We can do that, and we will do that in a responsible sort of way. We don't

need our colleagues on the Democratic side to say we have to do it right here, right now, without even having a plan from the administration on how we will fight and win this war against the Zika virus and hold up the regular appropriations process. I can tell from the saber-rattling going on from some of my colleagues across the aisle that they are looking for a reason to disrupt the regular appropriations process and that can be a mistake. First of all, it will not accomplish anything that can't otherwise be accomplished in terms of funding our research and the fight against the Zika virus. We are committed to doing that in a bipartisan sort of way but in a responsible sort of way that doesn't add to the national debt and pass the bill on to the next generation, as well as a proportional response to the threat. Just throwing money at it without a plan does not seem like a responsible thing to do.

I implore our colleagues across the aisle, do not try to use the Zika crisis to hold hostage our ability to do our regular appropriations work. It is too important to avoid the year-end Omnibus appropriations bill that nobody says they like, and it is important for us to demonstrate—as we have tried to and I believe succeeded in doing, in large part—that we can continue to do our work day in and day out on a bipartisan, responsible basis, not that we are all going to agree on everything—that is just not the way people are built—nor do they want us to agree on everything. This is the place where we have the great debates on the issues that confront our country, both now and in the future, and that is appropriate. Nobody should take it personally. We need to have those debates. We need to have those verbal confrontations so we can get to the truth and figure the best path forward for the country.

So we are not here to kick the can down the road. We are here to do the Nation's business, and we are here to deliver results to the American people. I hope we can continue to do that by carefully discussing, debating, and then voting on all 12 appropriations bills.

In addition to talking about how, I hope to explain a little bit of the why it is so important that we do this now in order to avoid that year-end rush to an omnibus appropriations bill later on.

Mr. President, I don't see any other Senators seeking recognition, so I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, first, to the majority whip, I thank him for his comments on the Zika virus. He is absolutely right to raise awareness of that issue. It is a great concern. In Ohio we happen to have some military assets that have been used in the past for aerial spraying, and I know they are interested in being even more involved in some of the eradication of some of these mosquitoes in the southern part of the country that may end up causing some of this infection. It is a very serious matter, and I am glad to know the Appropriations Committee is working on it as well as our authorizing committees. I know the Senator from Texas has a personal interest in this.

I rise to speak about the underlying legislation—the Energy and Water appropriations bill. I thank the chairman of that committee, Senator ALEXANDER, for working with me to include a couple of important provisions for the State of Ohio.

One is the cleanup of what is known as the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. This is a site that for half a century enriched uranium. This uranium was used by our Navy, for our military, and for other purposes, including our nuclear arsenals, but it also has been used for our powerplants. So for decades the people in Piketon, OH, have been helping keep Americans safe and also helping thousands of Ohioans to keep the lights on and to stay warm at a reasonable cost. Now we have to clean up this facility. We moved on to other technology. It is an efficient technology, but it is a heck of a cleanup removing all this gaseous diffusion material and properly disposing of it.

This cleanup effort employs about 2,000 Ohioans. They are doing their job and doing it very well. We have to support them. Unfortunately, over the years they have not gotten the support they deserve. In a 2008 campaign trip to Ohio, the President gave a commitment that he would accelerate that cleanup. Frankly, that just hasn't happened under the President's budget, so every year we have to fight for more funding to be sure that we can continue the cleanup, which is so important, but also to ensure that we aren't losing jobs in Pike County. We just had this tragic occurrence where we had four different homes where family members were present during the horrible shooting out there in Pike County. This is one of the counties in Ohio that have relatively high unemployment. It is a county that has a lot of economic issues. These 2,000 jobs are good-paying jobs with good benefits, so it is very important that we keep the jobs there.

Just as importantly, it is the right thing to do for the taxpayers because

as the Obama administration has pulled back funding for this cleanup, it ends up costing the taxpayers more because delaying this cleanup ends up adding huge additional costs as funding is cut back and there is less cleanup going on. Our analysis shows that an accelerated cleanup could save the taxpayers \$4 billion, getting this done and moving the site on to commercial use. Having adequate funding will save the taxpayers money.

Second, cleaning up the radioactive waste and other hazardous waste there is incredibly important for the community. It makes that site cleaner, of course, and is better for the environment. It is important for the community and these people who have for many years been providing us with the enriched uranium for our military and for our powerplants to know they are not going to be left with this environmental problem.

Third, these are good-paying jobs in a county that really needs them.

Finally, we owe it to the community to clean up the site so they can redevelop it. They want to reindustrialize this site, and it is a great location to do maybe an energy project or maybe a nuclear powerplant at some point and other exciting opportunities, but they have to clean up what is there in order for the site to be used for that.

The people of Piketon have helped shore up our economy and our national defense. We owe it to them to clean up this site. I am pleased that in this legislation we are considering an increase of \$20 million over this year's level of cleanup work and an additional \$20 million over this year's level for constructing a needed onsite disposal cell. We are at the point where we need to dispose of this material, and we need more money for that disposal cell. I am hoping that the House will increase the funding for the disposal cell even more, and if so, we will work in conference to get that number up further because that makes a lot of sense in order to actually move forward on this cleanup for all the reasons I have stated.

Again, I thank the chairman, Senator ALEXANDER, for his help on this. One thing the chairman knows well is that part of the funding for the cleanup work comes from the Department of Energy's barter of uranium. I ask that as we move forward with the completion of this legislation over the next few months, if the price of uranium should change—should drop—that the chairman continue to work with us to ensure that there are no job losses and to ensure that the cleanup work is not delayed as it has been in the past.

Second, I thank the chairman for including another provision that is incredibly important to Ohio and to Lake Erie. For many years the Army Corps of Engineers has been dredging the Cuyahoga River. It is necessary to do that for commercial purposes. They

have a big steel plant there, which anybody who comes to the Republican Convention will see. It is very important, for that plant and other commercial purposes, to keep this waterway open for boat traffic, including bringing iron ore in for the steel mills.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to take the dredge from the river and dump it into Lake Erie. Time and time again, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and others have said this is not good for the environment. Specifically, the dredge has PCB material. The PCB pollutants get into the fish, and the Ohio EPA has told them that if they keep dumping it into the lake, at some point they will have to issue a warning that the walleye in Lake Erie, which is our great game fish, is not to be eaten more than a certain number of times per month. This would kill the fishing industry. It is also the wrong thing to do with all the algal bloom problems we have in the lake because that is driven by nitrogen and phosphorus mostly, and those nutrients would get into the lake through this dumping. So we are saying: Let's use an onsite disposal facility. We have one on land that they can use. They are refusing to do that.

The Army Corps of Engineers has gone so far as to, in the last appropriations bill, actually cut their own funding—which is something I have never seen before—to not be able to meet the requirement we put into law, saying that they have to provide for the disposal of this product not into the lake but onto a land facility.

We have now worked with Chairman ALEXANDER to include language in this legislation before us. Senator SHERROD BROWN and I were successful in getting that in last year. Once again we are working with the chairman to get that language in this year. I thank Senator ALEXANDER for including it. It maintains the requirement that ensures that the Corps uphold its funding obligations to dispose of this dredge material upland and not in the lake.

Again, it concerns me that the Corps seems to want to try to get around this. In fact, instead of putting money into the operations and maintenance account, as they are required to do to comply with not just what Congress says but, frankly, what the court has ordered them to do—because the court has consistently said they have to dredge and then dump on land, they have actually put that into a risky position by saying they don't need the funding. They have gone so far as to indicate that maybe other dredging projects on Lake Erie or other Lake Erie funding could be in jeopardy of not receiving the full amount of money they need if there is a need to dispose of this on land.

There is a better way. The Corps should request use of unallocated funds

provided by Congress in order to dispose of the dredge material at Cleveland Harbor safely without putting other projects at risk. They can do that.

Our Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, is currently investigating whether the Corps intentionally requested a decrease in funding in last year's spending bill so that they would have no choice but to dump this dredge material into the harbor. I hope that is not true. I hope we find out that is not what happened, but there are indications of that. Again, doing so would threaten the health of the area, the city of Cleveland, Lake Erie's ecosystem, and specifically our fishing industry in Lake Erie, which is so critical to economic growth in that area. Lake Erie is the most productive of all of our Great Lakes in terms of fishing. It has a \$6 billion fishing industry and is the No. 1 tourist attraction in Ohio.

I urge the Corps to revise its work plan for this year to request the additional funds necessary to safely dispose of the dredge sediment at the Cleveland Harbor during the 2016 dredging season if, as I suspect, the Federal judge again rules that the Corps cannot place it in Lake Erie. I urge them to work with us to come up with a solution so we can have this dredge material disposed of on land and actually recycle that material so that it has value. A couple of weeks ago when I was at the site, I saw how some of the material is being mixed with other fill and being used not just for landfill but also for gardens and for farming and agriculture purposes. This is a way to take the dredge and to actually have it have value and be able to recycle it.

Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me to give this statement today and for his patience. I also thank Chairman ALEXANDER and others who have worked with us on this so that we can indeed be sure that we clean up this site and that we are able to get this dredge material coming out of the Cuyahoga River onto a site on land to avoid the environmental damage that would otherwise occur.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Thank you, Mr. President.

I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 17 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I first want to talk about the Zika public health emergency that is coming to the United States of America. We have to act now to fund the administration's request of \$1.9 billion in supplemental funding.

Zika is a disease carried by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, a vector that has already caused a dengue epidemic in my State of Hawaii. The *Aedes* mosquitoes are in more places than we previously thought throughout the United States.

Zika is the first mosquito-borne illness to be associated with a congenital birth defect. We are continuing to learn more about this devastating disease every day, including its association with Guillain-Barre syndrome—a type of paralysis—eye abnormalities, and more.

While there have not yet been any locally transmitted diseases of Zika in the continental United States, we do have hundreds of travel-related cases and up to 500 cases of active transmission in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As I mentioned, Hawaii is recovering from a dengue epidemic. So we must provide emergency funding for mosquito-borne illnesses, and we must do it now. This is an emergency.

The administration has clearly laid out its request to combat Zika, which includes the following: \$830 million for the CDC. This money would include grants and technical assistance to Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories and help our domestic and international response activities; about \$250 million for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, to increase the Federal match rate to Puerto Rico; and several hundred million dollars for the National Institutes of Health and BARDA to invest in vaccine research and development. That is the long-term solution. There is a high degree of competence that we will be able to get a vaccine but not without the funding. This is an absolute emergency. We need \$10 million for the FDA vaccine and diagnostics development and review, which is absolutely critical—we don't have diagnostic tests that are quite as efficient and effective as we are eventually going to need—and \$335 million for USAID efforts abroad in public health infrastructure.

I was fortunate to visit the CDC in Atlanta a couple of weeks ago to learn more about their efforts to combat Zika, dengue, and other vector-borne diseases. I saw firsthand how the CDC has activated its Level 1 Emergency Operations Center to combat Zika. During my questions at the Labor-HHS appropriations hearings, I heard how the CDC is strapped for funds and has already programmed its Ebola funds and how these Ebola funds are critically needed to prevent another Ebola crisis. I have total confidence in the CDC, but they need this emergency funding request to be granted.

We are about to go on a 1-week recess. There is no reason that we can't at least get on the supplemental this week. This is an absolute emergency. There are a lot of things we are doing that are important this week in terms

of individual appropriations bills, but let's be clear: None of these appropriations bills are going to pass in the next week or even the next month. We still have the House that needs to take action, and there is no doubt we are going to go to conference. So in terms of whatever other legislative vehicles are pending or about to be pending, there is no urgency for us to move to those instead of what is happening right now in terms of a public health emergency with Zika. This is an absolute emergency.

The reason this is not smashing through every headline online, on television, in the newspapers, and on the radio is that it is still cold outside in a lot of places and the mosquitoes haven't come out. This is about to be a very serious public health crisis.

For those of us who have differing views about the size and scope of government, I just want to say this: We have arguments about the EPA's role, about the Department of Human Services' role, about the Department of Education's role, and the size and scope of government across the board, but can't we agree that government's basic job is to protect its citizens, and can't we agree that the CDC is one of the best agencies in the government across the board, and can't we agree that this is a real emergency and ought not to wait until May or June or July and ought to be taken up immediately?

Mr. President, this is an emergency, and we ought to fund the supplemental on a big bipartisan vote.

#### TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. President, I would like to talk about the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Many promises were made about the TPP. Before the final text was available, I received dozens of phone calls from advocates of the deal asking for my support. They said that this trade agreement was going to be different; that it would raise standards rather than lower them; and that my concerns about labor, the environment, climate change, public health, and consumer protection would be addressed. But since the text was released, I have read it, and unfortunately this deal does not turn out to be any different from the previous deals. It looks like just another race to the bottom.

Proponents claimed that the labor and environment chapters would contain enforceable commitments, and I know a lot of people worked very hard to make that true. But when you look closely at the wording of these chapters, you see that the commitments are basically just strongly worded suggestions. There are very few requirements. Instead, the countries have promised to "promote," "encourage," "cooperate," "strive," and "endeavor" to do various things. I have no clue how one can enforce an obligation to encourage something or discourage something. Many of the provisions contain this weak

language, carefully written by lawyers to be unenforceable.

Here are a few examples from the environment chapter, which is particularly weak.

First, the chapter opens with a general commitment that “each Party shall strive to ensure that its environmental laws . . . provide for, and encourage, high levels of environmental protection.” That is right; they are to “strive to ensure.”

On transitioning to a low-emissions economy, “Parties shall cooperate to address matters of joint or common interest.” There is nothing more on climate change whatsoever.

On marine animal conservation, “Each party shall promote the long-term conservation” of sharks and various marine animals through “such measures” considered appropriate. I don’t even know what that means. What is clear is that none of this is enforceable. So the problem is, no accountability. There is no requirement that countries meet their obligations before Congress has to vote on the agreement and no independent verification of whether those obligations are ever met.

We will vote to open our markets on day one to goods made under terrible labor and environmental conditions and hope that over time, after we have forfeited our leverage, these countries will implement and enforce the kinds of labor laws our country has had for decades.

What this means is that we are giving them the deal, and after we forfeit all of our leverage, we hope they will see the light and do the right thing. Take Vietnam as an example. The economic benefits to Vietnam of reduced or eliminated U.S. duties are enormous. Importers from Vietnam currently pay around \$2 billion in annual tariffs. Most of that comes from imports of apparel and footwear—industries that frequently utilize forced and child labor. Although Vietnam is supposed to comply on day one with the labor side agreement it signed with the United States, there is no independent verification. The side agreement sets up a long process of consultation before punitive action can be taken. At that point, Vietnam will already be enjoying the benefit of the elimination of the tariff, and the United States will have lost jobs that cannot compete with forced child labor. No punitive action will bring back those jobs.

Now let’s talk about the enforcement side. Our track record, unfortunately, is not good. In the limited instances in which there are enforcement mechanisms in our trade agreements, we rarely utilize them. Recently, the GAO reported a systemic failure to enforce labor and environmental commitments across several trade agreements, even in light of compelling evidence of violations. The reason for this is that we

don’t really provide the resources for enforcement. But more importantly, there is a real lack of political will. For instance, the inclusion of Malaysia in this trade zone gives us insight into the lack of political will.

When we debated fast-track authority last year, Congress agreed on an important negotiating objective: No trade deals with countries that earn the worst human trafficking ranking, according to the U.S. State Department. This seems like something everyone ought to agree to. At the time, this included Malaysia, which had the lowest ranking. But just after fast-track became law, Malaysia’s ranking was upgraded—to the surprise of human rights experts everywhere. The upgrade allowed the circumvention of Congress’s will and the continued inclusion of Malaysia in TPP. This came just a few months after the discovery of human cages and 130 graves at a human trafficking detention camp on the Malaysia-Thailand border. Against this backdrop, it is hard to have confidence that we will ever prioritize labor rights, human rights, or environmental protection over commercial interests.

I am also deeply concerned about the inclusion of investor-state dispute settlement provisions, or ISDS for short. ISDS provides a special forum outside of our court system that is just available to foreign investors. These investors are given the right to sue governments over laws and regulations that impact their businesses—a legal right that is not granted to a labor union, an individual, or anyone else.

Here is how it works: If a decision is made by a national government that is contradicted by a provision in a trade agreement, the trade agreement wins. If a law that we pass contradicts a provision in TPP, TPP trumps our law. Corporations are increasingly seeing this as a viable legal strategy to increase profits and undermine public health and environmental and labor protections.

The ISDS forum is not available to anyone other than foreign corporations. It is not open to domestic businesses, labor unions, civil societies, or individuals who allege a violation of a trade agreement obligation.

The arbitrators in ISDS who preside over these cases are literally not accountable to anyone. Their decisions cannot be appealed. By profession, the arbitrators usually make their living working as lawyers for multinational corporations. The arbitrators cannot force the government to change its laws, but they can order the government to pay the investor when they lose money as a result of a law that contradicts a trade agreement, which can have the same effect.

It is one thing for the United States to decide to pay a penalty to keep a law in place, but small countries can-

not afford to go up against these multinational corporations in the ISDS context. Not only will they repeal their national laws, they sometimes will not enact national laws knowing that they will be subject to fines under this ISDS process.

The government often agrees to change the law or regulation that is being challenged, in addition to paying compensation. The threat of a case can be enough to convince a government to back away from legitimate public health, safety, or environmental policies. The practical implication is potentially sweeping. ISDS could prevent us from addressing climate change, raising the minimum wage, protecting consumers from harmful products, or preventing another financial crisis.

Each time we pass a law or regulation to improve the lives of the American people, foreign investors will effectively have the final say. These risks are not theoretical. In fact, for the United States, the risk of ISDS has become very real. In January, TransCanada—the Canadian company behind the Keystone XL Pipeline—filed a claim against the U.S. Government under NAFTA’s ISDS provisions for failing to approve the pipeline. If TransCanada wins, taxpayers—U.S. taxpayers—would be on the hook for \$15 billion in damages being demanded by foreign corporations.

Make no mistake. This is a new strategy for fossil fuel companies to challenge laws and regulations that are attempting to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. There are hundreds of billions of dollars at stake, and with that on the line, you have to believe that law firms are spending hours systematically scouring every trade and investment agreement for provisions they can use to invalidate Federal law. This is the legal strategy to bust up laws designed to protect public health, the environment, and consumers.

Corporate interests should not be the driving force for public policy decisions. Yet that is exactly what this trade agreement would allow. A lot of us had hopes that this trade agreement would be different, but in a lot of ways, it is the same as the bad agreements that have come before it, and in some ways, it is actually worse.

We are forfeiting valuable leverage across a huge area of the Asia Pacific that we could have used to lift labor and environmental conditions and level the playing field for our workers. This is not a question of whether you are for trade or whether you believe we should be engaged in the Pacific region, it is a question of how.

This deal is, unfortunately, a lowest common denominator agreement. For these reasons, I must oppose the TPP.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from Wyoming.

## THE REPUBLICAN-LED SENATE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I head home to Wyoming just about every weekend. Lots of people from Wyoming come here to Washington to visit as well. When I am home, I get a chance to talk to people, and here in Washington, I get to talk to people. So yesterday is a day I flew here. I had talked to folks in Wyoming early in the morning and then yesterday afternoon got off the plane, and there were a number of students here from Sheridan High School from "We the People." One of our pages here is also from that high school. So you get to hear a lot from people. Some folks have been asking: What has the Republican Congress actually accomplished? So I would like to take a few minutes to talk a little bit about what the Senate has actually done this year and during this Congress since the Republicans have taken over the majority.

We are not even 4 months into this year, and we have already had a very productive year in the Senate. It is true. We have been active, we have been effective, and it is only April.

In February, we passed legislation to add tough new sanctions against North Korea. As the Presiding Officer knows, the President in the White House was very reluctant when we started proposing these sanctions—hesitant about the sanctions that we proposed against North Korea. Let's face it. North Korea has been aggressively testing missiles, testing nuclear weapons, and needs to be stopped.

When other countries threaten their neighbors, as North Korea has done in their general geographic area, what happens is the United States must stand up and stop them. President Obama has done far too little. I am very concerned about the aggression and the ambitions of North Korea. That is why the Senate had to act. So Congress has stood up and pushed against this action. We had more action against North Korea; that is exactly what we did.

The Senate also acted by passing a Defend Trade Secrets Act to help businesses protect their confidential information.

We passed a piece of legislation called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation to help fight the misuse of prescription drugs, in terms of prescription pain killers called opioids. Now, look, it has been a huge problem in our country—communities all around the country. Senator AYOTTE from New Hampshire and Senator PORTMAN of Ohio were two of the main sponsors of this legislation. I know Senator PORTMAN was on the floor recently, talking about different legislation. But he has shown heroic leadership in an area that certainly needed to be addressed.

The Senate worked and reauthorized the Older Americans Act. This was an-

other bipartisan piece of legislation. It works to help provide senior citizens with things like meals, transportation—ways to help people live in their own homes longer and ways to help in terms of their quality of life, which is very important for Americans all across the country.

We passed legislation to overhaul and reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. This is a significant accomplishment. This legislation promotes U.S. aerospace jobs by cutting through some of the redtape that has been hurting airplane designers.

Then, just last week, we passed a comprehensive overhaul of American energy policy, something we had not done in about 8 years. Over the past few years, hard-working Americans have made this country into an energy superpower. Yet we had not passed any kind of major energy legislation for about 8 years because Washington's regulations have simply not kept pace, and they have actually worked against the energy producers, people that are getting back to work, getting this country's economy returned.

The legislation we passed is going to rein in some of this needless, wasteful bureaucracy that the Federal Government has imposed on the people creating energy jobs and working to produce more energy because energy is called a master resource for a reason. We have it in great abundance.

One of the very important parts was language to expedite the shipment of America's natural gas to buyers around the world. It is good for our economy, and it is good for our allies who will be able to decrease their dependence on Russian gas.

Senator LISA MURKOWSKI from Alaska did an outstanding job of making sure that this legislation had ideas from both sides of the aisle. That is a big part of why this piece of major energy legislation—first time in 8 years—passed 85 to 12—85 to 12. That is another big accomplishment of the Senate this year that does not get enough attention. It is not just that we are passing important legislation that helps Americans, but we are doing it in a bipartisan way that allows every Senator—every Member of this body—to represent the people back home with their ideas and their suggestions.

We have voted on 129 amendments so far this year—129 amendments voted on this year. When the Democrats under HARRY REID were in control, a lot of people around here got used to the idea that people did not actually get to vote on amendments. In 2014, the last year under Democratic control under HARRY REID, the Senate had only 15 up-or-down votes on amendments all year—full calendar year 2014.

When Republicans took the majority, we changed that. The Senate has been working this year just as we worked last year. We could have done a lot

more if a few Democrats had not blocked progress on some very important pieces of legislation. The people in Wyoming now know that there are some important things they really care about, and they were actually blocked by President Obama. In January, the President vetoed legislation that we had passed to improve health care in this country by repealing major parts of ObamaCare.

Remember, the President said to Democrats that they should forcefully defend and be proud of that health care law, but one out of four Americans—25 percent of Americans—say they have been personally harmed by the President's health care law. So we put it on his desk to do a repeal, and he vetoed that.

Now, only about one in eight people in this country say they have been helped by the health care law. When you take a look at major legislation that impacts the country, it is no surprise that this health care law continues to be very unpopular, especially when you see that for every one person who says they have been helped, there are almost two people who said they have personally been hurt by the law.

The President also vetoed legislation that we passed here to bring some sanity to something called the waters of the United States rule—again, a rule put out in regulation by the President, a reinterpretation of the law. The law is very clear to me, but the President had his own approach. We put a bill on his desk to overturn what he has tried to do. The courts have actually stopped him in his tracks, but he once again vetoed our efforts.

Last year the President actually vetoed five different bills passed by Congress. This kind of obstructionism from President Obama doesn't help our country move forward. It is not helpful when the Democratic leaders do everything they can to convince people that nothing is being done in the Senate, but we hear that day after day from Minority Leader HARRY REID.

It is interesting, because when Senator REID was the majority leader, he had a very firm strategy, and the strategy seemed to be to do as little as possible.

Well, he is now the minority leader, and I think he went from the majority to the minority for a reason. It seems to me that he is still hanging on, clinging on to that losing strategy. The plan didn't work then, and I think that one of the reasons that he continues to try to talk down and slow down some of our progress is because, actually, he is envious—envious of anyone who gets things done in the Senate.

Republicans in the Senate are not interested in working at HARRY REID's pace and neither are the Democrats—many of the Democrats. Most Senators agree that we have a lot of work to do and that it is good for America when we actually do the work.



That is why we have been working our way through the appropriations bills. This year we got the earliest start ever to appropriations bills—and really in the history of the modern budget process. So we continue to work on that.

I wish to be clear on one important point. Doing our job in the Senate doesn't mean setting aside the priorities of the American people just to help President Obama build a political legacy. That is why the Senate is going to stand firm and strong to give Americans a voice in who gets to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. Now President Obama wants us to set aside everything else and let him appoint his Justice to the Supreme Court. It is not going to happen.

We do our job every day, doing the things that will make an immediate difference to the families all across the country, things that Republicans and Democrats agree on and that everybody knows we should be doing. That is what you are seeing with this Republican-run Senate. That is what the people want us to do. That is what they expect us to do, and that is what we will continue to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

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

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

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today is the 135th time I have come to give voice to the issue that I feel will most significantly define this generation of leadership in the United States and, frankly, around the globe.

I know that there are many people in Washington who would prefer to ignore what our carbon emissions are doing to our oceans and to our climate, but we disregard nature's warnings at our peril.

The changes to our environment, fueled by our carbon pollution, are far-reaching—from the coastlines to the prairies, from mountain tops to deep oceans, from pole to pole. As a terrestrial species, we naturally pay more attention to what is happening on land, such as increasing average global temperatures and upheavals in extreme weather. We don't so much see what is happening in our oceans.

Every year we emit into the Earth's thin atmosphere tens of gigatons of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels—nearly 36 gigatons of carbon dioxide in 2014. Not all of that carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere. Our oceans—the Earth's oceans—absorb approximately one-third of all our carbon pollution. That means they have absorbed roughly 600 gigatons in our industrial era.

For the record, a gigaton is a billion tons—not a thousand tons, not a mil-

lion tons, but a billion tons—and 600 billion tons of carbon dioxide have gone into our oceans. We know what that does. All that carbon dioxide in the oceans changes the ocean's very chemistry, and it makes ocean water more acidic. The chemical reaction, carbon dioxide reacting with water to form carbonic acid, is simple. You can replicate it in a middle school science lab, but its effects in the oceans are profound.

According to research published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, the rate of change in ocean acidity is already faster than at any time in the past 50 million years on Earth. We are rapidly spiraling into unknown territory. By way of context, the human species has been around on Earth for about 200,000 years. The human species started farming and herding, went from hunting and gathering to the basics of socialized human life less than 20,000 years ago. We are doing something to our planet now that has no precedent for 50 million years.

This line shows the increasing CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere in parts per million. This line shows the absorption of the CO<sub>2</sub> by the ocean, and this line shows the pH change in the oceans as a result. I would point out that pH is actually measured on a logarithmic scale. So if you were to adjust this to the standard percentage-type display of information, you would see this falling much more steeply. This is a very conservative way of showing what is happening to our oceans. The logarithmic scale is a multiple, not just a steady line. So as you move down the pH numbers, you are actually creating much more massive effects in the ocean.

People have measured this drop in ocean pH from climate change. This is not a theory. You can go out and measure it with equipment that is not very different, again, from what a middle school with an aquarium would use to measure pH in the aquarium.

People measure something else in our oceans also. They measure the rise in ocean temperature. For decades, the oceans have absorbed over 90 percent of the excess heat trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gas emissions. The heat that comes in, that gets trapped in our thin atmosphere when the Sun's warmth gets trapped by these greenhouse gasses, lands in a variety of places. The Antarctic ice sheet gets two-tenths of a percent of the heat. The Greenland ice sheet gets two-tenths of a percent of the heat. Arctic sea ice gets eight-tenths of a percent of the heat. Glaciers and icecaps take up nine-tenths of a percent of the heat. All of our continents together, the land mass of the Earth, take up 2.1 percent of the added heat from climate change.

The atmosphere, that thin membrane that allows us to live and breathe on this planet, has taken up 2.3 percent of the heat. All the rest of it, 93 percent,

has been taken up by the oceans. They are our refrigerant. They are our cooler. They are the air conditioner for the planet. But when you take up that much, things begin to change, and ocean heat is ramping up.

A study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change* found that in the last 20 years—actually, less than 20, from 1997 to now, to be exact—the oceans absorbed the same amount of heat energy just in that 20-year period as they had in the previous 130 years. That is a dramatic increase in heat uptake by the oceans. It is our human activity, specifically our unfettered burning of fossil fuels, that has made our oceans both warmer overall and more acidic.

One result of this is the calamity now taking place in the world's coral reefs. A healthy coral reef is one of the most productive and diverse ecosystems on Earth. It is an engine for the propagation of life. Coral depends on a symbiotic relationship with tiny, photosynthetic algae called zooxanthellae. They live in the surface tissue of the coral. Within a limited range of temperature, pH, salinity, and water clarity, this symbiosis can thrive, and it gives us reefs all over the world—these engines of life in the ocean. Living coral has evolved for millions of years to maintain its symbiosis within that range. We are now measurably—not theoretically but measurably—altering the ocean in ways too fast for coral to adapt.

Push corals out of their comfort range for very long, and the corals get stressed and they evict their algae. This process is what is known as coral bleaching. Because corals get most of their food out of that symbiotic relationship with these algae, if the algae can't be reabsorbed quickly, the corals die. Coral bleaching sounds benign, but it is like cardiac arrest for a reef. There is a good chance it dies and, even if it doesn't, it is a long recovery. We are currently in the middle of a massive bleaching of the world's coral reefs—cardiac arrest at a global scale.

Dr. Mark Eakin of NOAA's Coral Reef Watch Program says of this coral cataclysm: "It very well may be the worst period of coral bleaching we have seen." And when he says "we have seen," he means that which we have ever seen in the human record.

Worldwide, coral has already declined by approximately 40 percent. Closer to home, across the Caribbean and the Florida Keys, two key coral species have declined by an astonishing 98 percent in the last four decades.

In my lifetime, I have seen once-radiant underwater ecosystems teeming with life become barren fields of white skeletons reaching into an empty ocean. One of my climate trips took me down to Monroe County, FL, where I met Mayor Sylvia Murphy, the Republican mayor of Monroe County, home

to the famous Florida Keys. I asked her how the reefs were off the Keys. "Beautiful," she said, "unless you were here 15 years ago."

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral ecosystem on Earth. It is one of the seven wonders of the natural world. Severe bleaching is now hitting "between 60 and 100 percent of corals" on the Great Barrier Reef, according to Dr. Terry Hughes of James Cook University in Queensland, Australia.

Professor Hughes tweeted out a map of the current devastation, writing in the text: "I showed the results of aerial survey of bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef to my students, and then we wept."

As with many other effects of climate change, it can be difficult to convey the magnitude of events when they aren't taking place in front of our terrestrial human faces. In his 2010 TED talk, one of the great marine scientists we have, leading coral ecologist Dr. Jeremy Jackson, tried to bring this coral bleaching calamity a little closer to home. He put it like this:

Imagine you go camping in July somewhere in Europe or North America, and you wake up the next morning, and you look around you, and you see that 80 percent of the trees, as far as you can see, have dropped their leaves and are standing there naked. And you come home, and you discover that 80 percent of all the trees in North America and in Europe have dropped their leaves.

Remember, this is his example from July.

And then you read in the paper a few weeks later, "Oh, by the way, a quarter of those trees died." Well, that's what happened in the Indian Ocean during the 1998 El Nino, an area vastly greater than the size of North America and Europe, when 80 percent of all the corals bleached and a quarter of them died.

Jeremy came to speak to our caucus recently. He told us that every ocean ecosystem he studied in his career is gone, as he first found it, changed dramatically from his first visit.

Coral reefs are one of the first places that truly irreversible effects of climate change seem to be manifesting themselves—the proverbial canary dying in the coal mine of our carbon-ridden planet. To say the ocean we knew in our childhood is already gone is not doomsaying or pessimism, it is a grimly realistic assessment of where we stand, sadly.

In the Senate, there will likely be snickering about this. Some will say: Who gives a damn about coral reefs? If it can't be monetized by a corporation, the hell with it, is too often our motto here. Well, God made these glories. God made them on our planet. In some cases, they have been growing for tens of thousands of years. We are wrecking them in a single generation, and if that doesn't mean something to us, a long look in the mirror might be in order.

Even those who can only see this tragedy through their monetizer gog-

gles ought to know that a decline in healthy coral reefs is a huge blow to us all. According to an article last month in *The Atlantic*, coral reefs are home to 25 percent of the world's fish biodiversity. Reefs are incubators for ocean life, support systems for fisheries we depend on, tourist attractions for divers and snorkelers who fill local communities with their visiting and their spending, and they are coastal protection for coastal infrastructure and homes against storm waves. It is not nice to fool with Mother Nature. As Pope Francis warned, "God always forgives; mankind sometimes forgives; nature never forgives. You slap her and she will slap you back." As he says, we are sinning with our actions against nature, and nature will not forget.

We just don't have that right. We are making a mark on the Earth in this generation that will not go away. If mankind lasts 10,000 years, well, 10,000 years from now they will see and know the mark of this generation on our planet, and they will justly inquire: How could we have been such fools? How could we, in this generation, have been such greedy, reckless, self-infatuated fools?

In 1954, the United States detonated a hydrogen bomb over the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. The explosion vaporized everything on three islands, raised water temperatures to as much as 55,000 degrees, and left a crater over a mile wide and 240 feet deep. More than 60 years have gone by and scientists observe the corals in this part of the Pacific flourishing again. If you give it a chance, life finds a way.

Dr. Zoe Richards, one of the scientists involved in the study, said: "The healthy condition of the coral at Bikini Atoll today is proof of their resilience and ability to bounce back from massive disturbances, that is, if the reef is left undisturbed and there are healthy nearby reefs to source the recovery."

So that is the caveat. Reefs can recover but not if we continue to stack the deck oceanwide against them by pumping so much heat and carbon pollution into the oceans.

Senator SCHATZ of Hawaii—not coincidentally another ocean State—introduced, along with me, the American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act last year to address climate change with a market-based solution built on principles espoused by leading Republican economists. We went to Republicans—former Cabinet officials, former Members of Congress, economists, think tanks—and we said: How should we do this? If you don't like the President's plan, if you don't like the regulatory way, what is your way? Virtually every single person on the Republican side who has thought this problem through to a solution has come to the same place, a revenue-neutral carbon fee with an appropriate border adjustment. So that is

what we wrote. When you are ready, we are here. We did it your way.

As a Senator, John F. Kennedy once said:

Let us not despair but act. Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past—let us accept our own responsibility for the future.

This is particularly true for our oceans. As one Florida mayor put it: "The ocean is not Republican, and it's not Democratic . . . it's a nonpartisan ocean," and that nonpartisan ocean is screaming warnings at us that we ought to heed in nonpartisan fashion.

We have a clear scientific understanding of the problem, and we have a moral obligation to act. Time is not on our side. We need to pay attention to the evidence. We need to accept the reality of our predicament as it is communicated to us by the laws and signs of nature—God's signals to us on this Earth.

That is what healthy coral looks like under the water. Here it is bleached out and dying. It is our ocean. It is our responsibility. I urge this body to wake up and lead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. EMILY LEMBECK

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I come to the floor of the Senate to do something I periodically like to do when a citizen of my State deserves recognition for the contributions they have made to my State and the citizens of my State. Today is such a day.

Dr. Emily Lembeck is the superintendent of the Marietta City Public School System. Recently, she was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Education, and her palm print is embedded in the walk around Glover Park Square in Marietta, GA.

I am close to Emily in more ways than one. When I chaired the State board of education in 1996, she was an elementary school principal at Dunleith Elementary in Marietta, GA. She had been at West Side, she moved on to Marietta Middle School, and later became superintendent of the Marietta Public Schools—8,900 students, 1,200 employees—a challenge but a wonderful community.

Throughout her career, she has gifted more to children in our community than any person I know of. In particular, she has taught those who didn't know how to read to read. She

has made reading a passion in our community. She has made children's ability to read and comprehend and understand and move forward in life a reality, in a place where at one time it was no reality at all.

In fact, let me tell you, when I was chairman of the State board of education we were working hard to make Reading First a movement in this country. She came forward with this idea about adopting something called Marietta Reads. It was a very simple program but a program where leaders in the community, such as I, would come to elementary schools in Marietta, GA, sit down "Indian style" on the floor with first graders and teach them to read, read with them, and help them identify with the joy of reading and the understanding of reading. From that day, I gained a greater appreciation for the challenge every teacher faces as they teach our children in classrooms.

Emily Lembeck has been awarded almost every award you can possibly get, from the chamber of commerce to the Kiwanis Club, to the Rotary. She has received the Living the Dream Award from the NAACP during King Week a few years ago, she received the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award from the Boy Scouts for her leadership.

Time and again, Emily Lembeck has been represented to be the great person she is—a leader in education, a leader of children, somebody our community is proud of. So on this day in Washington, DC, on the floor of the Senate, I want the name of Emily Lembeck to ring from one corner to the other for all she has contributed and all she has done to make our community a better, more wholesome, and more meaningful community, and for what she has done to make the lives of our community's children just a little bit better.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for years now, patients on Indian reservations in the Great Plains area have been receiving substandard medical care.

The most recent example of the Indian Health Service's failure occurred in December of 2015, when I was notified that two federally operated Indian Health Service facilities in my State were at risk of losing their Medicare provider agreements. In other words, these two facilities have been delivering such a poor level of care, the government isn't sure it is willing to continue paying these facilities to care for Medicare patients.

In February, at the request of several Senators, myself included, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing to address the state of patient care at the Indian Health Service in the Great Plains area. Thanks to the graciousness of our colleague from Wyoming, Senator BARRASSO, who chairs the Indian Affairs Committee, I was able to participate in this hearing and question several Indian Health Service officials. I wish I could report that this hearing reassured me that the Indian Health Service is on track to solve the problems facing patients on the reservations, but it just left me more concerned. The hearing underscored the government's massive failure on this issue: its failure to deliver quality care, its failure to ensure patient safety, and its failure to live up to treaty responsibilities.

I have read the reports from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and some of the stories really are beyond comprehension. Incredibly, a report of dirty, unsanitized medical equipment left exposed in an emergency room isn't even the most shocking of those stories.

One patient who had suffered a severe head injury was discharged from the hospital mere hours after checking in, only to be called back later the same day when his test results arrived. The patient's condition was so serious that he was immediately flown to another facility for care.

One health service facility was in such disarray that a pregnant mother gave birth on a bathroom floor—a bathroom floor—without a single medical professional nearby, which shockingly wasn't the first time this had happened at this facility.

I wish I were able to stand here today and report that conditions are getting better. Unfortunately, I cannot. Since February's hearing, we have been made aware of another tragic event that occurred at Pine Ridge Hospital. Reports from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services indicate that a 23-year-old patient complaining of nausea and cramping in his hands and lower extremities died from cardiac arrest 2 hours after he was discharged from the emergency department. An investigation conducted by CMS verified that this young man failed to receive an adequate medical screening evaluation before his discharge. Even worse, the report indicated that there was no documentation showing nurse and doctor communication.

It hasn't helped that Congress's attempts to address these problems have been hampered by less-than-honest reporting from the Indian Health Service. Time and again, we have found that conditions on the ground have not matched up to information reported to Congress.

In 2014, I requested a status update from the then-Acting Director of the

Indian Health Service. In her response, she stated that "the Great Plains Area has shown marked improvement in all categories" and that "significant improvements in health care delivery and program accountability have also been demonstrated."

Significant improvements? Sending a man home with bleeding in his brain and having a mother give birth prematurely on a bathroom floor are not signs of significant improvements.

On December 4, 2015, officials from the Indian Health Service stated that a majority of the concerns at Rosebud Hospital had been addressed or abated. Yet, mere hours later, I was informed that the Rosebud Hospital emergency department was functioning so poorly that emergency patients would be diverted to other hospitals beginning the next day. It has now been 143 days, and the Indian Health Service leadership has been unable to reopen the Rosebud Hospital's emergency department.

For the last 143 days, incoming emergency patients have had to travel between 44 and 55 miles to receive care. That is similar to requiring a resident of Harpers Ferry, WV, to travel to Washington, DC, to receive emergency services. And to date, the Indian Health Service has been unable to tell us when it anticipates emergency department services will resume.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe informs me that since this emergency department has been on diverted status, six individuals have lost their lives in ambulances while being transported to a hospital farther away. Six families are now left to wonder whether their loved ones could have been saved if the Indian Health Service had been doing its job. This is unconscionable.

The Indian Health Service has one last chance this Friday to reach an agreement with CMS to set the Rosebud Hospital back on a path to compliance with basic safety and administrative requirements. If the Indian Health Service fails to do so, Rosebud will lose its status as a Medicare provider.

Additionally, the Indian Health Service has until Friday to address Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act violations found at Pine Ridge Hospital.

The administration has drafted report after report promising to correct these issues, yet time and again it has failed to follow through. During the recent Indian Affairs Committee hearing, the former Principal Deputy Director of the Indian Health Service could not remember that he was in charge of implementing a 2011 report. Where is the accountability? Who is in charge? We have got to do better.

Simply shifting staff between positions and offices, as the Indian Health Service has done in response to these problems, is not enough. It is time for action. We must do everything within our power—we will do everything within our power—to hold the Indian

Health Service accountable and to make sure this never happens again.

I continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate on a path forward to demand accountability from an agency that, by all accounts, is disconnected and unresponsive to the needs of our Native Americans.

I will also continue to consult with the nine tribes in South Dakota. Our tribes are in the best position to help figure out the path forward for their own health care, and I believe the Indian Health Service must do a better job of consulting with our tribes when it comes to the care they receive.

I am going to do everything I can within my power to get all of our tribal citizens the quality care they deserve.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. BURR pertaining to the introduction of S. 2854 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BURR. I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the one in three Ohioans who knows somebody who is struggling with addiction to heroin or prescription drugs.

I rise today on behalf of the over 5,000 Americans who have lost their lives to a prescription drug overdose since the Senate passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act back on March 10.

I rise today to talk about an epidemic which is affecting my home State of Ohio, which is affecting all our States, whichever it is, and which is affecting our country and must be dealt with.

This is the fourth time I have come to the floor of the Senate since we passed CARA, which is the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, and I come to floor to talk about our legislation and to ask the House of Representatives to please pass that legislation, which would then go to the President for his signature and could begin to help in communities all across the country.

The legislation I am talking about is legislation that the Senator from New

Hampshire, now who is the Chair right now, the Presiding Officer, has been involved with in a very deep way in her own State of New Hampshire and also here on the Senate floor. I appreciate all the hard work she has put into this, and I know she agrees with me that it is time for the House to act.

We passed it on March 10. That means it has been 47 days since the Senate acted. About 120 Americans die every day of a drug overdose. It has been 47 days. That means we have lost 5,600 Americans to drug overdoses since the Senate passed this bill.

By the way, it is not just about that tragic loss of life, it is about so many people who may not have overdosed but have this addiction and are not taking care of their families, are not able to work and be a productive citizen, are not achieving their God-given potential. It is about those who have overdosed but have been saved by this miracle drug that police and firefighters and other first responders and sometimes family members now are administering called Narcan or naloxone.

It means that since the Senate passed this bill, this epidemic is getting worse, not better. That is based on all of the information I get back home. Last week in Lebanon, OH—it is a small town north of Cincinnati, OH, where my family has roots going back to the 1920s—in Lebanon, OH, a 34-year-old woman, who was engaged to be married, overdosed and died in front of her children, one aged 10 and one baby girl who was still learning to walk. By the way, that little girl's father has now been arrested. Within days of her mother's addiction—she has now lost both her mom and her father.

Last week, from Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday morning—Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday morning—six people died of overdoses in one small town called Elyria, OH. It is not a big city; there are about 53,000 people in Elyria. We lost six people in 24 hours. That does not include the 14 people who were saved by this miracle drug I talked about, Naloxone, that reverses the effects of an overdose.

That is what has been happening. That is happening on our streets, and in the case of my home town of Cincinnati, it is happening in our parking lots. At noontime on Sunday, in my hometown, a man overdosed in the parking lot of the Museum Center in Cincinnati, OH. First responders moved quickly and were able to save his life. But it is happening in broad daylight, unfortunately, more and more frequently.

Since 2007 drug overdoses have killed more people in Ohio than car accidents, making it the No. 1 cause of accidental death. I am told that nationally, now, it is the leading cause of accidental death in the country. It is not car accidents, which we would might have assumed, it is overdoses. They have more than tripled in Ohio from 1999 to 2010.

We are told that 200,000 Ohioans are addicted to opioids—200,000 people. That is the size of a major city like Akron, OH. That is something which should concern us all.

Last week there was a poll that showed that 3 in 10 Ohioans know someone who has abused prescription drugs, and 1 in 8 knows someone who has overdosed. We are talking about more than 1.3 million Ohioans.

According to NIDA—the National Institute on Drug Abuse—the United States, even though we make up about 5 percent of the world's population, consumes 75 percent of the prescription drugs, including the vast majority of the world's prescription painkillers, the narcotic painkillers. They say four to five of the people who are heroin addicts started on prescription drugs.

We have heard more about this this week in the news, about the fact that so many people get addicted to the opioid, which is the prescription drug. Sometimes it is actually prescribed to them; sometimes they obtain it illegally. They turn to heroin as a less expensive alternative and then end up overdosing. The results are tragic.

If this is not an epidemic, I don't know what is. It is affecting every area. It knows no ZIP Code. So when you think about drugs and drug abuse and the effects of it, you might think inner city. That is not so. It is everywhere—in the suburbs, in the rural areas. It knows no ZIP Code.

I mentioned that this legislation we worked on here for a few years passed the Senate. It was bicameral legislation, meaning it was the House and Senate working together for 3 years. We had five conferences here in Washington. We brought in experts on the issues of prevention and education and treatment and recovery and how to deal with our veterans who are coming back, who have a high rate of addiction, how to deal with women and their babies. In my home State of Ohio, we have had a huge increase in the rate of babies being born addicted, and what do you do about that?

We put together this legislation in a comprehensive manner to handle not just one part or one sector but to be something that would deal with the holistic approach so that we could actually get at this issue.

In the House, by the way, the identical legislation was introduced, and they now have over 120 cosponsors of that legislation in the House. Yet they have not been able to move on that legislation. Instead, they are moving on other legislation to deal with the issue. That is good. I am sure there are a lot of other things that can and should be done. Some of what they are doing is consistent with CARA. But we know CARA works. We know that if we can pass it, the President would sign it. We know it would help immediately in our

communities. So I again call on the House to move quickly.

Last week a subcommittee in the House chaired by JOE PITTS marked up one dozen bills that have to do with how we fight this epidemic. JOE PITTS is a man who cares a lot about this issue. He has a passion for it. This week my friend and full committee chairman FRED UPTON is going to mark up those 12 bills. The House has a lot of good ideas. That is fine. That is good.

I joined Congressman BILL JOHNSON of Marietta, OH, who has been a passionate advocate on this issue, to introduce something called the Preventing Abuse of Cough Medicine Act, which would restrict the sale of certain cough medicines that are frequently abused. That is good. It is a common-sense Ohio idea. I thank my friend and colleague for doing his part to help our constituents. That should be passed in addition to CARA, along with other legislation.

I certainly respect my colleagues over there very much, as I said, but let's just give CARA a vote, and then let's move on this other legislation as well. It takes a while, as all of us are painfully aware, to get something through the process around here. This one went through with a 94-to-1 vote. It is comprehensive. It was introduced in both the House and the Senate. They have over 120 cosponsors. Let's just move that. Then, if there are other things to be dealt with, like the one I talked about, we can work on those as well and find ways to work together to find common ground. I will support that. I cannot speak for all of my colleagues, but I can speak for all of them—with the exception of one who voted the other way—to say that we will help get CARA to the President. In fact, it doesn't need to come back to the Senate if they pass the CARA legislation.

More and more Members in the House are focused on this issue. That is good. Tomorrow, the House Judiciary Committee is also marking up legislation in this area. So this is a separate committee—the Energy and Commerce Committee—and now the Judiciary Committee. They are going to mark up five related bills, including what they consider the alternative to CARA. It has some of the CARA provisions but not all of them.

Let me tell you what the experts out there are saying. There are over 120 groups who have endorsed our legislation, helped us to get our legislation through.

Yesterday, the policy director of the Harm Reduction Coalition sent a letter to the Judiciary Committee saying that its alternative “omits vital provisions in CARA addressing recovery, collateral consequences, prevention, and education. These omitted provisions represent critical community priorities, which truly relate to the com-

prehensiveness of CARA's approach. CARA was developed through a thorough process of extensive consultation with dozens of stakeholders . . . and has secured the broad support of national, state, and local addiction and recovery, public health, and criminal justice organizations. . . . The version of CARA passed by the Senate represents substantial consensus among both community stakeholders and bipartisan lawmakers.”

The House Judiciary's alternative to CARA does contain some of CARA's best proposals. I appreciate that. But unfortunately it dropped out a number of really important ones as well. Some of the most important ideas that are missing include provisions expanding drug takeback programs. Again, we talked about this earlier. These prescription drugs are at the heart of this problem. These takeback programs get these prescription drugs off the bathroom shelf, allow us to pull these drugs away from our communities so that people are not using these drugs to get into more drugs, to get into heroin. That is not in there.

There is also a heroin law enforcement task force that was dropped out and a drug court for veterans called the veterans court. That is a very important issue for all of us. The veterans' testimony we got made it clear to us that these courts are working. I have toured some of these courts. I have had a chance to sit down at a roundtable discussion in Ohio with one of our great veterans courts to talk to veterans whose lives have been entirely turned around by these veterans courts. After years and years of bouncing around in the prison system or at the VA, finally they get into these drugs courts for veterans, where they are surrounded by other veterans and they are able to pull their lives together, to get their families back together, and in one case go back to school. There is one guy who is about to graduate from Ohio State University after years and years of not being able to find a way to move forward.

Here is another one. Patty McCarthy Metcalf of Faces and Voices of Recovery wrote in a letter today that taking out the CARA recovery provisions “will prolong the crisis of addiction by not providing the critical support in communities across our nation where it is most needed. Recovery services provided by recovery community organizations, including recovery coaching and emergency rooms and drug courts and recovery education and awareness, are desperately needed and highly effective in getting people with addiction on a long-term path to recovery.”

What does she mean by all that? She means that these recovery coaches and the services that are supported by the CARA bill help people who might go, as she said, to an emergency room because they have an overdose to be con-

fronted by somebody who says: Look, we can help you get better. You don't have to do this again. You don't have to overdose again. You don't have to go through this near-death experience. We can get you into a program where you can get treatment and recovery.

Someone has to provide the resources for those coaches. We want those coaches. All of us as citizens should want them. We don't want people to keep overdosing again and again. We want to break that cycle. That is what our legislation would do.

Patty makes the critical point that our response has to be comprehensive. I think she is right. She says:

Prevention, treatment and enforcement cannot solve the opiate problem without recovery supports. National experts on addiction, and millions of people in recovery, will agree that a comprehensive approach is critical.

That is what we do. CARA is comprehensive. There are 71 recovery groups, including the Ohio State University Collegiate Recovery Community, which sent a letter to the House Judiciary Committee and the Education and Workforce Committee today expressing concern that two sections of CARA which expand recovery supports for students in high school and in college were dropped out. These are amazing programs. I am so impressed with these brave young men and women who stand up and say: I have a problem. I have an addiction. For other students at this high school or at this college, who, like me, have this addiction, have this disease, I want to help you. We should work together and come together in support groups.

There did not use to be any of these hardly, as far as I know. Now there are a number of them. Ohio State University is one of the places that took the lead in this. I am so proud of those students who stood up and said: Despite the stigma around this, I am going to stand up and say that I have this problem, and I know many of you do too. If you do, come, and we can work together to work through this problem.

Again, what they say is, “We support a comprehensive approach to addressing this epidemic, which must include providing recovery supports that enable individuals to enter and sustain their recovery.” Again, CARA is comprehensive. No other bill comes close.

As this process moves forward, I hope we will insist that any final agreement represents a comprehensive approach because this epidemic has to be combated from all angles. The approach we took to writing CARA was to say we are going to take the best ideas regardless of where they come from. We don't care who brings them. We just care what the idea means to help address this problem.

We had ideas from Democrats. We had ideas from Republicans. We had ideas from House Members, from Senators, from experts in law enforcement,

and from patients in recovery. We didn't ask who had the idea, we asked if it was a good idea. That is how you cobble together good legislation that makes a difference in our communities.

On Friday I was in Ohio chairing a hearing of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. It was at University Hospitals of Cleveland, OH. We heard from law enforcement experts such as the attorney general, Mike DeWine, and the acting U.S. attorney, Carole Rendon. She was great, as was Senator DeWine. Law enforcement, including the Fraternal Order of Police, has been strongly supportive of CARA because they believe this comprehensive approach works.

We also provide training for the administering of this naloxone we talked about, the Narcan, and being sure that law enforcement has what they need to be able to help combat this issue. We also create these law enforcement task forces to combat heroin and methamphetamines. They want better tools, law enforcement does, so they can save lives. We owe them that.

In Ohio I am that our first responders have used naloxone more than 16,000 times in the last year alone. Thank God for those first responders because they have saved thousands and thousands of lives.

On Friday we also heard from Tracy Plouck from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. We heard from Dr. Nancy Young of Children and Family Futures and Dr. Margaret Kotz, who is the director of Addiction Recovery Services at University Hospitals in Cleveland, one of the experts we have relied on. They talked about the recovery process.

Their point was that probably 9 out of 10 people who need treatment are not getting it. That is a clear sign the status quo is not working. Some of it is the stigma we talked about earlier, people are not coming forward. Some of it is not having treatment programs that are accessible. We heard about waiting lists, sometimes 3 or 4 days, sometimes 14 days, sometimes a couple of months—and people being at that point in their lives where they are willing to come forward and say: I need to solve this problem. Yet there is a waiting list.

Last night I had a tele-townhall meeting. We had 25,000 Ohioans on at any one time. It was a big group. People were talking about all kinds of issues, from the terrorist threat we face to energy and environment issues, to the jobs issue.

One guy called in and he asked: What are you doing about treatment for people who have drug problems?

So I told him about the CARA legislation and he seemed to have a quiver in his voice.

I asked him: You seem to have a lot of interest in this and some information about it. Can you tell us your background?

I thought perhaps he was a doctor or a treatment specialist.

Unfortunately, he said what you hear more and more from parents, which is: I lost my child to addiction. She had an overdose. She died. And the reason I am so focused on treatment, Senator PORTMAN, is because we got her to the place in her life where she was willing to go, finally, to a treatment center and get the treatment and recovery services she needed to deal with this disease that had gripped her—and there was no room at the inn. There was a waiting list. We couldn't get her in, and it was during that period that we couldn't get her into the treatment center that would have helped her that she overdosed.

This is a caller from last night who—on a call—was willing to say this in front of 25,000 people. I told him I appreciated the fact that he had the courage to call in and the courage to talk about it. Of course, I expressed my sympathy to him and his family but asked him to continue talking about it, to channel that grief into something positive.

Until we get more people into treatment, this is going to continue to be a huge problem in every one of our communities. Until we change the law, until we get legislation passed in Washington so we can be better partners, we are not going to be doing our part. Will Washington solve this problem? No. This problem is going to be solved in our communities, it is going to be solved in our families, and it is going to be solved in our hearts. We have to get people to pull away from this, to understand the dangers, better prevention and education.

In our legislation, we have a prevention program to build awareness about the connection with prescription drugs and heroin. I bet most people listening right now didn't know about that connection, a lot of people don't. Why would you, if you hadn't faced this issue? That awareness alone is going to make people make better decisions for themselves, for their children.

Friday in Cleveland we had a man testify whose son died of an overdose. Do you know why? Because he had his molars—his wisdom teeth—taken out. When he had his wisdom teeth taken out, what happened?

You know where I am going.

They gave his son, a kid, Percocet—a narcotic, a painkiller. The rest of the story you know, which is he started taking more of those and more of those. Then he took some from the bathroom shelf of one of his relatives. He developed this addiction and eventually turned to heroin and overdosed.

Now his father, God bless him, is out there talking to high schoolers, talking to middle schoolers, talking to young people about the dangers.

We can address this issue. We know we can. There has been success with

other awareness programs. Think of smoking and teen smoking. We have made great progress there. We have to make progress on this one. This is about life and death.

We heard testimony on Friday from Dr. Michele Walsh, the director of neonatology at University Hospitals. She talked about how she is increasingly seeing babies who are born with what is called neonatal abstinence syndrome. That is a fancy way of saying these poor babies are born with an addiction. She said the symptoms are the same you would see with an adult. It is the fidgeting. It is the sweats.

These are little babies. I have gone to these neonatal units, and I know some of my colleagues have. You see these babies. They are so small they can fit in the palm of your hand, and they are addicted. You have these doctors and nurses with incredible passion, such as Dr. Michele Walsh, who are taking care of them. In my home State of Ohio we have had a 750-percent increase in the last 12 years with babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome—a 750-percent increase. Every single neonatal unit in Ohio is facing this.

I have been to Rainbow Babies & Children's in Cleveland, which is at this hospital. I have seen what they do. I have been to St. Rita's special care nursery in Lima, OH. I have been to Children's Hospital in my own hometown. They are doing great work, but wouldn't it be great if we didn't have to deal with this issue because we had better prevention and education to let mothers know what the danger is when they are pregnant and they could have better treatment and recovery to get those women out of this grip of addiction so their babies can be born without these issues.

Frankly, the long-term effects we talked about at our hearing, talking to experts and doctors, I don't think people know what the long-term effects are—and of course that is scary. They basically take these babies through withdrawal. We have to provide babies with the medication at a lower level—but that you would provide an adult—to take them through the withdrawal process.

CARA, the legislation we are talking about, would help these women. It would help these babies by expanding treatment for expectant and postpartum women as well as awarding grants to evidence-based treatment services and residential treatment programs for pregnant women who are struggling with addiction. It would create a pilot program to provide family-based services to women who are addicted to opiates in a nonresidential outpatient setting. It is what we learn from experts—how to help address this problem—that is in this legislation.

I know there are other ideas out there, and that is great, but stripping out some of CARA's core provisions

just didn't make any sense to me. Let's keep it comprehensive. Let's be sure and get this legislation done and then work on additional legislation.

The House could simply put CARA on the suspension calendar and have a vote on it. That is the calendar where you have to have a two-thirds vote, but something like this with all the co-sponsors and all the interest in this issues now, I think it would pass. That means we are one vote away of getting this help to our communities.

That is how close we are to a historic achievement to help begin to turn the tide, to make the Federal Government a better partner with our States, our local communities. Our great non-profits are out there in the trenches doing the work and our families. There is no reason it couldn't happen today, tomorrow, or the next day before we go into another congressional recess.

After 3 years of work, it doesn't make sense to start from scratch and try to rewrite this. Let's work together to come up with additional ideas that are course appropriate. Nobody has a monopoly on good ideas around here.

Believe me, I know some of these House Members. They have the right intentions. They are trying to help. I appreciate that, but I also think we all need to appreciate the fact that this is a crisis. We are losing more and more Americans, 5,600 since CARA was passed in the Senate. Roughly every 12 minutes we lose someone else. People's lives are on the line. Communities are being impacted. Families are being torn apart. It is time for us to act and act quickly.

I appreciate the time today. I urge the House to move quickly on this legislation so we can begin to help our communities in need.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### "EL FARO" TRAGEDY

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to discuss, first of all, the successful location of the *El Faro* voyage data recorder by the NTSB. As you all recall, that was the ship that had sailed from Jacksonville and was lost at sea and everyone perished. Today, the NTSB found the data recorder.

The U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, and other search partners were also involved. That gives me hope that we will soon have more answers about this terrible disaster and how to prevent a similar one from happening again. So I

want to thank the men and women of the investigative team who worked together to find this important piece of the *El Faro* puzzle.

Today we are also reminded of those who were lost on the *El Faro* and the loved ones they left behind. They remain in our thoughts and prayers.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Madam President, on a different topic, I wanted to come to the floor today and talk again about the Zika virus. Once again there was an announcement that there had been additional cases identified in Florida.

Just to recap where we stand now, Zika has now spread to over 43 countries. There are 500 cases in U.S. territories, most of them on the Island of Puerto Rico. In my home State of Florida, there are now 93 cases—the most of any State—and the peak mosquito season is directly ahead.

A lot has happened regarding Zika. We have learned more and more about this disease. For example, we are now learning the virus has a direct link to Guillain-Barre syndrome, a very debilitating, often fatal, illness, and it is striking people affected with it. We are learning through recent science that it is not just the first trimester of pregnancy but also potentially in the second trimester that unborn children can be impacted by this, and the impacts are devastating.

We are learning that of the two species of mosquitoes that spread the disease, one of them has developed an immunity, a resistance to the most commonly used pesticide to remove them. So there is real concern as we head into the summer months and mosquitoes begin to appear that soon we will wake up to the news that there has now been a mosquito-borne transmission within the continental United States.

Here is the bottom line: We don't know everything about this disease. We already know it is bad, but we don't know how bad it is. Every day we find out more things. We know during these summer months it will be increasingly warm in many parts of the country where the two mosquito species that spread the virus can be found—in 30 out of 50 States. We know those mosquitoes tend to grow even faster during warm seasons and when there is a lot of water on the ground. And we know one of the countries most impacted by it—Brazil—will soon host the Summer Olympic Games, which means there is going to be a tremendous amount of travel to and from Brazil, and, in fact, there already is. We know the disease is not just spread through mosquitoes, but it is also sexually transmitted.

The result of all this is that there is a real concern about what direction we are headed. The President has asked for \$1.9 billion in funding, and I am generally supportive of that request. I believe we need to deal with these

issues on the front end as quickly as possible. We don't want to wake up one morning to the realization that we are now in the middle of summer, this has become an epidemic or a catastrophe, and we didn't do anything on the front end. Everyone here will have to explain what their position was at the time.

I also think you can be for Zika funding—you can even be for Zika funding at \$1.9 billion—and you can also ask questions about how this money is going to be spent and, if possible, how we are going to pay for it because we are facing a debt situation in this country. I believe we can find \$1.9 billion to pay for it. I have suggested some of my own.

What we don't want to do is to play political games with this. I think it is important. On the one side, you can't just say: Look, I am against anything they are asking for that comes up unless you prove otherwise. I think it is important that we now admit this is a serious issue that needs to be confronted. But it is also not being an obstructionist to ask: How is the money going to be spent? What programs will be funded? Where is the prioritization going to be? I think it is not too much to ask to have a level of detail about that \$1.9 billion.

What I am concerned about is some of the reports in the news that there are games being played with this. We have heard the news that the administration has redirected \$44 million in emergency preparedness grants promised to State and local governments this summer. Oftentimes in politics this is a very typical maneuver. What you do is, you cut money from an organization somewhere and you blame it on congressional inaction—or in the States, on legislative inaction. And they say the reason you are losing this money is that someone is not doing what we want, so you find the most painful, alarming cuts and use them as a leverage point to get pressure built on Congress. So I want to make sure that this is not part of some game. We shouldn't be playing games with this. I think it is also important to understand why, in addition to the \$1.9 billion, they are also saying on top of that we also have to repay the \$510 million in Ebola funds since the Ebola situation is now under control.

These are all legitimate issues that need to be confronted. But in the end, we have to do something about this. I know the Senate and the Congress were not meant to move at warp speed, to say the least. It is a place in which action takes time, and I understand that. But there are things we don't have time for. This issue has to be dealt with on the front end. Summer is here already. If you have been in South Florida, as I have on weekends, and back in my home State, as I will be

again this Friday and into the weekend, it is already hot. That heat, combined with a wet season, means mosquitoes.

This is mosquito season. We have a disease that is already creating this catastrophic impact in countries neighboring us to the south. We know it is spread by mosquitoes. Mosquito season is rapidly approaching, and we have to get ahead of this. None of us wants to be in a position in June, July, and August where this thing breaks out and we start seeing cases in the continental United States, as we are already seeing in Puerto Rico and in Brazil, and we have no answer for why we did nothing during these months we were here.

I don't know what all the impediments are. I know there are conversations going on at the committee level, but I hope we can bridge this rather quickly. There are so many other issues we can argue about. There are so many other issues we can have debates about in the partisan season. But I don't think a disease of this magnitude, with this level of risk, is one we should be playing games with.

My hope is that cooler heads will prevail and that over the next few days we will find it within ourselves to find out how to appropriate the necessary money so we can begin to deal with this, at least on the front end. Maybe there is a chunk of money on the front end so we can begin to address it and then we can come back later and fund the rest of it. I think it is incumbent upon the administration and others to say "This is what the money is going to be spent on" so we can judge whether the money and the funds are actually going to things that work. But this needs to happen. This problem can't wait, and it shouldn't be a partisan fight.

Combating Zika is an appropriate use of public dollars. It is an appropriate use of public dollars. I am for limited government. I am for a very limited Federal Government. But one of the things the Federal Government is tasked with is keeping our people and country safe, particularly from external threats. Traditionally, what that means is an invading army or some military threat from abroad or whatever. In this case, this is a threat emerging from abroad, but it is coming toward the United States. There is nothing that prevents the United States from becoming like some of these other countries that have been impacted by this—nothing. Our people are not genetically immune to Zika. It is a matter of time. It is not a question of if, it is a question of when there will be a mosquito-borne transmission of the Zika disease here in the United States. And when that happens, if the posture of the Congress has been that we did nothing—nothing has happened on this; we are still debating over \$200 million or \$50 million—people will not be satisfied with that answer.

So my hope is that this is dealt with according to the level of urgency it deserves. As I said, in my home State of Florida we already have 93 cases, with 2 new ones over the weekend. Those numbers are only going to grow. It is just a matter of time before there is a mosquito-borne transmission somewhere in the United States—the continental United States, because, as I said, this has already occurred in Puerto Rico—and I hope we get ahead of it before it is too late.

As I speak to the appropriators and those involved in this, my hope is that we can find our way forward on this rather quickly. There are so many other issues to argue about; this should not be one of them. The money needs to be spent the right way, but it needs to be spent and it needs to be appropriated, and we should endeavor to pay for as much of it, if not all of it, as we can. It needs to get quickly to the target. We need to move from this process and on to those programs so we can get ahead of it in May and June, before we get into the summer, before we get into mosquito season, and before we have an outbreak in the United States. If not, we then will have to answer to the people as to why nothing happened when we knew the risk was growing and the threat was emerging.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, it has been nearly 9 months since the United States had an Ambassador to Mexico. The President's nominee to that post, Roberta Jacobson, is eminently qualified for the post.

The Arizona Republic noted in an editorial from March that "she's qualified, respected and needed to do an important job." They are right.

For more than 20 years, Ms. Jacobson has been immersed in the regional, political, economic, and security issues related to the Western Hemisphere. In fact, as part of her extensive background, she served for a time as Director of the Office of Mexican Affairs at the State Department. She is obviously fluent in Spanish and has earned the respect of her colleagues. She served for 3 years as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Canada, Mexico, and NAFTA issues within the Bureau of Western Hemisphere—experience that would later serve the United States well given that Mexico is America's third

largest trading partner, with bilateral trade totaling more than half a trillion dollars. However, she has been waiting for the Senate to confirm her nomination since the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported it to the Senate in November of last year by a vote of 12 to 7.

It should be incomprehensible to anyone around the country to have a post of the top diplomat to one of our most important bilateral relations open for this long, but for Arizonans, it is particularly baffling. Arizona alone enjoyed a trade relationship with Mexico of nearly \$17 billion last year. On the export side, Arizona exports about \$9 billion in goods and services to Mexico every year, which, according to the Arizona Republic, "accounts for 41 percent of the state's exports, and four times more than our state exports to our next biggest trading partner, Canada."

According to the Arizona-Mexico Commission:

With an economy that now surpasses \$1.3 trillion, Mexico ranks as one of the top 20 economies in the world. Mexico's economy has been increasingly focused on manufacturing, particularly since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994.

More than \$1 billion in goods are exchanged between the United States and Mexico every day. But the U.S.-Mexico relationship is about more than just our economies; transportation issues, security threats, and natural resource management are just some of the fronts on which we cooperate with Mexico.

The Arizona Republic notes that "the Arizona Department of Transportation recently signed a memorandum of understanding to study ways to improve the trade corridor that spans the border." Arizona alone shares six ports of entry with Mexico, and Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport facilitates 122 flights a week to and from Mexico. All of this cooperation requires a close partnership between our two countries. The longer the United States goes without having an Ambassador to Mexico, the greater that partnership will suffer.

To my knowledge, the holdup in this process is not based on any concrete concerns with the qualifications of this specific nominee. She enjoys overwhelming support. There is no reason not to move forward with this nomination. If there is opposition, then Members should have the opportunity to express it. As such, I will be asking unanimous consent for a time agreement with a rollcall vote on her confirmation. There is simply no reason we should not have an Ambassador to Mexico when we have a candidate as qualified as Roberta Jacobson.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate



proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 365; that there be 30 minutes for debate only on the nomination equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I agree that the U.S.-Mexico relationship is one of our most important bilateral relationships. We do need an ambassador in Mexico City who has a track record of effectively advancing U.S. interests. I do, however, have serious questions about the policies that Assistant Secretary Jacobson has pursued during her tenure in the Western Hemisphere Bureau. I have had conversations with the administration and others, such as Senator CORKER, about the concerns, and I remain hopeful that we can find a way to resolve this issue in the very near future, but until then, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I plan to return frequently for as long as it takes to shed a light on this nomination and to make sure it moves forward, so I expect to be here tomorrow to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the United States is one of the most dynamic and innovative countries in the world. Our Nation's success in areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, computer technology, and medicine can be traced in large measure to our respect for, and protection of, intellectual property.

Every year on this day, April 26, we have the opportunity to recognize the important role of intellectual property rights in the fabric of our society when we celebrate World Intellectual Property Day.

Nearly 230 years ago, our Founding Fathers recognized the importance of intellectual property and made provisions for its promotion and protection in the Constitution. Article I, section 8, clause 8 empowers Congress "to promote the Progress of Science and Useful Arts, by securing, for limited Times, to Authors and Inventors, the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries."

Since that time—and stemming from these values—intellectual property has

played a vital role in our economy, supporting jobs and advancing creative and scientific industries.

In our modern, innovation economy, patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and other forms of IP are more critical than ever. As the Global Intellectual Property Center recently pointed out in their broad survey of Intellectual Property in America, IP-intensive industries employ over 40 million Americans, accounting for 38 percent of total U.S. gross domestic product. Workers in IP-intensive industries are paid better than the national average, earning an average salary of over \$50,000 compared to those in non-IP-intensive sectors where the average is roughly \$39,000. In fact, intellectual property is so important to the American economy that the collective worth of all of the intellectual property in the United States is now above \$5.8 trillion.

In Iowa, we have seen how intellectual property has become an integral part of our economy. Our system of strong intellectual property protection has led to \$11.2 billion in annual IP-related exports from the State, a total of 667,557 IP-related jobs, and 19.9 percent higher wages for direct IP workers than non-IP workers. Just as Iowans utilized strong IP laws 75 years ago when they were discovering how to feed the world through cutting-edge science, today's Iowans benefit from our system of IP protection as they start companies and create new tech success stories.

The Judiciary Committee plays an important role in protecting intellectual property. The committee exercises jurisdiction over our Nation's intellectual property laws including those governing patents, trademarks, and copyrights. We consider legislation that helps to ensure that intellectual property rights continue to promote jobs and innovation. The committee also exercises important oversight of the Patent and Trademark Office, ICANN, the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, and various law enforcement entities charged with protecting IP.

Some recent examples of important legislation that helps promote intellectual property rights are the PATENT Act of 2015 and the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016. The PATENT Act, which passed the committee by a vote of 16 to 4 last June, takes important steps to stop abusive patent litigation practices. As bad actors are exploiting the high costs of litigation and using deceptive tactics to prey on businesses, it is important that this legislation be considered in the Senate.

Just 3 weeks ago, the Senate unanimously passed the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016, sponsored by Senators HATCH and COONS. Building upon the bipartisan consensus generated in the Judiciary Committee, the bill passed

on the Senate floor by a vote of 87 to 0. It is estimated that the American economy loses 2.1 million jobs and over \$300 billion in economic losses every year because of trade secret theft. The Defend Trade Secrets Act brings much-needed uniformity to trade secret litigation. This will allow the creators and owners of trade secrets to more effectively address the growing problem of trade secret theft. The House of Representatives is expected to pass our bill this week and I hope it will be immediately signed by the President.

Tomorrow, the Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on counterfeits and their impact on consumer health and safety. We will hear from a panel of experts, including witnesses from the Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and industry. These businesses include companies that provide home health care products and equipment to our troops. They will discuss how counterfeits can harm consumers and what their impact is on the economy. We will hear how law enforcement is addressing this problem as well as how stakeholders are educating consumers to protect themselves from counterfeits.

The focus of this year's World Intellectual Property Day is "digital creativity." As the World Intellectual Property Organization notes, the current era of Internet connectivity is transforming how consumable culture such as films, TV, music, books, art, and other cultural works are created and distributed. This has led to radical changes in the way we access content and in how businesses operate. As challenges emerge as to how we protect intellectual property rights in these new economic models, we must continue to search for effective solutions that promote creativity across different mediums.

So on this World Intellectual Property Day, it is important to once again recognize the significance of our Nation's robust system of intellectual property protection and enforcement. This system has helped create the United States' enduring role as a leader in innovation and creativity. As the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I will continue to embrace my role as a promoter of intellectual property rights and American jobs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Susan M. Collins, Lamar Alexander, Cory Gardner, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Bill Cassidy, Johnny Isakson, Lisa Murkowski, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Lindsey Graham, Thad Cochran, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Richard C. Shelby.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived with respect to the cloture vote.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO BART ELLEFRITZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am not sure of the man's name, but I want to thank a public policy professor at Western Illinois University.

About a decade ago, this astute professor was talking with one of his best graduate students about his future.

The professor knew that the young man was hoping to put his talent and training to good use working as a city

planner or city manager in a small Illinois town—maybe a town like the one in which the young man had grown up.

The professor suggested another possibility. He asked his student: "Have you ever considered going to Washington and working on Capitol Hill? I think you might like it, and you'd be good at it."

Fortunately for me and for countless others in my State of Illinois, that young man Bart Ellefritz, loves new challenges and adventures, so he decided to trust his professor's advice.

He moved to Washington and landed a job as an intern in Senator HARRY REID's personal office. That is when my office first became aware of him.

Before long, I hired Bart to work as a staff assistant on my Judiciary Committee staff.

Bart mastered that job in no time flat and was ready for his next challenge, so he moved home to Illinois to work in my Springfield office doing casework.

For those who may be unfamiliar with that term, "casework" is a word we use to describe efforts by our staff members who work to help people with specific problems—to try to cut through red tape and make government work better for people.

Bart Ellefritz is a master of casework because he is smart and he believes that government can be a force for good. Most of all, he cares about people.

In 2009, Bart got an offer that was too good to turn down. It was the beginning of President Obama's first term. Former Illinois Congressman Ray LaHood was the new U.S. Secretary of Transportation, and he asked Bart to come work for him, so he left—with my blessing.

About 5 years ago, I succeeded in hiring Bart back to be the director of my Springfield office, which serves all of downstate Illinois.

Let me tell you, being my downstate director is no 9-to-5 job for Bart Ellefritz. Somedays, it is a 5-to-9 job—from 5 in the morning until 9 at night.

Bart is my representative—my eyes and ears—for a large part of my State. He drives hundreds of miles every week in his Mitsubishi Outlander Sport—made in Normal, IL—to meet with people on my behalf, listen to their ideas and concerns, and try to help them solve their problems.

I can't begin to count the number of people whom Bart has helped, but let me tell you about one of them.

Judy—I won't use her last name—works as a housekeeper at a motel where I often stay, and we have become friends.

Several years ago, Judy confided to me that she was 62 years old and had never in her whole life had health insurance—not for a single day. She had worked her whole life in manual labor, working as a cook, a waitress, a house-

keeper, and she had never known the security of having health insurance.

I asked Bart to see if there was some way to help Judy. Bart spend hours and hours talking on the phone with Judy, driving to see Judy in person, talking with folks at Medicare and Medicaid.

A final hurdle came when Judy needed an email account to sign up for health care. Judy had never used email before, so Bart helped her set up her account.

Finally, at the age of 62, because of Bart's persistence and the Affordable Care Act, Judy was able to afford health insurance. She was able to sleep more easily knowing that she was no longer just one bad illness or accident away from total financial ruin.

I am sorry to report that Bart Ellefritz is leaving my office again next month. He is off on another great challenge. He will be working for CTA, the Chicago Transit Authority, one of the largest transit systems in the world, in one of the greatest cities in the world.

I want to thank Bart publicly for the countless ways in which he has helped me and, more importantly, helped the people of Illinois.

I also want to thank Bart's wife, Ashley, and their son, Charley, who is just 21 months old, for sharing Bart with the people of Illinois.

Bart and Ashley are what some folks in Washington refer to as a mixed marriage.

Ashley Messick was working as assistant secretary of the Senate Republican caucus, helping Senator MCCONNELL run the Senate floor, when she and Bart met.

Bart was sharing a house in Washington with some other young professionals—one of whom happened to be a close friend of Ashley's. They met at the house, and hit it off immediately.

I also want to thank Bart's parents, Keith and Terri Ellefritz, for raising two wonderful sons. Their other son, Bart's brother Ben, is a minister.

Keith and Terri raised their two boys in west central Illinois, in a town called Carthage, population 2,605.

Bart played on his high school football team, the Carthage Blueboys, in 1998, the year they won the State football championship.

Keith and Terri Ellefritz raised their boys to have big hearts and small-town values.

Somewhere along the way, Bart also developed a passion for traveling, meeting new people, and seeing the world through their eyes.

He has visited all seven Wonders of the World.

He took 3 months off after he left the Department of Transportation to hike through sub-Saharan Africa. He ended that trip in Tanzania, where Ashley met up with him and together, they climbed more than 19,000 feet to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Bart once took his mom skydiving in Australia.

This past October he spent 2 weeks hiking in Ethiopia.

When Charley was born 21 months ago, his parents got him a passport, along with his birth certificate. At 7 months old, Charley got his passport stamped for the first time—for a trip to Colombia, South America.

Bart Ellefritz pours his whole heart into whatever he does, whether he is riding a camel in the desert, spending time with Ashley and Charley, or listening to people of my State and helping to solve problems. And he is almost always smiling.

In closing, I want to thank Bart again for the great skill, caring, and tenacity he has always brought to his job as a member of my staff, and I want to wish him the best of luck as he begins his next professional adventure with CTA in Chicago.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL DETTMAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, after decades of committed service to the important cause of providing public housing for those in need, Paul Dettman is retiring this month as executive director of the Burlington Housing Authority.

Throughout Paul's career, he has worked tirelessly in the field of public service. Public housing has not been a fashionable cause for many years, and our communities have certainly seen the effects of this sometimes forgotten priority. Paul Dettman was never deterred by these attitudes, however, and has been dedicated to finding creative solutions to provide for our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.

Paul's leadership has resulted in a series of public-private partnerships and innovative initiatives have helped revitalize communities across the Green Mountain State. Before joining the Burlington Housing Authority as its executive director in November 1995, Paul served for many years with the Vermont State Housing Authority. It was here that Paul created the State's first lead hazard reduction program, which now stands as a model for providing families of all incomes with safe housing.

Since the beginning of Paul's tenure at Burlington Housing Authority 20 years ago, Vermont's oldest and largest municipally based housing authority, the organization has grown vastly in size and scope. The Burlington Housing Authority has taken on new development projects, improved homebuyer education, and negotiated critical agreements to prevent homelessness in recent years. Under Paul's direction, the Burlington Housing Authority has upheld a strong mission to support all residents, including refugees, those in transition, or in need of long-term supportive services.

Paul's commitment also resulted in a critical partnership with another local organization, Women Helping Battered Women, to create Sophie's Place. Together, these two organizations devised a plan to provide victims of domestic violence easier access to public housing subsidies so that they could move directly from violent homes into safe transitional housing. This solution simultaneously eased suffering, streamlined services, and saved money. This program now functions as a key component of the local economic justice and housing plans and serves as a model for valuable partnerships in my home State. This program is only one of many that I could provide as reference to Paul's great work in Burlington and beyond.

Like his many colleagues and friends, I know that the Burlington Housing Authority and the greater housing community will miss Paul's expertise, spirit, and compassion. Marcelle and I extend our best wishes as Paul begins his retirement after a long and distinguished career. I surely hope that Paul will take time to enjoy one of his greatest hobbies in the years ahead—sugarmaking among the sweet sugarbush.

Paul Dettman's standard of distinction should be an inspiration to others, just as it has been to the city of Burlington and the State of Vermont.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was unable to vote today on three amendments to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, H.R. 2028.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on Senator MERKLEY's amendment No. 3812, to provide additional funding for wind energy projects, and yes on Senator REID's amendment No. 3805, to fund water conservation programs in the Colorado River Basin.

Lastly, I would have voted no on Senator FLAKE's amendment No. 3820, as it decreases funding for Army Corps of Engineers construction projects, which include flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and ecosystem restoration projects that are vital to numerous areas in Virginia.●

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3202 TO THE ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I am very pleased with the Senate's show of support for the Isakson-Bennet amendment, which was a modified version of the Sensible Accounting to Value Energy Act. We have been working on this bill together for more than five years.

The SAVE Act simply creates a voluntary program to encourage people to include energy efficiency in the purchase price of a new or existing home. It allows sellers the option of providing a HUD-qualified energy efficiency report to prospective buyers who are applying for a home mortgage. If that loan is backed by FHA, the energy efficiency of the home and the cost of a borrower's future energy bills will be taken into account by the mortgage lender.

Builders and manufacturers are constantly creating new energy efficient products and features, but the enhanced value and energy savings achieved by these innovations are not fully realized by the market. The passage of this amendment will for the first time provide a mechanism to account for those saving and unlock demand for new energy efficient products and significantly reduce homeowner's utility bills.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, would the Senator yield for a question?

I would like to commend my colleagues for their support for energy efficiency programs that reduce residential energy consumption. Expanding the use of these technologies in our everyday lives is a commitment to our future and will create jobs in Ohio.

However, I am also concerned that adjusting underwriting or appraisal requirements without sufficient protections to ensure a family has the ability to repay their loan could have unintended consequences that put our housing market at risk, which I know is not the intention of the sponsors.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with the comments made by the Senator from Ohio. I also support the need for greater energy efficiency and applaud the sponsors of this amendment for promoting greater energy efficiency. At the same time, I do have some concerns.

Specifically, I am concerned about whether and how potential energy savings can safely be incorporated as part of the mortgage underwriting process at the FHA, especially when there may not be a consensus on how to define and accurately quantify future energy savings.

Another concern is the interaction of estimated energy savings in the underwriting and appraisal processes. This could happen because the SAVE Act requires expected energy cost savings to be used as an offset to certain regular expenses, such as property taxes, while also requiring the estimated energy savings of a home to be added to the home's appraisal. While not the intent of the authors, I am concerned that this could tilt the mortgage market towards more expensive products without adequate safeguards to protect borrowers.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we would ask the sponsors of this amendment to

work with us to ensure that we can accomplish our shared goals of encouraging investment in energy efficient homes while also maintaining a safe and sound mortgage market for homebuyers.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, moving forward, we intend to work with the Senate Banking Committee and HUD to address any technical or substantive concerns that have arisen. Specifically, it is our intention to ensure that FHA has the ability to insure loans for energy efficient homes while also including protections to maintain accurate evaluations of a borrower's ability to repay.

Additionally, as this amendment is being implemented, we understand that HUD's ability to test and modify the savings that may be counted should be considered. In fact, we considered these concerns while drafting this legislation. The methodology we included for measuring energy efficient savings is an ANSI certified standard and the most widely accepted technology in today's marketplace. Over 1 million homes have already been energy rated using this technology. And this is the same underlying technology successfully utilized by the EPA's Energy Star program.

Again, we are pleased that the Senate passed our amendment, and we look forward to working with the Banking Committee and HUD on improvements.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am deeply disappointed that my Republican colleagues continue to play politics with our judicial system.

There are currently 79 judicial vacancies in this country—28 of which are judicial emergency vacancies. In each of these districts across the country, Americans are waiting for their cases to be heard, but instead of justice, they are left hanging in the lurch.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: Justice delayed is justice denied.

Senate Republicans refuse to act to confirm Judge Merrick Garland—who has more Federal judicial experience than any other Supreme Court candidate in history—to the Supreme Court, and they refuse to act on the 20 judicial nominees who were reported out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote. It is outrageous that Senate Republicans stubbornly refuse to move these nominations forward, letting these accomplished and qualified nominees languish.

One of those judges is Mark Young, an excellent nominee for the Central District Court of California, which is ranked 11th in the Nation in weighted case filings per judgeship.

We need to fill this seat as soon as possible, and Judge Young is an ex-

traordinary candidate. I was honored to introduce him at his nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee last October and go over his impeccable resume.

He has served as a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge since 2008 and has 10 years of experience as a prosecutor in the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles.

He holds degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California Gould School of Law; and he has won numerous awards from organizations including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award—one of the Department of Justice's highest honors.

The people of the Central District of California need his leadership, and the overworked judges of the Central District need his help.

We also have two additional candidates from California who are awaiting Judiciary Committee hearings.

Judge Paul L. Abrams was nominated by President Obama in December 2015 to serve as the U.S. District Court Judge for the Central District. Judge Abrams is currently a U.S. magistrate judge for the Central District, a post he has held since 2002.

He began his career in private practice and then worked as a legal aid lawyer before serving in the Federal public defender's office, eventually becoming a supervising deputy Federal public defender. He holds degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and Boalt Hall School of Law.

Judge Lucy Koh, currently serving in the Northern District, was nominated by President Obama for the Ninth Circuit Court in February of this year. The daughter of Korean immigrants and a Harvard graduate, Judge Koh began her legal career as a Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

At the U.S. Department of Justice, she served as a special assistant to the Deputy Attorney General before spending 3 years as a Federal prosecutor in Los Angeles, where she was awarded the Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Louis J. Freeh Award for Demonstrated Excellence in Prosecuting a Major Criminal Case. She then spent 9 years in private practice. She served on the Superior Court for Santa Clara County until 2010, when she was appointed to the Northern District, becoming the first Korean American woman to serve as a Federal district court judge.

Each of these excellent candidates has flawless credentials, broad support, and they are ready to serve. So what are we waiting for? The American people cannot wait for justice—and they shouldn't have to.

Let's move forward with giving each of these excellent judicial candidates

the consideration and vote that they deserve.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the release of the report by the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, better known as the Church Committee.

On this day in 1976, the first of five books detailing egregious abuses of power by the intelligence community was released by the Church Committee. The report was the first ever comprehensive oversight study of the intelligence community, which had operated largely without any oversight since its founding during World War II. Prior to this study, the Intelligence Committees did not exist in either the Senate or the House, and there was no formal apparatus to check the actions of the Nation's intelligence community.

The Church Committee truly was the first of its kind. It grew out of extraordinary circumstances during a period of national soul-searching in the shadow of the Vietnam war and Watergate scandal. In the early 1970s, a series of abuses were revealed in the press, including an expose alleging that the CIA had been spying on antiwar activists around the country.

The American people were understandably outraged, and in response, the Senate convened a committee to conduct a comprehensive review of all intelligence activities.

The committee—under the chairmanship of Idaho Senator Frank Church, with Texas Senator John Tower as vice chairman—was comprised of 11 Senators and 133 dedicated staff members. Over the next 15 months, the staff poured over millions of CIA and FBI records to produce a 2,500-page report broken into 6 unique books, each covering a different topic including foreign assassinations, domestic spying, and an investigation into the killing of President Kennedy.

What they discovered was shocking, including vast abuses both domestic and abroad that showed the intelligence community operated outside the framework of the Constitution and undermined the Bill of Rights.

The committee found that, in the decades leading up to and including the 1970s, the CIA and FBI had been conducting a massive, illegal domestic spying operation, which included the following: The CIA opened and photographed over one-quarter million pieces of domestic mail, the FBI maintained extensive files on over half a million American citizens, and the NSA wiretapped all international calls from the United States and documented the callers.

In addition to mass data collection, the agencies conducted targeted operations as well. Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., was the subject of an aggressive surveillance program overseen by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Hoover sought to compile a detailed record of King's personal life in order to blackmail and delegitimize him as a public figure. King's phone was tapped without a warrant, for example.

The NAACP, Black Panthers, and antiwar groups were also all spied upon. In fact, President Eisenhower on several occasions received advanced copies of NAACP speeches from informants.

The abuses didn't stop at our border. The Church Committee uncovered evidence that the CIA had plotted or engaged in assisting in the assassination plots of the leaders of Cuba, the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Chile, and South Vietnam.

In the Congo, the CIA reached the final stages of a plot to assassinate Patrice Lumumba and had even delivered poison to its agents. However, before the plan was carried out, Lumumba was executed following a coup.

Most infamously, the United States conspired in numerous plots against Fidel Castro, though none were ever carried out.

The public airing of these—and other—allegations shook our country and our partners abroad and prompted swift action by Congress and the executive branch.

On February 18, 1976, President Ford issued Executive Order No. 11905, banning all assassinations. The order has stood ever since.

Within months of the release of the Church Committee report, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence was formed by a vote of 72 to 22. The committee was established to conduct constant and vigorous oversight over the intelligence community.

In addition, in 1978, Congress passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act which established the FISA Court to oversee requests for intelligence warrants within the United States.

The Church Committee study revealed to the world the danger of allowing intelligence agencies to operate in the shadows and with unchecked power.

Our duty to conduct oversight is one I take very seriously. As the chairman of the Intelligence Committee from 2009 to 2015 and as vice chairman since 2015, I have undertaken this responsibility with the awareness that, without the efforts of the Church Committee, congressional oversight of the intelligence community would never have been possible. We must also remember that the Church Committee and its reports had their vocal and adamant opponents. Oversight is, at times, re-

sisted, a fact we discovered firsthand in completing and declassifying as the Committee's Study of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program.

The legacy of the Church Committee report lives on in the study the Intelligence Committee released in 2014.

The study reviewed over 6.3 million cables, emails, memoranda, and transcripts. It is a documentary history of the CIA's words and actions in the years during which the CIA conceived of, carried out, and made representations about its Detention and Interrogation Program. The public is familiar with the report's 500-page executive summary and findings and conclusions that were declassified and released. The full study is over 6,700 pages long and includes 38,000 footnotes. To this day, critics of the study have not demonstrated a single factual inaccuracy.

Among many revelations, the study showed that, contrary to the CIA's claims, the use of torture was brutal and did not result in otherwise unavailable intelligence that "saved lives." It also demonstrated that the CIA provided inaccurate information about the program to the White House, the Department of Justice, to Congress, and the public.

Much like the Church Committee report before it, the study demonstrated the important role oversight plays in securing our country's commitment to the rule of law.

The importance of the work the Church Committee did back in 1975 and 1976 cannot be understated. Our government operates on the basis of trust from the American people. The oath each of us take in public service is to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

The actions of the intelligence community leading up to the Church Committee violated that trust and must never be repeated.

Senator Church and his committee, in shedding light on these dark times, helped right the ship of American democracy and set an important example for all future Members of this body of how to conduct vigilant and thorough oversight.

#### 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 101st anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Between 1915 and 1923, the Ottoman Empire executed a deliberate massacre of more than 1.5 million Armenians. Over the course of 8 years, Armenians were marched to their deaths in the deserts of the Middle East, murdered in concentration camps, drowned at sea, and forced to endure unimaginable acts of brutality. These barbaric acts were systematic, methodical, and intentional.

More than 100 years have passed since the start of that horrific mas-

sacre, which an overwhelming number of academics and institutions have recognized as genocide, and there are countless testimonies from victims who lived to tell of their harrowing experiences.

Pope Francis called the massacre against the Armenians "the first genocide of the 20th century," declaring that "concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it."

However, despite an irrefutable body of evidence, the U.S. Government has refused to call the deliberate massacre of the Armenians by its rightful name: genocide.

For years, I have urged both Democratic and Republican administrations to acknowledge the truth of the Armenian genocide. Today I reiterate my call, and I hope that, this year, the United States will finally correct this century-old injustice.

By affirming the Armenian genocide, the United States would join more than 20 countries across the globe—including Russia, France, and Germany—as well as the Vatican and 43 U.S. States standing on the right side of history.

Recognizing the Armenian genocide is much more than a symbolic gesture. It will provide solace and relief to the descendants of the victims, particularly the hundreds of thousands of Armenian American citizens and residents. It will support a more equitable reconciliation between the Turkish and Armenian people. And most importantly, it will reaffirm U.S. leadership in preventing and responding to similar atrocities and in advancing the rights of vulnerable populations around the world.

This year, as we take time to remember and honor the victims of the Armenian genocide, I hope the United States will finally stand on the right side of history and affirm the incontestable fact of the Armenian genocide.

#### TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL STEPHEN P. METRUCK

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I wish to honor U.S. Coast Guard RADM Stephen P. Metruck and highlight his service to country and his contribution to the State of Delaware. Rear Admiral Metruck retired on April 22 from commanding the Fifth Coast Guard District after 34 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. The fifth district includes North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Washington, DC, and much of Pennsylvania. Rear Admiral Metruck led 67 units made up of 2,475 Active Duty members, 1,010 Reservists, 6,800 auxiliary members, and 120 civilians.

One of Rear Admiral Metruck's most notable accomplishments occurred during his tenure at both Sector San Diego and Sector Seattle. In these dual

roles, Rear Admiral Metruck was responsible for advancing Coast Guard operations in a post-9/11 environment. He forged interagency partnerships to enhance safety and security measures in each port and coordinated the sensors and systems into a common operational picture to allow all agencies to coordinate and understand potential threats in the maritime environment.

Rear Admiral Metruck and I got to know each other well during harsh, back-to-back winters that damaged navigation aids along the Delaware River, which assisted ships traveling to and from Wilmington, DE. From this experience, I learned that it is not easy budgeting for ice flows. Being an expert at budgeting and solving problems, he and his team forged solutions that replaced damaged buoys and aids to navigation without a huge burden on taxpayers. The result was ships could again travel safely to ports in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

Rear Admiral Metruck is a very humble man, and he will be the first to understate his contribution to the U.S. Coast Guard and leadership of the men and women under his command. Nevertheless, I have found him to be an extremely devoted public servant and skilled at working with other agencies, solving problems, and being responsive to inquiries from Senators.

Rear Admiral Metruck also spent 2½ years serving this great institution as a fellow with then-Senator John Kerry. He worked on policy issues related to the Commerce Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries and also supported Senator Kerry's staff on environmental, maritime, and Coast Guard issues and legislation.

Prior to arriving at the Fifth Coast Guard District, he was the assistant commandant for resources and chief financial officer for the U.S. Coast Guard. During this assignment, he was responsible for all Coast Guard financial management and resource activities including planning, programming, budgeting, and execution of the service's \$10 billion annual appropriation.

While he has been a friend of commerce and the environment on the Delaware River, his career has resulted in him living in and serving a number of other States. He has served in Coast Guard Headquarters; Portsmouth, VA; Brownsville, TX; Tampa, FL; Buffalo, NY; San Diego, CA; and Puget Sound, WA. Rear Admiral Metruck also helped oversee Coast Guard missions across waterways encompassing the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and the offshore waters of Mexico and Central America. Additionally, he served as U.S. Coast Guard Liaison to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City.

Rear Admiral Metruck is from Massena, NY, and graduated in 1982 from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a bachelor of science

degree in ocean engineering. He was awarded a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He has also served as a military fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, and the Coast Guard fellow on the Chief of Naval Operation's Strategic Studies Group based in Newport, RI.

There are many of us in this Chamber who have worked with him and his staff on important issues over the years. Today I express our collective gratitude to him for devoting his career to keeping us safe. I speak for many in the Senate, in Delaware, and around our Nation in wishing Rear Admiral Metruck and his wife Peggy Duxbury a great next chapter in their lives.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL FRANCIS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a man who has served faithfully for 27 years in the U.S. Air Force, with the vast majority of that service in the Missouri Air National Guard. It is a big loss, but Col. Michael Francis is scheduled to depart the 131st Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base on May 15, 2016, after a long and distinguished record of service in the unit beginning July 28, 1998.

I think it is important to note that Colonel Francis has been associated with a unit whose history has spanned over nine decades and whose former members have included the likes of aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh.

Colonel Francis commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1989 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and, after almost a decade, transitioned from Active Duty to the Air National Guard, continuing his dream of a career as a fighter pilot in the F-15 Eagle.

Throughout Colonel Francis's service at the 131st, he has seen the unit transition from the F-15, the Nation's premier homeland defense and air superiority aircraft, to the B-2, the Nation's lethal stealth bomber involved in global missions. Since being chosen to command the first B-2 Operations Group in the Air National Guard when the 131st transitioned from the F-15 Eagle to the B-2 Spirit, Colonel Francis has been a standout leader in the nuclear community. His achievements boast nothing less than perfection. As the present wing commander, Colonel Francis paved a new path for the National Guard by leading his unit to be the first bomb wing certified for full-spectrum nuclear operations and was entrusted with strategic nuclear deterrent operations for our country.

Throughout his long career at the 131st, Colonel Francis remained dedicated to the vital missions of the Air National Guard. However, he also never

forgot his commitment to his wife, Jane, and sons, Greg and Brian.

While Colonel Francis might be leaving the 131st Bomb Wing, he will continue his selflessness in service to this great country. Colonel Francis will be reassigned to the Missouri National Guard Headquarters and promoted to brigadier general.

Again, I wish to extend Col. Michael J. Francis my sincere congratulations upon his new assignment and thanks for the years of service he has rendered to the 131st Bomb Wing, the State of Missouri, and the Nation.

#### ALASKA MISSION 6 HONOR FLIGHT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize six veterans from Alaska who are in Washington this week as part of the Alaska Mission 6 Honor Flight. These veterans are here to witness and experience our Nation's most hallowed memorials—built to honor their service and sacrifice and that of their brothers and sisters in arms.

On behalf of Alaska's congressional delegation, our State, and our country, I welcome these heroes to Washington and extend to them my sincere gratitude for their service.

Participating in the Alaska Mission 6 Honor Flight are John J. Boulette and William K. Zimmer, U.S. Navy veterans of the Korean war; Alexander Crockett Blanchard and Alfred Dawkins, U.S. Army veterans of the Vietnam war; Neal Henry Dallman, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam war; and Arnold Patrick McDonald, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam war.

Without the sacrifices of these six men and so many others, defending peace and liberty in some of the most dangerous corners of the world during harrowing and dark times, we would not be able to enjoy the prosperity and freedom that are hallmarks of our great Nation to this day.

Since 2005, more than 170,000 veterans have participated in Honor Flights to Washington. Giving veterans the opportunity to make this trip is a small endeavor in comparison to the gravity of the challenges they faced, but it is an important gesture to let them know that their fellow Americans have not forgotten the hardships they endured on our behalf, nor the many men and women in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Honor Flights are made possible principally thanks to the generous donations of patriotic Americans who want to give veterans the honor they deserve.

On behalf of all Alaskans, I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to the Alaska Mission 6 veterans, for the selfless dedication they have shown to our country, the often unheralded sacrifices of their families, and the enduring example they have given to future

generations. May God bless these veterans, the great State of Alaska, and the United States of America.

#### TRIBUTE TO CRAIG BOBZIEN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding service of Black Hills National Forest supervisor, Craig Bobzien, as he retires from the U.S. Forest Service. Craig was placed in charge of managing the Black Hills National Forest in May 2005, and for more than 10 years, the Black Hills National Forest has been under Craig's direct supervision.

Craig began his path to South Dakota as a 1973 graduate of Raytown South High School in Raytown, MO. After high school, he pursued his bachelor's degree in forest science at Colorado State University and then went on to a serve in many roles in conservation and forestry. Previous to his appointment at the Black Hills National Forest, he served in other capacities for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho, Montana, Washington State, and at the U.S. Forest Service headquarters in Washington, DC.

Since being appointed to oversee the Black Hills National Forest, Craig has been its longest serving supervisor. Over his tenure of almost 11 years, Craig has done an exceptional job as a steward of the Black Hills National Forest's 1.2 million acres in South Dakota and Wyoming. He managed those 1.2 million acres of forestland during some of the toughest fire seasons in recent memory.

Craig's leadership during the Rocky Mountain Region's devastating pine beetle epidemic has been instrumental as he coordinated with other Federal, State, and private stakeholders to combat one of the largest epidemics of this pest since the 1900s. Craig initiated the first large-landscape management area in the Black Hills National Forest for mountain pine beetle treatment, which has set an example of topline management others are now following.

Over the years, I have appreciated the cooperation of Craig and his team of over 300 employees in our efforts to assess and address the many threats to the health of the Black Hills.

Craig, thank you for your service to South Dakota and our Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO HUGH McDONALD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Hugh McDonald, president of Entergy Arkansas, as he prepares to retire.

Hugh McDonald is a resident of Little Rock and has been with Entergy since 1982. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in construction management from North Dakota State Univer-

sity and a master of business administration degree from the University of New Orleans.

Hugh began his career at Entergy over 30 years ago in Louisiana, where he rose through the ranks before being promoted to director of regulatory affairs for Entergy Texas and then senior vice president of energy retail operations. He came to Arkansas 16 years ago to accept his current position.

Entergy Arkansas provides electricity to approximately 700,000 customers in 63 counties and is a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation. As the head of Arkansas' largest utility, McDonald demonstrated excellent leadership during his 16-year tenure. He led its decision to withdraw from the system agreement that forced Arkansas ratepayers to partially bear the cost of producing electricity in other Entergy States.

He also spearheaded the movement to join the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, which allowed greater access to economic generation resources and saved Arkansas customers \$46 million in the first year of participation.

Hugh is a past board member and board chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the boards of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Research Alliance Board, the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Fifty for the Future. In addition, Hugh serves on the boards of the University of Arkansas Sam Walton College of Business Advisory Board, the UALR College of Business Advisory Council, the UAMS BioVentures Advisory Board, and the Nature Conservancy of Arkansas.

Let me reiterate how grateful I am for Hugh McDonald's management and vision during his time at the helm of Entergy Arkansas. His guidance and stewardship of the company has resulted in vital, reliable electricity for thousands of Arkansans across the State. I thank Hugh for his distinguished career and wish him well in retirement. •

##### TRIBUTE TO MARY LORRAINE WOOD BORMAN

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to honor Mary Lorraine Wood Borman of Fayetteville, AR, as this week's Arkansan of the Week for her commitment to the National Down Syndrome Society as a self-advocate ambassador for the great State of Arkansas. Her advocacy to improve the quality of life for those living with down syndrome is noteworthy, and she is a joy and inspiration to many across the state.

Outside of her work as an activist, Mary is an involved and multitalented junior at Fayetteville High School in Fayetteville, AR. Not only does she

excel academically—as indicated by her track record as an honor roll student—but she is also a gifted athlete and has won awards in swimming events at the Arkansas State Special Olympic Games for 3 years. Mary is also a talented dancer and actress, specializing in hip-hop, jazz, and the waltz.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Mary when she visited my Washington, DC, office while in town for the Buddy Walk hosted each year by the National Down Syndrome Society. Because of Mary's advocacy and compelling reasoning, I cosponsored the ABLE to Work Act of 2016 shortly after our meeting. This bill will help persons with disabilities save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts.

Mary has big dreams, and I am confident she will achieve them. I look forward to keeping track of her many accomplishments.

Arkansas is lucky to have someone like Mary Borman fighting to make our State a better place, and I applaud her for her work. Her story is a testimony of the spirit of Arkansans, and I am certain it will inspire others to take action on causes that they believe in. •

#### RECOGNIZING THE BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday year, I want to recognize the Buffalo National River, America's first national river. The Buffalo, nestled in within the picturesque Ozark Mountains, runs across four Arkansas counties and remains one of the few undammed rivers in the entire United States. It spans 135 miles and boasts many outdoor trails along which visitors experience beautiful bluffs, adventurous rapids, and have the opportunity to take part in a whole host of outdoor recreational activities. Undoubtedly, visitors to the Buffalo National River leave with an understanding of why Arkansas is proudly billed as "the Natural State."

This year the Buffalo National River has planned several celebratory events to commemorate the National Park Service's 100th birthday. These include the Centennial Iron Ranger Challenge 2016, which is taking place in all Arkansas national parks this year. The challenge seeks to encourage good health and fitness by asking people to take up a physical activity of their choice and complete 100 miles of that activity in any of Arkansas' National Parks. If you need a place to begin your centennial year challenge, I highly recommend the Buffalo National River.

In the spirit of the National Park Service's centennial motto, "Find Your Park," I encourage everyone to find the Buffalo National River and enjoy

the outdoor adventures and relaxation that awaits in the Natural State.●

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASSOCIATED LOGGING CONTRACTORS, INC., OF IDAHO

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho.

The Associated Logging Contractors, Inc., of Idaho, ALC, have an important voice in advocating for policies that support an essential sector of Idaho—the logging and wood-hauling industry. Throughout the past 50 years since its organization, the association has worked to serve its purpose of “developing programs that are instrumental in helping members to reduce costs of operation and to craft creative solutions to problems confronting the industry.” ALC represents nearly 400 independent logging contractor businesses from across Idaho.

From Endangered Species Act reform, to boosting rural economies, to addressing forest health and much more, the ALC has been involved in a wide range of discussions central to Idaho. I value the organization’s and its members’ input and involvement in shaping solutions to our natural resources challenges. We have much work ahead, but progress is being made on public lands issues to the benefit of Idahoans and our economy. Positive developments in job opportunities and more timber identified for harvest for the betterment of forest health are the result of the State and Federal Government working more closely with private landowners and the logging community to make progress toward the removal of salvage timber from last year’s fires.

While challenging, collaboration is working, and ALC members have been instrumental in advancing this effort. The organization has much to be proud of for its efforts in bringing folks together to achieve solutions and working toward their implementation. Collaboration is difficult but indispensable work, as it brings lasting advancements for habitats, recreation, rural economies, and job production. I have greatly valued ALC member’s support of local collaborative efforts.

Congratulations to the members of the Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho on 50 years of accomplishments. Thank you for your hard work building up our great State and Nation. I wish you all the best for continued success.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5223. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5224. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5225. A communication from the Regulations Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; Rural Determination Process” (RIN1018-BA62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5226. A communication from the Regulations Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; Rural Determinations, Nonrural List” (RIN1018-BA82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5227. A communication from the Regulations Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; Rural Determinations, Nonrural List” (RIN1018-BA82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5228. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel’s Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2016-0544); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5229. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible

affects such a sale might have relating to Israel’s Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2016-0559); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5230. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel’s Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2016-0543); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5231. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel’s Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2016-0538); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5232. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-131); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5233. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-145); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5234. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-001); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5235. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-131); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5236. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-143); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5237. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0055-2016-0063); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5238. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program, Fiscal Years 2014-2015”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5239. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Report for fiscal year 2015 for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5240. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Report for fiscal year 2015 for the Generic Drug User Fee



Amendments; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5241. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report for fiscal year 2015 for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5242. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Personal and Home Care Aide State Training (PHCAST) Demonstration Program Evaluation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5243. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Performance Report to Congress for the Medical Device User Fee Amendments"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5244. A communication from the Chairman, Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5245. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense's Evaluation of the TRICARE Program for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5246. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the President's budget requests for the National Nuclear Security Administration for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5247. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commercial Fishing Vessels Dispensing Petroleum Products" ((RIN1625-AC18) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0195)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5248. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tonnage Regulations Amendments" ((RIN1625-AB74) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0522)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5249. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0246)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5250. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Regulated Navigation Area; Columbia River, Kalama, WA" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0237)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5251. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Wy-Hi Rowing Regatta; Detroit River, Trenton Channel; Wyandotte, MI" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0209)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5252. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Charleston Race Week, Charleston Harbor, Charleston, SC" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-1055)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5253. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Chesapeake Bay, between Sandy Point and Kent Island, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-1126)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5254. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Hebda Cup Rowing Regatta; Detroit River; Trenton Channel; Wyandotte, MI" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0208)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5255. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Daytona Beach Grand Prix of the Seas; Atlantic Ocean, Daytona Beach, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-1108)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5256. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District" ((RIN1625-AA00 and RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0854)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5257. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Urbanna Creek, Urbanna, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-

0174)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5258. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Sunken Vessel, North Channel, Boston, MA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0127)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5259. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Intracoastal Waterway; Lake Charles, LA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-1086)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5260. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Newtown Creek, Queens, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0100)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5261. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River 321.4 to 321.6; Quincy, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0155)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5262. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Santa Cruz Harbor Shoaling, Santa Cruz County, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0194)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5263. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Hudson River, Tarrytown, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0226)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5264. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Little Calumet River, Chicago, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0148)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5265. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River Mile 95.7 to 96.7; New Orleans, LA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0189)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5266. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Chincoteague Bay, Chincoteague, VA” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0483)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5267. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Victoria Barge Canal, Bloomington, TX” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0952)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5268. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saginaw River, Bay City, MI” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0934)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5269. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Anchorage Regulations; Connecticut River, Old Saybrook, CT” ((RIN1625-AA01) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0806)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5270. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Anchorage Regulations; Port of New York” ((RIN1625-AA01) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0038)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-159. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Tennessee urging the United States Congress to mandate, and provide an adequate budget for, the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to establish rules for manufacturing, siting, and licensing of small modular reactors and liquid core molten salt reactors to be built and operated in the United States by private industry for the production of energy and medical isotopes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 507

Whereas, Tennessee has many finite natural energy resources; and

Whereas, world energy demand and usage are expected to increase; and

Whereas, is vital to the country's energy future to provide abundant base-load power and peaking energy-on-demand power affordably; and

Whereas, extending Tennessee's current energy boom will require the creation of a long-term energy plan and the development of clean and affordable energy technologies such as liquid core molten salt reactors and small modular reactors; and

Whereas, the United States of America possesses a nearly inexhaustible supply of thorium and uranium (more than a billion years' supply of energy) that dramatically exceeds all known potential energy reserves; and

Whereas, the elements thorium and uranium have the practical potential to provide unlimited energy resources for Tennesseans and Americans on demand in the near future and to provide many other tangible benefits; and

Whereas, better utilization of thorium and uranium in specially designed reactors such as molten salt reactors, including liquid fluoride thorium reactors, can provide energy security from other nations by utilizing Tennessee coal and a reactor's nuclear heat energy to produce an abundance of synthetic liquid transportation fuels. These synthetic fuels can be produced for many future generations of Tennesseans in a safe, affordable, and most environmentally friendly manner; and

Whereas, the efficient use of thorium or uranium in a specially designed molten salt reactor allows for greatly increased environmentally friendly energy production that improves the economics of many recycling technologies and raises the standard of living; and

Whereas, it is incumbent upon this body to be forward-thinking in addressing the future energy challenges for the next generation of Tennesseans; and

Whereas, Tennessee is uniquely capable to commercialize small modular reactors, liquid core molten salt reactors, and integral fast reactors with its research and development assets of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where such technology was first developed, and other private companies and nonprofit organizations that specialize in nuclear technology development in Tennessee; and

Whereas, the academic, scientific, manufacturing, and business communities in Tennessee have some of the best talent and research and development records in the world. Development of this groundbreaking and economic game-changing technology would serve Tennessee's and America's economics better than current federal efforts to develop this technology in partnership with China; and

Whereas, advanced technology using thorium and uranium can affordably provide medical isotopes of materials for medical uses such as treating cancer and HIV/AIDS, diagnostic procedures, and improved health care; and

Whereas, S.99, the “American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2011,” was signed into law by President Barack Obama on January 2, 2013, and mandates a reliable domestic supply of molybdenum-99 for medical imaging and diagnostics; and

Whereas, molybdenum-99 is used in more than sixteen million medical procedures annually in the United States; and

Whereas, no domestic supply of molybdenum-99 currently exists, and present sup-

pliers use old reactors that result in frequent supply disruptions; and

Whereas, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, charged with licensing nuclear reactors, is not well-funded for establishing procedures for new, advanced reactor designs based on different architectures from today's fleet of light water reactors; and

Whereas, small modular reactors and liquid core molten salt reactors represent a business opportunity that Tennessee's manufacturing base is well-suited to exploit. This could potentially result in creating forty thousand manufacturing jobs in total within Tennessee, because these jobs have the ability to complement Tennessee's coal industry, oil industry, and natural gas hydraulic fracturing industry by increasing jobs in those industries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate Concurring,* That the General Assembly supports the creation of a long-term energy plan that addresses the long-term energy needs of the state; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the General Assembly encourages and supports the research and development of liquid-core-molten-salt-reactor and small-modular-reactor technologies as a long-term solution to Tennessee's energy needs; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the General Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to mandate, and provide an adequate budget for, the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to establish rules for manufacturing, siting, and licensing of small modular reactors and liquid core molten salt reactors to be built and operated in the United States by private industry for the production of energy and medical isotopes; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the General Assembly supports investing in, acquiring grants for, implementing programs for, encouraging Tennessee institutions of higher learning to conduct research into, and attracting companies for the development of future technologies that will provide greater energy resources more affordably, abundantly, and in a more environmentally friendly manner than is being done at present; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, the Commissioners of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2680. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide comprehensive mental health reform, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. Mark A. Baird, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Thomas F. Spencer, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Gregory S. Champagne, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Marshall B. Webb, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Daniel J. Swain, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. James J. Keefe, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Andrea D. Tullios, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Bradley C. Saltzman, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Andrew E. Salas, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Craig D. Wills, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Tamhra L. Hutchins-Frye, to be Brigadier General.

\*Army nomination of Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, to be General.

Army nomination of Col. William J. Prendergast IV, to be Brigadier General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. William P. Barriage and ending with Col. Stephen E. Strand, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 14, 2016.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Paul J. Verrastro, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Timothy J. White, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Kyle J. Cozad and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Timothy G. Szymanski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2016.

\*Army nomination of Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Heithold, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Leon S. Rice, to be Lieutenant General.

\*Air Force nomination of Gen. Lori J. Robinson, to be General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. John G. Rossi, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Robert B. Brown, to be General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Arlan M. DeBlieck, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Rodney L. Faulk, to be Brigadier General.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of Martin T. Mitchell, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Laura S. Barchick and ending with Kevin J. Wilkinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 17, 2016.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michelle D. Aastrom and ending with Cynthia J. Weidman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 17, 2016.

Air Force nominations beginning with Laird S. Abbott and ending with Christopher J. Zuhlke, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 17, 2016.

Air Force nomination of Albert E. White, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Jonathan M. Letsinger, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lloyd Travis A. Arnold and ending with Konstantina Zuber, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 14, 2016.

Air Force nomination of Kristie L. Partin, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Aimee D. Safford, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Tracey A. Gosser, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Todd R. Howell, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Larss G. Celtnieks and ending with Paulette V. Burton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 14, 2016.

Army nomination of Eric Danko, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Steven N. Carozza and ending with Noah C. Cloud, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 14, 2016.

Army nomination of Ramit Ring, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Geoffrey E. Anderson, to be Major.

Army nomination of Bruce H. Robinson, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Matthew B. Booth and ending with Donald W. Moyer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 17, 2016.

Army nomination of Robert L. Cronyn, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Darrell W. Collins, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Devon D. Nudelman, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Calvin C. Thomas, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Stephen G. Cruys and ending with Gregory J. Long, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 5, 2016.

Army nominations beginning with Edward S. Barnett and ending with Lynn J. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 5, 2016.

Army nominations beginning with Timothy G. Bonner and ending with James S. Welch, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 5, 2016.

Army nominations beginning with Krystal D. Bean and ending with Justin R. Schlanser, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 5, 2016.

Army nominations beginning with George A. Barbee and ending with D013078, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 5, 2016.

Army nominations beginning with Gabrielle M. Andreanifabroni and ending

with Young J. Yauger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 5, 2016.

Army nominations beginning with Terryl L. Aitken and ending with D010908, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 5, 2016.

Army nomination of Travis H. Owen, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Joshua T. Ade and ending with D012875, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 7, 2016.

Army nomination of Timothy R. Teague, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Eric E. Halstrom, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Brian D. Bobo and ending with Anthony D. Fournier, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 7, 2016.

Army nomination of Dennis N. Snelling, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Kodjo S. Knoxlimbacker, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Lori R. Schanhals, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Drew R. Conover, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Bradley D. Osterman, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Francisco J. Lopez, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Timothy D. Aiken and ending with James R. Weakley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 14, 2016.

Army nomination of George A. Rollins, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of McArthur Walker, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Timothy D. Covington and ending with Eric A. Kennedy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 14, 2016.

Army nomination of Nilson Orozcooviedo, to be Major.

Army nomination of Pierre E. Saintfleur, to be Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of John A. Yukica, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Matrix W. Elias and ending with Nicholas J. Tazza, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 28, 2016.

Navy nomination of Brian D. Hennessy, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Donald C. King, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Stephanie M. Simoni, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Jennifer L. Shafer, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Justin K. Conroy and ending with Rebecca L. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 17, 2016.

Navy nomination of Brice A. Goodwin, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Brian J. Hamer, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Scott F. Gruwell, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Shannon D. Lorimer, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Danielle M. Barnes and ending with Mark R. Thomas,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 5, 2016.

Navy nomination of William A. Hlavin, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Phillip G. Cyr, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Donald E. Speights, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Luis A. Bencomo, to be Commander.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2850. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2851. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. SASSE):

S. 2852. A bill to expand the Government's use and administration of data to facilitate transparency, effective governance, and innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2853. A bill to provide for the repair, recapitalization, and certification of dry docks at Naval shipyards; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2854. A bill to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 2855. A bill to increase outreach for women and minority-owned businesses under the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 440. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate about the importance of effective civic and government education programs in schools in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TESTER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 441. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 430

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes.

S. 629

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 629, a bill to enable hospital-based nursing programs that are affiliated with a hospital to maintain payments under the Medicare program to hospitals for the costs of such programs.

S. 677

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 677, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign non-governmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 1503

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to provide for enhanced Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1566

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1566, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for coverage of oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 2056

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S.

2056, a bill to provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

S. 2068

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2068, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 2120

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2120, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to support veterans in contact with the criminal justice system by discouraging unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and other non-violent crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 2205

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2205, a bill to establish a grant program to assist tribal governments in establishing tribal healing to wellness courts, and for other purposes.

S. 2219

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2219, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2448

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2448, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes.

S. 2487

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2487, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2598

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2598, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 2679

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2679, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with disabilities to save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts above the current annual maximum contribution if they work and earn income.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, non-profit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2708

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2708, a bill to provide for the admission to the United States of up to 10,000 Syrian religious minorities as refugees of special humanitarian concern in each of the fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

S. 2756

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2756, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to Iranian persons responsible for knowingly engaging in significant activities undermining cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

S. 2765

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2765, a bill to provide for the overall health and well-being of young people, including the promotion of comprehensive sexual health and healthy relationships, the reduction of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, and the prevention of dating violence and sexual assault, and for other purposes.

S. 2790

At the request of Mr. PAUL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2790, a bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

S. 2838

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2838, a bill to improve the HUBZone program.

S. 2843

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2843, a bill to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to address the Zika crisis.

S. 2846

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2846, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolution

providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term “fiduciary” and the conflict of interest rule with respect to retirement investment advice.

S. RES. 349

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 349, a resolution congratulating the Farm Credit System on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

AMENDMENT NO. 3861

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3861 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2854. A bill to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I, along with Senator LEAHY, Senator MCCASKILL, and Senator BLUNT, will introduce the reauthorization of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.

To give a little bit of history for my colleagues on this, this really stems from 1955, and it was the summer of 1955 when a young 14-year-old left Chicago, IL, and traveled to Mississippi to visit relatives. While on that trip, he made a grave mistake. He whistled at a White woman. Because of that, Emmett Till was killed. The investigation that resulted from his death culminated in a 67-minute deliberation by a jury that found both men and acquitted them. Both individuals, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam confessed to the murder in 1956. In our criminal justice system, when you are found not guilty, you can't be retried. There was an injustice that was done. In this particular case, the injustice was done to Emmett Till, a 14-year-old.

Without an understanding of how many people might have been affected by the same lack of justice applied equally, there was a self-taught individual that became an activist. His name was Alvin Sykes. Alvin Sykes became a civil rights advocate. He was a cold case researcher. Through the frustration of trying to get a bill to the U.S. Senate that my good friend Tom

Coburn held up, Alvin Sykes did what most people don't do in this town. Rather than hold a press conference to talk about a civil rights bill, he called Tom Coburn and said: I would like to see you.

He sat down with Tom Coburn, and Tom said: What is it you are trying to do?

The two bonded at that point, and they rewrote the bill to reflect what Tom felt was the right legislative approach to create in this country—and fund, I might add—an effort to look back at all potential civil rights cases that were pre-1969.

Since the bill's passage, I think in 2008, the Department of Justice, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with local law enforcement, has gone through 113 cases. I might add that 15 are still open, and in one they found a reason to convict an individual in the year 2010 from a case pre-1969.

So let me say for my colleagues, we will introduce a bill to reauthorize this act. Why? Very simply, because just last year, the Cold Case Justice Initiative at Syracuse University identified 196 potential cases that weren't caught when the Justice Department and the FBI looked at their cold case files.

Now, when Senator Coburn and Alvin Sykes put this legislation together, they funded the effort with a mere \$13 million. With that \$13 million, it created an effort within the Justice Department in the Civil Rights Division and in the FBI. What we found is that it is never too late to go back and fix mistakes that you make.

So I will ask my colleagues at some point in the not too distant future, probably by unanimous consent, to pass the Emmett Till Civil Rights Crime Reauthorization Act of 2016. What this does differently than what the original piece of legislation did that Tom Coburn and Alvin Sykes hammered out is that it reauthorizes within the existing offices of the FBI and the Department of Justice and it more clearly delineates the responsibility of the deputy crime chief of the DOJ Civil Rights Division and provides for a joint task force for enhanced collaboration. It eliminates the pre-1970 date, and says that if the law was applied unequally, it doesn't matter when it was, and we should look at it. It eliminates the sunset provision on the Emmett Till law.

This is a permanent piece of legislation, where the DOJ and FBI will consult with civil rights organizations, universities, and other entities to reach out and pull in potentially any other cases that should be reviewed. Of course, it allows for the Department of Justice to reopen certain cold cases that merit a second review as necessary, and it maintains the current funding levels. It is a very worthy bill to support.

As much as I would really like to make my comments about Emmett

Till, I can fill in a number of potentially different names. But the name I want to come to the floor to talk about is Alvin Sykes. Alvin Sykes is a self-taught civil rights advocate, a person who taught himself how to do these investigations into civil rights cases, a guy who is passionate about trying to bring justice to individuals who are no longer here.

We are lobbied on Capitol Hill all the time by people who have an interest—it could be personal or it could be professional—in a particular issue. Alvin Sykes had nobody lobbying. They were dead. Alvin Sykes saw a potential injustice in our judicial system and spent a lifetime passionately pursuing how he as one individual could make this right.

This is a tremendous success story about something that Congress has done that is good. What we need to do is extend the good work of Tom Coburn and, more importantly, the passion of Alvin Sykes to say that not only was this needed then but it is needed now and into the future.

So I come to you today to give you a preview before this bill is presented and to thank my cosponsors, Senator LEAHY, Senator MCCASKILL, and Senator BLUNT, but more importantly, to thank Alvin Sykes. Without Alvin Sykes' passion and commitment, this injustice wouldn't have been brought to the attention of Tom Coburn, and Tom Coburn wouldn't have used his incredible passion to pass this bill originally.

It is my hope that we can make not only Alvin Sykes proud of the work of the Senate but that, in a small way, it might send a message to those who are related to Emmett Till and to the hundreds of others who might have been served an injustice and so that their relatives can understand that they did have value and that value is for others—that they may not be exposed to an injustice in the future.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to be part of the bicameral and bipartisan introduction for the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016. There has been no stronger advocate on this bill than my friend, JOHN LEWIS, and I am proud to stand with him on this effort. In 2008, we passed this bill to strengthen the Federal Government's ability to investigate and prosecute unsolved murders from the civil rights era. The bill expires in fiscal year 2017, but it is important that we reauthorize the bill prior to its expiration so that the Department of Justice can continue its work on these unsolved cases, uninterrupted.

More than 60 years ago, Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African-American teenager, was brutally murdered, but no one was ever punished for it. His death was a pivotal—and tragic—moment in the Civil Rights era, and it continues

to serve as a reminder that too many families suffer from the unsolved murders of their loved ones during the civil rights era without receiving justice. The way to best serve these families is to provide our Federal Government with the tools it needs to investigate these unsolved crimes, and to hopefully, bring some sense of closure for these families. The bill we are introducing today does just that.

Since the bill's passage in 2008, the Justice Department and others have been assisting families in their quest for justice in resolving these unsolved murders. Specifically, the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project of Northeastern University and the Cold Case Justice Initiative at the Syracuse University College of Law have both served as invaluable resources and guides for these families. I thank them for their work on these cases, as well as their input in improving this bill. Besides reauthorizing the bill, we have made some changes to address the issues that the families and the organizations have raised. This bill will improve coordination between the various law enforcement branches and the organizations involved; increase transparency and accountability; and continue to resolve these cases without concern of the legislation sunset.

I thank Congressman LEWIS for his tireless work on behalf of the families of these victims of unsolved murders from the civil rights era. I also thank Senator MCCASKILL of Missouri, Senator BURR of North Carolina, and Senator BLUNT of Missouri, who have joined us in introducing this bipartisan bill. I hope that Senators BURR and BLUNT can convince the Republican Chairman to move this bill through the Judiciary Committee and Republican Leadership to give this bill a vote on the floor.

The road to justice can be long and winding, but we must continue to do our part to help these families obtain justice and closure for their losses.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 440—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 440

Whereas civic and government education is essential to the preservation and improvement of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas civic and government education programs foster understanding of the history

and principles of the constitutional government of the United States, including principles that are embodied in certain fundamental documents and speeches, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers, the Gettysburg Address, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech;

Whereas research shows that too few people in the United States understand basic principles of the constitutional government of the United States, such as the natural rights set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the existence and functions of the 3 branches of the Federal Government, checks and balances, and other concepts fundamental to informed citizenship;

Whereas, since the founding of the United States, schools in the United States have had a strong civic mission to prepare students to be informed, rational, humane, and involved citizens who are committed to the values and principles of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas a free society relies on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of the citizens of the society, particularly the individuals elected to public office to represent the citizens;

Whereas, while many institutions help to develop the knowledge and skills and shape the civic character of people in the United States, schools in the United States, including elementary schools, bear a special and historic responsibility for the development of civic competence and civic responsibility of students;

Whereas student learning is enhanced by well-designed classroom civic and government education programs that—

- (1) incorporate instruction in government, history, law, and democracy;
- (2) promote discussion of current events and controversial issues;
- (3) link community service and the formal curriculum; and
- (4) encourage students to participate in simulations of democratic processes; and

Whereas research shows that the knowledge and expertise of teachers are among the most important factors in increasing student achievement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

- (1) civic and government education is essential to the well-being of the constitutional government of the United States;
- (2) comprehensive and formal instruction in civic and government education would provide students a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the constitutional government of the United States;
- (3) elementary and secondary schools in the United States are encouraged to offer courses on the history and theories of the constitutional government of the United States, using—
  - (A) innovative programs and curricula; or
  - (B) programs and curricula with a demonstrated effectiveness in fostering civic competence, civic responsibility, and a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles underlying the constitutional government of the United States; and
  - (4) all teachers of civics and government are well served by having access to adequate opportunities to enrich teaching through professional development programs that enhance the capacity of teachers to provide effective civic and government education in the classroom.

SENATE RESOLUTION 441—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TESTER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 441

Whereas the week of May 1 through 7, 2016, has been designated as "Public Service Recognition Week" to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service, and as members of the uniformed services, in every State, county, and city across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the ability of the Federal Government and State and local governments to be responsive, innovative, and effective depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

- (1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States around the world;
- (2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;
- (3) fight crime and fires;
- (4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;
- (5) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);
- (6) fight disease and promote better health;
- (7) protect the environment and parks in the United States;
- (8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;
- (9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;
- (10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;
- (11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to help improve knowledge on how the world changes;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and of dangers to public health;

Whereas the individuals serving in the uniformed services, as well as the skilled trade and craft employees of the Federal Government who provide support to their efforts—

(1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals, and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas; and

(2) serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas the week of May 1 through 7, 2016, marks the 32nd anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 1 through 7, 2016, as “Public Service Recognition Week”;

(2) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(3) salutes government employees, and members of the uniformed services, for their unyielding dedication to, and enthusiasm for, public service;

(4) honors government employees and members of the uniformed services who have given their lives in service to their country;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at every level of government.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3875. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3876. Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3877. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3875. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, line 15, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of such amount \$10,000,000 shall be available to carry out an energy efficiency materials pilot program.”.

SA 3876. Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, line 22, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided herein, for any Corps of Engineers project located in a State in which a Bureau of Reclamation project is also located, any non-Federal project regulated for flood control by the Secretary of the Army located in a State in which a Bureau of Reclamation project is also located, or any Bureau of Reclamation facilities regulated for flood control by the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Army shall fund all or a portion of the costs to review or revise operational documents, including water control plans, water control manuals, water control diagrams, release schedules, rule curves, operational agreements with non-Federal entities, and any associated environmental documentation.”.

SA 3877. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3. The Wind and Water Power Technologies Office of the Department of Energy shall—

(1) collaborate with industry to support the development of main shaft and gearbox bearing technologies used in wind turbines; and

(2) consider providing funds for the development of new technologies that advance critical bearing and gearbox technologies used in wind turbines.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 26, 2016, at 10 a.m.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a hearing on April 26, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 26, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Navigating Business Tax Reform.”

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

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 26, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The Need for More Timeliness and Transparency: Oversight of the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Program.”

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

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 26, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 26, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Review of Resources, Priorities and Programs in the FY 2017 State Department Budget Request.”

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

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern,



Ricky Gandhi, have privileges of the floor for the remainder of today.

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

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 440, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 440) expressing the sense of the Senate about the importance of effective civic and government education programs in schools in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 440) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING PUBLIC SERVANTS DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 441, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title:

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 441) expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 441) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed

expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2028, with the time until 11 a.m. equally divided between the two managers or their designees; finally, that the filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to both the substitute amendment No. 3801 and the underlying bill, H.R. 2028, be at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 27.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:16 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. DARRYL A. WILLIAMS

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be general*

LT. GEN. THOMAS D. WALDHAUSER

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, April 26, 2016

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 26, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### CONGRATULATIONS TO LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL AND GRANT HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTIONAL COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today is primary day in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast States, the so-called Acela Primary, the five States all served by Amtrak.

Fortunately, we are going to get a break, briefly, from a primary season that is truly cringe-worthy.

But for hundreds of people who were privileged to watch high school students from across America participate in the We the People constitutional competition, there is hope.

These teenage scholars, most not old enough to vote or to drive, compete in a contest demonstrating their knowledge of the Constitution and democratic principles as well as their ability to think on their feet.

At a time when civics education doesn't appear to be a priority for most of American education, this shows the appetite and the capacity to fill that gap.

I have more than a little hometown pride in this undertaking. The Classroom Law Project has been a priority of my family for years and continues to be so.

For the last 4 years, two public high schools in Portland, Oregon, have alternated the National Championship, with Lincoln High School finishing first in 2012 and 2014 and Grant High School in Portland winning the national trophy in 2013 and 2015.

This year Oregon was able to send both teams to the national finals, and the pattern continued, as Lincoln won its third trophy in 5 years and Grant, given an opportunity to compete, finished third, an unprecedented accomplishment for one town's high schools.

This amazing success speaks to the dedication of the young scholars and the amazing support of their families that was evident in the competition, the finals of which were held here in our Nation's Capital.

Both teams have a core of volunteer coaches who are lawyers and judges, citizens who focus on these kids and civics. They care deeply.

Having watched one of these young scholars several years ago in our household, I can testify to the intensity, the depth, and the passion for the Constitution and for our government.

Time doesn't permit me to recognize all these outstanding young people and their mentors, the team that brought them here, but I must acknowledge the presence and advocacy of Peyton Chapman, the principal of Lincoln High School, their main coach, Steve Griffith, representative of all these amazing adults who invest so much in the young people, and Instructor George Ten Eych, because all of these programs rely on a dedicated professional in the classroom to make it happen.

I had an opportunity on the floor of the House to meet with both of these teams late last week. Listening to their comments and questions, I celebrated their insights and hard work, their commitment, even as I wish we could have all of them on the floor of this House to elevate the discussion and deliberation, and I think they would add, frankly, to the decision-making.

But until their time will come—and it can't come soon enough—in the meantime, we celebrate five consecutive National Championships for two public high schools in Portland, Oregon.

Congratulations, Lincoln Cardinals, on your championship, and Grant High

School, finishing third. Together, you have dominated this elite competition for 5 consecutive years.

Congratulations.

### NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, many people have unneeded or expired medications in their medicine cabinets. It can be hard to know how to dispose of these medications properly.

On Saturday, April 30, we have an opportunity to safely dispose of unused, expired, or unwanted prescription medications. Saturday is National Drug Take-Back Day, where you can take medicines to an official drop-off site to have them disposed of responsibly.

This is a no-questions-asked chance to clean out your medicine cabinets and improve the safety of your own homes.

West Virginia and this Nation are in the grips of a drug epidemic, and it will take all of us working together to solve this problem. Each one of us can do our part. While it may seem like something small, safely disposing of unused medicines and medications is one of these measures.

Drug Take-Back Day is a chance for our communities to come together and show that we are united in combating the drug epidemic. Small efforts can make a huge difference.

Please go to DEA.gov and find a local Drug Take-Back Day location near you.

### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

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

### PRAYER

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

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

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

Blessed are You, merciful God of us all. You have given us a new birth and made us a living hope for the world.

As a nation, we have inherited great natural resources and unfailing principles to guide our destiny. By Your power, You have safeguarded faith in Your people. You have made us ready to reveal in our time Your creativity and goodness active in us, but for the common good of all.

We rejoice in Your blessings upon this Congress and the people they represent. Even during times of various trials and moments of struggle, our gaze is fixed on You as the source of all goodness and foundation of peace.

May genuine faith, which is more precious than gold tested by fire, be proven in us.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

A DEDICATED EDUCATOR

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Michael-Alberville superintendent Dr. Jim Behle whose approaching retirement will mark the end of a 39-year career in education. In addition to his time as superintendent, throughout the past four decades Dr. Behle has served as a teacher, principal, guidance counselor, and associate superintendent.

Dr. Behle is one of the most beloved and revered members of our community because of his dedication to our children. Under his strong leadership, the district had many achievements, including ranking among the top 15 percent in the State for reading and math scores.

As a testament to Dr. Behle's hard work, the school board reluctantly accepted his resignation before making the statement: "This is a great loss to

the district, and if at any point you change your mind, don't hesitate to let us know."

His service to our community will surely be missed, and we thank him for his years of commitment to generations of St. Michael-Alberville students and their parents.

Enjoy your retirement, Dr. Behle.

FLINT, MICHIGAN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, so far this House of Representatives has done nothing to help the people of my hometown of Flint, Michigan. I left Flint this morning, and I left behind a city of 100,000 people who for 2 years now have not been able to drink the water coming out of their tap.

It is a disaster, it is a public health crisis, and it demands a response not just from the State government, which clearly is principally responsible for what happened. The people of my hometown are American citizens and have a right to have their national government, the Federal Government, step in and help them in the moment of their greatest need.

This is the job of the United States Congress. We have legislation that would provide relief to the people of Flint rather than arguing over blame. That will come in time. There has been plenty of time devoted to that subject.

The legislation that I offer would have the Federal Government and the State government equally share in the cost of putting this community back together and getting the people in Flint, Michigan, something that every American ought to be able to get up in the morning and take for granted, and that is that the water they drink is clean, safe, and will not make them sick. It is time for this House to act.

RECOGNIZING THE CYBERKIDS PROGRAM AT BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I visited with students in the Cyberkids after-school program at Bethlehem Elementary School in Alexander County. This program enriches learning through research, team collaboration, and communication in the STEM areas.

We started the visit by discussing the U.S. Constitution. Then the students staged a skit that explained the process of how a bill becomes a law. In the performance, they detected a problem, came up with a solution, and collected signatures for a petition they presented to their representative, who introduced a bill, and demonstrated how

Members of the House and Senate arrive at a compromise and turn legislation into law. I had the honor of signing the legislation, and the students held a mock press conference to discuss the new law.

The aptitude these students showed during my visit was impressive and inspiring, and I commend everyone involved in this innovative educational program.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 26, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 26, 2016 at 9:20 am.:

That the Senate passed S. 1579.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

INVESTOR CLARITY AND BANK PARITY ACT

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4096) to amend the Volcker Rule to permit certain investment advisers to share a similar name with a private equity fund, subject to certain restrictions, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 4096

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act”.

**SEC. 2. NAMING RESTRICTIONS.**

Section 13 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1851) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(G)(vi), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, except that the hedge fund or private equity fund may share the same name or a variation of the same name as a banking entity that is an investment adviser to the hedge fund or private equity fund, if—

“(I) such investment adviser is not an insured depository institution, a company that controls an insured depository institution, or a company that is treated as a bank holding company for purposes of section 8 of the International Banking Act of 1978;

“(II) such investment adviser does not share the same name or a variation of the same name as an insured depository institution, any company that controls an insured depository institution, or any company that is treated as a bank holding company for purposes of section 8 of the International Banking Act of 1978; and

“(III) such name does not contain the word ‘bank’”; and

(2) in subsection (h)(5)(C), by inserting before the period the following: “, except as permitted under subsection (d)(1)(G)(vi)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4096, the Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act. I want to thank the primary sponsors of the legislation—the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS)—for their work in bringing this very technical, yet needed, legislation to the floor of the House today.

Mr. Speaker, during this time of divided government, it may come as a surprise to some that the Committee on Financial Services has generated a significant amount of bipartisan legislation since the beginning of 2015. In fact, this Congress our committee has approved over 70 bills, with the vast majority of these receiving bipartisan support, and in many cases unanimous support.

I am pleased that we are able to bring to the floor today a number of bills that received the backing of both Republicans and Democrats out of our committee. One of these bills is the Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act, which passed out of the committee by a voice vote.

What does that bill do?

Well, this bill corrects a statutory error made in section 619 of Dodd-Frank, more commonly known as the Volcker Rule. The Volcker Rule limited the ability of bank holding companies or their affiliates to invest in hedge funds or private equity funds, collectively known as covered funds.

Now, we had a number of debates in our committee as to the general wisdom of the Volcker Rule and whether it actually reduces systemic risk and protects taxpayers or not. I think one thing we can all agree on is that so long as section 619 is the law of the land, Congress should do what it can to limit any negative and unintended consequences of the Volcker Rule.

Because of the way that Dodd-Frank was drafted, a bank or one of its affiliates was prohibited from sharing its name with a covered fund that it was invested in. By disallowing a covered fund to share a name with the sponsoring entity, this provision of the Volcker Rule could actually lead to more and widespread investor confusion about who is actually managing the assets of that particular fund.

As Jeffrey Plunkett of Natixis Global Asset Management told our subcommittee at a hearing back in February, he said: “We believe that compliance with the name-sharing prohibition of the Volcker Rule . . . risks confusion among investors and burdens firms that are affiliated with banks, leading to a lack of transparency for clients.”

So the fix envisioned here today in H.R. 4096 is really a simple one. It allows a covered fund to share its name with a sponsoring entity in order to provide clarity and transparency to the investor.

I urge all my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 4096.

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

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

I also rise to support H.R. 4096 for the exact reasons that Mr. GARRETT just pointed out. I would like to be as clear as I can. I am a strong proponent and supporter of the Volcker Rule, and I would not support anything that would undermine that rule. That is not what this does. This is simply a clarification of an item that was never intended. Even as a supporter of that rule, this is not the outcome we intended. It is simply to clarify naming abilities by certain entities.

I want to be also clear that nothing in this provision would allow some-

thing like the Bank of America Fund. You still cannot name it after a bank. These are subsidiaries of some banks. In this particular case, Natixis happens to be located in my district. They are the ones who brought this issue to my attention. They also happen to be affiliated with Loomis Sayles.

Loomis Sayles is not a bank, but it is an affiliate of a bank. Therefore, Loomis Sayles would not be allowed to say this is a Loomis Sayles item. They have to call it some funny name, ABCD Fund or whatever it might be. That was never the intention of the Volcker Rule.

The Volcker Rule was to make sure that the finances of this country and this world are as stable as possible so that people couldn't have conflicts of interest and on and on and on. This is a technical amendment, something that I strongly support.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the gentleman has yielded back, has no other speakers, I don't believe that we have any other speakers on this side of the aisle.

I will close by saying thank you to the gentleman for working with us on this and a bunch of other legislation I also hope to bring to the floor sooner rather than later. I encourage Members on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4096.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

FAIR ACCESS TO INVESTMENT RESEARCH ACT OF 2016

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5019) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5019

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Fair Access to Investment Research Act of 2016”.

## SEC. 2. SAFE HARBOR FOR INVESTMENT FUND RESEARCH.

(a) EXPANSION OF THE SAFE HARBOR.—Not later than the end of the 45-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall propose, and not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on such date, the Commission shall adopt, upon such terms, conditions, or requirements as the Commission may determine necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, and for the promotion of capital formation, revisions to section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide that a covered investment fund research report that is published or distributed by a broker or dealer—

(1) shall be deemed, for purposes of sections 2(a)(10) and 5(c) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(10), 77e(c)), not to constitute an offer for sale or an offer to sell a security that is the subject of an offering pursuant to a registration statement that is effective, even if the broker or dealer is participating or will participate in the registered offering of the covered investment fund's securities; and

(2) shall be deemed to satisfy the conditions of subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor provisions, for purposes of the Commission's rules and regulations under the Federal securities laws and the rules of any self-regulatory organization.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFE HARBOR.—In implementing the safe harbor pursuant to subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(1) not, in the case of a covered investment fund with a class of securities in substantially continuous distribution, condition the safe harbor on whether the broker's or dealer's publication or distribution of a covered investment fund research report constitutes such broker's or dealer's initiation or reinitiation of research coverage on such covered investment fund or its securities;

(2) not—

(A) require the covered investment fund to have been registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.) or subject to the reporting requirements of section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)) for any period exceeding the period of time referenced under paragraph (a)(1)(i)(A)(1) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(B) impose a minimum float provision exceeding that referenced in paragraph (a)(1)(i)(A)(1)(i) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

(3) provide that a self-regulatory organization may not maintain or enforce any rule that would—

(A) prohibit the ability of a member to publish or distribute a covered investment fund research report solely because the member is also participating in a registered offering or other distribution of any securities of such covered investment fund; or

(B) prohibit the ability of a member to participate in a registered offering or other distribution of securities of a covered investment fund solely because the member has published or distributed a covered investment fund research report about such covered investment fund or its securities; and

(4) provide that a covered investment fund research report shall not be subject to section 24(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-24(b)) or the rules and regulations thereunder, except that such report may still be subject to such section and the rules and regulations thereunder to the ex-

tent that it is otherwise not subject to the content standards in the rules of any self-regulatory organization related to research reports, including those contained in the rules governing communications with the public regarding investment companies or substantially similar standards.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as in any way limiting—

(1) the applicability of the antifraud or antimanipulation provisions of the Federal securities laws and rules adopted thereunder to a covered investment fund research report, including section 17 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77q), section 34(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-33), and sections 9 and 10 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78i, 78j); or

(2) the authority of any self-regulatory organization to examine or supervise a member's practices in connection with such member's publication or distribution of a covered investment fund research report for compliance with applicable provisions of the Federal securities laws or self-regulatory organization rules related to research reports, including those contained in rules governing communications with the public.

(d) INTERIM EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFE HARBOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From and after the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, if the Commission has not adopted revisions to section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, as required by subsection (a), and until such time as the Commission has done so, a broker or dealer distributing or publishing a covered investment fund research report after such date shall be able to rely on the provisions of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, and the broker or dealer's publication of such report shall be deemed to satisfy the conditions of subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, if the covered investment fund that is the subject of such report satisfies the reporting history requirements (without regard to Form S-3 or Form F-3 eligibility) and minimum float provisions of such subsections for purposes of the Commission's rules and regulations under the Federal securities laws and the rules of any self-regulatory organization, as if revised and implemented in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).

(2) STATUS OF COVERED INVESTMENT FUND.—After such period and until the Commission has adopted revisions to section 230.139 and FINRA has revised rule 2210, for purposes of subsection (c)(7)(O) of such rule, a covered investment fund shall be deemed to be a security that is listed on a national securities exchange and that is not subject to section 24(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-24(b)). Communications concerning only covered investment funds that fall within the scope of such section shall not be required to be filed with FINRA.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "covered investment fund research report" means a research report published or distributed by a broker or dealer about a covered investment fund or any securities issued by the covered investment fund, but not including a research report to the extent that it is published or distributed by the covered investment fund or any affiliate of the covered investment fund.

(2) The term "covered investment fund" means—

(A) an investment company registered under, or that has filed an election to be

treated as a business development company under, the Investment Company Act of 1940 and that has filed a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 for the public offering of a class of its securities, which registration statement has been declared effective by the Commission; and

(B) a trust or other person—

(i) issuing securities in an offering registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and which class of securities is listed for trading on a national securities exchange;

(ii) the assets of which consist primarily of commodities, currencies, or derivative instruments that reference commodities or currencies, or interests in the foregoing; and

(iii) that provides in its registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 that a class of its securities are purchased or redeemed, subject to conditions or limitations, for a ratable share of its assets.

(3) The term "FINRA" means the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

(4) The term "research report" has the meaning given that term under section 2(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(3)), except that such term shall not include an oral communication.

(5) The term "self-regulatory organization" has the meaning given to that term under section 3(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(26)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any other extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5019, the Fair Access to Investment Research Act of 2016. I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), who will be speaking in a little bit, for his diligent work on this piece of legislation, as well as for his valued work and his input that he has brought all year long to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most positive developments in our economy over the last several decades is what has been dubbed the "democratization" of our capital markets. Because of the advances in technology and market competition, more Americans than ever have the ability to take control of their own investments and have access to products that used to be reserved for the rich and the professionals.

The \$200 trade has now become the \$7 trade, and many investment funds have become more cost-effective over the years as well. One of these products is the exchange-traded fund or the ETF.

What are ETFs?

Well, ETFs are securities made up of a basket of stocks or bonds and which trade over an exchange like an individual stock. Because of their diversity and cost-effectiveness, they have become increasingly popular with investors. In fact, ETFs now hold roughly \$2 trillion in assets, and some 5.7 million households hold ETFs as part of their investment portfolio.

That being said, unfortunately, due to a longstanding technicality in securities law, there is a dearth of research on ETFs' availability to investors, depriving them of valuable information they need to make their informed decisions. The SEC, in the past, has provided safe harbors under securities law for brokers that provide research reports for listed stocks or corporate debt.

Despite this and despite broad public support, the SEC has not provided a similar safe harbor for ETF research reports. Because of this, brokers are hesitant to publish reports out of fear for legal action either from the SEC or another private party.

So we have this today, the Fair Access to Investment Research Act, which would correct this anomaly by providing a safe harbor for ETFs similar to the ones that currently exist for equities or corporate debt. This is a simple, yet much-needed, piece of legislation to help investors, particularly your mom-and-pop type investors, to understand more about the products that they are putting their hard-earned money into.

Again, I thank Mr. HILL not only for his work on this legislation but, truly, for all the expertise and advice that he has brought to the committee this session.

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY), the primary Democratic sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) for yielding me this time. I would also like to thank all those who have worked hard to improve this bill. I would like to recognize and thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for introducing this legislation. I appreciate his continued willingness to work with me on this important issue and to fine-tune this bill to address concerns that we have heard, particularly from Members on this side of the aisle.

The FAIR Act has a very simple purpose, to provide investors better access to research on exchange-traded funds and other similar products. ETFs are one of the fastest-growing investment vehicles in the market. Net assets in ETFs have grown from \$102 billion in 2002 to \$1.8 trillion in 2014. The number

of ETFs on the market has increased 23 percent over the same period of time, but compared to other asset classes, there is limited research about them available. As interest in ETFs continues to grow, we need to make sure that investors have access to reliable information on these funds and on their underlying investments.

The SEC has been looking at expanding a safe harbor for ETF research for over 15 years, and every time this issue has come up before the SEC, it has received favorable feedback. In fact, during the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises hearing, there was unanimous agreement among the witnesses—which is not easy to come by in our subcommittee—that the SEC should promulgate a rule providing a safe harbor for ETF research.

Since this legislation was originally introduced, a lot has gone into improving it. We have worked very closely with Ranking Member WATERS, the SEC, and FINRA to ensure this legislation does what it is intended to do. We have taken their suggestions to improve numerous provisions of the bill, and I want to thank Mr. HILL again for his flexibility in doing that.

This new version reflects a year of collaboration among Democrats, Republicans, and the regulators. The finished product is a clarified, more effective version of the original bill. I am proud to say I believe that we have arrived at an agreement that works for everyone.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. HILL for his leadership on this issue. I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises. I appreciate greatly the kind comments, sponsorship, and good work of my friend, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY).

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 5019, the FAIR Act, Fair Access to Investment Research Act. This bill is similar to a bill that I introduced with Mr. CARNEY that passed the House as a part of H.R. 1675 and passed our committee by a strong bipartisan vote.

□ 1515

As my friend from Delaware said, we have worked diligently to improve this legislation and we have worked carefully with our colleagues in the minority to make sure that this bill fully represents the bipartisan consensus on the intent of the FAIR Act.

This bill is very simple: it allows broker-dealers involved in a distribu-

tion to issue research reports on the rapidly growing medium of the exchange-traded funds, or the ETF, market.

Since I started my most recent investment firm in the late 1990s, I have personally seen the ETF market grow from about 100 funds and \$100 billion in assets to over 1,400 funds and nearly \$2 trillion in assets. And some reports predict an additional \$1 trillion might shift into ETFs should the Department of Labor's recent fiduciary rule actually go into effect.

Further, today's ETFs frequently are more complicated and require more analysis on the part of investors. Yet despite their rapid appreciation and growth in popularity and increasing importance to retail investors, most broker-dealers do not publish research on ETFs due to anomalies in the securities laws and regulations that Mr. GARRETT so ably discussed.

Throughout this process, there has been essentially universal support for increasing investor knowledge and access to information on ETFs—that a safe harbor in this regard simply makes good sense.

As Mr. CARNEY said, this issue is not unfamiliar to the Commission, as it has been raised both to the SEC and by the SEC several times over the past 17 years, most recently in 2004.

As a part of its Securities Offering Reform proposal, the Commission requested comment on whether "reliance on proposed rule 139 should be permitted if the issuer is an open-end management investment company or other investment company." The comments were universally supported, but the rule was never adopted.

Given the importance of ETFs to today's market, steps to facilitate research and allow investors access to this useful information is long overdue.

The FAIR Act directs the SEC to provide a safe harbor for research reports that cover ETFs so that these reports are not considered "offers" under section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933. This mirrors other research safe harbors implemented by the SEC for other categories.

The bill also helps the SEC organize, in my view, its "50 front burners" and holds it accountable to follow Congress' direction by requiring the Commission to finalize rules within 180 days or an interim safe harbor will take effect until the rule is proposed and finalized. With close to 6 million U.S. households holding ETFs, investors need access to this research to be better informed and make better long-term investment decisions.

Again, I would like to thank the chairman, Mr. CARNEY; Mrs. MALONEY, the ranking member; and all of the staff on both the majority and minority side for working to develop this commonsense proposal to provide more information to American investors. I

encourage all of my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers at this time and appreciating the fact that this prioritizes the 50 front burners at the SEC, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5019.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### FLOOD INSURANCE MARKET PARITY AND MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2901) to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2901

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act".*

##### SEC. 2. PRIVATE FLOOD INSURANCE.

(a) MANDATORY PURCHASE REQUIREMENT.—

(1) AMOUNT AND TERM OF COVERAGE.—Section 102 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a) is amended by striking "Sec. 102. (a)" and all that follows through the end of subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"SEC. 102. (a) AMOUNT AND TERM OF COVERAGE.—After the expiration of sixty days following the date of enactment of this Act, no Federal officer or agency shall approve any financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes for use in any area that has been identified by the Administrator as an area having special flood hazards and in which the sale of flood insurance has been made available under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, unless the building or mobile home and any personal property to which such financial assistance relates is covered by flood insurance: Provided, That the amount of flood insurance (1) in the case of Federal flood insurance, is at least equal to the development or project cost of the building, mobile home, or personal property (less estimated land cost), the outstanding principal balance of the loan, or the maximum limit of Federal flood insurance coverage made available with respect to the particular type of property, whichever is less; or (2) in the case of private flood insurance, is at least equal to the development or project cost of the building, mobile home, or personal property (less estimated land

cost), the outstanding principal balance of the loan, or the maximum limit of Federal flood insurance coverage made available with respect to the particular type of property, whichever is less: Provided further, That if the financial assistance provided is in the form of a loan or an insurance or guaranty of a loan, the amount of flood insurance required need not exceed the outstanding principal balance of the loan and need not be required beyond the term of the loan. The requirement of maintaining flood insurance shall apply during the life of the property, regardless of transfer of ownership of such property."

(2) REQUIREMENT FOR MORTGAGE LOANS.—Subsection (b) of section 102 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through the end of paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

"(b) REQUIREMENT FOR MORTGAGE LOANS.—

"(1) REGULATED LENDING INSTITUTIONS.—Each Federal entity for lending regulation (after consultation and coordination with the Financial Institutions Examination Council established under the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1974) shall by regulation direct regulated lending institutions not to make, increase, extend, or renew any loan secured by improved real estate or a mobile home located or to be located in an area that has been identified by the Administrator as an area having special flood hazards and in which flood insurance has been made available under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, unless the building or mobile home and any personal property securing such loan is covered for the term of the loan by flood insurance: Provided, That the amount of flood insurance (A) in the case of Federal flood insurance, is at least equal to the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of Federal flood insurance coverage made available with respect to the particular type of property, whichever is less; or (B) in the case of private flood insurance, is at least equal to the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of Federal flood insurance coverage made available with respect to the particular type of property, whichever is less.

"(2) FEDERAL AGENCY LENDERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency lender may not make, increase, extend, or renew any loan secured by improved real estate or a mobile home located or to be located in an area that has been identified by the Administrator as an area having special flood hazards and in which flood insurance has been made available under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, unless the building or mobile home and any personal property securing such loan is covered for the term of the loan by flood insurance in accordance with paragraph (1). Each Federal agency lender may issue any regulations necessary to carry out this paragraph. Such regulations shall be consistent with and substantially identical to the regulations issued under paragraph (1).

"(B) REQUIREMENT TO ACCEPT FLOOD INSURANCE.—Each Federal agency lender shall accept flood insurance as satisfaction of the flood insurance coverage requirement under subparagraph (A) if the flood insurance coverage meets the requirements for coverage under that subparagraph.

"(3) GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES FOR HOUSING.—The Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation shall implement procedures reasonably designed to ensure that, for any loan that is—

"(A) secured by improved real estate or a mobile home located in an area that has been identified, at the time of the origination of the loan

or at any time during the term of the loan, by the Administrator as an area having special flood hazards and in which flood insurance is available under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, and

"(B) purchased or guaranteed by such entity, the building or mobile home and any personal property securing the loan is covered for the term of the loan by flood insurance in the amount provided in paragraph (1). The Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation shall accept flood insurance as satisfaction of the flood insurance coverage requirement under paragraph (1) if the flood insurance coverage provided meets the requirements for coverage under that paragraph and any requirements established by the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Corporation, respectively, relating to the financial strength of private insurance companies from which the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation will accept private flood insurance, provided that such requirements shall not affect or conflict with any State law, regulation, or procedure concerning the regulation of the business of insurance.

"(4) APPLICABILITY.—

"(A) EXISTING COVERAGE.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), paragraph (1) shall apply on the date of enactment of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994.

"(B) NEW COVERAGE.—Paragraphs (2) and (3) shall apply only with respect to any loan made, increased, extended, or renewed after the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994. Paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any loan made, increased, extended, or renewed by any lender supervised by the Farm Credit Administration only after the expiration of the period under this subparagraph.

"(C) CONTINUED EFFECT OF REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, the regulations to carry out paragraph (1), as in effect immediately before the date of enactment of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994, shall continue to apply until the regulations issued to carry out paragraph (1) as amended by section 522(a) of such Act take effect.

"(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as otherwise specified, any reference to flood insurance in this section shall be considered to include Federal flood insurance and private flood insurance. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede or limit the authority of a Federal entity for lending regulation, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, a Federal agency lender, the Federal National Mortgage Association, or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation to establish requirements relating to the financial strength of private insurance companies from which the entity or agency will accept private flood insurance, provided that such requirements shall not affect or conflict with any State law, regulation, or procedure concerning the regulation of the business of insurance."; and

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following new paragraph:

"(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(A) FLOOD INSURANCE.—The term 'flood insurance' means—

"(i) Federal flood insurance; and

"(ii) private flood insurance.

"(B) FEDERAL FLOOD INSURANCE.—the term 'Federal flood insurance' means an insurance policy made available under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

“(C) PRIVATE FLOOD INSURANCE.—The term ‘private flood insurance’ means an insurance policy that—

“(i) is issued by an insurance company that is—

“(I) licensed, admitted, or otherwise approved to engage in the business of insurance in the State in which the insured building is located, by the insurance regulator of that State; or

“(II) eligible as a nonadmitted insurer to provide insurance in the home State of the insured, in accordance with sections 521 through 527 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 8201 through 8206);

“(ii) is issued by an insurance company that is not otherwise disapproved as a surplus lines insurer by the insurance regulator of the State in which the property to be insured is located; and

“(iii) provides flood insurance coverage that complies with the laws and regulations of that State.

“(D) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.”

(b) EFFECT OF PRIVATE FLOOD INSURANCE COVERAGE ON CONTINUOUS COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1308 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) EFFECT OF PRIVATE FLOOD INSURANCE COVERAGE ON CONTINUOUS COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of applying any statutory, regulatory, or administrative continuous coverage requirement, including under section 1307(g)(1), the Administrator shall consider any period during which a property was continuously covered by private flood insurance (as defined in section 102(b)(7) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a(b)(7))) to be a period of continuous coverage.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Providing American homeowners and businessowners more affordable consumer options in the flood insurance marketplace has been one of my top priorities since I was elected to Congress to represent central Florida and the Tampa Bay region in our Nation’s Capital. Private competition in this market will lead to greater innovation and more affordable and comprehensive policies for consumers.

We have seen numerous floods devastating communities across the country in recent years, most recently in Houston, and last August in my very own congressional district. Every State and every congressional district is at

risk for flooding. With hurricane season just a few weeks away from beginning, it is time for Congress to take action to benefit and better protect consumers.

Unfortunately, regulatory barriers and the bias of regulators favoring National Flood Insurance Program policies have prevented the development of a private flood insurance marketplace. This was not the intention of the Biggert-Waters Act. Rather, it was an unintended consequence.

With that in mind, I worked with my colleague from across the aisle, Representative PATRICK MURPHY, to introduce H.R. 2901, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act. This bipartisan legislation will remove the unnecessary regulatory barriers and require Federal agencies to accept private flood insurance that complies with the laws and regulations of the State of an insured property.

Under current law, consumers are limited to the coverage options provided by the NFIP. For example, an NFIP policy only covers up to \$250,000 of damages related to a residential home. In addition, an NFIP policy does not cover a homeowner’s living expenses, such as temporary housing, if they are displaced as a result of a flood. In the case of a business, an NFIP policy does not provide coverage for the financial losses suffered by businesses as a result of a flood.

While the NFIP is limited in what their policies can cover, the private sector is not. The private sector will provide more incentives for property owners to invest in mitigation and resiliency. Ultimately, this increased emphasis on mitigation will benefit homeowners and taxpayers alike. Studies have shown that, for every \$1 of investment in mitigation, communities see a savings of up to \$4 in government-funded disaster relief.

I want to take a moment and thank Chairman HENSARLING and my subcommittee chair, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, for their support of this legislation and their leadership on this important issue. I also want to thank the ranking member, MAXINE WATERS, for working with my staff and me through this entire process.

This legislation is supported by a number of stakeholders, from the Realtors, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, to a broad coalition of taxpayer advocates, environmental groups, housing organizations, and mitigation advocates.

On March 2, 2016, the legislation passed out of the House Financial Services Committee by a vote of 53-0. With such strong bipartisan support, I am encouraged Congress is taking such an important step on behalf of consumers not only in Florida, but across the country.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this

commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will encourage the expansion of a well-regulated, more affordable private flood insurance option for homeowners.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 2901, and I want to congratulate Mr. ROSS and Mr. MURPHY for coming up with a piece of bipartisan legislation.

I want to be clear that the issues surrounding flood insurance are difficult and complicated, and there are differences of opinion as to how much of a role private insurance can play. This bill threads that needle.

This bill says we all agree that there is more role for private insurance and we should remove any barriers that might be there so that people can be better served and have better competition. I think this bill does a pretty good job doing that.

I don’t think private insurance is ever going to—I am not sure that is possible, but it is a different debate—take the place of national flood insurance. And we are working on that. Mr. ROSS has been a great leader on that, as has Mr. MURPHY. I want to thank them and congratulate them, and I look forward to working with them further to do more as we move forward.

This particular bill is one good step in the right direction, and I want to congratulate the two authors and thank them for their leadership. I look forward to supporting this bill.

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act.

Since its inception back in 1968, the National Flood Insurance Program was never intended to cover policies that the private sector was able and willing to underwrite. In fact, one stated goal for the program was “the Federal Government would create an opportunity for private industry to obtain . . . experience in operating a flood insurance program . . . and that sometime in the future, the program could become an all-private program.”

Nearly 50 years have passed and, to no one’s surprise, private sector flood insurance risk modeling and analytics have dramatically improved.

While this House may not be ready to take up complete privatization, it is time to provide a role for the private market to underwrite primary flood insurance policies. Passage of this bipartisan bill means more consumer choice, more market competition, and more product information. Consumers, for the first time, will be able to shop for



a flood policy that fits their particular needs.

This bill also has the added benefit of decreasing the aggregate flood insurance exposure to the Federal Government and decreasing the potential for a future taxpayer-backed bailout, which is very, very important.

So I commend both gentlemen for their work on this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), my good friend.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding time to me.

You might wonder: Why is someone from New Mexico even speaking about flood insurance problems? We get about 9 inches of rain a year in my district. Also, it is the high desert. They call it that because we begin at around 3,500 feet of elevation and work up from there.

The way the National Flood Insurance Program has worked out in the past is that people are required, because they happen to be in a flood plain—and we are not dealing with whether or not they should be in a flood plain; we are dealing with the fact that they get no competitive bids—to only get the one government-size bid. And that is never very functional.

So the most egregious circumstance that exists is one that one of my constituents mentioned. He said: I live at the top of a 7,000-foot mountain. The water is down here at about 4,000 feet, 3,000 feet below me, and I have to buy flood insurance.

Well, the fact that he has to buy flood insurance is egregious enough, but the fact that he has to live and pay premiums based on the actuary standards that might exist in Florida is the egregious part. What it does is keeps houses from selling and people from being able to buy houses in New Mexico because they have been defined as being in a flood plain.

□ 1530

If the market were out there, there would be companies that say: Wait. That guy is never going to flood. I can charge him a minute amount and still make money on his policy.

Yet, nothing like that exists. So we find ourselves paying to the same standards as the people in Florida pay when we get 9 inches of rain a year.

So I really appreciate the gentleman's attempt to bring some competition into the workplace. I appreciate Mr. CAPUANO's support of the bill, Mr. MURPHY's underlying co-sponsorship.

I am here to support heartily H.R. 2901, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, you learn something new every day. I am

one of those people. I never expected a guy from New Mexico to be speaking on the flood insurance bill.

I thank Mr. PEARCE for educating me even further.

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) for his efforts and leadership in this regard.

Look, this isn't the be-all-to-end-all, but it is the best first step that we can have as a Congress to make sure that we give our consumers affordable options in flood insurance.

As we address the reauthorization of the Biggert-Waters Act next year, this will provide a bridge for bringing the private sector back into the market to show that they are willing to assume some of this risk to the benefit of the consumers.

There are quite a few groups out there that support this particular legislation. To name a few, that includes the Reinsurance Association of America, National Multifamily Housing Council, National Apartment Association, National Taxpayers Union, American Insurance Association, National Association of Realtors, Mortgage Bankers Association, and R Street.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us and overwhelmingly pass this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HILL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2901, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACT OF 2016

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 223) to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 223

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE.

Section 118(c)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

"(B) FOCUS AREAS.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Administrator shall prioritize programs and projects, to be carried out in coordination with non-Federal partners, that address the priority areas described in the Initiative Action Plan, including—

"(i) the remediation of toxic substances and areas of concern;

"(ii) the prevention and control of invasive species and the impacts of invasive species;

"(iii) the protection and restoration of near-shore health and the prevention and mitigation of nonpoint source pollution;

"(iv) habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, including wetlands restoration and preservation; and

"(v) accountability, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and partnership activities.

"(C) PROJECTS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Administrator shall collaborate with other Federal partners, including the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force established by Executive Order 13340 (69 Fed. Reg. 29043), to select the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration using appropriate principles and criteria, including whether a program or project provides—

"(I) the ability to achieve strategic and measurable environmental outcomes that implement the Initiative Action Plan and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;

"(II) the feasibility of—

"(aa) prompt implementation;

"(bb) timely achievement of results; and

"(cc) resource leveraging; and

"(III) the opportunity to improve interagency, intergovernmental, and inter-organizational coordination and collaboration to reduce duplication and streamline efforts.

"(ii) OUTREACH.—In selecting the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration under clause (i), the Administrator shall consult with the Great Lakes States and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

"(iii) HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM COORDINATOR.—The Administrator shall designate a point person from an appropriate Federal partner to coordinate, with Federal partners and Great Lakes States, Indian tribes, and other non-Federal stakeholders, projects and activities under the Initiative involving harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes."

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (J)(ii), funds made available to carry out the Initiative shall be used to strategically implement—

"(I) Federal projects;

"(II) projects carried out in coordination with States, Indian tribes, municipalities, institutions of higher education, and other organizations; and

"(III) operations and activities of the Program Office, including remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern."

(B) in clause (ii)(I), by striking "(G)(i)" and inserting "(J)(i)"; and

(C) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

"(iii) AGREEMENTS WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, or the head of any other Federal department or agency receiving funds under clause (ii)(I), may make a grant to, or otherwise enter into an agreement with, a qualified non-Federal entity, as determined by the Administrator or the applicable head of the other Federal department or agency

receiving funds, for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, or implementation of a project selected under subparagraph (C), to support the Initiative Action Plan or the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

“(II) QUALIFIED NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—For purposes of this clause, a qualified non-Federal entity may include a governmental entity, non-profit organization, institution, or individual.”; and

(3) by striking subparagraphs (E) through (G) and inserting the following:

“(E) SCOPE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Projects may be carried out under the Initiative on multiple levels, including—

“(I) locally;

“(II) Great Lakes-wide; or

“(III) Great Lakes basin-wide.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—No funds made available to carry out the Initiative may be used for any water infrastructure activity (other than a green infrastructure project that improves habitat and other ecosystem functions in the Great Lakes) for which financial assistance is received—

“(I) from a State water pollution control revolving fund established under title VI;

“(II) from a State drinking water revolving loan fund established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12); or

“(III) pursuant to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.).

“(F) ACTIVITIES BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each relevant Federal department or agency shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(i) maintain the base level of funding for the Great Lakes activities of that department or agency without regard to funding under the Initiative; and

“(ii) identify new activities and projects to support the environmental goals of the Initiative.

“(G) REVISION OF INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not less often than once every 5 years, the Administrator, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, shall review, and revise as appropriate, the Initiative Action Plan to guide the activities of the Initiative in addressing the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes system.

“(ii) OUTREACH.—In reviewing and revising the Initiative Action Plan under clause (i), the Administrator shall consult with the Great Lakes States and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

“(H) MONITORING AND REPORTING.—The Administrator shall—

“(i) establish and maintain a process for monitoring and periodically reporting to the public on the progress made in implementing the Initiative Action Plan;

“(ii) make information about each project carried out under the Initiative Action Plan available on a public website; and

“(iii) provide to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works a yearly detailed description of the progress of the Initiative and amounts transferred to participating Federal departments and agencies under subparagraph (D)(ii).

“(I) INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘Initiative Action Plan’ means the comprehensive, multi-year action plan for the restoration of the Great Lakes, first developed pursuant to the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Conference Report accompanying the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-88).

“(J) FUNDING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this paragraph creates, expands, or amends the authority of the Administrator to implement programs or projects under—

“(I) this section;

“(II) the Initiative Action Plan; or

“(III) the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 223, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to bring up H.R. 223, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016, introduced by my Ohio colleague, Congressman DAVE JOYCE, on the floor today.

The Great Lakes are an important resource for the United States. More than 30 million people live in the Great Lakes region, and the lakes help support over \$200 billion a year in economic activity.

The Great Lakes Interagency Task Force of Federal agencies was created in 2004 by executive order to help ensure coordination between the Federal, State, and private parties protecting and restoring the Great Lakes.

In 2010, the task force released an action plan as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

Under the Initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency collaborates with other Federal partners, including the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, to select the best combination of projects and activities for Great Lakes protection and restoration.

In September of 2014, the Federal agencies released an updated Action Plan II, which summarizes the actions that the Federal agencies plan to implement during fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

The Action Plan aims to strategically target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and to accelerate progress toward long-term goals.

H.R. 223 will formally authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for 5 years and modifies the program based on recommendations that the Com-

mittee received from stakeholders, hearings, and the GAO reports on EPA's activities during multiple years of oversight.

The bill is a positive step forward for the Great Lakes region and the United States as a whole as we continue to prioritize protection and restoration of one of our Nation's most valuable resources.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 223, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016. This bill extends the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a program which has had bipartisan support among the Great Lakes delegation for 5 years.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representatives DAVID JOYCE, DAN LIPINSKI, and RICK NOLAN, for their hard work and effort to extend the authorization of appropriations for this program through fiscal year 2021.

These and other members of the Midwest delegation worked diligently to get this legislation to the floor for consideration. I want to thank them all for a job well done.

It accelerates efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes, the largest system of surface freshwater in the world.

Through unprecedented Federal agency coordination and the development of partnerships with the Great Lakes States and local communities, the initiative has already funded more than 2,000 projects to improve water quality, protect and restore native habitats, and prevent and control invasive species in the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, legislation similar to this bill was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. However, that authorization was only for 1 fiscal year. This legislation provides for a full 5-year reauthorization.

That timeline is necessary to allow many longer term projects to be planned, capitalized, and completed.

Further, this bill will allow States and local communities to coordinate their efforts to combat harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes for the first time.

The harmful algal blooms that shut down the drinking water system in Toledo, Ohio, for 3 days in 2014 and that re-emerged in 2015 are still fresh in our memories.

For this reason, I am pleased that this legislation includes the text of H.R. 1923, sponsored by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), to require EPA to appoint a Federal coordinator to work with the Federal agencies, the States, the tribes, and other stakeholders to address the recurring challenges of algal blooms in the Great Lakes.

This coordinator will ensure that GLRI funds are utilized in the most efficient and effective way to reduce nutrients finding their way into the lakes.

Lastly, this bill includes a savings clause to clarify that the GLRI authorization does not expand the regulatory authority of EPA related to restoration of the Great Lakes.

I did not advocate for this provision. However, let's make it clear here today on the floor that this language should not be interpreted as preventing EPA or other Federal agencies from continuing to utilize their existing authorities to address ongoing water quality challenges facing the lakes.

Accordingly, this bill should help ensure that the Federal departments are able to fund work using all the existing tools in the toolbox that cause harmful algal blooms and other pollution and prevent Asian carp from invading the lakes, which would be a disaster, and clean up areas of concern and other high-priority threats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 223.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), who has been a strong advocate for the protection of the Great Lakes and a sponsor of the bill.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 223, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016.

First, I want to thank my good friend, BOB GIBBS of Ohio, for helping me to shepherd this legislation through the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I also want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for lending a hand and providing guidance on this.

Now, I know I may sound like a broken record, but one of the greatest natural resources and economic powerhouses we have in the United States and the world, for that matter, is the Great Lakes.

I think the resource is incredibly important because, in the future, freshwater is going to be the new gold. And, if you believe that like I do, you understand why the Great Lakes are so important.

Let me give you a few quick facts about this treasure. The Great Lakes contains one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water.

The Great Lakes contain about 85 percent of the fresh surface water in North America.

In the U.S., the Great Lakes account for 95 percent of the fresh surface water. That is a lot of fresh water.

If you took the water and spread it evenly across the Continental United States, the Great Lakes would submerge our country under 9½ feet of water.

These lakes provide more than 35 million people with their drinking

water. These Great Lakes support more than 3,500 species of plants and animals.

Studies have shown that more than 1½ million jobs are connected to the five lakes, and they generate \$62 billion in wages.

Now, I know I have uttered those facts around the Capitol like a broken record since I got here, as have others, but these are powerful in telling our story.

An investment in protecting this national treasure is a small down payment in protecting the drinking water for millions of people.

This legislation will continue to make sure that we look at these Great Lakes as a national treasure and coordinate our investment in protecting them. Please stand with me today in sending a message to protect and preserve our Great Lakes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I also thank my colleagues from Ohio. This has been one of the true bipartisan issues that we have dealt with.

So I would like to thank Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. KAPTUR, MARCIA FUDGE, JIM RENACCI, also, PETE VISCIOSKY, and CHRIS COLLINS.

As you just heard from Mr. JOYCE, the Great Lakes are a huge issue. But, also, for us, Lake Erie is a huge issue. My legislation was put into this bill to require the EPA to appoint a coordinator to address the issue of harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.

We have so many groups that are interested, but we need the EPA to help coordinate. Our friends helped get this language into this bill, and I am deeply grateful for that.

These harmful algal blooms affect over half a million Ohioans. It did in 2014. Lake Erie provides clean drinking water for approximately 3 million Ohioans, many of them up and around the Cleveland and Toledo areas.

In August 2014, we had an environmental disaster caused by a harmful algal bloom that left nearly 500,000 residents of Toledo and the western basin without safe drinking water for 3 days.

Lake Erie's tourist industry generates \$12.9 billion in visitor spending, including 119,000 jobs, and contributes \$1.7 billion in Federal, State, and local taxes.

This crisis just continues to build, and it is critical that we start working together to come up with a plan to stem the growing tide.

The Great Lakes' abundance of fresh water is a vital resource and a strategic advantage, and it is critical that we do everything in our power to combat the threats to the Great Lakes that threaten the health and well-being of Ohio and other States surrounding the Great Lakes.

So we must do everything we can. This language helps to make that happen. This language will ensure that there is a coordinator at the EPA to work with the appropriate Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign governments to address this critical issue affecting the State of Ohio.

As we see the changes in our economy and as we see what is happening out west, we are reminded every single day how critical and how lucky we are, those of us who live in the Great Lakes region, to be able to access this fresh water.

So, again, I thank my friends from Ohio. I thank Mr. SHUSTER from this committee, Mr. DEFAZIO, and others who helped make this happen and for including this language in the bill.

Hon. TIM RYAN,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN RYAN: We write in support of H.R. 1923, your bill requiring the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to appoint a Great Lakes Harmful Algal Bloom Coordinator, which is now part of H.R. 223, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2015. Thank you for your leadership and for being a champion for our Great Lakes, particularly Lake Erie.

Currently there are many efforts underway to reduce the number of harmful algal blooms throughout the Great Lakes, such as in Lake Erie, Saginaw and Green Bays, and Fox River. These efforts, however, are not always coordinated to leverage resources and share vital information. Appointing a coordinator ensures resources are used effectively and efficiently and that federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, universities and non-governmental organizations are working collaboratively to reduce phosphorus flowing into the Great Lakes. The first step is a coordinator to ensure everyone is working together to address these complex issues.

A coordinator could not come quickly enough. Lake Erie is the canary in the coal mine of what is to come for freshwater bodies if the nation does not solve this problem. In 2015, Lake Erie experienced a HAB that stretched from Michigan to well past Cleveland and was the biggest bloom on record. In 2014 and 2013, residents in the Toledo area and Carroll Township, respectively, went without tap water because of the toxins produced by these blooms.

As you know, over 30 million people rely on the Great Lakes for their drinking water. We must take action now because the longer we wait, the more serious and expensive this problem becomes.

Please let Kristy Meyer with the Ohio Environmental Council know how we can be helpful in seeing this vital piece of legislation become law.

Sincerely,  
Heather Taylor-Miesle, Executive Director, Ohio Environmental Council; Jill Ryan, Executive Director, Freshwater Future; Molly Flanagan, Vice President, Policy, Alliance for the Great Lakes; Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper, Milwaukee Riverkeeper; Carol A. Stepien, Professor of Ecology, Director, Lake Erie Science Center, University of Toledo; Howard A. Lerner, Executive Director, Environmental Law & Policy Center; Deanna White, State Director, Clean Water Action Minnesota; Jennifer McKay, Policy Specialist, Tipp of the Mitt Watershed; Melinda

Hughes, President, Nature Abounds; Michael Griffin, Executive Director, County Executives of America; George Meyer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Sandy Bihn, Executive Director, Lake Erie Waterkeeper, Inc; Jim Stouffer, President, Lake Erie Improvement Association; Lynn McClure, Midwest Regional Director, National Parks Conservation Association; Mike Shriberg, Regional Executive Director, Great Lakes, National Wildlife Federation; Matt Misicka, President, Ohio Conservation Federation; Paul Pacholski, President, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association; Ray Stewart, President, Ohio Wetland Association; Nicole Barker, Executive Director, Save the Dunes; Joy Mulinex, Director of Government Relations, Western Reserve Land Conservancy; Indra Frank, MD, MPH, Environmental Health & Water Policy Director, Hoosier Environmental Council; Brian Smith, Associate Executive Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

Rick Novickis, MPH, RS, Director of Environmental Public Health Services, Cuyahoga County Board of Health; J. Meiring Borchers, Watershed Coordinator, Mill Creek Watershed Partnership; Ivan J. Hack, Jr., President, Headwaters Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America; Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSPS, Justice and Peace Coordinator, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters; Irene Senn, Coordinator, Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes; Robert Stegmier, National Director, Izaak Walton League of America; Josh Knights, Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Chapter; Christi Carlson, President, Friends of Euclid Creek; Charlotte Jameson, Government Affairs Director, Michigan League of Conservation Voters; Katie Rousseau, Director, Clean Water Supply, Great Lakes, American Rivers; Denny Caneff, Executive Director, River Alliance of Wisconsin; Todd Ambs, Campaign Director, Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), who has fought for years to protect the Great Lakes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I thank the chairman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my very, very, strong support for H.R. 223, which is the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016.

□ 1545

Actually, as the chairman has said, protecting and preserving the Great Lakes has always been a principal advocacy for myself in all the years that I have been in public service, way before I came to the Congress.

I actually grew up on the Great Lakes. I still live on the Great Lakes. My family was in the marina business, so for us, the lakes were more than just a source of recreation, they put food on the table for my family. Like so many from the region, the Great Lakes are such a very proud, proud part of our heritage and of our identity.

Our Great Lakes, as has been said, generate billions of dollars each and every year through the fishing and shipping industries and recreational activities. They account for 85 to 90 percent of this country's freshwater

drinking supply and over 20 percent worldwide. There is actually more freshwater under the polar icecaps, but you cannot get at it. You can't get at it to drink it. You can get at the Great Lakes. That is why we are always wanting to protect the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, we have not been the best stewards of these magnificent lakes, and we owe it, I think, to future generations to help assure that they are protected and that they are preserved as well. One of the ways to do that, I believe, is through continued funding and support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

For years, the administration has proposed budgets that include cuts of millions of dollars to the GLRI, but it is Congress—this Congress—that has always stepped in to recover this funding. That is just one of the reasons that I support this bill, because it does authorize funding at the essential levels—\$300 million—for the next 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, I will also join my colleagues in pointing out that this is truly a bipartisan effort, as you can tell from the people that are on the floor this morning talking about this. Most of us are from the Great Lakes, whether it is Ohio, Michigan, or some of the other Great Lakes States. But it is not just a regional jewel, just a regional treasure, the Great Lakes are a national treasure and deserve to be protected in that way.

Mr. Speaker, over the years I have seen firsthand the impact that GLRI is having on our lakes, whether that is dredging, or beach and shoreline restoration, fighting invasive species, all of these projects are so critical.

Just last fall I was delighted to be part of the unveiling of \$20 million of GLRI grants for the Clinton River Restoration. The Clinton River, which flows through a major metropolitan area in southeast Michigan, is in desperate need of restoration. So this funding will go a long way in ensuring that the Clinton River is no longer an area of concern and has a thriving ecosystem and a watershed.

Mr. Speaker, God gave us these magnificent, magnificent Great Lakes that have provided us with so much, but we need to be better stewards of them. Quite frankly, we have a lot of making up to do to Mother Nature—a lot of making up. I believe this bill goes a long way in bringing the necessary attention and the resources to a problem that we have long ago identified and need to address.

Mr. Speaker, again, I strongly support H.R. 223, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act, and I urge all my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the ranking member, for yielding. I also want to thank the folks

on both sides of the aisle for their great work on this Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, particularly my colleague from Michigan, Congresswoman MILLER, who just spoke and who will be leaving Congress at the end of this year. She has been a defender of the Great Lakes for her entire time here. I think it is a fitting part of her legacy that this legislation, hopefully today, will pass this House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, being from Michigan and being a part of the Great Lakes, really growing up around the lakes and in the lakes gives us a lot of pride in my home State. It is the greatest freshwater source, surface freshwater source on the planet, and provides drinking water to over 30 million Americans.

It is a great economic resource as well with great benefits to our entire Nation. It supports millions of jobs, and billions of income every year is derived from the dependence that we have on this great resource. It supports commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism. It is home to over 3,500 species of plants and animals. It is an incredible ecosystem.

But we know that the threat to the lakes—the threats—multiple threats to the lakes—are real. From invasive species like Asian carp to toxic chemical contamination and to habitat loss, we have to do everything we can within our power to protect the Great Lakes and combat these really clear present threats.

So I am really proud in a very bipartisan fashion to support full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to protect and restore that which we have lost in the largest system of fresh water in the world.

In the short time that the GLRI has been in place, we have made progress—and we know that this is an effective program—addressing longstanding environmental problems confronting the lakes. Over 2,500 individual projects have already been implemented to improve water quality, to clean up contaminated shorelines, to protect and restore native habitats and species, and to control invasive species.

Mr. Speaker, we are here because we know we have to do more. I join my colleagues in urging Congress to join us in supporting the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes and making this a permanent part of American law.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a couple of closing comments. We had some hearings in my subcommittee on this, and part of our oversight responsibility is to make sure that taxpayer dollars are being

spent the way they should be. We requested a GAO—a government accountability—report, and I am pleased to announce that the report came back very favorable, that the monies to be invested to protect the Great Lakes is being spent the way it is intended to be.

The only negative that was in the report—which is really minor—was the agencies, the EPA needed to do a better job working together and communicating, and they already had started that when they got the report. So I want to assure our fiscal hawks out there that this money is being spent the way it is intended by Congress, and we got that as part of our oversight duty.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I urge our support of H.R. 223 and to continue to protect and enhance the Great Lakes.

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan measure to provide a five year authorization for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative provides federal, state, tribal, and local officials with one more tool to protect the Great Lakes.

Through it, we are helping in the fight to keep the Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes.

Through it, tons of contaminated sediments have been removed and will no longer pose a threat to the public or the environment. Waterways that were once closed to boaters, fishermen, and the public are being revitalized and reborn.

Through it, we are working to improve habitat for wildlife. This week in my district, the Army Corps and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District will announce the completion of an Ecosystem Restoration Project funded with GLRI funds. The project ripped out 2,900 feet of concrete channel in the Menominee River, restoring natural riverbed and opening up over 37 miles and 125 acres of upstream wetlands for spawning by various fish species.

Through it, three formally designed areas of concerns—because they contain highly contaminated and toxic sediments—have been delisted in the region.

Investing in protecting the Great Lakes make both economic and environmental sense. This basin is a drinking water source for tens of millions. When much of our nation and the world is fighting over water and trying to figure out how to address shortages or diminishing water resources, we would be foolish not to protect this national treasure.

This investment also benefits the economy and job creation in the region and the nation. Look no further than Milwaukee where water related businesses, universities, and other stakeholders are working to take advantage of our region's proximity to the largest body of freshwater and a strong university research base, including the nation's only freshwater school of science to attract water related entrepreneurs and small businesses to the area.

The Milwaukee Water Council, a nonprofit organization with over 180 members, which links water technology companies, water en-

trepreneurs, academic researchers and water professionals is hard at work turning our region's advantages, including our city's location on Lake Michigan, into creating jobs and economic development that will benefit the city and region. We need to protect the Great Lakes.

I want to thank the leadership of the Committee for making this bill a priority. Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, your leadership is much appreciated. I also want to applaud my colleagues from the region, including Congresswoman KAPTUR, on both sides of the aisle who keenly understand why we need to support this legislation.

I support this bill and urge my colleagues to vote for it.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 223, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016.

The Great Lakes provide clean drinking water for over 40 million Americans. The region supports an estimated 1.5 million jobs, and generates over \$60 billion in annual wages. Protecting the Great Lakes supports public health, public lands and beaches, local economies, and job creation.

In Minnesota, the restoration of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River is vital to our State and our tribal nations. In 1987, the St. Louis River Estuary was classified as an Area of Concern because of contamination from decades of dumping untreated sewage and industrial waste into the water. Since that designation, millions of dollars have been invested in cleanup, restoration, and infrastructure.

We've started to see some measureable improvements along the St. Louis River that are lowering human health risks, re-establishing sturgeon spawning grounds and wild rice beds, and increasing property values. We have a clear path forward involving all stakeholders in the Roadmap to Delisting for the Area of Concern.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has been a huge driver of the progress that Minnesota has made in cleaning up the St. Louis River. Success stories like this are spread all across our region because of the federal investments made by the GLRI. These funds have driven public-private partnerships that support the health of our waters and the quality of life for all Americans.

More than 100,000 acres of wetlands and 48,000 acres of coastal, upland, and island habitat have been protected, restored and enhanced in just the first five years of GLRI partnerships between the federal agencies, states and tribal nations.

H.R. 223 would authorize \$300 million a year for the crucial work of the GLRI, which will help remediate areas of environmental concern, control invasive species, restore habitat and wildlife, and support local businesses. Every federal dollar put into Great Lakes restoration generates \$2 in economic benefit, making restoration an excellent return on investment for taxpayer dollars.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act will build on the successes of recent years and ensure the lakes are protected for generations to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 223, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AMENDING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1523) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1523

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

#### SECTION 1. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.

Section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Using the amounts made available under subsection (i)(2)(B), the Administrator shall make competitive awards under this paragraph.

“(B) APPLICATION FOR AWARDS.—The Administrator shall solicit applications for awards under this paragraph from State, interstate, and regional water pollution control agencies and entities, State coastal zone management agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals.

“(C) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—In selecting award recipients under this paragraph, the Administrator shall select recipients that are best able to address urgent and challenging issues that threaten the ecological and economic well-being of coastal areas. Such issues shall include—

“(i) extensive seagrass habitat losses resulting in significant impacts on fisheries and water quality;

“(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms;

“(iii) unusual marine mammal mortalities;

“(iv) invasive exotic species that may threaten wastewater systems and cause other damage;

“(v) jellyfish proliferation limiting community access to water during peak tourism seasons;

“(vi) flooding that may be related to sea level rise or wetland degradation or loss; and

“(vii) low dissolved oxygen conditions in estuarine waters and related nutrient management.”.

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$26,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 for—

“(A) expenses relating to the administration of grants or awards by the Administrator under this section, including the award and oversight of grants and awards,

except that such expenses may not exceed 5 percent of the amount appropriated under this subsection for a fiscal year; and

“(B) making grants and awards under subsection (g).

“(2) ALLOCATIONS.—

“(A) CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Not less than 80 percent of the amount made available under this subsection for a fiscal year shall be used by the Administrator to provide grant assistance for the development, implementation, and monitoring of each of the conservation and management plans eligible for grant assistance under subsection (g)(2).

“(B) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Not less than 15 percent of the amount made available under this subsection for a fiscal year shall be used by the Administrator for making competitive awards described in subsection (g)(4).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 1523.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are here to reauthorize the National Estuary Program found in section 320 of the Clean Water Act. Last June, here in the House, we passed Mr. LOBIONDO's H.R. 944, and today we are passing S. 1523, which was introduced by Senator WHITEHOUSE.

Estuaries are unique and highly productive waters that are important to the ecological and economic bases of our Nation. Congress first authorized the National Estuary Program in the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act to promote the protection of nationally significant estuaries in the United States that are deemed to be threatened by pollution, development, or overuse.

Unlike many of the programs under the Clean Water Act, the National Estuary Program is a nonregulatory program. Instead, it is designed to support the collaborative, voluntary efforts of Federal, State, and local stakeholders to restore degraded estuaries.

Using consensus building and a collaborative decisionmaking process instead of a top-down driven regulatory approach, the National Estuary Program has been effective at promoting locally based involvement. In addition, NEP leverages non-Federal money for restoration activities by providing funding for the program.

In reauthorizing the National Estuary Program, S. 1523 makes prudent

fiscal adjustments. The amendment to S. 1523 strikes the text of the Senate bill and instead uses the legislative text of the House-passed bill, H.R. 944. An agreement was reached to split the difference in authorized appropriations levels of the two bills.

As amended, the bill reauthorizes section 320 of the Clean Water Act through 2021, at an amount of \$26.5 million a year. This amount is consistent with appropriations over the past 5 years and in recognition of the fiscal realities of today.

S. 1523 also directs more funds to where they need to be, the individual estuaries in the program. The bill achieves this by reducing the amount of discretionary funds made available to the EPA.

Finally, the bill allocates a portion of the eligible program funds for competitive awards to Federal, State, and local stakeholders to address certain high-priority estuary needs, including algal blooms, hypoxia, flooding, and invasive species.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 1523.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the House is again considering legislation to reauthorize EPA's National Estuary Program. Last summer the House approved by voice vote a similar bill championed by my colleagues, the gentlemen from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) and Florida (Mr. MURPHY). I thank them for their hard work and dedication to produce this important piece of legislation.

Estuaries are integral to the health and vibrancy of our national economy and environment. They are formed, as we all know, when fresh water drained from land mixes with salty seawater, and they serve as a nesting and feeding grounds for many plants and animals that form the basis of the aquatic food chain.

Estuaries also help to maintain healthy ocean and coastal environments by filtering out sediments and pollutants that flow through our rivers and streams before they reach the ocean. Moreover, during storm and flood events, estuaries help defend our shores by softening the blow of storm surge.

More than one-half of our population lives in coastal areas, and countless Americans depend on estuaries for storm and flood protection, and for the cultivation of their livelihoods. Estuarine habitats provide for millions of jobs in our country and contribute trillions to our national economy every year. These jobs are created by commercial and recreational fishing and boating, as well as tourism and other forms of recreation taking place just

off our shores. As one of my colleagues noted during previous consideration of this legislation, restoring our estuaries can create more than 30 jobs for every \$1 million invested.

Regrettably, before we understood—fully understood—the extraordinary and irreplaceable value of estuaries, numerous activities were undertaken that have led to the decline in the health of our estuaries, leaving these coastal areas of our country vulnerable to pollution and more frequent and severe storm events. It is also undeniable that the population growth near estuaries has led to increased storm water runoff and sewage discharges fed into these fragile environments. Simply put, estuaries are too ecologically important to leave their fate to chance.

With that in mind, today we consider S. 1523, desperately needed legislation that will reauthorize EPA's National Estuary Program. Since 1987, the National Estuary Program has operated at EPA in partnership with State and local partners and has developed innovative solutions to local water quality problems in estuarine environments. This nonregulatory program currently works to improve the health of 28 estuaries across the country, including three estuaries in Northwest: Puget Sound, Tillamook, and Columbia River estuaries. These estuaries are of great support to my home State, Oregon, and our regional and national economies. Restoring and protecting these areas should be one of our highest concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill would ensure that logical organizations across the country in partnership with the EPA can protect and restore estuaries for the benefit of future generations. I support passage of this legislation and hope that this is the last time this House must act to send this important bill to the President.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1523.

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO), who is a sponsor of the bill and has worked tirelessly to protect estuaries throughout the Nation.

□ 1600

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Chairman GIBBS, Ranking Members DEFAZIO and NAPOLITANO, as well as my colleagues Mr. LARSEN, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida for helping to draft this legislation and reauthorization. We all share the hope that this is the last go-around to get this done.

Estuaries across the country, including the Delaware Bay and Barnegat Bay estuaries in my district, have immeasurable economic, ecological, and environmental benefit. They deserve continued congressional support.

This version of the National Estuary Program reauthorization is a bipartisan, fiscally responsible compromise with the Senate that reduces the authorization by \$8.5 million. The important part is it ultimately increases the amount of money each estuary program will receive.

Unlike many programs under the Clean Water Act, the National Estuary Program is a nonregulatory program, uniquely designed to support the collaborative, voluntary efforts of Federal, State, and local stakeholders to restore degraded estuaries. Unfortunately, the NEPs have been losing money due to increasing EPA administrative costs. We have heard that before, but, in this particular case, it is really hurting.

To correct that, our legislation details precisely how the EPA is to spend the authorized and appropriated money. By setting limits of 5 percent for the EPA's administrative costs, we can guarantee 80 percent of the funding goes directly to the needs of the estuary and not bureaucratic salary and red tape.

Also, in this year's reauthorization, we have set aside 15 percent of the funding for a competitive award program. This program seeks applications to deal with urgent and challenging issues that threaten the ecological and economic well-being of coastal areas.

By structuring how the money is spent and lowering authorization levels, this legislation strikes the right balance of fiscal and environmental responsibility. I want to thank my colleagues once again for their strong support of this, and I urge all Members to support the bill.

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation to protect estuaries throughout the country.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1523, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FOREIGN SPILL PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1684) to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 1684

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Foreign Spill Protection Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. LIABILITY OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF FOREIGN FACILITIES.

(a) OIL POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (26)(A)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking "onshore or offshore facility, any person" and inserting "onshore facility, offshore facility, or foreign offshore unit or other facility located seaward of the exclusive economic zone, any person or entity"; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking "offshore facility, the person who" and inserting "offshore facility or foreign offshore unit or other facility located seaward of the exclusive economic zone, the person or entity that"; and

(2) in paragraph (32)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) FOREIGN FACILITIES.—In the case of a foreign offshore unit or other facility located seaward of the exclusive economic zone, any person or other entity owning or operating the facility, and any leaseholder, permit holder, assignee, or holder of a right of use and easement granted under applicable foreign law for the area in which the facility is located."; and

(C) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by striking "or offshore facility, the persons who" and inserting " , offshore facility, or foreign offshore unit or other facility located seaward of the exclusive economic zone, the persons or entities that".

(b) FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 311(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(a)(11)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and any facility" and inserting "any facility"; and

(2) by inserting " , and, for the purposes of applying subsections (b), (c), (e), and (o), any foreign offshore unit (as defined in section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act) or any other facility located seaward of the exclusive economic zone" after "public vessel".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1684.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, following the *Exxon Valdez* disaster in Alaska in 1989, Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA. The basic premise of OPA is that the party responsible for the spill is responsible for all of the costs of cleaning up the mess.

The Deepwater Horizon spill in 2010 reminded us of the impact a spill of its size can have on waters, coastlines, people, and our economy. It is important to note that these offshore facilities, as defined by OPA, are limited only to the navigable waters of the United States, and foreign rigs cannot be designated as responsible parties. Therefore, if there were an oil spill originating in foreign waters, the most the responsible party would have to pay to clean up American waters and shores is \$150 million.

This issue is of particular concern to Gulf States, Mexico, Cuba, and the Bahamas are actively looking at expanding their offshore drilling operations. Of particular concern is Mexico, which is looking into ultradeep wells, exceeding 6,000 feet in depth. In 2012, Mexico's top oil regulators said they were not prepared to handle a serious accident or major oil spill.

But it is not just the Gulf States that could be negatively affected by a spill. On the Canadian side of Lake Erie, offshore energy exploration is being conducted for natural gas. While Canadian law prohibits oil extraction from the Great Lakes, the risk of a spill persists. Again, under current law, the responsible party would only have to pay a maximum of \$150 million for cleanup.

In response to these concerns, my friend from Florida, Representative PATRICK MURPHY, and I introduced the legislation that is being considered here today. The bill ensures that the responsible party, regardless of origin, pays for all American cleanup costs by applying OPA. This will also apply Clean Water Act penalties to the responsible foreign party.

I am proud that this legislation has broad bipartisan support and has been endorsed by environmental fishing and other groups that depend on the water for their livelihoods. Our coastal communities need peace of mind that if they are harmed by a foreign spill, resources are available to clean up their shores and help them recover. American taxpayers should not have to foot the bill to bail out the mistakes of foreign companies.

I would like to thank and commend the Coast Guard and the majority and minority staffs of the committee, particularly John Rayfield and Dave Jansen, for their work on this important legislation.

H.R. 1684 is a very straightforward bill that looks to hold the party responsible for a foreign oil spill that affects U.S. waters or lands accountable. I urge all Members to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this noncontroversial legislation that will clarify existing Federal authority regarding the liability for and enforcement of offshore oil spills originating from a foreign source outside the U.S. exclusive economic zone.

H.R. 1684, the Foreign Spill Protection Act of 2016, clarifies that owners and operators of oil production facilities located offshore and outside the United States are liable for cleanup costs and damages from oil spills. These foreign entities are responsible for oil spills that originate outside U.S. waters if they threaten or cause damage in the United States. The foreign entities would be subject to criminal and civil penalties, Federal removal authority, and any State-authorized remedy currently allowed under Federal and State law.

I would like to commend the cooperation shown by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman SHUSTER, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee Chairman HUNTER, and Ranking Member GARAMENDI in working out the final details of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Deepwater Horizon disaster painfully reminded us of how catastrophic an offshore oil spill can be, both in its geographic reach and in its environmental and economic costs.

The settled liability and enforcement regimes authorized under the Oil Pollution Act and the Clean Water Act have proven themselves to be comprehensive, durable, and effective. In the event of a spill, this response regime has ensured time and time again that the Federal Government has clear, unequivocal authority to respond to a spill, restore the environment and communities harmed, and recover damages for the harm caused. This legislation will in no way impede or change those indispensable authorities.

In closing, it is a helpful enhancement to clarify that spills originating from foreign sources fall under this well-established legal regime. I ask Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would like to thank the ranking member, Mr. DEFAZIO, for his statement and for his cooperation on this legislation. I also want to thank Chairman SHUSTER.

As the gentleman mentioned, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is oftentimes an example of how we can put politics aside to work together and do good things for the American people. This legislation is very important to my constituents in south Florida, in the Florida Keys, and, really, to coastal communities all

over the country. So I thank the gentleman for his statement. I thank everyone who had a part in crafting this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY), who is vitally interested and concerned about this legislation.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida and I thank the gentleman from Oregon for their tireless efforts to protect our environment. As the gentleman from Florida and I know firsthand, so much of our economy is based on our environment. Making sure that we have clean water and clean air is exactly what we need to be focused on.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, ensuring the party responsible for such oil spills is held liable. Hopefully, we get bipartisan support going forward. I thank the two gentlemen for their work putting this forward.

I would also like to rise today in support of H.R. 2901, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act. I was proud to put this bipartisan legislation forward with my good friend, another gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) to clarify that private flood insurance may be an available option for homeowners to satisfy mandatory coverage requirements under the National Flood Insurance Program. For Florida homeowners, this is a win-win, giving them more options for flood insurance coverage and using new competition to drive down prices and expand coverage options for consumers.

The National Flood Insurance Program is an important tool that empowers and protects homeowners all across America. The Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 took an important step in opening up the market and allowing private flood insurance policies to satisfy mandatory coverage requirements under the program.

However, as we have learned, sometimes even the best laid plans can have unintended consequences. With a lack of clarity as to which private flood insurance policies are allowed in the program, the market has not been able to expand, and consumers have been left with just one choice to insure their properties from flood risk: the National Flood Insurance Program.

I recently heard from one of my constituents in Martin County, Florida, about how the premium for just 1 year of flood insurance coverage through the NFIP ended up being five times the price they expected it to be. To make matters worse, the maximum coverage was only half of what they paid for the home itself; yet they were required to purchase the higher priced plan that did not provide the coverage they needed because there were no other options.

This highlights the urgent need to allow competition in the flood insurance marketplace to meet homeowners' needs and drive down costs. But to do that, we must allow the States to license and regulate flood insurance policies, exactly like homeowners insurance, car insurance, or health insurance.

Yet, almost inexplicably, Florida's private flood insurance market remains restrained because homeowners are not given the choice to look to private market policies for more flood insurance options. The bank will not accept other policies because their regulators haven't approved them.

This bill will solve this problem by allowing State insurance commissioners, who have long been considered by Congress as the most appropriate regulators of insurance, to certify private insurance plans to provide equivalent or better protections for flood insurance other than the NFIP plan. Everyone I talk to agrees that Florida's insurance commissioner is certainly better equipped to regulate flood insurance in our State than the Federal banking regulators.

By breaking this down, we break down a major barrier to marketplace expansion. This legislation will foster more competition, greatly benefiting homeowners across Florida and the Nation.

I thank the gentleman from Texas, Chairman HENSARLING, for his leadership on this issue. I also extend my deep gratitude to the gentlewoman from California, Ranking Member WATERS, for her relentless advocacy for consumers and for working with us to improve this legislation and produce a solid, bipartisan outcome.

I appreciate all of my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee for moving this commonsense measure forward with unanimous, bipartisan support.

□ 1615

I am hopeful that today it will be passed by the full House with similar support and will be swiftly considered in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2901, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act.

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

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

I thank my colleague from Florida (Mr. MURPHY), whom I saw in the Everglades on Friday. We were celebrating another great victory for Floridians there.

Here today we are again celebrating that we have been able to get something done with the support of our colleagues on behalf of the people of our State.

We decided early on in this Congress that we would work together to protect



our coastal communities, and that is exactly what we are doing here today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1684, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMBATING TERRORIST RECRUITMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4820) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former or estranged violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4820

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016”.

##### SEC. 2. DIRECTIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall incorporate, to the extent practicable, into Department of Homeland Security efforts to combat terrorist recruitment and communications the public testimonials of former violent extremists or their associates, including friends and family. Such efforts may include the following:

(1) Counter-messaging of foreign terrorist organization communications and narratives.

(2) Related community engagement and public education efforts.

(b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, where appropriate, coordinate the efforts described in subsection (a) with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, and, to the extent practicable, engage nongovernmental and international partners in the identification and use of testimonials described in such subsection.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to collect testimonials directly from former violent extremists or their associates, including friends and family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to

revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials to the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016. I commend Mr. FLEISCHMANN for offering this bipartisan counterterrorism bill at a time when we are in the highest terror threat environment since 9/11.

We have more than 1,000 homegrown terror investigations in all 50 States, and we have arrested over 80 ISIS supporters in our country, many for plotting attacks.

Terrorists are radicalizing our citizens online and across borders, which is why we need this legislation. It requires that the Secretary of Homeland Security use the testimonials of former extremists and defectors to help stop terrorist recruitment.

President Obama himself—and I agree with him on this issue—argued last year: We need to lift up the voice of those who know the hypocrisy of groups like ISIS firsthand, including former extremists.

He also noted: “Former extremists . . . can be powerful messengers in debunking these terrorist ideologies.”

Our foreign partners are already using these types of testimonials overseas. So is our State Department. But we need to be doing this counter-messaging here at home.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said in front of my committee last month: My priority has been focusing on communities that I believe are most vulnerable to the appeals from ISIS, al Qaeda, and other terrorist groups overseas who are actively targeting individuals in these communities . . . This is as important as any of our other homeland security missions.

I commend Secretary Johnson for his words and his work, but we are not acting quickly enough. That is why this bill was one of the top recommendations of the bipartisan task force we created last year to look at this threat.

In their final report, the Democratic and Republican Members who led the task force said America needed to launch a concerted effort to use the testimonials of former extremists to combat terrorist propaganda.

This is from a Virginia defector. Just last month an ISIS defector from Virginia was picked up in Iraq. He said he wanted to send a message to the American people that life with ISIS was miserable and that the group did not represent Islam. These are the types of voices we need to amplify so as to keep others from making the same mistakes.

Some have argued that this bill limits the DHS in allowing it only to counter-message groups like ISIS and al Qaeda, but that is simply false. In fact, at our markup, legislative counsel told the members: “The current language in the bill is extremely broad-based. It does not place a limitation on anything.”

Although our bipartisan task force focused on foreign terrorist threats, the bill gives the Secretary the flexibility to address the full array of dangerous groups that threaten our people both here at home and abroad. I am proud to say that the majority of Republicans and Democrats on the House Homeland Security Committee support this legislation.

Terrorists are recruiting our citizens at the speed of broadband. So we can’t move at the speed of bureaucracy. Today Congress has an opportunity to fight back. I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 4820, the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016.

It is troubling that some of my colleagues have circulated misinformation about this bill. Let me set the record straight.

The Department of Homeland Security has repeatedly told my committee that H.R. 4820 is unnecessary insofar as the Department can already integrate public testimonials of former terrorists and violent extremists into its efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism.

In fact, yesterday I spoke with Secretary Johnson, and he reiterated that DHS has the authority it needs to carry out its countering violent extremism efforts and that this bill is unnecessary.

I oppose H.R. 4820 today for the same reason I opposed it when it was considered earlier this month in committee. H.R. 4820 is nothing more than a message bill, a bill that sends the message to DHS to focus its counter-messaging efforts on foreign terrorist groups.

Domestic terror groups, like foreign terrorist organizations, recruit and spread propaganda through social media and online platforms. This bill ignores the fact that domestic terror groups, like foreign terrorist organizations, kill Americans.

Since September 11, terrorists who have espoused their ideology of foreign terrorist organizations have been responsible for killing 45 innocent Americans on U.S. soil. During that same period, members of domestic terrorist organizations have murdered more than 48 Americans.

If you ask law enforcement leaders across this country what keeps them

up at night, they will likely say the prospect that there is a sovereign citizen group or militia plotting in their jurisdictions.

Just last month the Atlanta police chief testified before my committee that he is deeply concerned about homegrown extremists and militia activity. His testimony echoes the results of a recent survey in which 74 percent of law enforcement identified anti-government extremism as one of the three terrorist threats in their jurisdictions.

In the last 2 months, we have seen the development of domestic terrorists: an attack on police officers in Georgia by a self-appointed wizard of the Ku Klux Klan; the conviction by a Federal grand jury in Mississippi of two members of the Aryan Brotherhood of Mississippi for their participation in various criminal acts, including those of drug production, trafficking, kidnapping, and murder; the indictment of two members of a sovereign citizen group in Columbus, Ohio, for building a bomb that was modeled after the suicide vests that were used in the November Paris attack; a four-count indictment against a member of a Michigan sovereign citizen group for selling women and children into sexual slavery. Such abusive activities are chillingly similar to those of ISIL.

In recognition of these facts, I, together with like-minded committee Democrats, made multiple proposals during and after the markup to fix the bill. We offered an amendment to define "violent extremist" to encompass not only those engaged in ideologically motivated international terrorism, but also in domestic terrorism.

It was rejected. We offered an amendment to insert "domestic terrorist organization." It was also rejected. Even after the markup, we made three more proposals to fix the bill. Each was rejected.

By refusing to include any mention of domestic terrorist organizations, H.R. 4820 represents a significant departure from the holistic, comprehensive approach that has been espoused by the Obama administration to counter ideologically based violence.

Since 2011, with the publication of the "Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Extremism in the United States" strategy by the White House, Federal efforts to prevent such terrorism have been guided by the recognition that violent extremists are inspired by a range of religious, political, or other ideological beliefs.

The passage of H.R. 4820 would send the wrong message. As such, I urge a "no" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Chattanooga, Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), the sponsor and author of the bill.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 4820, the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act.

I wish to thank Chairman MCCAUL and the members of the Homeland Security Committee for all of their hard work on this bill.

I will never forget the moment back in July—I was standing on this floor—when I was told about the shootings at two military installations in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the town in which I live and proudly represent. As many of you may remember, four marines and one sailor were killed in the attack while several others were wounded.

Just this past December, following the FBI investigation, Director James Comey concluded that the shootings "were motivated by foreign terrorist organization propaganda."

Given the recent attacks in Chattanooga and San Bernardino, as well as in Paris and Brussels, we need to use every tool in the toolbox to combat this new brand of extremism.

This bill implements one of the key recommendations made by the Homeland Security Committee's bipartisan task force, one that is specifically designed to counter terrorism and foreign fighter travel.

This bill does not forbid DHS from countering all forms of extremism, but the bill does provide examples of how DHS can fulfill the requirement, such as counter-messaging foreign terrorist organizations, which are actively recruiting in our country at an alarming rate.

This bipartisan legislation requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to amplify the testimonials of former extremists and defectors to fight the propaganda and the recruitment of terrorist groups like ISIS.

Foreign terrorists are using technology to radicalize Americans at a troubling pace, which continues to increase. More than 250 Americans have traveled or have attempted to travel to fight with jihadists in Syria and Iraq, and the FBI says there are open counterterrorism investigations in all 50 States, mostly ISIS related. Many of these individuals were pulled in by terrorist propaganda.

□ 1630

ISIS is luring Americans with empty and false promises that do not reflect the true reality on the ground in places like Syria and Iraq. The true reality centers on fear, suffering, and the murder of innocent people throughout the region and around the world.

Several recent defectors from ISIS have admitted that joining the group was a terrible mistake. One young fighter said he found it very hard to live there and no longer believes the group represents their religion.

We need to do all we can to amplify the messages from these disillusioned

terrorists who have firsthand experience with the evil and hypocrisy of these extremist groups.

The State Department and many of our key allies already utilize the testimony of those disaffected by the true reality of these terror groups, and the concept was also endorsed by the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Advisory Council last spring.

Unfortunately, there may be partisan opposition to this bipartisan bill. The majority of the Homeland Security committee members, on both sides of the aisle, supported the bill in committee.

I will say it again: this bill received a majority of votes from both sides of the aisle in committee. Let's not put partisanship ever ahead of our Nation's security.

This is a commonsense measure to hinder those recruiting efforts of groups like ISIS with the testimony of those who have seen the evil of these groups firsthand.

I urge the support of my colleagues.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4820, the so-called Combating Terrorist Recruitment Bill.

H.R. 4820 omits any mention of domestic terrorist organizations, a significant departure from the holistic, comprehensive approach that is adopted by the administration to counter ideologically based violence. This bill isolates the enemy to be those who are Islamist, those who are foreign, and those who are being radicalized by foreigners.

How does this bill address the threat of terror from those who are not just jaded jihadists, like this bill was initially titled, but, rather, a part of domestic militia or part of a rightwing, ultra-conservative, racist organization that wants to kill African Americans or other vulnerable populations?

A recent study by the Police Executive Research Forum and the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security found that State and local law enforcement personnel are almost twice as concerned about rightwing and antigovernment terrorism as they are about the threat from al Qaeda, ISIS, and similar groups.

The concerns of State and local law enforcement about domestic terrorism are well placed. Within the last year, we have seen a rightwing terrorist kill nine people at Mother Emanuel in Charleston and an anti-abortion terrorist kill three people at the Planned Parenthood facility in Colorado.

Since the attacks of 9/11, within the United States, domestic terrorists have killed 48 people, more than those killed by foreign terrorist-inspired attacks.

Shouldn't we be concerned about those who have demonstrated the greatest threat to our homeland in the last 15 years?

H.R. 4820 represents a marked departure from a national strategy to combat terrorism and that recognizes that individuals who promote and use violence against the U.S. are inspired by a range of religious, political, or other ideological beliefs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURBELO of Florida). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. This bill only serves to perpetuate the stigma associated with just one group of people who happen to practice Islam. It does not recognize a full range of terrorist threats to our homeland.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4820.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), the original cosponsor of the bill and the chairman of the bipartisan task force.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for offering this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, America continues to witness the largest convergence of radical Islamic threats in the history of our country.

More than any threat before, ISIS demonstrated an ability to radicalize individuals throughout the world by utilizing the Internet.

However, these individuals are met with the cold, hard reality that ISIS does not offer luxury, happiness, or peacefulness. On the contrary, these individuals are thrust onto the battlefield with little or no training and little or no regard for their lives.

Some, when faced with the truth, try to turn back. Among those who recognize ISIS for the barbaric, destructive force that it is, some have actually dared to speak out against them, using their experience to dissuade others from risking their lives in order to wage war on innocent people.

One of these individuals was mentioned by my colleague, Chairman Mike McCaul, and that individual grew up across the river from here in Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the efforts of our law enforcement and intelligence officials by supporting this bill. The Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016, of which I am a cosponsor, requires a dissemination of testimonials from ISIS defectors to help stop the radicalization of at-risk individuals.

This bill comes from the bipartisan Task Force on Combating Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel, of which I served as a Republican lead. Using these testimonials would fill a gap that

our bipartisan task force identified in a bipartisan manner.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL, who has led this effort.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELL).

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I certainly don't question the motivations of the gentleman who has sponsored this bill. He is a good man, a good American, and loves his country, but I believe it is misdirected. I really do.

In my hand, if you remember, there is a report from 2009, the beginning of the Obama administration. All that work was done in the previous administration on this report. The report is quite revealing.

Anybody who is on Homeland Security should read it because it tells us that we need not only to carry out the oath of office, half of it, but we should defend the country against foreign intruders. Also, it says in our oath "domestic" as well.

This report lays out very clearly what is going on in the United States of America in our backyards. It was squashed.

I remember the day when a Democratic Secretary of the Homeland Security heard from me about it, that she should not have bent over because those on the other side wanted this report squashed.

There have been articles written since that time, 2009, of how it was squashed. They didn't want the American people to read this. That is quite, quite a report.

So I rise in opposition, Mr. Speaker, to H.R. 4820. No one loves this country more than the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON). I am not on that committee anymore, but no one respects it more than BENNIE THOMPSON.

Why is he opposed to this? Is he opposed to this because he doesn't love his country as much as the folks on the other side of the aisle? I don't think so. Does he oppose it because he didn't sponsor it? I don't think so.

He opposes it because this excludes very specific things which we should not exclude.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from New Jersey an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PASCARELL. The House should not be picking and choosing what sources of terrorism the Department should focus on without taking into account all the facts. The House continues to ignore the threats posed by violent extremism, which are not limited to a single ideology.

Eric Hoffer, in the book "The True Believer," written many years ago,

said that extremism is inspired by a range of reasons, including religious, political, or ideological beliefs. He says that these movements, regardless of the motive or end goal, simply need isolated individuals who are dispossessed in some way or other and need to feel part of something bigger than themselves.

Why don't we really get at the sources of the people who want to kill our kids and want to damage our properties, whether they come from afar or whether they are grown right here? Homegrown. Homegrown. And we are ignoring it. The FBI reports that time and time again.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Texas. "It's not a revolution or jihad. It's a slaughter. I was shocked by what I did."

"I found it very, very hard to live there. ISIS fighters don't represent the religion. I don't see them as good Muslims."

Mr. Speaker, those are the words of Americans who traveled overseas to fight alongside ISIS. They left home believing they were headed toward a great adventure. They were promised glory and honor, but what they found was death and a perversion of the religion they believe in.

These fighters were originally recruited to fight for ISIS through social media. Every day ISIS spreads their lies and propaganda, drawing in naive young Americans.

They do this in dozens of different languages, reaching people across the world. Even while ISIS loses ground on the battlefield, they are working hard to make it up in the digital sphere.

The Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act will allow us to take these powerful words of truth and use them to combat the lies that ISIS is spreading on social media.

Some may say this is unnecessary. Some may say: Why aren't we already doing this? We aren't. That is why we need this piece of legislation.

This bill requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former extremists and defectors as part of an ongoing effort to stop terrorist recruitment. These are individuals who have seen the brutality of terrorist groups firsthand and have rejected it.

This bill is not limited to specific groups. Let me repeat that one more time: This bill is not limited to specific groups.

It gives our counterterrorism professionals the flexibility needed to fight back against extremists as the threat environment and terrorist tactics change.

It also requires DHS to coordinate these efforts with other agencies, non-governmental organizations, and foreign partners so that we do this the

right way, finding the best outlets for undermining terrorist propaganda.

The bipartisan Foreign Fighter Task Force I served on recommends that we use these credible voices to fight against ISIS' online efforts.

The nonpartisan Homeland Security Advisory Council has urged DHS to use the testimonials of former extremists in our counternarrative efforts. Our foreign partners are already using these tactics and finding them effective.

Our young people are being targeted. We have the tools to help protect them. These tools can stop others in our hometowns from making a terrible mistake. We need to get in the online fight, but time is not on our side.

I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act. Having spent 9½ years as an undercover officer chasing terrorists across the world, there is no such thing as a silver bullet. We have to do this piecemeal, and this bill is one step going in that direction.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the ranking member on the House Transportation Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one who served from the creation of the Homeland Security Committee until just a couple of years ago.

I am concerned about what I am hearing here today on the floor, and I am surprised. Perhaps we should insert the word "some," combating some terrorist recruitment in 2016.

Now, the chairman said that DHS certainly has the flexibility to address domestic terrorism. Well, that is true. But why leave out explicit mention of domestic terrorism?

□ 1645

Are you afraid of offending some rightwing nuts out there? What is the deal?

Seriously, I just went through this in Oregon. I have been on the Department of Justice and the FBI for about 2 years: Go get Cliven Bundy, get his cattle off the land, put the guy in jail.

They didn't do it. And what happened?

He taught his kids the way it was done. You show the government a gun, and they will run away, and you keep doing what you want, and you can deny that the Federal Government has the right to own any public lands in this country and try and take them over for private individuals.

Now, this is a serious threat. The Murrah building, there were no foreign terrorists involved, 168 dead, hundreds injured, and we can't explicitly put into this bill all terrorism, including domestic terrorism.

I really fear that some are worried that some of these rightwing extremist groups out there might be offended if

we were to say that they are a threat to our Nation. Well, they are very much a threat, and this bill omitting that should have this bill denied passage on this floor and bring it back in a comprehensive way next week.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN).

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4820, the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act authored by Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

This bill is one step in implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Homeland Security's Foreign Fighter Task Force. This bipartisan team was charged with studying how our government can combat Western citizens who become radicalized and take up arms with terrorists. The President, senior national security officials, industry leaders, and experts have all expressed support for this concept.

While all self-radicalized terrorists deserve the consequences of their behavior, some realize just how profound they were mistaken after seeing the reality of life under ISIS. They sometimes recant and tell the truth about the atrocities that they have witnessed or committed. That is valuable information.

What this bill does is common sense. It directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to use testimony from these individuals as part of our efforts to combat violent extremists. President Obama himself stated that we need to "lift up the voices" of former extremists in order to expose the hypocrisy of ISIS, but this bill does not limit the Department's ability to countermeasure terrorist groups that threaten us no matter where they are located.

As we speak, ISIS is using social media and the Internet to radicalize young Americans who are vulnerable to a message of inclusion in a grand cause, no matter how sinister. Before they make a mistake that could cause them and others their lives, let's take every opportunity to counter ISIS' poisonous narrative. To hear from others like them who wanted to believe in ISIS and found the truth too late is a tactic we should utilize.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, which received bipartisan support in committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Tennessee for offering this bill, as well as Chairman MCCAUL for bringing it to the floor.

When the terrorists attacked in San Bernardino, many Americans said: What are we doing?

When you find out that these folks are trafficking on the Internet and messaging, they say: Where is our FBI? Where are the services protecting us, and why aren't they doing everything they can?

This is one thing they can do is offer testimonials from people who have been there who can give other people who might be interested in joining the truth. Yet there are some folks here who don't want to do that. They are interested in misrepresenting this bill.

I want to remind everybody that this bill is the result of a bipartisan task force, a bipartisan task force, Member-led, that said we need to do exactly this, and unanimously move this forward to the full committee.

They say it is unnecessary. Well, if it is unnecessary, why isn't Homeland Security doing this already? Why not? How long are they going to wait?

They say that they offered amendments. Really? They offered amendments?

They couldn't be bothered to answer the chairman's call when he said: Hey, can you collaborate with us on this so we have a good bill that everybody is involved in.

They waited until the day of the markup, and then came in with a bunch of amendments and concerns. It was apparent that all they wanted to do was slow the process down and, as a matter of fact, move the process to some other date.

How long are we going to wait? Do you want to ask the relatives of those who are killed by these people how long they want to wait? How about the next ones?

Now, some on the other side have picked this up as this is a politically motivated agenda. I say some because not all. As a matter of fact, many on the other side voted to move this bill right to the floor where it is now.

I don't understand why they would want to have America be less safe. I don't understand, Mr. Speaker. We spent 4 hours—4 hours—going over a two-page bill. Two pages. We entertained what they wanted to change, and we did make some changes, but it was apparent that all they wanted to really do was stall and stall and move this process forward down the line and never get to it.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have any choice. We have to move forward now. Those in opposition are simply willfully refusing to see what all America sees. We need to address this threat immediately. It is a two-page bill, and it doesn't deny Homeland Security from doing anything that it has already been doing.

As a matter of fact, these folks on the other side demanded at that markup—they demanded—that we say that Homeland Security must do this. And the chairman said: Okay, if you want to demand that they do it, we will demand that they do it.

Mr. Speaker, I think we ought to make America safe and pass this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, from Boston to Charleston, we have seen individuals operating within our communities and living among us plot to cause mass harm in the name of a violent extremist and hateful ideology. Today much has been made of the fact that the FBI has open investigations of ISIL-inspired activity in all 50 States. Far less attention has been given to the number of open investigations of anti-government and militia groups, a number that grew by one-third in 2015 alone.

We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the threats posed by any terrorist group or organization, as the bill before us today would do. Therefore, it is imperative that DHS use testimonials from violent extremists involved in all forms of violent extremism. Public testimonials can be a powerful tool to reach individuals who otherwise might be susceptible to terrorist propaganda.

Given the diversity in the threat landscape that we face, it just makes sense that any such effort should be comprehensive. Unfortunately, the bill's sponsors have decided that this bill should turn away from the comprehensive approach.

Mr. Speaker, again, let me indicate that the only real issue before us is the domestic aspect of terrorism. Domestic terrorist organizations have demonstrated time and time again, they have killed more Americans here on our soil than foreign terrorists have. The reason we are in opposition is we don't recognize that in this legislation. Our effort in markup, as well as here on the floor, is to make sure that all of the bad people get recognized, those international and foreign, but also those who are domestic.

Some of us have lived in parts of the country where domestic terrorism was a way of life for a lot of us, and because of that, we are very passionate on that subject. The Charleston situation was very unfortunate. That was an act of domestic terrorism. There is no question about it.

So why wouldn't we want to add those kind of extremist activities in this legislation so we can cover everyone?

That is really the opposition that we have had. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 4820.

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

Mr. McCAUL. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, Paris, Brussels, Chattanooga, San Bernardino. How many more?

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act, and act today on this important legislation that is bipartisan. It is important to point out—I know the ranking member has good intentions, but our bill allows

DHS to combat terrorist recruitment by all dangerous organizations, as was brought out at the markup.

The President's Homeland Security adviser, Lisa Monaco, said: "Our efforts will be the most effective when they focus on amplifying authentic voices," such as former violent extremists. These voices can convince others from going down the path to violence.

The President's national security adviser, Susan Rice, added that they are already amplifying the voices of ISIL defectors overseas. And she explains that "these voices are eroding ISIL's appeal."

This countermessaging works, and it has worked for the State Department, but we are not doing it at home. We need to do it here at home and not just overseas. That is why I urge strong support for this.

I don't understand after it being the product of a bipartisan task force with bipartisan support out of the committee, the very week that the Brussels attack occurred, we marked up this bill. Mr. Speaker, it is time to act. I urge passage of this bill.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 4820, the "Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016," because regrettably the bill was not improved as I had hoped and expected between the Committee markup and floor consideration.

Specifically, Section 2 of H.R. 4820, directs the Secretary of Homeland Security, inter alia, to employ "Counter-messaging of foreign terrorist organization communications and narratives."

However, the bill is silent on the issue of domestic terrorists and the threat they pose to the safety and security of Americans.

This was a point raised by the minority members during the markup, but an agreement could not be reached to include the words "and domestic terrorist" in the bill.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I appreciate the concerns the bill is intended to address but in my view the bill's scope is too limited in view of the number and frequency of violent domestic extremist attacks such as the one occurring in the evening of June 17, 2015 at the historic Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Combating violent extremism is too important to become the subject of partisan political disputes.

Instead, we should work together to find common ground that reconciles the competing interests of collective security and individual liberties.

We must not focus on one religion as being a threat—this would be wrong and counterproductive.

Mr. Speaker, there have been other attacks by foreign and domestic violent extremists.

The Fort Hood Texas attack committed by Major Nidal Malik Hasan, who opened fire and killed 13 U.S. military personnel.

The Boston Marathon attackers were two Chechen brothers Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev who carried out a bombing that took 3 lives and injured 264 others.

Later, the brothers killed university police officer Sean A. Collier.

On December 2, 2015, 14 people were killed and 22 were seriously injured in a terrorist attack in San Bernardino, California, which consisted of a mass shooting and an attempted bombing.

The perpetrators, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, a married couple living in the city of Redlands, who the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health training event and holiday party, of about 80 employees.

This threat of attack by foreign terrorists on American soil is real and substantial and requires vigilance by the Administration and this Congress.

However, threats of domestic terrorist attacks are also real.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot be unmindful of the fact that since September 2001, there have been 250 deaths at the hands of home grown violent extremists as opposed by 50 by foreign terrorists.

The seminal act of homegrown domestic terror occurred in 1995, when the domestic terrorist Timothy McVeigh detonated the truck bomb that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 persons and injured over 680 people.

At the time, it is the largest loss of American lives at the hands of a domestic terror group since the Civil War.

Today, the challenge is countering the messages of violent extremism no matter the source and not to fall for thinking that one type of violent extremism is less of a threat than another type of violent extremism.

Radical and extremist groups, both domestic and international, systematically prey upon the vulnerabilities of young persons by offering inducements such as financial assistance, familial-like bonds, or the promise of an exciting and heroic life.

In some cases, youth have been forcibly recruited or tricked into participating in terrorist activities, including suicide bombings.

The heinous attack in Mother Emmanuel Church was a defining moment in our nation's history for many reasons, but the final chapter will be written by those who are charged with keeping our nation and its people safe while preserving the way of life that terrorist seek to change.

One of the enduring challenges for members of the Homeland Security Committee is how we guide the work of the Department of Homeland Security.

I hosted DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson in Houston for two days of discussions, and tours that were insightful and probing on a range of regional and national homeland security issues.

The issue of violent extremism is one of several efforts that the Department of Homeland Security has prioritized and begun efforts to address both the international threat and the domestic threats.

DHS defines "Domestic Terrorism" as: "Any act of violence that is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources committed by a group or

individual based and operating entirely within the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group.”

Groups and individuals inspired to commit terrorist acts are motivated by a range of personal, religious, political, or other ideological beliefs—there is no magic formula.

Further, the complexity of adding social media as a new source of recruitment for violent extremists is complicating the efforts of law enforcement, domestic security and national defense.

The line between lawfully protected speech and activity that may be a threat should be clearly defined by law.

Taking care to protect civil liberties and constitutional rights means that our system of laws must acknowledge that reading, writing, or speaking of one’s views or beliefs even when they are unpopular is not a crime.

Hate speech is not a crime—while an act of violence motivated by hate is.

Violent extremist threats within the United States can come from a range of violent extremist groups and individuals, including Domestic Terrorists and Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs).

The troubling violent nature of the attack at Mother Emanuel AME Church, its location in the South, on a night devoted to prayer services, by a young man still in his twenties awakens fears that many of us who represent majority minority congressional districts had hoped were receding with the passage of time.

In the wake of the killings at Mother Emanuel in Charleston, several African American Churches have fallen victim to fires.

Historically, African American churches are the center of religious, social, cultural and political life for the communities they serve.

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, members serving in this body were mindful of the history that we worked not to repeat.

Today, we are still working to assure the public that appropriate checks must be made certain in how increased in government authority is controlled.

The demographics of young persons’ becoming involved in terrorist groups also appear to be changing.

In many cases the persons implicated are younger than reported in the past and there appear to be more female youth joining the ranks of terrorist organizations.

Additionally, more young supporters are coming from Western countries that are further removed from actual conflict areas.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas have recruited children as young as thirteen to be suicide bombers and children as young as eleven to smuggle explosives and weapons.

During 2003, thirteen-year-old twin sisters who had been recruited by al-Qaeda linked groups were caught attempting to commit a suicide bombing against Western businesses and local government buildings in Morocco.

Counter-recruitment and counter-radicalization initiatives should be tailored locally, and should engage members from across the community who are in a position to address specific underlying factors or identify potential radicalization indicators.

Counter-recruitment and radicalization initiatives must evolve with the young audiences they are intended to reach, adapt along with the adversaries, incorporate new developments in technologies, and address changes within environments where young persons are susceptible.

I encourage my colleagues to withdraw this bill and allow for it to be considered under an open rule or for the bill to be sent back to the committee for further consideration.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the agreed upon mission of the Countering Violent Extremism Taskforce “to review terror travel programs, and issue a report that may include recommendations based on this review.”

I agreed to serve on the task force because I agree that we must do everything we can to prevent acts of terrorism on our homeland, and terror travel programs is one of many terrorism-related threats we must address.

The bipartisan Taskforce Report I signed included general recommendations related to terror travel programs—it did not include specific legislative proposals nor did it suggest that we should prioritize the threat of foreign terrorist organizations over the threat posed by domestic terror organizations.

As a Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Representative of a diverse Congressional district in New Jersey, I recognize that we must do everything in our power to prevent our communities from being terrorized, regardless of the motivation.

We need to prevent the radicalization of people inspired by anti-government ideology who might ultimately try to occupy Federal facilities.

We need to prevent the radicalization of people inspired by racism who might ultimately sit through an evening prayer service at a predominantly black church and then shoot the other attendees.

And we need to prevent the radicalization of people inspired by a perverse interpretation of religion from carrying out attacks on American soil.

No one version of radicalization is more dangerous than another.

And we cannot treat them differently.

That is why I cannot support H.R. 4820.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4820, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

## SECURING AVIATION FROM FOREIGN ENTRY POINTS AND GUARDING AIRPORTS THROUGH ENHANCED SECURITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4698) to enhance aviation by requiring airport security assessments and a security coordination enhancement plan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4698

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing Aviation from Foreign Entry Points and Guarding Airports Through Enhanced Security Act of 2016”.

### SEC. 2. LAST POINT OF DEPARTURE AIRPORT SECURITY ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall conduct a comprehensive security risk assessment of all last point of departure airports with nonstop flights to the United States.

(b) CONTENTS.—The security risk assessment required under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the following:

(1) The level of coordination and cooperation between the Transportation Security Administration and the foreign government of the country in which the last point of departure airport with nonstop flights to the United States is located.

(2) The intelligence and threat mitigation capabilities of the country in which such airport is located.

(3) The number of known or suspected terrorists annually transiting through such airport.

(4) The passenger security screening practices, capabilities, and capacity of such airport.

(5) The security vetting undergone by aviation workers at such airport.

(6) The access controls utilized by such airport to limit to authorized personnel access to secure and sterile areas of such airports.

(7) The degree to which the government of the country in which such airport is located mandates, encourages, or prohibits the collection, analysis, or sharing of passenger name records.

### SEC. 3. SECURITY COORDINATION ENHANCEMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to Congress and the Government Accountability Office a plan—

(1) to enhance and bolster security collaboration, coordination, and information sharing relating to securing international-inbound aviation between the United States and domestic and foreign partners, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, foreign government entities, passenger air carriers, cargo air carriers, and United States Government entities, in order to enhance security capabilities at foreign airports, including airports that may not have nonstop flights to the United States but are nonetheless determined by the Administrator to be high risk; and

(2) that includes an assessment of the ability of the Administration to enter into a mutual agreement with a foreign government entity that permits Administration representatives to conduct without prior notice inspections of foreign airports.

(b) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the submission of the plan required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall review the efforts, capabilities, and effectiveness of the Transportation Security Administration to enhance security capabilities at foreign airports and determine if the implementation of such efforts and capabilities effectively secures international-inbound aviation.

**SEC. 4. WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.**

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to Congress a comprehensive workforce assessment of all Administration personnel within the Office of Global Strategies of the Administration or whose primary professional duties contribute to the Administration's global efforts to secure transportation security, including a review of whether such personnel are assigned in a risk-based, intelligence-driven manner.

**SEC. 5. DONATION OF SCREENING EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration is authorized to donate security screening equipment to a foreign last point of departure airport operator if such equipment can be reasonably expected to mitigate a specific vulnerability to the security of the United States or United States citizens.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days before any donation of security screening equipment pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a detailed written explanation of the following:

- (1) The specific vulnerability to the United States or United States citizens that will be mitigated by such donation.
- (2) An explanation as to why the recipient of such donation is unable or unwilling to purchase security screening equipment to mitigate such vulnerability.
- (3) An evacuation plan for sensitive technologies in case of emergency or instability in the country to which such donation is being made.
- (4) How the Administrator will ensure the security screening equipment that is being donated is used and maintained over the course of its life by the recipient.
- (5) The total dollar value of such donation.

**SEC. 6. NATIONAL CARGO SECURITY PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration may evaluate foreign countries' air cargo security programs to determine whether such programs provide a level of security commensurate with the level of security required by United States air cargo security programs.

(b) APPROVAL AND RECOGNITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration determines that a foreign country's air cargo security program evaluated under subsection (a) provides a level of security commensurate with the level of security required by United States air cargo security programs, the Administrator shall approve and offi-

cially recognize such foreign country's air cargo security program.

(2) EFFECT OF APPROVAL AND RECOGNITION.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration approves and officially recognizes pursuant to paragraph (1) a foreign country's air cargo security program, cargo aircraft of such foreign country shall not be required to adhere to United States air cargo security programs that would otherwise be applicable.

(c) REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration determines at any time that a foreign country's air cargo security program approved and officially recognized under subsection (b) no longer provides a level of security commensurate with the level of security required by United States air cargo security programs, the Administrator may revoke or temporarily suspend such approval and official recognition until such time as the Administrator determines that such foreign country's cargo security programs provide a level of security commensurate with the level of security required by such United States air cargo security programs.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration revokes or suspends pursuant to paragraph (1) a foreign country's air cargo security program, the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 30 days after such revocation or suspension.

**SEC. 7. CHECKPOINTS OF THE FUTURE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, shall request the Aviation Security Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for more efficient and effective passenger screening processes.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making recommendations to improve existing passenger screening processes pursuant to subsection (a), the Aviation Security Advisory Committee shall consider the following:

- (1) The configuration of a checkpoint.
- (2) Technology innovation.
- (3) Ways to address any vulnerabilities identified in audits of checkpoint operations.
- (4) Ways to prevent security breaches at airports at which Federal security screening is provided.
- (5) Best practices in aviation security.
- (6) Recommendations from airport and aircraft operators, and any relevant advisory committees.
- (7) "Curb to curb" processes and procedures.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the recommendations of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee under this section, including any recommendations for improving screening processes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I have come to appreciate the seriousness of the many threats facing our transportation systems, I realize that one of the most targeted and vulnerable points of attack exist for our international inbound aviation. It is no secret that terror groups across the world value the horrific symbolism of bringing down an aircraft and are continuously plotting to take down planes. They recognize that it is easier for them to attack an aircraft destined for the United States from overseas rather than travel to the United States and then plot a domestic attack.

This understanding is nothing new. My own district of Syracuse, New York, tragically learned of terrorists' determination to bring down airplanes when 35 Syracuse University students and students from other local universities, along with my close friend's sister, were killed in the Lockerbie bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988.

Now, with the horrific attacks in Belgium against two transportation modes, including aviation, it has been reiterated that we must not wait for such attacks to occur in the homeland. We must be as determined to mitigate the threat as extremists are in perpetrating their attacks against us. The Brussels attacks took place against the European capital with one of the explosions occurring just a few blocks from the European Parliament.

□ 1700

I was near those sites not too long ago, where those explosions took place, when visiting Brussels as part of a congressional delegation focused on stemming the flow of ISIS-affiliated foreign fighters, so I am particularly reminded of how close to home such attacks really are.

While a number of security enhancements have been made in recent months by the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, and airlines, more must be done. SAFE GATES is an important, bipartisan bill which requires TSA's Office of Global Strategies to comprehensively assess its own mission needs, with the intent of directing resources in a more intelligence-driven, risk-based manner.

Further, the legislation directs TSA to provide better communication and foster stronger partnerships with foreign partners and airlines in order to make sure that everyone with a stake in securing aviation is aware of the serious threats facing our skies.

Lastly, the SAFE GATES Act authorizes the donation of critical security screening equipment and bolsters TSA's authority to mandate overseas cargo security standards as a means of building capacity for the security of aircraft headed for the United States.

Recently, our colleagues in the Senate added this language to authorizing language for the Federal Aviation Administration. During the amendment process, Chairman THUNE of the Senate Commerce Committee added the text of this bill, along with some additional provisions, to push TSA to work toward developing a new generation of security screening checkpoints.

This provision incorporates critical stakeholder feedback by empowering the Aviation Security Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Administrator concerning checkpoints of the future. In preparation for bringing this legislation to the floor today, and in agreement with my Democratic colleagues, we have added this thoughtful provision to our bill as well.

I would like to thank my bipartisan cosponsor, Congressman KEATING, for his unwavering support of this critically important legislation. Moreover, I wish to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MCCAUL, and the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, for moving this bill through committee so we can bring our efforts to bear on the House floor today.

Lastly, I want to applaud Chairman THUNE and Ranking Member NELSON of the Senate Commerce Committee for making sure that this bill text was added as a security provision to the Senate's FAA legislation, and I look forward to working closely with my Senate colleagues going forward to get this legislation to the President's desk.

This legislation stands as a testament to the rare ability of Congress to come together in a bicameral and bipartisan manner to make the American people more secure. It also serves as a direct refute to those terrorists plotting to harm the American people, the American economy, and our right to move about freely without fear and without hindrance.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4698, the SAFE GATES Act.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us comes at a very important time. Recent events have fueled increased interest in addressing terrorism threats at overseas airports. Just last month, a terrorist cell carried out three simultaneous, coordinated attacks on the Brussels airport and a major rail station that resulted in the death of 32

people and injuries to over 300 people. At the airport, terrorists filled large suitcases with nail bombs that were detonated in two separate explosions on the public side of the airport. This attack, in the heart of the European Union's capital, underscores the reality that the aviation sector continues to be a major terrorist target.

Previously, in February, a terrorist boarded a commercial aircraft departing from Mogadishu with a bomb concealed in a laptop. The terrorist detonated the bomb aboard the aircraft, killing himself and injuring two others. Experts suggest that, had the terrorist detonated the bomb at a higher altitude, the damage to the plane would have been catastrophic and the aircraft would have been destroyed.

The deadliest aviation attack in recent memory took place in October 2015, when Metrojet flight 9268, departing from Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport, was blown up over the northern Sinai. This horrific tragedy resulted in the loss of 224 lives.

H.R. 4698 is responsive to these devastating incidents. It focuses on last point of departure airports, or those airports that originate from foreign countries that fly to the U.S. nonstop, to airports within the U.S.

H.R. 4698 requires TSA to do a security assessment of these airports and take into account: the level of coordination and cooperation between the countries in which the airports are located and TSA; the intelligence capabilities of each country; information on the numbers of known or suspected terrorists transiting through such airports; and the security screening capabilities at these airports.

The legislation also requires TSA to submit a plan to bolster and enhance security collaboration between the U.S. and its foreign and domestic partners and authorizes TSA to donate security screening equipment to a foreign airport if it will reduce specific vulnerabilities to the security of the U.S. or U.S. citizens.

In addition to codifying TSA's efforts to bolster security at last point of departure airports, H.R. 4698 also seeks to make enhancements to security screening at U.S. airports. Specifically, it directs TSA to request that the Aviation Security Advisory Committee develop recommendations to make passenger screening processes more efficient and effective.

The areas that the ASAC would be considering include checkpoint configuration, technology innovation, and best practices within aviation security.

As the lead author of legislation authorizing the ASAC, I strongly believe that this body, which is composed of key stakeholders from throughout the aviation community, is a positive catalyst for improvement within TSA.

Mr. Speaker, I close by saying that there is bipartisan support for this legislation.

While on the subject of addressing overseas threats, I would note that, in recent years, DHS has made great strides in pushing the borders out, that is, identifying and stopping overseas threats before they reach our borders. Congress needs to support these efforts.

To that end, in the coming weeks, I will be introducing comprehensive legislation to expand and strengthen DHS' overseas program aimed at vetting and screening travelers to the U.S. My legislation, entitled Pushing Out America's Borders Act of 2016, seeks to accelerate DHS' efforts at expanding and establishing overseas posts for both CBP and ICE to conduct critical traveler vetting and screening operations.

With the passage of H.R. 4698 today, the House is poised to raise the level of aviation security overseas. The next challenge for this body is to support DHS in its efforts to take more proactive approaches to pushing out our Nation's border security.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. KATKO's cooperation in making sure that this bill was brought to the floor. We had a couple of hiccups along the way, but we worked them out. This is really how it should be done, and I appreciate the gentleman's help in getting us there.

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. Threats to international-bound aviation are proliferating every day, and the Department of Homeland Security, TSA, and airlines need the adequate tools and authorities necessary to ensure the safety and security of traveling Americans.

Without the authorities and oversight built into this legislation, I fear that Congress will not be doing all it can to stay ahead of the persistent threats posed by violent extremists. We have seen the threat they pose in Brussels and in last year's attacks on airliners overseas. So we must not wait to mitigate these threats until it is too late.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of Capitol Hill for working together to develop this important piece of legislation. I again urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I want to thank the ranking member for his cooperation. Yes, we had some hiccups, but that is part of the process. The fact of the matter is that we had a very good bill by working together and talking together. While the last colloquy on the last bill, H.R. 2820, showed we do have differences, I dare say that on the Homeland Security Committee we have far more agreements than we have disagreements, and I hope we can continue in that manner going forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4698, the "Securing Aviation



from Foreign Entry Points and Guarding Airports through Enhanced Security Act of 2016.”

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, and a former chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation and Security, I have been committed to protecting and improving the security of our nation’s airways.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) needs all the support we can provide to aid them in protecting our nation against security threats.

The critical work of TSA agents around the country provides security for the nation’s airports, maintains a security force to screen all commercial airline passengers and baggage, and works with the transportation, law enforcement and intelligence communities to ensure safety.

In 2015, TSA officers screened 708,316,339 million passengers (more than 1.9 million per day) at more than 450 airports across the nation—which is 40,780,330 million more passengers than for the same timeframe in 2014.

In addition to screening more than 708 million passengers last year, TSA officers also screened 1.6 billion carry-on bags, 432 million checked bags and 12.9 million airport employees.

Obtaining critical information about TSA’s procedures and planning while handling enhanced security screenings throughout the country will only make us stronger and safer.

The Congressional District I represent in Houston, Texas is home to two of the world’s busiest airports.

The Bush International and the William P. Hobby Airports are essential hubs for domestic and international air travel for Houston and the region.

Nearly 40 million passengers traveled through Bush International Airport (IAH) and an additional 10 million traveled through William P. Hobby (HOU).

IAH is the 11th busiest airport in the U.S. for total passenger traffic with more than 650 daily departures.

Since January, IAH has seen a significant increase in both international and domestic travelers. International travel in the first half of 2015 increased by 3.9 percent compared to the same period last year. More than 5.1 million international passengers boarded flights out of IAH.

It is estimated that at the current rate, IAH could see nearly 10.2 million international passengers by the end of the year.

In October 2015, in an effort to re-establish the airport’s daily international air service, the William P. Hobby Airport opened a new 280,000 foot complex that includes five gates for its international concourse.

This addition is expected to support travel service for nearly 7,500 international passengers and 25 departing flights a day.

Enhanced security protects our economic interests, more importantly; implementing this bill will protect our citizens.

H.R. 4698 will direct the TSA to conduct a comprehensive security risk assessment of all last point of departure airports with nonstop flights to the United States.

H.R. 4698 will also require TSA to submit to Congress and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) a plan to:

—enhance collaboration, coordination, and information-sharing about international-inbound aviation between the United States and domestic and foreign partners in order to enhance security capabilities at foreign airports,

—assess TSA ability to enter into a mutual agreement with a foreign government entity to permit TSA representatives to conduct inspections of foreign airports without prior notice.

Through H.R. 4698:

GAO will review TSA efforts to enhance security capabilities at foreign airports and secure international-inbound aviation.

TSA will submit to Congress a comprehensive workforce assessment of all TSA personnel within its Office of Global Strategies or whose primary professional duties contribute to the TSA’s global efforts to secure transportation security, including whether they are assigned in a risk-based, intelligence-driven matter.

TSA may donate security screening equipment to a foreign last point of departure airport operator if the equipment can be expected to mitigate a specific vulnerability to U.S. security or U.S. citizens.

TSA may evaluate foreign countries’ air cargo programs to determine whether they provide a level of security commensurate with that required by U.S. air cargo security programs.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot wait until our security is breached by terrorists before we act, otherwise we would not have learned the lessons of September 11, 2001.

I urge my colleagues on the Committee to join me in supporting this important step forward to protecting our airports.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4698, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**PROMOTING RESILIENCE AND EFFICIENCY IN PREPARING FOR ATTACKS AND RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES ACT**

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3583) to reform and improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Emergency Communications, and the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 3583

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ‘Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in

Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies Act’ or the ‘‘PREPARE Act’’.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—GRANTS, TRAINING, EXERCISES, AND COORDINATION**

- Sec. 101. Memoranda of understanding.
- Sec. 102. Period of performance.
- Sec. 103. Operation Stonegarden.
- Sec. 104. Grants metrics.
- Sec. 105. Grant management best practices.
- Sec. 106. Administration and coordination of grants.
- Sec. 107. Funding prohibition.
- Sec. 108. Law enforcement terrorism prevention.
- Sec. 109. Allowable uses.
- Sec. 110. Maintenance of grant investments.
- Sec. 111. National Domestic Preparedness Consortium.
- Sec. 112. Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium.
- Sec. 113. Emergency support functions.
- Sec. 114. Review of National Incident Management System.
- Sec. 115. Approval of certain equipment.
- Sec. 116. Remedial action management program.

**TITLE II—COMMUNICATIONS**

- Sec. 201. Office of Emergency Communications.
- Sec. 202. Responsibilities of Office of Emergency Communications Director.
- Sec. 203. Annual reporting on activities of the Office of Emergency Communications.
- Sec. 204. National Emergency Communications Plan.
- Sec. 205. Technical edits.
- Sec. 206. Public Safety Broadband Network.
- Sec. 207. Statewide interoperability coordinators.
- Sec. 208. Communications training.

**TITLE III—MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS**

- Sec. 301. Pre-event anthrax vaccination program for emergency response providers.
- Sec. 302. Chief Medical Officer.
- Sec. 303. Medical Countermeasures Program.

**TITLE IV—MANAGEMENT**

- Sec. 401. Mission support.
- Sec. 402. Systems modernization.
- Sec. 403. Strategic human capital plan.
- Sec. 404. Activities related to children.

**TITLE V—FLOOD INSURANCE CLAIMS PROCESS REFORMS**

- Sec. 501. Claims adjustment and engineering reports.
- Sec. 502. Judicial review.

**TITLE I—GRANTS, TRAINING, EXERCISES, AND COORDINATION**

**SEC. 101. MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 611 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**‘‘SEC. 2024. MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DEPARTMENTAL COMPONENTS AND OFFICES.**

‘‘The Administrator shall enter into memoranda of understanding with the heads of the following departmental components and offices delineating the roles and responsibilities of such components and offices regarding the policy and guidance for grants under section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135), sections 2003 and 2004 of this Act, and section 70107 of title 46, United States Code, as appropriate:

“(1) The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(2) The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

“(3) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

“(4) The Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis.

“(5) The Director of the Office of Emergency Communications.

“(6) The Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement.

“(7) The Countering Violent Extremism Coordinator.

“(8) The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

“(9) The heads of other components or offices of the Department, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2023 the following new item:

“Sec. 2024. Memoranda of understanding with departmental components and offices.”.

#### SEC. 102. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.

(a) URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE.—Section 2003 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator shall make funds provided under this section available for use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than 36 months.”.

(b) STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 605) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator shall make funds provided under this section available for use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than 36 months.”.

(c) PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act (6 U.S.C. 1135; Public Law 110-53) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (m) as subsection (n); and

(2) inserting after subsection (l) the following new subsection:

“(m) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall make funds provided under this section available for use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than 36 months.”.

(d) PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 70107 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall make funds provided under this section available for use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than 36 months.”.

(e) TRIBAL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 2005 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 606) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsections (h) through (k) subsections (i) through (l), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall make funds provided under this

section available for use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than 36 months.”.

#### SEC. 103. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### “SEC. 2009. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be known as ‘Operation Stonegarden’. Under such program, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall make grants to eligible law enforcement agencies, through the State Administrative Agency, to enhance border security in accordance with this section.

“(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a law enforcement agency shall—

“(1) be located in—

“(A) a State bordering either Canada or Mexico; or

“(B) a State or territory with a maritime border; and

“(2) be involved in an active, ongoing U.S. Customs and Border Protection operation coordinated through a sector office.

“(c) PERMITTED USES.—The recipient of a grant under this section may use such grant for any of the following:

“(1) Equipment, including maintenance and sustainment costs.

“(2) Personnel, including overtime and backfill, in support of enhanced border law enforcement activities.

“(3) Any activity permitted for Operation Stonegarden under the Department of Homeland Security’s Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.

“(4) Any other appropriate activity, as determined by the Administrator, in consultation with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for grants under this section.

“(e) REPORT.—The Administrator shall annually for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing information on the expenditure of grants made under this section by each grant recipient.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, through the Administrator, may award grants under sections 2003, 2004, and 2009 to State, local, and tribal governments, as appropriate.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2008 the following new item:

“Sec. 2009. Operation Stonegarden.”.

#### SEC. 104. GRANTS METRICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To determine the extent to which grants under sections 2003 and 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603 and 604) have closed capability gaps identified in State Preparedness Reports required under subsection (c) of section 652 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 752; title VI of the Department of Homeland Security

Appropriations Act, 2007; Public Law 109-295) and Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments from each State and high-risk urban area, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall conduct and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of information provided in such Reports and Assessments.

(b) ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include a comparison of successive State Preparedness Reports and Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments from each State and high-risk urban area.

#### SEC. 105. GRANT MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES.

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall include in the annual Notice of Funding Opportunity relating to grants under sections 2003 and 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604 and 605) an appendix that includes a summary of findings identified by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security in audits of such grants and methods to address areas identified for improvement and innovative practices instituted by grant recipients.

#### SEC. 106. ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION OF GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 2021 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 611) are amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any State or high-risk urban area receiving a grant under section 2003 or 2004 shall establish a State planning committee or urban area working group to assist in preparation and revision of the State, regional, or local homeland security plan or the threat and hazard identification and risk assessment, as the case may be, and to assist in determining effective funding priorities for grants under such sections 2003 and 2004.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—The State planning committees and urban area working groups referred to in paragraph (1) shall include at least one representative from each of the following significant stakeholders:

“(A) Local or tribal government officials.

“(B) Emergency response providers, including representatives of the fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and emergency managers.

“(C) Public health officials and other appropriate medical practitioners.

“(D) Individuals representing educational institutions, including elementary schools, community colleges, and other institutions of higher education.

“(E) State and regional interoperable communications coordinators, as appropriate.

“(F) State and major urban area fusion centers, as appropriate.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 2021(b) (6 U.S.C. 611) is amended by inserting “or urban area working group, as the case may be,” after “planning committee”.

#### SEC. 107. FUNDING PROHIBITION.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may not implement the National Preparedness Grant Program or any successor grant program unless the Secretary receives prior authorization from Congress permitting such implementation.

#### SEC. 108. LAW ENFORCEMENT TERRORISM PREVENTION.

(a) LAW ENFORCEMENT TERRORISM PREVENTION PROGRAM.—Subsection (a) of section

2006 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 607) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (1)—
  - (A) by inserting “States and high-risk urban areas use” after “that”; and
  - (B) by striking “is used”; and
- (2) in paragraph (2), by amending subparagraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) activities as determined appropriate by the Administrator, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement within the Office of Policy of the Department, through outreach to relevant stakeholder organizations.”.

(b) OFFICE FOR STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Subsection (b)(4) of section 2006 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 607) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, including through consultation with such agencies regarding Department programs that may impact such agencies” before the semicolon; and
- (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “ensure” and inserting “certify”.

**SEC. 109. ALLOWABLE USES.**

Subsection (a) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

- (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “including by working in conjunction with a National Laboratory (as defined in section 2(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801(3))),” after “plans,”;
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (13) as paragraphs (7) through (14), respectively;
- (3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities, including the development and maintenance of an initial pharmaceutical stockpile, including medical kits and diagnostics sufficient to protect first responders, their families, immediate victims, and vulnerable populations from a chemical or biological event;”;

- (4) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking “(a)(10)” and inserting “(a)(11)”.

**SEC. 110. MAINTENANCE OF GRANT INVESTMENTS.**

Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.—Any applicant for a grant under section 2003 or 2004 seeking to use funds to purchase equipment, including pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), (5), or (9) of subsection (a) of this section, shall by the time of the receipt of such grant develop a plan for the maintenance of such equipment over its life-cycle that includes information identifying which entity is responsible for such maintenance.”.

**SEC. 111. NATIONAL DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM.**

Section 1204 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act (6 U.S.C. 1102) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (d), by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:
  - “(1) for the Center for Domestic Preparedness, \$65,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017; and
  - “(2) for the remaining Members of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, \$98,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.”;
- (2) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2007” and inserting “2015”.

**SEC. 112. RURAL DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to establish a Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium within the Department of Homeland Security consisting of universities and nonprofit organizations qualified to provide training to emergency response providers from rural communities.

(b) DUTIES.—The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium authorized under subsection (a) shall identify, develop, test, and deliver training to State, local, and tribal emergency response providers from rural communities, provide on-site and mobile training, and facilitate the delivery of training by the training partners of the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of amounts appropriated for Continuing Training Grants of the Department of Homeland Security, \$5,000,000 is authorized to be used for the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium authorized under subsection (a).

**SEC. 113. EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.**

(a) UPDATE.—Paragraph (13) of section 504(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 314(a)) is amended by inserting “, periodically updating (but not less often than once every five years),” after “administering”.

(b) EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.—Section 653 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 753; title VI of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007; Public Law 109-295) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and
- (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) COORDINATION.—The President, acting through the Administrator, shall develop and provide to Federal departments and agencies with coordinating, primary, or supporting responsibilities under the National Response Framework performance metrics to ensure readiness to execute responsibilities under the emergency support functions of such Framework.”.

**SEC. 114. REVIEW OF NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

Paragraph (2) of section 509(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 319(b)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “, but not less often than once every five years,” after “periodically”.

**SEC. 115. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.**

Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) REVIEW PROCESS.—The Administrator shall develop and implement a uniform process for reviewing applications to use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equipment or systems not included on the Authorized Equipment List maintained by the Administrator.”.

**SEC. 116. REMEDIAL ACTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

Section 650 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 750; title VI of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007; Public Law 109-295) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 650. REMEDIAL ACTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordination with the National Council on Disability and the National Advisory Council, shall establish a remedial action management program to—

“(1) analyze training, exercises, and real world events to identify lessons learned, corrective actions, and best practices;

“(2) generate and disseminate, as appropriate, the lessons learned, corrective actions, and best practices referred to in paragraph (1); and

“(3) conduct remedial action tracking and long term trend analysis.

“(b) FEDERAL CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.—The Administrator, in coordination with the heads of appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall utilize the program established in subsection (a) to collect information on corrective actions identified by such Federal departments and agencies during exercises and the response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, and shall, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter for each of the next four years, submit to Congress a report on the status of such corrective actions.

“(c) DISSEMINATION OF AFTER ACTION REPORTS.—The Administrator shall provide electronically, to the maximum extent practicable, to Congress and Federal, State, local, tribal, and private sector officials after-action reports and information on lessons learned and best practices from responses to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, capstone exercises conducted under the national exercise program under section 648(b), and other emergencies or exercises.”.

**TITLE II—COMMUNICATIONS**

**SEC. 201. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Secretary of Homeland Security may not change the location or reporting structure of the Office of Emergency Communications of the Department of Homeland Security unless the Secretary receives prior authorization from the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate permitting such change.

**SEC. 202. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.**

Subsection (c) of section 1801 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 571) is amended—

- (1) by striking paragraph (3);
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (15) as paragraphs (3) through (14), respectively;
- (3) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated, by striking “, in cooperation with the National Communications System,”;
- (4) in paragraph (9), as so redesignated, by striking “the Homeland Security Council,”;
- (5) in paragraph (12) by striking “Assistant Secretary for Grants and Training” and inserting “Assistant Administrator of the Grant Programs Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency”;
- (6) in paragraph (13), as so redesignated, by striking “and” at the end; and
- (7) by adding after paragraph (14), as so redesignated, the following new paragraphs:

“(15) administer the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) programs, or successor programs; and

“(16) assess the impact of emerging technologies on interoperable emergency communications.”.

**SEC. 203. ANNUAL REPORTING ON ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.**

Subsection (f) of section 1801 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 571) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) ANNUAL REPORTING OF OFFICE ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the Office of Emergency Communications shall, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter for each of the next four years, report to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the activities and programs of the Office, including specific information on efforts to carry out paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of subsection (c).”

**SEC. 204. NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.**

Section 1802 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 572) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “, and in cooperation with the Department of National Communications System (as appropriate).”; and

(B) by inserting “, but not less than once every five years,” after “periodically”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (10) as paragraphs (4) through (11), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) consider the impact of emerging technologies on the attainment of interoperable emergency communications;”

**SEC. 205. TECHNICAL EDITS.**

Title XVIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in subsection (d) of section 1801 (6 U.S.C. 571) by—

(A) striking paragraph (2); and

(B) redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(2) in paragraph (1) of section 1804(b) (6 U.S.C. 574(b)), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Assistant Secretary for Grants and Planning” and inserting “Assistant Administrator of the Grant Programs Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency”.

**SEC. 206. PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK.**

The Undersecretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on the Department of Homeland Security’s responsibilities related to the development of the nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network authorized in section 6202 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1422; Public Law 112-96), including information on efforts by the Department to work with the First Responder Network Authority of the Department of Commerce to identify and address cyber risks that could impact the near term or long term availability and operations of such network and recommendations to mitigate such risks.

**SEC. 207. STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATORS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 2004(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 605(b)) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B)(i) certification that the Governor of the State has designated a Statewide Inter-

operability Coordinator, including identification in such certification of the individual so designated, who shall be responsible for—

“(I) coordinating the daily operations of the State’s interoperability efforts;

“(II) coordinating State interoperability and communications projects and grant applications for such projects;

“(III) establishing and maintaining working groups to develop and implement key interoperability initiatives; and

“(IV) coordinating and updating, as necessary, a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan that specifies the current status of State efforts to enhance communications interoperability within the State, including progress, modifications, or setbacks, and future goals for communications interoperability among emergency response agencies in the State; or

“(ii) if a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator has not been designated in accordance with clause (i)—

“(I) certification that the State is performing in another manner the functions described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of such clause; and

“(II) identification in such certification of an individual who has been designated by the State as the primary point of contact for performance of such functions;”

(b) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any grant for which an application was submitted under the State Homeland Security Grant Program under section 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 605) before the date of the enactment of this section.

**SEC. 208. COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING.**

The Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the appropriate component heads, shall develop a mechanism, consistent with the strategy required pursuant to the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (Public Law 114-29), to verify that radio users within the Department receive initial and ongoing training on the use of the radio systems of such components, including interagency radio use protocols.

**TITLE III—MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS**

**SEC. 301. PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.**

(a) ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 526. ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.**

“(a) PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.—For the purpose of domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish a program to provide anthrax vaccines from the strategic national stockpile under section 319F-2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(a)) that will be nearing the end of their labeled dates of use at the time such vaccines are to be administered to emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax and who voluntarily consent to such administration, and shall—

“(1) establish any necessary logistical and tracking systems to facilitate making such vaccines so available;

“(2) distribute disclosures regarding associated benefits and risks to end users; and

“(3) conduct outreach to educate emergency response providers about the voluntary program.

“(b) THREAT ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) support homeland security-focused risk analysis and risk assessments of the threats posed by anthrax from an act of terrorism;

“(2) leverage existing and emerging homeland security intelligence capabilities and structures to enhance prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts with respect to an anthrax terror attack; and

“(3) share information and provide tailored analytical support on threats posed by anthrax to State, local, and tribal authorities, as well as other national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting at the end of the items relating to title V the following new item:

“Sec. 526. Anthrax preparedness.”

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the prevent vaccination program authorized in subsection (a) of section 526 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency response providers as so authorized. The duration of the pilot program shall be 24 months from the date the initial vaccines are administered to participants.

(2) PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.—Prior to implementing the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) establish a communication platform for such pilot program;

(B) establish education and training modules for such pilot program;

(C) conduct economic analysis of such pilot program; and

(D) create a logistical platform for the anthrax vaccine request process under such pilot program.

(3) LOCATION.—In carrying out the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall select emergency response providers based in at least two States for participation in such pilot program.

(4) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to each emergency response provider who participates in the pilot program under paragraph (1) disclosures and educational materials regarding the associated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided under such pilot program and of exposure to anthrax.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until one year after the completion of the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the progress and results of such pilot program, including the percentage of eligible emergency response providers, as determined by each pilot location, that volunteer to participate, the degree to which participants obtain necessary vaccinations, as appropriate, and recommendations to improve initial and recurrent participation in such pilot program.

Each such report shall include a discussion of plans to continue such pilot program to provide vaccines to emergency response providers under subsection (a) of section 526 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(6) **DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin implementing the pilot program under paragraph (1) by not later than the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 302. CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (c) of section 516 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321e) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and shall establish medical and human, animal, and occupational health exposure policy, guidance, strategies, and initiatives,” before “including—”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including advice on how to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the medical effects of terrorist attacks or other high consequence events utilizing chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents or explosives”;

(3) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including coordinating the Department’s policy, strategy and preparedness for pandemics and emerging infectious diseases”;

(4) in paragraph (5), by inserting “emergency medical services and medical first responder stakeholders,” after “the medical community”;

(5) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end; and

(6) by adding after paragraph (7) the following new paragraphs:

“(8) ensuring that the workforce of the Department has evidence-based policy, standards, requirements, and metrics for occupational health and operational medicine programs;

“(9) directing and maintaining a coordinated system for medical support for the Department’s operational activities;

“(10) providing oversight of the Department’s medical programs and providers, including—

“(A) reviewing and maintaining verification of the accreditation of the Department’s health provider workforce;

“(B) developing quality assurance and clinical policy, requirements, standards, and metrics for all medical and health activities of the Department;

“(C) providing oversight of medical records systems for employees and individuals in the Department’s care and custody; and

“(D) providing medical direction for emergency medical services activities of the Department; and

“(11) as established under section 527, maintaining a medical countermeasures stockpile and dispensing system, as necessary, to facilitate personnel readiness, and protection for working animals, employees, and individuals in the Department’s care and custody in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic.”

(b) **MEDICAL LIAISONS.**—The Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security may provide medical liaisons to the components of the Department to provide subject matter expertise on medical and public health issues and a direct link to the Chief Medical Officer. Such expertise may include the following:

(1) Providing guidance on health and medical aspects of policy, planning, operations, and workforce health protection.

(2) Identifying and resolving component medical issues.

(3) Supporting the development and alignment of medical and health systems.

(4) Identifying common gaps in medical and health standards, policy, and guidance, and enterprise solutions to bridge such gaps.

**SEC. 303. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.), as amended by section 301 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 527. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a medical countermeasures program to facilitate personnel readiness, and protection for working animals, employees, and individuals in the Department’s care and custody, in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic, and to support Department mission continuity.

“(b) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Chief Medical Officer, established under section 516, shall provide programmatic oversight of the medical countermeasures program established pursuant to subsection (a), and shall—

“(1) develop Department-wide standards for medical countermeasure storage, security, dispensing, and documentation;

“(2) maintain a stockpile of medical countermeasures, including antibiotics, antivirals, and radiological countermeasures, as appropriate;

“(3) preposition appropriate medical countermeasures in strategic locations nationwide, based on threat and employee density, in accordance with applicable Federal statutes and regulations;

“(4) provide oversight and guidance on dispensing of stockpiled medical countermeasures;

“(5) ensure rapid deployment and dispensing of medical countermeasures in a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic;

“(6) provide training to Department employees on medical countermeasure dispensing; and

“(7) support dispensing exercises.

“(c) **MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES WORKING GROUP.**—The Chief Medical Officer shall establish a medical countermeasures working group comprised of representatives from appropriate components and offices of the Department to ensure that medical countermeasures standards are maintained and guidance is consistent.

“(d) **MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES MANAGEMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Chief Medical Officer shall develop and submit to the Secretary an integrated logistics support plan for medical countermeasures, including—

“(1) a methodology for determining the ideal types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile and how frequently such methodology shall be reevaluated;

“(2) a replenishment plan; and

“(3) inventory tracking, reporting, and reconciliation procedures for existing stockpiles and new medical countermeasure purchases.

“(e) **STOCKPILE ELEMENTS.**—In determining the types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile under subsection (d), the Chief Medical Officer shall utilize, if available—

“(1) Department chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risk assessments; and

“(2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on medical countermeasures.

“(f) **REPORT.**—No later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Chief Medical Officer shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on progress in achieving the requirements of this section.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by section 301 of this Act, is further amended by inserting at the end of the items relating to title V the following new item:

“Sec. 527. Medical countermeasures.”

**TITLE IV—MANAGEMENT**

**SEC. 401. MISSION SUPPORT.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall designate an individual to serve as the chief management official and principal advisor to the Administrator on matters related to the management of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including management integration in support of emergency management operations and programs.

(b) **MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, acting through the official designated pursuant to subsection (a), shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including with respect to the following:

(1) Procurement.

(2) Human resources and personnel.

(3) Information technology and communications systems.

(4) Real property investment and planning, facilities, accountable personal property (including fleet and other material resources), records and disclosure, privacy, safety and health, and sustainability and environmental management.

(5) Security for personnel, information technology and communications systems, facilities, property, equipment, and other material resources.

(6) Any other management duties that the Administrator may designate.

(c) **MOUNT WEATHER EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting or otherwise affecting the role or responsibility of the Assistant Administrator for National Continuity with respect to the matters described in subsection (b) as they relate to the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center and associated facilities. The management and administration of the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center and associated facilities remains the responsibility of the Assistant Administrator for National Continuity.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a review of financial, human capital, information technology, real property planning, and acquisition management of headquarters and all regional offices of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(2) a strategy for capturing financial, human capital, information technology, real property planning, and acquisition data.

#### SEC. 402. SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's efforts to modernize its grants and financial information technology systems, including the following:

(1) A summary of all previous efforts to modernize such systems.

(2) An assessment of long term cost savings and efficiencies gained through such modernization effort.

(3) A capability needs assessment.

(4) Estimated quarterly costs.

(5) Estimated acquisition life cycle dates, including acquisition decision events.

#### SEC. 403. STRATEGIC HUMAN CAPITAL PLAN.

Subsection (c) of section 10107 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "2007" and inserting "2016".

#### SEC. 404. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CHILDREN.

Paragraph (2) of section 503(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 313(b)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(I) integrate the needs of children into the Agency's activities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, including by appointing a technical expert to coordinate such activities, as necessary."

### TITLE V—FLOOD INSURANCE CLAIMS PROCESS REFORMS

#### SEC. 501. CLAIMS ADJUSTMENT AND ENGINEERING REPORTS.

Section 1312 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4019) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(d) FINAL ENGINEERING REPORTS.—The Administrator shall require that, in the case of any on-site inspection of a property by an engineer for the purpose of assessing any claim for losses covered by a policy for flood insurance coverage provided under this title, the final engineering report shall be provided to the insured under the policy, as follows:

"(1) TIMING.—The final engineering report may not be transmitted to any other person, employer, agency, or entity, before it is transmitted to the insured.

"(2) PROHIBITION ON ALTERATIONS; CERTIFICATION.—The final engineering report may not include alterations by, or at the request of, anyone other than the responsible in charge for such report and shall include a certification, signed by the responsible in charge for the report, that it does not contain any such alterations.

"(3) TRANSMITTAL.—The final engineering report shall be transmitted to the insured in a manner as the Administrator shall provide that provides reasonable assurance that it was transmitted directly to the insured by the responsible in charge.

"(4) REPORTS COVERED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'final engineering

report' means an engineering report, survey, or other document in connection with such claim that—

"(A) is based on such on-site inspection;

"(B) contains final conclusions with respect to an engineering issue or issues involved in such claim; and

"(C) is signed by the responsible in charge or affixed with the seal of such responsible in charge, or both.

"(e) CLAIMS ADJUSTMENT REPORTS.—The Administrator shall require that, in the case of any on-site inspection of a property by a claims adjuster for the purpose of assessing any claim for losses covered by a policy for flood insurance coverage provided under this title, any report shall be provided to the insured under the policy, as follows:

"(1) TIMING.—Such report may not be transmitted to any other person, employer, agency, or entity, before it is transmitted to the insured.

"(2) PROHIBITION ON ALTERATIONS; CERTIFICATION.—The report may not include alterations by, or at the request of, anyone other than such preparer and shall include a certification, signed by the preparer of the report, that it does not contain any such alterations.

"(3) TRANSMITTAL.—The report shall be transmitted to the insured in a manner as the Administrator shall provide that provides reasonable assurance that it was transmitted directly to the insured by the preparer.

"(4) REPORTS COVERED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'report' means any report or document in connection with such claim that is based on such on-site inspection by the claims adjuster, including any adjustment report and field report. Such term also includes any draft, preliminary version, or copy of any such report and any amendments or additions to any such report. Such term does not include any engineering report, as such term is defined for purposes of subsection (d)."

#### SEC. 502. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WITH INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE.—Section 1341 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4072) is amended by striking "within one year after the date of mailing of notice of disallowance or partial disallowance by the Administrator" and inserting the following: "not later than the expiration of the 2-year period beginning upon the date of the occurrence of the losses involved in such claim or, in the case of a denial of a claim for losses that is appealed to the Administrator, not later than (1) the expiration of the 90-day period beginning upon the date of a final determination upon appeal denying such claim in whole or in part, or (2) the expiration of such 2-year period, whichever is later".

(b) INDUSTRY PROGRAM WITH FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1333 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4053) is amended by striking "within one year after the date of mailing of notice of disallowance or partial disallowance of the claim" and inserting the following: "not later than the expiration of the 2-year period beginning upon the date of the occurrence of the losses involved in such claim or, in the case of a denial of a claim for losses that is appealed to the Administrator, not later than (1) the expiration of the 90-day period beginning upon the date of a final determination upon appeal denying such claim in whole or in part, or (2) the expiration of such 2-year period, whichever is later".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3583, the Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies, or PREPARE Act, which I introduced during my tenure as chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications.

The PREPARE Act is part of the Committee on Homeland Security's effort to authorize and ensure the efficiency of the Department of Homeland Security's operations. The provisions of this bill were informed by the subcommittee's oversight this Congress and discussions with stakeholders.

This was a bipartisan process, and I am pleased that the subcommittee's ranking member, Congressman PAYNE, joined me in sponsoring this bill. This bill is an example of how we should be working together in Congress to get things done.

The PREPARE Act makes a number of improvements to the operations at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Health Affairs, and Office of Emergency Communications. The bill authorizes, for the first time, Operation Stonegarden, which provides grants to law enforcement agencies along the border to enhance border security. These funds are vital to the security of border communities, like the ones in my district in southern Arizona.

We must ensure that grant programs like the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative are providing a return on investment and assisting in the closure of capability gaps. That is why the bill requires FEMA to analyze data included in yearly State Preparedness Reports and Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments to gauge year-over-year improvements.

The bill also requires FEMA to share information on grants management best practices with grant recipients so that they may benefit from innovative practices used by other grantees. In addition, the bill sets the period of performance for these grant programs at 3 years, to ensure grant recipients have sufficient time to make sound investments.

To ensure FEMA is operating efficiently and effectively, the bill requires the Administrator to designate an individual to serve as FEMA's chief management official and take steps to address the findings and recommendations of a number of GAO reports. The bill also requires FEMA to update its strategic human capital plan so it has the workforce it needs to complete its important mission.

It is vital that our Nation's first responders have the tools that they need to communicate. That is why the bill seeks to ensure that the First Responder Network Authority and the Department of Homeland Security work together to secure the nationwide public safety broadband network that is under development against cyberattacks.

After hearing much concern from first responders who rely on the technical assistance and programming of the Office of Emergency Communication, the bill prohibits the Secretary of Homeland Security from reorganizing OEC without prior authorization.

□ 1715

A 2015 GAO review of interoperability at the Department noted that CBP and ICE personnel reported the lack of interoperability along the border resulted in missed apprehensions and jeopardized agent safety.

As a result, the bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that DHS' radio users, such as Border Patrol agents, CBP officers, and ICE agents receive ongoing training on the use of radio systems, including interagency radio use protocols.

This provision builds upon legislation signed into the law by the President that requires DHS to develop a strategy to achieve and maintain interoperability among its components.

To address the chemical and biological threats we face, the PREPARE Act authorizes responsibilities of the Department's Chief Medical Officer and establishes a pilot program to provide anthrax vaccines to first responders on a voluntary basis.

I want to thank my successor, Chairman Donovan, for his leadership in continuing to shepherd the PREPARE Act to the floor today.

I would also like to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Chairman UPTON, and Chairman HENSARLING for working with us to advance this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the PREPARE Act builds efficiencies and increases coordination for preparedness improvements while providing greater accountability for taxpayers.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write concerning H.R. 3583, the "Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies Act". This legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite Floor consideration of H.R. 3583, the Committee on "Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the Committee report for H.R. 3583, as well as in the Congressional Record during House Floor consideration of the bill. I look forward to working with the Committee on Homeland Security as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, March 11, 2016.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3583, the "Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies Act" or "PREPARE Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forego consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on this bill at this time, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the report on H.R. 3583 as well as the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, March 11, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write regarding H.R. 3583, the "PREPARE Act." Although the bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I wanted to notify you that the Committee will forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on H.R. 3583 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3583 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, March 11, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3583, the "PREPARE Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forego consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on this bill at this time, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Energy and Commerce for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, March 22, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I am writing concerning H.R. 3583, the Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies Act.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing

consideration of H.R. 3583 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3583 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
*Washington, DC, April 6, 2016.*

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,  
*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,  
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-  
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3583, the "Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand the Committee on Financial Services will forgo action on the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by forgoing action on this bill, the Committee on Financial Services does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Financial Services represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange into the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
*Chairman.*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3583, the Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies Act, also known as the PREPARE Act.

Before I begin, I would like to commend former Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chairperson MCSALLY and Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr., for their close collaboration in developing this legislation.

H.R. 3583 is the product of extensive bipartisan oversight carried out by the subcommittee and will make communities better prepared to respond to manmade and natural disasters.

In particular, this measure makes a number of improvements related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's administration of the Homeland

Security Grant Program, authorizes activities of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium and the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, and addresses ongoing interoperability challenges both within the Department of Homeland Security and the State and local level.

A provision I authored at the full committee to improve the Homeland Security Grant Program is also included. That provision directs FEMA to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the DHS' Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties regarding policy and guidance in the Urban Areas Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Under current grant guidance, grantees are permitted to use funding for activities related to countering violent extremism.

By requiring FEMA to consult with DHS' Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in developing its grant guidance related to CVE, we will ensure that the activities carried out by the grantees do not target ordinary citizens simply because of their religion or ethnic background.

Additionally, to address shortcomings of the National Incident Management System, commonly called NIMS, revealed at a series of full committee hearings examining the heroic response of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, the committee accepted an amendment I authored requiring FEMA to review and revise NIMS once every 5 years.

Regular review of NIMS will ensure that its protocols are responsive to the current threat environment, incident management requirements, and lessons learned from previous incidents.

Finally, the bill includes important provisions to improve Federal interoperable communications capabilities added by Subcommittee Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr.

To improve interoperable communications on the State and local level, H.R. 3583 includes Mr. PAYNE's State-wide Interoperable Communications Act, which facilitates coordination of emergency communication purchases and policies within a State.

The bill also addresses interoperability challenges at DHS by requiring that the Undersecretary for Management verify that all radio users at the Department receive initial and ongoing training in the use of DHS' radio systems.

I commend Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr., on his work on the bill and his ongoing efforts to address the interoperability challenges that continue to hamstring Federal, State, and local first responders.

H.R. 3583 will go far in helping first responders do their job better and safer and will make our communities better prepared and more resilient.

I urge my colleagues to support the PREPARE Act.

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MCSALLY for yielding.

As chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3583, the PREPARE Act, of which I am pleased to be an original sponsor.

Introduced by the subcommittee's former Chairwoman, Representative MCSALLY, the PREPARE Act seeks to enhance accountability at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Emergency Communications, and Office of Health Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security.

The Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee is fortunate to work with a very engaged stakeholder community, and many of the provisions of this bill were formed through hearings, briefings, and meetings with those stakeholders.

For example, the bill sets the period of performance for a number of grant programs at 3 years. We heard from numerous stakeholder groups that FEMA's reduction of the period of performance from 3 years to 2 years inhibited their ability to make meaningful grant investments.

I am pleased that FEMA has changed the period of performance back to 3 years, and the PREPARE Act codifies that timeline.

The PREPARE Act prohibits FEMA from implementing its National Preparedness Grant Program proposal, which was widely opposed by first responders.

It seeks to ensure greater outreach by the Department to law enforcement agencies through the Office of State and local law enforcement.

It prohibits the Undersecretary of National Protection and Programs Directorate from reorganizing or changing the location of the Office of Emergency Communications without authorization of Congress.

Stakeholder groups such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Major Cities Chiefs, and National Sheriffs' Association have expressed their great concern about the impact this proposed reorganization would have on the Office of Emergency Communications and its work with first responders to achieve and maintain interoperability communications.

It authorizes the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, which provides vital training for first responders, and it authorizes a voluntary anthrax



vaccination program for first responders to help protect those who protect us.

The PREPARE Act also includes flood insurance provisions of great importance to my constituents. Superstorm Sandy devastated Staten Island and South Brooklyn 3½ years ago, claiming dozens of lives and destroying thousands of homes.

Unfortunately, since then, my constituents have gone through the storm after the storm. Damage inspectors shamelessly doctored their reports to blame pre-existing conditions for Sandy's destruction, cheating Sandy victims out of insurance proceedings they rightfully deserved.

By applying lessons learned in the aftermath of that fateful day, title V of the PREPARE Act will make two important improvements to the National Flood Insurance Program.

First, this legislation will empower and protect policyholders by requiring engineers and inspectors employed to assess flood insurance claims to provide policyholders with copies of the reports listing flood damage to their homes. This will prevent fraud and increase efficiency and transparency by giving policyholders more information about their claims at a critical stage in the process.

Second, this legislation will improve the flood insurance claims appeal process by fixing an archaic and confusing court filing deadline that prevents policyholders from using the FEMA appeals process for fear of missing their opportunity to seek relief in Federal court.

The bill will set a firm start date for the claim's statute of limitations and pause the statute of limitations while policyholders pursue their appeal at the agency level.

Ultimately, this legislation will reduce costly litigation, saving taxpayers and policyholders money.

I am pleased to work with Chairwoman MCSALLY and Ranking Member PAYNE on this bipartisan legislation. I would like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership in moving it forward.

I would particularly like to thank Chairman HENSARLING and Subcommittee Chairman LUETKEMEYER of the Financial Services Committee for working with me to advance the flood insurance process reforms in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3583.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3583 seeks to resolve gaps in the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to build State and local capabilities to prevent, protect against, and respond to manmade and natural disasters.

Again, this bipartisan legislation is a product of careful oversight and sig-

nificant stakeholder outreach. I urge my colleagues to support the PREPARE Act.

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3583.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies Act (PREPARE Act/H.R. 3583). In addition to enhancing accountability at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Office of Emergency Communications, and the Office of Health Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), this legislation makes critical reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) claims process.

Nearly three and a half years have passed since Superstorm Sandy devastated New Jersey, New York, and other parts of the Northeast, yet thousands of victims are still fighting for fair and equitable treatment from the NFIP. Following Sandy, these homeowners were further victimized by the unconscionable misconduct of certain insurance companies and engineering firms who defrauded them, all of which was enabled by FEMA's inadequate control and oversight.

The Sandy Claims Review Process was launched after my colleagues and I pushed FEMA to reopen a robust and thorough claims process to review all potential Sandy-related underpayments. To date, over 19,000 NFIP policyholders have entered the review process. More than 7,000 policyholders have been offered additional claims payments, with over \$46 million in actual payments made and over \$89 million in proposed payments. Homeowners who pursued litigation outside of the claims process have received nearly \$160 million in settlements.

Those who dutifully paid their premiums with the expectation that the NFIP would be there following a disaster deserve every penny owed to them. The tens of millions of dollars paid out thus far should have been in the hands of policyholders years ago. These homeowners were betrayed following Sandy, and reforms are necessary to restore consumer trust and taxpayer confidence in the NFIP.

In a report released last month, the DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that FEMA does not provide adequate oversight of its NFIP Write Your Own (WYO) Program. As a result, FEMA "is unable to ensure that WYO companies are properly implementing the NFIP and is unable to identify systemic problems in the program. Furthermore, without adequate internal controls in place, FEMA's NFIP funds may be at risk for fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement."

Of particular concern are altered or falsified engineering reports that resulted in dramatically lower claim payments for Sandy victims. Last year, 60 Minutes' "The Storm after the Storm" reported on allegations of engineering reports receiving drastic alterations after being submitted to the insurer by the on-site engineer inspector. FEMA's then-Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance told 60 Minutes

that he was not going to "conceal that fact that it happened. Because in the last three weeks, I've seen evidence of it." This was subsequently confirmed in delegation briefings I hosted with FEMA.

Title V of the PREPARE Act will require any final engineering reports and/or claims adjustment reports—certified and free of alterations—to be provided to the policyholder first, before any employer or agency. It also amends the claims appeal process to provide policyholders with more time to consider legal remedies. Together these provisions will help reform a fundamentally broken system and provide policyholders with the transparency and fairness they are entitled to throughout the NFIP claims process.

FEMA must deliver on its promises. That begins with the completion of the ongoing Sandy Claims Review Process and a resolution to Sandy-related litigation. Every suspected instance of fraud must be investigated and bad actors must be expelled. FEMA must closely monitor the performance of specific inspectors and adjusters that may not be illegal, but simply shoddy and incompetent. The NFIP Transformation Task Force must continue its implementation of OIG's seven recommendations to improve its oversight. Together with the PREPARE Act, these actions can restore accountability and ensure lasting reform.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3583, the "Promoting Resilience and Efficiency in Preparing for Attacks and Responding to Emergencies Act," also known as the "PREPARE Act."

I became Ranking Member of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee in the beginning of 2013.

I took on that position because I represent the 10th Congressional of New Jersey, which according to the New York Times, encompasses the two most dangerous miles in America.

From major mass transit arteries and chemical facilities to homes and schools, my district is vulnerable to a variety of man-made and natural disasters.

Our community's first responders must be prepared to respond to every worst-case scenario. That is why I was proud to work with Ms. MCSALLY to author the "PREPARE Act."

In my capacity as Ranking Member of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to hear from first responders and emergency managers across the country, as well as doctors, public health experts, and individuals advocating to ensure the needs of children are incorporated into disaster response plans.

I am pleased to say that H.R. 3583 is responsive to the calls to action we have heard on the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee.

For example, the Subcommittee has conducted extensive oversight of progress related to interoperable communications, and we have learned that the important governance structures—developed with support of the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program—have suffered since the program was eliminated in 2011.

To preserve the progress States have made on emergency communications planning and coordination, H.R. 3583 includes my Statewide

Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act, which passed the House as a stand-alone measure in July.

H.R. 3583 also includes language I offered to address communications training gaps at DHS by requiring all radio users to receive initial and ongoing training consistent with the DHS Interoperable Communications Strategy, which was required under legislation I wrote last year.

The “PREPARE Act” also makes important progress in the area of biopreparedness, particularly related to improving how DHS manages its medical countermeasures program and establishing a voluntary anthrax vaccination program for first responders.

To address concerns the Subcommittee heard from organizations like Save the Children related to the unique needs of children during disasters, the Committee accepted an amendment I offered directing FEMA to appoint a technical expert to ensure that children are incorporated into disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery activities.

As the father of triplets, I have worked hard to improve the way the Federal government helps schools keep children safe during disasters and to address gaps in disaster planning that affect children. I appreciate the Committee’s support for my efforts to ensure H.R. 3583 improves the way the needs of children are integrated into emergency planning.

Finally, the bill guarantees homeland security grant program recipients three years to use their grant funds, which will help ensure that limited funds are spent effectively and deliberately.

H.R. 3583 also includes common-sense provisions requiring grantees to have maintenance plans in place before using Federal money to procure important emergency response equipment, directing FEMA to include grant management best practices in its annual Notice of Funding Opportunity, and charging FEMA to provide information to Congress on how grant funds are closing capability gaps.

On the subject of the Homeland Security Grant Program, I would like to once again, on the record, voice my opposition to the funding cuts proposed in the President’s FY 2017 budget request.

First responders across the country have made clear over and over again that these important grant dollars are critical to building and maintaining preparedness and response capabilities.

State and local governments are already struggling to absorb cuts to homeland security grant funding that have occurred over the last decade, and every first responder I have spoken to tells me that planning, training, and exercise opportunities would further suffer with more cuts.

I urge appropriators to reject the proposed funding cuts and to provide additional funding to these grant programs.

Before I conclude, I would like to congratulate the former Subcommittee Chairman MCSALLY on bringing this legislation to the floor, and I thank her for working with me as she developed the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3583.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee and Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,

Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise in support of H.R. 3583, the PREPARE Act, a bill that provides an important additional tool in preparing for attacks and responding to emergencies.

I support this legislation, because it requires multiple emergency agencies to coordinate and improve overall preparedness for attacks and emergencies.

Specifically, H.R. 3583 amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) to enter into memoranda of understanding with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Transportation Security Administration, the Coast Guard, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, the Office of Emergency Communication (OEC), the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement, the Countering Violent Extremism Coordinator, the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and other Department of Homeland Security offices and components to delineate their responsibilities for awarding grants to:

Public Transportation Agencies to improve security under Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

High-risk urban areas and state, local, and tribal governments to protect against terrorism under the UASI and the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Implementation of Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and facility security plans, provide port security services, and train law enforcement personnel.

The PREPARE Act is a smart bill that will enable the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group to identify and provide guidance and best practices for the emergency preparedness and response community.

The social media group will submit an annual report that includes:

A review and analysis of social media technologies used to support preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

A review of best practices and lessons learned.

Recommendations to improve DHS’s use of social media technologies for emergency management purposes.

Recommendations to improve public awareness of the type of information disseminated through such technologies, and recommendations on how to access such information during emergencies.

A review of available training for government officials.

A review of coordination efforts with the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, operational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.

In today’s increasingly advanced and complex technology, social media is easily and heavily utilized by terrorists as a dangerous recruiting tool.

Mr. Speaker, the PREPARE Act will equip the Department of Homeland Security with vital tools and resources to prevent and remove social media threats and recruitment tactics implemented by terrorist groups.

The PREPARE Act will further require FEMA to integrate the needs of children into its activities to protect against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made

disasters, including by appointing a technical expert to coordinate such activities.

This is a comprehensive bill that will protect all Americans in every corner of this nation.

I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 3583.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3583, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL BISON LEGACY ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2908) to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2908

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “National Bison Legacy Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress finds that—*

*(1) bison are considered a historical symbol of the United States;*

*(2) bison were integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;*

*(3) there are more than 60 Indian tribes participating in the Intertribal Buffalo Council;*

*(4) numerous members of Indian tribes are involved in bison restoration on tribal land;*

*(5) members of Indian tribes have a combined herd on more than 1,000,000 acres of tribal land;*

*(6) the Intertribal Buffalo Council is a tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (25 U.S.C. 477);*

*(7) bison can play an important role in improving the types of grasses found in landscapes to the benefit of grasslands;*

*(8) a small group of ranchers helped save bison from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the remnants of the decimated herds;*

*(9) bison hold significant economic value for private producers and rural communities;*

*(10) according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture, as of 2012, 162,110 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs and providing a sustainable and healthy meat source contributing to the food security of the United States;*

*(11) on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;*

*(12) on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society sent 15 captive-bred bison from the New York Zoological Park, now known as the “Bronx Zoo”, to the first wildlife refuge in the United States, which was known as the “Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge”, resulting in the first successful reintroduction of a mammal species on the brink of extinction back into the natural habitat of the species;*

(13) in 2005, the American Bison Society was reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, managers from Indian tribes, Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, and natural and social scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a vision for the North American bison in the 21st century;

(14) there are bison herds in National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks;

(15) there are bison in State-managed herds across 11 States;

(16) there is a growing effort to celebrate and officially recognize the historical, cultural, and economic significance of the North American bison to the heritage of the United States;

(17) a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

(18) the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

(19) a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

(20) the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

(21) several sports teams have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic significance of bison in the United States;

(22) in the 2nd session of the 113th Congress, 22 Senators led a successful effort to enact a resolution to designate November 1, 2014, as the third annual National Bison Day; and

(23) members of Indian tribes, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other public and private partners have participated in the annual National Bison Day celebration at several events across the United States and are committed to continuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday of November.

**SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BISON AS THE NATIONAL MAMMAL.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The mammal commonly known as the “North American bison” is adopted as the national mammal of the United States.

(b) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this Act or the adoption of the North American bison as the national mammal of the United States shall be construed or used as a reason to alter, change, modify, or otherwise affect any plan, policy, management decision, regulation, or other action by the Federal Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to have the primary sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), speak first.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Mr. CHAFFETZ.

Today I rise in support of the National Bison Legacy Act. This bill will

adopt the North American bison as the national mammal of the United States.

I also want to thank my colleague from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) for her cosponsorship of this legislation.

□ 1730

The bison are dear to me because they have a historical and spiritual link to the United States Colored Troops who were first organized in 1863 to 1866 as the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the four all-Black infantry regiments.

Despite facing relentless racism and woefully inadequate military supplies, nicknamed the Buffalo Soldiers because of their tireless marching and dogged trail skills, they had earned the name of the rugged and revered buffalo. By way of reference, my great-great-grandfather and his brother were members of the Buffalo Soldiers after coming out of slavery.

The North American bison is a unifying symbol in the United States. Once numbering in the tens of millions, bison were nearly extinguished by the 1880s, with the travesty borne most by Native Americans whose fate was intertwined with the buffalo.

In 1905, visionary ranchers, tribes, industrialists, sport hunters, and conservationists joined President Theodore Roosevelt in a monumental effort to reverse the American bison's demise. Now over 60 tribes are working to restore bison to over 1 million acres of Native American lands. Bison production on private ranches is in its strongest economic condition in more than a decade.

The National Bison Legacy Act enjoys broad bipartisan support in both Chambers of Congress, as well as support from a coalition of over 60 organizations, including Native American tribes, ranchers, and government agencies. The list keeps growing. I look forward to working with all of you to make this bill become law and honor a great American icon, the bison.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time and ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) control the remainder of my time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM).

Mrs. NOEM. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today I support the National Bison Legacy Act because it is a very important bill to the tribes in my State and also to the heritage of South Dakota and the United States. It is a bill that I helped Representative CLAY of Missouri introduce, and I thank him for all of his hard work on the legislation. It has been a long process, but we

are finally here today to get it across the House floor.

I am thrilled to sponsor this bill with my colleagues, to raise up an enduring symbol of our Nation's Native American heritage, the American frontier, and the resilience that has long distinguished America from others around the globe.

The Tatanka is important both physically and spiritually in Native American culture. These animals offered food, shelter, tools, and clothing. Native Americans could make soap from the fat and homes from their hides. Every piece was used, which is why bison were, and continue to be, a symbol of survival and a cultural example of how to live in a healthy and productive manner. This bill recognizes that.

There are also lessons to be learned about resilience from these animals. Bison roamed across most of North America before nearly being wiped from existence. Through the efforts of tribes, ranchers, conservationists, and others, the species has survived and can once again be lifted as a literal and cultural example of productivity from which each of us can learn.

I am proud that my family has raised bison as well. They are majestic animals that represent the Plains that we are so proud of and that I am so honored to represent today.

I want to thank the chairman and his staff for bringing this bill to the floor.

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In conclusion, let me just say one of the most majestic animals on the face of the planet is the American bison. You go to see it and you just sit in awe and you think of the rich history and the role that it has played in our Nation. It serves as a symbol on two of our State flags, and it is the seal of the Department of the Interior.

I just want to say that I hope all Americans—especially the youth—get a chance to see one of the bison out in the wild. It was close to extinction, but it was brought back. There are hundreds of thousands of them now. Whether you go to South Dakota or up to Yellowstone, Montana, there are places where you can really see these bison out. It really is an amazing sight. I think it is appropriate that we move this bill today.

I want to thank Mr. CLAY of Missouri and, in particular, Mrs. NOEM of South Dakota for her recognizing the importance of this issue. I also want to thank Mrs. LUMMIS of Wyoming. She offered an important amendment that made an adjustment to the bill. I think this is a smart thing for the Congress to do, and I urge its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2908, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2615) to establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2615

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act".*

### SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.

*There is established a commission to be known as the "Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission" (in this Act referred to as the "Commission").*

### SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

*The Commission shall—*

(1) plan, develop, and carry out such activities as the Commission determines to be appropriate to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Islands of the United States becoming an unincorporated territory of the United States;

(2) provide advice and assistance to Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, as well as civic groups to carry out activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Islands of the United States becoming an unincorporated territory of the United States; and

(3) submit to the President and Congress the reports required pursuant to section 7.

### SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—*The Commission shall be composed of 8 members as follows:*

(1) *The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs or a designee of the Assistant Secretary.*

(2) *One member appointed by the Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States or a designee of the Governor.*

(3) *Two Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

(4) *One Member of the House of Representatives appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.*

(5) *Two Members of the Senate appointed by the majority leader of the Senate.*

(6) *One Member of the Senate appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.*

(b) TERMS.—*Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.*

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—*All members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

(d) VACANCIES.—*A vacancy on the Commission shall—*

(1) *not affect the powers of the Commission; and*

(2) *be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.*

(e) RATES OF PAY.—*Members shall not receive compensation for the performance of duties on behalf of the Commission.*

(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—*Each member of the Commission shall be reimbursed for travel and per diem in lieu of subsistence expenses during the performance of duties of the Commission while away from home or regular place of business of the member, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.*

(g) QUORUM.—*A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum to conduct business, but two or more members may hold hearings.*

(h) CHAIRPERSON.—*The chairperson of the Commission shall be selected by a majority vote of the members of the Commission.*

### SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.

(a) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—*The Commission shall appoint an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.*

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—*The executive director and staff of the Commission may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other staff may not exceed the rate payable for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of such title.*

(c) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—*Upon request of the Archivist, the Secretary of the Interior or the Archivist of the United States may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the Department of the Interior or the National Archives and Records Administration, respectively to the Commission to assist the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.*

(d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—*The Commission may procure such temporary and intermittent services from experts and consultants as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.*

(e) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—*Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.*

### SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) HEARINGS.—*The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.*

(b) MAILS.—*The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies.*

(c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—*The Commission may secure directly from any Federal agency information necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission. Upon request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of that Federal agency shall furnish that information to the Commission.*

(d) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, DEVICES.—*The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devices of money, services, or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission.*

(e) AVAILABLE SPACE.—*Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General*

*Services shall make available to the Commission, at a normal rental rate for Federal agencies, such assistance and facilities as may be necessary for the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.*

(f) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—*The Commission may enter into contracts with and compensate the Federal Government, State and local governments, private entities, or individuals to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.*

### SEC. 7. REPORTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—*Not later than January 31 of each year, and annually thereafter until the final report is submitted pursuant to subsection (b), the Commission shall submit to the President and the Congress a report on—*

(1) *the activities of the Commission; and*

(2) *the revenue and expenditures of the Commission, including a list of each gift, bequest, or devise to the Commission with a value of more than \$250, including the identity of the donor of each gift, bequest, or devise.*

(b) FINAL REPORT.—*Not later than January 31, 2018, the Commission shall submit a final report to the President and the Congress containing—*

(1) *a summary of the activities of the Commission; and*

(2) *a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission.*

### SEC. 8. ANNUAL AUDIT.

*The Inspector General of the Department of the Interior—*

(1) *may perform an audit of the Commission;*

(2) *shall make the results of any such audit available to the public; and*

(3) *shall transmit such results to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.*

### SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

(1) FEDERAL AGENCY.—*The term "Federal agency" has the meaning given the term "agency" in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.*

(2) STATE.—*The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each territory or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian tribe.*

### SEC. 10. TERMINATION.

*The Commission shall terminate on September 30, 2018, or may terminate at an earlier date determined by the Commission after the final report is submitted pursuant to section 7(b).*

### SEC. 11. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

*No Federal funds are authorized or may be obligated to carry out this Act.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I prefer to have the gentlewoman from the

Virgin Islands, who is the chief sponsor of this bill, speak first on this issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of H.R. 2615, the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act. H.R. 2615 will establish a short-term commission to research, plan, develop, and carry out activities related to the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Islands becoming part of the United States.

The commission will revisit the history leading up to and directly following the transfer of the islands from Denmark to the United States. Its purpose will be to educate those unaware of that history on a national level of the importance of the territories to the geopolitical advancement of this great Nation.

The history of the Virgin Islands and its people is profound, Mr. Speaker. It tells a story of a land so resource-rich and unique in its geography that it was occupied by seven different nations. It tells the story of a resilient people who insurrected slavery and colonial oppression to achieve self-governance.

In 1493, when Christopher Columbus landed on the island of St. Croix, which was then called Aye Aye by its native inhabitants, it is the only place in what is now the United States in which Christopher Columbus landed, but it is also reported to be the first place that he met armed resistance. He renamed islands, part of a chain, the Virgin Islands.

In 1733, on the island of St. John, the slaves rose up, taking control of the island for almost a year until European powers worked together and the Danish received the help of the French and Spanish Armada to help quell what would have been and was one of the first slave uprisings in the New World.

In the mid-1700s, a young boy on the island of St. Croix by the name of Alexander Hamilton received the support of merchant patrons on the island who put together sufficient money to finance his travel and education to the Colonies. He brought to the Colonies his understanding of finance and a monetary system learned from apprenticeship from those merchants, as well as the unique accounting theories from the West African slaves of the island.

Those economic gifts, along with his fighting spirit for revolution, liberty, and abolitionist fervor served him and this country well, as he would soon become the first United States Secretary of the Treasury and creator of our modern financial system.

Virgin Islanders have played an integral role in the history of this Nation well before we were even part of this country. From its inception and beyond, activists and politicians, David

Levy Yulee, the first Jewish United States Senator; Denmark Vesey, leader of the Charleston, South Carolina, slave revolt; Judah Benjamin, Secretary of Treasury of the Confederate Army, are all Virgin Islanders.

William Leidesdorff, the founder of San Francisco, and Edward Wilmot Blyden, one of the founders of Liberia, are also from the Virgin Islands.

After purchase by the United States in 1917, the contributions of Virgin Islanders have continued through individuals like David Hamilton Jackson, who was a staunch free press advocate and labor movement leader; Hubert Harrison, a key figure in the movement of the Harlem Renaissance; military veterans like Alton Adams, who was the first African American naval bandleader; and General Samuel Ebbesen.

Ambassador Terence Todman and Congress of Racial Equality chief, Roy Innis, are Virgin Islanders. Actor Kelsey Grammer and future NBA Hall-of-Famer Timothy Duncan are all from the Virgin Islands.

The first female physician of this body as a Member of Congress, my predecessor, Donna Christensen, is a Virgin Islander.

During the time of exploration and slave trade, our geographic location made us a hub of Western Hemisphere commerce for several centuries and served a crucial role in naval military activity in the Caribbean Basin.

So nearly a century ago, the United States purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark for its geographic importance. On March 31, 2017, the Virgin Islands of the United States will celebrate 100 years as a possession and part of the union of the United States.

This bill, H.R. 2615, establishes the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission to research, plan, develop, and carry out activities the commission considers appropriate to commemorate—and I say commemorate, not celebrate—commemorate a more solemn and worthy endeavor, the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Islands of the United States becoming an unincorporated territory of the United States.

Now, I have spent a lot of time talking about the Virgin Islands' history and people because at the time of its transfer nearly 100 years ago, little thought was given to the history, and even less to the people of the Virgin Islands.

As the Islanders during that time, my ancestors, my grandparents, watched the Danish flag come down and the Stars and Stripes unfold and ripple over the Fort in Christiansted and over many places in the Virgin Islands, they thought out loud: We knew what we had, but we don't know what we are going to get.

Our elders and leaders hoped and believed that the purchase by the United

States would herald greater opportunities and profound modernization. Unfortunately, this has not happened.

It took a decade of petitioning and lobbying to be given citizenship, and we asked for—we asked for it and petitioned again to be part of the draft.

What people willingly offer their sons to fight and die, except those wholly willing to be part of the entire American experience?

Even now we have greater casualties per capita than any other group in this Nation in a volunteer military and is an example in part of our valor and patriotism.

Through passage of H.R. 2615, the commission will serve as a vehicle to begin the work to tell the story and serve to expose the aspirations and dreams of the American people who call the Virgin Islands home.

The commission will begin a national conservation, a discussion to assist in commemorating the great relationship between the United States and its islands—its American islands.

The commission will allow a platform for meaningful dialogue around the Virgin Islands' history with the United States, the genesis of the issues affecting the territory, as well as how we solve them.

This is an opportunity to engage lawmakers and our Nation around the challenges and enormous opportunities present in the Virgin Islands—opportunities like our ports and transshipment position, our broadband capacity, our intellectual and artistic pursuits, our university which serves as the only HBCU in the Caribbean, and, most important, our people. Yes, the people still waiting to be recognized and made whole in that transfer nearly a century ago.

As the Virgin Islands enters this next century under United States jurisdiction, it will have continued relevance in the region as foreign investments, commerce, information technology, and maritime traffic grow in the Caribbean. It is my hope and it is my dream that its people will have greater relevance in this great Nation and that this commission will show all the importance of that.

I would like to thank all of the members of the committee for supporting this bill, voting it unanimously out of committee, and thank Ranking Member CUMMINGS and especially the chairman, Mr. CHAFFETZ, for working with my staff and me on this bill.

□ 1745

This bipartisan commission, which will be comprised of House and Senate Members along with the administration and other officials, seems only fitting, as the 100th anniversary comes only once.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2615.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

How can you reject that? She said it as eloquently and as passionately from her heart as you possibly could. I am pleased that we could move this forward.

In short, this bill creates a bipartisan congressional commission to plan and carry out commemorative activities for the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Islands becoming an unincorporated territory of the United States. The transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States in 1917 was a significant historic and cultural event.

Under the bill, the bipartisan commission will develop, plan, and execute formal commemorative activities to honor the rich heritage of the Virgin Islands. The commission's goal is to highlight the cultural, economic, and historical importance of the Virgin Islands. By celebrating this anniversary, the commission also has the opportunity to educate the citizens about the history of the United States Virgin Islands.

The commission may solicit and accept gifts and donations to fund its activities, but there is a prohibition, as the legislation bars any use of Federal funds.

Again, I thank our colleague, STACEY PLASKETT, the Delegate from the Virgin Islands, for her passion and caring. It is one of the most beautiful places on the face of the planet—second, of course, to Utah's Third Congressional District. But, nevertheless, I think that is why they accepted this. I hope everybody gets a chance to visit there.

My daughter—on a personal note—was able to work there this past summer for 3 months. She thoroughly enjoyed the people, the culture, and the sheer beauty that is the Virgin Islands. I look forward to supporting this piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2615, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE REFORM ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4359) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that Federal employees may not be placed on administrative leave for more than 14 days during any year for misconduct or poor performance, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 4359

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Administrative Leave Reform Act".

#### SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### "§ 6330. Limitation on administrative leave

"(a) IN GENERAL.—During any calendar year, an employee may not be placed on administrative leave, or any other paid non-duty status without charge to leave, for more than 14 total days for reasons relating to misconduct or performance. After an employee has been placed on administrative leave for 14 days, the employing agency shall return the employee to duty status, utilizing telework if available, and assign the employee to duties if such employee is not a threat to safety, the agency mission, or Government property.

##### "(b) EXTENDED ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If an agency finds that an employee is a threat to safety, the agency mission, or Government property and upon the expiration of the 14-day period described in subsection (a), an agency head may place the employee on extended administrative leave for additional periods of not more than 30 days each.

"(2) REPORT.—For any additional period of 30 days granted to the employee after the initial 30-day extension, the agency head shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the House of Representatives, the agency's authorizing committees of jurisdiction of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report, not later than 5 business days after granting the additional period, containing—

"(A) title, position, office or agency sub-component, job series, pay grade, and salary of the employee on administrative leave;

"(B) a description of the work duties of the employee;

"(C) the reason the employee is on administrative leave;

"(D) an explanation as to why the employee is a threat to safety, the agency mission, or Government property;

"(E) an explanation as to why the employee is not able to telework or be reassigned to another position within the agency;

"(F) in the case of a pending related investigation of the employee—

"(i) the status of such investigation; and

"(ii) the certification described in subsection (c)(1); and

"(G) in the case of a completed related investigation of the employee—

"(i) the results of such investigation; and

"(ii) the reason that the employee remains on administrative leave.

"(c) EXTENSION PENDING RELATED INVESTIGATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If an employee is under a related investigation by an investigative entity at the time an additional period described under subsection (b)(2) is granted and, in the opinion of the investigative entity, additional time is needed to complete the investigation, such entity shall certify to the applicable agency that such additional time is needed and include in the certifi-

cation an estimate of the length of such additional time.

"(2) LIMITATION.—The head of an agency may not grant an additional period of administrative leave described under subsection (b)(2) to an employee on or after the date that is 30 days after the completion of a related investigation by an investigative entity.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

"(1) INVESTIGATIVE ENTITY.—The term 'investigative entity' means an internal investigative unit of the agency granting administrative leave, the Office of Inspector General, the Office of the Attorney General, or the Office of Special Counsel.

"(2) RELATED INVESTIGATION.—The term 'related investigation' means an investigation that pertains to the underlying reasons an employee was placed on administrative leave."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall begin to apply 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be construed to—

(1) supersede the provisions of chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code; or

(2) limit the number of days that an employee may be placed on administrative leave, or any other paid non-duty status without charge to leave, for reasons unrelated to misconduct or performance.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 6329 the following new item:

"6330. Limitation on administrative leave."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4359 is a commonsense solution to address the misuse of administrative leave for misconduct or performance issues.

Unfortunately, it has been commonplace for the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to hear stories of Federal employees who remain on administrative leave for months, or years, at a time.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. The overwhelming majority of people who work for the Federal Government are good, honest, decent, patriotic people who care. They work hard, they are trying to serve their country, and they

put in an honest day's work. But we do have some bad apples. Every once in a while, they show up, and they start working for the Federal Government. They create problems and they create mayhem.

Unfortunately, we have to tighten the rules surrounding their situation because we have had a number of Federal employees that have remained on administrative leave sometimes not just for days, sometimes not just for weeks. Sometimes this drags on for months and for years—years—to be on administrative leave. While on administrative leave, these employees receive full pay and benefits despite the fact that they are not working. There are going to be extraordinary circumstances, but this is happening far too often.

It is particularly difficult to understand how the IRS could, for example, justify allowing Lois Lerner to sit on administrative leave for 4 months before her retirement. She was an individual who abused her power as a Federal employee by engaging in the political targeting of American citizens.

But she is not alone. This is certainly not a bill just about her situation. Every year, hundreds, if not thousands, of Federal employees are under investigation for significant misconduct and remain on administrative leave for far longer than is necessary to complete an investigation.

One reason administrative leave has become such a significant problem is because agencies simply find it easier to keep an employee on administrative leave. It is the path of least resistance. This means that some individuals face little to no penalty for significant misconduct and are all too often permitted to remain on administrative leave until they are able to retire.

Mr. Speaker, abuse of administrative leave is a real problem. H.R. 4359 will protect American taxpayer dollars from being further wasted.

Consider one example highlighted by the inspector general for the Environmental Protection Agency, who found an employee earning \$120,000 a year annually while watching pornography on the job. This employee was placed on administrative leave for a year—a year. I believe, in this particular case, this person actually admitted to doing it. It wasn't just a casual oops. This person was watching for literally hours upon hours each day and admitted it. They put him on administrative leave, and this went on for a year.

Why should the American taxpayers have to pay for that? It is a clear waste of our dollars. The American people deserve better, and so do the employees who work around this person.

According to the Government Accountability Office report, the GAO, which reviewed the use of administrative leave between the years 2011 and 2013, 263 Federal employees were on ad-

ministrative leave for more than a year at the 24 agencies reviewed. GAO found that those individuals on administrative leave cost the people, the American taxpayers, more than \$31 million.

Why should we have to pay for that? It is an astonishing amount of money to pay for Federal employees, and they are doing absolutely nothing. They can, essentially, go wherever they want to go, and it is, essentially, a paid vacation.

It also sends the wrong message to the hardworking Americans from whom we levee taxes. We cannot use tax dollars to pay misbehaving or poor-performing Federal employees. There are often situations that come up where the employees need a fair chance to defend themselves. But again, under this bill, it gives them plenty of time to do that. If there needs to be an extension, there can be an extension; but if there is not timely disciplinary action, if any disciplinary action at all, for their performance issues, the American taxpayers are left holding the bag and the expense.

Mr. Speaker, agencies are abusing the system of administrative leave and failing to explain why.

In a report conducted by Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa, agencies were found to be opaque about why they were using administrative leave, or completely nonresponsive, when Senator GRASSLEY inquired about 58 employees at the Department of Defense that they had on administrative leave for more than a year. Think about that. At the DOD, the Department of Defense, they had 58 employees who had been on administrative leave for more than a year, and the Department of Defense just decided not to respond, just literally did not respond.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the need and utility of administrative leave. When used properly, administrative leave provides agencies with the flexibility needed to better manage human resources and to get to the bottom of certain situations, but it has become a tool that agencies hide behind with far too little oversight and accountability.

The shortcomings of the current system need to end, and this bill that I am the chief sponsor of will curb these abuses. Specifically, this legislation will limit the use of administrative leave for misconduct or performance issues to 14 days per year in order to push agencies to complete their investigations quickly or to find acceptable alternate work for the individual to perform during such an investigation. This is fair to the employee, as well as the management, as well as the American taxpayers. Rather than allowing indefinite leave, agencies will have to take disciplinary action against bad actors, which will serve to bring greater accountability to the Federal workforce.

The bill is also critical to protecting whistleblowers. The Office of Special

Counsel, or the OSC, has a responsibility in the Federal Government to investigate potential reprisal and petition the Merit Systems Protection Board to stop retaliatory actions. However, being put on administrative leave does not constitute a personnel action that is reviewable by the OSC.

Thus, as long as a whistleblower is placed on administrative leave, he or she is left in limbo at the discretion of the agency with no right to appeal their status. Because of this, I believe that the bill before us, H.R. 4359, will go a long way to help reducing retaliation and protect whistleblowers by barring agencies from leaving employees on indefinite administrative leave.

Mr. Speaker, getting this legislation to the floor today, I am proud to say we have been able to work collaboratively in a bipartisan way. I particularly want to thank Mr. LYNCH of Massachusetts for his passion on this issue and working with us. We incorporated some of those suggestions into the bill today.

We have altered the bill to give the agencies the option to extend the use of administrative leave beyond 14 days in discrete 30-day periods. Under these provisions, the agencies will be required to report to Congress after the use of the first 30-day extension, detailing why the extension is necessary, the stage of any investigation against the employee, the reasons the employee cannot return to the workplace, as well as other pertinent information.

Again, I want to thank Mr. LYNCH for his work on this legislation. I believe that this is a stronger bill and more fair to the employees. I think it was an important step forward.

I thank Mr. CUMMINGS, the committee as a whole, and the many members who were involved in getting the bill to this point today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I think we can all agree that agency overuse of administrative leave can be a problem and that we need to pursue ways that agencies can use administrative leave more efficiently, while preserving due process protections for Federal employees.

I want to thank the chairman for working with the minority, and particularly with Representative LYNCH, to address our concerns that the original bill could have encouraged agencies to suspend employees without pay and without due process.

The bill, as reported, would preserve the ability of an agency to place employees on administrative leave in those exceptional circumstances when they may pose a threat to safety, agency mission, or government property. It would also allow the agency to consider the results of a thorough and complete investigation prior to taking disciplinary action. The bill, however,

would not punish employees by stripping them of pay before allegations are properly adjudicated, preserving the principle that one is innocent until proven guilty.

The bill before us strikes the appropriate balance, we believe, between the need for stricter oversight of agency use of administrative leave and the due process rights of Federal employees. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4359.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 4359. We have worked in a good, bipartisan way. It is a good bill for the country and is good for the employees of the Federal Government.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4359, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FILE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4360) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that a Federal employee who leaves Government service while under personnel investigation shall have a notation of any adverse findings under such investigation placed in such employee's official personnel file, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4360

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Official Personnel File Enhancement Act".

#### SEC. 2. RECORD OF INVESTIGATION OF PERSONNEL ACTION IN SEPARATED EMPLOYEE'S OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FILE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3321 the following:

##### "§ 3322. Voluntary separation before resolution of personnel investigation

"(a) With respect to any employee occupying a position in the competitive service or the excepted service who is the subject of a personnel investigation and resigns from Government employment prior to the resolution of such investigation, the head of the agency from which such employee so resigns shall, if an adverse finding was made with respect to such employee pursuant to such investigation, make a permanent notation in the employee's official personnel record file. The head shall make such notation not later

than 40 days after the date of the resolution of such investigation.

"(b) Prior to making a permanent notation in an employee's official personnel record file under subsection (a), the head of the agency shall—

"(1) notify the employee in writing within 5 days of the resolution of the investigation and provide such employee a copy of the adverse finding and any supporting documentation;

"(2) provide the employee with a reasonable time, but not less than 30 days, to respond in writing and to furnish affidavits and other documentary evidence to show why the adverse finding was unfounded (a summary of which shall be included in any notation made to the employee's personnel file under subsection (d)); and

"(3) provide a written decision and the specific reasons therefore to the employee at the earliest practicable date.

"(c) An employee is entitled to appeal the decision of the head of the agency to make a permanent notation under subsection (a) to the Merit Systems Protection Board under section 7701.

"(d)(1) If an employee files an appeal with the Merit Systems Protection Board pursuant to subsection (c), the agency head shall make a notation in the employee's official personnel record file indicating that an appeal disputing the notation is pending not later than 2 weeks after the date on which such appeal was filed.

"(2) If the head of the agency is the prevailing party on appeal, not later than 2 weeks after the date that the Board issues the appeal decision, the head of the agency shall remove the notation made under paragraph (1) from the employee's official personnel record file.

"(3) If the employee is the prevailing party on appeal, not later than 2 weeks after the date that the Board issues the appeal decision, the head of the agency shall remove the notation made under paragraph (1) and the notation of an adverse finding made under subsection (a) from the employee's official personnel record file.

"(e) In this section, the term 'personnel investigation' includes—

"(1) an investigation by an Inspector General; and

"(2) an adverse personnel action as a result of performance, misconduct, or for such cause as will promote the efficiency of the service under chapter 43 or chapter 75.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any employee described in section 3322 of title 5, United States Code, (as added by such subsection) who leaves the service after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3321 the following:

"3322. Voluntary separation before resolution of personnel investigation."

#### SEC. 3. REVIEW OF OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FILE OF FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES BEFORE REHIRING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### "§ 3330e. Review of official personnel file of former Federal employees before rehirng

"(a) If a former Government employee is a candidate for a position within the competitive service or the excepted service, prior to making any determination with respect to

the appointment or reinstatement of such employee to such position, the appointing authority shall review and consider the information relating to such employee's former period or periods of service in such employee's official personnel record file.

"(b) In subsection (a), the term 'former Government employee' means an individual whose most recent position with the Government prior to becoming a candidate as described under subsection (a) was within the competitive service or the excepted service.

"(c) The Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purpose of this section."

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any former Government employee (as described in section 3330e of title 5, United States Code, as added by such subsection) appointed or reinstated on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"3330e. Review of official personnel file of former Federal employees before rehirng."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

The vast majority of Federal workers are patriotic, they are honest, they are decent, they work hard, they show up early, they do what they are supposed to do, and they are proud to serve their country and provide their role in when they do. For that, we are very grateful.

But like any large group of people, there are some bad apples. If you go through the barrel, you are going to find a few bad apples. We have a responsibility to make sure that we weed those out. These individuals must be treated fairly, but they must be held accountable. H.R. 4360 is a bill that accomplishes this balance and that strengthens the integrity of our civil service.

□ 1800

Under the current system, a loophole allows Federal employees who are guilty of serious, but not necessarily criminal, infractions to leave Federal service before an investigation is completed and join a new agency without that new agency ever becoming aware of those previous issues. Unfortunately, in our work on the Committee



on Oversight and Government Reform, we have had some examples of this.

H.R. 4360 corrects this problem by requiring a notation to be made in the employee's official personnel file if an investigation leads to an adverse finding against that person even if the employee has already resigned. For example, under the current system, Federal employees who commit some form of misconduct or poor performance could resign from their positions and escape accountability.

This is exactly what occurred at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. As part of an investigation, the Department of Commerce, Office of the Inspector General requested that a patent examiner attend a voluntary interview with the Office of the Inspector General. However, 2 hours before the interview with the OIG, the patent examiner resigned. In an instant message with a coworker, the examiner explained that the union recommended that he resign in order to have a clean slate, with no record of conduct or performance issues, if he applied to work for another agency.

We cannot continue to have a system that creates loopholes for an individual to elude accountability by simply having to submit a piece of paper on a napkin—or something as simple as that—and writing, "I hereby resign," and then keeping his record clean so he can get another job.

Mr. Speaker, another example is of a similar event that unfolded with an Interior Department employee who was under investigation for lying about his education credentials. After being interviewed by the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General, this individual resigned from the Interior and later joined the Census Bureau; but when he went over to the Census Bureau, the Census Bureau was unaware of the history until well after it had hired this person.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4360 remedies the scenarios I just discussed, thereby helping to protect agencies from making employment hires when having incomplete pictures of the individuals' backgrounds. This has happened on several occasions. It is almost disappointing that one has to go forward and legislate this, but given that it is happening, it is the responsible thing to do, and we have come together in a good, bipartisan way to make this happen.

Specifically under this legislation, separated employees will have notations made in their official personnel files if they resign while under investigation and if those investigations lead to adverse findings. Additionally, if the individuals apply for other positions in the Federal Government, those notations will follow them as agencies will now be required to examine the personnel files of former Federal employees during the hiring process.

Bad actors should not be able to resign from government service with clean slates and effectively dupe another agency that will then be hiring them. However, this bill also ensures that separated employees are provided the opportunity to contest the findings of an investigation. I think that is a fair and just way for them to be able to clean their records if they think that they have cases to be made. By working closely with my Democratic colleagues, we were able to build a process into this legislation that gives former employees a mechanism by which to fairly present their cases in the event an investigation leads to an adverse finding.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that H.R. 4360 does nothing to diminish the rights or protections that are afforded to whistleblowers. This is a bill to prevent individuals from maneuvering within the Federal Government in order to hide their misconduct. It is that simple. I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 4360, the Official Personnel File Enhancement Act, addresses a legitimate concern of employees who resign their positions during pending investigations or adverse disciplinary actions and then reapply for employment elsewhere in the Federal Government.

I think we can agree that measures need to be taken to prevent such incidents from happening in order to protect the integrity of the Federal workforce.

I thank Chairman CHAFFETZ for working with the minority and, particularly, for working with Congressman CONNOLLY from Virginia to address our concerns with the original bill.

The introduced version of this legislation would have allowed an agency to put a permanent notation of an investigative finding in an employee's file without giving the employee an opportunity to respond. The bill, as reported, would preserve the principles of due process that help to protect our Federal employees from arbitrary acts and political influence. It would provide a former employee with notice and opportunity to respond to an adverse investigative finding before a notation is placed in the individual's personnel file. The legislation also gives the individual the right to appeal the agency's decision to the Merit Systems Protection Board, which we believe is the appropriate place for that.

These due process protections are consistent with our Constitution and with the fundamental American principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

I understand that some concerns have been raised regarding how the legislation would be implemented. We hope to address those concerns as the

bill moves forward in the legislative process.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4360.

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

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

I urge the passage of H.R. 4360. I believe this is a good bill. We worked in a good, bipartisan way. It does make the system more fair and it makes it more accountable. It makes sure, for those who have adverse actions, that they can't simply skirt away from their responsibilities. It does hold people accountable. To that effect, it is a good bill, and I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4360, the Official Personnel File Enhancement Act.

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, myself and other committee members are constantly reading reports of and investigating instances of employee misconduct and performance shortcomings. Yet too often, these investigations come up empty because the employee decided to resign or otherwise leave federal service before the investigation is over, thereby ending the investigation. I cannot tell you how frustrating this is.

These investigations must be completed, and any employee seeking to return to federal service must have the results of that investigation as a part their record. We owe it to the American taxpayer to ensure that the federal government only hires the most qualified and honorable employees. H.R. 4360 will allow that to happen.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4360, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROTECT AND PRESERVE INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1493) to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act".*

**SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that the President should establish an interagency coordinating committee to coordinate the efforts of the executive branch to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk from political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters. Such committee should—

(1) be chaired by a Department of State employee of Assistant Secretary rank or higher, concurrent with that employee's other duties;

(2) include representatives of the Smithsonian Institution and Federal agencies with responsibility for the preservation and protection of international cultural property;

(3) consult with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, including the United States Committee of the Blue Shield, museums, educational institutions, and research institutions, and participants in the international art and cultural property market on efforts to protect and preserve international cultural property;

(4) coordinate core United States interests in—

(A) protecting and preserving international cultural property;

(B) preventing and disrupting looting and illegal trade and trafficking in international cultural property, particularly exchanges that provide revenue to terrorist and criminal organizations;

(C) protecting sites of cultural and archaeological significance; and

(D) providing for the lawful exchange of international cultural property.

**SEC. 3. EMERGENCY PROTECTION FOR SYRIAN CULTURAL PROPERTY.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The President shall exercise the authority of the President under section 304 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2603) to impose import restrictions set forth in section 307 of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2606) with respect to any archaeological or ethnological material of Syria—

(1) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) without regard to whether Syria is a State Party (as defined in section 302 of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2601)); and

(3) notwithstanding—

(A) the requirement of subsection (b) of section 304 of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2603(b)) that an emergency condition (as defined in subsection (a) of that section) applies; and

(B) the limitations under subsection (c) of that section.

(b) *ANNUAL DETERMINATION REGARDING CERTIFICATION.*—

(1) *DETERMINATION.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The President shall, not less often than annually, determine whether at least 1 of the conditions specified in subparagraph (B) is met, and shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such determination.

(B) *CONDITIONS.*—The conditions referred to in subparagraph (A) are the following:

(i) The Government of Syria is incapable, at the time a determination under such subparagraph is made, of fulfilling the requirements to request an agreement under section 303 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2602), including the requirements under subsection (a)(3) of that section.

(ii) It would be against the United States national interest to enter into such an agreement.

(2) *TERMINATION OF RESTRICTIONS.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the import restrictions referred to in subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the President determines that neither of the conditions specified in paragraph (1)(B) are met.

(B) *REQUEST FOR TERMINATION.*—If Syria requests to enter into an agreement with the

United States pursuant to section 303 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2602) on or after the date on which the President determines that neither of the conditions specified in paragraph (1)(B) are met, the import restrictions referred to in subsection (a) shall terminate on the earlier of—

(i) the date that is 3 years after the date on which Syria makes such a request; or

(ii) the date on which the United States and Syria enter into such an agreement.

(c) *WAIVER.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The President may waive the import restrictions referred to in subsection (a) for specified archaeological and ethnological material of Syria if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the conditions described in paragraph (2) are met.

(2) *CONDITIONS.*—The conditions referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

(A)(i) The owner or lawful custodian of the specified archaeological or ethnological material of Syria has requested that such material be temporarily located in the United States for protection purposes; or

(ii) if no owner or lawful custodian can reasonably be identified, the President determines that, for purposes of protecting and preserving such material, the material should be temporarily located in the United States.

(B) Such material shall be returned to the owner or lawful custodian when requested by such owner or lawful custodian.

(C) There is no credible evidence that granting a waiver under this subsection will contribute to illegal trafficking in archaeological or ethnological material of Syria or financing of criminal or terrorist activities.

(3) *ACTION.*—If the President grants a waiver under this subsection, the specified archaeological or ethnological material of Syria that is the subject of such waiver shall be placed in the temporary custody of the United States Government or in the temporary custody of a cultural or educational institution within the United States for the purpose of protection, restoration, conservation, study, or exhibition, without profit.

(4) *IMMUNITY FROM SEIZURE.*—Any archaeological or ethnological material that enters the United States pursuant to a waiver granted under this section shall have immunity from seizure under Public Law 89-259 (22 U.S.C. 2459). All provisions of Public Law 89-259 shall apply to such material as if immunity from seizure had been granted under that Public Law.

(d) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.*—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(2) *ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR ETHNOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF SYRIA.*—The term “archaeological or ethnological material of Syria” means cultural property (as defined in section 302 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2601)) that is unlawfully removed from Syria on or after March 15, 2011.

**SEC. 4. REPORT.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the next 6 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the efforts of the executive branch, during the 12-month period preceding the submission of the report, to protect and preserve international cultural property, including—

(1) whether an interagency coordinating committee as described in section 2 has been established and, if such a committee has been estab-

lished, a description of the activities undertaken by such committee, including a list of the entities participating in such activities;

(2) a description of measures undertaken pursuant to relevant statutes, including—

(A) actions to implement and enforce section 3 of this Act and section 3002 of the Emergency Protection for Iraqi Cultural Antiquities Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-429; 118 Stat. 2599), including measures to dismantle international networks that traffic illegally in cultural property;

(B) a description of any requests for a waiver under section 3(c) of this Act and, for each such request, whether a waiver was granted;

(C) a list of the statutes and regulations employed in criminal, civil, and civil forfeiture actions to prevent illegal trade and trafficking in cultural property;

(D) actions undertaken to ensure the consistent and effective application of law in cases relating to illegal trade and trafficking in cultural property; and

(E) actions undertaken to promote the legitimate commercial and non-commercial exchange and movement of cultural property; and

(3) actions undertaken in fulfillment of international agreements on cultural property protection, including the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, done at The Hague May 14, 1954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

I acknowledge the ranking member, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL from New York, for his outstanding leadership on this legislation. With its passage today, his H.R. 1493, the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, will head to the President's desk for his signature.

This is a critical measure. The Islamic State, or ISIS, continues to wreak havoc throughout Iraq and Syria. It is laying a path of death and destruction in its wake, and it has inspired deadly attacks around the world and deadly attacks here at home.

No offense is more appalling than the terrorists' complete disregard for human life. As this body has recognized, ISIS is waging a genocide against religious minorities in the Middle East. I recently had the opportunity to talk to some of those Yazidi girls and Christian minorities about what they had been through, as well as to talk to Sunni and Kurdish families. It has unleashed a campaign of sickening violence against Muslims who do not share its radical beliefs and against

the other religious minorities across the Middle East and beyond.

Besides the human toll of ISIS' deplorable acts, we also mourn the tremendous loss of cultural heritage as these extremists loot and destroy their way through ancient sites in the territories that they conquer. We have seen sickening footage of ISIS' drilling its way through priceless artifacts in Mosul and in its bulldozing of magnificent Mesopotamian ruins in the 3,000-year-old city of Nimrud.

ISIS claims the annihilation of cultural sites is meant to counter idol worship, but clearly these terrorists have another goal: to remove all traces of the region's rich and diverse religious and cultural past. It is in line with what the Nazis tried to do in burning the books across Europe in trying to burn history that predated them. By eliminating all evidence of religious pluralism and by eliminating all evidence of humanity's common heritage, it is paving the way for its own horrifying brand of radical Islamist extremism.

The looting of antiquities is big business for ISIS. Experts estimate that the group has earned millions of dollars from the sale of stolen artifacts every year, which are often peddled by middlemen in old-fashioned markets or online. Unfortunately, buyers in the U.S. appear to be a primary end destination for many of these pieces, as does Europe, as does Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I just returned from the Middle East. I was honored to speak at the Iraq Museum in Baghdad about the need to counter ISIS' trafficking of priceless antiquities. This region is steeped in history from the rise and fall of empires to the evolution of writing and mathematics and art. Much of this heritage remains at risk due to looting by ISIS and, I should add, by other parties to the conflict in Syria, including the murderous Assad regime.

That is why last year, Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL and I introduced this legislation, which will help the U.S. do its part to counter this black market trade. Specifically, this legislation will prevent those antiquities that have been removed since the start of Syria's civil war from being sold or imported into the United States. This will reduce funding to ISIS and will disincentivize future looting.

Again, I thank the ranking member, as well as Representatives SMITH and KEATING, for all of their work on this measure. I also acknowledge the bill's Senate cosponsors—Senators CASEY and PERDUE and GRASSLEY, as well as Chairman CORKER and Ranking Member CARDIN of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations—whose leadership was instrumental to this measure's passage by Mr. ENGEL in the Senate.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of this legislation.

First of all, I thank our chairman, ED ROYCE, for his leadership on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and for pushing this bill ahead. I don't want to underestimate how important he has been in making sure that this bill reaches the floor. I thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for joining me as a lead Republican cosponsor on this measure, and I thank our Senate colleagues for their work to help get us to this point.

This legislation is another great example of the Committee on Foreign Affairs' working across the aisle to get results because we believe, again, that foreign policy should be bipartisan and that partisanship should stop at the water's edge. When the House finishes its work on this bill today, it will be on its way to the President's desk, and that is something of which we should all be proud.

Mr. Speaker, since the time ISIS emerged as a factor in Iraq and in Syria, we have read reports, have seen images, and have watched videos of ISIS terrorists in their destroying of ancient structures and artifacts in the areas they control. It is actually heart-breaking. These fanatics literally want to wipe away history. They want to destroy any trace of culture or belief system that doesn't conform to their twisted ideology and twisted way of thinking, but that is not the whole story.

ISIS has also seized on cultural artifacts as a funding source. If you look at satellite pictures of heritage sites that ISIS controls, you can pick out thousands of small holes in the desert. ISIS has looted these areas, has dug up coins and statues and anything else it can carry, and has trafficked those items on the black market. As a result, millions of dollars have flowed into ISIS' coffers.

So a few years ago I knew we needed to do more to combat this serious problem. With the help of several colleagues—and, again, I emphasize how helpful the chairman has been—I set out to help preserve this history and, at the same time, to cut off a vital revenue stream for these terrorists. I was confident we could do it because we have done it before.

During the Iraq war, we also saw the looting of antiquities. So we passed legislation then to impose import restrictions on those items coming in from Iraq.

□ 1816

I decided that we needed to take similar steps with respect to items coming out of Syria. So we got to work, talking to experts and officials to find the best ways of stopping looted goods arriving on our shores and to make sure those goods aren't sold to help ISIS' campaign of violence.

It is really disgraceful that anyone in the United States would buy these

things. Those proven practices and innovative approaches are at the core of this bill.

These restrictions would bring the United States in line with the U.N. Security Council resolution passed unanimously last year. That resolution called on all States to deny funding to ISIS by preventing trade in Iraqi and Syrian cultural property.

Our European partners have already stepped up and enacted similar measures. That is good news because it is going to take a wide-ranging effort to effectively crack down on this illegal marketplace.

My bill would also encourage administration agencies already working on this problem to collaborate more closely so that our efforts are more streamlined and efficient. Finally, it is important to note that the legislation would not prevent the importation of Syrian artifacts for preservation or restoration.

So this is a good bill. I have been working on it for several years. I am proud of everything that has gone into it by my colleagues and our staff members.

I am glad, once again, that we are working in a bipartisan way to pass legislation that advances our interests, and I am very grateful that we are so close to the finish line on this bill.

So I want to thank everybody. I want to especially thank Chairman ROYCE once again. I ask that all Members support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is always a great feeling to cross the finish line on a piece of legislation. At our best, that is what the Foreign Affairs Committee does, and we are at our best here this day.

So I again want to thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership and partnership. I want to thank our Senate colleagues for doing their part. I want to thank the staff that worked so hard on this bill.

We should be seizing every available opportunity to cut off resources to ISIS and other terrorist groups. This legislation goes after a practice that has put millions of dollars in ISIS' hands and has resulted in the irreversible destruction of some of history's greatest artifacts.

So it destroys these artifacts, which is bad enough, but then it puts money in ISIS' hands. They actually make money by doing it. It is aiding and abetting terrorism. So it is a double whammy.

We knew from past experience that the approach laid out in this bill works. It is long past due that we ramp up our efforts to stop the looting, stop the trafficking, and stop the destruction.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send it to the President. I

know that the President will sign it. It is very important. I hope we will soon see this legislation enacted and on the books.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I thank Mr. ELIOT ENGEL of New York for this legislation.

The ancient cities now facing destruction at the hands of ISIS are considered the birthplace of modern civilization. As we stand here on the floor of the House, we see behind us the relief of the great lawgivers.

First, there is Moses. Next to him is Hammurabi for Hammurabi's Code, the great lawgivers and heroes of liberty. We think about the fact that, in this part of the world, these antiquities are now in the hands of ISIS.

As one expert told the Financial Services Committee's Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing last week, this is where the Acadian King Hammurabi ruled at the beginning of the second millennium BC and where the Hebrew prophet Jonah preached successfully repentance to the Assyrian Ninevites 1,000 years later.

Now, in 2015, ISIS has as many as 4,500 cultural sites under its control. A raid carried out last year by U.S. Special Forces revealed that ISIS has invested heavily in the looting and smuggling of antiquities in the region as they cut up antiquities and then try to trade them for hard currency.

The legislation before us today is an important step toward curbing this illicit trade and limiting funding to these terrorists. I do want to note that the bill's emergency import restrictions are not designed to continue in perpetuity and can be waived under certain conditions for the temporary safeguarding of cultural property in the United States.

The bill also presses the administration to increase accountability for U.S. efforts to protect cultural property overseas and improves congressional oversight of this work.

I appreciate the other committees of jurisdiction for working with the Foreign Affairs Committee on this measure, particularly the Committee on Ways and Means for its assistance on the cultural import restrictions in this bill.

Lastly, I want to recognize the work of the committee staff on this important legislation, particularly Jessica Kelch, who, along with Mark Iozzi on Mr. ENGEL's staff and Kristen Marquardt on the Foreign Affairs Committee staff, worked out all the complexities to deliver what I am confident will be effective legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1493.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4498, HELPING ANGELS LEAD OUR STARTUPS ACT

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-530) on the resolution (H. Res. 701) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4498) to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4820, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4096, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

### COMBATING TERRORIST RECRUITMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4820) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former or estranged violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 322, nays 79, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

YEAS—322

Abraham	Esty	Latta
Aderholt	Farenthold	Lieu, Ted
Aguilar	Fincher	Lipinski
Allen	Fleischmann	LoBiondo
Amash	Fleming	Loebsack
Amodei	Flores	Long
Ashford	Forbes	Loudermilk
Babin	Fortenberry	Love
Barr	Foster	Lowenthal
Barton	Fox	Lowey
Benishek	Frankel (FL)	Lucas
Bera	Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer
Beyer	Frelinghuysen	Lujan, Ben Ray
Bilirakis	Gabbard	(NM)
Bishop (MI)	Gallego	Lummis
Bishop (UT)	Garamendi	Lynch
Black	Garrett	Maloney,
Blackburn	Gibbs	Carolyn
Blum	Gibson	Maloney, Sean
Bonamici	Goodlatte	Marchant
Bost	Gosar	Marino
Boustany	Gowdy	Massie
Brady (TX)	Graham	McCarthy
Brat	Granger	McCauley
Bridenstine	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Brooks (AL)	Graves (LA)	McHenry
Brooks (IN)	Graves (MO)	McKinley
Brownley (CA)	Grayson	McMorris
Buchanan	Green, Gene	Rodgers
Buck	Griffith	McNerney
Bucshon	Grothman	McSally
Burgess	Guinta	Meadows
Bustos	Guthrie	Meng
Byrne	Hahn	Messer
Calvert	Hardy	Mica
Capps	Harper	Miller (FL)
Cardenas	Harris	Miller (MI)
Carney	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Carter (GA)	Heck (NV)	Mooney (WV)
Carter (TX)	Heck (WA)	Mullin
Castor (FL)	Hensarling	Mulvaney
Castro (TX)	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (FL)
Chabot	Hice, Jody B.	Murphy (PA)
Chaffetz	Higgins	Nadler
Ciциlline	Hill	Neugebauer
Clawson (FL)	Himes	Newhouse
Coffman	Hinojosa	Noem
Cohen	Holding	Nolan
Cole	Hoyer	Nugent
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Nunes
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	O'Rourke
Comstock	Huizenga (MI)	Olson
Conaway	Hultgren	Palazzo
Connolly	Hunter	Palmer
Cook	Hurd (TX)	Paulsen
Cooper	Hurt (VA)	Pearce
Costa	Israel	Perry
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (KS)	Peters
Courtney	Jenkins (WV)	Peterson
Cramer	Johnson (OH)	Pingree
Crawford	Johnson, Sam	Pittenger
Crenshaw	Jolly	Pitts
Crowley	Jones	Poe (TX)
Culberson	Jordan	Poliquin
Curbelo (FL)	Joyce	Polis
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Pompeo
Davis, Rodney	Katko	Posey
Delaney	Keating	Price (NC)
DelBene	Kelly (MS)	Price, Tom
Denham	Kelly (PA)	Quigley
Dent	Kilmer	Ratcliffe
DeSantis	Kind	Reed
DeSaulnier	King (IA)	Reichert
DesJarlais	King (NY)	Renacci
Deutch	Kinzinger (IL)	Ribble
Diaz-Balart	Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)
Dold	Kline	Rice (SC)
Donovan	Knight	Rigell
Duckworth	Kuster	Roby
Duffy	Labrador	Roe (TN)
Duncan (SC)	LaHood	Rogers (AL)
Duncan (TN)	LaMalfa	Rooney (FL)
Ellmers (NC)	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Emmer (MN)	Lance	Roskam
Engel	Langevin	Ross
Eshoo	Larsen (WA)	Rothfus

Rouzer	Smith (TX)	Walker
Royce	Stefanik	Walorski
Ruiz	Stewart	Walters, Mimi
Ruppersberger	Stivers	Walz
Russell	Swalwell (CA)	Weber (TX)
Ryan (OH)	Takai	Webster (FL)
Salmon	Thompson (CA)	Wenstrup
Sanford	Thompson (PA)	Westerman
Scalise	Thornberry	Whitfield
Schiff	Tiberi	Williams
Schrader	Tipton	Wilson (SC)
Schweikert	Titus	Wittman
Scott, Austin	Tonko	Womack
Scott, David	Torres	Woodall
Sensenbrenner	Trott	Yarmuth
Sessions	Turner	Yoder
Sherman	Upton	Yoho
Shimkus	Valadao	Young (AK)
Simpson	Vargas	Young (IA)
Sinema	Vela	Young (NE)
Smith (MO)	Wagner	Zeldin
Smith (NE)	Walberg	Zinke
Smith (NJ)	Walden	

NAYS—79

Adams	Honda	Perlmutter
Bass	Huffman	Pocan
Beatty	Jackson Lee	Rangel
Becerra	Jeffries	Richmond
Bishop (GA)	Johnson (GA)	Royal-Allard
Blumenauer	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Brown (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez, Linda
Butterfield	Kennedy	T.
Capuano	Kildee	Sarbanes
Cartwright	Larson (CT)	Schakowsky
Chu, Judy	Lee	Scott (VA)
Clark (MA)	Levin	Serrano
Clarke (NY)	Lewis	Sires
Clay	Lofgren	Slaughter
Cleaver	Matsui	Smith (WA)
Clyburn	McCollum	Speier
Conyers	McDermott	Takano
DeFazio	McGovern	Thompson (MS)
DeGette	Meeks	Tsongas
Dingell	Moore	Veasey
Doggett	Moulton	Velázquez
Ellison	Neal	Visclosky
Farr	Norcross	Wasserman
Fudge	Pallone	Schultz
Green, Al	Pascrell	Waters, Maxine
Grijalva	Payne	Watson Coleman
Hastings	Pelosi	Welch

NOT VOTING—32

Barletta	Fattah	Rogers (KY)
Boyle, Brendan	Fitzpatrick	Rohrabacher
F.	Gohmert	Rokita
Brady (PA)	Gutiérrez	Sanchez, Loretta
Carson (IN)	Hanna	Sewell (AL)
Cuellar	Issa	Shuster
Cummings	Lawrence	Stutzman
Davis, Danny	Lujan Grisham	Van Hollen
DeLauro	(NM)	Westmoreland
Doyle, Michael	MacArthur	Wilson (FL)
F.	Meehan	Young (IN)
Edwards	Napolitano	

□ 1851

Mr. CLAY, Meses. MATSUI, BASS, Messrs. KILDEE, NORCROSS, NEAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Messrs. MEEKS, WELCH, VEASEY, RICHMOND, RUSH, and DOGGETT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. COOPER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:  
 Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall No. 164—“nay.”

NINTH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 years, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) and I have had the honor of co-chairing the Congressional Charity Golf Classic with Members and former Members.

This year, the tournament was a great success. We had over 200 participants, counting Members, former Members, military, and volunteers. The charity chosen by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress for the past 9 years has been Warfighter Sports, which is an organization that enables our most severely wounded military people—those who have lost legs or arms or who have been blinded—to participate in sports. This year, we were able to raise \$137,000 for that great charity.

The Republicans won the Speaker’s Trophy, which I have here, by a score of 158–109. The number one team was headed by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), and the number two team was headed by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), the co-chairman.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-chair the Congressional Charity Golf Classic. The real winners of this golf tournament are the wounded warriors we golfed with. Over the last number of years, since we have changed the format, we have been able to see the changes in them.

There is a competitiveness between Republicans and Democrats, but we also play with a lot of people who have literally put their life on the line for our country. They have illnesses and disabilities that this program benefits.

I want to thank my colleague from Tennessee. Coming from Texas, I will quit saying the best thing from Tennessee came out in 1836. It was a lot of fun, and I thank the gentleman for doing this.

INVESTOR CLARITY AND BANK PARITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4096) to amend the Volcker Rule to permit certain investment advisers to share a similar name with a

private equity fund, subject to certain restrictions, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 3, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]  
 YEAS—395

Abraham	Crawford	Herrera Beutler
Adams	Crenshaw	Hice, Jody B.
Aderholt	Crowley	Higgins
Aguilar	Culberson	Hill
Allen	Curbelo (FL)	Himes
Amash	Davis (CA)	Hinojosa
Amodei	Davis, Rodney	Holding
Ashford	DeFazio	Honda
Babin	DeGette	Hoyer
Barr	Delaney	Hudson
Barton	DelBene	Huelskamp
Bass	Denham	Huffman
Beatty	Dent	Huizenga (MI)
Becerra	DeSantis	Hultgren
Benishek	DeSaulnier	Hunter
Bera	DesJarlais	Hurd (TX)
Beyer	Deutch	Hurt (VA)
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart	Israel
Bishop (GA)	Dingell	Jackson Lee
Bishop (MI)	Doggett	Jeffries
Bishop (UT)	Dold	Jenkins (KS)
Black	Donovan	Jenkins (WV)
Blackburn	Duckworth	Johnson (GA)
Blum	Duffy	Johnson (OH)
Blumenauer	Duncan (SC)	Johnson, E. B.
Bonamici	Duncan (TN)	Johnson, Sam
Bost	Ellison	Jolly
Boustany	Elmers (NC)	Jones
Brady (TX)	Emmer (MN)	Jordan
Brat	Engel	Joyce
Bridenstine	Eshoo	Kaptur
Brooks (AL)	Esty	Katko
Brooks (IN)	Farenthold	Keating
Brown (FL)	Farr	Kelly (IL)
Brownley (CA)	Fincher	Kelly (MS)
Buchanan	Fleischmann	Kelly (PA)
Buck	Fleming	Kennedy
Bucshon	Flores	Kildee
Burgess	Forbes	Kilmer
Bustos	Fortenberry	Kind
Butterfield	Foster	King (IA)
Byrne	Fox	King (NY)
Calvert	Frankel (FL)	Kinzinger (IL)
Capps	Franks (AZ)	Kirkpatrick
Capuano	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Cárdenas	Fudge	Knight
Carney	Gallego	Kuster
Carter (GA)	Garamendi	Labrador
Carter (TX)	Garrett	LaHood
Castor (FL)	Gibbs	LaMalfa
Castro (TX)	Gibson	Lamborn
Chabot	Goodlatte	Lance
Chaffetz	Gosar	Langevin
Chu, Judy	Gowdy	Larsen (WA)
Cicilline	Graham	Larson (CT)
Clark (MA)	Granger	Latta
Clarke (NY)	Graves (GA)	Lee
Clawson (FL)	Graves (LA)	Levin
Clay	Graves (MO)	Lewis
Cleaver	Grayson	Lieu, Ted
Clyburn	Green, Al	Lipinski
Coffman	Green, Gene	LoBiondo
Cohen	Griffith	Loebsack
Cole	Grijalva	Lofgren
Collins (GA)	Grothman	Long
Collins (NY)	Guinta	Loudermilk
Comstock	Guthrie	Love
Conaway	Hahn	Lowenthal
Connolly	Hardy	Lowe
Conyers	Harper	Lucas
Cook	Harris	Luetkemeyer
Cooper	Hartzler	Luján, Ben Ray
Costa	Hastings	(NM)
Costello (PA)	Heck (NV)	Lummis
Courtney	Heck (WA)	Lynch
Cramer	Hensarling	

Maloney, Carolyn	Pocan	Smith (TX)
Maloney, Sean	Poe (TX)	Smith (WA)
Marchant	Poliquin	Speier
Marino	Polis	Stefanik
Massie	Pompeo	Stewart
Matsui	Posey	Stivers
McCarthy	Price (NC)	Swalwell (CA)
McCaul	Price, Tom	Takai
McClintock	Quigley	Takano
McCollum	Rangel	Thompson (CA)
McDermott	Ratcliffe	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Reed	Thompson (PA)
McHenry	Reichert	Thornberry
McKinley	Renacci	Tiberi
McMorris	Ribble	Tipton
Rodgers	Rice (NY)	Titus
McNerney	Rice (SC)	Tonko
McSally	Richmond	Torres
Meadows	Rigell	Trott
Meeks	Roby	Tsongas
Meng	Roe (TN)	Turner
Messer	Rogers (AL)	Upton
Mica	Rooney (FL)	Valadao
Miller (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Vargas
Miller (MI)	Roskam	Veasey
Moolenaar	Ross	Vela
Mooney (WV)	Rothfus	Velázquez
Moore	Rouzer	Visclosky
Mullin	Roybal-Allard	Wagner
Mulvaney	Royce	Walberg
Murphy (FL)	Ruiz	Walden
Murphy (PA)	Ruppersberger	Walker
Neal	Rush	Walorski
Neugebauer	Russell	Walters, Mimi
Newhouse	Ryan (OH)	Walz
Noem	Salmon	Wasserman
Nolan	Sánchez, Linda T.	Schultz
Norcross	Sanford	Waters, Maxine
Nugent	Sarbanes	Watson Coleman
Nunes	Scalise	Weber (TX)
O'Rourke	Schiff	Webster (FL)
Olson	Schrader	Welch
Palazzo	Schweikert	Wenstrup
Pallone	Scott (VA)	Westerman
Palmer	Scott, Austin	Williams
Pascrell	Scott, David	Wilson (FL)
Paulsen	Sensenbrenner	Wilson (SC)
Payne	Serrano	Wittman
Pearce	Sessions	Womack
Pelosi	Sherman	Woodall
Perlmutter	Simpson	Yarmuth
Perry	Sinema	Yoder
Peters	Sires	Yoho
Peterson	Slaughter	Young (AK)
Pingree	Smith (MO)	Young (IA)
Pittenger	Smith (NE)	Zeldin
Pitts	Smith (NJ)	Zinke

NAYS—3

Gabbard	Nadler	Schakowsky
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NOT VOTING—35

Barletta	Fattah	Rogers (KY)
Boyle, Brendan F.	Fitzpatrick	Rohrabacher
Brady (PA)	Gohmert	Rokita
Carson (IN)	Gutiérrez	Sanchez, Loretta
Cartwright	Hanna	Sewell (AL)
Cuellar	Issa	Shimkus
Cummings	Lawrence	Shuster
Davis, Danny	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Stutzman
DeLauro	MacArthur	Van Hollen
Doyle, Michael F.	Meehan	Westmoreland
Edwards	Moulton	Whitfield
	Napolitano	Young (IN)

□ 1902

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on any votes as I was delayed in traveling back to Washington, DC. If I had been present, I would have voted:

“Yea,” on rollcall 164, passage of H.R. 4820—Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016.

“Yea,” on rollcall 165, passage of H.R. 4096—Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 164 on H.R. 4820, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

On rollcall No. 165 on H.R. 4096, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

REPORT ON H.R. 5054, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Mr. ADERHOLT, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-531) on the bill (H.R. 5054) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RATCLIFFE). Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 5055, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-532) on the bill (H.R. 5055) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE RECENT FLOODING IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in Houston, Harris County, and surrounding counties last week, eight of our fellow citizens lost their lives.

I want to offer our thoughts and prayers on behalf of the families of German Antonio Franco, Claudia Melgar, Sunita Vikas, Malhara Singh, Pedro Rascon Morales, Charles Edward

Odum, Suresh Kumar Talluri, and Teri White Rodriguez. They are all loving members of families, who now have lost their lives, and the families are saddened by their loss.

In the course of this, I want to thank the first responders for their courageous efforts in, one, seeking to find these individuals, and also helping those who have been impacted by the flooding.

The efforts of Houstonians who came to the aid of neighbors and strangers during the flooding saved more lives and provided comfort to those impacted.

We offer a special thanks to the diverse religious communities that responded with generosity, by feeding and helping thousands of households left homeless.

We are also very grateful for the presence and laudable work of the American Red Cross and, as well, the City of Houston and Harris County, the mayor and county judge, all who were participating in this effort along with other elected officials.

When tragedy strikes, we come together, congressional persons, State persons, local elected officials, because we are Texans.

It was very sad to lose this many people in a storm that was unexpected.

In Ecclesiastes Chapter 3: “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . . a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”

I would ask, as we begin to try and rebuild our lives, that we have a moment of silence; if my colleagues would stand in a moment of silence for those names that I have called: German Antonio Franco, Claudia Melgar, Sunita Vikas, Malhara Singh, Pedro Rascon Morales, Charles Edward Odum, Suresh Kumar Talluri, and Teri White Rodriguez.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my colleagues in the Texas Congressional Delegation in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the flooding tragedy that occurred in the city of Houston and the surrounding area.

Our thoughts and prayers are offered on behalf of and for the families of:

1. German Antonio Franco
2. Claudia Melgar
3. Sunita Vikas
4. Malhara Singh
5. Pedro Rascon Morales
6. Charles Edward Odum
7. Suresh Kumar Talluri
8. Teri White Rodriguez

I thank all of the first responders for their courageous and effective efforts to bring assistance and support to those impacted by the flooding last week.

The efforts of Houstonians who came to the aid of neighbors and strangers during the flooding saved lives and provided comfort to those impacted.

We offer a special thanks to the diverse religious community of Houston who responded

with generosity and compassion to over 1000 households left homeless by the flooding.

We are also very grateful for the presence and laudable work of the American Red Cross whose volunteers some of which were also victims of the flooding immediately began to offer aid and assistance to flood victims.

As elected officials we share a common bond with our constituents that motivate our work on their behalf each day.

When tragedy strikes we in the Texas Delegation cease to see the victims as being from a city, town or rural community but as Texans who are in trouble or in need of help.

Ecclesiastics Chapter 3:

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . .

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

This past week has been a time of weeping for far too many Houstonians and those impacted in the State of Texas by flooding, which caused more than \$5 billion in damage and loss of life.

Today the House stands as one to express our condolences to those impacted by the flooding and to show our commitment that we will do all that we can to ease the suffering of those affected and work to minimize the damage caused by flooding in our State of Texas and every other state.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of those who perished in the Houston floods.

**GERMANY HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS**

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, along with Congressman TED DEUTCH, I introduced H. Con. Res. 129, a resolution urging Germany to honor its commitments and fulfill its moral obligations to Holocaust survivors. Germany, even by the current government's own admission, has fallen short of Chancellor Adenauer's promise to take care of all of the needs of all Holocaust survivors.

Due to the horrific physical and mental pain that they have endured, Holocaust survivor needs are more complex than other elderly individuals. There can be no more delay, Mr. Speaker. All Holocaust survivors must be provided all of the medical, mental, and home care needs that they require.

Mr. Speaker, there are nearly 15,000 Holocaust survivors in my home State of Florida alone. There are many in my district, like my good friends, Jack Rubin, David Mermelstein, David Schaecter, Herbie Karliner, Joe Sachs, and Alex Gross.

I made a vow that I would continue to fight on behalf of them and all Holocaust survivors, and I urge my colleagues to join me in urging Germany to honor its commitments to all Holocaust survivors and to please cosponsor this resolution.

**AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of April as National Autism Awareness Month.

As co-chair of the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus and the proud uncle of a young man with autism, I understand many of the unique challenges that this condition presents.

I am also aware of the opportunities we can create with a strong commitment to research, education, and the right treatments and interventions.

This past Sunday, in my home State of Rhode Island, the Autism Project held its 14th Annual Imagine Walk and Family Fun Day. Each year, this event keeps getting bigger and bigger, both because the awareness continues to grow, but also because autism continues to grow as a challenge.

Thanks to the executive director, Joanne Quinn, and the entire team of the Autism Project, thousands of Rhode Islanders joined together for a fun-filled day to increase awareness of autism spectrum disorder.

Every year, they inspire me to fight for programs and resources that will lead to a better future for families living with autism, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in this fight by supporting Autism Awareness not just in April, but every month of the year.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MINNETONKA GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM**

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minnetonka High School girls basketball team for winning the high school Minnesota State championship. The Skippers won the title with a very hard-fought victory over conference rival Hopkins by a score of 61-52.

The Minnetonka team overcame history to win the title. Hopkins was seeking its fifth title in 6 years, while Minnetonka had only made the tournament once in school history. But this Minnetonka team was determined, right from the tip-off, and finished the game off with a strong run to secure the championship for the school and for the community.

Mr. Speaker, this basketball team is blessed with a number of talented players who worked hard to get to this point, including some that will continue to play at the college level. But even more than that, they are student athletes who have lived up to their obligations in both the classroom and also in our community.

The coaches, parents, and fans of the Minnetonka team are very proud. We wish them well in their accomplishment.

Congratulations again to the Minnetonka High School girls basketball team.

**KAPOLEI MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER HONORED BY THE WHITE HOUSE**

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

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Kirio from my congressional district. Carolyn is the librarian at Kapolei Middle School. She will be honored at the White House next week for her unparalleled devotion to her work and her students.

As librarian at Kapolei Middle School, Carolyn recognized that over 1,400 students had limited access to library resources since the school's multitrack calendar conflicted with library hours. To address this, Carolyn creatively wove technology into library resources to increase accessibility for both students and teachers. Now, students and teachers are able to access library material at any time online, which, in turn, has increased their potential in the classroom.

Our State is fortunate to have school librarians such as Carolyn who devote time and energy and to ensure that every student has the means he or she needs to succeed. Her efforts have truly made a difference.

Congratulations, Carolyn, for your well-deserved recognition.

**HONORING THE PASSING OF TONY COSTILLO OF AURORA, COLORADO**

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Tony Costillo, a longtime friend of mine, from my hometown of Aurora, Colorado, who recently passed away.

Tony and I had a friendship that started in our youth. We had so much in common. Tony and I both came from military families. Our late fathers had both married war brides in the aftermath of World War II. They were career enlisted soldiers who were transferred to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center for their last assignment in 1964 when we were both just 9 years old. Our military families both came from previous assignments in Europe.

While I followed in my father's footsteps and joined the military, Tony stayed in Aurora and eventually married the love of his life, Nita Adkins of Pueblo, Colorado.

Tony and Nita raised two extraordinary children, Ben and Jess, in a loving family that has been inseparable.

Tony was an extraordinary example of a great friend, a loving husband, a devoted father, and he will always be remembered and missed by all who knew him.

□ 1915

#### BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Wear Something Red Wednesday to Bring Back Our Girls.

I thank Leader PELOSI for her unwavering support, as well as all of my other colleagues. I thank Representatives G. K. BUTTERFIELD, CURT CLAWSON, KAREN BASS, TRENT FRANKS, BARBARA LEE, GREGORY MEEKS, and SHEILA JACKSON LEE for joining me and the escaped Chibok schoolgirls for a candlelight vigil in front of the State Department last Wednesday all in red.

At the very same time in Nigeria, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, met with other escaped Chibok girls and praised them for their bravery. Ambassador Power promised that President Obama had not forgotten and America will not give up until the thousands of women and girls kidnapped by Boko Haram were freed.

You can watch a piece featuring the candlelight vigil and Ambassador Power's trip at 12:35 a.m. on ABC Nightline tomorrow night. We will continue to highlight this issue through our words and our actions.

Please wear red tomorrow. Please continue to tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls. Tweet, tweet, tweet #joinrepwilson.

#### ANZAC DAY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while horrific trench warfare was taking place in Europe, half a continent away on April 25, 1915, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, ANZAC, set out to capture the Dardanelles and Gallipoli, but met fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turks. It was World War I, 100 years ago.

What was originally intended to quickly eliminate Turkey from the war turned into a bloody, 8-month battle. More than 8,000 Australians and 2,400 New Zealanders died in that campaign.

The battle and the losses of so many caused Australians and New Zealanders to remember the sacrifice of all those who died on ANZAC Day, a day of remembrance, April 25. The Australians have built a magnificent memorial to their war dead. Having seen it, I was humbly inspired how Australians show gratitude to their fallen warriors.

Mr. Speaker, join me in honoring our friends and allies, the Aussies and the Kiwis across the sea, as they honor their fallen on ANZAC Day, those who died in the war to end all wars.

And that is just the way it is.

#### REMEMBERING CHERNOBYL

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight for two purposes. The first is to warmly recognize my noble brother, Steve. I am so proud of you.

The second reason I rise is as co-chair of the Ukrainian Caucus to commemorate one of the greatest engineering and political tragedies in modern history. Thirty years ago today, on April 26, 1986, at 1:23 a.m., operators in the control room of reactor number 4 mishandled a routine safety test at Chernobyl's Vladimir Illyich Lenin Nuclear Power Station in the former Soviet Union, now present-day Ukraine.

The mishandled test led to a catastrophic explosion that burned for 10 days, and the radioactive fallout spread over tens of thousands of square miles forcing more than one-quarter of a million people permanently from their homes. Its plumes reached northern Europe as well.

Chernobyl's legacy remains a heavy burden for the people of Ukraine. To its everlasting shame, the Soviet Union tried to cover up the severity of the disaster engulfing the region with repercussions that could have been avoided.

The event drove one-third of a million people from their homes and triggered an epidemic level of thyroid cancer. Over the years, the economic losses have amounted to hundreds of billions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of Chernobyl lingers socially, economically, and culturally. We, as a free world, should help build a bright future for these communities and their people who persevered in the face of such profound catastrophe.

#### COMMENDING ENVIRONMENTAL WORK OF HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, from our Nation's farmers to our foresters, anglers, hunters, and those who love the outdoors, good land management and conservation practices hold endless benefits.

To support this stewardship, the 2014 farm bill provides substantial opportunities for agricultural conservation.

This includes initiatives such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Conservation Stewardship Program, just to name a few.

These voluntary programs are essential in assisting landowners to implement best management practices while also improving water quality and the surrounding watersheds.

The farm bill and the committee have also worked to promote well-managed forests. Our Nation's forests, of course, are economic engines in many rural areas while providing resources for our Nation. Additionally, our forests also deliver significant ecological benefits because they are natural water filters, as well as our most important carbon sinks.

With Earth Day last Friday, I think it is timely to recognize all the great conservation work going on in our communities and in our committee, and the importance of managed land and water. With that in mind, it remains essential that we continue active stewardship of our forests, farmlands, soils, and watersheds.

#### RECOGNIZING MATTS WILCOXEN

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated and hardworking member of my office who is graduating and will be a leader in our Nation's Armed Forces.

Over the course of two semesters, Matts Wilcoxen made a lasting impression in my district office with his work ethic, good attitude, and commitment to public service. Despite being a full-time student at the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville campus and a member of their ROTC program, he volunteered several days per week to assist constituents and communities throughout my congressional district.

Matts has distinguished himself far beyond the walls of my district office. He will graduate from SIUE as a Distinguished Military Graduate signifying that he finished in the top 10 percent of all cadets that are commissioning this year. He additionally served as the battalion commander for the first semester of this academic year and was the deputy battalion commander during the second semester.

Next month, Matts will not only graduate, but he will also be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Armor Branch of the U.S. Army. Matts is a motivated leader who will serve our Nation proudly in the Army. I am proud of Matts and his dedication to public service and our country and wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. Napolitano (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1579. An Act to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources; in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and to the Committee on House Administration for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2016, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ANNE BRADBURY, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 30 AND FEB. 9, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Anne Bradbury .....	1/30	1/31	Australia .....		615.00		*11,569.15				12,184.15
	1/31	2/3	New Zealand .....		879.00						879.00
	2/3	2/7	Antarctica .....								
	2/7	2/8	New Zealand .....		293.00						293.00
Committee total .....					1,787.00		11,569.15				13,356.15

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
 \*Transportation costs all inclusive for the trip.

ANNE BRADBURY, Apr. 18, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHARLES W. DENT, Chairman, Apr. 8, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROB BISHOP, Chairman, Apr. 11, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Apr. 4, 2016

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Apr. 4, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ORRIN G. HATCH, Chairman, Apr. 13, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Janice Helwig .....	1/20	3/23	Austria .....	Euro	20,894.00	.....	9,486.56	.....	.....	.....	30,380.56
.....	3/16	3/22	Kazakhstan .....	Tenge	2,238.00	.....	6,638.80	.....	.....	.....	8,876.80
Robert Hand .....	2/23	2/27	Austria .....	Euro	945.00	.....	1,620.76	.....	.....	.....	2,565.76
Mischa Thompson .....	3/11	3/23	Germany .....	Euro	3,531.98	.....	8,875.02	.....	.....	.....	12,407.00
.....	.....	.....	Belgium .....	Euro	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	The Netherlands .....	Euro	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nathaniel Hurd .....	3/12	3/16	Germany .....	Euro	749.17	.....	1,975.36	.....	.....	.....	2,724.53
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28,358.15	.....	28,596.50	.....	.....	.....	56,954.65

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Chairman, Apr. 11, 2016.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5152. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing seventeen officers to wear the insignia of the grade major general or brigadier general, as indicated, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); ; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5153. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safety Standard for Portable Hook-On Chairs [Docket No.: CPSC-2015-0016] received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5154. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 PDUFA Financial Report, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379h-2(b); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 736B (as amended by Public Law 112-144, Sec. 104(1)); (126 Stat. 1000); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5155. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 Performance Report to Congress for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, pursuant to 21

U.S.C. 379h-2(a); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 736B (as amended by Public Law 112-144, Sec. 104(1)); (126 Stat. 1000); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5156. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2015 ADUFA Financial Report, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379j-13(b); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 740A (as amended by Public Law 113-14, Sec. 104); (127 Stat. 462); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5157. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 AGDUFA Financial Report, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379j-22(b); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 742 (as amended by Public Law 113-14, Sec. 203); (127 Stat. 472); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5158. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 Performance Report to Congress for the Bio-similar User Fee Act, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379j-53(a); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 744I (as added by Public Law 112-144, Sec. 403); (126 Stat. 1037); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5159. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 GDUFA Financial Report, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379j-43(b); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 744C (as added by Public Law 112-144, Sec. 303); (126 Stat. 1022); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5160. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 Performance Report to Congress for the Medical Device User Fee Amendments, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379j-1(a); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 738A (as amended by Public Law 112-144, Sec. 204(b)); (126 Stat. 1006); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5161. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(d)(1); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1; (86 Stat. 619); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5162. A letter from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting the Seventy-Fourth Financial Statements for the period of October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(d)(3); Sept. 12, 1950, ch. 946, Sec. 112 (as added by Public Law 97-255, Sec. 2); (96 Stat. 815); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5163. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the 2016 Annual Report: The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Status of Actions Addressing the Safety Issue Areas on the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) Most Wanted List, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 1135(e)(1); Public Law 103-272, Sec. 1(d) (as amended by Public Law 111-216, Sec. 202(b));

(124 Stat. 2351); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5164. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Columbia River, Kalama, WA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0237] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5165. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Hebdia Cup Rowing Regatta; Detroit River, Trenton Channel; Wyandotte, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0208] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5166. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0854] (RIN: 1625-AA00, AA08) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4096. A bill to amend the Volcker Rule to permit certain investment advisers to share a similar name with a private equity fund, subject to certain restrictions, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-523). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2901. A bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-524). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4820. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former or estranged violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-525). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 207. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers; with amendments (Rept. 114-526). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. KLINE: Committee on Education and the Workforce. House Joint Resolution 88. Resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary" (Rept. 114-527, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 699. A bill to amend title 18,

United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-528). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-529). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 701. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4498) to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law (Rept. 114-530). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. ADERHOLT: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5054. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-531). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SIMPSON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5055. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-532). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

**DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration House Joint Resolution 88 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

**PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GUINTA:  
H.R. 5048. A bill to require a study by the Comptroller General of the United States on Good Samaritan laws that pertain to treatment of opioid overdoses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 5049. A bill to provide for improved management and oversight of major multi-user research facilities funded by the National Science Foundation, to ensure transparency and accountability of construction and management costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. UPTON (for himself, Mr. PAL-  
LONE, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 5050. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILLMER (for himself and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 5051. A bill to expand the Govern-  
ment's use and administration of data to fa-

ilitate transparency, effective governance, and innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself and Mr. HOYER):

H.R. 5052. A bill to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 5053. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from requiring that the identity of contributors to 501(c) organizations be included in annual returns; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 5056. A bill to modernize and enhance airport perimeter and access control security by requiring updated risk assessments and the development of security strategies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself and Mr. ROTHFUS):

H.R. 5057. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a continuing education requirement for employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs authorized to prescribe medication; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. KAP-  
TUR, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. LEE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. NORTON, Ms. EDWARDS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 5058. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require certain consumer reporting agencies to include a credit score when providing consumers with a free annual consumer report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 5059. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the definition of "surviving spouse" for purposes of the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 5060. A bill to reform the Department of Defense approach to preventing, responding to, and reporting incidents of hazing in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. HAHN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms.

MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 5061. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice to award grants to local educational agencies to establish, expand, and support programs to train school staff to recognize and respond to signs of labor and sex trafficking; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 5062. A bill to provide for a more inclusive voluntary civilian national service program to promote civic engagement, enhance national unity, and foster a sense of shared sacrifice by helping young Americans participate in national service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. BUCK, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. TROTT, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 5063. A bill to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HANNA (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. MENG, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 5064. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to allow small business development centers to assist and advise small business concerns on relevant cyber security matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself, Mr. KATKO, and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 5065. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration's guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H.R. 5066. A bill to authorize the President to provide assistance to Israel to protect the coastline of Israel and natural gas fields located in the exclusive economic zone of Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the

Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 5067. A bill to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LONG (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 5068. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer within the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 5069. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to protect investors by expanding the mandated internal controls reports and disclosures to include cybersecurity systems and risks of publicly traded companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5070. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for a school and child care lead testing grant program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POLIQUIN (for himself and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 5071. A bill to prohibit the President from regulating the provision of certain technical services in the United States for an aircraft of a foreign air carrier that is en route to or from another country, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. TORRES:

H.R. 5072. A bill to provide for tribal demonstration projects for the integration of early childhood development, education, including Native language and culture, and related services, for evaluation of those demonstration projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STEWART, Mr. MESSER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. HENSARLING):

H.J. Res. 91. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Ms. MENG, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. BRAT, Mr. TAKAI, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KNIGHT, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HARDY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H. Res. 702. A resolution celebrating the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States during "National Small Business Week", beginning on May 1 through May 7, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H. Res. 703. A resolution expressing support for designation of November 2016, as "Na-

tional Bladder Health Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. LOEBACK, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. BOST, and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H. Res. 704. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of teachers to building and enhancing the Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. PETERS, Ms. HAHN, Mr. ASHFORTH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LEWIS, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 705. A resolution expressing support for designation of June as "National Men's Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 5048.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 5049.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 5050.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 5051.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 5052

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 5053.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

a) Article I, Section 1, which states, "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives"; and

b) Article I, Section 7, which states, "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in

the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills"; and

c) Article I, Section 8, which states, "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes," "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes," and "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 5054.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 5055.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 5056.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 5057.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5058.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;"

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 5059.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, Cls. 18

The Congress shall have Power \*\*\* To make any Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H.R. 5060.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 5061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 5062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 5063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the Appropriations Power granted to Congress by that section; Article I, Section 7, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the legislative powers granted to Congress by that section; Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. HANNA:

H.R. 5064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have the power to . . . regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H.R. 5065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 5066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LONG:

H.R. 5068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 5069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 5071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 gives Congress the power to "Regulate commerce with foreign Nations"

By Mrs. TORRES:

H.R. 5072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 necessary and proper clause

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.J. Res. 91.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V: "The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution"

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 12: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. DELANEY.
- H.R. 24: Mr. LAHOOD.
- H.R. 27: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. BARTON.
- H.R. 183: Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mr. STEWART.
- H.R. 194: Mr. WOODALL and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
- H.R. 292: Mr. MEADOWS.
- H.R. 303: Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
- H.R. 343: Mr. BLUM.
- H.R. 546: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 592: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. MESSER.
- H.R. 649: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 664: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
- H.R. 711: Mr. WELCH.
- H.R. 793: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. RUIZ.
- H.R. 815: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. DENT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mrs. LOVE.
- H.R. 845: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
- H.R. 913: Mr. NORCROSS.
- H.R. 921: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CULBERSON.
- H.R. 927: Mr. NORCROSS.

- H.R. 953: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. HILL.  
H.R. 973: Mr. PETERSON.  
H.R. 980: Mr. ROKITA.  
H.R. 1130: Ms. NORTON and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 1197: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 1199: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
H.R. 1221: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
H.R. 1233: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1271: Mr. RICHMOND.  
H.R. 1309: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. GOSAR.  
H.R. 1312: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H.R. 1398: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 1427: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RENACCI, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 1439: Ms. GABBARD.  
H.R. 1486: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
H.R. 1516: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1519: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 1586: Ms. MENG.  
H.R. 1602: Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 1603: Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 1688: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 1706: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 1711: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.  
H.R. 1718: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.  
H.R. 1736: Mr. HUELSKAMP and Ms. BROWN of Florida.  
H.R. 1779: Ms. MENG, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 1784: Mr. ASHFORD.  
H.R. 1818: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.  
H.R. 2030: Mr. WALZ.  
H.R. 2121: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.  
H.R. 2180: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 2189: Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 2197: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 2257: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.  
H.R. 2260: Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 2309: Ms. MENG.  
H.R. 2342: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 2368: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 2434: Mrs. HARTZLER.  
H.R. 2449: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 2450: Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 2515: Ms. GRAHAM and Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 2536: Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 2622: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 2658: Ms. ESTY.  
H.R. 2698: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. ROSS.  
H.R. 2711: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 2728: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 2740: Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 2747: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 2775: Mr. LANGEVIN.  
H.R. 2850: Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 2894: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 2896: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. HUDSON.  
H.R. 2901: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. BOUSTANY.  
H.R. 2903: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SRES.  
H.R. 2948: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 2962: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
H.R. 2972: Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 2980: Mr. ASHFORD and Mr. WALBERG.  
H.R. 3110: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. CROWLEY.  
H.R. 3117: Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 3119: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.  
H.R. 3222: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.  
H.R. 3235: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 3237: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.  
H.R. 3308: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 3323: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H.R. 3326: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 3355: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 3381: Mr. KILMER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3394: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.  
H.R. 3445: Mr. McDERMOTT.  
H.R. 3463: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. DUFFY.  
H.R. 3514: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.  
H.R. 3604: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 3632: Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 3660: Mr. ZINKE.  
H.R. 3687: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
H.R. 3693: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. McCLINTOCK.  
H.R. 3722: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.  
H.R. 3765: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. BUCK.  
H.R. 3779: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3815: Mr. DONOVAN.  
H.R. 3817: Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 3832: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HANNA, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. REED, and Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 3862: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 3870: Mr. MASSIE and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 3880: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. STEWART.  
H.R. 3931: Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 3989: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COLE, and Mr. RENACCI.  
H.R. 3991: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 4029: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 4032: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 4062: Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 4065: Mr. MILLER of Florida.  
H.R. 4134: Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 4137: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.  
H.R. 4160: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 4172: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H.R. 4184: Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 4223: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4247: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 4277: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. PIERLUISI.  
H.R. 4301: Mr. HUELSKAMP and Mr. NUNES.  
H.R. 4365: Mr. BLUM, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FLEMING, Ms. MOORE, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H.R. 4396: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 4433: Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 4446: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 4448: Mrs. LOVE, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. BRAT.  
H.R. 4450: Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 4474: Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 4479: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 4488: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PETERSON, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 4505: Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 4519: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 4554: Mr. BOUSTANY.  
H.R. 4597: Mr. PALAZZO.  
H.R. 4603: Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 4613: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. JONES.  
H.R. 4614: Mr. STEWART, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 4625: Mr. POLIS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 4626: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4640: Mr. LOBIONDO.  
H.R. 4653: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4667: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.  
H.R. 4674: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 4681: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 4683: Mr. JOYCE.  
H.R. 4695: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 4715: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. FORBES.  
H.R. 4730: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. WENSTRUP.  
H.R. 4731: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 4764: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 4766: Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 4773: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. SANFORD, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
H.R. 4774: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. WALZ.  
H.R. 4775: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BLUM, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 4795: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 4796: Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. DELAURIO.  
H.R. 4798: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 4819: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. RIBBLE.  
H.R. 4820: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 4848: Mr. HENSARLING and Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 4869: Mr. McCLINTOCK.  
H.R. 4871: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 4922: Mr. ZINKE.  
H.R. 4924: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 4926: Mr. FLORES, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 4932: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4933: Mr. GALLEGO.  
H.R. 4941: Mr. ISRAEL.  
H.R. 4942: Mr. FLORES.  
H.R. 4949: Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 4956: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 4960: Mr. BOST, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. QIGLEY, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 4978: Ms. McSALLY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 4980: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 4991: Mr. TAKANO.  
 H.R. 5012: Mr. VARGAS.  
 H.R. 5032: Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H.R. 5036: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota and Mr. PAULSEN.  
 H.R. 5046: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
 H.R. 5047: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
 H.J. Res. 1: Mr. GOSAR.  
 H.J. Res. 2: Mr. GOSAR.  
 H.J. Res. 23: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
 H.J. Res. 87: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YODER, and Mr. HENSARLING.  
 H.J. Res. 88: Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. BRAT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
 H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. KING of New York.  
 H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BEYER, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mis-

issippi, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Miss RICE of New York.  
 H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan and Mr. DESJARLAIS.  
 H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. ABRAHAM.  
 H. Res. 12: Mr. REED.  
 H. Res. 112: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
 H. Res. 210: Mr. LAMALFA.  
 H. Res. 230: Mr. DEUTCH.  
 H. Res. 419: Mr. DESJARLAIS.  
 H. Res. 494: Mr. FLEMING.  
 H. Res. 569: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. GABBARD.  
 H. Res. 605: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
 H. Res. 625: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.  
 H. Res. 637: Mr. AGUILAR.  
 H. Res. 642: Ms. NORTON.  
 H. Res. 660: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. HUNTER.

H. Res. 670: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
 H. Res. 681: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. TAKANO.  
 H. Res. 690: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representatives MAXINE WATERS, or a designee, to H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CAROL ARENDS

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of a friend, mentor, and dedicated public servant who changed the community of Bremerton for the better: Carol Arends. As the longest serving woman on Bremerton's City Council, Mrs. Arends guided Bremerton's downtown revitalization and was instrumental to breaking down barriers for women seeking local public office.

Mrs. Arends' career path is a testament to her capabilities, innate knack for problem solving, and lifelong commitment to serving the public. Growing up in Tenino, Washington, Carol graduated second in her high school class and entered college to study business. She then embarked on a career at the Department of Natural Resources before relocating to Bremerton, Washington with her husband, John. Carol came to Bremerton ready to pull her sleeves up and get to work, and it wasn't long before she was an invaluable member of the community and serving the City of Bremerton on a number of advisory committees.

Mrs. Arends' determination and vision for the city is ultimately what led to her recruitment in 1997 to run for Bremerton City Council. After her successful bid, Carol went on to serve four terms on the Bremerton City Council, including three years as council president.

One doesn't have to look far to see the fruits of Mrs. Arends' labor. During her tenure as Councilmember, the City of Bremerton saw the approval of the Kitsap Conference Center, Harborside Fountain Park, a public safety bond, and a transit tunnel to better connect Washington State Ferries to our community. What Carol knew was that great leadership is the capacity to translate vision to reality. And with her guidance, she empowered us all to be part of that reality.

Mr. Speaker, I have been encouraged by Mrs. Arends' leadership and I am honored to have considered her a partner and a friend. During good times and during her battle with illness, she was always there with a smile, a quip, and a desire to keep at it. Our community is stronger and more vibrant thanks to her thoughtful leadership and I am honored to recognize Carol Arends today in the United States Congress.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM "BILL" TURGEON FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO RIVER BEND MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Turgeon for his contributions to his community both inside and outside the classroom at River Bend Middle School. The positive influences he has had in running the youth after school program on young children go well beyond the classroom in preparing children as they face the challenges of real life. Parents and others in his community are proud to call him their own and there is no question, he is very deserving of their praise.

Mr. Turgeon is a fine example to his fellow citizens of dedication, selflessness, and commitment to the common good around the world. I thank him for his devotion to above and beyond the call to mentor the youth of Sterling, Virginia.

CELEBRATING OUTGOING DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT MRS. KAREN HOOVER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA VFW AUXILIARY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, It is my honor to recognize Mrs. Karen Hoover on the occasion of her departure as 2015–2016 Department President for the VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania. Spanning 31 years, Karen's countless contributions in my district and state reflect her dignity, honor, and dedication to improving her community and the lives of all Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Karen joined the VFW Auxiliary in 1985, under the eligibility of her father, who served in the Army during WWII, and subsequently became a life member in 1999. She was elected the Auxiliary President in 1988 and served a total of eight terms. Since 2000, Karen has served as a Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Secretary, and in her current role as Treasurer. Auxiliary chairmanship positions she has occupied include Americanism, Membership, Cancer, and Safety. Karen has also acted as the District 18 Chief of Staff, Color Bearer, Extensions Chairman, and Treasurer for the Voice of Democracy program.

Beyond her formal positions in the VFW, Karen has always understood the value of community engagement. She is a member of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, the American Legion, Women of the Moose, Relay for Life

Team, United Way Fundraising, and Valley Lanes Bowling League. Karen is a lifetime member of the National Home for Veterans Children and was a life member of the Scotland School for Veterans' Children until its closure in 2009. Additionally, Karen is a dedicated supporter of the Halifax Cat Rescue Association. Whether volunteering at the food stand during the Shippensburg Community Fair or spending valuable time with her family, Karen embodies the values and principles that are essential to the functioning of a productive community. Her departure will be accompanied by quality time with her daughter Nicole, who is also an active member of the Auxiliary, her two stepsons, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mrs. Karen Hoover for her tireless dedication and excellence serving as 2015–2016 Department President for the VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania. Karen's career achievements have produced profound effects in our community and her example of selfless leadership will continue to inspire the next generation of Veterans advocates. It is with gratitude and appreciation that I recognize Mrs. Hoover on the occasion of her departure and wish her all the best in her next endeavor.

CONGRATULATING JOSHUA CROWNOVER ON HIS ELECTION AS SGA PRESIDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joshua Crownover on being elected the 51st Student Government Association (SGA) President at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama.

Joshua has an impressive record, both in the classroom and in the community. He was a 2014 Valedictorian at Satsuma High School and served as a page for the Alabama State Senate.

Since arriving on campus, Joshua has been deeply involved in the South Alabama community. He served as an SGA Senator, SGA Comptroller, and a member of First Year Council. He has participated in South Alabama's Honors program, was selected a Mitchell Scholar, and is a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I am also proud to say that Joshua interned in my Mobile office during the summer of 2015, and he was a strong asset to my Congressional team. I also want to recognize Joshua's parents, Mitchell and Angela Crownover, who have raised an outstanding young man.

So, on behalf of my constituents in Southwest Alabama, I want to congratulate Joshua

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

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



once again and wish him all the best as he serves the students at the University of South Alabama.

MICHELLE MORWAY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michelle Morway for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Michelle Morway is a 12th grader at North Valley School for Young Adults and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Michelle Morway is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michelle Morway for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREATER SACRAMENTO URBAN LEAGUE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Sacramento Urban League. As the Urban League's members and friends celebrate its accomplishments and its significant impact on our community at the 2016 Annual Unity Ball, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Urban League as a positive force for change in Sacramento.

Since 1968, the Greater Sacramento Urban League has been a community advocate for the underserved in our Sacramento region. The Urban League offers a wide variety of services, including youth development, tutoring, and classes. It has assisted thousands of people by giving them the tools to become more empowered and educated, which strengthens the workforce in our community and improves the bonds that tie Sacramento's neighborhoods together.

Being honored tonight with the Legacy Award is James Shelby, former President and CEO of the Greater Sacramento Urban League. Mr. Shelby is legendary among those who work for social change; for over twenty years under his leadership, the Greater Sacramento Urban League grew and thrived. Replacing Mr. Shelby at the head of the Greater Sacramento Urban League is Cassandra Jennings, a well-known community leader who I have worked with in the past. Scott Syphax,

President and CEO of Nehemiah Corporation of America, receives the Community Empowerment Award; and Kathy McKim, Vice President of External Affairs of AT&T, is being honored with the Community Impact Award. Finally, Laura Murrell receives the Young Professional Award tonight. All are leaders in our community and are deserving of these honors.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of the Greater Sacramento Urban League celebrate the organization's accomplishments and value to our Sacramento community, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring its work in Sacramento.

HONORING THE PLACEMENT OF "JOSEPHINE CITY" IN BERRYVILLE, VIRGINIA ON THE NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Josephine Street community in Berryville, Virginia, has been officially designated a place of national historical significance and that the story of this proud African-American community has now been permanently included in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia and of our nation.

On February 9, 2015, as the newly elected member of Congress representing the Northern Shenandoah Valley, I submitted a letter enthusiastically endorsing the community's application to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the National Park Service, to be placed on the state and national registers of historic places, and within months I received word that both designations had been granted.

What an incredibly inspiring place the Josephine Street community has been since its establishment in 1870, when the 24 founders—former slaves and free blacks—purchased 31 one-acre lots from the Clermont Farm property owned by Ellen McCormick and turned the land on either side of the mile-long street into a thriving community.

In June of 2014, I was privileged to have been a part of an extraordinary walking tour of the community and will never forget the wonderful presentations by the elders of the community such as Viola Brown and Geneva Jackson. During this walking tour, I learned that the history of "Josephine City" is the story of a proud, resilient and resourceful people who, despite the ongoing negative effects of slavery and adversity of segregation, used their own talents, energies, and good will to build a remarkably self-sufficient and caring community that thrives to this day.

Through the amazing energy and positive attitude of those early residents, a community had been created by the early 20th century that included a grade school and a high school, two churches, two public wells, two restaurants, stables, boarding houses (including one for teachers), a barber shop and gas station, a hat shop, a slaughterhouse, a clubhouse and a baseball team.

I want to thank the many committed people who have been involved in obtaining this important historical designation, including Ms. Dee Dee Liggins, Reverend James Page, Jr. and Mr. Kenny Liggins of the Josephine Improvement Association; the leaders of the Josephine School Community Museum, including Dorothy Davis, Helen Carr, and Norma Johnson; the elected officials of Clarke County and Berryville; the Board of Directors of the Clarke County Historic Preservation Commission; and especially, Maral Kalbian, the architectural historian of Clarke County.

All of these individuals and organizations have helped to ensure that future generations of Virginians and Americans will be inspired by the hard work and indomitable spirit of the residents of Josephine City who, despite adversity, created a thriving, caring, self-sufficient community that is a model for us all.

HONORING LUCILLE LOVETTE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a driven and ambitious woman, Ms. Lucille Lovette. Lucille has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Lucille Lovette, a resident of Anguilla, Mississippi, is the ninth of 15 siblings born into a family who believed in hard work and didn't believe in handouts.

Lovette earned a bachelor of science in elementary education degree from Mississippi Valley State University at Itta Bena, followed by a masters degree in educational leadership and supervision and a specialist degree in educational leadership and supervision, both from Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi.

She began her career as an office manager in 1978 for the South Delta School District (formerly known as Anguilla Line Consolidated School District) under the direction of a great superintendent who encouraged her to go a little further. Lovette was employed by the South Delta School District from 1978–2009, serving as curriculum director, federal programs director and principal. During her time as principal, she led in an elementary school with a starting enrollment of some 740 students and 90 faculty members. During her tenure, the students' grade level reading score on state assessments increased more than 38.4 percent and math scores on state assessment increased more than 70 percent. The school achieved an Exemplary and High Performing School rating. Also while as principal the South Delta Elementary School received the Torch Award granted by the Mississippi Department of Education.

In 1994 she was one of 13 teachers who were chosen by the state of Mississippi for a six week study with NASA.

Prior to serving as principal of South Delta Elementary School, Lovette worked as educational technologist as South Delta Middle School, and has served as an adult education

teacher at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead.

From 2009–2010 Lovette served as an educational leadership consultant at Dollarway Middle School in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and Eliza Miller Junior High School in Helena, Arkansas. She was employed as school improvement coordinator with the Indianola School district from 2010 until 2011 and from 2011 until 2013; she served as educational leadership consultant for the Jackson Public School District and the Senatobia Public School District.

Among the awards she has garnered during her years in education are: the Mississippi School Board Association's School Improvement Beacon Award in 2009; the Mississippi Success for All School Reading Award in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007; the South Delta School District Administrator of the Year Award in 2007; Delta State University Educational Leadership Sabbatical in 2001; Mississippi Teacher of the Year State Finalist; Mississippi Second Congressional District Teacher of the Year in 2000; and South Delta Middle School and School District Teacher of the Year in 1998 and 2000.

Lovette joined the Yazoo City Municipal School District in 2013, where she served as assistant superintendent and as federal programs director. In February 2015, the Yazoo City Municipal School District School Board named Lucille Lovette the district's interim superintendent.

Lucille says, "Service is the rent we pay for being allowed to live on this earth. We're supposed to give back, so that's key for me."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Lucille Lovette for her passion and dedication to educate our youth and desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

McKENZIE DIGIALLONARDO

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud McKenzie DiGiallonardo for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

McKenzie DiGiallonardo is a 6th grader at Silver Hills Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by McKenzie DiGiallonardo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to McKenzie DiGiallonardo for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 162 and 163, I was unable to cast my vote in person due to a previously scheduled engagement. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

#### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, a treasured son of San Antonio and legendary Latino leader. May 3 of this year marks the 100th anniversary of Congressman Gonzalez's birth, a milestone I look forward to celebrating with his family and the broader San Antonio community.

From an early age, Gonzalez took an interest in academics. He was an avid reader, and a graduate of Jefferson High School, San Antonio College, and St. Mary's University Law School. After graduating law school, Gonzalez dedicated his talents to helping his city and its residents. He served as Bexar County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and worked for the San Antonio Public Housing Authority.

In 1953, with a broad base of support, Gonzalez was elected to the San Antonio City Council where he served as mayor pro-tem for part of his first term. He was a courageous fighter for justice, leading the successful effort to desegregate all city facilities, protecting residents from undue utilities rate increases, and inspiring his peers.

Some of Gonzalez's most notable stands against injustice occurred during his 1956–1961 tenure in the State Senate. He led the longest filibuster in the history of the Texas Legislature, speaking out against 10 racial segregation bills for 22 hours. Later, he filibustered for 20 hours against a bill seeking to circumvent the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling against segregated schools. Gonzalez's legislation reflected his commitment to the people of San Antonio. He sponsored bills for a state minimum wage, for the establishment of a medical school in San Antonio, for the creation of a domestic relations court for Bexar County, and for authorizing urban renewal in our city. Gonzalez was not just a principled state legislator, he was a prolific one too. A total of 42 of the bills he sponsored, cosponsored, or handled in the Texas Senate became law.

Following his time in the state legislature, Gonzalez went on to become the first Hispanic representative from Texas to serve in the United States Congress. For a remarkable 37 years, he was the voice of San Antonians in Washington. His "20th Century Program for the 20th District" helped markedly improve life for folks in our city. Gonzalez's tireless efforts

bolstered our local universities, supported small businesses, and grew our military installations, bringing thousands of new jobs to San Antonio. He fought poverty, spearheaded projects like HemisFair that spurred our city's tourism industry, expanded San Antonio kids' access to early education, and stood up for our veterans, particularly with the construction of Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital. More broadly, Gonzalez supported and contributed to landmark legislation that fundamentally changed our nation for the better, including the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Equal Opportunities Act.

Beyond his work in legislative chambers, Gonzalez took care to connect personally with his constituents. He kept the people of San Antonio well-informed of his work, and he made sure each individual's problem received the time and attention needed to be resolved. In a touching tribute to the dedication Gonzalez showed his city throughout his career, the people of San Antonio lined the streets to view his funeral procession and pay their respects after his death in 2000.

Henry B. Gonzalez's legacy has been a guiding light throughout my career, and it is an honor to serve in the seat he once filled as the current representative for Texas' 20th District. I offer my best wishes to his family and to the entire San Antonio community as we take time on this anniversary to celebrate his illustrious life.

#### THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DR. ROY CHURCH

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my very dear friend, Dr. Roy Church. Dr. Church, who has faithfully and determinedly served our community as President of Lorain County Community College since 1987, recently announced he will retire June 30, 2016. Today, the community will honor him in a tribute to his remarkable tenure.

Like many retirements, Dr. Church's will be a bittersweet one. For the past 29 years we have relied on his bold leadership, thoughtful vision and unquestioned commitment to higher education—and while professionally he will certainly be missed, Dr. Church's legacy and more so friendship will remain a part of the fabric of our community forever.

Though Dr. Church refuses to take credit for much, his work ethic and sense of service began at an early age and was found in an unassuming place, far from academia. "I milked cows morning and night for the first 18 years of my life", Dr. Church once said. He was the youngest of six children growing up on a 230-acre dairy farm south of Syracuse, N.Y.

He attended college not far from there, graduating from State University of New York at Cortland and it was here where Dr. Church began his 45 year commitment to higher education. Not long after Dr. Church received his Master's Degree in education from St. Joseph College of Florida, where he taught health

sciences, he was given opportunity to become the dean of students at only 25 years of age.

Soon after pursuing a doctorate in higher education administration from Florida Atlantic University, Dr. Church's meteoric rise through the world of higher education continued. From dean of academic affairs at Broward Community College in Fort Lauderdale to vice president and chief academic officer of St. Petersburg College and eventually and thankfully landing him in Lorain County, Ohio as the fifth President of our community's college, in 1987.

Back then, LCCC was a straight-forward, conventional community college of 5,000 students, offering associate degrees in basic coursework, in a few disciplines. Today, it is one of the top schools of its kind in the country and is a leader in innovation, entrepreneurship, and higher education. It didn't take long for Dr. Church to see the connection between a higher education and good jobs, understanding the need to not only prepare and train students for their future, but to also help foster entrepreneurship that create good-paying jobs.

It was through Dr. Church's vision and leadership that LCCC helped launch innovative and ground breaking initiatives such as the nationally recognized University Partnership Program, that provides four-year and graduate degree programs from local universities or Early College that allows for high school students to earn college credit.

Other creative initiatives include the Innovation Alliance, an effort to improve access to science, technology, engineering and math degrees and GLIDE (the Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise), the county's technology incubator, which to date has awarded more than \$28 million to 44 companies, the FabLab, an innovative "makerspace" and the SMART Center for Microsystems and sensor technology.

Since Dr. Church's time at LCCC, its transformation is and has been ahead of its time. In President Obama's last visit to LCCC—he visited the college twice—he spoke of the need for community colleges to become community career centers, so people who are looking for a new job or a better-paying job can learn the skills that businesses need right now. That is what Dr. Church has done: he has helped create and lead one of the nation's premiere institutions, always with a root and focus on the student and academics, but mindful of its true role and responsibility. "As the community's college, we serve all . . . students, companies, organizations, residents," Dr. Church once said. "We are a resource for the entire community."

It is difficult to estimate how many lives Dr. Church has touched—how many single mothers relying on an affordable education to provide a better life for their children—how many laid-off steelworkers who were retrained to once again have an opportunity to work—how many companies and business startups that created new and good-paying jobs—how many first generation college students were given the opportunity to climb out of poverty?

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure today, to pay tribute to a visionary leader and community partner, Dr. Roy Church, and join the tens of thousands who thank him for his service and commitment to our community.

HAILEY INNES

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hailey Innes for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Hailey Innes is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hailey Innes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Hailey Innes for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING STAN KELLY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives and residents of the District of Columbia to join me in celebrating Stan Kelly and his lifetime achievements in the ballroom dance community over the past 60 years. Mr. Kelly is a proud and distinguished lifelong resident of Ward 4 in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Kelly's career as a ballroom dance instructor started in the District of Columbia at the Dunbar Dance Studio in the 1950s. Mr. Kelly combined his passion for the arts and an eye for business, founding his own dance studio—the Stan Kelly Dance Studio. It was the first African-American owned ballroom dance studio in the District of Columbia, which was located at 1867 Kalorama Road NW. Mr. Kelly would also make weekly appearances on Channel 5's (WTTG-TV) Capitol Caravan television show, as well as entertaining and educating the public about ballroom dance as the host of Saturday night mambo sessions at the Caravan Ballroom. Mr. Kelly and his wife, Norma, are both currently members of the Banneker Ballroom Dance Club, where Mr. Kelly served as an accomplished instructor for nine years.

Mr. Kelly's work has been instrumental in exposing Washingtonians to modern dance forms. Through his life's work, Mr. Kelly has contributed to the heartbeat of this city, helping to make the District of Columbia one of the great cultural centers of the world. His love for the arts and passion for sharing it with others serve as an example to us all.

In coordination with the Friends of Stan Kelly Celebration Committee, Mr. Kelly will be honored at Gallaudet University on Sunday, May 15, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House, residents of the District of Columbia and all lovers of the arts, to please join me in celebrating Stan Kelly's legacy in the dance community.

HONORING MOUND BAYOU PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable educational institution, the Mound Bayou Public School District in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

The early settlers in Mound Bayou recognized the value of education in building a community. Early in 1888, I.T. Montgomery and his sister, Virginia Montgomery, began holding classes for children in his home. This school developed into the Mound Bayou Public School. Ms. Montgomery, the first principal, served until 1896. During the early years school was held in the first church, Green Grove, now First Baptist. Rev. J.L. Brandfort succeeded Virginia Montgomery as principal. As joint principals Professor R.J. Jarrett continued the school in Green Grove, while Professor James Wilson held classes in Bethel A.M.E. Church. Mrs. Gertrude Jones Bryant became the principal in 1904 and served until 1915. A local Board of Trustees ran the school, but it was responsible to a county board that was not so willing to appropriate money for the school, even though this school had an enrollment of 200 by 1910.

In 1892, Montgomery and Green donated a tract of land for educational purposes, "designed to supplement the inadequate curriculum of the public schools". The Mound Bayou Normal and Industrial Institute was built on this tract of land, with the assistance of the American Missionary Association. The school was largely supported by tuition but continued to receive some financial assistance from the American Missionary Association, which was responsible for providing the first principal and teacher, Mrs. Annie Randolph. The second principal was Miss Mary E. Crump, who was succeeded by Miss Minnie S. Washington. A complete high school course was added under the leadership of Professor B.F. Ousley. Vocational instruction in music and domestic arts and science was offered. Professor Ousley served as principal for a period of 16 years. Upon his resignation, Professor F.M. Roberts became principal and was assisted by Professor Robert Ross.

In 1912, while working with Booker T. Washington, Montgomery and Charles Bank secured a \$1000 donation from Julius Rosenwald to build a school. Andrew Carnegie was persuaded to donate \$4000 for the construction of a library. Booker T. Washington said that Mound Bayou was "not merely a town, but at the same time and in a very real sense of the word, a school. It is not only a place where a Negro may get inspiration . . . but a place, also, where he has the opportunity to learn some of the fundamental duties and responsibilities of social and civic life."

In 1920 all of the public schools in the vicinity of Mound Bayou and the Mound Bayou

Normal and Industrial Institute consolidated to form the Mound Bayou Consolidated Public School and County Training School. A local Board of Trustees administered the school with responsibility to the County Superintendent of Education. The members of the first Board were I.T. Montgomery, Chairman, B.W. Bryan and John W. Francis. The second Board included B.A. Green, Chairman, D.J. Hill, T.S. Morris, John Tharpe, Sr., Rev. Jim Jones, and P.M. Smith.

The three-story brick structure was completed and the first classes started in 1921. It was located in Mound Bayou on about four acres of land. It served an area of thirty square miles with 16 classrooms and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 700. The average annual enrollment was 850. Classes were held nine months a year. This building served all the students of Mound Bayou and the surrounding vicinities until 1960, when I.T. Montgomery Elementary School was erected. The three-story brick building, Mound Bayou High School, was closed in the fall of 1964, when a new building, John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, was opened.

Principals who served the Bolivar County Training School were J.H. Moseley, J.H. Powell, A.R. Taylor, C.M. Green, Mrs. Olevia Holmes-Ryles, Richard Williams, Mrs. Richard Williams, Rev. Hardin, and B.T. Johnson. B.T. Johnson was the last administrator designated as a principal for the Bolivar County Training School. Mr. Calvin J. Jones was selected as the first superintendent of Bolivar County School District Number Six, following a county reorganization, after the 1954 Supreme Court decision overruling the practice of segregation in public schools. Others who have served as district superintendent are Arthur Holmes, Jimmy Langdon, Shelton Wilder, Linder Howze-Campbell, Linda Perry Robinson, and William Crockett. Principals who have served the elementary school since the county reorganization include Ruth Scott, O.W. Howard, Samuel McGee, Arthur Jackson, Arthur Holmes, Jr., Legora M. Norwood, Joe Jennings, Sammy Armstrong, Linda Perry Robinson, Willie E. Norwood, Sr., and Johnnie Vick. Montresia Cain is the current elementary school principal. Principals who have served the High School are A.L. Moore, Sr., Willie Gates, Eltea Lambert, Robert Latham, Shelton Wilder, Jackie Campbell, Dr. I.D. Thompson, and Dr. Wanda C. Stringer. Shaneequa Beal is the current high school principal. Mound Bayou Public School District was merged with North Bolivar School District in July, 2014, forming the new North Bolivar Consolidated School District. Mr. Johnnie Vick is the current Superintendent.

Mound Bayou has a rich and strong educational history. It has had and continues to have dedicated administrators and teachers. The students demonstrate the ability to achieve at all levels, and graduates compete, globally, in a wide cadre of professional fields. The Mound Bayou Public School System was definitely a successful educational organization. It is anticipated to have a continued high level of achievement for the students at I.T. Montgomery Elementary School and John F. Kennedy Memorial High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an extraordinary educational in-

stitution the Mound Bayou Public School District.

JOAL MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joal Martinez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Joal Martinez is a 10th grader at Vantage Point High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joal Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joal Martinez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE MACEDONIA  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special church in the Central Kentucky Area. Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, located in Keene, Kentucky, was organized in February of 1867. This year they will celebrate their sesquicentennial with one hundred and fifty years of ministry.

The original members of this church first worshipped as a part of a white congregation at Mount Pleasant Church. As they desired to form a church of their own, a committee of black members was formed. The church held its first services in a one room log cabin which also served as a school. The present building was constructed in 1874.

Over the last one hundred and fifty years, the church has grown physically with additions and upgrades of the buildings. Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church has been pastored by many fine ministers, starting with Rev. Peter Johnson in 1867 and leading to today's pastor, Rev. Reginald C. Davis. Many lives have been changed by the ministry of the pastors and the members of this church.

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church has been called one of the best rural churches in Kentucky. As they celebrate this historic one hundred and fifty year anniversary, they continue their ministry to worship and serve God through Jesus Christ. I am proud to have visited the church and I am honored to recognize the historic Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the achievements and the 50th anniversary of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. In January of 1966, Prince William County hired its first paid firefighter, Phil Ponder. Ponder was the first of what is now over 600 Fire & Rescue personnel.

Prince William County holds a number of records such as the first jurisdiction on the east coast to implement a 911 system and the first jurisdiction in the state and national capital region to implement a physical agility exam for career firefighters. In addition to those achievements, the department hired the first female fire chief of a metropolitan-sized department.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue Chief Kevin McGee recently where we talked about how the Department has evolved. Chief McGee always challenges his team to be on the cutting edge of firefighting and emergency rescue. Time and again Prince William County Fire and Rescue personnel have used their skills not only to help the people of Prince William County but also the citizens of Northern Virginia and beyond at their time in need.

Over the years, Prince William County Fire and Rescue has assisted with incidents like the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon and with rescue efforts following Hurricane Katrina. Today, the department has 555 uniformed and 60 civilian staff providing service around the clock. It is one of three jurisdictions in the Commonwealth with a delegated training authority for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and is a partner in the National Capital Region Incident Management Team.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to acknowledge the achievements of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue over the last 50 years and thank all of the staff, both past and present, for protecting the lives and property of the region. I offer sincere gratitude for their service to the community, the Commonwealth, and the nation over the past 50 years and know that high quality service will be engrained in the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue for generations to come.

HONORING MELVIN V. PRIESTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilman Melvin V. Priester, Jr., who is a proud alum of Murrah High School (valedictorian, class of 1997). In

2001, Councilman Priester graduated from Harvard College magna cum laude with a degree in social studies. Councilman Priester wrote his honors thesis on the use of religion by progressive political activists. While at Harvard, Mr. Priester was active: in the Black Students' Association and student government; he was a jazz DJ at WHRB; and he served as a research assistant for then, director of the Children's Studies Program, Kiku Adatto.

Councilman Priester obtained his juris doctorate from Stanford Law School in 2004. While at Stanford, Councilman Priester was a member of the board of the Stanford Technology Law Review and participated in Stanford's civil rights clinic under noted scholar, Michelle Alexander, and the cyber law legal clinic under internet privacy activist, Jennifer Granick. Upon graduating from law school and until he joined Jackson's Priester Law Firm in 2008, Councilman Priester was a litigation associate in the San Francisco office of Morrison & Foerster LLP, where he advised clients in financial services, intellectual property, and governmental investigations. Councilman Priester has done pro bono and volunteer work for clients including: the Innocence Project of Northern California, the North Midtown Art Center, and numerous indigent clients.

At Priester Law Firm, a family firm, which has been opened since 1988, Councilman Priester represents a diverse set of clients in business litigation, governmental affairs, real estate, personal injury law, family law, and medical malpractice. Since 2011, Councilman Priester has been a regional producer for the Figment Arts Festival ([www.figmentproject.org](http://www.figmentproject.org)), a nationwide arts festival with significant events in New York City, Boston, Detroit, Jackson, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh.

Councilman Priester is licensed to practice law in Mississippi and California. He is a member of the Charles Clark Inns of Court, the American Bar Association, the Magnolia Bar Association, and the Capital Area Bar Association.

In 2013, Councilman Priester graduated from the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute. He is a proud member of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson and resides in the Woodhaven neighborhood of Jackson's Ward II. In his free time, he enjoys working at his studio in the North Midtown Arts Center and mentoring local school children. Mr. Priester's priorities for the council include: updating Jackson's stormwater master plan to address flooding, potholes and infrastructure; and providing quality educational enrichment opportunities for children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Councilman Priester for giving back to the community in which he was born and reared.

JORDYN ASHBURN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordyn

Ashburn for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jordyn Ashburn is an 8th grader at Monterey Community School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordyn Ashburn is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jordyn Ashburn for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OHEV SHALOM

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, for two generations, Ohev Shalom of Bucks County has served a family of congregants and inspired many Jewish lives, both children and adults. As you celebrate this 40th anniversary we recognize your many contributions to the greater community. Your 40-year history began with the first Ohev Shalom Purim held March 1976 in Southampton, Bucks County. The current building, the synagogue, was purchased two years later in Richboro, Northampton Township. Ohev Shalom is known to have an outgoing and growing community of congregants who share many enjoyable events and forge long lasting relationships. They also have a loving enthusiasm for each other that has translated into sharing and helping their community. On this milestone anniversary, you are warmly wished many years of continued success, devoted spiritual leaders and faithful congregants. Heartiest congratulations. Mazel tov.

IN TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY EARL  
JOHNSON

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mrs. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Dorothy E. Johnson who passed away on April 16, 2016. Mrs. Johnson was born Dorothy Earl Haralson on April 19, 1929 in Lena, Mississippi. She was the fifth of fourteen children born to Dovie and Ollie Haralson. Mrs. Johnson received both her early and high school education in Lena, Mississippi.

She married I.W. Johnson in 1946. They moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1948 following the great migration of the north after Mr. Johnson secured employment at the Patrick Cudahy Packing House. Mrs. Johnson

worked for the next three decades for varied employers; she was a salad maker extraordinaire for some of Milwaukee's finest hotels and culinary establishments such as the Knickerbocker Hotel, Fleur de Lis formerly located in the Cudahy Tower and Angie's Restaurant formerly on Water Street. She also worked for Globe Union. Mrs. Johnson's last employer was Milwaukee County from which she retired in 1990 after 15 years of service as a Food Service Worker.

Dorothy and I.W. Johnson raised 11 children in Milwaukee: Erma, Margie, Donna, Wayne, Barbara (deceased), Sharon, Kirk, Lynn, Vincent, David and Deon. She was a great support system for all of her children and their families. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy which includes: 30 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and 7 great, great-grandchildren. Mrs. Johnson will also be sorely missed by numerous beloved extended family members and friends.

Dorothy Johnson was an avid reader. She also loved traveling, the theater and music. She was able to combine her love of family, travel, theater and music on her last big trip. She traveled to Toronto in 2012 to watch one of her granddaughters perform as a musician with Cirque du Soleil.

She also enjoyed watching political programming on television with C-SPAN being one of her favorites. She kept current with local and national politics and believed in making sure her vote counted. Even when encountering an illness before her passing Mrs. Johnson was adamant about exercising her franchise. She utilized curbside voting on April 5, 2016 for the Presidential Primary and General local and statewide elections.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mrs. Dorothy Earl Johnson. She has been a tremendous asset to the Fourth Congressional District.

JOSHUA RAMIREZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joshua Ramirez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Joshua Ramirez is a 12th grader at North Valley School for Young Adults and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joshua Ramirez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joshua Ramirez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING GLORIA COLEMAN  
DOTSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Gloria Coleman Dotson.

Gloria Coleman Dotson grew up and lives in Claiborne County as the oldest of seven children of Curtis Coleman and Ethel Allen in the town Ulysses S. Grant said was "Too Beautiful to Burn." She is a 1973 graduate of Port Gibson High School. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education from Jackson State University in 1977.

After graduation, Ms. Dotson was employed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors in the Chancery Clerk's Office. She worked under the supervision of two Chancery Clerks: Mrs. Stella Jennings-Greenwood and Mr. Frank Wilson. She worked in the Chancery Clerk's Office for twenty-five years as Deputy Chancery Clerk prior to being elected Chancery Clerk in 2000. She is currently serving her fourth term as Chancery Clerk.

Ms. Dotson is a member of First Christian Disciples of Christ Church, a choir member and Sunday School Treasurer. She is involved in several civic organizations including: Port Gibson Main Street, MS Cultural Crossroad Board of Directors, Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact, a member of NAACP and the Chancery Clerk's Association.

Ms. Dotson has been married to Joe Dotson, Jr. for twenty-two years. They are the proud parents of three children: JaBari, JaNetra, and JoKevy. They have an eleven year old granddaughter, KaMeryal and a one year old grandson, KaMari.

The title "Chancery Clerk" does not adequately describe the various duties and responsibilities that Ms. Dotson has attended to in the office. The Chancery Clerk's Office has a multitude of duties and functions which are governed by an assortment of statutes and court rules, along with following guidelines established either by the State Department of Audit or the Department of Finance and Administration. The Chancery Clerk's position is a four year elected term.

Ms. Dotson often states, "I thank God for allowing me to serve as a Public Official. I love my job. When I'm not serving my constituents, I spend time with my family and friends, work in the yard and reading."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gloria Coleman Dotson for her dedication and support to the Claiborne County Community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
EARLE C. WILLIAMS

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Earle C. Williams of McLean, Virginia.

Earle was a Northern Virginia business, technology, philanthropic, and community leader and friend to so many throughout the Commonwealth. I am so honored to have known Earle as a friend and valued advisor. He was an insightful and gifted leader who accomplished so much and gave so much back to his community.

Earle was chairman of the Naval Research Advisory Committee, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, and was a permanent director and past international chairman of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. Earle began his storied career a leader in the Washington, D.C. area and was a man who truly cared for his employees and all those around him. He was someone who believes in a strong culture of education and the arts and worked tirelessly to promote these endeavors in his life.

His career as President and CEO of BDM International lasted from 1972 to 1992, during which he founded both the Professional Services Council and the Northern Virginia Technology Council. These organizations have since become major fixtures in the Northern Virginia region and Earle's work with them will forever impact our community. The Northern Virginia Technology Council appropriately named its annual lifetime achievement award, 'The Earle C. Williams Lifetime Achievement Award' and it is given to a person whose lifetime personal and professional endeavors have made a significant impact on the Northern Virginia technology community. His professional accomplishments were many and celebrated and he did it all with his wife and family always surrounding him and celebrating with him and giving back with him. He passed away peacefully, blessed with his dear wife, June, by his side. She and her daughters and family had been faithfully keeping vigil the final several weeks and never left his side.

Earle also worked extensively with Wolf Trap in Vienna, always valuing a culture of innovation as key to success in the arts. In 2015, he received the Jinx Hazel Arts Award for leadership and advocacy in the arts for his work with Wolf Trap and continued to work through the rest of his life to improve Wolf Trap so our entire community can benefit.

In 1994, Earle was inducted into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame and from 1991 to 2004 was a part of the Auburn University Foundation Board, serving as its chairman the final two years. Earle's work ethic and passion for helping those around him was unrivaled, and was shown in his continued service to the community. He will always be a role model not just to me, but to those in his community, his wife June, his three daughters Carol, Sharon, and Gayle, and his seven grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone joins me in honoring the life of Earle C. Williams.

KEANNA SMITH

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Keanna Smith

for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Keanna Smith is an 11th grader at Bollman Technical Education Center and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Keanna Smith is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Keanna Smith for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO JIM BRADEN

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor a man whose service to his community and commitment to the lives of many young men has brought great distinction to East Tennessee and this Nation.

Mr. Jim Braden was originally a resident of Ripley, West Virginia, before finding permanent roots in East Tennessee's City of Farragut where I am glad he stayed.

Jim Braden has devoted fifty-two years of his incredible life to coaching baseball as an unpaid volunteer. His impact on the Farragut community can be seen through organizing and implementing the countywide Knox County Middle School Baseball League and raising funds for facilities that support Farragut baseball.

Coach Braden worked with young men who would later go on to be team members of college, minor and major league teams.

Mr. Braden has worn many hats in life on top of his baseball cap. He bravely served our Country during Vietnam War as a member of a United States Navy helicopter squadron. He is the husband of Catherine who contributed to the success of Knox County and Farragut athletics. He is the father of two Farragut High School Alumni, Mark and Laura. He is the legend that the Farragut High School Dugout Club will name an award after.

The Farragut High School Dugout Club recognizes an outstanding player each season by recognizing them with a "Mr. Baseball" award.

On the occasion of the name of this award being changed to the "Coach Jim Braden Mr. Baseball Award" I call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers to celebrate his contribution to countless lives on and off the baseball field.

Coach Braden looks forward to passing along the love of the game to his grandchildren while instilling the importance of community involvement. He is a shining example of a true Tennessee Volunteer. I hope you will join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,198,172,774,532.79. We've added \$8,571,295,725,619.71 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REV. I.J. JOHNSON & MRS. I.J. JOHNSON

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Reverend I. J. Johnson and his wife, First Lady Betty Johnson as they celebrate their Diamond Anniversary of sixty years in pastoral service. The congregation of St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio celebrates the milestone this month. Incredibly, I stood in this chamber ten years ago to recognize Pastor and First Lady Johnson's fiftieth jubilee.

As I noted then, born in Troy Alabama, one of eleven children of Mary and Levi Johnson, "Reverend Johnson entered the ministry at age twelve. By nineteen, he began pastoring in his home state of Alabama. He received his Bachelor of Theology degree from Easonian Baptist Seminary in Birmingham Alabama, and served four churches until coming to Ohio in 1955. In July of that year, he was invited by Dr. Israel Walker to conduct a revival at St. Mary's Baptist Church. During this visit he met the woman who would become his wife. On August 26, 1958, Reverend Johnson and Mother Betty Rae Johnson were married. Together they raised four children: Reverend C.L. Johnson, Reverend Michael Johnson, Denise Williams and Angela Taylor. In October of 1955, Pastor Johnson founded and organized St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church. Started with just three members, the church grew over the half-century to more than 2,000 souls."

Pastor Johnson is a man devoted to the Gospel. In addition to his spiritual leadership at St. Mark's, Reverend Roberts has conducted revivals throughout the Eastern half of the United States. Many have been called to Christ through him and he has given wise counsel to countless people. His legacy continues through his sons, both called to preach in their own right.

A leader in our community as well, Pastor Johnson has served the Baptist Ministers Conference, the Fairside Community Organization, Northwestern Ohio Missionary Baptist Association, Lucas County Mental Health Board,

Interracial Interfaith Committee, Evangelical Board of the National Baptist Convention, and NAACP.

A beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend and mentor, Reverend Johnson has been a guiding light in our community for generations. Always alongside him, First Lady Johnson has been a nurturing mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend and confidant. Their union is a dynamic partnership which has been a beautiful example to all.

Together, Pastor and First Lady Johnson have turned hearts toward Jesus Christ and his message of Love. They exemplify the words of Thessalonians 1:3, "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." The congregation of St. Mark's, their family and our community celebrate Rev. I.J. and Mrs. Betty Johnson in their life's work. We congratulate you, reminisce with you, and look toward the future together.

**KARINA ROSALES**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karina Rosales for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Karina Rosales is an 11th grader at Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karina Rosales is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karina Rosales for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. I extend my warm wishes to all Asian-Pacific Americans (APA), whose contributions to our society cannot be understated. From our unique culture, culinary practices and art, to the construction of vital infrastructure and contributions to science and technology, APA's have always been at the forefront of American innovation.

We as Congress have the ability and duty to recognize these important contributions to our society, and it is my honor and privilege to do so. In 1977, Congress declared the first week of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage week; and in 1992 passed a resolution that set aside the entire month to recognize APA's and the many contributions that they have made to American culture, science and industry.

As the Senior, APA Republican in Congress, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. I could not be more proud of the influence and contributions of those who came before me. It is their memory and sacrifices that drive me while performing my duties as the Member of Congress who represents American Samoa and I look forward to continuing the important work that they began.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the many contributions that APA's have made to this great nation and I ask that we carry this spirit throughout the entire year.

HONORING MELVIN LEE LOPER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-motivated leader and innovator of the community, Mr. Melvin Lee Loper, who was born on March 16, 1920 in Finkbine, Mississippi, which is no longer on the map. It was a logging camp for the loggers which was his father's occupation. His parents, the late Marshall and Mamie Loper, later moved to Raymond, Mississippi where they worked as sharecroppers. His only sibling was a younger brother, Otis Loper, who is now deceased.

In those days, rural schools did not go further than 8th grade. He lived with a cousin in Jackson, Mississippi to attend high school, and graduated from Lanier High School in 1939. He entered Tougaloo College but was drafted in the United States Army in World War II. He served for four years with a tour of duty in Europe. He returned to Tougaloo College and completed his studies in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.

In 1973, he received a Master's Degree in Administration from Jackson College, after many years of attending summer school and taking classes on Saturdays. That was the way of life to further your education back in the day.

He began his teaching career in Smith county; later Sumner Hill High School and Jackson Public Schools. After thirty-three years of teaching he retired in 1985. He continued teaching several years after retirement because Mathematics teachers were always in demand.

He has been an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church for 55 years. He served as: Sunday School teacher, a Member of the Boy Scout Committee, and attended Wednesday night Bible Study faithfully until his recent illness. He has been in the choir for fifty years,

and served as Church Treasurer for thirty-three years.

He was an original member of the Jackson Tougaloo Alumni Club, organized by the late Mrs. Thelma Sanders forty-four years ago. He was serving as President when the club sponsored the Broadway play, "Aint Misbehavin'" which was a great success. He worked for years with the committee sponsoring the Ebony Fashion Show. He is a loyal supporter of Tougaloo College with his funds and presence, when able.

He is married to Gwendolyn Nero Loper and they have three children: Rodney, Larry and Gerrilyn; ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

His secret to longevity is hard work, attending to your business, being an avid sports fan, and marrying a good cook.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Lee Loper.

LEYDA BELMONTE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leyda Belmonte for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Leyda Belmonte is a 10th grader at New Heights Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Leyda Belmonte is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Leyda Belmonte for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CONDEMNING RUSSIAN  
AGGRESSION

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn recent actions taken by Russia that threaten to destabilize an already tenuous international order. Putin's interventionist policies that seek to reestablish the Russian Federation as a world power have incited chaos and conflict along NATO's southern flank. Post-Soviet states once free from the yoke of oppression have been thrust back into civil and economic instability by Russian policies designed to sow discord and distrust along NATO's vulnerable underbelly.

Moscow's invasion of Georgia set in motion what has become an increasingly obvious pat-

tern. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and ongoing military campaign in the eastern parts of Ukraine have made it clear that Russia is openly proclaiming the redrawing of Europe's borders. Equally troubling, NATO members in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe continue to face antagonism from Russia, including a substantial military buildup in Armenia where Putin has deployed advanced fighter aircraft and attack helicopters just 25 miles from the Turkish border. This is the same NATO border that Russian military aircraft have regularly violated, culminating in the downing of a Russian bomber by Turkish defense forces. I need not remind this House that Turkey is an indispensable ally in the fight against ISIL, and the effort to restore stability in the Middle East. Unnecessary Russian provocations such as this increase the risk of miscalculation and escalation between nuclear powers, and are intended to drive a wedge between NATO allies.

Just last week, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg made a symbolic trip to Washington, D.C. where he met with the President and members of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees to discuss the threats posed by an increasingly assertive Russia. I myself moderated a NATO Parliamentary Assembly Panel, where our partners from around the world raised concerns about a resurgent Russia, and whether the United States will continue to play its indispensable role in ensuring a stable world order.

Mr. Speaker, on the bleached bones of great civilizations and nations are written the pathetic words: "Too little, too late." Ladies and gentlemen, I call on Members of Congress to heed these words, and to stand undaunted in the face of Russian aggression before it is too late. Putin's escalating aggression in his efforts to project power is a direct threat to our NATO allies and U.S. interests abroad. We must stand with our NATO allies now, more than ever, to ensure that security in the region is maintained. We must pursue peace and diplomacy for the sake of future generations. That peace will only come through unified strength.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFFREY E.  
"JEFF" PHILLIPS

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time in recognition of Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Phillips, an extraordinarily gifted leader from Leesburg, VA. Mr. Phillips is retiring from the United States Army as a Major General in the Army Reserve. Currently, as the Executive Director of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, Mr. Phillips serves over 50,000 members in promoting the development of national security-minded military policy to ensure future American security.

Prior to joining the ROA, Jeff served his country proudly for nearly 37 years in various positions in the U.S. Army. Mr. Phillips was commissioned in the Regular Army in 1979 as a second lieutenant of armor, and eventually

commanded an M-1 Abrams tank company in the 2nd Armored Division. Having been deployed overseas to Afghanistan, the Balkans, Egypt, Honduras, Israel, Iraq, and Germany, Mr. Phillips always conducted himself in a manner in which he highlighted the American ideals.

Years of hard work and dedication to his country led to Mr. Phillips being appointed by President George W. Bush as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and White House Liaison for the Department of Veterans Affairs

For his service, he has been awarded two Legions of Merit, Two Bronze Stars, an Army Parachutist Badge, and shares the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Jeff Phillips for his service and dedication to the United States of America. He is a true patriot, and I wish him all the best on his future endeavors.

MATTHEW DE LOA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Matthew De Loa for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Matthew De Loa is a 12th grader at Westminster High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Matthew De Loa is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Matthew De Loa for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE CORINTHIAN  
YACHT CLUB

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Corinthian Yacht Club of San Francisco in honor of its 130th anniversary. Located in Tiburon, California, the CYC is the second-oldest yacht club in the western United States, and continues to serve as a premier cultural and sporting center in the Bay Area.

Founded in 1886, the CYC sponsors local and international races, hosts more than 35 social events annually, and serves hundreds of members and guests at its dining sites. In particular, the club is known for its Opening



Day on the Bay and Blessing of the Fleet events, as well as its spectacular views of the San Francisco Bay.

The CYC also participates in and supports several philanthropic causes in Northern California and beyond. They host scholarship fundraising events through their Wooden Boat Show and hold an annual regatta to raise money for lung cancer research. Additionally, they convene sailing seminars for women and an educational speaker series that covers a range of educational and environmental topics.

With a record of business success, commitment to yachting and boating, and involvement in the community, the historic Corinthian Yacht Club remains a cultural cornerstone that extends beyond the Town of Tiburon. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor the Corinthian Yacht Club of San Francisco on their 130th Anniversary for their ongoing contributions to Marin County and the Bay Area.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDGEWOOD CHILDREN'S RANCH

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the broad impact and faithful service of the Edgewood Children's Ranch during the past 50 years. As a residential facility in Central Florida that provides a home and education for boys and girls in troubled family circumstances, the Edgewood Children's Ranch has made a remarkable impression on the lives of the young people who have been under their care.

The vision for the Edgewood Children's Ranch began in 1966 when Juvenile Court Judge D. Arthur Yerger identified the need for a residential home where boys could be placed after displaying negative social behaviors due to family situations. This realization led Judge Yerger into contact with John W. "Jack" Lynd, who subsequently opened the Edgewood Boys Ranch in Orlando, Florida.

Today, 50 years later, the residents Edgewood Children's Ranch consist of both boys and girls ages 6-17, with a capacity for 70 children at a time. The Ranch encompasses 110 acres, thanks to the generous donation of "Aunt" Minnie Rouse in 1968. The sprawling acreage is a small symbol of the many hearts and lives that have been changed through the impact of the Edgewood Children's Ranch.

RECOGNITION OF GHOST ARMY MEMBER, MR. WALLACE WATSON

**HON. WILL HURD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Wallace Watson.

Wallace was born in Alpine, Texas and joined the U.S. Army in March 1943 at the age

of 19. He was chosen to be a member of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, recognized today as the "Ghost Army". The Ghost Army's World War II operations consisted of deceiving German reconnaissance aircraft and radio interceptors by using only their creativity and a handful of props. The heroic actions of Wallace Watson and his fellow soldiers afforded the U.S. Military invaluable positioning throughout the war and saved countless American lives.

Upon the conclusion of the war, Wallace moved to Monahans, Texas, where he continued to serve his community by taking on leadership roles on the local school board and in his church. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, I want to thank Wallace for his contributions to the United States and for his dedication to service. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING GENTLE'MEN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE SHELTER FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NAPLES

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three Naples men who have traveled 1,256 miles by bicycle from Naples, FL to Washington, DC to raise awareness for Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence (GADV), an initiative of The Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Naples, FL. GADV calls on men to stand as equal partners with women to end domestic violence.

GADV seeks to prevent the generational cycle of abuse through prevention programs such as Raising Gentle'men, a school-based curriculum, which teaches boys and young men that strength does not equal violence and true gentle'men exhibit the traits of respect, loyalty, honesty and accountability. GADV dispels myths of masculinity as based on aggression, and is working toward a cultural shift that will eliminate domestic violence.

GADV is associated with The Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Naples, which does excellent work as well. The shelter not only operates as a haven for survivors of domestic violence, but performs outreach and operates prevention programs in the community. The work that the shelter does has touched countless lives, strengthened the community, and drawn praise from various sectors of the South Florida community, including schools, police officers, and those involved with the judicial system.

According to the National Council Against Domestic Violence, one in four women have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Numbers like that are far too high. We have a responsibility to continue to create policy that prevents, protects and prevails over domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Colin Estrem, Gordon Kellam and Glen Schwesinger for their mission to raise aware-

ness for the Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence program and The Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Naples, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this worthy cause.

SUPPORTING EARTH DAY 2016

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Earth Day, the day set aside to honor our planet and formerly renamed as International Mother Earth Day, in 2009 by the United Nations.

For more than four decades, Earth Day has brought Americans together to honor our moral responsibility to preserve our planet, protect our environment, and address the pressing challenge of climate change.

Across the country, families and students spend this day serving their communities, cleaning up their neighborhoods, promoting conservation, and participating in the effort to ensure clean air, clean water, and a cleaner planet.

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, originating in the United States, and becoming recognized worldwide by 1990.

On the very first Earth Day, 46 years ago, 20 million people gathered in the streets of America to protest the environmental damage caused by industrialization and gave birth to the environmental movement.

Every year on April 22, men, women, and children collect garbage, plant trees, clean up coral reefs, hold teach-ins, sign petitions, and plan for a better future for our planet.

I commend the schools and communities celebrating Earth Day for a whole week to expand the time frame that people focus on the earth and how they can preserve it.

On Earth Day 2012, more than 100,000 people rode bikes in China to reduce CO2 emissions and save fuel.

In an Earth Day celebration in 2011, 28 million trees were planted in Afghanistan by the Earth Day Network.

In Panama, 100 endangered species of orchids were planted and maintained to prevent their extinction in honor of Earth Day.

This Earth Day we must take the opportunity to act to keep America number one in science, technology, and renewable energy.

For Congress, Earth Day must be a moment to build on American efforts to invest in clean energy jobs, to strengthen industries of innovation, to decrease harmful emissions, to cut energy costs for consumers, and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

This day must represent a clarion call to renew our commitment to defend our natural resources and reverse the ill effects of climate change.

On Earth Day, Democrats and Republicans should commit to working side-by-side with the American people to create a future of sustainability for our children and grandchildren, prosperity and opportunity for our families and communities, and security and energy independence for generations to come.

I urge all Members to join me in celebrating our planet and assuring a longer and healthier life for all creatures inhabiting her bountiful realm.

HONORING CALVARY M. B.  
CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a church family whose desire is to do God's will, Calvary M. B. Church. Calvary M. B. Church has served the Yazoo County community over a century through faith and service.

Calvary M. B. Church desire is to bring people closer to the Lord. They want to build the foundation of faith in young people and remind the Yazoo community that anything is possible through love, faith and prayer.

Calvary, located on Broadway, began welcoming the community to its services over 100 years ago. November 15, 2015 will mark 131 years of praise, prayer and worship.

On April 1, 1889 a small group purchased a lot for \$50 which became the site of Calvary. For an additional \$35, another lot was purchased along with the original and this site would later develop into the modern day church.

According to church history notes the first pastor was Rev. Phillips. As the years progressed the congregation grew, even amidst growth, there were challenges. Small fires struck the church. Over the years several pastors called Calvary home. But it seemed like perfect timing when Pastor RaSean O. Thomas arrived at Calvary in 2009. Pastor Thomas is a product of Calvary.

Calvary has a rich history within the Yazoo community, its recent ministries and growth show what can be done through strong prayer and fellowship. Currently, the church has two hundred members and growing. The church has Sunday School, morning worship every Sunday, Wednesday night Bible Study, monthly street evangelism and prayer services, outreach project health fairs, men and women empowerment conferences and other ministries. There is always something going on inside the walls of Calvary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Calvary M. B. Church for its dedication to serving the community and doing God's will.

CELEBRATING THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a statement on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Rabbi Zoberman asked me to submit the following remarks:

As we celebrate the 68th Anniversary of the State of Israel, heir to the Jewish people's long and proud legacy of the spirit uplifting humanity, it remains an enlightened Western island of progressive values retaining its democratic essence in a wide sea of barbarism and backwardness begrudging the survival of the world's only Jewish state.

In fact, no other democratic nation-state's very existence is questioned except Israel's. This is in spite of its enduring roots in its historic land, and world renowned accomplishments in the arts, sciences, and high-tech industries. It proved an unrivaled ability to rise from two millennia of exile, oppression, and an unparalleled Holocaust consuming a third of the Jewish people. Israel's renewed emergence against great odds is an affirmation of the transforming power of hope, and the rightful restoration of the Jewish people's human dignity and standing in the community of nations. It is the divine fulfillment of prophetic promise, with the challenging mandate and expectation to create a model society.

Today's troubled Middle East, home of humanity's inspiring Biblical Exodus, is in dire need of replacing degradation with dignity, and unremitting terrorism with humane teachings. We remain mindful of the unabated genocidal Syrian tragedy of President Bashar Al-Assad's making with critical Iranian and Russian support. The recurrence of brutal Palestinian terrorism which constantly claims Israeli lives is cruelly rewarded by the Palestinian Authority's leadership. On numerous occasions, terrorists are honored as martyrs while they totally disregard human life.

One of the many victims, 29 year old Taylor Force from Lubbock, Texas, a non-Jewish graduate student from Vanderbilt University, was knifed to death in Jaffa, close to where visiting Vice President and Mrs. Joseph Biden were dining at the time. Force, a graduate of West Point, served combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. When confronted with a tragic Jewish terrorist attack on the Palestinian Dawabsheh family, which claimed three lives, there was rightly shocked condemnation from all echelons of Israeli society. Will President Mahmoud Abbas finally reach out to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call for direct negotiations for a two-state solution to the festering conflict in a raging region, with a demilitarized Palestinian State and a recognition of its neighboring Jewish State? For the sake of all, let not the Palestinians miss this opportunity too. This past November 4, 2015, we observed the 20th Anniversary of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's watershed assassination. With its profound lessons, I reflected by reading this verse:

"Rest in peace,  
Guarded by the stones  
You liberated thrice-  
Twice in war  
And once in hope.  
Jerusalem is thy faithful  
Wall that won't breach,  
Friend of Shalom."

Last February I attended the 127th Annual Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), which meets in Israel every seven years, to attest to their abiding bond with the State of Israel. I joyfully participated in an egalitarian worship service at the Southern extension of the Western Wall which has been allotted for non-Orthodox Jewish practice. This com-

promised arrangement was government sanctioned, while hurdles unfortunately persist. Significant progress toward pluralistic religious Jewish expression has been made due to Israel's Supreme Court intervention.

Much is at stake, acknowledging the courageous and tenacious struggle for acceptance by the Women of the Wall. There is, however, a fringe but dangerous Jewish group calling to replace Israel's democracy with a "Judean Monarchy." It is a wonder that Israel, saddled with existential concerns that few other countries deal with, remains a shining exemplar of light and perseverance. The recent rescue, of 17 Jews, with American aid, including Rabbi Suleiman Bin Yaqoub, from war-torn Yemen, one of Jewry's most ancient communities, tells of the difference Israel makes. Surely its vital bond of shared values and common interests with the USA is an essential one for both democracies.

I am particularly alarmed by Iran and its proxies, the deadly global reach of ISIS, the destructive Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, European anti-Semitism, and the United Nations' double standard against Israel. The poignant words of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir are revealing, "We owe a responsibility not only to those who are in Israel but also to those generations that are no more, to those millions that have died within our lifetime, to Jews all over the world and generations of Jews to come. We hate war. We don't rejoice in victories. We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown and when strawberries bloom in Israel."

I speak as a refugee born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) in November 1945, to Polish Holocaust survivors. There I spent my early childhood in Displaced Persons Camps in Austria and Germany before moving to Israel in 1949. The current suffering of millions of refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere should move us all to caring action with caution, but not allowing for moral paralysis. Innocent sufferers are closest to God's aching heart. I am connecting my own family and people's anguish with that of the Syrians' plight:

"My mother, a Holocaust survivor,  
Was young like you  
Scared Syrian sister,  
When she too got scarred  
By the pain of stinging tears,  
The beauty marks of refugees.  
May you also find peace  
At this confounding time,  
In a world abandoning you  
Too lonely child."

We remember the million and a half Jewish children who were murdered in the Holocaust only because they were Jewish and held a promise for a noble future.

"My two year old first cousin,  
Rachel-Leah,  
Whose great-grandmother, and mine,  
Rachel-Leah,  
Was first cousin to  
President Chaim Weitzmann's mother, Rachel-Leah,  
Was too young to  
Know the family bond,  
But not too young to die  
By toasted hand grenades  
Led to the pits of slaughter  
In August 1942  
With older brothers Aarale and Yisrael  
And parents Bas-Malka and Shechina,  
In Sarny, the Ukraine,  
By those who begrudged our Jewish people's pedigree."

President John F. Kennedy coined this immortal message, "Israel was not created to

disappear—Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and the home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.”

CELEBRATING IVANHOE  
DONALDSON

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the life of Ivanhoe Donaldson, who passed on April 3, 2016. Ivanhoe Donaldson was born and raised in the Harlem section of New York City. He went south to join the civil rights movement and became a leader in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). I first knew Ivanhoe as a young man and a leading civil rights activist. Like several movement activists, Ivanhoe moved to the District of Columbia, attracted by the city’s home-rule aspirations.

Ivanhoe took risks as an SNCC activist and went on to build a reputation for political savvy in the 1960s and 1970s. He became a leading operative in Julian Bond’s bid for a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives, Richard Hatcher’s mayoral campaign in Gary, Indiana, and Marion Barry’s campaign for office in D.C., which ushered in a new era of black political leadership. Ivanhoe leaves many friends across the country from the civil rights movement to many residents of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to please join me in celebrating the life of Ivanhoe Donaldson, who gave the best years of his life to the struggle for civil rights in the United States and to the fight for home rule in the District of Columbia.

HONORING PASTOR JEFFERY J.  
FUGATE

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special individual, Pastor Jeffery J. Fugate, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ministry at Clays Mill Road Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky.

Pastor Fugate was saved at the age of five. When he was seven years old, Fugate’s father started the Bible Baptist Church in Hazard, Kentucky. His father passed away when Fugate was twenty-one, and Fugate became the church’s new pastor.

Pastor Fugate was called to Clays Mill Road Baptist Church in May of 1991. There were eighteen people in attendance at his first service. The church has grown to an average attendance of over 2,200 during the fall of 2013. Clays Mill Road Baptist Church has undergone many building and expansion projects to accommodate the growth, including the pur-

chase and remodeling of an old motel on a beautiful 23 acre site. The church runs a very successful youth camp ministry and an extensive bus ministry.

Fugate is the author of five books. He appears on the “Voice of the Appalachians” radio broadcast and travels often to preach at conferences, rallies, and revival meetings. Fugate holds two honorary doctorate degrees; a Doctorate of Divinity and a Doctor of Humanities. Dr. Fugate is married to the former Michelle Cornett. They have five children.

Pastor Fugate has dedicated his life to serving God and to saving souls for Christ. He has touched many lives during his ministry and I wish him all the best on his twenty fifth anniversary at Clays Mill Road Baptist Church. I am proud to recognize and honor him before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ROBERT HILL YOUTH  
FOUNDATION, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Robert Hill Youth Foundation, Inc., Charleston, MS inside of Tallahatchie County, MS.

The Robert Hill Youth Foundation, Inc. began in the early 1980’s by Mr. Robert Hill. It was initially conceived with the idea of simply being a sports organization for youth focusing on baseball. The organization eventually ceased being active after the death of Mr. Hill in 1991.

In the year 2000, Mr. Cedric Terry revived the organization because the youth in the community didn’t have many options for constructive activities and adult mentoring. He took on the task of recruiting children and parent’s involvement. Mr. Terry was successful by getting 9 boys excited about playing baseball for the summer and competing. Their team would travel and they would be role models for other youth. Everyone had to pledge to abide by the rules, get good grades in school, and participate in an award ceremony at the end of the season.

Mr. Terry’s vision was just what the youth in the community needed to take the Robert Hill Youth Foundation to the next level. It was just what Mr. Hill always wanted the organization to be. The organization grew and became a huge success serving over 10,000 boys and girls. The effort was so well received that it attracted youth not just inside Charleston, but they came from miles outside the area. It now has extended its activities to include education, recreation and arts for youth in the area.

Through their education program they offer: Abstinence Education, After School Tutoring, and Fatherhood Preparation. Their recreation program offers: basketball, football, baseball and track. The arts program includes: praise dancing, dancing and acting classes. Since 2000 through 2015 the organization has been responsible for helping over 500 boys and girls in the area attend and receive a college education.

Their accolades are just as impressive. In fact, there are too many to name them all. A few of them include constructing the first park in Charleston in order to be home based for the youth. All they had to do was walk to the park and “Play ball!” Thanks to the Robert Hill Youth Foundation their work has reached all corners of youth life. In 2011 the Charleston High School Tigers Football Team won its 1st State Football Championship. Almost ninety percent of the players came from the Robert Hill Youth Foundation. In 2012 the Charleston High School Lady Tigers Basketball Team was the runner up in the Girls Basketball State Tournament. And over ninety-five percent of the girls played for the Robert Hill Youth Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today, in recognizing the Robert Hill Youth Foundation, an asset to Tallahatchie County in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING 2016 NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH HONOREE  
SISTER MARY MADONNA ASHTON, CSJ

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, CSJ, who has earned the prominent distinction of being named a 2016 National Women’s History Month Honoree by the National Women’s History Project. This esteemed honor befits a woman who has dedicated her life to being a leader, advocate and policy-maker in the quest for equal access to health care for all in Minnesota and throughout the United States.

Raised as an Episcopalian, Sister Mary Madonna converted to Catholicism while attending what is now Saint Catherine University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. After graduating and receiving a Masters of Social Work, she became a Sister of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, serving as a social worker at Saint Joseph’s Hospital then later as an administrator at Saint Mary’s Hospital after earning a second Master’s degree. She was named President and CEO of Saint Mary’s Hospital and stayed in that role for twenty years until her retirement in 1982.

Sister Mary Madonna’s first attempt at retirement was short lived. In 1983, Governor Rudy Perpich appointed her as the State Commissioner of Health. The appointment of the first woman and first non-physician as Health Commissioner was controversial at first. However, Sister Mary Madonna quickly earned respect from critics and supporters alike, by effectively challenging the tobacco industry and leading the state response to the onset of the AIDS crisis. During her two terms as Commissioner, she made Minnesota a pioneer in efforts to combat tobacco use. Our state was among the first to outlaw smoking in places of employment, hospitals and restaurants, a monumental legal and public health victory that would start a national movement. She also led the way in using state

funding to combat underage smoking, ultimately leading to the Minnesota Twins removing all tobacco advertisements from its stadium and Northwest (now Delta) Airlines banning smoking on domestic flights.

Since completing her appointment as Commissioner in 1991, Sister Mary Madonna has continued to serve those in need. She led the creation of Saint Mary's Health Clinics in order to provide quality health care for those without insurance. The clinics continue today with the same mission and serve as a reminder that though we have made much progress in making health care affordable and available to all, more work needs to be done.

As a National Women's History Month Honoree, Sister Mary Madonna stands as one of 16 notable women who exemplify the National Women's History Project's 2016 theme of "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government." Sister Mary Madonna and these other honorees join the company of such female trailblazers as Rosa Parks, Abigail Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt and Billie Jean King.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, CSJ of Saint Paul, Minnesota and all 16 Honorees for their commitment to public service and advocacy for others. These women stand as shining examples for all women and men for their dedication to the common good.

HONORING CALLAWAY HIGH  
SCHOOL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Callaway High School that is located at 601 Beasley Road in Jackson, Mississippi. Callaway is one of seven high schools in the Jackson Public School District, the largest school district in the state of Mississippi.

Built in 1966, Callaway was named after the late Robert M. Callaway, a Lafayette County native. He began his career teaching Choctaw Indians in the mountains of McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Before assuming duties as principal of Liberty Grove School, later H.V. Watkins Elementary in Jackson, he taught at Darling in Quitman County and Pochontas in Hinds County. He was principal at Watkins from 1936–1956.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Callaway High School.

HONORING MARY LOU HOFFMAN

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mary Lou Hoffman for her 53 years of outstanding service to the educational community. Mary Lou announced that she will be retiring on July 1, 2016 from St. Anthony School in Manteca, California.

Graduating from California State University Chico, Mary Lou had found her passion in education and pursued a profession as a teacher. After college, she spent two years at Annunciation School in Stockton, where she began her lifelong career. For twelve years, she was a teacher at local public schools.

In 2005, Mary Lou became Principal of St. Anthony School, Diocese of Stockton. As the Principal, she made a tremendous impact on the students, families and faculty. The Pastor, Patrick Walker fondly stated, "Our principal, Mary Lou Hoffman, has made significant strides to make St. Anthony's school better in the past decade."

Through her many years of dedicated service, Mary Lou has touched the lives of thousands of children. She is not only an exceptional role model but provides a positive institution of learning to her students. Mary Lou's heart has deeply resided in education and her great accomplishments have demonstrated her tremendous impact.

Mary Lou loved her profession, but she is looking forward to spending time with her husband, three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Principal Mary Lou Hoffman for her many years of service and outstanding contributions to the lives of her students, peers, and our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LENOX  
HILL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Lenox Hill Democratic Club (LHDC) on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary Annual Fundraiser and Dinner with special guest General David H. Petraeus, ret. LHDC has been committed to increasing citizen participation in the political process in the Yorkville neighborhood of Manhattan's East Side.

LHDC was founded in 1956 as part of the Democratic Reform Movement that sought to challenge the power of Tammany Hall's Democratic Machine in New York City. Since that time, LHDC has remained committed to empowering citizens to become better informed about the policy issues which affect them. LHDC has also often organized candidate forums so that citizens have a chance to hear from the candidates and raise their concerns and policy priorities. Lenox Hill also regularly invites current elected officials to speak with their members.

Currently, LHDC represents Part A of the 76th Assembly District which includes Manhattan's Yorkville neighborhood as well as parts of Sutton Place and Roosevelt Island. LHDC is made up of a vibrant and diverse group of New Yorkers who share a common commitment to civic engagement and progressive ideals. LHDC has truly been a force in effecting progressive change in Manhattan.

LHDC and its members are actively engaged in ever aspect of the political process.

From providing volunteers for campaign phone banks and street campaigning to collecting the petition signatures required under State law for a candidate's name to appear on the ballot, LHDC serves an essential role in the democratic process in New York City.

For 60 years, LHDC has been an important part of the political landscape on Manhattan's East Side. LHDC's proud tradition is thriving under the stewardship of current President Bob Menna, District Leaders Hon. John Halebian and Hon. Jill Eisner, and State Committeewoman Hon. Ruth Halberg. These dedicated civic leaders work tirelessly to ensure that LHDC continues to play a significant role in Manhattan politics.

LHDC's special guest, Four Star General David H. Petraeus, is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Gen. Petraeus served in the United States Army for 37 years during which time he oversaw the United States Central Command and the International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan among numerous other command postings. Following his active military service, Gen. Petraeus was nominated by President Barack Obama and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In 2013, he joined the investment firm KKR where he is the Chairman of the KKR Global Institute. Gen. Petraeus teaches at the City University of New York Macaulay Honors College, University of Southern California, and at Harvard University's Belfer Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the history and accomplishments of the Lenox Hill Democratic Club. For sixty years, its members have worked hard to effect the change they would like to see in their neighborhood, City, and Nation.

HONORING WILLIE RENE LEFLORE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Willie Rene Leflore.

Ms. Leflore is a lifetime resident of Sunflower County, Mississippi.

Ms. Leflore is a soldier encouraging others to sign up and be counted. In her words, "Gone are the days of nurturing, chopping, hoeing, hauling water pails, getting up early, catching Bill Henderson's bus, etcetera, to work from sun up to sun down for \$3.15 daily".

Growing up, Ms. Leflore wanted to be free to enter the front doors of Labella Restaurant and ride at the front of the Greyhound bus. So, Ms. Leflore took a stand, and marched beside Cora Stone Johnson, Nelson Dotson, John Richardson, Lene and others for her civil rights.

Ms. Leflore is a soldier for what is right. She believes in receiving the same privileges and rights as other races. She believes that all adults have their own mind to decide on what

they want to participate in as long as it is right. She fought for that privilege. It was an acquired desire to march beside others who shared the same belief

Ms. Leflore worked, never missing a day unless she was sick. When she became ill, she had to retire. She has received numerous commendations as a loyal supporter of all athletic activities at Gentry High School. To this day, she still uses the phone as her legs and mouth, encouraging others to stand and show themselves approved. She believes that standing for what you believe in regardless, of the odds against you, and the pressure that tears at your resistance means courage, which is what she had to constantly remind herself of. She always kept a smile on her face, even when on the inside she felt like dying. She stopped at nothing. Doing what was instilled in her heart, is to make another's life a little more bearable. When she was in the moment, she was loyal, she wasn't selfish and she kept her head high.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Willie Rene Leflore for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO  
RECOGNIZE JUNE AS NATIONAL  
MEN'S CANCER AWARENESS  
MONTH

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an issue that is of growing concern: cancer that is specific to men.

Cancer is a deadly disease that does not discriminate. It impacts all demographics and every segment of our population. However, what I find extremely alarming is that one in two men will be diagnosed with cancer over the course of their lifetimes. Men face a 43.31 percent lifetime risk of being diagnosed with some form of cancer. Statistics show that men have a 22.83 percent chance of dying from cancer versus 19.26 percent of women.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that nearly 300,000 men die annually as a result of cancer. Various cancers are claiming the lives of males of all races and ages at an alarming rate. I will add, though, those African American men have the highest cancer incidence and mortality rates according to the CDC.

It is time for the Members of Congress to do our part to shine the light on this deadly disease that is plaguing the men of our communities. These men are our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, children, and nephews. No one should ever be put in a position to have to bury their child.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Resolution to Recognize June as National Men's Cancer Awareness Month. From prostate and colon cancer to lung and skin cancer, our nation needs to be more aware of what we can do to prevent, detect, and treat these fatal illnesses. Bringing about this awareness on an annual basis will aid in slowing the rate of cancer related fatalities.

HONORING EDWARD G. NELSON

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Nashville and the state of Tennessee lost a civic giant earlier this month, banker and philanthropist Edward G. Nelson.

Ed Nelson was not only a pillar of the community, he was our foundation. He financed much of the growth of Nashville and imagined the 'It' city before we became one.

Ed's expertise and skill in banking, finance and international relations shaped the economic development of Middle Tennessee, and his philanthropic efforts have touched countless lives. Serving on dozens of local, national and international boards, Ed had the vision and will to make things happen. His success and leadership were notably recognized when the Bank of China invited him for a formal visit shortly after diplomatic relations were established in the 1970s.

Ed's service as a U.S. military intelligence officer in Japan led to his insatiable desire to foster U.S.-Japan relations. Because of his tireless work, Nashville is now home to a Japanese Consul General and many Japanese businesses. In 2008, the Japanese government awarded him one of its most prestigious awards—the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Nashville is forever grateful to Ed Nelson for his service. Ed was a kind and wonderful gentleman and the best of the South.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY,  
TEMA POSALSKA BAUER

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Tema Posalska Bauer, on the occasion of her upcoming 100th birthday. Her birthday is especially notable in light of her miraculous survival through the horrors she endured during World War II.

At the time that the Nazis invaded Poland in September of 1939, Tema was a young woman of 23 living with her elderly parents and her next oldest sister, Sarah, in the City of Lodz, a city that was home at the time to the second largest Jewish population in Poland. At the time, she had seven other older brothers and sisters who were married with children and living in smaller towns near Lodz.

With the occupation by the Nazis, the siblings feared for the safety of their elderly parents and decided that it would be safer for the parents to move to the smaller town where one sister, Guacia, was living with her husband and three sons. Sarah accompanied them on the trip, and Tema was to close the house and follow after the winter.

However, before the winter ended, the Nazis created a Jewish ghetto in Lodz in which all Jews had to reside and from which

no Jews could leave. Tema never saw her parents or her sister Sarah again.

She worked in the Ghetto for four years until she was deported in December of 1943 to a slave labor camp at Skarzysko-Kamienna. Normally a two-hour train ride from Lodz to Skarzysko-Kamienna, the trip actually took three full days. The women were packed into the freight train cars so tightly that there was no room to sit, no water, no food and no bathroom facilities.

With the Russians approaching from the west, Skarzysko-Kamienna was liquidated in August of 1944 and the women were sent by freight trains to a slave labor camp in Leipzig, Germany. During an Allied bombing of the camp in February of 1945, Tema was injured—her right arm being severed at the elbow. Though antibiotics were unavailable, she had great luck and strength and survived. Two months later, the camp was liquidated, and she began what turned out to be a six-day death march, that she again miraculously survived.

After liberation, she made her way back to Lodz where she found out that of her parents, eight brothers and sisters, their seven spouses and her eighteen nieces and nephews, all had been murdered by the Nazis, most of them gassed to death in the extermination camp at Chelmno—their bodies reduced to ash and bones in the crematoria.

She eventually encountered a man she had known in the Ghetto, Morris Bauer. He told her that she need not be worried about the future because he would always take care of her. And, for the rest of his life, he did until he was no longer able to take care of himself.

They married and then spent almost four years in a displaced persons camp waiting to emigrate to the United States. They arrived in the United States on October 1, 1949, and settled in Chicago.

Tema's beloved husband, Morris, passed away in 1995 shortly before their 50th wedding anniversary from complications from Alzheimer's. She has lived to enjoy her expanding family of two sons, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She remains mentally sharp with an amazing memory and with a keen interest in current events and politics.

Tema's 100th birthday is May 5th—the same day the world will observe Holocaust Remembrance Day. As Tema gathers with her family that day to remember and mourn the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, including her and Morris' parents, siblings, nieces and nephews, her family also will celebrate the miraculous life and remarkable courage and luck of their family's matriarch, Tema Posalska Bauer. Her life is a blessing and an inspiration to her family and to all who know her.

HONORING CURTIS HILL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student, Mr. Curtis Hill.

Curtis Hill is the proud son of parents, Olivia Hill and Curtis Robinson; He has one, as he states, "nerve racking little sibling" that he loves dearly, Curshivia Robinson.

Curtis Hill is entering his senior year at Holmes County Central High School (2015–2016) and has been a Youth Organizer with Nollie Jenkins Family Center, a grassroots community-based organization, for the past four years. With the help of his high school Curtis has been in position to receive numerous scholarships, most recently, he received the American Legion Scholarship, sponsored by Oratorical Competition in which he placed 2nd in the Area Competition; and Boys State, where he put his leadership skills to a test by role playing as if he was campaigning in a fictional state called Magnolia for the prestigious office of Lt. Governor.

Curtis has also been chosen by the Electric Power Association, Yazoo Valley Electric Power Association, as one of two leaders to compete for scholarships and travel to Washington, D.C. Although, his school has provided him with these opportunities, the ground work was fertile laid as a result of his community organizing work with the Nollie Jenkins Family Center.

Through his work as a Youth Organizer, Curtis has developed career ready skills: public speaking, campaign development, facilitation, writing/creating resumes, and peer mediation. These skills proved to be of value when Curtis was chosen as a recipient of the Marguerite Casey Foundation's Sargent Shriver Youth Warriors Against Poverty Award.

In contrast to all of his scholarly achievements, Curtis holds nothing closer to his heart than his ministry in mime, for this heart warmer and barrier breaker is a way for Curtis to feel closer and at one with his King, Jehovah God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Curtis Hill who gives back to his community, encourages others to do more than what's common and makes a difference in his community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes 164 and 165. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call 164, the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act, and "yes" on roll call 165, the Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act.

Despite missing the vote, I remain strongly opposed to H.R. 4820, the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act. As a former Homeland Security official and a Member of the House Intelligence Committee, I understand the importance of a complete intelligence picture to counterterrorism operations. As this bill indicates, part of understanding threats to our homeland is receiving testimony from reformed terrorists. Responsible collection would involve looking at threats from every angle, including Islamic, right wing, environmental and

other types of extremism. This bill fails in that regard, choosing instead to focus on those associated with foreign terrorist organizations.

This bill also plays into a disturbing narrative that Muslims are the sole source of terrorism in the United States. The reality, supported by academic research and federal agency testimony, is that the threat from right wing extremism is even more pervasive. While the attacks in Chattanooga and San Bernardino were carried out by Muslim extremists, the attacks at a church in Charleston and a Sikh temple in Wisconsin were by right wing extremists. Extremism, regardless of ideological basis, is dangerous and must be countered. Further perpetrating a false narrative about the outsized threat posed by Muslims does nothing but promote fear of American Muslims and ostracize them in communities across our country.

It is important for us to remember that an attack by a sovereign citizen or racial supremacist is just as devastating as an attack by a Muslim terrorist. If Congress hopes to strengthen our national security apparatus, rather than stoke fear, we should be looking for every possible opportunity to balance our counterterrorism efforts. We need to look at all threats, both foreign and domestic.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during the votes held on April 26th, 2016, I was inescapably detained and away handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted:

Yes on H.R. 4096—Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act, and Yes on H.R. 4820—Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF STRATFORD PORTUGUESE HALL

### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stratford Portuguese Hall Association on its 100th anniversary of service to our community.

The Stratford Portuguese Hall Association was founded in December 1915, when a group of Portuguese immigrants from the Azores Islands assembled to join the Brotherhood of the Divine Holy Spirit in the community of Stratford, California. In 2010, several Portuguese fraternal organizations, including the Brotherhood of the Divine Holy Spirit, consolidated to form the Portuguese Fraternal Society of America.

Stratford Portuguese Hall brought the "Festa" weekend traditions of serving sopas, dancing, and parades to Stratford for the first time in 1916. The celebrations can be traced

back to medieval Portugal when Queen Isabel made offerings of food and festival to the people in 1296. Since 1916, these Portuguese traditions have been shared with the community of Stratford. The goal of the "Festa" is to honor the past, celebrate the present, and encourage the future, while celebrating the Portuguese culture.

To reach a 100-year milestone is a remarkable achievement, and Stratford Portuguese Hall Association has had to overcome many challenges to reach this point, including a devastating fire that destroyed the Hall in 2003. However, the Hall was able to meet the challenges it was presented with, and continues to serve our community today. As the son of Portuguese immigrants, I am proud of this incredible achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Stratford Portuguese Hall on their 100th anniversary and wishing them a happy "Festa" this year.

#### IN HONOR OF COACH DAVID POLLARD

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of purpose, sincerity, and high character, Coach David Pollard. Sadly and tragically, Coach Pollard passed away on April 18, 2016, as a result of a senseless accident. His funeral services were held on Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 3 pm at Cascade Hills Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Coach Pollard was born on March 28, 1980 in Columbus, Georgia to the union of Terry and Sandra Pollard Render. He was a 1998 graduate of Shaw High School and 2002 graduate of Albany State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. He was pursuing a Master's Degree in Psychology from Columbus State University.

He was a highly respected educator and coach with stops as a community coach at Jordan Vocational High School and he was serving as a teacher and the Head Baseball Coach at George Washington Carver High School at the time of his passing.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Coach David Pollard understood these lessons very well.

He dedicated his life to helping others—especially our most precious resources—young people. He used the season of his life to help others to reach their full potential. He was dedicated to his craft as both a teacher and a coach. His engaging personality and steadfast faith in God as a member of Central Baptist Church made him a person that was admired and respected by all that came in contact with him. Coach Pollard was universally respected by his peers in the baseball coaching fraternity. He was loved by his players, students

and colleagues. But, he knew that his life would be measured not by wins and losses on a sports field but by the difference he made in the lives of his students and players.

We all can learn so much from the life of Coach David Pollard. We must live everyday as if it were our last. Treat all people with dignity and respect and make a difference in the lives of others.

His greatest role in life was that of a dedicated husband and father. Just as he demonstrated a great love for people, he demonstrated an even greater love for his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District in extending condolences to his wife, Adrienne, his daughter Joy and his entire family. "To God Be the Glory" for the life of Coach David Pollard for his contributions to the betterment of humankind.

TRIBUTE TO JACQUES 'JACK'  
YEAGER

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the remarkable Jacques 'Jack' Yeager who passed away in California on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Jack was a pillar of the community in Riverside, California, and he will be deeply missed.

Born in Riverside in 1921, Jack went to local schools and graduated from Poly High School in 1939. While attending college at UC Berkeley, Jack left school to join the U.S. Navy Seabees and eventually helped build airports throughout the South Pacific during World War II. Jack eventually returned home to join the family construction business, E. L. Yeager Construction Company, which was founded by his father. At Yeager Construction, Jack worked alongside his brothers, Dick and Gene, and played an important role in the growth and success of the company. Yeager Construction was responsible for building many significant highway and other construction projects in Southern California and around the country. I had the privilege of working together with Jack on a number of projects and causes over the years, and felt fortunate to see his passion and dedication to improving our community first-hand.

In 1948, Jack Yeager married Mary Barbara Gibbs and the couple had two sons and three

daughters. Mary passed away in 1990. Later, Jack would marry Helen Hays, who died in 2009. As an active member of his community, Jack participated in a number of organizations, often in a leadership role, including: Co-founder and member of the Monday Morning Group, Board Member of the Riverside Community Hospital Foundation, Board Member of the UC Riverside Citizens University Committee, member of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Board Member of the March Field Museum Foundation, and Board Member of the UC Board of Regents.

The way in which Jack lived his life should serve as reminder that the power of an individual with drive, perseverance and a strong work ethic can do great things. His dedication to his work, family, and community are a testament to a life well lived and a legacy that will continue. I was proud to call Jack my friend and I will deeply miss him. I extend my condolences to Jack's family and friends; although Jack may be gone, the many incredible contributions he made to our region and the country remain and will never be forgotten.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the Armenian Genocide, which began 101 years ago this month.

In nearly a decade of terror that followed, the leaders of the Ottoman Empire systematically exposed the Armenian people to torture, starvation, abduction, deportation, and mass killing. More than 1.5 million innocent Armenian children, women, and men were murdered. And millions more were expelled from their historic homeland.

All nations and peoples have a responsibility to recognize this tragedy and the reverberations it has caused for succeeding generations. Unfortunately, the historic fact of the Armenian Genocide has all too often been obscured, downplayed, or simply rejected.

As an international community, we must properly account for this historic crime, move towards peace and reconciliation in the region, and help those who carry the scars of this atrocity to heal.

The United States owes a responsibility to the victims and their descendants to publicly

call the events of 101 years ago genocide. And our government should demand that Turkey—our NATO ally—acknowledge its historic responsibility for this crime.

On this somber occasion, we should remember and pray for the victims, those who survived, and the Armenian community around the world that honors its ancestors by doggedly pursuing the truth. And, as Americans, we must once again reaffirm our resolve to prevent genocide.

IN MEMORY OF DEPUTY SHERIFF  
MIKE TREVINO, JR.

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Fresno County Deputy Sheriff, Mike Trevino Jr. who sadly passed away on March 21, 2016.

Mr. Trevino was born in Fowler, California on November 29, 1964 to Mike Trevino and Amanda Sarabia. After his graduation from Selma High School in 1982, Mike enlisted in the United States Army where he served as a combat engineer. After he was honorable discharged, Mr. Trevino began work at the Auto Warehouse and the Fresno County Office of Education. In 1995, he enrolled in the Fresno City Community College Police Academy while also working full time.

Following in his father's footsteps, Mike began work at the Fresno County Sheriff's Department in July 1996 as a deputy sheriff. During his time with the sheriff's department, Mr. Trevino worked in the Field Services Division and later went on to serve in the Narcotics Unit. Deputy Sheriff Trevino is remembered with respect by his colleagues and all those who knew him, especially for his ability to break barriers and establish trust with the locals. Words of support and sympathy for his family have even come from individuals he previously arrested, yet still hold him in high regard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and achievements of Deputy Sheriff Mike Trevino Jr. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, especially his children and grandchildren, Breanna, Fabian, Micah, and Damian during this difficult time.

**SENATE—Wednesday, April 27, 2016**

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom. Nothing is impossible to You. Forgive us when we sometimes have anxiety about the future because we fail to remember what You have done in the past. Thank You for Your wisdom that guides us on life's journey, empowering us to walk with integrity. Today, enlighten our Senators, show them Your ways, teach them Your paths. May Your great love so encompass them that discord and confusion will be dispelled. Lord, let Your peace and tranquility guard their hearts and minds. Deal graciously with them, encouraging them to cast their cares upon You, receiving Your loving mercy and protection.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

**ORDER OF PROCEDURE**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801 occur at 12 noon today; that the cloture vote on H.R. 2028 occur following disposition of the substitute amendment; and that the 10:30 a.m. second-degree filing deadline for both the amendment and the underlying bill be at 11 a.m. this morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. We have no problem moving the vote to noon, but I want everyone to be clear that we would be happy to have a vote to pass this bill right now. The only thing

holding up the bill is, of course, the amendment of which the Presiding Officer is well aware.

We would be happy to move right now with the amendments that have been agreed to—the managers' package we agreed to the night before last—and finish this bill now.

I have no objection.

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

**THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have seen important progress in this appropriations season, with the committee reporting out one-third of the 12 funding bills already, each with unanimous backing. So let's continue our work to make progress on the bipartisan energy security and water infrastructure funding bill before us.

This appropriations measure will have positive impacts across the country and promote American priorities such as energy innovation, waterways infrastructure, commerce, and public safety. It is the product of much research and deliberation. It shows what can be achieved with the return to regular order.

We know it would not have been possible without the dedicated work and leadership of the Appropriations Committee and the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee. It is good to see this significant headway we have made thus far. With continued cooperation, we can pass the first appropriations bill of the season and continue our work to move through more of these individual funding measures.

**OBAMACARE**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been 6 years since the flawed health care policies of ObamaCare were signed into law. Six years later, my office continues to receive stories from Kentuckians who are reeling from the negative effects of this partisan law.

For instance, take the heartbreaking story from one middle-class husband and father of two from Covington who suffered a heart attack at the age of 42. Under ObamaCare, this Kentucky dad has seen his health care premium triple and his deductible increase to, as he put it, a "ridiculous" amount. He said he struggles to afford his medicine—which he says costs upward of \$1,000 a month—as he and his family struggle to survive week to week.

Put simply, he says, ObamaCare is a "terrible blight on the health care system" that has resulted in more "expen-

sive, watered down, unaffordable health care for the middle class." Unfortunately, too many American families have had similar experiences under this administration's partisan law because from the start this health care policy was built on a mountain—a mountain of higher costs and broken promises, which only seem to grow larger by the day.

When it comes to ObamaCare, costs in the exchange are higher than its champions expected. A recent study found that ObamaCare exchange individual market enrollees experienced higher medical costs than people insured through employer-provided coverage: 19 percent higher in 2014 and 22 percent higher last year. When it comes to ObamaCare, it simply does not work like its champions promised either. As a result, we have seen increasing numbers of insurers pull out of the ObamaCare marketplace altogether.

Just last week, we learned that the Nation's largest health insurer will join the list, withdrawing from all but a "handful of States" next year, including Kentucky. What this means is that Americans in my home State and across much of the Nation are likely to face even fewer health insurance options. According to one analysis, if this insurer withdrew from the exchange market altogether, nearly 2 million marketplace enrollees would be left with only 2 insurers, while more than 1 million more would be left with only 1.

Fewer choices could also mean even higher premium costs. As one expert put it, either insurers will drop out or insurers will raise premiums. This only adds to the many Kentuckians who have already seen their premiums spike under ObamaCare, like the retired police officer whose premium increased to nearly \$5,000 a year, which he "simply cannot afford" or the Kentuckian whose rate tripled, leaving him uninsured and leaving him to pay a fine at the end of the year.

Not surprisingly, the insurance industry's chief spokesperson—who is a former top Obama administration official, by the way—is bracing the public for even more premium increases in the year to come. The administration's answer? More money from taxpayers. Whether they call it a risk corridor or a premium subsidy or a reinsurance mechanism, the source is still the same, the American taxpayer.

So the bottom line is this: Americans continue to be unfairly hurt by a health care law that was forced on them through backroom deals and is literally littered with broken promises.



Too many have seen their premiums and deductibles skyrocket. Too many have suffered from tax increases and lost coverage. Now too many are set to face even fewer choices and significant price hikes in the year to come.

Middle-class families have endured the broken promises and failures of ObamaCare for far too long. It is past time for Democrats to own up to the many disappointments of this law and help us move toward better health care policies for our country.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks, the time until 12 noon be equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### OBAMACARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is too bad my Republican friends continue to attack ObamaCare. It is working. The ranks of the uninsured are as low as they have ever been. More people are getting access to health care, and they are healthier. More people are healthier because they can go see a doctor or go to a hospital when they need to.

The Republicans need to get over it and accept the fact that ObamaCare is here to stay. If they are so concerned about it—they have no plan of their own—maybe they could give us some ideas as to how it should be changed. We hear nothing other than criticism of a program that is doing so much to change America forever.

#### WISHING CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER PAT MILLHAM A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to take just a minute to talk about the tragedy that struck the Capitol Police yesterday. At 5 a.m., United States Capitol Police Officer Pat Millham was working out in the gym. He suffered a massive heart attack. Those who were present in the gym at the time rushed to his aid. They used a defibrillator three times before his heart started beating again. He was then flown to a nearby hospital and had surgery late last night.

He was revived. That is very good. He is a 28-year veteran of the Capitol Police. He has served in a variety of very important positions: a member of the

criminal investigations unit, academy instructor, and he even worked on the hostage negotiation team.

He is an outstanding police officer by all accounts. The Department has recognized his performance and honored Officer Millham with the Service Medal and Commendation Award. He is well-liked by all of his colleagues and has a great sense of humor. He is currently a member of the Department's mountain bike patrol that we see around here. There are not a lot of mountains, but there are a lot of hills around this Capitol complex.

He is in very good shape. That is what you have to be to be a patrol officer on a bicycle. That is what makes what happened yesterday so shocking. I cannot imagine what a difficult time it has been for Pat and his wife Heidi and their two children at college, Skylar and Savannah. Heidi recently retired from the United States Capitol Police.

I hope they know the entire Senate and House family wishes Officer Millham a speedy recovery, and I express my personal appreciation and admiration to all of the Capitol Police for all they do and all the personnel who make the Capitol Police jobs functional. We look forward to having Officer Millham back at full health very quickly.

Mr. President, where are we on what is happening on the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

Alexander amendment No. 3804 (to amend No. 3801), to modify provisions relating to Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

#### NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we have recently been talking quite a bit—because, frankly, unless we talk about it people won't know what happened—about how productive we have been over the last year and a half in advancing legislation that benefits the American people, which is, of course, the reason why they sent us here.

I say we have been talking about it, because if we don't talk about it, maybe they will never learn, and even if we talked about it, some of them may never believe it. But the fact of the matter is that we need to talk about what we are doing here for the people we represent.

Of course, nothing happens in the Senate or in Congress or in Washington unless it is done on a bipartisan basis. But leadership matters. Leadership matters.

We have seen with the new Republican majority in the 114th Congress, under Senator McCONNELL and Speaker RYAN now, that we have been able to pass some important legislation. This includes legislation to combat the epidemic of opioid abuse throughout our Nation. We passed an important piece of legislation called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to deal with it.

But I want to talk about another aspect of the prescription drug problem or issue and reflect on some bipartisan legislation we passed 6 years ago—obviously, with people on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers—when we came together to tackle another issue related to prescription drugs. This had to do with the fact that many prescription drugs are filled. They will sit in medicine cabinets and perhaps be subject to pilfering by people for whom they were not prescribed or be disposed of in a way that is bad for the environment. We found that the growing use of prescription drugs for nonmedical uses is particularly a problem among teenagers. When people take drugs for recreational or other purposes that have not been prescribed for them, unfortunately the consequences can be fatal.

We noticed that some State and local law enforcement agencies have had success with drug take-back programs. The programs allowed people to turn in their leftover prescription drugs, limiting the chances that these drugs would get into the hands of someone who doesn't need them or that they would hurt them.

I remember in Austin, TX, shortly after we passed this legislation in 2010, going to one of the locations where the take-back program was in use, and people were bringing garbage sacks full of prescription drugs they had in their home. In some instances, they had a

relative who had been ill and passed away. They had all of these prescription drugs that were sitting there, and they didn't know what to do with them. Do you flush them down the toilet? Do you put them in the garbage can? What do you do? Fortunately, we provided a mechanism for people to deal with these unneeded drugs.

We focused our efforts on making it easier for Federal agencies to take and dispose of some of the most dangerous drugs, including opioids, and finding a way to encourage more communities to do the same.

The legislation we passed in 2010 was the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act, and it gave law enforcement officials the flexibility they need to be able to build these programs. Like most legislation nobody has ever heard of, it passed Congress unanimously. But just because we didn't fight like cats and dogs doesn't mean it is not worthwhile. I am thankful that this week we will be able to highlight the importance of legislation like this to address our Nation's prescription drug epidemic.

Today, folks on Capitol Hill can hand in any unused prescription medication they have as part of Federal take-back day. That is today. On Saturday, we will get a chance to see this in action across the country through the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Take-back days not only highlight the problem of prescription drug abuse, they help local communities take control of the problem by rallying the community to turn in drugs that are either unwanted or expired and to make sure they are safely disposed of.

I look forward to going back home to Texas for national take-back day this weekend, where I will have a chance to join local law enforcement and city leaders in Dallas and Austin and Walgreens pharmacy—all working together to help highlight this important initiative. I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

#### UNITED STATES-MEXICO RELATIONSHIP

Mr. President, separately, I want to talk for a moment about another matter of importance, and that is the importance of our Nation's relationship with our neighbor to the south. Coming from Texas, which has 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico, I often observe that this is a relationship from which we cannot get a divorce. We are bound together as countries, contiguous countries, and frankly our well-being depends in part on how well Mexico is doing. We know that Mexico, like the United States, has its own unique challenges.

As the largest exporting State in the country, Texas exported \$95 billion worth of goods to Mexico just last year—\$95 billion to Mexico just last year. In fact, Mexico is our largest export market, and it is the second largest export market of the United States.

The truth is, Mexico and its economy are very important to our economy and how we do as a country.

In today's globalized world, we must continue to support our economic partnership with Mexico and find ways to build on it and certainly not do anything to undermine it. That is why I prioritized efforts such as the Cross-Border Trade and Enhancement Act, legislation I have introduced with my colleague in the House, a Democrat by the name of HENRY CUELLAR. I worked with him a lot on border-related and especially trade-related issues. This bill would help reduce wait times and upgrade infrastructure at our border ports of entry.

I bet most people don't realize that the single largest land port of entry into the United States is Laredo, TX. If you come with me to Laredo sometime, you will see semis and tractor-trailers stacked up literally for hours trying to get across the International Bridge, engaging in the kind of trade that helps support American jobs and helps our economy.

It is important that we move goods and people more efficiently, safely, and legally, and grow our trading relationships with partners like Mexico. The fact is, 6 million American jobs depend on binational trade with Mexico—things we send there and things they send here. A lot of the jobs that used to go to China because they could produce things in a manufacturing process that was cheaper because of lower wages and the like—because of the benefit of the proximity of Mexico, many of the maquiladoras and other manufacturing facilities in Mexico are integral to North American manufacturing.

Our relationship with Mexico, as complicated as it can sometimes be, goes well beyond impressive trade statistics. Mexico is a key partner for the United States as we work to keep our country safe and to help them deal with the challenges they have from a law enforcement standpoint.

Mexico is critical to our joint goals of countering and interdicting illegal substances entering the United States from across the border. We know the supply is huge, and unfortunately the demand in the United States is huge, and our Mexican friends always remind us of that. Every time we are critical of them, they say: Well, if it weren't for the demand in the United States, the supply wouldn't be there. They have a point.

We have also worked with Mexico in trying to stem the tide of illegal immigration. I know most people may not quite accept that, but the fact is, Mexico has stepped up and dealt with immigration across its southern border from countries such as in Central America—some of the most challenging environments in this hemisphere. We have seen that manifested in the tens of thousands of unaccom-

panied children who come from Central America, across Mexico, and into the United States, ending up on our doorstep. But Mexico has worked with us to try to stem that flow of illegal immigration from Central America.

We have worked together to try to help make sure our border is not an easy target for terrorists and other bad actors seeking entry to our country.

There is no doubt that these shared challenges are just that—challenging. But what should be crystal clear to all of us is that we can't address them without working with Mexico. We can't ignore it. As I said earlier, we can't get a divorce. We have to work this out because our futures are joined together in many important respects. That is why I say that the success of the United States depends in part on Mexico's success, and we should diligently look for ways to grow that partnership for the good of both countries. One practical way we can do that is by confirming a U.S. Ambassador to represent us in Mexico City.

Roberta Jacobson was nominated last summer, and I believe she is qualified to represent us in this key relationship. Our bilateral relationship is simply too important to the people of Texas and to the people of the United States to leave this position unfilled. We have to get somebody representing the United States in Mexico City to advocate on behalf of the United States for all of the reasons I mentioned earlier—trade, security, immigration. Otherwise, I don't think we are going to be able to make the kind of progress we all would like to see, and we certainly can't afford to let our relationship with Mexico go stagnant. That is one of the risks of not having an ambassador there.

I was really glad to hear my friend, the junior Senator from Florida, call the U.S.-Mexico relationship one of the most important ones we have. He said that yesterday on the floor. I share his optimism that this impasse over the confirmation of Ms. Jacobson can be resolved soon. I certainly think it is time we come together to move her nomination forward. Here in the waning days of the Obama administration, it is very important that we have this important ambassadorship filled for all of the reasons I mentioned earlier.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time in quorum calls until 12 noon be evenly divided between the two parties.

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

Mr. COTTON. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, in a few minutes we will be voting on whether to end debate on the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. Most of what we have to say about it at this point is very good news. This is the first appropriations bill of the year. It is the earliest date an appropriations bill has been acted on in the Senate since 1974. If it goes through in the regular order, it will be the first Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill that has done so since 2009. More than 80 Senators have contributed policy suggestions and amendments to the bill on both sides of the aisle. In addition to that, we have dealt with 17 amendments on the floor. Now we are ready to end debate and move in our process toward a final solution on the bill.

I believe this bill was put on the floor because Senator FEINSTEIN and I have a good history of working together, and the expectation was that we would find a way to do that. Let me say the problem—and I will leave time for Senator FEINSTEIN or the Democratic leader or perhaps Senator COTTON or others who may want to say something.

An issue has arisen over an amendment offered by Senator COTTON. He did that after the administration made an announcement over the weekend that it would be purchasing heavy water from Iran. Heavy water by itself is not much. It is just water. It is in drums. It doesn't hurt anybody. It is not dangerous. It is distilled water, and it is used primarily for two reasons: one, for scientific instruments—we use it for fiber optics and other scientific reasons—and it can be used to make plutonium. So it was a part of the agreement between the United States and Iran.

Senator COTTON—and I will characterize his amendment with his permission—sought to do two things. One was to say you couldn't use any appropriated funds for the fiscal year 2017—the one we are working on now—to buy more heavy water from Iran. The second thing he sought was to do something about Iran's business of selling heavy water. What would the implications be about that for our own national security? Remember, this is a decision by the U.S. Department of Energy that was announced over the weekend without any notification to

the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee or to the Intelligence Committee or to the Armed Services Committee. So you have a U.S. Senator who is on the ball, and he says: OK, this is an issue I would like to do something about.

Our friends on the other side have raised an objection, especially Senator FEINSTEIN, for whom I have the greatest respect. So today, in talking with the Democratic leaders, I asked: May I talk with Senator COTTON and see if he will modify his amendment in a way that might be acceptable so that we can go on with the appropriations process and not blow it up?

It was blown up last year because we put controversial water language in the bill, and instead of bringing it to the floor and voting on it and letting the President veto it and then bringing it back, the Democrat majority decided we just wouldn't bring the bill to the floor.

This year I talked to the Democratic leaders. They wrote Senator MCCONNELL a letter, and we all agreed to try to have an appropriations process. What they said to me was, no controversial riders in committee. So I went through my whole committee with Senator FEINSTEIN, and we persuaded many Senators to leave their controversial amendments off the bill in committee, and we said to them: You can bring them up on the floor when they have 60 votes. If you can get 60 votes, you can put it in the bill, and if the President of the United States doesn't like it, he can veto it. Then it takes 67 votes to override it.

Here we are, early in the process in April, moving ahead, and all of a sudden I understand that the Democratic minority is going to block us from going forward because they don't like the Cotton amendment.

Let me say this, Mr. President, and I will stop my remarks. I think Senator COTTON has acted responsibly. He acted as soon as he knew about the Department of Energy's decision. He has listened to the objections that were raised by the other side. He has amended his own bill. He has offered for it to be adopted by voice vote. He has offered for it to be voted on at 60 votes.

As I said, he has modified it. He has completely taken out the part that could limit American businesses from getting licenses to buy heavy water from Iran. That is to be discussed at a later time. He has left in only the part that says you can't use fiscal year 2017 money to buy heavy water from Iran. But the Department can use prior year appropriated money, and it can use revolving fund money. It can buy all the heavy water Iran has if this President or the next President wants to. I think that is a very reasonable step, and I would ask the Democratic leader and the whip and Senator FEINSTEIN, all of whom I work with very well and for

whom I have great respect, if they are determined to block the bill at noon. But let's keep talking about this because I think it is the basic constitutional framework of our U.S. Senate to do our job on appropriations, and Senators should be allowed to offer germane amendments.

When confronted with an objection on the other side, if they say "well, 60 votes" or "voice vote" or "I will modify my amendment," that ought to be respected, and we should go ahead. Then if the President at the end still feels he wants to veto the bill, that is the way our process works. He vetoes it.

If we don't do this, we are going to end up with an omnibus bill. Senators won't have a chance to participate in it, and then the President will have to veto it in an omnibus bill at the end of the year. That is not the kind of process that earns the respect of the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have the deepest respect, without any question, for the Senator from Tennessee, who is my friend, and, of course, Senator FEINSTEIN is already legendary as a figure in Democratic politics and politics of this country. But I have some reservation, for lack of a better description, about my friend, the senior Senator from Tennessee talking about the appropriations process.

I was on the Appropriations Committee from the first day I came to the Senate, and I loved my service on the Appropriations Committee. For the last 8 years under President Obama, the Republicans have done everything they could—I am trying to find a pleasant word—to mess up the appropriations process—everything.

For those who understand the Senate, everyone should know we didn't ask that there be cloture on a motion to proceed. We are as cooperative as we can be on everything we have done during the time we have been in the minority, which is more than a year now.

I would suggest to my friend that cloture will not be invoked on this bill in 2 or 3 minutes. If there is some proposal that the Republicans want to come back with that is reasonable and doesn't have a poison pill in it, fine; we are willing to move forward on this. For someone to give me the statement "Well, you know, it is germane"—the world is germane on this bill. I did this bill for 15 years. I did it. I know what is in this bill. Just about everything is germane. They have all kinds of defense stuff, energy and water—it is a big, big important bill, and this amendment by the Senator from Arkansas is nothing more than an effort to sidetrack the work we are doing here.

The Republicans are in the majority. I hope that it doesn't last that long, but that is where we are. It is up to

them to move this process forward. We have tried our best to cooperate.

I suggest to my friend from Tennessee to see what happens and come back with something this afternoon. We have said on many occasions over the last 24 hours, we will vote right now on final passage of the bill—as it stood before this amendment was offered.

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

Mr. COTTON. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, as the Senator from Tennessee has said, the administration announced that they were purchasing heavy water from Iran on Friday night. On the first legislative day back on Monday, I proposed an amendment which is germane to the bill and thereby entitled to a simple majority threshold vote.

I have offered to give a voice vote to the Democrats so they don't have a record vote. I have offered to put it at a 60-vote threshold because there are 60 Senators who do not believe that the U.S. taxpayers should be subsidizing Iran's heavy water industry.

This morning, as Senator ALEXANDER said, I offered to revise my amendment, yet here we are. The Democrats are going to vote no on cloture, objecting to an amendment that is not pending and is not included in this legislation.

I, too, do not want to see the appropriations process end. I want to pass this bill. I want to move on to the next appropriations bill, and I am committed to continue working in good faith with the Senator from Tennessee and the Senator from California to try to reach some solution, whether on this bill or any other, that we can move forward on in an orderly fashion and pass all of our appropriations bills, as well as ensure that the U.S. taxpayer is not subsidizing a critical component of Iran's nuclear industry, which, I may add, we are not required to do under the nuclear agreement with Iran.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. May I speak for a few minutes prior to the cloture vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, we have the Democratic leader on the floor and the chairman of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. I want him, particularly, to know how very much it has meant to me to work with him to try to reverse the deterioration of order of this body.

That deterioration of order was the inability to pass an appropriations bill

on its own and go back to what is called regular order. I have watched the Appropriations Committee lose prestige over the years. I have watched something happen that never happened in the early years. Members would vote for a bill in committee. They would come out, and they would sustain it on the floor.

So the Appropriations Committee gained, I think, a prestige and an honor in this body. I think it has been very wounded. So the ability of Senator ALEXANDER, my chairman, and myself to try to restore that order by sitting down and working out problems—and seeing that he gives, I give, we put together a bill, and we believe that bill can get through this body and that we can conference that bill successfully—is a really big deal to change the nature of this body, and we can show that we can get our job done.

Well, into this climate, which is so amicable and so positive, comes an amendment. I go to the White House. I pick up the phone. I call the Chief of Staff. I say: This is an amendment. It may affect the Iran deal. I would like to know what the administration's position is. The word back is that the administration will veto this bill if these words are in it.

So I began to learn a little bit about heavy water—what it is and what it is not—and how this all came about. So I understand the administration's problem with it, because it destroys something they are trying to do with the Iran agreement; that is, to show Iran a legal pathway with which it can proceed to go into the family of nations in a moderate way.

Iran happens to have a foreign minister whom I have known for at least 15 years. I know he believes in this Iranian agreement. I know he wanted to take Iran in another direction. I know it because he proposed an earlier plan when he was Ambassador to the United Nations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I ask unanimous consent for such time as I may consume. I will be short.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I have no objection if I can have the same.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. So, to make a long story short, this body discussed the joint agreement. We agreed that the President should go ahead and implement this agreement. Now, there are difficult problems because Iran is emerging and wanting to come into the family of nations in a positive way. They have to get this heavy water out. The heavy water is out. It is sitting in a store room in Oman.

Iran desires to sell it, just as India sells heavy water. Canada has sold heavy water to us. That heavy water is used for peaceful purposes, as the

chairman said, for fiber optics, for medical research. Our National Labs are interested in it, and there are many companies that would use it to improve fiber optics and that kind of thing.

So it is a way of removing proliferation from the country. This is suddenly on our Energy and Water bill. I believe we have the votes to not enter into cloture at this time. I guess what I want to say is my very deep regret to my chairman. I don't want it to end this way. I want us to continue to work together. I truly believe that there is more in the interests of this country that we can do appropriations bills in regular order, with concurrence on both sides of the aisle, than the value of this amendment.

This amendment has raised hackles all over. So why can't it be left for another day? Why does it need to be on an appropriations bill? Why can't we have the ability to do one bill in this body that does not have a poison pill on it, to set an example for future bills? This was the bill—Senator ALEXANDER and I both know that—that was supposed to do that. Why can't a Member see this? Maybe he is a new Member. Maybe he does not understand what the years have been like.

Why can't he wait for another time? I have been here 24 years. I have waited for another time plenty of times, because someone said: Your amendment won't go well with the bill. Don't do it now. We may help you later.

I did it. Why destroy our chances? Because that is exactly what is happening.

So I just want Chairman ALEXANDER to know how very sad I am that we are at this point. I believe it is not necessary to be at this point. I believe we could show that we could do it. I would say that if cloture is not granted, we stand ready to continue to work to try to get a bill. But I would so appreciate it if a new Member could recognize this and say: Oh, I wanted to do this. It is my right to do it.

All of that I admit, but what you are doing is going to disturb our effort to produce a series of appropriations bills without poison pill riders.

I will predict that there will be more on other bills. Our effort, which the majority leader began with the Democratic leader—was to be able to put together a process where we could produce bills.

Please, think about that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I will make brief concluding remarks and then we can vote. We are not debating the Iran agreement here today. This is the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill of the Appropriations Committee. We are not even debating the Cotton amendment. It is not even part of the bill. Senator COTTON has filed an amendment that could

be part of the bill if the Senate decides to adopt it in our debate after we adopt cloture. He has done that.

Just to repeat, over the weekend, the U.S. Department of Energy, without any consultation with anybody in the Senate that I know about—without the Intelligence, Armed Services, or Foreign Relations Committees—decided it was going to buy heavy water from Iran. The Senator from Arkansas introduced an amendment on the subject.

My understanding of the way the Senate is supposed to work is that we save the controversial amendments for the floor. If you can get 60 votes, you pass them. Then, as Senators, if the issue is an important issue about which we disagree, we vote on it and we accept the vote. Sometimes we win, and sometimes we lose.

We also listen to each other. So if the other side says this is an especially difficult issue for us, we try to accommodate that. So the Senator from Arkansas has said that he will take 60 votes, although he is entitled to 51. He can force a 51-vote vote on this issue if he chose to do that, under parliamentary rules.

He said: I will take a voice vote. He does not have to do that. Then this morning he said: I will modify my amendment. I will eliminate all of the part about licenses. That is the second sentence of this very simple amendment. We will reserve that for discussion by the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, and other committees. So all that his amendment says is that you can't use money from this fiscal year to buy heavy water from Iran—except that the Department of Energy has potentially millions of dollars it could use from other years to do that, and it has a revolving fund it could use.

In effect, if this President or the next President wanted to continue to buy heavy water from Iran, it could do so. So I think the Senator from Arkansas is entirely within his rights, whether he has been here 2 years or 20 years. I think he is entitled to come up and ask for a vote. I think he has bent over backwards in offering three or four different ways to accommodate the concerns of the others.

I think it would be a real shame if we came up with yet one more reason not to have an appropriations bill after we have done all of this work, 80 Senators have made their contributions, and we have adopted 17 amendments.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate

amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Roger F. Wicker, Mark Kirk, John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3801, offered by the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, as amended, to H.R. 2028, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.  
The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Enzi	Moran
Ayotte	Ernst	Murkowski
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Rounds
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Vitter
Daines	McCain	Wicker
Donnelly	Menendez	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sasse
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Lee	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Sessions
Sanders	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 46.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I think we have come up with yet another definition of obstruction today. Our Democratic friends are going to prevent the passage of an energy and water appropriations bill because of an amendment that is not yet pending to the bill in yet a new way to blow up the appropriations process.

Our Democratic colleagues were great at dysfunction when they were in the majority, and they are pretty good at it when they are in the minority. No matter what the issue—no matter what the issue—there is some new and creative way to try and throw a monkey wrench into the gears.

I heard over and over and over again that there was broad support on both sides of the aisle for getting the appropriations process moving again. The Senator from Arkansas has been extraordinarily reasonable. He has offered to modify his amendment. He has offered to consider it in some other context. Our chairman, Senator ALEXANDER, has been working on this for 24 hours. It ought not to be this hard to pass an energy and water appropriations bill that would be good for the country and that most of us support.

So I just moved to reconsider my vote, and we need to continue to talk about this because this is a ridiculous place for the Senate to be—ridiculous. We are all adults. We have all been elected by the people of our various States to come and act responsibly.

We are not going to give up on this bill, and when we finish this bill, we will go to a couple more appropriations bills. I think we have a collective responsibility in the Senate—Democrats and Republicans—to work our way past this snag and figure out the way forward, so we will have time to do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I would like to say a word in response from the Democratic side.

First, I cannot think of two colleagues I admire more than Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN. They are honorable people. It has been a pleasure to work with them and even to consider issues where we opposed one another because I knew it would be done in a professional and courteous way. They have spent more hours than I can calculate constructing one of the most important appropriations bills—the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

This bill was brought to the floor first by Senator McCONNELL for good reason. We wanted to set a template, a model, for finishing the appropriations process, and I respect that. I have been

honored to serve on the House Committee on Appropriations and now on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I think it is a very important assignment. It has been many years since we have done our work in the way it was supposed to be done.

Without a budget resolution, we took the budget agreement, moved forward with the bills. There were countless opportunities for the minority, the Democrats, to slow down this process, to make it more difficult, to make it more complicated, and to demand votes and delays of 30 hours after 30 hours. We did not do that because we were trying to be positive and constructive.

I will not reflect on our experience in the majority, but I would say in response to the Republican leader, they broke the record in terms of filibusters on the floor of the Senate when the Republicans were in the minority. We don't want to go back to that era and we don't want to "get even." That isn't what this is about.

There were basically two or three things guiding us in the process that I thought everyone signed up for, and I believe they did. One of them was balance between defense and nondefense spending overall; second, that each one of the bills hits a number that can be explained and rationalized based on the budget agreement; and third, the contentious issue of poison pills. These are subjects that are so controversial that if they are included in a bill, it becomes impossible to either pass it on the floor or expect the President to sign it.

So we thought, if we are going to exercise our opportunity with an appropriations process that works, those three things have to apply. I give credit to both Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN for producing a bill in subcommittee that met those tests and didn't include any great controversial items, going through full committee with exactly the same outcome, and bringing it to the floor.

We were this close to the finish line—this close to the finish line—when yesterday the Senator from Arkansas, as is his right to do, offered an amendment. That amendment was offered around noon yesterday and the whole conversation changed. It was an amendment related to the Department of Energy, yes, but it was an amendment of great controversy because it was an amendment related to the President's agreement with Iran to stop them from the development of nuclear weapons.

Everyone knows what that was about. Every Republican opposed the President's agreement and four of ours on the Democratic side. It was a highly controversial and volatile subject for many months and continues to be on the Presidential trail. To bring this amendment into the bill at the last

moment, as it was, is to invite a debate and a controversy which was not in the bill up to that point.

Now, was it the right of the Senator from Arkansas to do it? Yes. But I would just say that my experience in appropriations is, you would say to your colleague who had the right to offer an amendment: Let me just say in advance, this is going to slow down—it may even stop this bill. After all the work we have put into it, please don't offer that amendment, and if you do, I will have to oppose it.

Those are the basics for kind of going forward on a bipartisan basis to bring this bill to a conclusion.

We just had a procedural vote, and a few Republicans joined us, but the overwhelming majority of Democrats said we can't move forward on the bill until we resolve this basic question: If Senators will be allowed to offer amendments on the floor that are relevant to the bill and are controversial, we invite poison pills up to the very last moment when a bill can be considered.

There has to be a better way. We have to prove to America that we can get things done in its best interests. That means some Senators cannot offer every amendment they would like to offer. That is just part of the restraint which we ask of Members who are consciously trying to help us be constructive in the Senate.

I hope we can get back on track. The conversations are civil, as they should be between honorable people who are trying to work this out, and they need to continue. The underlying bill is very important. It is important to my State and to many other States. But let's finish this bill in the right way, in a bipartisan fashion, in a calm fashion, not in a confrontational fashion. We can do that. I am sorry we can't do it this morning. I hope we will all work together to achieve that goal as quickly as possible.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I would like to compliment my colleague from Illinois. He hit the nail on the head. I will be brief.

The Republican leader said this is a new level of obstruction. I don't know if it is a new level of obstruction; he has been pretty good at it over the years. But certainly, if we wanted to obstruct these bills, we wouldn't have let the motion to proceed go forward. We would have done 17 other things that were done time and time again in the past.

The way to stop this, I would say to the Republican leader, is very simple: Either prevail on Senator COTTON not to offer his amendment—no one is doing that. He has a right to do it. But in the old days, as Senator DURBIN said, the way the appropriations proc-

ess worked, the chair of the subcommittee would say: Don't offer your amendment because it will be defeated and we will help defeat it because it will blow up the bill. Plain and simple. That is still an option.

We didn't offer the Cotton amendment. We could have offered our version of Cotton amendments to blow up this bill. We did not. Whether or not that was his intent—and I will not doubt the sincerity of my friend from Arkansas. But it was offered by the other side, and the onus is on the other side to fix this. The way to fix it is one of two: Either prevail on the Senator from Arkansas to pursue his goal here—that is certainly his right, but don't do it using the appropriations process as a hostage to move forward on his bill—or tell him that if he offers the bill, Republicans will vote against it as well. Then we can move forward.

That was how it used to work. When I was a junior Member and I wanted to offer amendments, some of them controversial, I would go to our chair or ranking member—depending on whether we were in the majority or minority—and say: I want to offer this amendment. The chair would consult with the other side, and they would come back and say: We, the majority/minority, cannot support this amendment. Then I wouldn't offer it. It would lose. That is the way the process used to work.

I don't begrudge any individual—the centrifugal forces in our politics have pulled things apart, so it is much harder for Members on both sides of the aisle to do it. But let's not turn that around. The obstruction and the failure to deal with obstruction is not coming from this side, it is coming from the other side, and they have an onus to fix it.

One more point before my good friend—and I love him—from Tennessee comes forward. Whatever we did, the President said he was going to veto this. So the idea that this bill would go forward and we would spend all this time on it and then have the President veto it—that doesn't accomplish the goals that I know my good friends, the chair of the subcommittee and the ranking member of the subcommittee, want to pursue. The onus is on us to do it before we get to that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I appreciate the comments of Senator SCHUMER, Senator DURBIN, and Senator FEINSTEIN, for whom I have great respect.

The people who can figure this out are on the floor, and we ought to be able to, is the bottom line. I suspect a big part of the problem is timing. The administration apparently decided to do this over the weekend. We are in the middle of this bill. Senator COTTON

would say that he moved as quickly as he could. And there is no question that this is an issue which raises lots of temperatures on both sides of the aisle. There is no doubt about that.

We have to have a balance. Senators have a right to take important issues and present them in an appropriate way here in the Senate. In just this bill, there are several times when I was one of only one or two or three Republicans who voted for amendments just so we could get the amendments through and we could keep the bill going. I know how that works, and I intend to keep doing it.

But I would say to my Democratic friends: I hope we can put our minds together and think of some way to allow Senator COTTON to make his point, to achieve what is an important objective and do it in a way that, A, is acceptable to the Democratic side, and B, doesn't have the problems that are associated with the timing. This came up on us all of a sudden. There are several reasons for that which we don't need to go into, but let's see if we can't work it out. I would certainly like to do that. I would like for Senator FEINSTEIN and myself to be able to set a good example for the rest of the Senate and get our bill through.

The only other thing I would say that is a little different from what the Senators from New York and Illinois said is that I don't really agree that if the President threatens a veto, we should stop our work. I think we would only be here about half a day a week. It is fine for the President to veto a bill if he feels he needs to, and he can send it right back. We consider that and we consider that it takes 67 to override it, and what often happens is we take something out or change some provision and send it back to him. So just because the President says he will veto a bill I don't think means the Senate should stop its work.

Mr. SCHUMER. Will my colleague yield?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Of course.

Mr. SCHUMER. I understand that every time the President says "veto," we shouldn't freeze in our tracks, but it would be a lot better if we could avoid that situation because we want this bill to pass and be signed into law.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I agree with the Senator from New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I will not weigh in on this issue, but I might later. I am here for a different purpose. I did serve previously in the Senate several years ago, and this is my second time back. My experience with the amendment process was a pleasant one then. Any Senator at any time could offer an amendment to any bill, and it would be discussed and debated and voted on, and we accepted the fact that it was either a yea or a nay. It was part

of a process that sometimes started here, sometimes started in the House, but it is a process that goes through many iterations.

So to determine that something at one step in the process takes the bill down ignores the fact that this bill will go over to the House of Representatives; they will debate it, and they will add things and subtract things; and then we will go to a conference to resolve the differences even before it gets to the President's desk.

Unfortunately, what has happened here is that on anything the President of the United States doesn't like, he simply says: I am going to veto it, so drop it.

So I agree with the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, in saying that if that is the process and the way this Senate is going to operate, we might as well just close the place down. We can maybe show up just to show people that we showed up for work. But we are not going to accomplish anything on this floor if that is the case.

The responsibility falls not just on us to do the job we were elected to do but also falls on the President to not try to torpedo a bill—there are multiple dimensions—because one amendment gets passed with the will of the Senate, including bipartisan support, but the President doesn't like it and therefore shuts the whole thing down.

#### WASTEFUL SPENDING

Madam President, I am here for the 40th-something week to talk about the waste of the week, and I will do that now. The other issue is being very ably handled by Senator ALEXANDER, who is a veteran here and knows how to work through these conundrums.

With a Federal debt that is over \$19 trillion and growing, it is fitting to take a long look at every penny the Federal Government appropriates to ensure that hard-earned taxpayer dollars are not wasted. I have been down here week after week with examples of waste.

Today, for my 41st edition of "Waste of the Week," I would like to bring attention to an app the Transportation Security Administration paid IBM more than \$47,000 to develop. "App" is a new word in our lexicon. We all carry around these new devices with which we can push a bunch of buttons and, by certain applications, access or do things that make life easier: monitor traffic on the road, getting the latest ballgame scores, checking on the weather. I have a whole bunch of apps on here.

I heard about an app that had been developed for the Transportation Security Administration called a randomizer app, and it does just two things. Very simply, it points an arrow to the right or to the left. Now, we might say, why would anybody need an app—a device—that randomizes an arrow to the

right or an arrow to the left? Well, let's take a look at this picture here.

This is obviously a TSA agent. We have all been through this. This is a line at the airport. Those of us who go home every weekend—I go back to Indiana on Thursday night or Friday—are very familiar with these lines because we have to go through the security process.

This is a TSA agent using this app. As we can see, it is a screen and it has a big arrow.

When you walk through Reagan National Airport to go home every week—as I know the Presiding Officer does to go back to Iowa—there are several lanes you can go down. Almost always there is a transportation security agent or someone associated with the process standing at the beginning of the lines and, with an arrow, saying "Take this one" or "Take that one." Well, I don't know about the details, but for some reason, they didn't want that to be an individual decision, so they called up IBM and said: We need to develop an app that will allow us to have a screen that has an arrow pointing to the left or to the right. And it needs to be random; it can't be controlled by this person.

For whatever reason, it needs to be random. OK. Maybe there is a rational reason TSA needs to do that for security purposes, and without divulging what that is or knowing what that is, I won't get into that, but obviously it doesn't take a lot of money to develop a screen that has an arrow to the left, an arrow to the right, and a little bit of software running in the background randomizing so that you can't figure out whether it is going to be left or right. It does it all by itself.

I wondered, how much would this cost? So we did a little research. What we found is that this is such a simple application that it can be developed by a developer of apps within a 10-minute period of time.

So taxpayers paid \$47,000 to build an app that had an arrow pointing one way or the other. Now, \$47,000 is minuscule compared to what we waste around here, and I have a chart here that shows well over \$160 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse tallied up during my 40 visits to the Senate floor to talk about the various ways the government wastes taxpayer dollars. But this one baffles me because something which is so simple and which takes 10 minutes to produce costs \$47,000—well above the average income for the average worker in Indiana and in many cases significantly more than the TSA agent who is holding it is paid annually for the work they do.

So here we are once again. People might ask: Well, could we have done this in an easier way? Well, how about flipping a coin? That is random. Tails, go in this lane; heads, you are in this lane. How about drawing from a hat?

The TSA person standing at the line can have a hat with a whole bunch of slips of paper in it that say "left" and "right." Go ahead, put your hand in, and pull it out.

What does it say?

Left.

That is over there.

What does it say?

Right.

That is over here.

Maybe we can do what I do with my grandkids. I put my fists behind my back, and I will have one or two fingers extended. They all get excited and so forth. The brother is elbowing his little sister so she won't win, and the third child is crying, maybe, because they are not letting her play.

So I say: OK, Charlie, is it a one or a two?

Two.

Charlie: Yay, I won.

His sister starts crying.

No, no. You are going to get your chance.

All right, Maggie, you pick a one or a two.

Anyway, we may go through each. I have 10 grandkids, so this takes a long time when we have family reunions.

Any one of those processes could be used, and I don't think it would cost \$47,000. It wouldn't be \$4.70. It is just something we could do.

I used to serve as the lead Republican on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. I know how difficult it is for the Homeland Security Subcommittee to fund the critical elements they need to fund and the programs they need to fund in order to keep us secure. Every penny counts, and every dollar counts in this regard.

This type of egregious waste has got to stop. Perhaps it is time for TSA to precheck—we are all familiar with precheck, another thing we have to go through—these programs before we fund them. As we continue to determine funding levels for various government programs and agencies, we must remember projects such as TSA's randomizer app. This is yet another example of why minimizing waste, fraud, and abuse will go a long way to restore trust in government decisions as to how our tax money is spent.

I just realized I missed out on naming one of my grandchildren who I play this with, and that is Avery—the sister of Charlie—who wants to make sure that she is in the game also. I will not go through the other seven. I will save those for another time.

Let me note that we add more money—ever more money and examples of taxpayer waste. We are up to \$162,277,955,817. This is big money. It is nothing to laugh about. This is a small example. We have had examples in the billions of dollars. We owe it to the taxpayer. We owe it to the hard-earned tax dollars that are earned by hard-working taxpayers to be as efficient

and effective with the spending of their money as we possibly can. Once again, this is the waste of the week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### FIGHTING WILDFIRES

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, according to the Forest Service—and we checked with them this morning—there is right now an 11,000-acre fire burning in the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. This is just April, not the time when one normally thinks you are going to have fires when the fire season is on. But there is a fire burning in the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia that has already cost more than \$3 million. This is the second largest fire in Shenandoah National Park history.

I have come to the floor this afternoon to once again make the case for the Senate, on a bipartisan basis—Democrats and Republicans—to come together to fix this dysfunctional system of fighting fire in America. I am going to describe it, but let me talk first a little bit about the consequences.

In the American West, we used to talk about the seasons in a way that Americans had done for decades and decades: harvesting crops in the fall, skiing in the winter, fishing during the spring salmon runs, and camping in the summers. We fought fire during the wildfire season. But when Americans in the West talk about the seasons now, they are talking about the seasons of yesteryear. That is because the wildfire season raging across our forests and special places is no longer limited to a single time of the year.

Fighting fires has become a continuous battle virtually year-round throughout the country. That is why this fire burning in the Shenandoah National Park ought to be a wake-up call once again to everyone to understand how important it is to fix this broken system of fighting fire, because the funding system for doing so is leading to dysfunction throughout the Forest Service and contributing to the breakdown of the national forest management that is needed to prevent catastrophic wildfires in the first place.

According to the Forest Service, 1.4 million acres have already burned across America this year. That is more than twice the 10-year average for this time of year. These numbers show, in my view, how important it is that urgent action be taken to fix the way we fund wildfire fighting operations. This is something that Senator CRAPO and I have been working on for some time.

With the support of scores of organizations, well over 200, a significant number of bipartisan Senators and a significant number of bipartisan House Members have all joined in this effort, because it is not just the West that has been impacted. Forest Service work in

States that manage timber sales, stream restoration, trail maintenance, and recreation get shortchanged when money has been diverted to fighting wildfires.

I was particularly struck last year when we had the good fortune of having the senior Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, join as a cosponsor of our legislation. The reason he did so is because this absolutely dysfunctional system of fighting fires has resulted in important priorities for New York State not being in a position to secure the funding they need. That is because the rising costs of fighting fires keeps raiding all these other programs in the Forest Service that are needed to help prevent fires down the road.

The raids take place two different ways. Certainly, in my part of the world, we are very troubled by the fact that you have prevention getting short shrift. Then it gets really hot and dry. We have lots of thunderstorms in our part of the world, and all of a sudden we have an inferno on our hands. Then what happens is the agencies end up borrowing from the prevention fund to put the fire out, and the problem gets worse because you have repeatedly shorted the prevention program.

This is what is called fire borrowing, and it happens not just in the West. That is why the senior Senator from New York wanted to be a cosponsor of our legislation, because programs that were important in New York State, thousands and thousands of miles away from the forests of eastern and central Oregon—those were a problem for programs he cared about and to secure their funding as a result of this dysfunctional system, just like it has been for people in the West.

It is time for the Congress to find a solution to ensure that, one, wildfires can be fought; and, two, to control the cost of fighting these wildfires by better preparing our forests and making them healthier.

I am very pleased that the chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the committee I had the honor of chairing in the past, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Ranking Member CANTWELL are committed to working on this issue, and I wanted to once again reaffirm my commitment. I know Senator CRAPO shares this view to work with them to find a solution to wildfire funding that can pass in this Congress.

I certainly have some ideas, and I am very interested in welcoming my colleagues' ideas and I have been for some time.

For example, last year in the summer, it was pretty clear that it was going to be a tough fire season. What I and others essentially sought to do was to find a way to get our colleagues working together to try to find some common ground and get this resolved. We couldn't quite get it done. We are



now going to be at this day in and day out, week in and week out. Senator CRAPO and I will be working with our colleagues and their staff on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and on the Budget Committee and with Members from the other body to find a solution that works for all sides of the issue.

We saw last summer that this was going to be a problem. A big group of us got together and said we have to get it resolved. We couldn't quite thread the needle. This time we have to make sure that gets done. There are not a lot of certainties in life, but the fire season is one of them, and the Congress simply cannot let this problem continue.

I wanted to come to the floor, particularly today, to take note of the fact that the fire in the Shenandoah area ought to be a wake-up call to everybody. If they are having one of the biggest fires they have ever had this early in April, that is a signal of what is to come. It has been the story of summer after summer. Now we are learning, as I indicated earlier—and it appears it is not just in the West—that we are thinking about the seasons and talking about the seasons of yesteryear because now it is fire season all year round.

My colleague is here.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The Senator from Oregon.

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the most important words in the crafting of our Constitution are the first three words: "We the People." With those three words, the Founders described what the government of our new Nation was all about.

As President Lincoln later summarized, it is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. In fact, even in the crafting of the Constitution, the Founders put special emphasis upon those three words, putting them in supersized font before all the details that were to follow.

Periodically, I will come to the floor to talk about issues that are closely related to the "we the people" vision of our Constitution and our responsibilities under the Constitution. This week, I rise to address the responsibility of the Senate and its advice and consent role under the Constitution.

The President's duty is to nominate a Supreme Court nominee when there is a vacancy. That responsibility is written very clearly into the Constitution. It says that "he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the supreme Court" in article II, section 2 of our beloved Constitution.

The Senate then has the responsibility to provide advice and consent, as required, and over time it has been un-

derstood that we need to vet the nominee, determine whether the nominee is fit to serve in the post he or she will serve in, which is particularly important in the Supreme Court. That is how this esteemed Chamber, our beloved Senate, has operated for more than 200 years.

In fact, we need to go back now and understand how this design was created. I have come to the floor before and read from Hamilton's Federalist Paper 76 that summarizes a conversation that was taking place over the nomination process. Some folks—in crafting the Constitution—thought that responsibility should be solely with what they referred to as "the assembly," which is this body, the Senate. The reason they argued that is, it would be a balance to the power of the President in the executive branch if the assembly, the legislative branch, were to make the appointments. However, they then realized that those appointments would probably never get done because there would likely be a lot of horse trading and the most qualified person probably wouldn't be nominated. Instead, it would most likely be the friend of one Senator traded for the friend of another Senator, and that didn't make sense. They said: No, it would make more sense to invest the responsibility for the quality of the individual in a single individual. As the expression goes, the buck stops here. It stops at the President's desk. The President would have the responsibility to nominate individuals to serve in the executive and judicial branches and will bear the public responsibility for the credibility and quality of those nominations, but in that conversation, they also thought that was too much power for the President to have. What if the President starts to appoint friends or those with little experience or those of unfit moral character? There needs to be some kind of check, so in that regard then came the role of the Senate to give advice and consent. In order to do that, the nomination would go before this body for debate and then this body would vote on that nominee.

The words that were the key words Hamilton used in describing the responsibility was to determine whether the individual was "of unfit character"—fit character, unfit character. Did that nominee have the qualifications necessary for the job and the personal characteristics required to fulfill the job effectively?

Well, here we are and President Obama has fulfilled his responsibility under the Constitution. He has nominated Judge Merrick Garland. We now have our responsibility in the Senate to vet this nominee, examine Judge Garland's record, examine any aspect of his writings or his previous court decisions, and determine whether Judge Garland is a fit character or unfit char-

acter. That is our responsibility in the Constitution.

A number of my colleagues across the aisle—my Republican colleagues—have said: We don't want to fulfill our responsibility under the Constitution. We are just going to ignore the responsibility that has been vested in the Senate of the United States. They are in the majority, and a nomination can't go to a committee for a hearing and determine whether an individual is of fit character or unfit character without the majority making it happen. The nomination can't come to the floor without a majority vote in committee so it can then be put forward for our consideration. Unfortunately, the job strike of the majority party in the Senate—failing to fulfill its responsibility under our Constitution—is now imposed on this entire body.

If we were within the usual timeline, we would be holding a hearing on Judge Garland this week. Since 1975, the average time from nomination to committee hearing has been about 42 days, but instead the leadership has said: We are not going to honor our responsibility. I find that deeply disturbing. Each and every one of us stood before this body and took an oath to fulfill our responsibilities under this Constitution, and that is what we should be doing right now.

I say to my colleagues: Do your job. After a bit of reflection on the importance of how our government functions, one would think there would be a bit of reflection upon what we owe to maintain the integrity of our institutions and that this decision to go on a job strike would have been reversed.

I have talked to colleagues who are, quite frankly, somewhat embarrassed because they have been asked to toe the line, and they don't feel it is right that they should be, in fact, failing to fulfill their responsibility, but there is a lot of pressure on them. We need to set aside political pressure when it comes to the integrity of our institutions.

Since the 1980s, every person appointed to the Supreme Court has been given a prompt hearing and a vote within 100 days of their nomination. This chart shows three different phases as to the vacancies. Sometimes those vacancies have been longer or shorter in terms of before a nomination occurs. The red bar shows the start of the nomination process and the green bar shows the time before a vote is taken, which is the period of consideration. In every case, the red and green bar together are 100 days or less. This dates all the way back to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

It has now been 100 days. How many days are there between now and when the next President takes office? What is the math? Well, there are 268 days. So for anyone who comes to this floor

and says there isn't time, that individual is making a case with no foundation because the record shows that from the time the nomination was made until a vote, time and time again—under Democrats or under Republicans—it has been less than 100 days. Yet we have more than 260 days left before the next President takes office.

There are other folks who have come to the floor of this Chamber and have invented this new principle called the job strike during the last year that a President is in office. They act as if there is something in the Constitution which gives this Senate permission not to do its job during the last year a President is in office. Well, I encourage my friends to pull out and read the Constitution, find that clause, and bring it to the floor because it does not exist. The Constitution anticipates that each of us will fulfill our responsibilities throughout the entire length we serve until we exit office, that a President will serve and work through all 4 years of his or her term, that a Senator will serve and work through all 6 years of his or her term. There is no vacation in the Constitution for the last year. There is no special permission to fail to do your constitutional responsibility in the last year of a term. That simply doesn't exist.

Many Supreme Court Justices have been confirmed in the final year of a Presidency, and so for those who come to this floor and argue that there is some historical precedent, that precedent doesn't exist either. Republican and Democratic Presidents have issued nominations regardless of the party in control of the Senate and the Senate, regardless of the party of the President, has done its job in case after case after case throughout time. Until this moment, the Senate has vetted the nominees, individual Senators have met with the nominee, the nominee's record has been exposed, thereby giving the public the opportunity to give us their input, and we would have voted in committee and on this floor.

(Mr. BARRASSO assumed the Chair.)

If we look to the recent past, Justice Kennedy was confirmed in the last year of President Reagan's final term. By the way, the Senate was controlled by Democrats. The Democratic leadership didn't say: We are going to go on a job strike and not vet the candidate and not hold a vote and not fulfill our responsibility. No, they honored their responsibility under the Constitution and so should every Senator today.

This is a black mark on the record of the Senate. Think about what it will lead to. For example, let's say the job strike we are engaged in is purely for political reasons in an effort to pack the Court with more conservative Justices. Let's say it succeeds in delaying a nomination until the next Presidency, and the next President nomi-

nates someone on the far edges and way out of the mainstream, then what does each party do? Do they say: Well, the other party worked to pack the Court and refused to do their job, and, now, because the consequences would be so destructive and so partisan to the Court, we will refuse to do our job but only because of what preceded it? That is not a conversation we should ever have. That is not a dialogue we should ever have in this Chamber of action to politicize the Court, pack the Court, followed by reaction to try to blunt the impact of the initial action, followed by reaction, back and forth. This will deeply undermine the integrity of the Supreme Court of the United States. Let me tell you, the Court is already in trouble. The activist Court decisions of the far right, trying to write legislation through Court decisions to change the fundamental understandings of how our Nation operates, have already deeply politicized the Court.

Citizens United turned the fundamental premise written into our Constitution on its head. Our Constitution was written all about, "We the People." Jefferson talked about the mother principle; that we could only claim to be a republic to the degree that the decisions reflected the will of the people and that in order for that to happen, citizens had to have an equal voice. His vision was one of the town's square, where there was no cost to participate. Everyone had a chance to stand and have their say.

Lincoln talked about the equal voice principle for citizens. The fundamental premise in a republic is to express the will of the people. People have to have the ability to participate in roughly equal proportion, but now the town square is for sale. It is the television, the Internet, the Web sites, the radio, and our Court has decided it is OK for the very rich to buy it up and destroy the equal voice principle that our Founders so cherished.

This activist Court on the far right has decided to undermine those important first three words of the Constitution: "We the People." This has produced a great cynicism in America because once this massive concentration of money buys up the town square, buys up the airwaves, influences elections, it is no longer "We the People," it is "we the powerful" and "we the privileged." Wouldn't it be wonderful not to have had the Supreme Court decisions that have undermined the integrity of our Supreme Court, but we have them and now the majority in this body wants to further damage the Supreme Court, further politicize the Supreme Court, and that is a huge mistake. We should go in the other direction. We should invest in the integrity of the Supreme Court. That doesn't mean a nominee gets automatically passed through this body because we have a job under the Constitution. We

have a responsibility to vet the nominee. We have the responsibility, as Hamilton said, to judge if the nominee is unfit or fit. But how can you have that judgment if we do not hold hearings? How can you have that judgment if the committee does not vote? How can you have that judgment if there is not a debate on the floor of the Senate? How can you have that judgment if there is not a vote on this floor?

So I say to my colleagues: End your job strike that is so out of sync with the tradition of the Senate. End your job strike that is so damaging to the Supreme Court's integrity. End your job strike that is so damaging to the "we the people" principles of our Nation. Do your job. Do your job. Hold the hearing. Meet with the nominee. Exercise your vote. Do your job.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the nomination of Merrick Garland to the United States Supreme Court and to urge my colleagues to grant timely consideration to the President's nominee.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Chief Judge Garland, as have many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I encourage all Senators to meet the nominee because I suspect that they will find, as I did, that the rumors are true; he is an exceptionally qualified nominee.

Since joining the DC Circuit, Chief Judge Garland has been recognized as one of the best appellate judges in the Nation. His reputation for working with colleagues to identify areas of agreement and to craft strong consensus decisions is well earned.

After meeting Judge Garland and discussing the way that he approaches his role as a judge and as a chief judge, I am pleased to agree with my colleague and friend Senator HATCH, who described Judge Garland in 1997 in this way:

I believe Mr. Garland is a fine nominee. . . . I know of his integrity. I know of his legal ability. I know of his honesty. I know of his acumen. And he belongs on the court.

Senator HATCH is right. He was talking about, of course, the DC Circuit—the second court in the Nation, really.

Before Judge Garland was nominated, the White House reached out to me and to many of my colleagues, especially those on the Judiciary Committee, to ask the type of nominee whom I hoped President Obama would put forward or whether I had any particular names in mind. I didn't. My

only recommendation was that the President nominate someone whose intellect, experience, and demeanor would be apparent during a hearing and would cause the American people who watched the confirmation hearing to say: I want nine of those on the Supreme Court. This is what I told the White House.

Now that I have met Judge Garland, I will set about the task of reviewing Judge Garland's full record and all of his opinions. I will set that aside, but the American people deserve to meet him and decide for themselves whether he is qualified to sit on the highest Court in the land. The American people deserve a hearing.

In my view, confirmation hearings also serve a broader purpose. Hearings aren't just an opportunity for the public to get to know the nominee and discover how he or she views important issues; open, public hearings provide an opportunity for the American people to learn about the Supreme Court's jurisprudence and to demystify the Court's role in our democracy. Hearings also allow our constituents to see and judge for themselves how and whether their government is working, whether we are doing our jobs.

Before any of us knew whom the President would nominate, Senate Republicans wasted no time in refusing to fill the vacancy until after the election. The majority leader said that "this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new President." The Republican members of the Judiciary Committee gathered behind closed doors and vowed to deny the eventual nominee a hearing. Many Republicans refused to even meet with the nominee. They said it didn't matter who the President nominated. This was about principle.

This type of obstruction marks a historic dereliction of the Senate's constitutional duty. Since 1916—for the past 100 years—the Senate Judiciary Committee has fulfilled that duty by holding hearings. Nonetheless, Senate Republicans stood firm in their opposition.

But within a day of Judge Garland's nomination being announced, some Republicans began to change their tune. Once they discovered that the President had nominated a consensus candidate—a judge who had earned the praise of so many Republican Senators during the course of his career—their calculus began to change.

Now my Republican friends are tying themselves in knots trying to explain to the American people how they plan to move forward. Quite a few Republican Senators broke ranks and agreed to meet Judge Garland privately while nonetheless maintaining that the Senate should not grant the nominee an open, public hearing. It would seem that some of my colleagues believe they—not the public and not their con-

stituents—deserve the opportunity to meet and to question the nominee.

A few Republicans said that they would consider Judge Garland and even vote to confirm him in the lameduck session—but only if Democrats win the White House. That is a very odd sense of what the principle is here. I guess the thinking behind that is the Republicans are afraid that should the election not go in the direction they prefer, then the people shouldn't decide. They should decide unless they decide the wrong thing. That is the odd principle that I have heard in the Judiciary Committee when we have had business meetings, where members come in and make a statement and then leave. I hear a lot of contradictory stuff. Obviously, the theory is that should a Democrat be elected to the White House, they might eventually face a nominee who hasn't earned quite as much bipartisan praise, so then we will do Garland. That is absurd. That has nothing to do with principle. This has nothing to do with principle, and it never did. This is about politics.

The Supreme Court is too important, too central to our system of democracy to let it fall victim to partisan politics. It has been just over 1 month since President Obama nominated Judge Garland to fill the vacancy caused by the death of a Justice. During that month, the effect of allowing a vacancy to persist has been made clear. The eight-member Court has deadlocked twice, handing down two 4-to-4 decisions. Permitting a seat on the Supreme Court bench to remain vacant means that, in some cases, the Court is not able to fulfill its core function of resolving the splits among the courts of appeals and serve as a final arbiter of our laws. The Court isn't able to do its job.

I think we have to go through our history and look at when Justice Marshall was appointed in the last weeks, I believe, of that administration.

I hope my Republican colleagues are finally coming to the understanding that they have an obligation to fill this vacancy. Members of the Senate and of the Judiciary Committee in particular have an obligation to do our jobs, to get to work.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DEFEND TRADE SECRETS BILL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this afternoon the House of Representatives is poised to pass the Defend Trade Secrets Act, bringing this critical pro-

posal one step closer to becoming law. Over the past few months, Senator COONS and I have witnessed a groundswell of support for our bill, which will strengthen the ability of American companies to defend their most valuable information from theft.

Businesses, both large and small, and lawmakers, both Republican and Democrat, have rallied around our legislation, providing the impetus we need to pass this key intellectual property bill. Passage of the Defend Trade Secrets Act marks not only a watershed moment for the intellectual property community, it also represents a victory for the American people.

To appreciate the significance of this legislation, we must first understand the importance of trade secrets in American industry. Trade secrets are the lifeblood of our economy. In simple terms, trade secrets are the groundbreaking ideas that give businesses a competitive advantage. They range from unique production and manufacturing processes to food recipes and software codes.

This critical form of intellectual property is not only invaluable to individual business owners, it is also directly responsible for creating millions of jobs in our country. But a lack of Federal legal protection leaves trade secrets vulnerable to theft and oversight that cost the economy billions of dollars each year.

Two years ago, Senator COONS and I set out to fix this problem together. From the very beginning, we sought the input of business owners and job creators so that we could better understand the obstacles facing American industry and chart a path forward for reform. The Defend Trade Secrets Act is the culmination of our work.

Under current law, companies have few legal options to recover their losses when trade secrets are stolen. For example, if a disgruntled employee steals a Utah company's confidential information and leaks it to a competitor in another State, attorneys must navigate a complex labyrinth of State laws just to bring suit. This cumbersome process can take weeks, which is an eternity in a trade secrets case. During this time, the likelihood that valuable intellectual property falls into the wrong hands increases every day, as does the potential for permanent damage to the company.

Our bill solves this problem by creating a uniform Federal law that businesses can turn to when their trade secrets are stolen. This Federal standard keeps companies from getting bogged down in State laws by allowing business owners to take their case directly to a Federal court. Essentially, our legislation removes an unnecessary and time-consuming layer of bureaucracy, buying businesses precious time to recover stolen information. By providing America's businesses with the ability

to protect their most valuable information in Federal courts, they will be better equipped to safeguard trade secrets and increase their competitiveness.

The President has expressed strong support for our legislation, which he intends to sign into law shortly after it passes the House.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act is not only a win for the intellectual property and business communities, it is also an example of what Congress can accomplish when we put party politics aside and find common ground. Indeed, it is always easy to make things look hard, but it is impossible to make things look easy.

Today's House passage of the Defend Trade Secrets Act truly embodies countless hours of negotiations and hard work. I wish to recognize those who made passage of this bill a reality, including Chairman BOB GOODLATTE, Representative DOUG COLLINS, and Representative JERROLD NADLER. They were indispensable in shepherding this legislation through the House.

I also wish to thank Senators GRASSLEY, LEAHY, GRAHAM, FEINSTEIN, FLAKE, WHITEHOUSE, and many others for their contributions to this bill. Likewise, I thank my dear friend Senator COONS for joining me in co-authoring this bill. He has been an invaluable partner throughout this process.

Enacting meaningful public policy in the midst of a toxic Presidential campaign is no small accomplishment. With the imminent passage of the Defend Trade Secrets Act, our Nation has cause for celebration.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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

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

#### COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I actually come to the Senate floor to talk about the urgent need to help make college more affordable for American families.

Earlier this year, I launched a comment form on my Web site encouraging people to share their struggles to afford college and how their student debt is affecting them. Since then, I have heard from so many students and families from my home State of Washington and across the country. By sharing these stories, I hope we can all come together to work on ways to bring down college costs and make sure

students can graduate from college without the crushing burden of student debt.

I recently heard from a young woman named Katy. She is a junior studying psychology at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. Katy said she always knew that attending college was going to be financially difficult, although it never occurred to her to let that stand in her way. Because her parents were not in a position to help her out financially, and because she couldn't afford to make regular tuition payments, she has had to take on a large amount of student loans, and she wasn't able to live with her parents, so she has also had to plan and pay for room and board for all 4 years.

Now, here is a typical workweek for Katy. Katy works 12 hours a week as part of the Gonzaga Student Body Association. At least 2 nights a week, and usually on weekends, she makes hundreds of calls on behalf of the Gonzaga Telefund. On most weekend nights, she is not out with her friends and family. Instead, she is babysitting for some extra cash to put toward her textbooks. On top of all that, she is also a math tutor, which, until recently, was a paid position before the department's budget was cut, but she has kept tutoring anyway as her way to give back. That is just who she is. Of course, that is all on top of being a full-time student as well.

Let me be clear. Katy is very glad to be investing in herself and her future. She knows it is tough work and she appreciates that, but she, like millions of other students, is just looking for a little relief. In her own words, she admits "it's a constant stressor thinking of how to pay for life while at college, and how I'm going to pay for all of this after I graduate."

Students like Katy aren't alone. Across the country, the yearly cost of tuition and room and board at a public 4-year institution is 5½ times what it was in the early 1980s, and to afford those skyrocketing pricetags, people are turning to student loans to cover the cost. Today, Americans across the country hold a total of \$1.3 trillion in outstanding student loan debt.

In my home State of Washington, the average college student owes more than \$24,000 in student debt. Think about what that debt means for our students. These students are doing everything right. They are investing in their futures. Many of them are the first in their families to go to college, but when it is time to look for that first job, just starting out, they are already in the red.

I have been so glad to work with other Senate Democrats on legislation actually called "In the Red" that would help students like Katy. Our bill would give students the chance to attend community college tuition-free. It would make sure the amount of Pell

grants keeps up with the rising cost of college, and it would let borrowers refinance their student debt to today's lower rates. Our bill is fully paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes that only serve to benefit the biggest corporations and the wealthiest few.

This issue for me is personal. When I was young, my dad was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Within a few short years, he couldn't work any longer. Without warning, my family had fallen on hard times. I have six brothers and sisters, and thankfully all of us were able to go to college with help from what is now called Pell grants, and my mom was able to get the skills she needed to get a job. She had been a stay-at-home mom. She needed to go to work, and she got that job through a worker training program at Lake Washington Vocational School with government help.

Even through those hard times, our family never lost hope that with a good education, we would be able to find our footing and earn our way to a stable, middle-class life. This country has never turned its back on my family, and today we can't turn our backs on the millions of families just like mine who need a path forward to afford college and pay back their student debt.

I hope we can pass this bill and pave the way for lower college costs and less student debt. I hope we can work together to give students and families some much needed relief. Let's make sure they know we will never let up and that we will always have their backs.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

#### VENEZUELA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I wish to speak about two separate topics. The first is Venezuela.

Venezuela is a country in our hemisphere in total crisis, total chaos, and that is because of a number of things: failed leadership, failed economic policies, a complete societal breakdown, human rights abuses, and now a de facto political coupe that has plagued the country for about 15 years. This all started with Hugo Chavez and has now continued with Nicolas Maduro, his successor.

Let's talk about the first cause of the disaster that has now befallen the people of Venezuela—failed leadership. For over 15 years now, Venezuela has been ruled by two strongmen who have mismanaged the country with an iron fist, have squandered its vast wealth and natural resources, they have imprisoned political opponents, they have corrupted all of the country's political institutions to ignore the will of the people and to entrench their power.

By the way, this failed leadership has only gotten worse because the successor to Hugo Chavez is a completely incompetent person. On top of the fact

he is a strongman, he is incompetent. He does not know what he is doing. The result is this very wealthy country, with a highly educated population, is being led by someone who, quite frankly, isn't qualified to lead anything, much less a nation of the stature of Venezuela.

The second cause is failed economic policies. Venezuela suffers from shortages across the board. For example, there are shortages of medicine and medical equipment, which means—and this is not an exaggeration—people are literally dying because their doctors cannot prescribe drugs that aren't available, and the hospitals and the clinics don't have the equipment needed to conduct surgeries. When you speak to medical professionals in Venezuela, they will tell you there are simple medications that could save the life of an individual, but they can't do anything about it. I had someone tell me today they asked a doctor: What do you do when one of your patients is about to die? And he said: Nothing. We comfort them as they die. We don't have basic medicines to deliver to them.

Unlike the case of Cuba, by the way, where they are saying it is because of the embargo by the United States—which of course is ridiculous and is another topic for another day—there is no embargo on Venezuela. There are no sanctions on Venezuela and its people. So as a result, there is no explanation for this.

The supermarkets are bare. The shelves are completely bare. People there cannot buy food or even basics such as toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes—anything.

In addition to the government's political censorship effort, its economic policies also help censor in the sense that there are shortages of paper that independent newspapers need to print their editions. So here is another Machiavellian move the government has made. There is a shortage of paper, and so they make sure the independent press has no access to paper. If you don't have paper, you can't print a newspaper.

Things are so bad in Venezuela, economists earlier this month compared Venezuela to Mugabe's Zimbabwe of 15 years ago. The reason that is an unbelievable comparison is because, as I said earlier, Venezuela has one of the largest, if not the largest, oil reserves in the world; they have a highly educated population; they have a well-established business class of professionals; and last year their economy shrank by 5.7 percent, and this year it will shrink by another 8 percent. This is a country that now has rolling blackouts—an energy-rich country that has rolling blackouts. It has gotten so bad that today their so-called President, the incompetent Nicolas Maduro, announced that government

employees are only going to work 2 days a week, Mondays and Tuesdays. Government offices will be open only 2 days a week because they aren't turning on the lights. This is the state of one of the richest countries in the world and one of the richest countries in our hemisphere.

They have had a total societal breakdown. Economic misery begets desperation, and we are seeing that reflected in the lawlessness that plagues Venezuela. Crime rates are among the highest in the hemisphere, particularly the murder rate. It stems from the top, at the highest levels of leadership. When an incompetent thug is running a country—someone whose government intimidates opponents by using what they call *colectivos*, which are nothing more than street gangs, to ride around on motorcycles, causing all kinds of mayhem, shooting and attacking people—it only contributes to the lawlessness. Caracas, Venezuela, which is a beautiful city, is one of the most dangerous places in the world, comparable with war zones in terms of the murder rate. It is basically every man and woman for himself and herself in Venezuela.

They have atrocious human rights abuses. Since the government's crackdown on demonstrators and political opponents began in February of 2014, dozens of innocents have been killed, thousands have been beaten and targeted for intimidation, and hundreds have been jailed, including Leopoldo Lopez, who has been a political prisoner now for more than 2 years.

We need to demand the release of all 115 political prisoners in Venezuela and respect their rights and those of their families. I heard another horrifying story today. Most political prisoners are men. When their wives go visit them in prison, their wives are strip searched by male guards as an ultimate act of humiliating them. This is the situation in Venezuela.

Last, but not least, we have a de facto political coup by the Maduro regime. This country faces a real political and constitutional crisis. Maduro has stacked the country's supreme court with his loyalists, and the supreme court is basically nullifying every law the Congress there passes.

The opposition won the election in the last cycle. By the way, they won because the discontent with the government is so massive that they couldn't steal the election. It was so big that not even they could steal the election from them, so they sat this new Congress. He has stacked the supreme court, and the supreme court is literally nullifying law after law—doing it not for judicial reasons but for blatantly political ones.

Maduro basically ignores the law. The congressional branch there will pass a law with a veto-proof majority, and he just ignores it. Imagine passing

a law out of the House, out of the Senate, and sending it to the President. He can't veto it, and so he just ignores it or refuses to do it.

That is the situation in our own hemisphere. The result is an incredible disaster—of deep interest to us, by the way, because of all the uncertainty it is causing in the region. So what can we do about it? First of all, it is in our national interest. The current situation is happening in our own hemisphere. It threatens to destabilize the region. It creates more pressure on our neighbors and our strategic allies, such as Colombia, where Venezuelans have been fleeing to. This creates migratory pressures on the United States. The lawlessness is fueling organized crime, including drug cartels, which senior government officials in Venezuela have established links to, which impacts our entire region.

For these reasons and more, the United States has an interest in making sure Venezuela does not spiral further out of control.

The first thing we should do is we should be active at the Organization of American States as it considers the situation in Venezuela, and they should ask that voting members recognize the humanitarian and political crisis in Venezuela.

The United States should ask our allies in the region, countries that receive an extensive amount of aid from this country—Haiti, Colombia, the Central American nations, our neighbors up north in Canada, among others—to support this effort. Right now we are about to give hundreds of millions of dollars to countries in Central America, in the Northern Triangle, the Alliance for Prosperity. I think that is a good idea, but we should ask them to support what I hope we will try to do at the OAS. The same with Haiti. We have poured millions of dollars into Haiti's reconstruction. We should use that as leverage to ask them to support something happening at the OAS.

What has happened in Venezuela is nothing short of a coup d'état, a de facto coup, and the Organization of American States—if it has any reason to exist anymore, it should be to defend democracy in the region. It is the reason we have an Organization of American States. We will soon find out whether that organization is even worth continuing to exist if it cannot pronounce itself collectively on the outright violation of democracy in a nation that purports to be a democratic republic.

Sanctions. We have to impose sanctions on human rights violators—not sanctions on the people of Venezuela, not sanctions on the government, on human rights violators, many of whom steal money from the Venezuelan people and invest it in the United States.

On the front page of the Miami Herald yesterday was a story that one of

the individuals linked to the petroleum industry with the Government in Venezuela, a billionaire—and you become a millionaire with these links by basically stealing the money—is the secret developer behind a major development in Miami, FL, in my hometown, in my home State. Travel to Florida, come down there, and let me know—any of my colleagues—and I will show you where these people live, and I will show you the money they have stolen from the Venezuelan people, and they are living the high life on weekends in Miami. You will see them everywhere. That is why we imposed sanctions on them. There will be an effort here, I hope, in the next day or so to extend those sanctions for another 3 years.

Finally, I hope the United States uses our megaphone to highlight the corruption in the institutions of the Government of Venezuela. That should not be tolerated.

There is also a humanitarian component to this. We should help make sure the Venezuelan Government is not stealing or otherwise standing in the way of the Venezuelan people getting the medicines and food they need.

For far too long, the issues in this hemisphere have been ignored by administrations in both parties, by this administration. We can no longer ignore this. I hope we give Venezuela and the Western Hemisphere the attention and the priority they merit. It is in our national interests to do so.

#### PUERTO RICO

Mr. President, I want to briefly discuss the issue of Puerto Rico and the debt crisis Puerto Rico is facing. The island faces a major deadline coming up. A \$422 million debt payment is due on May 1, which is this Sunday. If this deadline isn't met, it is going to cause some serious problems, and not just for the people of Puerto Rico—who, let's not forget, are American citizens—but also for millions of others throughout the United States. Today I will focus on one example of an American community that would be very negatively impacted, and that is the city of Jacksonville in my home State of Florida.

Jacksonville is a port city, so its residents, businesses, and families depend in large part on trade. A recent article in the Florida Times-Union detailed exactly how close the relationship is between Puerto Rico and the shipping industry in Jacksonville.

In 2009, as much as 75 percent of the goods coming in and out of Puerto Rico flowed through the ports in Jacksonville, which brought about \$1 billion worth of economic impact to the city. In just the past year, between October and March, JAXPORT has seen a 32-percent increase in cargo tonnage from the island. But this trend is likely to reverse if fiscal conditions in San Juan do not improve soon.

If Puerto Rico misses its payment on May 1 and its debt crisis further esca-

lates, its economy is going to stagnate even more than it already has, and the harm is going to be passed on to any community like Jacksonville that has a significant economic stake in the island's well-being. We have already seen a massive exodus of professionals and others from Puerto Rico because of a lack of economic growth. They will likely continue leaving and heading to Florida and other places on the mainland, which will further cripple the island's economy and reduce the demand for trade.

So what can we do about all this? Some have suggested that Washington can deliver a silver bullet solution to help Puerto Rico out of its debt. This simply isn't true. The reality is that nothing Washington does will be effective until Puerto Rico and its government leaders turn away from decades of failed policies. Their tax rate continues to be too high, government regulations are stifling, and they are spending more than they take in. I don't care if you are an island, government, business, or family—if you spend more than you take in and you do it for long enough, you are going to have a debt problem. That is what is happening here in Washington, and that is what is happening in Puerto Rico. Anytime your economy isn't growing, you are going to have a further problem, and no restructuring is going to solve that until they restructure the way they spend money. Bankruptcy protection isn't going to solve it, either, at least not without serious fiscal reforms from San Juan. Otherwise, if we grant bankruptcy protection, Puerto Rico will simply go bankrupt again not far down the road.

That does not mean Washington should do nothing. All of us need to realize that this is an American crisis. It is taking place in an American territory. It impacts the people of Puerto Rico, who are American citizens. The impact will not be contained on the island; it will spread to cities like Jacksonville and other communities throughout the mainland United States.

So we need to take the irresponsible leadership in Puerto Rico seriously. We need to urge them to get their affairs in order. But we should also look closely at what we can do here in the Senate, which may mean taking up some of the ideas currently being worked on by House leadership. We can also help Puerto Rico by doing the same things necessary to help the rest of the American economy. This means passing pro-growth policies at the Federal level, including tax and regulatory reform. It means we need to stop spending more money than we take in.

In closing, the leadership in San Juan must view the deadline this Sunday as a wake-up call. They must show their willingness to get their fiscal house in order. If they don't, our op-

tions in Washington will be very limited and won't have support from taxpayers.

But I think this is a wake-up call for us. The notion that somehow this issue with Puerto Rico will figure itself out is not true. The notion that somehow this issue with Puerto Rico is not that important, that we can put it to the side because it is not a State, is not true. Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States. Its people are U.S. citizens. Its people, by the way, on a per capita basis serve in the Armed Forces of the United States at levels as high or higher than any ethnic or geographic group in the country.

The people of Puerto Rico deserve our voice, and they deserve our action. I commend leaders in the House for trying to do something responsible on this. I understand the majority leader has said that once the House acts, the Senate will look at it very carefully. I know we have leaders here doing that as well. I urge that work to continue. We cannot ignore this crisis, and neither can the leaders in San Juan. I hope we can find a solution sooner than later for what Puerto Rico is facing with its fiscal crisis, which this Sunday we are going to be reading about when they miss their debt payment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATO

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, we haven't discussed foreign policy issues on the floor for a while. It is not because all is quiet on the eastern front. It is not. As we know, what is happening in the Middle East and in Europe—the migration issue, Syria, across Northern Africa—is that there are major issues that are ongoing and that affect the United States in a number of ways, not only economically but strategically, and leave us vulnerable to threats to “take down America” in one way or another.

Obviously, we are in the middle of a heated campaign, which hopefully will be resolved in terms of our nominees in a short amount of time. But we do have to recognize the next President, whoever that President might be, is going to be facing some extraordinary challenges relative to foreign policy and national security issues. Making America great again—whatever it is that defines phrase—a new leader will have to deal with a number of very difficult challenges.

This past Monday, President Obama delivered a speech in Germany in which

he discussed the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. He said that NATO must be prepared to carry out its traditional missions while at the same time meeting the newly emerging threats to the alliance.

That was revealing to me and, frankly, welcoming because we have not heard anything from the President along those lines in my memory, but his recognition and his statement in that regard defines where we are; that is, we need to be prepared to carry out traditional missions through NATO while at the same time meeting the newly emerging threats to the alliance. We see these newly emerging threats to the alliance we are in almost every day.

The President also noted that Europe has been complacent about its own defense and called on our allies to do more. I welcome this renewed attention to NATO. It also gives us the opportunity to respond to those who believe NATO has outlived its usefulness, is too expensive, and should be done away with. Such a view needs a rebuttal.

It is not necessary nor correct to claim that NATO has no problems or its role has not changed or its future is clear. NATO does face challenges and has—in defining its mission, securing its resources, and providing the leadership that the world requires. But to deny that alliance's obvious value is, in my opinion, a major mistake. Such a judgment surely cannot be based on any real understanding of what NATO is or what it has accomplished, much less of what it can become and, candidly, what it must become, given the level of crisis and conflict so present in Europe, the Middle East, and in Africa.

I have been a strong supporter of the alliance and the transatlantic security relationship throughout my public life. NATO's proud past and enduring importance were a constant presence during my service as a U.S. Senator and as U.S. Ambassador to Germany for 4 years following 9/11. Since returning to the Senate, the alliance has remained a keen interest to me.

Contrary to the notion that NATO has served its purpose and is no longer needed or is no longer a viable organization, NATO has survived and thrived for half a century because it has proven itself to be an adaptable, flexible, and effective organization.

I think many of us know the alliance began all the way back in 1949 with the principle motive of protecting Western Europe from the threat of Soviet aggression. But many forget that the founding document, the Washington treaty of 1949, does not mention the Soviet Union. Instead, its founding treaty laid out the core values of the West, which values the alliance was designed to protect.

I want to state that again. What was trying to be accomplished through this

alliance of NATO, all the way back to 1949, was a values-based organization that enabled the alliance and gave the alliance those values which the alliance was designed to protect. It is exactly because the alliance was and remains values-based that it has been able to adapt to a changing strategic environment with newly defined missions and membership. The vital and permanent need to protect our shared values survived the collapse of the Soviet Union and the threat it represented and has enabled the alliance to define and confront the major threats and modern threats that we face today.

As NATO adapted to the post-Soviet world, the clearest proof of its foundation as a community of values was the process of enlargement. At the beginning of that process, few in the administration or Congress saw NATO enlargement as having very much to do with actually enhancing the military capabilities of the alliance. When the first countries were proposed for membership via the Partnership for Peace program, it was not only because of the military contributions those newly democratic nations could bring; rather, the most explicit motivation for extending the prospect of membership to the countries of what we then called Eastern Europe was to persuade them to make the political and economic changes that would make them worthy and complimentary allies. We were trying to cement in the democratic revolutions that occurred in these former Soviet-controlled states and make those changes permanent.

We were extending NATO's democratic values—along with its security umbrella—and we required prospective members to accept them and institutionalize those democratic values. That process continues today. NATO was and remains a political instrument of enormous persuasive power with historic consequences.

But are shared values enough to maintain the vitality and the relevance of a military alliance? For those new member countries themselves, the appeal of alliance membership was the vast military capabilities of the club they were about to join. They sought actual enhanced security in a still dangerous world, not just a political partnership of values.

Now, in the wake of renewed Russian aggression, most especially in Ukraine and its illegal annexation of Crimea, the objective military capabilities of the alliance have become even more relevant. This renewed threat resulted in NATO, in effect, hitting the pause button on redefining NATO's post-Soviet missions. For many alliance members on Russia's periphery, it was "NATO—Back to the Future."

Russian behavior has once again provoked profound anxiety among our allies on Russia's periphery, especially

the Baltic states, Poland, and Romania. In response, NATO has taken on new missions intended to reassure our allies, discourage Putin's aggressive designs, and renew NATO's urgent relevance. All of this has a heritage for NATO's founding in the Soviet era, but it also is a new and, in many ways, more complicated response. While Russia is not the enemy it once was, it certainly is no friend to the NATO nations. It is perhaps a necessary partner in some places, but it is a dangerous obstacle in others.

In restating and reinforcing NATO's role in opposing Russian aggression, NATO needs to be creative and firm, active and present. It cannot be done on the cheap. This renewed mission emphasizes again the persistent issue of lagging resources. It has long been a problem that the great majority of NATO membership countries do not meet the alliance standard of the 2 percent of their GDP, gross domestic product, for defense.

Although it is true that robust defense of the transatlantic region does require a greater commitment of resources than most European countries have been willing to accept in the past, it is not true that U.S. taxpayers have simply been required to make up the difference.

The Department of Defense says that the direct U.S. contribution to NATO is about \$500 million a year, the largest share of NATO's budget, clearly, but not out of line with our comparative gross domestic product—compared to other European nations. It is true that NATO relies on the national assets of its members for operations, and in that regard, our portion is the largest. But our portion reflects our spending for the entire military, which has global responsibilities. In other words, if there were no NATO, those military expenditures presumably would be the same, if not larger, since our allies are contributors to our collective security as well.

In any case, the growing anxiety about Russian behavior seems to be generating some real progress on this resources front. Secretary General Stoltenberg said this week that five NATO members now meet the 2-percent requirement, while it was only two countries just a few years ago. Further, defense spending has increased in real terms in 16 of the 28 countries since 2014. Clearly, it is a wake-up call for NATO. What has happened on their borders, the periphery of Russia, has awakened NATO to the belief that it needs to strengthen our military, strengthen NATO's resources, and for those countries to live up to their obligations in providing the necessary resources.

Nevertheless, and having said this, we cannot be relaxed about meeting the resources gap. Despite the recent uptick, there has been a long and dramatic decline in European defense

budgets for two decades before 2014, not to mention a significant absence of constituent support for defense expenditures in most NATO countries.

It is a battle of these nations who are dealing with slow or no growth—GDP stagnant—to come to the decision to meet the 2 percent obligation that they have under the NATO treaty. They have other issues at home, migration simply being one of them, and a number of other domestic issues that have restrained them. But now the threat has become more real, and now the realization of how to address the threat has become more vital and necessary.

In his June 2011 farewell speech on NATO's future, Defense Secretary Bob Gates famously said that our European allies were and had been "apparently unwilling to devote the necessary resources or make the necessary changes to be serious and capable partners in their own defense." He declared that NATO faced "the real possibility of a dim, if not dismal, future."

But the response to this danger, now especially in the wake of Russian invasion and annexation of a neighbor—this is not the time to call for NATO's abandonment, but to press ahead in validating NATO's relevance, then finding the necessary resources. I believe that process is under way, as I have just described.

Given the new threats to NATO's eastern border states, our allies are finding greater support for making larger commitments to their own security. Another pressing reason to solve the resources problem is the host of new requirements this modern alliance needs to face.

Since the period of enlargement and the euphoria of democratic revolutions, NATO has made repeated attempts to define its new missions. The most recent strategic concept of January 2010 makes the alliance's newly global and political roles more explicit. It has identified numerous new transnational threats that a modern military and political alliance must confront. These include nuclear proliferation, cyber threats, terrorism, political instabilities, and missile capabilities.

No one can argue that these global threats are not the core of modern security challenges. Similarly, no one can dispute that the most effective and powerful alliance in world history should and must organize itself to confront them. And most certainly, no responsible leader should look at these threats and conclude an alliance built to confront them should be abandoned. Let me restate that. No responsible leader, now or in the future, should look at these threats and conclude that an alliance built to confront these problems and challenges should be abolished. Modern NATO activities extend well beyond Europe. These include combating piracy off the Horn of Afri-

ca, operational and training support for the African Union in Ethiopia, air policing of Europe's borders against Russian incursions, growing cyber defense alliance capabilities, expanded special operations capabilities and activities, development of a NATO response force for rapid reaction operations on land and sea, expanded joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations, and expanded joint exercises to improve the alliance and member-state readiness. That is a big challenge, but that challenge is one that needs to be addressed.

In terms of more traditional warfighting, NATO has taken on missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Libya, and continued challenges will need to be addressed. It is not yet clear to me whether ISAF, the Afghanistan mission, will go down as a success or not, but it is clearly in the balance and needs to be carefully monitored.

It is clear that the Libya operation revealed numerous alliance shortcomings and was not a model of alliance coherence and cohesion. Rather, Libya was an example of failure at the political level to define the new NATO. The correct response to both, new challenges and admitted failure, is better leadership, better vision, and creative new thinking, along with the resources to carry out those goals.

I have suggested that these could be best applied in response to the Syria disaster, especially with the humanitarian catastrophe and the migrant crisis. I proposed that NATO could have helped member-state Turkey get control of its Syrian border to stop the flow of jihadists into and out of Syria.

It is clear to me that the uncontrolled flood of refugees from Syria could best be handled by creating safe areas in and near Syria so that the Syrian people can remain there under safe and humane conditions. Building on NATO's Bosnia experience, the Alliance could be critical to providing the security for such areas on the ground and in the air. This would not be fighting the war in Syria but protecting the populations of U.N. designated areas. Difficult? You bet, but it has been done before, and NATO is the only possible organization that is in a position to do it.

Although I emphatically believe that NATO continues to have enormous value to U.S. interests and global stability, I do concede that it needs a new vision of its role. That is clearly a work in progress and will have some false starts and failures along the way. How it turns out will not only be a function of resources, as I have discussed, but also an issue of leadership. On that score, I have some concerns. Frankly, I am worried.

The Obama administration seems to be guiding us toward a dangerous deference to others to address emerging global security challenges that are and

will be threats to our own national security. The most alarming example is our acquiescence to Russia's vigorous engagement in Syria. Russia basically hijacked our paltry efforts to bring the Syrian disaster under control, inserted its military forces to change the dynamic on the ground, and guided the political process toward their ends. It has all been a sad display of American incompetence and impotence. The United States and its allies are paying the price for this failure of engagement.

After reading President Obama's recent and lengthy interview on foreign policy that was published in the Atlantic Monthly, I can tell he has not drawn the correct conclusions from the foreign policy failures in recent years in Libya, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, and elsewhere. For me, we have abdicated America's traditional leadership role. For the alliance, I fear this could be the beginning phase of our disengagement from Europe, which, if it continues, will be at our peril. Without firm U.S. leadership of NATO, we will begin to see the commitment of our allies weaken. They simply do not have the muscle or the financial capability to support a NATO coalition without U.S. leadership. Without the right kind of leadership, the importance of the transatlantic security relationship and the continued robust presence of U.S. forces in Europe will begin to lose advocates, as perhaps has already occurred among those who do not support our efforts.

If Americans come to see NATO's value in financial terms—bang for the buck—we will lose sight of its real value in the proper terms of national security, American reliability, and the eternal appeal of our community of values—in other words, the values beyond price that must be preserved if we are to prevail against our adversaries.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### FUNDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about why all of us are



here. The primary role of Congress is to responsibly fund the Federal Government. To do that, we must set clear national priorities that we can financially support. All too often, the process of setting, and then sticking to these national priorities has become a purely political exercise, not a function of governing. It is the No. 1 complaint I hear when I travel back to my home State of Georgia.

Coming from the business world, I clearly see two interlocking crises we face as a country. First, we have a global security crisis. The world may be more dangerous right now than at any point in my lifetime. Interlocked with that is our national debt crisis that threatens the ability we have to defend our country today.

As we begin the appropriations process, let's take an honest look at what we are appropriating for. One of our top national priorities is to provide for the national defense. It is one of only 6 reasons 13 Colonies got together in the first place; that is, to provide for the national defense. However, under Presidents Carter, Clinton, and Obama, we saw three different periods of disinvestment in our military. Our 30-year average of defense spending has been 4.2 percent of GDP. Following the Carter administration, the Reagan administration recapped the military. Then, we had another decline. You see the buildup in the surge in Afghanistan and Iraq, behind two wars.

We have been at war for 15 years. I believe in many cases we have burnt out our equipment, and in cases we are beginning to do that with our personnel, with longer tours and more difficult assignments in this hybrid war we are facing today.

Then you see under this administration a further decline, now to 3.1 percent of GDP. This is the lowest point since the Vietnam War, and the irony of that is that we are still spending \$600 billion of \$4 trillion total spending of the Federal Government on our military. The irony is the 30-year average of 4.2 percent, which is a hundred basis points below what we're currently spending—that's almost \$200 billion—in a \$19 trillion economy.

The question is how do we determine the priorities to keep a strong military? To make sure we can fulfill one of six reasons we came together as a country.

We are about to have the smallest Army since World War II, the smallest Navy since World War I, and the smallest and oldest Air Force ever. How can this be? The world is more dangerous right now than at any time in my lifetime.

We see increased aggression from traditional rivals, Russia and China. We also see the rise of ISIS, partly because of our own intransigence. They have to be stopped now, or we are going to have to deal with them later here. Boko

Haram, Al Qaeda, ISIS—all of these threats are beginning to be interconnected and pose threats not just in the Middle East, but around the world.

Finally, we have nuclear threats from rogue regimes, like North Korea and Iran, and emerging, game-changing technologies, such as cyber threats, which nations like Russia are using for hybrid warfare right now in Eastern Europe. There is an emerging arms race in space. This is why our women and men in uniform need to have the tools and resources to complete their missions around the world.

This fiscal crisis is jeopardizing our ability to actually fund the missions being asked of our military today. Let me give two examples. JSTARS is a fleet of planes, 16 in number. These planes in total have over 1 million hours of service. They were used when the Air Force bought them to start with some 30 years ago. They were flown by commercial airlines, such as Air India and Pakistan Air, around the world. Today they fly missions providing critical intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance—ISR—ground targeting, and battlefield command and control capabilities to all branches of our military in multiple regions of the world. The problem is they have outlived their useful life and they are being replaced—or the theory was that they were going to be replaced. But because of our intransigence in Washington, the funding is not there to replace them. So we are now facing potentially 8 years where we will not be able to fulfill their mission.

These are the planes that provide oversight for our men and women who are in harm's way—in Afghanistan, Iraq, in Southern Command, where we are intercepting drugs, in the Far East. Wherever the men and women in American uniforms are facing danger, JSTARS is there protecting them in ways no one else can in the military. All of these planes have to be replaced, and the sooner we get started, the better. They will not be able to fulfill their mission over the next 8 years.

This chart shows the declining availability of the current fleet—down to zero by 2023. It also shows that under the current plan, pending DOD approval and funding, the replacement fleet doesn't even start coming online until 2023—a start date that is now in jeopardy because of the current administration's budget request.

JSTARS' recap is the No. 4 requisition priority for the Air Force, behind the long-range strike bomber, the new tanker, and the F-35. We are not going to be able to fulfill the mission of these airmen and soldiers over the next 8 years unless we do something about it right now—and even then, it might be too late.

This is a picture of a 1957 Chevrolet. Some of you will remember what this

is like. I remember this car. This is a collector's item. Some of my friends own this car. This car is of the same genre, same age as many of the airplanes we are now flying around the world. That is great, but imagine if you had to drive this car—this was your everyday car and you drove it to work every day back and forth; you depended on it to get you to work every morning and to get you home every night. What would you do if you had to drive it to the west coast and back every week? Imagine what the maintenance time loss would be for breakdown. Imagine what it would be like traveling those distances without all the modern conveniences, such as satellite radio—Sirius, Pandora. What about the safety factor? These are antiques. The point is that this is a direct analogy of what we are doing with our military today in a very dangerous world. That sounds ridiculous, but you know we have another example, and that is our marines around the world, who are the first to hit a crisis.

In Moron, Spain, we have a contingent of marines and one of their missions is to protect our embassies in Africa. Post-Benghazi, that takes on a new level of importance. These marines do a great job. They are the very best of what we have in America. They are ready to go. The problem is that because of budget constraints, their fleet of airplanes, the V-22 Ospreys, is getting cut in half, and that fundamentally cuts their ability to complete their mission in half. So they will not be able to fulfill the mission they have today the way they are supposed to because of our own intransigence.

So, what is causing this great disinvestment in our military? Well, there is only one answer: the national debt. These two crises interlock in a way they never have before. It used to be that defense hawks and budget hawks were separate people. Today, I am living proof that they can embody themselves in the same person, because I am both. We have to be. We no longer have the luxury of debating both issues separately.

In the past 7 years, Washington has spent \$25 trillion running the Federal Government. That is bad enough, but the problem is that we borrowed \$9 trillion of that \$25 trillion. That is 35 percent. The Congressional Budget Office says that over the next 10 years we will borrow 30 percent of that. What that means and why that is important is that fundamentally, all of our mandatory spending—some \$3 trillion—is mandatory, so our first dollars go to that. The problem is that all of our discretionary spending—all of USAID, our foreign programs, and our expenditures—are fundamentally borrowed under that scenario, and that is where we are today. Can you imagine that? With this level of borrowing, every dime we spend on foreign aid—I just

want to reiterate—foreign aid, domestic programs, and military—we are borrowing that money today because we haven't faced up to this crisis.

First we have the period here under President Bush. In 2000 our debt was \$6 trillion. We added \$4 trillion on the back of two wars. In 2008, we had \$10 trillion in debt. Now we see we have another \$9 trillion in the last 7 years. We will be close to \$20 trillion by the time we are through.

The yellow here is what the Congressional Budget Office says we are about to face. If we do nothing from today, we will add another \$9 trillion to this Federal debt—close to \$30 trillion.

I am a business guy and I know the capital markets are under great stress today. The danger of this is this is totally unmanageable. If interest rates were to reach their 50-year average of just 5.5 percent, we would be paying \$1 trillion in interest on a \$4 trillion total budget. There is no way that is possible. That is about twice the amount we spend on our military.

Our debt crisis is directly impacting our ability to protect our Nation and project power around the world. This puts in jeopardy our very ability to deal with global threats as they come up every day, and believe me, they are coming up every day. Without a strong economy, without dealing with our debt crisis right now, we can't adequately fund our military to confront the growing threats we face. That is a fact.

It used to be that fiscal hawks and defense hawks, and I have said this, but today I see that more and more people who are one or the other are beginning to come together and recognize the other problem. They are interrelated in a way they have never been.

Believe me, we need a strong defense. I believe we need to be responsible for our Federal finances and the needs of our people here at home. The safety net needs to be maintained. Social Security needs to be saved. These are things we can't ignore, but we have to start dealing with our priorities today. That is why we have to find a way to come together—Democrats, Republicans, conservatives, whatever—and make sure we protect our economic and our national security priorities. We need to get in a room and iron this out. They are not that complicated. We can find the solutions.

As former Admiral Mike Mullen said in 2012, "I believe that our debt is the greatest threat to our national security. If we as a country do not address our fiscal imbalances in the near-term, our national power will erode."

That was 5 years ago, and what have we done since then? Nothing but add debt.

Last year, Congress passed a budget resolution. We laid out a conservative vision for what spending levels we should undertake and cut \$7 trillion

from the President's budget. We passed a budget, but because our budget process is broken, we didn't pass most authorizations. We passed appropriations in committees, but we weren't able to get them to the floor and vote on them. So we ended up with a CR at the end of the year, and that led to a grand bargain, which I opposed, and an omnibus that added some \$9 trillion to our national debt. That was used to fund the government, in the absence of any appropriations bills having been approved. That pushed us to a first-quarter omnibus that really most of us wanted to avoid. At the end of that, eight people got in a room over a weekend and decided how we are going to spend \$4 trillion. That is not what our Founders had in mind. That means that the topline spending levels were set by a so-called grand bargain, which I voted against, because it increased spending and would add over \$9.5 trillion over the next decade to our national debt.

This mounting debt crisis will not fix itself—quite the contrary. It will only grow worse because Social Security and Medicare are going to demand more and more funds from the general operating fund because of the imbalances in those two items. If we don't get serious about solving this debt crisis right now, we will not be able to fully support our national security and our domestic priorities.

Recently, Richard Haass, a former top State Department official, said in a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, "Our inability to deal with our debt challenge will detract from the appeal of the American political and economic model" as we try to influence young democracies around the world. He continued: "The result will be a world that is less democratic and increasingly less deferential to U.S. concerns in matters of security."

We must create restraint and fiscal sanity in Washington. In the private sector, you fix a business by first drilling down and finding the underlying problem. The way that Washington funds the Federal Government, the time it takes to complete the federal budget, and the fact that the current process allows Members of Congress to put off making tough decisions are the real problem. In business, this would never be allowed. In your personal home, this cannot be tolerated, but somehow we are able to do it here year after year. This process has only worked four times in the past 42 years.

It has been encouraging to hear the Senate Budget Committee chairman, Senator MIKE ENZI, and the House Budget chairman, Congressman TOM PRICE from my home State of Georgia, make this a priority for this year. I believe they are making great progress. Both are having hearings to find out if there are models around the world that do it better than we do. We are finding

those examples, especially at a time when we cannot allow the process to break down and result in more continuing resolutions, omnibus bills, or short-term funding fights that don't solve anything.

We must also reduce redundant programs, roll back the regulatory regime, and focus on growing our economy through overhauling our archaic Tax Code, and unlocking, finally, our Nation's full economic and energy potential.

Finally, we have to save Social Security and Medicare and tackle the biggest problems of our overall health care costs. To do this, Washington needs to stop pretending that these crises will go away on their own and that the national debt will somehow solve itself. It won't. In fact, it has already done irreversible damage to our credibility and capability on the world stage. Our mounting debt crisis is already raising questions from our allies around the world about how we will be able to stand by our international commitments.

I just got back from a trip to Europe and the Middle East. The No. 1 point raised to us by leaders, heads of state in those countries, was that America needs to lead again. To lead again, we need to get our financial house in order.

Our debt crisis and a failed foreign policy has served to confuse our allies and embolden our enemies. It threatens our ability to defend our country, period. Also, the interest payments on our debt is affecting our education, infrastructure, and more—here at home in the programs that are necessary. Imagine if we didn't have that unproductive responsibility of unnecessary interest. Every Member of this body knows we need to act now.

My question is, why aren't we acting? The challenge is to stop talking about it theoretically and start putting solutions into practice. That is why Georgians sent me to the U.S. Senate, and that is why I will continue fighting on this every day.

Let's not lose sight of Congress's No. 1 responsibility. We are charged in the Constitution under article I to responsibly fund the Federal Government and to ensure that the 6 reasons why 13 Colonies got together in the first place can actually be realized.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

INCORPORATION TRANSPARENCY  
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AS-  
SISTANCE ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here today to highlight law enforcement legislation that would help crack down on human trafficking, terrorism financing, money laundering, Medicare fraud, the narcotics trade, tax evasion, public corruption, and a litany of other crimes in the United States and around the world. These crimes all involve money, and the United States has become a favorite destination for criminals looking to hide it.

Earlier this month, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists published the first of the so-called Panama papers, a leak of 11.5 million confidential documents from a Panama-based law firm that sets up shell corporations and tax shelters for wealthy clients. The documents we have seen so far show that, along with the Caribbean islands you might expect, several American States are popular places to form shell corporations.

Our friend Senator Kent Conrad, who used to be chairman of the Budget Committee, was fond of using this floor chart showing what is called the Uglend House building in the Cayman Islands. This little building claims to be the place from which an astonishing 18,000 companies do business. As unimaginable as it may be to have 18,000 companies claiming to be doing business out of that one little building, I am sorry to say that there is a building just a 2-hour drive from the U.S. Capitol Building that serves as the official address for a quarter of a million companies, many of them shell corporations.

A shell corporation is a company that serves no economic purpose and doesn't conduct any real business. Shell corporations exist primarily to hold legal title to bank accounts, real estate, or other assets, often obscuring the true human owners. While people can form shell corporations in just about any country, many American States make it especially easy to do so, perhaps even easier than getting a library card. You may actually need to go down to a library to sign up for a library card, but you can form a shell corporation with a few clicks of a mouse and payment of a small fee.

There is another reason that the United States has become so popular for shell corporations. Currently, none—zero—of the 50 American States require the disclosure of the beneficial owners—the real human beings who own the companies. Instead, corporate records can identify the owner as just another faceless shell corporation, or the owner could be identified as a professional agent paid to sign the needed forms and never speak of them again or a lawyer who refuses to disclose who his client is under attorney-client

privilege. Behind this easy-to-establish veil of secrecy, criminals can and do use these shell corporations to open bank accounts, transfer funds, and even to hide the ownership of expensive assets.

This building shown here is at 650 Fifth Avenue in New York City. The Iranian Government used a string of generic businesses to obscure its ownership of this Fifth Avenue skyscraper. Profits from this enterprise helped fund Iran-backed terrorism for decades, until a U.S. Government investigation finally uncovered the scheme in 2008.

How could a state sponsor of terrorism own a piece of the New York City skyline and profit from owning that piece of the New York City skyline for so long without anyone knowing? Let's look at how Iran used anonymous shell corporations to hide its involvement.

On paper, 650 Fifth Avenue was owned by a partnership of the Alavi Foundation, a New York-based charity, and the Assa Corporation, a New York shell company. Assa Corporation was, in turn, owned by yet another shell company, Assa Company, Limited, and formed in the Isle of Jersey, a notorious banking center and tax shelter. The Isle of Jersey company was in turn owned by individuals representing Bank Melli, the Iranian Government's financial arm, and there is the connection to Iran.

So to the public, that building—worth about half a billion dollars—was owned by a charity and a faceless shell company. Because there is no requirement in the United States that States keep track of the real owners of a company formed under State law, New York State only knew that the Assa Corporation was owned by another shell corporation. Ultimately, investigators were able to connect those dots and tie Iran to the structure from a clue in the corporate records kept on the Isle of Jersey.

How is that for irony? A notorious tax shelter actually had better ownership records than we have in the United States. Once Iran's investment and involvement was uncovered, the Department of Justice moved to seize and sell the building and to distribute the proceeds of that sale to American victims of Iranian-backed terror. After years of legal appeals, the victims look close to receiving this compensation.

Of course, Iran isn't the only criminal enterprise hiding behind American shell companies. Other recently uncovered examples of enterprises hiding behind American shell companies include a Mexican drug cartel using an Oklahoma corporation to launder money through a horse farm, a crime syndicate setting up a web of corporations in eight States as part of a \$100 million Medicare fraud scheme, and a human trafficking ring based in Moldova that hides their crimes behind anonymous

corporations in Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio.

According to the Rhode Island State Police, corporate secrecy in my own State has complicated their investigations into real estate fraud, illegal prescription drug distribution, and sales tax evasion.

In January, just months before the Panama Papers hit the headlines, "60 Minutes" aired a segment showing just how easy it can be for criminals to hide money in the United States. The program featured an investigator with the anticorruption organization Global Witness. That investigator pretended to represent a corrupt African leader, and "60 Minutes" brought a hidden camera along into his meetings with lawyers in New York.

The investigator, presenting himself as representing the corrupt African leader, made clear that his client wanted help using suspicious funds to buy a mansion, a jet, and a yacht in the United States and to hide his ownership of these assets. Of the 16 lawyers who met with the undercover investigator, only 1 turned him away. It seems the others were comfortable helping a corrupt foreign official hide money in opaque American shell corporations.

While the underlying criminal schemes may be colorful and complex, the answer to this shell corporation problem is simple and straightforward. The Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act would direct States to require applicants forming corporations and limited liability companies to include basic information about the actual human beings who own the company.

The States would maintain and periodically update this information, and it would be available to law enforcement officers who present valid court-ordered subpoenas or search warrants. It is simple. Have each State keep track of who actually owns companies they charter and ensure that information is available for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies through proper processes.

Transparency in business ownership is not a novel idea. Every member of the European Union will be transparent by 2017. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands have even announced plans to make their corporate ownership registries available to the public. With the light of corporate transparency about to shine on criminal assets hidden in Europe, their shell corporations will not be effective for these purposes. So that money will be looking for new dark homes.

America should take swift action to make sure these assets don't find new hidden homes in opaque American shell corporations. We are supposed to be an example to the world, not the place where the world's corrupt and the world's criminals hide their cash and their assets.

The Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act enjoys broad support from the national law enforcement community, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals Service Association, as well as the Rhode Island State Police.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to finish my statement.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Chuck Canterbury, president of the National Fraternal Order of Police, explains it this way: "When we are able to expose the link between shell companies and drug trafficking, corruption, organized crime, and terrorist finance, the law enforcement community is better able to keep America safe from these illegal activities and keep the proceeds of these crimes out of the U.S. financial system."

Of all places, the United States should not be a safe haven for criminals, foreign or domestic, to hide their illegal assets. We could take a simple major step in fighting money laundering, financial fraud, and terrorist financing by passing this bill. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor it and to help us get it passed.

I thank the Chair. I appreciate the extra time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

#### NOMINATION OF ROBERTA JACOBSON

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, it has been nearly 9 months since the United States had an ambassador to Mexico. The President's nominee to that post, Roberta Jacobson, is eminently qualified, as all of us know, to serve in that position. However, she has been waiting for the Senate to confirm her since the Foreign Relations Committee reported her nomination to the Senate in November of last year with a vote of 12 to 7.

Yesterday I took to the floor to talk about our important trade relationship with Mexico. That is not the only reason finalizing this nomination is so critical. The bilateral work on migration, security, and border issues of the United States and Mexico requires top-level leadership at our Embassy in Mexico City. It is critical for the United States to have an ambassador to ensure cooperation on border security issues and to identify threats to our national security.

We continue to engage Mexico in disrupting organized criminal networks that facilitate human trafficking. According to Mexico's National Institute of Migration, Mexico apprehended

more than 190,000 migrants in 2015, including nearly 19,000 unaccompanied minors, children, better known as UACs. This is a significant increase from 2014, when 127,000 migrants, including just over 11,000 UACs, were apprehended.

It is clear these complex issues require top-level diplomacy, and we would benefit from an experienced leader who can navigate the nuances of these regional relations. In addition to these migration issues, the United States and Mexico need to address security challenges from transnational drug trafficking. As we hear all too often, we are witnessing an increase in heroin use leading to rising levels of violence and heroin-related deaths.

While the United States and Mexico are cooperating on a strategy to fight heroin, this represents a priority that requires the leadership of an ambassador. We need someone in place as our top diplomat in Mexico with experience with Mexican security and with law and to engage the most senior Mexican Government officials on the narcotics issues.

In addition, there are specific ongoing cases that necessitate having an ambassador in place to ensure that our Nation's interests are being represented. As I said yesterday, Mexico represents one of our most important bilateral relationships. It is clear the longer the United States goes without having an ambassador to Mexico, the greater our partnership will suffer.

There is simply no reason to go any longer without an ambassador to Mexico when we have someone as qualified as Roberta Jacobson. I come with good news; that is, it is my understanding that a deal—an agreement—is in the works that will ultimately lead to the successful confirmation later this week. As such, I will not be making a unanimous consent request today, but I intend to come here as long as it takes, to keep up the pressure and to monitor this process, to ensure that it has a successful resolution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### IRAN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, earlier this month, the Governor of Iran's central bank, Dr. Valiollah Seif, spoke at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington and he made three primary claims. First, he said sanctions did not, in fact, lead Iran to agree to the terms

of the nuclear agreement between Iran and the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the EU, Russia, and China. He said sanctions did not force Iran to agree. Second, he said Iran's nuclear program has always been entirely peaceful. Third, he said that the United States and our European allies have not honored our commitments under the terms of the nuclear deal also known as the JCPOA.

Today I wish to push back against all three of these claims.

First, on sanctions, Governor Seif said: "Contrary to baseless allegation[s] that some people made, sanctions did not and could not force [Iran] to engage into a negotiation with our P5+1 colleague[s]," the nations I referenced.

The facts clearly say otherwise.

U.S. sanctions have been a major feature of U.S. policy toward Iran since Iran's 1979 revolution. The imposition of international sanctions and worldwide bilateral sanctions on Iran began in 2006 and increased dramatically in 2010.

In June of 2010, the Congress passed the Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act, also known as CISADA, which weakened Iran's access to the international financial system and bolstered existing sanctions specifically against Iran's human rights abuse.

That same month, with the support not just of our European allies but also Russia and China, the Obama administration and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton led the passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1929, which created the most comprehensive and stinging international sanctions the Iranian regime has ever faced.

Two years later, in 2012, the National Defense Authorization Act designated the Central Bank of Iran for additional sanctions, which the Obama administration successfully used to undermine Iran's ability to sell oil on world markets.

The Obama administration also convinced key allies, such as Japan, Australia, South Korea, and Canada, to agree to additional bilateral measures that increased pressure on Iran's financial banking, insurance, transportation, and energy sectors.

The effects of these coordinated sanctions were clear, swift, and direct. The value of the Iranian currency decreased dramatically. Obstacles to Iranian trade forced businesses to close and increased inflation within Iran. Iran's oil exports and government revenues declined sharply. In 2011, for example, Iran exported about 2.4 million barrels of oil per day. By March of 2014, Iran's exports were down to just 1 million barrels a day—in a nation for which petroleum makes up 80 percent of all commodity exports.

In July of 2012, former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called the

sanctions regime “the most severe and strictest sanctions ever imposed on a country.”

The coordinated sanctions regime was so effective that Iran’s current President even described Iran’s economic situation as if the country had “returned to the 19th century” under the sanctions regime. I think it is clear on this first point that sanctions imposed an unsustainable cost on Iran and forced it to the table to engage in negotiations with the West regarding its nuclear program.

That brings me to his second erroneous argument that Iran has pursued nuclear technology with only peaceful purposes in mind. Iran’s actions directly contradict this claim.

In 2002, members of the international community revealed that Iran had, in fact, been attempting to build a secret uranium enrichment facility at Natanz in Central Iran and a heavy water plutonium reactor at its Arak facility in the northwestern part of the country. Only because Iran failed to keep these facilities secret did the IAEA—or the International Atomic Energy Agency—finally begin having the opportunity to monitor these sites in 2002.

In 2009, the United States, France, and Britain revealed the existence of another uranium enrichment plant buried deep under a mountain near the city of Qom.

The evidence continues. In 2011, the IAEA released a report on the “possible military dimensions” of Iran’s nuclear effort, known as PMD. The report detailed areas in which the agency had evidence of Iran’s past—and potentially ongoing—work on nuclear weaponization and the development of nuclear warheads for missile delivery systems.

The IAEA’s final report on the possible military dimensions of Iran’s nuclear program, issued in December of 2015, found “a range of activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device were conducted in Iran prior to the end of 2003 as a coordinated effort.” The report also found that Iran conducted certain activities relevant to nuclear weaponization for at least several years after 2003 and that some of these activities didn’t end until 2009.

It is not just on-the-ground reports and secret nuclear facilities that suggest that Iran’s nuclear efforts have not always been entirely peaceful. Let me remind my colleagues that just last month Iran tested a ballistic missile that supposedly had a message on its side proclaiming in Hebrew: “Israel must be wiped off the Earth.”

An Iranian regime that continues to advocate for the destruction of Israel, America’s vital ally Israel, does not sound like a nation that has been and hopes to continue to develop nuclear technology for anything remotely peaceful.

An Iranian regime that ships illicit weapons to support the murderous re-

gime of Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria or the Houthi rebels in Yemen or Hezbollah in Lebanon is not seeking to develop weapons for peaceful purposes.

An Iranian regime that illegally tests dangerous ballistic missile technology—some of which is capable of carrying a nuclear weapon, all of which violates U.N. Security Council resolutions—does not have peaceful intentions.

Because of this behavior, we have every reason to distrust Iran’s claims that its nuclear efforts were always peaceful. Iran continually misled the international community about the nature of its nuclear program, and it continually disguised its efforts to conduct research and other activities to help it better understand how to develop a nuclear weapon. It continues to threaten Israel, to test ballistic missiles, and to support terrorism throughout the Middle East.

That is why I simply cannot accept Seif’s argument that Iran’s nuclear program has always been entirely peaceful.

The third claim made by Seif last week was that the United States and our European allies have not honored our obligations under the nuclear deal known as the JCPOA. Iran’s evidence for this claim is that the sanctions relief granted to Iran for complying with the terms of the agreement hasn’t suddenly unleashed a flurry of Iranian economic activity. As Adam Szubin, our own Department of the Treasury’s Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, recently put it, throughout the negotiations between the United States, our allies, partners, and Iran, the U.S. and our allies “did not guarantee economic outcomes, or a flood of immediate business into Iran.”

Acting Under Secretary Szubin is right. Iran is responsible for making Iran an attractive, safe place to do business. For many individuals and businesses, Iran appears neither attractive nor safe. For example, in October, Iran arrested Siamak Namazi, a businessman who is a dual American-Iranian citizen. Namazi worked for a petroleum company in the UAE and previously ran a consulting business in Iran. He still has not been charged. In fact, the only recent development in Mr. Namazi’s case is his father Baquer—an 80-year-old man who suffers from heart problems—was arrested in February and sent to Iran’s notorious Evin Prison. Why would Iranian leaders expect foreign investment to flow into their country when it arbitrarily arrests and detains those seeking business opportunities for their own country.

It is not only Iran’s flawed legal system or its ongoing human rights violations, more than half of Iran’s economy consists of shadowy organizations controlled in part by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC, the

hard-line military force committed to the preservation of the Iranian regime. The pseudo-private entities that are tied to the IRGC include banks, businesses, religious foundations, pension funds, and welfare projects that also serve as front companies for the IRGC.

During his question-and-answer session at the Council on Foreign Relations, Mr. Seif was asked whether foreign businesses considering investing in Iran or doing business with Iran could be confident that the money invested in Iran would not fund the IRGC. He was unable to declare definitively that it would not.

The onus, the burden, is on Iran—not the international community or the United States—to reform Iran’s domestic economy and to make sure its businesses are not linked to the IRGC, to make it a country—transparent and open—and to engage in actions that suggest to the world it is a trustworthy partner. The burden is on Iran to comply with the JCPOA. The burden is on Iran to stop testing ballistic missiles, abusing human rights, and supporting terrorists. If Iran is unhappy with the level of economic relief it has received since this agreement came into effect, it only has its own actions to blame.

As Acting Under Secretary Szubin put it, “the JCPOA [the nuclear deal] is an international arrangement, not a cashier’s check.”

I commend Dr. Seif for his willingness to travel to the United States and to make his case in front of our Council on Foreign Relations. I think this is a constructive step, but as I have shown, I think the case he made is a weak one. The evidence is clear. A coordinated sanctions regime did, in fact, force Iran to negotiate. Iran’s nuclear program was not entirely peaceful in its intent or execution. The United States and EU aren’t holding the Iranian economy back—the Iranian Government is. The Iranian Government’s actions are.

In my travels throughout the Middle East and in conversations with regional leaders and Ambassadors here, it is apparent these nations all share one overriding concern, Iranian aggression. This challenge unites countries as diverse as Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

As my colleagues may have seen in an op-ed in the Washington Post just last week, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif sought to justify recent steps Iran has taken to dramatically build up its defenses.

Countries do, indeed, have a right to self-defense, but there is a difference between self-defense efforts undertaken by responsible members of the international community and some of Iran’s recent aggressive and destabilizing actions.

Responsible nations don’t support terrorist groups throughout the Middle East and stoke sectarianism to undermine the security of their neighbors.

Responsible nations don't directly threaten the destruction of Israel. Responsible nations seek common ground and the pursuit of mutual interests with their neighbors. Responsible nations abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Iran's actions make it clear it is not yet a responsible member of the international community. If Iran then has complaints about the relief it has received under this agreement, it should move its behavior and begin to uphold its commitments under the deal while changing the dangerous aspect of its ongoing behavior. Yet, instead, Iran continues to try and dominate its region, a valuable reminder we must continue to enforce the terms of the JCPOA strictly and push back on Iran's bad behavior that is outside the parameters of the agreement.

While I commend the Obama administration for its recent action in interdicting illicit arms shipments from Iran to the Houthis, continuing to designate IRGC-linked entities for more sanctions, and taking other critical steps to push back on Iran's bad behavior and destabilizing activities in the region, I also remain concerned about the administration's willingness to entertain Iranian complaints about sanctions relief.

I urge the United States and our allies to remain cautious in our dealings with Iran. We must remember that the most important contract with Iran is the one we have already agreed to—that is, this nuclear deal—and we must continue to remind Iran that its own behavior is the real cause of its continuing international isolation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. JUDE'S RANCH FOR CHILDREN, NEVADA CAMPUS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of the St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Nevada Campus.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children was founded by Father Jack Adam to support abused and neglected children and give them an opportunity to learn and grow. Father Adam initially faced challenges in acquiring funding for the project. However, with the help of Nevadan community leaders, including Claudine and Shelby Williams, Forrest Duke, and the Sisters of Charity, the project raised \$30,000, and the facility was built. Eddie, a resident of Elko,

NV, became the first child to attend St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Since then, the organization has been a sanctuary for numerous abused and neglected children and is a recognized landmark in southern Nevada.

St. Jude's Ranch for children offers supportive housing and nutritional services for children and families. The Therapeutic Residential Foster Care program provides children an opportunity to live together, receive the nutritious foods they need to be successful, attend school, and participate in extracurricular activities. Children are nurtured in the program until they are ready to transition out of therapeutic care. Later, children are placed with loving foster families, and siblings are kept together.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. It is important that every April we work together to raise awareness for programs that support the physical and emotional well-being of children and recognize organizations, such as St. Jude's Ranch for Children, that transform the lives of children and families in our community.

Our youth are an important part of our history and future. We must ensure that children are protected and have a nurturing home that allows them to succeed. When a child suffers from abuse or neglect, the whole community and country suffers with them. The services provided by St. Jude's Ranch for Children ensure safety, health, and opportunity for many of our Nation's children. Their work is appreciated and admired, and I wish them continued success for years to come.

#### REMEMBERING RICHARD F. SCHOLZ, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week the city of Quincy, in my home State of Illinois, lost a tough, principled, and fair public servant—but more importantly, a fine man. Judge Richard F. Scholz, Jr., passed away at the age of 87.

Judge Scholz was the quintessential public servant. He was a voice for the underprivileged and a passionate advocate for the most vulnerable in the community. He spent more than 24 years as a judge, fighting for at risk youths and a more equitable juvenile justice system. Although Judge Scholz could be tough, he had a softer side that put a gentle and compassionate face on the criminal justice system. He was celebrated in the courts for his well-reasoned and thoughtful decisions. Throughout his tenure, he was honored by several civic organizations and community groups, but it was dealing one-on-one with people that gave him the greatest joy and satisfaction.

Chuck Scholz, former Quincy mayor and Judge Scholz's nephew, recalled meeting a longtime Quincy resident who told him a story: "Your uncle sent

me to jail, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me." He went on to explain how Judge Scholz visited him one day at the correctional facility in St. Charles. The reason for his visit? To make sure he got his diploma while he was incarcerated. And when he was released, Judge Scholz got him a job. That is the kind of man Judge Scholz was. He understood that the job didn't end in his courtroom.

Judge Scholz believed in serving the community by serving the individual. He knew the recipe for building strong, healthy communities was getting the right people involved in the right way. And the community was better for it.

Born in 1928, Judge Scholz grew up in Quincy and attended St. Francis grade school, Quincy Notre Dame High School, St. Ambrose College, and the University of Illinois. After college, he moved down south and received his law degree from Mercer University in Macon, GA. While studying law, he met and married Ellen W. Scholz and shared 58 wonderful years before her death in 2009.

Following law school, the young couple returned to Quincy to raise their family and practice law with his father and brother. In 1958, he was elected judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit and served as chief judge from 1975 to 1979. In 1982, Judge Scholz retired from the bench and returned to private practice.

During his time on the bench, Judge Scholz presided over high profile cases, fought for higher pay for the county's chief probation officer and the Youth Home superintendent, and he worked tirelessly with community leaders to build the Adams County Youth Home, now the Adams County Juvenile Detention Center—one of only nine facilities of its kind in Illinois.

Hanging above the doorway at the Scholz family farm, there was a sign that read: "You will only be a stranger here but once." Always willing to offer a helping hand, Judge Scholz made time for everyone. He helped young attorneys understand the right way to conduct themselves in and out of the courtroom. As a mentor to countless attorneys, judges, and children, Judge Scholz's mark on the community will endure for years.

I will close with one more story. Years ago, a mother from a Quincy family had been murdered. Her children were orphaned, and State welfare officials planned on placing them into different foster homes. Judge Scholz wouldn't hear of it. He said: "No, you are not breaking up this family." The family stayed together, and there is a photo of them standing around Judge Scholz, with the words: our hero, carved into the picture—a hero indeed.

The stories of Judge Scholz's kindness and affection to the children and families in Quincy go on and on—what a legacy and what a great friend to the people of Quincy. Judge Scholz will certainly be missed.

NOMINATION OF MERRICK  
GARLAND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday I had the honor of speaking at an event hosted by the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate on this body's role in considering Supreme Court nominees. The institute is a wonderful organization "dedicated to educating the public about the important role of the Senate in our government." My friend Ted Kennedy loved the Senate and worked hard every day here to improve the lives of the people of Massachusetts and the people of America. I thank Vicki Kennedy for all of her efforts to build the institute. She has also continued the Kennedy legacy by working to advance medical research and health care for all Americans. I was honored by her invitation to speak at the event.

The institute's event was held on the important and timely issue of the Senate's constitutional role in providing advice and consent on nominees to the Supreme Court. As Senator Kennedy once said, "Few responsibilities we have as Senators are more important than our responsibility to advise and consent to the nominations by the President to the Supreme Court." Ted understood the momentous nature of Supreme Court nominations, as well as the Senate's undeniable and irreplaceable constitutional role in providing advice and consent on the President's nominees.

And the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which Senator Kennedy and I served together for years, plays a singularly important role in considering nominees to serve in our Federal judiciary. But that critical role has been abdicated by the Senate Republicans' unprecedented decision to deny any process to Chief Judge Merrick Garland, who has been nominated to the Supreme Court.

In the last 100 years since public confirmation hearings began in the Judiciary Committee for Supreme Court nominees, the Senate has never denied a nominee a hearing and a vote. No nominee has been treated the way Senate Republicans are treating Chief Judge Garland. Even when a majority of the Judiciary Committee did not support a nominee, the committee still reported out the nomination for a vote on the Senate floor. This allowed all Senators to exercise their duty to consider the nominee.

In fact, when I became chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 2001 during the Bush administration, I and Senator HATCH—who was then the ranking member—memorialized how the committee would continue in this tradition to consider President George W. Bush's Supreme Court nominees. In a letter to all Senators, Senator HATCH and I wrote, "The Judiciary Committee's traditional practice has been to report Supreme Court nominees to the Senate

once the Committee has completed its considerations. This has been true even in cases where Supreme Court nominees were opposed by a majority of the Judiciary Committee." Senator HATCH and I agreed to that. And then-Majority Leader Trent Lott agreed, too, saying this back in 2001: "the Senate has a long record allowing the Supreme Court nominees of the President to be given a vote on the floor of the Senate." We all agreed to this because that is what we in the Senate have done for a century, in an open and transparent manner, allowing the American people to see us doing our work.

This is exactly what the Judiciary Committee should be doing this very day. It has now been 42 days since Chief Judge Merrick Garland was nominated to the Supreme Court. If we follow the average confirmation schedule for Supreme Court nominees over the last 40 years, the Judiciary Committee should be convening a hearing today on Chief Judge Garland's nomination. The late Justice Scalia, whom Chief Judge Garland would replace on the Court, received a hearing 42 days after his nomination. And Democrats were in charge when the Senate last voted on a Supreme Court nominee in an election year when Justice Anthony Kennedy was confirmed in 1988. Justice Kennedy received a hearing in the Judiciary Committee just 14 days after President Reagan nominated him. Had he been nominated at the same time as Chief Judge Garland, his hearings would already have been completed.

Last month, the Kennedy Institute released a national poll that showed just 36 percent of Americans know that the Senate confirms Supreme Court nominees. Our response as Senators to this unfortunate fact should not be to deny Chief Judge Merrick Garland a public hearing and a vote, breaking 100 years of Senate tradition and failing to do our jobs as Senators. Instead, our response should be to engage with the American people and to show them through our actions that the Senate can hold up its part of the constitutional framework.

And although many Americans may not be able to tell you that the Senate confirms Supreme Court nominees, a solid majority of the American public does know—by a 2-to-1 margin—that Chief Judge Garland deserves to have a hearing. That strong majority of the public is telling us that the Senate should show up for work and carry out its constitutional duty by holding a hearing for Chief Judge Garland.

We are hearing that call from so many around the country, including historians, faith groups, civil rights organizations, and legal leaders. In an op-ed yesterday, the president of the Vermont Bar Association, Jennifer Emens-Butler, and others, including a former president of the American Bar Association, made clear that Repub-

licans' obstruction of Chief Judge Garland's nomination undermines the rule of law. They wrote: "As leaders in the legal profession, we are committed to protecting the rule of law. Thus, we cannot remain silent as the Senate refuses to consider Garland. This level of obstructionism is unprecedented in American history and undermines the rule of law, the very foundation on which this great nation was built." I ask unanimous consent that a copy of this op-ed be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Some Republican Senators have claimed that their unprecedented obstruction against Chief Judge Garland is based on "principle, not the person." There is no principle in refusing to confirm Supreme Court nominees in election years, as the Senate has done over a dozen times, most recently for President Reagan's last nominee to the Court. Furthermore, we have seen Republican Senators and outside interest groups attack Chief Judge Garland's judicial record, but then refuse to allow him the chance to respond at a public hearing. This is not principled, it is not fair, and it is not right.

To deny Chief Judge Garland a public hearing and a vote would be truly historic—but that is not the kind of history the Senate should be proud of. Over the more than 40 years I have served in the Senate, I recall times when the consideration of Supreme Court nominees was controversial.

But in every one of those instances, the nominee received a public hearing and a vote. We did not avoid doing our jobs simply because it was hard.

We must remember why we are here in the United States Senate. We are all here to serve the American people by carrying out our sworn oaths to uphold the Constitution. Protection of our enduring constitutional system requires that we hold our constitutional duties as Senators above the partisan politics of the now. I hope that Republicans will soon reverse course and put aside their obstruction to move forward on Chief Judge Garland's nomination.

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

[From The Hill, Apr. 26, 2016]

SENATE'S REFUSAL TO MOVE ON GARLAND  
CONTINUES TO UNDERMINE RULE OF LAW  
(By Monte Frank, James R. Silkenat, and  
Jennifer Emens-Butler)

A month ago, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Monte Frank (one of the co-authors of this piece) warned that the Senate's refusal to consider President Obama's nomination of Chief Judge Merrick Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court would undermine the rule of law. Despite this warning, the Senate Judiciary Committee has continued its blocking tactics and has rebuffed calls for hearings and a vote. As leaders in the legal profession, we are committed to protecting the rule of law. Thus, we cannot remain silent as the Senate refuses to consider Garland. This level of obstructionism is unprecedented in American history and undermines

the rule of law, the very foundation on which this great nation was built.

The rule of law is the restriction of the arbitrary exercise of power by subordinating such exercise to well-defined and established laws. As discussed in the earlier piece with Blumenthal, in the United States, the rule of law is grounded in our Constitution, which unambiguously lays out the process for filling vacancies to the Supreme Court. Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution states the roles the president and the Senate must play in the appointment process: "The President . . . shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the Supreme Court." The Constitution is also clear that the president's term is four years, not three or three-and-one-fourth years.

Now that Obama has fulfilled his constitutional responsibility and made a nomination promptly to fill the current Supreme Court vacancy, the Constitution requires the Senate to likewise fulfill its responsibility to consider and act promptly on the nominee. The Senate needs to move forward by holding meetings, conducting hearings and ultimately taking a vote.

While Garland is preeminently qualified, having served as chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit since 1997, whether the Senate ultimately confirms him is an entirely different question than whether the Senate should even consider him. The current arbitrary exercise of power to deny Garland a hearing and a vote is the kind of abuse the rule of law is designed to protect us from. If the well-defined and established provisions of the Constitution are permitted to be willfully ignored, then the rule of law will be undermined.

In a letter to the leadership of the Senate, 15 past-presidents of the American Bar Association emphasized their utmost respect for the rule of law and the "need for the judicial system to function independently of partisan influences. The founding fathers understood this as well, and structured the constitutional system of government to insulate the judiciary from changing political tides. The stated refusal to fill the ninth seat of the Supreme Court injects a degree of politics into the judicial branch that materially hampers the effective operation of our nation's highest court and the lower courts over which it presides."

The Senate should follow the example set by President Reagan and then-Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Joe Biden (D-Del.) in considering Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was confirmed in an election year. Reagan urged the nation to "join together in a bipartisan effort to fulfill our constitutional obligation of restoring the United States Supreme Court to full strength." He asked the Senate for "prompt hearings conducted in the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship." Biden responded: "I'm glad the President has made his choice. We will get the process under way and move as rapidly as is prudent. We want to conduct the committee's review with both thoroughness and dispatch." Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) was also on the Senate Judiciary Committee at that time. Now that he is the chair, he should follow the example set by Reagan and Biden.

The Senate's refusal to process the nomination has already impacted the lives of everyday people throughout the United States. If lower court decisions are confirmed simply because of a tie in the Supreme Court, as has already occurred and will continue to occur

until the vacancy is filled, then the court will not have created precedent and the lower courts will not be able to rely on those decisions. Open questions of law on significant issues will continue to be left unanswered. To fill this void, the Senate must move forward on a bipartisan basis with meetings and hearings, consideration of and a timely vote on the nominee.

President Reagan's words in 1988 on the confirmation of Justice Kennedy are just as applicable today: "The Federal Judiciary is too important to be made a political football. I would hope, and the American people should expect . . . for the Senate to get to work and act." We urge the Senate to put partisan politics aside for the good of the American people and to avoid undermining the rule of law.

#### PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to speak in strong support of the United Nations' Paris climate change agreement and the President's decision for the United States to be among the first nations to sign the agreement.

Last Friday, April 22, the United States and more than 170 nations came together in New York to sign the international climate agreement negotiated last year that would slow global warming and help poorer nations most affected by it. I find it very symbolic that April 22, the first day that nations could officially sign the agreement, was also Earth Day. Earth Day is a reminder of our obligation to preserve and protect our environment for our children and future generations to come.

Last year, I joined nine of my Senate colleagues in Paris to attend the 21st United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP 21, where the climate agreement was negotiated. What we witnessed at COP 21 was monumental: 195 countries, representing more than 95 percent of global carbon emissions, came together to adopt the first universal climate agreement that calls for international cooperation on addressing the causes of global warming and helping poorer nations most affected by it.

I am proud to say that the United States was a big part of that effort. President Obama's leadership was key in encouraging China, the world's largest emitter, to submit an aggressive climate action plan, and helping countries to find consensus necessary to make such a landmark agreement.

The Paris agreement establishes a long-term, durable global framework for countries to work together to reduce carbon emissions and keep the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius in order to avoid some of the worst consequences of climate change. For the first time, countries have committed to putting forward ambitious, nationally determined climate targets and reporting on their progress towards those targets using a

standardized process of review. The Paris agreement encourages transparency, accountability, and collaboration among nations not only to meet their climate targets, but to encourage innovation while doing so.

No country is insulated from the increasingly present and escalating effects of climate change. In the United States, we are seeing it throughout the country, and we are certainly feeling its effects in New Hampshire. Rising temperatures are shortening our fall foliage season, which is so important to our State's tourism economy. Milder winters have led to increases of insect-borne diseases that endanger our wildlife. In New Hampshire, we have already seen a 40 percent decline in our moose population. The changing climate is also putting more stress on sugar maples, and this is already affecting syrup production.

Investments to improve the resiliency of our communities at all levels is critically important to our ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change. And that is what we are doing in New Hampshire. At the grassroots and statewide, Granite Staters recognize the urgency of addressing climate change and are leading the way by reducing pollution and transitioning to a more efficient, clean energy economy.

For example, last month in Durham, the New Hampshire Climate Action Coalition joined with the University of New Hampshire to host a pancake breakfast and discuss the negative impact of climate change on the maple syrup industry. The event featured a panel of local maple syrup producers, scientists, and others who understand the impacts that climate change is having on forests and maple trees. Over 80 people came together to enjoy maple syrup, hear the speakers, and take action to protect our environment.

New Hampshire is also a part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI—the Nation's first regional cap-and-trade program designed to reduce harmful carbon emissions from the power sector. Through our participation in RGGI, New Hampshire has reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the power sector by nearly 50 percent since 2008 and is on track to meet the administration's Clean Power Plan's carbon-reduction goals 10 years ahead of schedule.

The events happening in New Hampshire show that there truly is broad momentum in the fight against climate change. But in order to achieve our goals, State and local actions must be accompanied by national and international involvement. This is why the international climate change agreement is so essential.

Under the Paris agreement, the United States has made a commitment to reduce carbon emissions by at least 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. While this goal is indeed ambitious, it



is something that we can achieve. By implementing administrative policies like the administration's Clean Power Plan, which will reduce pollution from our Nation's dirtiest power plants, and by doing what this Chamber did last week, which was to take up and pass a comprehensive energy bill that will encourage energy efficiency and improve our Nation's energy policies, we can meet our commitments.

The United States must also be responsive to climate change's impact on our friends in the world's least developed and most vulnerable countries. As one of the world's largest emitters of carbon emissions, we have a responsibility to the world on climate change.

Climate change represents an enormous challenge, but the solutions are within reach if we put into place policies that allow for swift action. The world must work together to ensure that the goals of the Paris agreement are realized. We have a responsibility to help protect our children and grandchildren from the most severe consequences of global warming by reducing emissions now.

#### 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, last Sunday I had the opportunity to attend the 101st anniversary commemoration of the Armenian genocide, hosted at the Armenian Martyrs Memorial in Providence, RI. I was pleased to be able to join with so many in the Armenian community in my home State for this solemn event.

Over a century ago, the Young Turk leaders of the Ottoman Empire summoned and executed over 200 Armenian community leaders and intellectuals, beginning an 8-year campaign of oppression and massacre.

By 1923, an estimated 1½ million Armenians were killed, and over a half a million survivors were exiled. These atrocities affected the lives of every Armenian living in Asia Minor and, indeed, throughout the world. The survivors of the Armenian Genocide, however, persevered due to their unbreakable spirit and steadfast resolve and went on to greatly contribute to the lands in which they found new homes and communities, including the United States. This genocide should no longer be denied, which is why I have joined with several of my colleagues on resolutions over the years to encourage the United States to officially recognize the Armenian genocide.

But as we remember our history, we must also look to the present and to our future.

Violence against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh has escalated in recent months. These attacks on the Armenian people are completely unacceptable and call into question the sincerity with which Azerbaijan has ap-

proached recent peace negotiations. We must remain vigilant and do all that we can to encourage Azerbaijan to return to the negotiating table and make a good faith effort to ensure a lasting peace agreement in the region.

As ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, I remain committed to supporting efforts to provide assistance to Armenia to strengthen security, promote economic growth, and support democratic reforms and development.

We also must find a way to come together to recognize our past and to show our unwavering support to those facing persecution today.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH ELLEN WASEM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Dr. Ruth Ellen Wasem, a specialist in immigration policy, will be retiring from CRS at the end of this month. Dr. Wasem is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where she received a Ph.D. and M.A. in history. She completed her undergraduate degree at Muskingum College—a private university located in New Concord, OH—where she graduated magna cum laude. Dr. Wasem was raised in Cadiz, OH.

Dr. Wasem came to CRS in 1987 as an analyst in social legislation, where she worked on teenage pregnancy, youth policy, homelessness, and immigration policy. She eventually moved full time into immigration policy, where she became a recognized and leading expert in the field.

Throughout her time at CRS, Dr. Wasem provided substantial legislative support to Members and congressional staff on various aspects of immigration and social welfare policy. Dr. Wasem's work was used by Congress in hearings, legislative development, markups, and preconference negotiations.

Dr. Wasem wrote numerous analytic and concise reports for Congress—well over 300 during her tenure at CRS. Dr. Wasem also testified before congressional committees numerous times throughout her tenure at CRS, providing testimony on issues ranging from asylum to unauthorized migration to immigration and social policy data.

As CRS's immigration team leader, Dr. Wasem served as a mentor to all of the other team members, and she always displayed great generosity and selflessness in devoting time and energy to their professional development.

The Congressional Research Service has given Dr. Wasem a number of outstanding commendations and special achievement awards for legislative analysis in the areas of immigration policy, Haitian relief, health care reform, homeland security, temporary foreign workers, and welfare reform.

Dr. Wasem recently spent a year as a Kluge Staff Fellow at the Library of

Congress where she researched legislative efforts to end national origins and race-based immigrant admissions to the United States, all of which culminated in the Immigration Act of 1965. During her time as a Kluge Fellow, Dr. Wasem was awarded the Abba P. Schwartz Research Fellowship, which is administered by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, to further her research in this area.

During her 29 years at CRS—and her 2 years of previous Federal service—Dr. Wasem won the respect and admiration of her colleagues. Her steadfast dedication to serve Congress and her commitment to the highest standards of analytic, unbiased, and timely response to congressional requests for information and analysis have made a positive and lasting contribution to the congressional policy discourse.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING DR. BETTYE CALDWELL

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Dr. Bettye Caldwell, who pioneered early childhood education in the United States.

Dr. Caldwell's groundbreaking research at Syracuse University in the 1960s paved the way for the national Head Start Program and was the inspiration for countless researchers and programs to educate young children in the United States and around the world.

She received her bachelor's degree from Baylor University in 1945 and went on to earn a master's from the University of Iowa and her doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis.

As a developmental psychologist, her work with pediatrician Dr. Julius B. Richmond convinced her of the need infants and toddlers have for emotional and cognitive support. They focused on the development gap for children in disadvantaged homes and sought to combine childcare with education, while keeping families strong. With this mission, she founded and directed the Children's Center in Syracuse, NY. It was the first enrichment program for young children in the United States.

Dr. Caldwell and her husband, Dr. Fred Caldwell, moved to Little Rock, AR, in 1969, where she became the principal of the Kramer School. Under her leadership, "the Kramer Project" gained national attention as the site of the Center for Early Development and Education. Bettye's family notes that she considered the Kramer School her most significant work.

She joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in the mid-1970s and continued at the university for almost 20 years. UALR chancellor Joel E. Anderson noted recently,

“Dr. Caldwell changed the way parents and policymakers understood early childhood development.” She eventually retired from UAMS College of Medicine as a professor of pediatrics in child development.

Many scholars know her best as one of the developers of the HOME research tool that helps observe the impact of a supportive home environment on a child’s development. It is used today by researchers around the world.

A popular speaker and prolific writer, Dr. Caldwell spoke in all 50 States and many foreign countries. She published more than 300 articles and edited several books. She served as president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and gave her time and knowledge to organizations in Arkansas and throughout the Nation.

She received many honors and awards for her work, including being named Woman of the Year by Ladies Home Journal in 1978. Later in life, she was honored with the prestigious Dollie Madison Award for Outstanding Lifelong Contribution in 2001.

Dr. Caldwell passed away on Sunday, April 17, 2016, at the age of 91. In addition to her incredible professional contributions, her family noted, “There was just little that Bettye could not do.” She was married for 58 years to her college sweetheart, raised twins—her son Paul Caldwell and daughter Elizabeth Lawson—and adored her two granddaughters, Becca Ray and Rachel Caldwell. She was a talented seamstress, gourmet cook, and gardener. She loved to sing and enjoyed having guests in her home.

I am honored to work with Dr. Caldwell’s granddaughter, Becca, and to know what an extraordinary legacy she left as an educator, researcher, mother, and grandmother. She was a true leader and pioneer whose work will continue to impact millions of children each day.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it request the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1523. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 223. An act to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1684. An act to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and

damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2615. An act to establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.

H.R. 2908. An act to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

H.R. 3583. An act to reform and improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Emergency Communications, and the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4096. An act to amend the Volcker Rule to permit certain investment advisers to share a similar name with a private equity fund, subject to certain restrictions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4359. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that Federal employees may not be placed on administrative leave for more than 14 days during any year for misconduct or poor performance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4360. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that a Federal employee who leaves Government service while under personnel investigation shall have a notation of any adverse findings under such investigation placed in such employee’s official personnel file, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4698. An act to enhance aviation by requiring airport security assessments and a security coordination enhancement plan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4820. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1493) to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1684. An act to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2615. An act to establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3583. An act to reform and improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Emergency Communications, and the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4096. An act to amend the Volcker Rule to permit certain investment advisers to share a similar name with a private equity fund, subject to certain restrictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4359. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that Federal employees may not be placed on administrative

leave for more than 14 days during any year for misconduct or poor performance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4360. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that a Federal employee who leaves Government service while under personnel investigation shall have a notation of any adverse findings under such investigation placed in such employee’s official personnel file, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4698. An act to enhance aviation by requiring airport security assessments and a security coordination enhancement plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4820. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to use the testimonials of former violent extremists or their associates in order to counter terrorist recruitment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 223. An act to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2908. An act to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5271. A communication from the Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations” (RIN0503-AA55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5272. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Five-year Comprehensive Range Plan for Melrose Military Range”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5273. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was originally declared in Executive Order 13611 on May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5274. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5275. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office

of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (RIN2501-AD65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5276. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5277. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Safety Evaluation of BWRVIP-100, Revision 1, 'BWRVIP Vessel and Internals Project: Updated Assessment of the Fracture Toughness of Irradiated Stainless Steel for BWR Core Shrouds'" (BWRVIP-100, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5278. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Officer, Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (RIN0412-AA75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5279. A communication from the Director, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (RIN0991-AB96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5280. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Office of the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (RIN1290-AA29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5281. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (RIN1895-AA01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5282. A communication from the Senior Advisor to the Officer for Civil Rights and

Civil Liberties, Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (RIN1601-AA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5283. A communication from the Acting Director, Pay and Leave, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Family and Medical Leave Act; Definition of a Spouse" (RIN3206-AM90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5284. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5285. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (RIN1105-AB45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5286. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (RIN2900-AP05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5287. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting proposed legislation relative to major medical facility construction projects and major medical facility leases for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-160. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that will enhance hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women nationwide; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 228

Whereas, Conservation in the United States is funded primarily by sportsmen and women. This American System of Conservation Funding is a user pays—public benefits

approach that includes excise taxes on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment. This strategy is widely recognized as the most successful model of fish and wildlife management funding in the world; and

Whereas, Through the pursuit of their outdoor passions, sportsmen and women support hundreds of thousands of jobs and contribute billions to our economy annually through salaries, wages, and product purchases; and

Whereas, Currently pending legislation in the U.S. Senate would create or renew several important programs that are vital to the continued conservation of our natural resources, the health of America's local economies, and the enhancement and protection of our time-honored outdoor pastimes. Senate Bill 659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015, pulls together fourteen separate programs that impact sportsmen. The bill will advance the cause of making public lands more accessible for multiple recreational uses including hunting and fishing; and

Whereas, The bill will renew several important programs, including reauthorization of the federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The reauthorization of these programs as well as the creation of new programs will enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation enthusiasts, improve access to public lands, and help boost the outdoor recreation economy. Conserving our fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, and ensuring that future generations have access to public lands and continued recreational opportunities protects our hunting, shooting, and conservation heritage for generations to come: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* That we urge the United States Congress to enact legislation that will enhance hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women nationwide; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 438. A bill to provide for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects (Rept. No. 114-245).

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 480. A bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 3990 of the Public Health Service Act.

S. 1455. A bill to provide access to medication-assisted therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 2256. A bill to establish programs for health care provider training in Federal health care and medical facilities, to establish Federal co-prescribing guidelines, to establish a grant program with respect to naloxone, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF  
COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*Andrew J. Read, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission for a term expiring May 13, 2016.

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Jennifer K. Grzelak and ending with Andrew R. Sheffield, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 14, 2015.

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Meredith L. Austin and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Paul F. Thomas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 24, 2016.

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Jonathan P. Tschudy and ending with Matthew B. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 17, 2016.

\*Coast Guard nomination of Vice Adm. Charles D. Michel, to be Admiral.

\*Coast Guard nomination of Vice Adm. Charles W. Ray, to be Vice Admiral.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND  
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2856. A bill to streamline certain feasibility studies and avoid duplication of effort; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2857. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain membership status for India in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2858. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prices for Medicare prescription drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 2859. A bill to establish a competitive grant program to incentivize States to implement comprehensive reforms and innovative strategies to significantly improve postsecondary outcomes for low-income and first generation college students, including increasing postsecondary enrollment and graduation rates, to reduce the need of postsecondary students for remedial education, to increase alignment of high school and postsecondary education, and to promote innovation in postsecondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2860. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal bonds, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 2861. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to review and monitor prescribing practices at military treatment facilities of pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of post-traumatic stress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2862. A bill to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2863. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove limitations on Medicaid benefits for persons in custody pending disposition of charges; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2864. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent catastrophic out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs for seniors and individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2865. A bill to promote stability and security in the Asia-Pacific maritime domains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2866. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the sharing of health information concerning an individual's substance abuse treatment by certain entities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2867. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2868. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deferral of inclusion in gross income for capital gains reinvested in economically distressed zones; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND  
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 442. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels and honoring

the memory of the United States citizens murdered in those attacks, and offering thoughts and prayers for all the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the Belgian people, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of Belgium and all our allies in the face of continuing terrorist attacks on freedom and liberty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 443. A resolution designating April 2016 as "National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 444. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of Prince; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 445. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of Coast Guard aviation and the contribution of Coast Guard aviators to naval aviation and the safety and security of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 446. A resolution designating April 2016 as "National 9-1-1 Education Month"; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 27

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 27, a bill to make wildlife trafficking a predicate offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes and the Travel Act, to provide for the use for conservation purposes of amounts from civil penalties, fines, forfeitures, and restitution under such statutes based on such violations, and for other purposes.

S. 71

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

S. 616

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer emergency service workers.

S. 804

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1062

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1062, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1996

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2034, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim.

S. 2279

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2279, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to increase efficiency in the recruitment and hiring by the Department of Veterans Affairs of health care workers that are undergoing separation from the Armed Forces, to create uniform credentialing standards for certain health care professionals of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 2392

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2392, a bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes.

S. 2437

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2437, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial of the cremated remains of persons who served as Women's Air Forces Service Pilots in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 2441

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2441, a bill to provide that certain Cuban entrants are ineligible to receive refugee assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2454

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2454, a bill to limit the period of authorization of new budget authority provided in appropriation Acts, to require analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of existing programs for which continued new budget authority is proposed to be authorized by committees of Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 2551

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2551, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and mass atrocities, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States civilian capacities to prevent and mitigate such crises.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2628

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2628, a bill to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 2644

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2644, a bill to reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, and for other purposes.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with disabilities to save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts above the current annual maximum contribution if they work and earn income.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rollovers between 529 programs and ABLE accounts.

S. 2704

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2704, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, nonprofit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption

under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2760

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a sponsor of S. 2760, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues related to the extension of consumer credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2790

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2790, a bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes.

S. 2796

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2796, a bill to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians.

S. 2843

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2843, a bill to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to address the Zika crisis.

S. 2845

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2845, a bill to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

AMENDMENT NO. 3857

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3857 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water de-

velopment and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3877

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3877 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2856. A bill to streamline certain feasibility studies and avoid duplication of effort; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2856

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Corps’ Obligation to Assist in Safeguarding Texas Act” or the “COAST Act”.

### SEC. 2. COASTAL TEXAS PROTECTION AND RESTORATION STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study—

(1) the Secretary of the Army shall take into consideration studies, data, or information developed by the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District to expedite completion of the Study; and

(2) any studies, data, or information used in the development of the final recommendations of the Chief of Engineers shall be credited against the non-Federal share of study costs.

(b) EXPEDITED COMPLETION.—The Secretary shall expedite completion of the reports for the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study and, if the Secretary determines that a project described in the completed report is justified, proceed directly to project preconstruction, engineering, and design.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2857. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain membership status for India in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2857

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

## SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF INDIA IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION REGIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Republic of India is the world’s ninth largest economy in nominal terms and the third largest economy based on purchasing-power parity.

(2) The United States-India partnership is vital to United States strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region and across the globe, and is an integral aspect to the Administration’s Rebalance to Asia.

(3) United States-India bilateral trade and investment continue to expand, supporting thousands of United States jobs.

(4) The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) regional economic forum is the premier Asia-Pacific economic forum with a goal to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

(5) APEC works to champion free, open trade and investment, to promote and accelerate regional economic integration, to encourage economic and technical cooperation, to enhance human security, and to facilitate a favorable and sustainable business environment.

(6) APEC held a moratorium on new membership from 1997 to 2010, which has since been lifted.

(7) India has pursued membership in APEC for over 20 years, and became an APEC observer in November 2011 at the invitation of the United States, when the forum met in Hawaii.

(8) India enjoys a location within the Asia-Pacific region which provides an avenue for continued trade and investment partnerships with APEC member states.

(9) India has been or is pursuing bilateral or multilateral trade agreements with the majority of APEC member states.

(10) India’s “Look East, Act East” strategy to expand economic engagement with East and Southeast Asia demonstrates its effort to pursue external oriented, market-driven economic policies.

(b) ACTIONS.—The Secretary of State shall—

(1) develop a strategy to obtain membership status for India in APEC, including participation in related meetings, working groups, activities, and mechanisms; and

(2) actively urge APEC member states to support such membership status for India.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report, in unclassified form, describing the United States strategy to obtain membership status for India in APEC. Such report shall be updated and submitted annually until such time as India obtains membership in APEC. Each such report shall include the following:

(1) A description of the efforts the Secretary has made to encourage APEC member states to promote India’s bid to obtain membership status.

(2) The further steps the Secretary will take to assist India in obtaining membership status for APEC.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2862. A bill to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the Probation Officer Protection Act, which I introduced today with Senator FEINSTEIN. I would like to begin by thanking Senator FEINSTEIN for cosponsoring this bill and also thank Representatives REICHERT and PASCRELL for introducing companion legislation in the House.

Under current law, a Federal probation officer may arrest a probationer or individual on supervised release if the officer has probable cause to believe that the offender has violated a condition of his or her probation or release. The officer may make the arrest with or without a warrant.

In practice, formal arrests by probation officers are rare. Rather, probation officers use this authority to lawfully engage in less restrictive uses of force, such as ordering an offender to stand aside during a search; instructing an offender not to interfere with the officer's movements; or, in rare cases, temporarily restraining an offender who poses a physical danger.

Current law does not, however, address a probation officer's arrest authority in situations where a third party attempts to physically obstruct the officer or cause the officer physical harm. Although obstructing a probation officer in the performance of his or her official duties is illegal, when a probation officer encounters an uncooperative or violent third party, the officer may be forced to retreat because he or she lacks authority to restrain the third party. This lack of authority and resulting need to retreat exposes probation officers to greater risk of harm and allows the third party—along with any evidence or individual the third party is attempting to shield—to elude capture. As a result, evidence that an offender has violated a condition of his or her probation or supervised release, or evidence of other criminal activity, may be lost.

In some circumstances, a probation officer may be able to enlist the assistance of local police in responding to a hostile third party. But this is not, in and of itself, an adequate solution. First, unless the probation officer knows in advance that he or she is likely to encounter a hostile third party and can find an available police officer to accompany him or her, the probation officer must wait for police backup to arrive. This is often not a viable option. Second, even if a local police officer is available to accompany the probation officer, because the probation officer lacks arrest authority, he or she cannot lawfully assist the police officer if the police officer is accosted. Third, requiring federal probation officers to rely on local law enforcement in responding to uncooperative or violent third parties burdens local police departments and diverts police resources from other uses.

My bill addresses these problems by authorizing Federal probation officers

to arrest a third party if there is probable cause to believe the third party has forcibly assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, intimidated, or interfered with the officer, or a fellow probation officer, while the officer was engaged in the performance of official duties. This language parallels 18 U.S.C. §111, which makes it a crime to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with an officer or employee of the United States while the officer or employee is engaged in the performance of official duties.

The bill additionally provides that this arrest authority shall be exercised in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

It is important to note, that this legislation does not give probation officers general arrest authority. Rather, it merely authorizes arrest in the narrow circumstance where a third party forcibly interferes with a probation officer in the course of the officer's performance of his or her official duties. This limited arrest authority will protect officers, offenders, and third parties alike by preventing obstruction from escalating to actual violence, consistent with the rehabilitative mission of the Federal probation system. State probation officers in many jurisdictions have similar third-party arrest authority.

This legislation has the strong support of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, and numerous other law enforcement groups. It will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our Federal probation officers and local police officers and in the homes and communities they serve.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 442—CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN BRUSSELS AND HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENS MURDERED IN THOSE ATTACKS, AND OFFERING THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THE VICTIMS, CONDOLENCES TO THEIR FAMILIES, RESOLVE TO SUPPORT THE BELGIAN PEOPLE, AND THE PLEDGE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE COUNTRY OF BELGIUM AND ALL OUR ALLIES IN THE FACE OF CONTINUING TERRORIST ATTACKS ON FREEDOM AND LIBERTY

Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 442

Whereas, on March 22, 2016, three suicide bombers and their accomplices conducted

three coordinated terrorist attacks across the city of Brussels, Belgium, killing at least 32 civilians and wounding over 340 innocent men, women, and children;

Whereas these terrorist attacks were conducted in order to maximize casualties, the 7:58 a.m. explosions targeted the Brussels-Zaventem Airport morning rush and the 9:10 a.m. metro attack targeted those commuting to and from the Maelbeek metro station, which is near the United States Embassy and the European Union headquarters buildings;

Whereas evidence suggests that these attacks explicitly targeted United States interests by placing explosive devices in front of the American Airlines, Delta, and United Airlines check-in counters;

Whereas the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) has claimed responsibility for these attacks, which marks the second time in just over four months that ISIS has used suicide bombers to attack innocent civilians in a Western European capital;

Whereas the world still grieves for those innocent lives lost and injured in Paris, the 129 murdered civilians and the 350 injured men, women, and children;

Whereas Charles Michel, the Prime Minister of Belgium, has responded to these horrors by calling for solidarity: “[W]hat we feared has happened. Our country and citizens have been hit by a terrorist attack, in a violent and cowardly way . . . To those who have chosen to be the barbaric enemies of liberty, of democracy, of fundamental values, I want to say with the greatest strength that we will remain assembled and united.”;

Whereas President Barack Obama has called these attacks “yet another reminder that the world must unite; we must be together, regardless of nationality or race or faith, in fighting against the scourge of terrorism”;

Whereas Justin and Stephanie Shults, an American married couple, were murdered at the airport, where they had just taken Stephanie's mother for her flight back to the United States after visiting the Shults' home in Belgium;

Whereas Justin and Stephanie Shults met at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, close to both where Justin grew up in Gatlinburg, Tennessee and Stephanie grew up in Lexington, Kentucky;

Whereas Justin and Stephanie lived in Brussels and worked for CLARCOR and Mars, respectively, both United States corporations;

Whereas Alexander and Sascha Pinczowski, Dutch siblings who called New York home, were murdered at the airport while speaking on the phone with their mother;

Whereas Mayor Bill de Blasio called Alexander and Sascha “two of our own”;

Whereas Gail Minglana Martinez, wife of United States' Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Kato Martinez, was injured in the airport attack with her husband of 21 years and their four children;

Whereas that blast ultimately claimed the life of Gail Minglana Martinez, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas;

Whereas the Governments of Belgium, France, and Germany have expanded counterterrorism operations, resulting in the arrest of over twelve suspected terrorists across their countries between March 24 and 25, 2016; and

Whereas these attacks represent a continued assault on freedom and democracy and an unmitigated evil that plagues the Middle East and the wider world, against which the United States and our allies must stand united in fighting: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the terrorist attacks on March 22, 2016, in Brussels, Belgium that killed 32 people and injured hundreds;

(2) honors the memories of Justin and Stephanie Shults, Alexander and Sascha Pinczowski, and Gail Martinez, who were murdered by the Islamic State in these heinous terrorist attacks;

(3) expresses its heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for the victims of these attacks and their families;

(4) renews the solidarity of the Government and people of the United States with the people and the leadership of Belgium, as well as those throughout the world who work to eliminate terrorism;

(5) pledges United States support to Belgium, Europe, and all United States allies in the effort to defeat ISIS and associated groups; and

(6) reaffirms its commitment to the transatlantic relationship and the shared values of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 443—DESIGNATING APRIL 2016 AS “NATIONAL SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. RES. 443

Whereas sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that can affect almost any organ of the body, but most commonly affects the lungs;

Whereas sarcoidosis causes the immune system to overreact, causing damage to tissue in the form of granulomas, which are microscopic clumps of inflammatory cells, and interference with the functioning of an organ when too many granulomas form in that organ;

Whereas sarcoidosis is a multisystem disorder, which means that symptoms vary depending on which organ is affected, and 1/3 of individuals diagnosed with sarcoidosis will experience damage to multiple organs;

Whereas the cause of sarcoidosis is unknown;

Whereas sarcoidosis is classified as a rare disease, but there are an estimated 200,000 individuals in the United States who live with sarcoidosis;

Whereas sarcoidosis affects all demographics, regardless of age, race, or gender, but is most common among adults between the ages of 20 and 40 and more likely to be severe and chronic in African-Americans;

Whereas sarcoidosis was the first diagnosis for an overwhelming majority of rescue workers responding to the site of the attacks on September 11, 2001;

Whereas sarcoidosis patients are often left undertreated or misdiagnosed due to the diverse presentation of sarcoidosis, the lack of knowledge of sarcoidosis among some physicians, and the diagnosis of sarcoidosis through exclusions;

Whereas the average time it takes to diagnose sarcoidosis is 7 years, and many sarcoidosis patients struggle to find knowledgeable physicians and emotional support resources relating to sarcoidosis;

Whereas treatment options for sarcoidosis are limited due in part to the lack of informative research and funding specific to sarcoidosis;

Whereas the Sarcoidosis of Long Island and the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research—

(1) actively advocate for more research to better understand how environmental or occupational exposures may increase the risk of sarcoidosis; and

(2) strive to serve individuals afflicted by sarcoidosis by focusing efforts relating to sarcoidosis on public policy, research, funding, patient services, public awareness, education, and finding a cure; and

Whereas April 2016 is appropriate to designate as “National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month”, with worldwide events—

(1) to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with sarcoidosis;

(2) to raise awareness of the environmental and occupational issues associated with sarcoidosis; and

(3) to educate medical professionals who care for individuals with sarcoidosis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month”; and

(2) designates April 2016 as “National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month”.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 444—HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRINCE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 444

Whereas Prince Rogers Nelson (referred to in this preamble as “Prince”) was born on June 7, 1958, in Minneapolis, Minnesota;

Whereas Prince developed an interest in music at an early age and wrote his first song at the age of 7 years;

Whereas Prince pioneered the Minneapolis sound, which is a mixture of funk, rock, and pop that emerged in the late 1970s and 1980s and influenced music for decades;

Whereas Prince and his band, the Revolution, shot many scenes of the classic film “Purple Rain” at First Avenue, making the downtown Minneapolis music venue a landmark;

Whereas Prince was a superstar composer, an amazing performer, and a music innovator with a fierce belief in the independence of his art;

Whereas Prince—

(1) sold more than 100,000,000 records worldwide;

(2) released 39 studio albums;

(3) had 5 number 1 Billboard hits; and

(4) had 40 singles in the top 100 songs;

Whereas Prince won 7 Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, and a Golden Globe Award;

Whereas Prince was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, the first year in which Prince was eligible for induction;

Whereas in 2010, Prince accepted a Black Entertainment Television Lifetime Achievement Award;

Whereas Prince wrote songs about Minnesota sports teams, including “Purple and Gold” during the Minnesota Viking’s run to the 2010 National Football Conference championship game, and held a concert for the Minnesota Lynx after the Minnesota Lynx won their third Women’s National Basketball Association championship;

Whereas even after all of his success, Prince still called the State of Minnesota home and never lost the sense that he was a beloved son, a neighbor, and the superstar next door;

Whereas Prince reminded the people of the United States that “there’s a world waiting

for us after this life, a world of never ending happiness, where you can always see the sun, day or night”; and

Whereas on April 21, 2016, Prince passed away at his Paisley Park Estate in Chanhassen, Minnesota, leaving behind millions of fans and a legacy of music that touched hearts, opened minds, and made the people of the United States want to dance: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors the life of Prince Rogers Nelson and his achievements as a musician, composer, innovator, and cultural icon.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 445—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF COAST GUARD AVIATION AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF COAST GUARD AVIATORS TO NAVAL AVIATION AND THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 445

Whereas, on December 17, 1903, members of the United States Lifesaving Service stationed at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, assisted the Wright brothers during their first successful flight;

Whereas April 1, 1916, marks the official establishment of Coast Guard aviation as the date on which the first Coast Guard aviator, Third Lieutenant Elmer F. Stone, reported to United States Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, for flight training;

Whereas, on August 29, 1916, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to establish 10 Coast Guard air stations;

Whereas Coast Guard First Lieutenant Elmer F. Stone—

(1) took off from the Naval Air Station at Rockaway, New York, on May 8, 1919, and landed in Lisbon, Portugal, on May 27, 1919, completing the first successful trans-Atlantic flight; and

(2) was later assigned to duty with the United States Navy as a test pilot, during which First Lieutenant Stone aided in the development of shipboard catapult systems and arresting gear for use on United States Navy aircraft carriers;

Whereas in early 1925—

(1) the first permanent Coast Guard air station was established at Ten Pound Island, Massachusetts; and

(2) Lieutenant Commander Carl von Paulsen, with approval of the Commandant of the Coast Guard, initiated the transfer to the Coast Guard of a surplus Navy aircraft for 1 year and during that year, Lieutenant Commander von Paulsen coordinated daily patrols to combat alcohol smuggling in the waters off New England;

Whereas the Coast Guard Air Station Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, New York, was designated as a helicopter training base on January 14, 1942, at which

(1) the Coast Guard led the rotary wing training program of the military; and

(2) by 1944, Coast Guard instructor pilots had trained 125 military helicopter pilots from the United States and Great Britain and 200 helicopter mechanics;

Whereas, on January 3, 1944, despite high winds and blowing snow that closed all of the airfields in the New York area, Commander



Frank Erickson, the first Coast Guard helicopter pilot, flew a Sikorsky helicopter from New York City to Sandy Hook, New Jersey, to deliver 2 cases of blood plasma for 150 injured United States Navy sailors, completing the flight in just 14 minutes and conducting the first lifesaving helicopter flight;

Whereas, on March 15, 1946, the Coast Guard first used aircraft to scout for ice and determine the limits of the ice fields along critical North Atlantic shipping lanes in support of the International Ice Patrol and since that date, Coast Guard surveillance aircraft have conducted the primary reconnaissance work for the International Ice Patrol, monitoring for ships transiting the North Atlantic the movement of icebergs throughout thousands of square miles of ocean;

Whereas, on December 17, 1951, President Harry Truman presented to the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, and the helicopter industry the Collier Trophy in a joint award for outstanding development and use of rotary-winged aircraft for air rescue operations;

Whereas Bobby Wilkes—

(1) on March 25, 1957, was designated as Coast Guard aviator number 735; and

(2) was the first African-American—

(A) Coast Guard aviator;

(B) promoted to the rank of captain in the Coast Guard; and

(C) to command a Coast Guard air station;

Whereas, on January 9, 1963, the Coast Guard received the first of 99 HH-52A helicopters, which was instrumental in the rescue of more than 15,000 people during its 26 years of service, more lives than have been rescued by any other helicopter;

Whereas, on March 31, 1967, the Coast Guard established an aviator exchange program with the United States Air Force that authorized Coast Guard pilots to serve with combat search and rescue forces during the Vietnam War and as part of the program, 11 Coast Guard pilots served heroically with Air Force pilots on harrowing missions behind enemy lines during the rescue of downed United States airmen;

Whereas, on March 4, 1977, Janna Lambine was designated as Coast Guard aviator number 1812, becoming the first woman Coast Guard aviator;

Whereas, on October 9, 1982, a Coast Guard aircraft participated in the first rescue mission using a satellite search and rescue system;

Whereas, on October 30, 1984, Congress authorized the Coast Guard to establish a Rescue Swimmer program to train personnel to rescue incapacitated people from the water and since that date, Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers have demonstrated exceptional bravery and dedication during the rescue of innumerable people from the ocean under extreme conditions;

Whereas Commander Bruce E. Melnick—

(1) on June 5, 1987, became the first Coast Guard aviator to participate in the space program; and

(2) in October 1990, serving as a mission specialist aboard STS-41, became the first Coast Guard aviator to complete a space mission;

Whereas, on February 13, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, 2 HU-25A Falcon jets from Air Station Cape Cod, equipped with specialized oil detection technology—

(1) were deployed to Saudi Arabia to serve with the interagency oil spill assessment team;

(2) provided a critical service by mapping over 40,000 square miles to locate every drop

of oil on the water after one of the worst oil spills in history;

Whereas, on June 24, 2005, Lieutenant Junior Grade Jeanine McIntosh-Menze was designated as Coast Guard aviator number 3775, becoming the first African-American woman Coast Guard aviator;

Whereas in the weeks following Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters in United States history, the heroic efforts of Coast Guard flight crews contributed to—

(1) the rescue of more than 33,000 people; and

(2) the delivery of nearly 2,000,000 pounds of relief supplies;

Whereas, on October 29, 2012, during Hurricane Sandy, the heroic efforts of Coast Guard flight crews contributed to the rescue of 14 sailors aboard the HMS *Bounty*, during which the Coast Guard flight crews located the shipwrecked sailors and performed, at great personal risk, a helicopter-borne night rescue in 18-foot seas and gale-force winds; and

Whereas, since 1916, 4,493 Coast Guard aviators have been trained at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida—

(1) in preparation for assignment to operational Coast Guard air stations; and

(2) in support of the national defense, law enforcement, and maritime safety, security, and stewardship missions of the Coast Guard around the world; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes 100 years of Coast Guard aviation; and

(2) honors past and present Coast Guard aviators who have served in support of the safety and security of the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 446—DESIGNATING APRIL 2016 AS “NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BARR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 446

Whereas 9-1-1 is recognized throughout the United States as the number to call in an emergency to receive immediate help from police, fire, emergency medical services, or other appropriate emergency response entities;

Whereas, in 1967, the President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a “single number should be established” nationwide for reporting emergency situations, and various Federal Government agencies and governmental officials supported and encouraged the recommendation;

Whereas, in 1968, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (commonly known as “AT&T”) announced that it would establish the digits 9-1-1 as the emergency code throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress designated 9-1-1 as the national emergency call number in the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-81; 113 Stat. 1286);

Whereas section 102 of the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004 (47 U.S.C. 942 note) declared an enhanced 9-1-1 system to be “a high national priority” and part of “our Nation’s homeland security and public safety”;

Whereas it is important that policy makers at all levels of government understand the importance of 9-1-1, how the 9-1-1 system works, and the steps that are needed to modernize the 9-1-1 system;

Whereas the 9-1-1 system is the connection between the eyes and ears of the public and

the emergency response system in the United States and is often the first place emergencies of all magnitudes are reported, making 9-1-1 a significant homeland security asset;

Whereas more than 6,000 9-1-1 public safety answering points serve more than 3,000 counties and parishes throughout the United States;

Whereas telecommunicators at public safety answering points answer more than 200,000,000 9-1-1 calls each year in the United States;

Whereas a growing number of 9-1-1 calls are made using wireless and Internet Protocol-based communications services;

Whereas a growing segment of the population of the United States, including individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, or who have speech disabilities, is increasingly communicating with nontraditional text, video, and instant messaging communications services and expects those services to be able to connect directly to 9-1-1;

Whereas the growth and variety of means of communication, including mobile and Internet Protocol-based systems, impose challenges for accessing 9-1-1 and implementing an enhanced 9-1-1 system and require increased education and awareness about the capabilities of different means of communication;

Whereas numerous other “N-1-1” and 800 number services exist for nonemergency situations, including 2-1-1, 3-1-1, 5-1-1, 7-1-1, 8-1-1, poison control centers, and mental health hotlines, and the public needs to be educated on when to use those services in addition to or instead of 9-1-1;

Whereas international visitors and immigrants make up an increasing percentage of the population of the United States each year, and visitors and immigrants may have limited knowledge of the emergency calling system in the United States;

Whereas people of all ages use 9-1-1 and it is critical to educate people on the proper use of 9-1-1;

Whereas senior citizens are highly likely to need to access 9-1-1 and many senior citizens are learning to use new technology;

Whereas thousands of 9-1-1 calls are made every year by children properly trained in the use of 9-1-1, which saves lives and underscores the critical importance of training children early in life about 9-1-1;

Whereas the 9-1-1 system is often misused, including by the placement of prank and nonemergency calls;

Whereas misuse of the 9-1-1 system results in costly and inefficient use of 9-1-1 and emergency response resources and needs to be reduced;

Whereas parents, teachers, and all other caregivers need to play an active role in 9-1-1 education for children, but can do so only after first being educated themselves;

Whereas there are many avenues for 9-1-1 public education, including safety fairs, school presentations, libraries, churches, businesses, public safety answering point tours or open houses, civic organizations, and senior citizen centers;

Whereas children, parents, teachers, and the National Parent Teacher Association make vital contributions to the education of children about the importance of 9-1-1 through targeted outreach efforts to public and private school systems;

Whereas the United States should strive to host at least 1 educational event regarding the proper use of 9-1-1 in every school in the country every year;

Whereas programs to promote proper use of 9-1-1 during National 9-1-1 Education Month could include—

(1) public awareness events, including conferences, media outreach, and training activities for parents, teachers, school administrators, other caregivers, and businesses;

(2) educational events in schools and other appropriate venues; and

(3) production and distribution of information about the 9-1-1 system designed to educate people of all ages on the importance and proper use of 9-1-1; and

Whereas the people of the United States deserve the best education regarding the use of 9-1-1: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2016 as “National 9-1-1 Education Month”; and

(2) urges governmental officials, parents, teachers, school administrators, caregivers, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, training events, and activities.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3878. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3879. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3804 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER to the amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3880. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3804 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER to the amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3881. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3882. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. PERDUE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 383, recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation.

SA 3883. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. PERDUE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 383, supra.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3878.** Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to purchase heavy water produced in Iran.

**SA 3879.** Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3804 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER to the amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2, line 2, insert “and related facilities” after “technologies”.

**SA 3880.** Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3804 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER to the amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following: “*Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$823,114,000 in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$5,000,000 shall be available for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear reactor technologies and related facilities, and \$5,000,000 of that amount shall not be available for fee revenues, notwithstanding section 6101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 2214): *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$115,886,000.”

**SA 3881.** Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

SEC . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to purchase heavy water produced in Iran.

**SA 3882.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. PERDUE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 383, recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation; as follows:

On page 6, line 12, insert “and investment, and remove barriers to, and to provide incentives for, private sector market entry” before “; and”.

**SA 3883.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. PERDUE) proposed an amendment to

the resolution S. Res. 383, recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the deep bond between the United States and Israel is exemplified by its many facets, including the robust economic and commercial relationship;

Whereas, on April 22, 2015, the United States celebrated the 30th anniversary of its free trade agreement with Israel, which was the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States;

Whereas the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement established the Joint Committee to facilitate the agreement and collaborate on efforts to increase bilateral cooperation and investment;

Whereas, since the signing of this agreement, two-way trade has multiplied tenfold to over \$40,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas Israel is the third largest importer of United States goods in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, despite representing only 2 percent of the region’s population;

Whereas nearly half of all investment in the United States from the MENA region comes from Israel;

Whereas Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange than any other country except for the United States and China;

Whereas, in 1956, the United States-Israel Education Foundation was established to administer the Fulbright Program in Israel, and has facilitated the exchange of nearly 3,300 students between the United States and Israel since its inception;

Whereas the United States-Israel Innovation Index (USI3), which was developed by USISTF to track and benchmark innovation relationships, ranks the United States-Israel innovation relationship as top-tier;

Whereas, since 2011, the United States Department of Energy and the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources have led an annual United States-Israel Energy Meeting with participants across government agencies to facilitate bilateral cooperation in that sector;

Whereas, in 2012, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150), which set United States policy to expand bilateral cooperation across the spectrum of civilian sectors, including high technology, agriculture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and energy;

Whereas, in 2013, President Obama said in reference to Israel’s contribution to the global economy, “That innovation is just as important to the relationship between the United States and Israel as our security cooperation.”;

Whereas, in 2014, Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew said, “As one of the most technologically advanced and innovative economies in the world, Israel is an important economic partner to the United States.”;

Whereas the 2014 Global Venture Capital Confidence Survey ranked the United States and Israel as the two countries with the highest levels of investor confidence in the world;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of

2014 (Public Law 113–296), which deepened cooperation on energy, water, agriculture, trade, and defense, and expressed the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States; and

Whereas economic cooperation between the United States and Israel has also thrived at the State and local levels through both formal agreements and bilateral organizations in over 30 States that have encouraged new forms of cooperation in fields such as water conservation, cybersecurity, and alternative energy and farming technologies: Now, therefore, be it

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, at 11:30 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “U.S.-China Relations: Strategic Challenges and Opportunities.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Government Reform: Ending Duplication and Holding Washington Accountable.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The GAO Report on Telecommunications: Additional Coordination and Performance Measurement Needed for High-Speed Internet Access Programs on Tribal Lands.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Counterfeits and Their Impact on Consumer Health and Safety.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-428A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Drowning in Regulations: The Waters of the U.S. Rule and the Case for Reforming the RFA.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 27, 2016, at 3:30 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Valeant Pharmaceuticals’ Business Model: the Repercussions for Patients and the Health Care System.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kelsey Avery, Leigh Stuckhardt, Matthew Fuentes, and Luke Alo, fellows for the Senate Finance Committee, and Julia Bradley-Cook, Ryan Matheny, and Katherine Tsantiris, fellows in my personal office, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the 114th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask that my intern, Jonathan Lin, be granted floor privileges for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**APPOINTMENT**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–292, as amended by Public Law 106–55, Public Law 107–228, and Public Law 112–75, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Sandra Jolley of Nevada.

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA TO PURSUE PEACE AND THE END OF THE COUNTRY’S ENDURING INTERNAL ARMED CONFLICT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 397, S. Res. 368.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 368) supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and the end of the country’s enduring internal armed conflict and recognizing United States support for Colombia at the 15th anniversary of Plan Colombia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 368) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 9, 2016, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP AND ENCOURAGING NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 400, S. Res. 383.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 383) recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Perdue amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the

Perdue amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3882) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To foster investment and private sector market entry)

On page 6, line 12, insert “and investment, and remove barriers to, and to provide incentives for, private sector market entry” before “; and”.

The resolution (S. Res. 383), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3883) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the deep bond between the United States and Israel is exemplified by its many facets, including the robust economic and commercial relationship;

Whereas, on April 22, 2015, the United States celebrated the 30th anniversary of its free trade agreement with Israel, which was the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States;

Whereas the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement established the Joint Committee to facilitate the agreement and collaborate on efforts to increase bilateral cooperation and investment;

Whereas, since the signing of this agreement, two-way trade has multiplied tenfold to over \$40,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas Israel is the third largest importer of United States goods in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, despite representing only 2 percent of the region's population;

Whereas nearly half of all investment in the United States from the MENA region comes from Israel;

Whereas Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange than any other country except for the United States and China;

Whereas, in 1956, the United States-Israel Education Foundation was established to administer the Fulbright Program in Israel, and has facilitated the exchange of nearly 3,300 students between the United States and Israel since its inception;

Whereas the United States-Israel Innovation Index (USI3), which was developed by USISTF to track and benchmark innovation relationships, ranks the United States-Israel innovation relationship as top-tier;

Whereas, since 2011, the United States Department of Energy and the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources have led an annual United States-Israel Energy Meeting with participants across government agencies to facilitate bilateral cooperation in that sector;

Whereas, in 2012, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150), which set United States policy to expand bilateral cooperation across the spectrum of civilian sectors, including high technology, agriculture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and energy;

Whereas, in 2013, President Obama said in reference to Israel's contribution to the global economy, “That innovation is just as im-

portant to the relationship between the United States and Israel as our security cooperation.”;

Whereas, in 2014, Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew said, “As one of the most technologically-advanced and innovative economies in the world, Israel is an important economic partner to the United States.”;

Whereas the 2014 Global Venture Capital Confidence Survey ranked the United States and Israel as the two countries with the highest levels of investor confidence in the world;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296), which deepened cooperation on energy, water, agriculture, trade, and defense, and expressed the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States; and

Whereas economic cooperation between the United States and Israel has also thrived at the State and local levels through both formal agreements and bilateral organizations in over 30 States that have encouraged new forms of cooperation in fields such as water conservation, cybersecurity, and alternative energy and farming technologies; Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 383

Whereas the deep bond between the United States and Israel is exemplified by its many facets, including the robust economic and commercial relationship;

Whereas, on April 22, 2015, the United States celebrated the 30th anniversary of its free trade agreement with Israel, which was the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States;

Whereas the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement established the Joint Committee to facilitate the agreement and collaborate on efforts to increase bilateral cooperation and investment;

Whereas since the signing of this agreement, two-way trade has multiplied tenfold to over \$40,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas Israel is the third largest importer of United States goods in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, despite representing only 2 percent of the region's population;

Whereas nearly half of all investment in the United States from the MENA region comes from Israel;

Whereas Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange than any other country except for the United States and China;

Whereas, in 1956, the United States-Israel Education Foundation was established to administer the Fulbright Program in Israel, and has facilitated the exchange of nearly 3,300 students between the United States and Israel since its inception;

Whereas the United States-Israel Innovation Index (USI3), which was developed by USISTF to track and benchmark innovation relationships, ranks the United States-Israel innovation relationship as top-tier;

Whereas, since 2011, the United States Department of Energy and the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources have led an annual United States-Israel Energy Meeting with participants across government agencies to facilitate bilateral cooperation in that sector;

Whereas, in 2012, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150), which set United States policy to expand bilateral cooperation across the spectrum of civilian sectors, including high technology, agriculture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and energy;

Whereas, in 2013, President Obama said in reference to Israel's contribution to the global economy, “That innovation is just as important to the relationship between the United States and Israel as our security cooperation.”;

Whereas, in 2014, Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew said, “As one of the most technologically-advanced and innovative economies in the world, Israel is an important economic partner to the United States.”;

Whereas the 2014 Global Venture Capital Confidence Survey ranked the United States and Israel as the two countries with the highest levels of investor confidence in the world;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296), which deepened cooperation on energy, water, agriculture, trade, and defense, and expressed the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States; and

Whereas economic cooperation between the United States and Israel has also thrived at the State and local levels through both formal agreements and bilateral organizations in over 30 States that have encouraged new forms of cooperation in fields such as water conservation, cybersecurity, and alternative energy and farming technologies; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that the United States-Israel economic partnership has achieved great tangible and intangible benefits to both countries and is a foundational component of the strong alliance;

(2) recognizes that science and technology innovation present promising new frontiers for United States-Israel economic cooperation, particularly in light of widespread drought, cybersecurity attacks, and other major challenges impacting the United States;

(3) encourages the President to regularize and expand existing forums of economic dialogue with Israel and foster both public and private sector participation and investment, and remove barriers to, and to provide incentives for, private sector market entry; and

(4) expresses support for the President to explore new agreements with Israel, including in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, medicine, neurotechnology, and cybersecurity.

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 444, S. Res. 445, and S. Res. 446.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 444) honoring the life and achievements of Prince.

A resolution (S. Res. 445) recognizing the 100th anniversary of Coast Guard aviation and the contribution of Coast Guard aviators to naval aviation and the safety and security of the United States.

A resolution (S. Res. 446) designating April 2016 as "National 9-1-1 Education Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,  
APRIL 28, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, April 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a pe-

riod of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that following morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2028; finally, that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 2577 be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:39 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 10 a.m.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, April 27, 2016

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 27, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EVAN H. JENKINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### REMEMBERING PRINCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember somebody of unquestionable talent, somebody who appealed to and spoke to people of all types, ages, and cliques, and somebody who also never stopped finding different ways of expressing coolness.

Of course, I am speaking of Minnesota's native son, Prince, who tragically passed away this last week in Chanhassen, my hometown.

Prince was the personification of limitless ability and creativity, and, even better for Minnesotans, he was one of us.

For me, the music of Prince was intertwined with growing up in Chanhassen. I remember spending time with high school friends after a football game or a soccer game. We would take the time to actually drive up his driveway, which we thought was kind of fascinating. We would head over to his house. We were a little entranced with his simple, purple, split-level house.

The fact that the man responsible for some of our favorite songs and music was living right in our backyard seemed actually too good to be true.

I remember my very first concert I went to was also Prince on his Purple Rain Tour back in 1984 at the St. Paul Civic Center.

To hear his contemporaries tell the story, Prince's guitar playing simply was indescribable. If the best musicians of our day can't find the words to express how talented he really was, I certainly can't find a way to express the skill that he possessed.

Of course, he was much more than his guitar playing. He could also sing and play numerous other instruments and write hit after hit. But what inspires so many is that it shows that greatness lives within us.

Prince grew up in Minneapolis. He didn't have any formal classical musical training at an elite school, but he did rise to the top of the music world and never looked back.

Even with all the stories that we have heard over the past several days and week about the greatness of Prince, more inspiring are the stories of him extending a helping hand to help lift others up in times of need, stories of how he was very active in our community.

Just a few weeks before he passed away, he played a very surprise show with friends at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, a very popular venue and Minnesota favorite, where I worked as a high school busboy.

Day after day we are hearing stories now of donations to schools, to different causes and, of course, to people. Those are the folks that Prince made happy in terms of their time of need. Prince had a giving heart.

Ultimately, it is for these reasons that we have seen the outpouring of grief from around Minnesota, from around the country, and also from around the world.

As we continue to remember Prince, the man, and his music, it is his words from one of his earliest top hits, "1999," that helps put things in perspective. He says: "But life is just a party, and parties weren't meant to last."

While his party has certainly sadly come to an end, these lyrics remind us each and every day to live those days to the fullest and to set out to achieve great things.

We will miss Prince Rogers Nelson. May he rest in peace.

### UNGASS REFLECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to be an official observer at the United Nations as they had a special meeting dealing with the international war on drugs.

Much has happened since President Clinton addressed the Global Drug Summit at the United Nations in 1998, carrying the American war on drugs to the international stage. But this, in my mind, solidified the need for us to reset these failed drug policies.

People across the political spectrum now agree that this approach to drug policy is flawed and ineffective. We have spent over \$1 trillion on this effort over the years.

We have undermined countries in Latin America and helped unleash an unprecedented wave of violence in Mexico, killing tens of thousands of people in the drug wars.

Yet, despite all the effort, all the money, drugs are still widely available in the United States, actually less expensive than before we started. We seem unable to even keep drugs out of our own prisons.

America's failure to deal with harm reduction, treatment, and prevention has helped lead to the epidemic of opioid addiction and death. In 2013 alone, we lost 20,000 people to prescription drug overdose.

As people get hooked on amazingly over-prescribed prescription drugs, it leads to heroin addiction when they substitute it when they can no longer get access to opioids.

Now, it is interesting that some of the countries that have been most devastated by this war on drugs, in dealing with the international cartels—Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala—were there at the United Nations leading the charge for a different approach.

Many of the presentations that I witnessed were suggestions to the Outcome Document, with the common theme that it did not go far enough in reforming the path forward.

Calls for harm reduction, greater access to treatment, and fighting the barbaric practice of executing drug offenders energized that consensus.

Now, America was on the sidelines. America was not calling for adjustment and change in reform. We were sort of between those more progressive forces, including those countries that

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have really been in the throes of the drug wars.

And then there is Iran and China and Russia, and we were sort of floating in between. It is kind of embarrassing, as an American, to see the United States not leading.

I come back to Washington, D.C., more committed than ever for the new administration and the next Congress to be a voice of reform to change these failed policies.

We need to put an end to the mindless military action and hard-edged policies that fail and replace them with policies that will make a difference, saving lives, and having effective regulations as tools.

Now, the United States is moving ahead at reform at the State and local levels. Forty States now provide some access to medical marijuana. Four States and the District of Columbia deal with adult use, and there will be four or five more States that will join this year.

In 2019, when we go back to the United Nations, hopefully to be able to make some of these reforms, the world is going to look different.

First of all, there are moves in both Canada and Mexico to expand the use of medical marijuana and to legalize adult use.

In 2019, virtually every American will have a legal access to medical marijuana, and we will continue the action at the State level, making those critical changes. Public opinion, once and for all, will be settled in favor of regulation, taxation, and responsible adult use.

We will break the shackles of research on marijuana, where the Federal Government actually gets in the way of being able to have the information that the scientists and doctors can produce to settle the question so we don't have to guess.

I am hopeful that the United States will be on the right side of reform, that we will stop expensive and regressive policies that don't work, and that we will be able to respond to the emerging American consensus of the people at the State and local levels to do it better. This is one effort we can't afford to fail.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF ILLINIPAC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of IlliniPAC, a group of students on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus who are making a positive and important impact through their pro-Israel advocacy.

IlliniPAC is focused on building bridges throughout the student community and educating fellow students of all backgrounds about Israel.

At a time when there are so many concerted efforts to promote myths and terrible mistruths about Israel, the student leaders of IlliniPAC have stepped forward with a positive message to highlight the importance of a strong and bipartisan U.S.-Israel relationship.

I particularly want to commend IlliniPAC for its proactive and constructive efforts to oppose misguided calls to promote boycotts, divestment, and sanctioning, otherwise known as BDS, against Israel.

As the sponsor of the bipartisan Combating BDS Act of 2016 in Congress, I greatly appreciate the efforts by IlliniPAC to oppose BDS campaigns targeting Israel. These BDS campaigns perpetuate damaging falsehoods against Israel only to serve to divide and separate students on campus.

The truth is that the BDS movement has neither brought Israelis and Palestinians closer to peace nor advanced the laudable goal of improving dialogue between supporters of both sides. Instead, the BDS movement has simply been employed as a hateful weapon to delegitimize Israel and those who stand with her.

Once again I would like to thank IlliniPAC for taking a leadership role on campus and for the work that they do to spread the positive message about Israel, an oasis of freedom, democracy, and tolerance in one of the world's most volatile regions.

#### GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACT OF 2016

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we in the House of Representatives passed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important bipartisan effort to protect our Great Lakes. I believe that, when it comes to our environment, we must all work together to strengthen conservation programs and other policies that protect our natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent Illinois' 10th Congressional District, which borders one of our Nation's greatest treasures, Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan offers miles of beachfronts, natural habitats, recreational space for all of those that visit her, as well as drinking water for millions.

As a scoutmaster, I teach my Scouts that we should always leave or strive to leave areas better than when we found them. Reauthorizing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for the next 5 years will help us fulfill this goal with Lake Michigan.

I now urge the United States Senate to immediately take up and pass this legislation. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was introduced in the Senate by my friend and colleague, Senator MARK KIRK, who has been a fierce advocate for protecting Lake Michigan throughout his 15-year career representing the people of Illinois.

Working together, we can protect our country's greater natural resources for future generations to enjoy.

#### CONGRATULATING SHERRI RUKES

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sherri Rukes, who was awarded the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching by the Golden Apple Foundation.

Ms. Rukes has been an AP chemistry teacher at Libertyville High School for 19 years. She also was the coach of the robotics team and volunteers with the science Olympiad and math team.

The Golden Apple is awarded to the best teachers in the entire country, and Ms. Rukes is very deserving of this prestigious recognition. Her innovation and passion for teaching have made her an outstanding teacher who has bettered the lives of every student who entered her classroom.

Ms. Rukes plays an important role in educating and preparing our future leaders for success. I am happy to know that our students are getting the outstanding education they need and deserve when they step into her class.

I offer my congratulations to Ms. Rukes and to Libertyville High School for this well-deserved recognition.

□ 1015

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Over the years in Rhode Island, I have spoken with many Armenian Americans who have recounted the stories their parents or grandparents told them about living through the horror of the Armenian genocide. Even after 100 years, there is still a deep wound in the heart of the Armenian people, particularly as genocide and atrocious human rights violations continue to be used as weapons of war in the 21st century.

Today, hardly a week goes by without news of horrific human rights violations somewhere around the world. The first step to stop these abuses is to acknowledge them for what they are and then to confront them. That is why it is important that the United States Government finally recognize and call the Armenian genocide what it is and what it was: a systematic attempt by the Ottoman Empire to annihilate the Armenian people.

The challenges, of course, continue today for the people of Armenia. All of us know that earlier this month, violence once again erupted in Nagorno-Karabakh. President Serzh Sargsyan called it "the most wide-scale military action that Azerbaijan has tried to carry out since the establishment of the 1994 ceasefire regime."

It is critical that the United States remain deeply engaged in resolving this conflict. I recently met with the Armenian Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Grigor Hovhannissian, to discuss relations between our two countries and what role the United States must play to help promote a resolution of this longstanding conflict. I have received briefings on the current situation, and I will continue to advocate for critical American leadership to protect the innocent men, women, and children who are living in Nagorno-Karabakh.

But as we address this current crisis, it is also critical that we continue to push for recognition of the Armenian genocide. History is clear: 101 years ago, 1½ million Armenian men, women, and children were brutally and systematically murdered while living under the Ottoman Empire. That is not an opinion, it is not an interpretation, and it is not an allegation. It is a fact.

In a cable sent to the U.S. Secretary of State on July 10, 1915, the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire confirmed the persecution of Armenians by “systematic attempts to uproot peaceful Armenian populations, and through arbitrary arrests, terrible tortures, wholesale expulsions, and deportations from one end of the empire to other accompanied by frequent instances of rape, pillage, and murder, turning into massacre, to bring destruction and destitution on them.”

After 101 years of waiting, it is time for our President and the United States Government to recognize this fact and to acknowledge this atrocity as the first genocide of the 21st century. Armenia is an important friend and ally of the United States, and it is critical that we stand with our friends and honestly acknowledge the evil of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to leave you with the words of Pope Francis who last year reminded all of us that “whenever memory fades, it means that evil allows wounds to fester. Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it.”

After more than 100 years of waiting, it is time for the United States Government to finally recognize the Armenian genocide as the first genocide of the 21st century.

#### CONFRONTING HEROIN AND OPIOID ABUSE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, the rapid rise in drug abuse across America, specifically the sharp increase in heroin and prescription opioid abuse, has severely impacted our local communities and has become a major issue across our country.

Tragically, 78 people each day will lose their battle with addiction and their life as a result of an opioid or heroin overdose. Sadly, with the trends moving the way they are, this number will only continue to increase. According to the CDC, in 2014, over 28,000 people lost their lives due to prescription opioid pain relievers or heroin. This was the highest recorded number of overdose deaths of any year. Newsday on Long Island just reported an increase in overdose deaths in our region, stating that 442 people died of a heroin or opiate overdose in 2014, a number that has increased from 403 overdose deaths the prior year.

Addiction is a devastating disease that takes hold of our loved ones and impacts everyone around that person. This is a lonely and heartbreaking disease that is taking lives, tearing families apart, and destroying our communities. It must be stopped.

In a report that highlights the growing drug abuse epidemic sweeping across our Nation, the CDC found that over the past decade, heroin use has doubled among young adults ages 18 to 25, and heroin-related overdose deaths have nearly quadrupled, with every 6 out of 10 drug overdoses linked to opioids or heroin. The CDC also found that almost half of the people who use heroin are also struggling with a prescription opioid addiction. As drug abuse continues to rise, claiming lives and grabbing hold of our youth, it is clear that we must come together to address this crisis.

Throughout my time in the New York State Senate, and now in the United States Congress, one of my top priorities has been to support legislation to help those coping with drug addiction by increasing treatment and recovery services.

One piece of legislation I am proud to support and cosponsor is H.R. 953, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, also known as CARA. CARA would prevent and treat addiction on a local level through community-based education, prevention, treatment, and recovery services. The grants made available through this bill would also provide the necessary funding to expand prescription drug monitoring in States all throughout our country.

Additionally, CARA provides funding to supply our police force and emergency medical responders with higher quantities of Naloxone, a medication that is proven to reverse an opioid overdose. Since this bill was introduced at the beginning of last year, I have been pushing for a vote on CARA in the House. Just last month, the United States Senate passed this bill with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 94–1. Now it is time to bring this bill to the House floor.

As a member of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, passage in the House of CARA is a top

priority of mine, and I will keep fighting so that we can pass this essential piece of legislation and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

There are many other bills, other than CARA, such as the Stop Overdose Stat Act, H.R. 2850. There are bills like the Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2016, which would require the Comptroller General to issue a report to Congress on substance abuse treatment availability and infrastructure needs across the country, as well as legislation that would task the FDA to create a plan on how to deal with the opioid and heroin epidemic, H.R. 4976.

Fighting drug abuse must be an effort at all levels of government, but it also must be a community effort as well. That is why I have hosted press conferences and panel discussions, including a community summit and drug task force roundtable on Long Island to bring together local elected officials, law enforcement, health professionals, community groups, parents, concerned residents, and recovering substance abusers so that we can all develop and pursue necessary solutions.

The House is also expected to take up legislation to stop the flow of illegal substances into our country, such as H.R. 3380, which would help law enforcement officials identify and target drug traffickers; and H.R. 4985, which makes it easier to prosecute drug traffickers.

We must all continue to support legislation that addresses the rise in heroin and opioid abuse to stop this tragic loss of life, family, and community as a result of addiction. It is impacting our districts all across America. It is our duty while we are here, as Members of Congress, to do everything in our power to address this now, to turn the tide, to fight back, and to save families that are being torn apart. That is why I support all of these great bills that are moving through the process here in the House.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 101st anniversary of the Armenian genocide and honor the lives of 1.5 million Armenians who were killed between 1915 and 1923 by the Ottoman Empire. The Republic of Turkey, sadly, continues to try to silence the voices of the survivors and their descendants around the world, but we will never forget nor will we be intimidated into silence.

Several years ago I told the foreign minister of Turkey, who is now the President, that Turkey must recognize the genocide and put this chapter of



history to rest. It is extremely frustrating that Turkey continues to ignore what really happened, but in addition to that, it is very disappointing and unacceptable that President Obama failed once again to call the murder of 1.5 million Armenians a genocide—because that is what it was.

Recognizing the Armenian genocide is not something to be debated. The Europe Parliament has gone on record of recognizing the genocide, and last year Pope Francis spoke of the tragedy that took place, the Armenian genocide. Scholars and historians acknowledge that the systematic killings and deportations that took place constituted a genocide.

I, however, simply do not have to rely on the word of historians. Growing up in the San Joaquin Valley in the Fresno area, I heard stories from my friends and neighbors, the Kezerians, the Abrahamians, and the Koligians, whose families experienced the horrors at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

As we reflect on this day, it is equally fitting to honor the hundreds of thousands of Armenian men and women who bravely began new lives in the United States after witnessing unspeakable tragedies to their families and in their villages. Survivors and their descendants, many of whom settled in California, have become bright examples of what it means to live the American Dream in their own diaspora.

I would like to use this opportunity to tell you of an experience last Friday in Fresno. I had the distinct honor of participating in a wreath-laying event with leaders of the Armenian community and the Armenian National Committee of America, its national chairman, Raffi Hamparian.

I want to take this opportunity to honor someone who brought a sense of justice to those who perished during that time. We want to recognize a true Armenian hero, Soghomon Tehlirian. As a part of Operation Nemesis, planned by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Soghomon Tehlirian assassinated Talaat Pasha, who was the last prime minister of the Ottoman Empire and the orchestrator of the Armenian genocide.

This was an act of justice served on behalf of the Armenian people. Tehlirian was acquitted of the charges by a jury in Germany in the 1920s and later moved to Serbia, and then to San Francisco, California. He died in 1960 and is buried at the Ararat Massis Armenian Cemetery in Fresno, California, which then was the only Armenian cemetery in the country.

I hope my colleagues will join me and the Armenians throughout the Nation and throughout the world in honoring Mr. Tehlirian and to also pay tribute to the 1.5 million lives lost in the genocide—the first genocide in the 20th century—as well as their descendants who live today, for we must never ever for-

get the history. As Santayana once said: Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.

#### DENIM DAY

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on a separate matter, I rise today to recognize Denim Day, which is observed in April throughout the world as being Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

My staff today is wearing denim, joining other organizations throughout the district and throughout the Nation to raise the awareness about sexual violence prevention.

I would like to commend the Valley Crisis Center in Merced, the Madera Community Action Partnership, and the Marjaree Mason Center in Fresno, and the San Joaquin Valley organizations for all that they do to support and serve the victims of sexual assault.

Today, on Denim Day, and every day we stand with the victims and survivors, their families, and their friends to make everyone aware and to prevent the spread of sexual violence.

#### FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, this year, job creators should expect significant changes to Federal wage and hour laws, throwing yet one more hurdle in front of them and their employees as the U.S. Department of Labor, the DOL, finalizes new overtime regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act, or the FLSA.

The basic premise of the FLSA, which applies to many Pennsylvania employers, is that if you are receiving a salary, it must be because your employer is cheating you. The rule that has the force of law discourages salaried employees and discourages the give-and-take between employee and employer to work for the best interest of each one.

There are limited exceptions to the FLSA's overtime obligations for narrow categories of employees and for those in particular industries and occupations. The most common exemptions are for white-collar employees like executive, administrative, and professional employees.

□ 1030

Currently, an employee must satisfy three criteria to qualify as exempt from Federal overtime pay: first, you must make a salary; second, your salary must be more than \$455 per week, or \$23,660 annually; and third, your primary duties must be consistent with managerial, professional, or administrative positions as defined by the Department of Labor. They don't know every single job in every community across the country, but yet they are the ones that decide, not the people ac-

tually doing the work or the ones who started and own the business.

Last year, the DOL proposed arbitrarily increasing the salary threshold to \$50,440 per year, a 113 percent increase, just arbitrarily said that is the way it is going to be. It also proposed automatically increasing the salary threshold on an annual basis regardless of what the economy is. If the economy grew at 4 percent, I guess it would be one thing. If it didn't grow or it grew at 0.3 percent, which is what GDP is currently, it would still go up—again, just arbitrary. This doesn't come from Congress. This isn't bandied back and forth between the Democrats and the Republicans, between the House and the Senate. This is just bureaucrats making a rule, the force of law.

These proposed rules will bring sweeping changes to Federal wage and hour laws, and they will be especially burdensome on rural areas, like central Pennsylvania. They will also significantly impact local governments, non-profit organizations, and small retailers, among many others.

Because of this rule, for instance, a dry cleaner that I met with recently simply is going to have to make a choice. They are either going to hire fewer people or raise prices for their customers.

I recently met with county commissioners in the district I am privileged to represent. If the requirement is raised, as DOL proposes, 50 county employees will be affected, which will result in either fewer employees or nearly \$400,000 in expenses for the county moving forward. How do you think they are going to offset those costs if they don't lose those employees or fire those employees? You guessed it. You and I are going to pay—the local taxpayers.

I also met with the YWCA in my district, a nonprofit organization. They looked at the potential impact of these regulations and determined that approximately 30 staff members would be affected, resulting in either a loss of jobs or an additional expense of over \$200,000. For a nonprofit that is struggling to get by, struggling to provide services—whether it is a daycare for underprivileged folks—or just to keep the doors open, they are going to have to make a choice, all because of a rule that didn't come from here. It came from the regulators, as usual, who aren't interested in the input of the Nation's citizens in all too many cases. This is just another example of bureaucrats of the administrative state—in this case, the Department of Labor—developing top-down regulations that crush organizations like nonprofits, small businesses, and communities that can least afford it.

For this reason, I am happy to support a solution. We shouldn't have to provide this solution because this is really a problem that doesn't exist. But

there is a solution, the Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act, introduced by my colleague from Michigan, Mr. TIM WALBERG, which prevents the DOL from implementing this misguided and completely unnecessary proposal and rule. I strongly urge other Members to support this important legislation as well.

#### VISIT TO GUANTANAMO BAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I visited U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, a critical military national security asset serving key roles in the war on terrorism, drug and migrant interdiction, and as a strategic forward base for the Atlantic Fleet. Every day, approximately 7,000 U.S. military personnel and contractors go to work at GTMO to keep our country safe and to advance our national security interests in the Americas and throughout the world.

I had the privilege of meeting with Captain Culpepper, the base commander, who briefed us on the base's preparedness to assist with major migrant events in the Caribbean. This is important, considering the significant increase in Cubans fleeing the island over the last year.

I also met with Rear Admiral Clarke, who serves as Commander of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The JTF is working professionally and diligently to provide safe, humane, legal, and transparent care and custody of detainees. I was able to inspect the detention facilities, and I was impressed with efforts to treat the detainees with dignity and respect.

Our brave young people in uniform do an extraordinary job of representing our country, sometimes under very difficult circumstances, in this theater. Mr. Speaker, the men and women of Naval Air Station Guantanamo, the Joint Task Force, and the Marines who protect the base perimeter deserve the admiration, appreciation, and support of the American people and this Congress.

I thank my colleague from south Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for leading our visit to GTMO. I urge all of my colleagues to work to protect and strengthen this critical military asset.

#### ZIKA ERADICATION AND GOOD GOVERNMENT ACT

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Zika virus has wreaked havoc throughout Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. We have seen countless pregnant women infected, resulting in devastating fetal brain defects on their newborn children.

As of mid-April, 87 cases of Zika have been identified in Florida, and another 380 cases have been reported across the country. We must be prepared for the

first domestic transmission of the virus, especially as the summer mosquito season begins and international travel is more frequent.

For these reasons, I have filed H.R. 5031, the Zika Eradication and Good Government Act. This bill will ensure no new funds are made available for Zika until all unspent Ebola money is disbursed, which the President already said he would do in early April.

This bill will also direct all Federal agencies that receive funds to combat Zika to work in collaboration and share best practice methods.

Finally, this bill will require a report from the President to Congress each month when any future funds are appropriated for Zika, detailing the obligations, expenditures, and effectiveness of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I support the President's call for funding emergency legislation to ensure Zika is eradicated. I also want to make sure the funds are spent wisely and effectively in fighting this virus.

This bill is an important first step forward. I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Zika Eradication and Good Government Act.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need to improve our prisons and criminal justice system here in the United States.

Currently, there are more than 2 million individuals who are incarcerated in our country, the majority of whom committed nonviolent offenses.

Last December, I had the opportunity to visit with over 20 inmates at Dade Correctional Institution in south Florida. These individuals were visibly moved that someone had taken the time to speak with them and learn about their struggles. I felt very fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear their stories.

Criminal justice reform is desperately needed in our country, and it is vital that we break the school-to-prison pipeline and ensure that those who have served their time have a second chance at success.

For all these reasons, I signed the Second Chance Petition, to allow non-violent offenders to recover with dignity and become active members of their communities.

With this week's Criminal Justice Summit taking place at the White House, I call on all of my colleagues to build on this momentum and meet with inmates to learn from their experiences. I am a cosponsor of bipartisan bills focused on criminal justice reform and look forward to working with my colleagues to get these bills signed into law.

#### HONORING JIM BRADEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Braden, pictured here with his granddaughter Cates. Jim is a native of Ripley, West Virginia, who is being honored on April 30 for his significant accomplishments and contributions to the coaching of young men and women for over 52 years in Tennessee and West Virginia.

Jim Braden's roots in Jackson County, West Virginia, baseball began with his father, Ed Braden. Ed Braden was a member of the Sandy Valley baseball club in the 1940s, which received numerous county pennants that earned them the right to play in the Little World Series.

Ed built houses to accommodate the influx of people relocating to work at the new Kaiser Aluminum plant in the 1960s. He also founded Braden Plumbing and Heating in Ripley and was responsible for installing the first bathrooms in many Jackson County homes. Throughout the years, Ed was a staple at Ripley High School baseball and other athletic events.

While at Ripley High School, Jim Braden was in a car accident that cut his baseball career short. Once he recovered from the accident, Jim, still a high school student in Ripley, West Virginia, started coaching youth sports teams.

After a brief period at Glenville State College, Jim Braden proudly served our country for years in the Vietnam war as a part of a U.S. Navy helicopter squadron.

Upon returning to the United States, he took employment as a teacher at Roane-Jackson Technical Center.

Jim moved to Farragut, Tennessee, in 1980, and enjoyed a long career as an industrial sales consultant. But he took his love of baseball and, most notably, his Cincinnati Reds with him, never forgetting his West Virginia roots. His sister, Pam Braden, is on the board of Ripley Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Braden and his wife, Catherine, raised their two children, Laura and Mark, while Braden continued coaching baseball, basketball, and football. In Farragut, Braden was instrumental in organizing and implementing the countywide Knox County Middle Schools baseball league. He created the Dugout Club's Web page and continues to serve as one of its Web masters. He also serves as a guiding force to help raise funds for facilities and other activities supporting Farragut baseball.

Braden has coached numerous Division I and professional baseball players, including former Minnesota Twins pitcher Kyle Waldrop, Eli Lorg, and Cale Lorg. He also coached White Sox player Nicky Delmonico, Curt Powell from the Detroit Tigers organization,

Nick Williams from the Marlins organization, and Philip Pfeifer from the Dodgers organization.

Thank you, Coach Braden, for your service to our country and for coaching generations of young baseball players.

CONGRATULATING BRITTANY FRENCH

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Brittany French of Berkeley County, West Virginia, for being named the National Volunteer Fire Council's Junior Firefighter of the Year.

As a member of the Junior Volunteer Fire Company and the Volunteer Fire Department in Hedgesville, Brittany is a third-generation firefighter.

Brittany has continually demonstrated a passion for learning about health and emergency services. She studied these subjects, earning several certifications at James Rumsey Technical Institute during her junior and senior years in high school. She is now enrolled in the paramedic course at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, allowing her to continue her education while still serving her community.

Brittany clearly enjoys helping others and has excelled in doing so. She previously won first place in EMT skills in a statewide health competition. She has helped the fire department fundraise, and she continues to be actively involved in her church.

Brittany is among West Virginia's most devoted young leaders. I am honored to join her family, friends, and the dedicated firefighters with whom she works in congratulating Brittany on being named the National Volunteer Fire Council's Junior Firefighter of the Year.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that has impacted millions of Americans from coast to coast, north to south, also an issue that has impacted my family personally. Mr. Speaker, I care deeply about the survivors of sexual assault and want to ensure that their voices are heard.

Every 2 minutes, Mr. Speaker, an American is sexually assaulted. That is 200,000 of our fellow American citizens that are impacted by this horrendous crime. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, less than half of those victims will report their attack to law enforcement, making sexual assault one of the most under-reported crimes in America.

□ 1045

That is why I am proud to stand with my colleague from California, JACKIE SPEIER, to introduce a resolution to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

As Members of Congress, we are in a unique position to raise awareness and speak out on behalf of sexual assault survivors. We must unite. When one in five women will be raped in her lifetime, we cannot afford to stand silent on this issue.

It is only right, Mr. Speaker, that we say enough is enough with sexual assault in America. Enough is enough to no longer speak about this issue because it is something that is difficult to speak publicly about.

That is why I am an ardent and active supporter of the NO MORE Campaign. The NO MORE Campaign has taken it upon itself to unite across the country, to stand in one voice, and many of us across America have seen the commercials on our TVs to say no more to sexual assault.

No more can we put up with excuses like: "She deserved it." "She was drunk." "Of course she got what she was looking for." No more can we say: "Well, that is what boys do. That is what young men do."

We need to stand together as American citizens, men and women in this Chamber, to say: No more to sexual assault. It is unacceptable for us to stand silent any longer.

I ask my colleagues to join us in the effort to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and join us in one voice to send a clear message across America to say: No more.

HONORING DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL'S BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the boys basketball team at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington, which is my hometown, for winning the Kentucky High School Athletic Association's State championship, better known in Kentucky as the Sweet Sixteen.

As everyone knows, Kentucky is a basketball-crazy State, and this is a great accomplishment. This is the school's first-ever State championship in boys' basketball and the first championship for a Lexington high school since 2001.

In the first three games of the tournament, the Bulldogs posted come-from-behind wins over Mercer County, Bowling Green, and Newport Central Catholic to reach the finals.

However, in the final game, led by junior Taveion Hollingsworth, who was the tournament MVP, they led wire to wire, defeating Louisville's Doss High School 61-52. Like any successful endeavor, the victory was won by dedication, hours of practice, determination, and teamwork.

I congratulate the students, head coach Scott Chalk, and the entire

coaching staff on the State championship. I am proud to honor Dunbar High School before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING PREVENT CHILD ABUSE KENTUCKY

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month and to highlight the work of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky.

This organization is on the front lines to make sure Kentucky's children are raised in safe, loving homes and are not abused, mistreated, or neglected. It develops and promotes effective strategies and programs through community involvement, public education, and advocacy.

Efforts are centered on recognizing the inherent potential and goodness of children, on strengthening families, and on empowering the community to become involved with this important mission.

This cause is personal to me. As the father of two girls and as the former president of the board of directors of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, I am incredibly proud of the good work this group does every single day for Kentucky's children and all year long.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in thanking Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and similar organizations around the country as we recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

HONORING DINNY PHIPPS

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mr. Ogden "Dinny" Phipps for his contributions to the American thoroughbred horse-racing industry and in remembrance of a legend in the sport of kings.

Mr. Phipps leaves a proud legacy in his having made a profound and positive impact on the game for many decades. As an owner and breeder, Mr. Phipps owned and reared numerous champions, including the 1993 Kentucky Oaks winner Dispute, the 2005 Breeders' Cup Distaff winner Pleasant Home, and, most recently, the 2013 winner of the Kentucky Derby, Orb.

However, one could argue that Mr. Phipps' greatest impact was felt beyond the racetrack, as he was a steadfast advocate for the industry and served the racing community as an industry executive.

From 1983 until his recent retirement in 2015, Mr. Phipps served as chairman of The Jockey Club, the official breed registry of the thoroughbred industry. He also served as a longtime member of the New York Racing Association, serving as the Association's chairman from 1976 to 1983.

Mr. Phipps' love of this great American pastime will leave an enduring mark on the thoroughbred industry. Mr. Phipps is survived by his wife, Andrea, and his children, Kayce, Kelley, Lilly, Daisy, Samantha, and Ogden.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the Phipps' family, and I join my fellow

Americans in honoring the life, contributions, and service of Ogden "Dinny" Phipps.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

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PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Wade Stevenson, Gideon Missionary Baptist Church, Waukegan, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

God of unity and of peace, we come to this opening session acknowledging that You are the source of life and that each person's life is subject to Your governance.

We bring to this session the diverse concerns of the districts we represent, and in bringing those concerns, we acknowledge that through You we can serve in unity.

As we come to this session and into these Halls, we also acknowledge that through You we can have peace. Let peace rest within these Halls, and let us rest in that peace through the demonstration of our patience and cooperation in serving.

Finally, we pray that our time spent here will be meaningful and that You will bless our service to produce fruit in the lives of those we represent.

We thank You for the opportunity to serve through Your unity as instruments of Your peace.

Amen.

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THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. WADE STEVENSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome my good friend, Pastor Wade Stevenson from Waukegan, Illinois, in Illinois' 10th Congressional District.

For his entire life, Pastor Stevenson has been called to serve others. Pastor Stevenson is the head pastor at Gideon Baptist Church in Waukegan, and at Gideon, he helps to bring God's grace and the word of the Lord to our community.

Pastor Stevenson is the president of the North Shore Baptist Ministers' Alliance and the second vice president of the Lake County Chapter of the NAACP. His numerous public recognitions and appointments reveal a life of public service to the people of our community.

But Pastor Stevenson's role in our community can't be summed up by a list of titles or awards. Since he became pastor of Gideon Baptist Church more than 10 years ago, he has become a beacon of hope for countless people in our community. Pastor Stevenson is one of the first people in our community that people turn to when they are looking for guidance, both spiritual or otherwise.

I have been blessed to work side by side with him to distribute Thanksgiving turkeys to families in need. His dedication has brought joy to countless families around the holidays year in and year out.

It is a great honor to welcome my friend, Pastor Stevenson, to the House of Representatives today, and I am confident that the blessings he brings will serve us well.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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COMMENDING WE THE PEOPLE COURSE

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, 19 students from Valley View High School in my hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas, have been studying our Nation's constitutional democracy for several months in an intensive course. The course called We the People is taught to students particularly interested in the history and principles of the United States Government.

Last week, those students put their knowledge to the ultimate test in

Washington, D.C. They competed in a simulated congressional hearing by evaluating, taking, and defending positions on a variety of historical and contemporary issues. Our government functions more efficiently when passionate citizens engage in the political and policymaking process, and I am proud that these students are already preparing themselves for that process through their education.

Traci Smith, the group's civics teacher, deserves our thanks and respect for the incredibly important role that she plays in preparing our rising generation. I would also like to applaud the efforts of the We the People Arkansas State coordinator, Jeff Whittingham, associate professor at the University of Central Arkansas who has done such a remarkable job through the years organizing and directing the We the People program for our State.

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AUTHORIZING DAVID'S SLING WEAPON SYSTEM

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the discovery of major offshore natural gas deposits 90 miles west of Haifa presents Israel with new opportunities—and new threats.

Developing this resource will reduce Israel's dependence on fuel imports and improve ties with its neighbors through export agreements. However, the offshore platforms will be an attractive target for Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations. A successful attack could be a humanitarian, economic, and environmental disaster.

The United States-Israel Maritime Security Partnership Act would authorize the use of the David's Sling Weapon System to intercept short-range missiles, promote Israel's inclusion in naval exercises, and increase the number of visits by U.S. naval vessels to Israeli ports.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help our ally protect its coastline and offshore infrastructure from attack by cosponsoring this timely legislation.

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CELEBRATING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF HECLA MINING COMPANY

(Mr. LABRADOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Hecla Mining Company.

Hecla was founded in 1891 to acquire and trade mining claims in north Idaho's Silver Valley. Over the years, this mining district has produced 1.2 billion ounces of silver. The company has survived and thrived through world wars

and economic depressions, and today Hecla is the Nation's largest primary producer of silver and employs over 1,300 people in my district and throughout the world.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Hecla's Lucky Friday mine and was able to see firsthand the state-of-the-art mining practices that Hecla uses to extract silver from deep in the Earth.

As Hecla celebrates its 125th anniversary, I join with others in celebrating the company's great legacy and success.

**CELEBRATING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this weekend the Rhode Island School for the Deaf will celebrate 125 years as an educational institution that serves deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Rhode Island.

Each year, approximately 12,000 children are born with some level of hearing loss in this country. The Rhode Island School for the Deaf offers essential support, guidance, and information for deaf and hearing-impaired children from the moment they are born until they are ready to graduate high school and go on to college or a career.

The Rhode Island School for the Deaf's Parent Infant Partners program helps children develop English and American Sign Language skills at an early age. Its elementary, middle, and senior high school programs provide quality education, as well as vocational programs and opportunities to participate fully in social activities and athletic events alongside hearing children.

I applaud the extraordinary educators and staff at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf for their ongoing work to serve deaf and hearing-impaired children, and I congratulate them on their 125th birthday celebration this Friday.

**CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOB EPLING IN SOUTH FLORIDA**

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Epling, one of south Florida's most distinguished business and civic leaders.

Bob currently serves as the president and CEO of the Community Bank of Florida and sits on numerous boards, including the National Football Foundation and the College Football Hall of Fame. Bob earned this installment in

part because of his arduous work as president of the Orange Bowl Committee. He also serves as chairman of Tomorrow's South Dade, a project of vision that addresses business development, infrastructure, agriculture, and other issues that impact the residents of south Dade.

Another testament to Bob's commitment to our community was as chairman of the board of the International Hurricane Research Center where he spent countless hours helping to rebuild homestead following the devastating impact of Hurricane Andrew.

Bob has also been the recipient of numerous accolades, including the Florida Bankers Association Legends Award, as well as the University Distinguished Service Award and FIU Medallion, both from my alma mater, Florida International University.

I encourage our community to join me in honoring Bob Epling and his contributions to the agricultural sector at this Saturday's Dade County Farm Bureau's Annual Barbecue and "Fun" Raiser.

Congratulations, Bob, on a job well done.

**HAZING IN THE MILITARY**

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the fifth anniversary of the death of my nephew, Harry Lew. While deployed in Afghanistan, Harry was hazed and brutally assaulted by his fellow marines for almost 4 hours. Twenty minutes later, he took his own life. He was 21 years old.

Harry's story is not unique. I have now heard from families and service-members across the country who have their own tragic stories and tried to seek help, but many are at a loss of where to turn. That is because the Pentagon's guidance on hazing is unclear, inconsistent, and imperfectly applied. Without an accurate system of tracking hazing incidents, we have no way to actually know the full extent of the problem. This failure costs lives.

It is time the military treat this problem seriously. My bill, the Harry Lew Military Hazing Accountability and Prevention Act, would require the Department of Defense to track and report annually on the problem of hazing in the military.

Our men and women in uniform protect us. We must do what we can to protect them.

**COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF REGNAL WALLACE**

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Regnal Wallace, the "Original Voice of Louisiana Agriculture."

It is a nickname he earned for good reason. When you heard his voice on the radio, you knew immediately that it was Reg. As a farmer myself, I knew I always needed to listen up because what he was going to tell me was important.

In 1981, Reg launched "This Week in Louisiana Agriculture," a show he imagined as a new way to tell the public about the incredible work taking place in the fields and processing plants across the State by some of the hardest working men and women in Louisiana.

Thirty-five years later, this show is still carried by 18 affiliates in Louisiana and nationwide by RFD-TV, bringing the story of agriculture to 400,000 people each week.

Reg died earlier this month at his home in Franklin Parish, which I represent. Those of us in Louisiana will be forever grateful for Reg's contributions to agriculture in our State and the life he dedicated to serving farmers.

**REMEMBERING JUSTICE LAURA LIU**

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Chicago lost a tremendous judge, attorney, mother, wife, and friend on April 15th with the death of Justice Laura Liu. She fought a courageous battle against breast cancer for 5 years, and her spirit, passion, and determination never faltered.

Born to immigrant parents, Justice Liu didn't start speaking English until elementary school, but ended up as class valedictorian.

For nearly 20 years, Justice Liu worked as a litigator, then as a circuit court judge, and finally was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court. In the court, Justice Liu was a strong advocate for interpreter services for immigrants and people with limited English who might have been otherwise overwhelmed.

She was a tremendous advocate and mentor to Chicago's Chinese American community, setting an exemplary model for young boys and girls that their opportunities were endless if you worked hard.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Justice Liu's family during this difficult time.

**MANAGING WILD HORSES AND BURROS**

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, the BLM just announced that it would significantly cut grazing allotments and possibly eliminate all cattle grazing on Federal lands in Elko, Nevada, to accommodate the overpopulation of wild horses. Many rural areas in my district are facing the exact identical situation where wild horses are taking over the ranges.

I grew up ranching and riding horses, and I desperately want to protect them. But with 50,000 wild horses on ranges in the West—which is double what the land can sustain—the ranges are overgrazed, and now horses are starving to death.

Not only are the current conditions inhumane, but due to the overpopulation, the Federal Government is forced to house an additional 50,000 horses at a cost of \$55,000 per horse.

I urge my colleagues to join with me to look for solutions to this problem. One solution is my bill, the Wild Horse Oversight Act, which would simply allow States to manage wild horses and burros.

If you care about these horses like I do, then help me solve the problem. If you care about our range and how these animals are destroying the range, then, again, help me solve this problem.

□ 1215

#### NO ACTION ON ZIKA, FLINT, AND OPIOID ADDICTION

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give voice to lament that House Republican leadership has done nothing at this point to help the thousands of Americans struggling to protect their families from the threat of three different public health emergencies: the Zika virus, the opioid addiction and overdose problem, and the Flint water crisis as well.

Last month, House Democratic leadership wrote to Speaker RYAN asking for him to address these public health crises, calling for swift and decisive congressional action. Unfortunately, House Republican leadership has not responded with anything but inaction and indifference.

As reported by Roll Call: “an average of 78 people are dying every day from opioid overdoses, and mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus have been found in 30 States. But Congress has shown no urgency about addressing those issues. Maybe that’s not surprising from a Republican majority that can’t even adopt a nonbinding budget resolution after months of ‘family’ discussions.”

Mr. Speaker, hardworking families deserve a Congress that can get things done.

#### ADMINISTRATION USES CLIMATE SCARE TACTICS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration recently released a report that tried to tie extreme weather events to climate change. This is the administration’s latest effort to scare the public into supporting its radical climate agenda. The report ignores science in order to justify the administration’s dire predictions.

For example, the administration’s report says that hurricanes are projected to increase. But hurricanes have not increased in intensity, frequency, or damage since 1900. The same can be said for almost all other extreme weather events.

The administration continues to incite fear so that Americans will wrongly believe that extreme climate events are due to climate change, but the administration should not push costly climate regulations on Americans when there is no good reason for them to do so.

#### HONORING KEN CHRISTY

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Christy, a letter carrier, an extraordinary leader, a member of our community, and a friend of mine.

Ken passed away unexpectedly this past Easter weekend. A family man, Ken left behind his three daughters and his wife, Bonnie, his high school sweetheart, to whom he was married for 52 years.

Ken gave back to his community in spades. He volunteered countless hours to the letter carriers’ annual food drive because he wanted to make a real difference in the lives of those in our community who are less fortunate.

Since 2013, Ken served as the clerk of Aurora Township.

Ken always stood up for working families. As president of the Illinois Letter Carriers Association, Ken made sure that the voices of his members were heard by public officials on both sides of the aisle. Not surprisingly, Ken was named into the Illinois Letter Carriers Hall of Fame in 2012.

He knew people from all walks of life and all political persuasions, but I never heard a bad word said about him. Ken was, indeed, a friend. He was a friend to the city of Aurora, he was a friend to the letter carriers and to their families throughout the State of Illinois.

Ken Christy will be missed.

#### END PRESIDENT OBAMA’S LAWLESS AND DELUSIONAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend State Senator Mark Norris and State Representative Terri Lynn Weaver for their work in the Tennessee General Assembly to authorize the State to enter into a lawsuit against the Federal Government. This lawsuit is over concerns with the refugee resettlement program and the 10th Amendment.

I have put forth legislation at the Federal level, H.R. 4218, that would immediately suspend the Syrian refugee resettlement program.

Yesterday, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced that he was withdrawing Kansas from the resettlement program because of security concerns. There is no way—no way—to vet these Syrian refugees, Mr. Speaker.

Islamic radicals want to attack America. It is no secret to the American people. However, President Obama and this administration seem not to recognize this.

I call on all of my colleagues to join me to stand against the President’s lawless and delusional refugee resettlement program.

#### DENIM DAY

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in 1999, the Italian Supreme Court ruled that a 45-year-old driving instructor had not raped his 18-year-old student because she “wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex.”

Outraged, the women in the Italian Parliament said they would wear jeans to work until decisions were changed. Their protests spurred action across the globe.

Seventeen years later, and during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, I wear this denim jacket in solidarity with survivors and advocates around the world. I wish I could say that the need for Denim Day was a thing of the past. But, unfortunately, sexual assaults remain rampant, including in our military and on our college campuses. In fact, one in five college coeds will be raped or some sexual assault will be attempted on them, and 20,000 men and women in the military are assaulted each year.

I urge my colleagues to wear denim today, and to support sexual violence prevention and education every day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In response to earlier remarks, Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities towards the President.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF RENOVO,  
CLINTON COUNTY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Renovo, Clinton County.

Renovo, which is located northeast of Lock Haven, in western Clinton County, was founded in 1866 and built for and by the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad as the midpoint between Philadelphia and Erie. For many years after the community's founding, it was advertised as a mountain resort location, with several large hotels built there before the turn of the 20th century.

Although it was the railroad that built Renovo and its mountain location that attracted travelers, the lumbering industry formed the bedrock of the town's heritage and economy. Clinton County's timber industry continues to thrive, contributing more than \$90 million to the economy of that county.

Many celebrations are planned in May to mark Renovo Borough's anniversary, including a parade along Erie Street, the opening of a time capsule, and a firework display.

I want to commend the local officials and the residents of Renovo and the surrounding areas of western Clinton County for this recognition of their long history.

RECOGNIZING THE RICHMOND  
HILL HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING  
BAND

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Richmond Hill High School marching band for being selected to perform in the 2016 National Cherry Blossom Parade.

The Richmond Hill band has gained many accolades and enjoyed numerous successes since its beginning 9 years ago. Membership in the band has become popular among students, as it has grown from an original 90 musicians to nearly 200. The band has also competed and performed across the State of Georgia and twice at Universal Studios in Florida.

The selection process to perform at the National Cherry Blossom Parade is highly competitive. High schools, universities, and specialty marching bands

from all across the U.S. apply to march in the parade. Crowds of people line the streets, and thousands at home watch on TV as these bands march down Constitution Avenue.

The band also used the visit to Washington as an educational experience. The students spent time visiting many museums and monuments on The National Mall.

It is with great pride that I rise today to honor the members of the Richmond Hill marching band for their hard work, determination, and perseverance to become a successful marching band. It is truly an honor for them to perform at the parade.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 4498, HELPING ANGELS  
LEAD OUR STARTUPS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 701 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 701

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4498) to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; (2) the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the un-

derlying legislation, which will benefit small innovative companies and startups by ensuring that they have access to the necessary capital to succeed, grow, and create jobs in their companies.

But I also stand up today to make sure that we are here for a marketplace that is fair and equitable to all Americans, regardless of whether they work for a small company or a large company, whether they are a big-time investor or whether they are a person who is looking at the marketplace, perhaps, with ideas and opportunities.

Last night, the Rules Committee met and reported a structured rule for H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups, or the HALOS, Act. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chair and ranking member of the Financial Services Committee.

I also want to point out that the Rules Committee asked all of our Members of this body to submit their ideas and amendments. As a result, this resolution makes in order all of the amendments that were submitted. That is important because what this Rules Committee is attempting to accomplish is to ask all of the Members for their feedback about how to make bills better; and in this case, when something was germane, it was made in order.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has a three-pronged statutory mission in overseeing U.S. capital markets: to protect investors; to maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and to facilitate capital formation.

Unfortunately, the SEC historically has ignored its mandate to facilitate capital formation in the absence of congressionally mandated rulemakings.

□ 1230

The SEC's inability to fulfill its statutory mandate is ultimately to the detriment of entrepreneurs, smaller companies, and startup ventures, such as Teladoc, the Nation's first and largest telehealth platform, which had it not received startup investment, may not have existed at all.

To remedy the SEC's inaction on capital formation, my colleagues and I passed the bipartisan Jumpstart Our Business Startups, or JOBS Act, which was signed into law on April 5, 2012. The recognition that we had problems in the marketplace for smaller companies and smaller groups of people to bring their ideas to the marketplace was a huge impediment based upon the SEC, and that is why this JOBS Act was created.

Although startups and small businesses are at the forefront of technological innovation and job creation, they often still face significant and unnecessary obstacles in obtaining funding in the capital markets. The JOBS

Act lifted the burden of certain securities regulations to help small companies obtain access to these important markets, but we are back at the table again.

Unfortunately, when the SEC promulgated rules to implement the JOBS Act, it classified events held by angel investors as general solicitations, and thus, they were subject to accredited investor mandates, yet another example of the Federal Government's creating unnecessary red tape, stifling innovation, and quite honestly, making it hard for smaller, single entrepreneurs to participate in a worldwide marketplace.

This new classification is burdensome and it jeopardizes educational and economic development for events like demo days. Demo days are held in marketplaces all across our country. It is an opportunity for not just investors, but for general communities to come, primarily in the tech field, and learn about the newest startups as they are occurring. When startups interact with angel investors and venture capitalists, it means that best ideas can then be brought forward to create more jobs, investment, and can move forward so an idea that perhaps was on somebody's blackboard goes directly to the marketplace.

Demo days have been an important part of the entrepreneurial financing process for decades—nothing new—often with lead sponsorships by Federal, State, and local governments, which are bringing these best ideas into play for the marketplace to see not only about the idea, but for it to become a reality in an economic development format.

To be clear, demo days have existed long before the passage of the JOBS Act and have created collaborative and engaging educational environments that have brought together startups, leading-edge thought leaders, young programmers, people who are looking to network, and, I think, an overall more diverse network of individuals that is looking to exchange ideas. These are the kind of educational incubators that our country needs more of, not less of.

We are here today because the SEC developed rules that would change demo days greatly—and other activities like this—to the detriment of the marketplace, yes, but, more importantly, to the detriment of small business and entrepreneurs.

To address the SEC's burdensome rule, Congressman STEVE CHABOT from Ohio, the chairman of the Committee on Small Business, introduced H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act. This legislation defines an "angel investor group" and clarifies that the Securities Act's general solicitation limitations do not apply to a presentation, communication, or event conducted on behalf of an issuer at an

event that is sponsored by certain organizations; where any advertising for the event does not reference any specific offering of securities by the issuer; or where no specific information regarding an offering of securities by the issuer is communicated to or distributed by or on behalf of the issuer.

What does this mean?

This means that these demo days that are regularly held across the country are opportunities whereby a presenter of an idea or a person who represents that idea might bring forward those ideas, many times to hear about a collaborative basis, where there may be someone who recognizes he could add on to that idea or be a part of that idea or work with that idea or be a programmer for that idea or to host or to sponsor something that would enable that idea to get further down the road.

What the SEC did is throw a wet blanket across it and said: You can't do these.

We are trying to segment that out and say: For the purpose of a demo day, when it does not relate to a specific offer or ask for funding, it still can take place.

This is not a narrow interpretation. The intent is to understand that the purpose of a demo day should be to get ideas further down the road so they can gain not only the opportunity for investment, but so they can make their ideas even better.

H.R. 4498 provides essential protections for States, municipalities, trade associations, and other venues that facilitate such meetings between investors and fund managers.

It is important for Congress to act. Just because we are not aware of how marketplaces work does not mean we should wait for the Federal Government to regulate them and then find out, whoops, they made a mistake. Members of Congress need to be active to understand that the SEC should live up to its statutes, that it should live up to its mission statement, and that it should not stifle innovation, but, rather, allow for the creative opportunity and development of these issues and ideas to come forth in order to better not only employment and ideas, but, more specifically, employment within the United States so consumers will then have better options over time. To ensure that angel investors play an active role in startups is why we are here today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), my friend, the chairman of the Committee on Rules, for the customary 30 minutes.

I rise in opposition to this structured rule, which provides for the consideration of H.R. 4498, the so-called Helping

Angels Lead Our Startups Act, otherwise known as the HALOS Act. I also oppose the underlying legislation unless through the amendment process we can improve it.

The gentleman from Texas said something that I agree with: "It is important for Congress to act."

I think where we differ is: Act on what? What should Congress be acting on right now? Should we be talking about this? Or should we be talking about other things, quite frankly, that are much more important to this country and to the American people?

Four days from now, Puerto Rico faces a \$422 million debt payment. Given the items listed for consideration in the House this week, it appears as though the Republican majority has no plans to act on legislation to address the debt crisis in Puerto Rico.

I understand that my Republican friends in the majority are having a difficult time in coming to an agreement within their Conference on how to move forward, but I urge my colleagues to continue working with Leader PELOSI and Ranking Member GRIJALVA toward a bipartisan solution that allows Puerto Rico to restructure its debt. This is a big deal. The Senate is waiting for us to act, the people of Puerto Rico are waiting for us to act, and our constituents are waiting for us to act. Rather than acting on that which is urgent, we are doing this.

Another thing we might want to think about acting on and is an area in which the House Republican leadership has also failed to act is that of the public health emergency created by the Zika virus. This is a big deal. It is the public health. The well-being of our citizens is a big deal, or at least it should be, but you would never know it if you are following the proceedings on the House floor. My colleague from New York, Congresswoman LOWEY, has an emergency supplemental bill to help to fund what is necessary to protect our people from this virus, but we are told that is on the back burner.

What about doing something in response to the terrible tragedy that unfolded in Flint, Michigan, where that community was poisoned by the water that came out of their faucets? Why aren't we addressing that emergency?

By the way, Flint is not unique, unfortunately. There are other places across this country where the levels of lead in the drinking water are unacceptably high, are dangerously high. We need to make sure that our infrastructure in this country is up to the point at which people don't have to worry about drinking the water that comes out of their faucets. We should be addressing that issue, but for some reason we don't have the time.

There are lots of young people here who are visiting the Capitol this week. Why aren't we doing something about student financial aid so that people can



afford to go to college, creating a situation by which young people who go to college are debt free when they get out of college, lowering the interest rates on college loans or eliminating the interest rates on college loans, thus making college more affordable?

That is a huge priority. That is important, but we don't have time to talk about that here in the people's House.

This Congress also continues to shirk its constitutional duty to vote on an authorization for the war against ISIS. In the past week, the Pentagon announced that the United States will send 250 more troops to Syria and 200 more to Iraq. In Iraq alone, the official number of U.S. troops is now over 4,000, but this House still can't seem to find time to debate and vote on an AUMF.

I have great reservations about the President's policy with regard to these wars. I think we ought to debate those wars and I think we ought to go on record as voting to authorize those wars. Instead, we don't want to talk about it. We are putting the lives of young American men and women in harm's way. We are sending them halfway across the world to be engaged in an effort, in my opinion, in which there is not a clearly defined mission.

We are not living up to our constitutional responsibility, which is we ought to debate and deliberate and vote on these wars. That is our constitutional responsibility, and we are not doing it. We don't have the time, or maybe we are just too cowardly to be able to tackle some of these important issues.

The American people are tired of endless wars, and it is our responsibility to debate these escalations that continue to invest more American tax dollars, add more firepower, and put more U.S. troops closer to the front lines; but, again, this leadership isn't focused on these very serious situations that call for immediate action.

Just so you know, we are not paying for most of these wars. While my friends like to talk about our debt, I would point out that most of these wars are unpaid for. They just go on the credit card. We don't even have the guts to have a vote on whether to pay for these wars. Instead, we are doing this today.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, House Republicans missed the legally mandated deadline for Congress to enact a budget, and it appears as though we are not going to see a budget resolution on the floor this week or anytime soon. On the most pressing issues facing our country today, my friends in the Republican majority have failed—and they have failed miserably—to do their job, plain and simple.

So what is the House debating today? What is so urgent to debate today that all of these other things can be put to the side?

We are debating legislation, the so-called HALOS Act, that will undo an

important investor protection that Democrats fought to include in the 2012 JOBS Act.

I supported the JOBS Act, which expanded opportunities for small business capital formation. Since the JOBS Act became law in 2012, companies have raised roughly \$71 billion of capital by using the new general solicitation and advertising exemption.

□ 1245

But it is important to balance our desire for capital formation with their need to protect investors, particularly unsophisticated retail investors.

The JOBS Act removed the ban on solicitation in advertising to the general public for private offerings, provided that companies verify the purchasers of their offerings are accredited investors.

The legislation before us today repeals that verification requirement when companies solicit their offers at a wide range of sales events.

The private securities marketplace is already under limited SEC oversight, and many of us share the concern that this legislation could unnecessarily expose investors to risks that they are unprepared to absorb.

Now, my friend, Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS, will offer an amendment later today to restore some of the investor protections that would be eliminated by the underlying legislation. I urge my colleagues to support that amendment.

Mr. Speaker, the House is set to adjourn on Friday for yet another weeklong break and we have yet to consider any of the priority legislation that I had just spoken about earlier. We need to focus on important issues. We need to focus on urgent issues rather than taking away important investor protections.

So I urge my colleagues to defeat this rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do appreciate the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) bringing up these issues. We try and talk about these issues up at the Rules Committee. There is always a wide-ranging list of not only issues and ideas, but I certainly know that, as we talk about these, we are all after action on the floor.

I don't know the exact answer, but I believe, as it relates to the problem with the Zika virus, that we are dealing with some \$600 million. I note that Mrs. LOWEY, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, has come on the floor and I am subject to being corrected by her.

But it is my understanding that right now, in an account that would be allowed to be exchanged, some \$600 million is left over in that fund that is

unspent from the Ebola crisis and that negotiations between our appropriators, the CDC, and other Federal agencies have said: We do recognize from the House perspective that this is a very, very serious issue. We acknowledge that.

I have acknowledged that up at the Rules Committee. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) has several times, in the spirit that I appreciated and that was very complimentary to a proper answer, brought this issue up, that this is what he is looking at, that it is an issue in our country.

The responses that I continue to, I believe, receive back is that our appropriators, on a very professional basis, have allowed use of the funds to be used for that issue.

So I would like to say to the gentleman from Massachusetts that I do understand his concerns and, really, Mr. MCGOVERN, I appreciate it.

I appreciate you, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. POLIS, and Judge HASTINGS bringing these issues up. But we try and go and clarify what I think are proper or sustainable answers to your ideas. The ideas about other pieces of legislation we will get to.

Where there are emergencies, I do agree with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN). I do not think an AUMF, which is a discussion about military use of force, is necessarily in line right now, but I know that Republicans are preparing that. I know that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) could bring his effort forward and will at the appropriate time for his ideas. They will all fit.

Today, however, what we are here for is something that has been in line for some period of time that is a major issue. The gentleman very appropriately said the last time we brought forth legislation that it created \$71 billion worth of entrepreneurial funding, funding that helps our country's research and development, new ideas in medicine, new ideas in communication, new ideas that employ people, money to the marketplace.

That is why we are here today. We think this is just as powerful. After we passed the JOBS Act, the SEC got most of it right, not all of it right, and we are trying to politely—this is the way we do things in a democracy. We try and work with government agencies to say: You got some of it right, but congressional intent needs to be done a little bit further.

Will it bring \$71 billion to the marketplace? I don't know. Will it mean that a brighter future exists for innovation, job creation, and investment that keeps America's leading edge as opposed to ideas going somewhere else around the world? Yes.

I would argue that Speaker PAUL RYAN is aware of all the issues that need to be debated. Today we feel like

jobs and job creation and perhaps an opportunity to stimulate, whether it is \$71 million or \$71 billion worth of new stimulating activity for new ideas, is important.

That is why we are here today. That is why people took a number, got in line, and developed their activity. STEVE CHABOT measured twice, brought his legislation here, and understands what it is about.

I would also say, as Mr. MCGOVERN I believe politely alluded to, this is a good idea because it does not say we will only form these opportunities in Republican districts, but we will form them in districts all over the country.

It is a good, bipartisan piece of legislation that helps smaller, less sophisticated people. It helps the marketplace. I think it is important.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to say to the gentleman from Texas that I appreciate the fact that he appreciates the concerns that I have raised, but I would appreciate him even more if we could bring some of the legislation to the floor that would actually solve some of the problems and deal with some of the challenges that I outlined.

I had brought up earlier the issue of the Zika virus, which has infected 891 individuals in the U.S. States and territories, including at least 81 pregnant women. This is a big, big deal.

Some of us are not interested in robbing from Peter to pay Paul to deal with this. We don't want to be dipping into the Ebola fund, which is still an issue, to deal with the Zika crisis. I mean, we have multiple challenges that we have to deal with.

Mr. SESSIONS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, just a polite dialogue. Do you believe in any way, because we have not moved a bill, that the Federal Government is stopping and waiting and doing nothing on this issue?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I reclaim my time.

We are doing something, but I think what people who are dealing with this crisis would feel better about is if there was a certainty that the resources were going to be there.

Those who are fighting the Ebola crisis are concerned that, if you are going to take money from Ebola to put into Zika, that maybe you are not going to replenish the monies to deal with Ebola. We have some serious public health issues that we are trying to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question. If I do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a bill that would provide desperately needed funding to combat the Zika virus.

The administration requested this funding more than 2 months ago, and it is reckless to delay our response to this public health crisis any longer. Yes, we are doing things to respond to it. We can be doing a lot more. I think the American people want us to do all that we possibly can to protect the public health of the citizens of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, with great respect for our distinguished chair with whom we work very collegially, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question in order to provide the funding needed to mount a robust response to a pressing public health emergency.

More than 2 months ago the administration requested funding critical to respond to the Zika virus, a public health emergency tied to microcephaly and other neurological disorders in infants.

It is unconscionable that, when nearly 1,000 people in the U.S. and territories have contracted Zika, the majority continues to drag their feet on meeting our most basic responsibility.

The majority's inaction has forced the administration to redirect funding needed to meet other basic responsibilities, shortchanging still-needed investments to protect against Ebola and to help States and cities improve domestic public health.

The majority's claim that the administration has provided insufficient detail on the request doesn't make any sense. Every cent has been accounted for. Yet, we continue to wait to sit on our hands.

Further, the majority holds this emergency to a new standard, requiring offsetting cuts before providing needed resources. This literally holds emergency funding hostage to unrelated political fights.

This simply cannot go on. Are we waiting for the height of summer when mosquito control will be infinitely more difficult? Are we waiting for this emergency to spiral out of control?

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and defeat the previous question so we can meet our responsibility to protect against Zika.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am delighted that the gentlewoman from New York, who is a regular visitor to the Rules Committee and who

really, I believe, adequately and fairly not only represents the needs of this Nation, but really argues many times on behalf of things that are common sense—I want to thank her for being here today.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an argument at all about the Zika virus, about Ebola. The Ebola circumstance in the United States actually occurred first in Dallas, Texas, within the congressional district that I am so lucky to represent. It did constitute not only an immediate threat and danger to not only that hospital in Dallas, Texas, but, really, all across our country, and it evoked a scare. It did.

Well, we have that same type of circumstance today. That is why, in re-touching base with our Appropriations Committee, I now can speak what I believe is from them directly as opposed to what I thought I heard, and that is that the appropriators have said that immediate funding needs for Zika should be provided from unobligated funds that are already available, which would then be backfilled in 17 appropriations bills as needed, which means that there still is money that the approval, the authorization, has been given.

Instead of us delaying through our process here, we have said that we concur this is of immediate nature. Here is a bucket of money. Here is a bucket of money.

As an example, there are some \$400 million that is available that was a part of the Ebola funding that is unobligated and is intended to be spent in future years. There is money available to meet the immediate need.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, in working with Speaker RYAN, has made sure that the money is available, can be used for this need, and Republicans agree it is the right thing to do.

□ 1300

I do appreciate Mrs. LOWEY coming down. I do appreciate the gentlemen, Judge HASTINGS and Mr. MCGOVERN, seeking these questions.

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to make sure that this body understands the money is available. It is there to be used properly, as with any other taxpayer money, but that it may be used for this purpose. Quite honestly, I am very proud of what we are doing to match up the needs of this Nation and its great people.

Mrs. LOWEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's eloquent remarks. However, I want to emphasize again that this is an emergency. People are severely, severely, being impacted because of the Zika virus. This is an

emergency. We should be doing it immediately.

I understand that it may be tempting to transfer money from another account. However, to have to find offsets here when people are suffering, dying, perhaps having deformed infants doesn't make any sense now.

I would just say in closing, I thank the gentleman for his concern, and I do hope that we can pass this emergency supplemental as soon as possible because so much of where the money is going to go is long-range planning. Vaccines. We have to make sure that we prevent additional cases of Zika, and developing a vaccine can't be done in a month or 2 months. It takes time.

So if, in fact, the administration has requested \$1.9 billion, and we have responded, and the administration has responded to the very sincere questions provided to us by the chair, Chairman ROGERS of the committee, we think it has been documented very carefully.

I would ask again my colleagues to consider that this is an emergency, \$1.9 billion is what has been documented in detail. It is all in writing. I thank the gentleman for listening.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, you are witnessing here a colloquy on the floor between groups of people who can work together. Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Judge HASTINGS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. POLIS represent not just the Democratic Party, but millions of people across the country.

I want to forthrightly try again to answer, if I can. I do hear them, Chairman ROGERS hears them. There is at least \$500 million—granted, only one-third of what has been requested—that we believe is available for it to be transferred right now.

I talked to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN). I said: Mr. MCGOVERN, do you believe in any way that something is being held up?

He said: No, sir. We are working. This government is working feverishly.

As a parent, I understand this. While I have an advantage of having a disabled child as a son, that does not mean that I would want anyone else to have a disabled child. I get this.

I have satisfied myself, and I believe my party has, through our great young Speaker, PAUL RYAN, satisfied ourselves that pending the time when we can get at a supplemental—perhaps later in the year there will be wildfires, perhaps later in the year there would be a hurricane. We have the money available. No one disputes that the money right now is usable, it is fungible. The question is: When will it be backfilled?

I have properly said here today that Chairman HAL ROGERS has the ear—and we have his ear—of every Member of this body who does understand when we need to get more money and when the new cycle begins, and we will be starting this just in the next few

weeks, that that would be available as an option for Chairman ROGERS to take Mrs. LOWEY's request, to take her detailed analysis of if it is a billion-some, would be able to implant that into a priority for this Conference, for this Congress, for these bodies to understand, and that we would hope to work forth then with the United States Senate, with the President of the United States, and work it well together.

Mr. Speaker, what you have seen here is a prime example of people talking, people getting closer to an answer. I am trying to respond back that I believe our Speaker, PAUL RYAN, I believe HAL ROGERS, I believe myself as an instrument of a messaging back and forth properly are responding: The money is available. Please go get your work done. As we get further down the line, we will be further down the process.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do here is sound the alarm bells that we need to do something much more robust than is currently being done. I include in the RECORD the letter that we have referred to from the administration signed by Shaun Donovan, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Susan Rice, the National Security Adviser. This is a letter to Speaker PAUL RYAN.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, April 26, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: As you are aware, on February 22, the Administration transmitted to Congress its formal request for \$1.9 billion in emergency supplemental funding to address the public health threat posed by the Zika virus. Sixty-four days have passed since this initial request; yet still Congress has not acted.

Since the time the Administration transmitted its request, the public health threat posed by the Zika virus has increased. After careful review of existing evidence, scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concluded that the Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects. The Zika virus has spread in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and abroad. As of April 20, there were 891 confirmed Zika cases in the continental United States and U.S. territories, including 81 pregnant women with confirmed cases of Zika. Based on similar experiences with other diseases transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito—believed to be the primary carrier of the Zika virus—scientists at the CDC expect there could be local transmission within the continental U.S. in the summer months. Updated estimate range maps show that these mosquitoes have been found in cities as far north as San Francisco, Kansas City and New York City.

In the absence of action from Congress to address the Zika virus, the Administration has taken concrete and aggressive steps to help keep America safe from this growing

public health threat. The Administration is working closely with State and local governments to prepare for outbreaks in the continental United States and to respond to the current outbreak in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories. We are expanding mosquito control surveillance and laboratory capacity; developing improved diagnostics as well as vaccines; supporting affected expectant mothers, and supporting other Zika response efforts in Puerto Rico, the U.S. territories, the continental United States, and abroad. These efforts are crucial, but they are costly and they fall well outside of current agency appropriations. To meet these immediate needs, the Administration conducted a careful examination of existing Ebola balances and identified \$510 million to redirect towards Zika response activities. We have also redirected an additional \$79 million from other activities. This reprogramming, while necessary, is not without cost. It is particularly painful at a time when state and local public health departments are already strained.

While this immediate infusion of resources is necessary to enable the Administration to take critical first steps in our response to the public health threat posed by Zika, it is insufficient. Without significant additional appropriations this summer, the Nation's efforts to comprehensively respond to the disease will be severely undermined. In particular, the Administration may need to suspend crucial activities, such as mosquito control and surveillance in the absence of emergency supplemental funding. State and local governments that manage mosquito control and response operations will not be able to hire needed responders to engage in mosquito mitigation efforts. Additionally, the Administration's ability to move to the next phase of vaccine development, which requires multi-year commitments from the Government to encourage the private sector to prioritize Zika research and development, could be jeopardized. Without emergency supplemental funding, the development of faster and more accurate diagnostic tests also will be impeded. The Administration may not be able to conduct follow up of children born to pregnant women with Zika to better understand the range of Zika impacts, particularly those health effects that are not evident at birth. The supplemental request is also needed to replenish the amounts that we are now spending from our Ebola accounts to fund Zika-related activities. This will ensure we have sufficient contingency funds to address unanticipated needs related to both Zika and Ebola. As we have seen with both Ebola and Zika, there are still many unknowns about the science and scale of the outbreak and how it will impact mothers, babies, and health systems domestically and abroad.

The Administration is pleased to learn that there is bipartisan support for providing emergency funding to address the Zika crisis, but we remain concerned about the adequacy and speed of this response. To properly protect the American public, and in particular pregnant women and their newborns, Congress must fund the Administration's request of \$1.9 billion and find a path forward to address this public health emergency immediately. The American people deserve action now. With the summer months fast approaching, we continue to believe that the Zika supplemental should not be considered as part of the regular appropriations process, as it relates to funding we must receive this year in order to most effectively prepare for and mitigate the impact of the virus.

We urge you to pass free-standing emergency supplemental funding legislation at the level requested by the Administration before Congress leaves town for the Memorial Day recess. We look forward to working with you to protect the safety and health of all Americans.

Sincerely,

SHAUN DONOVAN,  
*Director, The Office of  
Management and  
Budget.*

SUSAN RICE,  
*National Security Ad-  
visor.*

Mr. MCGOVERN. The letter basically says that the existing appropriations are not enough. This is what the letter says: "Without significant additional appropriations this summer, the Nation's efforts to comprehensively respond to the disease will be severely undermined. In particular, the administration may need to suspend crucial activities, such as mosquito control and surveillance in the absence of emergency supplemental funding. State and local governments that manage mosquito control and response operations will not be able to hire needed responders to engage in mosquito mitigation efforts. Additionally, the administration's ability to move to the next phase of vaccine development, which requires multiyear commitments from the government to encourage the private sector to prioritize Zika research and development, could be jeopardized."

I mean, I go right down the list on all the warnings here. This is a big deal. This is a big deal. If my friends on the other side are trying to rationalize putting this off, I would suggest to reread this letter. Reread this letter. Talk to the scientists. Talk to the experts. We need to have the necessary resources to be able to combat what might come our way in terms of the Zika virus. I want to do this so that we don't have a loss of life here in this country, so we are prepared.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the previous question. I ask Members to defeat it so that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) can offer an amendment for this House to immediately consider legislation to confront the Zika crisis. There are already 891 confirmed cases of the Zika virus in the United States and its territories, and 81 of them are pregnant women. This is an emergency.

We do have a disaster relief fund in this Congress. It is about \$8 billion so that when there is a flood, when there is a fire, when there is a hurricane, we can immediately move to take that money and address the costs of life and other costs from that disaster.

Unfortunately, we don't have a public health emergency fund, which is why the President is asking for \$1.9 billion. This is an emergency. We cannot

afford to wait another day to approve the President's request. Every day we delay, we redirect crucial resources away from city and State emergency preparedness funding. We are robbing Peter to pay Paul. Cities and States across the country are being robbed of emergency preparedness grants, \$44 million in total. Not only will these States have fewer resources to address public health crises, they will have fewer resources to address the Zika virus itself. Already in addition to that \$44 million, the administration has reprogrammed \$510 million from the Ebola crisis funding, and that crisis is not over in western Africa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am going to include in the RECORD a list of all of the States and the amount of money that they have already lost in emergency grants for preparedness for health emergencies.

California, almost 10 percent loss; Florida, almost 10 percent loss; North Carolina, 8 percent; Texas, almost 10 percent in money taken away from preparedness grants.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that in the midst of a global health crisis, we cannot appropriate emergency funds to save lives and instead resort to gutting our States' emergency preparedness.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to think of the women across our country and the predicament that they face today of choosing whether or not they should get pregnant or, if they are already pregnant, wondering whether or not their baby is okay. We must fund the President's request. It is the responsible and moral thing to do.

Yes, today, physicians are divided as to whether or not they should tell women of the United States not to get pregnant. Is that the message we want to send to American women? I don't think so.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I again urge my colleagues to vote against the previous question so we can bring forward a bill that we believe can help adequately prepare this country to deal with the Zika virus, something that I think the majority of Americans support, whether they are Democrats or Republicans.

This should not be a controversial issue. If it is, then people can vote against it if it comes to the floor, but what we do know is that what we have done up to this point in terms of our responsibility here in Congress in providing the funds has not been adequate. I read earlier from the letter from the White House all the things that could

be on hold or not move forward if we don't adequately fund the necessary infrastructure to deal with this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I would also say that it seems to me that dealing effectively with the Zika crisis is a heck of a lot more important than what we are being asked to vote on and debate today. I have been saying this every time I come to the floor and handle a rule, but it seems that legislation that has minimum impact or that in some cases might even be trivial takes precedence over legislation that actually might do something to help lift up the lives of people in this country or, even in this case, protect the lives of people in this country.

We ought to come together in a bipartisan way to make sure that at least priority items come to the floor of the House. This is supposed to be the people's House, and that is where the people's business is supposed to be done. We are not doing it. By not addressing the Zika crisis more forthrightly, we are not doing the people's business.

So, again, vote "no" on the previous question and vote "no" on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

What a great day to be on the floor for us to really bring forth our ideas. The obligations that we have here as Members of Congress to work with each other, to listen to each other is apparent to me, but I don't think apparent to every single person.

We have allowed, meaning Chairman ROGERS has allowed, in consultation with the Speaker, for money to be reprogrammed, which is aplenty right now. We have agreed this is an immediate crisis. We have made sure the administration is not wanting for a penny. We recognize that in the processes that will take place, we will go through in a regular order procedure getting these funds reprogrammed and allocated to fill back up the bucket.

□ 1315

I have satisfied myself that we are trying to do the right thing. I have great concern that the American people understand we do care about the children and the families. I get this. We do care. And until we go through this process to further develop it and add money, the administration has the money necessary to do as they see fit to protect the American people, to combat this virus—this disease—and to make sure that we get a handle on it.

Mr. Speaker, the value of startups, which is why we are here today, cannot be understated.

Founded in 2013, back home in Dallas, Texas, which I have the pleasure of representing, is the Dallas Entrepreneur Center, or DEC, which is a nonprofit created to help entrepreneurs

start, build, and grow companies. According to the DEC, over 1,000 jobs were created in the past 2 years and another 500 are expected to be hired by Dallas startups in 2016. That is the power of what we are talking about.

The SEC has gotten in the way of this, not only with red tape, but with consternation directly back at the process that the free enterprise system has to make these jobs happen.

Investment in startups has been done in Dallas. Companies like Edition Collective, Rise, PICKUP, and Visage Payroll in Dallas, Texas, are prime examples of the success that could take place all across this country, not just in Dallas, Texas, but in other places where entrepreneurs should be king also. And they are king because they are providing jobs—good-paying jobs—for people.

Mr. Speaker, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that provides small, innovative companies and startups access to the capital they need, just as we have talked about that exists in Dallas, Texas. We are helping them succeed. We are helping them to innovate and grow jobs and turn them into opportunities for our Nation to have better products and services.

As ANGUS KING, a Senator from Maine who is one of the Senate's cosponsors, said: "By fixing flawed Federal rules, the HALOS Act will remove unnecessary roadblocks and help startups grow and thrive."

I couldn't have said it better myself. He needs it in Maine. We need it in Dallas, Texas. We do not have all the jobs we need. There are still too many people unemployed in our country. That is why we are here doing this.

In particular, two Dallas startups, iSIGHT Partners and Bottle Rocket, are revolutionizing the field of cyber threat intelligence and mobile strategy development, respectively. Imagine for just a moment what it took them, despite these problems in the marketplace, to get started and get done. I think it is time that we allow others the opportunity to make life a little bit easier.

For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this rule. This awesome legislation and what it represents is bipartisan, is bicameral, and has no boundaries of who may participate.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 701 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5044) making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 to respond to Zika virus. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of

order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 5044.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT  
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated,

control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate "(Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING  
COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4923) to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4923

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016".*

**SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE NEED FOR A MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILL.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) As of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States imposes duties on imported goods for which there is no domestic availability or insufficient domestic availability.

(2) The imposition of duties on such goods creates artificial distortions in the economy of the United States that negatively affect United States manufacturers and consumers.

(3) The manufacturing competitiveness of the United States around the world will be enhanced if Congress regularly and predictably updates the Harmonized Tariff Schedule to suspend or reduce duties on such goods.

(4) Creating and maintaining an open and transparent process for consideration of petitions for duty suspensions and reductions builds confidence that the process is fair, open to all, and free of abuse.

(5) Complying with the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate, in particular with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, is essential to fostering and maintaining confidence in the process for considering a miscellaneous tariff bill.

(6) A miscellaneous tariff bill developed under this process will not contain any—

(A) congressional earmarks or limited tax benefits within the meaning of clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives; or

(B) congressionally directed spending items or limited tax benefits within the meaning of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(7) Because any limited tariff benefits contained in any miscellaneous tariff bill following the process set forth by this Act will not have been the subject of legislation introduced by an individual Member of Congress and will be fully vetted through a transparent and fair process free of abuse, it is appropriate for Congress to consider limited tariff benefits as part of that miscellaneous tariff bill as long as—

(A) in the case of a miscellaneous tariff bill considered in the House of Representatives, consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, a list of such limited tariff benefits is published in the reports of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives accompanying the miscellaneous tariff bill, or in the Congressional Record; and

(B) in the case of a miscellaneous tariff bill considered in the Senate, consistent with the Standing Rules of the Senate—

(i) such limited tariff benefits have been identified through lists, charts, or other similar means; and

(ii) the information identified in clause (i) has been available on a publicly accessible congressional website in a searchable format at least 48 hours before the vote on the motion to proceed to the miscellaneous tariff bill or the vote on the adoption of a report of a committee of conference in connection with the miscellaneous tariff bill, as the case may be.

(8) When the process set forth under paragraph (7) is followed, it is consistent with the letter and intent of the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate and other related guidance.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, to remove the competitive disadvantage to United States manufacturers and consumers and to promote the competitiveness of United States manufacturers, Congress should, not later than 90 days after the United States International Trade Commission issues a final report on petitions for duty suspensions and reductions under section 3(b)(3)(E), consider a miscellaneous tariff bill.

**SEC. 3. PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS FOR DUTY SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS.**

(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for duty suspensions and reductions.

(b) REQUIREMENTS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) INITIATION.—Not later than October 15, 2016, and October 15, 2019, the Commission shall publish in the Federal Register and on a publicly available Internet website of the Commission a notice requesting members of the public who can demonstrate that they are likely beneficiaries of duty suspensions or reductions to submit to the Commission during the 60-day period beginning on the date of such publication—

(A) petitions for duty suspensions and reductions; and

(B) Commission disclosure forms with respect to such duty suspensions and reductions.

(2) CONTENT OF PETITIONS.—Each petition for a duty suspension or reduction under paragraph (1)(A) shall include the following information:

(A) The name and address of the petitioner.

(B) A statement as to whether the petition provides for an extension of an existing duty suspension or reduction or provides for a new duty suspension or reduction.

(C) A certification that the petitioner is a likely beneficiary of the proposed duty suspension or reduction.

(D) An article description for the proposed duty suspension or reduction to be included in the amendment to subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(E) To the extent available—

(i) a classification of the article for purposes of the amendment to subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States;

(ii) a classification ruling of U.S. Customs and Border Protection with respect to the article; and

(iii) a copy of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection entry summary indicating where the article is classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(F) A brief and general description of the article.

(G) A brief description of the industry in the United States that uses the article.

(H) An estimate of the total value, in United States dollars, of imports of the article for each of the 5 calendar years after the calendar year in which the petition is filed, including an estimate of the total value of such imports by the person who submits the petition and by any other importers, if available.

(I) The name of each person that imports the article, if available.

(J) A description of any domestic production of the article, if available.

(K) Such other information as the Commission may require.

(3) REVIEW.—

(A) COMMISSION PUBLICATION AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—As soon as practicable after the expiration of the 60-day period specified in paragraph (1), but in any case not later than 30 days after the expiration of such 60-day period, the Commission shall publish on a publicly available Internet website of the Commission—

(i) the petitions for duty suspensions and reductions submitted under paragraph (1)(A) that contain the information required under paragraph (2); and

(ii) the Commission disclosure forms with respect to such duty suspensions and reductions submitted under paragraph (1)(B).

(B) PUBLIC COMMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall publish in the Federal Register and on a publicly

available Internet website of the Commission a notice requesting members of the public to submit to the Commission during the 45-day period beginning on the date of publication described in subparagraph (A) comments on—

(I) the petitions for duty suspensions and reductions published by the Commission under subparagraph (A)(i); and

(II) the Commission disclosure forms with respect to such duty suspensions and reductions published by the Commission under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(ii) PUBLICATION OF COMMENTS.—The Commission shall publish a notice in the Federal Register directing members of the public to a publicly available Internet website of the Commission to view the comments of the members of the public received under clause (i).

(C) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date of publication described in subparagraph (A), but in any case not later than 30 days after the expiration of such 120-day period, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a preliminary report on the petitions for duty suspensions and reductions submitted under paragraph (1)(A). The preliminary report shall contain the following information with respect to each petition for a duty suspension or reduction:

(I) The heading or subheading of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States in which each article that is the subject of the petition for the duty suspension or reduction is classified, as identified by documentation supplied to the Commission, and any supporting information obtained by the Commission.

(II) A determination of whether or not domestic production of the article that is the subject of the petition for the duty suspension or reduction exists, taking into account the report of the Secretary of Commerce under subsection (c)(1), and, if such production exists, whether or not a domestic producer of the article objects to the duty suspension or reduction.

(III) Any technical changes to the article description of the article that is the subject of the petition for the duty suspension or reduction that are necessary for purposes of administration when the article is presented for importation, taking into account the report of the Secretary of Commerce under subsection (c)(2).

(IV) An estimate of the amount of loss in revenue to the United States that would no longer be collected if the duty suspension or reduction takes effect.

(V) A determination of whether or not the duty suspension or reduction is available to any person that imports the article that is the subject of the duty suspension or reduction.

(VI) The likely beneficiaries of each duty suspension or reduction, including whether the petitioner is a likely beneficiary.

(ii) CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION.—The preliminary report submitted under clause (i) shall also contain the following information:

(I) A list of petitions for duty suspensions and reductions that meet the requirements of this Act without modifications.

(II) A list of petitions for duty suspensions and reductions for which the Commission recommends technical corrections in order to meet the requirements of this Act, with the correction specified.

(III) A list of petitions for duty suspensions and reductions for which the Commission recommends modifications to the amount of the duty suspension or reduction that is the subject of the petition to comply with the requirements of this Act, with the modification specified.

(IV) A list of petitions for duty suspensions and reductions for which the Commission recommends modifications to the scope of the articles that are the subject of such petitions to address objections by domestic producers to such petitions, with the modifications specified.

(V) A list of the following:

(aa) Petitions for duty suspensions and reductions that the Commission has determined do not contain the information required under paragraph (2).

(bb) Petitions for duty suspensions and reductions with respect to which the Commission has determined the petitioner is not a likely beneficiary.

(VI) A list of petitions for duty suspensions and reductions that the Commission does not recommend for inclusion in a miscellaneous tariff bill, other than petitions specified in subclause (V).

(D) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—The Commission shall consider any information submitted by the appropriate congressional committees to the Commission relating to moving a petition that is contained in the list referred to in subclause (VI) of subparagraph (C)(ii) of the preliminary report submitted under subparagraph (C) to a list referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV) of subparagraph (C)(ii).

(E) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the preliminary report is submitted under subparagraph (C), the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a final report on each petition for a duty suspension or reduction specified in the preliminary report. The final report shall contain with respect to each such petition—

(i) the information required under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (C) and updated as appropriate under subparagraph (D); and

(ii) a determination of the Commission whether—

(I) the duty suspension or reduction can likely be administered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(II) the estimated loss in revenue to the United States from the duty suspension or reduction does not exceed \$500,000 in a calendar year during which the duty suspension or reduction would be in effect; and

(III) the duty suspension or reduction is available to any person importing the article that is the subject of the duty suspension or reduction.

(F) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The appropriate congressional committees may exclude from a miscellaneous tariff bill any petition for a duty suspension or reduction that—

(i) is contained in any list referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV) of subparagraph (C)(ii), as updated as appropriate under subparagraph (E)(i);

(ii) is the subject of an objection from a Member of Congress; or

(iii) is for an article for which there is domestic production.

(G) **ESTIMATES BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.**—For purposes of reflecting the estimate of the Congressional Budget Office, the appropriate congressional committees shall adjust the amount of a duty suspension or reduction in a miscellaneous tariff bill only to assure that the estimated loss in revenue to the United States from that duty suspension or reduction, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, does not exceed \$500,000 in a calendar year during which the duty suspension or reduction would be in effect.

(H) **PROHIBITIONS.**—Any petitions for duty suspensions or reductions that are contained in any list referred to in subclause (V) or (VI) of subparagraph (C)(ii), as updated as appropriate under subparagraph (E)(i), or have not otherwise undergone the processes required by this Act shall not be included in a miscellaneous tariff bill.

(4) **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION.**—The procedures concerning the release of confidential business information set forth in section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)) shall apply with respect to information received by the Commission in posting petitions on a publicly available website of the Commission and in preparing reports under this subsection.

(5) **PROCEDURES.**—The Commission shall prescribe and publish in the Federal Register and on a publicly available Internet website of the Commission procedures to be complied with by members of the public submitting petitions for duty suspensions and reductions under subsection (b)(1)(A).

(c) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REPORT.**—Not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of publication of the petitions for duty suspensions and reductions under subsection (b)(3)(A), the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the Commission and the appropriate congressional committees a report on each petition for a duty suspension or reduction submitted under subsection (b)(1)(A) that includes the following information:

(1) A determination of whether or not domestic production of the article that is the subject of the petition for the duty suspension or reduction exists and, if such production exists, whether or not a domestic producer of the article objects to the petition for the duty suspension or reduction.

(2) Any technical changes to the article description that are necessary for purposes of administration when articles are presented for importation.

**SEC. 4. REPORT ON EFFECTS OF DUTY SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS ON UNITED STATES ECONOMY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of a miscellaneous tariff bill, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effects on the United States economy of duty suspensions and reductions enacted pursuant to this Act, including a broad assessment of the economic effects of such duty suspensions and reductions on producers, purchasers, and consumers in the United States, using case studies describing such effects on selected industries or by type of article as available data permit.

(b) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Commission shall also solicit and append to the report required under subsection (a) recommendations with respect to those domestic industry sectors or specific domestic industries that might benefit from permanent duty suspensions and reductions, either through a unilateral action of the United States or through negotiations for reciprocal tariff agreements, with a particular focus on inequities created by tariff inversions.

(c) **FORM OF REPORT.**—Each report required by this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

**SEC. 5. PUBLICATION OF LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE.**

(a) **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The chair of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives shall include a list of limited tariff benefits contained in a miscellaneous tariff bill in the report to accompany such a bill or, in a case where a miscellaneous tariff bill is not reported by the committee, shall cause such a list to be printed in the appropriate section of the Congressional Record.

(2) **LIMITED TARIFF BENEFIT DEFINED.**—For purposes of this subsection and consistent with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, as in effect during the One

Hundred Fourteenth Congress, the term “limited tariff benefit” means a provision modifying the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States in a manner that benefits 10 or fewer entities.

(b) **SENATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate, the Majority Leader of the Senate, or the designee of the Majority Leader of the Senate, shall provide for the publication in the Congressional Record of a certification that—

(A) each limited tariff benefit contained in a miscellaneous tariff bill considered in the Senate has been identified through lists, charts, or other similar means; and

(B) the information identified in subparagraph (A) has been available on a publicly accessible congressional website in a searchable format at least 48 hours before the vote on the motion to proceed to the miscellaneous tariff bill or the vote on the adoption of a report of a committee of conference in connection with the miscellaneous tariff bill, as the case may be.

(2) **SATISFACTION OF SENATE RULES.**—Publication of a certification in the Congressional Record under paragraph (1) satisfies the certification requirements of paragraphs 1(a), 2(a), and 3(a) of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(3) **LIMITED TARIFF BENEFIT DEFINED.**—For purposes of this subsection and consistent with rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, as in effect during the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, the term “limited tariff benefit” means a provision modifying the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States in a manner that benefits 10 or fewer entities.

(c) **ENACTMENT AS EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWER OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.**—This section is enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, and such procedures supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

**SEC. 6. JUDICIAL REVIEW PRECLUDED.**

The exercise of functions under this Act shall not be subject to judicial review.

**SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the United States International Trade Commission.

(3) **COMMISSION DISCLOSURE FORM.**—The term “Commission disclosure form” means, with respect to a petition for a duty suspension or reduction, a document submitted by a petitioner to the Commission that contains the following:

(A) The contact information for any known importers of the article to which the proposed duty suspension or reduction would apply.

(B) A certification by the petitioner that the proposed duty suspension or reduction is available to any person importing the article to which the proposed duty suspension or reduction would apply.

(C) A certification that the petitioner is a likely beneficiary of the proposed duty suspension or reduction.

(4) **DOMESTIC PRODUCER.**—The term “domestic producer” means a person that demonstrates

production, or imminent production, in the United States of an article that is identical to, or like or directly competitive with, an article to which a petition for a duty suspension or reduction would apply.

(5) **DOMESTIC PRODUCTION.**—The term “domestic production” means the production of an article that is identical to, or like or directly competitive with, an article to which a petition for a duty suspension or reduction would apply, for which a domestic producer has demonstrated production, or imminent production, in the United States.

(6) **DUTY SUSPENSION OR REDUCTION.**—The term “duty suspension or reduction” refers to an amendment to subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States for a period not to exceed 3 years that—

(A) extends an existing temporary duty suspension or reduction on an article under that subchapter; or

(B) provides for a new temporary duty suspension or reduction on an article under that subchapter.

(7) **LIKELY BENEFICIARY.**—The term “likely beneficiary” means an individual or entity likely to utilize, or benefit directly from the utilization of, an article that is the subject of a petition for a duty suspension or reduction.

(8) **MEMBER OF CONGRESS.**—The term “Member of Congress” means a Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, Congress.

(9) **MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILL.**—The term “miscellaneous tariff bill” means a bill of either House of Congress that contains only duty suspensions and reductions and related technical corrections that—

(A) are included in the final report of the Commission submitted to the appropriate congressional committees under section 3(b)(3)(E), except for—

(i) petitions for duty suspensions or reductions that the Commission has determined do not contain the information required under section 3(b)(2);

(ii) petitions for duty suspensions and reductions with respect to which the Commission has determined the petitioner is not a likely beneficiary; and

(iii) petitions for duty suspensions and reductions that the Commission does not recommend for inclusion in the miscellaneous tariff bill;

(B) are not excluded under section 3(b)(3)(F); and

(C) otherwise meet the applicable requirements of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4923, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am honored to be here today to speak about the American Manufac-

turing Competitiveness Act of 2016. This bipartisan bill will help our manufacturers of all sizes reduce costs, create jobs, and compete in the global market by creating a transparent process that is entirely consistent with House rules.

This legislation is formally called the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill, or MTB for short, but it makes more sense to think of this as an MTB of another kind: legislation providing manufacturing tax breaks, plain and simple.

Before I begin to speak more specifically about what this bill does, I would like to tell you why it is so essential for the success of our economy.

Since 2012, American manufacturers have had to pay full tariffs—border taxes, in essence—for certain imported products that aren’t made in the United States, unnecessarily increasing their costs. These tariffs, or border taxes, have cost them \$748 million a year, and there has been no opportunity for them to get relief from these taxes. These border taxes, in turn, have made it harder for them to sell their products, grow their businesses, create jobs, and invest in their communities.

A coalition of American businesses of all sizes explained it best in their recent letter. They wrote:

“As a result, manufacturers, especially small- and medium-sized manufacturers, in industries ranging from agriculture and electronics to textiles, chemicals and beyond, have seen their costs go up for inputs not produced in the United States, undermining American competitiveness and the ability of these companies to retain and create manufacturing jobs in the United States.”

The good news is that help is on the way. After working together for months, Trade Subcommittee Chairman DAVE REICHERT, Ranking Members LEVIN and RANGEL, and I led a bipartisan group of Members in both the House and the Senate who recently introduced the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016. The bill is designed to solve this problem and deliver much-needed relief to manufacturers across our country. Here is how the new three-step process will work:

First, local businesses of all sizes throughout our districts will petition the independent, nonpartisan International Trade Commission. They will make their case for why they need manufacturing tax breaks. After the ITC receives these petitions, it will solicit comments from the American public and the administration. The ITC will conduct a thorough and transparent analysis.

Secondly, the ITC will then issue a public report to Congress with its analysis and recommendations regarding products that meet the MTB standards. In these reports, the ITC will confirm that no company in America makes these products and explain why it is

important to offer these tax breaks to our local manufacturers.

The third and final step in the process is for Congress to consider the ITC’s recommendations. The Ways and Means Committee will examine the ITC’s recommendations and prepare a package of legislation providing tax breaks for American manufacturers. Consistent with our rules, we cannot add provisions that haven’t received a favorable recommendation from the ITC. Then, Congress will consider the entire package.

At the end of this process, American manufacturers of all sizes will be able to enjoy tax breaks that will make it easier for them to compete in the global market and create more jobs in our communities.

While this bill is a victory for manufacturers and consumers, it is really also a victory for openness and transparency. After all, our new MTB process upholds our strong earmark rules and also gives the American people the opportunity to offer their opinion throughout the entire process. By passing this bill today, we are taking a tremendous step to ensure that we finally have a system in place that helps our manufacturers here in America compete in the global market—and win.

I would like to take a quick moment to recognize my colleagues who have worked so hard on this legislation. Specifically, I would like to thank Ranking Member SANDER LEVIN along with Subcommittee Chairman DAVE REICHERT and Ranking Member CHARLIE RANGEL for their help and leadership.

I am also grateful to committee members PAT TIBERI, TOM REED, JIM RENACCI, EARL BLUMENAUER, BILL PASCRELL, and DANNY DAVIS, who have been actively involved in developing this legislation.

We also got help throughout the conference. I would like to specifically thank Representatives MARK WALKER, TOM MCCLINTOCK, TODD ROKITA, MICK MULVANEY, and ROD BLUM for their considerable leadership throughout this process.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this critical legislation to provide tax breaks for our local manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON RULES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 20, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: On April 19, 2016, the Committee on Ways and Means ordered reported H.R. 4923, the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016. As you know, the Committee on Rules was granted an additional referral upon the bill’s introduction pursuant to the Committee’s jurisdiction under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives over the rules of the House and special orders of business.



Because of your willingness to consult with my committee regarding this matter, I will waive consideration of the bill by the Rules Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Rules Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 4923. In addition, the Committee on Rules reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Rules for conferees on H.R. 4923 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response as part of your committee's report on the bill and the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2016.

Hon. PETE SESSIONS,  
Chairman, Committee on Rules,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SESSIONS, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4923, the "American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016." As you noted, the Committee on Rules was granted an additional referral of the bill.

I am most appreciative of your decision to waive consideration of H.R. 4923 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Rules is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees on any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include a copy of our letters in our Committee's report on H.R. 4923, as well as the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,  
Chairman.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to join with the chairman today. We have welcomed the opportunity—indeed, the absolute necessity—to try to work together. So I want to place what we are doing today in some perspective.

It has been nearly 6 years since Congress last passed a miscellaneous tariff bill. We are just now establishing a process to consider a future MTB bill, which would not happen until the end of 2017. This years-long delay has hurt U.S. manufacturers and our manufacturing competitiveness. It is long past time for this House to finally take action and to move forward.

MTB legislation boils down to one thing, basically: supporting and growing manufacturing jobs right here in America. And very importantly, these jobs do not come at the expense of others.

In 2010, the bipartisan, thorough, and transparent process we established to consider MTB bills worked effectively. It included direct input from the public, the administration, and the International Trade Commission.

The committee then posted all of these comments from the public and the administration on a publicly available Web site. And perhaps most importantly, that input was crucial in making sure that domestic production was not competing with imported products in the bill.

At that time, Republican leaders in Congress publicly objected to the MTB bill, conflating it with earmarks. When Democrats brought the bill to the floor in 2010, Republicans bucked their leadership and almost en masse supported the bill because of its importance to U.S. manufacturers and American jobs. It ultimately passed the House 378-43.

Unfortunately, as the Republicans became the majority, action on MTB was frozen. For years, the result was injury to domestic manufacturing and the jobs it supports throughout our country.

This bill shifts the responsibility to formally propose to ITC. I support the bill today before us because it retains all of the uniquely strong provisions on transparency developed in 2010, ensuring that all potential MTBs are thoroughly vetted.

□ 1330

It provides a chance for valuable input from a variety of stakeholders. This input is the key to ensuring that MTB bills do not undermine domestic product or jobs.

The process makes sure that the benefits provided by the bill support and create American jobs without hurting our domestic manufacturers.

Additionally, this bill allows a Member of Congress to object to and, essentially, remove an individual MTB from the final legislative package.

So it has been a frustrating 6 years, and I say this with some emotion because we have worked hard over these years to try to move, often hitting obstacles. So it has been a frustrating 6 years since this Congress passed an MTB.

It has been even more frustrating for manufacturing across the country, but I believe we have reached a sufficient path forward now that will ultimately be beneficial for American manufacturers and for American workers.

It is more than overdue. It is about time a solution has been found, not one that I initially favored. But it is important to move ahead. So, therefore, I strongly support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the honorable gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade, who has played

such a key role, again, in advancing free trade and the manufacturing tax breaks.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BRADY for yielding and for his leadership and, also, Ranking Member LEVIN for his leadership.

This is truly a bipartisan effort working its way through Congress today. It is finally a pleasure to see this come to fruition.

We talk about MTBs. We throw a lot of acronyms around here in Congress, and sometimes it is hard to keep track of what all those acronyms mean.

But the definition of miscellaneous tariff, really, simply put, is a tax. It is a tax on businesses here in America taxed on imports from other countries on products used in building other products here in the United States.

Those products that are imported, that our companies are being taxed on, are not made here in the United States. So it is an additional cost on our manufacturers, who then have to raise their prices and that, of course, is passed on to our consumers and they pay a higher cost for those goods.

Even sometimes, Mr. Speaker, these miscellaneous tariffs can result in jobs being moved overseas.

So the process is simple. Step one is businesses present their requests to an independent board, nonpartisan, called the ITC, International Trade Commission.

Step two is that it is an open and transparent process. They asked for input from all across the country, from the public, from businesses, from Congress, from the administration, an open, transparent process.

Step three is Congress takes action.

And step four is America wins. They become more competitive.

What are the benefits of MTB? It is clear and simple.

The benefits are: Cuts costs for manufacturers importing products not made in the U.S.; reduces prices for consumers; strengthens transparency; and it grows the economy, creating the opportunity to make more products, make more products, hire more people, obviously, more people back to work creating jobs.

So today I rise in strong support of this solution to the problem that we have been facing here for the last few years, as Mr. LEVIN described.

It fully complies with our House rules, has strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), one of our key, most effective leaders on trade in the Ways and Means Committee in the House.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Competitiveness Act to help our domestic manufacturers.

Today there are American companies that must unfairly pay miscellaneous tariffs, or taxes, on the materials they need to make their products here in the United States simply because these materials are not available in the United States. Instead, they have to import these materials.

The bill before us creates a new, transparent process for miscellaneous tariff bills, or MTBs, to be enacted. And just how important are these MTBs?

Since the last MTB package expired in 2012, we have seen \$748 million in additional taxes at the border for American manufacturers every year.

That is a lot of money, Mr. Speaker. It is money that manufacturers could use to hire more employees, to grow their business or, of course, to lower prices for their customers.

And this isn't speculation. The last MTB initiative supported 90,000 manufacturing jobs here in the United States. In Minnesota, it is manufacturers like 3M and Knitcraft and Honeywell that will see the benefits.

I encourage my colleagues to join me today in supporting our manufacturers by voting in support of this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED), one of our key members of the Ways and Means Committee with a business background.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations not only to our chairman on the Ways and Means Committee, KEVIN BRADY, as well as the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, DAVID REICHERT, but also the ranking member, Mr. LEVIN.

We have come together on a bipartisan basis, Mr. Speaker, to stand for this legislation that is going to help our U.S. domestic manufacturers.

This is a reduction of cost that potentially could go in the millions, if not billions, of dollars in the future and that is going to allow our U.S. manufacturers to compete on the world stage in a much better position than they find themselves today.

So I applaud the efforts of colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together to find a solution that allows us to honor an open and transparent process, to stand with our U.S. manufacturers, to reduce the tax burden, and to reduce the costs on these manufacturers that are the heart and soul of our job creators across the country.

As I know companies in my district in western New York, the benefits that these companies will see impact not only large corporations, but also mom-and-pop domestic manufacturers, com-

panies like Vere Sandals. It is a small mom-and-pop shop in my district that has to rely upon an import that it can only get outside of America.

They are now in a position, after this legislation is passed, to be able to build and manufacture those sandals in a competitive way. That means that that mom-and-pop operation is going to be able to employ not only their present employees, but potentially invest in expansion.

Why is that important, Mr. Speaker? Because those are the jobs that are being created today and tomorrow.

So I want to give, again, a congratulatory tip of the hat to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle as well as to the chairman on a job well done.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM), one of our key new leaders in trade, manufacturing, and agriculture, a new Member of Congress who played a key role, again, in this legislation.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank Chairman BRADY, Ranking Member LEVIN, the rest of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who join in cosponsoring this important legislation, H.R. 4923, the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016.

I also want to thank my colleague from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for his leadership in educating our freshman class about this issue.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation creates an open and transparent process to consider reducing burdensome manufacturing tariffs through miscellaneous tariff bills while at the same time maintaining the commonsense House ban on earmarks.

Without this legislation, American manufacturers will continue to pay high tariffs on essential raw materials that have no domestic source. This undermines manufacturers' competitiveness with foreign manufacturers and damages their ability to create manufacturing jobs here in America.

Mr. Speaker, our economy has been limping along for quite some time now. This is the worst economic recovery following a recession since World War II. GDP growth is just 60 percent of our 70-year average. I will say that again: 60 percent of average. Because of this, wages for working families are stagnant.

American businesses are being stifled by red tape, high taxes, and a Federal Government that crowds out private investment through its addiction to deficit spending.

I am not willing to accept that this economy is the new normal. We can do far better, Mr. Speaker. We need to make America the best place in the world to do business.

I believe that, by instituting progrowth policies, we can get wages for Americans moving up again and encourage businesses to invest in growing here instead of going overseas.

This bipartisan legislation is a concrete, direct example of something Congress can do immediately to make American manufacturing more competitive. Helping our manufacturers create good-paying jobs for American workers instead of moving them overseas should not be a partisan issue.

I look forward to seeing this bill move through Congress and will continue to be a voice for workers and manufacturers in Iowa and across the country so we can reignite our economy, raise wages for working families and once again make America the best place in the world to do business.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I will be very brief.

We have welcomed the chance to work together, and I want to thank the staff on both sides for doing that.

There were obstacles, I think unfortunate ones, in terms of the interpretation of the rules of this House. Lots of jobs were lost. Tariffs were placed on goods when we could have avoided that.

I am proud that, in 2010, when we were in the majority and we worked together up to a point, we developed the most transparent procedures. They were given the gold seal.

Everything had to be out in the open. Everything had to be there for the public to see. If any one of us on either side of the aisle, Democratic or Republican, Senate or House, objected to a provision, saying, for example, that it would impact jobs in the United States, that provision was gone.

As a result of that effort in 2010, when it came up for a vote, only one Democrat of all of us voted against it.

So time has been lost. Jobs have been lost. We have lost some ground on manufacturing that never should have happened.

But the important thing today is that we are moving ahead and we are going to pass a bill that sets in motion a procedure that will go into effect the end of next year.

So I hope we learn from this experience that we should not be tied up by procedures in this Congress. Instead, we should look at what is the real impact of what we do on jobs in this country. These are basically very middle-income jobs, and we have lost too many.

We are now trying to recapture some of that lost ground with this procedure. I think it is something that we now need to adopt.

So I urge all of my colleagues on this side of the aisle and, I hope, the vast majority of you on your side of the aisle, Mr. Chairman, that we will join together at long last to pass what we have come to know as MTB.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Think about the benefits of this bipartisan bill: tax cuts to American manufacturers; more jobs in our community, both retained and, in some cases, grown; lower costs for consumers and our businesses as well; Congress retains its strong constitutional powers over tariffs; and this bill complies fully with the current House earmark ban. That is a win-win for American consumers and our economy. It was achieved through bipartisan work.

I thank Ranking Member LEVIN and those who came together across the aisle and across the rotunda to make this process and this solution a reality.

□ 1345

This is good for America. This is good for our manufacturers, it is good for our local jobs, and I urge support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support passage of H.R. 4923, the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation creates an open and transparent process for the House to consider manufacturing tax cuts through the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB). This new process corrects distortions in the U.S. tariff code that place an unnecessary and anti-competitive tax on manufacturers, retailers and other businesses across the country that rely on imported products not available domestically.

As an active promoter of free trade, I want to commend my good friend and fellow Texan, Congressman BRADY for steering this important legislation to the House floor. I thank him for consulting with me on the development of this legislation, and I am pleased to support his efforts to ensure swift passage of this critical bill. Our partnership was memorialized in the exchange of letters contained in the Ways and Means Committee's report on the measure.

Congress has not renewed MTBs since the U.S. Manufacturing Enhancement Act in 2010 expired at the end of 2012. Since then, U.S. businesses faced an annual \$748 million tax increase on manufacturing with an overall economic loss of \$1.875 billion for the U.S. economy.

The new MTB process will help American manufacturers compete in the global market while also ensuring a transparent and public process for consideration of MTBs. U.S. businesses will be able to petition the independent, non-partisan International Trade Commission (ITC), explaining the need for a specific tariff reduction or suspension. The ITC will then be able to issue a public report to Congress analyzing the request and whether or not it meets MTB standards, including that there is no domestic production. Congress would then be able to consider the bill within existing House Rules.

Small businesses and manufacturers across the country have long voiced their support for

this new process. I am proud to have worked with Congressman BRADY to ensure passage of this job creating legislation.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4923, the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act.

In today's competitive global economy, too often government hampers American businesses with onerous regulations and red tape. As other nations increase their own global competitiveness, we must provide a level playing field for our businesses in diverse fields that include textiles, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing.

The American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act only allows for tariff waivers on materials that lack a domestic equivalent. Other countries are already regularly granting similar waivers. The National Association of Manufacturers estimates that these tariffs are costing the American economy \$748 million a year. The Indiana Manufacturers Association has said that "helping eliminate these miscellaneous tariffs will reduce costs and lower incentives to relocate manufacturing operations abroad, keeping good jobs here."

I thank Chairman BRADY, for bringing together our working group to get this vital legislation done. I urge passage of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RICE of South Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4923, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### NO FLY FOR FOREIGN FIGHTERS ACT

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4240) to require an independent review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and subsets of the TSDB, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4240

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act".*

##### SEC. 2. GAO STUDY ON THE TERRORIST SCREENING DATABASE.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, a report on—*

*(1) whether past weaknesses in the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database (hereinafter referred to as the "TSDB") and subsets of the TSDB have been addressed; and*

*(2) the extent to which existing vulnerabilities to the United States may be addressed or mitigated through additional changes to the TSDB and subsets of the TSDB, thereby enhancing America's security and defenses.*

*(b) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—The study and report under subsection (a) shall include information on the extent to which—*

*(1) information is being integrated into the TSDB from all relevant sources across the government in a timely manner;*

*(2) agencies are able to comply with increased demands for information to improve the TSDB;*

*(3) the TSDB, and relevant subsets of the TSDB, are accessible to agencies, authorities, and other entities, as appropriate; and*

*(4) the TSDB is capable of enabling users to identify known or suspected terrorists in the most timely and comprehensive manner possible.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4240, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, across the globe, nations are on alert as the threat of ISIS spreads. France, Turkey, Belgium, and the United States have each been tragically affected by ISIS or ISIS-inspired terror plots. It is imperative that America's first lines of defense against ISIS and other terror groups are working effectively.

H.R. 4240, the No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act, is a commonsense bill that requires the U.S. Government Accountability Office to conduct an independent review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database, or TSDB, which is sometimes referred to as the terrorist watch list. The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) has worked diligently on this important issue, and I am pleased to support this bill.

The terrorist watch list is a critical tool in our fight against terrorism. The watch list and the screening process support the U.S. Government's efforts to combat terrorism by consolidating the terrorist watch list and providing screening and law enforcement agencies with information to help them respond appropriately during encounters with known or suspected terrorists,

among other things. At the same time, we must ensure that the watch list and the accompanying processes and procedures comport with the Constitution and the values of the American people.

The GAO previously conducted a study of the terrorist watch list following the December 25, 2009, attempted bombing of Northwest Airlines Flight 253, which exposed weaknesses in how the Federal Government nominated individuals to the terrorist watch list and gaps in how agencies use the list to screen individuals to determine if they posed a security threat. Several improvements were made to the watch listing processes and procedures following the December 25, 2009, attempted bombing.

However, concerns have been raised over the effect the watch listing processes and procedures may have on law-abiding persons, including U.S. citizens, based on inaccurate or incomplete information in the database or similar or identical names to watch listed individuals.

The GAO stated in its 2012 watch listing report that routine, government-wide assessments of the outcomes and impacts of agencies' watch list screening or vetting programs could help ensure that these programs are achieving their intended results or identify if revisions are needed. Such assessments could also help identify broader issues that require attention, determine if impacts on agency resources and the traveling public are acceptable, and communicate to key stakeholders how the Nation's investment in the watch list screening or vetting processes is enhancing security of the Nation's borders, commercial aviation, and other security-related activities.

This bill provides for an independent review of the operation and administration of the watch list. It reaffirms our commitment to our Nation's security while upholding the constitutional values that make America unique in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by saying that this is evidence of the important commitment that the Judiciary Committee has to the issues of criminal justice, but as well recognizes the title of this committee that covers crime, terrorism, homeland security, and investigations.

So I want to thank the chairman, Mr. GOODLATTE, for working with me and his staff, along with Mr. CONYERS, the ranking member, and his staff, and of course, Mr. RATCLIFFE for his support for my legislation, H.R. 4240, the No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act.

I particularly want to thank the staff because as they well know, my late

staff, Tiffany Joslyn, worked very hard with staff members as well on this legislation. So here we are today with an important initiative coming out of the Judiciary Committee working collaboratively, and I believe that is extremely important.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the ranking member of the House Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, the topic of threats to homeland security has always been of particular concern to me. But over the last couple of months, maybe over the last couple of years, as we have seen ISIL raise its ugly head, we have heard of Americans going for the fight, joining and being a part of the caliphate. We have heard of ISIS members moving around, particularly in Europe, moving from country to country. Some may say that they are crossing in a number of modes of transportation, but we also know they are using aviation modes of transportation. Therefore, they pose a serious threat.

I initially introduced the No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act after the investigation of an attempt to detonate explosives on a Northwest Airlines Flight on Christmas Day, 2009. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that was a long time ago.

An investigation of the incident revealed that counter-terrorism agencies had information that raised flags about this individual referred to as the "underwear bomber," but the dots were not connected and he was not placed in the Terrorist Screening Database, or the TSDB. This incident shone a light on potential gaps in our watching and screening process, and that resulted in significant improvements.

That said, questions about the system remain. In fact, it is not uncommon to see news of a flight being diverted or an emergency landing because a passenger happened to be on the no-fly list, but there was a delay getting that information. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to really ensure that we get it right because one wrong time again jeopardizes maybe hundreds of thousands of lives.

It is even more common to read articles about the frequency of false positives and individuals being mistakenly identified as being on the list, causing them and their fellow passengers significant delay and frustration. I remember, having been on the Committee on Homeland Security since the heinous and tragic terrorist acts of 9/11, in those early days, Members of Congress, United States Senators, and others were on the no-fly list. While it may, after the fact, be a little bit humorous, it is not. So we must get it right. The issue of false positives is something that I know many of my colleagues on the committee are particularly interested in,

as well as groups such as the ACLU who was kept very busy by so many people being on wrongly.

In light of the events of the last 12 months, however, the issue of homeland security and, in particular, the accuracy of our screening and watch listing process has become even more significant to me. More than 30,000 foreign fighters from at least 100 different countries have traveled to Syria and Iraq to fight with ISIL since 2011. I want to say that number again: 30,000 foreign fighters have traveled. That means they may return and move throughout Europe or attempt to come to the United States.

In the last 18 months, the number of foreign fighters traveling to Syria and Iraq has more than doubled. If those individuals try to go throughout places in Europe or elsewhere or to the United States, the mode of transportation would be aviation.

In the first 6 months of 2015, more than 7,000 foreign fighters have arrived in Syria and Iraq. Of those traveling to Syria and Iraq to fight for the Islamic State terrorist group, it is estimated that at least 250 hold U.S. citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, we only need one. The accuracy of our terrorist screening tools is more critical now than ever before. That is why I worked with the chairman, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. CONYERS to introduce H.R. 4240, which mandates an independent review of the TSDB's operation and administration.

Although the Inspector General for the Department of Justice conducts annual audits of the TSDB, there has not been an independent review since the GAO study after the 2009 incident.

H.R. 4240 directs the GAO to conduct an independent review of the operation and administration of the TSDB and subsets of the TSDB, to assess whether past weaknesses have been addressed, the extent to which existing vulnerabilities may be resolved or mitigated through additional changes.

This legislation is drafted broadly to allow the GAO to conduct a comprehensive review not just of the TSDB's accuracy, but its entire operation and administration in the name of securing the American people.

Following its study, the GAO will submit a report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees with its findings and any recommendations for improvements. I am very glad that my colleagues joined me in shortening that timeframe in which a report is to come back so that we can quickly move to urge any changes that need to be made in the list to be accurate and to secure the Nation.

Let me close by thanking the members of this committee who are cosponsors of H.R. 4240 and urge my colleagues to vote to send this critical and timely bipartisan legislation to the House floor, which we are now.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by extending my appreciation to Chairman GOODLATTE, Ranking Member CONYERS, and Mr. RATCLIFFE for your support of my legislation, H.R. 4240, the “No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act.”

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security & Investigations, the topic of threats to homeland security has always of particular concern to me.

I initially introduced the “No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act” after the investigation of an attempt to detonate explosives on a Northwest Airlines Flight on Christmas Day 2009.

Investigation of the incident revealed that counterterrorism agencies had information that raised red flags about this individual, referred to as the “underwear bomber,” but the dots were not connected and he was not placed in the Terrorist Screening Database or the TSDB.

This incident shone a spotlight on potential gaps in our watching and screening process and that resulted significant improvements.

That said, questions about the system remain.

In fact, it is not uncommon to see news of a flight being diverted or an emergency landing because a passenger happened to be on the No Fly list but there was a delay getting that information.

It is even more common to read articles about the frequency of false positives and individuals being mistakenly identified as being on the list—causing them and their fellow passenger significant delay and frustration.

The issue of false positives is something that I know many of my colleagues on the Committee are particularly interested in, as well as groups such as the ACLU.

In light of the events of the last 12 months, however, the issue of homeland security and, in particular, the accuracy of our screening and watchlisting process has become even more significant to me.

More than 30,000 foreign fighters from at least 100 different countries have traveled to Syria and Iraq to fight for ISIL since 2011.

In the last 18 months, the number of foreign fighters traveling to Syria and Iraq has more than doubled.

In the first six months of 2015, more than 7,000 foreign fighters have arrived in Syria and Iraq.

Of those traveling to Syria and Iraq to fight for the Islamic State terrorist group, it is estimated at least 250 hold U.S. Citizenship.

The accuracy of our terrorist screening tools is more critical now than ever before.

That is why I worked with the Chairman and Mr. RATCLIFFE, to introduce H.R. 4240, which mandates an independent review of the TSDB’s operation and administration.

Although the Inspector General for the Department of Justice conducts annual audits of the TSDB, there has not been an independent review since the GAO study after the 2009 incident.

H.R. 4240 directs the GAO to conduct an independent review of the operation and administration of the TSDB, and subsets of the TSDB, to assess: (1) whether past weaknesses have been address; and (2) the extent to which existing vulnerabilities may be re-

solved or mitigated through additional changes.

This legislation is drafted broadly, to allow the GAO to conduct a comprehensive review not just of the TSDB’s accuracy, but of its entire operation and administration.

Following its study, the GAO will submit a report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, with its findings and any recommendations for improvements.

I would like to thank the many Members of this Committee who are co-sponsors of H.R. 4240 and urge my colleagues to vote to send this critical and timely bipartisan legislation to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by also thanking the many individuals who work tirelessly to make the Terrorist Screening Center an asset to our homeland security infrastructure.

We want to make certain that those men and women have the tools they need to continue to keep this nation safe.

H.R. 4240 is the next step in ensuring that the screening and watchlisting process works as it is intended.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the distinguished ranking member who now is the dean of this House.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the author of this bill, the gentlewoman from Texas, who first saw the importance of it. I want to tell you that this measure before us today strengthens the Terrorist Screening Database maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and in doing so, aids in our efforts to combat terrorism and keep our Nation safe.

The FBI’s Terrorist Screening Center helps to identify known and suspected terrorists by integrating information collected by law enforcement and the intelligence community.

Since its inception in 2003, this sophisticated watch list and screening system has undoubtedly saved lives; but despite the work of the dedicated individuals who make the screening database possible, the system is not flawless. Past incidents, such as the 2009 Christmas Day attempted attack on a Northwest Airlines flight bound for my hometown of Detroit, already mentioned by the gentlewoman from Texas, has put a spotlight on potential gaps in the system.

□ 1400

Over the years since, the FBI has made significant improvements to the database. Audits by the Department of Justice’s Office of the Inspector General reveal movement in the right direction; but, to date, no independent review has been conducted to evaluate the sufficiency of these changes.

H.R. 4240 addresses this precise issue by directing the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database. This review will assess whether past weaknesses have been eliminated and the extent to which existing vulnerabilities may be addressed or mitigated through additional changes. An independent audit will give us the tools we need to make additional changes if necessary.

I want to commend, once again, the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations of the Judiciary Committee, for her leadership on this important issue.

I also want to thank the chairman of the full committee, Chairman GOODLATTE, and former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman SENSENBRENNER, for their assistance in bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

I join with all of those who are with us in supporting this measure.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, a lot of thanks go to, as I indicated, the chairman, Chairman GOODLATTE; Ranking Member CONYERS; Mr. RATCLIFFE, who is a member of the committee; and my colleagues on Homeland Security as well, who have a great interest in this legislation.

Our commitment in this legislation is to leave no stone unturned, no page unturned, and no iota of information that will be necessary to make this list a more viable and secure list. That work now will be done by this legislation, the No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act. It will help to make the Terrorist Screening Center a further asset to our Homeland Security infrastructure.

We want to make certain that those men and women have the tools they need to continue to keep the Nation safe. With 30,000 foreign fighters and others going every day, 250 Americans who have gone to the caliphate, have gone to the fight, individuals who may have an interest in returning to this country and doing us harm, doing us damage, I believe H.R. 4240 is the next step in ensuring that the screening and watch-listing process works as it was intended to have worked and works without as many errors as possible—errorless, if you will—because that is what we need to secure this Nation.

I urge all my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation. It is common sense

to conduct a review of the terrorist watch-listing process.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4240, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### EMAIL PRIVACY ACT

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 699) to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 699

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Email Privacy Act".*

**SEC. 2. VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE CORRECTIONS.**  
(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2702 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)—
  - (A) in paragraph (1)—
    - (i) by striking "divulge" and inserting "disclose";
    - (ii) by striking "while in electronic storage by that service" and inserting "that is in electronic storage with or otherwise stored, held, or maintained by that service";
    - (B) in paragraph (2)—
      - (i) by striking "to the public";
      - (ii) by striking "divulge" and inserting "disclose"; and
      - (iii) by striking "which is carried or maintained on that service" and inserting "that is stored, held, or maintained by that service"; and
      - (C) in paragraph (3)—
        - (i) by striking "divulge" and inserting "disclose"; and
        - (ii) by striking "a provider of" and inserting "a person or entity providing"
    - (2) in subsection (b)—
      - (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "wire or electronic" before "communication";
      - (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:
        - "(1) to an originator, addressee, or intended recipient of such communication, to the subscriber or customer on whose behalf the provider stores, holds, or maintains such communication, or to an agent of such addressee, intended recipient, subscriber, or customer;"
        - (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:
          - "(3) with the lawful consent of the originator, addressee, or intended recipient of such commu-

nication, or of the subscriber or customer on whose behalf the provider stores, holds, or maintains such communication;"

(3) in subsection (c) by inserting "wire or electronic" before "communications";

(4) in each of subsections (b) and (c), by striking "divulge" and inserting "disclose"; and

(5) in subsection (c), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) with the lawful consent of the subscriber or customer;"

#### SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO REQUIRED DISCLOSURE SECTION.

Section 2703 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and inserting the following:

"(a) CONTENTS OF WIRE OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IN ELECTRONIC STORAGE.—Except as provided in subsections (i) and (j), a governmental entity may require the disclosure by a provider of electronic communication service of the contents of a wire or electronic communication that is in electronic storage with or otherwise stored, held, or maintained by that service only if the governmental entity obtains a warrant issued using the procedures described in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (or, in the case of a State court, issued using State warrant procedures) that—

"(1) is issued by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

"(2) may indicate the date by which the provider must make the disclosure to the governmental entity.

In the absence of a date on the warrant indicating the date by which the provider must make disclosure to the governmental entity, the provider shall promptly respond to the warrant.

"(b) CONTENTS OF WIRE OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IN A REMOTE COMPUTING SERVICE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (i) and (j), a governmental entity may require the disclosure by a provider of remote computing service of the contents of a wire or electronic communication that is stored, held, or maintained by that service only if the governmental entity obtains a warrant issued using the procedures described in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (or, in the case of a State court, issued using State warrant procedures) that—

"(A) is issued by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

"(B) may indicate the date by which the provider must make the disclosure to the governmental entity.

In the absence of a date on the warrant indicating the date by which the provider must make disclosure to the governmental entity, the provider shall promptly respond to the warrant.

"(2) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (1) is applicable with respect to any wire or electronic communication that is stored, held, or maintained by the provider—

"(A) on behalf of, and received by means of electronic transmission from (or created by means of computer processing of communication received by means of electronic transmission from), a subscriber or customer of such remote computing service; and

"(B) solely for the purpose of providing storage or computer processing services to such subscriber or customer, if the provider is not authorized to access the contents of any such communications for purposes of providing any services other than storage or computer processing.

"(c) RECORDS CONCERNING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE OR REMOTE COMPUTING SERVICE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (i) and (j), a governmental entity may require the disclosure by a provider of electronic

communication service or remote computing service of a record or other information pertaining to a subscriber to or customer of such service (not including the contents of wire or electronic communications), only—

"(A) if a governmental entity obtains a warrant issued using the procedures described in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (or, in the case of a State court, issued using State warrant procedures) that—

"(i) is issued by a court of competent jurisdiction directing the disclosure; and

"(ii) may indicate the date by which the provider must make the disclosure to the governmental entity;

"(B) if a governmental entity obtains a court order directing the disclosure under subsection (d);

"(C) with the lawful consent of the subscriber or customer; or

"(D) as otherwise authorized in paragraph (2).

"(2) SUBSCRIBER OR CUSTOMER INFORMATION.—A provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service shall, in response to an administrative subpoena authorized by Federal or State statute, a grand jury, trial, or civil discovery subpoena, or any means available under paragraph (1), disclose to a governmental entity the—

"(A) name;

"(B) address;

"(C) local and long distance telephone connection records, or records of session times and durations;

"(D) length of service (including start date) and types of service used;

"(E) telephone or instrument number or other subscriber or customer number or identity, including any temporarily assigned network address; and

"(F) means and source of payment for such service (including any credit card or bank account number);

of a subscriber or customer of such service.

"(3) NOTICE NOT REQUIRED.—A governmental entity that receives records or information under this subsection is not required to provide notice to a subscriber or customer."

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking "(b) or";

(B) by striking "the contents of a wire or electronic communication, or";

(C) by striking "sought," and inserting "sought"; and

(D) by striking "section" and inserting "subsection"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(h) NOTICE.—Except as provided in section 2705, a provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service may notify a subscriber or customer of a receipt of a warrant, court order, subpoena, or request under subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section.

"(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION RELATED TO LEGAL PROCESS.—Nothing in this section or in section 2702 shall limit the authority of a governmental entity to use an administrative subpoena authorized by Federal or State statute, a grand jury, trial, or civil discovery subpoena, or a warrant issued using the procedures described in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (or, in the case of a State court, issued using State warrant procedures) by a court of competent jurisdiction to—

"(1) require an originator, addressee, or intended recipient of a wire or electronic communication to disclose a wire or electronic communication (including the contents of that communication) to the governmental entity;

"(2) require a person or entity that provides an electronic communication service to the officers, directors, employees, or agents of the person or entity (for the purpose of carrying out

their duties) to disclose a wire or electronic communication (including the contents of that communication) to or from the person or entity itself or to or from an officer, director, employee, or agent of the entity to a governmental entity, if the wire or electronic communication is stored, held, or maintained on an electronic communications system owned, operated, or controlled by the person or entity; or

“(3) require a person or entity that provides a remote computing service or electronic communication service to disclose a wire or electronic communication (including the contents of that communication) that advertises or promotes a product or service and that has been made readily accessible to the general public.

“(j) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION RELATED TO CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENAS.**—Nothing in this section or in section 2702 shall limit the power of inquiry vested in the Congress by Article I of the Constitution of the United States, including the authority to compel the production of a wire or electronic communication (including the contents of a wire or electronic communication) that is stored, held, or maintained by a person or entity that provides remote computing service or electronic communication service.”.

#### SEC. 4. DELAYED NOTICE.

Section 2705 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

##### “§2705. Delayed notice

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A governmental entity acting under section 2703 may apply to a court for an order directing a provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service to which a warrant, order, subpoena, or other directive under section 2703 is directed not to notify any other person of the existence of the warrant, order, subpoena, or other directive.

“(b) **DETERMINATION.**—A court shall grant a request for an order made under subsection (a) for delayed notification of up to 180 days if the court determines that there is reason to believe that notification of the existence of the warrant, order, subpoena, or other directive will likely result in—

“(1) endangering the life or physical safety of an individual;

“(2) flight from prosecution;

“(3) destruction of or tampering with evidence;

“(4) intimidation of potential witnesses; or

“(5) otherwise seriously jeopardizing an investigation or unduly delaying a trial.

“(c) **EXTENSION.**—Upon request by a governmental entity, a court may grant one or more extensions, for periods of up to 180 days each, of an order granted in accordance with subsection (b).”.

#### SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act shall be construed to preclude the acquisition by the United States Government of—

(1) the contents of a wire or electronic communication pursuant to other lawful authorities, including the authorities under chapter 119 of title 18 (commonly known as the “Wiretap Act”), the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), or any other provision of Federal law not specifically amended by this Act; or

(2) records or other information relating to a subscriber or customer of any electronic communication service or remote computing service (not including the content of such communications) pursuant to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), chapter 119 of title 18 (commonly known as the “Wiretap Act”), or any other provision of Federal law not specifically amended by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gen-

tleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 699, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today is an historic day. Today, the House of Representatives will be the first Chamber in Congress to approve legislation that has been pending before the House and Senate for several years to reform and modernize the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, or ECPA. Reforming this outdated law has been a priority for me as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I have worked with Members of Congress, advocacy groups, and law enforcement agencies for years on many complicated nuances involved in updating this law.

Two weeks ago, the House Judiciary Committee unanimously reported a revised version of H.R. 699, the Email Privacy Act. The resulting bill is a carefully negotiated agreement to update the procedures governing government access to stored communications content and records.

Thirty years ago, when personal computing was still in its infancy and few of us had ever heard of something called the World Wide Web, Congress enacted ECPA to establish procedures that strike “a fair balance between the privacy expectations of American citizens and the legitimate needs of law enforcement agencies.”

In 1986, mail was sent through the U.S. Postal Service, a search engine was called a library, tweets were the sounds made by birds in the trees, and clouds were found only in the sky. In 1986, computer storage was finite and expensive. It was unheard of that a commercial product would allow users to send and receive electronic communications around the globe for free and store those communications for years with a third-party provider.

So much has changed in the last three decades. The technology explosion over the last three decades has placed a great deal of information on the Internet, in our emails, and on the cloud. Today, commercial providers, businesses, schools, and governments of all shapes and sizes provide email and cloud computing services to customers, students, and employees.

The Email Privacy Act establishes, for the first time in Federal statute, a uniform warrant requirement for

stored communication content in criminal investigations, regardless of the type of service provider, the age of an email, or whether the email has been opened.

The bill preserves the authority for law enforcement agents to serve the warrant on the provider because, as with any other third-party custodian, the information sought is stored with them. However, the bill acknowledges that providers may give notice to their customers when in receipt of a warrant, court order, or subpoena, unless the provider is court-ordered to delay such notification.

The bill continues current practice that delineates which remote computing service providers, or cloud providers, are subject to the warrant requirement for content in a criminal investigation.

ECPA has traditionally imposed heightened legal process and procedures to obtain information for which the customer has a reasonable expectation of privacy, namely, emails, texts, photos, videos, and documents stored in the cloud. H.R. 699 preserves this treatment by maintaining in the statute limiting language regarding remote computing services.

Contrary to practice 30 years ago, today, vast amounts of private, sensitive information are transmitted and stored electronically. But this information may also contain evidence of a crime, and law enforcement agencies are increasingly dependent on stored communications content and records in their investigations.

To facilitate timely disclosure of evidence to law enforcement, the bill authorizes a court to require a date for return of service of the warrant. In the absence of such a requirement, H.R. 699 requires email and cloud providers to promptly respond to warrants for communications content.

Current law makes no distinction between content disclosed to the public, like an advertisement on a Web site, versus content disclosed only to one or a handful of persons, like an email or a text message. The result is that law enforcement could be required to obtain a warrant even for publicly disclosed content. The bill clarifies that commercial public content can be obtained with process other than a warrant.

Lastly, H.R. 699 clarifies that nothing in the law limits Congress’ authority to compel a third-party provider to disclose content in furtherance of its investigative and oversight responsibilities.

Thirty years ago, the extent to which people communicated electronically was much more limited. Today, however, the ubiquity of electronic communications requires Congress to ensure that legitimate expectations of privacy are protected, while respecting the needs of law enforcement.

I am confident that this bill strikes the necessary balance and does so in a

way that continues to promote the development and use of new technologies and services that reflect how people communicate with one another today and into the future.

I would like to thank Congressman YODER and Congressman POLIS for introducing the underlying legislation and for working with the committee on improvements to the bill.

With this historic vote today, Congress will approve legislation that embodies the principles of the Fourth Amendment and reaffirms our commitment to protecting the privacy interests of the American people without unduly sacrificing public safety.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In 2014, in a unanimous ruling delivered by Chief Justice Roberts, the Supreme Court concluded that the police may not search a cell phone without first demonstrating probable cause. Citing an obvious Fourth Amendment interest in the vast amount of data we store on our personal devices, the Court wrote: "The fact that technology now allows an individual to carry such information in his hand does not make the information any less worthy of the protection for which the Founders fought. Our answer to the question of what police must do before searching a cell phone seized incident to an arrest is accordingly simple—get a warrant."

With that decision, the Court took a bold step toward reconciling the Fourth Amendment with the advent of modern communications technology. Today, the House takes a similar step to reconcile our interests in privacy and due process with the realities of modern computing.

H.R. 699, the Email Privacy Act, recognizes that the content of our communications, although often stored in digital format, remains worthy of Fourth Amendment protection. And to the investigators and government agents who seek access to our email, our advice is accordingly simple: Get a warrant. It is an idea whose time has long since come. This bill will allow us to move to a clear, uniform standard for law enforcement agencies to access the content of our communications, namely, a warrant based on probable cause.

H.R. 699 also codifies the right of the providers to give notice of this intrusion to their customers, except in certain exigent circumstances that must also be validated by the court.

□ 1415

We should note the absence of a special carve-out from the warrant requirement for the civil agencies, like the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. In the House Judiciary Committee, we reached quick consensus that a civil

carve-out of any kind is unworkable, unconstitutional, or both. I would have preferred to have kept the notice provisions of the original bill, which are absent from the version we reported from committee.

In the digital world, no amount of due diligence necessarily tells us that the government has accessed our electronic communications. The government should have an obligation to provide us with some form of notice when intruding on a record of our most private conversations; but I understand that not everyone shares this view, and I am willing to compromise, for now, in order to advance the important reforms that we will adopt today.

I am proud of the work we have done. This legislation is several years in the making, and it should not be delayed any further. I compliment our colleague Mr. POLIS. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 699, the Email Privacy Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER), the chief sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. YODER. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for the Constitution. It is a great day for the spirit of bipartisanship in this Chamber. It is a great day for Americans everywhere who use modern technology, such as emails and text messages and cell phones, to communicate with one another.

This day has been a long time in the making, and I want to thank the chairman and his staff, Ranking Member CONYERS, my colleague Mr. POLIS, and everyone who has worked on this legislation. This is the most cosponsored bill in the entire United States House—the most popular bill—because it is a commonsense piece of legislation that affects every American and will clear up a long-time hole in the law that has allowed the government to intrude on Americans' privacy.

You have to go back to 1986 when this law was passed: Halley's Comet was passing by Earth; "Top Gun" was coming out as a new movie; Cabbage Patch dolls were flying off the shelves. It was a good time in America. It was also the time in which Congress last wrote the laws that updated the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. At that point, there were only 10 million Americans who even had email accounts. Today, there is an estimated 232 million Americans who have email accounts. It wasn't until 6 years later that someone sent the first text message in 1992. Yet, now, we expect 1 billion text messages to be sent every single year.

The current law, which is the law that was written in 1986, allows an abuse of our constitutional rights by treating our digital information as if it is not private information—as if it can

be searched and seized by the government without a warrant, without probable cause, without due process. The theory in 1986 was, if you left your email on a server, once it was left there, it was considered abandoned. It was like trash that was left out on the street corner, which didn't have an expectation of privacy anymore. We know the ways that Americans communicate today is in a way in which they expect that those transmissions are private, and they expect that the government will honor that and not search those emails or capture them for other purposes. The Fourth Amendment is being violated.

Today, we restore the Fourth Amendment by treating digital information just like paper information, and we stand strong on the notion that Americans do have an expectation of privacy in their email accounts. I would think, if I and my colleagues would each ask our constituents if they expect that their email conversations are private, they would know that they are, and they would expect that they are. As we are debating this bill, Americans are sending emails and text messages back and forth, and they expect that their government is not reviewing those.

What we do in this legislation is require a warrant. We say the government must have probable cause. They must go to a judge whether it is at the Federal level, the State level, or the local level. To review those pieces of digital information that are stored either in a drop box or on the iCloud—or just a text message that is sent back and forth—you have to have a warrant, and in a civil matter, you have to have a subpoena, and that subpoena is served on the individual.

We have documents on our desks at home. The police can't kick in your door and go read those documents unless they have a warrant backed up on probable cause. We have a digital set of documents that goes around with us wherever we go. There is a file cabinet with us. When we store things, we are doing so not because we are abandoning it. We are storing it because we are wanting to protect it, and we are wanting to ensure that we can keep it. We don't want to lose our Fourth Amendment protections because of that. This legislation would require that a warrant or a civil subpoena exist in order to read that information so that due process occurs.

This is a great unifier. Quite often on the House floor, we are divided—Republicans and Democrats—and we are not able to find resolution on some of the biggest challenges that face us; but the Fourth Amendment in the Constitution has to be preserved. I am heartened by the fact that my colleague Mr. POLIS and groups on the left and groups on the right and groups in the center and that America has come together on this legislation to say we are going to



fix this, and we are going to ensure that this Congress modernizes its laws and that it does so in a bipartisan fashion so that we can put this bill on the President's desk and he will sign it into law. As we continue to advance, we must remember to advance the laws that this country utilizes, and as Americans communicate in different ways, we have to modernize the way the laws treat that communication.

I am proud of the work we are doing in the House today. I thank the chairman and his team. I thank Ranking Member CONYERS and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. This is a great day for America, a great day for the Constitution, and a great day for each and every one of us who uses email to correspond to know that the Fourth Amendment continues to protect us and to know that the Internet is not immune from the protections of the Constitution.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), one of the authors of the measure before us.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Email Privacy Act is an enormous victory. It is a victory for all Americans who believe in the right to privacy, in the Fourth Amendment, and in due process.

The Email Privacy Act mandates, for the first time, that Americans have the same legal protection for their emails as they do for papers, letters, faxes, and other old communications. The bill protects those of us—myself included and many Members of this body—who have email accounts in the cloud. Maybe it is Google mail or Yahoo Mail or AOL or other email accounts on their hard drives. It makes sure that the government doesn't have the right, without a warrant, to search emails that are older than 180 days.

This bill is also a victory for bipartisanship. When I introduced the bill, along with my colleague Mr. YODER, in the winter of 2015, we knew it would be popular. Yet, as this bill sits before us today, ready for passage, I am very proud to say it has garnered 314 cosponsors, and it stands as the single most popular bill in this session of the House of Representatives. I am excited that it is scheduled for a floor vote.

When Congress passed the Electronic Communications Privacy Act in 1986, electronic communications were different than they are today. They didn't really exist as such. A few professors were using a predecessor for the Internet. It was not a mass form of communication. Today, with 24/7 accessibility with mobile devices and laptops, over 205 billion emails are sent every day, according to some estimates, including many that contain our private communications for millions of Americans who deserve the same right to privacy as documents in a file cabinet.

With the passage of the Email Privacy Act, Congress will ensure that

your emails that are older than 180 days are subject to the same protection under the Fourth Amendment. You often hear Members on both sides of the aisle talk about commonsense bills. When you read our bill and when you look at the immense support, there is nothing more common sense than the Email Privacy Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and pass the bill. I urge the Senate to take it up and act. There is the unanimous support from the House Judiciary Committee and, as of today—hopefully soon—overwhelming support on the floor of the House. This bill should be passed. It should be brought to the desk of the President of the United States. We should finally bring our email privacy laws into the 21st century.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the chairman for bringing this bill up and for his work on it in a bipartisan way.

I especially want to thank Congressman YODER for pushing this legislation that has overwhelming support in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act was passed in 1986—30 years ago. It was an eternity. Understand that IBM invented and put on the market its first laptop in 1986. A lot has changed since that day 30 years ago. As the chairman mentioned, the cloud was where rain came from, or sometimes we see it here in Washington, D.C.—the cloud. No one even knew what that was. The Electronic Communications Privacy Act needs to be fixed because it does not protect the right of privacy of Americans.

If something is stored in the cloud that is over 180 days old, then it is open season for government to seize all of that information. All governments—local or State or Federal—can go in and get those emails, texts, photographs, documents that you are storing. Up to 180 days, it is protected by the Constitution. Interesting—180 days of constitutional rights—but on the 181st day, you have no right of privacy. That is absurd. This bill fixes that former legislation.

I used to be a judge in Texas for 22 years, and I had peace officers all the time come to see me who wanted a warrant. They followed the Fourth Amendment and described the place to be searched. They would go in with that warrant, after stating probable cause, and they were allowed to seize whatever they could seize under the warrant. The Fourth Amendment ought to apply today. It ought to apply in the electronic age. It ought to apply to emails that are stored in the cloud or to anything else that is stored in the cloud. If the police officers have to have a warrant to go into your house

and take documents you store in your desk or wherever, then they have to have a warrant if you store documents in the cloud. That is what this legislation does, and it makes sense that we protect the constitutional right.

The government cannot tap our phones without a warrant, it can't read hard mail without a warrant, and it can't enter our homes without a warrant because of the Fourth Amendment. We are unique among all peoples because we have in our Constitution the Fourth Amendment that protects Americans—I think better than any other population anywhere—of their rights.

Speaking of rights, the government doesn't have rights. People have rights, and the Bill of Rights protects the citizens of the United States. Government has authority—it has power—and if you read the Bill of Rights, the 10 Amendments especially, it is to limit government power and authority against us, the citizens. So, of course, the Fourth Amendment should apply to the Federal Government in this area.

Unfortunately, we have seen in our own government abuses of the government in the area, especially of snooping and spying on Americans, with the NSA and its story that we are all familiar with. We have to control government, and it is our obligation, the House of Representatives, to protect the Constitution—the Bill of Rights especially—from government intrusion.

I support this legislation. It is a good piece of legislation. I thank the chairman and the ranking member and Ms. LOFGREN for her support of this legislation that we have been working on for a long time. Let Congress speak out and support the right of privacy for all Americans and keep the government out of the snooping business.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. I thank the chairman. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Email Privacy Act.

It has long been evident that we need to update the laws impacting electronic communications and privacy. I am pleased that, today, the House will take a major step forward by considering and approving the Email Privacy Act. Its passage is long overdue.

In 2009 and 2010, when I was the chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, we held multiple hearings on ECPA, or electronic communication and privacy laws, and began to seriously consider reforms to our Nation's electronic communication and privacy laws. During the 112th Congress, Representative CONYERS and I introduced the Electronic Communications Privacy Act Modernization Act of 2012, which would have required law enforcement to obtain a warrant based on

probable cause before searching email. That approach, now embodied in the Yoder-Polis Email Privacy Act, is what we are here to consider today.

The Email Privacy Act requires the government to obtain a warrant in order to access people's electronic communications from a third-party provider, protecting Americans' privacy rights while still enabling law enforcement to do its job.

□ 1430

This is consistent with a stark American practice going back to the Fourth Amendment. Current law is inconsistent and unclear regarding the standards for government access to the content of communications, and a single email is potentially subject to multiple different legal standards.

Clarifying the laws will help industry stakeholders, who currently struggle to apply the existing, outdated categories of information to their products and services, and it will provide a clear standard for law enforcement.

In an era where government access to people's private information held by third-party providers has become far too easy, Congress is finally taking steps to update our laws to reflect our new understanding of what it means for "people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures," in the words of the Fourth Amendment.

This bill is not perfect, and clearly there is more to be done. In particular, we must ensure that we keep working to require a probable cause warrant for location information.

I am pleased that Chairman GOODLATTE has announced that he plans to hold hearings on location information, and I look forward to those hearings and to subsequent legislation.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, and I applaud the House for considering this landmark legislation today.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill to ensure that our laws strike the right balance between the interests and needs of law enforcement and the privacy rights of the American people.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud my colleagues from Kansas and from Colorado for their work in crafting this bill. I think it is awfully important.

I think it is what people expect. When they think about government, they want a government that works for them. Part of having a government that works for them means actually updating laws as technology has changed.

So I think that, at the core, this is about keeping current with the rate of change in the world of technology.

It is amazing to me—I pulled the numbers—that there are roughly 205 billion emails sent every day around the world. If you presuppose that America's economy is about 20 percent of that world pie, that means around 40 million or more emails are sent across this country every single day.

In contrast is the U.S. Postal Service. There are about 600 million letters that go across this country every day, which is to say, mathematically, you are saying that about 1.5 percent of the communication flow, either via mail or electronic means, are sent by the Postal Service.

The other, in essence, 99 percent of the communications are sent via email, which is to say we have a real problem with a law that was created in the 1980s that doesn't take into account the way the world has changed.

So I applaud the crafters of this bill for what they have done in recognizing technology change. I applaud them for the way that they stayed true to the Fourth Amendment.

Our Founding Fathers were so deliberate in recognizing the notion that you didn't want to have British soldiers coming into a house and rumbling around until they finally found something to charge you with and then moving forward.

The Fourth Amendment is about protecting individual liberty. Jefferson said: "The natural progress of things is for the government to gain ground and for liberty to yield."

Fundamentally, what this bill is about is pushing back in the way that the government has now encroached on that space of individual liberty.

Finally, I would say simply this: This is about recognizing how true history is on the importance of protecting liberty.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, Edward Gibbon wrote a book back in 1776 about the fall of the Romans. In it, he harkens back to the fall of Greece and the Athenians.

He said, at the end of the day, in the end, more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security. They wanted a comfortable life, and they lost it all—security, comfort, and freedom—when the Athenians no longer wanted to give to society, but to receive. And he goes on with a long quote from there.

He talks about the fundamental tension that exists in any developed society between freedom and security. We have moved too far in the opposite direction as it relates to email. This bill brings us back toward the center.

I again applaud Mr. YODER and Mr. POLIS for what they have done. I also applaud Chairman GOODLATTE for what he has done on this front.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), a very effective member on the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, updating our laws to reflect the way the world works in the 21st century has been one of my top priorities in Congress.

After spending two decades in the technology sector where things change at light speed, it can be hard to understand why we still have laws on the books that don't reflect how society functions in the digital age. Nowhere has this been more obvious than in our email privacy laws that date back to the 1980s.

Under current law, there are more protections for a letter in a filing cabinet than an email on a server. This was never really the intent, but email's evolution has made it clear that our policies are woefully outdated.

I have supported a number of different proposals to reform our electronic privacy laws, and I will continue to push for those. Today's vote on the Email Privacy Act is a great step forward for American civil liberties.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important legislation, and I urge our friends in the Senate to take up the bill without delay so we can send it to the President and ensure Americans are guaranteed the privacy protections most think that they already have.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to close today by thanking Chairman GOODLATTE of the Judiciary Committee and his staff for working with us to develop the final draft of this legislation. Once again the chairman has helped us find a way to resolve our differences and advance core civil liberties and constitutional values.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) for their leadership on this issue from the very beginning.

The Email Privacy Act comes to the floor today in large part because of your work in gathering more than 300 cosponsors for this bill.

Finally, I want to express appreciation to the coalition of technology companies, civil liberties organizations, and individual experts whose persistence and dedication have made this moment possible.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 699, the Email Privacy Act. I believe that they will do so. I also urge our comparable body in the Senate to take up this measure as quickly as possible.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the majority whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for moving this bill through his committee. I especially thank Congressman YODER of Kansas for bringing this bill forward and for being bold enough to say let's modernize a law that is so outdated that it goes back to 1986, governing email communication when we didn't even have email and text messages.

Why do we want to do this? We want to do it because Federal agencies are abusing this law to invade the privacy of hardworking, law-abiding citizens all across this country.

Mr. Speaker, this is a document from the Internal Revenue Service titled "Search Warrant Handbook." In this document by the IRS, their protocol says: "In general, the Fourth Amendment does not protect communications held in electronic storage, such as email messages stored on a server, because internet users do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in such communications."

The IRS has made it clear that they don't believe that American citizens have a Fourth Amendment protection of privacy for their email communications. The IRS has gone further and is actually reading emails of American citizens, and no one across the country knows about it unless the IRS finds something that then they are going to go after you criminally on.

So they are reading the private emails, Mr. Speaker, of American citizens every single day, and they have been doing it for years. It is time for this abuse of power to end.

We need to pass this bill with strong bipartisan support, send it over to the Senate, and get it to the President's desk so that American citizens have real privacy protections that they deserve, that they think they have, but they don't have, Mr. Speaker, because Federal agencies like the IRS today are reading the private emails of American citizens and using them against them.

It is wrong. They ought to go get a warrant, but they should not be reading our private emails when people haven't done anything wrong.

Let's pass this bill.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, we are here today talking about modernizing a law, but we are modernizing a law that encompasses a centuries-old principle.

Back in the days when the Founding Fathers wrote our Constitution, they were concerned about the government rifling through our papers. Today we have electronic papers. Stuff is stored in the cloud.

This piece of legislation brings us back in line with the intent of the Founding Fathers that the government can't just rifle through your papers.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to take this time to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and many Members on his side of the aisle, including Mr. POLIS.

I especially want to thank Mr. YODER, who has worked long and hard on this legislation for which he is the chief sponsor.

I most especially want to take note of the fact that we have very disparate points of view from a whole array of people around this country, from law enforcement, to technology companies, to civil liberties organizations. It took a long time to sort through that and find the common ground that is the legislation we have before us today.

That ground would not have been found without the outstanding work of our staff, most especially Caroline Lynch, the chief counsel of the Judiciary Committee's Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee, and her able team of attorneys, and Aaron Hiller, minority counsel as well.

They deserve a great deal of gratitude for the years of work to bring us to this point where we can pass this important, important legislation by what I believe will be a resounding majority.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 699, the Email Privacy Act.

Current law protecting electronic privacy is drastically out of step with modern technology, and H.R. 699 represents a long overdue update. This bill would provide Americans the privacy protections in their electronic communications they expect and deserve.

While it is important that the House advance H.R. 699 today, no bill is perfect. Law enforcement has raised a few concerns about it, such as that it does not provide them the ability to access critical information quickly enough. As a former prosecutor, I take their views seriously. I hope we can continue the dialogue with law enforcement and consider ways to improve the bill as it moves along in the legislative process.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 699.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 699, the Email Privacy Act.

This is an important and long negotiated bill that will update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, a law that both protects the privacy of our email communications and provides a critical tool for law enforcement to investigate crime.

I want to thank Judiciary Chairman BOB GOODLATTE and Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS for their leadership and for working together on this legislation to accomplish the goals of this bill for the benefit and protection

of citizens, law enforcement, and communications providers.

I am an original cosponsor of this bill, which has 314 cosponsors, enjoying overwhelming bipartisan support.

The Electronic Communications Privacy Act, or ECPA, was enacted in 1986.

The statute is outdated and provides unjustifiably inconsistent standards for law enforcement access to stored communications.

The law was designed at a time when few of us used email or could have imagined a world in which we could securely share information and edit electronic documents online with others, or where businesses could input, store, process, and access all data related to their operation.

The outdated, inconsistent, and unclear aspects of this statute undermine both our privacy interests and law enforcement goals.

It is critical that we enact the central reforms provided by this bill.

For instance, a probable cause standard should apply to the government's ability to compel a communications provider to disclose a customer's email message—no matter how old the message is.

Currently, the statute requires the government to obtain a warrant based on probable cause to compel disclosure of an email that is in storage for 180 days or less.

However, the statute only requires a subpoena for the government to obtain email messages that are older than 180 days.

This makes no sense because citizens have the same, reasonable expectation that these stored communications are private.

Therefore, we must change the law so that the higher standard applies regardless of the age of these communications, and H.R. 699 would accomplish this.

In addition, the law does not adequately protect communications stored "in the cloud" by third parties on behalf of consumers, and a probable cause warrant should be required for government access.

ECPA additionally provides a lesser standard for some cloud storage than it does for many communications stored by electronic communications services.

To further complicate matters, many companies provide both communications services and remote storage, making the services for the same customer difficult to separate for purposes of determining which standard applies.

Applying inadequate and unclear standards to government access to cloud communications undermines consumer confidence in cloud privacy and threatens to hamper the development of this important engine of economic growth.

H.R. 699 addresses this issue by providing a clear and consistent probable cause standard for access to the contents of stored communications for which customers have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

H.R. 699 would accomplish these fairly straightforward reforms and that is why it has the support of privacy advocates and electronic communications companies.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan measure.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, as a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 699, the Email Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), I am pleased to rise in full support of this bill on the House floor.

Since being introduced on February 4, 2015, we have been able to secure more than 300 cosponsors of this important bill, which will improve privacy protections for the email communications of ordinary American citizens.

Under current law there is little protection for the content of electronic communications stored or maintained by third party service providers. ECPA corrects this oversight and updates our laws to require a court ordered warrant that is based on probable cause before an email service provider can disclose these private communications.

In the current era where individual privacy is often overlooked or sidelined, this bill takes an important step to protect your privacy.

It is long past due that we update our privacy laws to give emails—a major means of communication today—the same protection as traditional mail and telephone calls. This bill has been endorsed by a broad range of privacy groups, including such conservative organizations as the Heritage Foundation and FreedomWorks.

Our bill modernizes these outdated statutes to ensure that the rights protected by the Fourth Amendment extend to Americans' email correspondence and digital data.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 699, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## DEFEND TRADE SECRETS ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1890) to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1890

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016".

### SEC. 2. FEDERAL JURISDICTION FOR THEFT OF TRADE SECRETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1836 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) PRIVATE CIVIL ACTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An owner of a trade secret that is misappropriated may bring a civil action under this subsection if the trade secret is related to a product or service used in, or intended for use in, interstate or foreign commerce.

“(2) CIVIL SEIZURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) APPLICATION.—Based on an affidavit or verified complaint satisfying the requirements of this paragraph, the court may, upon ex parte application but only in extraordinary circumstances, issue an order providing for the seizure of property necessary to prevent the propagation or dissemination of the trade secret that is the subject of the action.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUING ORDER.—The court may not grant an application under clause (i) unless the court finds that it clearly appears from specific facts that—

“(I) an order issued pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or another form of equitable relief would be inadequate to achieve the purpose of this paragraph because the party to which the order would be issued would evade, avoid, or otherwise not comply with such an order;

“(II) an immediate and irreparable injury will occur if such seizure is not ordered;

“(III) the harm to the applicant of denying the application outweighs the harm to the legitimate interests of the person against whom seizure would be ordered of granting the application and substantially outweighs the harm to any third parties who may be harmed by such seizure;

“(IV) the applicant is likely to succeed in showing that—

“(aa) the information is a trade secret; and

“(bb) the person against whom seizure would be ordered—

“(AA) misappropriated the trade secret of the applicant by improper means; or

“(BB) conspired to use improper means to misappropriate the trade secret of the applicant;

“(V) the person against whom seizure would be ordered has actual possession of—

“(aa) the trade secret; and

“(bb) any property to be seized;

“(VI) the application describes with reasonable particularity the matter to be seized and, to the extent reasonable under the circumstances, identifies the location where the matter is to be seized;

“(VII) the person against whom seizure would be ordered, or persons acting in concert with such person, would destroy, move, hide, or otherwise make such matter inaccessible to the court, if the applicant were to proceed on notice to such person; and

“(VIII) the applicant has not publicized the requested seizure.

“(B) ELEMENTS OF ORDER.—If an order is issued under subparagraph (A), it shall—

“(i) set forth findings of fact and conclusions of law required for the order;

“(ii) provide for the narrowest seizure of property necessary to achieve the purpose of this paragraph and direct that the seizure be conducted in a manner that minimizes any interruption of the business operations of third parties and, to the extent possible, does not interrupt the legitimate business operations of the person accused of misappropriating the trade secret;

“(iii)(I) be accompanied by an order protecting the seized property from disclosure by prohibiting access by the applicant or the person against whom the order is directed, and prohibiting any copies, in whole or in part, of the seized property, to prevent undue damage to the party against whom the order has issued or others, until such parties have an opportunity to be heard in court; and

“(II) provide that if access is granted by the court to the applicant or the person against whom the order is directed, the access shall be consistent with subparagraph (D);

“(iv) provide guidance to the law enforcement officials executing the seizure that clearly delineates the scope of the authority of the officials, including—

“(I) the hours during which the seizure may be executed; and

“(II) whether force may be used to access locked areas;

“(v) set a date for a hearing described in subparagraph (F) at the earliest possible time, and not later than 7 days after the order has issued, unless the party against whom the order is directed and others harmed by the order consent to another date for the hearing, except that a party against whom the order has issued or any person harmed by the order may move the court at any time to dissolve or modify the order after giving notice to the applicant who obtained the order; and

“(vi) require the person obtaining the order to provide the security determined adequate by the court for the payment of the damages that any person may be entitled to recover as a result of a wrongful or excessive seizure or wrongful or excessive attempted seizure under this paragraph.

“(C) PROTECTION FROM PUBLICITY.—The court shall take appropriate action to protect the person against whom an order under this paragraph is directed from publicity, by or at the behest of the person obtaining the order, about such order and any seizure under such order.

“(D) MATERIALS IN CUSTODY OF COURT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Any materials seized under this paragraph shall be taken into the custody of the court. The court shall secure the seized material from physical and electronic access during the seizure and while in the custody of the court.

“(ii) STORAGE MEDIUM.—If the seized material includes a storage medium, or if the seized material is stored on a storage medium, the court shall prohibit the medium from being connected to a network or the Internet without the consent of both parties, until the hearing required under subparagraph (B)(v) and described in subparagraph (F).

“(iii) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—The court shall take appropriate measures to protect the confidentiality of seized materials that are unrelated to the trade secret information ordered seized pursuant to this paragraph unless the person against whom the order is entered consents to disclosure of the material.

“(iv) APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL MASTER.—The court may appoint a special master to locate and isolate all misappropriated trade secret information and to facilitate the return of unrelated property and data to the person from whom the property was seized. The special master appointed by the court shall agree to be bound by a non-disclosure agreement approved by the court.

“(E) SERVICE OF ORDER.—The court shall order that service of a copy of the order under this paragraph, and the submissions of the applicant to obtain the order, shall be made by a Federal law enforcement officer who, upon making service, shall carry out the seizure under the order. The court may allow State or local law enforcement officials to participate, but may not permit the applicant or any agent of the applicant to participate in the seizure. At the request of law enforcement officials, the court may allow a technical expert who is unaffiliated with the applicant and who is bound by a court-approved non-disclosure agreement to participate in the seizure if the court determines that the participation of the expert

will aid the efficient execution of and minimize the burden of the seizure.

“(F) SEIZURE HEARING.—

“(i) DATE.—A court that issues a seizure order shall hold a hearing on the date set by the court under subparagraph (B)(v).

“(ii) BURDEN OF PROOF.—At a hearing held under this subparagraph, the party who obtained the order under subparagraph (A) shall have the burden to prove the facts supporting the findings of fact and conclusions of law necessary to support the order. If the party fails to meet that burden, the seizure order shall be dissolved or modified appropriately.

“(iii) DISSOLUTION OR MODIFICATION OF ORDER.—A party against whom the order has been issued or any person harmed by the order may move the court at any time to dissolve or modify the order after giving notice to the party who obtained the order.

“(iv) DISCOVERY TIME LIMITS.—The court may make such orders modifying the time limits for discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as may be necessary to prevent the frustration of the purposes of a hearing under this subparagraph.

“(G) ACTION FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY WRONGFUL SEIZURE.—A person who suffers damage by reason of a wrongful or excessive seizure under this paragraph has a cause of action against the applicant for the order under which such seizure was made, and shall be entitled to the same relief as is provided under section 34(d)(1) of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1116(d)(1)). The security posted with the court under subparagraph (B)(vi) shall not limit the recovery of third parties for damages.

“(H) MOTION FOR ENCRYPTION.—A party or a person who claims to have an interest in the subject matter seized may make a motion at any time, which may be heard ex parte, to encrypt any material seized or to be seized under this paragraph that is stored on a storage medium. The motion shall include, when possible, the desired encryption method.

“(3) REMEDIES.—In a civil action brought under this subsection with respect to the misappropriation of a trade secret, a court may—

“(A) grant an injunction—

“(i) to prevent any actual or threatened misappropriation described in paragraph (1) on such terms as the court deems reasonable, provided the order does not—

“(I) prevent a person from entering into an employment relationship, and that conditions placed on such employment shall be based on evidence of threatened misappropriation and not merely on the information the person knows; or

“(II) otherwise conflict with an applicable State law prohibiting restraints on the practice of a lawful profession, trade, or business;

“(ii) if determined appropriate by the court, requiring affirmative actions to be taken to protect the trade secret; and

“(iii) in exceptional circumstances that render an injunction inequitable, that conditions future use of the trade secret upon payment of a reasonable royalty for no longer than the period of time for which such use could have been prohibited;

“(B) award—

“(i) damages for actual loss caused by the misappropriation of the trade secret; and

“(II) damages for any unjust enrichment caused by the misappropriation of the trade secret that is not addressed in computing damages for actual loss; or

“(ii) in lieu of damages measured by any other methods, the damages caused by the misappropriation measured by imposition of

liability for a reasonable royalty for the misappropriator’s unauthorized disclosure or use of the trade secret;

“(C) if the trade secret is willfully and maliciously misappropriated, award exemplary damages in an amount not more than 2 times the amount of the damages awarded under subparagraph (B); and

“(D) if a claim of the misappropriation is made in bad faith, which may be established by circumstantial evidence, a motion to terminate an injunction is made or opposed in bad faith, or the trade secret was willfully and maliciously misappropriated, award reasonable attorney’s fees to the prevailing party.

“(c) JURISDICTION.—The district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction of civil actions brought under this section.

“(d) PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS.—A civil action under subsection (b) may not be commenced later than 3 years after the date on which the misappropriation with respect to which the action would relate is discovered or by the exercise of reasonable diligence should have been discovered. For purposes of this subsection, a continuing misappropriation constitutes a single claim of misappropriation.”

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1839 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the public” and inserting “another person who can obtain economic value from the disclosure or use of the information”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) the term ‘misappropriation’ means—

“(A) acquisition of a trade secret of another by a person who knows or has reason to know that the trade secret was acquired by improper means; or

“(B) disclosure or use of a trade secret of another without express or implied consent by a person who—

“(i) used improper means to acquire knowledge of the trade secret;

“(ii) at the time of disclosure or use, knew or had reason to know that the knowledge of the trade secret was—

“(I) derived from or through a person who had used improper means to acquire the trade secret;

“(II) acquired under circumstances giving rise to a duty to maintain the secrecy of the trade secret or limit the use of the trade secret; or

“(III) derived from or through a person who owed a duty to the person seeking relief to maintain the secrecy of the trade secret or limit the use of the trade secret; or

“(iii) before a material change of the position of the person, knew or had reason to know that—

“(I) the trade secret was a trade secret; and

“(II) knowledge of the trade secret had been acquired by accident or mistake;

“(6) the term ‘improper means’—

“(A) includes theft, bribery, misrepresentation, breach or inducement of a breach of a duty to maintain secrecy, or espionage through electronic or other means; and

“(B) does not include reverse engineering, independent derivation, or any other lawful means of acquisition; and

“(7) the term ‘Trademark Act of 1946’ means the Act entitled ‘An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the

provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes, approved July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”).”

(c) EXCEPTIONS TO PROHIBITION.—Section 1833 of title 18, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or create a private right of action for” after “prohibit”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The section heading for section 1836 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1836. Civil proceedings”.

(2) The table of sections for chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1836 and inserting the following:

“1836. Civil proceedings.”

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to any misappropriation of a trade secret (as defined in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this section) for which any act occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by this section shall be construed to modify the rule of construction under section 1838 of title 18, United States Code, or to preempt any other provision of law.

(g) APPLICABILITY TO OTHER LAWS.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall not be construed to be a law pertaining to intellectual property for purposes of any other Act of Congress.

**SEC. 3. TRADE SECRET THEFT ENFORCEMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1832(b), by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “the greater of \$5,000,000 or 3 times the value of the stolen trade secret to the organization, including expenses for research and design and other costs of reproducing the trade secret that the organization has thereby avoided”; and

(2) in section 1835—

(A) by striking “In any prosecution” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In any prosecution”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) RIGHTS OF TRADE SECRET OWNERS.—The court may not authorize or direct the disclosure of any information the owner asserts to be a trade secret unless the court allows the owner the opportunity to file a submission under seal that describes the interest of the owner in keeping the information confidential. No submission under seal made under this subsection may be used in a prosecution under this chapter for any purpose other than those set forth in this section, or otherwise required by law. The provision of information relating to a trade secret to the United States or the court in connection with a prosecution under this chapter shall not constitute a waiver of trade secret protection, and the disclosure of information relating to a trade secret in connection with a prosecution under this chapter shall not constitute a waiver of trade secret protection unless the trade secret owner expressly consents to such waiver.”

(b) RICO PREDICATE OFFENSES.—Section 1961(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “sections 1831 and 1832 (relating to economic espionage and theft of trade secrets),” before “section 1951”.

**SEC. 4. REPORT ON THEFT OF TRADE SECRETS OCCURRING ABROAD.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) **FOREIGN INSTRUMENTALITY, ETC.**—The terms “foreign instrumentality”, “foreign agent”, and “trade secret” have the meanings given those terms in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code.

(3) **STATE.**—The term “State” includes the District of Columbia and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(4) **UNITED STATES COMPANY.**—The term “United States company” means an organization organized under the laws of the United States or a State or political subdivision thereof.

(b) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, the Director, and the heads of other appropriate agencies, shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and make publicly available on the Web site of the Department of Justice and disseminate to the public through such other means as the Attorney General may identify, a report on the following:

(1) The scope and breadth of the theft of the trade secrets of United States companies occurring outside of the United States.

(2) The extent to which theft of trade secrets occurring outside of the United States is sponsored by foreign governments, foreign instrumentalities, or foreign agents.

(3) The threat posed by theft of trade secrets occurring outside of the United States.

(4) The ability and limitations of trade secret owners to prevent the misappropriation of trade secrets outside of the United States, to enforce any judgment against foreign entities for theft of trade secrets, and to prevent imports based on theft of trade secrets overseas.

(5) A breakdown of the trade secret protections afforded United States companies by each country that is a trading partner of the United States and enforcement efforts available and undertaken in each such country, including a list identifying specific countries where trade secret theft, laws, or enforcement is a significant problem for United States companies.

(6) Instances of the Federal Government working with foreign countries to investigate, arrest, and prosecute entities and individuals involved in the theft of trade secrets outside of the United States.

(7) Specific progress made under trade agreements and treaties, including any new remedies enacted by foreign countries, to protect against theft of trade secrets of United States companies outside of the United States.

(8) Recommendations of legislative and executive branch actions that may be undertaken to—

(A) reduce the threat of and economic impact caused by the theft of the trade secrets of United States companies occurring outside of the United States;

(B) educate United States companies regarding the threats to their trade secrets when taken outside of the United States;

(C) provide assistance to United States companies to reduce the risk of loss of their trade secrets when taken outside of the United States; and

(D) provide a mechanism for United States companies to confidentially or anonymously report the theft of trade secrets occurring outside of the United States.

#### SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) trade secret theft occurs in the United States and around the world;

(2) trade secret theft, wherever it occurs, harms the companies that own the trade secrets and the employees of the companies;

(3) chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the “Economic Espionage Act of 1996”), applies broadly to protect trade secrets from theft; and

(4) it is important when seizing information to balance the need to prevent or remedy misappropriation with the need to avoid interrupting the—

(A) business of third parties; and

(B) legitimate interests of the party accused of wrongdoing.

#### SEC. 6. BEST PRACTICES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Judicial Center, using existing resources, shall develop recommended best practices for—

(1) the seizure of information and media storing the information; and

(2) the securing of the information and media once seized.

(b) **UPDATES.**—The Federal Judicial Center shall update the recommended best practices developed under subsection (a) from time to time.

(c) **CONGRESSIONAL SUBMISSIONS.**—The Federal Judicial Center shall provide a copy of the recommendations developed under subsection (a), and any updates made under subsection (b), to the—

(1) Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(2) Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

#### SEC. 7. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY FOR CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE OF A TRADE SECRET TO THE GOVERNMENT OR IN A COURT FILING.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 1833 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “This chapter” and inserting “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This chapter”;

(2) in subsection (a)(2), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking “the reporting of a suspected violation of law to any governmental entity of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State, if such entity has lawful authority with respect to that violation” and inserting “the disclosure of a trade secret in accordance with subsection (b)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY FOR CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE OF A TRADE SECRET TO THE GOVERNMENT OR IN A COURT FILING.**—

“(1) **IMMUNITY.**—An individual shall not be held criminally or civilly liable under any Federal or State trade secret law for the disclosure of a trade secret that—

“(A) is made—

“(i) in confidence to a Federal, State, or local government official, either directly or indirectly, or to an attorney; and

“(ii) solely for the purpose of reporting or investigating a suspected violation of law; or

“(B) is made in a complaint or other document filed in a lawsuit or other proceeding, if such filing is made under seal.

“(2) **USE OF TRADE SECRET INFORMATION IN ANTI-RETALIATION LAWSUIT.**—An individual who files a lawsuit for retaliation by an employer for reporting a suspected violation of law may disclose the trade secret to the attorney of the individual and use the trade secret information in the court proceeding, if the individual—

“(A) files any document containing the trade secret under seal; and

“(B) does not disclose the trade secret, except pursuant to court order.

“(3) **NOTICE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An employer shall provide notice of the immunity set forth in this subsection in any contract or agreement with an employee that governs the use of a trade secret or other confidential information.

“(B) **POLICY DOCUMENT.**—An employer shall be considered to be in compliance with the notice requirement in subparagraph (A) if the employer provides a cross-reference to a policy document provided to the employee that sets forth the employer’s reporting policy for a suspected violation of law.

“(C) **NON-COMPLIANCE.**—If an employer does not comply with the notice requirement in subparagraph (A), the employer may not be awarded exemplary damages or attorney fees under subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 1836(b)(3) in an action against an employee to whom notice was not provided.

“(D) **APPLICABILITY.**—This paragraph shall apply to contracts and agreements that are entered into or updated after the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(4) **EMPLOYEE DEFINED.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘employee’ includes any individual performing work as a contractor or consultant for an employer.

“(5) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Except as expressly provided for under this subsection, nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize, or limit liability for, an act that is otherwise prohibited by law, such as the unlawful access of material by unauthorized means.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 1838 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “This chapter” and inserting “Except as provided in section 1833(b), this chapter”.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. **GOODLATTE**) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. **CONYERS**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

□ 1445

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **GOODLATTE.** Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 1890, currently under consideration.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. **GOODLATTE.** Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today we are here to consider S. 1890, the **Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016**. This bill puts forward enhancements to our Federal trade secrets law, creating a Federal civil remedy for trade secrets misappropriation that will help American innovators protect their intellectual property from criminal theft by foreign agents and those engaging in economic espionage. This bill will help U.S. competitiveness, job creation, and our Nation’s future economic security.

Our intellectual property laws cover everything from patents, copyrights

and trademarks, and include trade secrets.

But what are trade secrets?

Trade secrets law is used to protect some of the most iconic inventions in America. For example, a trade secret can include recipes like Colonel Sanders' secret recipe of 11 herbs and spices, and the 125-year-old formula for Coca-Cola housed in a vault at the World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta, Georgia.

However, trade secrets are not simply isolated to the realm of food and beverages. They can include confidential formulas like the formula for WD-40, manufacturing techniques, customer lists, and algorithms like Google's search engine.

Trade secrets occupy a unique place in the IP portfolios of our most innovative companies, but because they are unregistered and not formally reviewed like patents, there are no limitations on discovering a trade secret by fair, lawful methods, such as reverse engineering or independent development. In innovative industries, that is simply the free market at work.

Though trade secrets are not formally reviewed, they are protected from misappropriation, which includes obtaining the trade secret through improper or unlawful means. Misappropriation can take many forms, whether it is an employee selling blueprints to a competitor or a foreign agent hacking into a server. In addition, one could argue that even a foreign government's policies to require forced technology transfer is a form of misappropriation.

Though most States base their trade secrets laws on the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, the Federal Government protects trade secrets through the Economic Espionage Act. In the 112th Congress, the Committee on the Judiciary helped enact two pieces of legislation to help improve the protection of trade secrets, and in the 113th Congress, we introduced and passed out of committee the first version of this trade secrets bill unanimously.

Today we build on our efforts over these past 2 years and are taking a significant and positive step toward improving our Nation's trade secrets laws and continuing to build on our important work in this area of intellectual property. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
INDUSTRY COUNCIL,  
Washington, DC, April 26, 2016.

- Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Majority Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*  
Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
*Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*Washington, DC.*  
Hon. DOUG COLLINS,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*  
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*  
Hon. JOHN CONYERS,  
*Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*Washington, DC.*  
Hon. JERROLD NADLER,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, DEMOCRATIC LEADER PELOSI, CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE, RANKING MEMBER CONYERS, REPRESENTATIVE COLLINS, AND REPRESENTATIVE NADLER: On behalf of the members of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), I write to express our support for S. 1890, the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (D TSA), and commend your efforts to bring it to the House floor for debate and vote. Given the importance of trade secrets protection to the high-tech industry, we will consider scoring votes in support of D TSA in our 114th Congressional Voting Guide.

ITI companies are at the forefront of innovation and have some of the largest trade secret and patent portfolios in the world tied to numerous goods and services offered to governments, commercial enterprises and consumers around the globe. In fact, patent portfolios often grow as a result of the ideas and products originating as trade secrets. Customer lists, manufacturing processes, and source code are just a few examples of important assets considered to be trade secrets by many companies.

Our companies pour billions of dollars into research and development to create products and services that ultimately become the backbone of their businesses. Trade secrets produced through this research and development increasingly have become attractive to competitors in other countries. In addition, advances in technology now make it easy to copy trade secret materials onto a jump drive or lap top computer that once would have taken reams of paper to reproduce. As a result, the threat posed to American trade secrets has increased and theft of these secrets robs our economy of growth and innovation.

It is long overdue for our trade secrets law to be modernized to keep pace with the rapid developments of our companies and the technologies and methods used by the criminals who target them. The patchwork of state trade secrets laws, while effective for local theft, fail to meet the demands of the global nature of today's trade secret misappropriation. In addition, trade secrets do not enjoy the same federal protections as other types of intellectual property. While it is a federal crime to steal a trade secret, unlike patents, copyrights and trademarks, there is no federal civil remedy.

D TSA provides a solution to these problematic gaps by making federal law more comprehensive and providing trade secrets owners with remedies all forms of intellectual property should be afforded. With both a federal criminal and a federal civil cause of action, large and small companies alike will have access to more tools they need to effec-

tively combat trade secret theft and help to ensure future innovation continues to occur in the United States.

While trade secret protection is important domestically, as American companies expand in the global marketplace, this protection is also needed worldwide. As we operate in other countries and work with them to encourage strong intellectual property protection within their own borders, the Defend Trade Secrets Act will serve as a model for effective protection.

We thank the House Judiciary Committee for quickly approving this legislation, and we look forward to seeing the bill pass in the House of Representatives and move to the president's desk to become law.

On behalf of ITI's member companies, I thank you for your leadership on intellectual property protection and urge you and your colleagues to support S. 1890.

Sincerely,

DEAN C. GARFIELD,  
*President & CEO.*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
MANUFACTURERS,  
*April 26, 2016.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states urges you to support S. 1890, the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016. S. 1890 passed the Senate by a vote of 87-0, and represents a bipartisan and amended version of H.R. 3326, introduced by Representatives Doug Collins (R-GA) and Jerrold Nadler (D-NY).

The NAM supports further safeguarding of confidential business information and trade secrets through the expansion of federal jurisdiction to enable faster, nationwide enforcement of all intellectual property (IP) rights. IP is one of the most valued business assets for manufacturers of all sizes. The impact of its theft has increased exponentially in today's digitally-driven environment. Mass amounts of this critical business information can now be illegally transferred to a small data storage device and removed easily and quickly from a manufacturers' facility. The value of this business information creates an inseparable link between the need for protection of intellectual property rights and innovation, competitiveness, and sound economic growth.

The NAM supports S. 1890 because it would strengthen the ability of manufacturers to protect their IP by creating a federal civil right of action to help prevent and prosecute trade secret theft, an important tool that does not exist today. Such a tool eliminates the difficult, time-consuming, and costly process imposed on manufacturers as they currently must work with multiple state jurisdictions in order to apprehend perpetrators of trade secret theft. A federal process that cuts across state lines would also increase the likelihood of preventing this valuable data from leaving the country permanently.

Manufacturers deploy the latest technology and controls to protect the critical information guarded by trade secrets. In the unfortunate instances when this data is compromised, manufacturers need to act quickly before it is disclosed and its value is lost forever. S. 1890 would modernize our current system, providing owners of trade secrets the same legal options as owners of other forms of IP, and give them the ability to pursue

trade secret theft aggressively and efficiently.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on S. 1890, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 114th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ARIC NEWHOUSE.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Washington, DC, April 26, 2016.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports S. 1890, the "Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016," and urges the House to expeditiously pass this bill.

Intellectual property sector industries generate 35% of all U.S. Gross Domestic Product and are responsible for two-thirds of all exports and over forty million good-paying jobs. The threat of trade secrets theft is of increasing concern to U.S. economic security and domestic jobs, and S. 1890 would provide companies with an effective tool to combat this growing problem. Creating a federal civil cause of action to complement existing criminal remedies and providing a uniform system and legal framework would enable companies to better mitigate the commercial injury and loss of employment that often occur when trade secrets are stolen.

The Chamber appreciates the House's attention to this important issue that impacts companies that depend on intellectual property to spur innovation, create jobs, and bring new products to market that benefit consumers. By creating a federal civil remedy for trade secrets theft, this bill would help ensure the trade secrets of U.S. companies are given similar protections afforded to other forms of intellectual property including patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

The Chamber urges you to support S. 1890 and may consider votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1890, the Defend Trade Secrets Act. This measure amends the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 to create a Federal civil cause of action and to facilitate expedited ex parte seizure of property when necessary to preserve evidence or prevent dissemination.

The House counterpart to this bill, H.R. 3326, which was introduced by our committee colleagues, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), now has 164 bipartisan cosponsors, including myself.

Likewise, S. 1890 enjoys broad bipartisan and bicameral support, as evidenced by the fact that the Senate passed this bill by a vote of 87-0 earlier this month. The House Committee on the Judiciary reported this bill favor-

ably by a unanimous voice vote only last week.

There are several reasons that I support the legislation. To begin with, S. 1890 will enhance the protection of trade secrets, which is integral to the success of any business. It is estimated that the value of trade secrets owned by United States companies as of 2009 was approximately \$5 trillion.

Although trade secrets are fundamental to the success of any business, United States companies have struggled to protect these valuable assets, especially in the digital age of smartphones and the Internet. It is estimated that the loss of trade secrets as a result of cyber espionage costs these businesses between \$200 billion and \$300 billion annually.

Thieves take advantage of ever-evolving, innovative technologies to access sensitive trade secrets information and to distribute it immediately.

While Federal law protects other forms of intellectual property by providing access to Federal courts for aggrieved parties to seek redress, there is no Federal civil cause of action for enforcement of trade secrets protection.

S. 1890 addresses this need by establishing a Federal cause of action for trade secrets owners to obtain injunctive and monetary relief, which will be a powerful new tool to protect their intellectual property.

Now, another reason I support the bill is that it would foster uniformity among the States. Although States provide civil remedies for trade secrets theft, these laws often fall short when trade secrets are taken across State lines. As a result, businesses that have nationwide operations must deal with various differing State laws, which can be too costly for some businesses, particularly smaller ones. This also prevents businesses from taking full advantage of the rights that they might have under the law.

S. 1890 would provide trade secrets owners access to uniform national law and the ability to make their case in Federal court.

Lastly, I support the bill because it reflects constructive feedback from various stakeholders.

We have been working on this legislation for almost 2 years. It reflects the input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, and the bill is an excellent example of what can be achieved when there is bipartisan collaboration.

I close by urging my colleagues to support this important legislation so that we can send it to the President's desk for signature.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), the chief sponsor of the House version of this bill and a member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1890, the Defend Trade Secrets Act. I introduced the House companion, and I am proud to see this bill moving forward. This legislation is sorely needed to protect the United States from the billions of dollars it faces in losses each year due to trade secrets theft.

However, the legislation could not have reached this point without the hard work and dedication of several people. First, I would like to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and his staff for their efforts to move this bill through the Committee on the Judiciary and bring it to the floor. This has been, as the ranking member said, a several-year process. We are glad to see it here.

I also wanted to thank those who introduced the House legislation with me, Mr. NADLER and Mr. JEFFRIES, both from New York, and their staff, for their commitment to the issue and their willingness to work across the aisle to implement meaningful reform.

On the Senate side, Senators HATCH and COONS were instrumental in getting us to this point. Their leadership, along with the leadership of Chairman GRASSLEY and Senator LEAHY, helped ensure the strong Senate vote of 87-0 and ensured this product was able to come to the House.

I would finally like to take just a moment to thank Jennifer Choudhry, my former legislative director, for her hand in introducing and shepherding this bill through the legislative process. Her contributions were invaluable, and she should be proud of her part in getting this legislation to the House floor today. I also thank Sally Rose Larson, who has taken up the mantle in my office and helped to get us here to the finish line.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act enjoys support from a broad coalition of groups and industries, from Americans for Tax Reform, the American Bar Association Intellectual Property Law Section, the Information Technology Industry Council, the chamber of commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and many more. In fact, Mr. Speaker, this bill has more than 160 bipartisan cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, estimates show that as much as 80 percent of companies' assets are intangible, many in the form of trade secrets. Couple that with the fact that trade secrets theft is costing America billions of dollars each year. In fact, one study indicates that trade secrets theft costs America approximately \$300 billion annually. That price tag will continue to grow as technology and thieves become more sophisticated. Trade secrets theft jeopardizes our economic security and threatens jobs, which is why it is so important that we take steps to address it.

Trade secrets include everything from business information to designs,



prototypes, and formulas. Coming from Georgia, one good example is the recipe for Coca-Cola. Trade secrets are commercially valuable information subject to secrecy protection. They are a critical form of intellectual property, yet they do not enjoy the same protections that apply to other forms of intellectual property, such as copyrights, patents, and trademarks.

Additionally, trade secrets derive economic value from not being publicly known, and this confidential business information can be protected for an unlimited time. However, once trade secrets are disclosed, they instantly lose their value, making it even more important to have the mechanisms in place to protect them.

Currently, Federal law is insufficient to address many of the challenges related to trade secrets theft in today's economy. The only Federal mechanism for trade secrets protection under current law is the 1996 Economic Espionage Act, which made trade secrets theft by foreign nationals a criminal offense.

However, this only addresses part of the problem, and criminalizes only a portion of trade secrets theft, whereas a civil remedy for misuse and misappropriation would allow companies to more broadly protect their property.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act will address that, and it will strengthen the ability of companies to protect valuable trade secrets, which, in turn, allows them to protect American jobs and innovation. The bill will empower companies to protect their trade secrets in Federal court by creating a Federal private right of action.

The bill streamlines access to relief, and, in extraordinary circumstances, allows victims of trade secrets theft to obtain a seizure to ensure trade secrets are not abused while cases are pending. The Defend Trade Secrets Act also provides for an injunction and damages.

Protecting the trade secrets of American businesses is crucial to keeping our country a leader in the world economy. Providing a Federal civil remedy will create certainty for companies throughout the Nation, including my home State of Georgia.

Congress has the responsibility to give industries the tools they need to protect their intellectual property and, in turn, encourage job creation and economic growth. This bill takes a step forward in better protecting American innovation.

Again, I want to thank the tireless work of my House and Senate colleagues in advancing this critical legislation. I am proud to see this bill, which provides critical intellectual property protections and protects American businesses, move forward. I would encourage all my colleagues to join me today in supporting the Defend Trade Secrets Act.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New

York (Mr. NADLER), a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary and author of this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1890, the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016. This long overdue legislation would protect businesses across the country from the growing threat of trade secrets theft by creating a uniform Federal civil cause of action for misappropriation of trade secrets.

Trade secrets are proprietary business information that derive their value from being and remaining secret. This includes secret recipes, software codes, and manufacturing processes—information that, if disclosed, could prove ruinous to a company. As the United States economy becomes more and more knowledge- and service-based, trade secrets are increasingly becoming the foundation of businesses across the country, with one estimate placing the value of trade secrets in the United States at \$5 trillion.

□ 1500

Unfortunately, with such fortunes resting on trade secrets, theft of this property is inevitable. And in today's digital environment, it has never been easier to transfer stolen property across the globe with the click of a button. By one estimate, the American economy loses annually as much as \$300 billion or more due to misappropriation of trade secrets, leading to loss of up to 2.1 billion jobs each year.

With so much at stake, it is absolutely vital that the law include strong protections against theft of trade secrets. However, our current patchwork of Federal and State laws has proven inadequate to the job. While the Federal Government may bring criminal prosecutions and may move for civil injunctions, this power is rarely exercised and often fails to adequately compensate the victims.

The States provide civil causes of action for victims of theft, with money damages available, but this system has not proven efficient or effective for incidents that cross State and, sometimes, international borders.

Once upon a time, trade secrets might have been kept in a file cabinet somewhere, and would-be thieves would have to spirit away a physical copy, making it likely that they would be caught before crossing State lines. But today, trade secrets can be loaded onto a thumb drive and mailed out of State or even sent electronically anywhere across the globe in an instant.

Pursuing a defendant and the evidence in dispute across State lines present a host of challenges for victims of trade secret theft, particularly when time is of the essence. The need for a Federal solution is, therefore, clear.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act fills this gap by creating a uniform Federal civil cause of action for theft of trade

secrets. It also provides for expedited ex parte seizure of property, but only in extraordinary circumstances where necessary to preserve evidence or prevent dissemination.

As the lead Democratic cosponsor of H.R. 3326, the House companion to this legislation, I am very pleased that this bill is on the floor today, and I want to thank everyone who worked hard to bring us to this point. In particular, I want to thank the sponsor of H.R. 3326, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), as well as Ranking Member CONYERS, Chairman GOODLATTE, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES). I also appreciate the sponsors of the Senate bill, S. 1890, Senators HATCH and COONS, for all of their work on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. NADLER. The bill we are considering today represents the culmination of over 2 years of negotiations with various stakeholders and has strong bipartisan support, with 164 cosponsors in the House and 65 in the Senate.

This is good legislation that carefully balances the rights of defendants and the needs of American businesses to protect their most valuable assets. The Senate passed the bill 87-0. With passage here today, we can send it straight to the President's desk.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding, as well as for his tremendous leadership, and Chairman GOODLATTE, Congressman COLLINS, Congressman NADLER, as well as the Protect Trade Secrets Coalition, for their tremendous work in getting us to this point where we are on the verge of passing this very important piece of legislation.

Whether it is the original recipe created by Colonel Sanders in connection with Kentucky Fried Chicken or whether it is the special sauce made famous by the iconic Big Mac of McDonald's or whether it is Corning's glass that is so frequently used and found in many of our smartphones all across the country, trade secrets are as American as baseball and apple pie. Unfortunately, we have found ourselves, over the last few years, in a situation where trade secret theft has become a significant problem, by some accounts costing us in excess of \$300 billion per year and more than 2 million jobs annually.

Traditionally, trade secret theft has been dealt with on the civil side as a matter of State law. But because of the increasing nature of the problem and

the fact that it is both multistate and multinational in nature, the State law domain has become inadequate, which brings us to this piece of legislation that would create a Federal civil cause of action for trade secret misappropriation, giving our companies and stakeholders access to a uniform body of law that can deal with trade secret theft in a more appropriate fashion.

That is why this piece of legislation is so significant in this climate and why I am so thankful for the leadership of all those who have brought us to this point. I urge everyone to support this bill.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my fellow Judiciary Committee colleagues and their staffs who have devoted much time and energy and intellect to this project. We have worked together for the common goal of improving our Nation's trade secret laws for the past 2 years.

I want to particularly thank Representatives DOUG COLLINS, JERROLD NADLER, and the over 150 Members of Congress who joined as cosponsors of this legislation in the House. In the Senate, we have worked closely with Senators HATCH, GRASSLEY, LEAHY, COONS, and others, and I want to thank them and their staffs for their contributions to this effort.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the White House and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for working collaboratively with us, as well as the Protect Trade Secrets Coalition for its work on this effort. I also want to thank my staff for all their hard work on this important legislation.

This bill is the product of years of bipartisan, bicameral work, and it will have a positive impact on U.S. competitiveness, job creation, and our Nation's future economic security. I urge my colleagues to support S. 1890.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1890, the "Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016".

S. 1890, amends the, "Economic Espionage Act of 1996," to create a federal civil remedy for trade secret misappropriation, and expedite ex parte seizure of trade secrets to preserve evidence or prevent dissemination, without preempting state law.

"Trade secrets" are the form of intellectual property that protect confidential information, including: marketing data and strategies, manufacturing processes or techniques, confidential and chemical formulae, product design, customer lists, business leads, pricing schedules, and sales techniques.

Trade secret law offers protection from trade secret "misappropriation," which is the unauthorized acquisition, use, or disclosure of such secrets obtained by some improper means.

Under U.S. law, trade secrets consist of three parts: (i) information that is non-public;

(2) the reasonable measures taken to protect that information; and (3) the fact that the information derives independent economic value from not being publicly known.

American companies are at the forefront of innovation and have some of the largest trade secret and patent portfolios in the world tied to numerous goods and services offered to governments, commercial enterprises, and consumers around the globe.

In fact, patent portfolios often grow as a result of the ideas and products that originated as trade secrets.

President Obama's Administration identified the importance of this legislation and, "strongly supports the Defend Trade Secrets Act," because he recognizes that as the United States continues to shift from a manufacturing, to a knowledge- and service-based economy, businesses increasingly depend on trade secrets to protect their confidential know-how.

A 2009 estimate placed the value of trade secrets owned by U.S. companies at five trillion dollars, demonstrating that trade secrets have become an increasingly important part of most companies' overall assets.

But, the global economy creates a competitive environment in which companies struggle to safeguard this information in light of innovative technologies, such as cell phones, which allow nearly anyone to photograph or otherwise record data and send information nearly instantaneously.

A 2013 report, by the Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property, estimated that the American economy loses more than \$300 billion annually as a result of theft of intellectual property, largely trade secrets, leading to a loss of up to 2.1 million jobs each year.

The same theft is slowing U.S. economic growth and diminishing the incentive to innovate that we celebrate today.

Our companies pour billions of dollars into research and development, creating products and services that ultimately become the backbone of their businesses.

And rightly so, those trade secrets produced through research and development increasingly have become the attractive envy of competitors in other countries.

In addition, advances in technology now make it easy to copy trade secret materials onto a jump drive or laptop computer that in a world of less advanced technology would have taken reams of paper to reproduce.

Modernization of trade secrets law is long overdue if our legislation is to keep pace with the rapid developments of premier American companies and the technologies and methodologies used by the criminals who target them.

The patchwork of state trade secrets laws, while effective for local theft, fail to meet the demands of the global nature of today's trade secret misappropriations.

In addition, trade secrets do not enjoy the same federal protections as other types of intellectual property. While it is a federal crime to steal a trade secret, unlike patents, copyrights and trademarks, there is no current federal civil remedy.

This confidential business information can be protected for an unlimited time, unlike patents, and requires no formal registration process.

But unlike patents, once this information is disclosed it instantly loses its value and the property right itself ceases to exist, demonstrating a stark difference in the potential consequences of securing patent protections versus keeping an innovation as a trade secret.

When an inventor seeks patent protection, he or she agrees to disclose to the world their invention and how it works, furthering innovation and research, as well as securing a 20-year exclusive term of protection, and the right to prevent others from making, using, selling, importing, or distributing a patented invention without permission.

However, in contrast by maintaining it as a trade secret, an inventor could theoretically keep their invention secret indefinitely (ex: formula for Coca-Cola; the KFC Colonel's Secret Recipe); but, the downside is there is no protection if the trade secret is uncovered by others through reverse engineering or independent development.

Trade secrets must be valiantly guarded because discovery of a trade secret by fair, lawful methods, such as reverse engineering or independent development, is permitted.

As a result, the threat posed to American trade secrets has increased and theft of these secrets robs our economy of growth and innovation. S. 1890, provides a solution to these problematic gaps by making federal law more comprehensive and providing trade secrets owners with remedies that all forms of intellectual property should be afforded.

With both a federal criminal and a federal civil cause of action, large and small companies alike will have access to more of the tools that they need to effectively combat trade secret theft and help to ensure future innovation continues to occur within the United States.

While trade secret protection is important domestically, as American companies expand in the global marketplace, this protection is also paramount worldwide.

As we operate in other countries and work with them to encourage strong intellectual property protection within their own borders, the "Defend Trade Secrets Act" will serve as a model for effective protection.

S. 1890 will prevent the occurrence of (1) trade secret theft occurring in the United States and around the world; and (2) trade secret theft harming owner companies and their employees; while allowing the "Economic Espionage Act of 1996" to continue to apply broadly to protect trade secrets from theft.

I thank the House Judiciary Committee for quickly approving this legislation, and look forward to seeing this bill pass in the House to move to the President's desk to become law.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our Leadership for its prowess on intellectual property protection and urge you and your colleagues to support S. 1890.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Washington, DC, April 26, 2016.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and

defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports S. 1890, the "Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016," and urges the House to expeditiously pass this bill.

Intellectual property sector industries generate 35% of all U.S. Gross Domestic Product and are responsible for two-thirds of all exports and over forty million good-paying jobs. The threat of trade secrets theft is of increasing concern to U.S. economic security and domestic jobs, and S. 1890 would provide companies with an effective tool to combat this growing problem. Creating a federal civil cause of action to complement existing criminal remedies and providing a uniform system and legal framework would enable companies to better mitigate the commercial injury and loss of employment that often occur when trade secrets are stolen.

The Chamber appreciates the House's attention to this important issue that impacts companies that depend on intellectual property to spur innovation, create jobs, and bring new products to market that benefit consumers. By creating a federal civil remedy for trade secrets theft, this bill would help ensure the trade secrets of U.S. companies are given similar protections afforded to other forms of intellectual property including patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

The Chamber urges you to support S. 1890 and may consider votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1890.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules on H.R. 4923 and H.R. 699, each by the yeas and nays;

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 701; and

Adoption of House Resolution 701, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the mo-

tion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4923) to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 2, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]

YEAS—415

Abraham	Conaway	Graham
Adams	Connolly	Granger
Aderholt	Conyers	Graves (GA)
Aguilar	Cook	Graves (LA)
Allen	Cooper	Graves (MO)
Amash	Costa	Grayson
Amodei	Costello (PA)	Green, Al
Ashford	Courtney	Green, Gene
Babin	Cramer	Grijalva
Barletta	Crawford	Grothman
Barr	Crenshaw	Guinta
Barton	Crowley	Guthrie
Bass	Cuellar	Hahn
Beatty	Culberson	Hardy
Becerra	Cummings	Harper
Benishchek	Curbelo (FL)	Harris
Bera	Davis (CA)	Hartzler
Beyer	Davis, Danny	Hastings
Bilirakis	Davis, Rodney	Heck (NV)
Bishop (GA)	DeFazio	Heck (WA)
Bishop (MI)	DeGette	Hensarling
Bishop (UT)	Delaney	Herrera Beutler
Black	DeLauro	Hice, Jody B.
Blackburn	DelBene	Higgins
Blum	Denham	Hill
Blumenauer	Dent	Himes
Bonamici	DeSantis	Hinojosa
Bost	DeSaulnier	Holding
Boustany	DesJarlais	Honda
Boyle, Brendan	Deutch	Hoyer
F.	Diaz-Balart	Hudson
Brady (PA)	Dingell	Huelskamp
Brady (TX)	Doggett	Huffman
Brat	Dold	Huizenga (MI)
Bridenstine	Donovan	Hultgren
Brooks (AL)	Doyle, Michael	Hunter
Brooks (IN)	F.	Hurd (TX)
Brown (FL)	Duckworth	Hurt (VA)
Brownley (CA)	Duffy	Israel
Buchanan	Duncan (SC)	Jackson Lee
Buck	Duncan (TN)	Jeffries
Bucshon	Edwards	Jenkins (KS)
Burgess	Ellison	Jenkins (WV)
Bustos	Ellmers (NC)	Johnson (GA)
Butterfield	Emmer (MN)	Johnson (OH)
Byrne	Engel	Johnson, E. B.
Calvert	Eshoo	Johnson, Sam
Capps	Esty	Jolly
Cárdenas	Farenthold	Jones
Carney	Farr	Jordan
Carson (IN)	Fincher	Joyce
Carter (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Kaptur
Carter (TX)	Fleischmann	Katko
Cartwright	Fleming	Keating
Castor (FL)	Flores	Kelly (IL)
Castro (TX)	Forbes	Kelly (MS)
Chabot	Fortenberry	Kelly (PA)
Chaffetz	Foster	Kennedy
Chu, Judy	Fox	Kildee
Cicilline	Frankel (FL)	Kilmer
Clark (MA)	Franks (AZ)	Kind
Clarke (NY)	Frelinghuysen	King (IA)
Clawson (FL)	Fudge	King (NY)
Clay	Gabbard	Kinzinger (IL)
Cleaver	Galleo	Kirkpatrick
Clyburn	Garamendi	Kline
Coffman	Garrett	Knight
Cohen	Gibbs	Kuster
Cole	Gibson	Labrador
Collins (GA)	Goodlatte	LaHood
Collins (NY)	Gosar	LaMalfa
Comstock	Gowdy	Lamborn

Lance	O'Rourke	Sessions
Langevin	Olson	Sherman
Larsen (WA)	Palazzo	Shimkus
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Shuster
Latta	Palmer	Simpson
Lee	Pascrell	Sinema
Levin	Paulsen	Sires
Lewis	Payne	Slaughter
Lieu, Ted	Pearce	Smith (MO)
Lipinski	Perlmutter	Smith (NE)
LoBiondo	Perry	Smith (NJ)
Loeback	Peters	Smith (TX)
Lofgren	Peterson	Smith (WA)
Long	Pingree	Speier
Loudermilk	Pitts	Stefanik
Love	Pocan	Stewart
Lowenthal	Poe (TX)	Stivers
Lowey	Poliquin	Stutzman
Lucas	Polis	Swalwell (CA)
Luetkemeyer	Pompeo	Takai
Lujan Grisham	Posey	Takano
(NM)	Price (NC)	Thompson (CA)
Lujan, Ben Ray	Price, Tom	Thompson (MS)
(NM)	Quigley	Thornberry
Lummis	Rangel	Tiberi
Lynch	Ratcliffe	Tipton
Maloney,	Reed	Titus
Carolyn	Reichert	Tonko
Maloney, Sean	Renacci	Torres
Marchant	Ribble	Trott
Marino	Rice (NY)	Tsongas
Massie	Rice (SC)	Turner
Matsui	Richmond	Upton
McCarthy	Crawford	Rigell
McClintock	McCarthy	Roby
McCollum	McCollum	Roe (TN)
McDermott	McDermott	Rogers (AL)
McGovern	McGovern	Rogers (KY)
McHenry	McHenry	Rohrabacher
McMorris	McMorris	Rokita
Rodgers	Rodgers	Rooney (FL)
McNerney	McNerney	Ros-Lehtinen
McSally	McSally	Roskam
Meadows	Meadows	Ross
Meehan	Meehan	Rothfus
Meeks	Meeke	Rouzer
Meng	Meng	Roybal-Allard
Messer	Messer	Royce
Mica	Mica	Ruiz
Miller (FL)	Miller (FL)	Ruppersberger
Miller (MI)	Miller (MI)	Rush
Moolenaar	Moolenaar	Russell
Mooney (WV)	Mooney (WV)	Ryan (OH)
Moore	Moore	Salmon
Moulton	Moulton	Sánchez, Linda
Mullin	Mullin	T.
Mulvaney	Mulvaney	Sanchez, Loretta
Murphy (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Sanford
Murphy (PA)	Murphy (PA)	Sarbanes
Nadler	Nadler	Scalise
Napolitano	Napolitano	Schakowsky
Neal	Neal	Schiff
Neugebauer	Neugebauer	Schrader
Newhouse	Newhouse	Schweikert
Noem	Noem	Scott (VA)
Nolan	Nolan	Scott, Austin
Norcross	Norcross	Scott, David
Nugent	Nugent	Sensenbrenner
Nunes	Nunes	Serrano

NAYS—2

Thompson (PA)

NOT VOTING—16

Capuano	Lawrence	Sewell (AL)
Fattah	MacArthur	Van Hollen
Gohmert	McCaull	Wasserman
Gutiérrez	McKinley	Schultz
Hanna	Pelosi	Westmoreland
Issa	Pittenger	

□ 1530

Mr. CARNEY, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 166 on H.R. 4923, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### EMAIL PRIVACY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 699) to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 167]

YEAS—419

Abraham	Castor (FL)	Duckworth
Adams	Castro (TX)	Duffy
Aderholt	Chabot	Duncan (SC)
Aguilar	Chaffetz	Duncan (TN)
Allen	Chu, Judy	Edwards
Amash	Cicilline	Ellison
Amodei	Clark (MA)	Elmiers (NC)
Ashford	Clarke (NY)	Emmer (MN)
Babin	Clawson (FL)	Engel
Barletta	Clay	Eshoo
Barr	Cleaver	Esty
Barton	Clyburn	Farenthold
Bass	Coffman	Farr
Beatty	Cohen	Fincher
Becerra	Cole	Fitzpatrick
Benishek	Collins (GA)	Fleischmann
Bera	Collins (NY)	Fleming
Beyer	Comstock	Flores
Bilirakis	Conaway	Forbes
Bishop (GA)	Connolly	Fortenberry
Bishop (MI)	Conyers	Foster
Bishop (UT)	Cook	Fox
Black	Cooper	Frankel (FL)
Blackburn	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Blum	Costello (PA)	Frelinghuysen
Blumenauer	Courtney	Fudge
Bonamici	Cramer	Gabbard
Bost	Crawford	Galleo
Boustany	Crenshaw	Garamendi
Boyle, Brendan	Crowley	Garrett
F.	Cuellar	Gibbs
Brady (PA)	Culberson	Gibson
Brady (TX)	Cummings	Goodlatte
Brat	Curbelo (FL)	Gosar
Bridenstine	Davis (CA)	Gowdy
Brooks (AL)	Davis, Danny	Graham
Brooks (IN)	Davis, Rodney	Granger
Brown (FL)	DeFazio	Graves (GA)
Brownley (CA)	DeGette	Graves (LA)
Buchanan	Delaney	Graves (MO)
Buck	DeLauro	Grayson
Bucshon	DelBene	Green, Al
Burgess	Denham	Green, Gene
Bustos	Dent	Griffith
Butterfield	DeSantis	Grijalva
Byrne	DeSaulnier	Grothman
Calvert	DesJarlais	Guinta
Capps	Deutch	Guthrie
Capuano	Diaz-Balart	Hahn
Cárdenas	Dingell	Hardy
Carney	Doggett	Harper
Carson (IN)	Dold	Harris
Carter (GA)	Donovan	Hartzler
Carter (TX)	Doyle, Michael	Heck (NV)
Cartwright	F.	Heck (WA)

Hensarling	McCollum
Herrera Beutler	McDermott
Hice, Jody B.	McGovern
Higgins	McHenry
Hill	McKinley
Himes	McMorris
Hinojosa	Rodgers
Holding	McNerney
Honda	McSally
Hoyer	Meadows
Hudson	Meehan
Huelskamp	Meeks
Huffman	Meng
Huizenga (MI)	Messer
Hultgren	Mica
Hunter	Miller (FL)
Hurd (TX)	Miller (MI)
Hurt (VA)	Moolenaar
Israel	Mooney (WV)
Jackson Lee	Moore
Jeffries	Moulton
Jenkins (KS)	Mullin
Jenkins (WV)	Mulvaney
Johnson (GA)	Murphy (FL)
Johnson (OH)	Murphy (PA)
Johnson, E. B.	Nader
Johnson, Sam	Napolitano
Jolly	Neal
Jones	Neugebauer
Jordan	Newhouse
Joyce	Noem
Kaptur	Nolan
Katko	Norcross
Keating	Nugent
Kelly (IL)	Nunes
Kelly (MS)	O'Rourke
Kelly (PA)	Olson
Kennedy	Palazzo
Kildee	Pallone
Kilmer	Palmer
Kind	Pascrell
King (IA)	Paulsen
King (NY)	Payne
Kinzinger (IL)	Pearce
Kirkpatrick	Pelosi
Kline	Perlmutter
Knight	Perry
Kuster	Peters
Labrador	Peterson
LaHood	Pingree
LaMalfa	Pitts
Lamborn	Pocan
Lance	Poe (TX)
Langevin	Poliquin
Larsen (WA)	Polis
Larson (CT)	Pompeo
Latta	Posey
Lee	Price (NC)
Levin	Price, Tom
Lewis	Quigley
Lieu, Ted	Rangel
Lipinski	Ratcliffe
LoBiondo	Reed
Loebach	Reichert
Lofgren	Renacci
Long	Ribble
Loudermilk	Rice (NY)
Love	Rice (SC)
Lowenthal	Richmond
Lowe	Rigell
Lucas	Roby
Luetkemeyer	Roe (TN)
Lujan Grisham	Rogers (AL)
(NM)	Rogers (KY)
Luján, Ben Ray	Rohrabacher
(NM)	Rokita
Lummis	Rooney (FL)
Lynch	Ros-Lehtinen
Maloney,	Roskam
Sean	Ross
Carolyn	Rothfus
Marchant	Rouzer
Marino	Roybal-Allard
Massie	Royce
Matsui	Ruiz
McCarthy	Ruppersberger
McClintock	Rush

NOT VOTING—14

Issa	Sewell (AL)
Lawrence	Van Hollen
MacArthur	Wasserman
McCaul	Schultz
Pittenger	Westmoreland

Russell	Ryan (OH)
Salmon	Sánchez, Linda
T.	Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford	Sanford
Sarbanes	Scalise
Schakowsky	Schiff
Schrader	Schweikert
Scott (VA)	Scott, Austin
Scott, David	Sensenbrenner
Serrano	Sessions
Sherman	Shimkus
Shuster	Simpson
Sinema	Sires
Slaughter	Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)	Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)	Smith (WA)
Speier	Stefanik
Stewart	Stivers
Stutzman	Swalwell (CA)
Takai	Takano
Thompson (CA)	Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)	Thornberry
Tiberi	Tipton
Titus	Tonko
Torres	Trott
Tsongas	Turner
Upton	Valadao
Vargas	Veasey
Vela	Velázquez
Visclosky	Wagner
Walberg	Walder
Walker	Walorski
Walters, Mimi	Walz
Watson Coleman	Walters, Maxine
Weber (TX)	Webster (FL)
Welch	Wenstrup
Westerman	Whitfield
Williams	Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)	Wittman
Womack	Woodall
Yoder	Yarmuth
Yoho	Young (AK)
Young (IA)	Young (IN)
Zeldin	Zinke

□ 1537

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 167 on H.R. 699, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4498, HELPING ANGELS LEAD OUR STARTUPS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 701) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4498) to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 238, nays 181, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 168]

YEAS—238

Abraham	Denham	Hudson
Aderholt	Dent	Huelskamp
Allen	DeSantis	Huizenga (MI)
Amash	DesJarlais	Hultgren
Amodei	Diaz-Balart	Hunter
Babin	Dold	Hurd (TX)
Barletta	Donovan	Hurt (VA)
Barr	Duffy	Jenkins (KS)
Barton	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (WV)
Benishek	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (OH)
Bilirakis	Elmiers (NC)	Johnson, Sam
Bishop (MI)	Emmer (MN)	Jolly
Black	Farenthold	Jones
Blackburn	Fincher	Jordan
Blum	Fitzpatrick	Joyce
Bost	Fleischmann	Katko
Boustany	Fleming	Kelly (MS)
Bradley (TX)	Flores	Kelly (PA)
Brat	Forbes	King (IA)
Bridenstine	Fortenberry	King (NY)
Brooks (AL)	Fox	Kinzinger (IL)
Brooks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	Kline
Buchanan	Frelinghuysen	Knight
Buck	Garrett	Labrador
Bucshon	Gibbs	LaHood
Burgess	Gibson	LaMalfa
Byrne	Goodlatte	Lamborn
Calvert	Gosar	Lance
Carter (GA)	Gowdy	Latta
Carter (TX)	Granger	LoBiondo
Chabot	Graves (GA)	Long
Chaffetz	Graves (LA)	Loudermilk
Clawson (FL)	Graves (MO)	Love
Coffman	Griffith	Lucas
Cole	Grothman	Luetkemeyer
Collins (GA)	Guinta	Lummis
Collins (NY)	Guthrie	Marchant
Comstock	Harper	Marino
Conaway	Harris	Massie
Cook	Hartzer	McCarthy
Costello (PA)	Heck (NV)	McClintock
Cramer	Hensarling	McHenry
Crawford	Herrera Beutler	McKinley
Crenshaw	Hice, Jody B.	McMorris
Curbelo (FL)	Hill	Rodgers
Davis, Rodney	Holding	McSally
		Meadows

Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)

Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers

Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

NAYS—181

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo

Esty  
Farr  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larsen (CT)  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe y  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney,  
F.  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern

McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez

Visclosky  
Walz  
Waters, Maxine

Bishop (UT)  
Fattah  
Gohmert  
Gutiérrez  
Hanna

Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)

Issa  
Lawrence  
MacArthur  
McCaul  
Pittenger

Yarmuth  
Sewell (AL)  
Van Hollen  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—14

□ 1544

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 240, noes 177, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 169]

AYES—240

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishek  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carney  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Constock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Culberson  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Dold  
Donovan  
Duffy

Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Fincher  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Fox  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Johnston  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)

King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Pitts  
Jolly  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Renacci

Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner

Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg

Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

NOES—177

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo

Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Clay  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larsen (CT)  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Delaney  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney,  
F.  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
Meeke s  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)

Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sherman  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Lowey  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Brady (TX)  
Fattah  
Gohmert  
Gutiérrez  
Hanna  
Issa

Lawrence  
MacArthur  
McCaul  
McNerney  
Pittenger  
Reichert

Sewell (AL)  
Van Hollen  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Westmoreland

□ 1551

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HELPING ANGELS LEAD OUR STARTUPS ACT

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 701, I call up the bill (H.R. 4498) to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Pursuant to House Resolution 701, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4498

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act” or the “HALOS Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF ANGEL INVESTOR GROUP.

As used in this Act, the term “angel investor group” means any group that—

(1) is composed of accredited investors interested in investing personal capital in early-stage companies;

(2) holds regular meetings and has defined processes and procedures for making investment decisions, either individually or among the membership of the group as a whole; and

(3) is neither associated nor affiliated with brokers, dealers, or investment advisers.

#### SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL SOLICITATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall revise Regulation D of its rules (17 C.F.R. 230.500 et seq.) to require that in carrying out the prohibition against general solicitation or general advertising contained in section 230.502(c) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, the prohibition shall not apply to a presentation or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer which is made at an event—

(1) sponsored by—

(A) the United States or any territory thereof, by the District of Columbia, by any State, by a political subdivision of any State or territory, or by any agency or public instrumentality of any of the foregoing;

(B) a college, university, or other institution of higher education;

(C) a nonprofit organization;

(D) an angel investor group;

(E) a venture forum, venture capital association, or trade association; or

(F) any other group, person or entity as the Securities and Exchange Commission may determine by rule;

(2) where any advertising for the event does not reference any specific offering of securities by the issuer;

(3) the sponsor of which—

(A) does not make investment recommendations or provide investment advice to event attendees;

(B) does not engage in an active role in any investment negotiations between the issuer and investors attending the event;

(C) does not charge event attendees any fees other than administrative fees; and

(D) does not receive any compensation with respect to such event that would require registration of the sponsor as a broker or a dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or as an investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940; and

(4) where no specific information regarding an offering of securities by the issuer is communicated or distributed by or on behalf of the issuer, other than—

(A) that the issuer is in the process of offering securities or planning to offer securities;

(B) the type and amount of securities being offered;

(C) the amount of securities being offered that have already been subscribed for; and

(D) the intended use of proceeds of the offering.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (a) may only be construed as requiring the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend the requirements of Regulation D with respect to presentations and communications, and not with respect to purchases or sales.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support today of H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act, known as the HALOS Act. This is yet another bipartisan bill that has been passed out of the Financial Services Committee that I know will help create jobs and grow our economy.

We all know from listening to our constituents that jobs and the economy continue to be the number one issue of concern because this economy is still not working for working Americans. After many years, they still see their paychecks have stagnated. They have seen their savings evaporate. They are losing hope. We see entrepreneurship is at a generational low.

The HALOS Act is a step in the right direction. It is one of many solutions that we need to enact in this body.

I commend the bipartisan sponsor of the bill, Mr. CHABOT, the chairman of the Small Business Committee; Mr. HURT of Virginia and Ms. SINEMA of Ar-

izona, the latter two who serve with me on the Financial Services Committee.

I want to thank all of my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee for voting overwhelmingly in favor of this bill. Almost 80 percent of the membership of the committee voted to advance it to the floor.

I am proud that our committee has a strong record of bipartisanship. Since the beginning of the 114th Congress, Mr. Speaker, the House has passed 56 of our measures—30 have been signed into law—and each one of these measures received bipartisan support. In an era of divided government, that is not a bad record.

I believe that most Americans also believe that our economy works better for all Americans when small businesses can focus on creating jobs rather than navigating meaningless bureaucratic red tape.

The HALOS Act provides an important fix to regulations so it will be easier for our small businesses to attract investments. Again, Mr. Speaker, so critical when entrepreneurship is at a generational low and our economy limps along at even less than 2 percent of economic growth.

The HALOS Act provides a clearer path for startup businesses to connect with angel investors and allows investors to make their own informed decisions. Angel investors play an incredibly active role in helping small businesses open their doors and grow so they can open their doors even wider and hire more workers.

We should remember—and many of our colleagues are now aware—that companies like Amazon, Costco, Google, Facebook, and Starbucks were all first funded by angel investors. Now, today, not only the services they provide in our economy, but approximately 600,000 employees earn their paychecks and provide for their families working for companies that were started with angel investors.

Unfortunately, as so often happens, when Washington regulators get out of control, they step into the picture and we have yet more unintended consequences. Four years ago, Congress passed a bipartisan JOBS Act to make it easier for business startups to gain access to capital, but the Securities and Exchange Commission issued misguided regulations on angel investors that had exactly the opposite effect.

By inappropriately classifying events where entrepreneurs showcased their business models to angel investors as general solicitations, the SEC regulations are causing innovative startups to lose access to capital, which means our economy loses jobs. This is counter to Congress' intent when we passed the JOBS Act, and it is certainly counter to what our economy needs now. Mr. Speaker, what is so ironic is that the practice was legal and proper before

the passage of the JOBS Act. It should remain legal and proper after the passage of the JOBS Act.

This is a problem that Congress can easily fix by approving the HALOS Act. It is not a complicated bill, Mr. Speaker. It is four pages long. It simply ensures that funding from angel investors remains available to business startups.

The bipartisan bill makes sure that events where entrepreneurs and angel investors get together are not classified as general solicitations because they are not. Instead of onerous bureaucratic red tape that deters investors from backing new business startups, the four-page HALOS Act will help new businesses gain investor support when they need it most.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, this bill sailed through the House Financial Services Committee with strong bipartisan support. Out of 57 members voting in committee that day, only 13 opposed the bill. In other words, 80 percent of the committee voted in favor of the HALOS Act.

The bill has strong bipartisan support because it is common sense. It is about jobs; it is about helping small businesses overcome misguided regulation; and it is about making sure that Congress makes the law—not the regulators, who are unelected and who are unaccountable.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act.

This bill will make changes to investor protections under the JOBS Act that I believe are ill-advised and could lead to unintended consequences for our regulatory framework.

□ 1600

It would do so by broadening the scope of when private securities offerings can be solicited or advertised to the public without first verifying that the purchaser is financially sophisticated enough to understand the risk involved, what we call “accredited investors.”

Specifically, the bill would require the SEC to amend its safe harbor rules for private placements under Rule 506 of Regulation D so that the current verification requirements for general solicitation and advertising do not effectively apply to sales events that are sponsored by certain groups, colleges, nonprofits, trade associations, or angel investor groups, for example.

The bill's intent is to expand the role of angel investors in capital formation. It is a laudable goal, but it is one that needs appropriate rules to ensure investors have the protection and legal recourse needed to make sound investments.

So, while the bill would limit the amount and type of information that

can be communicated for these events, it would still allow companies to condition the markets for their securities and offer them to any member of the public who walks in the door.

Let me be clear. If a university wants to sponsor a so-called demo day with companies that want to pitch their ideas and products, they already can, and the entire public can attend. The companies, however, just can't talk about offers or sell securities in their companies.

I am concerned that this bill, however, would cause real harm to retail investors. For example, a hedge fund could set up an event that is sponsored by a questionable college, like Corinthian, could pass out flyers on campus that advertise their shares, and then sell those shares to anyone who had attended the event, including the students who may know nothing about how this whole operation works. They would not have to take reasonable steps to verify that these purchasers are accredited investors.

Furthermore, events sponsored by government entities, nonprofits, and universities are likely to attract the very people we are trying to protect, investors who are not accredited and do not have enough financial sophistication or wherewithal to understand the investments or bear their high risk of loss.

We created the Rule 506 exemption under the JOBS Act to expand the market for private offerings. Private companies can now advertise and solicit offerings to the general public, which helps them to raise the capital they need to grow their businesses.

In exchange for the expanded framework and lower levels of investor protection, we passed a simple amendment that I offered to require companies to just take reasonable steps to verify that the purchaser of the security is an accredited investor.

The intent was simple. If a company is going to advertise riskier private offerings, it must ensure that the buyer has the necessary income and assets to qualify for such a purchase rather than rely on so-called self-certification. The bill would effectively reverse this sensible amendment during these sales events.

At best, the bill is also unnecessary. The SEC has already provided relief to angel investor groups if they curate the people who attend these sales events. They have to either make sure they have a preexisting relationship with the investor or verify their income and assets at the time of purchase, which is consistent with our regulatory framework.

I have offered an amendment, which will be debated later today, that would codify the SEC's relief and prevent harm to everyday investors. It would also limit the exemptions to operating companies so that shell companies and

investment vehicles, like hedge funds, can't solicit potentially risky offerings to unknowing investors.

These revisions to the bill would strike an appropriate balance between capital formation and investor protection while still supporting angel investor groups. However, without my amendment, I cannot support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished Republican leader and a leader in the JOBS Act and in innovation.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Before I move on, I thank the gentleman for his work on the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. Speaker, this is another bill that comes to the floor with a large bipartisan vote coming out so as to create jobs, and that is what this floor is all about. Today we are talking about an American economy that is ripe for innovation. This is what is needed to create jobs and opportunity.

To my colleagues, I ask them: How many times have you traveled back to your districts and sat down and seen individuals who crave to be entrepreneurs? It could be that single mom or maybe it is that person who is stuck in a job or is a young kid with a great idea.

But as they roll out their ideas, they find they are not going to get stopped except by, maybe, a government regulation. Think of the jobs they could create and the places in which we can grow.

Because of the technological revolution of our country's experience, the startups we have come to know are now some of the largest companies in our economy. Our goal shouldn't be to stop the next great American company from coming into existence. We should actually enable it.

We should tear down the government-made barriers to their potential and embrace the positive disruption that will keep America as the world leader in innovation. That is the goal of the Innovation Initiative, and that is what we are doing here today.

We will pass today the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act, which enables ready investors to invest in startups. Startups are in a world of high risk and high reward.

They can't just go to a bank for a loan. They need angel investors who are willing to take that risk for the next company that will change the world, and Washington should not stand in the way of making that happen.

Several years ago Congress passed and the President did sign the JOBS Act. Our goal was to help increase access to capital. Unfortunately, some of the provisions in our bill were misinterpreted by the SEC against the

spirit of entrepreneurship, thus keeping the barriers to capital in place.

Today's bill gives new companies an opportunity to identify and to interact with potential investors, thus opening the door for the next great idea to get the funding it needs to get up and running.

I give a special thanks to Chairman CHABOT for identifying this inefficiency and acting to solve it.

I started my first business when I was 19 years old. There are three lessons you learn: you are the first one to work; you are the last one to leave; and you are the last one to be paid. The last thing you need is for government to stop you from achieving your dream.

It is very simple, when I talk to my colleagues here, in that there are one or two ways to go on this bill. If you sit back and you look at Facebook, Amazon, or Starbucks, they are amazing success stories in America and are where millions of people work.

The idea would be, if you believe America needs to continue the opportunity for our entrepreneurs and for more companies such as those, it starts with angel investing. So you would vote "yes."

If you believe America doesn't need innovation, that America thinks that the new Facebook shouldn't be there, that we should put up new barriers to stop a dream, to stop the growth, you would probably vote "no."

That is why later today, when this bill gets through, it will be a big bipartisan vote: because we believe in America.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS for granting me time.

I thank Mr. CHABOT and Mr. HURT and others for working with me on this bipartisan bill to help entrepreneurs and startup companies create jobs and grow our economy.

Mr. Speaker, American startup businesses are growing both in number and diversity. Entrepreneurs are finding new and better ways to bring together talent, innovation, and investment capital in an increasingly competitive small-business environment.

The HALOS Act clarifies SEC regulations to ensure small businesses may participate in educational demo days without the burden of having to verify that attendees are accredited investors. These events provide invaluable opportunities for entrepreneurs to meet and exchange ideas with students, professors, business professionals, and potential future investors.

The HALOS Act creates a clear path for startups to participate in demo days that are sponsored by a government entity, a nonprofit organization, an angel investor group, a venture as-

sociation, or other entity that is permitted by the SEC.

Specifically, this act clarifies the definition of "general solicitation" to exempt communications and presentations at these events where advertising does not make specific investment offerings and where no specific securities offering information is communicated at the event.

This permits startups to connect with business experts, potential future investors, and other entrepreneurs while maintaining existing accredited investor verification requirements and exceptions already under Regulation D for the actual purchase or sale of securities. It does not in any way permit the sale of securities to unaccredited investors at demo days.

Companies such as Amazon, Costco, Facebook, Google, and Starbucks were all initially funded by angel investors. As we work to make America more competitive in the new global economy, we need to encourage the growth of innovative startups and job-creating small businesses.

Again I thank my cosponsors and the chairman for working with us on this commonsense, bipartisan bill. I am committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that Arizona startups have the support that they need to grow their businesses and create jobs.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), who is the chief sponsor of the HALOS Act and is the chairman of our Small Business Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. I thank Mr. HENSARLING for his leadership on this. I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona, who just spoke, for her leadership on this as well.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I have the pleasure of hearing from America's small-business owners each and every day, both in my district and up here in Washington.

The stories of success are always encouraging to hear, but all too often, what I am told is how the government is making it difficult for small businesses to grow and succeed and to, therefore, create jobs.

Perhaps the most common concern is just how difficult it is for entrepreneurs who are starting out to access the needed capital to grow. This bill expands access to capital by ensuring small businesses can continue to connect with so-called angel investors.

One popular way small businesses have connected with angel investors is through demo days. These are events that are sponsored by universities, nonprofits, local governments, accelerators, incubators, and other groups that allow entrepreneurs to showcase their products and to informally meet investors and customers.

However, SEC regulations are threatening to force these events out of business by imposing unwieldy regulations that dictate who is and who is not allowed to simply attend.

These regulations would force everybody who merely walks through the door to go through what is essentially a full financial interrogation in one's handing over of tax documents and bank statements, paybook information, and on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, this doesn't make any sense. We should be encouraging participation in demo days, not creating obstacles. After all, not only are these events places at which to connect investors with our communities' small businesses and entrepreneurs, but they also provide a great opportunity for students, for example, and our next generation of entrepreneurs to ask questions and learn what it takes to get a business off the ground.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank Chairman HENSARLING for his leadership in getting this bill through the committee, as well as to thank Representative HURT, Representative SINEMA, and Representative TAKAI for working in a cooperative and bipartisan manner to move this bill to the House floor.

It was very bipartisan. All of the Republicans voted for it, and almost half of the Democrats voted for it in committee. It is always wonderful when we are able to work together to support small business, and there is no better time than now.

Next week is National Small Business Week, when we will be celebrating the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community all across America. Every one of us has small businesses in our districts. It serves as a reminder to us in this Chamber of how important it is to create policies that promote an environment for small businesses to succeed, and this bill is one more step in that direction.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4498. Again, I really appreciate the bipartisan nature of this bill and its support thus far.

1615

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT), a sponsor of the bill.

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the HALOS Act. I first would like to thank the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. HENSARLING, for his leadership on the JOBS Act and on this issue specifically.

I would also like to commend the efforts of Representatives CHABOT and SINEMA. It has been an honor to be able to work with them on such an important issue, and it is an honor to be able



to work with them to craft a sensible bipartisan bill aimed at removing a regulatory hurdle for innovative companies and startups seeking early-stage equity capital investment.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a rural district in Virginia, Virginia's Fifth District, that stretches from the northern Piedmont of Virginia to the North Carolina border. As I travel across my district, a recurring theme that I hear from my constituents is that they are concerned about jobs and the economy.

At a time when our economy is struggling, Congress must do everything possible to help small businesses achieve success. These entities are our Nation's most dynamic job creators, and their success is essential to our economy.

Earlier this year Charlottesville, Virginia, was recognized as one of the Nation's fastest growing markets for venture capital investment. Over the past 5 years, the amount of capital invested in Charlottesville has grown over 150 percent.

This type of investment can have a profound impact on a community, making it more attractive to other startup companies and ultimately producing more job growth. Indeed, Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut said it best when he introduced the Senate version of the HALOS Act:

I have heard from local entrepreneurs and interested backers alike that the most important thing we can do to help these businesses is make it easier for angel investors to put capital behind them, and that is exactly what our bipartisan HALOS Act will do.

In 2014 alone, angel investors deployed over \$24 billion to over 70,000 startups. Many of these investments go into companies in their own communities and States.

Beyond capital, angel investors often provide advice and guidance to help these companies succeed and create jobs. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

If enacted, the HALOS Act would amend the Securities Act to define an angel investor group and would clarify the definition of general solicitation so that startup enterprises would be able to continue to promote their businesses at certain events called demo days where there is no direct investment offering.

The HALOS Act would alleviate the burden placed on startups with regard to privacy and compliance concerns, which often require entrepreneurs and startups to take on burdens that they do not have the means to handle.

These burdens have a significant impact on an entrepreneur's ability to interface with investors because of the risk of violating Federal securities laws by having their interactions with investors being viewed as a general solicitation.

HALOS would lift this burden and is an important step to continuing the

success that this committee has achieved with the bipartisan JOBS Act.

The JOBS Act made it easier for startup enterprises to market their securities to a larger pool of investors. Unfortunately, while implementing the JOBS Act, the SEC has classified events held by angel investors as general solicitations, requiring entrepreneurs and startups to verify accredited investor status.

This jeopardizes the future of events like demo days where startups can interact with these investors and venture capitalists.

The HALOS Act would simply ensure that angel funding remains available to startups by defining the term "angel investor group" and exempting an angel investor event from being considered general solicitation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Virginia an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the HALOS Act is a simple, bipartisan, bicameral solution that will ensure that investors and companies can continue this commonsense interaction.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire if the other side has any further speakers before we use all our time?

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), the chairman of our Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the sponsor of the underlying legislation for the underlying bill.

I rise in support of H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it was 2 weeks ago at the Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee that we held a hearing that examined the positive impact the 2012 JOBS Act is having on our economy. By reducing burdens on startup companies and modernizing our security laws, the consensus was very clear.

The JOBS Act was a big win for entrepreneurs, innovation, and, ultimately, economic growth and opportunity and job creation in this country.

But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be doing more besides the JOBS Act, and it certainly doesn't mean that the Securities and Exchange Commission, the SEC, has done a perfect job, by any means, when it comes to implementing the important provisions of the JOBS Act.

At times, the SEC has taken liberties, if you will, with their rule-making that run contrary to the wishes and purposes of Congress, which ultimately could limit the impact this great, new revolutionary legislation has for our economy.

One example of this was the way in which the SEC implemented title II of the JOBS Act, which made it easier for companies to use general solicitation in order to attract investors for private offering of stocks.

You see, what happened here was, in their final rule, the SEC classified events such as demo days held by angel investors as being general solicitation. This means that angel groups would have to then comply with all the rules and regulations that are designed for issuers who are actually engaged in the offering of securities, which this is not.

So events such as demo days are an important economic development tool, if you will, used by small startup companies to help educate people, educate a pool of potential investors. They are not security offerings, and they should really, really not be treated as such.

Why is this important? Well, in 2014, angel investors put some \$24 billion to work in over 73,000 startups. So, clearly, this is a preferred source of capital throughout the economy.

Any kind of regulation that would hamper the ability of angel investors to communicate with startup companies would jeopardize the ability of angel investors to fund the next Apple or Google or startup.

So here we are with H.R. 4498. It would simply make a small technical fix to the JOBS Act and would allow such events to continue without that heavy hand of government getting in the way. So I want to thank the sponsors.

I urge bipartisan support of this underlying bill.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), chairman of Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as a small-business owner and coming from a family of very entrepreneurial people, I know the importance of fostering an environment that promotes economic opportunity and especially allows small businesses to grow and create jobs.

West Michigan, which I represent, is a hub of entrepreneurial activity. Organizations like the Grand Rapids Inventors Network and a very innovative place called Start Garden are the center of that.

Start Garden does two demo days a year with very sophisticated investors. In fact, over the last 3 years of Start Garden's existence, they have helped

and launched 200 various companies and have given them that investment.

One of those is Boxed Water is Better. Just this past week, my office received its first shipment from Holland, Michigan, of Boxed Water is Better.

Founded in 2009, the team at Boxed Water combined west Michigan ingenuity with capital from investors through Start Garden, who now employ 60 people and have facilities in both Michigan and Utah. They sell their product in over 8,000 stores nationwide and are now starting to sell around the globe.

Small businesses across the globe and across the country like Boxed Water are looking for real solutions from Congress to help them innovate and thrive.

The JOBS Act, a solution designed to jump-start capital formation for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and startups, was signed into law in 2012. Instead of helping small businesses access capital through the JOBS Act, as Congress had intended, the Securities and Exchange Commission has choked off avenues of that capital formation.

In order to participate in a demo day, the SEC requires startups to register a securities offering and verify the sophistication level of potential funders, something most of them do not have the physical or financial means to do, according to Start Garden.

I thank the gentleman from Ohio for introducing the HALOS Act, an important bill that connects fledgling companies to angel investors who may provide them with the capital that they need to turn their startup into a growing, thriving business.

By exempting demo days featuring many small businesses like Boxed Water and others, these participants are not considered as general solicitors under the Securities Act.

We need more entrepreneurs to expand, hire, and invest, and the HALOS Act is an innovative way of doing that.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CHABOT of Ohio for introducing this bipartisan piece of legislation as well as my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee, Congressman HURT of Virginia and Congresswoman SINEMA of Arizona, for sponsoring the legislation.

H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act, provides an important fix to our securities regulations that removes friction between entrepreneurs and the potential investors that are looking to support startup companies.

When we think about angel investing or venture capital, we naturally think of the Silicon Valley tech scene or the

financial powerhouse of New York City.

However, more and more startups all across the country are using important changes under the JOBS Act in order to raise financing no matter where they are located. In fact, as reported in the St. Louis Business Journal, St. Louis has the Nation's fastest growing startup scene.

As more and more investors are drawn to the St. Louis area, these early-stage investments are critical for helping keep these companies in Missouri and creating more local Missouri jobs.

Yet, while St. Louis' startups have experienced tremendous growth recently, small businesses and startups everywhere are still having difficulty in obtaining financing and investment in today's economy at a crucial stage when they are trying to grow and expand.

The HALOS Act will make a small change that makes it easier for small businesses to find those vital investments. It would exempt demo days from general solicitation requirements that would put a burden on entrepreneurs and that would make it more difficult for investors to provide financing.

For those companies that are not yet ready to go public, it is important that they are given the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to those who are interested in learning more.

I urge passage of this bipartisan piece of legislation.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN).

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be able to speak in support of the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups, or HALOS, Act.

I would also like to thank Chairman CHABOT, Congressman HURT, and Congresswoman SINEMA for putting forward this important bipartisan legislation.

I am fortunate to hear regularly from innovators across Illinois and through my work on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Chicago is recognized nationally as a hub for angel investors. The Illinois Venture Capital Association was one of the first associations to represent private equity and venture capital groups.

The State of Illinois also offers an angel investment credit program to attract and encourage investment into early-stage innovative companies throughout my State.

These innovators oftentimes have a simple idea that can be life changing, but financing these ideas so that they can become a reality is harder than you might think.

Angel investors play a key role in the earliest stages of these startups. They

provide the initial round of funding to help get these life-changing ideas off the ground. Startups are the job creators that drive our economy, make life-changing medical breakthroughs, and harness technology to accomplish the impossible.

These startup companies frequently participate in demo days, as has been talked about, to increase the visibility of their company, explain their ideas and hope to informally attract investors. These demo days are sponsored by a variety of organizations interested in promoting innovation and job creation.

For example, the University of Illinois Research Park told me that this bill would address some of the unintended consequences of the JOBS Act and crowdfunding, which could make things like Cozad New Venture Competition, Urbana-Champaign Angel Network angel presentations, the Share the Vision Technology Showcase, pitch practice at EnterpriseWorks, and other public forums for startups in Illinois problematic.

They want to encourage showcasing our startups without fear that these programs would be constituting a formal fundraising solicitation that would require reporting to the SEC.

This bill simply clarifies SEC regulations to ensure small businesses may participate in educational demo days without having to verify that attendees are accredited investors. This is a burdensome process meant only for security solicitation, not just informal conversations.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this important bill.

□ 1630

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis right now in our country, and the fact of the matter is, we have more business concerns closing, going out of business, than being started. If you are concerned about economic growth, if you are concerned about growing payrolls, people being able to survive financially, you should be fixated on the fact that we have more businesses closing than opening.

Being someone who was here and spent a year of his life working on the JOBS Act, the individual bills, who was almost giddy that we had a bipartisan piece of success that so many of us were incredibly optimistic that was going to create some economic growth,

and to be here today 4 years later dealing with something, I am sorry, that is almost absurd in the discussion: that the SEC has made it more restrictive today than it was before the JOBS Act.

Think about this: your university, your community college, your group brings together a number of little businesses that are trying to raise capital, and now under the interpretation that is coming at us, you are going to have to have security at the door to interview people, look at their financials. I mean, this is crazy.

Is the caterer going to have to get certified? How about the security person at the door, are they going to have to get secure?

Think about what this means and the absurdity that little businesses that were trying to capitalize can't even tell their story without making sure that the people in the room hearing it have met some sort of definition that the SEC has imposed after we all thought we did a piece of legislation that opened up this type of communication.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act.

I cosponsored this bipartisan legislation because it will assist entrepreneurs in accessing angel investors, who provide critical financing for startup businesses and local entrepreneurs.

From construction companies to medical technology producers and manufacturing and perhaps even the next iPhone app, there are Pennsylvanians in my district who are full of forward-thinking ideas who need access to capital.

By revising an unintended bureaucratic regulation that places an encumbrance on startup businesses, this legislation will further enable entrepreneurs access to the capital they need to create jobs and be successful.

Let me just say that again, Mr. Speaker. Here we have an example of a Washington, D.C., bureaucratic rule-making interpretation getting in the way of enabling entrepreneurs with good ideas from getting access to capital and subsequently creating jobs in local communities. There is a simple solution to fix that.

That is why I am supporting this legislation. I am proud of Pennsylvania's longstanding history as a leader in innovation, and I want to do everything I can to remove barriers and support our local job creators. I encourage all my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

The United States leads the global economy on innovation. There are a lot of pieces of the innovation agenda, some that Republicans and Democrats disagree on, some that they agree on. I am pleased to be here today on a small but important piece that can help move the innovation agenda forward, help America retain and grow its competitive advantage.

Let me set the scene. This could be a ballroom at a university, it could be a theater that is rented out for the night. There might be 5 or 10 teams of entrepreneurs who worked hard on their business plans. Perhaps they were part of some business plan competition to refine what they call their pitch deck. The audience fills out.

Who is in the audience?

It wouldn't be a worthwhile event if there weren't potential investors there. So, of course, the bulk of the audience—it could be half, it could be three-quarters, it could be most of it—will be accredited investors. They are the only people who can invest in these companies.

Who else should be in the room? Who do we want to make sure that we don't seal off the opportunity to learn and gain from that experience?

Well, it could be university faculty, graduate students, professors. They don't happen to be worth \$2 million, but they might have technical expertise. They might be able to be consultants. They might be professionals, lawyers and bankers, who might be able to assist the companies develop, patent their ideas, and raise money. It might be students and future entrepreneurs who want to learn about the pitch process so they, too, can refine their ideas and be on the stage the next time around.

That is what this bill allows, for us to make sure that the great opportunity that this country offers reaches people from all economic backgrounds. We can't lock everybody except for the millionaires and billionaires out of the room that helps form the seed capital for tomorrow's great company.

HALOS does not change the existing law about who can and can't buy private securities. What it does do is allow folks who are not accredited investors, who are not there as a potential investor to be in the room, to learn from the experience, to perhaps get a job if they are an aspiring programmer, to have to team up with one of the companies that presented as a co-founder to complement some of the competencies that the other founder has, to make sure that they, too, are in that great room of opportunity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our startup communities will be strengthened. Startup ecosystems like the ones that I am proud to say exist in towns like Fort Collins and Boulder in my district can be made more diverse through this law and will inevitably make sure that those in the room can expand opportunity beyond people who are already millionaires and billionaires.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker and Members, we have heard a lot of conversation from the opposite side of the aisle about what the SEC has done or has not done. As a matter of fact, it was represented that the SEC had misinterpreted the bill. That is not true.

We absolutely need rules of the road. We need to make sure that we are protecting investors. We need to make sure that we are not allowing folks to be put at great risk who don't understand or know what is happening in these rooms. I am concerned about these demo days on campuses where students may be encouraged in these presentations to invest their parents' money or get their parents involved in schemes that they may not be aware of.

Why is this so important to us?

It is important to us because we have arrived at a time in the Congress of the United States where we recognize the need for consumer protection. Prior to the recession that we had that was created in 2008 because of the subprime meltdown and the faulty products that were placed out in the marketplace by banks and financial institutions, consumers were really ignored and not protected.

We have payday loans that target our communities that charge 400 to 500 percent interest and take advantage of some of the most vulnerable people in our society. We have all of these fraudulent mortgages that almost brought this country down, that created a recession—almost a depression—and we are still finding out about some of the exotic products that they put out on the market that tricked people into signing on the dotted line who eventually lost their homes.

We have the fiduciary duty that we have been debating in Congress.

Do you know why we are debating that?

We are debating that because we have investment advisers who were in conflict with the people they were supposed to be protecting and supposed to be advising, and they literally were advising seniors, who had savings for their retirement, to invest in plans

that they would ultimately lose all of their money in.

So in addition to payday loans and fraudulent mortgages and conflict of interest and fiduciary, we have had mandatory arbitration and on and on and on. We have arrived at a time when Democrats are implementing Dodd-Frank. We are making sure that we have the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that is doing the work that had not been done all of these years.

Yes, we are concerned about this. We supported the JOBS Act. We supported it with an amendment that I put in there that said that you must take reasonable opportunities to ensure that you know who these investors are. We are talking about accredited investors, folks who have resources, folks who know how this game is operated, folks who can protect themselves. They have lawyers, they have consultants, all of that.

What we don't want is—we don't want these students and we don't want people who walk in off the street who may be presented with an opportunity that is not a real opportunity.

For example, what if we had something like Corinthian that is a private, postsecondary school that we had to close down, or DeVry University, or the University of Phoenix, or the Trump University?

Any of these could present themselves as credible businesses to be invested in, only to find out later that the students have been misled, they have not gotten jobs, they don't have anything. They have not made any money. We are saying this is another effort to simply protect those who oftentimes are the targets of the rip-offs and the fraud.

I would ask my colleagues to support the amendment that I am going to put to the bill to make sure that they know who is in the room. I would ask them to support this simple amendment that was made in order in the Committee on Rules to make sure that we are protecting those investors and keeping them from getting ripped off.

Now, some of my friends on the opposite side of the aisle would have you believe that we are not interested in capital formation, that we are not interested in entrepreneurship, that we are not interested in joint ventures. That is absolutely not true. As a matter of fact, folks on this side of the aisle are fighting to make the financial institutions responsible and the banks to make loans where they should be making loans. We have to have a CRA to make sure that they are doing what they should be doing with the depositors' money and on and on and on. We fight for small businesses every day.

We joined up with our colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle to support the JOBS Act even though we had some concerns, and the SEC tried to

make sure that we had the kind of legislation that would protect these investors.

Now they are saying: We don't like what the SEC is doing. They are misinterpreting it. They are messing this all up.

Well, that is not true. Now, we know they don't like the SEC. As a matter of fact, they do everything that they can to limit their funding so that they cannot be effective. But these are our cops on the block. The SEC is our cop on the block to try and make sure that we limit the rip-off and the fraud and the undermining of average citizens in our society. We support the JOBS Act. We believe that we should not have these operations on the campuses without knowing who is in the room and allowing investors to be put at risk.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I would ask for a "no" vote on the bill. I am going to ask for an "aye" vote on the amendment that is going to come up. If my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle accept this very, very reasonable amendment, then I will vote to support the bill. But if they don't show any concern or compassion for the interests of investors, then I cannot support the bill, and I will ask my caucus not to support the bill. It is as simple as that.

□ 1645

When are we going to stop the fraudulent operations in this country that rip off working people every day, rip off students, and don't care about our investors who are interested in capital formation and investing in real enterprises that can help to grow their business and make some money themselves? When are we going to recognize we can do both?

We don't have to just be on the side of those who would take advantage of people. We must be on the side of both—our investors who are willing to put up money and our businesses who need capital formation—but somehow we always end up letting the most vulnerable people in our society be the target of fraud by those who take advantage of them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, I am very, very happy that yet another bipartisan bill has come out of the Financial Services Committee to try to get this economy working for working people. I took note that there were more Democrats coming to the floor in favor of the bill than against the bill, and that almost 80 percent of the members of the Financial Services Committee reported this bill favorably.

Now, the ranking member spoke passionately about trying to help the most vulnerable. She cares about investor protection. But, Mr. Speaker, the only people who can buy these securities in a private offering are millionaires. So the question is: Who do you care more about, the millionaire investors or the working poor who need better jobs?

You can't have capitalism without capital, and yet the ranking member would put one more burden in front of small businesses and entrepreneurs trying to create businesses so that people can have better jobs and a better future for themselves and their families.

I am glad we have millionaire investors. I wish we had more of them. But they are already protected. You must be an accredited investor in order to partake, to actually buy the security. All we are debating now is whether you are going to have to prescreen, as the gentleman from Arizona said, the caterer or the security guard at the door, to be part of the demo day—something, Mr. Speaker, that was perfectly legal and had gone on for years and years and years prior to this SEC rule.

Yet we have an agency, the Securities and Exchange Commission, creating law out of thin air, making it more difficult for the working poor to find better jobs, to make sure that people have a better career path, to make sure that we can find the next Facebook. They are making it more difficult.

I believe this will have strong bipartisan support on the floor. We all need to support the HALOS Act, H.R. 4498. At the end of the day, who are you going to come down in favor of, the working poor or millionaire investors who are already protected? This side of the aisle will come down in favor of the working poor who need jobs in an economy that has been hurt by Obamanomics.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. MAXINE WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 5, strike "and".

Page 5, after line 5, insert the following:

(D) does not receive any compensation for making introductions between investors attending the event and issuers, or for investment negotiations between such parties; and

Page 5, line 6, strike "(D)" and insert "(E)".

Page 5, line 11, strike "and".

Page 5, line 23, strike the period and insert "and".

Page 5, after line 23, insert the following:

(5) where attendance to the event is limited to members of an angel investor group or to accredited investors.

At the end of the bill, insert the following:  
 (c) DEFINITION OF ISSUER.—For purposes of this section and the revision of rules required under this section, the term “issuer” means an issuer that is in day-to-day operations as a business, is not in bankruptcy or receivership, is not an investment company, and is not a blank check, blind pool, or shell company.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 701, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS), and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned during the general debate on H.R. 4498, I am offering this amendment today in order to clarify and improve the bill. If this amendment is accepted, I am prepared to support this legislation.

Indeed, I support the goal of connecting angel investor groups with companies seeking funding, particularly startups and emerging firms. Angel investor groups tend to be comprised of highly sophisticated individuals with significant experience investing in higher risk offerings. They tend to curate their groups carefully and are good gatekeepers for these demo day events.

As such, my amendment seeks to support the efforts of these angel investor associations without creating a harmful loophole in some of the protections we put in place when we adopted the JOBS Act of 2012. This amendment includes several provisions to advance these goals.

First, my amendment stipulates that no sponsor of a demo day can collect finders' fees for connecting investors to companies. This provision ensures that event sponsors—colleges, nonprofits, trade associations, or otherwise—don't have perverse incentives to drum up securities sales.

Second, my amendment limits the relief offered under the bill to actual operating companies in the “real economy.” As such, it excludes certain entities like shell companies and investment vehicles like hedge funds. I think that my amendment is appropriately calibrated to ensure that the benefits provided under the bill go to startups like technology firms or manufacturing companies rather than opaque or speculative firms.

Third, my amendment would codify the relief the SEC has already provided for angel investor groups as it relates to these demo days. This will provide legal certainty to these groups without opening up any new loopholes. Let me describe how this would work.

If the company wants to hold a demo day and also condition the market for a securities sale, as H.R. 4498 would allow, they would have to curate the group of people that attend the event. To be clear, under the bill as currently drafted, companies aren't limited to

holding science fair-style demonstrations. They can discuss actual securities being offered, the types and amounts of those securities, who has already subscribed to their offerings, and how they intend to use the proceeds of the offering.

Under the SEC's relief and codified in this provision in my amendment, companies can hold these presentations, can talk about their securities, and can solicit attendance. They can even avoid the accredited investor verification requirement in the JOBS Act. They just have to call their existing networks of accredited investors and angel investor group members rather than blasting out an invitation to an entire college campus. If companies do want to blast out the invitation to entire campuses, they still can; they just have to abide by the verification provisions in the JOBS Act.

In summary, this amendment I am offering today ensures that no loopholes to the JOBS Act verification requirement are opened up, that all manner of conflicted fees are prohibited, and that the benefits of the bill go to actual operating companies. And that is very important, actual operating companies.

Mr. Speaker, whether it is through my work to clarify and improve the JOBS Act during the 112th Congress or my work with members on the committee this Congress to amend the definition of “accredited investors” or through my amendment today, I have long shown a willingness to work in good faith on issues related to capital formation. I would urge my colleagues to adopt my amendment so that we can all support a strong, bipartisan bill.

Mr. HENSARLING brags about how many Democrats supported this bill. He brags about the fact that, in committee and then on the floor, we all tried to be very cooperative in the JOBS Act. And I bent over backwards to ensure that we could get a JOBS Act to see what could happen with creating jobs, but what they have done now is to go a step further beyond what we agreed upon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for an “aye” vote on my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, the amendment from the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee effectively repeals the HALOS Act.

We are having the same debate that we just had. It would effectively outlaw demo days as they are currently practiced. The whole idea of the HALOS Act is to ensure that demo days, which existed prior to this SEC rule, will continue and that startups can continue to have access to capital without the ad-

ditional burden of having to screen those who actually come in to demo days.

Mr. Speaker, again, a private offering. The security can only be purchased by an accredited investor. Those are the existing rules. So there is almost a mythical group that the ranking member is attempting to protect. At the end of the day, these are millionaire investors who are the angel investors, who are the accredited investors whom we need to help fund these startups.

What the gentlewoman from California's amendment does, again, is guts the bill. It basically just simply codifies this SEC rule, and that absolutely overturns the congressional intent to make sure that we have greater access to capital.

In addition, there is an entire new defined term of “issuer” in her amendment, notwithstanding the fact that this is already defined in section 3(aa) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. So we have undefined, vague terms that are being introduced here.

I would also remind the gentlewoman from California and all that the HALOS Act already prohibits a sponsor from engaging in investment negotiations between the issuer and investors, charging event attendees any fees other than administrative fees, and receiving any compensation that would require the sponsor to register with the SEC as a broker-dealer or investment adviser.

So these are ill-placed concerns that at the end of the day put up yet another hurdle for angel investors funding the next new Facebook, the next new Costco, the next new Starbucks, and putting tens of thousands of Americans back to work.

It is time that we affirm the JOBS bill, not gut the JOBS bill, and I would urge all Members to reject the amendment of the gentlewoman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, and on the amendment by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS).

The question is on the amendment by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the amendment will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

A motion to recommit, if ordered;  
 Passage of the bill, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1890.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 139, nays 272, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 170]

YEAS—139

Adams	Gallego	Moore
Bass	Garamendi	Murphy (FL)
Beatty	Graham	Nadler
Becerra	Grayson	Napolitano
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	Neal
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Nolan
Bonamici	Grijalva	Norcross
Boyle, Brendan F.	Hahn	O'Rourke
Brady (PA)	Hastings	Pallone
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)	Payne
Butterfield	Higgins	Pelosi
Capps	Hinojosa	Perlmutter
Capuano	Honda	Pingree
Carson (IN)	Hoyer	Pocan
Cartwright	Huffman	Price (NC)
Castor (FL)	Israel	Quigley
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Rangel
Chu, Judy	Johnson, E. B.	Roybal-Allard
Ciциlline	Keating	Ruppersberger
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Clay	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Clyburn	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cohen	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Courtney	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Crowley	Langevin	Schakowsky
Cuellar	Larsen (WA)	Schiff
Cummings	Larson (CT)	Schiff
Davis (CA)	Lee	Scott (VA)
Davis, Danny	Levin	Scott, David
DeFazio	Lewis	Serrano
DeGette	Lieu, Ted	Sherman
DeLauro	Loebsack	Sires
DelBene	Lofgren	Slaughter
DeSaulnier	Lowenthal	Smith (WA)
Deutch	Lowe	Speier
Dingell	Lujan Grisham	Takano
Doggett	(NM)	Takano
Doyle, Michael F.	Luján, Ben Ray	Thompson (MS)
Duckworth	(NM)	Thompson (MS)
Edwards	Maloney,	Tonko
Engel	Carolyn	Tsongas
Esty	Matsui	Vargas
Farr	McCormack	Veasey
Frankel (FL)	McCollum	Velázquez
Fudge	McDermott	Visclosky
Gabbard	McGovern	Waters, Maxine
	McNerney	Watson Coleman
	Meeks	Welch
	Meng	Wilson (FL)

NAYS—272

Abraham	Carney	Ellison
Aderholt	Carter (GA)	Ellmers (NC)
Aguilar	Carter (TX)	Emmer (MN)
Allen	Chabot	Eshoo
Amash	Chaffetz	Farenthold
Ashford	Clawson (FL)	Fincher
Babin	Cleaver	Fitzpatrick
Barletta	Coffman	Fleischmann
Barr	Cole	Fleming
Barton	Collins (GA)	Flores
Benishek	Collins (NY)	Forbes
Bera	Comstock	Fortenberry
Beyer	Conaway	Foster
Billirakis	Connolly	Fox
Bishop (MI)	Cook	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (UT)	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Black	Costa	Garrett
Blackburn	Costello (PA)	Gibbs
Blum	Cramer	Gibson
Bost	Crawford	Goodlatte
Boustany	Crenshaw	Gosar
Brady (TX)	Culberson	Gowdy
Brat	Curbelo (FL)	Granger
Bridenstine	Davis, Rodney	Graves (GA)
Brooks (AL)	Delaney	Graves (LA)
Brooks (IN)	Denham	Graves (MO)
Brownley (CA)	Dent	Griffith
Buchanan	DeSantis	Grothman
Buck	DesJarlais	Guinta
Bucshon	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Burgess	Dold	Hardy
Bustos	Donovan	Harper
Byrne	Duffy	Harris
Calvert	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Cárdenas	Duncan (TN)	Heck (NV)

Hensarling	Meehan	Scalise
Herrera Beutler	Messer	Schrader
Hice, Jody B.	Mica	Schweikert
Hill	Miller (FL)	Scott, Austin
Himes	Miller (MI)	Sensenbrenner
Holding	Moolenaar	Sessions
Hudson	Mooney (WV)	Shimkus
Huelskamp	Moulton	Shuster
Huizenga (MI)	Mullin	Simpson
Hunter	Mulvaney	Sinema
Hultgren	Murphy (PA)	Smith (MO)
Jordan	Neugebauer	Smith (NE)
Joyce	Newhouse	Smith (NJ)
Katko	Noem	Smith (TX)
Kelly (MS)	Nugent	Stefanik
Kelly (PA)	Nunes	Stewart
King (IA)	Olson	Stivers
King (NY)	Palazzo	Stutzman
Kinzinger (IL)	Palmer	Swalwell (CA)
Kline	Paulsen	Takai
Knight	Pearce	Thompson (CA)
Kuster	Perry	Thompson (PA)
Labrador	Peters	Thornberry
LaHood	Peterson	Tiberi
LaMalfa	Pitts	Tipton
Lamborn	Poe (TX)	Titus
Lance	Poliquin	Trott
Latta	Polis	Turner
Lipinski	Pompeo	Upton
LoBiondo	Posey	Valadao
Long	Price, Tom	Vela
Loudermilk	Ratcliffe	Wagner
Love	Reed	Walberg
Lucas	Reichert	Walden
Luetkemeyer	Renacci	Walker
Lummis	Ribble	Walorski
Maloney, Sean	Rice (NY)	Walters, Mimi
Marchant	Rice (SC)	Walz
Marino	Rigell	Weber (TX)
Massie	Roby	Webster (FL)
McCarthy	Roe (TN)	Wenstrup
McClintock	Rogers (AL)	Westerman
McHenry	Rogers (KY)	Whitfield
McKinley	Rohrabacher	Williams
McMorris	Rokita	Wilson (SC)
Rodgers	Rooney (FL)	Wittman
Salmon	Ros-Lehtinen	Womack
Sanford	Roskam	Woodall
	Ross	Yarmuth
	Rothfus	Yoder
	Rouzer	Yoho
	Royce	Young (AK)
	Ruiz	Young (IA)
	Russell	Young (IN)
	Roskam	Zeldin
	Sanford	Zinke

NOT VOTING—22

Amodei	Jeffries	Richmond
Conyers	Kaptur	Sewell (AL)
Fattah	Lawrence	Torres
Gohmert	Lynch	Van Hollen
Gutiérrez	MacArthur	Wasserman
Hanna	McCaul	Schultz
Issa	Pascrell	Westmoreland
Jackson Lee	Pittenger	

□ 1719

Messrs. FARENTHOLD, GROTHMAN, RUSSELL, POE of Texas, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HULTGREN, Ms. ESHOO, Messrs. CULBERSON, ROKITA, CALVERT, WITTMAN, and SHUSTER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. CARSON of Indiana, KILMER, and SCHIFF changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 170 on H.R. 4998, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “no” when I should have voted “yes.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 325, nays 89, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 171]

YEAS—325

Abraham	DelBene	Jolly
Aderholt	Denham	Jones
Aguilar	Dent	Jordan
Allen	DeSantis	Joyce
Amash	DesJarlais	Katko
Ashford	Deutch	Keating
Babin	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (IL)
Barletta	Dold	Kelly (MS)
Barr	Donovan	Kelly (PA)
Barton	Duckworth	Kennedy
Beatty	Duffy	Kilmer
Benishek	Duncan (SC)	Kind
Bera	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)
Beyer	Edwards	King (NY)
Billirakis	Ellmers (NC)	Kinzinger (IL)
Bishop (GA)	Emmer (MN)	Kirkpatrick
Bishop (MI)	Eshoo	Kline
Bishop (UT)	Esty	Knight
Black	Farenthold	Kuster
Blackburn	Farr	Labrador
Blum	Fincher	LaHood
Bost	Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa
Boustany	Fleischmann	Lamborn
Boyle, Brendan F.	Fleming	Lance
Brady (TX)	Flores	Larsen (WA)
Brat	Forbes	Larson (CT)
Bridenstine	Fortenberry	Latta
Brooks (AL)	Foster	Levin
Brooks (IN)	Fox	Lieu, Ted
Brownley (CA)	Franks (AZ)	Lipinski
Buchanan	Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo
Buck	Garamendi	Loebsack
Bucshon	Garrett	Long
Burgess	Gibbs	Loudermilk
Bustos	Goodlatte	Love
Byrne	Gosar	Lucas
Calvert	Gowdy	Luetkemeyer
Cárdenas	Graham	Lujan Grisham
	Granger	(NM)
	Graves (GA)	Luján, Ben Ray
	Graves (LA)	(NM)
	Graves (MO)	Lummis
	Griffith	Maloney,
	Grothman	Carolyn
	Guinta	Maloney, Sean
	Guthrie	Marchant
	Hahn	Marino
	Hardy	Massie
	Harper	Matsui
	Harris	McCarthy
	Hartzler	McClintock
	Heck (NV)	McCormack
	Hensarling	McHenry
	Herrera Beutler	McKinley
	Hice, Jody B.	McMorris
	Hill	Rodgers
	Himes	McSally
	Hinojosa	Meadows
	Holding	Meehan
	Hoyer	Meeks
	Hudson	Meng
	Huelskamp	Messer
	Huizenga (MI)	Mica
	Hultgren	Miller (FL)
	Hunter	Miller (MI)
	Hurd (TX)	Moolenaar
	Hurt (VA)	Mooney (WV)
	Jenkins (KS)	Moulton
	Jenkins (WV)	Mullin
	Johnson (OH)	Mulvaney
	Johnson, Sam	Murphy (FL)
		Murphy (PA)

Neal  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Polis  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (NC)  
Price, Tom  
Quigley  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)

Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Tsongas  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Thompson (CA)

Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Titus  
Trott  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Walz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yarmuth  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

DEFEND TRADE SECRETS ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1890) to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 2, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 172]

YEAS—410

Abraham  
Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Allen  
Ashford  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Benishkek  
Bera  
Beyer  
Billirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boustany  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brown (FL)  
Brown (CA)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Capps  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Engel  
Esty  
Farenthold  
Farr  
Fincher  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Poster  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn

Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kirkpatrick  
Kline  
Knight  
Kuster  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeback  
Lofgren  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lummis  
Lynch  
Maloney, Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marino  
Matsui  
McCarthy  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Meng  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moore  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (FL)

Murphy (PA)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Nugent  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Pascrell  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pitts  
Pocan  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Polis  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (NC)  
Price, Tom  
Rangel  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Robby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Russell  
Ryan (OH)  
Salmon  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sanford  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader

Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Titus  
Tonko  
Trott  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Walz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Welch  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yarmuth  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

NAYS—89

Adams  
Bass  
Becerra  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Butterfield  
Capuano  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cummings  
Davis, Danny  
DeLauro  
DeSaulnier  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Ellison  
Engel  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge

NOT VOTING—19

Amodei  
Conyers  
Fattah  
Gohmert  
Gutiérrez  
Hanna  
Issa

Pallone  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Pocan  
Rangel  
Roybal-Allard  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sherman  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Takano  
Thompson (MS)  
Tonko  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)

□ 1726

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.  
So the bill was passed.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.  
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NAYS—2

Amash

Massie

NOT VOTING—21

Amodei  
Conyers  
Eshoo  
Fattah  
Gohmert  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hanna

Issa  
Jackson Lee  
Jones  
Lawrence  
MacArthur  
McCauley  
Pittenger  
Quigley

□ 1733

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on April 27, 2016, I missed the following votes:

H.R. 4923—American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016—“Yea.”

H.R. 699—Email Privacy Act—“Yea.”

S. 1890—Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016—“Yea.”

H.R. 4498—HALOS Act

Amendment No. 1—“Nay.”

P.Q.—“Yea.”

Rule—“Yea.”

Passage—“Yea.”

Had I been present for these votes, with the exception of H.R. 4498 Amendment No. 1 and MTR where I would have voted “nay”, I would have voted “yea” for each.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4901, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 88, DISAPPROVING DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RULE RELATED TO DEFINITION OF THE TERM “FIDUCIARY”; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 2, 2016, THROUGH MAY 9, 2016

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-533) on the resolution (H. Res. 706) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4901) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term “Fiduciary”; and providing for proceedings during the period from May 2, 2016, through May 9, 2016, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

BONNIE SCOTT—PEACE CORPS VICTIM

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, targeted, bullied, and terrorized, these are the words that Bonnie Scott used to describe her dismissal from the Peace Corps.

One month after reported allegations that another U.S. Peace Corps member had harassed and sexually assaulted two local women, Scott was dismissed—interesting. This is not the first time that we have heard of these actions.

In 2015, a report found that one in five Peace Corps volunteers were victims of sexual assault. Half of the victims do not report their attacks. Many

state that they were blamed by the Peace Corps for their sexual assaults.

Even though Congress has passed the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011, the Peace Corps has work to do to protect these amazing ambassadors abroad.

Mr. Speaker, Peace Corps volunteers are the best America has. These volunteers must know that America will protect them overseas. If a crime occurs against them, America will stand by them, not abandon them. And if a crime is committed, they need to know the crime is not their fault; it is the fault of the perpetrator.

And that is just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was detained with a meeting off campus at the White House. I would like to indicate my vote on the Waters amendment. For the Waters amendment, I would have voted “aye”; for final passage of H.R. 4498, Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act, I would have voted “no”; and for S. 1890, Defend Trade Secrets Act, I would have voted “aye.”

EL DIA DE LOS NINOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 30 as El Dia de Los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans.

This holiday serves to honor and celebrate the importance of children in our Nation. El Dia de Los Ninos, which when translated means Day of the Children, helps bring Hispanic families and other communities together nationwide to recognize the importance of literacy and education for all children.

Recognizing this day highlights the growing presence of Hispanic youth in the United States and the lasting impact of Hispanic Americans on the social, political, economic, and cultural fabric of this Nation.

This important holiday is celebrated by numerous countries and more than 130 cities across the United States. In order to support the many cities, counties, States, and communities that already celebrate El Dia de Los Ninos, I will introduce a resolution with Senator BOB MENENDEZ to recognize April 30 as El Dia de Los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans.

Senator BOB MENENDEZ, Senator JACK REED, and Representative RUBÉN HINOJOSA began the movement to recognize El Dia de Los Ninos 17 years ago. I am committed to continuing their work.

I urge my colleagues to support this important holiday and to join me in co-

sponsoring my resolution to recognize April 30 as El Dia de Los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans.

UNAUTHORIZED SPENDING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TROTT). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on tonight’s Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I want to very quickly thank all of the Members who have volunteered their time to speak tonight. I know they are running on a tight schedule, as we all are.

With that in mind, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS), a tireless advocate for conservative values, whose bold leadership, tenacity, and kindness make her one of this body’s greatest Members. I would like to thank her for introducing H.R. 4730, the Unauthorized Spending Accountability Act, that is a vitally important piece of legislation that will go a long way in helping to eliminate Federal programs that have not been authorized by Congress, yet somehow still come in to receive appropriations. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and encourage all Members of the House to support it.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing us together this evening. This is a very important discussion. It really goes to what is foundational about America in Article I and the authority that rests in Congress, as outlined in Article I.

I am looking forward to this Special Order and hope that we will continue this discussion in the weeks ahead. But a big thank you to the gentleman from Florida for his leadership and bringing us all together.

In the fall of 2014—so this was right after the Ice Bucket Challenge—Gail Gleason, who is a mom in my district in eastern Washington, had a meeting with me. She was almost in tears because CMS, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, was proposing new rules and regulations that would take away the important communication device for those who have lost their ability to speak, largely impacting a lot of ALS patients. Her son, Dave Gleason, is a football player, a football star. She came to me in desperation because CMS rules were going to take away his communication device.



Do you know what? This is just one of many examples where bureaucrats, arrogant and unaccountable so often and disconnected from their mission, are making rules and regulations outside of the Congress, outside of the vote and of the approval of the elected representatives of the people.

I think about the VA, the Veterans Administration. This is an agency that is dedicated to our veterans. So often our veterans feel like they get lost. Instead of having the red-carpet treatment, they feel like they are given the runaround. They have to wait weeks and weeks, even, just to schedule a simple doctor's appointment.

Recently, the FDA came out with new rules, 400-page menu labeling rules, that for a pizza restaurant would require them to somehow disclose on a menu board the 34 million combinations of pizza. Land management, environmental regulations, threatening to regulate every mud puddle in America from Washington, D.C., and the list goes on and on.

Our Founding Fathers envisioned three branches of government—very important. There was the judicial branch, the legislative branch, and the executive branch. Each one has very important roles. No one person was to be making all of the decisions.

□ 1745

Part of the reason that people in this country are so frustrated today is due to 1600 Pennsylvania. The President has been delegitimizing us as an institution and in our role as Representatives on behalf of the people. Too often, Members of Congress feel like we are bystanders in the process as more and more rules and regulations are generated outside of our input and certainly outside of our approval.

It is interesting to note that the Capitol—the Congress—is really the center of Washington, D.C. Our Founding Fathers, I think, envisioned that this would be the center and that all other roads would lead from the Capitol. The White House is actually on a side street down on Pennsylvania.

How did we go so far from being what our Founders envisioned—a body that is closest to the people, most accountable to the people? How do we restore people's trust in this institution, which is the branch of government that is directly elected by them?

At the start is Article I of the Constitution—getting our government off of autopilot and restoring the decision-making that belongs in the House and in the Senate with the elected Representatives of the people.

There are many ideas out there as to how to restore the balance of powers, but I want to focus on one in particular—a way that we can be positive disruptors, can challenge the status quo, take back the power of the purse, and get the Federal Government off of

autopilot. That is by tackling what we refer to as “unauthorized spending.”

There are hundreds of programs and departments that have stayed on the books despite the fact that their deadlines have come and gone. I like to refer to them as “zombie” government programs, potentially living beyond their intended lifespans because they have not been authorized in years and sometimes in decades. For example, the VA hasn't been authorized since 1996; the BLM hasn't been authorized since 1998, as well as other agencies, such as the Federal Election Commission. There is a long list. It is estimated that over \$300 billion in spending is in these unauthorized programs.

If we, the elected Representatives, committed to doing our jobs—reviewing, rethinking, possibly eliminating these programs if they have exceeded their lives—the people would be well served.

I recently introduced the USA Act, the Unauthorized Spending Accountability Act, to require these expired “zombie” programs to be renewed, to hold the bureaucrats accountable who have become disconnected from their missions. Programs and agencies should not receive taxpayer funding unless the people's Representatives—their voices in government—have authorized them to do so.

The demands on families, on businesses, and on institutions have changed. In some ways, the only place that hasn't changed is Congress. We need to rethink government from the top-down and restore the power of the purse. Article I is just as relevant today as it was at the founding of our country. Our Founders recognized that every individual is made in the image of God. We celebrate the potential of every individual, and our laws must reflect the will of the people. This is the genius of America.

Mr. YOHO. I thank the gentlewoman from Washington for her great words in preserving our Constitution and for the work that she is doing to bring Article I powers back to the House.

We get blamed a lot for the dysfunction in this country about what this body is not doing, and the gentlewoman is so right in bringing this power here; so I thank her for her leadership on that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to a stalwart from the great State of Utah, Mrs. MIA LOVE, who is leading a charge and is making quite a name for herself.

Mrs. LOVE. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I am so excited to talk about Article I. Right now I am working on a project called the Article I Project in order to restore Article I back to the United States Congress.

Today I rise on behalf of all of the Utahans in my home State who have expressed frustration with our regulatory state. For decades, Congress has essentially delegated many responsibil-

ities to executive agencies. As a result, unelected and unaccountable agencies have impacted American lives more than the decisions have of their elected officials. In this Congress, for example, 146 bills have been signed into law after going through the House and the Senate. Meanwhile 3,378 rules and regulations were finalized last year alone, joining thousands of others that ultimately cost the American economy \$4 trillion a year.

Our Constitution is designed to preserve individual liberty, but this government instead seeks to increase bureaucratic influence. The American people deserve better. They deserve Representatives of their choosing who are empowered to make decisions. They also deserve to know that if those Representatives fail, they can hold them accountable and bring about change. At the end of the day, that is what restoring constitutional powers is about—giving the American people a voice. It is for that cause, especially, I am proud to fight.

Mr. YOHO. I thank the gentlewoman from Utah, and I appreciate the work she is doing.

Keep it up. We only have a Nation to save.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America. Ours is the shortest Constitution in existence and is the longest-serving—227 years since its ratification in 1789. Our Founders can have many things said of them, but one thing we can all agree on is, through divine guidance, they got this as near to perfection as a document can be.

Our Constitution has created the freest, the largest middle class, the most successful country on the planet. For the first time in recorded history, it has allowed people to become self-determining, it has allowed for personal freedoms never before seen in human history. It grants us unalienable rights, those being life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It allows for personal property rights.

These are the things that allow a Republic, as ours, to flourish and for ideas to be created and expanded upon because they allow for the possibility of that unlimited potential inside each and every human on the planet. It is our Constitution that allows for the way of life we have for which others will risk everything, including life, so as to have a chance at freedom.

So it is a document worth protecting, preserving. It is a document that should be revered by all so we can pass it on to our future generations, as well as the prosperity and the good fortune that was inherited by us, this generation. The price that has been paid came from the blood, sweat, and tears of our Founders, from the people who came before us, and from every military person, including their spouses and families; and each and every Member of

Congress takes an oath and a pledge to uphold our Constitution.

Article I, section 1 reads: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

Article I, section 8 lists clearly that Congress has the power to lay and collect taxes, to provide for the common defense, to regulate commerce, to declare war, to establish a uniform rule of naturalization. It ends in section 8: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The President's responsibility, as delineated in Article II, section 3, reads that the President is to see that the Laws are faithfully executed. I want to repeat that. The President is to see that the Laws are faithfully executed. This is called the Take Care Clause.

I have only spent 3 years here, but in that time we have watched this body work multiple times to rein in not just the executive branch, but the administrative agencies. We have sued the President and have won two times in the Supreme Court. We have had fights over the power of the purse. We have had Supreme Court fights whether it has been dealing with immigration laws and rules or not enforcing the laws on the books. We have fought the President just on enforcing the laws that are already on the books. We don't need any more laws. We just need to follow the ones we have.

This is not just this administration—this is previous administrations—but I fear where we are going in this next election. If we don't get our House in order, if we don't bring back Article I powers to this House, at that point, when we overstep the boundaries of our Constitution by an executive branch or by administrative agencies, it is too late to try to reel them in. Now it is urgent to do that. To put it off any longer would be buying fire insurance for your house after your house catches on fire. It is too late.

In addition, as I talked about, we have fought overstepping, out-of-control Federal agencies that are wreaking havoc on American businesses and are costing every American, according to the CBO estimates, approximately \$14,500.

If I look at the administration's rules and regulations that have come out since 1999 to 2008, there have been approximately 750 rules that have come out. From 2009 to 2015, there have been over 530 rules coming out just from the Obama administration. If I look at the final rules and regulations that were issued just under George Bush, the amount for his 8 years was 2,430. When I look at President Obama's rules and

regulations—and we are only 4 months into his last year and term—to date, the Obama administration has had over 28,000 rules and regulations coming out, which are strangling and suffocating American businesses, paid for by the American taxpayers.

I recently introduced H. Res. 693, which asks for a permanent select committee to investigate not just this executive branch, but all future ones so that we can have in place a vehicle to rein in an overstepping administration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to a colleague and a classmate of mine from the State of Texas, Mr. RANDY WEBER, who has cosponsored H. Res. 693. I appreciate the gentleman's work on this important topic.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank my friend from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for yielding the floor and for leading this Special Order and introducing H. Res. 693.

Mr. Speaker, as of yesterday, the Obama Presidency was 90 percent over. So let's do a quick recap of just what has happened over these past 7½ years.

First, the President violated the Constitution by unilaterally changing sections of the Affordable Care Act at least 23 times without having congressional approval. That is Public Law 111-148. Even though he said, probably, on some 20 occasions that he didn't have constitutional authority to do things, he still did them.

Two, the President and the Department of Justice were in direct violation of their constitutional responsibility to the Defense of Marriage Act, which is Public Law 104-199.

The President and his department of injustice continue to choose not to enforce Federal drug laws, which are Public Law 91-513, the Controlled Substances Act, and Public Law 100-690, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986.

The President violated the Constitution by making Presidential appointments to the National Labor Relations Board and to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau while Congress was not in session, so declared by him.

I have read the Constitution, Mr. Speaker. Only the Senate majority leader can decide when the Senate is in session, not the President. I might add that the President was slapped down by the Supreme Court 9-zip.

Further, the President and the department of injustice abused executive privilege in the Operation Fast and Furious scandal by refusing to comply with a subpoena that was issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the United States House of Representatives, thereby violating section 192 of title II, United States Code.

The President violated the law, which is Public Law 89-236, by unilaterally changing our Nation's immigration laws with regard to deferred action, giving illegal aliens access to gov-

ernment programs and tax credits that are funded by our constituents, which is in contravention of our Constitution.

The President and the Department of Health and Human Services failed to enforce Federal law, which is Public Law 111-5, by illegally waiving the work requirement for welfare recipients.

Under this President, the IRS violated the First Amendment to the United States Constitution by targeting nonprofit organizations because of their religious or political beliefs.

The President and the Department of Defense knowingly violated the National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA of 2014, which is Public Law 113-66, by not providing a 30-day notice to Congress prior to transporting five Guantanamo detainees to Qatar in a prisoner swap.

□ 1800

Some would say in military terms that the terrorists got five nuclear weapons and we got one conventional weapon, which turned out to be a dud.

The President and his administration continue to move forward with his plan to close the Guantanamo detention facility and move the detainees.

By the way, did you know that one out of three prisoners released rejoin their terrorist organizations and wind up at the front lines, seeking to kill yet more Americans?

Folks, it is the duty of the legislative branch to write and pass laws, the judicial branch to interpret those laws, and the executive branch's duty to enforce those same laws.

The very success of our form of government comes from this simple balance of powers. This critically important founding principle is currently being trampled on by this President while most of our citizens may not even be aware of its damaging implications.

Our Nation's laws are not mere suggestions to be dismissed on a whim. Our laws are binding. If we in Congress allow this or any President to ignore the rule of law, then we allow the foundation of our Nation to be shattered.

I thank my colleague, Mr. YOHO, for introducing this resolution of which I am a proud cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, there you have it. You know I am right.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER). I appreciate him standing up for the rule of law because, if we are not a Nation of law, everything falls apart, civil society falls apart.

Just last week in my district there was a fight over transgender bathrooms. It is a fight people want to have.

We came up here at the beginning of last week and spoke in front of the Supreme Court. They heard the argument on the President's Executive order on

November 20, 2014, to waive our immigration laws and grant 4 to 5 million people here illegally resident status.

That case was heard last week, and there was a large group of proponents wanting the Supreme Court to side with the President. Our President has said over 22 times that he cannot change that law. He has admitted to that.

I thought it was ironic that the people in my district were arguing over transgender bathrooms and the group up here—and I know a lot of them were here illegally—were arguing in the United States of America in front of the Supreme Court, the freest country in the world. The only reason that they can come up and have a voice of dissent is because we have a Constitution.

Our Constitution, when it was formed, wasn't a Republican idea and wasn't a Democratic idea. It was something that came together after 1,000 years from the Magna Carta on up that formed a Constitution that formed the Republic that we have.

When I look at the people arguing—and, you know, it is the Republicans against the Democrats or the Conservatives against the Liberals or whatever group you want to put in there—the only reason we have those arguments is because we have a document that is an American document. It is American ideology that all parties should come together to preserve. That is why this argument is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman, a freshman from the State of Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative YOHO for holding this Special Order on executive overreach.

As a lifelong healthcare professional and former businessowner, I believe the healthcare industry is flooded with examples of President Obama's administration overreaching its authority and either ignoring congressional intent or refusing to enforce laws enacted by Congress.

As recent as last Monday, April 18, the FDA issued new guidance related to the Drug Quality and Security Act and compounding pharmacists.

On November 27, 2013, President Obama signed the Drug Quality and Security Act, DQSA, into law. Within the DQSA, several important provisions were related to the oversight of compounding human medications.

In fact, DQSA created two types of compounding pharmacies, 503A pharmacies and 503B pharmacies. 503A compounding pharmacies are small, community pharmacies that only compound small quantities of medication to a very limited number of doctors and patients with very specific needs.

A perfect example of this is a servicemember who has lost a limb in war. Some servicemen and -women who have lost their limbs experience sig-

nificant amounts of pain that regular medication does not adequately address. Compounded medication helps with this specialized need.

503B compounding facilities are those outsourcing facilities that manufacture compounded medications and ship them all over the country.

When Congress debated DQSA, many statements were made by both House and Senate congressional Members stating that there was no intent for this bill to restrict State pharmacy licensing boards and their local control of small, community pharmacies.

In fact, the FDA was directed by Congress that, in regards to inspection standards, 503B facilities would be the only ones subjected to good manufacturing inspection standards. You would think that that would make sense, that only manufacturing facilities would be subjected to good manufacturing practice standards.

In addition, congressional intent was clear that 503A community pharmacies could continue to provide office-use compounded medication as they had always done. Did FDA adhere to the obvious congressional intent of DQSA related to compounding? No.

FDA's recent guidance states that all medication that is compounded by small, community pharmacists needs to have a specific patient prescription.

Your local dermatologist, who keeps a local anesthetic in the office to remove skin to test for cancer, is going to have to write a prescription, have the patient go to the pharmacist, get their prescription filled, and then schedule another appointment before checking to see if they have skin cancer.

This goes against all congressional intent, to allow State pharmacy boards to continue local control of their small pharmacies. Now, all State pharmacy boards that allow office use have had their powers taken away from them.

The FDA guidance also pointed out that, except under certain circumstances, good manufacturing inspection standards will always be used to inspect all compounding pharmacies.

So pharmacists who provide specialized compounded medication to one patient with a specific need will be subjected to large corporation inspection standards that will cost significant financial investments.

In essence, the FDA has ignored congressional intent related to the DQSA and has ultimately eliminated an entire sector of the healthcare industry that was providing specialized care to patients with special needs.

In fact, the HHS informed my office that, if we continue to pursue this matter and try to rein in the FDA's overreach, we, Congress, would be responsible for the next 100 deaths from compounded medication. This example is just one of many that I have experienced with this administration.

Recently, HHS instituted a rule that would require pharmacy benefit managers to update their maximum allowable cost list every 7 days. These MAC lists control what pharmacists are reimbursed. If they are not updated regularly, pharmacists lose business because they are not reimbursed by Medicare at the present market price.

A recent call with the inspector general of HHS informed my office that pharmacy benefit managers are not complying with this new rule because HHS has not designated anyone to ensure that pricing lists are updated every 7 days.

Mr. Speaker, let me rephrase that. HHS is not enforcing their rules on MAC price updating because no one is assigned to enforce this law. You would think that, if a rule was created, the agency would work to enforce that rule, but apparently not.

Over the last 7½ years, President Obama's administration has shown a complete disregard for Article I of our Constitution and the powers that our Founding Fathers wanted this institution to have.

They interpret enacted legislation against the intent of Congress, they refuse to enforce laws that were meant to bring transparency to the American people, and they choose when congressional direction is applicable law and when it is not.

This body should take a long, hard look at the actions of these agencies. They are not following the law and intent that was created by this body, and action should be taken to remove these bureaucrats so the American people can have the government they deserve.

Again I want to thank the gentleman, Representative YOHO, for bringing this to light. This is a very serious subject that needs to be addressed.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his comments, for his work, and for bringing this to light because, again, these issues that we are discussing are not Republican or Democrat.

This is about the rule of law and maintaining the uniqueness of this institution, and that is something all Americans benefit from. If we lose it, all Americans are going to be hurt by that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK), a friend and colleague.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. YOHO for organizing this Special Order hour.

You know, this is one of the reasons I ran for Congress. The abuse of power and executive overreach coming from the White House right now is completely unacceptable.

Like many of my colleagues here tonight, I am a firm believer in the Constitution. I believe it is the duty of the President to faithfully execute the law,

not to willfully ignore it for political gain.

A President cannot implement legislation through Executive orders or agency rulemaking. Yet, we have witnessed this administration launch attacks against the Second Amendment, impose burdensome regulations through the EPA and other agencies, and enact many policies without the support of Congress or the American people.

I have spoken to a wide array of my constituents throughout the northern half of Michigan in the time I have been here in Congress. They are constantly telling me about some new regulation that some Federal agency is coming up with that doesn't seem to do anything as far as promoting welfare or improving the environment, but it is simply making it more difficult for businesses to remain open. It is really affecting their ability to hire people.

In my district, one of the big complaints we have had is the EPA attempting to limit the ability to have a wood stove. Well, it gets pretty cold in northern Michigan in the winter, and people save money by cutting their own wood and burning it in their homes. Then the EPA comes out saying that we can't have wood stoves that don't meet this criterion, and it doesn't make any sense for people in my district.

Furthermore, the EPA's waters of the U.S. proposal to regulate ditches to manmade ponds doesn't do one thing to truly protect our water resources. Instead, it overloads small farmers, loggers, and other businesses with needless red tape and compliance costs.

There is a reason that our Founding Fathers created separate, but equal, branches of government. The executive branch and agencies like the EPA are charged with carrying out the intent of Congress. We have made incredible strides in cleaning up our Nation's air and water.

However, what happens when these giant bureaucracies start to feel themselves becoming relevant? Unelected bureaucrats began writing onerous legislation to justify their own existence, and they do this with absolutely no regard for the practical effect that these regulations have on local families and businesses.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I reclaim my time.

I got a notice from the EPA when I first got up here. It was January 2014, and it was a pamphlet with their new regulations.

In that, what they were talking about is that their new rules and regulations would have minimal effect on air quality and human health, but they are going ahead anyway.

In the example you brought up about the wood-burning fireplaces, we have done a tremendous job of cleaning up the air quality in this country, as other

countries need to do, but we shouldn't go after things that aren't going to really have a difference.

I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from Florida.

In my district, although it has been several years, the EPA shut down the construction of a brand-new coal plant. Okay? This coal plant would have been the purest coal-fired power plant in the country.

It ran with new technology, and there is no reason for it being shut down. This plant would not even produce any CO<sub>2</sub>. That CO<sub>2</sub> was being captured by the coal plant and used by industry to create other products.

So this administration has taken on a proposal and used the EPA not to make our environment better, but to have a war on coal. I mean, the EPA and the President doesn't talk about making our atmosphere and our environment cleaner. It talks about a war on coal.

□ 1815

That is just the wrong attitude to have, and it really needs to be directed by Congress. It is unbelievable what we have gone through. It can cause economic damage to this country. Right now we are competing with the Chinese who don't have any significant pollution controls on their power plants, and we have invested billions as Americans, each one of us, by paying for more expensive power to really clean up our atmosphere.

How are the Chinese doing that?

Now that we have basically cleaned up our atmosphere, they want to impose even higher and higher standards that actually are causing our business to go down and steel production is going over there where they are polluting even worse.

Mr. YOHO. Reclaiming my time, I think you and I were in a meeting the other day in one of the committees. We had a fellow, he was an attorney who worked under the Reagan White House, and he worked with the EPA. He was saying the EPA went from regulations to clean stuff up. Now it is regulations that you can't. You can't have coal-fired power plants, you can't do this, and it was an agency of can't. I think you were in that meeting. It shows, again, the overstepping of agencies, and it shows how administrations or executive branches rewrite laws or they legislate from the executive branch through the administrative agencies, and we have seen an increase in this.

Again, it is not just this administration, but I think President Obama, this administration has done us a favor by bringing this to light with the 24,000 regulations that are coming out that are crippling the American economy and businesses. If it is doing that, it is

crushing the middle class and all Americans.

Mr. BENISHEK. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOHO. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, the things we are talking about here today really are examples of the Federal Government getting involved in things that they don't have the right to do. I think a lot of it comes from these bureaucrats that are just writing regulations that really you can't comply with, and that is basically the reason that these coal-fired power plants are going out of existence.

Most of these problems have been eliminated by the work that we have done on improving our environment, and I applaud that America has made the investment before any other country in making that happen, but to regulate us to the point that businesses are going overseas and polluting the planet worse because of our policies, because if we did the stuff here, we would do it cleaner.

The University of Michigan has had an environmental research station in northern Michigan in my district for the last 60, 70 years. The scientists at the University of Michigan tell me that most of the mercury that falls from the sky in Michigan comes from China and India, that we have essentially eliminated mercury as a problem in the environment from our industry here. But because we are not dealing with that problem of the Indians and the Chinese doing that, we are ignoring that and actually giving them the ability—by not having to comply with a lot of these rules, the ability to pollute the planet worse than we would if we were doing those things here.

Mr. YOHO. May I add to that?

Mr. BENISHEK. Sure.

Mr. YOHO. We went to a coal-fired power plant in our district, and they were saying in the old days a typical coal-fired power plant would put out approximately 50 pounds of mercury a year. Today it is less than 2 pounds. That is a significant difference from 50 to 2. That is a 48-pound reduction in mercury going into the atmosphere.

What is the significance and the benefit going from 2 pounds to 0, and at what cost do you go forward?

Being a veterinarian for 30 years, I have never treated an animal with mercury toxicity. I think you need to have common sense in regulations, and, of course, the worst place to go for that is government.

I will let you continue.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. YOHO for putting on this Special Order hour. I am very happy to be able to participate in it. I think that we really need to be sure the American people are aware of what is going on and that they make their decisions when they go to the polls based on this information. So thank you very much.

Mr. YOHO. I appreciate the gentleman's participation and his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Republican or Democratic argument. That should not even weigh into this. It is not conservatives versus liberals. These are American ideologies that we all have to come together to preserve, and I can't think of one person more suited to talk about this than somebody I have a lot of admiration for who sits on the House Committee on Agriculture with me. He is from the State my wife is from, the State of Iowa.

I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for pulling this Special Order together and for his generous introduction, and especially for Mr. YOHO's leadership on the restoration of article I authority and addressing the executive overreach that has become part and parcel of the Obama administration. It didn't begin there, but it needs to end with the next President of the United States and be slowed down in the last months of the Obama administration.

Mr. Speaker, I was just exercising a thought here as I was reviewing some of the executive overreach that we have seen from this President, and it occurred to me to take a look at the Declaration of Independence and review some of what I will call the lamentations of our Founding Fathers. It is to this effect, Mr. Speaker. When we get to the laments, these are the things, the wrongs that have been committed by the King of England.

It says in the Declaration: "The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations"—that sounds like the history of our current President of the United States—"all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world."

This is from our Declaration, Mr. Speaker. I will just quickly hit some of these.

"He has refused his Assent to Laws . . ."

"He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws . . ."

"He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation . . . of people . . ."

"He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual . . ."

"He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly . . ."

"He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby"—summarizing that, hindering legislative activity elsewhere.

"He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither . . ."

"He has obstructed the Administration of Justice . . ."

"He has made Judges dependent on his Will . . ."

"He has erected a Multitude of new Offices"—that would be his czars.

"He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies . . ."

Well, not quite, but rumors of them do exist.

We could go on and on and on, the grief that King George dished out on our original colonists here at the time of the Revolution, at the time of this Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, but I look at the present times, and it rings to be pretty close—along the way there are echoes of 1776—in the overreach of the President of the United States.

I mentioned them. This is a list from some testimony before the Executive Overreach Task Force, which I have the privilege to chair, and among this list are some of these:

He has appointed policy czars to high-level positions to avoid constitutionally required confirmation hearings—that could be lifted almost right out of the Declaration of Independence.

By modifying, delaying, and ignoring various provisions of ObamaCare, in violation of the law itself—that is a long list of things on ObamaCare that the President has altered outside of the law.

By attacking private citizens for engaging in constitutionally protected speech—utilizing the IRS to diminish that as well.

By issuing draconian regulations regarding sexual assault on campus.

By ignoring 100 years of legal rulings and the plain text of the Constitution and trying to get a vote in Congress for the D.C. Delegate—I had forgotten that one, actually.

By trying to enact massive immigration reform via an executive order, demanding that the Department of Homeland Security both refuse to enforce existing immigration law and provide work permits to millions of people residing in the U.S. illegally.

Now, these all ring like the laments, the charges that were laid against King George in 1776. It is the same tone. It is a similar message. It is going outside the law and outside the Constitution.

By imposing Common Core standards on the States via administrative fiat.

By ignoring bankruptcy law and arranging Chrysler's bankruptcy to benefit labor unions at the expense of bondholders.

And I could continue.

Well, here is one that is of significant interest to my State and I think to Florida and many other States, and that is his imposition of a regulation called the Waters of the United States. That dropped on us on May 27, 2015.

The Waters of the United States said we are going to regulate all the navigable waters of the United States. Oh,

and this ambiguous term that is called—let's see. It used to be "and waters hydrologically connected to them." That got litigated into being too ambiguous even for the courts to tolerate. They are the masters of ambiguity. But instead they put the language in that said "these waters of the United States shall be the navigable waters of the United States and waters that have a significant nexus to the waters of the United States."

Now, a significant nexus is going to be determined by the administration, another term of ambiguity.

I see some eagerness over here on the part of the gentleman from Florida. Does he have something to add?

Mr. YOHO. The interpretation we got: "and seasonably wet areas." I come from Florida. It is seasonably wet all year long. I mean, we get 57 to 60 inches of rain a year, so everything is seasonably wet in our great State, and they fall into that. The little puddle in my yard, when it rains, it might stand 3 or 4 inches. We are on a sandy soil. When it stops raining, it goes away in 5 minutes, but that could be interpreted as navigable waters, and I am probably 10 miles from a body of water. It is just amazing.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Well, to the gentleman from Florida, we may have a legitimate competition going on here. The Waters of the United States regulation would put 96.7 percent of my State under the EPA's regulatory jurisdiction. Florida would be a competitor to that number, I would think.

Mr. YOHO. Yes, it would be all of Florida.

Mr. KING of Iowa. All of Florida. I have said that once you regulate waters hydrologically connected to or once you get to define significant nexus, that goes all the way up to the kitchen sink. We know that soil itself, whether it is under water, it can be saturated with water, and just old black Iowa dirt can be 25 percent water, so they have got it all, this overreach of the Federal Government.

Our Founding Fathers envisioned that there would be a competition between the branches of government to sustain their constitutional authority in each branch. They wanted to draw as bright a line as possible between the three branches of government, with the courts being the weakest of the three. They expected that we would jealously guard the constitutional authority. Congress writes all the laws. The President is supposed to enforce all the laws. That should be pretty clear. But the President has reached across that over and over and over again, as evidenced by this list of laments that I offer, Mr. Speaker.

Does the gentleman from Florida have something to add?

Mr. YOHO. As I traveled as a veterinarian, and I was talking to somebody, we got in a discussion about the Constitution, and they wanted to know

why I was so hung up on it. I explained to them that the very people that are fighting to preserve our founding principles that our rights come from a Creator, not from government, that government is instituted by men and women to preserve those God-given rights, and that our core values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the unalienable rights of those things, that all men are created equal, and they are protected by the Constitution.

I said it is that very document that people are fighting to preserve that give people on the left a voice of dissension or people on the right a voice of dissension. I said: If we lose those very things that made America great, if we lose those, people will lose their voice of dissension. If you don't believe that, go to a country like Cuba, go to China, go to Iran and proselytize. It is not possible.

The amazing thing is that person called me about 30 minutes later and said: You know, we got thinking about that, and that really is what this is about. It is not Republican or Democrat. It is not conservative or liberal. Those are American ideologies that made this country great.

I would hope our friends on the other side of the aisle would come and say: You guys are right, we want to preserve the constitutional principles.

Does the gentleman from Iowa have anything else to add?

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Florida for those timeless thoughts. Something that our Founding Fathers discovered was a concept that was relatively new to society at the time, and that is the concept of God-given liberty and God-given rights, natural rights, natural rights that did emerge with Locke, for example, in the United Kingdom, but they hadn't been implanted into culture and civilization until they were implanted in America.

Here we are in this country, everyone that serves in this Chamber takes an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, as do all the Senators on the other end of this Capitol Building, as does everyone who puts on a uniform to defend our country, and many of them who serve within our executive branch as well. The President is a bit of an exception because he is required to deliver an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and he is required to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

□ 1830

And what he has done, instead, is turn himself into an independent legislative body. He has said 22 times: I don't have the constitutional authority—and I am going to summarize here—to grant amnesty to millions of people in America. That is up to the legislature.

He taught the Constitution at the University of Chicago for 10 years as an

adjunct professor teaching Con law. And that was the message, I am sure, that he taught in those classrooms; and it was a message he taught in a classroom out here at one of the high schools in D.C. shortly before he decided to reverse his position and impose this edict of amnesty on the United States, which went down through a long path of litigation for more than 2 years and a week ago last Monday was heard before the United States Supreme Court, at least in the DAPA case—the deferred action for parents of anchor babies is actually what that acronym stands for, in my view.

So I take this oath that I have to support and defend the Constitution seriously. I have the privilege of serving on the Constitution and Civil Justice Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee and of chairing this task force. I congratulate the gentleman from Florida for stepping up to the lead on this issue.

Mr. YOHO. If I may add to one of your comments, because you brought up the philosophers Locke and Howe, philosophers of old, when we look at the American period of time—227 years, roughly, the U.S. Constitution and a constitutional Republic as a country have been in existence, the longest time a republic has been in existence—when you go back to the beginning of human recorded history to today and you look at the American period where we are at today, it is but a dot on that timeline.

Yet that dot represents the largest middle class that has ever been allowed to happen. It is the first time there have been property rights that you can have and the right to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is only possible because we had a Constitution that preserved those rights. So I would think we could all come together and protect those rights for the next generation, for the posterity of this Nation.

I would like to see if you had any thoughts on that, and then I will close.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I am looking at our job and our destiny here, and I think that our constitutional obligation is to restore the pillars of American exceptionalism. You can identify many of them in the Constitution itself. In the Bill of Rights it is pretty well summarized: freedom of speech, religion, the press, the freedom to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

The Second Amendment rights, which are the property rights that the gentleman mentioned, I would point out that, in the Kelo decision, which happened about 10 years, the Supreme Court ruled that they could amend the Constitution itself. Well, they didn't say they did, but that was the effect of their decision. "Nor shall private property be taken for public use without

just compensation" is part of the Fifth Amendment. The Supreme Court ruled that private property could be taken for private use as long as there was just compensation. So they struck the three words "for public use" as a conditional clause out of the Fifth Amendment. We had a Supreme Court that amended the Constitution, effectively.

We have a Supreme Court last June that amended ObamaCare by writing words into it; "or Federal Government" would be the three words inserted there. And then, the next day, they decided they would create a new command in the Constitution, a command that all States shall conduct same-sex weddings and honor them from other States, as if somehow that were the will of the people or something done under the Constitution.

This is an appalling reach on the part of the Supreme Court. It is even more appalling on the part of the President of the United States, and it is our task to identify what needs to be done and start down that mission of restoring the constitutional authority and this balance between the branches of government.

I am happy to have a chance to say a few words.

Mr. YOHO. Today, in one of our committees, we were hearing about the Attorney General and how she stated that those who speak out against the administration's climate change policy possibly being a crime.

Think about that. They are examining if you speak out against something that is unfavorable to an administration. It is going against freedom of speech, our First Amendment, the very things that we fought for and that everybody who has come before us has fought for. I think this would be something that would scare everybody, if we are that close to losing the very document.

I hold in my hand—and you have seen me do this before—the Declaration of Independence, in total, and the U.S. Constitution, in total. I think we can all agree this is not an epic in volume. I can read this in a day. This is not an epic in volume, but yet it is an epic in ideology of what free men and women can do in a country that honors and reveres this document. It just so important that we come together.

As I stated earlier, I think Mr. Obama has done us a favor in showing us how weak we have become as an institution and how weak our rule of law is. And for us to succeed and continue as a constitutional Republic, we must—we have to—bring those Article I powers back to this body.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Florida for that statement. I absolutely believe that, deeply.

I think one of the important things is that we educate the young people on what the Constitution says and what it

means. We have a President of the United States who was a professional Constitution teacher, who we know knows the history and the text of the Constitution and takes his oath to preserve, protect, and defend it and take care that the laws be faithfully executed and explains it in stop after stop succinctly, in ways that I agree with this President, and then he turns around and, by his own definition—and by his definition is all I am referring to here, Mr. Speaker—breaks his own oath. So we are here now trying to restore the knowledge base of America.

Members of Congress arrive here as freshmen, and they take an oath to the Constitution. They don't know what it means anymore. The Supreme Court thinks they can amend the Constitution; they can manufacture new commands in the Constitution; they can violate Article I authority. And the President can do so at will.

But I would point out that, 13 times, the President of the United States' position has been unanimously reversed by the United States Supreme Court—President Obama, 13 times, unanimously reversed. Another 11 times, he has lost on a 5-4 decision.

So he has stretched this Constitution beyond that. Even his own appointees in the Supreme Court can't stomach it; that is how bad this is. But I want to see the right appointments to the Supreme Court so the whole Constitution is revered, respected, and we see cases go before the Court and, once again, we can predict the Court will rule on the Constitution rather than their political whims.

Mr. YOHO. I appreciate you bringing that up, because you bring up how many times it has been overstepped as of recent, but other administrations have done it in the past. But it sets a precedent from this point forward. If we don't rein it in now, when do you rein it in? Do you wait for the next candidate to come in? And we have had talks about that. If we don't do it now, it be would like buying fire insurance after your house catches on fire. It doesn't work.

So it is so important that we come together as a body. Again, the Constitution is not a product of Republicans or Democrats or conservatives or liberals. The Constitution is not a function of government. Government is a function of the Constitution.

When government steps over the boundaries of the Constitution, it is us—we, the people—the Representatives that were sent up here to hold and rein in the branches that are out of balance. This is all about bringing the three branches of government into balance.

Let me just wind up with this. Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to thank all the Members who have joined me this evening. Restoring Article I powers is so vital to the survival of our constitutional Republic.

At this very moment, there are individuals seeking the highest office in the land who have stated, if Congress disagrees with them, they have no qualms about taking action on their own, circumventing Congress and disregarding the founding principles enshrined in our Constitution. That should give concern to everybody.

The time has arrived for us to take action to restore this institution to the one the Founders envisioned. Granted, you can say what you want about our Founding Fathers, but they got this right—again, as you and have I have talked about, with divine intervention—and they put in place a way to amend it to make it better, not to get rid of it. It is time for us to stand up for this body, the people's House.

I will leave you with this reminder. All it takes for evil or tyranny to prevail or for our constitutional Republic to fail is for those good men and women to do nothing.

I, Mr. Speaker, and the people that have joined us tonight, our colleagues that participated, will not sit idly by when the very document that has allowed so many people to be free, to achieve beyond their beliefs to a level never before ever achieved in human history, is being marginalized by inaction.

I know my good friend from Iowa feels the same. And if you have any last remarks, you have got about 1 minute, if you want to wrap it up.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank, again, the gentleman from Florida. I appreciate you coming to the floor with this leadership that is here. If no one stepped forward in leadership and we just went along as if somehow the Constitution were going to be restored, it would never be restored. And I would remind people, Mr. Speaker, that it is one thing to give lip service to the Constitution; it is another to exercise it.

Freedom of speech is being exercised here right now. Freedom of assembly is being exercised across this country right now. The right to keep and bear arms, if it were never exercised, the liberals would define it away from us.

Any one of these rights that we have that come from God, defined by our Founding Fathers, is also something we have got to exercise and utilize; if not, over time, the enemies of freedom will find a way to say: Well, it is just an artifact of history.

If we stop exercising our right to keep and bear arms, in a matter of a generation, someone will say it is just an artifact of history. We are going to confiscate your guns. And after a while, they will zip your lip if you don't watch it. We can't let that happen.

So I appreciate this Special Order here tonight with the gentleman from Florida's leadership, and I appreciate my Constitution and the rights that come, especially from God.

Mr. YOHO. I thank my colleague from Iowa, and I want to thank everybody that participated.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are advised to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### CHILD NUTRITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revised and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, more than 60 years ago, Congress responded to the Defense Department's concern that so many children were malnourished, they would be unfit for military service, that they passed the National School Lunch Act as a measure of national security to safeguard the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

Through the enactment of the first Federal child nutrition program, Congress recognized that feeding hungry children is not just a moral imperative, it is vital to the health and security of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I serve as the ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Our committee is tasked with making sure that all children have an equal shot at success, so it is only fitting that child nutrition programs fall within our committee's jurisdiction.

Just as there is a Federal role in ensuring that all children have access to quality education, regardless of where they live, what they look like, or their family's income, there is also a Federal role in ensuring that every child has access to healthy and nutritious food.

Research has repeatedly shown us that a lack of adequate consumption of specific foods, especially fruits and vegetables, is associated with lower grades among students; and child obesity affects all aspects of a child's life, from their physical well-being to their academic success and self-confidence.

So we have a choice to make. We can put money into these programs now and support healthy eating in schools, or we can cut corners and spend more money down the road on chronic diseases and other social services, putting the well-being of our children and our Nation's future at risk.

Either way, we will spend the money. In fact, researchers estimate that \$19,000 was the incremental lifetime medical costs of an obese child relative to a normal weight child who maintains that normal weight throughout adulthood. So it is important to keep this tradeoff in mind as we talk about reauthorization of child nutrition programs.

The hallmark of a good reauthorization is that it makes progress; it moves us forward; it builds on what works and improves on what needs to be improved. So with this in mind, Democrats are ready to make improvements to the child nutrition programs and to protect the progress that has been made.

For example, we have made progress in creating a healthier school environment for students. The nutrition standards enacted after the 2010 bipartisan reauthorization are working. Around 99 percent of all schools are meeting the standards. Kids are eating better foods. Studies show that kids are eating up to 16 percent more vegetables and 23 percent more fruit at lunch.

□ 1845

Now, unfortunately, many are now advocating that we roll back the standards, and the Republican draft bill released last week makes numerous steps backwards by making less nutritious foods available in schools.

Another example of progress is the community eligibility provision. Enacted in the 2010 reauthorization, the community eligibility provision, or CEP, allows schools to provide free nutritious meals to all students without using the paper applications when a large portion of the students are deemed eligible because they are already receiving certain social benefits.

Schools love this, teachers love this, families love it, and kids love it. So why go backwards?

Again, unfortunately, the Republican bill does just that by making it harder for schools to use CEP, kicking thousands of schools out of CEP and back into the individualized paper application process.

So we are talking about a hugely popular option for schools that improves the health of children, makes everyone's job easier. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. And if it ain't broke, you shouldn't make a special effort to try to break it.

Our work on reauthorization of our school nutrition programs represents a great opportunity to continue to change the way children eat, to expand their access to nutritious meals, and to end the child hunger crisis in our Nation.

So we should ask ourselves if these are goals that we are willing to compromise or whether we will continue on that path that has resulted in healthier schools and communities.

The success of these programs are too many to mention, but it is my hope that we will continue to build on our success and invest in the future of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, more than 21 percent of American children live in poverty. More than 15 million children live in food-insecure households. In fact, households with children are more likely to be food insecure than those without.

In my home State of Ohio, 16.9 percent of households experience food insecurity, and Ohio's rate is higher than the national average of 14.3.

Programs that affect child nutrition, such as the National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and the Summer Food Service Program, are essential tools in the fight to end child hunger.

Access to healthy foods during the school day and throughout summer feeding programs is essential to helping children thrive both academically and developmentally.

The Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act would increase the burden on schools with new verification requirements and increased community eligibility thresholds, or CEP.

I represent one of the Nation's most impoverished districts, with nearly 200,000 people living in poverty. Out of 435 districts and the District of Columbia, my district ranks 420th. Only 16 other districts in the United States fare worse than mine.

If passed, the changes to CEP alone could result in children across the country losing access to free and reduced-price meals at school, and that is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

The bill fails to make critical investments in the summer meal program. Meals served through the summer feeding program may be the only ones some children have in a day.

If the sponsors of the bill truly wanted to improve child nutrition, they would invest in summer meals to ensure eligible children do not go hungry during the summer months.

As we move towards reauthorization, we must strengthen and expand child nutrition programs. Our children's health and education are not budget-saving gimmicks.

I firmly believe that any attempt to reauthorize child nutrition programs must improve access to healthy foods year-round. This bill does not even come close to meeting the minimum requirement.

We must engage in bipartisan conversations about how to best meet the needs of all children.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER), a hardworking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise in support of my colleagues in urging the reauthorization of this act based on nutritional value and investment in this country's future and our young people.

Specifically, I want to take a minute to talk about the simultaneous issues of extreme hunger and obesity in this country and in my home State of California, which are nothing short of staggering.

Fourteen percent of people in California are food insecure. Twenty-three percent of California's children are food insecure. In my district, 14 percent of the total population is food insecure.

In the United States, three out of four public school teachers tell us that students regularly come to class hungry. Eighty-one percent say it happens at least once a week. Over 15 million American kids struggle with hunger.

On the other hand, American kids who eat school breakfast miss less school, get better grades, and are more likely to graduate from high school.

At the same time, there is a childhood obesity epidemic in this country. Childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

In 2012, more than one-third of children and adolescents were overweight or obese. One in three children in California are currently overweight or obese, according to the Pew Endowment Foundation.

Research shows that children living in States with strong school nutrition standards are more likely to maintain healthier weights.

The estimated annual health costs of obesity-related illness in the U.S. is a staggering \$190.2 billion, or nearly 21 percent of annual medical spending in the United States.

Childhood obesity alone is responsible for \$14 billion in direct medical costs. Ironically, the Federal Government spends \$15 billion every year on school food.

The work that we began with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act in 2010 is having an important and positive effect on both of these problems at once.

School meal participants are less likely to have nutrient inadequacies and are more likely to consume fruit, vegetables, and milk at breakfast and lunch.

Low-income students who eat both school breakfast and lunch have significantly better overall diet quality than low-income students who do not eat school meals.



The school meal nutrition standards are having a positive impact on student food selection and consumption, especially for fruits and vegetables.

Few packed lunches and snacks brought from home meet National School Lunch Program standards and Child and Adult Care Food Program standards.

Children in after-school programs consume more calories, more salty foods, and sugary foods on days that they bring their own snacks than on days they only eat the afterschool snack provided by the National School Lunch Program.

In California, I am pleased to say that we have figured it out for the kids, for their parents, for the purveyors who provide all of this healthy product, and for the students, the school administrators, and rank-and-file staff who distribute these foods.

Over 93 percent of school districts nationwide have met the improved lunch and breakfast standards, certifying them to receive Federally authorized school lunch reimbursement rate increases.

In California, we exceed the national compliance rates with 100 percent of our schools currently in compliance.

These standards are going a long way toward decreasing the health costs associated with malnutrition for both hungry and obese children. We must double down on these efforts, not turn away from them. Our children deserve at least this much from us.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this effort.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), a strong child advocate.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for recognizing me. I am really pleased to join the Ranking Member, BOBBY SCOTT, a mentor of mine and a good friend, MARCIA FUDGE, and others about the reauthorization of school meals and the WIC program. They are truly champions for ending hunger among children in this country.

And I believe no conversation could occur about hunger without having the indomitable Mr. MCGOVERN with us this evening.

Mr. Speaker, the Child Nutrition Reauthorization is really a critical opportunity for us to talk about the importance of improving access to healthy meals in schools and for maintaining strong nutrition standards.

For too many kids, Mr. Speaker, the only sure meals that they can count on on any given day are provided in school.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the majority on the other side of the aisle are talking about how to make it harder for children, especially low-income children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, breakfast and lunch, to access these programs.

We should be using this reauthorization to address known gaps and to help children connect to these healthy meals. Nearly 10,000 more schools offer school lunch than offer school breakfast programs, and we should be trying to expand school breakfast rather than restricting them.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Act in the nationwide implementation of the community eligibility program was so insightful. But, yet, we need to do more. Over 162,000 kids in my State qualify for free or reduced meals for lunch, and we need to reach them.

Now, what does the reauthorization that Republicans are bringing before us entail? What does it talk about? It talks about scaling back the successful and proven community eligibility provision which we just implemented nationwide last year and really haven't scaled up to what it could be.

This innovative program actually works. We have proven it. We have metrics that prove that the program increases access and participation for low-income students, and it helps to reduce administrative burdens and costs for school staff.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you have heard my colleagues here talk about obesity. Now, obesity is not just a cosmetic problem. It is a major health problem.

We also last year put new nutrition standards in to ward off obesity. Ninety-seven percent—97 percent—of the schools have successfully met these new standards, and USDA has shown great eagerness to work with those who have not.

Of course, these new requirements require more servings of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, fat-free and low-fat fluid milk in schools while cutting sodium-saturated fats and trans fats.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that, when you introduce these foods to children at a young age, they will start to prefer them and we can really transform their lives.

I want to skip over many of my comments and just add them to the RECORD because I just want to focus on one little disease that is associated with poor nutrition, and that is diabetes.

The burden to individuals and families is gargantuan. You hear of people losing their limbs because of diabetes. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the burden to the economy and to the budget by allowing diabetes to run amok.

Diabetes is a budget-busting disease. It is an epidemic that is affecting an increasing number of Americans, including more and more of our youth.

Right now—right now—in 2014, 29 million people in the United States, 9.3 percent of our population, have had diabetes. That is about 1 in 11 people. According to the CDC, by 2050, that number could be as high as 100 million, or 1 in 3 persons.

□ 1900

The time to stop this is now while we are reauthorizing the child nutrition bill. We can help our children develop healthy eating habits. I have seen kids love avocados, love grapes, and love these things that are introduced to them while they are young. Our investment in school lunch and school breakfast pales in comparison to the cost of treating diabetes.

In 2012, diabetes and its related complications accounted for \$245 billion in total costs. Now, that is \$176 billion in direct medical costs—think Medicaid and Medicare—and lost wages and work. The CDC estimates that the growth in these—if their predictions hold, if we don't do something, just think, this will go from 1 in 11 people having diabetes to 1 in 3. So we are looking at 2050—2050, I don't think I am going to be around in 2050—this is clearly a clarion call to feed our children properly now.

In the school year 2016, we spent \$12.5 billion on the school lunch program and \$4.3 billion on the school breakfast program. Compare that with the \$245 billion that we have spent on diabetes for just 1 year.

With that, I will add the rest of my comments to the RECORD. I would just say, Mr. SCOTT and Mr. Speaker, that school breakfast, school lunch, and WIC, it is a doggone good deal when you think about it.

Mr. Speaker, child nutrition reauthorization is a critical time for us to talk about the importance of improving access to healthy foods in schools, and for maintaining strong nutrition standards. For too many kids, the only sure meals they can count on on a given day are the ones provided in school.

Yet, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are talking about how to make it harder for children, especially low-income children who are eligible for free and reduced price meals, to access these programs.

The draft Republican Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill is an assault on the programs that help to ensure that our children and get the nutrition they need to be active and engaged learners. A growling stomach does not advance educational achievement. They want to roll back programs that have been proven to help eligible children get access to school breakfast and school lunch programs.

It is reportedly titled the "Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016" but it really should be the "Increasing Child Hunger and Hobbling Education Act."

We should be using child nutrition reauthorization to address know gaps and help connect more children to healthy meals. Nearly 10,000 more schools offer school lunch than offer a school breakfast program. Participation in school breakfast programs, though improving since the enactment of the Healthy Hunger Free Act and the nationwide implementation of CEP, still lags drastically behind participation in the school lunch program. Only about half of students who eat school lunch nationwide eat a school breakfast. My state of Wisconsin is at the bottom when it comes to the number

of schools that participate in school breakfast nationwide. Over 162,000 kids that qualify for Free or Reduced meals are eating lunch, but miss breakfast and Wisconsin loses \$22 million federal breakfast reimbursement dollars annually. We need to be discussing how to help the states and schools do better.

Mr. Speaker, we just passed the Every Student Succeeds Act last year reauthorizing federal elementary and secondary education policy. Let me tell you, no child can succeed when they're hungry. Any teacher can tell you that. So can a range of experts who have conducted studies on this issue and found overwhelmingly that hunger does not promote academic achievement.

So what are Republicans talking about doing in this reauthorization:

Scaling back the successful and proven Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which just went into effect nationwide last year. This is an innovative program authorized in 2010 that makes it easier for high need schools and school districts to serve free meals to all students by eliminating traditional free/reduced priced applications.

With all the rhetoric about wasteful government spending and duplicative programs, what happens when we have successful and proven federal programs and policies that work like CEP, like SNAP? Republicans want to cut them and roll them back.

This program has been proven—I emphasize that word again—to increase access and participation in the school meals programs for the low-income students while helping to reduce administrative burdens and costs for school staff. School meal programs benefit from the economics of scale. The more kids who participate, the cheaper it is to serve each child. Thousands of schools have adopted CEP and are seeing benefits including the 156 schools in the Milwaukee Public School system. In its first year, MPS reported serving 22% more school breakfasts. School lunches also saw a gain. CEP means fewer kids are going hungry in Milwaukee and nationwide.

Enacting the GOP bill would mean that 7,000 schools that now currently participate would be dropped. That is a gigantic step backwards for the health and nutrition of tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of school children who are at key stages of development, physically and academically.

Not to mention the students in thousands of schools currently eligible to participate in CEP but would be kicked off under the Republican bill.

We have put in place new nutrition standards for school meals—97% of schools have successfully met these new standards and the USDA has shown great eagerness to work with those that have not to do so. These new requirements require more servings of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat fluid milk in school meals while cutting sodium, saturated fat and trans fats.

Now, some are trying to block the new rules and the savings to our nation both short term and long term for helping kids develop lifelong healthy eating habits.

Let me just talk about the burden to individuals and taxpayers of just one disease: diabetes—a budget busting disease. This is an epidemic affecting an increasing number of

Americans, including more and more of our youth.

The number of Americans with diabetes is estimated to drastically increase in the next three decades. In 2014, 29 million people in the U.S. (9.3 percent) had diabetes (about 1 in 11). According to the CDC, by 2050 that number could be as high as 100 Million Americans (or 1 in 3).

The time to stop this trend is right now when we can help our children develop healthy eating habits that will stay with them for the rest of their lives and a taste for healthy and nutritious foods through the school nutrition programs.

I want to compare our investments in school lunch and breakfast programs and helping to provide nutritious meals that will support lifelong eating habits to young people with what it will cost us to treat diabetes.

Diabetes is an extremely expensive condition for our healthcare system given that it is associated with a number of complicated health effects. In 2012, diabetes and its related complications accounted for \$245 billion in total costs, including \$176 billion in direct medical costs (think Medicaid and Medicare) and lost work and wages. If the CDC estimates about the growth in cases holds, the cost of just this one disease will grow dramatically over the next three decades. These costs will be picked up by all of us, including through Medicare and Medicaid.

In contrast, in FY 2016, we will spend \$12.5 billion on the school lunch program and \$4.3 billion on the school breakfast program. Maintaining healthy and nutrition meals and standards and ensuring that all who are eligible can participate in these programs seems like a very wise investment to me.

The GOP proposal would bar schools from including the eligibility requirements for school meals on the school meal applications. Absolutely absurd. What public policy purpose is served by such a requirement other than to make sure people don't know about a benefit to which they are entitled.

I also want to emphasize the need to further strengthen WIC during this reauthorization. WIC works. That's what the research tells us. The program helps improve health and nutrition outcomes for at risk women, infants, and children. WIC breastfeeding rates are rising. We all know the benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and child.

We can make WIC better by increasing the certification period for infants and women, taking steps to ensure that children a better transition by WIC eligible children from the program to the school meals programs. Under current law, children that age out of WIC may not be enrolled in school (and participating in the school meals programs), risking gains to their health and well-being from having participated in WIC.

How about making WIC work better for our men and women in uniform? Yes, there are members of our military who receive WIC. In fact, I know of efforts in the last year to close a WIC clinic located on a military base in Washington State serving over 700 people including Navy families.

There is room for bipartisanship. The Senate Agriculture Committee reported a bipartisan bill—which while not perfect and I don't

support every element—reflects an honest effort to reach across the aisle that is simply nonexistent in this chamber at this point.

And that is a shame. For the children who rely on the school meal programs to meet their nutritional needs. For the schools and school administrators who fight hard every day to put the students under their charge in a position to succeed. For the American taxpayer, who expect us to govern.

I know the will is there on this side of the aisle to work together on things like increasing the breakfast (and lunch for that matter) reimbursement rates. To support grant programs to help increase access to school breakfast which remains woefully undersubscribed compared to the school lunch program. We can provide grants to support innovative and proven models such as Breakfast after the bell and in the Classroom as well as school equipment grants to help offset some of the costs.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentlewoman. The gentlewoman is absolutely right.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), who is one of our strongest advocates for ending hunger in America.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I want to thank my colleague from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for organizing this today and for his leadership on child nutrition programs. I want to thank all my colleagues for being here. This is an important issue. There is no question about that.

We are here because we are outraged. We are outraged at Republican attempts to undermine our child nutrition programs. We are outraged at their lousy child reauthorization bill. It is a terrible, terrible, terrible bill. My friends should be ashamed of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, a nutritious school meal is just as important to a child's success in school as a textbook. Hungry children can't concentrate. They can't focus on their studies. In short, hungry children cannot learn. That is a fact. Everybody knows that. Yet we have a bill that my Republican friends have drafted that will increase hunger and that will actually take food out of the mouths of children. It is outrageous.

Together, our child nutrition programs, WIC, school breakfast and lunch, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program provide nutritional support for children year round in places where they live, learn, and play.

Unfortunately, H.R. 5003, which is the Republican reauthorization bill, includes a number of harmful provisions that would roll back years of progress and hamper the ability of children to access healthy meals. As I said, to be very blunt, it makes hunger worse in this country.

Specifically, the bill would undermine the successful Community Eligibility Provision, which some of my colleagues have talked about first, included in the last reauthorization bill

that has allowed high-poverty school districts to offer universal school meals to all students. In its first 2 years, CEP helped more than 8.5 million low-income students access free meals.

Instead of building on the success of this program, my Republican friends would severely restrict schools' eligibility for the community eligibility option. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that 7,022 schools currently using community eligibility would lose it under this Republican bill, and another 11,647 schools that qualify for community eligibility but who have not yet adopted it would be prevented from doing so in the future.

As we approach the summer months, it is also important to remember that child hunger gets worse in the summer. Consider this: for every six children who get a lunch in school each day, only one receives a meal in the summertime. Instead of being a carefree time for children who depend on getting healthy, reliable meals during the school year, the summer months can be a time of stress, anxiety, and hunger. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Unfortunately, this Republican bill cuts the successful summer EBT pilot program which provides a temporary boost in food assistance benefits during the summer months for families whose children receive free school meals during the school year, and it fails to make necessary investments to expand the reach of summer food service programs so that more kids have access to healthy summer meals in their neighborhoods.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this bill rolls back, as my colleagues have mentioned, evidence-based standards that make school meals healthier. USDA estimates that more than 90 percent of schools have successfully—have successfully—implemented these standards.

My grandmother used to say to me when I was growing up that an apple a day keeps the doctor away. I wish she was still alive so I could tell her she was right. Food is medicine. When we eat good food, we eat nutritious food, we tend to have healthy lives. If you eat bad food, if you eat junk food, then you end up getting health issues like diabetes, like high blood pressure, and like obesity. I could go on and on and on.

Why in the world would anybody want to lower the nutrition standards in our school meals to give our kids junkier, less nutritious food? What sense does that make?

If my colleagues who are advocating these reversals of smart policy are doing so only because they want to save a few dollars, then let me tell you something: you are saving nothing.

If we don't get this right, if we don't insist that our kids have access to nutritious, healthier food, the medical

costs associated with the health challenges that they will experience are astronomical, as my colleague from Wisconsin mentioned earlier, hundreds of billions of dollars in avoidable healthcare costs as a result of children not having access to good food.

Mr. Speaker, 15 million children face hunger in this country. Instead of undoing the success we have already achieved, Congress should be focused on ways we can strengthen these vital child nutrition programs.

Mr. Speaker, let me say, finally, it is hard for me to understand why we have to be here today, why everything is a fight when it comes to dealing with issues of hunger and when it comes to dealing with issues and making sure our kids get access to good nutrition. It is always a fight. It is always a fight to protect so many vital food and nutrition programs that help our kids. There is either a shocking ignorance about the reality of the poverty that millions of our children face in this country or there is simply indifference. Those are the only two ways I can explain what is going on in this Chamber. Whichever one it is, it is a sad excuse for what my Republican friends are trying to do.

Let's come together. This should be a bipartisan issue. There was a time when fighting hunger and when making sure that our kids had access to nutritious food was a bipartisan issue. George McGovern and Bob Dole worked together in the 1970s to strengthen our food and nutrition programs. But now in this Chamber these issues have become controversial.

It is sad because there are a lot of people in this country who are depending on us to find ways to end hunger in America. They are depending on us to make sure that their kids, when they go to school, have access to nutritious food, and that they have access to nutritious food during the summer months as well.

Why are my friends making it so difficult?

Enough. Enough of this. Stop beating up on the most vulnerable people in this country. Let's come together. Let's reject this awful draft of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill. Let's come together and do this right. It is the least we can do.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman for all of his advocacy on ending hunger.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), an effective member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. TAKANO. I thank the ranking member. I appreciate the time allotted.

Mr. Speaker, in my 24 years as a public schoolteacher, I learned a lot about helping students reach their potential. I learned about project-based learning and STEM education, and I learned about the importance of arts and music

in keeping students engaged and excited. But I also learned that there is no lesson plan or study guide that can improve a student's performance if they are hungry. Good nutrition is the foundation to a good education.

With that experience in mind, I rise to express my frustration and sadness with the Republicans' proposal to reauthorize the so-called Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act. The draft bill published last week includes several provisions that would restrict students' access to nutritious food, particularly children in America's poorest neighborhoods.

The proposal undermines nutritional standards for schools despite those standards receiving overwhelming support from pediatricians and public health officials. It weakens a popular program designed to give poor students access to fresh fruits and vegetables in communities where they are scarce, and it increases the burden on poor families to prove that their children are eligible for lunch programs.

But the impact of these provisions is mild compared to what Republicans are proposing to do with CEP, or the Community Eligibility Provision. CEP streamlines National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs by automatically enrolling students who live in areas with high rates of poverty. It was passed with bipartisan support just 6 years ago and it is responsible for feeding more than 3 million students every year.

Now Republicans are seeking to change the CEP formula to kick many poor communities out of the program. Their goal is to save money by allowing fewer students to enroll in breakfast and lunch programs. Not only is this bad policy that will hurt student performance in low-income schools, it is cruel. In my district alone, this would affect more than 6,000 students. Nationwide it will severely damage a program that is critical to both fighting child poverty and closing the achievement gap in education.

There is a troubling asymmetry to conservatives' approach to spending. When it comes to tax cuts for large businesses that cost this country billions of dollars, conservatives are generous with taxpayer money. But when it comes to hungry students in America's poorest communities, that is when it is time to cut back. That is when it is time to be stingy. That is when they turn their backs on people in need.

Earlier this week, Speaker RYAN said that conservatism is just a happy way of life. This brand of conservatism is not a happy way of life for thousands of hungry children who will lose access to food at school. It is not a happy life for the parents of those children who are struggling every day to provide for them, and it is not a happy life for the generation of students who do not have the foundation to reach their potential.

Who could be happy when so many Americans are suffering?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman, Mr. TAKANO. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE), the leader of the Democratic Whip's Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding and also for his long-term and longstanding commitment to child nutrition programs and to our Nation's children.

I have to say to Mr. TAKANO that I am not happy at all, and I don't think many of us are happy at what is taking place with regard to this Improving Child Nutrition Education Act and what is happening to our children who many go to bed hungry at night. So I thank the gentleman very much for his leadership.

Let me just say to Mr. SCOTT, who is our ranking member, it is very important that we recognize the gentleman's leadership and know that he is on this committee fighting each and every day to make sure that this reauthorization bill, which would take food out of mouths of American schoolchildren, does not do that. So I thank the gentleman for his fight on the committee.

Let me say just a couple of things with regard to H.R. 5003. It would turn the clock back on years of progress and prevent children from eating healthy meals every day. This Republican child nutrition bill would roll back critical, evidence-based nutrition standards made in the 2010 reauthorization bill, which we were very actively involved with.

Sadly, but unsurprisingly, it would also deny eligible children access to the Free or Reduced Price School Meals Program, and it would slash funding for some electronics benefits transfer.

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I just have to say that as a young, single mother on public assistance and food stamps, I don't know what I would have done had my children not had school lunches. This was a bridge over troubled waters for me, and my children and I have to thank my government for that helping hand. But today, in 2016, this bill will roll back these programs, which means more hungry kids in our schools and in our neighborhoods.

That is why several of us are sending a letter to the Education and the Workforce Committee outlining our deep concerns with the changes to our child nutrition programs. I hope that everyone on our side of the aisle signs this important letter, and I hope that the majority will read it carefully. It lays out some of the basic problems in this bill. We want to make sure that

everyone on the committee and this entire body understands the impact of what this will cause.

When we take away access to these meals, we jeopardize children's health, their educational attainment, and, really, their future. We know that children who have access to healthy meals are more likely to do well in school, have decreased behavioral problems, and come to class ready to learn. That is what we should want for all of our children.

For the children growing up in high-poverty neighborhoods and who lack equal access to healthy meals, these school meals really are a lifeline. We are not just talking about a few students. The numbers are clear. More than 15.3 million children are living in food-insecure households. Let me say that again. More than 15 million kids are at risk of going to bed hungry every night in America, the richest and most powerful country in the world.

We also know that childhood hunger is far from colorblind. Children of color are disproportionately affected by hunger every day. For example, in 2014, one in three African American children and one in four Latino children were food insecure. For children who live in rural communities, food insecurity is coupled with other barriers, like lack of access to transportation to get to summer feeding sites. More than 17 percent of rural households—that is 3.3 million households—are food insecure.

Child hunger and the lack of nutritious food is a problem that affects every child in every ZIP Code. It is endemic in our country, in rural, urban, and suburban schools. Every Member of Congress has constituents who are hungry. This should be a priority for all of us.

I have seen the impact of food insecurity in my own community in Oakland, California, where one in four children at the Oakland Unified School District do not have access to affordable, nutritious food. These families are forced to make impossible choices to feed their children, especially during the summer months when schools are closed. These families are making decisions every day between food and medicine, food and rent, or food and paying the electric bill.

Mr. Speaker, we need real solutions to these very real problems. Let me just mention my legislation, the Half in Ten Act, H.R. 258, that would develop a national strategy to cut poverty in half over the next decade. That is more than 23 million Americans lifted out of poverty and into the middle class in just the next 10 years.

This bill that we are talking about tonight goes just the opposite way. Surely, we can all recognize that ensuring healthy meals for American children is the first step in this ongoing War on Poverty. It should not be a partisan issue. Feeding hungry kids is a moral imperative.

So let's put our children first, and let's strengthen our child nutrition programs rather than cut them. Our children deserve the security of knowing where their next meal is coming from. That is just basic. It is a basic American value.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SCOTT for his leadership and thank him for yielding.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. LEE for all of her hard work on the task force.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS), a Member who has been fighting for children as a member of the State legislature, a member of the Los Angeles City Council, and now is a Member of Congress.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SCOTT for working so hard and tirelessly to fight for those young little voices and those families that need food in their children's stomachs every single day. It is a tireless battle; and once again, today, we are trying to make people aware of the disingenuous, misguided efforts that are in this bill. I rise today to express concern over harmful provisions included in the so-called Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016.

In 2014, more than 17 million American households were at risk of going without having food, including 3.7 million households with American children. We should make every effort possible to help American children access the proper nutrition that is vital to their growth, development, and success in school and beyond.

The provisions outlined in this bill are doing just the opposite by tampering with programs that have been working well, such as the Community Eligibility Provision, the process that ensures that meals can be served to American children in schools. The provisions in this bill will cause too many American children, especially low-income children, to lose access to these vital programs and to have healthier meals.

The Community Eligibility Provision allows high-poverty school districts to offer universal school meals to all students. This bill raises bureaucratic red tape. It will only lead to fewer schools qualifying for the program and more low-income American children going hungry every single day.

Why add burdensome paperwork on school districts and each and every family in them? Instead, Congress should focus on improving and expanding direct certification, an approach that has been shown to improve program integrity.

What this bill should be doing is addressing the barriers faced by eligible families who are currently not even accessing the benefits of the results of these programs because of the lack of awareness. This bill will freeze the

progress that we have made on reducing the intake of salts for American children in their food diets. It would allow junk food to be an acceptable snack, which would undermine our children's health and their entire future.

We must do more to improve school nutrition, attack undernourishment, and combat hunger for millions of American children because, otherwise, we are robbing them of the opportunity to reach their full potential both physically and academically.

Once again, I want to thank my colleague from the great State of Virginia for all the wonderful work that he has been doing and for being so tireless in his effort to make sure that the voices of these families and these children are heard not only in the Education and the Workforce Committee, but beyond.

Thank you for bringing the attention of this to the floor. I am glad to be a partner in this effort.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CÁRDENAS very much for his hard work, too.

Mr. Speaker, reauthorization is an opportunity to improve legislation. Unfortunately, the pending Republican bill reduces nutrition standards and kicks kids off the school meal programs. Instead, we should be improving the program and expanding the child nutrition and the school lunch programs.

I thank my colleagues for saying why this is so important.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### IDEOLOGICAL EXTREMISM IS SPREADING ACROSS THE GLOBE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, upon visiting some of our wounded troops at Walter Reed Hospital, I entered a rehab area that was full of men and women who had wounds of varying severity. The place was really a place of tough love—men and women struggling with pain and debility, trying to walk again, recover, and learn new skills.

What struck me the most, perhaps, amidst all of this suffering, was the desire, the will, to keep working, to get well, and to maintain an attitude of strength in the face of great adversity.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of speaking with one officer. He had lost an arm and an eye, and he was throwing a ball, a simple little ball, back and forth with his attendant. Now, normally, for us, this is a simple task, but this activity was necessary to retrain his brain for a new type of coordination. He had lost the dominant eye and the dominant arm.

In spite of the many scars that he wore on his face and a really tough road to recovery, he had a great attitude—no bitterness, no anger, no resentments. He believed in his mission, and he believed in his duty. He was impressive and uplifting, and just to be near him was a great privilege, as well as the other men and women who have fought so vigorously and so hard to overcome their wounds at this particular place and throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, keeping you safe depends upon the men and women who are willing to put themselves on the front line for our security. We do remain the strongest country in the world militarily and economically. Unfortunately, though, I cannot report that the world is growing any calmer or more stable or more secure. Ideological extremism is spreading across the globe and, most alarmingly, is manifested in ISIS' twisted Islamic ideology.

In the face of the barbaric onslaught in the Middle East, compounded by the Syrian dictator's war of attrition, Europe is now contending with its worst refugee crisis since World War II, and the Continent's leadership seems ill-equipped to understand their own plight.

Not long ago, Mr. Speaker, the great cities of Europe were secure places of cultural strength. Today, they are targets for ISIS and other terrorist organizations.

And, of course, we stand in solidarity with the citizens of Belgium as we all continue to deal with the shock of the indiscriminate slaughter of civilians in Brussels. Jihadists there orchestrated coordinating bombings at the Brussels airport and the city's metro station—suicide assaults that murdered 31 people in a grim replay of the horrifying attacks in Paris.

This maelstrom of violence is a consequence of reckless open border policies and naive assumptions about the potential for multicultural conversion to Western economic and political freedoms. Although these bombings, these particular ones, in Brussels were probably in retaliation for the capture of the mastermind of the suicide strikes earlier in Paris, Brussels has long contended with a seedbed of warped Islamic aggression, particularly in its Molenbeek neighborhood.

The Middle East conflict and the resulting humanitarian catastrophe prompted some European leaders to embrace very well-intentioned but misguided immigration postures. Now, nations from Greece to Sweden are confronting capacity issues and deadly security risks. No immigration system can remain just and orderly without necessary and robust border protection measures.

It is not fair. It is not fair to the people who are there, who have set up the

political systems that are welcoming others, and it is not fair to people who do need to flee the violence and reestablish themselves in other nations. It is simply not fair.

Contributing also to this problem is the decline of a European myth: a romanticized vision of cultural and political tradition. What is taking its place is a new narrative that says that particular countries, individual countries, decreasingly should matter. Supranational entities, like the European Union, are forging a new settlement of administrative conformity to deal with the pressures of globalization.

Originally, the European Union arose from fears of past nationalist movements, such as fascism, that ravaged and sacrificed the Continent on the altar of ruthless ideology. The European Union, importantly and purposefully, serves to check this dark past, while also appropriately facilitating commonalities in commerce, travel, and enhanced understanding. However, the limits of this type of bureaucratic arrangement are reached when identity and self-preservation are at stake.

Unfortunately, the very idea of Europe may be disintegrating.

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So what to do?

To turn this around, the Continent should regain a healthy instinct of its respective nations that places an emphasis on the interests of peoples with shared culture, history, and political traditions. The Continent's vibrancy depends on sustaining the dynamism of longstanding local difference while maintaining proper pride in the ideals that bind and animate wider Western civilization.

Nothing exists in a vacuum. The lack of a bonding identity in Europe, complicated by clashing cultural values, has created the Molenbeek neighborhood in other major European cities as well. Self-isolating Muslim communities can help perpetuate an environment of mutual misunderstanding and distrust, breeding alienation, resentment, and hostility. Genuine multiculturalism is an important goal and should be upheld by us all, but it is difficult without enculturation among immigrant populations.

Thousands of Europeans have left the Continent for the battlegrounds of Syria and Iraq. These radicalized fighters, passport holders—hardened by war and dedicated to jihadist militancy—pose a security risk to their countries of origin in the West. Even some so-called Americans have joined the ranks of terrorist organizations that are metastasizing across the Middle East and North Africa. San Bernardino demonstrated to all of us that the United States is far from immune to the cancer of ISIS' expansion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, our Nation, for decades, has shouldered a great burden

in confronting havoc throughout the world. We will continue to lead the fight against extremism, but we will not do so alone. A general assumption that we will maintain the majority of heavy lifting in combating regional terror, coupled with the lack of will amongst some of our allies, has created a status quo that is no longer sustainable.

As we recover from the shock of the bombings in Brussels, we must reclaim a central principal. Europe must fight. Complacency is no longer possible. The combined effects of a drifting European identity and a lack of appropriate enculturation among certain migrant populations, further compounded by this new migrant crisis, must be confronted with reason and resolve in order to keep Europe and the world safe. Only through this approach will Europe stabilize, regain a sense of vision, and remain a great and important source of a welcoming and cultural strength.

Mr. Speaker, as the world has focused on the death cult created by ISIS, our focus has drifted away from an equally grave threat: the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Although the Iran agreement has, understandably, dominated headlines on this issue of late, North Korea's dynastic and despotic leadership continues its provocations. The country's young, insecure, ego-driven ruler seeks to consolidate his power and standing through destabilizing bravado, and he is backing it up with nuclear weapons development. In a region already roiled by increased Chinese military posturing, particularly in the South China Sea, North Korea's ongoing threats linger as one of the most complicated international dilemmas.

The possibility of nuclear weapon devastation is one of the most serious threats to civilization, itself. Unfortunately, the gravity of this challenge has not received ongoing critical attention in this body as a first order of priority. New intellectual rigor, strategic projection, and next generation ownership are necessary for nuclear security in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I recall an incident when I was in graduate school. A prominent philosophy professor was visiting the campus, and he was known for a particular expertise.

I asked him: Would you give me a concise summary of the philosophical argument for immortality?

He was very excited by my request, and he actually invited me to his lectures on the topic. I did consider this a great privilege as, again, he was a very renowned professor. He was very kind to eagerly invite me to his class, but I could not really manage the 4 hours necessary to sit through his lectures, so I politely declined.

He then looked at me, and said: Ah, you have asked me a question about

immortality, but you do not have the time.

We cannot afford to make the same mistake here on nuclear security—not having the time. We are distracted by all types of considerations, but if we are to bring the probability of a nuclear catastrophe to as near zero as possible, we must make the time. Understanding how nuclear threats have evolved and how to resolve them most effectively is an urgent national priority.

Imagine, just for a moment, one of several scenarios. A terrorist organization collects enough radiological material to set off what is called a dirty bomb in the stadium, perhaps, of a major city. This would trigger widespread harm and panic. A smuggled package on a containership, with no need for a sophisticated weapons delivery system, explodes in a major U.S. harbor, causing widespread destruction and a loss of life. Worse yet, a reckless nation-state actor, such as North Korea's autocratic strongman, launches a missile attack against Seoul or even Los Angeles. Each future scenario is alarmingly feasible. No one enjoys thinking about this, nor do I, but ignoring this problem only amplifies the ongoing threat.

Americans deserve the assurance that our best and brightest minds are fervently engaged in their defense. They should be able to trust that policymakers on both sides of the aisle are working together for innovative and sustainable solutions to nuclear security concerns. In this age of anxiety and sound bite foreign policy, constituents should know, should believe, should have trust that Congress is leading where it matters most.

The leaders who courageously helmed our formidable nuclear enterprise through World War II and the cold war have now passed the baton to a new generation of policymakers and scientists. Now, as our world grows more complex, the challenges of nuclear proliferation have multiplied. The binary concept of mutually assured destruction is no longer relevant in an increasingly unstable geopolitical environment. Nonstate actors play havoc with global treaties and normative rules, seeking to do horrifying harm. Rational responses to deterrence are no longer a guarantee.

Despite all of these challenges and the important issues that come before Congress, nuclear security, ironically, seldom surfaces in our national conversation outside highly specialized forums. The problem is real. The United States and our allies face a stark deficiency: nuclear security as a multi-dimensional issue with no longstanding constituency supportive of initiatives in Congress. That constituency must be built. This is of grave concern to us all. The constituency must be built.

In light of this problem, the Nuclear Security Working Group in Congress

was founded to advance this discussion and help prevent the unthinkable. While the analytical and tactical expertise rightly should remain embedded in the Department of Defense, in the Department of Energy, in the Department of State, and in other executive branch entities, Congress must create an agile policy environment in this age of globalization and swiftly advancing technologies. We also need to awaken citizen concern in order to give momentum and consideration of the time necessary in this body with so many other distractions. Unfortunately, there is very little. The need for broader involvement, I believe, particularly extends to the millennial generation, the coming stewards of our nuclear security.

The community of responsible nations has much work ahead to achieve an ideal nuclear security settlement. Advances in reprocessing technology, nuclear power, and weapons infrastructure, once the exclusive domain of the nation-state, now pose serious proliferation concerns. Although many countries, thankfully, have altogether renounced the pursuit of nuclear weapons, turbulent situations in the Middle East and elsewhere are worsening an already hazardous global nuclear dynamic. A new architecture for nuclear security demands an ongoing effort by the responsible nations of the world.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this fourth and final Nuclear Security Summit, hosted by President Obama recently in Washington, represented another important step in securing loose nuclear materials and in heightening collaboration. We need to sustain this in more international gatherings and multinational efforts to achieve an effective 21st century nuclear security strategy, one that prioritizes common ground on important strategic and nonproliferation priorities in a cooperative campaign to make our world safer.

Looking ahead, Mr. Speaker, in this regard, I anticipate an augmented role for the International Atomic Energy Agency, known as the IAEA, as a primary implementing agency of future verification initiatives. A revitalized spirit of unity, common purpose, and renewed dedication is essential to nuclear security in the 21st century, and we need robust platforms to do so, multilateral ones. Our challenge is that we cannot react to a nuclear crisis. We must act to prevent one—if we have the time.

Given the collapse of the nation-state order in the Middle East, as well as the technological advances and the potential for highly destructive weaponry to evolve in short order, what will our national security challenges look like in the next 20 to 30 years? It is quite serious. The answer lies in as much a values proposition as a military one. On a fundamental level, the question is whether the world can embrace,

enculturate, and institutionalize the belief in human dignity and, from there, build out the governing and economic systems consistent with protecting innocent persons. That is the key.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we owe so much to the young men and women who are willing to risk everything in military service to take this integrated approach to international security. Put simply, I believe in the three Ds: strong defense, smart diplomacy, and sustainable development. All are necessary components for international stability and, thereby, our own national security. Closer to home, in order to have a stable society here, we also depend upon economic security.

We need to reexamine some fundamental questions as to what is causing such anxiety in our American culture. Our security problems are compounded by globalization trends that have left millions of Americans in dire need and dire straits of financial vulnerability. I recently saw a presentation by a CEO of a major company. I thought we were getting ready for a PowerPoint with charts and graphs of financials. Instead, this CEO put a picture up of a father with his daughter, a bride on his arm, as they were walking down the aisle on her wedding day. He said this to us: Everyone is someone's daughter. Every person is someone's son.

The point was powerfully made. The understanding of work and the workplace are essential to human dignity and happiness.

I learned a little more about this company. During the financial crisis of 2008, the business lost about a third of its contracts. Reeling from the economic pressure, this CEO pulled all of his employees together and asked: Team, what are we going to do?

□ 1945

He had earned their trust. Because there was an interdependency in that workplace, because there were demands—they had to be profitable, they had to make efficiency gains in order to be competitive—because he created a culture of trust and interdependency, the entire company decided to take a 30-day furlough with no pay. No job was lost. By sharing in that sacrifice, no job was lost. No one person was laid off. Not one job either was moved overseas.

Contrast that, Mr. Speaker, with an Indianapolis-based company that recently announced they are relocating 1,400 jobs to Mexico.

The fallout from this move was captured on a video camera as worker outrage built during the condescending speech of a company executive, who channeled corporate elitism in his explanation. Basically, he said: It is nothing personal. It is just business.

Seen here and elsewhere across our country, a dehumanizing, abstract,

economic construct that elevates balance sheets and projected earnings over the needs of persons is not a sustainable economic model for well-being, happiness, and commitment.

The economy and our society are inextricably intertwined. When this works, it works well. When it doesn't, there are problems. Social fracture leads to economic decline. Economic decline leads to social fracture. Interdependency can fray into downward mobility and decreased earning power.

A market that fails to deliver for the many, improperly prioritizing only measurable efficiency gains, breaks down communities. Creative destruction should not eviscerate the social environments in which people work. More than the loss of one company, economic disruption creates aftershocks that further result in the decline of community.

While the theory that globalization, including so-called free trade agreements, reduces the cost of consumer goods does have truth, people are not only consumers.

A disordered economy that operates solely from the principle of profit maximization can devalue the rich texture of ecosystems that are built and shared by working families, local businesses, local institutions, and community heritage. Trust and commitment are immeasurables that do not show up on the balance sheet.

Government policy here also has to bear some blame. Our convoluted and burdensome Tax Code incentivizes companies to move overseas or retain their earnings there. Escalated healthcare costs don't help either. Beyond government policy, the harsh reality is that the philosophy and the purpose of the corporation has changed, prioritizing short-term earnings, quarterly profit statements, and the stock price over the long-term viability of the business itself and the people within it who grew the business in the first place.

Mix in a new class of aloof CEOs accountable for only spreadsheets and no wonder people in Indianapolis started shouting at the corporate spokesperson when he announced the jobs were moving to Mexico. It is just business.

Mr. Speaker, there is a better way forward. Take the example that I gave of the CEO who called his team together and said: Team, we have got a problem. We have got a big problem. What can we do about it?

The team shared in the sacrifice in order to keep the business viable, in order to maintain profitability, in order to protect the ecosystem built upon trust, shared commitment, and interdependency.

The better way forward is not a compromise. It is a commonsense consensus that a proper balance between globalized business interests and the daily life of most Americans should

cultivate a culture of work to benefit the business itself, employees, and customers. Injecting the value proposition that work should have meaning, that companies should strive to protect the persons under their employ, and that product development should be seen as a shared experience provides the very foundation for profitability and long-term survivability of the business itself with innovation and efficiency properly ordered. What is good for persons is good for business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### SOLUTION TO FLOODING IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the date was April 14, 1970. The mission was Apollo 13. The message was: Houston, we have a problem.

Mr. Speaker, that was a clarion call from a mission that was in trouble. Tonight I ring and sound this clarion call from the people of Houston, Texas, because we have some troubles. We have trouble that is related to floodwaters in Houston, Texas, that inundated our city and caused great harm and great damages.

Mr. Speaker, I am on a mission of mercy tonight, a mission of mercy on behalf of my constituents in Houston, but also on behalf of all of those in Houston and the immediate area.

I am on this mission of mercy, but I am not without a solution. We have a solution to the flooding problem in Houston, Texas, and that solution is H.R. 5025. It is a bill that will help to mitigate the flood damages. It will not eliminate the flood damages in Houston, Texas.

I am not sure that we can construct a system that will totally eliminate all flood damages in Houston, Texas, but I am sure that we can mitigate, that we can eliminate many, that we can do something about the magnitude of the problem.

I am absolutely confident, Mr. Speaker, that my mother was correct when she informed me that there will be times in life when you cannot do enough. No matter what you do, you won't be able to do enough. But she also went on to explain to me, Mr. Speaker, when you cannot do enough and more needs to be done, you have a duty to do all that you can.

I am here tonight to let this Congress know that we can do more to help in Houston, Texas. We can do more to mitigate the flood damages that we have in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, H.R. 5025, would accord \$311 million. This money would be for projects that have already

been approved that are related to flood control in Houston, projects that have not been completed.

This bill would authorize this funding up to 2026. This bill is needed in Houston, Texas, for many, many reasons. I shall share but a few, then I will yield to a colleague, and then I will say more.

This bill is needed because it would not only mitigate the flood damages, but it would also help us with jobs. For those who are interested in jobs, this bill would create 6,220 jobs. The people who acquire these jobs will pay taxes. These taxpayers will help us, in turn, by helping with some of our fire, our police, and schools.

There are many ways that these tax dollars will be used, including a good deal of them sent to Washington, D.C., to help others across the length and breadth of our great country.

This bill will save lives. I will say more about that, and my colleague may say something about this as well. But I think it is important for us to note now that this bill will have a meaningful, powerful, significant impact on Houston, Texas.

I am proud to tell you that this Congress has been helpful. We have already accorded for one project \$212 million, but we need \$34 million to complete the project. This is the Brays project in Houston, Texas. We need \$34 million more to complete it.

This project is in an area where we do get flooding, in the Meyerland area. This project would help prevent homes from being flooded and cars from being damaged. This is a great project.

We just need to finish the project. The project was authorized in 1990, and it is projected to be finished in 2021, Mr. Speaker. While I do want to make sure we complete it, I do think it is taking us a bit too long to complete the Brays project.

Mr. Speaker, the Golden Gate Bridge with all of its majesty only took 4 years, approximately, to complete. The Hoover Dam, a great monument to what we can do to channel water and turn that water into electrical power, only took 5 years to complete. For the Erie Canal, we didn't have the advances in technology that we have today; yet, the Erie Canal took 8 years to complete.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke of Apollo 13 just a moment ago. Well, it only took us 8 years, Mr. Speaker, to place a person on the Moon. Surely, Mr. Speaker, if we can place a person on the Moon in 8 years, we can complete these projects in less than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored at this time to yield to my colleague, who is a cosponsor of this piece of legislation, who serves us well in the Congress of the United States on the Energy and Commerce Committee, a real stalwart when it comes to serving his constituents and standing up for the people of

our city, our county, our State and indeed our country, the honorable GENE GREEN.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me, and I also thank him for last Friday, when I was able to be in your district there along Brays Bayou in the Westbury area and the Meyerland area and see it.

That happened in your district in southwest Houston, but it also happened in north Houston and east Houston. It was not as much as some of the tragedies in other parts of the county, but we have hundreds of homes that have been flooded.

On April 18, the city of Houston in Harris County, Texas, was subjected to paralyzing flooding that claimed the lives of our citizens and required the rescue of 1,200 more. Approximately 2,000 housing units were flooded, and we are currently working to figure out where to house these folks who cannot return to their homes.

This is the second major flooding disaster Houston has experienced in the last 6 months, and the city is expecting additional rain and thunderstorms this week. Residents of our congressional districts, as well my colleagues' member districts, have been severely affected, and we must stop the needless loss of life.

The President has recognized the significance of the catastrophe and fulfilled a request for disaster declaration. Now it is the job of Congress to help our constituents.

I have worked closely with my neighbor and friend, Representative AL GREEN, to introduce the Tax Day Flood Supplemental Funding Act. The legislation would provide \$311 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction and, in many cases, completion of our bayous and flood control projects.

Flooding is not new in Houston, but we have learned how to control it. Our bayou system has saved countless lives and millions of dollars in damages since being created.

Unfortunately, due to the consistent budget pressure, the Army Corps of Engineers cannot adequately fund these projects that need to be finished. This bill would ensure that our Federal, State, and local authorities have the resources necessary to expedite the flood control projects we know protect people and property.

Additionally, I want to make sure folks on the ground have the information they need to get back into their homes.

If residents are subject to flood damage, please report flood damage by calling 311. Download the Houston 311 app and visit [Houston311.org](http://Houston311.org) to submit flood damage reports.

Residents must file an insurance claim with their home or their auto insurance company for damages they have incurred.

Failure to file an insurance claim may affect your eligibility for the Federal assistance because, by law, FEMA cannot provide money for losses that are covered by insurance.

Also, it is important to know that, if Spanish-speaking households have children that are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, FEMA will assist you.

Before submitting your application, folks should have the following information ready: their Social Security number, their home and auto insurance information, flood damage information, personal financial information, and personal contact information.

You can apply by phone for FEMA assistance. You can call 1-800-621-3362. Again, that is 1-800-261-FEMA, 1-800-621-3362.

FEMA can offer two types of assistance: housing assistance, temporary housing, money to help repair or replace your primary residence.

Nonhousing needs include medical, dental, funeral costs, clothing, household items, tools, home fuel, disaster-related moving and storage and replacement of disaster-damaged vehicles.

After 24 hours, you need to follow up with FEMA. A FEMA inspector should contact you within 10 to 14 days.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, we can help the victims in our neighborhoods, and we must help them. I urge this body to pass this emergency funding legislation so we won't have this tragedy again while we are trying to get people out of the water and back into their homes and back into a regular life.

Again, I want to thank my colleague for having this Special Order tonight. Again, our office and all our congressional offices who are impacted across Houston—whether they be Republican or Democrat—are here to serve you and serve our constituents. I thank my colleague.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for sharing the time with us tonight. I especially thank him for coming in to the Ninth Congressional District, his neighboring district, and being of assistance to my constituents because, as we do this, we really assist each other.

I would want to, if I may, magnify, amplify what the gentleman said about this not being partisan. That wasn't his exact terminology, but this really is not a partisan effort. This is something that impacts people. Democrats and Republicans have been impacted by these storms. Rich and poor alike have been impacted by these storms. It doesn't matter what your gender is. It doesn't matter what your nationality is. If you have been in Houston, Texas, when these storms have hit, you have been impacted by these storms.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I do think it is appropriate that we say more about



these storms to give some indication as to what we have to cope with in Houston, Texas. Houston, we do have a problem, but, again, we also have a solution, H.R. 5025.

So let's say just a bit more about the problem. Let's talk about the damages in terms of cost. In 2015, we had the Memorial Day flood, and in 2016, we had the tax day flood. I am going to compare the two, and in so doing, you can see not only do we have damages occasionally, it appears that we are starting to have these damages quite regularly.

The damages and costs for the 2015 Memorial Day flood: Approximately \$3 billion in damages. Mind you now, this bill will cost \$311 million. We had \$3 billion in damages just for the Memorial Day flood alone in 2015. A billion is still 1,000 million—1,000 million. So we had 3,000 million dollars' worth of damages from this Memorial Day flood in 2015.

The tax day flood of 2016 brought us \$5 billion as an estimate of damages. \$5 billion. All of these are estimates. Nobody knows the exact number. There was \$5 billion in 2016, another \$3 billion in 2015. That is \$8 billion. Mr. Speaker, the \$8 billion happens to be about 25 times—25.72 times—the \$311 million.

The point is, why don't we spend the money upfront?

You have heard the phrase "pay me now or pay me later."

Why not pay the cost to prevent some of this flooding as opposed to the cost of repairs after the floods have taken place?

It is interesting to note that these appropriation dollars that we are talking about are going to be spent. These are not dollars that will never be spent on these projects in Houston. What we are trying to do is not allow the projects to be prolonged such that other things are impacted in our city. We want the projects to be completed as expeditiously as possible, and there will be many more reasons why I will call that to your attention in just a moment.

One will be deaths. With the Memorial Day flood, our research indicates that approximately four people were killed. Four people lost their lives in floodwaters or as a result of flooding. In 2016, with the tax day flood, that number doubled to eight people losing their lives.

We have an opportunity to do something to save lives. There are other things that can be done to help us save lives as well, but these things, working with these projects that the Corps of Engineers already has on its docket, has on its agenda, is working on, finishing these projects can indeed help us to save lives.

Let's talk about the rainfall so that you can get some sense of how much water inundates our city. In 2015, we had 11 inches of rain. That is a lot. In

2016, we had 17 inches of rain. In 2016, that amounted to about 240 billion gallons of rain. That is a lot of water in one place at one time.

The rescues. My colleague alluded to people being rescued. In 2015, we had 531 water rescues. In 2016, 1,200 high-water rescues took place.

This is a good point for me, Mr. Speaker, a good place for me to commend the newly elected mayor of Houston, Texas, the Honorable Sylvester Turner, who is doing an outstanding job, a stellar job. He just arrived on the job, but he has really done well with the circumstances that he has had to deal with, so I commend him.

I also would like to mention now the homes that have been damaged. In 2015, the estimate is that about 6,000 homes were damaged with the Memorial Day flood. With the flood in 2016, the tax day flood—called tax day because it was the last day to file your income taxes. In 2016, on tax day, we had 6,700. Seven hundred more homes approximately were estimated in 2016 than in 2015. As you can see, we have a problem in Houston.

Well, let's talk about vehicular damage. In Houston in 2015, the Memorial Day flood, we had about 10,000 vehicles damaged. 10,000. Imagine being on your way home and you have this water to inundate the city. That means that you cannot continue to traverse the city. You have to take shelter. You have to stop. You try to get your water into a place wherein you have high terrain. Unfortunately in Houston, most places are at sea level and a good many are below sea level. As a result, when we have these types of conditions, we will have damages that will occur, and many cars will be a part of these damages.

In 2015, approximately 10,000 vehicles. In 2016, approximately 40,000 vehicles damaged. In 2016, 40,000 vehicles. Now, if it takes about \$10,000 per vehicle to repair these vehicles or to replace the vehicles, \$10,000 per vehicle, that is approximately, in a hypothetical sense, \$40 million. So the cost, Mr. Speaker, for vehicle repairs alone exceeds the amount that we need for the bill to take preventive measures such that we won't get as many cars in this condition. I say as many simply because I will reiterate what I said earlier, we will never eliminate all of the flooding. We can never do enough, but we do have a duty to do all that we can. We can spare a good many people from being stranded in vehicles; a good many who lose their lives, I might add, as well.

Loss of power, meaning electrical power. In 2015, we had 88,000 customers lose power. That is a lot. 88,000 people without power. Surely we have had more than this in many other places. I am not saying that this loss of power would in any way compare to some of our other circumstances that we have

had to cope with in different places in our country, but I do want you to know that this happens whenever we have these conditions. So year after year after year, the number adds up because while we had 88,000 customers in 2015, in 2016 we had 123,000 people lose power. We had 88,000 the year earlier; 123,000 this year. It adds up.

Houston has a problem, but Houston has a solution. The solution is H.R. 5025, a bill that would accord \$311 million to complete projects that are already being worked on in Houston, Texas, money that is already going to be spent by virtue of the projects having been appropriated.

So we have to do this. Why not do this now or as quickly as we can, save lives, save money, and create jobs?

Let's now talk about FEMA assistance. On the Memorial Day flood of 2015, \$57 million was paid out from FEMA to persons who suffered flood damages. For the tax day flood, we have yet to determine this because we are still in the process of getting FEMA into the city to assist us.

If I may say so, I want to thank the President of the United States of America, the Honorable Barack Obama. I want to thank the Governor of the State of Texas. I thank the Governor for immediately responding and asking the President to declare certain areas in the State of Texas disaster areas.

The Houston area has been declared a disaster area. Harris County is one of the areas so declared. Harris County happens to be, for the most part, within Houston, Texas. Houston is over 600 square miles. It literally almost consumes Harris County.

So we have to realize that the Governor did a great thing, in my opinion. He is a Republican, by the way. And the President did a great thing, in my opinion. He is a Democrat, for edification purposes. These two people—one Republican, one Democrat—worked to make sure that we get FEMA in, that we get all of the aid that we can into the area as quickly as we can so that people can receive assistance.

There are people who are going to need shelter. It is estimated that out in the Greenspoint area—this is the area where my colleague, SHELLA JACKSON LEE, happens to be the representative from—1,800 apartments have flood damages. 1,800. We have got some 400 workers at the time I received this intelligence out there helping to make repairs. These workers are going to be paid for the jobs that they are doing. That is additional cost.

We had more than 150 families who needed accommodations. They will need these accommodations for perhaps as much as 3 weeks. This could end up costing us an additional \$150,000. These are all costs that we can mitigate, that we can reduce. We may not eliminate them, but we can reduce these costs.

In the Meyerland area, this is an area that was hit hard when we had the Memorial Day flood, and now when we had this tax day flood—we are talking about within a year—we have people who are just moving back into their homes—just moving back into their homes—and they are flooded again.

This area and the people of this area have sent out a clarion call for help. They have sent the hew and cry not only to the Congress, but also to the Corps of Engineers, also to the county commissioners. They want the city council, the State to do something about this problem.

Houston has a problem, but Houston has a solution. H.R. 5025 is that solution.

In that Meyerland area that I am speaking of there lives a family, the Tice family. I want to express my gratitude to the Tice family because when we set out to visit with people in the area and call these problems to the attention on a city-wide basis by publishing these problems, that Tice family opened the doors of their home to us so that we could come in and meet at their home. They didn't have to do it, but I am appreciative that they opened the doors of their home. I am especially appreciative as it relates to this family, Mr. Speaker, because this family, the Tice family, has a son who is being held captive in Syria as I speak. This family is suffering the problems associated with somebody that they love dearly, their son being held captive in Syria, and they get flooded. Fortunately, this time they barely escaped, but they had to do mitigation. They had to raise their floors. They had to do things so that they would not get flooded.

I am calling on us in the Congress to please, let's help the many families who will suffer again. This is not going to be the last time that I will come to the floor with this bill if we don't get the help this time. I assure you that within the foreseeable future, we will have a similar circumstance.

How do you know, AL GREEN? How do you know you are going to have a similar circumstance?

Well, I know because between 1996 and 2014, we had 86 days of flooding and/or flash flooding in Houston, Harris County. That averages to four to five days of flooding each year. This is not—N-O-T—this is not a problem that is going away.

We can resolve it this time with H.R. 5025 or I will be back to the floor, and I will be calling this problem to our attention again; we will be talking about more damages to homes; we will be talking about cars that have been flooded and in need of repair; and we will be talking about, unfortunately—and I pray that I am entirely wrong—we will be talking about lives that have been lost; and we will be talking about how we could have then, how we

could have now, how we could have done things to avoid some of these consequences.

□ 2015

These consequences can be mitigated, and it is up to us to take the affirmative action to do so.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the cosponsors of this legislation, H.R. 5025. Many have signed onto it. I think that, in a few short days, we have nearly 50 cosponsors, and we will be asking others to sign on to H.R. 5025.

In thanking the leadership, I am asking that we have an opportunity to, please, let us, at some point, either bring the bill to the floor or let us incorporate it into some of the supplemental relief that we will be according persons in the immediate future.

Houston has a problem, but H.R. 5025 can be a great part of the solution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. LAWRENCE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for April 26 and today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5167. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations; Connecticut River, Old Saybrook, CT [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0806] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5168. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation, Daytona Beach Grand Prix of the Seas; Atlantic Ocean, Daytona Beach, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2015-1108] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5169. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regu-

lation; Chesapeake Bay, between Sandy Point and Kent Island, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2015-1126] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5170. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Safety Zone: Santa Cruz Harbor Shoaling, Santa Cruz County, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0194] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5171. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River Mile 95.7 to 96.7; New Orleans, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0189] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5172. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Chincoteague Bay, Chincoteague, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0483] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5173. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Charleston Race Week, Charleston Harbor, Charleston, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2015-1055] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5174. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Hudson River, Tarrytown, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0226] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5175. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Bucksport/Lake Murray Drag Boat Spring Nationals, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Bucksport, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0009] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5176. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Urbanna Creek, Urbanna, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0174] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5177. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations; Port of

New York [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0038] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5178. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Tonnage Regulations Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0522] (RIN: 1625-AB74) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5179. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations; Connecticut River, Old Saybrook, CT [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0806] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5180. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River 321.4 to 321.6; Quincy, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0155] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5181. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Commercial Fishing Vessels Dispensing Petroleum Products [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0195] (RIN: 1625-AC18) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5182. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Victoria Barge Canal, Bloomington, TX [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0952] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5183. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Little Calumet River, Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0148] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5184. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saginaw River, Bay City, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0934] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5185. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Sunken Vessel, North Channel, Boston, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0127] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5186. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Newtown Creek, Queens, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0100] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. FOX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 706. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4901) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary"; and providing for proceedings during the period from May 2, 2016, through May 9, 2016 (Rept. 114-533). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 5073. A bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina:

H.R. 5074. A bill to prohibit the provision of Federal funds to any State or local educational agency that denies or prevents participation in constitutional prayer in schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FARR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. MENG, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 5075. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to commission a study of the health impacts of airplane flights on affected residents of certain metropolitan areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 5076. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that pass-through businesses do not pay tax at a higher rate than corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 5077. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for intelligence and

intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. TROTT):

H.R. 5078. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the economic and environmental risks to the Great Lakes of spills or leaks of oil, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. COOK, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 5079. A bill to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to require that, in California, certain off-reservation gaming proposals shall be subject to the full ratification and referendum process established by California State law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 5080. A bill to prevent gun trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 5081. A bill to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. REED, Mr. DOLD, Mr. YODER, Mr. CUREBELO of Florida, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NUNES, Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 5082. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deferral of inclusion in gross income for capital gains reinvested in economically distressed zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5083. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the appeals process of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5084. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to reserve a certain number of burial plots at Arlington National Cemetery for individuals who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 5085. A bill to reform the screening and eviction policies for Federal housing assistance in order to provide fair access to housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5086. A bill to more accurately identify and transfer subsurface gravel sources

originally intended to be made available to the Ukepeagvik Inupiat Corporation in exchange for its relinquishment of related property rights; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5087. A bill to remove the Federal claim to navigational servitude for a tract of land developed due to dredging disposal from a harbor project in Valdez, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BRAT (for himself, Mr. AMASH, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H. Res. 707. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the Committee on Appropriations to maintain proposed and historical budget authority and outlays for each category of spending; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. POCAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. HAHN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H. Res. 708. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the immigration policies of the United States should reduce automatic removal and detention, restore due process for immigrants, and repeal unnecessary barriers to legal immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 5073.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina:

H.R. 5074.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 5075.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 section 8 Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 5076.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, section 8.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 5077.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, including those under Title 50, are carried out to support the national security interests of the United States, to enable the armed forces of the United States, and to support the President in executing the foreign policy of the United States.

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States provides, in pertinent part, that "Congress shall have power . . . to . . . provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States"; ". . . to raise and support armies . . ."; to "make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water"; and "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested in this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 5078.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 5079.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with Indian tribes.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 5080.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 5081.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 5082.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5083.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Amendment XVI, of the United States Constitution

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5084.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Amendment XVI, of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 5085.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5086.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5087.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 194: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. REED, Mr. LANCE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 303: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 335: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 411: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 446: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 509: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 525: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 542: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 546: Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 556: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GALLEG0.

H.R. 581: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 656: Mr. SANFORD.

H.R. 664: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 672: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 711: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 771: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mrs.

WALORSKI.

H.R. 842: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 923: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr.

BRIDENSTINE, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 953: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 969: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 973: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 1170: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1179: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1197: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1220: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1221: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1356: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 1427: Mr. LONG, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 1594: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1608: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs.

WALORSKI, Mr. RIGELL, Ms. MENG, and Mr.

GIBSON.

H.R. 1655: Mr. POCAN and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1688: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1761: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1769: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BLUM, and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 1818: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 1859: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1961: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2090: Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. WATSON

COLEMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 2096: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 2121: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 2170: Mr. COHEN and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2189: Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 2237: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 2274: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2350: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 2404: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 2515: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 2590: Mr. KIND.

- H.R. 2633: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.R. 2658: Mr. GOODLATTE.  
H.R. 2726: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HANNA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. DESANTIS.  
H.R. 2739: Mr. ALLEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BENISHEK, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 2759: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. COOK.  
H.R. 2793: Mr. GOSAR.  
H.R. 2799: Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H.R. 2805: Mr. TIPTON and Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 2844: Mr. VELA.  
H.R. 2858: Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 2890: Mr. RENACCI.  
H.R. 2896: Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 2903: Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H.R. 2920: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 2938: Mr. PASCRELL.  
H.R. 2980: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LANGEVIN.  
H.R. 3048: Mr. STIVERS.  
H.R. 3084: Mr. CUMMINGS.  
H.R. 3209: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. ROSKAM.  
H.R. 3222: Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. TIPTON.  
H.R. 3229: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 3237: Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 3268: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. HUELSKAMP.  
H.R. 3299: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. DENHAM.  
H.R. 3308: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
H.R. 3381: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 3394: Mr. POE of Texas.  
H.R. 3520: Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 3523: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. NEAL.  
H.R. 3643: Mr. KLINE.  
H.R. 3691: Mr. KIND and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 3706: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 3722: Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 3742: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mr. ABRAHAM.  
H.R. 3799: Mr. WITTMAN.  
H.R. 3815: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 3832: Mr. CARNEY.  
H.R. 3851: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 3860: Mr. RIGELL.  
H.R. 3865: Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 3870: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SIREN, and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 3880: Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 3882: Mr. SABLAN, Mr. FARR, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 3920: Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 3929: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BARTON, Mr. WALKER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. GRIFFITH.  
H.R. 3974: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. GRJALVA.  
H.R. 3982: Mr. FORBES.  
H.R. 3990: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 4016: Mr. WALZ.  
H.R. 4063: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. TIPTON.  
H.R. 4065: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 4070: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 4114: Mr. BERA.  
H.R. 4118: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 4301: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.  
H.R. 4352: Mr. PERRY and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
H.R. 4365: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 4371: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.  
H.R. 4381: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. SINEMA.  
H.R. 4443: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4447: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 4460: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 4471: Ms. DELAURO.  
H.R. 4474: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 4479: Mr. POLIS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. WALZ, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. HIGGINS.  
H.R. 4480: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4584: Mrs. TORRES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. STEWART.  
H.R. 4600: Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H.R. 4621: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 4640: Mr. OLSON.  
H.R. 4646: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4653: Mr. POLIS and Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 4681: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 4715: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 4731: Mr. OLSON.  
H.R. 4739: Mr. HECK of Nevada.  
H.R. 4740: Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 4751: Mr. PEARCE.  
H.R. 4760: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. DESANTIS.  
H.R. 4764: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. ALLEN.  
H.R. 4766: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 4773: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. OLSON.  
H.R. 4774: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 4792: Mr. GRAYSON.  
H.R. 4796: Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 4816: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 4828: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BRAT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. MEADOWS.  
H.R. 4842: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. VELA.  
H.R. 4843: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. MESSER, and Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 4869: Mr. OLSON.  
H.R. 4876: Mr. TIBERI.  
H.R. 4904: Mr. TIPTON.  
H.R. 4907: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mr. RENACCI.  
H.R. 4912: Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 4928: Mrs. HARTZLER.  
H.R. 4941: Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 4948: Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 4954: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 4955: Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 4956: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.  
H.R. 4960: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.  
H.R. 4969: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 4980: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. DESANTIS.  
H.R. 5011: Mr. ABRAHAM.  
H.R. 5015: Mr. COLE, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. STEWART.  
H.R. 5031: Mr. MEADOWS.  
H.R. 5044: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. LEE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 5046: Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
H.R. 5047: Mr. JONES and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.  
H.R. 5056: Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 5067: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BASS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GRJALVA, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. PAYNE.  
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. VALADAO.  
H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. STIVERS.  
H. Con. Res. 130: Mr. VISLOSKEY.  
H. Res. 14: Mr. SALMON, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.  
H. Res. 154: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H. Res. 494: Mrs. WAGNER.  
H. Res. 534: Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H. Res. 540: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H. Res. 586: Mrs. DINGELL.  
H. Res. 605: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H. Res. 637: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H. Res. 650: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. LANCE.  
H. Res. 668: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. VELA.  
H. Res. 694: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**STATE HEALTH PREPAREDNESS  
GRANT CUTS**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following list of States, and their loss of Health Preparedness grants.

Grantee	Cuts (dollars)	Cuts (%)
Alabama	-613,733	-6.90
Alaska	-194,836	-4.63
American Samoa	-6,600	-1.82
Arizona	-915,853	-7.74
Arkansas	-377,461	-5.70
California	-3,979,850	-9.35
Chicago	-530,926	-5.42
Colorado	-706,343	-7.21
Connecticut	-490,363	-6.35
Delaware	-143,256	-3.27
District of Columbia	-142,165	-2.23
Florida	-2,653,185	-9.00
Georgia	-1,351,184	-8.44
Guam	-19,345	-3.98
Hawaii	-196,065	-4.01
Idaho	-211,568	-4.20
Illinois	-1,422,463	-8.51
Indiana	-872,687	-7.66
Iowa	-393,286	-5.80
Kansas	-388,911	-5.77
Kentucky	-568,480	-6.72
Los Angeles	-1,575,170	-7.98
Louisiana	-613,015	-6.89
Maine	-177,231	-3.77
Marshall Islands	-8,413	-2.21
Maryland	-856,366	-7.60
Massachusetts	-937,359	-7.14
Michigan	-1,310,210	-7.86
Micronesia	-12,798	-3.03
Minnesota	-744,017	-6.61
Mississippi	-384,621	-5.74
Missouri	-818,745	-7.52
Montana	-139,375	-3.21
N. Mariana Islands	-6,172	-1.72
Nebraska	-245,839	-4.58
Nevada	-390,223	-5.77
New Hampshire	-187,880	-3.90
New Jersey	-1,303,734	-8.36
New Mexico	-275,903	-4.09
New York	-1,564,792	-7.90
New York City	-1,158,820	-6.27
North Carolina	-1,240,926	-8.32
North Dakota	-194,836	-4.63
Ohio	-1,548,159	-8.65
Oklahoma	-499,358	-6.40
Oregon	-522,990	-6.51
Palau	-2,546	-0.78
Pennsylvania	-1,716,179	-8.79
Puerto Rico	-433,740	-6.06
Rhode Island	-155,523	-3.45
South Carolina	-605,876	-6.16
South Dakota	-118,947	-2.87
Tennessee	-857,750	-7.62

Grantee	Cuts (dollars)	Cuts (%)
Texas	-3,598,615	-9.55
Utah	-380,115	-5.71
Vermont	-194,836	-4.63
Virgin Islands (US)	-12,633	-3.00
Virginia	-1,149,940	-7.64
Washington	-948,052	-7.81
West Virginia	-242,010	-4.54
Wisconsin	-742,890	-6.41
Wyoming	-194,836	-4.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,250,000</b>	<b>7.23</b>

**CONGRATULATING SINCLAIR OIL  
FOR 100 YEARS OF SUCCESS**

**HON. JASON CHAFFETZ**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sinclair Oil for celebrating 100 years of success in the oil and gas industry. Headquartered in Utah, Sinclair Oil has served as a shining example of American excellence for a century. Harry Ford Sinclair was 25 when he lost his father's drugstore in 1901 and began selling lumber for oil derricks. An incredibly savvy individual, Sinclair was soon buying and selling small oil leases, eventually attracting investors. Sinclair's immediate success was remarkable, he became a millionaire by the age of 30 and founded the Sinclair Oil and Refining Corporation in 1916.

The success of Sinclair Oil has stood the test of time and bolstered the United States economy. Sinclair saved hundreds of jobs during the Great Depression era by buying up dying competitors. During World War II, Sinclair's oil supported the Allied effort, and Sinclair's Dinoland exhibit was a highlight of the 1960s World's Fair. In 1976, self-made legend Earl Holding acquired Sinclair Oil. Under Holding's leadership, Sinclair Oil continued its growth as a beacon of American excellence. Holding's work at Sinclair is revered for his commitment to the company's culture and his incredible dedication to hard work. I look forward to the future of Sinclair Oil, as it continues to fuel the economy and provide jobs to hardworking Americans.

I am proud to congratulate Sinclair Oil on achieving 100 years of success today. Sinclair's accomplishments have not only been of great benefit to Utah, but to the United States. I thank CEO Ross Matthews, Earl Holding, and the Sinclair Oil family for their contributions.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. GLADYS TARVER COLEMAN**

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true trailblazer in the Fairfield, Alabama community and an Alabama heroine—Mrs. Gladys Tarver Coleman. A lifelong resident of Fairfield, Mrs. Gladys Coleman was born there on May 15, 1917. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Miles College and her Master's degree from Alabama A&M University. Mrs. Coleman also received educational training from Tuskegee University and the University of Southern California. She was married to the late Jerry D. Coleman, the first black President of the Fairfield City Council.

Mrs. Gladys Coleman is best known for her tireless efforts around voter registration and voter mobilization. She was one of the founding members of the Fairfield Democratic Women, an organization created over 60 years ago to help educate voters, mobilize the Fairfield community, and elect candidates supportive of the community's needs. Mrs. Coleman was passionate about impacting the political dialogue in her community and it showed through her efforts to help elect council members, judges, state representatives and even members of Congress—all of whom Mrs. Coleman knew on a personal level.

Mrs. Gladys Coleman's political affiliations were numerous. She served as president of the Fairfield Democratic Women, and a member of the Jefferson County (AL) and State Democratic Executive Committees. In April 2015, she was one of seven honorees inducted into the Alabama Democratic Party Hall of Fame. Mrs. Coleman was a member of the Alabama Democratic Delegation to the 1984 National Democratic Convention in San Francisco, CA, the 1992 convention in New York City, and the 1996 convention in Chicago, IL. She was also present in Washington, DC for the January 2009 inauguration of our Nation's first black president, Barack Obama.

Besides politics, Mrs. Coleman's other passion was education. She believed in educating children about life, as well as book knowledge. She was a retired teacher from the Jefferson County (AL) and Birmingham City School Systems. Mrs. Coleman was the first black member appointed to the Fairfield Board of Education during the crucial years of desegregation in the city's school system. In 1975, she was appointed by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education to serve on the Accreditation Committee for Elementary Schools. Mrs. Coleman was a member of the Alabama and National Education Associations, and the American Federation of Teachers.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mrs. Gladys Coleman was a lifelong member of her beloved Miles Chapel CME Church and served in many capacities over the years, including as choir member, Christian Board of Education, Ladies Guild, Missionary Society, and Steward Board.

Mrs. Coleman believed her "life's work" was educating her community about the importance of voting. She also enjoyed music—big bands, jazz and The Temptations, as well as shopping, and spending time taking care of her family. She was preceded in death by her late husband of 44 years, Jerry D. Coleman, and her brothers, Lawrence (Alberta), William, and John Tarver. She leaves to cherish her memory numerous nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

On a personal note, I was blessed to call Mrs. Gladys Coleman a political mentor, distant relative and an important ally. When I decided to run for Congress in 2009, everyone told me there was only one person whose support in Fairfield would determine my success. When I went to her house to ask for her vote, she drilled me for hours on every issue affecting the Fairfield and Birmingham communities. She was dedicated to her beloved Fairfield Democratic Women and I will always be grateful for her support and the support of this influential group, including her honoring me with her presence at my swearing-in ceremony on Capitol Hill in January 2011. Mrs. Gladys Coleman was the real matriarch of the Fairfield community and the rock of her family. She instilled a sense of pride in all who knew her and had a sincere passion to better her community through public service and political activism. She was a committed servant leader and demanded the same excellence from others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an icon of Fairfield and an Alabama treasure—Mrs. Gladys Tarver Coleman. Her legacy will continue to live on in the countless lives that she touched. May the Blessing of God be with her family and provide solace in their loss.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the International Festival of Language and Culture, which is having its 14th Annual celebration in Washington, DC on April 28, 2016.

This celebration brings 100 students from 20 countries who will perform at the festival and demonstrate their traditions, their culture and their talent with poetry, songs and dance. The celebration is intended as an expression of friendship, optimism and hope. The IFCL has as its mission the impressive goal to use music and art in order to promote cultural understanding, cultural tolerance, and to seek peace.

I congratulate the participants, and the IFCL, for coordinating and hosting this event.

HONORING SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER JAMES BROWN

**HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer James Brown's tireless commitment to serving our nation.

Senior Chief Brown first enlisted in the United States Navy on February 2, 1961. During his tenure in the U.S. Navy, Senior Chief Brown has served in numerous locations, including Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Naval Air Station Roosevelt, Puerto Rico in 1962, and Sigonella, Sicily in 1963. He was discharged from active duty on January 25, 1965. After being initiated as a Chief Petty Officer on September 16, 1989, he advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer on January 15, 1995. In recognition of his exemplary service, he has received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Naval Reserve Meritorious Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Navy Expert Rifle Medal, and the Navy Expert Pistol Medal. These accolades speak volumes to the distinguished dedication and valor with which Senior Chief Brown has served our nation.

After being discharged from active duty, Senior Chief Brown returned to New York, where he worked for the New York Telephone Company for a decade. He then moved on to positions with the American Satellite Corporation, Western Union, Satelco, Greenwich Air Services, the Teleport Communications Group, and AT&T. In 2000, after thirty-five years of working in the private sector, Senior Chief Brown began his well-deserved retirement. Currently, Senior Chief Brown serves as the president of Staten Island's Fleet Reserve Association Branch 226, an organization that conducts patriotic activities to honor veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Senior Chief Petty Officer James Brown has devoted his life to serving his country and his community, and it is only right to take this opportunity to recognize him and thank him for all that he has done. I am proud to honor this great American from New York's 11th District.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM "BILL" TURGEON FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE YOUTH OF RIVER BEND MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Turgeon for his contributions to his community both inside and outside the classroom at River Bend Middle School. The positive influences he has had on young children running the youth after school program

go well beyond the classroom in preparing them as they face the challenges of real life. Parents and others in his community are proud to call him their own and there is no question, he is very deserving of their praise.

Mr. Turgeon is a fine example to his fellow citizens of dedication, selflessness, and commitment to the common good around the world. I thank him for his devotion to go above and beyond the call to mentor the youth of Sterling, Virginia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the annual Days of Remembrance, and specifically of the Burbank Human Relations Council's 2016 Days of Remembrance program.

The Holocaust was the planned, systemic attempt by Nazi Germany to annihilate the Jewish people and to eradicate every vestige of Jewish life. The genocide resulted in the death of an estimated 6 million Jewish people, Romani people and hundreds of thousands of others who were considered unworthy of life. In 1980, the United States Congress unanimously passed legislation to establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Among their other responsibilities, the Council was entrusted with creating an annual national day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust; thus the Days of Remembrance was established.

Each year schools, governments, workplaces, religious and other organizations all across the country host observances and remembrance activities for their communities. For many years, the Burbank Human Relations Council has partnered with local temples and churches and presented the Days of Remembrance program, a Community Commemoration of the Holocaust to the Burbank community. In addition, the council has provided an array of Holocaust teaching materials to Burbank's middle and high schools, including films, speakers and books, educating students about tolerance, inclusiveness and compassion. This year alone, over 2,500 students have been given an invaluable lesson in this living history.

There are few periods of time in humankind's history that are more appalling and sinister than the Holocaust. We must always recognize the Days of Remembrance, paying tribute to those who perished and those who courageously tried to save Jewish lives, and ensure that a tragedy of this nature will never happen again.

I ask all Members to join me in acknowledging the Days of Remembrance commemoration, and in particular, the Burbank Human Relations Council's program.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday afternoon, April 27, 2016, I was required to be in my congressional district in Fairfield, Alabama in order to attend a memorial service for Mrs. Gladys Coleman. Mrs. Gladys Coleman was one of the founding members of the Fairfield Democratic Women. She served as president of the Fairfield Democratic Women, and a member of the Jefferson County (AL) and State Democratic Executive Committees. In April 2015, she was one of seven honorees inducted into the Alabama Democratic Party Hall of Fame. Mrs. Coleman was the first black member appointed to the Fairfield Board of Education during the crucial years of desegregation in the city's school system. In 1975, she was appointed by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education to serve on the Accreditation Committee for Elementary.

As a Member of the Alabama congressional delegation, attending the memorial service was directly related to my representational, legislative, and committee responsibilities. Because of this absence I was not present for Roll Call Votes 166 through 169. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

YES on H.R. 4923—American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016

YES on H.R. 699—Email Privacy Act

NO on Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4498—Helping Angels Lead our Startups Act, and

NO on H. Res. 701—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4498—Helping Angels Lead our Startups Act.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF DR. JOSEPH E. KUTZ**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of world-renowned surgeon and Louisville resident, Dr. Joseph E. Kutz, as he retires after 52 years of practice.

For more than a half a century, Dr. Kutz has worked to help heal the lives and limbs of countless patients. Joining forces with a fellow accomplished surgeon, the late Dr. Harold E. Kleinert, in 1964, Dr. Kutz helped found what is now KentuckyOne Health's Kleinert Kutz Hand Care Center.

Through the leadership of Dr. Kutz and his colleagues, Louisville has become the pre-eminent center for hand transplantation in the world and a city at the forefront of new medical technologies and progress. His commitment to our city runs deep, as Dr. Kutz has served as Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Louisville's School of Medicine, past director of the Christine M. Kleinert Fellowship in Hand Surgery, past president of

both the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery and the Greater Louisville Medical Society, and past treasurer for the International Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery.

But in addition to his own practice, he has also worked throughout his career to help prepare more of his fellow surgeons for hand and microsurgery. His work with the Christine M. Kleinert Institute has helped train scores of surgeons and made the Kleinert Institute—and the city of Louisville—the place where many of the biggest and most important breakthroughs in hand surgery have occurred.

Dr. Kutz has spent his life helping others, in and out of the operating room, and he will leave behind a field of medicine that is better off because of his hard work and vision. I thank Dr. Kutz for his devotion to this important medical field, for his passion in transforming the lives of his patients, and for his dedication to our community.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky's Third Congressional District and the City of Louisville, I extend my best wishes to Dr. Kutz as he begins his much-deserved retirement.

## HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

**HON. PATRICK MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 39 high school seniors from the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 39 enlistees, one is an Air Force enlistee, nine are Army enlistees, nine are National Guard enlistees, ten are Marine Corps enlistees, eight are Navy enlistees, and two are Army Reserve enlistees. These young men and women have demonstrated the utmost patriotism by answering the call of duty. They should know that they have the full support of their communities, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the American people.

With a deep appreciation for each student's service, I ask my colleagues to join me in personally recognizing: Kamarley Campbell, Alexander Harre, Rebecca Wise, Ivy Gagner, Shannon Hunter, John Reid, James Turner, Christopher Labeach, Melissa Martinez, Chelsea Cobb, Nickolas Poskin, Dylan Reinhardt, Nicolas Sangricco, Jacob Crawford, Brett Marshall, Nicolas Key, Luke Spadafora, Lazaro Palenzuela, Zachary Odell, Kenneth McDonald, Nicolas Rivero, Sean Saake, Cameron Manochi, Carlton Epstein, Karina Derouen, Victor Marques, Colton Mullins, Sarah Fairchild, Anthony Brito, Jacob Barber, Corey Boyce, Justo Rolando Alvarez, Logan Griffith, Cristian Nicolls, Cristian Hodges, Alex Mahan, Myles Wilkerson, Chase Krusbe, and Elizabeth Bonhomme. These enlistees will be recognized on May 3, 2016 at the fourth annual

Our Community Salutes Enlistee Recognition event in Delray Beach.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful to each of these fine men and women, and to all who commit to defending our great nation by serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is my honor and privilege to recognize their courage, dedication, and commitment to service here today.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SETH MOULTON**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was absent for roll call vote No. 165 on H.R. 4096 that took place on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT HADDON

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Dr. Robert Haddon who passed away in California on Thursday, April 21, 2016. Dr. Haddon was a renowned authority in nanotechnology research and a professor at the University of California, Riverside, and he will be deeply missed.

Raised in Longford, Tasmania, an island state of Australia, Dr. Haddon obtained his undergraduate degree in chemistry in 1966 at the Melbourne University, Australia. Dr. Haddon then moved to the United States where he would obtain his Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1971 at Pennsylvania State University. After obtaining his Ph.D., Dr. Haddon joined AT&T (Lucent) Bell Laboratories where he worked on materials research as a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff in the Materials Chemistry Research Department. In 2000, Dr. Haddon joined UC Riverside to launch and serve as the director of the university's new Center for Nanoscale Science and Engineering.

Dr. Haddon was best known for the prediction and discovery of superconductivity in alkali-metal-doped carbon-60, for his preparation and characterization of a stable crystal of phenalenyl radicals, and for his pioneering research in nanotechnology. His research has earned a number of distinctions in his field, including the James C. McGroddy Prize for New Materials, American Physical Society (2008), and being named Person of the Year by Superconductor Week in 1991. Dr. Haddon was also named a Fellow by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (1998), American Physical Society (1996), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1993).

Dr. Haddon's dedication to his work and improving our understanding of an exciting field of research, are a testament to a legacy that will continue long after his passing. I was



proud to call Dr. Haddon my friend and I will miss him. I extend my condolences to Dr. Haddon's family and friends; although Dr. Haddon may be gone, the many incredible contributions he made to nanotechnology will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN WETZEL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Erin Wetzel for being named one of the IOWA STEM Teachers of the Year by the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. The award was created in 2014 to celebrate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teachers who are "Innovative in their methods, Outstanding in their passion for education, Worldly in how their students see that STEM is all around them and Academic in engaging students both in and out of the classroom."

Ms. Wetzel, of Southwest Valley School District in Corning, Iowa, teaches design and modeling, automation and robotics, as well as computer classes to seventh and eighth grade students as part of Project Lead the Way. Her love of teaching science and technology shows as she is always encouraging her students to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Wetzel is an Iowan who has made her community and the school district she serves very proud. She has worked hard and dedicated herself to making STEM education a priority. It is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ms. Wetzel for this award and wishing her nothing but continued success in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING CARTER COREY NORTON ON RECEIVING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'S EAGLE SCOUT RANK

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carter Corey Norton, of Ozark, Missouri, on his recent achievement of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) Eagle Scout rank.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. It is the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication, requiring countless hours of service, training and learning. An extremely exclusive honor, less than two percent of the 112 million scouts since the BSA's founding in 1910 have achieved the Eagle Scout distinction.

Since the age of 6, BSA has been a formative factor in Carter's life. He has been working towards achieving the Eagle Scout rank for most of his life, seeking to actualize the ideals

of community service and integrity upheld by the organization. His recently completed "Eagle Project"—an Eagle Scout rank prerequisite—involved constructing several benches for his local church to be used by parishioners and scouting groups for years to come.

Becoming an Eagle Scout requires a significant amount of determination and self-discipline, traits which will no doubt serve Carter well in the future.

Mr. Speaker, by attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Carter has set himself on the path to achieve future success, and I'm proud to count him among my constituents. His dedication in completing the required benchmarks and community service requirements to reach the Eagle Scout rank is indicative of his ability to accomplish whatever goals he sets his mind to. I wish Carter luck with all his future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this momentous achievement.

HONORING THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the County College of Morris (CCM), located in Randolph, New Jersey, for its remarkable record as an institution of higher learning.

Since its foundation in 1968, the County College of Morris has been a model of success, and has represented the standard of the academic excellence associated with the great state of New Jersey. CCM offers more than 50 associate degrees and more than 25 certificate programs, in addition to a wide selection of career and professional programs. The institution has one of the highest graduation and transfer rates among community colleges in New Jersey.

The County College of Morris has a diverse campus and enriching academic and social environments that have created a culture ripe for personal and academic growth. CCM has become a place for students to reach their true potentials, as well as a community resource for those seeking to further their careers through additional education.

In the classroom, students at the County College of Morris have repeatedly excelled in every department, from the math and sciences, to business, to the liberal arts. Graduates have pursued respected careers, going on to become doctors, engineers, nurses, teachers, and civil servants. CCM's dynamic academic programs have challenged students, and pushed them to produce high-level work.

Students at CCM are not limited to just academic success. With more than 45 active student organizations, nine intercollegiate varsity sports teams, and countless community service opportunities, students have demonstrated excellence outside of the classroom. The County College of Morris is home to two award-winning student publications: its newspaper, The Youngtown Edition and its graphic

arts and literary magazine, The Promethean. In the performing arts, students have the opportunity to participate in high-quality musical theater and drama productions, or can join CCM's acclaimed Dance Theatre troupe.

Under the exceptional leadership and vision of its president for 30 years, Dr. Edward J. Yaw, CCM has continued to modernize and has become one of the finer academic institutions in New Jersey. The college ensures that its students have all of the necessary resources to develop the skills crucial for success in the world beyond the classroom.

Since its founding, CCM has been a driving force in the lives of thousands of successful students who have passed through its halls. Graduates over the years continue to serve as leaders and role models in their communities all over the country. Thanks to the work of its renowned faculty and staff, like Dr. Yaw, CCM will continue to offer a first class education to those who seek to pursue higher learning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the achievements of the County College of Morris and those who devote themselves to its continuing success as an institution of higher learning.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE VOGEL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Maxine Vogel on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Maxine's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Maxine has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Maxine in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Maxine on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her continued health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARD

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of some of the

10th Congressional District's bravest constituents. The Loudoun County Sheriffs Office held their 2015 Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Friday, February 19th to recognize the daily services and sacrifices provided by our local law enforcement. Selected from America's finest, and nominated by their peers, the following award serves as a testament to each officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting our community. The following individuals deserve the thanks of not only the communities which they serve, but also that of their elected officials.

The Meritorious Action Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional action in response to both routine and emergency situations. The following members merit special recognition: Deputy Eric Turner, Deputy First Class Joshua Colburn, Deputy First Class Matthew Steinfurth, Deputy Jillian Brock, Deputy Michael Ramirez, Deputy Jeffry Rima, Sergeant Nathan Zilke, Deputy Evelin Valladares, Deputy Harry Elliott, Johnique Moseley, LPN, Yvonne Savala, RN, Sergeant Dylan Foscatto, Deputy First Class Derrick Franz, Sergeant Brett Phillips, Sergeant Gregory Rogers, Deputy First Class Casey Johnson, Deputy First Class Joseph Gass, Master Deputy Richard Garis, and Loudoun County Public School teachers Mrs. Linda Merola, Mrs. Jennifer Piccolomini, Mrs. Christina Karmara, Mrs. Mary Hummer, Senior Deputy Amy Harper and resident Mr. Rick Allison, Sergeant Jeffrey Haig, Master Deputy Francis Trinh, Deputy First Class Donovan Reid, Deputy First Class Edward O'Toole, Master Deputy Charles Rounds, Deputy First Class Aaron Taylor, Deputy First Class Dawn Taylor, Deputy First Class Chad Braun, Dispatcher Christopher McDonald, Deputy First Class Dustin Moon, Deputy James Maguire, Deputy Ruben Cardenas, Deputy Jeffry Rima, Deputy Jillian Brock, Deputy Joshua Edney, Detective Steven Schochet, Detective Tommy Rodriguez and Special Agent Eric Vega, Virginia State Police.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department for protecting and serving our community day-in and day-out.

2016 14TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Alyssa Marsh from Springdale High School. Ms. Marsh is the winner of the 2016 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Ms. Marsh's artwork, a drawing in colored pencil entitled "American Reflection," was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition.

In fact, 74 works from 16 different schools in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local

artists. It's a real tribute to Ms. Marsh's skill and vision that her work was chosen as the winner of this year's competition.

Ms. Marsh's artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Ms. Marsh's artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other Congressional Districts, which will be on display in the Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

Miranda Miller from Woodland Hills High School was awarded second place for her untitled oil and acrylic painting. Incidentally, Ms. Miller received third place last year for her acrylic on board painting entitled "Corner of Hanover and Church," and she won the top prize in 2014 for her charcoal composition "City Built on Hope." Hannah Schwartz from Penn Hills High School received third place for her Boise acrylic composition entitled "Pup Kaiyai." Sabrina Davies from West Mifflin High School was awarded fourth place for her white charcoal, watercolor, and acrylic artwork entitled "The Lingerin' Past," and Nicole Bonomo from Wilson Christian Academy received the fifth place award for her acrylic composition "Snowy Owl."

In addition, Honorable Mention Awards were presented to works by Zachary Blanner from Baldwin High School; Ada Griffin and Sagar Kamath from the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School; Leah Berman-Kress from the Ellis School; Kerry Dietrich from Montour High School; Sara Weir from Riverview High School; Macy K. Ernst and Nick Lasica from South Allegheny High School; Lauren Boyd and Alyssa Tocco from Springdale High School; Haley Peretic from Wilson Christian Academy; and Kobe Sanders of Woodland Hills High School.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery:" from Baldwin High School, Zachary Blanner, Casey R. Conboy, Natalie Weida, and Jasmine Wicks; from CAPA, Ada Griffin, Sagar Kamath, Victoria Kipiller, Todd LaQuatra, Mia M. Stanton, and Abigail Sullivan; from East Allegheny High School, Sarah Cornell, Kylee Fazek, Daneille Foscoe, Katlyn McArdle, Kacy Neiderlander, Mark Robinson, and Santino Runco; from the Ellis School, Leah Berman-Kress, Lela Krackow, Mishon Levine, and Alexandra Papernick; from Montour High School, Kerry Dietrich, Emily Kortisky, and Olivia Trevenen; from Penn Hills High School, Marieme Diop, Seanna Dutrieuille, YaKira Porter, Hannah Schwartz, and Katarina Marie Shields; from Propel School, Constance Alexander, Diamonne Fuller, Breeonia Prioleau, and Jordan Todd; from Riverview High School, Viktoria Kutunina, Emma Patterson, and Sara Weir; from Serra Catholic High School, Tyler J. Gedman, Jen Pricener; from the Shuman Center, Kimberly Andrews, Walter Hodge, and Zaire Mauro; from South Allegheny High School, Jared Brysh, Macy K. Ernst, Nick Lasica, Madison

Pastore, and Nicolette Ruhl; from Springdale High School, Lauren Boyd, Taylor Frantz, Alyssa Marsh, Andrew Strawinski, Alyssa Tocco, and Alyssa Vansach; from Sto-Rox High School, Amber Bayton, Julia Black, Shan Lin, Allana Molter, Katelyn Parker, and Beauty Williams; from West Mifflin High School, Nicole Beres, Michaeline Bost, Sabrina Davies, and Jordin Waugaman; from Wilson Christian Academy, Andrew Arovits, Nicole Bonomo, Jessica Hinchman, and Haley Peretic; from Woodland Hills High School, Juliette Gough, Miranda Miller, Kobe Sanders, Rayven Smith, Roni J. Taylor, and Dejon Young.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular. I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL VIRGINIA  
STUDENTS FOR THEIR PRAISE-  
WORTHY DECISION TO ENLIST IN  
THE UNITED STATES ARMED  
FORCES

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor 90 students from the Central Virginia area for their praiseworthy decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of the 90, 36 have chosen to join the U.S. Army to include the U.S. Army Reserves and U.S. Army National Guard: Benjamin P. Arrington (NG), Alexander Barton, Ethan R. Bernier, Colton Breedan, Sean Brenneisen, Hannah T. Brock, Tanner C. Brooker (NG), Eric M. Calvert, Jason D. Cooke, Anthony Cruz, Terra D. Daniels, Scott M. Dice, Christian Donavant, Ryan Eckert, Steven Gandy, Michael R. Hampson, Ruston L. Hill, II (NG), Robin G. Jat, Minjung Kim, Youjung Kim, Britany Maddox, Francisco Leiva Magana, Alejandro J. Mastrapa, Mardin Mohammadzadeh, Aaron E. Molloy, Mason L. Plum, Michael L. Robinson (NG), Jonathan C. Shifflet, Aaron M. Spurlock, Caleb A. Staff, Matthew J. Sullivan, Maria Torres Trujillo, Chihao Wang, Kaiying Wang, Lorenzo Wells and Cheyenne Williams.

Thirty-two have selected the U.S. Marine Corps: Derek Alewine, Jacob Alderman, Brian Alvarado, Lilian Booyens, Jonathan Bowman, Sim Brand, Wendy Bustillo, Joshua Campbell, Dylan Chenault, Jacob Clark, Chase Cline, Jacob Green, Noah Hallen, Chester Harvey III, Matthew Hill, Charles Hite, Collin Ingles, Tylore Jones, Dakota Kelley, Christopher Leake, Rickey Langhorne, Patrick Mayo, Isaiah Meadows, Kyle Rochefort, Jacob Shaver, Edward Sher, Benjamin Showalter, Andrew Smith, Dylan Snyder, Gaines "Randall" Thomas, Jerod Williams, and John Weatherman.

Eighteen have elected to join the U.S. Navy: Jesse R. Bast, Devin M. Carter, Storey A. Collier, Nicholas S. Finnan, Nathaniel Fisher,

Colin D. Grimsley, Christian N. Hoffman, Steven Howard, Christopher S. Keller, Raymond G. Markle, Alexander N. Ostrowski, Devin O'Neal Richardson, Tayvaun D. Richardson, Taylor M. Stark, Katelyn R. Shafer, Lucas J. Valleau, Devin L. Walker, and Andrew H. Williams.

Four have elected to join the U.S. Air Force: Hunter Brittle, Jordan Stracener, Martha Wells, and Jackson Winum.

These 90 young men and women will be recognized on April 30, 2016, as part of the "Our Community Salutes" Recognition Ceremony, and Albemarle High School Guidance Counselor, Jacquelyn Perry, will be awarded The General Colin L. Powell Service Award. This prestigious citation is given to a high school educator who best supports young adults desiring to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces after graduation from high school.

Every citizen of the United States of America owes his or her freedom to the men and women that have served, are serving or will serve this nation in the uniform of one of our military services. The future of our Nation remains strong because of young men and women like these 90 individuals who have stepped forward to serve in the defense of our country and to uphold the ideals and principles upon which it was founded.

These young Virginians from the home of Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson, represent all that is good in our Nation. They depart with the full faith and support of the U.S. Senate and the American people. They will experience good days and they will experience challenges and we will support them in both environments.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to these young patriots who will take the Oath of Enlistment and serve in their respective service. It is because of their decision today that the United States remains secure and a beacon of liberty throughout the world.

**CONGRATULATING AUSTIN BAILEY SWEARENGIN ON RECEIVING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'S EAGLE SCOUT RANK**

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Austin Bailey Swearingin, of Springfield, Missouri, on his recent achievement of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) top rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. It is the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication, requiring countless hours of service, training and learning. An extremely exclusive honor, less than two percent of the 112 million scouts since the BSA's founding in 1910 have achieved the Eagle Scout distinction.

Austin's promotion to Eagle Scout is even more significant given that his brothers, Ethan and Logan, also achieved the Eagle Scout rank. To have one Eagle Scout in a family is remarkable, but to have three is beyond ex-

emplary. Austin and his brothers' achievements are a testament to their family's reverence for focus and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, by attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Austin has set himself on the path to achieve future success, and I'm proud to count him among my constituents. His dedication in completing the required benchmarks and community service requirements to reach the Eagle Scout rank is indicative of his ability to accomplish whatever goals he sets his mind to. I wish Austin luck with all his future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this momentous achievement.

**TRIBUTE TO LONDON VAIS**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate London Vais for being named First Team All-American in women's basketball by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

London is a member of the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) women's basketball team. She was named ICCAC Athlete of the Week on four different occasions during this past basketball season, leading DMACC to a 26-7 overall record in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, London has made Des Moines Area Community College and the great State of Iowa very proud. She has worked hard and dedicated herself to being a part of a successful team. It is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating London for receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success in all her future endeavors.

**CHIEF CHRIS CARTER RETIRES FROM BISHOP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the law enforcement career of Bishop Police Chief Chris Carter, who retired from the Bishop Police Department on September 30, 2015. On June 4, 2016, there will be a long-awaited retirement party to celebrate Chief Carter's distinguished career.

Chief Carter's time in law enforcement began in 1983 while serving as a Military Police Officer in the United States Army. He served two years on active-duty and an additional nine years in the California National Guard. His military awards include the Army Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Rifle Sharpshooter, Hand Grenade Sharpshooter, and Pistol Expert.

After leaving active-duty service, Chief Carter was hired as a police officer with the City of Barstow, where he eventually obtained the

rank of corporal. His service with the Barstow Police Department earned him a number of accolades, including the California Highway Patrol/AAA "10851" Award for stolen vehicle recoveries, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Medal of Valor.

In 2003, Chief Carter was hired by the Bishop Police Department and received promotions to the ranks of sergeant and lieutenant. In 2010, he was sworn in as the Chief of the Bishop Police Department, a position he held until his retirement.

I want to congratulate Chief Carter on his well-deserved retirement. It is an honor to represent people like Chief Carter who dedicate their lives to making our communities better and safer.

**IN HONOR OF SERGEANT KENNETH DONDERO**

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of some of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office held their 2015 Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Friday, February 19th to recognize the daily services and sacrifices provided by our local law enforcement. Selected from America's finest, and nominated by their peers, the following award serves as a testament to the officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting our community. The following individual deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

The Sheriff's Excellence Award recognizes both senior civilian and sworn officer supervisors for superior job knowledge, devotion to duty, and dedication to the community which they serve. Sergeant Kenneth Dondero's actions over the years resulted in his nomination and selection for this award.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking this member of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department for protecting and serving our community day-in and day-out.

**CONGRATULATING LOGAN MARTIN SWEARENGIN ON RECEIVING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'S EAGLE SCOUT RANK**

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Martin Swearingin, of Springfield, Missouri, on his recent achievement of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) top rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. It is the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication, requiring countless hours of

service, training and learning. An extremely exclusive honor, less than two percent of the 112 million scouts since the BSA's founding in 1910 have achieved the Eagle Scout distinction.

Logan's promotion to Eagle Scout is even more significant given that his brothers, Ethan and Austin, also achieved the Eagle Scout rank. To have one Eagle Scout in a family is remarkable, but to have three is beyond exemplary. Logan and his brothers' achievements are a testament to their family's reverence for focus and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, by attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Logan has set himself on the path to achieve future success, and I'm proud to count him among my constituents. His dedication in completing the required benchmarks and community service requirements to reach the Eagle Scout rank is indicative of his ability to accomplish whatever goals he sets his mind to. I wish Logan luck with all his future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this momentous achievement.

COMMUNITIES ORGANIZED FOR  
PUBLIC SERVICE (C.O.P.S.)

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Communities Organized for Public Service (C.O.P.S.) and the Metro Alliance as they celebrate over 40 years of organizing in San Antonio. COPS/Metro are a coalition of congregations, schools, and unions coming together with the goal of making San Antonio a better place for families.

COPS/Metro are part of the Texas Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) Network, which traces its roots back to San Antonio. The Industrial Areas Foundation is the oldest and largest organizing and leadership development network in the United States, and includes COPS/Metro in San Antonio, TMO in Houston, Valley Interfaith in the Rio Grande Valley, EPISO & Border Interfaith in El Paso, Austin Interfaith, ACT in Fort Worth, Dallas Area Interfaith, the West Texas Organizing Strategy, and The Border Organization in Del Rio and Eagle Pass.

This non-partisan network of community organizations trains leaders to organize a powerful constituency to improve their quality of life and teach ordinary people to do extraordinary work for the common good. The Texas IAF Network has created nationally recognized workforce development, job training, living wage and other economic development strategies. Thanks to the network's efforts over the decades, Texas communities have benefitted from successful educational initiatives and significant investments in colonias, parks, libraries, after school programs, sidewalks and innumerable other local and statewide efforts.

I commend COPS/Metro and the Network of Texas Industrial Areas Foundation Organizations on their commitment to helping families, developing leadership of Texas residents, and promoting civic engagement in the public life

of our communities and state. On the occasion of this anniversary, I extend to its members best wishes for a memorable celebration of over 40 years of organizing.

RECOGNIZING DENT MIDDLE  
SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, students from Dent Middle School in Columbia competed in the South Carolina History Day regional competition at the South Carolina State Museum.

Their presentation topics ranged from politics and government to historical discussions on some of our nation's greatest Presidents. I am honored to say that eight remarkable students from the Second District won awards during this competition and will compete in the national competition this June.

Tessa Giusto won in the Junior Historical Paper category for her work discussing Plato and Locke and how they influenced U.S. politics. Hannah Hedley won in the Junior Individual Documentary category for her entry on Oskar Schindler. Sofia Crowley and Gabby Snow won in the Junior Individual Performance category for their project on Japan. And finally, Katie Pittman, Lauren Price, McKenna Wright, and Mariya Medvedchikova won in the Junior Exhibit Group for their project on Adolf Hitler.

Congratulations to these students, their principal Dr. David Basile and teacher Ms. Jill Carroll.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
CHIEF DELL URBAN

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, last week, on Monday, April 18, 2016, I rose to honor Dell Urban, the Chief of the North Chicago Fire Department, on her more than 25 years of service to the department. Ms. Urban is the first female fire chief in Lake County, and is one of only two female fire chiefs in the State of Illinois.

During my remarks, I incorrectly stated that Chief Urban was retiring. I would like to correct the record, congratulate Chief Urban for her dedicated service to the community of North Chicago for more than 25 years, and thank her for her service in the years to come. Here is the speech as it should have been delivered:

I rise today to honor Dell Urban, the Chief of the North Chicago Fire Department on her more than 25 years on the force. Ms. Urban is the first female fire chief in Lake County,

and one of only two female fire chiefs in the State of Illinois.

As fire chief, Ms. Urban has been responsible for saving countless lives and has done her duty protecting the community of North Chicago. We should all aspire to be as brave as the firemen who lay down their lives each and every day to ensure our safety.

In addition to performing her duties, Ms. Urban has been a mentor and a friend to many firefighters throughout her time as chief, and the station today is far better off than before she was chief.

I want to thank Ms. Urban for her service and wish her the best as she continues to serve the community of North Chicago.

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH N. SEALOCK

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hannah Sealock of Underwood, Iowa, for being awarded the Good Citizen Award by the Council Bluffs Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Hannah is a senior at Underwood High School in Underwood, Iowa.

Hannah exhibited all of the talents and skills needed to qualify for this award. They include dependability, service to others, leadership, and patriotism. Judges took into consideration several areas in grading her application including high school achievement, home and community activities, future plans, extra-curricular activities, and good citizenship. A second requirement was to write an essay on Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It. The essay was to focus on our American rights and freedoms and the rights she would select to celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Hannah for earning this award. She is a shining example of the future of our youth. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hannah for her interest in preserving our rights and freedoms. I wish her nothing but continued success in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE AMERICAN HERITAGE  
NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL  
TEAM

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a team of exemplary students I represent who are paving the way for the future of math and science achievement in this country.

Students from the American Heritage School in Plantation, Florida have the honor of representing their region in the Department of Energy's National Science Bowl taking place in our nation's capital this week. These South Florida scholars are among 550 students from around the country competing for prizes and awards in this year's competition.

The National Science Bowl offers middle and high school students the chance to test their math and science skills, and enhance their knowledge through seminars and workshops.

I congratulate these incredible students—Jared Shulkin, Christopher Hermens, Jacob Carbone, Saaketh Vedantam, and Jared Lassner—on their success, and I thank their coaches and teachers for their dedication to molding young minds and shaping America's future thinkers and creators.

CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY PRESENTED TO COBB COUNTY HERO

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, it's not every day that we get to recognize a true hometown hero. Last month, I was given the great honor of presenting the Congressional Badge of Bravery to a very deserving hero.

Officer Tony Luong, of the DeKalb County Police Department, and a resident of the 11th Congressional District, puts on his uniform each day, knowing the dangers he may face. However, his commitment to serving his fellow man is greater than the risk.

In December, 2014, during a home invasion with two heavily armed suspects, Officer Luong arrived on the scene, ready to do whatever it took to keep his community safe. The two suspects ignored police orders and began shooting at the law officers. The policemen took cover and returned fire. As Officer Luong attempted to detain one of the suspects, he sustained a near fatal bullet wound to the leg, just prior to the officers apprehending the suspect and taking him into custody. While Officer Luong was undergoing life-saving measures in the hospital, the second suspect was captured after a four-hour manhunt with the assistance of surrounding police jurisdictions.

During this incident, Officer Luong showed uncommon courage in the face of imminent danger, protecting DeKalb County residents against a violent home invasion. Even though Officer Luong was shot in the line of duty, his commitment to protecting innocent lives is unwavering. Today, Officer Luong continues to serve on the DeKalb County Police force, and I'm proud to know such a brave officer, who even in the midst of danger, does not cower in fear, but courageously takes action to serve and protect his fellow citizens.

CONGRATULATING ETHAN LYNN SWEARENGIN ON RECEIVING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'S EAGLE SCOUT RANK

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ethan Lynn Swearingin, of Spring-

field, Missouri, on his recent achievement of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) top rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. It is the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication, requiring countless hours of service, training and learning. An extremely exclusive honor, less than two percent of the 112 million scouts since the BSA's founding in 1910 have achieved the Eagle Scout distinction.

Ethan's promotion to Eagle Scout is even more significant given that his brothers, Austin and Logan, also achieved the Eagle Scout rank. To have one Eagle Scout in a family is remarkable, but to have three is beyond exemplary. Ethan and his brothers' achievements are a testament to their family's reverence for focus and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, by attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Ethan has set himself on the path to achieve future success, and I'm proud to count him among my constituents. His dedication in completing the required benchmarks and community service requirements to reach the Eagle Scout rank is indicative of his ability to accomplish whatever goals he sets his mind to. I wish Ethan luck with all his future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this momentous achievement.

IN HONOR OF PAUL MORIN

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of some of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents. The Loudoun County Sheriffs Office held their 2015 Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Friday, February 19th to recognize the daily services and sacrifices provided by our local law enforcement. Selected from America's finest, and nominated by their peers, the following award serves as a testament to the officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting our community. The following individual deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

The Distinguished Training Officer Award recognizes Deputy First Class Paul Morin who consistently demonstrated superior performance in training others within his respective division. His work ensures that the community will continue to be protected by some of the most highly trained officers in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking this member of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department for protecting and serving our community day-in and day-out.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call votes 164 and 165.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN AND JOHN REGAN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John and Helen Regan of Braddyville, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on April 7, 1951.

John and Helen's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, John, Claudia, and Cathy truly embodies Iowa values. It is Iowans like the Regan's that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STEM CLUB

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge a group of my constituents who have proudly represented Loudoun Valley High School—located in Purcellville, Virginia—in Samsung's Solve For Tomorrow STEM Education competition. The team was led by José Rodriguez and Erin Wissler, and won the competition after being named one of the final five national finalists. Members of the team include Gwen Eging, Morgan Freiberg, Summer Harvey, Riley Herr, Carter Hunt, Jackson Kennedy, Sean Lohr, Blake Messegee, Malcolm Miller, Ethan Rodriguez, Riley Schnee, Graeson Smith.

Samsung's Solve For Tomorrow competition is designed to give schools across the country the opportunity to raise students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects by awarding their schools with new technology products. It also encourages some of America's brightest high school students to create their own applications and further their interest in advancing modern technology. I know that the experience of developing new technologies, and engaging in friendly competition with their fellow students, serves as a valuable learning tool.

The winning technology developed by the Loudoun Valley High School team was a solar powered safety alert system that allows students and their families to contact the police if they are in danger on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park, which is a 45 mile paved trail that runs between Shirlington and Purcellville, Virginia. These students value our community's safety and wanted to create a more secure route for those who enjoy this park.

In today's world, it cannot be stressed enough how important science, technology, engineering, and math are for the future of our nation. It is young STEM leaders, like these constituents, who will continue to help the United States compete in the global economy. I strongly encourage these students, and the rest of my constituents, to continue exploring and developing their talents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the 2016 Solve For Tomorrow champions from Loudoun Valley High School for their incredible achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

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HONORING MS. PAM CHATMAN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Pam Chatman.

For as long as Pam Chatman can remember, she's been coming in first. She was the first of 3 children born to parents in the heart of the poverty-stricken Mississippi Delta. She was the first of her siblings to graduate from college. She was the first African American Woman to steer a course through the chaos of a broadcast news career to achieve the position of News Director at WABG.

But little did Pam know in 2006, when she became News Director, she was achieving yet another first: Mississippi's first-ever female African-American News Director, an honor she wears proudly.

Recently the Tru TV network chronicled Pam's seemingly unlikely journey from poverty to power, which is its hit new reality series "Breaking Greenville". Pam's starring role in that show underscores her passion, not just for her profession, but for the people who work for her as anchors, reporters and producers. Kids right out of college, who are hungry to learn the ropes of an often cut-throat career, find comfort in Pam's approach to leadership and management.

Pam was raised up in Shaw, Mississippi in a small rural community outside of the city limits called "Choctaw" a dirt-poor town of about less than 2-thousand people that sits in the heart of Bolivar County. Her grandmother, Marie Fly, raised her, and while poverty pulled at every corner of their lives, Pam relishes her adolescent years, coming of age in the Deep South. From its rich farming heritage, to its lakes and rivers teeming with catfish, to its red-clay hillsides that give a hint of color to an otherwise difficult existence, the Mississippi Delta to this day holds Pam's heart.

Pam graduated from Shaw high school in 1988 and enrolled in Rust College, one of Mississippi's oldest and most prestigious colleges for African-Americans.

Pam pledged to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, the first inter-collegiate Greek-letter sorority established for Black colleges. Pam graduated from Rust College in 1994 with a degree in Broadcasting Mass Communication, and returned to the Delta, degree in hand, with her heart set on making a difference close to home. She landed her first television job at Greenville's WXVT where she worked as a Production Assistant and then later moved to the Newsroom. She eventually went to work for WXVT's competitor, WABG, where she worked her way up from Assignment Manager to ultimately News Director, a position she's held for 10 years.

Her notoriety as Mississippi's first female African-American News Director also convinced the state legislators to dedicate a portion of Highway 61 in her honor and to proclaim January 18th as Pam Chatman Day.

In addition to leading a winning news team, Pam is a tireless community volunteer and advocate for teens and young women. She's also a motivational speaker, teaching women of all ages to accept and appreciate their uniqueness within the human race. She especially has a big heart for women who have come from small rural communities and are victims of abuse and drugs.

Yes, Pam Chatman is indeed a woman of firsts: the first to volunteer when there's a need; the first to offer comfort when someone is hurting; a first-class example of what a little faith and a lot of love can accomplish.

Pam also has a Mentoring, Consulting and Training Organization; the organization believes that every person you meet is a Diamond in the Rough. The organization provides workshops to educate and empower teens to get an education; strive for success; and to let no one define their dreams or destiny. The organization provides food and clothing to needy families. Once a month Pam herself does random acts of kindness where she pays for people's groceries or their utility bill. Yes, she is a servant determined to impact everyone she meets in life with a smile or an act of kindness. The organization has a doll called the PChat Doll that has a curriculum that comes along with it to teach young girls to love the skin they're in as well to deter bullying. The focus of the curriculum is Character Education, Literacy and Parental Involvement.

Pam does consultant work for the Mississippi Department of Education Federal 21-Century Program's after school projects. In addition, Pam is also an entrepreneur. Pam has a cosmetics and spa line to enhance women of color and beauty called "Boss Lady PChatman" which was developed to assist in healing the totality of a woman from her inner beauty to her outer beauty.

Pam loves to help women break the chain of hurt and pain. So, she wrote a monologue gospel play entitled "Lord Show Me How to Heal My Scars". The play allows women from all walks of life to share their story through testimonials and songs.

Pam is the daughter of Louise Henry and the late Joseph Henry and has three siblings: Joseph, Jr., III; Evelyn and special niece

Karris Henry, which she is assisting her family in raising.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing News Director, Actor, Motivational Speaker, Author, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist who has been instrumental in magnifying strides of America's black history.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE DOWN-  
RIVER CAREER TECHNICAL CON-  
SORTIUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Downriver Career Technical Consortium on their 50th Anniversary. As a Member of Congress, it is an honor and privilege to recognize their commitment to providing first class career development and vocational training to students from across our community.

In 1965, the school districts of Flat Rock, Gibraltar, and Grosse Ile launched eight jointly funded and supported vocational education programs, beginning the efforts of working and coordinating together these types of services between school entities, to better leverage and utilize resources among them. In the next few years, more school districts joined the effort including; Huron Schools, Airport Schools, Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools, Riverview Schools, Trenton Schools, Allen Park Schools and Southgate Schools. In 1978, the then current coalition of schools was approved as the Downriver Area Vocational Cooperative and was renamed the Downriver Career Technical Consortium (DCTC) in 1991. This type of cooperation and coordination is a hallmark of the success our Downriver communities, where leaders from across municipal, non-profit, business and educational institutions, have had in understanding the importance of working together to support and build our regional economy.

Today, the DCTC provides vocational programming in over 24 different career pathways including building and construction trades, accounting and finance, aviation, automotive services, communications, hospitality, dental occupations, and computer aided design, just to name a few. Not only is it important for our economy, but this type of vocational training is instrumental to the futures of our students who pursue these pathways. In an ever changing global economic environment, programs such as the DCTC allow our students and future workforce to be trained for the jobs of the 21st century and realize the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the DCTC on their 50th Anniversary and to wish them many more years of successful education and collaboration.

TRIBUTE TO KENT MUYSKENS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kent Muyskens for being named Northwest Iowa STEM Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

Kent lives in Yale, Iowa and teaches chemistry at Carroll High School. He was selected because of nominations from colleagues that praised him for his hard work and innovation in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. He worked with the community, engaged students in the process and used innovative instructional methods. Kent was also praised for his work with Project Lead the Way, taking students to a NASA space shuttle competition and writing new curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, Kent is an Iowan who has made his community and school district very proud. He has worked hard and dedicated himself to making STEM education a priority. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kent for this award and in wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors.

REGARDING THE ENSURING USEFUL RESEARCH EXPENDITURES IS KEY FOR ALZHEIMER'S (EUREKA) ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Ensuring Useful Research Expenditures is Key for Alzheimer's Act—also known as the "EUREKA Act", a bill I introduced earlier today with my fellow Tennessean JOHN DUNCAN, which would establish a prize competition to accelerate the discovery and development of treatments to alleviate, prevent, and/or cure Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

This is a bipartisan House companion to a bipartisan bill introduced previously by Senators ROGER WICKER, KELLY AYOTTE, JOHN BARRASSO, SHELLEY CAPITO, SUSAN COLLINS, ANGUS KING, and BRIAN SCHATZ.

Alzheimer's disease is a tragic disease affecting millions of Americans, and it has reached crisis proportions.

There is no effective treatment, no means of prevention, and no method for slowing the progression of the disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, five million Americans were living with Alzheimer's in 2013, and those numbers have swelled since then.

Because of the large numbers of patients and the length of time living with the disease, the Alzheimer's Association has called it "the most expensive disease in America."

They estimate that the U.S. will spend \$236 billion in 2016 on patients who have Alzheimer's and related dementias.

Earlier this month, I and over 70 of my colleagues in the House signed a letter to the House Committee on Appropriations to request a \$500 million increase in National Institutes of Health ("NIH") funding for Alzheimer's research in fiscal year 2017.

And while funding Alzheimer's research directly by the NIH is important to combating the disease, it is not the only way that Congress can act to stimulate discovery and development of new treatments.

The creation of prizes to be awarded for solving difficult problems is a new strategy for U.S. agencies to tap into the limitless ingenuity and creativity of the American people.

Prize competitions are run by more than 80 agencies across the federal government.

The EUREKA Act builds upon these efforts to seek innovative solutions from the public, and bring the best ideas and talent together to solve difficult problems.

If enacted, the EUREKA Act will provide \$10 million for the NIH and other agencies to create prizes for new prevention measures, treatments, and cures for Alzheimer's disease.

I urge my colleagues to join our bipartisan effort and help pass the EUREKA Act.

IN HONOR OF MASTER DEPUTY SHANNON CODERRE

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of some of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office held their 2015 Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Friday, February 19th to recognize the daily services and sacrifices provided by our local law enforcement. Selected from America's finest, and nominated by their peers, the following award serves as a testament to the officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting our community. The following individual deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which she serves, but also that of her elected officials.

The Master Deputy Program Achievement Award recognizes Master Deputy Shannon Coderre within the Master Deputy Program for superior job knowledge, devotion to duty, dedication and loyalty to the community as well as to the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking this member of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office for protecting and serving our community day-in-day-out.

MEDIA IGNORE DISAGREEMENT ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the national liberal media promote the fiction that scientists all agree the earth continues to get

warmer and that climate change causes severe weather events. However, there is little scientific consensus to support these claims.

For example, one often-cited statistic comes from one author who examined abstracts of articles to conclude that 75 percent of scientists believe in global warming.

But the author omitted abstracts from global warming skeptics. And the author never specifies how many of the abstracts actually endorse her conclusion that a "consensus" of scientists believes in climate change.

Slanting data on climate change is contrary to the respected scientific method.

Americans deserve all the facts that surround climate change, not just those that fit the view the national liberal media want to promote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 165 on H.R. 4096, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JODI MARTI

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Major Jodi Marti for being awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Maj. Marti spent fifteen months planning a domestic operations exercise called VIGILANT GUARD, conducted by the Iowa Army National Guard in conjunction with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The operation partnered with over 45 federal, state, regional and county agencies, involving simulated scenarios of flooding, tornados and widespread power outages. Maj. Marti is now serving in Kosovo, mentoring and training members of the Kosovo Security Forces.

Mr. Speaker, Maj. Marti is an Iowan who has made her state and nation proud. She has worked hard and dedicated herself to serving her country. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Maj. Marti for this award and wishing her nothing but continued success in all her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call Numbers 164 and 165, on H.R. 4820 and H.R.

4096, I was unable to make it to the vote series.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on both.

CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

**HON. GARRET GRAVES**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Wesley United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge.

In 1866, the community decided it was time to build a church.

And like good Louisianans, they set out to build one.

Members of the church harvested wood from the forests north of Baton Rouge, floated the logs down the Mississippi River to their chosen site and used them to build the congregation's first church a house of worship built by hands of her parishioners.

Throughout the dark days of segregation in our nation's history, the Wesley Methodist Church was a beacon of light and played an important role serving the African American in the heart of Louisiana's capital.

Sadly, the original structure was destroyed by a storm in 1883, and shortly after being rebuilt, the church was again destroyed by a fire in 1892.

But as a testimony to the church's importance in the community and to the perseverance of the spirit of Louisiana, Wesley United Methodist was rebuilt in its current location.

Today, the Wesley United Methodist Church continues a proud tradition of service, fellowship, and ministry—as a church at the heart of the city, with the city at heart.

IN HONOR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF LOUDOUN COUNTY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of some of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office held their 2015 Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Friday, February 19th to recognize the daily services and sacrifices provided by our local law enforcement. Selected from America's finest, and nominated by their peers, the following award serves as a testament to each officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting our community. The following individuals deserve the thanks and appreciation of not only the communities which they serve, but also that of their elected officials.

The Meritorious Service Award recognizes exceptional performance by a member within the scope of normal responsibilities. The following individuals deserve special recognition: Detective Nicholas Altom, Investigator Julian Berger III, Deputy Joseph Hacay and Deputy First Class Daniel Martynowicz. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these exceptional members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office for protecting and serving our community day-in and day-out.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF HECLA MINING COMPANY

**HON. RAÚL R. LABRADOR**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Hecla Mining Company. Formed in 1891 for the purpose of acquiring and trading mining claims in north Idaho's Silver Valley mining district, Hecla is the last of this district's pioneer mining companies and is now the largest primary silver producer in the United States.

Over the past 125 years, Hecla has weathered numerous storms including the Panic of 1893, the Great Depression, and two world wars. Minerals produced by Hecla, such as zinc and lead, have played key roles in our national defense while silver is a key ingredient for solar voltaic cells and modern electronic and medical devices. These resources provide the raw materials needed for economic growth across a myriad of sectors.

Today, Hecla is a vital part of Idaho's economy and communities. Hecla employs 1,300 individuals and has provided over \$1.5 million to support education, youth activities, community health and infrastructure through its charitable foundation in recent years. Additionally, Hecla employees serve on local school boards, as EMTs, elected officials, and firemen.

I recently visited Hecla's Lucky Friday mine in Mullan, Idaho, and saw firsthand the state-of-the-art mining practices that are used to extract silver from deep in the earth. Hecla is currently taking the Lucky Friday mine to 10,000 feet below the surface to open up more than 20 years of additional resources. Hecla has maintained an uncompromising commitment to better mining and worker safety and plays an important role in meeting the nation's mineral demands. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this great milestone for Hecla Mining Company.

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH D. LARSON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hannah Larson of Minden, Iowa, for being awarded the

Good Citizen Award by the Council Bluffs Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Hannah is a senior at TriCenter High School in Neola, Iowa.

Hannah exhibited all of the talents and skills needed to qualify for this award. They include dependability, service to others, leadership, and patriotism. Judges took into consideration several areas in grading her application including high school achievement, home and community activities, future plans, extra-curricular activities, and good citizenship. A second requirement was to write an essay on Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It. The essay was to focus on American rights and freedoms and the rights she would select to celebrate. Hannah was chosen to advance and represent the Council Bluffs Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in the southwest Iowa district competition.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Hannah for earning this award. She is a shining example of the future of our youth. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Hannah for her interest in preserving our rights and freedoms. I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING COLTON KEY ON RECEIVING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'S EAGLE SCOUT RANK

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colton Key, of Willard, Missouri, on his recent achievement of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) top rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. It is the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication, requiring countless hours of service, training and learning. An extremely exclusive honor, less than two percent of the 112 million scouts since the BSA's founding in 1910 have achieved the Eagle Scout distinction.

Becoming an Eagle Scout requires a significant amount of determination and self-discipline, traits which will no doubt serve to make Colton a better employee, family member, and American throughout his life. To achieve the rank, he demonstrated active teamwork in his troop, underwent numerous wilderness training tests, dedicated time to his community, and has adhered to the BSA oath's reverence for character, citizenship, and personal wellness.

Mr. Speaker, by attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Colton has set himself on the path to achieve future success, and I'm proud to count him among my constituents. His dedication in completing the required benchmarks and community service requirements to reach the Eagle Scout rank is indicative of his ability to accomplish whatever goals he sets his mind to. I wish Colton luck with all his future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in



congratulating him on this momentous achievement.

GIRLS OF STEEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Engineering Inspiration award at the 2016 Queen City Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is the most prestigious award at FIRST, and it honors the team that does the most to increase appreciation for engineering in its community and embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST.

The Girls of Steel also won the Entrepreneurship Award at the 2016 Greater Pittsburgh FIRST Robotics Competition in California, PA. This award recognizes the team that developed the best business plan to identify, manage, and accomplish its objectives.

I think that winning these awards speaks volumes to the dedication with which these young women are pursuing "STEM" careers, along with the hundreds of hours they have spent conducting outreach in their community.

FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to engaging our students in STEM fields. Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experience through FIRST every year. The FIRST Robotics Competition allows these students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in participants.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are incredible tools for helping the next generation to explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible economic growth and development that these fields can bring in my home district, and I strongly believe that they are crucial to our nation's future prosperity. For encouraging young people in these pursuits, I want to commend organizations like FIRST for their important work.

In addition to their success at these competitions, the Girls of Steel have also been featured in American Girl Life: Get Your Science On!, Xploration Earth 2050 "The Future of Robotics Makers and Innovators", and they will be featured this year in an original documentary series called "What We Teach Girls," which takes a close look at what girls are being taught around the globe. Recently, they even met with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Carnegie Mellon University and had the opportunity to speak with her about the design of their robot and why they joined Girls of Steel.

Sixty-one young women from 8th through 12th grades associated with schools located in and around the Pittsburgh area are members of this year's Girls of Steel. In recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these inspiring

young ladies by name. They are Alexandria Adams, Vishi Agrawal, Arushi Bandi, Margaret Begg, Emilia Bianchini, Kimball Bruning, Julia Bukowski, Emma Burnett, Melissa Burnett, Hanna Chen, Mulin Chen, Claire Cummings, Hope DiGioia, Samantha Eppinger, Clarisa Espinoza-Delgado, Rozie Fero, Corinne Hartman, Kristina Hilko, Sydney Hnat, Madelyn Human, Anna Jablonowski, Katelyn Johnson, Isabelle Kowenhoven, Jisue Lee, Sophia Lee, Shiyu Liu, Huyiun Liu, Sofia Liovet-Nava, Gayathri Manchella, Jordan Martinecz, Svea McCann, Sree Mekala, Cheyenne Meyers, Claire Morton, Gigi Nieson, Anne Kailin Northam, Jimin Oh, Maddie Oppelt, Helen Paulini, Lehka Pendyala, Eden Petri, Riley Pottinger, Priya Ray, Isabella Salvi, Lauren Scheller-Wolf, Cate Seay, Sarah Seay, Anzu Sekikawa, Alexa Selwood, Swathi Senthil, Kriti Shah, Makayla Shreve, Kavya Soman, JeanMarie Trichel, Mikayla Trost, Langley Turcsanyi, Molly Urbina, Anja Vogt, Becca Volk, Ziya Xu, and Natalie Young.

Additionally, I want to convey my sincere appreciation to the faculty and staff of Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. Because of their efforts, more young women can experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the nation's best at solving these problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future.

I look forward to hearing about their progress as they advance to the FIRST Championship in St. Louis—the final and largest competition of its kind, a.k.a. the Super Bowl of robotics. This will be their sixth consecutive trip in six years, and they will be competing against top teams from all over the world. I congratulate the Girls of Steel and wish them all continued success in their academic and professional endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE SOL BLATT, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of South Carolina are mourning the loss of one of its most respected judges with the death of Judge Sol Blatt, Jr., on April 20, 2016. He was nominated by President Richard M. Nixon. The Blatt family, of Russian-Jewish heritage, is beloved in Barnwell County for their dedicated service. His passing was recognized in an editorial in the Charleston Post and Courier on April 23, 2016:

Sol Blatt, Jr., earned his stellar reputation not for making big headlines but for his long tenure as a fair, courteous and intelligent federal judge—a standard that all judges should aspire to attain.

Judge Blatt practiced law in his native Barnwell for 25 years before 1971 when he was appointed a U.S. District Court judge in Charleston. He became a chief judge in 1986.

And in 2006, he became the longest-serving federal judge in South Carolina history.

In honor of that distinction the U.S. district judges in South Carolina signed a reso-

lution naming the first-floor courtroom in Charleston's federal courthouse the Solomon Blatt Jr. Courtroom.

Would that every judge in that courtroom, where he usually presided, could conduct himself as impressively.

Judge Blatt's father was the prominent speaker of the S.C. House for 33 years. Like his father, Sol Blatt, Jr., attained prominence for public service, which he handled with grace and competence.

Mr. Blatt, 94, died Wednesday night at his home in Charleston.

He will be remembered for his remarkable judicial temperament.

Indeed, it was as if the American Bar Association had him in mind when it outlined the tenets of judicial temperament: "compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, sensitivity, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias and commitment to equal justice."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,210,345,265,252.22. We've added \$8,583,468,216,339.14 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LEONA AND GEORGE HOLLINS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Leona and George Hollins of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on March 21, 1956 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

George and Leona's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, George, Cheryl, Greg, and Jamie, and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. It is families like the Hollins' that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHEMICAL DISTRIBUTORS' RESPONSIBLE DISTRIBUTION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the National Association of Chemical Distributors' Responsible Distribution program. I want to congratulate NACD and its members for their commitment to continuous performance improvement in every phase of chemical storage, handling, transportation, and disposal.

Chemicals are the building blocks of our modern world. They make most aspects of our lives easier, safer, and better. Chemical distributors formulate, blend, re-package, warehouse, transport, and market the chemical products produced by large-quantity manufacturers. In my district, 15 chemical distribution facilities, including Douglas Products and Packaging Company, have a total economic impact of more than \$18 million and provide more than 112 high quality jobs. Throughout the country, the chemical distribution industry accounts for close to \$15 billion in economic impact.

In December 1991, the member companies of NACD embarked on their most important mission—the inception of Responsible Distribution. Responsible Distribution is a mandatory, third party verified environmental, health, safety, and security program. Responsible Distribution provides a proven framework for the health, safety, environment, and security aspects of handling storing, and delivering chemical products and is mandatory for all NACD members, who represent 90 percent of all chemical distribution industry sales.

NACD and its nearly 450 member companies are vital to the chemical supply chain, providing products to more than 750,000 end users in industries as diverse and essential as construction, healthcare, electronics, pulp and paper, water treatment, and many others.

With Responsible Distribution, NACD members deliver 80 tons of product every minute, maintain a safety record that is nearly twice as good as all manufacturing combined, and pursue continuous improvement in every phase of the chemical distribution process while demonstrating sensitivity and responsiveness to public concerns.

I am proud of NACD member companies for the commitment to Responsible Distribution and for their contributions to the economy in Missouri and throughout the U.S.

IN HONOR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMENDATION AWARD

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of some of the

10th Congressional District's bravest constituents. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office held their 2015 Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Friday, February 19th to recognize the daily services and sacrifices provided by our local law enforcement. Selected from America's finest, and nominated by their peers, the following award serves as a testament to each officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting our community. The following individuals deserve the thanks of not only the communities which they serve, but also that of their elected officials.

The Commendation Award is presented by the Sheriff to individuals for acts that contribute to the accomplishment of the Sheriff's objectives or for an act that warrants special recognition in the public interest. I would like to recognize the following recipients: Deputy First Class Robert Heller, Sergeant Jay Conner, Deputy Ruben Cardenas, Deputy Jesus Diaz, Deputy Jillian Brock, Virginia State Troopers Rolando Curiel and Enzo A. Diaz, Deputy First Class Dawn Taylor, Detective Michael Hall, Sergeant Jeffrey Lockhart, Sergeant Michael Beatty, Detective Larry "Rob" Reed, Detective Jeffrey "Tyler" Brown, Deputy First Class Victor Lopreto, Mrs. Jacqueline Gallman, Detective Dana Cresswell, Detective Elissa Wilk, Detective Patrick Beaver, Detective Jeffrey Cichocki, Detective Justin Oksanen, Detective Corinne Czekaj, Sergeant Sara Tresselt (Posthumous), Sergeant Kevin Tucker, Detective Paul Loconti, Detective Christopher Staub, Detective Jenna Sullivan, Detective Timothy Lambert, Detective Christopher Salter, Detective Thomas Mengel, Detective Duane Rosa, Deputy First Class William Sullivan, Lieutenant Jamie Sanford (Leesburg Police Department), Sergeant Douglas Duhl, Deputy First Class Matthew Vess, Deputy First Class Kristopher Dawson, Deputy Joshua Carter, Detective Ron Colantonio, Deputy Sean McCormack, Deputy Eric Turner, and Assistant Commonwealth Attorney's Amy McMullen and Eric Pohlner and members of the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department for protecting and serving our community day-in-day-out.

TUDOR HOUSE SELECTED AS PLACE OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an important dedication ceremony taking place this weekend in my district. On Sunday, May 1, 2016, the Billy Holcomb Chapter of E Clampus Vitus will dedicate the Tudor House as a place of California historical interest. The Tudor House is one of only two locations in all of California that will receive this designation from E Clampus Vitus this year. Over 750 members of E Clampus Vitus, or "claspers" as they prefer to be called, will attend the festivities in Lake Arrowhead, California.

The Tudor House has a long and storied past in the mountains of San Bernardino County. Constructed in 1926 as the Club Arrowhead Villas, the property served as a luxury resort for wealthy travelers. It boasted many amenities, including a dining club house, market, and sports facility.

Following the Great Depression of 1929, Club Arrowhead Villas became known for its moonshine, gambling, and dance hall girls. There are even rumors that famous mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was involved in managing the resort.

By the early 1950s, the resort returned to more respectable forms of business and became an integral part of the Lake Arrowhead community. Today, the resort has been renamed the Tudor House and serves as a venue for mountain residents and visitors to enjoy various forms of art and entertainment.

I would like to thank the Billy Holcomb Chapter of E Clampus Vitus for selecting the Tudor House as a place of historical interest. I look forward to participating in this weekend's festivities.

IN MEMORY OF WARD CORRELL

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my dear friend, Ward Correll. We have lost a giant in Somerset, Kentucky—a gentle giant, a generous giant, a business giant, a God-fearing giant.

Ward came up from the poorest of origins, but he had that drive and ambition to succeed. He overcame tremendous obstacles. He reminds us of what Churchill once said, "The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty." He had a profound positive attitude, always looking to the upside of life.

When I first ran for this office, to represent the good people of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District, I went to see Ward about my chances. I'll never forget what he advised: "Get out in the middle of the stream where the current is the swiftest. That's the only way to get where you want to go."

This man was a business genius, the most generous man I've ever known, the truest friend of all of us, a visionary for his community, a dynamic personality, and he was the most skilled Rook player in all of Somerset.

My most vivid recollection of Ward was when he undertook his very first business venture—the development of Tradewinds Shopping Center. It required the huge movement of dirt from the slim hilly plot of land to create enough space for the endeavor. Driving by, I saw just one piece of machinery—a bulldozer, being driven by the only person on the project—that driver was Ward Correll; shirtless and sweating profusely. But that drive and determination yielded a historic first for Somerset—a modern shopping center, bringing new life to a new Somerset and the beginning of the business empire he built. He later established a thriving oil and gas distributorship, invested in a life insurance company and

founded a bank, creating much-needed jobs and boosting the economy in the Lake Cumberland area.

Despite all his drive and his many skills, Ward had the most unexpected and almost child-like sense of humor—simple and warming little mannerisms—and he loved the simple, but meaningful pleasures: family, friends, his devout religion and especially his church—and its pastor, Dr. French Harmon.

His most enduring legacy will be the success he engendered in others. His generosity was unending, especially for children. Helping those in desperate straits, or at a critical time in their lives. His monumental gifts to education are legendary—whether the Somerset Christian School or the University of the Cumberlands, or any of hundreds of other institutions, churches or playgrounds for children. We'll never know just how much he gave to others, because he didn't brag.

He gave new meaning to the Biblical admonition that it is more blessed to give than to receive. He believed what Mark Twain said, "to get the full value of joy, you must have people to divide it with." Leonard Nimoy, the actor, said, "the miracle is this—the more we share, the more we have."

We may not see his likes again on this Earth, but I'm sure of one thing—we will see him again—in Heaven, thanks be to God—his and ours.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a loyal friend and true patriot, but his footprint in our region will be visible for generations to come. My wife Cynthia and I offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to the Correll family.

**AUTO-OWNERS INSURANCE 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Auto-Owners Insurance Company—headquartered and founded in mid-Michigan.

In 1916, a young Vern V. Moulton, along with four other associates, started the Insurance Company in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

The startup agency operated out of one room in a bank building and had no capital.

A year later, the small company—with only \$174 in assets and one book of policyholders' names—made the big jump to the city where it is headquartered today—Lansing, Michigan.

During the tough years of the Great Depression, Auto-Owners demonstrated its corporate toughness and financial stability by paying all claims promptly, daily, and in cash.

In 1940, the company moved into the general causality insurance field, while also expanding operations into Indiana and Ohio. This growth was only the start, and over the next several decades the company would begin operations across the country.

Today, Auto-Owners operates in 26 states throughout the United States and has opened offices from Arizona to Virginia.

The company that originated with only five associates in a one room office now employs

more than 4,500 associates and operates out of an expansive complex. The combined premium of all companies exceeds \$6 billion and total assets exceed \$20 billion, with more than 5 million policies in force for over 3 million policy holders.

Throughout the company's history, Auto-Owners has upheld a high reputation for excellence. The Fortune 500 Company has the highest possible ratings from A.M. Best Company, A++ (Superior), and the Auto-Owners Life Insurance Company is rated A+ (Superior).

I offer my best wishes to Auto-Owners Insurance as they continue to maintain their reputation of being the "No Problem" people.

**HONORING MILITARY ENLISTEES**

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 37 high school seniors in Florida's 22nd District who have decided to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of the 37 from my district, seven have joined the Army; their names are the following: Gabriel Reis, Tyler Risko, Dave Marshall, Joan-Manuel Diaz Frias, Austin Budney, Matthew Disarle, and Jeremy Gonzalez.

Thirteen have joined the Marines; their names are the following: William Harding, Jordy Dejesus Garcia, Gina Cornejo, Matthieu Martelly, Moises Gonzalez Visoso, Antonio Smith, Kesley Juste, Adrian Rendon, James Ricer, Alexander Alvarez, Rolph Duplan, Kenneth Deangeles and Kaneisha Pinkney.

Two have joined the National Guard; their names are the following: Connor McClure and Merisanda Carstea.

Nine have joined the Navy; their names are the following: Hannah Piecewicz, Robert Maldonado, Connor Schmitt, Rosalyn Ovalle, Jack Schwencke, Michael Jones, Jennifer Janvier, Nicolas Cruz Velez, and Elsa Bello.

Five have joined the Air Force; their names are the following: Nicholas Antonucci, Matthew Core, Pedro Franco, Kacper Palej, and Joshua Marquez.

One has joined the Coast Guard; his name is Marcus Tauber.

It is in thanks to the dedication of patriots like these that we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the diverse issues that confront our country. On behalf of myself and all of my constituents in Florida's 22nd District, thank you for your service and best of luck as you pursue this challenging endeavor.

**INTRODUCING THE HADIYA PENDLETON AND NYASIA PRYEAR-YARD GUN TRAFFICKING & CRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2016**

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I proudly introduce The Hadiya Pendleton and

Nyasia Pryear-Yard Gun Trafficking & Crime Prevention Act of 2016, the House companion legislation to Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND's bill in the Senate.

This legislation would establish gun trafficking as a federal crime. Specifically, it increases the penalties for those directly involved in the illegal movement of guns across state lines, those who organize the gun trafficking rings and those who conspire to traffic guns.

Additionally, this legislation enforces gun trafficking as a federal crime punishable of up to twenty years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines under Title 18. This legislation tackles firearm trafficking at each stage by also increasing the penalties for all personnel involved in the illegal movement of guns, including those who participate in trafficking rings and those who conspire to traffic guns.

Only 1 out of 10 guns used in a crime is wielded by the original purchaser and 1 in 3 guns used in criminal acts cross state lines. Ninety percent of guns found at crime scenes in New York City were originally purchased out of state and illegally brought to the city. Unfortunately, current crime laws are arbitrary: the act of selling guns without the necessary federal license carries the same punishment as trafficking chickens and cows across state lines. This critical legislation would not only make gun trafficking a federal crime, but it will also provide tools to law enforcement to get illegal guns off the streets, away from criminal networks and street gangs, and prosecute those who traffic firearms.

The bill was named after Hadiya Pendleton and Nyasia Pryear-Yard—two high school students who were killed in recent years. In both cases, the individuals were killed by people that were in illegal possession of a firearm. Hadiya Pendleton was killed in Chicago, when shots were fired into a crowd of people. The shots were intended for members of the shooter's rival gang. Nyasia Pryear was killed in Brooklyn, while with friends. Witnesses said the shooting was gang related.

The Hadiya Pendleton and Nyasia Pryear-Yard Gun Trafficking & Crime Prevention Act of 2016 is common sense legislation that should be supported by all Members of the House. I ask my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation.

**HONORING 33 PALM BEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 33 high school seniors from Palm Beach County who plan to enlist in the military after graduation this spring. Their maturity and courage are a testament to their dedication to our country.

I am proud to represent a Congressional District that is home to veterans of every major conflict since World War II. I feel tremendous gratitude to these men and women in the armed services, veterans, and their families. My father, the late Bernard Deutch, volunteered to fight in World War II as a teenager

where he earned a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. It was his example of service to our nation that motivated me to serve in Congress.

Congratulations to Roberto Montoya Bravo, Franchesco Garcia, Stephen Gordon, Alex-Lamar Stone, Niko Notare, Cristian Mccusker, David Coleman, Manolo Vallejo, Jonathan Burrage, Garianne Baucicaut, Jessica Hole, Susana Hoyos Cuervo, Isaiah Ortiz, Carlos Avila, Rafael Mitre, Uriel Najera Merino, Harrison Magyarosi, Enrique Cadiz, Kaiden Parker Bolley, Daniel Machado, Jordan Norwood, Neslency Delice, Joshua White, Michael Rosa, Marek Gawel, Joshua Richardson, Nicholas Cutter, Lamar Butler Jr, Robert Del Carpio, Logan Peluso, Christopher Coronel, Sabrina Kutenits, and Camilo Rosado. I am pleased to honor them and I thank them for their future service.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD "DICK" AND ANNETTE GARIN WARREN ON THEIR PASSING

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dick and Annette Warren of Hayward on the occasion of their passing away on March 23 and February 20, 2016, at the ages of 89 and 86, respectively.

After serving in the Army during World War II and graduating from Cal, Dick joined his father's company, Warren Transportation, later becoming the company's president until his retirement.

Dick was dedicated to the Hayward community where he lived, learning the value of giving back from his parents. He was a member and president of the Hayward Rotary Club, receiving a Paul Harris Fellowship for his contributions. Dick was also a member of organizations like the Hayward Area Historical Society, the California Trucking Association, and Rowell Ranch Board of Directors, among many others.

Annette, an alumna of the year from Holy Names High School in Oakland and a graduate of the San Francisco College for Women Lone Mountain, served as a teacher at Sherman Elementary in San Francisco. Annette was a member of the All Saints Parish in Hayward, hosting a Bible study class, the Order of Malta, where she served on projects to help the sick and the poor, and the St. Rose Hospital Foundation.

Dick and Annette were married in 1956, initially living in Castro Valley. They later moved to Hayward and raised their five sons, Guy, Richard, Jr., Rex, Garin, and Rob. They loved their family and friends, delighting in parties and celebrations.

The Warrens' commitment to the Hayward community was truly extraordinary. I want to acknowledge them for their remarkable work and pass along my condolences to their family and friends.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2016, I was unable to be present for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 164, passage of H.R. 4820, the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016, and "yes" on roll call no. 165, passage of H.R. 4096, the Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act.

### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TIFFANY JOSLYN

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, as Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I join with my colleagues, Chairman BOB GOODLATTE of Virginia, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Chairman F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR. of Wisconsin and Subcommittee Ranking Member SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas, in celebrating and recognizing the life and accomplishments of Tiffany May Joslyn, who sadly passed away on March 5, 2016.

A 2004 graduate of Clark University and a 2007 graduate of George Washington University Law School, Tiffany was a dedicated public servant, highly-respected counsel to the Committee, and beloved colleague.

Tiffany worked diligently and with distinction for nearly seven years as an attorney for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). As a co-author of numerous studies and reports, she played a critical role in the NACDL's efforts to fight for effective representation of the accused.

After her work with the NACDL, Tiffany joined the House Judiciary Committee Democratic staff as Deputy Chief Counsel of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations in 2015. In her time serving the Committee, Tiffany helped Crime Subcommittee Ranking Member JACKSON LEE and other Committee Members make historic advances in the cause of reforming our broken criminal justice system.

She was dedicated to addressing youth justice issues, recognizing the need to value all of our young people and allow them to grow into adulthood without the burdens of the mistakes of their youth. Among her most prominent accomplishments while working for the Judiciary Committee are important bills such as H.R. 3713, The Sentencing Reform Act; H.R. 1854, The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act; H.R. 3406, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act; and H.R. 759, the Corrections and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016. She was also vital in assisting Ranking Member JACKSON LEE draft several youth justice bills: H.R. 3158, the Reforming Alternatives to Incarceration and Sentencing to Establish A Better Path for Youth Act of 2015

(RAISE Act), H.R. 3156, The Fair Chance for Youth Act of 2015, and H.R. 3155, The Effective and Humane Treatment of Youth Act of 2015.

Though her life was cut short by tragedy, Tiffany had a profound and positive impact on her community and our country. Today and always, we remember and appreciate her devotion to public service, her drive to make our nation more equal and fair, her wise and dedicated counsel, and the friendships she developed with us and her colleagues.

We are grateful for the time we were able to spend with Tiffany, and for her invaluable work on the Committee. It is in her honor and spirit that we continue the fight to reform our criminal justice system.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 164 on H.R. 4820, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

### ISRAEL THREATS

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the State of Israel has always been threatened by nations and terror groups that hate Israel simply because it is a Jewish state. In recent years, the threats to Israel have become even more dangerous. Just this week, 16 people were wounded in a bus bombing in Jerusalem.

The volatile civil war in Syria has allowed the region to become a full-blown terrorist haven which directly threatens Israeli security. Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, the al Nusra Front, has literally straddled the Syrian-Israeli border. ISIS, which is even more brutal than al-Qaeda, controls large parts of Syria and Iraq, and it won't be long before they turn their sights on Israel. Lebanese Hezbollah, which is also heavily imbedded in the Syrian civil war, acts as Iran's terrorist proxy. Iran has moved advanced weapons systems into Lebanon, including anti-ship cruise missiles, air defense systems, and precision-guided surface-to-surface missiles. That means Hezbollah has an estimated 150,000 missiles sitting in their stockpile. Equally concerning is that Hezbollah is amassing valuable tactical experience while fighting in this Syrian civil war that could be used against Israel.

Compounding the terrorist threat in Israel is the recent spate of Palestinian lone-wolf attacks, which include stabbings, vehicle ramming, and shootings. The latest wave of attacks has killed 34 people and injured over 400. Among those killed were two American citizens: Ezra Schwartz of Massachusetts and Taylor Force from my home state of Texas. These attacks are directly fueled by the hateful incitement of the Palestinian Authority which must be stymied.

Meanwhile, down in Gaza, Israeli officials now believe that Hamas has completely replenished its rocket supply that Israel depleted in 2014. Just recently Israeli officials announced the discovery of a new tunnel built by Hamas into leading into Israel. The sole purpose of these tunnels is to secure arms supply lines and then strike at the heart of Israeli population centers.

Aside from terrorism, the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement has led an onslaught of de-legitimization campaigns targeting Israel in recent years. Five American scholarly associations have already joined this cause citing what they refer to as Israel's "violation of human rights." Interestingly, the organizations only boycott Israel and not other countries with much worse human rights records.

Israel must also deal with the fallout from the Iran nuclear deal made by this Administration. Iran's most recent ballistic missile test launched missiles marked with the words "Israel must be wiped off the earth." Thanks to this deal, it is only a matter of time before the mullahs in Tehran develop a nuclear weapon and aim it towards Israel. It's no wonder why Israeli leaders call the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action a "bad deal" that threatens Israel's survival.

You would think that with all these threats facing our ally Israel, the United States would draw closer to its friend and help it protect itself. But that has not happened. Despite these threats, our relationship with Israel has become strained under this Administration. We must do more to repair our partnership and protect our friends and allies in Israel from the growing dangers that surround them. We must recognize that the threats that confront Israel also confront the United States. The same terrorist groups that want to destroy Israel also want to destroy the United States. The same Iran that calls Israel the 'little Satan' also calls the United States the 'Great Satan'. We must face these common threats together.

And that's just the way it is.

ESSAY BY KANIKA DRAKSHARAM

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Kanika Draksharam attends Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred

in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

Amid a flood of controversy in June 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a long-standing controversial law. Five justices affirmed LGBT American's Constitutional right to wed, leading to many changes for not only those who supported the bill, but the entire country as well. Undoubtedly, in the past year, the legalization of same sex marriage has brought many differences to the United States, and has helped shaped us into a more accepting country.

The legalization of same sex marriage has brought various economic benefits in addition to the obvious social ones. Due to the law being passed by Congress, the economy has seen a sudden boost. Take New York for example; whose economy was boosted by over two and a half million dollars due to same sex marriage couples being able to get married in state. Since the law being passed, marriage license fees, local celebrations, and wedding related purchases, have contributed greatly to the economy. We can see that this law has helped our economy in a positive manner, which is a good change our country required. The income being brought in by this new change is aiding in curbing the economic deficit as well. Contributing to this, is also the fact that insurance companies are being used more, since people are able to utilize the advantages of being married that these companies provide. Additionally, the passing of this law raises tax revenues by bringing in between twenty and forty million dollars more than average per year, helping the economy greatly. Fiscal benefits are a large factor in what our economy has gained. The government would have to spend more on Social Security and Employee Health Benefits, but it would actually end up saving money when it the attention is turned to medical health programs, by almost a hundred million dollars. It's clear that passing this law has resulted in positive impacts on the economy.

Large corporations have advocated for this, making it something that is widely advertised as a positive change in society, going from being condemned in the past. Many of these companies such as Google, Apple, Verizon, Morgan Stanley and Microsoft have recruited people from this community to work for them, sending society an accepting message.

Marriage equality is a freedom that many groups across American have long strived for in the past. Now that the past year has brought this rightful prospect to our country, it has also brought positive changes for not only them, but all of American as well.

HONORING MR. DONALD GREEN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Donald Green.

A Coahoma County native, Donald Green is a dedicated and seemingly tireless community leader and business owner who has committed his career to creating economic and educational opportunities for farmworkers and families in the Mississippi Delta.

As Executive Director of Mississippi Delta Council for Farm Worker Opportunities, Inc.,

Mr. Green leads a staff of 22 providing job training and placement services to thousands of individuals every year. His organization also hosts a monthly food distribution and offers a civilian relief distribution staging area following weather emergencies and disasters. Currently, his team is transforming an existing warehouse and property into a farmers market, commercial kitchen, produce aggregation and food hub to raise incomes for dozens of limited-resource and beginning farmers. Prior to becoming the organization's chief executive, he was its Chief Financial Officer for 21 years.

He served as one of three Associate Tax Commissioners for the State of Mississippi and is the second African American in the State of Mississippi to do so. An accountant, Mr. Green also owns and operates an independent accounting service business.

Throughout his career, Mr. Green has been an ambassador between working people and local businesses. His board service includes: Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce; member of National Exchange Club; member of Clarksdale Industrial Foundation; member of Coahoma Community Development Organization; and member of Clarksdale/Coahoma County Airport Board. He has served as a State Treasurer of the Magnolia Council; Vice President of The Delta Council; member Delta State Alumni University Association; former President of National Alumni Association; Founder and former President for Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact; Treasurer for Mississippi Blues Foundation, former President of Friendship Community Federal Credit Union. He was recognized in 2004 as Delta Regional Minority Businessman of the Year, inducted into the Delta State University Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009, and received the Freedom Team Appreciation Certificate for Services to Members of the Armed Forces. He is a member of the Clarksdale Rotary Club.

Committed to making higher education more accessible, Mr. Green became president of Delta State National Alumni Association in 1995 and led a five million dollar capital campaign. That funding has more than doubled in the years since and has a significant endowment. He has served on the university's foundation board. In 2001, he was appointed to a six-year term on the Mississippi State Board of Community and Junior Colleges. Co-Founder and President of the Ronald Hoss Bennett Foundation, which awards college scholarships to football players from local high schools.

He is known to be a steady, hardworking leader in efforts to increase understanding and build relationships in social and economic diversity. Mr. Green helped negotiate the partnership between Delta State University and Coahoma Community College to purchase the Cutrer Mansion, which has evolved into a continuing education center for history, culture, and the arts. In 2014, he worked with the City of Clarksdale officials, business owners, and community activists to honor the life and work of civil rights leader Aaron Henry with a historical marker on the Mississippi Freedom Trail. He has served on the board of Clarksdale-Coahoma County Library and supports the Delta Blues Museum.

The son of sharecroppers, Mr. Sylvester and Aree Green, Mr. Green grew up operating

farm equipment in Coahoma County, Mississippi. A graduate of Coahoma Agriculture High School, he earned college degrees from Coahoma Community College and Delta State University. Mr. Green is the first African American to serve as President of Delta State University National Alumni Association.

He and his wife, Nelia, have two sons: Donald, Jr., a biomedical engineer living in Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Adam, a high school student, who participated in Youth Leadership Clarksdale and who is currently a freshman at Delta State University majoring in commercial design.

Mr. Green is Chairman of the Deacon Board and Chairman of the Building Fund at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Jonestown, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Entrepreneur and Economic Developer that has been instrumental in magnifying strides of America's black history.

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#### HONORING JUDGE PETER DILTZ

### HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Peter Diltz for his service on the Door County Circuit Court for Wisconsin. Mr. Diltz has been an integral member of the Door County community and I am proud to recognize his dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin.

Judge Diltz was born in Winnetka, Illinois and spent many of his childhood summers in Door County. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Arizona State University, Judge Diltz attended the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Judge Diltz returned to Door County to practice law and serve as the Door County Family Court Commissioner from 1976 to 1994, at which time he was first elected Circuit Court Judge. It is truly an honor to represent an extraordinary citizen who has dedicated his career to serving the people of Door County in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 8th District of Wisconsin, I congratulate Judge Diltz on his retirement and sincerely thank him for his service to Wisconsin.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "Yes" on roll call vote No. 164, and "Yes" on roll call vote No. 165.

#### TRIBUTE TO HANNAH M. CAROLUS

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hannah Carolus of Treynor, Iowa, for being awarded the Good Citizen Award by the Council Bluffs Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Hannah is a senior at Treynor High School in Treynor, Iowa.

Hannah exhibited all of the talents and skills needed to qualify for this award. They include dependability, service to others, leadership, and patriotism. Judges took into consideration several areas in grading her application including high school achievement, home and community activities, future plans, extra-curricular activities, and good citizenship. A second requirement was to write an essay on Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It. The essay was to focus on our American rights and freedoms and the rights she would select to celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Hannah for earning this award. She is a shining example of the future of our youth. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hannah for her interest in preserving our rights and freedoms. I wish her nothing but continued success in all her future endeavors.

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#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF TIFFANY MAY JOSLYN, A PASSIONATE CRUSADER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND TRANSCENDENT LIGHTBEAM OF JOY

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it's with mixed emotion that I rise in remembrance of Tiffany May Joslyn, one of the most beloved, talented, and effective members of the House Judiciary Committee staff, whose life tragically was cut short on March 5, 2016, in a car accident that sadly also claimed the life of her brother, Derrick. She was just 33 years old.

Although the years of Tiffany's life were short, the life of Tiffany's years was full. In a journey of a little more than three decades, Tiffany May Joslyn, traveled from the little schoolgirl who was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, on November 9, 1982, to Deputy Chief Counsel of House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, where she played a central role in crafting pioneering legislation to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system.

Tiffany was a Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude graduate of Clark University. She graduated with honors from The George Washington University Law School and was admitted to the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Bars after serving clerkships with the

United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Before bringing her exceptional talent and servant's heart to Capitol Hill, Tiffany was Research Counsel for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in Washington, D.C., where she was the lead researcher and principal investigator for several major studies of the criminal justice system. Her work for the NACDL was so outstanding that she earned the reputation as one of the most thoughtful and forward-thinking policy experts of her generation in the area of criminal justice reform, which brought her to my attention when I became Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful that I was able to secure for the Judiciary Committee, and this House, the services of Tiffany Joslyn. In the short time she was with us, she left an indelible impression on the Members of the Committee, her staff colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and most importantly on the criminal justice reform legislation produced by the Committee on the Judiciary.

Tiffany was a brilliant writer and was highly respected for her expertise, energy, dedication, loyalty, kindness, and perhaps, most of all, her persuasiveness as an advocate.

Mr. Speaker, Tiffany had a passion to help the most vulnerable and those who were caught up in the criminal justice system unfairly, but also those who deserved restoration and rehabilitation.

Together we were on a journey to continue to find a way to reform the criminal justice system.

She made great progress. Two of the bills we worked on have already passed out of the Judiciary Committee, and I am praying that they come to the floor not only in her name, but in the names of all the vulnerable people that would benefit from her great work.

I hope Tiffany's family can take comfort during the difficult days ahead in the knowledge that Tiffany and Derrick were the light of so many lives. May God bless them.

Mr. Speaker, to quote Maximus Decimus Meridus: "What we do in life echoes in eternity."

In her too short sojourn on this earth, Tiffany May Joslyn did so much good that I can say with confidence, and in the certain knowledge, that the glory of Tiffany's work will echo in eternity.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Tiffany Joslyn.

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#### MISSION JR. HIGH SCHOOL TEAM TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a team of students from Mission Jr. High School for earning the opportunity to compete in the National Science Bowl.

The National Science Bowl was created by the Department of Energy in 1991 to encourage students to expand their knowledge within

the subjects of mathematics and science, and pursue careers in such fields. Since its inception, approximately 265,000 students have participated; helping the National Science Bowl grow into one of the largest science competitions in the nation.

The competition is comprised of Middle and High School teams of four students, one alternate, and a teacher advisor. The teams will compete with each other in the topics of biology, chemistry, life science, earth science, physics, energy, and math. The competition is a fast-paced question and answer session and will be held on April 28th, 2016 through May 2nd, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

The team from Mission Jr. High School includes: Briana Diaz, Lucas Dovalina, Rodrigo Moran, Paul McCoy, and Damian Gonzalez, along with their coaches and sponsors Carolina Barrero, Jesus Razo, and David Land. They recently won the Regional Science Bowl Championship and were one of only forty-seven teams across the nation that qualified for the National Science Bowl. This will be the third time in a row that a team from Mission Consolidated Independent School District will compete. However, they are the first team to represent Mission Jr. High School.

I applaud these bright students and look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future. As students begin to consider which career path to choose, it is important to provide increased support and learning opportunities so students are able to graduate and compete in a globally competitive workforce. I believe competitions such as the National Science Bowl bring awareness to students about a possible STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) career. I am proud to have this team of students from Mission Jr. High School represent the 28th District of Texas.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 9

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Airland  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-232A

MAY 10

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on SeaPower  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-232A

11 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Personnel  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SD-G50

2 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SD-G50

3:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommit-

tee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SD-G50

5:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-232A

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222

MAY 24

10 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine understanding the role of sanctions under the Iran Deal. SD-538

MAY 25

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine understanding the role of sanctions under the Iran Deal, focusing on Administration perspectives. SD-538

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 28, 2016

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 28, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as National Donate Life Month.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Caucus, I believe it is important to help people understand that, while organ and tissue donation is serious, just like any other medical or surgical procedure, there are many misconceptions and myths surrounding the donor process, and it is important that we educate the public about them.

Technology today allows us to do amazing things in the donation of organs and tissues, and new drugs have advanced the opportunity to ensure that these organs, these tissues, are not rejected.

My hope today, as a member of the caucus, is to encourage Americans to get educated and understand the dire need for tissue and organ donations. This is an opportunity to save lives.

Sadly, there are over 120,000 men, women, and children who are on waiting lists for lifesaving organ donations

around the country. For these patients, an organ donation simply is a matter of life and death.

I would like to commend the organizations that raise awareness and that are on the front lines about these important issues every single day throughout our country.

I would like to thank the National Kidney Foundation and the American Liver Foundation for their efforts to raise awareness, support patients, and support funding for advancements in this field. They are always trying to advance the opportunities for life-saving organs that will make a difference in our communities throughout the Nation.

### SUPPORTING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced House Concurrent Resolution 129 along with my south Florida colleague and friend, Congressman TED DEUTCH, urging Germany to honor its commitments and moral obligations to Holocaust survivors by providing for their unmet needs.

There are an estimated half-million survivors worldwide, about a quarter of whom live here in the United States. Nearly 15,000 survivors call the great State of Florida home, and I am proud to represent so many of them in my south Florida district.

But the sad reality and, really, humanity's great shame is that about half of all Holocaust survivors live at or below the poverty line. Tens of thousands of survivors, if not more, are suffering without basic, life-sustaining services and care that they need in their advanced years.

Many live alone or without family support and lack the funds for home care, from medicine to hearing aids, to food, to utilities, to rent.

What a tragedy, Mr. Speaker, that so many Holocaust survivors are unable to maintain even a modest and dignified standard of living.

These individuals have suffered for nearly three-quarters of a century from the physical and emotional scars that they have endured and carry with them to this very day. They have lived through the torture, the experiments, the labor camps, the loss of loved ones, and even the murder of their entire families.

Because of all of this, Holocaust survivors' needs are unique. They are more extensive and more complex than the needs of other elderly individuals.

The time for justice, Mr. Speaker, is now. The time for action is now because there may not be a next year or even a next month for many of these Holocaust survivors.

That is why the German Government must honor Chancellor Adenauer's pledge from 1951, that Germany would take care of all of the needs of every survivor. That is why this resolution is so important, because time is of the essence.

But it is not as though our friends in Germany have done nothing to fulfill this pledge. The German Government has over the years provided some support through income assistance programs and has sought ways to improve and address the needs of the survivors.

Germany has even doubled its funding for home care services in the past 5 years, but that, unfortunately, does not match the reality of what is required.

The German Ministry of Finance itself has admitted that the level of care financed by its government has been vastly insufficient to date, especially for those who are in dire need of intensive, long-term care.

The real issue of concern, one that is exacerbating the severe lack of funding and one where I think we can press the German Government and work with it to find a fair solution, is the inconsistent manner in which existing funding and care is being disbursed.

The current system places an undue burden on the Holocaust survivors and their families, forcing them to jump through bureaucratic red tape, causing harmful delays and waste.

This resolution is a simple one. It is straightforward. It is noncontroversial. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Congress is in a unique position to work for and fight on behalf of Holocaust survivors, many of whom are our constituents. We have a long history of working on behalf of Holocaust survivors and seeking out their long-overdue justice.

Next Wednesday, May 4, is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. As we remember and honor the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, we are all compelled to do everything in our power to help those who have lived through those unconscionable atrocities.

These survivors, Mr. Speaker, have seen the worst that humanity has to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



offer. Let us show them now the best of humanity by ensuring that they can, indeed, live out their days in dignity.

#### FLOOD INSURANCE MARKET PARITY AND MODERNIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2901, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this bipartisan bill, which represents a positive step towards much-needed flood insurance reform.

This legislation provides clarity to States and private insurers and, in doing so, clears the way for competitive firms to play a much greater role in the flood insurance market.

For my constituents back home, the 705,000 western Pennsylvanians who sent me to Washington to look out for their interests, this means more choices, more competitive rates, and more innovation. Passing this legislation would be a win for western Pennsylvanians eager for change.

Although some tend to think of flood insurance as a concern for coastal States like Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, many Pennsylvanians are closely monitoring the ongoing debate about the future of flood insurance.

Many of my constituents live alongside rivers and streams and in valleys with a history of flooding. My district is also home to many older cities and towns like Johnstown that are filled with properties that predate the National Flood Insurance Program. People have lived in these places for generations and have a deep sense of community.

Rightly, my constituents who live in these flood-prone areas worry about the future availability of affordable flood insurance options in the marketplace. They want to remain in their homes, in the places where multiple generations of their families have lived and worked and built lasting connections with their neighbors.

My constituents need access to affordable flood insurance. As this debate continues over the next year, I will make sure that their concerns are addressed.

H.R. 2901 is a strong step in the right direction as we seek to reform Federal flood insurance policy.

I hope that H.R. 2901 will receive the same broad, bipartisan support it received in the Financial Services Committee when it comes up for a vote later today.

I look forward to working with my colleagues at the committee and on both sides of the aisle as work continues on flood insurance reform.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMAN F. KYLE

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Norman

Kyle, an Aliquippa native who passed away at the age of 95 this past Sunday, for his brave service to our Nation.

Norman served as a U.S. Army infantryman during World War II and, after being captured by the Nazis, was a POW for over 700 days.

He was born on August 24, 1920, in Aliquippa and was retired from J&L Steel Corp., where he worked for more than 40 years. Norman was a John Wayne fan, and he collected more than 100 trains.

In addition to his parents, Norman and Sadie Kyle, he was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Kyle, two sons, Robert and Kenneth Kyle, and a grandson, John Scheeler, Jr.

Norman is survived by his 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

It was men like Norman Kyle who made their generation great and who were a big part of making this country the leader of the world. His life, legacy, and service will not be forgotten.

#### “I AM JAZZ”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, all across the country today, teachers, librarians, and parents will be reading the book “I Am Jazz,” a children’s book about transgender youth, co-written by Jazz Jennings, pictured here, and Jessica Herthel.

Last year, legal threats from the anti-LGBTQ hate group forced a school in Wisconsin to cancel plans to read this book to support a transgender student. The local community rallied, holding a reading at the library that drew more than 600 attendees in support of the student.

Now this is a movement, with readings across the country to increase understanding and to show young people that they are welcomed and loved.

I am proud to join these readers today from the House floor. Now I am going to read this book, “I Am Jazz.”

I am Jazz. For as long as I can remember, my favorite color has been pink. My second favorite color is silver, and my third favorite color is green.

Here are some of my other favorite things: dancing, singing, back flips, drawing, soccer, swimming, makeup, and pretending I’m a pop star.

Most of all, I love mermaids. Sometimes I even wear a mermaid tail into the pool.

My best friends are Samantha and Casey. We always have fun together. We like high heels and princess gowns or cartwheels and trampolines.

But I am not exactly like Samantha and Casey. I have a girl’s brain, but a boy body. This is called transgender. I was born this way.

When I was very little and my mom would say, “You’re such a good boy,” I would say, “No, mama. Good girl.”

□ 1015

At first, my family was confused. They always thought of me as a boy. As I got a little

older, I hardly ever played with trucks or tools or superheroes, only princesses and mermaid costumes. My brothers told me that that was girl stuff. I kept right on playing.

My sister says I was always talking to her about my girl thoughts and my girl dreams and how one day I would be a beautiful lady. She would giggle and say, “You are a funny kid.”

Sometimes my parents let me wear my sister’s dresses around the house, but whenever we went out, I had to put on my boy clothes again. That made me mad. Still, I never gave up trying to convince them. Pretending I was a boy felt like telling a lie.

Then one amazing day, everything changed. Mom and dad took me to meet a new doctor who asked me lots and lots of questions. Afterwards, the doctor spoke to my parents, and I heard the word “transgender” for the very first time. That night at bedtime, my parents both hugged me and said, “We understand now. Be who you are. We love you no matter what.”

That made me smile and smile and smile. Mom and dad told me I could start wearing girl clothes to school and growing my hair long. They even let me change my name to Jazz. Being Jazz felt much more like being me. Mom said that being Jazz would make me different from the other kids in school, but that being different is okay. “What is important,” she said, “is that I am happy with who I am.”

Being Jazz caused some other people to be confused, too, like the teachers at school. At the beginning of school, they wanted me to use the boys’ bathroom and play in the boys’ gym class, but that didn’t make me feel normal at all.

I was so happy when the teachers changed their minds. I can’t imagine not playing on the same team with Casey and Samantha. Even today there are kids who tease me or call me by a boy’s name or ignore me altogether. This makes me feel crummy. Then I remember that the kids who get to know me usually want to be my friend. They say that I am one of the nicest girls in school.

I don’t mind being different. Different is special. I think what matters most is what a person is like inside. And inside, I am happy. I am having fun. I am proud. I am Jazz.

#### PENN STATE’S CONTRIBUTION TO CYBER AND DIGITAL MANUFACTURING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am very excited to be on the floor this morning to talk about digital manufacturing and how that impacts the things that we make. This is a quantum leap in manufacturing: allowing objects to be rapidly printed and, in the case of cyber manufacturing, printed remotely.

Since 2009, I have proudly represented Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District, which is the largest geographically in the Commonwealth. It is also the home to Penn State University’s main campus in State College, Pennsylvania, as well as to the Behrend campus in Erie County, and the DuBois campus in Clearfield County.

Over my time in Congress, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand how the university is leading in the field of digital manufacturing in areas that range from 3D bioprinting to cyber manufacturing—robotics and automation.

Portions of the Fifth Congressional District have a long history in the powdered metal industry. In fact, St. Mary's in Elk County, as well as in Cameron County, an adjoining county, have been known for years as the powdered metal capital of the world. A few months ago, I visited Penn State to take a look at their work in the field of additive metal manufacturing, which takes place in the university's applied research laboratory CIMP-3D lab. It was amazing to watch metal parts be created using what amounts to a 3D printer, and it is easy to see how this new technology will revolutionize careers in the powdered metal industry, which has meant so much to our region.

In the same vein, I have been so impressed with the university's efforts in hosting an additive manufacturing challenge for small businesses. The challenge will award five companies \$40,000 to work with faculty and staff at Penn State CIMP-3D on projects to demonstrate this amazing technology.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the dividends that these new innovations are paying for the industries which drive America's economy, this research is also benefiting our national defense. Penn State is currently working with the United States Naval Air Systems Command to 3D-print, -qualify, and -certify a critical safety item—in other words, an important part of a Department of Defense vehicle—in titanium. This part will be flown in an aircraft next month and will be the first 3D-printed part to have gone through the entire process to become flight certified and tested in the military.

Now, I commend the pioneers of this exciting new technology from universities such as my alma mater, Penn State, but also universities such as Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech, along with companies such as the aircraft engine manufacturer, Pratt & Whitney, in helping students prepare for what are certainly the careers of the future.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, I spend a lot of time visiting schools, visiting our high schools, secondary schools, and post-secondary schools that are providing training to greater opportunity. It is exciting to go into specifically high schools and see where this digital manufacturing—this additive manufacturing using the 3D printers and various types of materials—is now present in our high schools.

I appreciate the partnership that Penn State has had working with not just business and industry, but the col-

laborative work with our high schools to begin to introduce and to grow this new innovation in manufacturing and to introduce this to young learners, many of whom, I believe, are going to go on and will find great family-sustaining jobs through that type of career and technical education training, being exposed to the very newest form of innovation for manufacturing.

Some of them will go on to work for businesses and industries. Who knows? Some of them will become entrepreneurs and return to a day of cottage industries. Some of our most amazing discoveries have happened in basements, garages, and spare bedrooms where entrepreneurs have developed and invented. With the use of digital manufacturing, a return to cottage industries is, quite frankly, something that I think is going to happen in an overwhelming way as often entrepreneurs take that innovation and are able to do some very specific product development and manufacturing targeting, maybe some specific niche markets.

So I am very excited in how technology relating to career and educational training and information technology, as it relates to digital manufacturing or additive manufacturing, is going to have a very positive impact on our citizens, our families, our businesses, and, quite frankly, the competitiveness of our Nation.

#### SOLUTION TO FLOODING IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is a common refrain that you, I, and many others are quite familiar with. It is: but for the grace of God, there go I.

This refrain has significant meaning to all of us. I have used this refrain myself. I used it when it came to the East Coast and Sandy, the hurricane. I used it when it came to Flint and lead in the water. I have used it when we had the hurricane visit New Orleans—I am talking about Katrina. And I am using it as it relates to Puerto Rico. But for the grace of God, there go I.

But I will tell you, it takes on an even greater meaning when you become the subject of the refrain.

Mr. Speaker, I rise now because in Houston, Texas, over the last 2 years, we have had significant flooding. Over the last 2 years, in Houston, Texas, we had the Memorial Day flood. That flood created about \$3 billion worth of damage. This year, we have had the tax day flood, which created about \$5 billion. Combined, the two floods totaled \$8 billion in damages.

We have had lives lost in Houston, Texas: four lives estimated for the Memorial Day flood; eight lives for the tax day flood. Lives have been lost.

But for the grace of God, there go I. And I have a greater understanding of what it means because of the way this has impacted the people in my city and in my State.

Mr. Speaker, they are citizens of this country. I come to the floor today with a hue and cry, an appeal that we do something about these circumstances because this will not be the last flood that will take place in Houston, Texas.

There is a possible solution to some of the problems. I don't know that we could ever eliminate all of the flooding problems in Houston, Texas. But I do know that the Corps of Engineers has projects that are already on their docket, on their agenda; and if these projects are properly addressed, we can mitigate a good deal of this flooding.

These projects that the Corps has would cost us about \$311 million to complete. One such project is the Brays project. We authorized this in 1990, and we are projected to finish it in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, it didn't take that long to create the Erie Canal. It took us 4 years to complete the Golden Gate Bridge; the Hoover Dam was 5 years; the Erie Canal was 8 years. And it only took us about 8 years—maybe 10, by some estimates—to put a person on the Moon. Surely, we could have completed these projects sooner.

This bill, H.R. 5025, will accord us \$311 million to finish these projects so that we can save lives, so that we can save money; and the bill, if properly implemented with the creation of these projects and the completion of them, will also create jobs. More than 6,000 jobs are estimated to be created.

So I come before my colleagues today asking that you kindly sign on to H.R. 5025. It is an opportunity for us to do something to help somebody, to help those who are in harm's way and will continue to be in harm's way as long as they live in Houston, Texas, one of the great American cities. But I do believe that we can do this.

And while it may not be enough to eliminate all flooding, I live by the basic premise that when there are times in your life when you cannot do enough, when no matter how much you do, you will not do enough, I live by the premise that you do all that you can.

We can do more. We can do something to prevent a good deal of this flooding, save some lives, and create some jobs.

Finally this: I would remind my colleagues that Dr. King was imminently correct when he called to our attention that the truest measure of the person is not where you stand in times of comfort and convenience, but where do you stand in times of challenge and controversy? Challenge and controversy. When you have got cities with lead in the water, when you have got bankruptcy confronting one of that territories that is within our sphere, when

you have got a city that is flooding continuously, where do you stand?

This is an opportunity for us to show that we stand with the people who are in need of help.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOHR) at noon.

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#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day in Your ways that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker and the Members of both the people's House and the Senate, to our President and his cabinet, and to our Supreme Court.

Bless as well the moral and military leaders of our country, and may those who are the captains of business, industry, and unions learn to work together toward the mutual benefit of all.

During the contentious times of campaign season, help us all to be our best selves and worthy of the freedoms our constitutional form of government guarantees.

May all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

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#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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#### CONGRATULATING CHAIRMAN MAC THORNBERRY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, from 10 a.m. yesterday until nearly 3 a.m. this morning, the House Committee on Armed Services marked up the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA.

Under the able leadership of Chairman MAC THORNBERRY, the committee diligently executed the most important duty of Congress: to provide for the common defense. This bipartisan legislation strengthens our military and protects American families from new and emerging threats.

Additionally, this legislation fully resources our servicemembers, prioritizes cyber initiatives, and reforms our military healthcare system. The NDAA also stands up for South Carolina by continuing construction for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication facility, MOX, at the Savannah River Site and prohibits the transfer of terrorists from Guantanamo to American soil.

I am grateful to Chairman THORNBERRY, Ranking Member ADAM SMITH, my colleagues on the Committee on Armed Services, and dedicated staff members, especially Kevin Gates, Pete Villano, Neve Schadler, Katherine Sutton, and Lindsay Kavanaugh.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and in strong support of the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, bipartisan legislation that I authored with Congressman MEEHAN.

Sexual assault is truly a crisis on our college campuses, where a survey last year indicated that 23 percent of female students are victims.

In 2013, we passed the Campus SaVE Act, which I authored. It ensures campuses adopt clear, comprehensive procedures to investigate and report accurate statistics on sexual assault.

But this is not enough. One person becomes a victim of assault every 107 seconds in America. That is over 300,000 a year. Our bill would require a national survey of students to identify key risk factors for sexual assault and evaluate best practices to reduce sexual violence. The bill would also provide resources for victims of sexual assault, including confidential advisers.

These are commonsense reforms that will make a world of difference by keeping our students safer on our college campuses.

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#### FARMERS AIDED BY CROP INSURANCE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, just last month, prune growers in the Sacramento Valley of California were pretty optimistic about 2016. For the first time in a while, they saw some relief from the drought, and though crop prices were down, the little prunes on the trees gave hope for a healthy harvest with an estimated value of up to \$120 million for the year.

Now, just a few weeks later, these same farmers are questioning whether there will even be a harvest following very rough weather during the critical bloom period. Yet, this is the natural reality of the risks faced by farmers and ranchers.

Before blindly attacking sound agriculture policy, such as crop insurance, I ask my colleagues here to take a close look at what it takes to feed our Nation, especially in a year like this one where farm income is down over 50 percent.

These policies are not meant for the good crop years or in a good harvest. They exist for the terrible crop years.

Mr. Speaker, weather is unpredictable, as are natural disasters and fickle markets. However, we can make sure farmers have access to tools that manage these risks in an efficient and cost-

effective manner. Let's not jeopardize this successful and vital program.

#### ADHERING TO OPEN SKIES AGREEMENT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, so-called flags of convenience have decimated the U.S. maritime industry to a tiny fraction of its former size. It is a system where owners chase the cheapest, most exploitable labor, and the least regulation around the world.

Now the Department of Transportation under the Obama administration, in its infinite wisdom, wants to bring that system to aviation. Won't that be great when we are all flying in planes with crews coming out of Indonesia or India or somewhere else where they can be exploited, paid less, and maybe have kind of questionable credentials.

Actually, they are issuing pilot certificates in India to people who have never ever flown a plane. That will just be dandy. But, hey, the tickets will be cheap. You might not get there, but you paid less to get on.

This is absolutely absurd. We have the safest and best system of aviation in the world with our proud domestic airlines. Their employees get decent wages, we fly safe, and we want to now go to flags of convenience?

They are ignoring the clear language of the Open Skies Agreement in making this decision. No to the Obama administration.

#### DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, talk to your neighbors, turn on the local news, and you hear the tragic stories of how opioid abuse is devastating families across the country and in my State of Michigan.

Combating this epidemic requires us to work together to tackle it head on. No effort is too small, and each of us can do our part. One way to help is participating in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, which takes place this Saturday, April 30th. It is an opportunity for citizens to clean out their medicine cabinets of unwanted medications with no questions asked. Safe disposal of expired prescription drugs is an important step to preventing abuse.

Authorized drop-off sites are located all across Michigan's Seventh Congressional District, and I will be stopping by one of those sites, the Jackson Police Department, on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It is a human issue, and it affects us all.

#### 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the Armenian community to commemorate 101 years since the start of the Armenian genocide.

On April 24, 1915, more than 300 Armenian leaders were taken from their homes, arrested, and systematically executed. They were the first killed in what would eventually become a genocide resulting in the deaths of 1.5 million innocent men, women, and children.

Over a century later, the Armenian people have vowed to never forget these atrocities. The children and grandchildren of the genocide's victims have worked hard to remember and honor those who suffered. For too long, this crime has gone unrecognized and unpunished.

This weekend in Los Angeles, California, 60,000 people came together outside of the Turkish consulate to rally for long overdue acknowledgment of their ancestors' murders.

I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, and I stand by the Armenian American community in Los Angeles and throughout this country in their call for recognition and justice.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JIMMY HAYLEY

(Mr. WEBER of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of life-long Galveston County resident, Jimmy Hayley.

A fixture in our community, Jimmy Hayley was the president and CEO of the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce for almost 30 years, where he helped foster economic development that brought positive growth to our community.

Jimmy was the model for other chamber leaders in our region. He set the bar for how to run the organization helping businesses around the area grow and become a positive influence in our community.

Not only was Jimmy an amazing family man to his wife, two sons, and seven grandchildren, he was a great mentor and a wonderful friend to so many folks.

While our community has suffered a great loss in the passing of Jimmy Hayley, it is important that we celebrate his life and all the growth and progress during his tenure that will continue in his memory.

My thoughts and prayers are with Jimmy's family and friends during this difficult time. God bless them all.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Deer Lodge, Montana, June 7, 2015:

Arie Arlynn Lee, 37 years old;  
Augustine Lee Bournes, 5;  
Woodrow Lee Bournes, 4;  
Arie Lee Bournes, 1.  
Belfair, Washington, February, 26, 2016:  
Donna Reed, 68 years old;  
Lana Carlson, 49;  
Tory Carlson, 18;  
Quinn Carlson, 16.  
Flour Bluff, Texas, September 14, 2014:

Pamela Kay Rhodes, 63 years old;  
Ricky Ray Collier, 56;  
Laura Elaine Ogden, 32.  
Orange, California, February 19, 2013:  
Melvin Edwards, 69 years old;  
Jeremy Lewis, 27;  
Courtney Aoki, 20.  
Menasha, Wisconsin, March 3, 2015:  
Jonathan Stoffel, 33 years old;  
Adam Bentsdahl, 31;  
Erin Stoffel, 31;  
Olivia Stoffel, 11.  
Akron, Ohio, April 18, 2013:  
Ronald Roberts, 24 years old.

#### CONGRATULATING DR. DIANA NATALICIO

(Mr. HURD of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Dr. Diana Natalicio.

One of our Nation's foremost experts on higher education, Dr. Natalicio has transformed the University of Texas at El Paso into a premier institution and a national success story. For her distinguished career, Dr. Natalicio was recently recognized by Time Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

In 1988, she was named president of the university and has since increased enrollment from 15,000 to 23,000 students who reflect the demographics of the Texas-Mexico border region. UTEP is the only research institution in the United States that serves a predominantly Mexican American student body.

UTEP's continued success under Dr. Natalicio's leadership serves as a model to universities across the country, and I am truly proud to congratulate her for the remarkable achievement to be named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

□ 1215

#### FAMILIES OF FLINT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor the Families of Flint bill, introduced by Mr. KILDEE, who has been working tirelessly to help his community cope with the crisis there. It is our moral obligation to make sure that those families get the help they need.

The tragedy in Flint has brought to light the danger of using lead pipes to deliver drinking water, particularly in older cities. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 million American homes and buildings receive drinking water via pipes that contain lead, a known neurotoxin.

The time to act is now, but Congress has cut infrastructure funding for this purpose. This year, Congress budgeted just \$906 million for the safe drinking water fund. That is a cut of 34 percent compared to 2010, and far below the \$334 billion that is needed over the next 20 years. We can do much better.

I don't know whether a national lead pipe replacement program would have prevented the crisis in Flint, but I do know that without one, the next tragedy is inevitable.

**CARVER COUNTY IS MINNESOTA'S HEALTHIEST**

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate Calvert County, located in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District, for being named the healthiest county in Minnesota. This is the fourth consecutive year that Calvert County has received this impressive ranking. These rankings are completed by the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program and are based on multiple factors, including: health, social, and economic factors, as well as clinical care, physical environment, and quality of life.

We are incredibly proud of the people, businesses, and healthcare providers in Calvert County for working to ensure that everyone in our community has the ability to lead a healthy life, for encouraging our many local leaders to implement change, and for constantly striving to influence health in a positive way. It is because of the residents' hard work and determination that Calvert County is the wonderful community that it is today—and for that, we all say thank you.

**VOTE FOR EMERGENCY FUNDING TO FIGHT ZIKA VIRUS**

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, the Zika virus results in devastating human illness, like small, deformed brains in infants and paralyzing neurodegenerative

diseases. It has already infected over 900 people in the United States and its territories, and it is just a matter of time before it will rapidly spread in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to do its job and protect the health security of the American people and vote for emergency funding to fight Zika now before we adjourn and before it is too late. Listen to the scientists, to the public experts, and to the CDC. All of them are echoing the same warning. Funding is imperative to prevent the spread of Zika, and it is our responsibility, our moral obligation, as Members of Congress, to protect the public against this potential crisis.

What are we waiting for? The House should not adjourn until we have passed H.R. 5044, the emergency supplemental on the Zika virus.

**REJECT NEW FIDUCIARY RULE**

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of hardworking Americans trying to save money for their retirement without government intrusion.

This week, I join a majority of House Members in voting to disapprove of the Department of Labor's new fiduciary rule that will make it harder for low- and middle-income families to save for their retirement.

This extreme, partisan rule, if it is allowed to be implemented, will have a far-reaching negative impact on all Americans currently saving for their retirement. It is yet another attempted power grab by administration bureaucrats to impose more regulations that Americans do not need and are not asking for. It will narrow the options for retirees and drive up costs preventing smart investment.

Estimates show retirement planners would have to spend up to \$4.7 billion complying with the rule in the first year alone and another \$1.1 billion annually thereafter. We all know who will pay for these costs: the consumer, the saver, the man and woman who are simply trying to invest in their future for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to reject this new fiduciary rule and help all Americans retire with the financial security and peace of mind that they deserve.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as Sexual Assault

Awareness Month. As a father of two daughters, this issue is deeply personal for me.

When I think of my daughters' future, few things terrify me more than knowing that one in five women have experienced sexual assault on college campuses. That is why we need to pass the Campus Accountability and Safety Act. This is a commonsense, bipartisan solution to protect students and boost accountability and transparency at colleges and universities. Every day that goes by without passing this bill, more students are put at risk; and for me, that is simply unacceptable.

This issue obviously isn't just limited to college campuses, so I want to take a few moments to commend some of the amazing organizations that are working to keep families safe in our community.

The Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center and A Safe Place have both done incredible work in Illinois' 10th Congressional District. Not only have they worked tirelessly to provide resources and shelter for the survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse, but they have also demonstrated a strong commitment to fighting the root cause of these tragedies.

We must provide these incredible organizations with the resources they need, so together we can prevent sexual assault and keep families safe.

**RECOGNIZING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ATTENDING UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES**

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 11 young men and women from the Ninth District of Georgia who have the honor of attending one of our four United States service academies next fall.

The United States service academies provide an outstanding opportunity for motivated young people to receive a fine education while gaining the skills necessary to serve their country as professional officers.

I take this time to congratulate each one of these individuals for their tremendous accomplishment.

Jacob Heydinger, Jacob Shewbert, Tiffany Haddock, and Cory Campbell will be attending the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Matthew McClelland will be attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Sawyer Madsen, Gino Saponari, and Jonathan Olson will be attending the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

John Gallagher will be attending the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Austin Pierce and Garrett Sellers will be attending the United States Naval Preparatory School on Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island.

I rise today to acknowledge these outstanding young people for not only their accomplishments today for being selected, but for the impact they will have on our communities for tomorrow.

I would also like to take just a moment as well to thank one of our interns who will be leaving us next week, Kip O'kelley, for his hard work in not only preparing this 1-minute, but also for all of the hard work that he has done in our office. And we look forward to seeing him back in the District.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL S. WILSON

(Mr. JOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman who has dedicated his life to serving our Nation, a true American leader and hero who hails from the State of Florida, Mr. Michael S. Wilson.

Mike is retiring from General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems after 47 years of service to our war fighters and the defense industry. He has distinguished himself throughout his career, most notably by developing and fielding over 15 programs for our Armed Forces.

One of Mike's proudest career achievements is the performance of ordnance and tactical systems during the urgent ramp-up required for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Virtually overnight, he oversaw the ramp-up of all General Dynamics production lines to provide ammunition when it was needed the most.

Mr. Speaker, the munitions industrial base, commercial industry, and each branch of our Armed Forces will miss Mike Wilson's leadership. As a nation, let us recognize his intrepid service and dedication to the mission of supporting our warfighters.

I ask that this body join me in honoring and congratulating Mike on a most honorable and truly energetic and innovative career.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a momentous event: the 75th anniversary celebration of the United States Army Officer Candidate School.

The Army Officer Candidate School program was established in 1941 when

the Secretary of War, the War Department, and the Army Chief of Staff agreed that a training program was needed to quickly commission new officers. Since its inception, the demand for well-trained junior officers has expanded and contracted as American soldiers have been involved in conflicts spanning World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and the war on terror.

The Army Officer Candidate School continues to demonstrate unparalleled flexibility, professionalism, and an exceptional ability to provide the U.S. Army with competent, well-trained, and fearless officers in the most responsive time possible. The graduates are recognized as leaders in the Nation's first and best line of defense in the Army and are essential to fighting and winning our Nation's wars.

Again, I would like to congratulate them on the 75th anniversary celebration of the United States Army Officer Candidate School.

#### AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, April is Autism Awareness Month. According to the CDC, 1 in 68 children in the United States have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, and about 3.5 million Americans are living with some form of autism.

As a member of the Congressional Coalition for Autism Research and Education, I am working with my colleagues to ensure that children with autism have the same opportunities as anyone else to lead productive and meaningful lives in adulthood. It is simply unacceptable that 35 percent of young adults with autism are unable to get a job or study in college after high school.

We must continue, Mr. Speaker, to make progress toward an effective treatment and cure so that all individuals are able to achieve their full potential and leave their own beautiful mark on the world.

#### NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, April 30, as National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

In the 30 years I served as a community pharmacist before my election to Congress, I saw prescription medications save lives. However, at the same time, I watched people's addiction to those same medications ruin careers, families, and lives.

Today, 44 people in the U.S. die every day from prescription painkillers and overdoses. Overdoses are now the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., exceeding even car accidents.

Prescription medications have become the target of theft and abuse. It is critical we are all playing our part in combating the prescription drug abuse epidemic by safely disposing of unused medications.

On Saturday, across the country, the DEA will host collection sites where Americans can drop off their pills and other solid, unused prescription drugs. In the First Congressional District of Georgia, I am proud to say that 12 military and law enforcement organizations will be hosting collection sites.

To find a collection site near you, visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov), and click on the "Got Drugs?" icon. The service is free, with no questions asked.

Together, we can end this epidemic plaguing our Nation, and I encourage everyone to take part in this event.

#### MORE BAD NEWS FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced that the gross domestic product, an important measure of our Nation's economic health, grew by a negligible 0.5 percent in the first quarter of 2016. It is the worst performance in 2 years and dismal news for the U.S. economy. During the last 3 months, consumer spending has slowed, business investment has plummeted, and exports have continued to decline.

We need a stable and predictable Tax Code under which families and businesses are best able to plan for the future. It is also possible to relieve the regulatory burden on small businesses and other job creators while balancing environmental stewardship, public safety, and consumer interests.

While our economy has been hampered by the progressive ideology of the current administration, my Republican colleagues and I will continue to pursue our agenda of economic growth so Americans can feel confident in their future.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 28, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 28, 2016 at 11:45 a.m.:

Appointment:  
United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4901, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 88, DISAPPROVING DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RULE RELATED TO DEFINITION OF THE TERM "FIDUCIARY"; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 2, 2016, THROUGH MAY 9, 2016

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 706 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 706

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4901) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and (2) one motion to recommend.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary". All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommend.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from May 2, 2016, through May 9, 2016—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the du-

ration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. The Committee on Armed Services may, at any time before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, file a report to accompany H.R. 4909.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 706 provides a closed rule for the consideration of H.R. 4901, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, as it is the product of careful bipartisan and bicameral negotiations.

It also provides a closed rule for the consideration of H.J. Res. 88, disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "fiduciary," which is traditional for Congressional Review Act resolutions.

The underlying bill and resolution we will consider today are important steps forward on two issues of great concern to Americans: education and retirement savings.

H.R. 4901, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, also known as the SOAR Reauthorization Act, would continue important funding provided to help young students here in Washington, D.C., reach their full potential.

This legislation would provide \$60 million annually for 5 years, split equally among the District's public schools, charter schools, and the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarship Program, which enables low-income students to attend a private school that would otherwise be out of their reach.

I have great confidence that the SOAR Reauthorization Act is a positive step for students in the District of Columbia and that, through its example, it will provide a model for success that could be adopted by States across the country.

With the adoption of this rule, the House will also provide for the consideration of H.J. Res. 88, a Congressional Review Act resolution disapproving of the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule, a rule that will otherwise soon

take effect and limit the ability of Americans to receive adequate advice on how to allocate their retirement savings.

If enacted, this resolution will prevent the red tape and other burdensome mandates that threaten to cut off access to trusted financial advisers and may result in lower savings rates and returns on investment.

As Americans are clamoring for more assistance with retirement savings and financial decisions, we must ensure that they are encouraged to continue saving and are able to receive helpful guidance. Stopping the harmful fiduciary rule is an important step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this rule and both the underlying bill and resolution. I ask my colleagues for their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today the majority intends to pass a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act to overturn the Department of Labor's recent rule-making requiring financial advisers who provide retirement investment advice to abide by a fiduciary standard, meaning that they must act in the best interests of their clients, which seems perfectly legitimate to me. That is right. The House majority is disapproving of financial advisers acting in the best interests of their clients.

Despite the growing importance of individual workers and retirees to obtain sound investment advice, many financial advisers are still not legally required to meet the fiduciary standard of acting in their clients' best interests but, instead, are required only to meet a lower "suitability" standard.

This creates a conflict of interest where advisers are permitted to promote investments that maximized their own returns rather than their clients' returns as long as the investments were still "suitable" for their clients.

That means a small few—and a very small few—unscrupulous financial advisers have been legally permitted to steer clients towards financial products that maximize the advisers' profits through higher fees and commissions even if investments that would produce greater returns for the clients are available.

Few financial advisers, I am sure, are taking advantage of their clients in their saving for retirement. Some experts, however, feel that this rule is necessary. In fact, the White House Council of Economic Advisers estimates that the cost to American retirees is \$17 billion annually. That is no small sum, and I think it does cry out for attention.

It is absurd that, due to loopholes in the current system, retirees do not

have a legal right to expect that their financial advisers will act in their best interests.

When you visit your doctor, you have the legal right to expect that he or she will prescribe whatever treatment is in your best interest. You shouldn't have to guess whether or not your financial adviser is following the same fiduciary standard.

The Labor Department's final rule will close these loopholes, protect workers' savings, and ensure that financial advisers act in their clients' best interests.

The final rule is the result of a thoughtful, thorough, and transparent multiyear process that stands in stark contrast to the majority's decision to rush to judgment and to overturn this rule at a record, unheard-of pace.

The majority marked up the resolution, H.J. Res. 88, only 13 days after the final rule had been published. So, in 13 days, it understood that it was totally unnecessary despite the \$17 billion lost to clients.

This is far shorter than the 55 days that other committees wait, on average, to ensure that there is ample time to fully understand the impact of a final rule.

In its rush to judgment, the majority has been blinded by its ideological opposition to any action taken by the Obama administration and has missed the many changes that have left industry leaders optimistic, including many of the major financial houses and many of the people whose livelihoods are in this kind of advising.

The majority is ignoring the two important protections that this rule will provide to American workers who are trying to save for their retirements. The first is peace of mind, and the second is to make sure that everything is done in their interests.

Mr. Speaker, all of us are sent here to work in the best interests of the American people, not to shield financial companies. So I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this disapproval resolution.

What is more, in yet another grab bag rule that joins two unrelated measures under a single rule, the Republicans are proposing another misguided bill to meddle in the District of Columbia's local affairs.

The majority has already tried to overturn the District's marijuana, gun, and abortion laws, and now it intends to rewrite D.C.'s education laws in an attack on the District of Columbia's right to home rule.

The D.C. voucher program exempts students from the protection of Federal civil rights laws that apply to public schools—why in the world would we want to do that to them?—and federally funded programs that go with those civil rights laws protections.

Under the voucher program, the Federal funding is considered assistance to

the voucher student and not to the school; therefore, the voucher program is not considered a federally funded program.

The program is exempt from titles IV and VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; from title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; from the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974; from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; from the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and from titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

I appreciate that we are not doing anything here that is really going to affect the government in any way. Undoubtedly, again, this will be a one-House bill, and we have wasted a week's worth of money—about \$24 million—that it takes to run the House. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act is a program that makes students the priority.

First authorized in 2004, this program has provided significant, life-changing benefits to students for over a decade. It is no secret that many students in the District of Columbia have not received the education they deserve.

Fourth graders in the District scored below all 50 States in average math and reading scores in 2013, and eighth graders had the lowest average math and reading scores in the country.

The SOAR Reauthorization Act continues a three-sector strategy to improve education in the District of Columbia.

First, it provides additional resources to the public school system for its use in improving student achievement.

An equal amount is provided to the innovative charter schools that are opening across the District, which provide a valuable alternative for students who seek a different experience.

Finally, through the Opportunity Scholarship Program, students receive potentially life-changing scholarships to attend private schools that offer opportunities that are rarely seen by low-income students.

We often speak of the States as laboratories of democracy. But, in this instance, it is the District of Columbia that is providing an instructive example of the value of trying different approaches, of studying them, and then of replicating the solutions that work, not the solutions that benefit entrenched interests.

That is why I am so pleased to see that this legislation includes important reforms to the program to ensure it performs at the highest standards and is fully assessed for its effectiveness. It is my hope that these assess-

ment standards will be applied to many other programs at the Department of Education and across the Federal Government.

Parents have also expressed a higher satisfaction rate with their children's schools and have reported that they believe those schools are safer for their children. Both parents and the community support the Opportunity Scholarship Program, with 74 percent supporting a continuation of the program.

It is not hard to understand why that program has that level of support when you consider that 90 percent of students who are participating in the program graduate compared to only 64 percent of students in the schools they left behind.

Mr. Speaker, let me repeat that. Ninety percent of students who are participating in the program graduate compared to only 64 percent of students in the schools they left behind.

□ 1245

How could our colleagues possibly oppose this opportunity for students in the District of Columbia? And that 90 percent graduation rate is even better than the national rate of 82 percent.

It is important to recognize that this legislation has support from across the aisle at the local level. In March 2016, a majority of the D.C. Council and Mayor Muriel Bowser wrote in a letter that "these funds are critical to the gains that the District's public education system has seen in recent years."

I commend the SOAR Reauthorization Act to my colleagues for their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the colleagues who have requested time have not shown up. I am prepared to close if Ms. FOXX is.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is not the first time Congress and the public have debated a fiduciary rule conceived by the Department of Labor.

The Department first proposed a rule in 2010, but was later forced to withdraw it due to significant bipartisan opposition. A wide array of stakeholders, both those saving for retirement and those providing assistance to savers, raised legitimate concerns that the Department would be limiting available advice and raising costs.

Unfortunately, the Department chose to ignore the lessons of that debacle and embarked again in 2015 on a misguided effort to create a new fiduciary rule.

Mr. Speaker, it may be helpful to explain exactly why the Department is promulgating rules governing retirement advice whatsoever.

Under the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of



1974, also known as ERISA, Federal law establishes ground rules for defined contribution pension plans, which may be 401(k)s, IRAs, or other tax-preferred savings vehicles.

Anyone who exercises discretionary authority over those plans or provides investment advice for a fee to those plans is considered a fiduciary and triggers certain regulatory restrictions that govern their actions. Since 1975, the Department of Labor has used a five-part test to determine when a provider of investment advice is a fiduciary.

As I mentioned earlier, the Obama administration first proposed in 2010 and then in 2015 to expand significantly the definition of fiduciary, which would subject a significant number of new individuals and firms to fiduciary status and have a chilling effect on the willingness of them to provide advice whatsoever to those saving for retirement.

On April 6, the Department finalized its regulation, which will significantly impact the ability of Americans to receive advice on how to save for retirement and make it more difficult for businesses, in particular small businesses, to establish retirement plans.

At a time when Americans want to save significantly more for retirement, the Department of Labor wants to make it cost prohibitive to offer advice or services to low- and middle-income Americans by increasing compliance costs and the risk of litigation.

Many of the Department's compliance requirements will be counterproductive, as those saving for retirement will be forced to review and sign a number of government-mandated documents instead of focusing on identifying the best options for their retirement savings.

There are also issues related to specific savings vehicles for retirement, such as variable and fixed-indexed annuities, which must comply with the new requirements.

There are also potential class action lawsuits under state law that could prevent good actors in the industry from taking clients and impose an additional cost on savers.

Beyond its impact on individuals saving for retirement and those assisting them, the fiduciary rule will have a negative impact on the businesses that attempt to offer pension plans that benefit their employees.

The rule holds large and small businesses to different standards, with negative implications for those most in need of assistance, which are small businesses with less than \$50 million in assets in their retirement plan. As with so many other provisions of the fiduciary rule, that will raise costs and reduce the choices available to small businesses.

These concerns have been echoed by the National Federation of Independent

Businesses and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Even the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy submitted a comment letter stating that "The proposed rule would increase the costs and burdens associated with serving smaller plans . . . and could limit financial advisers' ability to offer savings and investment advice to clients."

In order to stop the Department of Labor's misguided efforts, Representatives ROE, BOUSTANY, and WAGNER introduced this Congressional Review Act resolution to disapprove of the fiduciary regulation.

The Congressional Review Act provides a special process for consideration of joint resolutions disapproving of a regulation. Should a resolution, such as the one we will consider today, be enacted into law, it will prevent the rule from taking effect or being re-issued.

Clearly, if the fiduciary rule comes into effect, millions of Americans and the businesses employing them will be provided with fewer investment opportunities and higher costs, limiting their return on investments and the amount they are one day able to retire with.

That is why I cosponsored H.J. Res. 88 to disapprove of this harmful rule and enable Americans to continue working with the adviser of their choice and save for retirement in a prudent and cost-effective way.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Hardworking Americans deserve solid advice about how to save for retirement, not conflicted guidance from financial counselors.

The Department of Labor's fiduciary rule is the product of thoughtful, long-term planning and research because the estimate is that \$17 billion a year is lost to this industry.

I urge my colleagues to support the rule by voting "no" on this rule we have before us.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a bill that would provide desperately needed funding to combat the Zika virus. We can't put off when the Zika virus is going to arrive. We make no appointments with it. It shows up, and the devastation it produces is well known.

We must not in the Congress of the United States turn our backs on this impending problem facing the United States. It is already here, and I heard just this morning that this summer they are expecting quite a lot of infection to spread. The administration requested this funding more than 2 months ago, and it is reckless to delay the response to this crisis any longer.

I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the

RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" to defeat the previous question and vote "no" on the rule.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to say a few additional things on the benefit of the SOAR Reauthorization Act.

When the Opportunity Scholarship Program, OSP, was first designed, D.C. public school students had the lowest test scores in the Nation. D.C. schools have improved since then, but D.C. public school students continue to test well below national averages. D.C. OSP students are seeing improved achievement against non-OSP students in reading and in graduation rates.

In addition, the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program does not take away money from the D.C. public and charter schools nor does it reallocate D.C. education money. In fact, H.R. 4901 directs additional Federal resources to the D.C. education system that would not otherwise be available if not for the OSP.

Finally, there are thousands of families on charter school waiting lists who aren't able to access the schools their children need. OSP allows income-eligible families to get into high-quality district or charter schools who would not otherwise have access to education alternatives.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to spend a few minutes here talking about precisely what has been going on in this Congress.

Well, 3 or 4 weeks ago the Rules Committee passed out to the House of Representatives three measures. One was to stop all class action lawsuits. One was to damage the Clean Water Act. The third one was that no Federal agency would any longer be allowed to do regulations. It would be done by a group of people set up to do that. I use that illustration a lot because it shows what we are doing here in the House.

Anybody who is familiar with sheet music—and that does go back a long time—when you are playing the piano, do you remember it used to said "vamp till ready" and you would continue playing until the singer would start to sing?

We have been waiting here for a very long time for the singer to start to sing. We have no budget. We don't exactly know where we are going here. The Zika virus is bearing down on us. We have crumbling infrastructure that

everybody is worried about. Kids are still drinking lead in Flint, Michigan.

But that is not the only place. In almost every city of the old cities in the Northeast, they still have brick water conduits and wood. Believe that. The city that I represent has some very, very old pipes as well.

So the schools in my district—and I am sure in all the rest of your districts—are finding out that there is lead in the water in their schools as well.

Well, we are going to mess around here with things that happen. And then, when Zika comes and we are not ready, I hope that we will—that we are sitting in this room with people who could do something about it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We are considering crucial legislation today impacting two important issues, ensuring Americans are able to save for retirement and enabling the education of our next generation.

As any parent knows, the education of our children is one of our highest priorities. For far too long, children in Washington, D.C., have not received the education they deserve, and have suffered from unacceptable achievement levels and graduation rates.

The SOAR Reauthorization Act, which this rule provides for consideration of, continues a successful three-sector approach to improving the lives and educational outcomes of low-income students in the District.

It provides \$60 million in funding for students, split equally among D.C.'s public schools, charter schools, and scholarships for students to attend private schools that would otherwise be out of reach.

Students receiving private school educations have demonstrated higher test scores and significantly higher graduation rates, showcasing the importance of continuing students' access to these institutions.

Students participating in the Opportunity Scholarship Program reauthorized in this legislation have graduated at a rate of 90 percent, besting both other schools in D.C. where only 64 percent of students graduate and the national graduation rate of 82 percent.

These programs are an important example of the need for innovation and experimentation in how to best reform our education system to benefit students, not entrenched interests.

It has been an honor for me personally to witness some of the students who benefited from the programs included in the SOAR Reauthorization Act. After seeing the hope for the future those students have in their eyes, I cannot fathom preventing other students from receiving their own second chances.

It has also been my pleasure over the past several decades to join my hus-

band in working with a number of financial advisers on how best to save for retirement and our other financial goals. Those advisers have always acted in the best interest of our family and provided useful advice that has enabled us to meet our goals.

Unfortunately, I believe that not everyone in Washington believes financial advisers are well-intentioned and skilled. It is my fear that, as private sector actors, not government employees, they are suspected by some of being motivated by greed and taking any opportunity available to take their clients' money for their own.

□ 1300

That is a disturbing viewpoint that has no place in reality. These advisers work with their friends and neighbors in their home communities. The larger companies are brands that have been well established for decades and are subject to significant regulation and public scrutiny from customers and the marketplace. If there were widespread fleecing of those saving for retirement, we would all rightly hear about it.

The reality is that the vast majority of financial advisers, large and small, have been and will continue to act in their clients' best interests. There are laws and regulations in place to ensure bad actors are identified and punished, and I support those enforcement efforts wholeheartedly.

What I and other Members cannot support is another effort by the Department of Labor to vilify an industry with real consequences for the ability of Americans to save affordably for retirement. We must strengthen our focus on stopping and punishing bad actors instead of increasing rules and regulations that hinder the countless good actors in this industry.

We have a retirement savings crisis in this Nation, Mr. Speaker, and it is vital that every American has access to high-quality advice and an array of financial products available at a low cost.

We can continue to trust Americans to make the right choice. The fiduciary rule takes that right away, and therefore, I am pleased to have an opportunity today to vote on H.J. Res. 88, disapproving the fiduciary rule.

Mr. Speaker, I believe both the underlying bill and resolution are necessary steps on issues of great import to our Nation, and I commend them and this rule, providing for their consideration, to all of my colleagues for their support.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 706 OFFERED BY  
Ms. SLAUGHTER

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 6. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole

House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5044) making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 to respond to Zika virus. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 7. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 5044.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT  
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend

the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of House Resolution 706, if ordered, and the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5019.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 182, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 173]

YEAS—231

Abraham	Byrne	Donovan
Aderholt	Calvert	Duffy
Allen	Carter (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Amash	Carter (TX)	Duncan (TN)
Amodeli	Chabot	Ellmers (NC)
Babin	Chaffetz	Emmer (MN)
Barletta	Clawson (FL)	Farenthold
Barr	Coffman	Fincher
Barton	Cole	Fleischmann
Benishke	Collins (GA)	Fleming
Bilirakis	Comstock	Flores
Bishop (MI)	Conaway	Forbes
Blackburn	Cook	Fortenberry
Blum	Costello (PA)	Fox
Bost	Cramer	Franks (AZ)
Boustany	Crawford	Frelinghuysen
Brady (TX)	Crenshaw	Garrett
Brat	Culberson	Gibbs
Bridenstine	Curbelo (FL)	Gibson
Brooks (AL)	Denham	Gohmert
Brooks (IN)	Dent	Goodlatte
Buchanan	DeSantis	Gosar
Buck	DesJarlais	Govdy
Bucshon	Diaz-Balart	Granger
Burgess	Dold	Graves (GA)

Graves (LA)	Massie	Roskam
Griffith	McCarthy	Ross
Grothman	McCaul	Rouzer
Guinta	McClintock	Royce
Guthrie	McHenry	Russell
Hardy	McKinley	Salmon
Harper	McMorris	Sanford
Harris	Rodgers	Scalise
Hartzler	McSally	Schweikert
Heck (NV)	Meadows	Scott, Austin
Hensarling	Meehan	Sensenbrenner
Herrera Beutler	Messer	Sessions
Hice, Jody B.	Mica	Shimkus
Hill	Miller (FL)	Shuster
Holding	Miller (MI)	Simpson
Hudson	Mooleenaar	Smith (MO)
Huelskamp	Mooney (WV)	Smith (NE)
Huizenga (MI)	Mullin	Smith (NJ)
Hultgren	Mulvaney	Smith (TX)
Hunter	Murphy (PA)	Stefanik
Hurd (TX)	Neugebauer	Stewart
Hurt (VA)	Newhouse	Stivers
Jenkins (KS)	Noem	Thompson (PA)
Jenkins (WV)	Nugent	Thornberry
Johnson (OH)	Nunes	Tiberi
Johnson, Sam	Olson	Tipton
Jolly	Palazzo	Trott
Jones	Palmer	Turner
Jordan	Paulsen	Upton
Joyce	Pearce	Valadao
Katko	Perry	Wagner
Kelly (MS)	Pittenger	Walberg
Kelly (PA)	Pitts	Walden
King (IA)	Poe (TX)	Walker
King (NY)	Poliquin	Walorski
Kinzinger (IL)	Pompeo	Posey
Kline	Price, Tom	Walters, Mimi
Knight	Ratcliffe	Weber (TX)
Labrador	Reed	Webster (FL)
LaHood	Reichert	Wenstrup
LaMalfa	Renacci	Westerman
Lamborn	Ribble	Williams
Lance	Rice (SC)	Wilson (SC)
Latta	Rigell	Wittman
LoBiondo	Roby	Womack
Long	Roe (TN)	Woodall
Loudermilk	Rogers (AL)	Yoder
Love	Rogers (KY)	Yoho
Lucas	Rohrabacher	Young (IA)
Luetkemeyer	Rokita	Young (IN)
Lummis	Rooney (FL)	Zeldin
Marchant	Ros-Lehtinen	Zinke
Marino		

NAYS—182

Adams	Cummings	Hoyer
Aguilar	Davis (CA)	Huffman
Ashford	Davis, Danny	Israel
Bass	DeFazio	Jackson Lee
Beatty	DeGette	Johnson (GA)
Becerra	Delaney	Johnson, E. B.
Bera	DeLauro	Kaptur
Beyer	DelBene	Keating
Bishop (GA)	DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)
Blumenauer	Deutch	Kennedy
Bonamici	Dingell	Kildee
Boyle, Brendan	Doggett	Kilmer
F.	Doyle, Michael	Kind
Brady (PA)	F.	Kirkpatrick
Brown (FL)	Duckworth	Kuster
Brownley (CA)	Edwards	Langevin
Bustos	Ellison	Larsen (WA)
Butterfield	Engel	Larson (CT)
Capps	Eshoo	Lawrence
Capuano	Esty	Lee
Cardenas	Farr	Levin
Carney	Fattah	Lewis
Carson (IN)	Foster	Lieu, Ted
Cartwright	Frankel (FL)	Lipinski
Castor (FL)	Fudge	Loeb
Castro (TX)	Gabbard	Loeb
Chu, Judy	Galleo	Lofgren
Cicilline	Garamendi	Lowenthal
Clark (MA)	Graham	Lowe
Clarke (NY)	Grayson	Lujan Grisham
Clay	Green, Al	(NM)
Cleaver	Green, Gene	Lujan, Ben Ray
Clyburn	Grijalva	(NM)
Cohen	Hahn	Lynch
Connolly	Hastings	Maloney,
Conyers	Heck (WA)	Carolyn
Cooper	Higgins	Maloney, Sean
Courtney	Himes	Matsui
Crowley	Hinojosa	McCollum
Cuellar	Honda	McDermott
		McGovern

McNerney	Quigley	Smith (WA)
Meeks	Rangel	Speier
Meng	Rice (NY)	Swalwell (CA)
Moore	Richmond	Takano
Moulton	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)
Murphy (FL)	Ruiz	Thompson (MS)
Nadler	Ruppersberger	Titus
Napolitano	Rush	Tonko
Neal	Ryan (OH)	Tsongas
Nolan	Sanchez, Linda	Vargas
Norcross	T.	Veasey
O'Rourke	Sanchez, Loretta	Vela
Pallone	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Pascrell	Schakowsky	Visclosky
Payne	Schiff	Walz
Pelosi	Schrader	Wasserman
Perlmutter	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Peters	Serrano	Waters, Maxine
Peterson	Sewell (AL)	Watson Coleman
Pingree	Sherman	Welch
Pocan	Sinema	Wilson (FL)
Polis	Sires	Yarmuth
Price (NC)	Slaughter	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—20

Bishop (UT)	Gutiérrez	Stutzman
Black	Hanna	Takai
Collins (NY)	Issa	Torres
Costa	Jeffries	Van Hollen
Davis, Rodney	MacArthur	Westmoreland
Fitzpatrick	Rothfus	Whitfield
Graves (MO)	Scott, David	

□ 1323

Messrs. DOGGETT, BISHOP of Georgia, and NORCROSS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. LUETKEMEYER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 173, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 234, nays 183, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 174]

YEAS—234

Abraham	Buck	Dent
Aderholt	Bucshon	DesSantis
Allen	Burgess	DesJarlais
Amash	Byrne	Diaz-Balart
Amodeli	Calvert	Dold
Babin	Carter (GA)	Donovan
Barletta	Carter (TX)	Duffy
Barr	Chabot	Duncan (SC)
Barton	Chaffetz	Duncan (TN)
Benishke	Clawson (FL)	Ellmers (NC)
Bilirakis	Coffman	Emmer (MN)
Blackburn	Bishop (MI)	Cole
Blum	Bishop (UT)	Collins (GA)
Bost	Black	Comstock
Boustany	Blackburn	Conaway
Brat	Blum	Cook
Bridenstine	Bost	Costello (PA)
Brooks (AL)	Boustany	Cramer
Brooks (IN)	Brady (TX)	Crawford
Buchanan	Crenshaw	Franks (AZ)
Bucshon	Culberson	Frelinghuysen
Burgess	Curbelo (FL)	Garrett
	Davis, Rodney	Gibbs
	Denham	Gibson

Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurt (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas

## NAYS—183

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa

Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Hahn  
Hastings

Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Royce  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita

Lynch  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Sanchez, Loretta  
T.  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema

Collins (NY)  
Fitzpatrick  
Graves (MO)  
Gutiérrez  
Hanna  
Issa

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1329

So the resolution was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## FAIR ACCESS TO INVESTMENT RESEARCH ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5019) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 6, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 175]

YEAS—411

Abraham  
Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Ashford  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Bass  
Beatty

Becerra  
Benishek  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Bost

Boustany  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon

Burgess  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Capps  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Castro (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clawson (FL)  
Clay  
Clever  
Clyburn  
Coffman  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cook  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Courtney  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummings  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
Davis, Rodney  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Dold  
Donovan  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farenthold  
Farr  
Fincher  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Fox  
Frankel (FL)  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garrett

Gibbs  
Gibson  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Graham  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hahn  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hastings  
Heck (NV)  
Heck (WA)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Higgins  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Holding  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kirkpatrick  
Kline  
Knight  
Kuster  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loebsack  
Lofgren  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lucas

Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lummis  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marino  
Masse  
Matsui  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Meng  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moore  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (FL)  
Murphy (PA)  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Nugent  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Pascarell  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Pocan  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Polis  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (NC)  
Price, Tom  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rouzer

Roybal-Allard	Smith (MO)	Wagner
Royce	Smith (NE)	Walberg
Ruiz	Smith (NJ)	Walden
Ruppersberger	Smith (TX)	Walorski
Rush	Smith (WA)	Walters, Mimi
Russell	Speier	Walz
Ryan (OH)	Stefanik	Wasserman
Salmon	Stewart	Schultz
Sánchez, Linda	Stivers	Waters, Maxine
T.	Swalwell (CA)	Watson Coleman
Sanchez, Loretta	Takano	Weber (TX)
Sanford	Thompson (CA)	Webster (FL)
Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Scalise	Thompson (PA)	Wenstrup
Schakowsky	Thornberry	Westerman
Schiff	Tiberi	Williams
Schrader	Tipton	Wilson (FL)
Schweikert	Titus	Wilson (SC)
Scott (VA)	Tonko	Wittman
Scott, Austin	Trott	Womack
Sensenbrenner	Tsongas	Woodall
Serrano	Turner	Yarmuth
Sessions	Upton	Yoder
Sewell (AL)	Valadao	Yoho
Sherman	Van Hollen	Young (AK)
Shimkus	Vargas	Young (IA)
Shuster	Veasey	Young (IN)
Simpson	Vela	Zeldin
Sinema	Velázquez	Zinke
Slaughter	Visclosky	

NAYS—6

Capuano	Huffman	Nadler
Fattah	Lynch	Sires

NOT VOTING—16

Collins (NY)	MacArthur	Torres
Graves (MO)	Olson	Walker
Gutierrez	Rothfus	Westmoreland
Hanna	Scott, David	Whitfield
Hunter	Stutzman	
Issa	Takai	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1337

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.” So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 175 on H.R. 5019, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

DISAPPROVING DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RULE RELATED TO DEFINITION OF THE TERM “FIDUCIARY”

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 706, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term “Fiduciary”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 706, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 88

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in*

*Congress assembled,* That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to “Definition of the Term ‘Fiduciary’; Conflict of Interest Rule—Retirement Investment Advice” (published at 81 Fed. Reg. 20946 (April 8, 2016)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 88.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 88. I was proud to introduce this resolution, along with Representatives BOUSTANY and WAGNER, to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable retirement advice.

Today, there are far too many men and women in this country who don’t have the retirement security that they need and deserve.

In 2015, the GAO found that 29 percent of Americans 55 years and older have no retirement savings and no traditional pension. In fact, today, nearly 40 million working families haven’t saved a dime for retirement.

This is a serious problem, and we need to make it easier for families, particularly low-income and middle-income families, to save for their retirement years. That means making sure that every American, regardless of income, is able to access the tools they need to plan for the future. It also means ensuring financial advisers act in their clients’ best interests.

Let me say that again. It also means ensuring financial advisers act in their clients’ best interests, a priority we all share.

Since the Department began its efforts more than 5 years ago, we made it clear that we believe retirement savers need greater protections. That is why we held numerous hearings, sent letters, and engaged in other oversight activities to advance a responsible solution to help those saving for retirement; and it is why our committee put forward a legislative alternative requiring high standards for retirement advice, while also ensuring access and affordability.

Rather than engaging with Members advancing a thoughtful alternative, however, the Department opposed our bipartisan proposal outright. Instead, the Department of Labor rushed a finalized, misguided rule that will hurt the very people they intended to help.

Does anyone think that a 1,000-page rule that I hold in my hand here will make it more likely for Americans to save for retirement?

In my left hand here, I hold a Webster’s dictionary, which defines every word in the English language, and it only has a few more pages than this 1,000-page rule that defines one word, Mr. Speaker, “fiduciary.” The last thing Washington should be doing is making it harder for working families to save and invest, but because they took their my-way-or-the-highway approach, we now have a rule that will do exactly that.

The fiduciary rule will make it harder for working families to save for retirement. It will restrict access to some of the most basic financial advice, and it will create new hurdles for small businesses who want to offer their employees retirement options.

These are consequences many Americans cannot afford, and they are consequences we will not accept. That is why this resolution is so important: to put a stop to this fundamentally flawed rule and protect the men and women working to retire with the financial security and peace of mind they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.J. Res. 88.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 88. This Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval would undo the Department of Labor’s final rule that simply ensures financial advisers act in the best interests of their clients with retirement funds.

Now, this is a Department of Labor rule that only applies to workers’ retirement funds. In times past, people would retire and receive a defined benefit. They would just retire and get their promised income. But now, we have what are called defined contribution plans, where the money is invested and, over the years, if someone, even a modest-income person, invests over his 40-year career, he could easily amass a fund of hundreds of thousands of dollars, even \$1 million if they start early and invest consistently.

So we are talking about people who may not have bought a single share of stock or a bond or mutual fund in their life, who walks into an investment adviser’s office with all of the savings that could amount to as much as \$1 million.

□ 1345

For far too long, certain financial advisers have been able to exploit loopholes in the decades-old regulation

that governs investment advice for retirement savers. Right now, financial advisers can easily steer retirement clients towards financial products that may yield the adviser a big commission but may not be in their clients' best interest. Of course, not every financial adviser does this, but some do.

This unscrupulous practice of providing what is called conflicted advice insidiously erodes workers' retirement nest eggs. According to the White House Council of Economic Advisers, retirement savers lose \$17 billion a year as a result of receiving conflicted advice about their retirement savings.

The Department of Labor recognizes the magnitude of this problem, and the department took action to protect workers' retirement savings. All told, they have been working on this issue for nearly 6 years. Over the past year alone, they conducted hundreds of meetings and provided the American public and industry representatives with nearly 6 months to weigh in on their proposal to fix the problem.

Secretary Perez and his colleagues listened to and repeatedly assured industry officials, Members of Congress, and other stakeholders that the final proposal would reflect the input that the department received and that the department would get the rule right. I believe the department did just that. The final rule addresses the legitimate concerns raised by Members of Congress, industry, and other stakeholders without compromising the main goal: ensuring that retirement clients receive investment advice that is in their best interest.

I am not alone in believing this. The broad and diverse coalition of stakeholders, including AARP, AFL-CIO, NAACP, National Council of La Raza, and many others have registered strong support for the rule.

But let's be clear: support for the final rule is not limited to those who represent and advocate for consumers and workers. Initial reactions to the final rule from Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, TIAA, Morgan Stanley, and others in the financial services sector have been positive and encouraging. Other companies appear to be reserving judgment on the rule until they better understand its full implications, and that is understandable.

But House Republicans have not reserved judgment. They have rushed to judgment in their opposition to the final rule. That is unfortunate because the final rule is a responsible solution to a real problem. The rule will help workers enjoy a dignified retirement, and this resolution would reject the rule.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution should be rejected for what it is: an effort to perpetuate an unacceptable status quo that allows some advisers to operate under a business model that puts their interests and their financial interests

ahead of their clients' interests. We should protect workers' hard-earned retirement funds and reject this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. CHARLES BOUSTANY, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, planning for retirement can be a difficult and often bewildering task. Consumers have to choose from a complex web of plans, including traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs, Qualified Plans, 403(b) accounts, or 529 plans.

Let's face it, the average American oftentimes has a difficult time understanding what these types of plans do, which is why it is necessary to have licensed, professional retirement advisers and financial advisers to help navigate the system.

Today, baby boomers are retiring at a rate of 10,000 a day. In 2014, an estimated \$325 billion was withdrawn from 401(k) plans in the United States for retirement purposes. This is a big deal. But the Obama administration is now proposing new rules that will make it so costly to use a retirement adviser, most low- and medium-income families will be locked out. This is just not right.

The heavy burdens imposed by the administration's fiduciary rule could result in fewer Americans saving for retirement using private-sector vehicles such as 401(k)s or IRAs. Don't take it just from me. Take it from a licensed financial adviser from my hometown of Lafayette, Louisiana, who said the following in comments to the Department of Labor: "This proposed regulation could force some investors into a fee-based account arrangement which could actually be to their detriment. Just as in most things in life, a one-size-fits-all solution would most certainly not be best for all."

Ultimately, this will stifle individual choice and empower government bureaucrats to make decisions on behalf of those saving for retirement instead of professional retirement advisers with the knowledge and qualifications to provide advice for their clients.

I ask this question: How can a regulation that could disqualify up to 7 million IRA holders from investment advice and potentially reduce the number of IRAs opened annually between 300,000 and 400,000 be a good idea?

That just defies common sense. I believe policymakers should do everything they can to help Americans prepare for retirement and not create red tape that makes saving for retirement more difficult. That is why I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman

from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS), the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 88, which would invalidate the Department of Labor's recently finalized fiduciary duty rule and threaten our seniors' retirement savings to the tune of \$17 billion per year.

The rule closes loopholes and gaps in our laws so that all financial advisers act in their clients' best interest when providing advice on retirement investments. This is an essential reform that will protect our seniors and ensure our retirees are financially secure.

Not only is this rule a commonsense update, but the Department of Labor worked diligently to address all legitimate stockholder concerns. Secretary Perez should be commended for his exemplary leadership on this issue.

The Department of Labor spent countless hours reviewing comments, meeting with industry and other interested stakeholders, and responding to lawmakers' concerns. That effort has resulted in a strong, workable rule that takes into account different business models across the industry.

For example, the final rule specifically allows firms to recommend proprietary products as long as they make certain disclosures and act in the clients' best interest. It streamlines those required disclosures to make it easier for firms to comply. It provides flexibility in the timing of a contract between a client and an adviser, and it establishes clear distinctions between what is considered education and advice.

Overall, the final rule is carefully crafted to protect investors while creating a workable process for financial advisers. What is more, the rule is supported by hundreds of stakeholders who represent the financial services industry, the public interest, civil rights, consumers, labor unions, and many investment advisers who are already providing advice to savers under a fiduciary standard, yet my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are so intent on dismantling this crucial rule.

This resolution is not their first attempt. H.R. 1090, which went through my committee and passed the House largely along party lines, would have imposed unacceptable delays on the Department of Labor's rulemaking effort. Different measures were considered in other committees that would have replaced the rule with a harmful alternative, and riders were attempted on appropriations bills to prevent the department from working on this rule altogether.

Now, Republicans may have the votes to pass the disapproval resolution on a simple majority, but the President will veto this bill, and Democrats will stand strong to ensure that they cannot override that veto. We will ensure that the

laws protecting our seniors' savings are as robust as possible in a fair market. We will ensure that hardworking Americans can trust their financial advisers and make sound investments, and we will ensure that everyone has a right to retire with dignity and security.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to put one thing to rest now. This \$17 billion you are going to hear over and over again, what they simply did with this formula was take the amount of money in retirement savings and assume that if you used any other adviser other than a fiduciary through the life of the investment, you would get 1 percent less earnings. That is how you get to \$17 billion. It has been refuted by numerous people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), who serves on the Committee on Financial Services.

Mrs. WAGNER. I thank the chairman for his leadership and for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution to stop the Department of Labor from attacking Americans' savings.

Mr. Speaker, investing in the future and saving for retirement can be some of the most personal and consequential decisions that families make. With three children to raise, my husband and I worked tirelessly to put food on the table each day while squeezing what we could into a retirement account.

For those families today living paycheck to paycheck, we must provide more opportunities to save for the future, not limit them. Mr. Speaker, this is about Main Street, not Wall Street.

The DOL's fiduciary rule is simply ObamaCare for retirement savings. It is clear that this top-down, Washington-knows-best power grab will only hurt those it claims it will protect: low- and middle-income families that are looking for sound investment advice in the midst of a savings crisis.

Today, sadly, 45 percent of working-age families do not have any retirement savings. Nearly half of our workforce is not saving for retirement. For those who are saving, the average retirement balance is only \$3,000 for working-age families and \$12,000 for families nearing retirement.

Every American should have access to sound investment advice, but the Department of Labor is going too far, increasing costs for advice and ultimately putting low- and middle-income, hardworking families at a severe disadvantage. Congress must act to stop this intrusion on Americans seeking to do the right thing regarding their savings responsibility.

Rarely in Washington do Democrats and Republicans find common ground on issues, but with the Department of Labor forcing more than 1,000 pages of

investment regulations on American families, we have joined together with bipartisan concern.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is simple: either you stand with low- and middle-income families saving for the future or you stand with yet another Big Government takeover by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution that we will vote on today will stop this rule and give Americans the freedom—the freedom—to choose how they plan for and invest in their future.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to pass this resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding. The gentleman has worked so hard on this with so many others.

Mr. Speaker, this fiduciary rule has had a long, dedicated and deliberative journey. The administration first issued proposed regulations on this issue in 2010. They received many comments from consumer and industry groups, and they decided to redraft the proposal. That new proposal, issued last year, prompted more than 3,000 comment letters. The administration and the Department of Labor actively took these comments and the numerous consultations on all sides of this issue into account when they prepared the final draft of the rule. It is the way government should act.

What the Department of Labor rule does is strengthen the trust between a financial adviser and their client. It says that a fiduciary or financial adviser must act in their clients' best interest. The Republicans oppose this rule guided by their ideological blinders.

□ 1400

This rule is important because when the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, ERISA, was first passed in 1974, 401(k) plans did not yet exist and IRAs had just been created. Today, more Americans have 401(k) plans than pension plans and must manage their own investments.

Republicans today continue their claim that this rule will make it more difficult for small businesses and low- and middle-income Americans to get financial advice because it will cost them more. The fact is that conflicted investment advice costs American families billions of dollars every year.

As the White House said: "some firms have incentivized advisers to steer clients into products that have higher fees and lower returns—costing American families an estimated \$17 billion a year." It continues: "If the President were presented with H.J. Res. 88, he would veto the bill."

This rule-making process isn't top down; this is from the bottom up. Listening to people, listening to everybody—to everybody—and coming out with a rule that is responsive to the needs of the American people, that is really what this is about. Instead, we have Republicans coming forth again, essentially, as I said, with their blinders on, opposing this rule, when they know that if it ever passed the Senate—and I don't think it will—it would be vetoed by the President.

I strongly urge that my colleagues vote against this resolution.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, here is what we do know. We do know that the negative impact of this rule on consumers is not hypothetical. The reason we know it is because the United Kingdom has already lived through an effectually identical rule. The result in the UK was an advice gap that locked out nearly half a million middle- and low-income savers.

Just last week, the head of the SEC's Division of Economic and Risk Analysis admitted that the Labor Department knew of the disastrous impact of what he termed the experiment in the UK that locked out these middle-income and low-income savers from advice, yet it moved forward to put us on that same path.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a country that ranks 19th in the world for retirement security. Half of Americans cannot find \$400 in savings if hit with an emergency. We should be doing more to encourage Americans to save. This rule, obviously, does exactly the opposite.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), a leader on the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, too many families and individuals across Oregon and across our country are struggling to get ahead. I know the sacrifice that is involved in each and every dollar they set aside to contribute to their retirement. Building a stable base for retirement security should be within reach for everyone. That is why I will vote "no" on H.J. Res. 88.

Consumer protection is one of the reasons I am standing on the House floor today. Throughout my career, I have advocated for families who, despite their best efforts, have found their financial and retirement security at risk. At Legal Aid, I helped families who were on the brink of losing everything; as a consumer protection attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, I took on mortgage brokers who had

defrauded people out of their homes; and in private practice, I represented people who lost their life savings when they relied on misrepresentations by people selling securities and franchises.

I pay close attention to the fiduciary rule because I know that consumer protection laws can keep Americans financially secure and level the playing field. A thriving marketplace without deceptive practices can restore consumer confidence and grow the economy.

For too long, people saving for retirement have had few tools to know if their financial adviser was directing them to a product that was in their best interest and most appropriate for their specific needs and goals. Seeking to fix this uncertainty and put the interest of future retirees first, the Department of Labor took great care when crafting a final rule to remove conflicts of interest and restore confidence to savers. They heard from people around the country, including consumer protection groups and leaders in the investment industry. They heard from people who had lost their life savings because of financial advice that was not in their best interest.

Saving for retirement is crucial for our country's economic security, but too many Americans are uncertain about how they can stretch their hard-earned dollars to provide for themselves and their families. Products and choices are complex. The Department of Labor sought to protect these Americans from conflicted advice so they can be prepared for retirement while allowing financial advisers to continue to play an important role in this process. Stakeholders from all sides of the issue were involved in the rulemaking. The Department took time, listened to them, and made multiple changes to make sure this rule is workable.

I applaud the Department of Labor for their thoughtful and thorough rule-making process. I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided legislation that seeks to block this important fiduciary rule.

I thank Ranking Member SCOTT for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, a title does not make you honest. Bernie Madoff was a fiduciary, I might add.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the distinguished chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

For several years now—about 7—we have heard from Americans, we have heard from employers, and we have heard from families that the American economy, the American people, and employers are under an assault from a blizzard of regulations. In the last year, as we near the closing months of

this administration, the blizzard is almost a whiteout. You can hardly see, they are coming so fast.

This is one such regulation, and it is everywhere in industries across America. It is choking us. We have got to stop it. Please, please, let's start here today and support this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. DELANEY), a Member who, before coming to Congress, had a long career in the financial services industry.

Mr. DELANEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we have a looming retirement crisis in this country. People are living longer, the cost of retirement is greater than it has ever been, Americans haven't been able to save for retirement because wages have not gone up, and across the last several decades we have shifted the risk of retirement from institutions to individuals.

In that context, the notion that we would allow, perhaps, upwards of 20 percent of hardworking Americans' savings to be eroded because of conflicted investment advice is preposterous. It is for that reason I am a strong supporter of the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule and stand here in opposition, against any efforts to undermine it.

The notion that average Americans, low-income Americans, and middle class Americans won't receive service in the context of this new rule is also invalid. One of the greatest expenses financial institutions have is customer acquisition, in other words, the amount of money they invest to acquire customers. The idea that they would somehow get rid of millions and millions of customers that they have already invested huge amounts of money in acquiring I find to be not only a bad business decision, but not logical in the context of the private market, the way we understand it.

Also, to the extent that they would do that, I believe right now, as we speak, there are entrepreneurs and investors sitting in conference rooms all over this country with whiteboards figuring out new business models that will deliver high-quality, fiduciary-level, nonconflicted financial advice to average Americans in an efficient manner that meet the standards of this fiduciary rule.

For all these reasons, I support the rule. I stand in opposition against any efforts to undermine it. This is an important step in dealing with our looming retirement crisis, and it is the proper role of government to level the playing field and then to allow the private market to solve the problem.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I will point out what has happened in England. We have a playbook by which to look at, where a very similar rule

was implemented in England, about how many investors lost advice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished whip.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank my friend from Tennessee for bringing this legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do here is help people and encourage more savings. 401(k) plans were so good at making it easy for people to save money for their retirement. Frankly, we should be doing as much as we can here in Washington to make it even easier to encourage more people to save for their retirement.

But here comes the Department of Labor and, literally, with this massive document to define one word—what the term “fiduciary” means—is going to make it dramatically harder for Americans to save money for their retirement. Anybody who thinks that this massive document, defining the ability for people to save money, is going to make it easier or make it less costly to save money doesn't understand just how many teams of lawyers will be employed to go and try to figure out what this means.

What it will mean, Mr. Speaker, is that the cost for hardworking taxpayers to go and put more money in their retirement is going to go up dramatically. It also means—and you want to talk about a perverse incentive—the rule, this massive rule, actually imposes even more burdens on small businesses than it does on large businesses. So the very engine of our economy—small businesses—will literally have to face the question of whether or not they can even afford to provide 401(k) services to their employees. Employees love the ability to have a 401(k).

Employees also move around a lot from job to job and enjoy the ability to roll over their 401(k), and this massive rule actually makes it nearly impossible for people to roll over their 401(k), dramatically increasing the cost. Why would you want to do that?

What we are trying to do here is say: Go back to the drawing board. This rule makes no sense. This rule actually hurts the ability for hardworking taxpayers to save money for their retirement, the exact opposite thing the Federal Government should be doing.

I applaud my friend from Tennessee for bringing this forward, and I urge adoption.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Department of Labor.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution, which would block the implementation of the Department of Labor's conflict of interest rule.



I strongly support what the Department of Labor is trying to do with this rule: simply to ensure that financial advisers act in the best interest of the consumer.

Unfortunately, the rule is necessary because some financial advisers are recommending financial instruments that offer rewards or commissions to the adviser for steering the client to those particular instruments instead of recommending retirement options that are in the best interest of the customer. This is about safeguarding worker retirement savings.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers estimates that conflicts of interest cost about \$17 billion per year in lost savings for Americans who are trying to save for retirement. This is unacceptable.

When hardworking Americans seek advice on how to invest for retirement, they should not have to worry about being led to make decisions that are not in their best interest. By establishing this fiduciary duty that would require advisers to act in the interest of the customer, we could end this predatory practice.

The rule requires brokers to disclose their fees and financial incentives when offering a financial product, introducing much-needed transparency to the process. Right now, advisers are under no obligation to disclose this information.

When it comes to retirement, every penny counts. It is unconscionable that we would allow self-interested advisers to rob hardworking American families of their hard-earned retirement savings.

The bottom line is that we must pursue policy solutions that benefit working families and that help them to adequately prepare for retirement. Please oppose the resolution.

□ 1415

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, there we go again. No matter how many times you say "\$17 billion," it doesn't mean it is a fact.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), my good friend. He has two very special guests today, his children, who are on the House floor with him.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I have Hudson and Ava with me. That is right. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 88, and I commend my colleague from Tennessee for bringing this important measure forward.

In life and in public service, we are not just responsible for our intentions, we are responsible for the results, the true consequences of our actions. Unfortunately, the Obama administration often seems to ignore this simple life wisdom.

My colleagues across the aisle have spent a lot of time today talking about

their good intentions with this 1,000-page rule.

Do you know what?

It may be true that the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule was intended to protect consumers. The problem is the rule will, in fact, have the opposite result.

We need more families saving for retirement, and those families need sound financial advice. Instead of increasing access to financial advice for those who need it the most, this rule will cut off access to affordable retirement counsel for many lower- and middle-income Americans. That is the true result of the so-called fiduciary rule.

Dr. ROE's legislation, H.J. Res. 88, would stop this rule from taking effect, stand up to the Federal bureaucrats, and protect American families who are struggling to save for their futures.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), the chair of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, just as we expect our doctors to act in our best interests, so should the financial advisers, whom we pay to help us make those very important investment decisions for retirement. There is nothing strange about this rule. It is just trying to bring us up to speed with the times. This rule says that the saver's best interest comes first before the financial adviser's commission can be taken into consideration or before that financial adviser can make decisions based on his or her association to a particular type of investment.

Thirty years ago maybe this was not such a big issue because, 30 years ago, folks, like my parents, used to get their retirement savings through their pensions. You paid into it through your work, and you knew how much you would get out. It was fixed. It is what we called defined benefit plans. Your benefit was defined because you kept contributing while you worked. Those are pretty much gone.

Today it is all about 401(k)s and IRAs, and all of a sudden, you, the worker, have to make decisions on your investment because you do not know how much it will return once you retire. It is all based on what the market does; so now you have to make sure that your money that is in this 401(k) goes to the right investment vehicles.

The best thing to do is to go to someone who can give you advice. Too often, some of these advisers are advising you not based on what is in your best interest, but on where they can get extra commissions or if they have associations with particular investments.

This rule simply says to make your decision in the best interest of the

saver, not in your best interest as the financial adviser. That is all it says. It is a big rule.

Why?

Because the financial services industry said: Wait a minute. You just can't say that. You have to say it in ways that don't affect the way we have a relationship with that saver.

So all of those accommodations were made to try to deal with it so we would always have investment advisers who would want to deal with American savers.

Remember, the problem here is that a lot of Americans don't have a lot to save, and a lot of investment advisers say: You are not worth my time.

What we don't want to do is restrict those investment advisers from talking to the average American who doesn't have all that much to save for retirement; but, by God, we don't want to say to that investment adviser to go ahead and take advantage of that saver.

This is a best interest rule for the saver. We should vote against this rule which rejects the Department of Labor's rule.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee has 15½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I thank Chairman PHIL ROE for yielding, and I appreciate his leadership on this issue for American families.

Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of the resolution to disapprove of the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule. This 1,000-page rule is yet another one of the President's burdensome, expensive regulations. Instead of helping American families by expanding access to financial advice, the Department of Labor has overly restricted the definition of a fiduciary and has created new obstacles for small business owners.

In just reading the rule of 1,000 pages, much less picking it up, it is going to cost consumers. This administration's misguided fiduciary rule will make it harder for small businesses to assist their employees in preparing for retirement; it will increase costs; and it will limit choices for those who need the advice most: American families.

In the past months, I have met with business leaders and financial advisers of the highest integrity across the Second Congressional District who share my concerns about the negative impacts of this unworkable regulation, which limits freedom.

Again, I appreciate Chairman PHIL ROE's leadership in sponsoring the resolution, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), who has worked hard on this issue.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this resolution.

The Department of Labor's fiduciary rule is President Obama's top remaining domestic priority, and I think we owe the American consumer, the American people, and our seniors our support.

This rule advances a very simple principle: if you are giving investment advice to someone and if you are being paid for this advice, then you must put the interest of the consumer first. You must think about the consumer before you think about yourself or about making a fee or making your firm a fee or about helping someone else besides the consumer.

It merely says to think about the consumer and protect his interests. This is not just common sense—it is the fair, honest thing. We shouldn't have to legislate this. We are legislating this because there are abuses in this area. We are trying to stop these abuses and give good investment advice to good American citizens.

Let's not forget that most investors think it is already the law. They think that their advisers are giving them their best advice. This merely says that you have to think about the seniors and the American people. This should be like having a glass of water.

On this, there should not be a vote. The fact that we are coming to the floor to try to roll back a rule that helps Americans have fair and just savings is absolutely outrageous. If you have a problem, go to the Department of Labor. I have been there six times and I have raised concerns. They have incorporated every single change in the rule. They have given advanced time. They have bent over backwards to everyone who has raised an issue in this Congress and to every member of industry. That is why it is so long.

This protects the interests, the finances, of the American people. It puts money—saves money—in their pockets instead of forcing them to spend it on fees that are unnecessary and on products they don't need. A vote for this is a vote against the American family. Please vote against it. I believe that anyone who votes against this does not have the interests of America in his heart.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just to clear this up a little bit—and we all agree, everybody on both sides of the aisle, and Mr. SCOTT and I have agreed on this repetitively—if only best interests were the case, why isn't it just one sentence on one page and not 1,000 pages?

Number two, this is about small investors.

Mr. Speaker, a higher-income investor, like myself, this bill doesn't affect one bit—it will not affect me at all, and it affects nobody on Wall Street because most of us pay a percent of our assets in a fee. That is what we do and that is exactly what this joint resolution is doing. We are worried about small- and low-income investors. We have seen exactly this in England, and it is going to be repeated here once again.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my good friend and fellow member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.J. Res. 88, a resolution disapproving of the Department of Labor's final rule that changes the definition of fiduciary.

This new definition hits low- and middle-income savers the hardest and would leave many unable to save for retirement at all. Additionally, it would make it significantly more difficult for small businesses to seek the investment advice they need to provide for their employees in order for them to plan and save for retirement.

In having owned and operated community pharmacies for nearly 30 years, I take pride in having provided my employees with the tools they have needed to achieve financial independence, and retirement investment plans are one of the most important tools in this effort. Like many small business owners, I consider my employees to be part of my family. That is why H.J. Res. 88 is so important.

The new rule is a classic case of the Federal Government's stepping in the way of the Main Street success story with a "Washington bureaucrats know best" mentality, and it must be stopped. Americans have the right to choose how they save and what to save for, and this final rule from the DOL will only increase burdens on Americans and small businesses, limit opportunities, and ultimately hurt their chances to plan for their futures.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), a strong consumer advocate.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding to me and for his commitment to improving the lives of working Americans and retirees.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very dangerous bill as 86 percent of Americans believe that we are facing a retirement crisis in this country and as 75 percent are concerned about their own abilities to have secure retirements. More Americans fear outliving their money more than they fear death, and 8 in 10 want

us to help them have guaranteed streams of income in retirement.

That is why I am just amazed that my Republican colleagues are pushing this resolution of disapproval on a carefully crafted, thoughtfully designed rule to improve retirement security, especially for people who need the help.

We have moved to an era when most workers, if they are offered any pensions at all, are given defined contribution options, like self-directed IRAs and 401(k)s. This means that their retirement security relies on the individual decisions they make, and many turn to financial advisers for guidance. They believe that when they pay for advice, that the advice that will be given will be in their best interests.

Why shouldn't they believe that?

The rule that my Republican colleagues want to overturn would ensure their best interests.

What happens when retirement investment advice isn't in the client's best interest?

Hard-earned retirement dollars are lost. It is estimated that Americans lose \$17 billion a year because of conflicted advice, and individuals could lose nearly 25 percent of their assets over a 35-year period. Working women and men in this country and retirees are struggling, and the "best interest" standard is one step to help them.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand up for retirement security and reject this dangerous resolution. The "best interest" standard shouldn't just apply to financial advisers, it should apply to us here in Congress. Let's vote to protect the best interests of our constituents.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), my good friend and fellow member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 88, legislation that would disapprove of the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule.

This new DOL fiduciary rule definition will impose costly new mandates and burdensome regulations on retirement advisers. This will negatively affect and disproportionately hurt low- and middle-income families who seek retirement advice but who do not have enough in savings to afford an ongoing fee-for-service approach.

□ 1430

In other words, it is just another Washington one-size-fits-all solution that hurts those who may need financial advice the most.

Five years ago the Obama administration introduced a similar rule that was met with much opposition. Well, not much has changed in those 5 years. This rule will do more harm than good

to the very people it is claiming to protect.

The majority of my time in Washington is spent fighting executive and agency overreach, and this rule is just another example of the failed Obama administration's attempt at Federal Government monopolization of retirement advice.

Everyone deserves accessible advice when planning and saving for retirement. The people in my district are sick and tired of these unelected bureaucrats in these departments and agencies imposing these rules.

I am proud to cosponsor H.J. Res. 88, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), a hard-working advocate for workers.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his hard work.

We know that, when people leave their jobs, they may get a call from an adviser offering to help the worker roll over their 401(k) or 403(b) into an IRA.

What the worker does not know is that the adviser oftentimes is really a salesperson. That salesperson has no responsibility to put the worker's best interest first. The law did not require a best-interest standard.

So some advisers steer people to high-cost products with hidden fees and hidden commissions. This practice by some, but not all, financial advisers strips wealth from families trying to save for retirement.

For 15 years consumer and investor advocates have fought to protect savers from these conflicts of interest. Finally, the Obama administration and Democrats worked with industry for a workable, best-interest standard.

Today's vote is clear: Do you support rules that protect savers' ability to build wealth? Do you want to protect investors from conflicts of interest?

I do. That is why I oppose today's effort by Republicans to put the profits of the financial advisers ahead of future retirees. Best interest of the saver and the worker, not the best interest of the industry, is how you should vote today. Vote "no."

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the average Social Security recipient in this country gets \$1,300. We have 29 percent of the people, millions of people over the age of 55, with no savings.

I don't believe for 1 minute anybody in this Chamber actually believes a 1,000-page bill is going to make that easier to do and less expensive to do. I have never seen that in the history of the world.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in strong support of H.J. Res. 88, disapproving the harmful rule submitted by the Department of Labor.

It is 1,000 pages to define one word. No wonder the American people are angry and frustrated with Washington, D.C. They should be. I think people are a little bit smarter, and understand the term "fiduciary."

This rule threatens small businesses and individual savers by replacing current regulations dealing with investment advice.

But we want to make sure, of course, that consumers are being protected and given the best advice possible when it comes to their financial security, but the DOL rule is not the way to do it.

I am concerned that the Department proposal would be particularly harmful to low- and middle-income working American families looking for options to save, to invest, and to plan for their future.

Compliance with this rule would limit educational opportunities for individual retirement accounts and retirement savings plans, since distribution of materials about these services would be considered providing recommendations. That just doesn't make sense to me.

The proposal would actually make it much more difficult for people in my district and people across the country to save for their future.

The cost of compliance is significant. I urge my colleagues to vote for this joint resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we possibly have two more speakers.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee advise me how many more speakers he has remaining.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, we have six remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting listening to this debate. My friends across the aisle are telling me that this is going to help Americans.

Well, being creative, I can think of a few Americans that this will help: the loggers in north Wisconsin who are cutting wood and the papermakers in Wisconsin. It will help them for all the copies of this 1,000-page bill. Also, it will help the trial bar. If you look at a 1,000-page rule, how does anybody comply with that?

The Department of Labor doesn't understand this rule. No one across the aisle understands this rule. So when a small-town investment adviser breaks this 1,000-page rule, in comes the trial bar and sues. It is a giveaway to the trial bar.

Listen, we have had this conversation all afternoon. This is going to hurt middle-income, low-income individuals, low-income savers.

Listen, if you are a millionaire or a billionaire, don't worry. You are going

to be fine. You are still going to get that personalized financial advice.

But if you are someone in my district, guess what they are going to say. Your financial adviser will say: I am sorry, sir. I can't service you anymore. I can't give you advice.

So what are my friends across the aisle going to ask my constituents to do? They will be asked to sign up online for a robo-adviser where they will answer 8 to 10 questions and the computer will spit out advice for them. They get computer advice, not personal advice.

So when people make erratic decisions, bad decisions, when markets move, you get your computer advising you. Instead of calling a person, an adviser who says, "Listen, you are not going to retire for 10, 15, or 25 years, don't sell right now. Now is not the time to sell. Hold on," you don't get that advice because you have a computer.

I think we have to look at the real intent of this law. Less people are going to save, and more people are going to save even less.

So, at the end of the day, you are going to see Americans enter into their retirement years without having a little nest egg for their retirement, which means more Americans are going to be more reliant and more dependent on the government, which is what this has all been about: more government reliance.

Let's make sure we empower our citizens, our people, to get financial advice and be treated fairly and honorably by the men and women who serve our communities and our constituents.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this joint resolution. While this rule may be well intended, its effects will lead to higher fees, lack of diversity and choice, limiting access to professional retirement planning and guidance for those who need it the most, low balance, smaller investors trying to save every month for their retirement.

I have long believed that the Securities and Exchange Commission is the governing agency most expert and should have been taking the lead on this project of the fiduciary rule. The administration should have insisted on it.

Instead, they have been off track for 5 years. We are left with a 1,000-page rule that creates a confusing, bifurcated set of standards that will confuse investment advisers and their clients trying to save for retirement. Americans need more affordable retirement choices, not less.

I thank the gentleman from Tennessee and Mrs. WAGNER for their work on this effort.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a fellow classmate of mine.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. ROE for his significant effort in this regard.

I oppose the Department of Labor's recently finalized fiduciary rule. The new regulations will generate nearly 57,000 paperwork hours per year and cost Americans billions of dollars in duplicative fees.

It will hurt hardworking, middle-class American families as a similar rule hurt hardworking, middle-class British families. We have proof of this based upon what has happened in England.

Bipartisan legislation already advancing in the House protects access to affordable retirement advice, and that is the appropriate way to implement changes in the law.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 88 and oppose this most recent effort by the executive branch to bypass Congress and the American people and enact controversial policy by fiat.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule serves no purpose other than to make it more challenging for hardworking Americans to plan for retirement. This ill-advised rule will limit choice and access for those who seek financial advice to prepare for their future.

It will be especially damaging to middle-class families who will lose access to affordable retirement advice, and it will discourage small businesses from helping their employees save for retirement.

Saving for the future is difficult enough, and now this out-of-touch administration is stepping in to make it even more challenging. We can and we must get Washington out of the way.

Americans cannot afford to have the Federal Government interfering in their retirement planning. Under the Congressional Review Act, we can prevent implementation of this harmful rule. Congress should do everything it can to empower Americans to secure their future.

I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 88 to stop this misguided government intervention and allow the American people to achieve their retirement dreams.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy. It notes that "The outdated regulations in place be-

fore this rulemaking did not ensure that financial advisers act in their clients' best interest when giving retirement investment advice. Instead, some firms have incentivized advisers to steer clients into products that have higher fees and lower returns . . ."

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY  
H.J. RES. 88—DISAPPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RULE ON FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL ADVISERS—REP. ROE, R-TN, AND 30 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly opposes H.J. Res. 88 because the bill would overturn an important Department of Labor final rule critical to protecting Americans' hard-earned savings and preserving their retirement security.

The outdated regulations in place before this rulemaking did not ensure that financial advisers act in their clients' best interest when giving retirement investment advice. Instead, some firms have incentivized advisers to steer clients into products that have higher fees and lower returns—costing American families an estimated \$17 billion a year.

The Department's final rule will ensure that American workers and retirees receive retirement advice in their best interest, better enabling them to protect and grow their savings. The final rule reflects extensive feedback from industry, advocates, and Members of Congress, and has been streamlined to reduce the compliance burden and ensure continued access to advice, while maintaining an enforceable best-interest standard that protects consumers. It is essential that these critical protections go into effect.

If the President were presented with H.J. Res. 88, he would veto the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we have two additional speakers, but they are not here yet.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the H.J. Res. 88.

The Department of Labor's fiduciary rule would significantly affect constituents in my district. State Farm insurance in Bloomington, Illinois, is headquartered in my district.

State Farm and its agents all across this country offer services and products to help low- and moderate-income investors make the best decisions about their finances.

However, this rule by the Obama administration targets those service providers and its agents. It would raise compliance costs, limit the advice that companies can provide to their own employees, and penalizes small businesses that want to provide their employees with a 401(k) plan.

The bottom line is that this rule would drastically narrow the access that hardworking Americans have to retirement advice, hurting middle and working class families.

More bureaucratic burdens from the Obama administration in the form of a 1,000-page regulation is not a recipe for economic growth in this country. Stop choking the U.S. economy. Support this resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 88.

I have been here now for 5 years, and it always seems to be the same theme: You poor, poor, stupid people. Only the government can help you decide how you should get ready for your retirement. I don't think there are any more 10 chilling words than: "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help you."

We are looking at the dismantling of people who help everyday people decide on retirement decisions. It is a very difficult thing to navigate, but, yet, we think we can do it better here because we do such a fantastic job.

My gosh, we are only \$20 trillion in the red. Why wouldn't we advise hardworking American taxpayers how they should prepare for their retirement? We have already ruined their retirement for them.

It gets to the point of being a little bit stupefying to stand here in the people's House and think that somehow the administration and the Department of Labor came up with an 1,100-page definition of what the fiduciary responsibility should be. Stunning. Stunning.

The real fiduciary responsibility remains with the House. It is our responsibility to protect our hardworking American taxpayers. It is our responsibility to make sure that hardworking American taxpayers who advise people on their retirement should be allowed to exist. This is going to put them out of business. Why? Because we know so much better than they do.

This is misguided. This is mis-thought. This is about a bigger government, a more intrusive government, a government that taxes you more and serves you less. It is that simple.

□ 1445

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I include in the RECORD a letter in opposition to the resolution, in support of the rule, from a long list of consumer organizations, as well as five pages of quotes from industry officials in support of the rule.

SAVE OUR RETIREMENT,

April 26, 2016.

Re Oppose the Resolution to block DOL's final conflict of interest rule.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As organizations that support the Department of Labor's (DoL) rule to update and strengthen protections for retirement savers, we are writing to urge you to oppose H.J. Res. 88, the Resolution of Disapproval that would block its implementation. This rule is a tremendous accomplishment in the fight to improve our nation's retirement income security and should be supported.

The rule will at long last require all financial professionals who provide retirement investment advice to put their clients' best interests ahead of their own financial interests. By taking this essential step, the rule will help all Americans—many of whom are responsible for making their own decisions about how best to invest their retirement savings—keep more of their hard-earned savings so they can enjoy a more financially secure and independent retirement.

In promulgating this rule, the DoL engaged in an open and inclusive process, and the final rule is better as a result. Specifically, the DoL responded to congressional and industry feedback by making significant revisions designed to facilitate implementation and compliance, while minimizing the harmful impact of conflicts of interest on the quality of retirement investment advice.

Small account holders and moderate-income retirement savers stand to benefit most from this rule. The academic literature makes clear that it is the less wealthy, frequently financially unsophisticated retirement savers who are most at risk when it comes to investment recommendations that are not in their best interests. Often, those recommendations promote investment products with high costs, substandard features, elevated risks or poor returns. While the financial adviser may make a substantial profit off these recommendations, the retirement saver pays a heavy price for investment advice that is not in his or her best interest, amounting to tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost retirement income.

Strengthening the protections for hardworking Americans who try to save for a secure and independent retirement is a key priority for our organizations, and to its credit, the DoL has worked diligently to make important and needed changes to an outdated rule. We urge all Members of Congress to join us in supporting this common sense and long overdue initiative and to reject this effort to block its implementation. Your hardworking constituents deserve no less.

Sincerely,

AARP, AFL-CIO, Alliance for Retired Americans, American Association for Justice, American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Federation of Government Employees, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Americans for Financial Reform, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Better Markets, B'nai B'rith International, Center for Economic Justice, Center for Responsible Lending, Committee for the Fiduciary Standard;

Consumer Action, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Demos, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), Justice in Aging, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Main Street Alliance, Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, National Consumers League;

National Council of La Raza, National Women's Law Center, OWL—The Voice of Women 40+, NAACP, National Education Association, Pension Rights Center, Public Citizen, Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association, Rebalance IRA, SAFER UMass Amherst (SAFER: A Committee of Economists

and other Experts for Stable, Accountable, Fair and Efficient Financial Reform), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Social Security Works, United Food and Commercial Workers, United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW), U.S. PIRG, Woodstock Institute, Young Invincibles.

FINRA: The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the self-regulatory agency overseeing brokerage firms, was one of the most vigorous critics of the Labor Department's proposed fiduciary rule. The group "filed one of the most pointed comment letters last summer about the proposed rule, which would require advisers to 401(k) and individual retirement accounts to act in the best interests of their clients," Investment News' Mark Schoeff Jr. reports. But the final rule gave big concessions to brokers, leading Finra's leader to effectively bless the new rule Friday. The organization's chair and chief executive Richard G. Ketchum told an audience at the Brookings Institution that the final rule is a "big improvement." (Politico)

John Thiel, Head of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management: "We are pleased that Secretary Perez and the Department of Labor staff have worked to address many of the practical concerns raised during the comment period. Most important, we support a consistent, higher standard for all professionals who advise the American people on their investments. As we study the details of the final rule, we hope to continue what has been a constructive dialogue with the Department about how to implement a best interest standard effectively and efficiently for the benefit of our clients, advisors and shareholders." (WSJ)

TIAA: "Putting the customer first is a core TIAA value, and we believe adhering to a best interest standard under the Department's new regulation is an important way to help more people build financial well-being. IRAs are a key part of creating retirement security, so we agree with the requirement that distribution advice be subject to the same fiduciary standard as all other investment advice. This will ensure that roll-over discussions, including whether to roll over from an employer-sponsored plan to an IRA, are always in employees' and retirees' best interest. Based on our preliminary analysis, it appears the Department has gone a long way toward making the best interest standard the industry standard. TIAA supports this direction, and we look forward to reviewing the full rule." (Statement)

LPL Financial Holdings Inc., which provides brokerage services to more than 14,000 independent advisers, said it was pleased with the Labor Department's changes to the fiduciary rule. "In particular, we are encouraged by the increased time frame for implementation, the ability to easily enter into the best interest contract with our existing clients, and the freedom to recommend any assets that are appropriate to help investors save for retirement." (WSJ)

Ray Ferrara, Chairman and CEO, ProVise Management Group: "It's quite workable," says Ferrara, whose practice serves many small businesses and mid-level investors in the retirement space. "Under the best interest contract exemption, firms and advisors can continue to receive commissions for the sales of financial products and for the advice and services they provide—they just have to make sure that the commissions are reasonable and that their advice is not influenced by the level of compensation they receive." (www.provise.com)

Jim Weddle, Managing Partner, Edward Jones: "We've been adapting to new rules forever. The difference this time is that our compliance with the new rule will also grow the public's trust and confidence." (Statement)

Morgan Stanley: "Putting clients' interests first is a core value of Morgan Stanley. While it will take some time to analyze all of the rule's details, we have been planning for it since it was initially proposed and have been making investments in the systems and technology that will enable us to offer compliant solutions to clients whose retirement accounts are affected." (Investment News)

Financial Planning Coalition: "The Financial Planning Coalition opposes any effort by Congress to thwart the Department of Labor's final fiduciary rule, which reflects extensive public comment and articulates common-sense standards for ensuring financial advice in consumers' best interest. Initial reactions from many financial services firms and professionals—across business models—have been largely supportive and focused on implementation rather than opposition. We strongly urge Congress to step back, respect the comprehensive feedback process, and not to interfere with final implementation of this important rule to benefit millions of American retirement savers." (Statement)

Financial Engines: "The new conflict of interest rule is an important step forward in our nation's retirement security and has the potential to positively impact retirement investors, regardless of their wealth or investing experience," said Larry Raffone, president and chief executive officer of Financial Engines. "Financial Engines has always believed that it is not only possible, but absolutely necessary, for retirement advisors to provide un-conflicted advice and guidance to their clients. That's why we've made a point of operating as a fiduciary for our clients since founding 20 years ago." (Statement)

National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors: "NAIFA members and others within the insurance and financial services industry worked diligently with the Department of Labor to address many concerns we had with the DOL's draft rule," said Jules Gaudreau, president of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. "We appreciate that DOL has accepted many of NAIFA's suggestions and reworked some portions of the rule to address concerns raised during the review process." (Statement)

The Rebalance IRA Investment Committee (Dr. Charles D. Ellis, Dr. Burton G. Malkiel, Scott Puritz, Managing Director, Mitch Tuchman, Managing Director, and Jay Vivian): As members of the financial advisor community, we are writing to express our appreciation for the leadership and hard work that you have devoted to the fiduciary duty rule just released by the U.S. Department of Labor. This extraordinarily important reform will protect millions of hard working Americans from the conflicts of interest that annually siphon away billions of dollars of hard-earned retirement savings due to inflated commissions and poor returns. (Letter)

Karen Barr, CEO, Investment Adviser Association: "The IAA is pleased to see that the Department of Labor clearly recognizes that many advisers already commit to providing high-quality advice that always puts their client's best interest first. We have long believed that the fiduciary standard should be applied to all financial professionals giving investment advice. Our members, SEC-registered investment advisers,

are already held to that standard. The IAA is also pleased to see that—based on preliminary information—the DOL appears to have taken many of our most significant concerns with the proposal into account. For example, the IAA and others commented that the proposal appeared to favor low-fee and low-cost—typically passively managed—investments over all else, ignoring returns, quality, and other factors that may be important to investors. The DOL expressly acknowledges that it did not adopt the low-fee streamlined option considered in the proposal because of that concern, and further clarified that the adviser is not required to recommend the lowest fee option if another investment is better for the client. These are welcome changes. We also welcome the DOL's clarifications on the timing of fiduciary status, as it appears that the final rule makes it clear that "hire me" discussions that do not include investment recommendations are not fiduciary recommendations." (Statement)

Jon Stein, CEO, Betterment: "We support this rule for a lot of reasons. We've actually been engaged and involved with the Department of Labor and the OMB for a while supporting this rule," Stein told CNBC's "Closing Bell." "It's an unambiguous public good. This is one of the most exciting things to happen for investors in 40 years." (Business Insider)

Triad Advisors: "We're in the process of reviewing the details of this recently finalized rule, but one thing is clear: Delivering maximum choice and flexibility in business and compensation models to independent advisors is more crucial than ever before. We're confident that our firm's focus since we were founded on supporting hybrid advisors uniquely positions Triad Advisors to best serve the evolving needs of independent advisors in this new regulatory landscape. We're also encouraged on a preliminary basis with modifications from previous versions of the rule in its final version, which seem to reflect the willingness of the DOL to listen to our industry and the investing public on a range of key issues." (Statement)

Legg Mason: Jeff Masom, co-head of sales for asset manager Legg Mason Inc. said the Labor Department had "certainly made a lot of concessions" including giving firms more time to comply and grandfathering in existing investments. While the rule is likely to require "a lot of time and expense" from intermediaries, Mr. Masom said Legg Mason is optimistic about the impact of the rule on its business. He said the firm benefits from not offering retirement plan record-keeping services and being a "pure" investment manager with a mix of products, some of which are low-cost. "Competing with passive has always been on the table. Active managers always has to justify their fees. Nothing has changed on that front," Mr. Masom said. (WSJ)

Cetera Financial Group: "Cetera has been aware of the broad brush strokes of the DOL rule for some time now, and we have been actively positioning our advisors to transition this situation from an obstacle to an opportunity. We have been utilizing our industry-leading scale and resources to develop multiple new tools and platforms to prepare our advisors for how to best operate their businesses and enjoy continued success in this new regulatory environment. Preliminarily, it appears the rule includes modifications that indicate the DOL has considered some of the industry's concerns. However, we will be studying the newly released details of the final rule in the coming days, and from

there, we will announce a number of our initiatives to support advisors in this area in the coming weeks." (Statement)

Jason C. Roberts, CEO, Pension Resource Institute, and Partner, Retirement Law Group: "Based upon our initial review, we believe that many of the challenges in the proposal have been modified to be more workable. We are sifting through the details but are generally encouraged—particularly with the lower bar for fee-based IRA rollovers and the extended timeline for implementation. We will begin updating PRI's member firms next week and start developing the required forms, agreements, disclosures, policies and training in the coming months." (Investment News)

Morningstar: Scott Cooley, direct of policy research at investment-research and investment-management firm Morningstar Inc., said: "One of my fears was that people who had already had paid a commission on their retirement accounts would be moved into fee-based accounts and then have to pay 1% of assets a year after they had already paid a commission." But the DOL has "indicated that it would have to be in the best interest of the client to shift them to a fee-based account from a commission-based account. That's unambiguously pro-consumer." Mr. Cooley also said that because the final rule incorporates the financial-services industry's comments, "It will be harder for people in the industry to argue that the DOL didn't take their feedback into account. I suspect the DOL drafted this with an eye towards potential court challenges." (WSJ)

Evensky & Katz: Harold Evensky, chairman of financial-advisory firm Evensky & Katz who champions the fee-only, fiduciary approach to financial advice and planning and who has long supported the rule, said: "The DOL has indeed taken a major step toward a more secure and dignified retirement for millions of Americans. In addition, the DOL has obviously carefully listened and responded to the concerns raised by many financial service participants regarding the original proposal including easing the compliance process but maintaining a strong, legally enforceable best interest standard." He added: "At this stage it seems that the Department of Labor's years of effort will be a major win for investors." (WSJ)

RBC Capital Markets: In an unexpected positive change for the industry, RBC Capital Markets said in a research note, the requirement that financial advisers enter into a separate fiduciary contract with customers when dealing in the retirement area got scrapped. Another positive: The Labor Department expanded the universe of 401(k) and other retirement plans that would be exempt from the new rule. The draft proposal would have covered plans under \$100 million in assets, while the final rule drops that threshold to \$50 million. RBC said annuity companies including Lincoln, MetLife and Prudential "would still see a negative hit to variable annuity sales—although the impact would likely be slightly less than if the draft had been left unchanged." (WSJ)

UBS Group: Scaling back aspects of the rule will likely boost the stocks of the very firms most affected by the tighter restrictions, a team of researchers at UBS Group AG said in a research note. "While the thrust of the rule remains unchanged and we still see longer-term headwinds, we believe the rule's softening could provide a relief rally in many of the most impacted stocks including asset managers, life insurers and [independent broker-dealers]," the UBS researchers wrote. They based their analysis on a

fact-sheet distributed by the Obama administration. (WSJ)

Bob Gerstemeier, President, Gerstemeier Financial Group: "The responsibility of putting my clients' interests first will have little impact to the way I operate," he says. "Ultimately, I think the new regulations requiring advisors to make more disclosures and put clients' interests first will not only make our profession better, it will ensure that more Americans receive competent, trusted and appropriate advice." (www.provise.com)

Guild Investment Management "At Guild, which is an SEC-registered investment advisor, we have adhered to fiduciary standards for our entire life as a firm (more than four decades), and we certainly welcome the expansion of these standards, which we view as simple and fair common sense." (www.equities.com)

Rob Foregger, Co-founder, NextCapital: Rob Foregger, co-founder of Next Capital, says the Labor Department "made very sensible amendments to the proposed rule. The final result strikes the right balance." "The new DoL fiduciary rule is a major step forward for the modernization of the \$17 trillion retirement industry—and perhaps the largest overhaul to the investment management industry in nearly three decades," he added. "The DoL went to great lengths to integrate the productive feedback from the financial industry, while ensuring that a true fiduciary standard of care was enacted." (www.nasdaq.com)

United Capital: The Labor Department's fiduciary rule is an important step in providing more disclosure to investors, but "this should really be viewed as a step one," says Terry Siman, a lawyer and a managing director with wealth-management firm United Capital Financial Advisers LLC who has supported the rule. "It takes a long time to make the cultural shifts" of moving the industry toward providing greater transparency, he said. Mr. Siman added the new rule would give retirement savers a boost by putting their interests ahead of advisers, while also empowering them to ask for more information around costs and conflicts of interest. "The consumer ultimately will benefit, it's just going to be first and foremost the responsible consumers who know" to ask their advisers for that additional information," said Mr. Siman. (WSJ)

Andrei Cherny, CEO, Aspiration: "I've seen first-hand that the wheels of government can move slowly—especially when there are thousands of lobbyists and many millions in campaign contributions working against progress. But the new fiduciary role from the Department of Labor is a big step in the right direction. The financial industry is one of the least trusted in America—for some very good reasons. Too often, conflicts of interest lead to a 'heads I win, tails you lose' game where people's very livelihoods are on the line." (Statement)

Wells Fargo: "Wells Fargo has been an active advocate for our clients and financial advisors during the DOL's rule-making process. We have a robust plan in place for reviewing the final rule, which we hope will reflect the suggestions that we and others have offered in order to avoid unintended negative impacts on investors. Wells Fargo has long supported a best interest standard and believes that professional financial advisors have a crucial role to play in encouraging retirement saving and investing. As one of the largest and strongest financial services companies, we enjoy a distinct advantage in our ability to adapt to this change." (Investment News)

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, there are two points that I would like to make. One is that when all you can complain about is the size of the bill, you know you have a very weak argument.

Second, they mentioned the United Kingdom. As I understand the United Kingdom plan, they banned commissions, so it is not the same thing. This rule will allow commissions if those commissions are in the best interests of the consumer.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Committee on Education and the Workforce hastily marked up this joint resolution only 48 hours after it was introduced. This week the House majority has rushed it to the floor for a vote, only 21 days after the rule was published. According to the Congressional Research Service, that is one-fifth of the average time between the time a final rule is issued or published and when the CRA vote occurs.

If anyone has concerns about the rule, those concerns can be addressed to the Department of Labor, and the Department can issue clarifications and guidance. But instead of reserving judgment and seeking clarification, this resolution is offered and would have the effect of not only rejecting this rule, but any similar rule in the foreseeable future.

This joint resolution may pass the House today and may pass the Senate next month, but the President will veto it. There are not the votes to override the veto, so that is simple arithmetic. We are just wasting our time.

Instead of wasting time on this sure-to-be-vetoed joint resolution, the House should be helping working people make ends meet and better provide a future for their children and grandchildren. We should be taking up legislation that would boost workers' wages, help workers achieve a better balance between work and family, level the playing field by strengthening protections from discrimination so everyone has a fair shot, and strengthening workers' ability to have a safe and secure retirement. All of that will be the focus of House Democrats.

For now, I urge my colleagues to protect workers' hard-earned retirement funds by voting "no" on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for the civility of this debate.

In closing, I want to remind my colleagues that a "yes" vote on this resolution will protect access to affordable retirement advice and allow us to get back to delivering real solutions that will empower every American to save for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is wasting time to help and protect working families and small businesses from this onerous rule that may actually prevent them from saving for the future. As we have said here on the House floor, almost a third of all Americans—and it distresses me every day—do not have any retirement savings or pension plan. They are looking at \$1,300 a month in Social Security to live a very long time. Our life expectancies are going up, so we should be doing everything we can to help people and make it easier for them to save for retirement.

I started a small medical practice—joined four other doctors—almost 40 years ago now. We started out with a very small pension plan for all of our employees. It was a broker-dealer investment situation. We have now grown that to 450 employees, and we have a totally different arrangement because we have a different business model now.

Higher income and higher earning people, like myself, don't have to worry about this rule. It will not affect us. It will affect small businesses that are trying to get started and individuals like my children who are out there starting their pension plans.

If you believe, as I do, that the American people deserve better than a flawed rule that will wreak havoc on workers and retirees, I urge you to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this is a 1,000-page bill to define one word. This is a Webster's dictionary that defines every word in the English language, which is only slightly bigger than that 1,000-page bill right there. I don't think anybody believes that is going to make it easier for people to retire in this country.

On behalf of every American family, I urge you to stand up for affordable retirement advice and support H.J. Res. 88.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 88, a joint resolution disapproving the rule promulgated by the United States Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "fiduciary."

I oppose this resolution because it seeks to nullify a rule that was years in the making and which provides common sense protections for consumers by simply requiring retirement advisors to put the best interests of their clients above their own financial interests.

Currently, these retirement advisors are only required to recommend "suitable" investments, which means they can recommend investments that offer them a higher commission even where an otherwise identical investment with a lower commission is available.

Under current rules and regulations, this is all perfectly legal—but highly unfair, especially middle-class seniors dependent upon the investment income from the hard-earned money they saved during their working years and entrusted to a financial advisor.

Because those outdated regulations did not ensure that financial advisers act in their clients' best interest when giving retirement investment advice, some firms have found it profitable to incentivize their advisers to steer clients into products that have higher fees and lower returns at a cost to American families of approximately \$17 billion a year.

The Fiduciary Rule issued and published by the Department of Labor (DOL) on April 8, 2016, bans these practices and removes the incentive for financial advisors to put their pecuniary interest ahead of their client's proprietary interest.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that DOL's Fiduciary Rules was thoughtfully, responsibly, and transparently crafted over several years in conjunction with hundreds of meetings on the rule with industry professionals and the public and after considering more than 3,000 public comments over a six-month period from the American people.

In comparison, House Republicans quickly convened a markup only two days after H.J. Res. 88 was introduced and only thirteen days after the rule was finalized and published.

This clearly shows that Republicans in Congress are more interested in attacking the Obama Administration than acting to safeguard the hard-earned retirement savings of the American people and working to ensure those savings are protected.

The DOL's fiduciary rule simply guarantees that those entrusted with the savings of millions of Americans act in the best interests of their clients.

The Department of Labor has done right by the American people.

Now it is time for this House to do right by the American people by rejecting H.J. Res. 88 and leaving the DOL Fiduciary Rule in place.

Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. Speaker, investment advisors in my district have contacted me expressing concern that the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule as currently written would make it difficult to continue serving clients with smaller portfolios. However, every investor deserves to be protected from bad actors who sell them products that do not fit their needs. The Department of Labor should continue to work with all stakeholders to craft a fair rule. The bill before us would do nothing to correct the rule, tying the Department's hands from establishing safeguards that work for everyone. It's unlikely the Senate will act on the bill. If they do, the President has indicated he will veto it. Our time would be better spent improving the rule to make certain investors are protected without diminishing advisors' ability to serve their clients.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 88.

One of the biggest concerns I hear from my constituents in Houston and Harris County, Texas is having enough money for retirement. For decades, we have seen the private sector moving their employees from defined benefit to defined contribution retirement plans. Now we're seeing growing pressure to move public sector workers onto defined contribution plans as well.

Even more concerning is the current effort by multiemployer pension funds, like Central States, to pull the rug from under retirees and slash their pensions by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

This pattern has troubled me for years and I hope Congress will take action to ensure workers in Houston and Harris County and throughout our great country who have worked for decades get the secure retirement they deserve.

If American families are going to be required to secure their retirement in the private market, at the very least, they ought to have peace of mind that they are getting the best advice from financial professionals.

The Labor Department and Secretary Tom Perez worked for years to put together a fair and balanced rule that will ensure that when it comes to saving for retirement, customers—in other words, the American people—come first by holding advisers and brokers to a fiduciary standard.

The Council of Economic Advisers has reported that due to loopholes that had been on the books for 40 years, conflicted advice and hidden fees have cost American families \$17 billion a year in lost retirement savings. These conflicts of interest can cost a retiree almost one-fifth of their savings by age 65.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle today to stand with our nation's retirees and working families and vote down this irresponsible resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the following is a letter that was submitted to our office by Christopher A. Iacovella, Esq., the Chief Executive Officer for the Equity Dealers of America, expressing the organization's support for H.J. Res. 88, "Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term 'Fiduciary,'" on April 28, 2016:

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN AND LEADER PELOSI: The Equity Dealers of America (EDA) is writing to you today to urge the U.S. House of Representatives to take up and pass H.J. Res. 88, "Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary"."

The EDA represents the interests of middle market financial services firms who provide "Main Street" businesses with access to capital and advise hardworking Americans how to create and preserve wealth. Our geographically diverse membership includes BB&T Securities (NC), D.A. Davidson & Co. (MT), Hilliard Lyons (KY), Hilltop Securities (TX), Janney Montgomery Scott (PA), KeyBanc Capital Markets (OH), Piper Jaffray (MN), Raymond James Financial (FL), Robert W. Baird & Co. (WI), Stephens Inc. (AR), Stifel Nicolaus & Company (MO), William Blair & Company (IL), and Wunderlich Securities (TN).

We strongly believe that Department of Labor exceeded its Congressionally granted authority when it finalized its "Fiduciary Rule" on April 6, 2016. We believed prior to the passage of the rule passage, and continue to believe now, that this rule will (1) reduce access to financial advice for low and middle income Americans; (2) increase costs for retirees by pushing them into inappropriate and expensive fee based financial solutions; and (3) unnecessarily interfere with an individual's ability to make his/her personal choices about investing and saving for retirement.

We strongly support the U.S. House of Representatives as it takes up H.J. 88 and we look forward to its swift passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 706, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 3 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of House Joint Resolution 88; Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2901; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### DISAPPROVING DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RULE RELATED TO DEFINITION OF THE TERM "FIDUCIARY"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 234, nays 183, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 176]

YEAS—234

Abraham	Grothman	Pearce
Aderholt	Guinta	Perry
Allen	Guthrie	Pittenger
Amash	Hardy	Pitts
Amodei	Harper	Poe (TX)
Babin	Harris	Poliquin
Barletta	Hartzler	Pompeo
Barr	Heck (NV)	Posey
Barton	Hensarling	Price, Tom
Benishek	Herrera Beutler	Ratcliffe
Bilirakis	Huizenga (MI)	Reed
Bishop (MI)	Hill	Reichert
Bishop (UT)	Holding	Renacci
Black	Hudson	Ribble
Blackburn	Huelskamp	Rice (SC)
Blum	Huizenga (MI)	Rigell
Bost	Hultgren	Roby
Boustany	Hunter	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (AL)
Brat	Hurt (VA)	Rogers (KY)
Bridenstine	Jenkins (KS)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (AL)	Jenkins (WV)	Rokita
Brooks (IN)	Johnson (OH)	Rooney (FL)
Buchanan	Johnson, Sam	Ros-Lehtinen
Buck	Jolly	Roskam
Bucshon	Jones	Ross
Burgess	Jordan	Rouzer
Byrne	Joyce	Royce
Calvert	Katko	Russell
Carter (GA)	Kelly (MS)	Salmon
Carter (TX)	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Chabot	King (IA)	Scalise
Chaffetz	King (NY)	Schweikert
Clawson (FL)	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Coffman	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Knight	Sessions
Collins (GA)	Labrador	Shimkus
Comstock	LaHood	Shuster
Conaway	LaMalfa	Simpson
Cook	Lamborn	Smith (MO)
Costello (PA)	Lance	Smith (NE)
Cramer	Latta	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Smith (TX)
Culberson	Long	Stefanik
Curbelo (FL)	Loudermilk	Stewart
Davis, Rodney	Love	Stivers
Denham	Lucas	Thompson (PA)
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Thornberry
DeSantis	Lummis	Tiberi
DesJarlais	Marchant	Tipton
Diaz-Balart	Marino	Trott
Dold	McCarthy	Turner
Donovan	McCaul	Upton
Duffy	McClintock	Valadao
Duncan (SC)	McHenry	Walberg
Duncan (TN)	McKinley	Wagner
Ellmers (NC)	McMorris	Walberg
Emmer (MN)	Rodgers	Walden
Farenthold	McSally	Walker
Fitzpatrick	Meadows	Walorski
Fleischmann	Meehan	Walters, Mimi
Fleming	Messer	Weber (TX)
Flores	Mica	Webster (FL)
Forbes	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Fortenberry	Miller (MI)	Westerman
Fox	Moolenaar	Whitfield
Franks (AZ)	Mooney (WV)	Williams
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Wilson (SC)
Garrett	Mulvaney	Wittman
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Womack
Gibson	Neugebauer	Woodall
Gohmert	Newhouse	Yoder
Goodlatte	Noem	Yoho
Gosar	Nugent	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Nunes	Young (IA)
Granger	Olson	Young (IN)
Graves (GA)	Palazzo	Zeldin
Graves (LA)	Palmer	Zinke
Griffith	Paulsen	

NAYS—183

Adams	Beyer	Brown (FL)
Aguilar	Bishop (GA)	Brownley (CA)
Ashford	Blumenauer	Bustos
Bass	Bonamici	Butterfield
Beatty	Boyle, Brendan	Capps
Becerra	F.	Capuano
Bera	Brady (PA)	Cárdenas



Carney Himes Payne  
 Carson (IN) Hinojosa Pelosi  
 Cartwright Honda Perlmutter  
 Castor (FL) Hoyer Peters  
 Castro (TX) Huffman Peterson  
 Chu, Judy Israel Pingree  
 Cicilline Jackson Lee Pocan  
 Clark (MA) Jeffries Polis  
 Clarke (NY) Johnson (GA) Price (NC)  
 Clay Johnson, E. B. Quigley  
 Cleaver Kaptur Rangel  
 Clyburn Keating Rice (NY)  
 Cohen Kelly (IL) Richmond  
 Connolly Kennedy Royal-Allard  
 Conyers Kildee Ruiz  
 Cooper Kilmier Ruppertsberger  
 Costa Kind Rush  
 Courtney Kirkpatrick Ryan (OH)  
 Crowley Kuster Sánchez, Linda  
 Cuellar Langevin T.  
 Cummings Larsen (WA) Sanchez, Loretta  
 Davis (CA) Larson (CT) Sarbanes  
 Davis, Danny Lawrence Schakowsky  
 DeFazio Lee Schiff  
 DeGette Levin Schrader  
 Delaney Lewis Scott (VA)  
 DeLauro Lieu, Ted Scott, David  
 DelBene Lipinski Serrano  
 DeSaulnier Loeb sack Sewell (AL)  
 Deutch Lofgren Sherman  
 Dingell Lowenthal Sinema  
 Doggett Lowey Sires  
 Doyle, Michael Lujan Grisham  
 F. (NM) Slaughter  
 Duckworth Lujan, Ben Ray Smith (WA)  
 Edwards (NM) Speier  
 Ellison Lynch Swalwell (CA)  
 Engel Maloney, Carolyn Takano  
 Eshoo Carolyn Thompson (CA)  
 Esty Maloney, Sean Thompson (MS)  
 Farr Matsui Titus  
 Fattah McCollum Tonko  
 Foster McDermott Tsongas  
 Frankel (FL) McGovern Van Hollen  
 Fudge McNerney Vargas  
 Gabbard Meeks Veasey  
 Gallego Meng Vela  
 Garamendi Moulton Velázquez  
 Graham Murphy (FL) Vislosky  
 Grayson Nadler Walz  
 Green, Al Napolitano Wasserman  
 Green, Gene Neal Schult  
 Grijalva Nolan Waters, Maxine  
 Hahn Norcross Watson Coleman  
 Hastings O'Rourke Welch  
 Heck (WA) Pallone Yarmuth  
 Higgins Pascrell

NOT VOTING—16

Collins (NY) Issa Takai  
 Crawford MacArthur Torres  
 Fincher Massie Westmoreland  
 Graves (MO) Moore Wilson (FL)  
 Gutiérrez Rothfus  
 Hanna Stutzman

□ 1523

Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. ASHFORD changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. ROSKAM changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the joint resolution was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for: Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 176 on H.J. Res. 88, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Stated against: Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 176, "nay." Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 176, "nay."  
 FLOOD INSURANCE MARKET  
 PARITY AND MODERNIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2901) to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 177]  
YEAS—419

Abraham Clark (MA) Fitzpatrick  
 Adams Clarke (NY) Fleischmann  
 Aderholt Clawson (FL) Fleming  
 Allen Clay Flores  
 Amash Cleaver Forbes  
 Amodei Clyburn Fortenberry  
 Ashford Coffman Foster  
 Babin Cohen Foxx  
 Cole Collins (GA) Frankel (FL)  
 Barletta Comstock Franks (AZ)  
 Barr Conaway Frelinghuysen  
 Barton Connelly Fudge  
 Bass Conyers Gallego  
 Beatty Cook Garamendi  
 Becerra Cooper Garrett  
 Benishek Costa Gibbs  
 Bera Costello (PA) Gibson  
 Beyer Courtney Gohmert  
 Bilirakis Cramer Goodlatte  
 Bishop (GA) Crenshaw Gosar  
 Bishop (MI) Crowley Gowdy  
 Bishop (UT) Cuellar Graham  
 Black Culberson Granger  
 Blackburn Blum Graves (GA)  
 Blum Blumenauer Curbelo (FL)  
 Bonamici Davis (CA) Grayson  
 Bost Davis, Danny Green, Al  
 Boustany Davis, Rodney Green, Gene  
 Boyle, Brendan DeFazio Griffith  
 F. DeGette Grijalva  
 Brady (PA) Delaney Grothman  
 Brady (TX) DeLauro Guinta  
 Brat DelBene Guthrie  
 Bridenstine Denham Hahn  
 Brooks (AL) Dent Hardy  
 Brooks (IN) DeSantis Harper  
 Brown (FL) DeSaunier Harris  
 Brownley (CA) DesJarlais Hartzler  
 Buchanan Deutch Hastings  
 Buck Diaz-Balart Heck (NV)  
 Bucshon Dingell Heck (WA)  
 Burgess Doggett Hensarling  
 Bustos Dold Herrera Beutler  
 Butterfield Donovan Hice, Jody B.  
 Byrne Doyle, Michael Higgins  
 Calvert F. Hill  
 Capps Duckworth Himes  
 Capuano Duffy Hinojosa  
 Cárdenas Duncan (SC) Holding  
 Carson (IN) Duncan (TN) Honda  
 Carter (GA) Edwards Hoyer  
 Carter (TX) Ellison Hoyer  
 Cartwright Ellmers (NC) Huelskamp  
 Castro (FL) Emmer (MN) Huffman  
 Castro (TX) Engel Huizenga (MI)  
 Chabot Eshoo Hultgren  
 Chaffetz Esty Hunter  
 Chu, Judy Farenthold Hurd (TX)  
 Cicilline Farr Hurt (VA)  
 Fattah Fattah Israel

Jackson Lee Messer Scalise  
 Jeffries Mica Schakowsky  
 Jenkins (KS) Miller (FL) Schiff  
 Jenkins (WV) Miller (MI) Schrader  
 Johnson (GA) Moolenaar Schweikert  
 Johnson (OH) Mooney (WV) Scott (VA)  
 Johnson, E. B. Moore Scott, Austin  
 Johnson, Sam Moulton Scott, David  
 Jolly Mullin Sensenbrenner  
 Jones Mulvaney Serrano  
 Jordan Murphy (FL) Sessions  
 Joyce Murphy (PA) Sewell (AL)  
 Kaptur Nadler Sherman  
 Katko Napolitano Shimkus  
 Keating Neal Shuster  
 Kelly (IL) Neugebauer Simpson  
 Kelly (MS) Newhouse Sinema  
 Kelly (PA) Noem Sires  
 Kennedy Nolan Slaughter  
 Kildee Norcross Smith (MO)  
 Kilmier Nugent Smith (NE)  
 Kind Nunes Smith (NJ)  
 King (IA) O'Rourke Smith (TX)  
 King (NY) Olson Smith (WA)  
 Kinzinger (IL) Palazzo Speier  
 Kirkpatrick Pallone Stefanik  
 Kline Palmer Stewart  
 Knight Pascrell Stivers  
 Kuster Paulsen Swalwell (CA)  
 Labrador Payne Takano  
 LaHood Pearce Thompson (CA)  
 LaMalfa Pelosi Thompson (MS)  
 Lamborn Perlmutter Thompson (PA)  
 Lance Perry Thornberry  
 Langevin Peters Tiberi  
 Larsen (WA) Peterson Tipton  
 Larson (CT) Pingree Titus  
 Latta Pittenger Tonko  
 Lawrence Pitts Trott  
 Lee Pocan Tsongas  
 Levin Poe (TX) Turner  
 Lewis Poliquin Upton  
 Lieu, Ted Polis Valadao  
 Lipinski Pompeo Posey  
 LoBiondo Price (NC)  
 Loeb sack Varg  
 Lofgren Price, Tom Veasey  
 Long Quigley Vela  
 Loudermilk Rangel Velázquez  
 Love Ratcliffe Vislosky  
 Lowenthal Reed Wagner  
 Lowey Reichert Walberg  
 Lucas Renacci Walden  
 Luetkemeyer Ribble Walker  
 Lujan Grisham Rice (NY) Walkers  
 (NM) Rice (SC) Walters, Mimi  
 Lujan, Ben Ray Richmond Walz  
 (NM) Rigell Wasserman  
 Lummis Roby Schultz  
 Lynch Roe (TN) Waters, Maxine  
 Maloney, Carolyn Rogers (AL) Watson Coleman  
 Maloney, Sean Rogers (KY) Weber (TX)  
 Marchant Rohrabacher Webster (FL)  
 Marino Rokita Welch  
 Matsui Rooney (FL) Wenstrup  
 McCarthy Ros-Lehtinen Westerman  
 McCaul Ross Roskam Whitfield  
 McClintock Rouzer Williams  
 McCollum Roybal-Allard Wilson (FL)  
 McDermott Royce Wilson (SC)  
 McGovern Ruiz Wittman  
 McHenry Ruppertsberger Womack  
 McKinley Rush Woodall  
 McMorris Russell Yarmuth  
 Rodgers Ryan (OH) Yoder  
 McNerney Salmon Yoho  
 McSally Sánchez, Linda Young (AK)  
 Meadows T. Young (IA)  
 Meehan Sanchez, Loretta Young (IN)  
 Meeks Sanford Zeldin  
 Meng Sarbanes Zinke

NOT VOTING—14

Collins (NY) Hanna Stutzman  
 Crawford Issa Takai  
 Fincher MacArthur Torres  
 Graves (MO) Massie Westmoreland  
 Gutiérrez Rothfus

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1531

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 177 on H.R. 2901, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Thursday, April 28, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 173 and 174, "yea" on rollcall vote 175, "nay" on rollcall vote 176, and "yea" on rollcall vote 177.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

RECOGNIZING APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT, BRISTOL MOTOR SPEEDWAY, FOOD CITY, AND OTHERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Appalachian Service Project, the Bristol Motor Speedway, Food City, and scores of volunteers for their generosity in building a home for Colene and Steve Tredway and their family in Bristol, Tennessee.

The Tredway family first applied to ASP's home repair program to help make room in their small mobile home for their newly adopted children, Alexis and Kadin. When ASP heard the Tredways' story, they decided to do more than just renovations.

ASP, the Bristol Motor Speedway, and Food City partnered to build a brand new home for the Tredways in only 60 hours, all at no cost to the family. This new three-bedroom house will give the Tredways a better home to care for their children, and it will give Alexis and Kadin room to grow with their new family.

I am proud to recognize ASP; the ASP president, Walter Crouch; the Bristol Motor Speedway; Food City; Will Crumley and Ron Gouge, who oversaw the project; and countless volunteers for their kindness and generosity toward the Tredway family and our community.

41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I join the Vietnamese American community across this Nation and actually around the world to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

We must remember our fallen soldiers, American veterans, and our South Vietnamese allies who fought and died in the name of freedom and democracy.

Unfortunately, the Government of Vietnam continues to crack down on its citizens by using article 79 of the Vietnamese penal code, which prohibits political pluralism or prohibits associating with pro-democracy parties.

Last week I met with Ms. Vu Minh Khanh, the wife of prominent Vietnamese political prisoner, Mr. Nguyen Van Dai. Mr. Nguyen is currently being detained by the Vietnamese Government after being severely beaten for peacefully expressing his views on democracy.

As President Obama prepares to visit Vietnam, I urge the President to make human rights a key priority, and I strongly urge the President to call for the release of human rights activist Mr. Nguyen Van Dai and Father Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly.

It is time—it is time for the United States to take a strong and principled stand against Vietnam's ongoing human rights violations.

ROTARY CLUB OF LANSING'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a wonderful organization in my district, the Rotary Club of Lansing. This May, the Rotary Club of Lansing is celebrating 100 years of service above self.

The club was founded on May 29, 1916, and has been dedicated to many community and international service projects ever since.

Over the past 100 years, Lansing Rotarians have provided over \$2 million in grants for local and international projects. Such projects include the Rotary Veterinary Clinic at Potter Park Zoo, the Hospice of Lansing Residential Facility, annual support to the H.O.P.E. Scholarship Program for Lansing at-risk youth, and the reconstruction of a school in Sri Lanka after the tsunami.

Lansing Rotarians also support the efforts of Rotary International in its fight to eradicate polio throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Rotary Club of Lansing on 100 years of service. I thank the Lansing Rotarians for their commitment to the people and their service to the Lansing community.

CONGRATULATING NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL WINNERS

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it fills me with great pride to congratulate students from my San Fernando Valley district at North Hollywood High School for winning the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Science Bowl Regional Competition. This academic competition tests students' knowledge in all areas of science, quizzing them in a fast-paced question-and-answer format.

These science bowls challenge and prepare our Nation's students to become researchers and engineers of the future. As an engineer myself, I know that there is an ever-growing demand for talent in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields right here in America.

It is thrilling to see the promising young men and women coming out of our San Fernando Valley schools with such great talent. You should all be proud of yourselves for making it this far, as it is a huge accomplishment. The entire San Fernando Valley and I will be cheering you on as you compete in the national finals here in Washington, D.C. Congratulations.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, the world was in a war so big that it was called the war to end all wars. World War I started in 1914 and involved 32 nations. It pitted the Allies against the central powers and stretched across five continents.

The United States was isolationist at that time and was not in the war. But in 1917, the British intercepted a telegram called the Zimmerman Telegram from the German Government to Mexico, encouraging Mexico to join Germany. In return, Germany would help Mexico take and conquer Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

So after the sinking of seven U.S. merchant ships by submarines, the sinking of the *Lusitania*, and the publication of the Zimmerman Telegram, the United States Congress declared war in April of 1917.

Four-and-a-half million Americans signed up to fight, including a friend

that I later got to know by the name of Frank Buckles, who was 16 when he joined the war in World War I. He lived to the age of 110 and died in 2011. American doughboys like him proved the decisive difference.

Just a year after the U.S. was in the war, the war was over on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour. In all, there were 30 million casualties worldwide, civilian and military.

Mr. Speaker, after the war, the United States became an international power. So 114,000 doughboys died over there in the great World War I. When they got home, an equal number died from the Spanish flu that they had contracted when they were in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, we remember them all 100 years ago this year, for the worst casualty of war is to be forgotten.

And that is just the way it is.

**LEAD POISONING IN DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS**

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, we have a situation that is getting very serious in this Nation, and it is the issue of drinking water in schools.

I hail from the 10th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey, and after traveling to Flint, Michigan, on March 4 to listen to the people of that community talk about what had happened in their community around their drinking water and how their children have been poisoned—a potential of 9,000 children having issues with lead—I came back to Newark, New Jersey, my home, knowing that Newark is the third oldest city in the Nation.

I took action. I spoke to several mayors in my community, and I said: “You need to pay attention to what is going on with drinking water. There is a problem.”

Lo and behold, 3 days later, in 30 schools in Newark, New Jersey, elevated levels of lead were found. So I took action, and I have introduced the TEST for Lead Act in schools. This will help States that get Federal dollars from the Federal Government test the water in schools for lead.

This is not only a cities issue. In several communities around Newark, this issue has also been found in the suburbs. It is coming to a community near you. So I ask my colleagues to support the TEST for Lead Act.

□ 1545

**CHANGES TO THE WHITE COLLAR EXEMPTION**

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, the current administration has changed the way business is done in America.

By making unilateral changes to the white collar exemption within the Fair Labor Standards Act, businesses across our Nation will be forced to change their investment and growth strategy. This Big Government pie-in-the-sky philosophy does not grasp the realities of Main Street America. The change would require employers to pay overtime for all employees who make \$50,440 or less per year.

The administration’s own Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration pointed out that research for this comprehensive rule change was based on assumptions and lacked industry data and involvement.

Here is another example of an agency reinterpreting an old law from 1938 and changing it to fit the current administration’s agenda. This is lawmaking by executive fiat and it is unconstitutional.

It is time for Congress to revive the legislative veto and hold an unaccountable executive branch accountable.

**MINIMUM WAGE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Raise the Wage Act that was introduced almost exactly 1 year ago today.

Raising the minimum wage is critical to addressing income inequality in the United States, one of the most pressing issues facing our Nation. But the majority has not even called a hearing on this issue.

Yesterday, the Committee on Education and the Workforce Democrats held our own forum on this issue, during which we considered the evidence in support of raising the minimum wage. We heard from business leaders and economists that raising the wage will reduce workforce turnover, stimulate consumer spending, and grow jobs.

The evidence is absolutely clear that raising the minimum wage will give 35 million workers a raise and lift 4.5 million Americans out of poverty. It is also abundantly clear that raising the

minimum wage will benefit businesses in the U.S. economy. That may be why in a recent poll from Republican pollster Frank Luntz, 80 percent of business executives supported raising the minimum wage.

The record could not be more clear: raising the minimum wage is good for workers, businesses, and the American economy. That is why today I include in the RECORD testimony from yesterday’s Member forum on the Business Case for Raising the Federal Minimum Wage, presented by David Cooper of the Economic Policy Institute; Sherry Deutschmann of LetterLogic, Inc.; Scott Nash of MOM’s Organic; and Carmen Ortiz Larsen of AQUAS, Inc.

WRITTEN REMARKS FROM CARMEN ORTIZ LARSEN, PRESIDENT OF AQUAS INC. AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Submitted to the House Education & the Workforce Committee—Minority Panel on the Business and Economic Case for Raising the Minimum Wage, April 27, 2016

My name is Carmen Ortiz Larsen, and I support an increase in the Federal minimum wage to at least \$12 by 2020; I support the Raise the Wage Act. I am the owner and President of an Engineering and Information Technology firm called AQUAS Incorporated. I am also the Chair of the Board of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County, Maryland.

AQUAS Inc. staff includes professionals, administrative personnel, and field technicians. Our lowest wage is \$14 an hour. Our plan is to have the minimum wage in our workplace at \$16/hour within the next 18 months.

Being a small business owner is hard work. Small business owners have to be frugal, prudent, smart and alert to opportunities, navigating cash flow ups and downs, and managing cost increases and price competitiveness. Controlling costs is essential to ensure sufficient margins for funding growth, long-term success and customer satisfaction. If I don’t control costs wisely, though, the dollars I save in one area of the business could cost me more in other areas.

Some years ago we sought to keep costs down by using the lowest legal minimum wage as compensation for clerical and field staff. We found that these workers had a greater incidence of health issues, absenteeism and turnover. The cost of replacing and retraining staff outweighed any savings in keeping their pay rate low.

We found that it was a smarter business policy to raise the hourly rate for the lower paid jobs. The results were better staff morale, increased loyalty and better service to the customer. We gained a more stable workforce and improved performance.

Markets are competitive, and every year costs go up. We have to face yearly increases in cost of insurance, supplies, advertising, facilities, services. We take this for granted as the cost of doing business. It should be no different to expect wage increases, especially for the lowest paid workers. All employees deserve a wage that is sufficient to live without the anxiety of being left without food or shelter.

AQUAS does not believe that the answer to cost management or competitive challenges lies in paying our staff poverty wages; this simply diminishes the quality and ongoing success of our enterprise. Instead, we remain

competitive through efficiencies and quality improvements, through innovative ways to maintain reasonable profitability and improve the customer's experience. Our staff is part of who we are as a company, and they deserve to make ends meet.

We look to you as elected officials to set boundaries that cut across special interest areas, to make those tough decisions that create a delicate balance between an unrestrained commercial interest and a level playing field for businesses and acceptable conditions for individual sustainability. The current minimum wage adjusted for inflation is lower than it was in 1950. This is simply untenable and should be unacceptable in our country.

The current \$7.25 an hour does not provide minimum wage workers with a wage with which they can live with dignity, have a decent home, nutritious food, and a reliable way to get back and forth from work, without worrying about whether or not they will lose their job or their family if they can't. The minimum wage is so low that workers have to seek a second job or public assistance of one kind or another. I want to contribute to my community—not burden it by paying wages my employees can't live on. Raising the federal minimum wage is long overdue.

In my community engagement as a business owner and as the Chair of the Board of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I see an awful lot of the consequences of poverty wages in the community; I see families that fall apart and struggle to stay healthy, with each adult working more than one job, and still having a hard time making ends meet. These people are our consumer base, they are our neighbors, they buy from us, they vote for you. I don't want my government supporting policies like an inadequate minimum wage that promote poverty, weaken consumer demand, and ultimately hurt my business and other businesses. We have to set a reasonable wage floor.

I am here today to testify on behalf of a decent minimum wage that will reinforce employee productivity and ensure that when an employee goes home after work, they have the time, energy and enthusiasm to give to their families and community without fear, without anxiety and without hunger.

Thank you.

WRITTEN REMARKS FROM SCOTT NASH, OWNER,  
MOM'S ORGANIC MARKET

Submitted to the House Education & the Workforce Committee—Minority Panel on Business and Economic Case for Raising the Minimum Wage April 27, 2016

My name is Scott Nash. I am the founder and CEO of a grocery chain called MOM's Organic Market. With an investment of \$100, I started MOM's in 1987 out of my mother's garage in Beltsville, MD. We currently have 15 locations in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. By the end of this year as we expand into New Jersey and elsewhere, we will have 18 stores and more than 1,000 employees. Our annual sales are more than \$200 million. We support raising the federal minimum wage to at least \$12 by 2020.

In 1980, just as I turned 15, I took my first part-time job. I ran the fry station at Burger King for \$3.10 per hour. That's actually more than today's minimum wage adjusted for the cost of living. I was surrounded by full time adult co-workers—some with children—and they relied on their paychecks to survive. Most of my coworkers had good attitudes,

even though every day their lives were permeated with struggle and stress.

A minimum wage that is too low puts millions of people between a rock and hard place. Over the years, we at MOM's have gradually increased our hourly minimum wage from \$8.00 to \$11. I'm happy to report that after multiple raises to \$9, \$10, and \$11, MOM's is the most profitable we've ever been.

All good businessmen know that their most important asset is their employees. At MOM's, we consider paying a higher wage not a burden, but rather a high-return strategic investment. Our workforce is more productive, engaged and dedicated. They are happier, have less stress in their overall lives, and feel appreciated and secure.

With this higher employee morale and strengthening of our corporate culture, our retention rates have skyrocketed over the years, which has driven down our training and hiring costs. Studies show that the costs of hiring and training are substantial—thousands of dollars per employee. An employee generally doesn't operate at full efficiency until he or she has been working for at least 5 months. Longer term employees also offer more expertise and better customer service, which helps increase revenues. Customers love shopping at places with engaged employees.

Raising the minimum wage is smart business strategy. I can't hire anyone unless people buy our products. People like me start companies to fulfill the needs and desires of consumers. These needs and desires are not created by entrepreneurs; rather they are fulfilled by entrepreneurs. When workers' purses and wallets have more money in them, they spend more at local businesses. Increased consumer spending means more entrepreneurs start companies, the economy grows, and more wealth is created at all levels. One of the best quotes I've heard on job creation was, "For a CEO to take credit for job creation is like a squirrel taking credit for evolution." Contrary to what some CEOs claim, raising the minimum wage will actually create jobs, not cut them.

Many full-time hourly workers who are paid the minimum wage are also dependent on government subsidies, as the current minimum wage is not a living wage. A low minimum wage essentially amounts to a taxpayer subsidy for incredibly profitable large corporations and industries. Want to see unnecessary government spending go down, raise the minimum wage!

As a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, I can share that raising the minimum wage has strong support from the business community. To summarize, raising the minimum wage will increase American productivity, decrease the number of full-time workers on government entitlement programs, grow consumer spending and the economy, increase wealth, and improve the lives of hard working people. It's time we raise the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020.

WRITTEN REMARKS FROM SHERRY STEWART  
DEUTSCHMANN, FOUNDER AND CEO,  
LETTERLOGIC, INC. AND COUNCIL MEMBER,  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL

Submitted to the House Education & the Workforce Committee Minority Panel on the Business and Economic—Case for Raising the Minimum Wage, April 27, 2016

Representative Scott, thank you for inviting me to speak today. It is an honor.

My name is Sherry Stewart Deutschmann and I am the founder and CEO of LetterLogic, a small business in Nashville,

TN. I am also a member of the National Women's Business Council, a small group of female business leaders whose role is to advise the Small Business Administration, the President, and Congress on issues related to female entrepreneurship.

Please allow me to share some basic background information on myself and my business. In 2002, as a single mom with only a high-school education, I cashed in my 401k and had a week-long yard sale to raise the capital needed to start my own company, LetterLogic, in the basement of my home. That bet on me turned out to be a good one because my company quickly outgrew my basement and is now a \$36 Million company. Indeed, our growth has enabled us to be recognized by INC Magazine as an INC 5000 company for nine consecutive years, an honor bestowed upon the fastest growing privately held companies in the US.

My company processes and delivers patient billing statements for hospitals nationwide, doing so in both traditional print/mail formats and also electronically. Though our business has a high-tech component, most of our jobs are in the factory, where our employees operate machinery that prints, folds, inserts, and then sorts over 235,000 bills each day. These positions could easily be filled at the minimum wage, which is \$7.25 an hour in Tennessee. However, our entire business model was built on my belief that I could build a better company if I took extraordinary care of the employees. I believed that well-cared for employees could better focus on turning out a high quality product and impeccable service, and their loyalty and dedication would create a corresponding loyalty among our clients. And, I believed that a loyal client base would happily pay a higher price for the best service.

Though we've always paid the highest wages in our industry, until a few years ago our entry-level pay was \$12 an hour. At that time, we began looking at our employees and trying to understand the kind of life we were enabling them to create, and as our "litmus test" we used the following baseline: "If the two lowest-paid employees of LetterLogic got married, what kind of housing could they afford? Could they afford to start a family? What schools would their children attend? How much of their income could they save?" And, at that point, we raised our starting wage to \$14 an hour, and then just a few months later, we raised it to \$16.

In the months since we increased our minimum starting wage from \$12 an hour to where it is now at \$16 an hour, my company has grown from annual revenues of \$27.5 Million to \$36 Million, 25% growth over a 27-month period. But what happened to the bottom line is even more striking. In that same time frame, our net profit increased 300%. Yes, when we increased our minimum starting wage from \$12 an hour to \$16 an hour, our revenue increased by 25% and our profit margin tripled. Yes, we made other smart business decisions that helped us achieve those results, but we believe that putting the needs of the employees above all else was a major contributor.

Moreover, my fast-growth company has zero debt—also a factor we attribute to the financial results of paying our employees fairly.

We are confident that our results are duplicable, that putting the needs of the employees first is a great business model. During the last three years, we've polled our clients bi-annually and they express their happiness and loyalty when 100% of the respondents say they'd recommend us, and 99% say

they rank our service as Excellent or Good. But they DEMONSTRATE their loyalty by staying with us. Indeed, over the last three years, our revenue churn rate has been only 3.2%.

I'd also like to touch briefly on how a higher minimum wage affects the local economy by sharing the story of Kim, a woman we hired a few years ago. She says this is the first workplace in her life that she is making enough money that she has to work only one job. She is now able to fully commit her energy and attention to her job at LetterLogic, taking great care of our customers and better care of her family. And, she left an open position for someone else to fill.

From my experience operating a small business, I can attest to the value of paying a living wage. When employees are paid a wage they can live on, they are better able to focus on the demands of their jobs. The quality of the goods and services they create are much better and build customer loyalty to the point where the company can be more profitable and sustainable.

When I pay a starting wage of \$16 plus benefits my employees have more money to spend at other businesses. The very least other businesses can do is pay a wage that allows their employees to afford the basics.

My business can set a good example, but I can't do it alone. The businesses with me in Business for a Fair Minimum Wage can't do it alone. The federal minimum wage, which Tennessee follows, has not been raised since 2009.

Increasing the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020, as called for in the Raise the Wage Act, is an overdue step in raising the floor for businesses, communities and our economy. Raising the minimum wage will increase productivity and reduce the costly turnover that plagues so many short-sighted low-wage businesses. It will boost sales by putting more money in the pockets of workers who most need to spend it.

Raising the minimum wage is good for business!

THE IMPACT OF RAISING THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE TO \$12 BY 2020 ON WORKERS, BUSINESSES, AND THE ECONOMY

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE MEMBER FORUM

(By David Cooper, Senior Economic Analyst, Economic Policy Institute, April 27, 2016)

Ranking Member Scott, members of the committee, and Members of the Democratic Caucus, thank you for inviting me to speak with you today. My name is David Cooper. I am the Senior Economic Analyst at the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization that focuses on improving the economic conditions of low- and middle-income workers and their families.

I am going to speak today about the appropriateness of a \$12 federal minimum wage in 2020, and what the research tells us about the effect of raising the minimum wage on workers, businesses, and the economy.

First, it cannot be emphasized enough that the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 is incredibly low by every relevant benchmark. In 1968, the high point of the federal minimum wage in inflation-adjusted terms, the minimum wage was equal to roughly \$10 an hour in today's dollars. (Using the Bureau of Labor Statistic's longest-running measure of inflation, it was worth \$10.95 in today's dollars; using the Bureau's current method for measuring inflation, it was worth about \$9.60.) This means that minimum wage work-

ers today are paid between a quarter and a third less than what similar jobs paid almost 50 years ago, depending on how you measure inflation.

As a consequence, the majority of low-wage workers in America today must rely on federal and state public assistance programs in order to afford their basic needs: 53 percent of workers earning less than \$12 an hour rely on some form of means-tested government assistance—such as food stamps, Medicaid, refundable tax credits, and housing and energy subsidies. The federal government spends over \$78 billion dollars each year to support the families of workers earning less than \$12 an hour, and this is undoubtedly an underestimate because it does not include the value of Medicaid or premium subsidies in healthcare exchanges. To be clear, these dollars are going to workers and families who desperately need this support and if anything, our anti-poverty programs need to be strengthened and expanded. Yet there is considerable savings to be had in these programs if businesses were simply held to the same standard to which they were held in the 1960s. In a paper EPI released last year, we estimated that federal antipoverty programs would save \$17 billion annually if the minimum wage were raised to \$12 by 2020. That very savings could be used to strengthen government's antipoverty tools.

The current minimum wage is also exceptionally low relative to the pay of typical workers. In the 1960s, the minimum wage was equal to just over half of the median full-time wage in the United States (between 52 and 55 percent of the median, depending upon how one measures wages). Today, the federal minimum wage is equal to roughly 36 percent of the median wage. This means that someone working at or near the minimum wage is much farther away from a middle class job than similar workers a generation ago. Sometimes it is said that minimum wage jobs are just starter jobs for young people entering the labor force. First of all, we know that is not true—the average age of workers that would get a raise from a minimum wage increase to \$12 is 35 years old and the vast majority (90 percent) are 20 or older. Yet even in cases where it is true, those young people are starting off their careers much further from the middle class than young people of previous generations.

Raising the federal minimum wage to \$12 by 2020, as the Raise the Wage Act would do, would restore the national wage floor to the same relative position that it had in the late 1960s. Under conservative assumptions for wage growth at the median, \$12 in 2020 would be equal to roughly 54 percent of the full-time median wage, bringing low-wage workers closer to the pay of a middle-class job, and helping undo some of the growth in wage inequality that has taken place since 1968.

Whenever increasing the minimum wage is discussed, there is always concern that doing so might hurt job growth or imperil businesses that employ low-wage workers. In the 22 times the federal minimum wage has been raised, and the over 300 times that states or localities have raised their minimum wages just since the 1980, these concerns have never materialized. The effect of increasing the minimum wage on employment is probably the most studied topic in labor economics, and the consensus of the literature is that moderate increases in the minimum wage have little to no effect on employment. In fact, this was the conclusion of a letter signed by over 600 PhD economists—including 8 winners of the Nobel Prize—sent to the

leaders of both houses of Congress in 2014. The letter stated, "In recent years there have been important developments in the academic literature on the effect of increases in the minimum wage on employment, with the weight of evidence now showing that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market.

The most detailed study in recent years of the minimum wage's effects was published in a 2014 book by economists Dale Belman and Paul Wolfson. Belman and Wolfson conducted a meta-analysis (a study of studies) of over 200 scholarly papers on the minimum wage published since 1991. They conclude that "modest minimum wage increases raise wages for the working poor without substantially affecting employment or work hours, providing solid benefits with small costs." (p.401) Belman and Wolfson's book was subsequently awarded Princeton University's Bowen award for the book making the most important contribution toward understanding public policy related to the operation of labor markets.

In recent years, research has found not only that have minimum wage increases have had no measurable negative effects, but they have often produced positive effects on the functioning of the low-wage labor market. Higher minimum wages tend to reduce turnover and increase job tenure among low-wage workers—leading to productivity improvements and lower turnover costs at affected businesses.

Most importantly, research has consistently shown that raising the minimum wage boosts the pay of low-wage workers who typically come from low- and moderate-income households. Because these households typically spend a larger portion of their income than wealthier households, the rising wage floor can provide a modest boost to consumer spending, generating new business activity, particularly in lower-income areas where consumer demand is more depressed. And this is true even if some firms have to enact small price increases as a result of the higher minimum wage. Pay raises for low-wage workers resulting from higher minimum wages are vastly larger than any resulting price increases—typically by a factor of more than 10 to 1. This is because labor costs are only one piece of businesses' overall operating costs, and as previously noted, raising pay simultaneously generates savings from higher productivity and lower turnover.

In summary, raising the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020 would boost the wages of tens of millions of American workers, increase low-income households' buying power, reduce reliance on federal assistance programs, and bring the wage floor back up to the same relative value it had in the 1960s. The research indicates that such an increase would not be overly burdensome on businesses or hamper job growth, and could, in fact, strengthen the consumer demand that drives the U.S. economy. I strongly encourage Congress to pass the Raise the Wage Act.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, it is past time for Congress to raise the Federal minimum wage. We learned yesterday that, of the people who would most be impacted by raising the minimum wage, only 10 percent are teens, as opposed to a popular misconception. In fact, the average age affected is 35, and 56 percent are women. In addition, nearly one-third of all Hispanics and

one-third of all African Americans would get a raise by enacting this act, and 30 percent of working mothers would get a raise.

It is time that we stand up for hard-working people all across America and give them a well-deserved and long-overdue raise.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the State of California, my home State of California, for yielding.

I am glad to stand here today in support of the Raise the Wage Act. I want to thank my colleagues for standing with me today to promote the benefits of increasing the minimum wage.

While critics warn of mass layoffs and economic calamity, studies consistently show that a higher minimum wage will stimulate the economy and lift workers out of poverty.

We cannot allow ideology and partisanship to stop millions of workers from earning a living wage. A report on poverty in my own community, which my office produced last year, revealed the urgency of this issue. Here is what we found:

Last year, a single parent of two kids working full time at the minimum wage in Riverside, California, was likely to fall \$600 short of what they need to get by every month. Not only does this situation violate the premise of the American Dream that working hard and playing by the rules will land you in the middle class, it also damages our economy.

A University of California, Berkeley study found that low wages cost American taxpayers \$152 billion each year on social welfare programs for working families. We are effectively subsidizing companies that do not pay their workers a living wage.

Now, there is a myth—a myth—that the typical minimum wage earner is a high school student, a high school student living at home working part time. But young people make up just a tiny fraction of the minimum wage workforce. Eighty-nine percent of workers who would benefit from a Federal minimum wage increase to \$12 per hour are actually age 20 or older. Nearly 40 percent of this workforce is older than 40.

These are not kids on a summer job. These are parents who are seeking to provide for their children. With more money in their pockets, these workers could take a few extra trips to the grocery store, buy new school supplies for their children, or save up to buy a home, all of which would help stimulate our economy.

All of us have expressed serious concerns about rising income inequality in our communities. We all understand that the economy has been thrown out of balance because the rules that protect workers from exploitation have atrophied over time. The minimum wage is a clear example of that trend.

The real value of the Federal minimum wage has declined 24 percent since 1968. Workers are not worth 24 percent less than they were 50 years ago, and families cannot get by with 24 percent less than they did 50 years ago.

Raising the minimum wage is not only good policy, it is popular policy. Paying workers a living wage reduces turnover, improves worker morale, and increases productivity. For those reasons, a poll by the American Sustainable Business Council found that 60 percent of small-business owners support raising the minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2020. And most revealing, the Republican pollster Frank Luntz found that 80 percent of business executives support raising the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Washington Post describing this secret poll done by Frank Luntz of these business executives—the very one I mentioned in my remarks—that found that 80 percent of business executives support increasing the minimum wage.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 4, 2016]

LEAKED DOCUMENTS SHOW STRONG BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE  
SO WHY DO MOST CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE STILL OPPOSE IT?

(By Lydia DePillis)

Whenever minimum wage increases are proposed on the state or federal level, business groups tend to fight them tooth and nail. But actual opposition may not be as united as the groups' rhetoric might make it appear, according to internal research conducted by a leading consultant for state chambers of commerce.

The survey of 1,000 business executives across the country was conducted by LuntzGlobal, the firm run by Republican pollster Frank Luntz, and obtained by a liberal watchdog group called the Center for Media and Democracy. (The slide deck is here, and the full questionnaire is here.) Among the most interesting findings: 80 percent of respondents said they supported raising their state's minimum wage, while only eight percent opposed it.

"That's where it's undeniable that they support the increase," LuntzGlobal managing director David Merritt told state chamber executives in a webinar describing the results, noting that it squares with other polling they've done. "And this is universal. If you're fighting against a minimum wage increase, you're fighting an uphill battle, because most Americans, even most Republicans, are okay with raising the minimum wage."

Merritt then provided some tips on how to defuse that support, such as suggesting other poverty-reduction methods like the Earned Income Tax Credit. "Where you might find some comfort if you are opposing it in your state is, 'how big of a priority is it against other priorities?'" he said. "Most folks think there are bigger priorities. Creating more jobs rather than raising the minimum wage is a priority that most everyone agrees with. So when you put it up against other issues, you can find other alternatives and other things to focus on. But in isolation, and you ask about the minimum wage, it's definitely a winner."

Sixty-three percent of respondents said they belong to a chamber of commerce, whether on the local, state, or federal level—suggesting that the groups' public statements might be out of step with their members' beliefs. The materials shed light on how some business trade associations operate, and why they've continued to oppose minimum wage increases even as the rest of the public thaws towards them.

The research had been commissioned by the Council of State Chambers, a small, non-political umbrella organization that coordinates messaging across the dozens of groups that make up its membership. The main purpose of the survey, says Council director Joe Crosby, had been to assess what the broader business community thinks about state chambers, and what kind of language they respond to best. (Under the terms of its contract, Crosby says, LuntzGlobal was forbidden from discussing the survey publicly.)

So why do state chambers, which are usually the largest and most powerful business organizations represented in state capitols, seem so far apart from the broader business community when it comes to the minimum wage?

Crosby argued that modest minimum wage hikes don't impact the majority of chamber members, and so they actually tend to leave the issue to trade groups for retailers, hotels and restaurants, which employ most low-wage workers.

"In chambers, historically, it's more successful businesses that are in manufacturing and other higher wage industries," Crosby says. "They tend to see themselves as the voice of business, but there are other groups that are focused on sectors that are focused on different wage mandates."

In the more liberal areas where minimum wage increases have succeeded, that's often true: Broad-based business groups have hesitated to speak out too strongly against the popular measures, leaving those industries that are most affected out in the cold.

In some instances, advocates have even targeted low-wage service industries first—a hotel wage ordinance passed in Los Angeles before the across-the-board increase, for example, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo raised wages for fast food workers before launching a campaign to do so for all workers (which New York City-based chambers of commerce actually supported).

But in most states, chambers of commerce haven't been as shy in their opposition to minimum wage hikes. Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry president Gene Barr says he canvasses his members regularly on lots of issues, and they are against raising the state's minimum wage above where it still sits at the federal floor of \$7.25—even the big, high-tech industries that already pay well above it.

"Our larger businesses get that," said Barr, who sat through the LuntzGlobal presentation. "We don't get pushback saying that 'you really need to get behind a minimum wage increase,' because they understand that it's really not appropriate."

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce president Doug Loon says his members' opinions don't match those of the LuntzGlobal survey—including those regarding requirements that businesses offer benefits like paid paternity leave, which 82 percent of respondents supported, or more paid sick leave, which 73 percent supported. The Minnesota Chamber has found that even those of its members who are offering those benefits would rather have the choice of whether to do so, and how.

"It's what most employers are moving to," Loon says. "Do we need to pass a one-size-

fits-all on sick leave? We would argue that we do not."

So Loon and Barr say they're just following their members' wishes. Some business groups have a different perspective—but don't necessarily have the power to combat a state chamber when it puts its mind to something.

The South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce has supported a higher minimum wage, but its president Frank Knapp says his members simply don't have the bandwidth to push for it, with so many other issues on their plate. "When you actually talk to those people one on one, you find that yeah they're fine with raising the minimum wage," Knapp says. "But they're not going to crusade for the minimum wage."

That might be true of traditional chamber members too, Knapp thinks, many of whom mostly join for the networking benefits rather than the political advocacy aspect anyway. But within those groups, the industries that care most about a given policy matter—hotels and restaurants, in the case of the minimum wage—drive the organization's agenda. "Usually the most vocal members of the state chambers dominate on that particular issue, and everybody else stays quiet," Knapp says.

When that happens, it's easy for politicians and the public to get the idea that the private sector stands united against raising the minimum wage, when opinions are actually much more diverse.

Holly Sklar is CEO of a national group called Business for a Fair Minimum Wage that favors raising the wage floor in states and nationwide, and she points to a number of surveys by reputable pollsters—from CareerBuilder, Small Business Majority, and the American Sustainable Business Council—that found most businesses agree. Many of those businesses don't join state chambers, which means their opinions don't filter up to the organization's leadership, so its positions don't change—and that's what gets conveyed to politicians.

"Sometimes you end up confused by the fact that someone has enough money to be in the halls of the state senate, day after day after day, funded by some of the bigger corporations that have more of an investment in the status quo," Sklar says. "It has an impact on how it's perceived—you start thinking that's what business thinks."

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to listen to their constituents, listen to these business-owners, and raise the minimum wage. It is past time that we took this action to improve the lives of millions of working Americans and strengthen our economy.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague. I am proud to join with him this afternoon to talk about an issue of critical importance to the people of this Nation.

Obviously, I want to be very, very clear about the issue of a rise in our minimum wage. For the length of time that I have served in this body, which is for 25 years, I have been a strong supporter of increasing the minimum wage. I believe that it has sustained

America's working families and it is justified, which is why I strongly support the Raise the Wage Act.

We need to index the minimum wage. It needs to keep up with inflation. It is long past time that this gets done. Time goes on, costs increase, and the minimum wage ought to increase. We can't afford to settle for the status quo.

Full-time, year-round work at the current minimum wage of \$7.25 leaves a family of three below the Federal poverty line. This disproportionately, by the way, hurts women, who make up nearly two out of three workers making the minimum wage. This means low-wage workers have to work longer hours just to achieve the standard of living that was considered the bare minimum almost a half century ago.

The greatest economic challenge that faces our Nation today is that too many Americans are in jobs that do not pay them enough to live on. Raising the minimum wage would directly or indirectly lift wages for more than 35 million workers—or more than one in four in the United States. The Raise the Wage Act would lift 4.5 million Americans out of poverty and reduce income inequality.

The low minimum wage, by the way, is not just bad for workers. It is bad for business, and it is bad for the entire economy. Low wages limit consumer demand, which stalls our country's economic growth. That hurts everyone.

A raise is long overdue for hard-working Americans if you realize, between 1948 and 1973, productivity and compensation grew at nearly equal rates; but from 1973 to 2014, American workers' productivity grew by 72 percent—they were producing more—while hourly worker compensation grew by just 9 percent.

Wages for the top 1 percent have grown 138 percent since 1979, while wages for the bottom 90 percent have only grown 15 percent. We have an opportunity to make a real step toward closing this gap.

There is a broad and growing consensus on a need to raise the wage. In a poll—and my colleagues have referenced this poll. This is a poll of business executives, and I think they were trying to hide it. I don't think that they wanted to get it out. But business executives—and this is a poll conducted by Frank Luntz, who is a Republican pollster, and he found that 80 percent supported raising the Federal minimum wage.

If our colleagues across the aisle want to make a real impact on poverty in the United States, they would support legislation that helps working families cope with rising costs like the Raise the Wage Act. The American people have waited long enough. It is time to make sure that all of our workers can make decent pay for a hard day's work, get a decent day's pay.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

Also, if I can, Mr. Speaker, Republicans contend that they can't raise the wage because doing so would kill jobs. So I include in the RECORD a paper from the National Employment Law Project describing, among other research, two meta-studies on the effect of the minimum wage on employment.

#### EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS EFFECTS OF MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES INTRODUCTION

While the U.S. economy continues to see steady growth, wages have been flat or falling for much of the labor force. This dynamic has spurred the most significant wave of action to raise the minimum wage in fifty years, with momentum for significant increases at the federal, state and local levels. The growing momentum for raising the minimum wage has focused attention on the impact of higher minimum wages on employment levels. Supporters argue that higher minimum wages help workers and the economy, and that research shows any adverse effect on jobs is minimal. Opponents, by contrast, generally contend that higher wages will reduce employment or slow job growth.

The fact that many states and cities in the U.S. have raised their minimum wages in recent years while others have not has created a rich store of data for research and analysis and has made the minimum wage one of the most studied questions in economics.

This brief reviews the extensive body of research on the impact of higher minimum wages in the U.S. over the past twenty years and draws these key findings:

The bulk of rigorous research examining hundreds of case studies of minimum wage increases at the state and local levels finds that raising the minimum wage boosts incomes for low-paid workers without reducing overall employment job growth to any significant degree.

The minority of researchers reaching different conclusions rely on less precise or flawed methodologies that fail to take advantage of the most recent advancements in economic research.

Businesses are able to absorb the cost of paying higher wages without reducing employment through a range of channels, including savings from increased employee productivity and reductions in employee turnover that consistently result from minimum wage increases.

The minimum wage is one of the most studied subjects in the field of economics. Since the early 1990s, economists—armed with richer data than previously available and the computational power to analyze it—have conducted scores of studies in an effort to better understand the employment effects of raising the minimum wage. Many of these studies, often referred to as the "new minimum wage research," have used sophisticated methodologies that control for variables unrelated to the minimum wage—such as regional employment trends not driven by minimum wage changes—that otherwise may bias a study's findings. The results overwhelmingly suggest that raising the minimum wage has very little effect on employment.

Most prominently, two leading "meta-studies" survey and pool the data from over four decades of research. The meta-studies represent the most reliable and sophisticated approaches to studying the employment impact of raising the minimum wage, as they

aggregate data from dozens of studies containing thousands of different estimates of the employment impacts of minimum wage increases.

The first meta-study, by Hristos Doucouliagos and T.D. Stanley (2009), shows that there is “little or no significant impact of minimum wage increases on employment,” as noted by the Center for Economic and Policy Research in its review of the minimum wage literature. This is illustrated in Figure 1, which arrays 1,492 different findings from 64 different studies, mapping their conclusions on employment impacts against the statistical precision of the findings. As economist Jared Bernstein summarizes, “the strong clumping around zero [impact on jobs] provides a useful summary of decades of research on this question [of whether minimum wage increases cost jobs].”

Drawing on the methodological insights of Doucouliagos and Stanley, the second meta-study by Dale Belman and Paul Wolfson (2014) reviews more than 70 studies and 439 distinct estimates to come to a very similar conclusion: “[i]t appears that if negative effects on employment are present, they are too small to be statistically detectable. Such effects would be too modest to have meaningful consequences in the dynamically changing labor markets of the United States,” and too small to merit policy or political controversy.

In addition to these meta-studies, state-of-the-art individual studies have developed new research methods to enable economists to better isolate and analyze the actual impact of minimum wage increases—and have confirmed that raising the minimum wage does not reduce employment. Two of these leading individual studies are:

“Minimum Wage Effects Across State Borders,” in which economists Arindrajit Dube, T. William Lester and Michael Reich (2010) apply innovative new research methods to examine the real-world impact of state minimum wage increases on employment. In order to completely isolate other factors influencing state job growth trends, the study compares employment trends in neighboring counties that are economically similar except for having different minimum wages (by virtue of being on different sides of a state border). The study looks at employment levels among every pair of neighboring U.S. counties that had differing minimum wage levels at any time between 1990 and 2006—and finds that higher minimum wages did not lead business in those states to reduce their hiring or shift their hiring to neighboring counties with lower minimum wage rates.

“Do Minimum Wages Really Reduce Teen Employment?,” in which economists Sylvia Allegretto, Arindrajit Dube and Michael Reich (2011) demonstrate that neglecting to control for regional employment trends leads observers to erroneously attribute reductions in employment in certain states to an increase in the minimum wage. They find that, after controlling for regional trends, the negative effects on teen employment in regions with higher minimum wages not only disappeared, but turned slightly positive, and that these observations hold true whether the economy is growing or in a downturn. The fact that there is no evidence that past U.S. minimum wage increases have reduced teen employment is significant since, if there were any adverse effects associated with minimum wage increases, one might expect to see them among teens who are new entrants to the labor market.

The innovative approach used by Dube, Lester and Reich in the 2010 study has won

praise from leading labor economists at top universities, such as Harvard economist Lawrence Katz and Massachusetts Institute of Technology economists David Autor and Michael Greenstone. As Autor explained, “The paper presents a fairly irrefutable case that state minimum wage laws do raise earnings in low wage jobs but do not reduce employment to any meaningful degree. Beyond this substantive contribution, the paper presents careful and compelling reanalysis of earlier work in this literature, showing that it appears biased by spatial correlation in employment trends.”

The new body of research has led to a shift in the views of mainstream economists on the employment impact of minimum wage increases. Indicative is a February 2013 poll of leading economists by the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business, in which economists by a more than 3 to 1 margin believe that the benefits of raising the minimum wage and indexing it for inflation outweigh any costs. Similarly, centrist economists, including Larry Summers and Robert Rubin, have called for raising the minimum wage and empowering workers as part of a strategy to help grow the middle class and move the economy forward; and Goldman Sachs released an analysis of minimum wage increases, which did not mention disemployment at all—neither as an immediate effect, nor as a forecast.

The shrinking body of economic research that continues to argue that increases in the minimum wage cost jobs emanates in large part from a single source: University of California-Irvine economist David Neumark. Neumark is the author of both a survey that claims that the weight of minimum wage research points towards evidence of job losses, and of several studies that claim to show the same. However, both Neumark’s survey and the methodology he uses in his individual studies have been shown to be skewed and inaccurate.

Neumark’s 2006 survey (coauthored with William Wascher), “Minimum Wages and Employment: A Review of Evidence from the New Minimum Wage Research,” maintains that 85 percent of the “most credible” research on the impact of raising the minimum wage finds job losses as a result. However, other economists have pointed out that this survey—which is not a true meta-study—was conducted in a highly subjective manner, generating its unrepresentative conclusions. Specifically, Neumark’s survey:

1. Fails to comprehensively review the economic research on the impact of raising the minimum wage, and instead selects just 33 studies that the author subjectively designates as the “most credible;”

2. Omits several of the most important recent studies on the impact of minimum wage increases in the United States, with the result that half of the studies analyzed by Neumark focus on foreign labor markets, rendering their conclusions less relevant to the U.S.; and

3. Is skewed towards Neumark’s own research, which makes up a full 26 percent of the U.S.-based studies that he elects to include.

Neumark’s research, as well as the few other studies which continue to maintain that minimum wage increases cost jobs, have used variants on a single approach: comparing job growth in states with higher minimum wages against job growth in states with lower minimum wages.

However, as demonstrated by Dube, Lester and Reich (2010) and Allegretto, Dube and Reich (2011), Neumark’s simplistic approach

cannot accurately assess the impact of a higher minimum wage since it does not adequately control for the wide range of varying local economic conditions—such as regional trends in manufacturing jobs losses, population shifts to the sun belt, and the local severity of economic shocks such as the housing bubble collapse—that affect job growth in state labor markets. As a result of these inadequate controls, Neumark and other conservative economists erroneously attribute differences in regional job growth levels to minimum wage differences.

More recent and sophisticated research does a better job of controlling for those regional economic differences. The 2010 study by Dube, Lester and Reich, for example, uses a methodology similar to Neumark’s. But rather than comparing job growth rates among all states nationwide, it focuses on comparisons among states in the same region of the country that have differing minimum wages. Dube, Lester and Reich show that when one uses a regional focus to control for extraneous economic trends, any evidence of job losses disappears.

The strength of the new research has led major business publications to endorse its findings and methodologies—and to reject opposition research as faulty and inaccurate. In 2012, Bloomberg News, for example, called for increasing the minimum wage and indexing it for inflation, writing that, “[a] wave of new economic research is disproving those arguments about job losses and youth employment. Previous studies tended not to control for regional economic trends that were already affecting employment levels, such as a manufacturing-dependent state that was shedding jobs. The new research looks at micro-level employment patterns for a more accurate employment picture. The studies find minimum-wage increases even provide an economic boost, albeit a small one, as strapped workers immediately spend their raises.”

Despite the advances made in new research on the minimum wage, in 2014 the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) published a report, based partially on older research, suggesting that an increase in the minimum wage would reduce total U.S. employment by about 500,000 workers—though it acknowledged the possibility of an impact ranging from near-zero to one million jobs lost. Economists who have studied the minimum wage, however, have criticized the report for a major flaw in its analysis: Despite acknowledging the greater accuracy of newer methodologies, in its synthesis of minimum wage studies the CBO gave equal weight to older methodologies as to new, without explaining its reason for doing so.

Michael Reich—one of the critics of the report and coauthor of two of the studies discussed above—notes the CBO erred when it took the findings of research by Neumark/Wascher and Reich/Dube and averaged them, as if those studies were similar enough in methodology, time and data sets used to justify doing so. He writes, “We conclude, and many other labor economists agree, that our studies invalidate the previous approach used in many studies by Neumark and Wascher and others. It makes no sense to take an average between a rigorous study and one that has been shown to be flawed.” Giving equal weight to these studies likely biased the CBO’s conclusions.

Goldman Sachs analysts also reviewed the CBO report and concluded that its job loss estimates are overstated. The analysts cite the findings of the new minimum wage research, which find little to no effects on employment (see the first section of this brief);



a boost in demand from higher earnings; a concentration of employment impacts on only two industries (retail and leisure & hospitality); and the fact that states and localities have taken the lead in increasing the minimum wage in the face of congressional inaction, as reasons the CBO estimates are likely too high.

Even with its flawed analysis, taken as a whole the CBO report nonetheless demonstrates that the benefits of raising the minimum wage far outweigh any drawbacks. Among its positive findings, the report concluded that 24.5 million workers would benefit from a wage increase to \$10.10, and nearly one million would be lifted out of poverty.

In January 2014, House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner made the following claim in explaining his opposition to raising the minimum wage: "When you raise the cost of something, you get less of it." This idea seems intuitive to many who learned about supply and demand in an introductory economics class. But in fact, both research and real life experiences show that, rather than automatically raising costs and forcing layoffs, higher wages can lead to significant savings for businesses, offsetting a large portion of the higher payroll costs. Among the leading factors explaining this seemingly counter-intuitive observation are two related concepts: employee turnover and productivity.

Low wages are associated with high levels of employee turnover. Workers earning low wages tend to be less committed to their jobs than better paid workers and are less likely to stay at their jobs for long. Unsurprisingly, the accommodations and food services sector—one of the lowest-paying sectors—has an annual turnover rate of nearly 63 percent, while "limited service restaurants"—a sub-sector which includes fast food restaurants like McDonald's and Burger King—have a turnover rate of well over 100 percent each year. The retail trade, which employs cashiers, customer service representatives, stock clerks and other low-wage workers, has a turnover rate of nearly 50 percent.

Employee turnover forces businesses to constantly find and train new workers, costing firms significant amounts of money and time. In the fast food industry, the cost of turnover is approximately \$4,700 each time a worker leaves his or her job. Studies show that higher wages can substantially reduce turnover and the costs associated with replacing lost workers. In the fast food industry, increasing the minimum wage could lead to as much as \$5.2 billion in cost savings to businesses and as many as 1.1 million fewer separations. Overall, savings from reduced turnover alone can offset as much as 30 percent of the cost of a minimum wage increase—even to \$15 per hour.

Low pay also impacts productivity. While experienced workers tend to be more productive, new workers may not be as optimally efficient during their training period, and this can incur indirect costs to businesses from lost sales and imperfect customer service as new workers learn on the job. While the savings from greater productivity and lower turnover may not fully pay for a minimum wage increase, these savings can nonetheless substantially offset the higher labor costs associated with an increase.

The benefits from higher productivity and lower turnover helps explain why large companies as well as many small businesses have chosen to invest in higher wages as part of a highly competitive business strategy. As MIT business school professor Zeynep Ton explains, "Highly successful retail chains—

such as QuikTrip convenience stores, Mercadona and Trader Joe's supermarkets, and Costco wholesale clubs—not only invest heavily in store employees but also have the lowest prices in their industries, solid financial performance, and better customer service than their competitors. They have demonstrated that, even in the lowest-price segment of retail, bad jobs are not a cost-driven necessity but a choice. And they have proven that the key to breaking the trade-off is a combination of investment in the workforce and operational practices that benefit employees, customers, and the company."

Many employers can afford to pay better wages. The vast majority of small businesses (89 percent) already pay their employees more than the federal minimum wage, a strong majority (60 percent) support raising the minimum wage to \$12 and adjusting it for inflation each year, and a growing number of employers see \$15 as a fair minimum wage. Many also believe that higher wages level the playing field by preventing larger or less scrupulous firms from gaining a competitive advantage through very low labor costs. Large businesses, in particular, are in the position to improve their wages. Corporations like Walmart, T.J. Maxx, Gap and Ikea, which employ the majority of low-wage workers, have been enjoying record profits for years. According to the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, in the second quarter of 2015, corporate profits amounted to \$1.8 trillion—the highest since the late 1940s.

#### CONCLUSION

"When employers stop thinking about employees as costs to cut, but instead as customers, they see it is in their self-interest to raise the minimum wage. We need to change their concept of self-interest."—Nick Hanauer, entrepreneur and venture capitalist.

The most recent and sophisticated research—as well as the experiences of leading employers like Trader Joe's, Costco and thousands of small businesses—strongly suggest that higher wages increase incomes for low-wage workers without reducing overall employment or hurting businesses. Not only do employers benefit from the savings they accrue from lower turnover and higher productivity; they also benefit from an increase in demand for the goods and services they offer. As observers from Nick Hanauer to Larry Summers point out, workers are customers—and the better a worker's ability to participate in the economy as a consumer, the better off will be both individual businesses and the economy as a whole.

Ms. DELAURO. This document examined 64 minimum wage studies measuring the effect of minimum wages on teenage employment in the United States published between 1972 and 2007. While these studies estimated a range of employment effects, Mr. Stanley and Mr. Doucouliagos found the most precise estimates in the studies were around zero or near zero employment effects.

□ 1600

The second is from Paul Wolfson and Dale Belman. It examined studies published since 2007 on the employment effect on minimum wage increases. This meta-analysis also found that the best estimates in the compiled studies revealed no statistically significant negative employment effects.

We all have listened over many years that any increase in the minimum wage would, my gosh, send the U.S. economy into a tailspin, and every time it has proven false. It was false then; it is false now. Let us raise the minimum wage, and let us support the Raise the Wage Act.

I thank my colleague from California for including me in this Special Order.

Mr. DESAULNIER. My pleasure. I thank my colleague from Connecticut for her passionate advocacy on this issue and on others around wage inequality.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter sent to President Obama and signed by over 600 economists, including seven Nobel Prize winners, stating that the most recent economic research shows that increases in the minimum wage have little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum wage workers. In fact, the letter goes on to read that a minimum wage increase could have a stimulative effect on the economy as low-wage workers spend their additional earnings, thus increasing consumer demand and leading companies to hire additional workers.

#### OVER 600 ECONOMISTS SIGN LETTER IN SUPPORT OF \$10.10 MINIMUM WAGE: ECONOMIST STATEMENT ON THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, SPEAKER BOEHNER, MAJORITY LEADER REID, CONGRESSMAN CANTOR, SENATOR MCCONNELL, AND CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI: July will mark five years since the federal minimum wage was last raised. We urge you to act now and enact a three-step raise of 95 cents a year for three years—which would mean a minimum wage of \$10.10 by 2016—and then index it to protect against inflation. Senator Tom Harkin and Representative George Miller have introduced legislation to accomplish this. The increase to \$10.10 would mean that minimum-wage workers who work full time, full year would see a raise from their current salary of roughly \$15,000 to roughly \$21,000. These proposals also usefully raise the tipped minimum wage to 70% of the regular minimum.

This policy would directly provide higher wages for close to 17 million workers by 2016. Furthermore, another 11 million workers whose wages are just above the new minimum would likely see a wage increase through "spillover" effects, as employers adjust their internal wage ladders. The vast majority of employees who would benefit are adults in working families, disproportionately women, who work at least 20 hours a week and depend on these earnings to make ends meet. At a time when persistent high unemployment is putting enormous downward pressure on wages, such a minimum-wage increase would provide a much-needed boost to the earnings of low-wage workers.

In recent years there have been important developments in the academic literature on the effect of increases in the minimum wage on employment, with the weight of evidence now showing that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market. Research suggests that a minimum-wage increase could have a small stimulative effect on the economy as low-wage workers

spend their additional earnings, raising demand and job growth, and providing some help on the jobs front.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here as a fervent believer in what we have advocated for and as someone who has spent 35 years owning and managing restaurants in an area of the country in which the economy is growing more rapidly than anywhere else in the country right now, which is the San Francisco Bay Area.

With that background, I also speak to this as somebody who has a good deal of empathy for small-business owners, particularly restaurant owners, who are looking at monthly and quarterly business reports and are wondering how they would accommodate the increase in the minimum wage. In California, of course, we are much higher than in the U.S., and many cities, including San Francisco, have gone to \$15 with an indexed minimum wage.

I believe firmly in the research that shows that one of the biggest challenges to small businesses, particularly in the restaurant field, is not the challenge of minimum wage workers, but the fact that there is less disposable income in middle-income households to be able to have the discretion to go out and spend that disposable income in restaurants and on hospitality events. While I understand the angst, these are the kinds of things, once we take that step—from my experience and the experience in California and in high-cost areas like New York and San Francisco, which have gone ahead with raising the minimum wage—that would indicate the overall benefit to the economy and to everyone.

Lastly, I think the challenge of this time for us domestically is, as I said, the inequality in the country. In a country in which the economy is based on 70 percent consumer investments, having more disposable income is a good thing. As President Lincoln once famously said: In order for this democracy to thrive, there must always be a balance between capital and labor; and if there is ever an imbalance towards capital, we have, in effect, lost democracy.

There is no question that, at this point in time, capital investment is doing many great things, including in the bay area and in our venture capital community and in our innovation community. In having said that, one does not have to read Thomas Piketty to understand that we have a huge imbalance between wages and labor and capital, which Lincoln warned about.

I ask the majority party to work with us to raise the minimum wage in order to help the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of workers in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas who deserve a liv-

ing wage, and I call on Congress to vote on raising the minimum wage.

There are over 10 million Americans working full time today who earn below the poverty line—under \$24,000 a year for a family of four.

In my home state of Texas, over 450,000 people are paid the minimum wage, more than any other state.

African-Americans and Hispanics are the most likely in our country to be among the working poor. Nearly 1-in-7 black and Hispanic Americans work full-time and live below the poverty line.

Eight percent of all working women in our country, 5.5 million Americans, are among the working poor.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply not right. Our country must value hard work and pay our workers a living wage if we are going to compete in the 21st century.

I am a proud original cosponsor of the Raise the Wage Act. This bill would raise the minimum wage nationwide to \$12 an hour by 2020, and index the minimum wage to inflation afterwards, giving 35 million Americans—more than one in four—a raise.

Increasing the minimum wage would raise earnings by nearly \$80 billion and grow our economy when millions of Americans can finally afford to buy a new television, automobile, or home.

This bill would end the unfair treatment of tipped workers by giving waiters and waitresses the same minimum wage as other workers.

America is a hardworking and compassionate country. We can no longer stand by while millions of our neighbors continue to live in poverty despite their great efforts.

I urge my colleagues to stand with the American people and demand a vote to raise the minimum wage.

#### 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HBCU CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege and honor today to be a part of a Special Order on the 1-year anniversary of the bipartisan HBCU Caucus. For those who are listening or who are watching, let me make sure you understand that HBCU stands for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. That is what we will be talking about today.

I am the co-chair of this caucus, along with a Member of this body who came up with this idea and who has spearheaded this effort from the very beginning—she is the spirit behind it—Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS from the great State of North Carolina.

I yield to Congresswoman ADAMS so that she may speak to this House and to the Nation about the importance of this topic and about the importance of HBCUs to the United States of America.

Ms. ADAMS. I thank Congressman BYRNE. I appreciate the gentleman's yielding to me and his work with this caucus.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the first anniversary of the bipartisan Congressional Historically Black Colleges and Universities Caucus, known by many as the HBCU Caucus.

As a retired 40-year educator from Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, I have always believed that every young person who desires a college education should get that opportunity. Like many of the young people I taught at Bennett College for those four decades of my academic career, my story is one of perseverance.

I was a first-generation college student at North Carolina A&T. I came to school like so many students today—not fully prepared to do college work. A&T gave me a chance because it believed in opportunity and the fundamental importance of education that W.E.B. Du Bois spoke about when he said: "Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental." That is why I advocate for HBCUs, for they advocated for me, and they invested in my success.

There are more than 100 HBCUs in the United States that enroll more than 300,000 students per year. HBCUs are taking our students in—students like me and like you—from diverse backgrounds and are giving them a chance, a chance that other schools might not have given them. Many HBCU students are often like I was—first generation from low-income families—so we must ensure that all students, including those from economically strained backgrounds, have access to a high-quality education and are equipped with the knowledge and the 21st century skills that they need to succeed. HBCUs do just that for so many students. HBCUs represent 3 percent of colleges and universities; yet we graduate 20 percent of African Americans with undergraduate degrees and 50 percent of African American educators. Despite these facts, HBCUs have historically been underfunded.

There are many unique challenges that HBCUs and the students they serve face. Many students don't have the luxury of being supported through school. Some have to work their way through, taking breaks along the way. It is imperative then that we work together to ensure that these institutions not only have the resources that are necessary to encourage enrollment and increase the graduation rates among these students, but also that they are capable of preparing these young people for the workforce. That is why I launched the first bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus with my Republican co-chair and former Alabama Community College System

Chancellor, Congressman BRADLEY BYRNE from Alabama.

Representative BYRNE, I thank you for being my co-chair. It is a pleasure to serve our HBCUs alongside of you.

The purpose of the caucus is to create a national dialogue so as to educate other Members of Congress and their staffs about the issues that impact HBCUs as well as to address the needs of HBCUs and to support the students and graduates of these institutions by increasing access and career opportunities. With the help of Representative BYRNE, we have grown the caucus to 56 members now, from both sides of the aisle, over the course of this year. I am proud to announce that the caucus is now bicameral and has the support of my home State Senator, RICHARD BURR of North Carolina.

Those of us in Congress have more to learn from our HBCU institutions and from the students who attend them. That is why, when we first launched the caucus, our first goal was to listen, and we did just that—we listened. We have held several staff briefings on various topics that impact HBCUs. I hosted a roundtable in my district with presidents and representatives from 10 HBCUs in the 12th District of North Carolina. I hosted a roundtable in my district, as well, with the former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan as well as with presidents and representatives from HBCUs in the 12th District to make sure that their needs were heard. We hosted a diversity in the workforce event with Fortune 500 companies to discuss the role HBCUs play in graduating a skilled and diverse workforce while learning more about the programs that are currently available to improve diversity at these companies. We surveyed members of the caucus and Members of Congress to find out what their priorities are for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, and we hosted conference calls with chancellors and presidents for their input. At the start of this year, we held a caucus meeting with the new Secretary of Education, Dr. John King, Jr., in order to share those priorities with him.

Caucus members have been steadfast in crafting legislation to positively impact our HBCUs, which I am proud to support, from the America's College Promise Act, which would grant any first-time student access to community college for free and sets aside special funding for HBCUs and other institutions that serve many low-income, first-generation college students, to the HBCU Historic Preservation Program, which would reauthorize funds for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings on these campuses.

Recently, I introduced the HBCU Innovation Fund Act, which would provide \$250 million in competitive grants to these schools across the country in order to develop critical solutions to

meet current and emerging needs, like student retention and improving graduation rates; but this is just the start, and it is, clearly, not the end of our work to support HBCUs.

Many of the members of this bipartisan HBCU Caucus have long been champions for education and for our schools. This bipartisan caucus is just another step in the right direction as we join forces across the aisle so that we can truly make a difference and deliver for our HBCUs: from Assistant Democratic Leader CLYBURN, who works to protect institutions like South Carolina State and who has helped start Centers of Excellence, which have had a tremendous impact on students in his State; to my ranking member on Education and the Workforce, Representative BOBBY SCOTT, who has used his leadership position to be a national voice for all HBCUs and institutions of higher learning; to Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, a leader in STEM education and a steadfast voice for our students—and HBCUs in particular.

To Congressional Black Caucus chair and my colleague from North Carolina, Representative G. K. BUTTERFIELD, I thank him for making HBCUs a priority for our Congressional Black Caucus and for Congress.

To our Democrat vice chairs—Representative BENNIE THOMPSON and Representative TERRI SEWELL—and our Republican vice chairs—Representatives BRUCE WESTERMAN and RANDY FORBES—who have all been fierce advocates for HBCUs in their districts, and to my colleagues—Representatives CEDRIC RICHMOND and CORRINE BROWN—who are co-chairs of the CBC's HBCUs task force, they have all put HBCUs first and have brought Members and the administration to the table to highlight the issues of concern.

Thank you to all of these Members for doing this good work and for bringing their expertise to the HBCU Caucus, because we couldn't do it without strong leaders in our communities who represent these institutions.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund, an organization that supports the 47 publicly supported HBCUs, and the Thurgood Marshall Foundation played a critical role in the caucus' inception, and their very own president, Johnny Taylor, was the host for the caucus launch.

Thank you as well to the United Negro College Fund, which works to support the 37-member private Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The UNCF has been instrumental in widening the caucus' reach and has helped provide more than \$4.5 billion to help more than 400,000 students get college degrees. So we thank Dr. Lomax and all of those who work with him.

To the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, NAFEO, which has also re-

mained a key advocate for our HBCUs and our students, thank you to that organization and, also, to Lezli Baskerville.

I also congratulate the 1890 land grant institutions on their 125th anniversary last year. I was honored to participate in the House Agriculture Committee's hearing, in July, with the presidents and leaders of those universities, and I look forward to continuing to work with these organizations.

We have come a long way this year, but with this crisis still existing in education and with those facing our HBCUs, we still have a long road ahead of us; so I look forward to growing this partnership with Representative BYRNE and with more Members from both Chambers and from both sides of the aisle. We can continue to collectively work together in a bipartisan fashion to make a difference for our HBCUs and to protect and advance the students they serve.

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Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I can't say enough about the leadership on this issue that Congresswoman ADAMS has provided. She just did a terrific job of explaining to us all not just the progress that we have made over the last year, but the promise we have in the years to come to take this area and continue to move forward on it.

What a rich tradition we have in this country with Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I come from the State of Alabama. We are justifiably proud of the great institutions in our State. I can only tell you about a few, but let's start with probably our flagship, which is Tuskegee University, worldwide famous and well known for so many different things.

It is not just what its history is, although it is a rich and storied industry. It is also what it continues to do today and what Tuskegee will do in the future to enrich the lives of hundreds, yet tens of thousands, of people who have gone on in their lives and will go on in their lives to do great things for our State of Alabama and for the United States of America.

I am blessed in my district to have Bishop State Community College. Bishop State is one of the public community colleges in the State of Alabama. It was under my jurisdiction when I was the chancellor of post-secondary education. It is rich in its own history with an incredibly important mission in our rapidly growing economy in the Mobile area of providing the trained workforce for all of the business and industry that have been coming and is already there in our district.

So Bishop State stands as a great symbol to me not just of what we are, but of what we can be as we work with these institutions throughout my State of Alabama, throughout the South, and throughout the Nation.

I stand here not as a Black person, not as a Democrat, because this is not a White or Black issue. This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. This is an American issue. This is about providing opportunity for everyone in America.

So often we talk about opportunity. Here is an example of where we are doing something about opportunity. We can open all the doors we want in America, but if the people of America or a small portion of the people of America can't walk through those doors, then we don't have real opportunity.

This Congress has few opportunities to really do the things that need to be done to help people. Here is one. Here is one where we can really do something that will make a tremendous difference.

Congresswoman ADAMS really put her finger on it. There are many people that go to HBCUs who didn't get there with the sort of support that they needed, who didn't get there with the sort of academic preparation that they needed.

Now, we can say: Oh, well. That is their problem and they just have to find some way to deal with it. Or we can understand that that is not just a problem for them, but that is a problem for all of us.

If we can work with them and help them with those problems through the programs that we have at these HBCUs, not only have we given that individual an opportunity to lift themselves up, but as they lift themselves up, they lift up our communities and they lift up our Nation.

So I was very honored when Congresswoman ADAMS came to me to ask me to participate in this very, very worthy endeavor with her. I know we have done some great things over the last year, but that is just a foretaste of what we can do in the years to come with her inspiration and with her leadership.

We have a number of great members in this caucus. One of our most steadfast members is one of the great leaders from the State of Florida, Representative GWEN GRAHAM.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GRAHAM) for her to come forward and present to us her own background and her own feelings about HBCUs.

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BYRNE and Congresswoman ADAMS for hosting today's Special Order and for all you do to support our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

It was such an honor for me to join this caucus as a founding member with you a year ago. It is hard to believe it has already been a year. I am proud of the bipartisan work we have done on behalf of our HBCUs.

There are more than 100 HBCUs in the United States that enroll more

than 300,000 students per year. HBCUs represent 3 percent of colleges and universities, yet graduate 20 percent of African Americans with undergraduate degrees and 25 percent of African American degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

In my district, I am so proud to represent Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, one of our State's most historic and important universities. Florida A&M—or FAMU, as it is more affectionately known in north Florida—was founded in 1887 with just 15 students and 2 instructors. Let me just say: Go Rattlers.

Today the university has grown to enroll nearly 10,000 students, and it was named by the U.S. News & World Report as the top public Historically Black College and Universities in the entire Nation for 2015.

It is also listed among The Princeton Review's Best in the Southeast Colleges and is one of the top picks for providing a high-quality education at an affordable price in Florida, according to The College Database. And FAMU is the Nation's top producer of African Americans at the bachelor degree level.

It is such an honor for me to represent FAMU and to join the HBCU caucus in supporting all of our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the wonderful students who attend them.

Again, I thank Congressman BYRNE and Congresswoman ADAMS for hosting this Special Order.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her leadership on this issue and so many issues. It is so important that we have the understanding, each of us, of the institutions in our own district. She talked about Florida A&M, a great institution of higher education in her district.

Part of what we hope to do in the caucus is to educate every Member in this body about the institutions in their districts and—perhaps they don't have any institutions in their district—about institutions across America that are HBCUs and what they have done for their communities and what they have done for the United States of America and continue to do every day.

I am very blessed to have been able to work with a number of HBCUs in Alabama in my prior positions in the State school board and as a chancellor of post-secondary education. I must admit I didn't know very much about them before I was in those positions.

But as I learned about them, as I got to know the administration and the faculty, but, most importantly, the students at those institutions, I realized what a rich resource that is for those students and for the communities that they are founded in.

You look around the country at some of the great graduates of these institu-

tions and you realize where would we have been without the HBCUs, particularly during a period of time when African Americans were denied access to regular institutions of higher education because of discrimination in American society.

Just because we have made progress in that regard doesn't mean that we have ended the need for HBCUs. In many ways, the need has never been greater, because what we need in our society from the people in our society—in order to perform at the levels that our economy requires, it requires ever greater levels of education, training, and expertise. What might have been enough to know 50 years ago, we need to know far more now and we need to know it at every level of education.

We are here today to talk about colleges and universities. Some of the great colleges and universities in America have understood the importance of this and have rallied around our cause. I will never forget our kickoff day when we had the chancellor of the University of North Carolina system here, one of the great university statewide systems that we have in this country, as a recognition of those universities and the role that HBCUs play along with them in providing higher education to people throughout the United States of America.

The United Negro College Fund says that a mind is a terrible thing to waste. A great country cannot waste any mind. We need every mind in America to get whatever they need to become the person that they want to become, to realize their dreams, as I said earlier, not only to lift themselves up, but to lift the rest of us up with them. That is what we are talking about when we talk about HBCUs.

I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina again for her leadership, for her inspiration, for her continuing to be somebody out there to tell us that we need to keep pushing, we need to keep pushing. As long as she is willing to continue to do that, I am willing to continue to do that with her.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### THE DISPARATE IMPLEMENTATION OF AMAZON.COM'S PRIME FREE SAME-DAY DELIVERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, despite our best efforts, racial redlining is still alive and well today. I come to this Chamber because racial redlining has once again reared its ugly, evil head across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on April 21, Bloomberg published an analysis entitled "Amazon Doesn't Consider the Race of Its Customers. Should It?"

Bloomberg explains how amazon.com discriminates against mostly African American communities nationwide by shutting them out, shutting them off from receiving its Prime free same-day delivery service.

Mr. Speaker, it must be understood that mostly predominantly African American ZIP Codes in this Nation have been excluded from receiving Amazon's Prime free same-day delivery service. It must be understood, Mr. Speaker, that this is absolutely unacceptable.

Amazon's vice president for global communications, Mr. Craig Berman, feebly attempted to justify this by saying that "demographics play no role" in the determination by which neighborhoods have access to Prime free same-day service.

□ 1630

He goes on to state that distance matters and that in terms of determining factors, close proximity to a warehouse is certainly one of the factors that they consider.

Well, Mr. Speaker, on the face of it, that seemingly appears to be both logical and understandable. However, when viewed through a sharper lens, there are some glaring, flagrant inconsistencies.

In my hometown of Chicago, Illinois, just for example, same-day service is available to a majority of the city and its surrounding suburbs. This free, same-day delivery service is not available to my constituents in predominantly African American ZIP Codes.

Mr. Berman, the article explains, again, feebly blames this on the distance of these ZIP Codes from a distribution center that is located in Kenosha, Wisconsin. That would be understandable if not for the fact that this free, same-day Amazon delivery service is available to residents in Oak Lawn, Illinois, which is a community that is also in the district that I represent, but Oak Lawn is even farther south, farther away from Kenosha, Wisconsin, a greater distance from the distribution center in Kenosha, Wisconsin, than all these African American-pre-dominant ZIP Codes.

Mr. Speaker, because I live in a predominantly African American ZIP Code, I cannot be served by the Amazon Prime free, same-day delivery service, but my White constituents can be served by Amazon with their Prime free, same-day delivery service.

Simply put, Mr. Speaker, despite amazon.com's assertions of impartiality and a strictly numbers-based approach to the availability of this Prime free, same-day delivery services, Amazon's implementation of this service has been disparate, disappointing, disgusting, and apparently discriminatory.

Mr. Speaker, not only does this occur in the city of Chicago, but also

Bloomberg found similar situations existing in five other cities. Not just Chicago, but Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, New York City, and Washington, D.C., all across our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, historically and unfortunately, the situation with amazon.com is not a unique experience for people of color. Today, in the year 2016, too many Americans still are denied services and access to goods based off the color of their skin and where they reside or the location of their ZIP Code. This is redlining. This practice is known as redlining. This redlining has been a major, significant obstacle to communities of color to gain access to the fullness of their American Dream, to the fullness of their American ideal.

For decades now, despite efforts during the civil rights era of our Nation, during similar efforts, not only before, but even after the civil rights era of our Nation, despite many multiple legislative attempts to stamp redlining out, this very injustice continues to spread, even among some of my corporate citizens who, on the face of it, would never accept the fact that they engage in discriminatory business practices.

But when you look at it from my perspective, look at it from my vantage point, look at it from the experience of my constituents who are African American, Amazon fails to meet the acid test. Its Prime same-day delivery service is far less than prime for too many of my constituents and too many American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Members of this body of the U.S. House of Representatives, we cannot allow businesses in this country to discriminate against any particular group of Americans. We cannot allow businesses in this country to discriminate against neighborhoods, against communities based on their business's race-based perceptions.

Mr. Speaker, this body, this U.S. House of Representatives cannot allow the Amazons of the world, amazon.com to violate laws of our Nation, laws like the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Amazon cannot violate the laws of our Nation with impunity and without accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I must call upon amazon.com and its CEO, Jeff Bezos, to come and do what is right, to come and right this wrong. Make Amazon's Prime same-day delivery service a prime service that is available to all the citizens of this Nation and not just to the White citizens of this Nation.

People all across this Nation like amazon.com. I am a customer of amazon.com, and amazon.com benefits from Black Americans' dollars because Black Americans' dollars are just as green as any other Americans' dollars. White Americans' dollars are not more powerful, aren't colder or hotter. These are Americans' dollars, greenbacks, and Amazon must respect the buying

power, the consumer right of African American consumers just as it does all other American consumers.

Mr. Bezos, again, I appeal to you, do what is right and right this wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I must call upon our colleagues in the executive branch to ensure that the laws of our Nation passed by this U.S. Congress are faithfully and equally executed so that communities of color get equal and fair treatment by its corporate citizens all across this country.

Redlining is an evil that has ripped apart the dreams and the aspirations of African American citizens and other minorities.

□ 1645

It is high time now. The hour has passed. It is time now to put redlining and all the vestiges of it aside, buried deep. Take it out of the consciousness of the corporate decisionmakers in this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is a service economy. Our economics are based on service. Our social contract means that all Americans should have access and a level playing field when it comes to getting service and being serviced in this service economy.

Now, amazon.com's Prime same-day delivery service stands as a stark example of how much still needs to be changed in our society. No matter how much things change, so much remains the same. Let us rise up to the call. Amazon, do what is right, and right this wrong.

Mr. Speaker, we can do no less than our best for all American citizens. This is an extraordinary violation of not only the civil rights laws of our Nation, but it stands as a significant barrier to greater economic opportunities, to a greater sense of being treated equally and fairly. There is something called justice in our society, and any injustice must be courageously confronted. Any injustice.

Amazon.com, your Prime same-day delivery service is not so prime until all your customers are treated fairly and equitably in your business model. No excuses.

This is shameful. It must be corrected. Make the Amazon Prime same-day delivery service available for all Americans because we live in a society where being prime really should mean something—this America that we live in.

Mr. Speaker, again, I call upon Mr. Jeff Bezos, Amazon's CEO, to do what is right and right this less than prime wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the article: "Amazon Doesn't Consider the Race of Its Customers. Should It?"

[From www.bloomberg.com, Apr. 21, 2016]  
AMAZON DOESN'T CONSIDER THE RACE OF ITS CUSTOMERS. SHOULD IT?

(By David Ingold and Spencer Soper)

For residents of minority urban neighborhoods, access to Amazon.com's vast array of

products—from Dawn dish soap and Huggies diapers to Samsung flatscreen TVs—can be a godsend. Unlike whiter ZIP codes, these parts of town often lack well-stocked stores and quality supermarkets. White areas get organic grocers and designer boutiques. Black ones get minimarts and dollar stores. People in neighborhoods that retailers avoid must travel farther and sometimes pay more to obtain household necessities. “I don’t have a car, so I love to have stuff delivered,” says Tamara Rasberry, a human resources professional in Washington, D.C., who spends about \$2,000 a year on Amazon Prime, the online retailer’s premium service that guarantees two-day delivery of tens of millions of items (along with digital music, e-books, streaming movies, and TV shows) for a yearly \$99 membership fee. Rasberry, whose neighborhood of Congress Heights is more than 90 percent black, says shopping on Amazon lets her bypass the poor selection and high prices of nearby shops.

As Amazon has expanded rapidly to become “the everything store,” it’s offered the promise of an egalitarian shopping experience. On Amazon and other online retailers, a black customer isn’t viewed with suspicion, much less followed around by store security. Most of Amazon’s services are available to almost every address in the U.S. “We don’t know what you look like when you come into our store, which is vastly different than physical retail,” says Craig Berman, Amazon’s vice president for global communications. “We are ridiculously prideful about that. We offer every customer the same price. It doesn’t matter where you live.”

Yet as Amazon rolls out its upgrade to the Prime service, Prime Free Same-Day Delivery, that promise is proving harder to deliver on. The ambitious goal of Prime Free Same-Day is to eliminate one of the last advantages local retailers have over the e-commerce giant: instant gratification. In cities where the service is available, Amazon offers Prime members same-day delivery of more than a million products for no extra fee on orders over \$35. Eleven months after it started, the service includes 27 metropolitan areas. In most of them, it provides broad coverage within the city limits. Take Amazon’s home town of Seattle, where every ZIP code within the city limits is eligible for same-day delivery and coverage extends well into the surrounding suburbs.

In six major same-day delivery cities, however, the service area excludes predominantly black ZIP codes to varying degrees, according to a Bloomberg analysis that compared Amazon same-day delivery areas with U.S. Census Bureau data.

In Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, and Washington, cities still struggling to overcome generations of racial segregation and economic inequality, black citizens are about half as likely to live in neighborhoods with access to Amazon same-day delivery as white residents.

The disparity in two other big cities is significant, too. In New York City, same-day delivery is available throughout Manhattan, Staten Island, and Brooklyn, but not in the Bronx and some majority-black neighborhoods in Queens. In some cities, Amazon same-day delivery extends many miles into the surrounding suburbs but isn’t available in some ZIP codes within the city limits.

The most striking gap in Amazon’s same-day service is in Boston, where three ZIP codes encompassing the primarily black neighborhood of Roxbury are excluded from same-day service, while the neighborhoods

that surround it on all sides are eligible. “Being singled out like that and not getting those same services as they do in a 15-minute walk from here is very frustrating,” says Roxbury resident JD Nelson, who’s been an Amazon Prime member for three years. “It’s not a good thing, and it definitely doesn’t make me happy.” Rasberry was excited when Amazon announced Prime Free Same-Day was coming to Washington. But when she entered her ZIP code on the retailer’s website, she was disappointed to find her neighborhood was left out. “I still get two-day shipping, but none of the superfast, convenient delivery services come here,” she says. Rasberry pays the same \$99 Prime membership fee as people who live in the city’s majority-white neighborhoods, but she doesn’t get the same benefits. “If you bring that service to the city,” she says, “you should offer it to the whole city.”

There’s no evidence that Amazon makes decisions on where to deliver based on race. Berman says the ethnic composition of neighborhoods isn’t part of the data Amazon examines when drawing up its maps. “When it comes to same-day delivery, our goal is to serve as many people as we can, which we’ve proven in places like Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, and Philadelphia.” Amazon, he says, has a “radical sensitivity” to any suggestion that neighborhoods are being singled out by race. “Demographics play no role in it. Zero.”

Amazon says its plan is to focus its same-day service on ZIP codes where there’s a high concentration of Prime members, and then expand the offering to fill in the gaps over time. “If you ever look at a map of service for Amazon, it will start out small and end up getting big,” he says.

This is a logical approach from a cost and efficiency perspective: Give areas with the most existing paying members priority access to a new product. Yet in cities where most of those paying members are concentrated in predominantly white parts of town, a solely data-driven calculation that looks at numbers instead of people can reinforce long-entrenched inequality in access to retail services. For people who live in black neighborhoods not served by Amazon, the fact that it’s not deliberate doesn’t make much practical difference. “They are offering different services to other people who don’t look like you but live in the same city,” says Rasberry.

Amazon cites several reasons a ZIP code within a city may be excluded: too few Prime members to justify the expense of sending out trucks and drivers, or the area is too far from the closest Amazon warehouse. “Distance matters,” Berman says. “At some point, with the math involved, we can’t make it work—in time or in cost for the carrier. There is a diminishing return on orders.” In some cases, Amazon says, it’s difficult to find delivery partners willing to serve the area. “We deliver same day up till 9 p.m.” says Amazon spokesman Scott Stanzel. “There are a lot of carrier partners. A lot of variables.”

Amazon won’t reveal specifics about how it decides its same-day delivery areas—the competition would kill for that info, says Berman. Broadly speaking, it comes down to cost. Same-day delivery is expensive to provide, in part because Amazon can’t rely on the built-in infrastructure and low negotiated rates of United Parcel Service and the U.S. Postal Service, which shoulder the retailer’s standard and two-day Prime deliveries. To get packages out within hours, Amazon uses a mix of its own drivers, local

couriers, and independent contractors making deliveries in their own vehicles through an Uberlike service called Amazon Flex.

Cities where Amazon offers broad one-day coverage appear to have something in common: close proximity to product warehouses, making it less expensive to reach all areas. “It’s not the only variable. It’s certainly one of them,” says Berman. “It definitely has an impact if we have a fulfillment center that’s outside a city, or we have a fulfillment center that happens to be on one side of it.” Amazon declined to reveal the locations of its same-day hubs, so it’s difficult to tell how that works. In same-day cities Amazon hasn’t yet surrounded with warehouses, the company must decide which neighborhoods are worth the cost of service and which aren’t. That’s where things get complicated.

#### ATLANTA

Amazon’s Prime Free Same-Day Delivery closely mirrors the city’s historical racial divide. The largely white northern half is covered, while the largely black southern half isn’t. The company extends the service 35 miles north of downtown but excludes Norcross, a less distant eastern suburb where blacks and Hispanics outnumber whites, and Redan, with a black population of 94 percent.

#### BOSTON

Although Amazon’s same-day service is available to most addresses in Boston and reaches almost to New Hampshire, the centrally located neighborhood of Roxbury, with a population that’s about 59 percent black and 15 percent white, is excluded. The residents of the ZIP codes that border Roxbury on all sides are eligible for the service. Amazon’s Berman calls Roxbury “an anomaly.”

#### CHICAGO

Amazon’s same-day service area includes about 2.2 million people in the city but excludes about 472,000 people in Chicago’s predominantly black South Side. Berman says the South Side ZIP codes are beyond the reach of the company’s distribution center in Kenosha, Wisconsin, about two hours north of the city. Yet same-day service is available to Prime members in Oak Lawn, which is eight miles farther south than the excluded portions of Chicago and has a white population of about 85 percent. The company does offer the service in largely black neighborhoods in the city’s center, including Austin.

#### DALLAS

Amazon’s same-day service area includes suburbs between Dallas and Fort Worth, but about 590,000 residents of eastern and southern Dallas, where a majority are black or Hispanic—such as Oak Cliff—are just outside the delivery area. Amazon cited distance from the company’s warehouses and a low concentration of Prime members as reasons those areas were left out.

#### NEW YORK CITY

Amazon’s same-day coverage area extends, unbroken, from New York City all the way south to Philadelphia, with one notable exception: The largely black and Hispanic borough of the Bronx, which is excluded from the service. The Bronx has the lowest percentage of white residents of the five boroughs at about 33 percent. Berman says the Bronx is difficult to reach because the warehouses that serve the area are in New Jersey.

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

One of Amazon’s largest same-day service coverage areas extends from Washington, D.C., north to Baltimore and encompasses much of the Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Yet all neighborhoods in the capital’s predominantly black southeast quadrant are excluded, along with several largely black

Maryland suburbs to the southeast—notably Suitland and Silver Hill, which have average income levels comparable to those in some ZIP codes between Washington and Baltimore that do have same-day coverage.

Some excluded ZIP codes correspond with higher crime rates. Amazon won't say whether concerns about stolen packages or the safety of drivers figure into its decisions about where to deliver, saying only "the safety of our employees is a top priority."

Income inequality may also play a part. Many excluded areas have average household incomes below the national average. And households with Prime memberships skew wealthier—not surprising given the \$99 membership fee. An April study of families with teenagers by investment bank Piper Jaffray estimates 70 percent of such U.S. households with incomes of \$12,000 per year or more now have a Prime membership, compared with 43 percent for households with incomes of \$21,000 to \$41,000. Income differences alone don't explain the gaps in service, however. In Chicago, New York, Boston, Atlanta, and other cities, some areas that are excluded have household incomes as high or higher than ZIP codes Amazon does cover.

Berman points to cities where some black ZIP codes get same-day service and some white ones don't. In Los Angeles, black and Hispanic communities south of downtown have same-day service, but mostly white Malibu, on the far side of the traffic-clogged Route 27 and Pacific Coast Highway, doesn't. In several cities where the same-day service area encompasses the vast majority of all residents, including Los Angeles, San Jose, and Tampa, a higher percentage of blacks live in ZIP codes eligible for same-day delivery than whites. Overall, though, in cities where same-day service doesn't extend to most residents, those left out are disproportionately black. (In the six cities with disparities, Asians, on average, are as likely as whites to live in an area with coverage; Hispanics are less likely than whites to live in same-day ZIP codes, but more likely than blacks.)

"As soon as you try to represent something as complex as a neighborhood with a spreadsheet based on a few variables, you've made some generalizations and assumptions that may not be true, and they may not affect all people equally," says Sorelle Friedler, a computer science professor at Haverford College who studies data bias. "There is so much systemic bias with respect to race. If you aren't purposefully trying to identify it and correct it, this bias is likely to creep into your outcomes."

Amazon says it's misleading to scrutinize its current delivery areas so closely, because the service is new and evolving. Eventually, coverage will extend to every ZIP code in same-day cities, says Berman. The service is indeed expanding. Since Bloomberg first contacted Amazon for this article in February, the company announced 12 new same-day cities. As it adds locations, however, Amazon has yet to extend coverage to excluded majority-black ZIP codes in the existing cities with gaps in service. How long will those customers have to wait to get the full benefits of their Prime membership? Berman says there's no set timetable: "We'll get there."

Juan Gilbert, chair of the University of Florida's department of computer and information science & engineering, says Amazon has an opportunity to use its data resources to correct its oversight and avert falling into the retail patterns of the past. "I think it was a mistake, and it never crossed their mind," he says. "This is a perfect example of how Amazon had a blind spot."

Update, April 21: Corrects the number of New York City residents who live in ZIP codes eligible for Amazon same-day delivery; updates the article and final chart to indicate cities where black residents are more likely than whites to live in zip codes eligible for same day service.

#### METHODOLOGY

Amazon's website allows users to type in ZIP codes to see where Prime Free Same-Day Delivery is available. Bloomberg entered every U.S. ZIP code into the tool, and mapped the results on top of a complete U.S. ZIP code shape file, provided by ESRI, to produce a coverage map of Amazon's Prime same-day delivery areas. Coverage maps show Amazon data as of April 8, 2016.

Population data were compiled using block group figures from the 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates tables. Table B03002—Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race—provides population figures by racial category, including the following subsets: white alone, black or African-American alone, Hispanic or Latino, Asian alone, and other races. The data were released on Dec. 3, 2015 and are the most recent local population data available from the ACS. All ACS figures are estimates with a 90% confidence interval and are subject to a margin of error. City-level figures presented in the graphics and charts are compilations of individual block group estimates, and share the same 90% confidence level.

Each population dot represents 100 residents, and are evenly distributed across each block group. They do not represent exact addresses, and populations below a 100-person threshold within an individual block group are not shown.

In some cases, individual block groups straddle multiple ZIP codes or intersect a city boundary. Often these block groups feature clear divisions between residential areas, and nonresidential areas made up of parks, lakes, or empty land. In these cases, a block group was included in the ZIP code that included the residential area. When a block group was not clearly separated in this manner, the population was proportionally distributed based on the area of overlap.

Mr. RUSH. I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, April 29, 2016, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5187. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled, "Five-year Comprehensive Range Plan for Melrose Air Force Range (AFR)"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5188. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report to Congress on Personal and Home Care Aide State Training (PHCAST) Demonstration

Program Evaluation, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1397g(b)(5)(B)(ii); Public Law 111-148, Sec. 5507(a); (124 Stat. 667); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5189. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Plans; Georgia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0152; FRL-9945-60-Region 4] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5190. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities; Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units [EPA-R02-OAR-2015-0755; FRL-9945-71-Region 2] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5191. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Plan Revisions; Arizona; Rescissions and Corrections [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0028; FRL-9945-78-Region 9] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5192. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Extensions of the Attainment Date, and Reclassification of Several Areas for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0468; FRL-9945-17-OAR] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5193. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR); Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern (iDURC) [EPA-HQ-OARM-2016-0046; FRL-9941-86-OARM] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5194. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0591; FRL-9945-28] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5195. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final evaluation of vendor submittal — Safety Evaluation of BWRVIP-100, Revision 1, "BWRVIP Vessel and Internals Project: Updated Assessment of the Fracture Toughness of Irradiated Stainless Steel for BWR Core Shrouds" (TAC No.: ME8329) received April 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5196. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-143, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5197. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-001, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5198. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-003, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5199. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-131, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5200. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-145, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); and 22 U.S.C. 2776(d)(1); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(d) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (90 Stat. 740); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5201. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5202. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5203. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5204. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5205. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report of all programs or projects of the International Atomic Energy Agency in each country listed in Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2021 note; Public Law 105-277, Sec. 2809(c)(2); (112 Stat. 2681-850); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5206. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination by the Secretary, pursuant to sections 506(a)(2), 610, and 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5207. A letter from the Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5208. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Family and Medical Leave Act; Definition of Spouse (RIN: 3206-AM90) received April 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5209. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Standards Branch, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf — Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control [Docket ID: BSEE-2015-0002; 15XEL700DX EEEE500000 EXISF0000.DAQ000] (RIN: 1014-AA11) received April 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5210. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition filed on behalf of workers at the Kansas City Plant, Kansas City, Missouri, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7384q(c)(2); Public Law 106-398, Sec. 1, (as amended by Public Law 108-375, Sec. 3166(b)(1)), (118 Stat. 2188); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5211. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Intra-coastal Waterway; Lake Charles, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2015-1086] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5212. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Wy-Hi Rowing Regatta; Detroit River, Trenton Channel; Wyandotte, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0209] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5213. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone, John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse; Boston, MA [USCG-2014-0246] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5214. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a draft bill to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes, pursuant to 38 USC 8104(a)(2); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5088. A bill to prevent abusive billing of ancillary services to the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 5089. A bill to ensure the Secretary of Commerce to maintain and operate at least one Doppler weather radar site within 55 miles of each State capital city in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 5090. A bill to ensure that air transportation between the United States and the European Union complies with the intent of article 17 bis of the United States-European Union-Norway-Iceland Air Transport Agreement of June 21, 2011; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 5091. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate the requirement for an annual report on the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for specialized treatment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HARPER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 5092. A bill to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5093. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require a time limitation for consent orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 5094. A bill to contain, reverse, and deter Russian aggression in Ukraine, to assist Ukraine's democratic transition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees



on Financial Services, the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia):

H.R. 5095. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health of Human Services to award grants to States (or collaborations of States) to establish, expand, or maintain a comprehensive regional, State, or municipal system to provide training, education, consultation, and other resources to prescribers relating to patient pain, substance misuse, and substance abuse disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 5096. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to establish the American Technical Training Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 5097. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require the termination of inactive investigations after a period of six months; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LANCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 5098. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require an annual plan and a report on elder fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ASHFORD (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. FORTENBERRY):

H.R. 5099. A bill to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Mr. GRIFFITH):

H.R. 5100. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to protect at-risk youth against termination of Medicaid eligibility while an inmate of a public institution; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia):

H.R. 5101. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a policy for the Department of Justice requiring all United States attorneys to prosecute offenses under sections 275 and 276 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 5102. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a criminal penalty for an alien who lacks lawful immigration status and is present in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. COLLINS of

Georgia, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia):

H.R. 5103. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the inclusion of a term of supervised release as a part of a sentence for certain offenders, to provide for the removal of deportable alien offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. HARPER, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 5104. A bill to prohibit, as an unfair and deceptive act or practice in commerce, the sale or use of certain software to circumvent control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DELANEY (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mrs. COMSTOCK):

H.R. 5105. A bill to ensure that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority includes board members who have certified expertise in certain areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 5106. A bill to make college more affordable, reduce student debt, and provide greater access to higher education for all students of the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 5107. A bill to prohibit employers and certain other entities from requiring or requesting that employees and certain other individuals provide a user name, password, or other means for accessing a personal account on any social networking website; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAYSON (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 5108. A bill to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to penalize persons who fail to maintain nuisance properties; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 5109. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require annual reports to Congress regarding the status of investigations of unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 5110. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to lower the action level for lead in drinking water to 5 parts per billion by the end of 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANCE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SWALWELL of

California, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HARPER, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 5111. A bill to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5112. A bill to amend the Consumer Protection Act of 2010 to grant the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection the authority to regulate certain acts and practices using processes and procedures consistent with and similar to those in place at the Federal Trade Commission, to encourage greater communication amongst regulators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 5113. A bill to encourage initiatives for financial products and services that are appropriate and accessible for millions of American small businesses that do not have access to the financial mainstream; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 5114. A bill to establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in the United States in national service positions to protect, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. HARPER):

H.R. 5115. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to include requirements for declaring an unlawful act or practice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 5116. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to permit a bipartisan majority of Commissioners to hold a meeting that is closed to the public to discuss official business; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 5117. A bill to ensure appropriate policies, planning, interagency coordination, and spectrum availability to support the Internet of Things; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LANCE):

H.R. 5118. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to specify certain effects of guidelines, general statements of policy, and similar guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 5119. A bill to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds available to any Federal department or agency for any fiscal year to purchase or issue a license for the purchase of heavy water produced in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5120. A bill to establish a penalty for the Department of Housing and Urban Development for failure to enforce compliance with the public housing community service and self-sufficiency requirement under law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 5121. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out an energy storage research program, loan program, and technical assistance and grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FORBES:

H. Res. 709. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran, by failing to adhere to international maritime law, ignoring United Nations resolutions, and conducting military operations in a manner that raises tensions within the Arabian Gulf, has undermined stability in the Arabian Gulf, raised the danger of inadvertent escalation, and increased the risk to members of the United States Armed Forces overseas; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PETERS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Res. 710. A resolution recognizing the 41st anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. VELA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SIREs, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H. Res. 711. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 30, 2016, as Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

210. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 500, condemning the global unrelenting persecution of Christians and acts of terror and aggression against Christians; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

211. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 481, urging Congress to pass bills for the implementation of the Veterans Affairs New Veterans Choice

Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5088.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 5089.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5090.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 5091.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. HARPER:

H.R. 5092.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5093.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3:

“The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 5094.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 5095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 5096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the U.S. Constitution, “The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana:

H.R. 5097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, CLause 18 (To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department thereof).

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 5098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (which states that “The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States”) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (which states that the Congress shall have the Power “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes”) of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ASHFORD:

H.R. 5099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 5100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Title I Section 8. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform in the United States;

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 5101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 5102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 5103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 5104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The “necessary and proper” clause of Article I Section 8.

By Mr. DELANEY:

H.R. 5105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 5106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 5107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:  
H.R. 5108.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:  
H.R. 5109.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce . . . among the several States.

By Mr. KILDEE:  
H.R. 5110.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LANCE:  
H.R. 5111.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Sec. 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution

This states that "Congress shall have the power . . . lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:  
H.R. 5112.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:  
H.R. 5113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, clause 3

By Ms. MCSALLY:  
H.R. 5114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 3—The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States;

By Mr. MULLIN:  
H.R. 5115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. OLSON:  
H.R. 5116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States, "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. PAULSEN:  
H.R. 5117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POMPEO:  
H.R. 5118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. POMPEO:  
H.R. 5119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 9 Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. SALMON:  
H.R. 5120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—"No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Mr. TAKANO:  
H.R. 5121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 194: Mr. WELCH, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 250: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 266: Mr. ALLEN.  
H.R. 292: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 449: Mr. GRAYSON.  
H.R. 672: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 711: Mr. YOHO, Mr. REED, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 775: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 816: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 845: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 864: Ms. MENG and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 923: Mr. SANFORD, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. LONG, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. JONES, and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 953: Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 973: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 1064: Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 1109: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1192: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1218: Mr. MARINO, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1233: Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H.R. 1258: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1309: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1336: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 1343: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1427: Ms. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 1457: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1492: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1559: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1602: Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 1688: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 1718: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1722: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 1736: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas and Mr. WALKER.

H.R. 1798: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
H.R. 1859: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1945: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 1961: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2026: Mr. JONES.  
H.R. 2102: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2148: Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 2180: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2189: Mr. LANCE and Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H.R. 2218: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2237: Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
H.R. 2285: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2342: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 2350: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania,

Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2366: Mr. WALZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 2739: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. LIPINSKI.  
H.R. 2759: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2793: Mr. WALKER.  
H.R. 2817: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2903: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 2911: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2948: Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 2991: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3071: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H.R. 3119: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3222: Mr. CONAWAY.  
H.R. 3237: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 3250: Mr. KIND.  
H.R. 3308: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 3323: Mr. SIRES, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 3406: Mr. CARDENAS.  
H.R. 3441: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 3542: Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 3632: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3742: Mr. SIRES and Mr. COFFMAN.  
H.R. 3832: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 3957: Mr. GRAYSON.  
H.R. 4006: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 4007: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.  
H.R. 4073: Mr. WALBERG and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 4137: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 4172: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 4177: Mr. YOHO, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 4184: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.R. 4185: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 4212: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 4216: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 4219: Mr. WALBERG.  
H.R. 4223: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4230: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H.R. 4247: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4262: Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 4266: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4399: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 4443: Mr. GRAYSON.  
H.R. 4448: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 4456: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
H.R. 4561: Mr. CICILLINE.

- H.R. 4562: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 4563: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 4594: Mr. HONDA and Mr. JOLLY.  
H.R. 4606: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 4611: Mr. JEFFRIES.  
H.R. 4615: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 4625: Mr. BOST, Mr. BARR, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 4640: Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 4653: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H.R. 4656: Mr. FARR, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 4662: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 4695: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.  
H.R. 4730: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. ZINKE.  
H.R. 4732: Mr. HARDY.  
H.R. 4764: Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
H.R. 4773: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.  
H.R. 4774: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 4775: Mr. ROTHFUS.  
H.R. 4779: Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 4792: Mr. SERRANO.  
H.R. 4817: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. PLASKETT.  
H.R. 4819: Mr. FINCHER.  
H.R. 4832: Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 4843: Ms. FOXX and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4884: Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BRAT, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. PERRY.  
H.R. 4888: Ms. MOORE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAHN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 4907: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.  
H.R. 4919: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 4928: Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 4955: Mr. BYRNE.  
H.R. 4959: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 4960: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. DOLD.  
H.R. 4969: Mr. MULVANEY.  
H.R. 4978: Mrs. HARTZLER.  
H.R. 4981: Mr. ROKITA.  
H.R. 5025: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VELA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 5028: Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. AMASH, Mr. UPTON, Mr. TROTT, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.  
H.R. 5033: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 5035: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 5047: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 5060: Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 5063: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. CULBERSON.  
H.R. 5064: Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 5076: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. MEADOWS.  
H.J. Res. 11: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.J. Res. 13: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.J. Res. 55: Mr. TROTT.  
H.J. Res. 90: Mr. CONYERS.  
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. TONKO, Mr. STEWART, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. ASHFORD.  
H. Con. Res. 100: Mr. HULTGREN.  
H. Res. 569: Mr. FOSTER.  
H. Res. 591: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. DUFFY.  
H. Res. 665: Mr. AMASH, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. HARRIS.  
H. Res. 707: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H. Res. 708: Mr. VELA and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

## SENATE—Thursday, April 28, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, You are in the midst of us and we are called Your children. We confess that we often fail to live worthy of Your great Name and generous mercies. We thank You for the opportunity to serve You as we strive to keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave. Abide with our lawmakers. Be their companion as they labor to keep this Nation strong. Drive away all snares of the enemy and may no weapon formed against them be able to prosper. Make our Senators models of excellence and integrity for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The majority leader is recognized.

### THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me quote from a letter I recently received from our colleagues across the aisle. Here is what they said:

We are writing to reiterate our interest in working cooperatively to facilitate the fiscal year 2017 appropriations process. As we see it—

Our Democratic friends said—

restoring the regular order promises not only a more open and transparent process, but a chance for Senators on both sides of the aisle to participate meaningfully in funding decisions. This is a win-win opportunity and we should seize it together.

That was a letter I received from all of our friends on the other side of the aisle. That is exactly what we have been doing—exactly. The appropriations process is off to a strong start, an “excellent kickoff,” in the words of the top Appropriations Committee Democrat, Senator MIKULSKI, with bills passing through the committee by unanimous bipartisan votes.

“If this is the way it is going to be to move appropriations,” she said just a few days ago, “then I think it is a good day.” Senator MIKULSKI said: “I think it is a good day.” Democrats lauded the first bill on the floor and in press releases for helping promote American jobs and for addressing the cleanup of radioactive and hazardous contamination across our country.

They praised its key investments in research and water infrastructure. Then, what did they do? They filibustered—the very same people who wrote the letter, the very same people who praised the bill in press releases, the very same people who took credit for amendments in the bill, those same people.

It seems Democrats are more concerned with funding the acquisition of heavy water from Iran than funding water infrastructure in America. Let me say that again. It seems Democrats are more concerned with funding the acquisition of heavy water from Iran than funding water infrastructure right here in our own country.

As we all know, President Obama concluded a nuclear deal with Iran last year. Tehran is expected to reap approximately \$100 billion, thanks to the deal, and the Obama administration itself has admitted the regime is likely to use that windfall to invest in its war economy, to defend its regime, and to strengthen the hand of the Revolutionary Guard, a group that has been accused of helping Shiite militias attack and kill American soldiers in Iraq.

Many of us, including myself, warned that this deal made little sense in terms of our regional strategy. We warned it would enhance Iran’s capability and its power. Indeed, since signing President Obama’s deal, Iran has tested ballistic missiles. It has deployed forces to Syria in support of the Assad regime. It has harassed American ships and those of our allies within the Persian Gulf.

So when the administration made an announcement over this past weekend that it would be purchasing so-called heavy water from Iran, a lot of us were concerned. That is right. Make sure everybody understands. U.S. funds would be sent to Iran. Nothing in the President’s deal with Iran required the United States to make that purchase. It is likely it will effectively amount to even more money for Iran to invest in military modernization.

So Senator COTTON filed an amendment to prevent the money we are appropriating from being used for more of these purchases in the future—in the future. His amendment does not put

the Secretary of Energy’s current heavy water purchase agreement at risk. It simply tries to keep our Treasury from subsidizing the modernization of Iran’s military or the procurement of ballistic missiles or air defenses that may be used against America or her allies.

I support his policy objective. I don’t know why it would not be supported by every Member of the Senate, regardless of party, but apparently Democrats do not. They have filibustered the overall bill, a bill that passed committee with unanimous bipartisan support, remember, to prevent even the possibility—this amendment is not even pending—to prevent even the possibility of voting on this amendment. They could not wait a single week before throwing an obstructionist wrench into the appropriations process they claim to want.

Some of us remember that the Democrats did not want to vote when they were in the majority. They also don’t seem to want to vote when they are in the minority. I hope they are not dusting off the old filibuster summer playbook, especially in light of the letter they just sent to me about win-win opportunities and restoring regular order. Perhaps the most galling thing about Democrats again trying to blow up the appropriations process is this: They filibustered this appropriations bill and then walked into a press conference about Zika funding. They filibustered this bill and then walked into a press conference about Zika funding.

The appropriations process is the path for that funding. That is the way you do it. Preventing the spread of Zika is something both parties agree is a priority. The administration currently has funds to address the issue but has requested additional funds by the end of next month. Both Republicans and Democrats have been looking at different approaches to properly address the situation.

The senior Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, recently characterized that bipartisanship collaborative process as moving forward “in good faith.” That is especially notable when you consider how difficult it is for the committee to move forward when the administration keeps it waiting month after month after month for information it needs, as has been the case with Zika, but progress is being made anyway. Then Democrats filibustered and upended the process. So how do we move forward now? I remember the second-ranking Democrat, Senator DURBIN, once shared some wisdom that seems particularly relevant. Here is what he said:

If you don't want to fight fires, don't be a firefighter. If you don't want to come to Congress and vote on tough issues, get another job somewhere else.

So here is the message to our Democratic colleagues: Do your job. Do your job. There are other areas where both sides have been able to find common ground. We have seen the truth of that in many important solutions passed by this Republican-led Senate already: permanent tax relief for families and small businesses, groundbreaking education reform that empowers parents and prevents Washington from imposing Common Core, the first long-term transportation solution in years—a solution that will finally allow us to address crumbling roads and infrastructure.

Whether it is pay raises for our troops, help for our veterans, or hope for the victims of human trafficking, we got a lot done last year with hard work and with cooperation. We have gotten more done this year with hard work and cooperation too. In the past 3 months, we passed a comprehensive North Korea sanctions bill, a bill to permanently ban Internet access taxes, a measure to give the public more access to government records, a bill to help safeguard American intellectual property from theft, and critical legislation to help address our Nation's prescription opioid and heroin epidemic.

Just last week, we passed both the most pro-passenger, pro-security FAA reauthorization in years and the first major energy legislation since the Bush administration. So where are we? We now have a bipartisan opportunity to responsibly work through the individual funding bills. We now have a bipartisan opportunity to responsibly continue addressing funding issues like Zika.

What will it take? What it will take is for our Democratic colleagues to end this obstruction and work cooperatively across the aisle instead. That is not too much to ask. So let's take a step back and look at the bigger picture. I believe that when you give Senators and the people they represent more of a say in the legislative process, they are bound to take more of a stake in the legislative outcome, regardless of party.

That is why we have empowered committees and Members to take the lead in more areas. That is how we have gotten the Senate back to work in so many ways. I think Members in both parties have seen the benefits of it. So, yes, some may see a short-term political benefit in blowing up the appropriations process now, but I would also ask my friends to remember this: Restoring the appropriations process is something we all should want. Democrats have said it is what they want. Republicans have said it is what we want. It is what I have set out to do. I think it is the best way to give indi-

vidual Senators in both parties more of a voice for their constituents in the funding process, to empower them to make smarter decisions about how taxpayer dollars are spent.

So we are going to give our colleagues an opportunity today to reconsider this filibuster. They don't have to block the appropriations process, which is the path for funding priorities such as Zika. I hope they will make the right choice. We have gotten so much done already with hard work and cooperation. I know there is much more we can accomplish for our country with a little more of each.

So let's keep striving to get more done for our country. The only way to do that is together.

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#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

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#### THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when I first came to the Senate, I was so fortunate I was put on the Appropriations Committee that very first day I was here. I loved my assignment. For many years, I had the good fortune of either chairing or being the ranking member of that Energy and Water Subcommittee. So I know a lot about that subcommittee—many successful bills, never an unsuccessful bill did we bring to the floor. We did them quickly. I worked mostly with the Senator from New Mexico by the name of Domenici. We worked together and got a lot done for the country. So I know this Water and Energy bill. The Republican leader complains about what happened yesterday on the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

On the Democratic side, there is no one who is more liked, appreciated, and who is more imbued as a historic figure than DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California. She became involved in politics at an early age and was thrown into a maelstrom of violence when the mayor was murdered. She had to step in and take over that very difficult job.

As a Senator, she has been valiant, and she wants to get things done. No one can call her rank partisan, because she isn't. But like all of us over here, she was terribly disappointed yesterday and the day before when all of a sudden, the bill is finished—the bill is finished; the Energy and Water bill is finished—and out of nowhere at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday we get an amendment that really is something that is a poison pill if there ever were one.

The only thing holding up the bill is this poison pill amendment. We agreed to pass it yesterday. DIANNE FEINSTEIN agrees; pass it. She likes it the way it is. We like it the way it is.

So if they are as serious about doing their job as the Republican leader said,

we are happy to vote on this bill now. But if Republicans continue to insist on these poison pill amendments—and there is no question that is what this is—we are going to have to continue as we have.

It takes a lot of gall for my friend the Republican leader to talk about filibusters. I repeat what I have said here before, but it is worth repeating. As soon as Obama was elected, the Republicans met in Washington, and they reported in a 2-day-long meeting—which had been reported on numerous times—that they came to two conclusions.

No. 1, Obama will not be re-elected. They failed at that miserably. He got more than 5 million votes than his opponent. But on the other thing they have succeeded in most instances, and that is to oppose everything President Obama wants. That continues to today.

As far as poison pill amendments, we are on record numerous times talking about why it is wrong to have these poison pill riders. For example, I said on the floor:

True bipartisanship also requires both parties to resist the temptation to pursue poison pill riders that appeal to their own supporters, but that are so strongly opposed by the other party that their inclusion in appropriations bills would grind the process to a halt. No doubt there will be many opportunities next year for both sides to score political points. But the appropriations process is not the place for that. And I hope members in both parties will agree that it's more important to fund the government than to play politics.

That is what I said when we started this Congress, and that is what the Senators who wrote this letter, which my friend the Republican leader talked about, want to do. We want to do appropriations bills, and we were on a rush to get the first one done. We were headed to victory, and then out of nowhere comes a poison pill rider. Everyone acknowledges that is what it is. There are many definitions of a poison pill rider but, of course, as the President has said, one is when you can't sign the bill.

So it would be to everyone's interest if we would simply step back, pass the bill that exists, and figure out some other way to try to embarrass the President. This is not the way to do it.

Finally, my friend the Republican leader comes to the floor and talks about what a great amount of work we have done in the Senate. We have done as much as we can. We have tried to support everything.

We are a responsible minority. We have not done to them what they have done to us. They opposed everything we tried to do—everything. We had to move to hundreds of motions to proceed.

We are pleased we got the energy legislation done. We tried for 5 years to get it done. We were filibustered every step of the way. We couldn't get it

done. So it was brought up again. We cooperated, and we got it done. So virtually everything the Republican leader talked about were things that we tried to do before and they wouldn't let us.

Let's talk about what we haven't done. They talked about having passed opioid legislation. Oops, there is one problem. They didn't fund it. Flint, MI—oops, they did nothing. They ignored it for months and months and months.

There was a mistake. No one disagrees there was a mistake made—not by us but by the Republicans—in drafting a deal with renewable energy credits—not done.

There is the Zika virus. My friend says: Well, we are trying to get information. That is ridiculous. We will hear more about that in a few minutes.

There are no district court nominations, no hearings on the Supreme Court.

There is no need to go over what hasn't been done.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
H.R. 3038

Mr. REID. Mr. President, imagine though, if you will, that this great country is facing a potential outbreak of a dangerous virus. It is nothing that was made up in the movies, nothing that is on a special TV show. It is actually a potential outbreak of a dangerous virus.

Imagine, mosquitoes are carrying a virus that affects pregnant women, a virus that causes birth defects in babies, not allowing their brains and skulls to develop. The skulls collapse on a number of them. Brains don't develop. It is a virus that can cause men and women to develop nervous system disorders that can result in paralysis. We don't know the full extent of this.

We had a briefing here a week ago today with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. We had the Secretary of Health and Human Services here. They are in a state of emergency. They need to do something. They need to develop a vaccine. This is on its way. It is here.

It is here in Puerto Rico. We have cases reported in the State of my friend, Florida. He is someone with whom I have served in the House and in the Senate. Senator NELSON of Florida is one of our very outstanding Members.

We already know there are cases in Florida. Thirty States are going to be affected with these mosquitoes as the weather warms. I have been told in the past that mosquitoes have never caused birth defects. They have caused all kinds of problems with malaria and other things, but not birth defects. Now they are here.

Imagine, after what I have just laid out to you, that those in control of

Congress do nothing to address the imminent danger posed by this virus. It sounds like some science fiction novel; doesn't it? But it is not.

This is real life in America. This is the reality—the Republicans' refusal to respond to the threat of Zika. My friend mentioned that the senior Senator from Washington is involved in trying to come up with something for Zika. She said yesterday she hasn't heard a word from the Republicans in more than a week on this important issue.

This is real life. Zika is a scourge that is already affecting our country, as I have outlined. It is time we pass an emergency appropriations bill to take care of it, to fight it. Out of tradition, common sense, and precedent, a public health threat is an emergency, and it demands a response.

As I indicated, hundreds of people in Puerto Rico—quickly approaching a thousand—are infected. As the weather warms, as I have indicated, it is going to multiply throughout the continental United States. Thirty States will likely be affected with this mosquito—this killer mosquito.

More than 2 months ago my friend said: We need more from the administration. More than 2 months ago the administration—desperate as they were—sent a letter to Congress saying we need an emergency request of \$1.9 billion—out of desperation.

What did the White House do? Two years ago we were fighting Ebola. It is still a serious worldwide problem and a problem for our country. They had to take money from vaccines they were working on for Ebola and other things and start doing Zika. Now we have a situation where both the mosquito-caused Zika and the Ebola scourge are underfunded now. Republicans have done a double whammy here. We need to give the money back to the agencies that are doing something to help Ebola and fund Zika.

They haven't lifted a finger that we are aware of. As I said yesterday, the senior Senator from Washington hasn't heard from the so-called negotiators in more than a week. They refuse to do anything, even as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health are pleading for us to act. They have been very clear about the funding they need to fight Zika. They are not making up things. They have told us in line and verse.

My friend, the Republican leader said: We need more from the administration. It wasn't all that long ago that my friend the Republican leader was singing a much different song. This is what he said about funding the outbreak of Ebola 2 years ago, and it is a direct quote:

I think they should have anything they want. . . . Whatever the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] thinks they need, we'll give it to them.

He said the same thing 7 years ago when we were faced with another real problem, swine flu. This is what he said then: "So if [the Administration] needs anything additionally from Congress, I know we'll be happy to provide it on a totally bipartisan basis."

Fast forward 7 years, and the Republicans now in the majority won't provide the requested funding for Zika. Why? We know why. They can't get it through over here. They can't get it done.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health know what they need. They have told us. They told anyone who will listen.

So why can't the Republicans give it to them. If they won't give the experts the resources they need to combat Zika, what do they propose? We could ask the Zika-carrying mosquitoes: Don't breed this year.

Remember, anyway, that it is in the last term of a two-term President. Maybe we shouldn't do it this year.

The Senate should not leave today without addressing this serious issue. We shouldn't be taking 10 days off as a dangerous virus threatens this Nation—and it is threatening us. The Republicans should do their job and pass a \$1.9 billion emergency spending bill to help protect Americans from the Zika virus.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield before he makes the request?

Mr. REID. I am pleased to do that. I want the record to be spread with the fact that this good man—more than any other Senator, because of what he is facing and will face in the very hot, humid, and sometimes tropical State of Florida—recognized this a long time ago. I admire him being ahead of this issue. He has been out there in the front and some of us have been trying to catch up with him.

I yield to the Senator.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding. I wish to add to his comments from this Senator's personal perspective.

The State of Florida presently has 94 infected cases that we know of, including 5 pregnant women whom we know of.

We also have a very mobile and sizeable population of Puerto Ricans who go to that island, where, lo and behold, it is estimated that up to 20 percent of the population could ultimately be infected. There are upwards of close to 100 cases—multiple hundreds—that we know of. I think the actual number is in the eighties of pregnant women whom we know of who are infected in the United States.

As the leader has already described, this has horrendous consequences, not only to the families but there is also the cost to society because of the deformed babies that result—and not necessarily at birth. These defects may

come years later, but that is a huge cost to society, not even to speak of the human tragedy.

So is it any wonder that I join with the minority leader in begging for this emergency appropriations of \$1.9 billion.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the amendment and a letter from the President detailing his request be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST TO FIGHT ZIKA—\$1.9 BILLION (S. 2843)  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)—\$1,509 BILLION

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—\$743 million to support Zika prevention and response strategies, including: domestic response efforts to prevent, detect and respond to Zika; providing grants and technical assistance to Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories; and international CDC response activities, including expanding field epidemiology resources and infectious disease surveillance.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—\$246 million to support increasing the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 55 to 65 percent for one year in Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories.

National Institutes of Health—\$277 million to support efforts to develop a vaccine for Zika, as well as to support basic research on Zika virus.

Food and Drug Administration—\$10 million to support vaccine and diagnostic development review.

Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)—\$188 million to support vaccines and diagnostics development and procurement.

Health Resources and Services Administration—\$20 million to support health centers, the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant/Home Visiting, the National Health Service Corps, and the Countermeasures Injury Protection Program.

Other HHS activities—\$25 million for urgent and emerging threats.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE—\$41 MILLION

Supports U.S. citizens in affected countries, medical support for State Department employees in affected countries, public diplomacy, communications, and other operations activities. Also supports the World Health Organization and its regional arm, the Pan American Health Organization. These resources would support critical public health actions underway, including preparedness, surveillance, data collection, and risk communication. Activities would also include support for the UN Children's Fund's (UNICEF) Zika response efforts in Brazil, and support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to bolster diagnostic capabilities through deployment of equipment, and specialized training and to implement projects to suppress mosquito populations in affected areas.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT—\$335 MILLION

Supports affected countries' ability to control mosquitoes and the transmission of the virus, support maternal health, expand public education on prevention and response, and to create new incentives for the development of vaccines and diagnostics.

The bill also replenishes Ebola money that was reprogrammed for Zika—\$510 million on April 6, 2016, the Administration announced that it had to act to address the growing Zika emergency, so it identified \$589 million—including \$510 million of existing Ebola resources within HHS, State and USAID—to be redirected to immediate activities to fight Zika. The \$1.9 billion will replenish the redirected Ebola funds: \$215 for HHS Ebola balances and \$295 for State/USAID Ebola balances.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, February 22, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Today, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2016 emergency supplemental appropriations request of approximately \$1.9 billion to respond to the Zika virus both domestically and internationally. This funding would build upon ongoing preparedness efforts and provide resources for the Departments of Health and Human Services and State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Funding would support immediate response activities to prevent the spread of, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus transmission; fortify domestic public health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to Zika virus transmission; speed research, development, and procurement of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics; provide emergency assistance to States and the U.S. Territories to combat the virus; provide additional Federal Medicaid funding in Puerto Rico and the other U.S. Territories for health services for pregnant women at risk of infection or diagnosed with Zika virus, and for children with microcephaly, and for other health care costs; and enhance the ability of Zika-affected countries to better combat mosquitoes, control transmission, and support affected populations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 50 laboratory-confirmed cases of the Zika virus among U.S. travelers from December 2015–February 5, 2016. In addition, the Pan American Health Organization reports 26 countries and territories in the Americas with local Zika transmission. On February 1, 2016, the World Health Organization declared the Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

My foremost priority is to protect the health and safety of Americans. This request supports the necessary steps to fortify our domestic health system, detect and respond to any potential Zika outbreaks at home, and to limit the spread in other countries.

The request includes approximately \$1.9 billion to respond to Zika virus transmission across the United States and internationally. In addition, transfer authority is requested to allow for sufficient response and flexibility across the Federal Government to address changing circumstances and emerging needs related to the Zika virus.

My Administration requests that the funding described above be designated as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously in considering this important request, the details of which are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA.

Mr. REID. The record should reflect that the people of Puerto Rico are American citizens.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 157, H.R. 3038; that all after the enacting clause be stricken; that the Nelson substitute amendment to enhance the Federal response and preparedness with respect to the Zika virus, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that there be up to 2 hours of debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The assistant majority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Reserving the right to object, there is bipartisan support for doing what we need to do to address the Zika virus, which, as the Senator from Florida correctly pointed out, has dramatically affected the territory of Puerto Rico. Fortunately, according to the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, there is no single case in the continental United States of a mosquito-borne infection in someone in the continental United States. But that is not to say this is not a serious matter. In fact, it is. That is why Republicans were glad to see the administration use the unexpended funds for the Ebola crisis—some \$500 million—as a downpayment on what is going to be necessary to deal with this.

But the fact is, our friends across the aisle have requested a \$1.9 billion blank check, and they haven't told us what the plan is for the use of the funds. In the bill filed by Senator NELSON, he said those funds will be spent until they are gone. And, of course, it is emergency spending, which is deficit spending and adds to the debt. But the legislation completely lacks any sort of accountability that would only come through a regular appropriations process where we consider this in a deliberate sort of way. So I have a number of questions for the Senator that I would ask.

I would note that I have traveled to the Galveston National Laboratory, which has done some world-class research in this area and also on the Ebola virus and other infectious diseases. Last Friday I was in Houston at the Texas Medical Center talking to the experts and trying to learn more about this so I can do my job as a Senator in a responsible sort of way.

We all agree that this is a serious matter and it should be negotiated on a bipartisan basis, but we should at least have a plan from the administration for how the money is going to be spent. There is no plan. It is a blank check. And until we get a plan and can sit down and avoid the histrionics and



the gamesmanship and the partisanship on something that should be non-partisan, we object to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend the assistant Republican leader has a lot of nerve. There have been a lot of States affected with emergencies in the last decade, and Texas has had its share. We have been willing to help them on floods and fires and all the other problems they have had, some of them manmade, some of them not so. Those were emergencies; this is an emergency.

For the Republicans to come to this body this morning and say there is no plan—there is a plan. Of course there is a plan. There is \$1.9 billion. Pay back the money for Ebola so we can continue that. That is \$500 million right there. We also want to do something to help Puerto Rico, which needs to be done. That is approximately \$200 million. We have some help—a minimum amount—for countries outside the United States where these mosquitoes are breeding. We want to try to do something about that. And, of course, most of the money here is for research to come up with vaccines and other programs to alleviate the disaster facing this country. The President has outlined that, and the Senator from Florida has outlined that.

To have the assistant majority leader say that we need to sit down and negotiate—we are not in the majority. They have an obligation to bring something to the floor. If there is bipartisan support to do something, why aren't the Republicans doing something? Wait and wait while we are home glad-handing people during the next week? We should be doing something here to address this emergency. It is an emergency.

Mr. NELSON. Will the Senator yield, Mr. President?

Mr. REID. Yes, I will.

Mr. NELSON. In answering directly the question of the Senator from Texas, before he objected, he wanted to ask this Senator a question as to what is the plan.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, has the Democratic leader yielded the floor, or is it for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader has yielded the floor for a question.

Mr. NELSON. All right, I will put it in the form of a question.

Does the Democratic leader believe that this Senator has spoken many times on the floor laying out the specifics of the request of \$1.9 billion, which includes the replenishment of \$589 million to the Ebola fund which had been advanced to fight this emergency? Does the Senator believe that? And does the Senator further believe that I have in my hand that breakdown that I have had printed in the RECORD?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, to my friend from Florida, yes. And where did he get that information in preparing this legislation? He got it from the administration. Everybody knows what is in this legislation. What my friend the assistant Republican leader said is nonsense.

If there is some bipartisan support—and I am confident they would come up with something—we would do our best to try to support it, but this is the legislation we need. This is a desperate situation, and it is going to become more desperate as each day goes by because the summer season is fast approaching.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, let me just suggest that, contrary to what the Democratic leader has said, the questions I have asked about where their plan is are not nonsense, and let me demonstrate the specific questions which I have and which I think other responsible Senators are going to want answers to before we write a blank check for \$1.9 billion to the administration, particularly when they already have access, as the Senator from Florida said, to the \$589 million, which are unexpended Ebola funds.

One of the questions I would like to get answers to—and I think we can then have a meaningful discussion and act responsibly—is, What specific activities are going to be funded by the \$1.9 billion plan? For example, the bill from the Senator from Florida provides \$743 million to the Centers for Disease Control. Is that for domestic activities? Is it focused on Puerto Rico? Is it for CDC international activities? And if so, where?

The second question I have is, What are the agency's priorities? Continuing with the CDC issue, will they focus on vector control activities, outreach, and education? As we know, this is a mosquito-borne disease. It is not the only mosquito-borne disease, but unfortunately this mosquito has not only been present in Central and South America but is now, as the Democratic leader says, present in some of the more tropical climates, the warmer climates, including my State of Texas. So I take this personally and seriously. But it also affects Florida, no doubt about it, Louisiana, and we don't know how it might spread or how this virus might morph over time.

Another question I have is, How long does the administration expect to use the funding? For example, we have an annual appropriations process, which has been filibustered by our Democratic colleagues, starting with the Energy and Water bill, and now they want us to fund an emergency appropriation for an unlimited period of time without any plan to spend the money. That is irresponsible.

The request from the Senator from Florida in his bill says the money will

be spent "until expended," until it runs out, and they have provided no further details on what will be funded this year and in future years.

The reason I mention the appropriations process is that we all know we are in the appropriations season now, and it would be appropriate for the Committee on Appropriations to process this request and to come up with a recommendation for the full Senate, but that has not yet happened. I am told the discussions are ongoing, which is a good thing, and that is where this ought to be resolved, not through grandstanding on the Senate floor in an effort to try to make this a partisan issue. This is not a partisan or political issue. It should not be. There is bipartisan concern and willingness to address this issue. But can they spend \$1.9 billion before the end of the fiscal year, when the appropriations process will start up again? In other words, it doesn't take a lot of thought to realize this is a request for a blank check without regard for the accountability that comes from what we call the regular order here in the appropriations process in the Senate.

We know the administration transferred funding from unobligated Ebola funds 2 weeks ago. What is the administration using that \$589 million for that is related to Zika? I think we should know the answer to that. And that also demonstrates what happens when Congress appropriates money on an emergency basis without knowing what the plan is, because obviously the Ebola crisis has abated to some extent. I am not saying it has gone away completely, particularly in countries like Africa, but there is a pot of money—\$589 million—which suggests maybe we inadvertently appropriated more money on an emergency basis for the Ebola crisis than ultimately was necessary. I am not faulting anybody for that; I am just saying that is the way this works when you ask for the money first without a plan and there is no accountability for how the money is spent. You have these pots of money out there that are—fortunately in this case—available now to deal with the Zika issue.

In the Health and Human Services request contained in the bill from the Senator from Florida, there are other issues. One, they ask for a government-wide contingency fund that Health and Human Services controls and can transfer funds elsewhere. So what they want to do is play a shell game with this money. They want to get the money, and if they do not need it to deal with Zika, they can transfer it for other purposes—again, without any transparency or any real political accountability.

I think responsible Members of the Senate—and I would expect all 100 of us would put ourselves in that category—would want to know where the transparency is, where the accountability is,

where the plan is, so we can sit down and do this as mature adults in a non-partisan way in order to solve the problem.

Here is another thing that sort of jumps out at me: When I look at the President's request for \$1.9 billion, they actually talk about funding matters unrelated to Zika. They talk about funding things at the Environmental Protection Agency. And looking at the request to transfer funds government-wide, basically they are requesting money, it appears—unless there is some logical explanation as to why we should, which they have not yet made—on an emergency basis, to grant funds to the Environmental Protection Agency. That is a little hard to understand.

Finally, there is this: All of us are willing to deal with this in a responsible, nonpartisan way. That is the reason I have spent time at the Galveston National Laboratory and the Texas Medical Center trying to learn as much as I can about this, so I can do my job, just as I am sure every individual Senator wants to do their job in a responsible way. But to come in and ask for \$1.9 billion in emergency funding, which means it is not paid for—it is borrowed money, which adds to the deficit and the debt—is a pretty serious matter, especially when our national debt is \$19 trillion and has almost doubled under the Obama administration.

This is a very serious matter, and I treat it seriously, and I trust all 100 Senators believe this is something we ought to deal with responsibly and in a deliberate sort of way, and we will. But it is not by coming to the floor and grandstanding by asking for \$1.9 billion blank checks without any plan to spend it in an appropriate sort of way.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Washington.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, there are already nearly 900 cases of the Zika virus in the United States and its 3 territories, including actually 2 confirmed cases in my home State of Washington. A recent survey showed that 40 percent of adults in our country see this virus as a reason to delay starting families. Those are disturbing statistics. They

make it clear that the Zika virus is a public health emergency, and there is no good reason for the delay we are seeing from our Republican colleagues in addressing this.

Months ago, the administration put forward the strong proposal that Senator REID introduced today. Republicans refused at the time to even consider it, and I am disappointed again this morning that they weighed in on the side of further delay rather than acting on this. As a result, we are getting closer to the summer and to mosquito season, but we still here in this body have not moved on emergency supplemental funding that would put much needed resources into preventing and treating this frightening virus.

Too many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle still don't seem to see Zika as an emergency. Some Republicans are insisting we shouldn't give the administration a penny in additional funding to support the response we need to make. Others are saying that action on Zika can wait—wait for weeks or months. Republicans in Congress might be able to simply wait, but families across this country cannot.

Addressing this Zika virus shouldn't be controversial. With women's and children's health and well-being on the line, it certainly should not be a place for partisanship.

Democrats are at the table. We want to get this done as soon as possible. In fact, as recently as a few days ago I was hopeful Republicans were truly interested in working with us to get this done and to be able to find an actual path forward. We had some good conversations last week. But I am worried that in the last few days it has become clear once again that the extreme right, like the Heritage Foundation, is in control, and Republican leaders have been unable to demonstrate to this point a path on how we can get a bipartisan deal signed into law. This issue is far too important to have Republican infighting hold it up. So I urge my Republican colleagues to join us. We are ready to be at the table to work with them. We need to address this as an emergency.

Then I hope we can move on to work on the other really critical issues before us: the opioid epidemic that so many have been here to talk about; the families in Flint who are suffering; ensuring our Supreme Court nominee gets a fair consideration—a hearing, even. There is so much work to be done.

I am here to urge our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to recognize this is an emergency. It cannot wait. Families are waiting for us to act. We need to get the research. We need to have an understanding of what this disease is. We certainly need to put into place prevention, and we certainly need to work on the important path forward

in making sure we have the right kinds of education out there as well as a solution to this problem that is rapidly becoming an American problem.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, if this isn't an emergency, then I don't know what is. Zika is a public health emergency. It defines a public health emergency, and we really have to act now to fund the administration's full \$1.9 billion supplemental funding request.

I want to respond to the assistant majority leader's concerns that there is no plan. With due respect—and I know he is working hard on this as well—that is just not accurate. The legislation propounded by Senators NELSON and others has a very specific plan. I was fortunate enough to visit the headquarters for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. They have a very specific plan. It is vector controlled. It is developing the diagnostic tests necessary to figure out whether or not people are carriers of the Zika virus. It is working on a vaccine. They have a high degree of confidence that they are eventually going to get a vaccine. But this takes time, and this takes resources. It is public health outreach regarding mosquitos and how this is transmitted, and it is assurance regarding the safety of our blood supply. So they have a plan.

Let me be a little more specific: \$743 million for CDC—this money would include grants and technical assistance to Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories and help our domestic and international response activities; about \$250 million for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, or CMS, to increase the Federal match rate to Puerto Rico where there have been 500 active transmission cases—and, unfortunately, that number continues to go up; several hundred million dollars for the National Institutes of Health and BARDA to invest in vaccine research and development. That is the end game, but in the meantime, we have to prevent the transmission as our country warms up and as the mosquitos become more prevalent across the country with \$10 million to the FDA for a vaccine and diagnostics development review and \$335 million to USAID's efforts abroad to support affected countries' public health efforts on mosquito-borne diseases.

I will make a couple of specific procedural points. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I believe it is really important that we are trying to move in the regular order on each individual Appropriations subcommittee. We have been working on a bipartisan basis. So we are trying to move in the regular order, and that is good news. We are moving a little more quickly than I think has been done in many years. That is good news. But the practical fact of that also means that we

are not in the middle of working on legislation that must be passed by today or must be passed by next week because whatever we do—whether it is the Energy and Water title, whether it is THUD coming next, maybe MILCON-VA after, whatever it may be—we are going to be waiting for the House to act, and we are going to be conferring. It is not at all clear when we will actually move appropriations measures to the President's desk, but it is fair to say those things are not exactly legislatively on fire. We could wait 2 or 3 legislative days. We could wait 2 or 3 legislative weeks. We are ahead of the game. That is not to say we don't have our own challenges with each of these individual appropriations measures, but this defines an emergency. This defines an emergency. This is an actual public health emergency, which means the idea of a pay-for for this is antithetical to the way we ought to work. This is what government does.

Whatever your political persuasion, whatever your ideology is about the size and scope of the Federal Government, I think we can all agree that the most basic responsibility of the Federal Government is to keep us all safe. This is a real risk. This is not an imaginary risk, this is not a trumped-up risk, and this is not a partisan thing. If you talk to the CDC, if you talk to your local departments of health, vector controls, mosquito control areas—talk to them. They are very nervous, and it is increasing. The only reason this hasn't totally popped both epidemiologically and politically is that it is still cold in a lot of places and mosquitos aren't out. This is a real emergency. There is no reason we shouldn't be taking this up as the emergency starts to happen. There is no reason we can't take a couple legislative days to deal with that.

To address the senior Senator from Texas, the assistant majority leader's questions about whether the plan addresses his concerns about accountability, about the ability to move money from one account to the other, about backfilling the Ebola funding—fine. Those are all legitimate questions, and I think they can all be addressed.

But here is my question: Why not get on the bill? Why object to a UC request that we get on the bill? All of those questions can be addressed on the floor or in committee or in conversation. There are many ways to address those questions. But the refusal to even acknowledge that this matter is sufficiently urgent that it should be the thing we are dealing with right now, that THUD could wait a week, and that whatever we are planning to do next is not quite as urgent as the Zika virus—that is the point we are making today. Not that there isn't going to be some legislative wrangling and not that we

are supposing that the President's request is exactly perfect, it is just that this is a real emergency, and we ought to get this thing onto the floor so we can take some action. That is what we have to do.

I know the Senator from Missouri is working very hard on this. I know others are too. We don't want this to be a partisan issue either. But to object to a request to get on this bill fails to acknowledge what a serious public health emergency the Zika virus is.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I came to the floor today to talk about another issue, and I will talk about the issue I had scheduled to talk about earlier this week. But in regard to the issue of Zika, it does need to be dealt with. It is being dealt with.

The good news is that there was substantial money various departments had that could be reprogrammed, and the fact that they have reprogrammed it indicates to me that there is a genuine belief in the administration, which I share, that this is an emergency. Over half a billion dollars has already been reprogrammed to deal with that emergency. I believe some of that reprogramming money needs to be restored, and some of it probably doesn't. The Ebola crisis is not what we thought it might be in Africa, but it is still in existence there. I think some of that money needs to go back into the accounts it had been reprogrammed out of.

But if anybody listening to this debate believes that nothing is happening, that is not accurate. I do appreciate my friend from Florida recognizing that a lot of discussions are going on. I was in several this week, and some yesterday with House Members and Senate Members.

The House could pass a bill first. That may or may not happen, but what really needs to happen is a bill that gets on the President's desk. I think there is almost no chance the Senate would pass a \$1.9 billion bill as proposed. The best place to debate that could be the Senate floor for several days or it could be to work on a bill that could come to the floor quickly, go to the House, and be passed by the House. If there were a slim chance that the Senate could pass the bill we have been talking about—the bill as proposed that would spend \$1.9 billion, in big hundred-million dollar chunks, which we talk about as if that is no money at all and is somehow a plan—that in all likelihood wouldn't pass the Senate, and I am absolutely sure it wouldn't pass the House. What would we have gained? This is something we need to work out. We can work it out. I believe we will work it out.

The goal is not for the Senate to pass a bill. The goal is for the Congress to

pass a bill and the President of the United States to sign that bill. I believe that will happen. Many people, including me, are working to see that happens. The majority leader knows that, and others who have spoken today reflect the fact that they know those discussions are going on.

#### FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, what I came to talk about today is a bill we did pass a couple of weeks ago. As we get ready for police week early in May—I think the week of the 9th of May—there are people we want to recognize and do recognize and do appreciate. I am cochair, along with Senator COONS of Delaware, of the Law Enforcement Caucus. I want to speak today about something we have just done to honor our first responders.

I want to start by recognizing the first responders from my State of Missouri who lost their lives in the line of duty last year. In Missouri, four law enforcement officers died in the line of duty. Deputy Sheriff Steven Brett Hawkins of the Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Trooper James Matthew Bava of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Sergeant Peggy Marie Vassallo of the Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department, and Officer Ronald Eugene Strittmatter of the Lakeshire Police Department lost their lives.

Deputy Sheriff Brett Hawkins of Bethany, MO, suffered a fatal heart attack on September 13 following an emergency response. He was 34 years old. Deputy Sheriff Hawkins suffered that attack after returning home from his shift, which included the search of a residence and surrounding property. He had served with the Harrison County Sheriff's Office for 3 years. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and three sons.

Trooper James Bava of Mexico, MO, was involved in a fatal vehicle crash while pursuing a motorcyclist for a traffic stop on August 28. Trooper Bava had served with the Missouri State Highway Patrol for 2 years. He was 25 years old the day he lost his life serving us. He is survived by his parents, a brother, three sisters, and his fiancée.

Sergeant Peggy Vassallo of Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department was struck and killed by a vehicle on August 24 while rendering aid to another driver after being involved in an accident en route to work. Sergeant Vassallo had served with the Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department for 15 years and had previously served with the St. Louis County Police Department for over 13 years, almost 30 years' service. She is survived by her husband, son, and two grandchildren.

Officer Ronald Strittmatter suffered a heart attack after attempting to help an older person who had fallen. Officer

Strittmatter had served in the Lakeshire Police Department for 4 years and had previously served in the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for 24 years. He is survived by his wife and a son.

In Missouri, we also lost five firefighters and first responders in the line of duty last year.

Battalion Chief Chris Tindall of Raymore, MO, died shortly after responding to an emergency incident in January 2015. He was a 19-year veteran of the South Metro Fire Department.

Larry Lawhorn, a volunteer firefighter with the Orchard Farm Fire Protection District, suffered a fatal medical emergency in May of last year while driving a first responder vehicle en route to a structure fire. He had been a volunteer with the department for 20 years and had previously served 15 years with the St. Charles County Fire District.

In October 2015, two firefighters were killed in Kansas City in the line of duty. Larry Leggio, a 17-year veteran of the Kansas City Fire Department, and John Mesh, a 13-year veteran of the Kansas City Fire Department, were able to save two residents from a burning apartment complex before a wall collapsed on them after they had evacuated other people from the building.

EMS pilot Ronald Rector of Linn, MO, was killed during a flight operation in March 2015. He was inbound to pick up additional crew members at St. Louis University Hospital in a medical helicopter when his helicopter crashed.

Early this month, I introduced the Fallen Heroes Flag Act, which creates a program to provide a flag flown over the Capitol to the family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who lose their lives in the line of duty. I thank my colleagues for unanimously passing that bill last week. The House had already passed a similar measure introduced by Congressman PETER KING, and I hope to get a final bill on the President's desk in very short order.

Our Nation's first responders put themselves in harm's way to keep us safe, and we mourn the loss of all those who have given their lives in the line of duty. We can never in any way fully repay the debt we owe them and their families. These are people who go to work every day, with the greatest goal for their families being that they come home safely that day, and they have more reason to worry about that than most of us have. All we can offer instead is our gratitude. My hope is that each flag that is flown over the Capitol and provided to these families will be a lasting symbol of our appreciation and a fitting honor to those who embody the very best of what we stand for as a nation.

#### SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as I conclude, one other thing I want to mention is Silver Star Service Banner Day. I thank my colleagues for unanimously passing a resolution I submitted with Senator MCCASKILL last week to designate May 1 as Silver Star Service Banner Day. It is a day we honor our Nation's servicemembers who have been injured or become ill while serving, and we also honor their families on that day.

I am grateful to work for this cause and for the work the Silver Star Families of America do. This is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Clever, MO. In 2004, that group began its work to remember, to honor, and to assist members of the Armed Forces from every branch of the military and from every war. This organization assists veterans who have suffered physical or emotional trauma from war and distributes Silver Star flags and care packages to wounded veterans and their families.

Our military men and women put their lives on the line to defend our Nation, and many have done so in ways that result in tremendous personal cost for them and their families—from loss of life, to injury, to trauma of all kinds. On Silver Star Service Banner Day, I hope all Americans will take a moment to reflect on the countless sacrifices and appreciate the blessings of freedom their service has provided.

We salute our former and current servicemembers and encourage all Americans to do the same with the presence of a Silver Star service banner in the window or a Silver Star flag flying in the front yard. Those who serve deserve and should receive the gratitude of the Nation, whether they serve in the military or as first responders, and in the last few days the Congress was able to step forward and recognize those who serve in unique ways.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, the talk of the debt in our Nation has been diminishing. Unfortunately, debt itself has not also diminished. While the deficit has been reduced significantly over the last several years, the debt continues to grow. It is now crossing well over \$19 trillion. It is my concern that we as a body continue to get distracted

with other things and lose track of the looming debt issues we will still continue to face and we will be held to account for, and rightfully so.

The American people expect us to come here and solve a lot of issues—solve not only crisis issues such as Zika and other issues around the country, but also what we are going to do with national defense and security. There is an expectation that we will be able to do multiple things, but over all of that, there is an expectation that we will balance the Nation's checkbook and find a way to be able to solve these issues. I don't think that is an unreasonable request.

When we cross over \$19 trillion, at what point do we as a body decide that this is enough and that we need to work together to solve the issues we face? The Congressional Budget Office continues to challenge us and to tell us that this is an unsustainable pace, and the Nation as whole continues to push back. I think we should pay attention to it.

I thank Gene Dodaro and the good folks from the Government Accountability Office for putting out their latest report on what they define as opportunities to reduce fragmentation, overlap, duplication, and achieve other financial benefits. It is the report that GAO puts out every year that we often call a duplication report—here are the problems, here are the unresolved issues.

Last year, I asked Gene Dodaro and GAO specifically to break it up and to make it very clear—not just to say where it is in government but whose responsibility it is, who can actually fix this. They broke it up this year into two different sections basically saying: This is the administration and the agencies. They already have the authority to fix this, and these are the issues they face.

He also identified 63 areas that specifically only Congress can fix. It is a to-do list for us of things that we need to either vote on and discuss or we need to disagree with GAO and be able to push back on, but we shouldn't just ignore it and say we are going to do nothing on it.

We have dealt with this every single year for the last several years. We all face the duplication. We all hear the stories about it. My challenge is, How do we actually bring this to the floor, vote on it, solve it, and move forward from here? It will leave some things actually addressed.

Part of the issue we face every year with duplication is that duplication is buried into the governmental system, and it takes a GAO report to pull it out.

I have proposed a bill for several years now. I did it in the House and brought it over to the Senate. It is called the Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act. The Taxpayers Right-To-Know

Act already passed the House this year, and it has not yet cleared the Senate. The Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act is a very clear transparency piece. It says: Shouldn't we have a list of every program in the Federal Government, how much we spend on that program, how many staff are committed to it, what that program does, and, specifically, how it is evaluated? It is a very straightforward, transparent piece.

Everyone in this body continues to talk about duplication and says we should do something about it. GAO then highlights it for us, but the challenge is that you can't easily identify it until you do a very deep search on it. I think we should be able to have a level of transparency so we can see where the duplication is by comparing one program to another. That way we can all address it and talk about it.

Yesterday, at the Indian Affairs Committee hearing, we were doing a markup. The conversation in that markup was about several programs that seemed to be very good ideas to serve Indian Country. The problem is that many of them already exist in another agency, and they are not doing their job very well. The challenge is this: Can we get rid of it in another agency and not just start it in a second, third, or fourth agency?

We can't continue to say: It is not working over there. So let's just do it somewhere else. Every time I bring up the issue, they say: We don't know what agency it exists in. The Taxpayer's Right-to-Know Act provides a very simple list that should be searchable and public and that everyone would be able to see. It is currently being held up right now and going back and forth in this ongoing conversation about something as simple as: How many programs should we see?

OMB has pushed this issue back on us and said: We will have program transparency but only for the biggest programs.

We basically said: If you spend \$1 million on this program, you should have transparency.

They said: No, let's do a much higher number. Let's do \$10 million or more.

Yesterday, we asked Gene Dodaro: If we dropped this number from \$10 million to \$1 million, how many programs will suddenly go away?

He said: It is in the thousands. That just puts us in the same spot. We can't eliminate duplication we can't see. The famous philosopher Muhammad Ali said: "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee, the hands can't hit what the eyes can't see."

We, as a body, spend a lot of our time saying: I would love to get rid of duplication, but we can't see it. Let's actually expose it. Let's get it out there so everyone can see it and we can clear this issue. Let's just solve this very simple issue. Let's make it transparent, and then let's work together.

Senator TESTER and I had a great conversation after the Indian Affairs Committee hearing yesterday. We agreed that we would look for areas of duplication in Indian Country. We are not looking for more programs. We are looking for programs that actually work and accomplish what they should accomplish, and for things that don't work, we can eliminate them. We can take that money from one area and put it in another area where it actually does work. At the end of the day, we have to get back to balance. We can't keep funding duplicative programs that don't work, and we should be able to accomplish this together.

Last year, I put out a report called "Federal Fumbles: 100 Ways the Government Dropped the Ball." Two-thirds of that book identified duplication and waste in the government. We have made progress on some of those already this year. We have so much more to do. The key to it is that we actually need to get busy working on it instead of just talking about it.

Yesterday, Gene Dodaro, who is with GAO, also mentioned a bill that BEN SASSE is working on called the new hire database bill. I think it is a very good bill, and I am glad to be supportive of what he is trying to accomplish there. Senator SASSE wants to do one thing, and that is to be able to say that when we actually do means-tested programs, we should be able to see the employment records. That should be a very open process for those who are in the means-tested program, but right now GAO and other groups do not have access to the new hires database. So there is no way to see those in the means-tested program.

There are people who self-report their income, and there is no way to be able to verify that. Shouldn't we be able to verify that?

It is a straightforward solution in a day and time when they continue to bring up obvious things year after year, such as having the same person being eligible for disability and unemployment insurance at the same time. That person will actually receive unemployment and disability benefits simultaneously. Disability benefits, by definition, means you cannot work anywhere in the economy, and that is why you get disability benefits. Unemployment benefits, by definition, means you can work in the economy, but you are not currently employed. Why should you be eligible for both? GAO has brought that up to us. That is not a partisan issue. That should be a solvable issue, and it is costing taxpayers billions of dollars. It is one of the things that we have to be able to work on together so we can actually solve this problem. This is not too hard for us, and the American people expect us to get it done.

My only challenge is this: Let's actually get it done.

With that, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to address two different issues this morning, but I think both are timely and important.

The first issue I will address has to do with a telephone conversation I had a few minutes ago with Dr. Thomas Frieden. Dr. Frieden heads up the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Most Americans don't know much about the agency, but the title speaks for itself. The CDC, as we call it, is America's first line of defense in a public health crisis. When we think that Americans—individuals and families—are in danger or vulnerable, we call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and ask them to analyze the challenge and then give us the right public health response to that challenge.

A few months ago, I went to their campus in Atlanta, GA. It is very impressive, not just for the buildings but also for the people who are there. We have some of the best health researchers in the world working for our Federal Government at CDC—most of them at financial sacrifice. They want to be part of solving problems and protecting America. Just as the folks in the Pentagon across the river believe in the protection of America, so do the people at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC is our first line of defense against public health attacks.

This morning I called Dr. Frieden to talk about the Zika virus. I have come to know him and have worked with him over the years. Most people have learned about it by now. We are learning more about it every single day. We have kind of traced its origin to South America, and now it is moving north. It is moving north into Puerto Rico in a big way, and Florida is likely to be the next State to witness the Zika virus being transmitted by mosquitoes. Then, frankly, the whole United States is vulnerable. Not only can this virus be transmitted to an individual if they are bit by a mosquito, but it can also be transmitted by the sexual contact of a person already infected by the virus. If you have the virus and a mosquito bites you and then bites your wife, you may have just transmitted the virus to her through that mosquito. We are learning.

The reason why this is more than just a mosquito bite and an irritation is that this virus can cause serious public health problems. We know that pregnant women with this virus run the risk of giving birth to babies with difficulties and serious problems, and so we are monitoring it very closely.

How many employees at CDC are working on the Zika virus threat to

America? There are 1,000. When you think of all of the things that we need to worry about, they believe—and, I think, rightly so—that this is the imminent public health threat to our country. There are a lot of unanswered questions about the Zika virus, such as these: How long does it stay in an individual? How long can an individual who is infected with the virus transmit it to another person? For those who are carrying the virus, what impact does it have on their health? What impact does it have on a pregnant woman carrying this virus?

It turns out there are literally hundreds now in the United States who have been infected with the Zika virus. We expect some lull in the number of cases, and then they are going to pick up in intensity and number this summer. We also know—and the announcement will be made soon—that there are pregnant women in the United States who have been infected by the Zika virus.

The obvious question is this: Are we doing everything we should be doing to protect America?

Sadly, the answer is no, we are not.

Two months ago, President Obama said to the Congress: I need a supplemental emergency appropriation to deal with this threat. He asked for \$1.9 billion. They want to monitor the Zika virus and how it is traveling across the United States. They want to monitor those who have already been infected. They want to develop a vaccine that we can take that will protect us in the future.

From where I am standing, I can't think of a single public health challenge in America as great as this Zika virus at this moment. One would think that the Congress, now that they know the facts, would have moved instantly to provide the money to the President—this emergency supplemental appropriation of \$1.9 billion. But the answer is they have done nothing. The leaders in the House and in the Senate have done nothing to provide emergency funds to this administration to deal with this public health emergency.

It is so bad that this week a Republican leader in the House announced publicly that he didn't see any emergency. He thinks we may get around to an appropriation for this in October. Well, I don't know what his lifestyle is like, but in the Midwest we have a tendency to get out on the patio and have barbecues and invite our friends and neighbors over. We worry about mosquitoes. It doesn't start in October. It starts now. I don't know if this Republican Congressman plans on sending a memo to the mosquitoes across America saying: no buzzing and biting until October when we get around to this. It won't work.

This has been declared an emergency by not only the President but by the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Why aren't we acting? Why aren't we doing something? We should be doing something.

We are going to leave today. This afternoon we will vote and go home. We will be back in probably 10 or 11 days. Maybe then the Republican leadership in the House and Senate will decide this is an emergency that needs a response. The numbers will start coming in—the number of people across America who are facing this virus—and the concern among American families is going to grow. This is not just an irritation. This is a danger to many people and certainly to women who could be pregnant. This is something we ought to be taking extremely seriously. We have been waiting for 2 months for this Congress to respond with an emergency appropriation to do something.

I have called on the leadership in the Senate this week, and I will continue to do so today and when we return. There is no excuse. God forbid this gets worse and we look back and say: We waited too long; we didn't respond.

Let me add one other thing. The only suggestion we have heard from the Republican side is this: Let's take some of the money we set aside to fight Ebola in Africa and use it for this purpose.

I talked to Dr. Friedman about that. He said: It is true; there has been a real drop in the number of Ebola cases.

Ebola is a deadly disease in West Africa and other places, and we worried about it coming to the United States. He said that we are still learning about how this disease travels.

There was a man who was cured after being diagnosed with Ebola in Africa, and they just learned that a year after he was cured, he transmitted the disease by sexual contact to another person. Even when we think we have cured and solved it, there is still a danger.

Let's make sure that we treat all of these public health hazards for what they are—dangerous to the United States and dangerous to our families. God forbid that something terrible happen. I hope it doesn't. Let's do our job here on Capitol Hill. When the President says we need resources to fight this, we do. I hope we move on it very quickly when we return.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, immigration is an issue which divides America. You only have to tune into the Presidential debate to hear it. Most everyone would agree that the immigration system in America is broken. I believe it is. I was part of an effort with some colleagues to try to come up with a comprehensive immigration reform bill, which passed the Senate 3 years ago by a vote of 68 to 32. We worked long and hard on that bill. We brought this bipartisan bill to the Senate, and it passed with an overwhelming major-

ity. The House refused to consider the measure. Speaker Boehner never called it to the floor. The bill we passed never got a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives, and so here we sit today with the same broken immigration system.

Let me tell you that one part of that is very important to me and to many of my colleagues. Fifteen years ago I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. The genesis of that bill—as I have said on the floor many times and will quickly repeat—began after we got a call in my Chicago office from a Korean American woman who had a daughter who was a musical prodigy. She was an amazing pianist and had been accepted at two of the best music schools in America. She was filling out her application and asked her mom: What do I put down for my nationality or citizenship. Her mom said: I don't know. When we brought you here, Tereza, you were 2 years old and came here on a visitor's visa. I never filed any more papers. So I don't know. The daughter said: What are we going to do? The mom said: We are going to call Durbin's office.

So they called our office and we said: Let us check the law.

The law was very clear. This 18-year-old girl, brought here at the age of 2, under American law had to leave the United States for 10 years and apply to come back in. Does that sound right? When she was 2 years old, she had no voice in the decision to come to America, no voice in the decision of filing papers. Yet our law basically told her to leave.

That is when I introduced the DREAM Act. It says that if you are brought here under the age of 16, complete high school, no serious criminal issues in your background, we will give you a chance. We will give you a path to become legal and ultimately become a citizen. That is what the DREAM Act is.

We haven't passed that bill. We have passed it maybe once in the Senate, once in the House but never brought it together to be sent to the President. This President, Barack Obama, was my fellow Senator from Illinois for 2 years and he cosponsored the DREAM Act.

So a few years ago, I joined in a letter to the President, with Senator Dick Lugar, a Republican from Indiana, and said to him: Help us protect these young people from being deported until we can finally pass comprehensive immigration reform or the DREAM Act. The President listened and did it. He created what is known as DACA. What DACA says is, if you are such a young person, you may step forward, register with the government, submit yourself to a criminal background check, pay a several-hundred-dollar filing fee, and then we will give you temporary protection from deportation. Then, 2 years

later, 3 years later, you have to re-apply—go through the same process—pay a fee and do it again.

As it turned out, 700,000 young people, who were in the same situation as the Korean girl I mentioned from Chicago, have applied for this DACA protection so they can stay here on a temporary basis and go to school, work, and be a part of the United States. There is no guarantee they will ever become permanently legal or citizens—I hope they will—but at least they are protected on a temporary basis.

Two years later, the President said: If you are in a family where one of the kids in the house is an American citizen or here legally in the United States as a permanent resident, we are going to give parents the same opportunity to register with the government, to go through a criminal background check, to pay their fee to the government, then to be given a temporary work permit to work in the United States. That is known as DAPA. So we have DACA and DAPA. It is currently being challenged in the Supreme Court.

I went over for the argument before the Supreme Court last week. The State of Texas and 25 other States have challenged this saying it will create benefits for these individuals under DACA and DAPA that will cost the States money. It turns out, the whole story is that once these people are working in the United States and paying taxes, the State of Texas and all the other States are going to make quite a bit more money off these workers when they actually are required to pay taxes, as they should. So this economic argument doesn't go too far.

The point I have tried to make to my colleagues in the Senate, as long as I have been here and as long as I have had this opportunity to talk about the DREAM Act, is that they ought to take a moment, stop listening to the Presidential debates, and just pay attention to the lives which are at stake in this conversation.

I have come to the floor quite a few times to talk about young people who would be helped if the DREAM Act became the law of the land. This morning I am going to introduce Cynthia Sanchez to those who are watching.

Cynthia Sanchez is another young person who is living in the United States and is undocumented. She was brought here at the age of 7 from Mexico. She grew up in Denver, CO. She was an excellent student. In high school, Cynthia was a member of the National Honor Society and made the President's honor roll every semester with a 4.0 grade point average. I wish I could say the same about my high school experience.

Cynthia was vice president and copresident of the Student Council. She volunteered as a peer mediator and volunteered at the local library. She went

on to attend the University of Denver where she received lots of awards and scholarships and was an active volunteer.

For the record, undocumented young people like Cynthia receive no Federal assistance to go to college—no Pell grants, no government loans. They have to find a way to pay for it. They can't use any government benefits to move forward with their education.

She was a member of a student organization called the Pioneer Leadership Program. She helped to develop Denver University Senior Connect, an organization to help raise awareness about the needs of senior citizens.

As a member of the Volunteers in Partnership Program, Cynthia organized workshops at high schools and middle schools with low-income and minority student populations. She helped the students fill out their college applications and write scholarship essays, and she brought the students to visit her campus at the University of Denver.

She graduated in 2010 with a degree in cognitive neuroscience, which is a double major in psychology and biology, and she even minored in chemistry on top of that.

Because of her immigration status—and despite the fact that she had this amazing college experience and was academically successful and had this important degree—she couldn't find a job. She wasn't even able to volunteer at a local hospital because she lacked a Social Security number, being undocumented.

I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you.

Cynthia's dream to become a doctor was on hold because of her immigration status. Only nine schools told her she might be able to apply and be considered as an undocumented student. Two years after graduating, Cynthia was working as a nanny and questioning whether all the hard work and time in school was wasted.

Cynthia cried as President Obama made the announcement about creating DACA. She realized she was going to be given a chance. She applied for DACA immediately. She was approved in the summer of 2013. By September, Cynthia was working at Northwestern University in Chicago doing clinical research in the Department of Medicine's Division of Cardiology. Her research focuses on improving treatment options for patients facing heart failure.

She sent me a letter, and this is what she said:

DACA has meant a new realm of opportunities for me, it has opened new doors for me, and it has allowed me to once again see my dream as a reality. I truly believe that if those opposed to DACA or the DREAM Act

had the chance to sit down and meet undocumented students, their opinions might change. They would see capable, smart, hard-working individuals who are Americans in every sense of the word, love this country and want to contribute to its prosperity. After all, this is our home.

Cynthia and the other DREAMers have a lot to give to America. Like many Americans who have come to this country, they are willing to sacrifice. They are willing to go to the back of the line. All they are asking for is a chance.

I urge my colleagues—particularly my Republican colleagues—to join us in doing the right thing for these DREAMers, doing the right thing for Cynthia, and thousands of others who are just asking for a chance to make America a better nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

#### DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, the fight against muscular dystrophy is a cause I have championed since my days in the House of Representatives. My fight against Duchenne muscular dystrophy began when a parent told me about his son's diagnosis with the disease.

This parent refused to accept that there was no hope. The House and Senate agreed with the MD-CARE Act and, since that time, the life expectancy of the average Duchenne muscular dystrophy patient has increased by a full decade. This is progress we have made on behalf of sick people whose lives were threatened, and this is an example of government at its best.

On Monday of this week, I saw the same devotion in the hundreds of Duchenne families who attended a meeting of the advisers of the Food and Drug Administration. The meeting's attendance broke records. I thank the FDA for making the appropriate accommodations to handle a crowd of this size. Some 11,000 people also tuned in remotely, watching the meeting via live stream.

Monday's gathering was about what could be the first disease-modifying therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. For more than 3 hours, the advisory committee heard from parents, doctors, and patients about the drug's impact on their lives. The stories were heartfelt and hopeful, reinforcing the importance of patient engagement in the drug approval process. The dedication of the Duchenne community continues to set an example for advocates of other rare diseases.

Patient voices should be part of the drug review process, and I am glad to see the FDA is implementing greater stakeholder involvement in this process. This was one of the goals of the

Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, which Congress passed in 2012. It continues to be a goal of my Patient-Focused Impact Assessment Act, introduced last year, which would require FDA to share how they use feedback from patients and advocates in the drug approval process.

Unfortunately, the advisory committee decided this week not to recommend the approval of the first Duchenne drug. This is disappointing news for me and for thousands of Duchenne families, even those who might not benefit directly from this drug but from other advancements that could stem from it.

Before a final decision is made next month, I hope the FDA will take into consideration the perspectives of Duchenne patients and parents. The individuals fighting the good fight every day are “the real experts,” to quote Austin LeClaire, who suffers from Duchenne and has experienced increased mobility because of the drug. People like Austin have a life-threatening disease now. They don’t have much time.

No matter the outcome of the FDA’s decision next month, I will continue to fight the good fight on behalf of those with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. In the 15 years since I introduced the MD-CARE, I have learned that small wins can lead to big victories.

MD-CARE was the first Federal law to focus on muscular dystrophy. It helped set in motion the research and trials that have produced groundbreaking therapies. The life of muscular dystrophy patients now is an average of 12 years longer—I think I earlier said a decade; it is actually 12 years longer than it was in 2001—a wonderful achievement. There are more trial participants needed today than there are Duchenne patients.

Young adults with Duchenne were a population that did not exist when we first funded research for the disease. They never got to adulthood. Today they are getting to adulthood because Congress acted. Because of the MD-CARE amendments that became law last Congress, research at the National Institutes of Health has been updated in ways that could help patients lead even longer, healthier lives. We want this research to continue. We want companies to continue to invest in drugs and therapies that could change the lives of those with rare diseases.

Duchenne is still a fatal disease, affecting 1 out of every 3,500 boys—mostly boys. Most young men with Duchenne live only to their mid to late twenties. We should take every opportunity to find a breakthrough. We should take every opportunity to improve quality of life. This is about the futures of young people who face this disease every day and the families who refuse to give up hope.

I look forward to the FDA’s full and final decision on this matter next

month, and I certainly am hoping for a positive answer from the FDA.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

#### REMEMBERING TERRY REDLIN

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to display this Terry Redlin painting during my speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Terry Redlin, a citizen of South Dakota who rose to fame in the 1970s as an artist known for his vivid and vibrant outdoor paintings.

On Sunday, April 24, 2016, Terry passed away at the age of 78 in Watertown, where he was born and raised. Our entire State was deeply saddened to hear of his passing. Terry spent his life promoting South Dakota, and he shared his appreciation for our great State with the entire world through his paintings. He will be missed deeply, not only by his family and loved ones but by all who admired his work throughout his very distinguished career.

Growing up, Terry liked to draw. He didn’t think he would become an artist, though. As an avid outdoorsman, he wanted to be a forest ranger so there would be plenty of opportunities to hunt and fish when he wasn’t working. Then, tragically, at the age of 15, his life was changed forever. He was badly hurt in a motorcycle accident, and his leg had to be amputated. Becoming a forest ranger was now impossible for Terry, but Terry didn’t let that stop him from pursuing greatness.

After graduating high school, Terry received a disability scholarship to help further his education. Using it, he earned a degree from the St. Paul School of Associated Arts and spent 25 successful years working in commercial art as a layout artist, graphic designer, illustrator, and art director. In his spare time, he enjoyed photography, particularly of the outdoors and wildlife. Then he started painting from his photographs and from his memories.

In 1977, at the age of 40, Redlin’s painting “Winter Snows” appeared on the cover of *The Farmer* magazine. He quickly rose to prominence as an exceptional artist and started painting full time. From 1990 to 1998, each year’s poll of national art galleries by U.S. Art Magazine selected Terry Redlin as “America’s Most Popular Artist.”

Over the years, many people have tried to describe the effect Terry’s paintings had on them. People connect with his paintings. They inspire us to remember personal memories of past times, places, and experiences. Your heart is tugged when you look at them.

There is peacefulness and warmth. Terry used to call it romantic realism, but mere words simply cannot describe it. As you can see from this Redlin painting beside me entitled “America, America,” which I brought with me from my front office where it normally hangs, the beauty of his paintings is truly indescribable.

His son convinced him to stop selling original paintings and just sell prints. Someday, he said, they would build a beautiful art gallery to display all of the originals. And they did. It could have been built in the Twin Cities, where he lived for a time, or a large metropolitan area, because Terry’s paintings are loved everywhere. Terry chose his hometown of Watertown, SD, for the construction of the Redlin Art Center. It was a gift to his home State and hometown for that \$1,500 scholarship he was given all those years ago, which created a wonderful life for him and his family.

Three million visitors came to the Redlin Art Center in the first 3 years and many more millions since then. Terry would sometimes walk into the galleries unannounced and visit with guests who would then ask the front desk: Who is that nice guy? When told it was Terry, they were shocked and delighted.

Once Terry was seen driving slowly through the parking lot. When asked what he was doing, he said he was looking at all the different license plates and what they were doing there. He said he was amazed that people would travel so far just to see his paintings.

Terry was also generous to the subjects of many of his creations. His paintings and prints have been used by various wildlife and conservation groups to raise more than \$40 million to benefit their causes.

For those of us who were blessed with the opportunity to meet and know Terry Redlin, we always came away feeling like he was our friend—so wonderful, so kind, and so humble. For those who know him through his paintings, his spirit shone brightly in all of his work.

As we mourn his death and pray for his loved ones during this difficult time, may we find comfort knowing that the legacy which he leaves behind through his paintings will be enjoyed and appreciated for generations to come. He was a great painter but an even greater human being.

Terry once said that he wanted to paint forever, that he had to paint. Terry said it was like breathing to him. Unfortunately, illness forced him into retirement in 2007, and on Sunday, April 24, 2016, the Lord brought Terry up to Heaven. Now he can breathe again.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.



CONCLUSION OF MORNING  
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

Alexander amendment No. 3804 (to amendment No. 3801), to modify provisions relating to Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to start by expressing my appreciation to all of my colleagues who are joining me on the floor today, and I thank them for all the work they do every day for women and their health care.

As of last week, the CDC reported nearly 900 cases of Zika here in the United States and three U.S. territories, including actually two confirmed in my home State of Washington.

A recent survey showed that 40 percent of adults in the United States see the Zika virus as the reason to delay starting a family. Like so many of my colleagues, I am hearing from women across my State who are very frightened about this virus. They want to know how to travel safely in light of Zika. They want to know whether they should wait to start their families. Tragically, I am hearing from expectant mothers who are concerned about what this virus could mean for the babies they have on the way.

Women and families at home and abroad need Congress to take action against this virus, to help raise awareness about its impact, to expand access to contraception and family planning, to improve vector control, and to accelerate our efforts to find a vaccine. That is why for months Democrats have urged Republicans to come to the table and work with us on making sure we put the needed resources into this fight against Zika.

The administration has put forward a strong proposal, but Republicans refused to even consider it. While some in

the Republican Party indicated last week they wanted to work with us on emergency supplemental funding, it has become pretty clear that unfortunately they have been beaten back by the extreme rightwing who do not want to do anything at all. These extreme conservatives do not recognize that Zika is an emergency. They don't want to give the administration a penny more. As a result of that delay, we are behind the eight ball as mosquito season comes this summer.

That is why we have come to the floor together today to send a very clear message to Republicans today: We need action now. Women simply cannot afford to wait, and they should not have to. Democrats are ready to get this done as soon as possible. And for families and communities who are looking to Congress for action, I hope Republicans join us now so that we can deliver what families are asking for in our country.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking Senator HEITKAMP for pulling us in here today to talk about this emergency and Senator MURRAY for her strong voice on this and many others who will be speaking out today.

In 2014 Ebola broke out in West Africa. As it advanced, the international community came together to combat the outbreak. Doctors from around the world traveled to West Africa to set up emergency hospital units to help the sick and to attempt to contain the virus. President Obama deployed thousands of troops to support the effort.

With the media focused on the outbreak right in the middle of the 2014 election, Republican Senators and Republican candidates across the country seized on this global health crisis. No, they didn't swoop in to rescue; in fact, Republicans did nothing to support the actual Ebola response before the elections. Instead, they terrified the American people with totally made-up stories of Ebola-infected immigrants coming across our southern border. They loudly trumpeted a number of dangerous and irresponsible solutions, such as travel bans that would actually make dealing with the problem more difficult.

Ebola ravaged West Africa, but only four cases were ever diagnosed here in the United States. Republican politicians didn't care—they had found something to blame on President Obama and the Democrats, and they were happy to do it. They exploited the situation to help win an election. And it worked. Not all of the fearmongering candidates won, but most of them did, and they won in part because they promised to protect the American people from these horrible contagious diseases.

Today, Republicans run the Senate, and we face a terrible threat right here in America—the rapidly spreading Zika virus. So I come to the floor to ask a simple question: Why haven't Republicans lifted a single finger to stop it?

Unlike Ebola, Zika is not confined to one small region of the world; it has already spread through most of South America and through Mexico. Unlike Ebola, which can be transmitted only by direct contact with bodily fluids, Zika can spread rapidly across distances by transmission through mosquitoes. Unlike Ebola, our leaders at the NIH and CDC are raising the alarm that Zika is an imminent threat to Americans. Nearly 900 cases of Zika have already been reported on American soil.

Zika can be devastating. Most people who contract Zika show no symptoms or only very mild symptoms, but Zika infections can trigger Guillain-Barre syndrome, a condition in which the body attacks its own nervous system, which can cause permanent and severe damage, hospitalizing some people for weeks and killing others. In addition, babies born to mothers who were infected with Zika may suffer severe and permanent brain damage. The World Health Organization estimates that 4 million people could be infected with Zika by the end of the year.

The threat is real, but where are the Republicans? For weeks Senate Democrats have called for emergency supplemental funding to support public health efforts both in research and prevention. Republicans have done nothing. For weeks the President has called for emergency supplemental funding to protect the American people. Republicans have done nothing. For weeks leaders at the WHO, NIH, and CDC have begged Congress for resources to fight this disease. Republicans have done nothing. The President has been forced to divert funds intended for work on Ebola over to work on Zika. That is a very short-term strategy. Ebola has dropped out of the news, but the threat has not ended. We need funding for work on both, but still the Republicans have done nothing.

Now Senate Republicans are taking us on a week-long recess. Where is the Republican plan to fund the Zika response? Where is the Republican plan to replenish the Ebola funds? Apparently, when there is no immediate political benefit, the Republicans can't be bothered to act. Forget Ebola. Forget Zika. They want to go on vacation.

Well, I have news for my Republican colleagues: That is not good enough. They won the election by telling Americans they would protect them from scenarios just like this. Republicans run the Senate now, so it is time to govern. There is a public health crisis bearing down on this country. Babies will be born permanently disabled, and families will be devastated if Republicans keep blocking funding to deal

with this problem. It is up to you to act.

This is what government is for—to help protect the people of the United States from serious threats, from real threats. The Republicans are failing the people of the United States.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, lest anyone think that they are immune or that this is only about the tropics, I don't think a lot of people in the United States of America would call the State of North Dakota the tropics. Today I hold up the first noted case of a pregnant woman who has been infected by Zika. She was traveling, probably bitten by a mosquito, and somehow contracted the Zika virus. She will now live in fear that the baby she is carrying will suffer the birth defects we know are associated with this potential pandemic.

Where is the answer for her? The answer that the North Dakota epidemiologist gave for her, which is good advice, is: Don't travel anywhere where we have Zika virus infections. I guess she is not leaving her house because the way this is spreading and the way this is moving, it will be everywhere in the United States of America.

Once it migrates, and once it moves, what is going to stop it? Who is going to stand on the floor of the Senate and take responsibility for the lack of action, for the lack of responding to this public health crisis? That is why we are coming here today. This is not about politics. This is not about a public health emergency. We need resources. We need answers. We need tests. We don't need to rob from other potential pandemics like Ebola to get this done.

There is not a citizen in the country who would not say this is an obligation of the government to protect their people. We anticipate in Puerto Rico, a territory of this country—a lot of people travel to and from Puerto Rico—one in five people in Puerto Rico will be infected by the Zika virus. Do they know it? Probably not. Frequently no symptoms come with the infection. So now we have to respond. Now we have to do what is right.

People will say: We can take this in regular order. That is what I hear is happening over in the House. They want to take this in regular order. Well, if it is a regular problem, why has the State of Florida declared a state of emergency? In February—this is not new—it is estimated Florida will continue to be the next big place of infection as the Zika virus migrates.

What does that mean to Florida? Not only does it mean you have created huge insecurity for the families—particularly young women the age of our

children who are now thinking about having babies you have created huge insecurity. If the answer is don't have babies, how many generations do we have to go? We don't know. That is the problem. We don't know. There is no test. There is no way to verify at this point—no rapid test.

So when we look at this and we look at the effect it is having not only on our families and on family decisions but look at the effect it is having on tourism—we all know the Caribbean depends on tourism dollars to have stable governments. We all know Florida is heavily dependent on tourism. People in my office have already canceled plans for Caribbean vacations. People I know have already canceled plans to go to Florida because they are afraid.

What happens when everybody is staying home because they are afraid? This is not something we can play politics with. This is something that should unite all of us. We should all be coming together. If you don't like the President's plan, tell us what is wrong with it. Tell us what you need to change. Tell us what your experts,—contrary to the experts at CDC who have arrived at this plan—tell us what your experts think needs to be changed and what level of accountability you need.

I understand this morning the argument is not that we should spend the money, the argument is there is no accountability. Tell us what accountability. Come together. Let's solve this problem. Let's rise to the occasion in the Senate. When confronted with this virus, let's come together. Let's show the people we can respond.

I don't think I am exaggerating the potential health care effects. The World Health Organization has declared it an emergency. A conservative Governor in Florida has declared it an emergency. Certainly for this young North Dakota woman, it is an emergency. She needs to know and her family needs to know exactly how this virus is transmitted and what she can expect going forward.

She is just one of, I think, the first cases. My great friend the Senator from Washington—not exactly the tropics in the State of Washington as well—also has one case. We don't know how many more. We don't know how many more.

So I am pleading, let's not wait. Let's treat this like the emergency it is. Let's do what we need to do to protect American families, particularly young women of child-bearing age who are going to be devastated if this happens in their families. So let's do the right thing. Let's come together. If there is a problem with the proposal, let's debate what that proposal should look like. Let's bring it to the floor. Offer amendments for accountability.

Why are we waiting? Someone needs to answer that question, not just to me

but to American families and to the American people.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues because I share their very real concerns about the impact of the Zika virus on families in New Hampshire—also not a tropical State—the impact on people across the country here in the United States, and also on people around the world.

As has been pointed out, we have seen reports in regions with active mosquito-borne transmission of the virus, places such as Brazil, where they are about to host the Olympics. People will be traveling there from all over the United States, from all over the world. We have seen those stories of women who have had children with severe birth defects, with microcephaly, as a result of their exposure and contracting the virus during pregnancy.

We have also seen impacts on adults. The connection that seems to be there, and I think we are still waiting on definitive research, but the connection in adults between Guillain-Barre syndrome and the Zika virus is also very real. While fortunately in America in most cases that can be treated, the reality is, in a lot of places around the world and for some people, it causes severe paralysis and sometimes even death. So this is not just something that affects pregnant women, but there are also concerns about who else might be affected by this virus.

As we have heard from North Dakota, as we have heard from other States, as mosquito season arrives in this country, we can expect additional Zika cases, transmitted often by mosquitoes from tropical areas, that people contract when they are traveling. We know this mosquito is coming to America. In New Hampshire, where neither of the two known mosquito vectors currently live, we have already had three cases of Zika, with about 150 possible cases that are still being tested.

Two of those cases were acquired as a result of traveling to Zika-impacted regions, but the third was contracted because of sexual transmission of the disease from a partner who had been traveling. Last week I chaired a roundtable on Zika in Concord, NH, in our capital. We had representatives who are looking at what might happen with the virus and our planning for an outbreak, which we hope we can avoid.

We had doctors from the State, we had the State epidemiologist, we had the director of the State lab, and we had people who are working on mosquito control. They talked about how over the last several months they have been getting more and more questions about Zika, particularly from women who are planning to have children in the near future, and for pregnant

women and their families or women and their partners who are beginning to think about starting a family.

As Senator HERRKAMP pointed out, the threat of Zika is very real. We had one of the doctors, an obstetrician, at that roundtable who reported that many of her family patients are canceling vacations they had planned and some of her patients whose husbands are in the military who are stationed in Zika-infected countries are concerned about how to protect themselves and what they need to do when they return.

We heard from folks at our New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services who talked about the importance of increased access to family planning and contraceptives and the Zika outbreak impact on the need for those services. It gives us a new lens on the importance of making sure women and families have access to this health care.

We need to make sure all women at risk or diagnosed with Zika have access to comprehensive, patient-centered contraceptives and preconception counseling. We also heard from the folks involved with mosquito control. What they told us is, there are two mosquitoes that can spread the Zika virus, that we know of at this time. One of those is a mosquito that is only in the tropics, that we are never going to see in northern New Hampshire and in northern New England.

The second mosquito, we have already found in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The mosquito control folks said that unlike the usual spraying for mosquitoes, which is in wetland areas and swampy areas in New Hampshire, this is a mosquito that, as Secretary Burwell has described it, “can breed in as little as a cupful of water.” They are mosquitoes that bite people four times in order to get a meal, so they spread very fast.

What we heard from the mosquito control folks who were at this meeting was that they are encouraging people to look at places in their yards where water might collect in small spaces, in wheelbarrows, in paint cans, in places we would not normally think about mosquitoes growing.

They also encouraged people to think about protecting themselves. When you are going out, think about covering up, wearing long sleeves, wearing slacks, wearing socks when you are outside at a time when mosquitoes might be around.

The other concern about the Zika mosquito is that it also is active during the day. It is not like most of the mosquitoes we see in New Hampshire, which are active at night. This is a mosquito that is also active during the day. So we need to be taking action now. I listened to the head of the State lab in New Hampshire talking about the challenge of getting results from

the lab for people who had been tested for Zika.

He said: Sometimes we have to send out to labs. We don't have the capacity in New Hampshire to do the analysis that is required. We are still looking for a test that can definitively determine if somebody has had Zika in the past. He said: Something as small as the ability to ferry the samples and the results back and forth to a lab is one of the things we need so we can get answers so we know how to act.

The folks who are trying to get information out to the public talked about the need to have support so they could get information out, both to the medical community and to individuals, about the importance of what individuals need to do to take action.

They said very directly to me, as I said that I appreciate this is something we need to work with you on in Washington, they said: We don't have the resources to respond to this in the way we need to in New Hampshire. For those people who would say: Don't worry. You are exaggerating. This is never going to come to New Hampshire, well, that is what they told us about the West Nile virus. That is what they told us about EEE. We have had deaths in New Hampshire in recent years from both of those viruses. So I think we need to act on this. I know there has been an agreement in the Appropriations Committee, among the appropriators on both sides of the aisle. It has been a bipartisan agreement to help get a supplemental funding bill to the floor to address this because in New Hampshire what I have heard is that we need help. We need Washington to help us. If we are concerned about the cost of this, just think about what our inaction will do? What if we have an outbreak and we have people who—we have thousands of women, as they do in Brazil, who have been infected and who have had babies with microcephaly. What are the health care costs to people who might have been infected by the Zika virus, with Guillain-Barre syndrome, with other birth defects as a result of being infected during pregnancy?

So this is a bill we can't afford to wait on. We need to address this. If folks are not willing to do it because it is the right thing to do, they ought to be willing to do it because it is the cost-effective thing to do. I hope we can come together. I know people on both sides of the aisle are concerned about this. We need to come together. We need to address this. It is a pending public health emergency. We have to respond.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I rise to join my colleagues in raising awareness about the Zika virus and the need to pass the President's emergency

appropriations request to get ahead of this crisis in the making.

Some question the need for this emergency appropriations request. Perhaps those who believe that funding the President's request is a waste feel that we are not at immediate risk, but you have heard my other colleagues talking about how this is an impending crisis. While Zika may not seem like a threat in the United States now because we have not hit peak mosquito season, this head-in-sand mentality is irresponsible. Zika is ravaging South America, which is having its summer right now. Zika is on the move. The mosquito that is the main Zika carrier is already in 13 States, and another mosquito also capable of spreading the Zika virus is in 30 States. As families travel this summer, they will be moving in and out of States and countries impacted by Zika.

To my colleagues who aren't worried about the spread of Zika right now, it is time for all of us to wake up. With summer comes mosquitoes—including, of course, the mosquito that carries Zika. We must do all we can to ensure that Zika does not gain a foothold in the United States. Let's act, not react, to this Zika threat. This means funding the President's \$1.9 billion request for Zika.

Hawaii knows firsthand the impact of vector-borne diseases such as Zika and of the resources and effort it takes to contain an outbreak. Seven Hawaii residents have already been diagnosed with Zika. One infant born to a mother with Zika has been diagnosed with microcephaly, a devastating birth defect.

On top of that, Hawaii has been dealing with an outbreak of dengue fever, which is spread by the same mosquito that carries Zika. The dengue outbreak in Hawaii began in September, and only yesterday were we able to go 30 days without a new dengue case.

The unique location of Hawaii means it serves as transit location for many Pacific Island nations where Zika outbreaks have occurred in the recent past, places such as Yap and French Polynesia. We know that this disease can migrate and that it can migrate quickly. That is why we have to get ahead of it.

Having the administration shift Ebola funding around is not the answer. That is akin to robbing Peter to pay Paul. What will we do if Ebola has a resurgence this summer—shift money back from Zika?

The United States is in a strong position, compared to many other countries, to fight Zika. We have indevelopment vaccines, blood screenings, cleaning tools, and research that will be game changers.

When the President sent his \$1.9 billion request to Congress, he laid out how the funding would be spent or used. It would go toward vector control, public education campaigns, and

vaccine development. It would go toward the work of companies such as Hawaii Biotech, which is racing to complete work on a vaccine.

We must fund the emergency request so Federal agencies that stand on the battle lines of combating disease can do their work. We must also strengthen vector control programs and emergency preparedness programs. It is imperative that we give our communities the tools they need to fight Zika. Time is still on our side right now, but time is running out and we must act quickly. Let's come together to ensure that Zika does not become a full-blown public health emergency in the United States. Let's fund the President's request.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to discuss this urgent public health emergency. I am honored to be here with Senator MURRAY, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator HEITKAMP, and Senator HIRONO as we look at this serious crisis facing our Nation, and that is the Zika virus.

The World Health Organization has declared that Zika is spreading explosively and will affect nearly all countries in North America and South America. The virus has already infected nearly 400 Americans who have traveled abroad from 40 States, including my home State of Minnesota. Over 500 people in Puerto Rico have the disease. Nearly all of them contracted the virus locally. These numbers will only continue to grow as the warmer months bring more mosquitoes that transmit this disease. In fact, researchers calculate that 60 percent of the people in our country live in an area that will likely be affected.

Zika is a rapidly evolving mosquito-borne virus. Most infected patients develop mild flu-like symptoms that last for a week. However, the virus has devastating consequences for growing families. Researchers have now confirmed what many feared was true: A pregnant woman infected with Zika is at risk of giving birth to a child with microcephaly. This heartbreaking, lifelong condition results in newborns with abnormally small heads. These children will need increased access to health care and developmental services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. There is no known cure for this disease or even standard treatment for this condition.

It is crucial that physicians have the knowledge and tools essential to diagnose and care for pregnant women who may be infected with Zika. It is crucial that moms with Zika and children with microcephaly have access to the services they need. It is crucial that we take steps now to ensure that our health care system and all levels of

government are prepared for the imminent spread of the Zika virus.

We are here today to continue to stress the urgent need to ensure that our country is as prepared as possible to mitigate the spread of Zika and respond to outbreaks of this virus.

The administration submitted a request for nearly \$2 billion in emergency funds to provide immediate support. This is about research. This is about a vaccine. This is about therapeutics and diagnostics. This is about a medical health crisis that primarily—but not only—affects women and children. That is why the women Democrats of the Senate have gathered on the floor today to speak out, to speak out and say this is a crisis that must be funded. This is a crisis that must be responded to.

Simply because it mainly affects women and children right now—and we have no idea what other effects it will have—is no reason to shirk our duties in the Congress and not fund this. Our foremost duty is to protect the health and safety of Americans. Zika is a rapidly evolving disease with severe public health implications. I ask my colleagues to support this effort. We cannot afford to delay action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to take the floor as the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee and urge that we adopt an urgent supplemental request to deal with the Zika threat.

This is real. It has been 2 months since the administration sent to Congress an emergency supplemental. We can't wait any longer. The mosquitoes are here. They are actually here. They are here in the United States of America.

I have said—first with wit and now with deep concern—that you can't build a wall to keep the mosquitoes out. The mosquitoes aren't going to pay for this. We need to act, and we need to act now.

This is a compelling public health crisis, and we can do something about it. We take an oath to defend all Americans against enemies foreign and domestic. This is about to be a self-inflicted wound on our own people because of our failure to act.

With no reliable, tested public health interventions on mosquito control—we have to take action to do this. Why? Because as of April 20, there have been close to 900 cases confirmed in the United States of America. We already know they are in three States. The CDC knows it is going to come to at least 30 States in our own country, and it will have incredible consequences, particularly to women.

Over the years, I have heard many eloquent, poignant, and even wrenching speeches about protecting the unborn.

They have been deeply moving. We have always tried to find common ground on this. But if you are really for defending the unborn, you have to pass this supplemental.

There are women all over the United States—particularly in these three vulnerable States—there are women in Puerto Rico who are wondering, if they are already pregnant, what their situation is. There are young women and not-so-young women who are concerned about getting pregnant and at the same time being bitten by a mosquito, and there are sparse resources to do mosquito control.

We want to build fences to keep out illegal aliens. OK. We want to bomb the hell out of ISIS and terrorists. We should because we are worried that they are coming at us. But in many of those instances, those are problems that have been difficult to solve. This is not difficult to solve; this is about mosquito control.

I am very concerned that we are just sitting around and that when all is said and done, more is getting said than gets done. We are talking about an emergency supplemental.

The Appropriations Committee has a very clear set of criteria for what is an emergency. First, it has to be urgent. Well, the mosquito season is here. It has to be unforeseen. This was unforeseen and it is temporary. It is mosquito season. It is a confined season. We can do something about it, and we must do something about it. It will have a disproportionate impact on pregnant women and the unborn. There will be children born with the most horrendous, heartbreaking birth defects.

I am of the generation that was the polio generation. My mother wouldn't let my sisters and me go swimming until after June 20 because, somehow or another, in our faith, it was St. John's Day and we thought the water would be warmer. Maybe the saint blessed the water. God bless the saints. God bless people like Dr. Salk, and God bless America that funded the Salk vaccine. I remember children in iron lungs to be kept alive, children in braces who then walked with very difficult canes. Those who survive bear this the rest of their lives.

Look at what we are facing here, and we know it. This is not unknown, nor is it unmanageable. It will be a national disgrace if we don't act.

In my own home State, I have a Republican Governor, Governor Larry Hogan. Guess what. Governor Hogan is acting. This isn't about Democrats and Republicans. Governor Hogan acted. He declared April 24 to 30 Zika Awareness Week. He ordered his health department to coordinate educational events with local health departments. They also spent \$130,000 of State money to develop 10,000 transmission kits to begin to deal with this. My Republican Governor has taken action.

Also, in Anne Arundel County—the county that is the home of the State capital, again headed up by a Republican county executive—they received 850 kits. They are going to have town-hall meetings to talk with the agricultural officials about prevention and mosquito control. We have a Republican Governor and a Republican county executive who are acting.

Then there is Howard County, where the health department is planning to distribute 450 kits to obstetric and gynecological practices to protect pregnant women. Again, a Republican county executive working with his administration is taking action, spending local money when this is a national problem.

I am saying this because my own Governor and the county executives are acting.

In Baltimore City, which has a Democratic mayor—she listened to the warnings coming from the World Health Organization, the CDC, and the Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore and is taking action. Baltimore is now spraying, taking mosquito control action, and so on. They are spending over \$500,000 of local money, of which we don't have a lot.

So, hello, Maryland is acting. We need to act. And I say this because we are spending local money to deal with a national and international problem. So please, let's now—whatever differences we have on other bills, please let's take up this urgent supplemental.

Madam President, I yield the floor, as I see the majority leader is here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:45 p.m. today, the Senate agree to the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the cloture vote on amendment No. 3801, the motion to reconsider the cloture vote on amendment No. 3801, and the Senate then vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801, upon reconsideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I have two topics I want to talk about today—actually, three—but I want to begin with the Zika virus.

A few weeks ago I went back to Florida on a Friday and I sat down and met with officials from the Department of Health from Florida. I met with leaders from Puerto Rico in the health sector. I met with doctors who live in Miami-Dade County and also officials in Miami-Dade County. They are freaked out about the Zika thing. I don't know any other term to use. If they are freaked out, then I am very concerned about it as well. That is why I do sup-

port fully and immediately funding this situation, and I have asked our colleagues to do so as quickly as possible.

I want to speak briefly about the Florida experience with this. There are two things that are deeply concerning, and then I will speak to some of the things we should be doing.

First, the summer months are upon us. Anyone who has been in Florida, in the summer particularly, knows summer has basically already started in Florida if you go outside. The spread of mosquitoes as a threat virtually everywhere in the State is just massive. It is just a way of life. This very deadly disease is something we are still learning about, by the way. A few weeks ago, they said: Well, Zika impacts only a small population of people—a very significant population of people. We are learning this disease impacts whoever it touches. First of all, you don't have to be symptomatic to spread it. In Florida alone, we have had at least two cases of transmission sexually transmitted.

By the way, it is just a matter of time before someone in Florida gets bit by a mosquito. I am telling you, it is just a matter of days, weeks, hours before you will open up a newspaper or turn on the news and it will say that someone in the continental United States was bitten by a mosquito and they contracted Zika. When that happens, then everyone is going to be freaked out, not just me and not just the people who work for the health department in Florida. This is going to happen. There are just way too many mosquitoes to avoid it.

The second thing is that Miami-Dade County, in particular, but a lot of Florida, is a transit point for all of Latin America. So, for example, one of the places most impacted by Zika is Brazil. Well, this summer the Olympics are being held in Brazil, and there will be hundreds of thousands of people who cross through Florida to get to Brazil and back, on top of the normal number of travelers. It is just a matter of time. It is not a question of if, it is a question of when.

So I look at this from a Senate perspective and say: We are going to fund this. We are going to spend money on Zika in Washington, DC, No. 1, because we should. It is the obligation of the Federal Government to keep our people safe, and this is an imminent and real threat to the public safety and security of our Nation and our people. So the money is going to be spent. The question is: Do we do it now, before this has become a crisis or do we wait for it to become a crisis? Maybe that crisis happens in August, when everyone is back home doing their campaign stuff or maybe it happens on Monday, when everyone is back home doing whatever they do on recess. Then everyone will get pulled back to deal with this imme-

diately, and I want to know what Members will say to those who say: Hey, this Zika thing has been in the news for months. Now there is a case.

It can be in any State in the country—any State in the country. You may hear: Oh, it is only in certain States that are warm. That is not true. It can be in any State in the country. I want to know what people are going to say when they are asked: What did you do about it? Are you going to say: Well, I had real problems. I wanted to make sure about this and that.

This is a serious thing. People's lives are at stake here. And by the way, this is now spreading into all sorts of other threats. Guillain-Barre was mentioned earlier. We know about the birth defects that are very significant. Do my colleagues realize what the cost will be of dealing with all of that? Are people aware of what Guillain-Barre is? It is a debilitating, often fatal, disease. The cost of treating someone that has it is extraordinary.

What about where the money is going to be spent? Look, it is possible at the end of the day that \$1.9 billion will not even be enough. We don't know. But we have to start.

No. 1, we don't have a commercially available plan to test for Zika. You can't just go to Quest Diagnostics and get a Zika test. It doesn't exist. In Florida, if you want to get a Zika test, you have to go through the State department of health.

No. 2, a lot of people aren't being tested because they are not a pregnant woman so they do not think they have to be tested. False. If you have traveled anywhere at this point—I don't care who you are, how old you are, male or female—where there are mosquitoes in significant amounts, you probably should be tested. If you have traveled abroad into these danger zones, you can transmit this disease. You can be carrying it and not see manifestations of it for a while.

There is no commercially available plan. They talk about mosquito control. They have only been trying that for thousands of years, and mosquitoes have outlasted everything. It is important. It has to be a part of it. But one of the two mosquito species that spreads Zika is resistant to pesticides. It has become resistant to the pesticide, and that is why new technologies need to be developed.

There are some innovative ways out there to cut down on the mosquito population. There is an innovative program now, trying to start a pilot program in the Keys. That should be a part of this conversation. Researchers are pretty confident they can find a vaccine for this kind of disease, given its pathology. Maybe not next week, but they can find a vaccine for it. The government has a role to play in basic research that allows the private sector to commercialize that and make that possible.

I understand we want accountability for how this money will be spent. I believe that. I do. I think the administration should come forward and say: Here is our plan. Here is where every penny is going to be spent, and here is how we are going to spend it. We should hold them accountable, and if there are ways to improve on that, we should. But I think there should be a sense of urgency when dealing with this issue.

I honestly believe—I don't believe; I know—it is just a matter of time before there is a mosquito-borne transmission. By the way, does it really matter how you got it, whether it was from a mosquito or it was sexually transmitted? You have Zika. It acts the very same way once you have it. It is just a matter of time before there is a mosquito-borne transmission in the continental United States.

I also have heard—not that anyone here has said it—but I have heard others say there are no cases of Zika transmitted from a mosquito yet in the United States. That is false. Puerto Rico is in the United States. Puerto Ricans are American citizens. By the way, they travel in huge numbers to and from the United States. Many are moving here. Many work here during the week and travel back on the weekends. This is a catastrophe right now in Puerto Rico, which is a United States territory, and its people are American citizens. They are facing a catastrophe right now on this issue.

So I hope there is real urgency about dealing with this. I understand this is not a political issue. There is no such thing as a Republican position on Zika or a Democrat position on this issue because these mosquitoes bite everyone. They are not going to ask you what your party affiliation is or who you plan to vote for in November. This is a real threat, and it is not just in the tropical States. They may feel it first, but so can any State that has any significant travel, which is basically all 50 States in the Union. In a country where people travel extensively across the country and around the world, we are going to face a Zika problem in this country this summer and fall.

My advice to my colleagues is that we are going to deal with this, so I hope we deal with it at the front end. Not only is that better for our people, but that will be better for my colleagues. Otherwise, we will have to explain why it is that we sat around for weeks and did nothing on something of this magnitude.

The second topic I want to—

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, will the Senator yield for just one moment before he goes into his second topic?

Mr. RUBIO. I will yield to the Senator from Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I just want to thank the Senator from

Florida for joining the women of the Senate here today to bring attention to such a critical issue and to extend our hands. We want to work with the Senator. We believe this is an emergency, and we want to deal with it quickly. We appreciate his comments and his support this morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I appreciate the advocacy of the Senator from Washington, and I do look forward to working with the Senator on this as well. Hopefully, we can get a result on this.

There is going to be a recess now, and that means for 10 days people will be going back to their home States. So I hope when we come back a week from Monday, we will hear that we have a plan that we are going to be able to vote on and vote on it quickly.

DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AND FDA  
ADVISORY PANEL

Madam President, on a separate topic, I want to call attention to a remarkable group of advocates who are bound together, not by a common race or religion or political ideology but by the common hope of one day ridding the world of a rare disease named Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Duchenne is one of multiple different forms of muscular dystrophy. It affects mostly boys, almost exclusively, at the rate of 1 per 3,600 individuals. Its primary symptom is the steady deterioration of muscle mass beginning early in childhood. By the age of 12, most boys with Duchenne have lost the ability to walk and eventually become paralyzed from the neck down. I am sad to say there is currently no cure for Duchenne, and the average life expectancy is around 25 years.

I am personally the parent of four children, including two boys, and I can only imagine—perhaps I can't imagine; that is how difficult it is—what it must be like to have a child receive this diagnosis. Few are called to do more for their child and to show greater courage in the face of the adversity that MD poses than a parent helping their child battle Duchenne.

I was recently inspired and humbled a few weeks ago to meet a young man struggling against this disease. His name is Austin, and his dad Joe is a hero in more ways than one. Joe helps Austin combat Duchenne, and he does it alone, as a single father. By the way, he also serves as an Active-Duty member of the United States Air Force.

Austin is 12 years old, and I was immediately impressed when I met him. I knew how difficult it must have been for him to travel all the way to Washington from his home in Tampa. This is the embodiment of courage that people living with this disease show every day.

Joe shared with me a few of the struggles they face. He told me how

Austin is unable to attend school full time because he needs hours of daily physical therapy to stimulate his muscles. He told me how Austin is quickly losing the ability to walk and how he now needs help getting in and out of his wheelchair and other daily tasks. He needs help with eating.

Joe told me he spends hundreds of dollars each month on over-the-counter drugs that are not covered by insurance, and he spends hours every Friday attending doctors' appointments.

Joe shared the dreams he once had when Austin was born—dreams of being that proud father in the bleachers at little league games or cheering loudly and waving a big foam finger. With Duchenne, he tells me he has even more reasons to proudly cheer Austin on, though the reasons are different. He cheers when Austin is able to get out of bed without help or to walk to the restroom. These are moments of great pride for Joe, when he sees how resilient Austin is in the face of this disease.

Joe and Austin traveled to Washington as part of a coordinated effort to witness and participate in FDA action related to Duchenne. As advancements in medical science continue, targeted therapies to treat Duchenne are being developed and tested, and each one—even the ones that fail—is providing us greater insight into the way the disease operates and how it might ultimately be defeated.

The last couple of weeks in particular have brought about a display of extraordinary strength from Joe and Austin, and thousands of other parents, children, family, and friends who engage in activism on behalf of those with Duchenne. This Monday, scores of advocates from around the country attended a hearing of the FDA advisory committee, which welcomed them and spent almost an entire day listening to their testimony. What this committee was listening to was the result of a clinical study on a small group. Admittedly, this is a small group of people who have this disease, so any clinical trial will have a small number of people. It is not the same as you would have for another more common disease. So this FDA advisory panel was meeting to decide whether they were going to allow this testing to expand and this drug to be more available.

The panel should have reviewed this in the context of a law that was passed in 2012 called the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act; call it FDASIA for short. This act gave the FDA the authority to consider the perspectives of patients when evaluating whether to approve a drug. In essence, it gave the FDA the authority to listen to people who are taking the drug and decide whether it works or not—not just to look at the clinical study.

This also provides real flexibility when evaluating drugs for life-threatening illnesses, such as Duchenne. It included multiple provisions to address the challenges of the rare disease patient community, which is by definition small—meaning clinical trials have a more difficult time finding enough participants to meet the FDA's usual requirements. Usually, when it is a drug for cancer or something like that, you have tens of thousands of people you can do a trial for. When it is a rare disease, you have a harder time finding enough people to test it on the way you would for a normal drug. And on top of that—on top of the perspective of a lesser number of people—it is also a disease that is fatal. In the end, all of these cases with Duchenne end the same way, with death, in a very predictable pattern.

They had a chance to meet this week and review this in the committee. In the words of someone who was there, who has a lot of experience in interacting with government agencies and bureaucracies, the word they used was "jarring." They said it was jarring. This is from someone who has a lot of experience interacting with government agencies and bureaucracies. They said it was jarring how it went.

I want to paint the picture of what that place looked like on Monday. There was an entire community of parents whose kids have Duchenne, who are taking this experimental drug, who are seeing their kids improve. They are seeing it. They know these kids better than any scientist, any doctor, or any panelist at the FDA, and they see these kids are doing better. They see this. They are begging the FDA panel: Please allow us to continue to give these kids medicine. And, by the way, make it available to other kids because, No. 1, there has not been a single documented case of harm; no one using this experimental medicine has been harmed by it. No. 2, we, the parents, are telling you it works because we see it in our kids. And, No. 3, if you take it away, we are desperate; there is nothing left. They are going to die. It is very predictable.

The committee ignored them. The committee ruled against them, and it did so because they basically applied the same standard to this drug as they did to a normal one: Oh, you didn't have enough people in the clinical trial. No, there aren't enough people to do a clinical trial with. It is a rare disease. The result is they had this ruling, and I think the vote was 7 to 3.

What is interesting is that one of the board members was quoted as saying: Based on all I heard, the drug definitely works, but the question was framed differently. What that means is the way the FDA posed the question to this committee was not just whether the drug worked, but the question was the process: Did this clinical trial have

enough people? Was it conducted the normal way—the way other drug tests are conducted? Of course not, because it is not treating a normal condition. It is one with a very small population.

The committee spent almost the entire time focused on how the clinical study was designed and not on whether it works. By the way, had the FDA followed FDASIA, the law passed a few years ago, and taken that into account—the small patient population and likewise—they might have reached a different result. Instead, what is happening now is these patients and families are on the verge of losing not just access to the drug but to other families as well.

Put yourself in the position of one of these patients. Your son has Duchenne, your son is taking this experimental drug, and you see how he is improving—because you do not improve with Duchenne. It is not one of these things where you get better, worse, better, worse. You get worse and then worse and then worse. It is a steady, predictable decline. So imagine your child is one of those impacted by this disease. You know what the outcome is. It is a predictable, guaranteed outcome. They are taking an experimental drug, and you know it is working because they are not declining. In fact, in many cases they are improving. You are begging the FDA: Please, allow us to continue to give our children this drug. They say: No, we reject it because the clinical trial was not conducted the way it is for normal drugs. Then you would understand the desperation of these parents.

There is one last chance. The senior leadership of the FDA has the ability to override this decision and allow this to move forward. I personally hope that is what they will do. In the end, the only thing to lose here is to do nothing.

The sad story here would be for these parents, who are already seeing the benefits, to lose access to this drug that they know is having an impact on their children. No one has been able to prove there is any threat that this drug poses to these children. This has been documented. CBS has done a report. Other entities have reported on it.

FDA senior leadership has the chance to overrule this committee, which didn't knock it down for purposes of safety or anything of that nature. They just said the clinical trials didn't meet their standard—and say these kids are going to die anyway if we don't do something.

Here is a drug that is showing improvement, and families who are using it are begging them to allow them to use it. Thousands of people do not fly in from around the country or watch online for something that isn't working. If this weren't working, these parents would not be so adamant about it. They see it is working. They know peo-

ple it is working for. They are desperate to keep it or to reach it. Listen to them. They know what they are talking about. They know. They are the primary caregivers for their children, and they know improvement when they see it.

I hope the FDA will consider moving in a different direction. These parents deserve better.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

(The remarks of Mr. TILLIS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2885 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. TILLIS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

#### PENSION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I rise today to talk about an issue that affects not only retirees in Ohio, but retirees all around the country.

Let me start by saying that if hundreds of thousands of retirees were getting the Social Security benefits they had worked for cut by as much as 70 percent, there would be a national uproar. People would consider it totally unacceptable. It would be the top news story every night. People would say: These retirees played by the rules; they did everything right. Yet they are seeing these big cuts. How could this happen?

Yet that is exactly what is happening to about 400,000 members of the Central States Pension Fund who are facing cuts of up to 70 percent as soon as July 1 of this year. Again, these are people who worked hard all their lives, put money into the pension system assuming it would be there, made their financial plans based on that, and now they are suddenly finding massive cuts—some 20 percent, some 40 percent, some as high as 70 percent. It is time for the Senate to address this potential crisis and to come up with a fair solution.

The Central States Pension Fund consists mostly of union truck drivers. They have seen its pension fund severely decline. That is why we are in this situation. The pension suffered big investment declines during the great recession, as did other pension funds. One difference is that they missed the market rebound because they had a large population of new retirees, and they had to withdraw large sums from their pension for those payouts.

One of the largest pension funds in America is in trouble. It is projected to go bankrupt in about a decade. That bankruptcy could be so large that it would have a very negative impact on the larger Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation that insures the fund. We don't want that to happen because that could, of course, leave hundreds of thousands of retirees with severely reduced or no pensions.

Something has to be done. Math is math. I understand that and, by the way, Central States retirees understand that. They know there is a problem. But the way Congress and the President have dealt with this is totally unacceptable. The House of Representatives worked on a proposal. It was crafted in the House, not in the Senate. It allowed the pension to possibly avert bankruptcy—and I say “possibly” because, as I will talk about later, even this proposal doesn’t mean they are going to avert bankruptcy. But they did so by cutting the benefits of current retirees substantially, severely in some cases, again by as much as 70 percent.

They then took this proposal called the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act, or MPRA, and buried it inside a \$1 trillion spending bill, which, frankly, nobody read. It was one of those last-minute bills, an end-of-the-year omnibus spending package, as they call it, and they sent it to the U.S. Senate. Members of the Senate were told: This is an up-or-down vote. There were no hearings in the Senate. There was no transparent process.

I remember when this happened about a year and a half ago, we were told that if the Senate didn’t quickly pass these unprecedented reforms, with no hearings and no opportunities for amendments on the floor of the Senate, the spending bill would fail.

This is Washington at its worst: Bury something in a spending bill that has nothing to do with a spending bill—in this case, a pension cut—and then basically try to blackmail lawmakers to vote for it, saying: If you don’t vote for this, the whole bill goes down.

I voted against it, as did other Members here in the Senate, but it passed. Of course, President Obama quickly signed it into law. Suddenly, these retirees were sent notices saying they have this big cut in their pension.

I agree that the status quo is not acceptable. I think over time it would lead to pension bankruptcy, and something has to be done. Difficult decisions are necessary. But the MPRA was an unfair remedy because it did not go through a fair and open and transparent process. Also, it didn’t give the workers or retirees a sufficient voice in their own futures. They did not have a voice in crafting the reforms because of the way it was structured.

We probably have 47,000, 48,000 Ohioans affected by this. After months of meetings with Ohio workers, retirees, and stakeholders, including the administration, I introduced what is called the Pension Accountability Act. Basically, it gives workers and retirees a voice in this process. Right now, MPRA does allow there to be a vote by workers and retirees, but for these large plans, the vote is nonbinding. So there is a vote, but it doesn’t count. Even if the participants vote 100 percent

against the reforms, it wouldn’t stop the cuts from going forward. That is crazy. That is certainly not democratic.

Additionally, the vote is designed unfairly. Here is how it works: If a retiree or a worker chooses not to take out a ballot and vote, it is automatically counted as a “yes” vote for the plan. Imagine how that would work in U.S. Presidential elections or other democratic processes. But that is not how this works. If you submit a ballot, it should be counted. If you don’t submit a ballot, it shouldn’t be counted.

So the Pension Accountability Act fixes these two problems: First, it makes the retiree and the worker vote binding. This will give workers and retirees a seat at the table, and a majority vote would be required for any pension cuts to go forward. Second, it makes the vote fair by counting the ballots as they should be counted, not returning the ballots as an automatic “yes” vote.

These commonsense reforms give the workers and the retirees more leverage. It gives them a fair say in the process because their vote is going to be heeded to implement changes. They are going to have a seat at the table to find the right balance.

Again, we know these pensions are in trouble, and some changes are necessary to prevent bankruptcy, which could leave some families with nothing. So let the process play out. If the businesses, unions, workers, and retirees can craft a solution to win a majority vote, more power to them. But let’s give everyone a seat at the table, and let these retirees have a vote.

The goal should not be to stop all pension reforms. If Central States continues on its road to bankruptcy, then, everybody loses. But the goal should be to give those affected a say in how these reforms are designed. It brings accountability. It opens the lines of communication on both sides of the bargaining table to come up with a fair solution.

There are some other proposals. I think the Pension Accountability Act has a much more realistic chance of enactment because I do not believe a massive tax increase is viable. It is the only reform proposal with bipartisan support. In fact, between my bill and the House companion legislation, we have nine Democrats and nine Republicans.

In the meantime, for the reasons I have discussed, the Department of the Treasury should not accept Central States’ application. They should reject this proposal to cut benefits up to 70 percent for some of the retirees, as we have talked about. By the way, even if all the application’s positive market assumptions play out, there is still a 50-percent chance the pension goes bankrupt anyway. This doesn’t exactly inspire confidence in this plan. I think

they should go back to the drawing board.

By the way, I am openminded to other solutions that would provide funding from inside the multiemployer pension system. There are different ideas out there, and we should talk about them.

Let me finish with a story about a guy I got to know through this process. His name was Butch Lewis, from Westchester, OH. Butch was a star baseball player in high school. He was drafted out of high school by the Pittsburgh Pirates. But instead of going on to a career in baseball, he heard the call of duty and he volunteered to join the U.S. Army and to serve in Vietnam. He became an Army Ranger. He was seriously injured while rescuing fellow soldiers. He was sent home with a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

When he came home, Butch reunited with his high school sweetheart Rita. He started a family, and he started working, despite his injuries. He spent 40 years as a truckdriver. The lack of shock absorbers in those old trucks hurt his knees a lot. His knees had been injured in Vietnam in battle. Ultimately, it required 37 surgeries. But he kept working and never complained. He sacrificed for his family and for their pension—to the point of foregoing pay raises, vacations, and other benefits in order to guarantee that he had a sufficient pension for retirement. They planned on it, like you would or anybody would.

Finally retired, a year ago Butch was surprised when he received a letter in the mail saying his pension would be cut by 40 percent—the pension that he was depending on. So after all those years of work and sacrifice, his pension would be deeply slashed. Butch felt betrayed, and I think that is understandable. He organized with his fellow retirees an effort to try to defend those pensions, and that is how I came to know him. He came to Washington, DC, to meet with me here. I also met with him in Ohio. I listened to his story. I listened to his wife Rita, who is very articulate, and we addressed different ways to try to save his pension. He is one of the reasons we came up with this legislation.

This past New Year’s Eve, feeling the stress, Butch became ill, and he died of a massive heart attack. He was 64 years old. His wife Rita is left to pick up the pieces. She has now lost her husband. Her own dad is battling Stage IV cancer. She is looking at a 40-percent cut to her survivor’s benefit. She is preparing to sell the house that she and her husband Butch saved a lifetime for. She is wondering what her future is going to be. She is a very strong woman. She worked tirelessly to save for these pensions. Now she is fighting to make sure all the hard work her husband put in was not in vain.

This is who we are fighting for. Think about Butch Lewis when we



think about what we should do. Think about Rita and 400,000 other members of the Central States Pension Fund. These are people who played by the rules. They worked hard, and yet, in their retirement years, they face possible financial ruin through no fault of their own.

This is why we need to pass the Pension Accountability Act. We have attempted to offer it as amendments in previous legislation here over the last couple of months. We are going to continue to do that. We are not going to give up. I would hope the Senate and the House would see that by giving people a voice, it gives them leverage, and we can come up with a better and a more fair solution for everybody.

I yield back my time.

I yield to the Senator from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from North Carolina.

#### GENOCIDE AND ATROCITIES PREVENTION ACT

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, April is Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. As we remember all those who have lost their lives in the wave of terrorist violence sweeping the world, I call on my Senate colleagues to join the effort to make real the words “never again” by cosponsoring S. 2551, the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

Islamic extremists are waging religious war so severe that the Pope of the Catholic Church and the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church came together, stating:

Whole families, villages and cities of our brothers and sisters in Christ are being completely exterminated. Their churches are being barbarously ravaged and looted, their sacred objects profaned, their monuments destroyed. It is with pain that we call to mind the situation in Syria, Iraq and other countries of the Middle East, and the massive exodus of Christians from the land in which our faith was first disseminated and in which they have lived together with other religious communities since the time of the Apostles. We call upon the international community to act urgently in order to prevent the further expulsion of Christians from the Middle East. In raising our voice in defense of persecuted Christians, we wish to express our compassion for the suffering experienced by the faithful of other religious traditions who have also become victims of civil war, chaos, and terrorist violence.

On February 4, a nearly unanimous European Parliament passed a resolution declaring that ISIS “is committing genocide against Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities.” Sadly, the United States, in keeping with the President’s desire to lead from behind, only recently decided to call it genocide in the face of the religious cleansing taking place in the heart of the Middle East. ISIS vows that they will break our crosses and enslave our women—they are speaking of Christians—and they will place a black flag at the top of St. Peter’s Basilica. At

the other end of the Middle East, we have Iran. Iran is launching test missiles with the words “Death to Israel” on the tips of the ballistic missiles, in Hebrew.

We would do well to remember the words of an Israeli Prime Minister who said: “When someone tells you he wants to kill you, believe him.” If you think it is a problem that is over there, think again. Terrorism reaches our shores. It has devastated some of the great cities of the world like London, Paris, Brussels, Madrid, and Bali. As a result of a conflict, there are now a record 60 million displaced persons—men, women, and children. That is more than at the height of the displacement of World War II.

Responding to the dire needs of those fleeing violence has driven a 600-percent increase in global humanitarian aid over the past 10 years, from \$3.5 billion in 2004 to \$20 billion in 2015. I have actually seen the human cost in refugee camps along the Turkish-Syrian border. I was there a couple of weeks ago, less than 30 miles away from the Syrian border in Turkey. These were Muslims fleeing ISIS and a blood-thirsty dictator who unleashed chemical weapons on his own citizens.

In the 1980s, then-Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick took up the cause of preventing genocide. With the memory of Chairman Mao’s killing of 100 million still fresh in her mind, her attention was turned to Africa, where she saw the first stirrings of the genocide on the continent, and then to Cambodia, where Pol Pot murdered over one-third of his nation. She urged President Reagan to sign the convention on genocide, and President Reagan did just that.

President Reagan said:

We gather today to bear witness to the past and learn from its awful example, and to make sure that we’re not condemned to relive its crimes. . . . the genocide convention [is a] howl of anguish and an effort to prevent and punish future acts of genocide.

I believe Congress has an important leadership role to play here. We can help ensure that America has the tools to combat genocide and atrocities and combat violent conflict. That is why I joined Senator CARDIN in introducing the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

As does the Senator from North Carolina, I also have a special reason for supporting this legislation that has the potential to fuse diplomacy, intelligence, and foreign aid, and in turn, prioritize government action to prevent future atrocities by working together.

It is important to me because my State, as I said earlier today, is at the tip of the sphere. When diplomacy fails, it is the 82nd Airborne and Special Forces from Fort Bragg or the U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune who are going to go resolve the conflict. We want to

avoid those conflicts. We owe it to them to do better by putting partisanship aside and by taking up proactive steps to avoid sending our servicemembers into harm’s way to confront a conflict that may be able to be prevented without firing a single shot.

Silence is the greatest enemy of freedom. Silence led to the devastation of Jews in Europe. But from the ashes of the Holocaust came the State of Israel and the vow “never again.” The first President Bush reminded us: “The words ‘never again’ do not refer to the past; they refer to the future.”

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon with great regret, having to raise the issue of the pending nomination of the Secretary of the Army. Mr. Eric Fanning has been nominated to be the Secretary of the Army. We have held hearings in the Armed Services Committee, and his name has been on the calendar for confirmation. My friend from Kansas, who is on the floor with me—and he is my dear friend of many years, despite the branch in which he chose to serve in the military—has been objecting to the confirmation of Mr. Eric Fanning as the Secretary of the Army, which is his right.

Mr. Fanning had a distinguished career. He served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and White House Liaison. He served as Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy and Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Navy. The Senate confirmed him, and he served as Under Secretary of the Air Force, including 6 months as Acting Secretary of the Air Force. He served as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense, Dr. Ash Carter. Later, he served as Acting Under Secretary and Acting Secretary of the Army. In 2016, he served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

He comes from a military family. He has two uncles who graduated from West Point and were career Army officers. He has another uncle who is a career Air Force officer. He has a cousin who flew helicopters in the Marine Corps and another cousin who was an Army Ranger.

He has senior executive leadership experience in all three military departments and has pursued efficiencies and transformation in every part of the Department of Defense. His most recent experience as Acting Under Secretary and Secretary of the Army has given him a solid understanding of the challenges currently facing the Army and the need to sustain a ready Army that will, as he said at his confirmation hearing, deter enemies, assure allies, build partner capacity, and be ready to respond when the Nation calls.

One of the obligations—in some respects—that we as Senators have is the role of advice and consent, and that is an important role. As Senators, we also understand that elections have consequences, and therefore—although it is not written down anywhere—when a President is selected by the American people, then that President should be given the benefit of the doubt as to the person or persons the President wants on his or her team. I believe it is then our job to make the decision on whether to confirm or deny confirmation based on our view of the qualifications but with the presumption that we would confirm someone rather than the presumption that we wouldn't confirm someone. When the American people choose their leader—the President of the United States—then it seems to me it is our obligation, unless there is a reason not to do so, to ensure that the President has a team around him he has selected.

I am stating the obvious, and Mr. Fanning is clearly qualified. He has performed well in the hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee. My friend from Kansas has objected to Mr. Fanning being confirmed by the Senate, and I will let him describe his reasons for objecting to the nomination, but as I understand it, the Senator from Kansas does not want the detainees from Guantanamo transferred to the State of Kansas.

I have assured my dear friend from Kansas that the Armed Services Committee will not approve the transfer of detainees to the United States of America unless there is a plan that will assure the American people the circumstances surrounding that transfer, if it should ever take place, will be appropriate. The administration, after 7½ years that I have been dealing with them, has no plan. I can assure the Senator from Kansas that the Defense authorization bill, which I assume will be made into law, will again prohibit the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo to the United States of America until there is a plan that is approved by the Congress of the United States. That is our obligation and our role. Now, add to that that Mr. Fanning has no role to play. He has no role to play in this decisionmaking as to whether we transfer detainees from Guantanamo to the United States of America.

When we consider nominations, we should be considering the role, mission, and responsibilities of that nominee, and, frankly, I say to my dear friend from Kansas, he has no role to play in the whole scenario I described.

I urge my friend, in the strongest possible way I can, to work together with me, as we have over the last 7½ years on this issue of Guantanamo, and give the benefit of the Senator's expertise as we bring the Defense authorization bill to the floor during the last week in May, which is when it is sched-

uled, and talk about Guantanamo. I am totally confident and can assure the Senator from Kansas that the overwhelming majority of the Armed Services Committee and I am sure a majority in the Senate—I am totally confident that the Defense authorization bill will have a prohibition on the transfer of detainees to the United States of America unless there is a plan that is approved by the Congress of the United States.

Finally, I understand that the Senator from Kansas is very concerned about this issue and has been for a long time. No one understands better than he. He was a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps and is aware of the obligations to preserve the safety and security of this Nation.

All I can say is that the U.S. Army needs this man, Mr. Eric Fanning's leadership. It is not fair to the men and women of the U.S. Army to be without the leadership of a Secretary of the Army. Mr. Fanning is eminently qualified to assume the role of Secretary of the Army.

I urge my friend and colleague to not object to the unanimous consent request I am about to propound.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 477, the nomination of Eric Fanning to be Secretary of the Army; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I want to make certain that my colleagues understand my position on this matter. My hold on Eric Fanning's nomination is not in relation to his capabilities, expertise, or character, and it is certainly not intended to bring undue stress to our U.S. Army. Rather, my hold on the nominee is to protect the security of the United States and especially the people of Kansas.

I will be more than happy to vote for Mr. Fanning once the White House addresses my concerns regarding the President's efforts to move Guantanamo Bay terrorist detainees to the mainland, with Fort Leavenworth, KS, the intellectual center of the Army, very high on the list.

I have been clear, honest, and flexible with the White House. I am simply asking that they communicate to me what all those who have reviewed Fort Leavenworth already know; that Fort Leavenworth is not a suitable replacement for the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay. The White House has not reciprocated.

I have prepared lengthier remarks on my position in this matter. At this

time, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 5 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, the senior Senator from Arizona, our distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee and my friend, has made a very impassioned plea for me to remove my hold on Eric Fanning to be Secretary of the U.S. Army. I want to be very clear that as a veteran and marine, I support the nominee for this post.

Kansas is the proud home to two Army posts, Fort Leavenworth, the intellectual center of the Army where the commandant staff school is located, and Fort Riley, home of the Big Red One—two proud posts with very rich histories.

I want the Army to have a highly qualified Secretary just as much as the distinguished Senator from Arizona, but it is due to my deep respect and concern for the men and women in uniform at Fort Leavenworth, and those who live and work in the region, that I am compelled to issue my hold on the President's nominee in the first place.

As I have publicly stated from the beginning, and personally to Mr. Fanning, former Army Secretary John McHugh, and Defense Secretary Ash Carter, my quarrel is not with the nominee but with the President.

President Obama continues to insist that he will close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility before he leaves office, transferring the remaining detainees to the U.S. mainland, with Fort Leavenworth under serious consideration. Quite frankly, this is a legacy item for the President. After much study and review, I can name countless reasons why this plan is wrong and it is also illegal. The President's own Cabinet has acknowledged this, and the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General have publicly stated that current law prohibits the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the mainland. Yet the President is undeterred. He continues to insist it will be done, even if he has to resort to Executive power in defiance of the law and the will of the Congress. As a result, I have been left with very little choice other than to do what I can as an individual Senator to block the transfer of detainees to Fort Leavenworth.

I understand and share the concerns of the distinguished Senator, but if there is any anger, concerns, or frustrations, it should be directed at a White House that intends to ignore laws written and introduced by the Senator from Arizona himself. We should be speaking today, not about my attempts to protect the people of my State and Fort Leavenworth, we should be speaking about a White

House that ignores the National Defense Authorization Act and every appropriations bill passed in this Chamber since 2009. We should be angry at a White House that wants to bring this terrorist threat to our shores without so much as an intelligence assessment as to the risk and benefits of such an action to our citizens at home or to our men and women in uniform. An intelligence assessment regarding these concerns does not exist.

The administration is responsible for refusing to come forward with a real plan to relocate prisoners, instead of a weak and veiled attempt to honor a campaign promise, which is the only way to characterize the actions to date.

Just days ago, I received the most classified report from the Department of Defense on moving the detainees from Gitmo. This report—far from clearing up any reports—made it even more apparent to me that it is virtually impossible to safely relocate terrorists at Fort Leavenworth.

The assessment is there. All I am asking is for the White House to assure me that Fort Leavenworth is not a viable alternative. Cities and towns across America are holding their collective breath while we await the White House's judgment as to where to house these detainees.

For those of us in the crosshairs, we are left with very few options to fight a President who is willing to break the law. With this hold, I have used one of the tools—perhaps the only tool other than a filibuster—afforded to me as a U.S. Senator, and I will continue to do everything in my power to fulfill the obligations of the security of the United States. It is what Kansans expect and have demanded of me.

If the White House calls and assures me that terrorists held at Guantanamo will not come to Fort Leavenworth, I will gradually release this hold immediately. As a matter of fact, we just had a conversation with the White House this morning in the hopes that this could be worked out, but the White House simply would not give me that assurance.

Make no mistake, I remain adamantly opposed to placing detainees anywhere on the mainland. The distinguished Senator from Arizona knows that, and I think he shares those views. However, if the plans and studies from the administration rule out Fort Leavenworth as an option, all they have to do is tell me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request by the Senator from Arizona?

Mr. ROBERTS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, Mr. Fanning has nothing to do with the issue.

We are shooting a hostage that has nothing to do with the decisionmaking process. If we inaugurate a practice here of holding nominees over an issue that is not related to those nominees, we are abusing our power and authority as U.S. Senators.

Secondly, the Senator from Kansas knows he cannot have the President call him. If he did that, he would then have to call 99 other Senators who would then hold up nominees because they have not been assured that detainees will not be relocated to their States according to any plan that the President may come up with.

What we are doing is telling a nominee who is totally and eminently qualified for the job that that person cannot fulfill those responsibilities and take on that very important leadership post because of an unrelated issue that has nothing to do with Mr. Fanning. That is not the appropriate use of senatorial privilege. What if we set this precedent and every Senator—100 Senators—adopts the practice of saying: I don't want the President to pursue a certain course of action, therefore I will hold his or her nominee hostage until they take a certain course of action. That is not the role of advice and consent. That is a distortion of advice and consent.

Let me say, I will be coming back to the floor on Mr. Fanning's nomination. It is not fair to him. He is an American citizen. He has served for years in the service of his country, at least since 2009 that I can see. He shouldn't be held hostage to a policy decision that—the full Senate will act to prevent that action.

I tell my colleague that the full Senate, as we have the last several years, will prohibit the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay until the President of the United States comes forward with a plan that is approved by the Senate. So if a plan came forward that contained movement of the detainees to Fort Leavenworth, as the Senator from Kansas is worried about, then the Senate would say no. We would say no.

So, unfortunately, we have seen the Senator from Kansas take a nominee who is fully qualified in every aspect—he passed through the Senate Armed Services Committee by voice vote—and hold him hostage to an action that the nominee has no ability to take, has no ability to determine, nor is it in his area of responsibility as Secretary of the Army to determine a policy on Guantanamo.

So if we are going to set a precedent here, I say to my friend from Kansas, that if we don't like a certain policy or anticipated action by the President of the United States in some area, we will therefore hold up a nominee for an office which they are not in any way related to—that is not the way the Senate should behave.

Mr. ROBERTS. Will my friend from Arizona yield?

Mr. MCCAIN. Sure. I will be glad to yield to my friend.

Mr. ROBERTS. Well, if this is a bad precedent and all that the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee has said it is with regard to my actions, I will remind him that there has been a precedent before this time. The year was 2009, and this issue came up. Obviously, it was a campaign promise by the President. There was a lot of concern, a lot of frustration, a lot of anger. I asked myself at that particular time what on Earth I could do to stop this effort to move detainees to Fort Leavenworth. Again, I would stress that it is the intellectual center of the Army. The commander staff school is there—think Pershing, think Eisenhower, think MacArthur, think Petraeus. Bad fit. Sixteen thousand people at Leavenworth have signed a petition saying no to the detainees.

Back then, in 2009, John McHugh—a wonderful Congressman, a great friend to me, and a great Secretary of the Army—was being nominated. I took the very same action, I would tell the distinguished Senator from Arizona, and put a hold on John.

I called him up. I said: John, I have some bad news and some good news.

He said: Well, give me the bad news.

I said: Somebody here in the Senate has put a hold on you.

He said: Who on Earth would do that?

I said: It is me.

He was a little stunned—I think a lot—and would probably make the same statement and speech the Senator from Arizona has given.

I said: Not to worry. All that has to happen is for the administration to give me assurance—it could be vocal; I don't expect him to write it down—that the detainees will not be moved to Fort Leavenworth.

John went to work to try to carry that message to the administration. I am not saying that Eric Fanning should do that, but John McHugh did. And it wasn't very long after that that the legal counsel from the White House—and I won't get into names here—called me and assured me that would be the case. I immediately lifted the hold.

So there is a precedent in 2009, and it worked.

Again, I really regret—my hold on Eric Fanning's nomination is not in relation to his capabilities, his expertise, his character, and certainly not intended to bring undue stress to the U.S. Army. I understand that. But when we are faced with a situation like this, and the situation could be further explained by a call that I just received prior to the distinguished Senator coming to the floor—the White House knows this—we had a very frank conversation. The conversation pretty well

ended up: I can't give you that assurance, but we won't surprise you; i.e., if we have an Executive order and we are moving detainees into Fort Leavenworth, we will certainly tell you.

So I can't release this hold, as I did in 2009. I don't think the statute of limitations is here with regard to the previous assurance I got from the White House. If there is, maybe it is because that is—when the legal counsel left, all of a sudden we were back to where we are.

So the ball is in the court of the White House. All they have to do is give me another call and indicate that things will be fine. I am not telling them what language to use or anything else.

I might add that there are two other Senators who are very concerned about this—Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina and the distinguished Senator from Colorado, CORY GARDNER.

I thank the Senator for yielding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, just quickly, facts are stubborn things, I say to my friend from Kansas. The reason there hasn't been movement of the detainees is because the action of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the authorization bill prohibited such a thing from happening. It has nothing to do with any hold or no hold that the Senator from Kansas has. Let's be very clear about that. And whether Eric Fanning is confirmed or not, it does not change the situation one iota—not one iota.

I have assured the Senator from Kansas that the Senate Armed Services Committee—I know enough about my own committee to know that they will be passing again, as we have for the last several years, a prohibition on the movement of detainees until there is a plan. And in 2009 or whenever it was, I am sure they had no plan at that time because they came to see me and I told them to come up with a plan.

So the Senator's actions have nothing to do with whether or not the President closes Guantanamo and transfers them, and the Senator's action right now has nothing to do with whether or not the President of the United States will decide to close Guantanamo by Executive order and move them to Leavenworth. There is nothing he is doing by withholding this nomination that would in any way inhibit the President from acting. The only thing that will inhibit the President from acting is the aye vote of Senator from Kansas on the Defense authorization bill which will be on the floor at the end of May and which will have a prohibition for the transfer of those detainees.

So I would hope my dear friend from Kansas would understand that what we need to do is get a defense authorization to the floor, get it in conference

with the House, and get it to the President's desk. That is the best way he can keep any movement of detainees to Kansas and to Fort Leavenworth. And at the same time, the President of the United States, despite your hold on Mr. Fanning, may act by Executive order. Nothing you are doing by prohibiting Mr. Fanning from being confirmed to a post he is well qualified for—to lead the U.S. Army—will have any effect whatsoever on an Executive order by the President of the United States.

Mr. ROBERTS. Will the Senator yield again for one last comment?

Mr. MCCAIN. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, every Senator listening to this—every person listening to this—should understand, with the summation the Senator has just given, what an outstanding chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee he has been and what a stalwart he has been for our men and women in uniform. I cannot think of a chairman—and there have been a lot of very great chairmen in the Senate Armed Services Committee, but none so well qualified as the Senator from Arizona. His remarks are right on point with regard to his point of view. His remarks sing, if you will, in behalf of our national defense. He is a great friend. He is a personal friend. I respect him more than he knows, and I appreciate him. I think he mentioned Eric Fanning to be Secretary of the Navy. That might be an alternative. But at any rate, I want to thank him for his remarks.

But if this has no bearing on anything, why did the White House call me just before we came down here trying to work it out? And saying that in 2009—OK, they did let me know that Fort Leavenworth was not being considered. As I say again, there is no statute of limitations, I don't think, except just "Oh well, by the way, we are going to change our mind" and a couple of little campaign assurances by the President saying "Well, we can always use an Executive order"—not to mention his Press Secretary. So if there is nothing to bear here—this doesn't have any relationship to the issue at hand—why did the White House call and say "Well, we will make a decision down the road, but we won't surprise you"?

I shouldn't even be talking about this with regard to the communications this morning. So I just disagree with my good friend. I thank him for his leadership, and I thank him for his position. Were I in his position, I probably would be saying the same thing.

Mr. MCCAIN. May I just say, Mr. President, that I hope my dear friend from Kansas—we are about to go into a week-long recess—would do as he always does, and that is contemplate and communicate, as he does with the peo-

ple of Kansas, who have honored him for so much time here in the Congress of the United States. Maybe hopefully we could work this out with the certain knowledge and my assurance that I am 100 percent confident that the Senate Armed Services Committee will report a bill that will become law that prohibits the transfer of the detainees from Guantanamo to anywhere in the United States of America until there is a plan that is approved by Congress, and I want to give him that confidence.

His passion that he has displayed here is ample evidence for why the people of Kansas hold him with such affection and respect. He is fighting for what he believes is in the best interests of the people whom he represents so well and honorably.

I hope he will have the opportunity, as we go into recess next week, to talk with his constituents and think about this and think about my assurance that we will not—we will not—approve of a transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay unless it is in compliance with the law that we will pass.

I thank my colleague.

I know the Senator from Tennessee is waiting.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, within a few minutes we will be voting on whether to cut off debate on the Energy and Water appropriations bill and move to finish the bill. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will vote yes.

This is a bill the Senator from California and I have worked on carefully with Members on both sides of the aisle. More than 80 Senators have made contributions to the bill. We considered 18 amendments on the floor. This is a bill which is about half national defense and about half essential services. These include dredging harbors and building locks and dams. These include our 17 National Laboratories and keeping us first in the world in supercomputing. It is within the Budget Control Act, and it is the part of the budget that is flat. In other words, it is a part of the budget that is reasonably under control, not the part that is not.

It is also the first time since 2009 that this Energy and Water appropriations bill has had the opportunity to go across the floor in the regular order. It is the earliest appropriations bill that has been considered by the Senate since 1974. Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID picked this bill because they thought Senator FEINSTEIN and I could work with Members of the Senate to establish a model for how to deal with the remainder of the appropriations process, and we hope that proves to be true.

We have run into one issue, and that is an amendment by the Senator from Arkansas regarding Iran. That is a provocative amendment—I understand

that—on both sides of the aisle, and the President cares about it as well. But I have worked hard to get Senators a right to offer germane amendments. Some Senators have chosen to withdraw their amendments in order to keep the bill moving along, but Senator COTTON has a right to offer his amendment on the bill, and I support him in doing that. He has been eminently reasonable. He has offered to modify it. He has offered to do it at another time. He has offered to vote it at 60 votes or to vote it by voice vote. So far, we have not had any agreement.

If we do not succeed, I am going to keep working with Senator FEINSTEIN, the Democratic and Republican leaders, and with Senator COTTON in the hopes that when we come back next Monday, we will have a suitable solution and we will vote still again on finishing the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Over the last year and 5 months the White House has threatened 87 vetoes. That is about one every week and a half. If we shut down the Senate and stopped our work every time the President threatened a veto, we would be here about 3 or 4 hours every Monday afternoon.

When we say to the President: Your budget is dead on arrival, he sends us his budget anyway.

The way to handle a veto threat is the way we did it with the national defense act, which is to say: All right, Mr. President, if you want to veto it, you may. We sent it to him, and he did. It came back, and the offending provision was taken out. A better way to do it might be that the President says: I will veto the education bill. We worked with him, and we sent him a version that he could sign.

My plea with my friends on the Democratic side, as well as on the Republican side, is let's not let the White House lead us around by the nose and tell us we can't consider a bill just because there is a veto threat. We should consider the bill. We are a coequal branch of government. We should do what we think we ought to do—defeat it or pass it. Then, if the President chooses to veto it, that is his constitutional prerogative, and most of the time, if we know that is going to happen, the offending provision comes out.

I ask for a "yes" vote. I hope that it succeeds. If it doesn't, we will be having the same exact vote a week from next Monday when we come back, and I will do my best to help that succeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the cloture vote on amendment No. 3801 is agreed to and the motion to reconsider is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Roger F. Wicker, Mark Kirk, John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3801, offered by the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, as amended, to H.R. 2028, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 65 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heitkamp	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Collins	Kirk	Sullivan
Corker	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Wicker
Donnelly	Moran	
Enzi	Murkowski	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Fischer	Markey
Bennet	Franken	McCaskill
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Merkley
Brown	Heinrich	Mikulski
Cantwell	Heller	Murphy
Cardin	Hirono	Murray
Carper	Kaine	Nelson
Casey	King	Peters
Coons	Klobuchar	Reed
Durbin	Leahy	Reid
Feinstein	Lee	Sasse

Schatz	Tester	Whitehouse
Schumer	Udall	Wyden
Shaheen	Warner	
Stabenow	Warren	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Cruz	Sanders
Boxer	Johnson	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 43.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, upon reconsideration, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Tim Scott, Marco Rubio, Michael B. Enzi, Daniel Coats, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Thad Cochran, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, David Vitter, Patrick J. Toomey, Rand Paul.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENTENCING REFORM AND CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are a lot of divisions on Capitol Hill, and the press spends a lot of time reporting differences between Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate. I think that is one of the reasons the press conference I just left is noteworthy, because at this press conference, we had equal numbers of Democratic Senators and Republican Senators talking about a bill that we hope to move forward on the floor of the Senate. The bill relates to criminal justice reform.

I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, the Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. We are proud to

have the support as well of Senator LEAHY and Senator MIKE LEE of Utah, who was one of the original authors of this bill 3 years ago when we both introduced it. We also have the support of the Republican whip, JOHN CORNYN of Texas; SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island; and many others who have joined this effort.

What is it about this bill that could bring people together who are so different—liberals, conservatives, Democrats, Republicans? It is a common belief that we bring to this that at this moment in history, we need to take an honest look at the incarceration policy in America.

The United States of America has 5 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of the world's prisoners. Over the last 35 years, we have increased the number of Federal prisoners by anywhere from 800 percent to 900 percent. We are building Federal prisons as fast as you can imagine, and they are dramatically overcrowded.

It raises the obvious question: Are we safer? If we spend \$30,000 a year to incarcerate a person, take them off the streets and away from their family, are we safer because of it? In some cases, we clearly are. Our first obligation is public safety. If someone is a threatening, deadly, violent criminal, they ought to be taken off the streets as long as they are a menace or a danger to society. But the largest increase in the Federal prison population during the period I just described is for non-violent offenders, people who have sold drugs in America.

The problem is made worse because we decided 25 or 30 years ago to create mandatory minimum sentences. What it meant was that when the judge sentenced someone, there was an absolute floor they couldn't go below regardless of the circumstances. Needless to say, that resulted in the miscarriage of justice in many cases.

Sadly, it isn't just a matter of longer sentences. We have seen some disparities and injustice that we have to be very honest about, as painful as it is to describe them. For instance, the majority of illegal drug users and drug dealers in America are White. Three-quarters of all the people incarcerated for drug offenses are African American and Latino, and the large majority of those who are being sentenced under mandatory minimum sentences are African American and Latino.

Let's be very honest about this. In my State of Illinois, I have to be because in the city of Chicago and other communities, we are going through a very candid and painful discussion about the issues of race and justice. We have to be honest. We are incarcerating minorities in this country at dramatically higher percentages than we should. The reason I say that goes back to the original point: The majority of illegal drug users and sellers in Amer-

ica are White; three-quarters of those in prison are not.

As a result of mandatory minimums, the families of nonviolent offenders are separated for years on end, and a disproportionate number of them are people of color. This is destroying communities, damaging and destroying families, and, sadly, eroding faith in our criminal justice system.

In 2010 I worked with Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama. He is a very conservative Republican but one of my colleagues and friends on the Senate Judiciary Committee. We passed the Fair Sentencing Act. You see, we had a disparity in sentencing so that those who were found guilty of selling and using crack cocaine were sentenced at 100 times the standard of powder cocaine. There was a reason for it, but it turned out not to be valid. Yet for years this was the standard. We were filling our prisons primarily with African Americans on crack offenses, and if they were repeat offenders—three times and you are out, three strikes and you are out—they could be sentenced for long periods of time.

Senator SESSIONS and I decided to change it. We reduced the disparity between crack and powder, and we have seen a dramatic downturn not only in those serving times for crack cocaine offenses and selling them but also the arrests that are being made today.

This bill we just announced in a press conference—the latest version and I think a good version—is another step forward. It will give judges more discretion in sentencing below the mandatory minimum on an individual case-by-case basis.

A young man whom I have come to know is Alton Mills. Alton is from Chicago, IL. In the year 1994 at the age of 24, Alton Mills was given a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole for a low-level, nonviolent drug offense. This man had never served 1 day in prison in his life, and at age 24 he received a life sentence. I appealed to President Obama to use his Executive authority to give Alton Mills another chance. Just before Christmas last year, the President commuted his sentence, and Alton Mills was released after 22 years in Federal prison.

He was there today in a meeting we had with his mom. She never gave up on him. She was the one who appealed to me initially to take a look at her son's case. His attorney, a dynamic African-American woman named MiAngel Cody, really closed the deal as she described this case in detail and how unfortunate it was that a 24-year-old man would receive a life sentence for low-level, nonviolent drug offenses.

He is not alone. There are hundreds more just like him serving mandatory life sentences for third-strike sentences. The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, which Senator GRASSLEY and I have introduced, would

eliminate this mandatory life sentence. This change alone would change the sentencing for many who are currently serving in Federal prisons.

The bill was reported out of the Judiciary Committee in its original form by a vote of 15 to 5—a good, strong vote. We have picked up an additional number of Republican sponsors since we have made some other changes in the bill. I thank Senator LEE for joining me in initially introducing this bill.

There are so many people who are counting on this legislation, not just those families who have someone serving time in prison but many people across the board—Black, White, and Brown—who want to see us restore faith in the system of criminal justice.

We had an amazing endorsement of our bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter of endorsement.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL DISTRICT  
ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION,  
*Alexandria, Virginia, April 26, 2016.*

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. HARRY REID,  
*Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER REID: On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the largest prosecutor organization representing 2500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States as well as 30,000 assistant district attorneys, I write in support of S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015. As a result of months of changes and good faith negotiations, our organization feels the latest version of the bill strikes the appropriate balance between targeting the highest level drug traffickers plaguing our communities, while simultaneously decreasing crime rates and addressing the burgeoning prison population.

America's federal, state, local and tribal prosecutors have as their primary responsibility the administration of justice. Everyday, prosecutors have to make tough judgment calls. Sometimes, that judgment call involves locking up individuals for a long period of time for a heinous crime that damaged a community. More often, we work hard to provide second chances and concerted efforts are made to rehabilitate an individual with the goal of reducing the chance that he or she will reoffend back into the system.

As we have seen from the cost curve published by the National Academy of Sciences, the current prison population is simply unsustainable and continues to have a greater and greater impact on broader funding and programming at the Department of Justice. Budget aside, communities across this country have shifted to embrace rehabilitation and the opinion that certain individuals in our federal prison system are serving sentences that are too long compared to the crime they committed. This legislation aims to strike the appropriate balance of time served and the relevant crime by modifying the three strikes rule for drug felonies, with

a third strike now carrying a 25-year penalty as opposed to life, and second strike carrying a 15-year sentence instead of 20 years. Appropriately so, the bill expands the three strikes rule to apply to serious violent felonies, ensuring that we use prison for those we are afraid of, not those whom we are mad at based on their behavior.

One previous concern our members highlighted was the retroactive nature of many provisions in the original bill. The new version takes into account that concern by limiting the retroactivity where applicable if an individual's record contains any serious violent felony. We feel this filters out the truly dangerous individuals who should stay out of the community, while allowing lower level offenders a chance for redemption.

Our members also realize that as we see the same offenders reenter the criminal justice system time and time again, we must be creative and come up with innovative programs to reduce recidivism, including job training skills, addiction counseling and other productive activities. According to a report primarily authored by the National Center for State Courts, "properly designed and operated recidivism-reduction programs can significantly reduce offender recidivism. Such programs are more effective, and more cost-effective, than incarceration in reducing crime rates."

As part of the broader legislation, the Corrections Act requires the development of a risk assessment tool that will categorize inmates based on their risk of recidivism and subsequently determine which types of programming are most tailored to that individual's needs and risks. This is an important step in targeting at risk populations and providing the necessary resources to rehabilitate those individuals with the eventual goal of returning to our communities as productive citizens. At the same time, appropriate parameters are set for who is eligible to earn good time credit for completion of the recidivism reduction programming in order to keep the most dangerous and high-risk individuals from being eligible for early release to community supervision and off the streets.

We are especially appreciative of the provision in the legislation requiring an annual report by the Attorney General outlining how savings accrued from modifications to federal sentencing will be reinvested into efforts by federal, state and local prosecutors and law enforcement to go after drug traffickers and gangs, as well as provide the necessary training and tools needed to carry out investigations, keep officers safe, and ensure successful programming and initiatives are duplicated across communities in the form of best practices. Unfortunately, as the Bureau of Prison's (BOP) budget has continued to rise, funding for state and local law enforcement grants has been slashed to the bone negatively impacting innovative work in the field including diversion programs, updating of information sharing systems, and hot spot policing. This language is an acknowledgement that vital funding streams to prosecutors and law enforcement must be restored to protect the communities we serve.

The members of NDAA are acutely aware that our federal partners need to have the ability to allocate resources to state prosecutors to help combat human trafficking, domestic violence, the scourge of prescription drug addiction, and so many other ills that plague our communities. Absent meaningful sentencing reform, where the truly dangerous are locked up for an appropriate

period of time and those with addiction or mental health issues have the chance for treatment and rehabilitation, those needed resources will not exist.

We applaud the bipartisan leadership of the Senators and staff who have spent considerable time working on this compromise legislation. Their tireless efforts have included open and transparent communication with our organization and members, which has not gone unnoticed. We look forward to working with both of you and other Senators and staff in the weeks ahead to move this bipartisan legislation forward.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM FITZPATRICK,  
*President, National District Attorneys Association.*

Mr. DURBIN. The National District Attorneys Association, which is the largest group of criminal prosecutors in America, has endorsed our criminal justice reform bill. We have brought together an incredible coalition. I am proud to have not only the civil rights community, but we also have others from the conservative side, such as Michael Mukasey, former Attorney General. Everyone knows him to be a tough prosecutor. He endorses our bill. Others have come forward. They understand that it is time to step back and take an honest look at where we are today.

This criminal justice reform bill will bring some sanity to our corrections system, and it will save us money. Roughly one-fourth of the Department of Justice appropriations now goes into prisons. By the year 2030, it will be 30 percent. As Senator LEE said, we are spending more money on prisons than we are spending in the Department of Justice on the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration combined.

What if we could reduce that prison population in a responsible, sensible way that doesn't endanger public safety but gives us resources that could be used by the Department of Justice for law enforcement, for dealing with the heroin epidemic across America and making our neighborhoods truly safe? What if we could take part of that and invest it in the lives of young people before they turn to gangs, before they turn to drugs, and before they turn to guns? That could literally change the face of a great city such as Chicago and the great Nation we live in.

This is a historic bill—not just because Democrats and Republicans have come to support it; it is historic because we are tackling one of the toughest issues of our time. We are doing it in a thoughtful, careful, bipartisan, and respectful manner. I happen to believe that is what the Senate should be all about.

I look forward to encouraging my colleagues who have not signed on as cosponsors to do so as quickly as possible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today as the cochair of the Rare Disease Congressional Caucus in recognition of patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and the loved ones who care for them.

Duchenne is a devastating, rare disease that primarily affects boys and young men. There is no cure. It is 100 percent fatal. There are no approved disease-modifying treatments at this time, but we want to give them hope. In 1999, there were no human clinical trials for Duchenne. Today, there are 22 observational trials currently underway. Life expectancy rates have increased by about 10 years in just the past decade. The FDA has more tools in its toolbox than ever to accelerate approvals of safe and effective Duchenne therapies, but we would like more therapies to be approved in the future.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately 1 in every 3,500 male children. The disease results in the gradual loss of muscle strength, usually beginning before age 5. The progressive muscle weakness leads to serious medical problems, particularly issues related to the hearts and lungs. By age 14, over 80 percent of these boys are using wheelchairs.

My work on Duchenne muscular dystrophy began when I was elected to the Senate. It was an issue my dear friend and former Minnesota Senator, Paul Wellstone, championed. Paul was instrumental in getting the Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance Research and Education Act—or as it is known, the MD-CARE Act—signed into law back in 2001.

The bill dramatically increased investment at the National Institutes of Health for muscular dystrophy research and included funding for the creation of six centers of excellence. In recognition of his work, all of the centers share Senator Paul Wellstone's name. The bill also supported public health policies designed to improve quality of life and boost life expectancy of children and adults diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

Since passage of the MD-CARE Act, \$500 million has been leveraged for muscular dystrophy research and education programs, half of which is Duchenne-specific. I then led the reauthorization of the MD-CARE Act in 2008, and it passed the Senate by unanimous consent. In 2014, Senator ROGER WICKER and I led the MD-CARE Amendments of 2014, which built upon

the progress by ensuring that efforts are focused on the most critical needs of doctors, patients, and researchers. These are important accomplishments, but more needs to be done.

The Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 gave the FDA increased flexibility to grant accelerated approval for rare disease treatments that have proven to be beneficial. The bill also directed the FDA to use patient-focused drug development tools during the drug approval process. The idea is simple: Patient experience should be a factor when the FDA considers a drug for approval. This gives the FDA the opportunity to hear directly from patients, their families, and caregivers about the symptoms that matter most to them, the impact the disease has on patients' daily lives, and their experiences with treatments.

To build upon that progress, Senator WICKER and I introduced the Patient-Focused Impact Assessment Act. The bill would help advocates understand how the FDA uses patient-focused drug development tools and how it engages patients, including those with rare diseases, such as Duchenne, as it reviews drugs and therapies. Last month this bipartisan bill unanimously passed the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, bringing us one step closer to ensuring strong patient engagement throughout the FDA review process.

At an FDA meeting on Monday, there was one example of patient involvement in the drug approval process. It was a meeting that broke records. According to advocates, it was the largest gathering of Duchenne families in history. More than 900 members of their community were there. In fact, turnout was so large the FDA changed the meeting location to accommodate everyone.

Many stories were shared during the daylong meeting—stories of hope, stories of progress. Even seemingly small improvements—such as the ability to open a bottle of water on their own or lift their arm a little higher—make a huge difference in the quality of these boys' lives. These small victories have a ripple effect across a lifetime.

Monday's historic event shows the strength of the Duchenne community, the passion of the families, and the hope that treatments are on the horizon. This particular treatment was not approved that day, but we continue to hold hope that change will be on the horizon.

The fight against muscular dystrophy will not be won overnight, but we have already seen incredible progress in the last few years. I am confident that by working together—by bringing families to the table with policymakers and health care experts—we can accomplish some truly remarkable things.

One of the reasons Senator WICKER and I fought so hard to have the FDA officials listen directly to the families is that when you know your child has a disease that is 100 percent fatal, you might take different risks. You might see different improvements in a different way than a medical professional who does not have this experience. We hope going forward this kind of experience and testimony and information will make for better decisions by the FDA.

We need to continue to ensure the FDA has the tools and flexibility it needs to increase the number of safe, effective, and affordable treatments that are available for people with rare diseases. I also thank Senator HATCH, who has done a lot of work with me on the rare disease issue, and we will continue to push for cures for people who have so little hope.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VETERANS FIRST ACT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, this morning at 11 a.m., a big event happened in Washington, DC, on the third floor of this building when all members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Republican and Democrat alike, introduced what we call the Veterans First Act—a comprehensive overhaul of the Veterans' Administration to bring about accountability in services to our veterans by the Veterans' Administration. Every member of the committee, Republican and Democrat alike, came to that press conference.

I want to start by thanking Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, who is my ranking member on the committee, for his efforts and his work over the last 10 months to help make this a reality, and each and every member of the committee for the work they did. In the end, we adopted 148 provisions of the Senate to amend, reconstruct, and hold accountable the Veterans' Administration.

I don't know about the Presiding Officer, but every morning when I wake

up in Washington, DC, and turn on the TV, whether it is CNN, FOX, or a local station, one of the lead stories is about a tragedy in the Veterans' Administration. This morning, in preparing for this press conference I didn't turn on the TV until after I read my notes. After I read my notes, I turned on the TV, and what, to my dismay, did I see? In Chicago, IL, at the Veterans' Administration hospital, they found cockroaches in the food of our veterans. What kind of accountability is that in the Veterans' Administration? For our veterans to be fed food with vermin in it is ridiculous and crazy.

We all know what happened in Arizona a few years ago when appointments were manipulated, so veterans missed their appointments, and three veterans died. We know what happened in Atlanta, where we had an outbreak of suicide by people who couldn't get to mental health services in time. We know what happened when cost overruns went awry in Denver, CO. When the costs of the hospital got out of line, the Veterans' Administration didn't know how to control it.

Every time we turn around, there is no accountability in the Veterans' Administration, so our committee decided it is our job to see to it that our veterans get what they deserve and what they fought for for us; that is, a Veterans' Administration that delivers on the promise of good health care, good benefits, and the appreciation of a grateful country for the sacrifice each of them made.

To begin with, we want to make sure the Secretary of the VA can fire somebody and make it stick. A few months ago, the Merit Systems Protection Board overruled the firing of two Philadelphia employees of the Veterans' Administration and reinstated them with pay with no reason except they didn't like the way in which they were fired.

If we go around the country, we find out that the Veterans' Administration's best way to discipline somebody is to move them from one city to another, from one hospital to another, or from one location to another. Moving problems around doesn't solve problems. They just give the problem to somebody else. It is time that if somebody deserves to be fired for their lack of performance or their poor performance, we put our veterans first and make sure they are getting the attention they should get. If somebody is not willing to do their job or cannot do their job, then they are terminated.

We don't want to go through and take the rank-and-file, good employees of the Veterans' Administration and tell them "We don't like you, we don't appreciate you, and we don't trust you," but we want to tell those who don't want to be held accountable, those who are not doing their job, that we are watching.



We are going to encourage whistleblowers to tell us where the problems are. We created an independent office in this act for whistleblower status within the VA, so the VA itself is soliciting input within its own organization to point out those who may not be doing a good job. We need the VA to have a culture of support for our veterans, not a corruption of our veterans. It is critical that we do that.

We took a lot of other issues that have been big problems in the United States of America for our veterans and we addressed them.

Opioids. We have a major section on opioids to try to get medicines to our veterans that counteract the addiction of opioids and don't treat pain with opioids but instead treat it with the appropriate type of medicine.

We did a great job in terms of caregivers. I don't know about the Presiding Officer, but I am a Vietnam-era guy. I remember Vietnam. I remember the sacrifice of our troops there and the 58,000 men whom we lost in Vietnam. A lot of our Vietnam veterans came home with multiple disabilities. In fact, 22,000 of them are living with disabilities today, but they have never been covered by caregivers. Our post-9/11 veterans have been covered by caregivers but not our Vietnam-era or Grenada veterans or our Panama veterans. This bill makes them eligible as well, so a family member—a loved one who is giving care at home to a veteran who fought and was injured for our country—can get the same type of stipend and benefit that someone who has fought in Iraq or Afghanistan gets. It is only fair to see to it that they get the same benefit and the same treatment.

It is also only fair to see to it that Secretary McDonald himself can be held accountable. Bob McDonald is a good Secretary. He has done a good job. He has tried his best, but he hasn't had the tools he needs. Well, we want to give him those tools. We want to give him the chance to have discipline. We want to give him the chance to find the people he needs to put in place. One of the provisions in this bill allows the Secretary to hire physicians, directors, and hospital administrators who are capable of doing the job and pay them what the market will bear. Why not have good people who can do the job rather than temporary people who don't want to do the job? Right now in the Veterans' Administration, fully a third of its leadership is temporary, not permanent. We need a permanent commitment to our veterans that they are going to get the services they deserve and the services they need.

I could go on and on about this legislation, but the important thing to understand is that we are finally putting our veterans first. We are telling the Veterans' Administration: We appreciate the good job you do, but we want to make sure it is 100 percent of the

time, not just 85 or 90 or 95 percent of the time.

We want to make sure they are putting our veterans first. We want to make sure that somebody who makes a mental health call to a veterans hospital doesn't get a busy signal or a wrong number. We want to make sure that when somebody makes an appointment and then shows up, there is somebody there to meet them for that appointment. We want to make sure that the services veterans earned, fought for, and in many cases sacrificed for, are available to them.

I thank the members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I thank this Senate in advance for what I am sure it will do later this year: put our veterans first.

When we return from our break next week, I am going to do everything I can to get this bill before the Senate before Memorial Day, to see to it that we get it to the House of Representatives so we can conference. The House has passed their bill. They have passed a good bill, and we have passed a good bill. We need to find common ground to put those two together because one thing is for sure: What has happened in the VA for the last few years is inexcusable and indefensible, and I, for one, am not going to be a chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee who did not try to make it right. I am going to use every strength that I have, every power that I have, and every ability that I have to bring people together to say: We owe our veterans everything.

The Presiding Officer wouldn't have his job, I wouldn't have mine, and our families wouldn't live in peace and security today in this country had millions of Americans not volunteered to fight and risk their lives so that we could be free, so that I could speak freely on the floor of the Senate about what I believe and the Presiding Officer could speak freely about what he believes and we could go home and assemble and gather together. All of those are guaranteed by our Constitution—a document which is preserved and memorialized not by the paper it is written on but by the veterans who sacrificed and risked their lives to see to it that it was preserved.

I am very proud to be chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am proud to have served with RICHARD BLUMENTHAL as ranking member and all the members of the committee whose contributions to this legislation have made it a great piece of legislation—one that we should pass. I hope we do so before Memorial Day, so on the day we honor those who have fought for us and sacrificed, we send them the signal: We have got your back and we are putting you first. We are putting America's veterans first.

I want to pause for a second at the end of my remarks and thank some people for all the efforts they have made over the past 10 months to make

this a reality. As the Presiding Officer knows, legislation doesn't just happen. We Senators make a lot of speeches. We are full of a lot of hot air. But the hard work that goes on is done in the back rooms of the Capitol, in the committees, by the people who do the research to find the pay-fors, to make the decisions that have to be made to see to it that a piece of legislation works and is not just a hollow promise.

I thank Tom Bowman, my chief of staff on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, for the work he has done. I thank Amanda Meredith, Maureen O'Neill, Adam Reece, David Shearman, Gretchen Blum, Jillian Workman, Leslie Campbell, Lauren Gaydos, Tucker Zrebiec, Tommy Reynolds, and Chris Bennett. I thank the members of my staff: Jay Sulzmann, my chief of staff Joan Kirchner, Ryan Evans, and Amanda Maddox. I also thank everybody on RICHARD BLUMENTHAL's staff for all the contributions they made to make this happen.

Today we opened up a new day for the Veterans' Administration in America and a new day for America's veterans. We put America's veterans first today, and we are going to keep them first. They put us first when they sacrificed for us; it is time we did the same for them.

I urge each Member of the Senate during this break to get the information we send to your offices about the Veterans First Act, read and study it, and then come back and let's pass a bill that tells our veterans: We love you. We appreciate you. And never again will you have an appointment broken or not receive the services you need from the Veterans' Administration of the United States of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, today's announcement by the Bureau of Economic Analysis that our economy grew, once again, an anemic rate of 0.5 percent during the first quarter of the year is more than discouraging but not surprising. Whether it is burdensome regulations, whether it is a broken Tax Code, or whether it is a continued plunge into national debt, the Obama administration's policies have been and will continue to be a deadweight on our economy.

The President continues to make big promises and insists his policies are effective, but the facts speak for themselves. Under President Obama, the

median household income has decreased during his presidency and remains 6.5 percent below its prerecession level. If this were an average post-1960s recovery, individuals would have nearly \$2,700 more in their wallets. Instead, they have received a decrease of \$3,000 per year in their income. This is unacceptable.

While the President continues to say the economy is improving, it is clearly not reaching its potential or anywhere close to its potential. At some point, you have to acknowledge the policies aren't working. Here we are 8 years from the beginning of the recession, and the president in the White House insists that his policies are working: Hang in there with us, folks. Things are going to get better.

Then these statistics come out that things are not only not getting better, but are getting worse. We are not only not moving closer to the average level of recovery after a major recession, but we are moving further and further away from it.

Our current annual growth rate in this recovery is less than 2 percent. In 2016, with this quarter's report, we are off to a very weak start. But if this were an average recovery, we would be seeing an annual growth rate of somewhere around 3½ to 4 percent.

I served previously in Congress in the Reagan years, and the growth rate during the Reagan recovery was 4.5 percent, which is well more than double what it is today. I have seen firsthand how pro-growth policies turn a dismal economic situation around, but I haven't seen it here in Washington under President Obama. Where I have seen it is in my home State of Indiana.

In 2005, under the policies of a Democratic administration, which clearly weren't working, Indiana faced a \$200 million deficit, and our State had not balanced its budget for 7 years, even though the State constitution requires that we do that.

Under the leadership of former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and current Governor Mike Pence, Indiana has reduced spending, cut taxes, and paid off its debt. As a result, instead of a \$200 million deficit, we have a \$2 billion surplus today. We enjoy a triple-A credit rating from all the credit rating agencies, and we have been listed in index after index as the State to go live thanks to our low taxes and because we are business friendly, family friendly, and tax friendly.

The contrast between this body and the State that I represent is dramatic because of the differences in our policies. By the numbers and indexes, it is clear that this Federal economy under the policies of this administration is simply not making any progress. I think we see that playing out in the upcoming election for the next President. It has become a major campaign issue, and we hear both parties talking about it.

Over the past 2 years, in Indiana, private employment has grown by nearly 130,000 jobs, reflecting the results and success of Indiana's pro-growth policy. Employers are taking notice of our healthy business climate and coming into the State to establish new businesses. I think the resurgence of growth is proof that sound economic policy works.

I have seen how it works in Indiana, and I am simply not willing to accept the stagnant rate of growth here without trying to do something about it. I don't think anything is going to change since there is no indication from the White House or even from our colleagues across the aisle here that they are willing to at least debate this issue and put the policies that bring about economic growth into place.

In order to boost economic growth, we need to reverse the failed policies of this administration by overhauling our Tax Code, strip away unnecessary government regulations, give employers the certainty they need in order to grow their businesses and create jobs, follow the lead of States like Indiana, Ohio, and others that have turned their economies around and bring the prosperity to the people of those States.

Congress can take action to encourage our economy to grow, but we need a partner in the White House willing to cut the redtape, willing to enact pro-growth reforms and put in place a real plan to reduce the debt.

I hope I don't have to come down here to discuss another quarter of anemic rate of growth. The American people simply pay the bills, pay the mortgage, send the kids to college, and put aside money for the future. That is not happening, and it needs to change. Hopefully, we can take a lesson from what we have learned on these quarterly reports—that the policies in place are simply not doing the job.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am glad to see that my good friend from Indiana was on the floor talking about an important issue that the administration certainly won't talk about. To be honest, not many Members of this body talk about it nearly enough. As my colleague from Indiana mentioned this morning, the U.S. Commerce Department came out with some big news. They said that the U.S. economy grew at 0.5 percent GDP growth the first quarter of 2016. That is one-half of 1 percent. That is a horrible number.

I am going to make a prediction. I don't think anybody in the media, if

they are still up there, is going to talk about this issue. Nobody talks about this issue. In the old days, it didn't matter if there was a Republican or a Democratic administration. If the U.S. economy was growing at 0.5 percent GDP—which essentially means it is not growing but has instead stopped—then almost certainly the Secretary of the Treasury would come out and say: Don't worry, America. We have this; we have a plan.

We know that 0.5 percent GDP growth is horrible for everybody, especially working-class families. At the very least the Secretary of Commerce would have come out and said: We know you are hurting, America, but don't worry. We have a plan. In previous administrations, that is what would have happened, and it wouldn't matter if the President was a Democrat or a Republican.

But I don't think we heard a peep out of this administration this morning. We have not heard from the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Commerce Secretary. Nobody came out and spoke, and don't count on it. I don't think they will be talking about this number. They even seem to be satisfied with this number—0.5 percent GDP growth. They certainly don't want the American people talking about it because this is not a good number.

This is a really important issue for our country. This is an important issue for every single American, and yet we have an administration that doesn't want to talk about this issue because it is a big problem for them. It is a big problem for all of us. We can't grow the U.S. economy.

Some of my colleagues have come down to the Senate floor often to talk about what they view as moral imperatives. I respect everybody in this body, but there is a lot of talk about moral imperatives and nobody talks about this issue as a moral imperative. In my view, growing the economy and providing opportunities for Americans has to be the No. 1 moral imperative of this body and of the Federal Government. We should be talking about it, but we are not, and one of the reasons we are not talking about it is because there is no doubt that the Federal Government—the Obama administration—is failing the American people in this regard by any serious measure. This is not a debatable topic.

The Obama administration's record on economic growth has been one of the worst in U.S. history. Let's take a look at this chart. Is it any wonder why the President or Secretary of the Treasury didn't come out and talk about these numbers this morning? The numbers are abysmal, and they are their numbers. Remarkably, when the President does talk about the economy, he has taken to bragging about the U.S. economy because we are doing

better than Europe. Look at the press. When the President talks about the economy, he talks about how we are doing better than Europe. After today's news, he won't even be able to brag about that because 0.5 percent GDP growth is not better than Europe. If the President is actually comparing his record to another country, he needs to remember that the only country that matters is America. That is the only measure he should be looking at—not Europe, not Japan, and not Brazil. He should be looking at our country.

How has he done historically relative to every other President—Democrat or Republican? If we take a look at this chart, we can see the answer. These are facts. We are not debating anything. These are just the numbers. Real GDP growth, as I mentioned, is 0.5 percent growth this quarter. But if you look at some history here, from 1790 to 2014, the average real GDP growth for the United States has averaged about 3.7 percent. That includes Democrats and Republicans over 200-plus years. That is what made us great. Historically, we have had almost 4 percent GDP growth. That is what made the United States great.

I keep talking about GDP growth, but in essence, gross domestic product is an indicator of the economic health of our economy and how it is growing. It is an indicator that measures the opportunities that exist in the United States.

Like I said, we had almost 4 percent growth throughout American history. The President's numbers in the last 7½ years: 1.36 percent GDP growth. Here we see it on the chart. This is Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush 41, Clinton, Bush 43, and President Obama.

The red line is important. That is 3 percent GDP growth. That is considered pretty good—not great but pretty good. Take a look. President Obama has never hit that. He has never actually hit that in one quarter, ever. By any measure, these numbers are abysmal.

So what are we looking at? The Obama era has been a lost decade of growth. Again, compared to any other period, even the Great Depression period, these numbers represent lost opportunity, stagnant wages, and middle-class families struggling. Yet the administration never talks about it.

If we can't grow our economy, who is hurt the most? It is the most vulnerable. It is the working poor. It is the elderly. It is the young people. It is our pages right here who want a positive future. These are the people who are hurt. Yet if we grow our economy—if we got to Reagan levels or Clinton levels or Johnson levels of 4, 4.5, 6—we could take care of so many of the challenges our country faces.

So what has happened is—and we know the media certainly helps the ad-

ministration deal with this—we don't talk about it. The President might compare our economy to Europe. That is pretty weak. Instead, we define the problem down. Many people may have heard this term, "the new normal." That is a term they are now using in Washington, "the new normal." So what does that mean? It means we can't grow at 3 percent anymore. Look at the chart. We have never hit 3 percent, ever. So let's just define it now. We are not going to shoot for traditional levels of robust American growth like 4 percent. Again, the historic average is 3.7 percent, for 200 years, Democrats and Republicans. We are just going to say: Well, it is a new time in the history of our country—secular stagnation. This is the new normal.

If Americans believe this or accept this or our young people do, we are in big trouble.

So we talk about the new normal or we are silent, like what happened today. No one came out—not one person from the Obama administration explained how we are going to get out of this rut. They are silent because there is no way to sell 0.5 percent GDP growth—to anybody. The American people are smart, and they know they are being sold a clunker. The economy is a clunker right now, and it has been one for almost 8 years.

Again, it is important to understand just how bad this record is, in terms of U.S. history. Let me give a few more statistics. In 85 years, for which the Bureau of Economic Analysis has calculated the annual change in real GDP, there is only one 10-year stretch, and it is right here—the entire Obama administration—when the annual GDP growth never hit 3 percent. Even during the Great Depression, it was only a 4-year stretch. So 10 years, starting with the Bush-era recession. The President talks about the recession, but that was almost 8 years ago. We need to get over that and grow this economy.

During the last 10 years, real annual growth of GDP peaked in 2006 at 2.7 percent. It has never been that high again. In the 25 quarters since the recession ended, real GDP growth has totaled just 14.3 percent. So that is what we grew our economy by—the total growth of our economy. In comparison, other recoveries—again, Democrat, Republican—since 1960, that lasted much more than a year, real GDP growth for the whole economy grew on average of 27 percent. So we have 14 percent Obama, 27 percent over the comparable period for the average—Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan. If real GDP growth in the Obama years had grown at that average, our GDP would be \$1.8 trillion higher. Think about that—\$1.8 trillion, almost \$2 trillion higher. Think about what families could do with that kind of money if we divided that by American families.

In the Reagan recovery, real GDP growth grew a total of 34 percent. The economy expanded by 34 percent. So, again, Obama, 14 percent; average, 27 percent; Reagan, 34 percent. He grew it at an average rate, and the economy grew at about 4.8 percent, so almost 5 percent GDP growth. Look at the comparison here. If the 8 years of President Obama grew at the rate that President Reagan's recovery took place, we would be seeing almost \$3 trillion more in terms of the size of our economy, higher annual aftertax income of almost \$5,000 per American, and of course millions and millions of more jobs.

The President talks about the unemployment rate going down, but what he doesn't talk about is the reason it is going down is because people are leaving the workforce. We have the highest rate since the mid-1970s of workforce participation. Why? Because we are not growing the economy.

I know I am throwing a lot of numbers out, but what this chart reveals is something much more important than numbers. This chart goes to what the American dream is all about; that is, progress. That is progress. When you are an American, you expect progress. You expect growth. You don't expect this. This is not progress. We are hearing it and we are seeing it.

The American dream was founded on progress. There is opportunity. You have the opportunity to take advantage and move up the ladder.

A recent poll came out and said 13 percent of Americans—13 percent—think their kids are going to have a better economic future than they had. That is the death of the American dream, and this chart explains why. The young people right here, through hard work—only 13 percent of Americans think you are going to have a better future than we had.

That is the essence of the American dream. We all used to think our kids would have a better future. Now 13 percent do. It shows that people are losing faith in the American dream because of these numbers.

It gets worse in terms of the unequal growth. I was talking about 1.36 percent is the average growth rate for the Obama administration. In actuality, about 20 percent of the population in regions of the country—mostly on the east and west coasts—are doing pretty good. Twenty percent are growing at about 5 percent GDP growth. Eighty percent of America—the rest of the country—is not growing at all—zero growth.

I believe this is a surrender. I believe this body is not talking about it enough. The White House wants to ignore it. It is a surrender of America's greatness. It is a surrender of our future. It is a surrender of our kids' future.

We need to do something about it. If we stay at these levels of growth,

issues like infrastructure, issues like military spending, issues like social spending, even social cohesion are going to be much harder to address, but if we grow—back to traditional levels of American growth—the future is going to be bright again like it has been for 200-plus years in the United States.

We don't have to continue down this path. We can make decisions in this bubble—the right decisions—in order to right this sinking ship of an economy, but the first step is to admit we have a problem. The first step is to recognize we have a big problem.

The President and his Cabinet will not do this. As a matter of fact, there was a recent New York Times article where the President was talking about how this is actually pretty good growth—again, dumbing down expectations, the new normal. Did they say anything today? No. But the American people know we have a huge problem. We see it reflected in polling and our politics with people losing work, stagnant wages, historic levels of failed businesses. More small businesses are failing now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we need to realize that what we are doing here is part of the problem. Look at this chart. We are overregulating every aspect of our economy. What we need to do is start focusing on ways that Washington can be a partner in opportunity, not the center of regulations that focus on small businesses.

Let me conclude by saying, although I have highlighted the challenges we have right now and the lack of focus by the administration, this is something all of us in this body—Democrats and Republicans—should be working on together. Nobody wants 1.36 percent GDP growth. Nobody wants 0.5 percent GDP growth. We need leadership now to tackle these challenges and to get America back on track. We have to grow this economy. We have to continue progress. We must do better for our children and restore the American dream, but first we need a White House that recognizes the problem. Unfortunately, today we saw that is not the case.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

#### OVERSEEING OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, 8 years ago, we suffered through the worst financial crisis in generations. Millions of people lost their homes, their jobs,

and their savings. Although the economy has improved under President Obama's leadership, many of those families are still struggling to recover today.

Terrible subprime mortgages were at the heart of this crisis, but Wall Street invented other new financial devices, including exotic derivatives, that piled risks on top of risks in the financial market. The subprime mortgages were like hand grenades, but the derivatives packed them together and magnified the risks, turning them into giant bombs that blew up parts of the economy. The Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission concluded that derivatives "contributed significantly" to the crisis, "amplifying" losses many times over and exposing institutions and investors throughout the system.

Do you remember the billions and billions of taxpayer dollars that Congress shoveled into AIG as part of the bailout? That was to cover the massive losses from risky derivatives that went south.

In response to the crisis and the bailout, Congress dedicated an entire title of the Dodd-Frank Act to the regulation of derivatives. Congress tried to make the derivatives market more transparent so that both investors and regulators could have at least a fighting chance to identify the risks and to address them. Congress also tried to reduce the risk to taxpayers by requiring banks to raise more capital as they increased their derivatives exposure and by forcing banks to push out that derivatives exposure from their depository banks—the parts that actually hold checking and savings accounts—and to put them into another entity that doesn't have access to taxpayer-backed insurance.

Over the past few years, the Dodd-Frank approach to derivatives has started to unravel. At the end of 2014, the swaps pushout was repealed. How? Because lobbyists for Citibank literally wrote the amendment and had a friendly Congressman slip it into the end-of-the-year spending bill—a bill that had to pass or the government would shut down. With the help of other big banks, including personal phone calls from the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, to his personal friends in Congress, the swaps repeal got rammed through Congress.

How big was the hole that this Wall Street amendment blew in Dodd-Frank? Well, Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS and I spent a year looking into it, and here's the takeaway: The FDIC now estimates that the repeal allows a few big banks to put taxpayers on the hook for risky swaps to the tune of nearly \$10 trillion. And who is gobbling down most of this \$10 trillion risk? Three huge banks—Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, and Bank of America—three banks, nearly \$10 trillion of risk.

These banks will happily suck down the profits when their high-stakes bets work out, and they will just as happily turn to the taxpayers to bail them out if there is a problem—all this because the Wall Street lobbyists persuaded Congress to do just one little favor for them.

Meanwhile, last year, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission finally issued a rule that it was required to write under Dodd-Frank. The rule was about margin, the amount of money that financial institutions have to put up when they enter into a derivative contract. Essentially, the CFTC rule was about making sure that financial institutions had enough money to pay off their derivative bets if they bet wrong. It is the kind of money that keeps the taxpayers from needing to bail them out.

The CFTC rule was exceedingly weak, far weaker than the one they had initially proposed. The changes in the rule came after months of intense lobbying from giant banks that were worried that a stronger margin rule might cut into their profits. As CFTC Commissioner Sharon Bowen wrote in her dissent to the rule:

This action today seems to be a return to blindly trusting in large financial institutions' ability and willpower to manage their risks adequately. Are we really willing to make that bet again?

Well, I know that I am not, and that is why I think the recent Republican bill to weaken the CFTC is so dangerous. Rather than strengthening the agency and plugging the gaps in Dodd-Frank that have emerged in the last few years, the bill goes in the opposite direction, weakening or delaying other Dodd-Frank requirements and starving the agency of the resources it needs to oversee a \$500 trillion derivatives market.

I applaud Senator STABENOW, the ranking Democratic member on the Agriculture Committee, for leading the unanimous Democratic opposition to the bill in Committee. Democrats should not be supporting a bill that weakens financial rules, period.

We need strong rules and strong Federal agencies to oversee our financial markets. We learned that lesson the hard way in 2008. While some lobbyists and their friends here in Washington may be trying to forget that lesson, I know that millions of American families remember it all too well, and they will be watching Congress to see who stands on their side and who stands on the side of the big banks.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today as a Senator and, as the Presiding Officer is, a doctor. I want to talk about a disease called Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Earlier today Senator RUBIO was on the floor talking about the disease, and I know earlier today Senator WICKER was on the floor talking about the disease. It is a topic that is, as an orthopedic surgeon, very personal to me.

I was introduced to Duchenne more than 30 years ago and, as an orthopedic surgery resident, worked at a muscle disease clinic with young people with muscle disease. One of those muscle diseases is called Duchenne. It is a disease that affects young boys. I met patients and I met their families in the fight against this disease. The experience has left a lasting lifelong impression on me, and it is something I continue to work with today.

I think the reasons we have gone into medicine are to help people and to make a contribution. One of the reasons I chose orthopedic surgery was that I really enjoyed seeing the relief—the care that I gave could help people, causing relief of their symptoms, relief of their pain, relief of problems they were living with from day to day. It is extremely rewarding to be able to work with a patient and tell that patient the surgery you performed was successful, and they are going to get better. They are going to get back to normal.

As a doctor, I was able to see patients go on to graduate from college, get married, have children of their own. When I was overseas visiting our troops, I met a young man, a commander—a pretty big guy—and he told me I had taken care of his broken leg. I looked at him and didn't really recognize him. I said: When was that? And he said: I was only 8 at the time.

We take care of patients and, as we do, we see people through their lives, and it is encouraging to see them go on and strive and get stronger and bigger and more productive. But for patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, that kind of treatment doesn't exist. It doesn't exist today with all the breakthroughs and research.

When I saw patients in the muscle disease clinic who suffered from this condition, I knew the day that I saw them was going to be their best day from there going forward. Many of them had brothers. It is a disease that affects young men. It is a disease that may be coming in their family to children who had not yet been born. In some families there were several brothers in the line who had the disease. As one was diagnosed, then another

younger brother was diagnosed a couple of years later with the same disease because this does tend to run in families.

As a doctor, one wants to see somebody get better and stronger every day. Parents want to see their own child going from crawling to walking to running, getting stronger and bigger every day, but patients and families who live with this disease every day know too well the unrelenting force of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. What it does is cause degeneration of muscles and weakness.

The vast majority of people with this disease are boys, and they are usually diagnosed between the ages of 3 and 5. Typically, parents start to notice their son isn't meeting all of the developmental milestones they might expect. He might be a late walker, or he may appear less coordinated than other children his age. Most parents aren't worried; they are just cautious. They may mention it to the pediatrician, and the doctor may run a test or two. Once the diagnosis of Duchenne muscular dystrophy is made, patients pretty quickly and parents, specifically, very quickly find out that their son doesn't just have a developmental delay; they learn their son is typically going to lose the ability to walk by the time he is a teenager, graduate to a wheelchair, which then can make that young man prone to conditions like scoliosis, a curvature of the spine often requiring surgery to correct it. As the muscles continue to deteriorate—as they always do with Duchenne—that young man will lose lung function, which puts him at a higher risk of infection, pneumonia. Eventually, he will have to use a machine to breathe, to clear his lungs. The muscle deterioration doesn't just occur to the skeletal muscles—the muscles of the arms and legs—but also can occur to the heart, which is itself a muscle.

When a young man with Duchenne muscular dystrophy catches a cold, it can be life threatening. Even when the patients get the best medical care—and so many of them do get the best medical care—they usually lose their fight against Duchenne muscular dystrophy by the time they are in their 20s. That is the devastating reality of this disease, and we cannot allow it to continue.

Because of my experience with these patients, I have been working for years to actually help raise money for awareness for muscle disease and treatment for the disease. I served as a local host in Wyoming for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual Labor Day telethon.

Every year, I was amazed at the dedication and the generosity of people around the country who would call in pledges to pledge centers at the 200 so-called "love networks" in Casper, WY. People would call in. We would always

raise over \$100,000. People were very committed to finding a cure for muscle disease and to sending young people with the disease to summer camp, where they found a level of freedom and friendship that they did not often find throughout the rest of the year. It was a great time for the young people with the disease. It gave their parents a rest as well.

I think many of us in this body remember Jerry Lewis hosting the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, as it was called, for more than 40 years. He would always end the telethon by signing a song. The song was "You'll Never Walk Alone." So I come to the floor today to make sure that these patients and these families know that today they are not alone. Congress is listening. We heard from Senator RUBIO earlier today and we heard from Senator WICKER. Those families and those patients know how critically important it is, and we know how critically important it is that we find a cure for this rare disease known as Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

In 2012, Congress passed the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. One of the key parts of this law gives the FDA more flexibility to approve treatments that have the potential to help people with rare diseases. It also allows the FDA to do followup studies to confirm the clinical benefits of the treatment.

Well, we want to give people real hope. It is not good to give people false hope. We are interested in giving patients and giving families a fighting chance. I believe the FDA needs to use the tools that Congress has given them so patients can come across and get access to potentially lifesaving drugs. So a couple of weeks ago I signed a letter that was written by Senators WICKER and KLOBUCHAR—a bipartisan letter. It called on the FDA to take full advantage of this accelerated approval authority.

So we also asked the FDA to ensure that the prospective of patients is fully considered in this review process, when it comes down to the regulations. More than 20 Senators signed this letter because we know how important this issue is to patients as well as to their families.

Last Friday the Wall Street Journal ran an editorial entitled: "The FDA vs. Austin Leclaire." This article talked about a young man named Austin Leclaire, 17, who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and so does his younger brother Max. As we talked, I mentioned that this runs in families. Sometimes, there is the diagnosis of a son in a family in which there is a younger son who has not yet been diagnosed but likely will have the disease.

Well, back in 2011, Max was able to get an experimental drug to treat his disease. Now, Austin was not eligible to get the same drug. Remember, Austin is the older brother. So today Max

is 14 and he is still able to walk. He can still play sports, and he can still dress himself.

For most of us who have had healthy children, these are the things that people take for granted. So for a family where one of their sons has Duchenne, this kind of small victory can seem like a miracle. I can't even imagine how hard it must be when a mother has two or three children—two or three sons—with this disease, and especially when one of her children can get access to an experimental drug and the other cannot.

The family looks at it. One son is being helped, and the other is not being helped. They can see the difference in their sons. So how would any of us here in the Senate react if we were in that same situation? How much heartbreak should one family have to bear? Those are the challenges for families who live with muscle disease every day.

Well, the FDA, I believe, needs to work with patients like Austin and Max. We all know that this agency needs to make sure that treatments are safe and effective. That is not a question. We also know that people at the FDA are caring and careful professionals. The practice of medicine relies on hard science and on following data to understand and to treat illnesses.

As a doctor, I know that the practice of medicine requires an equal measure of compassion. I think the FDA needs to take into account the unique needs of this patient population. We talk about double-blind studies, where you give one patient the real treatment and one patient something else, a sugar pill, something else that is not really the real treatment, the real medication.

To really evaluate the impact of these medications, sometimes it involves doing muscle biopsies and putting people through painful tests. I think it is hard for a family living with a child with muscle disease to say: Well, we are going to participate in the experiment. We don't know. It is a 50-50 chance if our child is even going to get the real thing. But we still put them through all of these tests that can be painful, as they take muscle biopsies.

I think it is unrealistic to ask a family to make that decision. I think we need to make sure that the FDA—and the FDA needs to make sure, in their compassion—doesn't lose sight of these kids. These young people really don't have a moment to lose in terms of potential treatments. I think the FDA needs to hear the calls of patients and to give these young people, living with a devastating disease, a chance to beat Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### VOTE-BY-MAIL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to warn of a gathering threat to American's most fundamental constitutional right; that is, the right to vote. Fifty-one years ago, President Johnson urged the Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. In the face of implacable opposition from Southern States, President Johnson laid out the stakes. He said:

Every American must have an equal right to vote. There is no excuse which can excuse the denial of that right. There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right.

Sadly, half a century after that law began to remove the most offensive obstacles to voting, Americans now face new barriers to exercising their fundamental right to vote. Across our land, there are stories of long lines, inexplicable purges of voter rolls, and new requirements that make it still harder for our people to vote. There is absolutely no excuse for accepting this sorry state of affairs.

There is no excuse for citizens in Arizona to wait 5 hours to cast their ballot. There is no excuse for citizens in Rhode Island to find two out of every three polling places have closed. There is no excuse whatsoever for poor communities and minority communities across America to see their polling places shuttered.

Seniors and disabled Americans should not have to wait in long lines or struggle to reach polling places in America. Working parents should not have to choose between going to work and going to vote. Voting should not be a test of endurance. It should not be a Kafkaesque experience in defeating bureaucracy and wading through redtape. Increasingly, too many voters show up at the polls on election day, only to find that their name—somehow, magically—has gone missing from the voter rolls or their ID does not meet some new, even more burdensome, even more restrictive requirement.

There is no excuse for our government to turn away citizens and to say their vote does not count because of a clerical error or an unjust technicality. These grossly unfair obstacles have sprouted like weeds across our country ever since the Supreme Court overturned large portions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, just this year, 17 States have passed new laws or rules to make it harder for their citizens to vote.

Let me repeat that. Seventeen States in America, just this year, have passed new laws, new rules, and new hurdles for our people who want to vote. Thankfully, there is a solution. My home State of Oregon has led the country in making voting more accessible. In Oregon, every voter receives a ballot 2 or 3 weeks before election day. Ballots should be arriving in mailboxes

across the State over the next few days. Every Oregonian has ample time to research candidates and issues.

Rather than waiting in long lines, Oregonians can mail their ballot back or drop it off at ballot collection sites, many of which are open 24/7. Nobody has to take time off from work just to exercise his or her constitutional right.

So let me repeat. In our State, we have made this work. Every voter gets a ballot 2 or 3 weeks before an election date. Now, vote-by-mail is not going to stop every State legislature in America from devising new ways to suppress voter turnout. Certainly, some State officials in our country have worked very hard to dream up new ways to limit the franchise.

But here is why the Oregon antidote is so important. If there is a problem, our State gives voters more time to fight back. When Americans have 2 or 3 weeks to vote, they will have more time to challenge registration problems. There is more time for citizens to defend their rights.

Oregon has been voting by mail since I was first elected to the Senate in 1996, and we went to all vote-by-mail in 2000. Since then, we have had consistently higher voter turnout rates than other parts of the country. We have consistently had voter turnout rates that are among the highest in the Nation.

Oregon voting rates are especially high among young people and in mid-term elections. As an added benefit—this should appeal to all Senators—studies have shown that it saves money, to boot. So you have a system that voters like, gives them more time to reflect, is more efficient, and saves money, to boot. That is a pretty appealing trifecta, it seems to me, for democracy. So my proposition today is that the rest of the country ought to follow Oregon's lead, and all Americans, from one end of the country to another, ought to have the chance to vote by mail.

To me, this just is common sense. In fact, over the years, there were questions about who benefited from vote-by-mail? In fact, Oregonians put it on the ballot, because they said that everybody benefits from it. There was support all across the political spectrum. So today, I rolled out a new proposal for a national vote-by-mail. It is built on the Oregon system. The plan is simple. Every voter in a Federal election will receive a ballot in the mail.

The Federal Government, through the Postal Service, would assist States with the cost of mailing ballots to registered voters. States can keep their current polling practices if they wish. But those States that choose a full vote-by-mail system are going to see their election costs drop and drop significantly. My hope is that this proposal ignites a new campaign across the country to make it easier, not harder, for Americans to vote.

Vote-by-mail is a first step in fighting back against those who would disenfranchise their fellow citizens to gain a political edge.

For instance, in my view it also ought to be easier for Americans to register to vote. Again, my home State leads the way. Since January, every eligible voter is automatically registered to vote, eliminating extra trips to the motor vehicles department or the county clerk's office. In my view our Governor, Gov. Kate Brown, deserves enormous credit for leading the effort to turn this particular idea, this particular reform, into law.

I know many of my colleagues and many voters are cynical about the chances of passing real reforms in this partisan day and age. My view is, voting rights are too important to abandon the field to special interests who would manipulate our government. That is why I mentioned that in Oregon there was some initial debate with respect to who might benefit, who might get a little bit of a partisan edge on the other side, and Oregon voters said: Nothing doing. We all think this is in our interests, making it easier to vote, making it easier to correct an error, and cheaper than the alternatives.

This afternoon I urge my colleagues and voters to take advantage of this opportunity to promote real reform, reform where we have hard evidence that shows it actually works, to make sure every citizen in America who wants to vote has that opportunity. Oregon once again paves the way to making sure there are real solutions to an enormous challenge.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### SENTENCING REFORM AND CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, after many months of discussion and debate, today we announced a bipartisan piece of legislation to reform our criminal justice system.

I have been in the Senate long enough to realize that even the best ideas that don't have bipartisan support go nowhere. The good news is, this is an issue that enjoys broad bipartisan support and actually represents the marriage of two distinct parts. The more I think about it, the more it represents a continuum in terms of the way we punish people who violate our criminal laws and how we treat them when they are in prison and how we prepare them—or not—for a life of reentry into civil society.

Even in the polarized political environment that our country represents today, it is an example of an opportunity to demonstrate that when enough people identify a problem and work together, we can actually come up with viable solutions.

In a previous life, I served 13 years as a State district court judge and then as attorney general. I have had an opportunity to witness some of the strengths and weaknesses of our justice system firsthand. Though we made some significant progress in reducing crime across the country—by the way, that ought to be the litmus test, the crime rate. If the crime rate is going down, to me, it indicates we are doing something right. If the crime rate goes up, that is pretty much a litmus test that we are doing something wrong.

The truth is, our criminal justice system has been plagued with inefficiencies, overcrowding, and failures that are ultimately detrimental to public safety. We spend too much of our criminal justice resources locking up low-level, nonviolent offenders and not enough targeting the most dangerous and violent criminals. The good news is, a number of States, including Texas, have seen the need and have implemented statewide criminal justice reforms with positive results.

As I said earlier, the longer I am here, the more things occur to me about how we do business, but the idea that somehow we can initiate reforms at the national level for 320 million people and then cram them down on a big and diverse country like the United States is pretty ludicrous.

Actually, the Federal Government is rarely competent to do that sort of thing. We saw this with the health care reforms, which have resulted in prices actually going up and most people dissatisfied with the health care reforms.

If we just tried things out at the local level, and if they were successful, then scale them up, I think we would have a much better chance for success. That is exactly what has happened in the criminal justice area.

I know most people think about Texas as a State tough on crime, and that is true, but in the middle of the first decade of this millennium, we saw the need to deal with overcrowding. We saw high recidivism or repeat offenders, and we were facing a major budget shortfall. In other words, we tried to keep building prisons to build our way out of the problem.

Instead of just spending more money to build more prisons and hoping the problems would go away, the major problem we overlooked before was—which we finally realized—that people in prison at some point will mostly get out of prison. The question is, Do they go back into prison after committing other crimes or can we help those who are willing to accept the help, turn their lives around, and become productive members of society?

We opted for a different approach. We traded in our construction plans for plans to help lower-risk offenders turn their lives around and become productive members of society. As I said, that is because most offenders will one day get out of prison.

Today Texas has improved and increased programs designed to help men and women behind bars take responsibility for their crimes and then prepare to reenter society as productive, law-abiding members of the community. I am not naive enough to say this is something we are going to be able to do for 100 percent of the people behind bars. That is just not true. I wish the world was the kind of place where once people made mistakes and ended up behind bars, they could transform their lives universally and then enter productive society. It is not true, but there are many who want to who need our help and can benefit from some of these programs.

This includes training that could impact a prisoner's life, somebody with a drug problem, somebody with a mental illness, or somebody who has been drinking, exacerbating their problems. Those sorts of issues can benefit from treatment and from rehabilitation.

Those who are educationally inadequately prepared to enter the workforce, we can help them through work programs and job training. Many of these programs have allowed local communities to get involved as well, by encouraging partnerships in Texas between prisons and faith-based organizations and people who believe in radical transformation of people's lives through their faith. They can focus on helping those prisoners who are willing and wanting to turn their lives around get the training and life skills they need in order to succeed.

I will never forget my visit just a few months back to the H.H. Coffield Unit maximum security prison in East Texas, where I saw firsthand how important some of these types of programs are. I went to one section of the prison and was introduced to the shop instructor. He told me some of the inmates in his shop class came to him unable to read a simple tape measure.

I think it is shocking. It was to me. I think it is shocking to most people that anybody can reach adulthood unable to do something so basic as to read a tape measure, but yet that was an example of the types of people who were in that prison.

It is a remarkable example of how much opportunity there is through education to actually help: drug-alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, and to prepare people to reenter civil society.

I am pleased Texas—in addition to our well-earned reputation for being tough on crime—is now known as being smart on crime and a good example what we could do nationally.

We are not the only State. Other States have done things, too, but the results in Texas are remarkable. Between 2007 and 2012, our overall rate of incarceration fell by 9.4 percent. The crime rate dropped and—as I have said—that is the gold standard. It is

not the rate of incarceration. It is not how many people are in prison. It is what is happening to the crime rate. Our crime rate dropped and, not insignificantly, we saved more than \$2 billion of the taxpayer money. We were able to physically close three prison facilities. That is the first time that has ever happened in our State.

We are not the only ones. For example, Georgia reduced its crime rate by more than 10 percent with similar programs. South Carolina and Ohio reduced their crime rate by 14 percent. North Carolina and Texas have both reduced their crime rates by more than 20 percent.

These reforms make our communities safer, which again is the first objective of criminal justice reform, it is the second objective of criminal justice reform, and it is the third objective of criminal justice reform. Does it make our community safer? The answer, from the evidence, is yes.

I think there is no question but that we should consider some of these reforms at the Federal level. Let's take State successes and scale them up so the rest of the country can benefit where they are not otherwise already doing this and where we can do this in the Federal prison system and not just in the State system.

That is where the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act comes in. This bill includes legislation that I introduced last year that takes this Texas model and builds on it to help restore an important part of our criminal justice system that is too often forgotten; that is, rehabilitation.

When I went to law school more years ago than I wish to admit, we were told that the purpose of criminal law was punishment and deterrence, to deter others from committing similar acts. The third was we were told it was rehabilitation. We were going to help people change their lives if they made a mistake. Instead, over time our prisons have become warehouses where we just warehouse people and don't do enough to try to rehabilitate people, those who are willing to take the opportunity to deal with their problems in a constructive sort of way and turn their lives around.

I have introduced legislation, along with Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island. As anybody who follows the Senate knows, we agree on very little, but we agree on this. We were both former attorneys general. He was a former U.S. attorney, and he has seen a similar experience in his State.

So we introduced this portion of the legislation to encourage programs that would help inmates learn valuable skills they can transfer back home to their communities and help them turn from a life of crime. It is important to note that not only does reduced recidivism impact an individual life—which is reason enough to do what we can to

help—but it also helps that individual's family because the collateral damage from somebody making a mistake and ending up in prison does not stop with them. It stops with their families, including their children, and their whole community, but it also makes financial sense too.

The Justice Department spends around 30 percent of its budget detaining Federal inmates. By reinvesting more of this money in recidivism reduction programs instead of building more Federal prisons, we have an opportunity to save tax dollars and plow more of the money back where it can have the best impact. Inmates can be rehabilitated, neighborhoods can be made safer, and tax dollars can be better put to use.

We have also made other changes in the legislation that represent the give-and-take that usually happens in the Senate. Legislating is a consensus-building process, and that is a good thing. Initially, when the corrections act was introduced, there was a separate piece of legislation called the Smarter Sentencing Act, which focused on, as the name would suggest, sentencing with a goal to reduce some of the mandatory minimum sentences which were a part of the 1990s effort to get tougher on crime. This is where we have actually benefited a lot from the input from those who initially were unpersuaded about the merits of that part of the legislation.

For example, we have categorically taken out, removed, any benefit of the Smarter Sentencing Act provisions for somebody who has committed a serious crime, as defined by Federal law. So somebody who is a violent offender, somebody who has committed a serious crime, cannot benefit from the Smarter Sentencing Act.

There is an area where I am afraid there is some misunderstanding by some folks, and some people are actively spreading disinformation, suggesting that as a result of the Smarter Sentencing Act provisions, there is a get-out-of-jail-free card; that we are automatically going to come in and cut prison sentences for people to get out on the street. That is just not true. They need to take another look at the legislation.

Under some circumstances, and only if you are a low-level, nonviolent offender, you can ask the court—the court in which you were actually convicted and before the judge who actually dispensed the sentence and before the prosecutor who actually put you in prison—for a reduction retroactively of long-term mandatory minimum sentences. For example, under some circumstances, back in the days of three strikes and you are out, you could get a life sentence for three relatively minor offenses. Now, where appropriate, the judge could say: Well, we are going to reduce that to 25 years.

That is still a long time, particularly if you are talking about three relatively minor offenses. There is one other example where a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence could be reduced to 15 years. So if you haven't served 15 years, you are certainly not going to get out of prison.

But the whole point is that this is a negotiated piece of legislation for which we tried to garner as much support as we could, and I am pleased to announce today that we have five new cosponsors of this legislation. I believe there are now 37 Senators on a bipartisan basis who support this legislation as cosponsors.

Earlier this week, we got a very important endorsement from an organization for which I have tremendous respect. This is the largest organization of prosecutors in America. It is the National District Attorneys Association. They represent about 1,500 district attorneys and 30,000 assistant district attorneys across the country. They have endorsed this legislation.

Yesterday, at the Republican lunch and conference, we had people such as former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, who served 20 years on the Federal bench in New York, talk about how he thought this was a well-balanced and worthwhile piece of legislation.

The bottom line is that we need to make sure that violent offenders and hardened criminals stay in prison and away from our communities. I am talking about the people who will not take advantage of the opportunity to turn their lives around, the people who must be separated from society because they have made a decision to pursue a life of crime.

At the same time, while we have focused on the hardened criminals and the most violent, we have to address our expanding prison system that too often perpetuates a life of crime. When I was a younger lawyer, I was told that often our prison system is an organization of higher education in crime because, of course, that is who is there—people who have committed crimes. And people who have committed rather low-level, nonviolent offenses, particularly when they are housed with people who have chosen a more violent life of crime, can suffer terrible detrimental impacts.

The idea is to focus on the hardened criminals, the violent criminals, and take a look at the low-level, nonviolent offenders and see if some will take advantage of the opportunity to turn their lives around. Local communities in conservative States—red States such as Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina—have already proven it is possible to do both. After months of discussion, I am confident we can bring this success to the rest of the country with this legislation.

Like every piece of legislation, though, we know there is an arduous



path forward. While this bill was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, it still needs to come to the floor of the Senate, where all 100 Senators will have an opportunity to help improve that product. And then there is the House of Representatives. Earlier today, Senator GRASSLEY, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I met with Congressman BOB GOODLATTE, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, about our ideas together and how we can move this legislation forward. And I know the President is anxious to sign a criminal justice reform bill. This could actually be a good bipartisan accomplishment of the 114th Congress.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort on all sides to work constructively toward a bill that can win broad bipartisan support. For those who don't like parts of the bill, bring your ideas to us. That is the way this process is supposed to work. Let's make it better. Let's build bipartisan support and consensus.

Let me just say in closing that I particularly want to thank the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman GRASSLEY, for his stewardship of this legislation through the process. As an experienced Member of the Senate, somebody who has been at this a while, he knows better than most how to shepherd legislation—particularly potentially controversial legislation—through this process. He has been masterful in bringing us this far.

I think we owe it to our constituents and to the country to take the lessons we have learned at the State and local level and bring those to benefit the rest of the country. Let's make our criminal justice system, as the name suggests, more just and at the same time more effective. And let's save taxpayers a buck or two in the process.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

#### CENTRAL STATES PENSION FUND

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, across the United States, hundreds of thousands of workers and retirees are scared. They are scared for the future, they are scared for their families, and they are scared for themselves. These workers and retirees did everything right. They played by the rules. They worked for years, if not decades, often in labor-intensive jobs, and they responsibly planned for the future by putting money into their pensions, only to have their retirement security ripped away.

This is a story happening across North Dakota and across America. Harsh and senseless proposed cuts to Central States Pension Fund—a multi-employer pension fund—could rip away the retirement of workers and retirees in the trucking, UPS package and delivery, and grocery supply industries.

These cuts could impact more than 2,000 North Dakota families and 400,000 retirees across the country who could see their pensions slashed up to 60 percent. Many of these workers have been forced to retire because of decades of lifting packages over 100 pounds every day. These jobs took hard tolls on their bodies, but they were able to earn a living, support their families, and put food on the table each night. They knew that because they were saving for retirement through their pensions, they would be taken care of in later years, they would be able to enjoy their later years hunting and fishing with their grandchildren, and they would be able to enjoy their later years by taking care of their family and their loved ones. Unfortunately, that security is evaporating.

I recently met with Teamsters and union workers and retirees in Bismark and Fargo. Quite honestly, their stories were heartbreaking. They couldn't understand how, if they did everything right, their retirement could be taken away from them. They can't live in a country that just enables these workers and retirees to be left behind. They can't understand who was fighting for them.

They and we must stand up and say: This is wrong. We must stand up for hard work, and we must protect their pensions and make sure all North Dakotans have a secure retirement.

I want to tell just a few of their stories today. I will start with Dennis Gainsforth from Jamestown. He worked for UPS for 31 years. He needs surgery on one of his knees because of working decades as a night mechanic. Dennis is also helping financially take care of his son, who had a stroke, and his wife, who needs back surgery. Under the proposed cuts, his pension would be slashed by 50 percent. As a result, Dennis, who is 72 years old, is now back at work driving a public bus in Jamestown.

Tina Kramer from Mandan was a member of the Teamsters. She worked as a secretary for the local union for 25 years, throughout which time she earned a pension. Her husband was a member of the steelworkers union and worked for Bobcat for about 30 years as a forklift driver. He also earned a pension. Several years ago, both of them retired, and soon after, Tina's husband suddenly passed away. Tina lost her husband's pension and now has to rely solely on her pension. Under these proposed cuts, Tina's pension would be cut by almost 60 percent. Tina has just a little bit of savings, which she has already had to dip into every month to pay her bills and for groceries and to pay her property taxes. Under the proposed pension cuts, it could only get worse for Tina.

Bob Berg, from just north of Fargo, worked at UPS for over 30 years delivering packages, many of which could

weigh up to 150 pounds. Because of the hard labor of his job, he had surgery on both knees, his hands, five hernia operations, and back problems, forcing him into early retirement. Now his medical bills are skyrocketing. He receives \$2,200 a month under the pension plan, but with the cuts, he would receive just \$1,150, which is a 50-percent reduction.

Mark Rothschiller from Mandan worked as a UPS driver for 28 years delivering packages to rural communities in North Dakota. Because of the intensity of his job, he had five back surgeries and two rotator cuff surgeries. After the last surgery, Mark's doctor told him to stop working or he might lose his ability to walk. He now walks with a cane. He relies on his pension—the pension that he earned—to help pay his medical bills. Under the proposed cuts, Mark's pension would be cut by more than 50 percent.

You hear these stories about men and women who worked hard all their lives and who did the right thing. They bargained for a pension because they knew the work they did was not work you could do your entire life, and they knew they wanted time in retirement to enjoy their golden years. Yet, today, the benefit they earned and that security is threatened.

I had a man approach me after one of the meetings where I asked people to tell me what the impacts were from the cuts, and many were able to give public testimonials. This man came up to me afterward, and I won't use his name because quite privately he wanted to tell me that he was going to lose his house, that he was going to lose all the security he had in the world, and that he was a grandfather helping to take care of his grandchildren because his daughter couldn't afford daycare.

These pension cuts don't affect just the worker, they affect the worker's family, they affect the extended family, and, quite honestly, they affect our communities. But more than that, they affect our general sense of security, our general sense that you ought to be able to rely on the goodness of your hard work and on the rewards of your hard work. Today, all of that is being threatened.

Some might say: Well, that is just the way it is. Pension funds are in trouble.

I want everyone to remember that many of these workers were basically prevented from managing their pension fund. In fact, the Federal Government took it away, took that pension fund away and gave it to private investment firms that squandered and wasted the principal. These workers wonder why in the world, in a country where we would bail out Wall Street bankers who made bad decisions, they never get listened to.

We cannot let this happen. I have been pressing Treasury Secretary Lew about this issue, and I recently met

with Ken Feinberg, the Treasury official overseeing the reconstruction of this pension fund. We have to reinforce this point. We had a good conversation, and I hope the Treasury Department does the right thing by rejecting this devastating proposal and seeking a fairer option. We can and must find a solution that doesn't jeopardize retirement security or present long-term insolvency issues to the Central States Pension Fund.

This deal has threatened the livelihood of so many of my fellow North Dakotans, people who work hard for a living, the kind of people we brag about on floor of the Senate, whom we are here to represent—the hard-working, good Americas who build our country. Yet when this happens, they wonder who is listening to them. Who do we really represent here?

This deal has to be rejected. We have to create an opportunity that enables all North Dakotan and American families to have the secure retirement they have earned. Dennis, Tina, Bob, Mark, and so many other North Dakotans whom I have met deserve as much. They deserve the same kind of consideration and interest that we gave to AIG and all of the organizations we bailed out during the 2008 crisis at a time when we saw record bonuses for Wall Street executives. We wonder all the time why people are mad. We don't need to look any further than this example to know that sometimes the priorities are just plain wrong.

I urge all of my colleagues to become aware of this problem, to become invested in this problem, and to work with us to solve this problem. The first and most significant and important step we can take is to urge the Department of Treasury to reject the current plan and take this back to the drawing board.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY OF CONGRESS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, of the words the American people frequently use to describe Congress today—at least one of the words that is appropriate to repeat on the Senate floor—one of the most common and accurate is “unaccountable.”

Year after year, hard-working men and women across this great country bristle under dysfunctional, costly, and burdensome laws made right here in Washington, DC, and day after day, many of them do what Americans have always done when faced with an out-of-touch government. They contact their elected lawmakers to voice their concerns about those laws and to push for change of those laws and the process by which they are made.

Ask anyone who has ever called, written, or emailed their Member of

Congress what happens next. It is consistent. It is predictable. Blame is shifted; fingers are pointed; scapegoats of every variety imaginable are brought forth to defend those who are charged with making the laws from the consequences of their own handiwork. This is the very definition of unaccountability, and it pervades the culture of Washington, DC, because Congress has allowed it to infect our laws and our institutions—the very institutions by which those laws are made.

Many Americans assume that they are being lied to when their elected lawmakers blame someone else for the laws that are raising the cost of living, eating away at their paychecks, and generally making it harder for individual Americans and families to realize the American dream. But the truth is actually even more troubling than that. Most of the items on the Federal Government's interminable list of do's and don'ts governing nearly every activity of human life are not in fact written, debated, discussed, and passed by Congress; rather, they are imposed unilaterally by unelected bureaucrats in one of the executive branch's administrative agencies. This is true even for what are called major rules, which are regulations that cost the American people more than \$100 million each year in compliance costs.

For instance, look at the Department of Energy, whose appropriations we are currently considering. In a single year, 2015, the costs of the regulations issued by the Department of Energy exceeded \$15 billion—\$15 billion. In 1 year, it cost the American people \$15 billion to comply with the regulations issued by this single bureaucratic agency—by this single Federal Department, the U.S. Department of Energy.

Even if we were to agree with every cent of that very onerous regulatory burden, we should all be able to recognize the danger of allowing one group of people, consisting of individuals who never have had to stand for election, to squeeze \$15 billion out of the pocketbooks of the American people. That is why I have submitted this amendment, No. 3856, which would restrict the Department of Energy from spending any funds to implement or enforce regulations whose compliance costs exceed \$100 million, unless specifically approved by Congress.

Unfortunately, regrettably, tragically, this amendment was blocked from consideration by one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for reasons that appear to be completely unrelated to the merits of this amendment.

Nevertheless, I would like to take a moment to explain how my amendment works. This amendment would have provided immediate, much needed financial relief to the budgets of hard-working families and businesses all

across the country. It would protect them from the costs of two major rules recently proposed by the Department of Energy—rules that impose new energy-efficiency standards on ceiling fans and commercial packaged boilers.

Just like the Department of Energy's ban on incandescent light bulbs, under these rules, Americans would no longer be able to buy ceiling fans or commercial boilers that do not adhere to the government's strict new standards. Proponents of the rules think this is a good thing. As former Energy Secretary Steven Chu said about the light bulb ban back in 2011, “We are taking away a choice that continues to let people waste their own money.”

This government-knows-best approach to regulation is not only arrogant—it is not only off-puttingly paternalistic—it is detached from the economic realities of American life today. Most Americans may buy less energy-efficient ceiling fans than most Washington bureaucrats, not because they are less intelligent or less concerned about saving energy or less concerned about protecting the environment but because it is what they can afford. The additional costs of these energy-efficiency standards are not insignificant. In fact, it is estimated that these two rules would cost American families and businesses more than \$3 billion.

Today, the Department of Energy has the power to impose these rules on the public, and there is very little Congress can do about it. But under my amendment, the two rules would not go into effect unless and until Congress voted to approve them—unless and until Congress affirmatively enacted them into law and allowed them to be signed into law by the President. This simple, commonsense reform is modeled on the REINS Act, a bill that requires congressional approval for all major rules issued by all executive agencies across the entire Federal Government.

Last July, the House of Representatives passed the REINS Act by a strong vote of 243 to 165, and it currently has 37 cosponsors in the Senate. Support for the legislation is growing because it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the moral and material problems of hiding the regulatory process in the nameless, faceless bureaucracy. Everyone here knows the regulatory burden in America has become untenable. Every single day, each of us hears from our constituents about how stifling government regulations have become.

The data tell the same story. Just today we saw that the first quarter of 2016 was the third in a row in which private domestic investment has shrunk. This is disappointing, but it is not surprising.

According to a recent study by the Mercatus Center, in 2012, “the economy was \$4 trillion smaller than it would have been in the absence of regulatory growth since 1980.” That works out to

about \$13,000 of lost earnings for every man, woman, and child in America.

Some of my colleagues may think the costs of our regulatory system are defensible. I certainly don't. But I know there are different opinions out there, and that is exactly the point of the REINS Act. That is exactly the point of this amendment—this amendment which has been improperly blocked.

Under the broken status quo, Members of Congress can claim innocence—and they regularly do—when an executive agency imposes a costly and controversial regulations on the country. In fact, many Members of Congress not only claim innocence, but they claim almost victim status. They behave almost as if we were a victim, as if we were someone being acted upon. We don't even have to debate it. It just kicks into law by itself. It is self-executing. This may be convenient for those of us in Washington, but it is fundamentally and unacceptably unfair to the American people. We don't make the law this way in this country, but that is now how our system is set up. It is time that we change it.

If Congress is ever going to win back the trust of the American people, we must prove that we are in fact trustworthy—trustworthy to do what we are supposed to do and trustworthy to make law—because that is why we exist as a part of our government. The best way to do that is to make ourselves once again accountable for making the laws, passing the laws, and standing accountable for the laws of this country. This amendment would be a significant step toward making Congress accountable again.

I regret—I deeply regret—that it was blocked, but I look forward to advancing similar reforms in the future because the idea of making Congress accountable isn't just a good idea; it is burned deeply, indelibly within our constitutional system.

It is no accident that the very first clause of the first section of the first article of the Constitution says, "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." All legislative powers—that means all Federal law in this system is vested in a Congress of the United States. We are not supposed to delegate that to someone else.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### GENOCIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in many places around the world, April is a

month where we celebrate rebirth and renewal. But April has too often been, in T. S. Eliot's words, "the cruelest month," a month where some of the world's darkest moments have cast shadows over our humanity.

It was in April 1915 when the Ottoman government began rounding up and murdering leading Armenian politicians, businessmen, and intellectuals, a step that led to the extermination of more than 1 million Armenians.

It was April 1933 that the Nazis issued a decree paving a way for the "final solution," the annihilation of 6 million Jews of Europe.

It was April 1975 that the Khmer Rouge entered Cambodia's capital city, launching a 4-year wave of violence, killing 2 million people.

In April 1992, the siege of Sarajevo began in Bosnia, the longest siege in modern history, where more than 10,000 people perished, including 1,500 children.

It was in April 1994 that the plane carrying the President of Rwanda crashed, triggering the beginning of a genocide that killed more than 800,000 people in 100 days. When we talk about what happened in Rwanda, it is easy to begin to think of genocide as a single, undifferentiated act of barbarism. In reality, it was made of many individual atrocities that took place over 100 days.

In April 2003, innocent civilians in Sudan's Darfur region were attacked, killing more than 400,000 and displacing 2.5 million in a conflict that continues to this day.

This past month, the State Department announced that the United States has determined that ISIS's action against the Yazidis, Shiite Muslims, and Christians in Iraq and Syria constitutes genocide. Specifically, Secretary Kerry noted that in 2014, ISIS trapped Yazidis, killed them, enslaved thousands of Yazidi women and girls, "selling them at auction, raping them at will and destroying the communities for which they lived for countless generations."

I rise here today, in April, not only to commemorate International Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month and pay respect to the innocents who were slaughtered but also to speak about what the United States can and must do to prevent atrocities and genocide.

The commitment to prevent acts of genocide and mass atrocities has been a centerpiece of policy by consecutive administrations of the U.S. Government. The United States was the first country in the world to sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, signed in Paris on December 9, 1948, and President Ronald Reagan signed implementing legislation, allowing the United States to become a party to the convention on November 25, 1988.

In the 2006 "National Security Strategy," President George W. Bush highlighted the "moral imperative that states take against to prevent and punish genocide."

I firmly believe that U.S. leadership can make a difference in preventing future genocides and mass atrocities. U.S. leadership can save lives by bringing the power and resources of the United States to bear on atrocity prevention, accountability, and justice.

On April 10, 2014, I introduced the Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act in this Chamber. Three days earlier, the world had marked the 20th anniversary of the genocide of Rwanda, one of the most horrific events in modern history, which unfolded as the world stood back and watched.

At that time, I noted:

Unfortunately, we have not learned the lessons of the past. We must do better to not only see that sort of atrocities never again occur under our watch.

That statement was not only a reflection of my beliefs but a promise to keep the issue of atrocity prevention in front of the Senate and the American people.

So today, under the heavy cloud of atrocities occurring in Syria, South Sudan, and elsewhere, I come to address this body again. I am here today not to look backward about actions not taken. I am here today to stress that our job, our responsibility, is to make sure the United States has the tools—diplomatic, political, economic, and legal—to take effective action before atrocities occur. Essential to this is authorizing the Atrocities Prevention Board and ensuring that the U.S. Government has structures in place and the mechanisms at hand to better prevent and respond to potential atrocities.

President Obama, when he established the Atrocities Prevention Board in 2012, said that "preventing genocide [is] an 'achievable goal' but one that require[s] a degree of governmental organization that matches the kind of methodical organization that accomplish mass killings."

Earlier this year, I introduced the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2016 to ensure that we do just that. I am joined in this effort by Senators TILLIS, MURPHY, MENENDEZ, SHAHEEN, BROWN, GILLIBRAND, BLUMENTHAL, COONS, MIKULSKI, MARKEY, MERKLEY, BOXER, CASEY, WARREN, WHITEHOUSE, MURKOWSKI, BURR, and BENNET. This bill authorizes the Board, which is a transparent, accountable, high-level, interagency board that includes representatives at the assistant secretary level or higher from departments and agencies across U.S. Government.

The board will meet monthly to oversee the development and implementation of atrocity prevention and response policy, and, additionally, address over the horizon potential atrocities through the use of a wide variety of tools so that we can take effective action to prevent atrocities from occurring.

This bill gives our Foreign Service officers the training they need to recognize patterns of escalation and early warning signs of potential atrocities and conflict. With this training, we will, over time, build atrocity prevention into the core skill set of our people on the ground. They will be equipped to see the warning signs, analyze the events, and engage early.

The bill also codifies the Complex Crises Fund, which has been a critical tool in our ability to quickly respond to an emerging crises overseas, including potential mass atrocities and conflict. We used the Complex Crises Fund in Tunisia during the Arab Spring and in Sri Lanka after its civil war. We have used it to respond quickly in Kenya and in other countries, where we helped save lives. Importantly, this bill builds greater transparency and accountability into the structure of the Atrocities Prevention Board. Civil society will have a say, and Congress will have a greater oversight role to make sure we are getting this done right.

This is a good bill. It does good things and places the United States on a solid moral ground. But the moral argument alone is not enough. We must also remember that America's security and that of our allies is affected when civilians are slaughtered. Our security is impacted when desperate refugees stream across borders. Our security is affected when perpetrators of extraordinary violence wreak havoc on regional stability, destroying communities, families, and livelihoods.

We have seen groups such as ISIS systematically targeting communities on the basis of their ethnicity or religious beliefs and practices. After 60 years, we still do not have a comprehensive framework to prevent and respond to mass atrocities in genocide.

Let this bill act as a framework and also as our call to action so that when we use the phrase "never again," we know that we are taking meaningful action to make that a reality.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

#### ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FREDDIE GRAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the death of Freddie Gray was a national tragedy deserving of a national conversation. A year after the death of

Freddie Gray, the glare of television cameras covering the ensuing unrest has faded in Baltimore but the hurt and the continuing effort to heal remain.

In the 12 months since Freddie Gray's death, Americans have had long overdue conversations about racially biased policing, poverty in cities across America, the lack of access to quality education, and the scarcity of safe and affordable housing. These conversations have been translated into meaningful actions by Baltimore City residents, community leaders, and lawmakers at every level. Faith groups, community organizations, the business community, and many other groups who love and understand the limitless potential of our city have stood up and articulated their vision on how to build a stronger Baltimore.

The death of Freddie Gray was yet another painful reminder of the problems we have in our criminal justice system. I am a strong supporter of the independence of our judicial branch of government and the grand jury system, but I think all of us understand the frustration when there were no criminal indictments brought in the Trayvon Martin case, the Michael Brown case, the Eric Garner case, and far too many examples across America.

I have been working for years to address problems in our criminal justice system. In the days following the death of Freddie Gray and the ensuing unrest, I called on the Justice Department to open Federal criminal and civil rights investigations into Freddie Gray's death. On April 21, 2015, I was joined by Representative JOHN CONYERS in reintroducing legislation, the End Racial Profiling Act, which I originally introduced before the tragic death of Trayvon Martin.

As Baltimore emerged from the unrest, I met with community leaders to discuss legislative responses to help heal Baltimore's physical wounds and how to address many of the core problems that underpinned the unrest.

I met with a pharmacy owner whose store had been looted. I visited a senior center that was damaged. I spoke with residents in east and west Baltimore. I visited Freddie Gray's elementary school to hear from teachers and community leaders about what tools they required for the Federal Government to better meet the needs of students.

In the weeks following the unrest, I went back and forth from Baltimore City to the Senate and the White House, relaying the needs of Baltimoreans to my colleagues and to top Obama administration officials. I was joined by the Maryland congressional delegation, my colleague and friend Senator MIKULSKI—one of the great leaders on this issue—and members of our city delegation—Congressman CUMMINGS, Congressman RUPPERSBERGER, and Congressman SARBANES.

Congress and the Federal Government responded and continues to respond. I welcomed the announcement that the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division will open a Federal "pattern or practice" investigation of the Baltimore Police Department. This was just one way to help restore the eroded trust between communities and police. To further this effort, I introduced the BALTIMORE Act. The BALTIMORE Act is comprised of four titles.

Title I deals with law enforcement reform. The BALTIMORE Act places bans on racial profiling by State and local law enforcement, mandatory data collection and reporting, and available grants.

It requires local law enforcement officials receiving funds from the Byrne/JAG and COPS Hiring Programs to submit officer training information to the Department of Justice, including how their officers are trained in the use of force, countering racial and ethnic bias, deescalating conflicts, and constructive engagement with the public.

It requires the Department of Justice to report on a plan to assist State and local law enforcement agencies to improve training in the use of force, identifying racial and ethnic bias, and conflict resolution through the course of officers' careers.

The Department of Justice shall develop Field Training Program policies and examine ways to partner with national law enforcement organizations to promote consistent standards for high quality training and assessment. The Department shall also provide a report that contains best practices, model policies, and training toolkits. The Department of Justice will derive action plans for helping law enforcement agencies upgrade their IT systems to submit arrest and officer-involved shooting data.

Lastly, Title I establishes a pilot program to assist local law enforcement in purchasing or leasing body-worn cameras, which requires privacy study.

We have a comprehensive section that deals with law enforcement.

Title II deals with voting rights and civil rights restoration. The BALTIMORE Act restores the right to vote for all citizens after a prison sentence is served, returning citizens the right to sit on Federal juries after a prison sentence has been served.

Title III deals with sentencing law reform, which many colleagues in this Chamber have been championing. It reclassifies specific low-level, nonviolent drug possession felonies as misdemeanors, eliminating the distinction between crack and powder cocaine for sentencing, and requires fair weight for food products.

Title IV deals with reentry and employment law reform. It is critically

important that people have an opportunity once they come out of incarceration. I don't think there is a Member of this Chamber who hasn't had a second chance. This allows nonprofits to apply for Second Chance Act grants.

It authorizes \$200 million annually for the Labor Department's Reentry Employment Opportunities Program. It is a sense of the Congress that the administration should "ban the box" for hiring of Federal contractors.

Baltimore's congressional delegation has been fighting to ensure Federal resources are made available to help the city residents prosper. In the days following the unrest, the Small Business Administration established disaster loan outreach centers in Baltimore to help local owners who have been impacted by the unrest.

The Justice Department has also provided assistance in the form of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants to help defray the cost of policing during the unrest and to help local law enforcement better safeguard communities from violent crime.

The Department of Education's Project SERV, or School Emergency Response to Violence, has given resources to Baltimore City Public Schools to help students recover from trauma associated with the unrest.

The Environmental Protection Agency pledged funding to help convert vacant lots into gardens that foster a sense of community and increase public and environmental health.

Other Obama administration initiatives such as My Brother's Keeper continue to give communities the tools they need to foster long-term positive change. These are only a small portion of the Federal Government's ongoing commitment to the people of Baltimore City.

I am proud of the Federal Government stepping up to help Baltimore so that Baltimore can reach its full potential. Baltimore is my home. Following the death of Freddie Gray was one of the most difficult days in the city's history. One year later, Baltimore is transforming with the help of ordinary citizens, the business community, and a slew of nonprofits making a measurable impact. I have always been honored to represent the people of Baltimore. As long as I still have that honor, I will continue to make sure the Federal Government is an active partner in empowering Baltimore City to reach its full potential.

In the year since the death of Freddie Gray, we have made progress in building a more just America by investing in Baltimore. Let us continue to build upon that progress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING HARRY WU

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, the world lost a courageous activist for international workers' rights, Harry Wu. Harry Wu spent 19 years in one of China's "laogai" prison labor camps. That word is pretty much unknown in English—L-A-O-G-A-I. It is a word that the Chinese made famous, at least in their part of the world, as the terribly brutal labor camps where they sent political prisoners.

Mr. Wu was imprisoned in 1960 at age 23 because he spoke out against Communist China's ally in 1960, the Soviet Union, after its invasion of Hungary. Over those 19 years, from 1960 to 1979, Mr. Wu was brutalized. He was sent to work on farms, mines, and prison camps. He was beaten and forced into concrete cases. As he has written and told us, he survived on food he foraged in rats' nests.

After his release, following Mao's death, Harry Wu dedicated the rest of his life to exposing the horrors that his homeland leaders inflicted on their own citizens. He risked his life to return to China under cover and gathered secret footage of the abuses in China's laogai, China's prison camps. He wouldn't let the world ignore Chinese atrocities. He wouldn't let us forget that opening our doors to China—demanded by U.S. corporations with few strings attached—came at a steep price. Through the footage he collected, he helped show the world that products like cheap wrenches and artificial flowers sold in the United States were made with forced labor. Think about what this was about. U.S. companies would shut down their production in Mansfield, my hometown, or maybe in Baton Rouge or Cleveland, and move their production to China and sell those products back to the United States. The U.S. companies that moved to China never addressed the moral issue of what that move did to our communities. They never addressed the moral issue of, in some cases, using Chinese forced labor to make their products. These companies could also sell their products a little bit cheaper in the United States, and as a result, these companies could reap much bigger profits. The moral question of U.S. trade relations with China has rarely been touched in this body. It is just inconvenient for us to think about. Well, Mr. Wu never let it be inconvenient.

As we approach the 15th anniversary of China's entry into the World Trade Organization this year and review China's nonmarket economy status, we should not forget the lessons of Harry Wu. Over the past decade, we have seen that prosperity in China does not lead to more political freedom.

I knew Harry Wu. He testified before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China when I was chairman. He had testified several times.

As recently as 2012, Mr. Wu warned Congress:

The Laogai—

The forced labor camp—

system [is] deeply rooted into [China's] economic structure. . . . China's working class is different from that of the modern democratic countries. It includes not only "workers" in the ordinary sense, but also "workers" of the prison enterprises.

These would be slaves. He warned that "prisoners in Laogai, more like state slaves than enterprise workers, provide the state with an endless source of cheap or payless labor force."

This system is an egregious human rights abuse against hundreds of thousands of Chinese people. It hurts American workers who are then forced to compete.

This system they have set up is one of the reasons that people are really upset about what is happening in this country. Companies in my State of Ohio shut down production in Lima, Zanesville, and Chillicothe, then moved overseas to China in order to get a tax break, hired Chinese workers—some of them were slave laborers for some of the component manufacturing; some of them were just low-paid labor—to make these products in a totalitarian system and sell them back in the United States. American companies never talk about the moral dimension of that.

I wrote a book a dozen or so years ago called the "Myths of Free Trade." I interviewed Harry Wu about this book. He told me: "Capitalism must never be equated with democracy." Because our country believes in capitalism and democracy, we think they always go together. Well, they don't. According to Harry Wu:

Capitalism must never be equated with democracy. . . . Don't believe it about China. My homeland is mired in thousands of years of rule by one bully at a time, whether you call him emperor or chairman. Don't be fooled by electronics or air conditioning.

Before his death, I think Mr. Wu would have said: Yes, the United States has been fooled. Maybe we choose to be fooled; maybe we choose to not know how the products that we hold in our hands are made—by an oppressive government using forced labor workers.

We have been on a continuous march toward more trade with China and demanded far little in return. We have turned a blind eye to China's labor practices for too long. When you hear Presidential candidates and others complaining about China, it is always about putting American workers out of work, which it should be, but the other part of that moral question is about how we are using slave laborers in China to undercut American workers. How could an American worker or company possibly compete with slave labor in China? Obviously we can't, but we leave that moral question because U.S. corporations don't want to acknowledge and want to turn a blind eye toward slave labor. It reminds me of

something from a few years ago when an American drug company was making a blood thinner—much of the production of that blood thinner came from China—with contaminated ingredients, and a number of people in Toledo, OH, died. The drug company didn't know where these products came from. They knew they came from China, but they didn't know where their supply ingredients came from. Think about that. They should be liable for that—at least you would think they should—but they just didn't think about the moral question there.

A year and a half ago I gave a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, warning that before we sign any bilateral investment treaty with China, we need to demand that China comply with existing international obligations in domestic law. We have given China chance after chance, pushing for increased engagement, even though we know that China will play by its own rules. In the past year and a half, nothing has changed. We need to make clear the international obligations we expect China to meet on cyber security, human rights, forced labor, slaves making products that American children use, international trade, workers' rights, and other issues. We need to demand that China meet these standards now.

Increased engagement by the United States may have led to more agreements on paper, and that is fine, but in reality the only thing it has achieved is our ongoing tolerance of Chinese transgressions. It may be tolerance, it may be ignoring, it may be shrugging our shoulders, it may be burying our heads in the sand, but I don't think we want to think much about slave labor in China. I don't think when we buy these products at Walmart—specializing in Chinese products—that we want to think much about where these products were made. We often know they were made in China, but we don't really want to think about how those workers produced these products.

Harry Wu's passing is a reminder that this needs to end. His legacy includes the Laogai Museum here in Washington. I encourage my colleagues to visit the museum and pay their respects to Harry Wu. The best way they can pay their respects to Harry Wu is by changing our policies. The thousands upon thousands of other nameless prisoners who suffered in these Chinese prison camps should be honored equally. We can't forget this tragic legacy, and we can't forget the human rights abuses that continue to this day as they continue to make these same products in these same working conditions with these same slave laborers. It is shameful. It should not continue.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

GREG KING

Mr. CARPER. Good afternoon, Mr. President. For more than a year now, as the Presiding Officer knows since he has had the good fortune—or bad fortune of drawing the short straw—of sitting there when I come to the Senate floor just about every month to highlight the extraordinary work that is being done by the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security—I am here to do that again today. The agency has so many talented folks, and they do incredibly important work, so there is no shortage of material.

As the Presiding Officer knows, the Department of Homeland Security is made up of 22 component agencies and employs over 200,000 people. These men and women work around the clock, and the work they do is designed to protect all of us—protect our families and protect our country. Last month we were reminded of just how crucial the work they do is when terrorists attacked a train station and airport check-in area in Brussels, Belgium, setting off bombs that killed 32 people and wounded hundreds more. Our thoughts and prayers have been and remain with the families, loved ones, and victims of these horrible attacks.

Just 6 days before these tragic attacks, I spoke on the floor about the difficult but critical work performed by the 59,000 employees of the Transportation Security Administration, affectionately known as TSA. These men and women work every day. They do so to ensure that all of us—Americans and tourists who visit—may travel around our country and around the world safe from harm.

The attack in Brussels shows us once again just how important these efforts—performed by the men and women at TSA—are to every single American and to our visitors. It also reminds us how important it is that TSA has the tools and resources needed to effectively carry out their mission.

To help ensure that the TSA is well equipped to protect the public, I worked with a number of our Senate colleagues last week—Democrats and Republicans alike—to include amendments to a bill reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration. Our amendments will help make airports and transit hubs across our country safer for travelers by doubling the number of teams—called VIPR teams—of Federal agents and bomb-sniffing dogs that patrol our airports and sub-

ways to deter and identify potential attackers.

These amendments will also make security improvements to public areas in airports and train stations and ensure that the men and women patrolling those areas can effectively respond to the types of active shooter incidents we have unfortunately seen more frequently in recent months.

These commonsense amendments are just one of the many ways we can support the men and women at TSA and throughout the Department of Homeland Security who work on the frontlines every day screening passengers, guarding our ports of entry, and patrolling our transit hubs.

One part of the support we need to extend to these brave public servants is world-class training and education. By expanding and improving training opportunities for our law enforcement personnel, we can make sure they have the knowledge and make sure they have the capability to respond to every situation that may arise. That is why one of the best tools in our homeland security arsenal is the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

As my staff knows, I don't like acronyms very much, but this is a pretty good one. It is called the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. It is located in Glynco, GA. It goes by the acronym F-L-E-T-C, and we affectionately call it FLETC. I am not crazy about acronyms, but that is a pretty good one. We call it FLETC.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is tasked with teaching the men and women we deploy to the frontlines how to best utilize the technologies and techniques needed to protect Americans here at home and around the world. They provide training to literally dozens of Federal agencies, State law enforcement personnel from across our country, and our international partners, who travel from all over the world to learn from the best right here in America. From active shooter trainings, to advanced forensic techniques, to methods to counter human trafficking, FLETC instructors provide training in nearly 100 courses. They host the training academies for a number of other agencies, including Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Recently, TSA announced that they would be establishing a new, permanent academy for transportation security officers at FLETC's main facility in Glynco, GA. Having their training centralized at FLETC will allow TSA to better ensure uniform training for all of their officers and better collaborate with other components of the Department of Homeland Security.

Providing world-class training and instruction to tens of thousands of law enforcement officers each year requires bringing together some of the most

highly qualified professional instructors from across our country. The more than 1,000 men and women from across law enforcement who serve at FLETC utilize their personal experience in the field to create and to lead effective trainings that help law enforcement professionals keep us—Americans and our guests—safe and secure each day.

One of FLETC's world-class instructors is Greg King, pictured right here to my left. For nearly 10 years, Mr. King has been an instructor at FLETC, utilizing his own experience to train Federal officers deployed around the world.

Before coming to FLETC, Greg served his hometown of Cleveland, OH, working for the Cleveland Police Department for 28 years. If he is listening, I would just suggest that I have been thinking that Greg may have started when he was about 10. He looks pretty good for a guy who has been doing that for this long. He has a career spanning nearly three decades. Greg did everything from working undercover as a street crimes unit detective, to investigating financial crimes, murders, and crimes against children. For those 28 years, Greg has dedicated his life to protecting the community of Cleveland and giving back to the town in which he grew up.

Today, Greg serves as a senior instructor at FLETC, working as program coordinator for the Case Organization and Presentation Training Program, the Internet Investigations Training Program, and as assistant program coordinator for the Intelligence Analyst Training Program. Greg has a wealth of knowledge in these areas. His colleagues call him—this is a quote, their words, not mine—a real “subject matter expert” with the kind of expertise that can only come from real-world experience. Through the lesson plans and course materials he develops, Greg strives to impart the firsthand knowledge he gained on the force to his students so that when they leave his class, they are able to effectively build cases, conduct investigations, analyze information, and ultimately catch the bad guys.

At FLETC, Greg's colleagues also refer to him as an “Energizer bunny.” Some of my colleagues have referred to me in those same terms. I think it is a compliment—I hope so—and in his case, I am sure it is. His energy and his passion for his work inspire other instructors and keep his students engaged.

Given his dedication to his students and to the FLETC mission, Greg has earned the respect of his peers and FLETC leadership alike. It is no wonder, then, that Greg King was named FLETC instructor of the year for 2015. Think about that—instructor of the year for the entire school. It is clearly a well-deserved honor.

When Greg isn't training law enforcement professionals, he spends time

with his family—his wife Shelley, their two daughters Lela and Shayla; and their son Rayshawn. I want to give my special thanks to Greg's wife Shelley and to their two daughters and their son for sharing him with us—with the people of Cleveland and now the people of the United States—for not just 28 years but 38 years in all. He has dedicated countless hours, I am told as well, to his community and to his country in addition to that.

In his 10 years at FLETC, Greg King has helped train countless law enforcement officers, who have used the valuable lessons from his courses every single day to arrest criminals, to protect our fellow citizens, and to help keep Americans safe around the world.

FLETC has four core values that the agency and their employees attempt to abide by, and I am going to mention those today: No. 1, respect; No. 2, integrity—one of our former colleagues, Alan Simpson, the Senator from Wyoming, used to say about integrity: If you have it, nothing else matters. If you don't have it, nothing else matters. Integrity is the second value I want to mention for FLETC. So respect, integrity, service, and excellence.

I like to say that one of the things we need to focus on is to have excellence in everything we do as a country, here in the Senate and across the country. If it isn't perfect, make it better. And that is one of the core values for FLETC.

Respect, integrity, service, and excellence. I have mentioned that those values actually look a little bit like some of the values we embrace in the office from the State that I am privileged to represent. Greg has lived this one, using his own experience, to make the next generation of law enforcement officers and our country even better prepared to face the threats of tomorrow.

Greg is just one shining example of the critical work being done by more than 1,000 instructors at FLETC. These instructors make it their own mission to ensure that law enforcement personnel across our country are well prepared for whatever they might face on the job.

So to Greg, to all of the men and women at FLETC, and to everyone at the Department of Homeland Security, I thank you for your hard work day in and day out, I thank you for your service to the people of our country, and I urge you to keep up the good work.

Some of us travel on trains. Some of us travel on buses. Some of us travel on airplanes and helicopters, in our own cars, trucks, and vans. I do a combination of those, but I do a fair amount of travel in the air. I was a naval flight officer for many years. I am a retired Navy captain. I spent a lot of time in Navy airplanes. I love the Navy. I loved serving in the Navy. But now they don't let me—they let me

ride in a commercial plane. Sometimes we get to fly in military planes, too, which is a kick. But when you fly commercial aviation, at the airport you generally go through a security check, and they want to make sure you are not carrying anything in your luggage or anything on your person that is inappropriate or illegal. And you have to be confronted by usually a series of TSA officers. I just want to remind us all that they are there to protect us. That is their job, to make sure the planes we get on, whether they are going 200, 300, 400 miles or 2,000 or 3,000 miles to go from one side of our country to the other side or one side of the world to the other side—the job of the TSA officers is to protect us. They have a very tough job, and there is actually a tension in the job that exists because of the work they do.

On the one hand, every day there are tens of thousands of travelers, maybe hundreds of thousands of travelers, pulsing through our airports, trying to get from a terminal, from a gate, onto a plane in time to catch their flights. In some cases, they have had to recheck their bags. They have had to go through maybe unloading their suitcases and showing that what they have in their suitcases is not inappropriate or illegal. There is a rush to get through to try to catch their flights. TSA is there. In some cases, they slow down that traffic, that flow, and they slow down that flow of traffic in order to make sure that what all of us passengers every day are carrying in our suitcases or briefcases or purses or on our bodies is not inappropriate and is not illegal. They do it to protect all of us. Sometimes the TSA folks get a little bit frazzled. I would say we would, too, if we had to do the work they do.

A lot of times, when I fly commercial and when I go through the check-in, after they check my ID or whatever, I take it upon myself to say to the TSA officers—I tell them who I am, that I am a senior Democrat on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and I thank them for what they do. I say: We value your work and we appreciate it, and I just wanted you to know that. I can't tell you how many times a TSA officer has said to me: Nobody has ever thanked me before. Nobody has ever thanked me before.

Sometimes we can't pay people enough for the work they do, and they work hard for their money.

I would ask others, when you see somebody, especially TSA officers who go out of their way in spite of all of the hustle and bustle and pressure on them—they manage to still be polite, courteous, and helpful—thank them. It might be the first time. You may become the first person who has ever said “thank you” to them.

At the end of the day, one of the things that means a lot to me is whenever people thank me for my service to

our country, whether it was in uniform or as Governor, Senator, or here today. So I urge you to do that. When I do that, it makes me feel better and it makes them feel better too.

Mr. President, I am looking around the Senate Chamber, looking for Democrats or Republicans who are rushing to get to the podium to say something. I don't see anybody rushing.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### COMMEMORATING THE BUILDING OF THE SSN 791 SUBMARINE USS "DELAWARE"

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, just a short note. I think it is important, especially for those who are privileged to live in the First State—the first State to ratify the Constitution.

Delaware ratified the Constitution on December 7, 1787, before any other State did so. For 1 week, Delaware was the entire United States of America, and then we opened it up to Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Louisiana, and others. It turned out pretty well. It was a great week.

I think that because our State is remarkable in starting the whole country, we have a lot of ships—submarines or aircraft carriers—named after it. It has been decades since there has been any naval vessel named after the First State.

A couple of years ago, Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the Vice President, and I joined Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to announce that work would begin in a few years from that point—work would begin building a fast attack nuclear submarine. It would be called the USS *Delaware*, and the number of the ship would be SSN 791.

This Saturday in Newport News, VA, Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the Vice President, who is officially the sponsor of the submarine, will be there to join Secretary Ray Mabus. I will have the good fortune of joining them for the keeling, which is the first step in the construction of a brandnew vessel, the USS *Delaware*, SSN 791.

These submarines are not built in a day. This is a project that will take a couple of years, but a very good thing for our State and I hope for our country is about to begin; that is, the adventure of building a submarine that will help defend our country, help keep the sea lanes open, and better ensure that we remain a nation that is brave and free.

I mentioned earlier in my brief remarks that I spent some years of my life in the Navy—5 years in a hot war in Southeast Asia as a P-3 aircraft mission commander, and toward the end of those 5 years as a P-3 aircraft mission commander I was a naval flight officer. Then, for another 18 years, I was a P-3 aircraft mission commander in the Reserves, chasing Soviet subs all over the world.

We would train with American submarines, and we would track fast attack boats. It is a fast attack boat that will be built and named after Delaware. We would track ballistic missile submarines, American submarines. We would also track those from other countries, especially those from the Soviet Union. It wasn't that hard to find them, to track them, to know the location of Soviet nuclear submarines that were on deployment. They weren't easy to find, to locate and track, but they were a whole lot easier than tracking our own. "Run Silent, Run Deep," and that is exactly what our submarines did and still do. We have the best submarine force in the world. I am very proud of all of them, and they are delighted to be joined by SSN 791 in a couple of years, and we get to kick it off in 2 days in Newport News, VA.

I wish everybody a good recess. The pages are going to be in charge until we get back in about 8 or 9 days, and I am sure they will do a good job. Thank you so much.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINCLAIR OIL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a well-respected American company: the Sinclair Oil Corporation. This May marks 100 years since Harry Ford Sinclair founded the corporation after purchasing petroleum assets from 11 smaller companies. In its centennial year, Sinclair Oil continues to thrive as one of the oldest continuously operated brands in the petroleum business and the seventh largest fuel company in the United States. Today I wish to congratulate the company on its 100th anniversary.

Most people know Sinclair Oil for its iconic green Apatosaurus, but behind the character is a company fueled by two real American legends: Harry Ford Sinclair and Earl Holding.

Harry Ford Sinclair experienced his fair share of setbacks before becoming a successful businessman. In fact, Sin-

clair was just 25 years old when a speculative investment went south, and he lost his father's drugstore, but the bad investment turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the brash and brilliant young man, who was never cut out for the quiet, meticulous life of a druggist in the first place.

After losing his family's drugstore, Sinclair found work selling lumber for oil derricks. Soon, he was buying and selling small oil leases on the side, and his "side" business did well enough to attract investors. Sinclair's successes snowballed as he rolled small profits into bigger ventures, eventually leading to a payout in Oklahoma's Glenn Pool oil field that made him a millionaire by age 30. In 1916, he founded the Sinclair Oil and Refining Corporation. Three years later, the company had grown to four times its original size.

In the 1920s, Sinclair introduced America to the first modern service stations. These early retail gasoline outlets offered oil changes, minor mechanical repairs, and, for the first time, public restrooms that motorists could use while an attendant pumped gas into their vehicles. The convenient amenities of these service stations enabled the creation of a uniquely American experience: the long road trip.

Sinclair's success continued through tough times. During the Great Depression, the company bought up dying competitors, saving hundreds of American jobs. And during World War II, Sinclair supported the Allies with high-octane fuel, tankers, and more.

In 1948, Harry Ford Sinclair officially retired, but 28 years later, Earl Holding, another American business icon, acquired the company, leading Sinclair Oil into a new era of prosperity and growth. Earl had grown up with nothing during the Great Depression, but like Harry Sinclair, he turned a willingness to work into success. Before purchasing Sinclair Oil, Earl and his wife, Carol, built the Little America chain of hotels and gas stations. In fact, the Little America chain became Sinclair's biggest customer before the Holdings bought the oil company.

Earl was well known for his brilliance, but he was equally regarded for his steadiness and warmth. These personal qualities enabled him to make Harry Sinclair's empire somehow feel like a mom-and-pop business. No task at the company was beneath Earl, whether it was serving coffee or digging ditches. He even hosted annual conferences and parties so he could personally meet partners and employees from around the country.

Today Sinclair Oil continues to succeed under the leadership of CEO Ross Matthews. Family values hold the company together, while innovation drives it forward. As the company celebrates its centennial, the spirit created by Harry Sinclair and Earl Holding lives on, as does Dino, the familiar green



dinosaur that is the beloved mascot of Sinclair Oil.

In closing, I would like to offer just a few words in memory of the company's late CEO, Earl Holding. I knew Earl personally and considered him a dear friend. He inspired his employees through genuine kindness and humble leadership. Earl was a master of commerce, but more importantly, he was a good and honorable man of uncompromising character and integrity. Although Earl left us only 3 years ago, his legacy is alive and well. Today I wish his beautiful wife and children the very best.

#### REMEMBERING WARD CORRELL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a good friend and a distinguished Kentuckian who has sadly passed away after a resoundingly successful life and career of many decades. Ward Correll, a native Kentuckian renowned across the Commonwealth, died on April 21 of this year. He was 88 years old.

My wife, Elaine, and I are deeply saddened by Ward's death. Ward rose from humble beginnings to great business success, and he also generously and charitably shared the fruits of his success with others in his hometown of Somerset and throughout Kentucky. Many have benefitted from his philanthropy, and he will be terribly missed.

Ward was a household name in Kentucky. A self-made man, he created a business empire, including an oil distributorship and many property, business, and financial holdings. He was a major stockholder in First Southern National Bank.

Ward believed strongly in giving back to the community that he loved so much. He was a financial benefactor to dozens of charities, churches, sports teams, and other organizations, including Somerset Christian School—which honors his family's contribution with a monument on the school campus—and the University of the Cumberland, where the science complex is named in his and his late wife's honor. The Ward Correll Sports Complex, a popular destination in Somerset, is thanks to his efforts.

For all his success in life, Ward graduated high school with less than \$3 in his pocket. He hitchhiked to Detroit, where he worked odd jobs. After serving his country in the U.S. Army in an intelligence unit during the Korean war, he returned home to Somerset and married his wife, Regina.

Ward and Regina's first business was selling bananas. From that, he built himself into the titan of business and philanthropy whom we mourn today.

Ward received the 2002 Kentuckian Award from the A.B. Chandler Foundation. He was named Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Bluegrass Chap-

ter in 2003. In that same year, he received the Business of the Year Award as an Entrepreneurial Success from the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce. And he received the Somerset-Pulaski County Distinguished Community Service Award in 2014.

The people of Pulaski County were accustomed to seeing full-page ads in the local paper bought by Ward Correll, each one sharing some bit of wisdom or personal philosophy from Ward that he wished to pass on to others. He ended each ad with the signature line, "Hooray, cheers! Ward Correll."

I want to send my deepest condolences and prayers to Ward's family at their time of loss. Now is the time to wish one final hooray and cheers to the man who leaves behind a powerful legacy. Kentucky honors Ward Correll for his life and his lifetime of service, and we mourn his passing.

The Lexington Herald-Leader published an article detailing Ward Correll's life and career. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader,  
Apr. 23, 2016]

SOMERSET BUSINESSMAN WARD CORRELL,  
KNOWN FOR PHILANTHROPY, DEAD AT AGE 88

(By Bill Estep)

Somerset businessman Ward F. Correll, recognized for millions of dollars' worth of philanthropy in support of various causes, died Thursday at University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital. He was 88.

Correll had been hospitalized since suffering what police said were accidental gunshot wounds at his home early March 9.

Correll had business interests in a shopping center, an oil and gas distributorship and a life insurance company, and he was a founder of First Southern National Bank.

Correll had given millions to causes and projects including land for a water park and youth baseball field in Somerset; land and financial support for Somerset Christian School; money to renovate an auditorium at Somerset High School; and \$1 million for a classroom building at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg. The building was named for Correll and his late wife, Regina.

He also made smaller donations, reportedly giving away \$30 worth of gas from his stations to active-duty military personnel in 2009, for instance.

Observers said Correll's philanthropy had touched countless lives.

"It has built the community up from every aspect," said Carolyn Mounce, head of the Somerset-Pulaski County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, a Somerset Republican, said Correll's impact will last for generations.

"His generosity was as vast as his business ingenuity, and he routinely used both to inspire and encourage everyone around him," Rogers said. "Ultimately, Ward loved his God, his family, his community and his country, and spent a lifetime faithfully serving each one with great passion and enthusiasm."

Correll was born in Wayne County, one of 13 children, and grew up in Pulaski County in modest circumstances.

He told the story of leaving home after high school with \$2.67 and hitchhiking to Detroit for work, returning home several months later with a bit more money in his pocket.

He eventually developed a shopping center in the 1960s on what was then a sparsely built stretch of U.S. 27 in Somerset, now crowded with hundreds of businesses.

Correll frequently bought full-page advertisements in the Commonwealth-Journal newspaper in Somerset to publish inspirational quotes.

Correll, a Korean War veteran, is survived by six children, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, according to Lake Cumberland Funeral Home.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOYS TOWN NEVADA IN THE 12TH ANNUAL JOURNEY OF HOPE GALA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 25th anniversary of Boys Town Nevada. Serving southern Nevada's most vulnerable children, Boys Town Nevada helps to support and educate children and families in need.

Boys Town opened its doors in Nevada in 1991. Since then, they have promoted valuable skills for boys and girls and their families in the Las Vegas area. The organization has developed family-based services in the home by aiding in the process of reunifying families. Boys Town strives to provide the necessary skills to create and maintain a stable household for all members of the family.

For more than a century, Boys Town has followed Father Edward Flanagan's mission to save children and heal families through the power of love, family, and faith. Because of their positive impact in Nevada, they have been able to improve the lives of nearly 15,000 children over the last two decades. Their dedication and their hard work resembles Nevada's values to sustain healthy relationships and minimize problems that affect the mental health of each family.

As part of the 12th annual Journey of Hope gala, I would like to honor Diana Bennet and Scott Menke for being the 2016 Hope Awards recipients. These philanthropy icons exemplify the generosity and commitment to dedicate their lives to impact the lives of children, families, and all Nevada communities.

I applaud executive director Denise Biden and her team for her strong leadership in one of the most important organizations for children in the State of Nevada. Her dedication though the past 15 years has positively impacted more than 3,000 children each year. This organization is an invaluable part of communities throughout the State, and I would like to extend my best wishes for continued success.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROJECT  
REAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 10th anniversary of Project Real. Project Real will formally celebrate over 10 years of teaching Nevada students the importance of the law and giving them the tools they need to prevent crime.

Since 2005, Project Real has met the challenge of teaching Nevada students from kindergarten through high school about the principles of democracy, law, and the responsibilities of citizenship. The organization is working to bring law and civic education back into Nevada's classrooms by providing programs that give students of all ages the opportunity to learn about our judicial system. Project Real takes pride in ensuring that students are positive contributors to the communities in which they reside.

Since its inception, the organization has also been a strong supporter of academic programs that allow children to gain a better understanding of our judicial system. Working closely with the State bar of Nevada, Project Real prepares Nevada's children to become involved, participating citizens who understand their responsibilities and rights. These programs not only encourage students to act with integrity, but also foster connections between students and legal professionals.

I applaud executive director Tom Kovach and his team for strong leadership in an important organization for children throughout the State. I am pleased that through your and other's selfless efforts, incalculable numbers of students and communities have been positively affected by Project Real. I would like to recognize Irwin Molasky and Sam Lionel, as well. It was because of their vision for children in Nevada to become responsible citizens that they founded Project Real. This organization is an invaluable part of communities throughout the State, and I would like to extend my best wishes for continued success.

REMEMBERING LAURA  
CHA-YU LIU

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I share the news that Judge Laura Cha-Yu Liu passed away last week. A longtime resident of Chicago, Judge Liu was only 49 years old. Although her time with us was far too short, her accomplishments were many. Judge Liu broke barriers. She was the first Chinese American woman to become judge in Illinois, the first Chinese American elected to public office in Cook County. And in 2014, Judge Liu became the first Asian American to serve on the Illinois appellate court.

Her story is the story of the American dream. Born in Carbondale, IL, her parents were immigrants fleeing a

dire political situation and the terrors of war. They came to this country as foreign exchange students in the hopes of providing a better life for their children. Liu's first language was Mandarin, and she started school speaking very little English. She overcame the language barrier and graduated as her high school's valedictorian. In 1987, she received a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University and a law degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1991.

As the daughter of immigrants, Judge Liu took extraordinary pride in her work on the Illinois Supreme Court's Access to Justice program, aimed at making the system more accessible to immigrants and non-English speakers. She helped draft requirements that courts provide qualified interpreters for parties and witnesses. Throughout her career, Judge Liu was a staunch defender of individuals' rights, especially the most vulnerable in our community. It wasn't uncommon for Judge Liu to delay court proceedings when people struggled to understand, saying: "We're going to wait for an interpreter." And no one did more to ensure that language barriers would not stand in the way of justice for all at Daley Center.

Five years ago, Judge Liu was diagnosed with breast cancer, but that didn't slow her down. She continued working, running for election in 2012 and, 2 years later, winning her appointment to the appellate court. She never complained; she just kept going. During chemotherapy, she said, "I put on my wig, put on my eyebrows, lots of blush, happy face, get out of bed and went to work." That is courage.

Judge Liu was the recipient of numerous honors and awards. Here are just a few: the Asian Pacific American Community Service Award; the Chinese American Bar Association of Greater Chicago's Sandra Otaka Distinguished Judicial Service Award; Illinois' Judges Foundation's "the Leader Who Shares Experience Leaves a Legacy of Success" Award; Asian American Bar Association's 2014 Vanguard Award for her work to make "the law and legal profession more accessible to and reflective of the community at large"; Illinois Secretary of State's Distinguished Leadership Award—and the honors go on and on. Judge Liu was also a member of the Illinois Judges Association, Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, and Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago.

She was an extraordinarily accomplished professional, but Judge Liu's proudest accomplishment was being a mother to her 7-year-old daughter, Sophie, and a wife to the love of her life, Michael Kasper. Despite her busy schedule, she always put family first. She made time to teach Sophie Man-

darin and the piano. She even took Sophie to Paris, in the midst of dealing with an aggressive chemotherapy regimen. But she simply said, "I'll sleep it off on the plane." And she did. She also could frequently be found on the sidelines of Sophie's soccer matches cheering her on.

Judge Liu was a force of nature. She authored nearly 150 judicial opinions in her 2 years on the Illinois appellate court. In her final days, while working from home, Judge Liu filed her final opinion before she passed. What commitment and what an inspiration. To the very end, Judge Liu understood that these issues and her opinions affected people's lives, and cancer wasn't going to keep her from doing her job.

She once said, "I wanted to fit in more than I wanted to be a trailblazer. I didn't want to be an Asian-American on the rise." Well, she didn't get that wish. In fact, she accomplished just the opposite. Her career was groundbreaking and she became a role model for countless Chinese American kids—and an inspiration to the rest of us—especially her friends and family. Judge Liu will be sorely missed.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AND  
VERMONT ENTREPRENEURS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, each year, the Small Business Administration sets aside the first week of May to acknowledge small businesses that are doing extraordinary work and recognizes them during Small Business Week. In March, the SBA announced the slate of 2016 Vermont small business award winners, which included three tremendous businesses from Lamoille County. The award winners included the Small Business Person of the Year, Tom Stearns of High Mowing Seeds; Woman-Owned Business of the Year, Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering; and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Caleb Magoon, of Power Play Sports.

In Vermont, we place a high value on small businesses. They make up the backbone of our economy and the heart and soul of our communities. I am incredibly proud of the three Lamoille County businesses being recognized both because of their hard work and entrepreneurial spirit, but also because they represent a true cross section of the Vermont economy.

Vermonters share an inherent bond with our State's natural resources. Our State prides itself on our strong agricultural history and the renaissance we are seeing in diversified agriculture and value added food production. For many farmers, this connection starts with their soil and the seeds they plant in the ground. What started as a hobby for Tom Stearns 20 years ago has grown into a dynamic business that is one of the top organic seed companies in the country, now supplying those farmers

and home gardeners across the country with the seeds that become the food we feed our families. Part of what sets Vermont businesses apart is their ability to innovate and help define or create new markets. High Mowing has done just this in the seed market—by ensuring that all of their 700 varieties of seeds are both organic and GMO-free—and are among the gold standard in the market. Now they are branching out to experiment with new varieties that will bring new specialty vegetables, herbs, and flowers to the market.

When imagining a startup business, it is common to think of someone working out of their garage. Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering is precisely one of those entrepreneurs. Debbie founded her business in 2001 in her home garage, and since then, her products have received great acclaim and attention. Sweet Crunch baked goods are made from scratch, with no preservatives. It comes as no surprise to this Vermonter that their maple cookies are one of their best selling products. In fact, Sweet Crunch's maple cookies were featured on the Food Network, and Sweet Crunch products can be found in locations across New England and, in fact, the country. I will take a moment of personal pride to note that Debbie's delicious products will be a featured part of the annual Taste of Vermont celebration happening in Washington in a few weeks.

The mountains and valleys that played such a significant role in determining the settlement of Vermont continue to be a significant force in the lives of Vermonters. These resources attract skiers, riders, bikers, paddlers, and many other adventurers to our State both to live and to visit. Naturally all of these outdoor enthusiasts need some place to be outfitted. Power Play Sports has been a staple of the local sporting goods scene for more than 20 years, but was recently purchased by Caleb Magoon. Caleb first worked at Power Play as a teenager and returned to manage the store after living in Boston for a number of years. He has demonstrated a great entrepreneurial vision, consolidating his other business under one roof and opening a new store in Waterbury, VT. This type of passion and growth are qualities we want to encourage in Vermont and deserve recognition.

I want to congratulate these three businesses and all the Vermont businesses who were recognized by the SBA for a job well done. I look forward to their future successes. At this time, I ask unanimous consent that the following article written by Kayla Friedrich of the Stowe Reporter recognizing Tom, Debbie, and Caleb for their awards be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Stowe Reporter]

STEARNS, BURRITT, MAGOON WIN BUSINESS AWARDS

(By Kayla Friedrich)

Tom Stearns, founder and owner of High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, has been named Vermont Small Business Person of the Year by the federal Small Business Administration.

In addition, two other Lamoille County businesses won major awards:

Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering Co. in Hyde Park, Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

Caleb Magoon of Power Play Sports in Morrisville and Waterbury Sports, Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

For more than 50 years, the federal agency has honored small businesses for their contributions in their communities and to the economy.

Stearns was recognized for expanding his company, increasing sales, hiring more employees and contributing to the local community.

High Mowing is a farm-based company that produces and distributes vegetable, flower and herb seeds throughout the U.S. and Canada. It began in 1996 with just 28 varieties, produced in Stearns' backyard and packaged in his shed.

First-year sales were \$2,000, but what started as a hobby soon expanded beyond his backyard. By 2001, his business had grown to the point where Stearns began contracting with other local farms to grow his seeds, in addition to continuing to produce on High Mowing's 5 acres.

High Mowing was the first organic company to guarantee all its seeds are not genetically modified, and 20 years later, his company is one of the top organic seed companies in the U.S., with more than 60 employees.

"It is an honor to accept this award on behalf of all the work done by our team for the last 20 years since this hobby was born," Stearns said. "It has been a joy to see it grow and to know that we are just getting started. I get to do what I love every day and the work is diverse, challenging and creative.

"There is nothing more rewarding than bringing an idea to life in a way that serves health in the world, and it means a lot to me to have the work of our team recognized in this way."

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

In Morrisville, the next town over, a very different business also won an award from the Small Business Administration.

Caleb Magoon, 32, owner of PowerPlay Sports in Morrisville, was named 2015 young entrepreneur of the year.

The annual award is presented to business owners under 35 who have had success in sales, profits, increasing jobs, having innovative business methods and demonstrating entrepreneurial potential necessary for economic growth.

PowerPlay Sports was founded in 1995 by John Connell and Rob Maynard. After bouncing around several downtown locations, the store eventually landed at 35 Portland St.

Magoon began working at the store at 17. After graduating from Boston University, where he studied theater design, Magoon and a few friends established a theater company in Boston, produced shows, and won the Elliot Norton Awards for best production three years in a row.

However, as a native of Hyde Park, who grew up hiking, biking and skiing in the

Green Mountains, his passion for sports led him back to Vermont in 2010. He managed PowerPlay for a year, then bought the business from Maynard.

Magoon said working in theater helped him learn how to run a business. He and his friends each worked on different aspects within their theater company, including advertising, producing and financing, and learned from each other.

"If you can do that, business is easy. We learned to be business people," Magoon said.

Last year, Magoon moved his embroidery and screen-printing business—which was in an adjacent building—into the same location as his sports gear. He also opened a new store, Waterbury Sports, with two business partners in Waterbury.

WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

A Hyde Park business also received an award from the Small Business Administration.

Chef Debbie Burritt, owner and founder of Sweet Crunch Bakery and Catering Co., was selected as the Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

The bakeshop portion of the company provides desserts and wedding cakes to restaurants, resorts and the public. For catering, the company's goal is making every event unique and unforgettable.

Burritt has a staff to assist with all the details of event planning, and will customize menus to meet the individual needs of clients.

Burritt completed her culinary degree at Newbury College in Brookline, Mass., in 1987, and worked in Boston and Virginia before moving back to her native state, Vermont. After working at Stoweflake Resort and Trapp Family Lodge, both in Stowe, Burritt decided to venture out on her own in 2001.

RECOGNIZING BORDER AIR LTD.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, you don't have to look too far in Vermont to find any number of unique businesses. One such business is Border Air Ltd., led by its owner Cliff Coy. Cliff is the airport manager and unofficial "aviation ambassador" at the Franklin County State Airport in Swanton, VT. He also owns and runs Border Air Ltd., a maintenance and restoration company. He purchased Border Air Ltd. in 2007 from his father, George, who founded the company in 1989. Border Air specializes in restoring Soviet-era aircraft and is one of only five companies in the country with the qualifications to sell, maintain, and inspect them.

In addition to providing many services for the aviation enthusiasts who call Franklin County home, Border Air imports and exports planes to and from former Soviet nations, a practice that began after the senior Mr. Coy took a trip to Lithuania in 1989. George Coy heard of an Antonov An-2, the largest single-engine biplane ever built, which had just been restored and was listed for sale. In spite of a major malfunction while crossing the Black Sea with the An-2, the Coys were hooked on the idea of importing similar aircraft and selling them to American pilots.

Since then, over 300 planes have passed through Border Air's hangars,

some purchased by customers as far as Chicago. Through their work with pilots and aviation enthusiasts across the world, the Coy family has brought business to Swanton and helps to keep citizens safe by inspecting planes once a year to ensure they are up to Federal Aviation Administration safety codes. Though safety is most important, Cliff Coy also aims to inspire a love of flying in children and adults across the country by bringing students from nearby Missiquoi Valley Union High School to the airport to watch air show practices or speaking with anyone interested in planes from flying to skydiving.

The Coys represent an entrepreneurial spirit that is at the heart of Vermont. In Cliff Coy, we see a true commitment to and leadership with the community.

I ask unanimous consent that the April 14, 2016, article from Seven Days entitled "Border Air in Swanton Keeps Imported Planes Alive," which chronicles the Coys' history with Border Air Ltd., be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Seven Days, Apr. 14, 2016]

BORDER AIR IN SWANTON KEEPS IMPORTED  
PLANES ALIVE  
(By Ken Picard)

A stiff snow squall swirls around the main building at Franklin County State Airport in Swanton as a large, twin-engine turboprop prepares to roll out of the hangar. Airport manager Cliff Coy watches silently as the King Air B200 revs its engines with a high-pitched whine and slowly inches its way onto the tarmac.

The plane's wingtips are upturned for improved aerodynamics and fuel efficiency. It's just a fringe benefit that the design also allows the plane to squeeze through the hangar door.

"That's a 58-foot wingspan going through a 60-foot opening," Coy notes with a bemused smile. Once the wings clear the sides, he flashes a quick thumbs-up to his mechanic, Dan Marcotte, who's directing the pilot from the tarmac.

Unlike busy commercial hubs, such as Burlington International Airport, Franklin County State Airport doesn't have its own air traffic control tower. Many planes that use this runway lack radios, lights or on-board electrical systems.

The 46-year-old Coy wears many hats at this small, state-owned airstrip that's just a hop from the Canadian border. Besides managing the airport, he's the owner of Border Air Ltd., which was founded by his father, George Coy. As an FBO, or fixed-base operator, Border Air performs various functions for the flying public: fueling, inspection, maintenance, flight training, and providing hangar and tie-down space for parking aircraft. Coy calls its headquarters "a cross between a boat launch and a state park—and I'm the guy wearing the green shirt and the hat."

Beyond Coy's official duties, he's the airport's unofficial "aviation ambassador," which involves more than just greeting white-knuckled travelers when they land safely in inclement weather. Coy is Franklin County's go-to guy for anyone who's interested in learning more about airplanes,

whether that means fixing them, flying them, building them or jumping out of them with parachutes.

And, with fuel prices at historic lows, interest in aviation is soaring. That's not readily apparent on the morning I visit: Aside from the departing turboprop, about the only thing moving on the airfield is a semierect orange wind sock. But, according to Coy, KFSSO—the airport's Federal Aviation Administration abbreviation—is usually more active.

"This is the busiest airport in Vermont for general aviation," he says, referring to non-commercial and nonmilitary air traffic. "Come out here in six weeks on a Saturday, and this place will be humming with airplanes."

Those planes aren't just local flyers. In recent years, Coy has carved out a unique niche for himself in the wider world of aviation: He imports and exports planes to and from Russia and other former Soviet-bloc countries. One of only five companies in the country with the expertise to sell, service and inspect Soviet-era planes, Border Air also maintains, repairs and modifies them—an unusual specialty that Coy fell into almost by accident.

Coy got his degree in mechanical engineering from Vermont Technical College and studied computer science and physics at the University of New Mexico. Then, as he puts it, he faced an important life choice: "Am I going to spend the rest of my life in front of a computer screen, under bad fluorescent lighting? Or am I going to solve problems out in the field and get dirty?"

Coy began answering that question in 1988. That year, his uncle Bob, who was working on a sister-city exchange program, offered Coy a chance to travel to the Soviet Union after an injury forced a student in the program to drop out at the last minute.

Coy jumped at the opportunity—and not merely to see the Soviet Union as it began to open up to the West. Coy's father, George, himself a pilot and flight mechanic, was keenly interested in a Russian-built aircraft called the Antonov An-2. The 1,000-horsepower, 12-passenger plane is the world's largest single-engine biplane ever built. As Coy recalls, his father "became infatuated with it and absolutely had to have one."

While that trip offered the chance to see an An-2 firsthand, the Coys wouldn't get their hands on one until 1989, when George Coy learned that a company in Lithuania had a freshly overhauled An-2 for sale. As the Soviet Union neared its collapse, the Eastern Bloc countries were becoming like the Wild West, Cliff Coy recalls, with everything being sold off at bargain-basement prices. "So he strapped a pile of cash to a belt and flew out to Lithuania to go look at an airplane," says Cliff.

Since George didn't speak Lithuanian, and all the instrumentation was in Russian, the sellers taught him how to fly the plane. Convinced it was worth the investment, the Coys hired a Russian pilot and a farmer from Shelburne to help fly the An-2 back to Vermont.

Like many aviation adventures, Cliff Coy says, theirs began with a mechanical malfunction: The plane lost all of its oil above the clouds during a night crossing of the North Sea.\* As he recalls, "The Russian pilot knew very few words of English, and two of them were 'Very bad!'"

The An-2 managed to run for another half hour without oil before landing safely. Despite the mishap, the trip stoked the Coys' interest in importing more Russian and

Eastern European planes—such as two aerobatic trainer planes called Yakovlev Yak-52s that they'd seen in Lithuania. Sensing a business opportunity, the Coys began importing Russian and Eastern Bloc planes to the U.S. for American buyers.

Since 1989, Border Air has imported more than 300 such aircraft, including a Yak-55, which is currently under repair in the hangar in Swanton. With only about 250 Yak-52s still actively flying in the United States, Coy has loyal clients who fly to Swanton from as far west as Chicago to get their planes serviced.

What's the plane's appeal? For one thing, Coy points out, Yak-52s closely resemble World War II fighter planes. And, given the Soviets' efficient engineering, he adds, "You're basically able to maintain it out in a farmer's field with a flathead screwdriver and a wrench. So they're incredibly rugged and inexpensive."

The Coys pretty much stopped importing Russian aircraft in 2005, when the dollar-to-Euro exchange rate made them prohibitively expensive. The sale price of the Yak-52, for example, jumped from \$120,000 to \$380,000.

In 2007, Coy bought Border Air from his father. These days, much of his business has reversed direction—it involves moving planes and pilots from the U.S. to Russia instead of vice versa.

In the Soviet era, the only Russians who flew planes were military pilots; when the country opened up civil aviation, many Russians became interested in flying American aircraft. Until the Russian ruble crashed last year, Border Air was exporting about two containers of American-made planes to Russia every three months.

Recent changes overseas have brought a whole new crop of flyers to Swanton. In 2011, a wave of bad aviation accidents in Russia killed scores of people. Putting the blame on pilots who had obtained their licenses fraudulently, the Russian government closed flight schools across the country.

The virtual shutdown of civil aviation in Russia could have sent Coy's business into a tailspin. But then Russians began coming to the United States—including the flight school in Swanton—to obtain pilot's licenses. Apparently placing greater trust in American flight schools than in its own, the Russian government converts U.S. pilots' licenses into Russian ones, Coy says.

Just as Coy is explaining the process, two Russian men with crew cuts and black coats pass en route to a small trainer plane to begin their flight lessons. According to Coy, they're former Russian fighter pilots who are logging flight time and learning to fly in U.S. airspace. "There's a bit of a mind shift when you go from flying something at 300 miles per hour to flying something at 60 miles per hour," he says.

Of course, not all of Coy's work involves Russians and Russian planes. As an FAA-licensed inspector, he ensures that the aircraft he encounters are flightworthy. By law, every aircraft, from a commercial Boeing 777 to the one-seat Ultralight hanging from the hangar rafters, must be inspected annually.

"I've seen things where you wonder how these people even made it here alive," Coy says. "Unbelievably scary stuff."

For example, he recalls encountering a pilot who reported that his plane was flying funny. When Coy checked it out, he noticed that the bottom of the fuselage was blue—from the dye used to identify aircraft fuel. Coy instantly spotted the problem: The fuel line wasn't hooked up. When he went to adjust the propeller control, it broke off in his

hand. Next, he discovered that the starboard engine wasn't bolted onto the frame and the landing gear wasn't installed correctly. The result: a 60-page report to the FAA.

Getting people passionate and up in the air is Coy's mission. And, notwithstanding the back issues of *Cigar Aficionado* in the airport waiting room, he says he meets a diverse cross-section of people who are aviation enthusiasts.

Granted, it's not a cheap hobby: The costs of purchasing and maintaining airplanes may seem daunting enough to dissuade anyone without a seven-figure trust fund. But, Coy points out, most people who fly these days rent their planes. (Coy himself doesn't own one.) And enthusiasts who decide to take the next step can buy a plane for as little as \$15,000, on par with the price of a boat.

Coy does a lot of outreach to local schools, hoping to get the next generation interested in flying. Sometimes that means showing the kids his various "museum pieces"—the historic aircraft parked in various hangars on the airfield. Or he'll invite students from nearby Missisquoi Valley Union High School to watch his mechanic, Marcotte, practice his air-show maneuvers during his lunch hour. (Burlingtonians know Marcotte as the pilot who flies acrobatic stunts over the waterfront before the annual July 3 fireworks show.)

"Look, if you have any interest in flying, we'll take you for a ride in an airplane," Coy says. "That's what we do, because we want to get people interested in flying."

\*Correction, April 14, 2016: An earlier version of this story misreported Coy's age—it is 46. The body of water over which Coy's plane experienced engine trouble was the North Sea, not the Black Sea. Additionally, aviation enthusiasts can buy a plane for \$15,000, not the higher number originally reported.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the substitute to H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, due to a funeral I attended for a neighbor in Newark, NJ. Had I been present in the Senate today, I would have voted against cloture.●

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about the urgent need for Congress to approve emergency funds to fight the Zika virus.

The Zika virus is a rapidly growing public health threat, and the stakes for women are particularly high. The virus is carried by two species of mosquito. They are found in 40 States in this country.

There have been 388 travel-related cases in the United States—meaning an individual was infected during a trip to Latin America, South America, or the Caribbean, where the virus is widespread. There have not yet been any reported cases of local transmission in

the continental United States, although more than 500 cases have been reported in Puerto Rico. It is a matter of when, not if, that happens—particularly as we approach the summer season when mosquitos are most active.

Scientists are still working to understand the effects of the Zika virus, but we do know that Zika causes severe, brain-related birth defects in babies when women are infected during pregnancy.

Microcephaly, one of the most serious effects of Zika, causes babies' heads to be much smaller than normal. In severe cases, you will also see seizures, developmental delays, intellectual disabilities, feeding problems, hearing loss, and vision problems.

The CDC continues to research the virus, and it could be several years before the full-range of health effects is known.

One of the most concerning gaps in our scientific knowledge is how the disease is transmitted from person to person. The most common way people contract the disease is through mosquito bites, but there have been documented cases of the virus being spread from men to women through sexual contact.

Zika symptoms are mild—fever, rash, and joint pain—meaning that many people may become infected and spread with disease without knowing they have it. Unless we act now, we could end up with a significant number of Zika carriers who don't know they are infected.

The administration has asked Congress for \$1.9 billion in emergency funding to stop the spread of the Zika virus. I fully support this funding request. The Federal Government needs this money for a number of reasons, including controlling mosquito populations, researching the virus, educating the public, and developing a vaccine.

As the weather warms, Zika will spread faster, particularly in States with persistent mosquito issues. We simply can't ignore public health threats of this magnitude, hoping they will go away.

In closing, Congress cannot afford to delay. I strongly urge the Senate to approve the administration's sensible request to fight this growing public health threat.

#### NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, is coordinating the latest National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Take back days are nationwide efforts to remove old or unused prescription drugs from medicine cabinets so they don't fall into the wrong hands and lead to substance abuse and addiction. I am proud to have helped

encourage take back days a few years ago by working with Senators KLOBUCHAR, CORNYN, and BROWN to pass the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, health care providers wrote almost a quarter of a billion opioid prescriptions in 2013, enough for every American adult to have his or her own bottle of pills. The accumulation of these medicines in our homes creates a public health risk, since they can be accidentally ingested, abused, stolen, and passed on to others. According to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.5 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs that year. According to that same study, a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

Obviously, the consequences of this prescription drug abuse can be dangerous and even deadly. Prescription drug abuse may lead to abuse of other drugs like heroin, which is cheaper and more readily available. In 2014, more than 47,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States, an alltime high. Incredibly, more than half of those deaths involved prescription opioids or heroin.

So raising public awareness about the dangers of abuse and reducing the availability of unused medications are important components of preventing prescription drug abuse and addiction. The take back day initiative is a great way to make progress on both fronts.

Beginning in September 2010, the DEA has coordinated these days twice a year, with fantastic results. At the most recent event last September, Americans turned in 350 tons of prescription drugs at more than 5,000 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,800 of its State and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 10 previous take back events, DEA and its partners have taken in more than 2,750 tons of pills. It is not an exaggeration to say that take back events have probably saved lives.

Now, for some unexplained reason, the Obama administration decided to discontinue this program a few years ago, but in May 2015, I was a member of a bipartisan group of Senators that wrote to the Department of Justice, urging that it be reinstated. A few months later, DEA Acting Administrator Rosenberg did so. I am grateful for that decision.

In fact, I support expanding take back opportunities, by creating additional permanent, convenient disposal sites for the public. Expansion of the program along these lines is explicitly authorized in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, a bill I guided through the Judiciary Committee in February. It subsequently passed the Senate by a vote of 94-1.

So I urge everyone in Iowa and across the country to check your homes for unneeded or expired medicines. If you find any, please take part in this year's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday. Participating locations typically include neighborhood pharmacies and local fire and police departments. You can locate a specific collection site near you on the DEA's website. This is one small way we can each do our part to reduce the risk of drug abuse and addiction for our families and communities.

#### DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to raise awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy and the boys and young men who suffer from this devastating disease.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy was first brought to my attention 15 years ago, when I met Brian and Alice Denger of Biddeford, ME. The Dengers had two wonderful sons, Matthew and Patrick, who were both born with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Patrick, now 19, is a student at the University of New England. He recently received his driver's license and enjoys driving in Maine. His brother Matthew was a 20-year-old student at UNE when he died from the disease about 3 years ago. The Dengers also have a daughter, Rachel, with juvenile diabetes. They are a loving and courageous family whose strength and spirit directly inspired me to become involved in the fight for research funding to combat muscular dystrophy.

Brian Denger was the first to tell me of the terrible progression of this type of muscular dystrophy. Symptoms begin in early childhood, and boys quickly experience severe and rapidly progressing muscle degeneration, which often results in their losing the ability to walk. Tragically, most die prematurely as a result of muscle-related cardiac and respiratory problems.

In 2001, what really caught my attention was that the treatment options for boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy were incredibly limited and aimed at managing symptoms in an attempt to optimize quality of life for the limited time that these children would have to share with us. Research had not yielded any meaningful way to extend the lifespan of children suffering from the disease. That is why I joined with the late Senator Paul Wellstone in introducing the MD CARE Act, to raise awareness and expand Federal support for research into this debilitating disease. It was signed into law and last reauthorized in 2014 and has resulted in dramatically improved and standardized clinical care for those with the disease. I have also fought diligently for increased funding for the Duchenne programs at the National In-

stitutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Today there is some good news for the boys—and now—young men with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and their families. A number of therapeutic strategies are currently under development, and we have made dramatic progress to improve the quality and length of life for those who suffer from the disease. In fact, the average lifespan of Duchenne patients has increased by about a decade since the MD CARE Act became law.

Given our Nation's wealth of scientific expertise, however, we can and should do more for families like the Dengers. We are making progress, but this is no time to take our foot off the accelerator. The \$2 billion increase in funding for NIH that was included in the fiscal year 2016 funding bill will pay dividends for patients and their families. I urge my colleagues to continue to work collaboratively to sustain this commitment to biomedical research, which holds tremendous promise for finding better treatments and, ultimately, a cure for devastating diseases like Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

#### REMEMBERING JOHN HEINZ

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, on April 4, we marked 25 years since Pennsylvania Senator John Heinz died in a plane crash. I am honored to serve in the Senate seat he held from 1977 to 1991.

Five years ago, I paid tribute to Senator Heinz for his public service as a Senator. Today, I am going to focus on his leadership on the Special Committee on Aging. Senator Heinz served as chairman of that committee from 1981 to 1987. Pennsylvania is one of the oldest States in the country, and through this position, Senator Heinz was a strong advocate for seniors. During his chairmanship, the Special Committee on Aging held 34 hearings in Washington, DC, and countless more around the Nation. The committee also produced over 60 reports and papers. Senator Heinz would often use what he learned through these investigations and reports to inform his work as a member of the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Social Security and Medicare programs.

John Heinz once said, "Working together, we can lay the groundwork for a society that respects age and the elderly and that truly realizes the benefits of the experience, wisdom, and judgement of older Americans." As chairman of the Aging Committee, his first responsibility was not to party or partisanship, but to older Americans whose interests the committee was created to support and protect. Frank McArdle, a member of Senator Heinz's staff once commented:

What Heinz brought to many issues . . . was a sense of outrage. He could channel

that anger toward public policy that would correct the injustices that hurt vulnerable populations. When he seized upon a situation like that, he wouldn't let go. His outrage over what was happening to defenseless people gave him an energy and a commitment to see it through.

As chairman, Senator Heinz took on the powerful in defense of the powerless.

Senator Heinz was an honorable public servant for our Commonwealth and our Nation. He focused intensively on the challenges facing our seniors and worked tirelessly to find solutions to their problems. We continue to be inspired by his distinguished service on behalf of the older citizens of Pennsylvania.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. SHEILA CROWLEY

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I do not often recognize non-Vermonters on the floor of the Senate, but I rise today to applaud the numerous and significant achievements of Dr. Sheila Crowley. Dr. Crowley recently retired as president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, after decades of advocacy to make sure people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. It has truly been an honor to work closely with Sheila on issues related to affordable housing.

I am particularly proud of our efforts to create the national housing trust fund, the only Federal program designed to build new affordable rental housing specifically for extremely low-income individuals. In the early 2000s, Sheila provided invaluable assistance to my office as we drafted the first House version of the trust fund and shepherded the legislation through its first votes in the House Financial Services Committee.

For the next 15 years, Sheila built grassroots support across the country for the trust fund, to keep the pressure on Federal lawmakers. Despite numerous setbacks—and one serious housing market collapse—she tirelessly advocated for addressing the significant housing needs of people with limited economic resources. It is a fitting testament to her tenacity that just as she prepared to retire, the Federal Housing Finance Agency began capitalizing the trust fund for the first time. Later this year, States will receive the first new Federal affordable housing production funds in decades, and for that, Sheila Crowley deserves an enormous amount of credit.

Not surprisingly, Sheila received the 2009 John W. Macy award from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Housing Leadership Award from the National Low Income Housing Coalition for her work on the National

Housing Trust Fund campaign. But I am guessing the award Sheila will cherish most will be when, in the not-too-distant future, tenants move into the first trust fund financed affordable housing.

I cannot overstate the importance of Sheila's work and her accomplishments. We are experiencing nothing less than an affordable housing crisis on the national level. In order to afford the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 102 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

Throughout her tenure at the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Sheila was not just a resolute advocate; she was also a vital resource on housing policy to many members of Congress. She also worked closely with organizations focused on homeless services, family housing, AIDS housing, housing for people with disabilities, senior housing, and services for battered women and victims of rape.

And while her focus was national, Sheila often travelled to States to support local housing efforts, including in my State of Vermont. She was a frequent keynote speaker at Vermont conferences and a valued partner in developing local responses to our housing challenges. I know a great many Vermonters who worked closely with Sheila and hold her in the highest esteem.

I wish Dr. Sheila Crowley all the best in her well-deserved retirement, and I am confident her affordable housing efforts will continue to bear fruit for decades to come.●

#### NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize seersucker manufacturers and enthusiasts across the United States. I wish everyone a Happy National Seersucker Day. This uniquely American fashion has a storied history dating back to 1909. Louisiana is proud to have played an important part in introducing the country to seersucker apparel. The first seersucker suit was designed by Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans, LA.

This lightweight cotton fabric, known for its signature pucker, has been worn and enjoyed by Americans across the country during the hot summer months. Mr. Haspel said it best, "hot is hot, no matter what you do for a living." In the 1990s, Seersucker Day was established by Members of this chamber to honor this unique American fashion. I proudly resumed this tradition in 2014 in the U.S. House of Representatives by designating Wednesday, June 11, as National Seersucker Day. I have continued this tradition in the U.S. Senate and wish to designate Thursday, June 9, as the third annual National Seersucker Day.

I encourage everyone to wear seersucker on this day to commemorate this iconic American clothing.

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER HENRY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a distinguished member of my staff, my legislative director, Peter Henry. I am sad to say that Peter will be leaving my office, as well as Washington, DC, for a new chapter in his life. His last day is April 29, 2016. He and his beautiful wife Libby, his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Winnie, and his daughter-to-be will soon move back to his hometown of Kansas City. Peter has taken a job working in the private sector, where I know he will excel and succeed as he has during his time with my office.

Peter was one of the first staff members I hired after I became Senator, but Peter's time in Washington began back in 2005 when he came to our Nation's capital straight out of college. Prior to joining my team, Peter made a name for himself as a sharp and capable Hill staffer, rising quickly through the ranks in three different Senators' offices before moving to the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, where he had a lead role in surface transportation issues.

Given his breadth of experience and the deep respect he fostered with his colleagues, Peter no doubt had his choice of offices to work for, but he chose to work for me. For that, I am immensely grateful. Being a freshman Senator is not easy, and being staff to a freshman senator is certainly a challenge. Peter rose to the challenge. He put together the best legislative team I could have imagined. He handled stress under fire, taught us about complex Senate procedures, and adeptly helped me navigate the minefields that can be Washington politics. His intelligence, integrity, strong work ethic, sense of fair play, and his good nature will be sorely missed in my office.

Peter is also a patriot and made sure to set us on the right track to serve the great people of Alaska and the rest of the country. I can't thank Peter enough for all the work he has done for me and for the rest of my staff. He leaves a hole, but I am comforted to know that his future is bright and that he will continue to contribute to our great country by working hard at his new endeavor and, most importantly, raising a wonderful family.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO EVELYN CANTU

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Evelyn Cantu for her hard work as an intern in

my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Evelyn is a native of Texas. She currently attends Casper College, where she is studying political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Evelyn for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID JOST

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to David Jost for his hard work as an intern in my Riverton office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

David is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where he received a B.A. in psychology, B.S. in sociology, and M.S. in neurophysiology. David has also received a master of natural resources from Virginia Tech. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank David for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CJI

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the elementary students of Chester-Joplin-Inverness, CJI. These students took part in Chester's annual Harvest 4 Hunger Campaign. All together, they gathered 2136.5 pounds of nonperishable food.

CJI is a combination of three towns up on what we call the Highline in Montana. The towns are Chester, Joplin, and Inverness. These three town have come together to make one great school to serve the students of the area.

There are 108 elementary students at CJI, and they did such a wonderful thing for families in the area. Harvest 4 Hunger is a campaign operated by CHS to gather nonperishable food items and money donations to give to local charities to feed families in need.

Now I hear the students had a little motivation for bringing food in. The winning classes at the end of each week were rewarded with a pizza party.

There is no better motivation than a pizza party. I read a lot quotes from the kids, and it sounds like they had a great time collecting the food, and they were happy to get the chance to help people in need. One student told their teacher Miss Manion, That is what Hawks do.

It makes me so proud to see young Montanans helping out their communities. These students did such a wonderful thing. Great job, and God bless.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Veterans Guest House for its unwavering commitment and loyalty to providing our servicemembers, veterans, and their families lodging while they address their own health care needs at medical facilities throughout northern Nevada. The Veterans Guest House is one of a kind for our great State and is an invaluable resource to our military community.

The Veterans Guest House was founded over two decades ago when a mother and her children were found sleeping in their car while their veteran father was in the intensive care unit at the local VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. In the early 1990s, founders of the Veterans Guest House—Chuck Fulkerson, Dick Rhyno, Thomas Purkey, Minor Kelso, Robert Crowell, Esq., Wally Willson, Lois Crocker, David Parsons, Joseph Rooney, Charles Grundy, Jes Barbera, Don Anderson, Lew Carnahan, Ben Duncan, Jeani Hunt, Jim Martin, Manuel Muniz, Rick Sorenson, Ensio Tosolini, Joe Scamihorn, William Wood, Len Crocker, Kit McGrath, Richard Shuster, Elaine McNeill, Rand Tanner, Chester Henry, and Ted Buchwald—realized that many veterans and their families lacked a place to stay while family members received medical treatment, and in 1994, they created the Spouse House. By 1998, the facility grew to offer five beds for veterans and their families.

In 2002, the facility was officially named the Veterans Guest House, and on Veterans Day in 2004, with only private donations, the organization purchased and renovated a 3-story home across the street from the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. This facility now accommodates up to 17 guests. The Veterans Guest House provides both long-term and short-term lodging to veterans and their families for various situations, including veterans receiving outpatient care, families of veterans who are hospitalized, and veterans' immediate family members who are receiving medical treatment as an inpatient or outpatient. In the 22 years since its inception, the Veterans Guest House has served over 55,000 nights to vet-

erans, veteran spouses, and veteran families.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but those at the Veterans Guest House have gone above and beyond to show their appreciation. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to chief executive officer Noreen Leary, the incredible staff, and the many dedicated individuals who volunteer at the Veterans Guest House, in addition to president Terry Tholl, vice President Monk Maim, secretary Lucy Miller, treasurer Carol Langford, and past and present members serving on the board of directors. These individuals helping our active military members, veterans, and their families at the Veterans Guest House stand as shining examples of the manner in which we should respect our men and women in uniform. The unwavering dedication of the Veterans Guest House to providing our brave men and women with a place to stay is commendable, and I am proud to honor it today.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. Equally as important, it is crucial that these servicemembers and their families have a place to stay while receiving quality care. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service organizations like the Veterans Guest House are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing the Veterans Guest House, an organization whose mission is noble and charitable. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge this organization and its work to provide active military members, veterans, and their families a safe place to stay, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

#### REMEMBERING THOMAS C. SWEENEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the people of Kodiak, AK, will gather on Saturday, May 7, to celebrate the life of Thomas "Tom" Cornelius Sweeney. Tom passed away on March 29 at the age of 84.

Tom was born on February 9, 1932, in Helena, MT. He first came to Kodiak as a member of the U.S. Navy, then returned to work construction and married Nancy Ann Norman. Nancy's family owned the gift and photo shop, Norman's.

Tom first pursued a career in law enforcement, serving as a territorial po-

liceman, detective, State trooper, and private investigator. That took Tom and Nancy to various cities in Alaska. Following the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami, they returned to Kodiak for good. Tom and Nancy helped Nancy's family restore Norman's following the disaster. Tom pursued his entrepreneurial interests in oil sales, automobile sales and service, and finally insurance brokerage before retiring in 1996—a well-rounded career.

He was equally committed to the Kodiak community, serving as president of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce, the Kodiak Rotary Club, and Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #18, which Tom helped reactivate in 1983. His statewide leadership roles included service as state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and chairman of the Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Tom leaves behind his beloved wife of 60 years, Nancy, two sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a large extended family. I join with the people of Kodiak in celebrating the life of this great Alaska pioneer.●

#### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF YORK COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

● Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate the York County Children's Advocacy Center on the celebration of their 10th anniversary.

The York County Children's Advocacy Center opened its doors in May of 2006 in York, PA. Since its opening, the center has stayed true to its mission "to reduce the trauma of child abuse investigations, foster professional collaboration and cooperation, and provide education and advocacy regarding the prevention of child abuse within the community."

Without a child advocacy center, if a child is brave enough to report abuse, that child is often required to retell and, thus, relive the abuse through multiple, repetitive interviews with child protective services, prosecutors, police, victim services, and medical and mental health providers. The interviews often occur in places that magnify the child's trauma—police stations, emergency rooms, or offices of lawyers and social workers.

The York Child Advocacy Center, by contrast, brings together law enforcement, trained interviewers, child protective services, medical providers, and mental health experts in a child-friendly, safe house, where an abused child feels secure and only has to undergo one interview and one physical exam.

As a result of the center's tireless efforts, over 3,000 children have received vital services. The York County Children's Advocacy Center has achieved many important milestones. Some of these milestones include earning full accreditation through the National



Children's Alliance, expanding their forensic interviewing and forensic medical services, and being accepted as a United Way partner agency. Each of these milestones has allowed the York County Children's Advocacy Center to better serve the most vulnerable in our society, our children.

On behalf of the Senate, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the York County Children's Advocacy Center as they celebrate 10 years of dedicated service to York County's children and families.●

TRIBUTE TO EVA ENCINIAS-SANDOVAL

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a great New Mexican and a great American. Eva Encinias-Sandoval is a pioneer and a cultural icon in the world of flamenco in New Mexico.

New Mexico has a long and rich cultural history with flamenco as one of its dynamic traditions. Flamenco is a complex art form that originated in Spain and blends influences from different cultures. It mixes both discipline and spontaneity.

With sweeping, expressive arm movements and rhythmic stomping often accompanied by singing or music, flamenco is more than a form of dance. It incorporates guitar, percussion, and song as integral parts of the art form.

Eva Encinias-Sandoval's career in flamenco spans more than 40 years. Her professional expertise includes performance, teaching choreography, concert production, and direction.

Eva began dancing and teaching flamenco at a young age. Her mother, Clarita, was also a dancer, and Eva started her training at the age of 5.

At age 14, Eva began teaching students in her mother's studio, and in 1973, she formed her first flamenco dance company, Ritmo Flamenco. The following year, she enrolled in the University of New Mexico, though the dance department did not offer flamenco classes at the time.

Eva began teaching flamenco as a single course offering at UNM in 1976. Now, the program of study includes all levels of flamenco technique and specialized topics. As a result of Eva's dedication and passion, UNM is the only institution in the country that offers bachelor of arts and masters of fine arts degrees with a concentration in flamenco.

Eva later went on to establish the National Institute of Flamenco in 1982. NIF is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of flamenco in the United States. With Eva's artistic vision and guidance, the organization has expanded to include several thriving programs, such as the Conservatory of Flamenco Arts, Festival Flamenco Internacional de Albuquerque, Alma Flamenca, and many others.

Eva's work has also helped bring renowned international flamenco artists from Spain and other parts of the world to study and teach in our State, adding a depth of knowledge and expertise to her students' experiences. She hopes that her students will become the better artists by learning alongside the best artists.

She was the first woman inducted into the Albuquerque Wall of Fame, has received three Bravo awards, and accolades from her colleagues and students.

Despite the importance of these awards and honors, they are not what distinguishes Eva most. Instead, it is the example she sets in always doing her best, always giving back, and always striving for excellence.

Eva has changed her community as a talented dancer and teacher who has inspired countless students. She is deeply committed to her community and pays equal attention to young, less experienced dancers as more advanced students.

Although the origins of flamenco are cloudy, the Encinias family is a true "flamenco family." Eva's children, Marisol and Joaquin, are both dancers. Her passion and legacy will live on through them, as well as her students who can be found at NIF, UNM, and now, Tierra Adentro, a local charter school that incorporates flamenco into its curriculum.

Our State is fortunate to have someone like Eva Encinias-Sandoval, who not only sees the beauty of art, but also the beauty of our culture. Flamenco will continue to grow in New Mexico thanks to her dedicated work and the love of dance she continues to share with the community.

By educating mostly New Mexican students, Eva views flamenco as an opportunity to teach our State's youth programs relevant to whom they are as a people. Flamenco is an art form that is as unique as the artists who study it.

Whether through an appreciation or dedication to the art form, Eva Encinias-Sandoval has brought flamenco into the lives of countless New Mexicans. Her love for the art has not gone unnoticed, and I commend her for all of her accomplishments and her service to our State.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 699. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4240. An act to require an independent review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and subsets of the TSDB, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4498. An act to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law.

H.R. 4923. An act to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4240. An act to require an independent review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and subsets of the TSDB, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4498. An act to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5288. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 9945-28-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5289. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Environmental Protection Agency

Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR); Institutional Oversight of Life Science Dual Use Research of Concern (IDURC)" (FRL No. 9941-86-OARM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5290. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Extensions of the Attainment Date, and Reclassification of Several Areas for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9945-17-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5291. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Plan Revisions; Arizona; Rescissions and Corrections" (FRL No. 9945-78-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5292. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities; Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units" (FRL No. 9945-71-Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5293. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Plans; Georgia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9945-60-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5294. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quality Assurance Requirements for Cleaning of Fluid Systems and Associated Components of Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants" (NRC-2014-0158) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5295. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Laboratory Investigations of Soils and Rocks for Engineering Analysis and Design of Nuclear Power Plants" (Regulatory Guide 1.138, Revision 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5296. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Assessment of Licensed Operators or Applicants for Operator Licenses at Nuclear Power Plants" (Regulatory Guide 1.134, Revision 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5297. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regu-

latory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Welder Qualification for Welding in Areas of Limited Accessibility in Fuel Reprocessing Plants and in Plutonium Processing and Fuel Fabrication Plants" (NRC-2014-0069) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5298. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Preheat and Interpass Temperature Control for the Welding of Low-Alloy Steel for Use in Fuel Reprocessing Plants and in Plutonium Processing and Fuel Fabrication Plants" (NRC-2014-0070) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5299. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Response Strategies for Potential Aircraft Threats" (Regulatory Guide 1.124, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5300. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compilation of Reporting Requirements for Persons Subject to NRC Regulations" (NRC-2014-0144) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5301. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. support for Taiwan's participation as an observer at the 69th World Health Assembly and in the work of the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5302. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Financial and Actuarial Information Reporting" (RIN1212-AB30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5303. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5304. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Bucksport/Lake Murray Drag Boat Spring National, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Bucksport, SC" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5305. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Net Positive Suction Head for Emergency Core

Cooling and Containment Heat Removal System Pumps" (NRC-2015-0107) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 434. A bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-246).

S. 1620. A bill to reduce duplication of information technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-247).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 340. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS or Da'esh) is committing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and calling upon the President to work with foreign governments and the United Nations to provide physical protection for ISIS' targets, to support the creation of an international criminal tribunal with jurisdiction to punish these crimes, and to use every reasonable means, including sanctions, to destroy ISIS and disrupt its support networks.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 381. A resolution honoring the memory and legacy of Michael James Riddering and condemning the terrorist attacks in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on January 15, 2016.

S. Res. 394. A resolution recognizing the 195th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. Res. 418. A resolution recognizing Hafsat Abiola, Khanim Latif, Yoani Sanchez, and Akanksha Hazari for their selflessness and dedication to their respective causes, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 436. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 442. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels and honoring the memory of the United States citizens murdered in those attacks, and offering thoughts and prayers for all the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the Belgian people, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of Belgium and all our allies in the face of continuing terrorist attacks on freedom and liberty.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2555. A bill to provide opportunities for broadband investment, and for other purposes.

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 2824. A bill to designate the Federal building housing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Headquarters located at 99 New York Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C., as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building".

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

S. 2845. A bill to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

\*Swati A. Dandekar, of Iowa, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Swati A. Dandekar, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.  
Date: 12/14/2015.

SWATI A. DANDEKAR.

Dandekar, Swati Arvind  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee Form Item B6

Year 2015 (thru July 20, 2015)  
Individual/Organization, Dollars, and Level (Local, State or National):

Sam Gray, \$250, State Representative Elections; Kumar Barve, \$1500, U.S. Congress (Maryland); Iowa Democratic Party, \$200 (EST), State; Dubuque County Democratic Central Committee, \$60, Local.

Year 2014  
Iowa Democratic Party, \$1,500 (EST), State; Linn Phoenix Club, \$250 (EST), Local; Linn County Democratic Central Committee, \$100 (EST), Local; Citizens for Gronstal, \$250, State.

Year 2013  
Iowa Senate Fund, \$250, State; Daniel Lundby, \$200, State; Susie Weinacht, \$700, Local; First District Democrats, \$130, Iowa US congress District #1; Mark Smith, \$100, State; Liz Bennett, \$250, State; Citizens for Gronstal, \$250, State; Citizens for Jochum, \$150, State; Linn Phoenix Club, \$250 (EST), Local; Buchanan County Democratic Central Committee, \$25, Local; Iowa Democratic Party, \$1,500, State.

Year 2012  
Rob Hogg, \$25, State; Daniel Lundby, \$100, State; Linn County Democratic Central Committee, \$100 (EST), Local; Linn Phoenix Club, \$250 (EST), Local; Iowa Democratic Party, \$1,500 (EST), State.

Year 2011  
Linn County Democratic Central Committee, \$100 (EST), Local; Linn Phoenix Club, \$250 (EST), Local; Iowa Democratic Party, \$1,500 (EST), State.

\*Adam H. Sterling, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic.

Nominee: Adam H. Sterling.  
Post: Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

- Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
- 1. Self: None.
- 2. Spouse: None.
- 3. Children and Spouses: Elka Sterling, None; Bram Sterling, None.
- 4. Parents: Stanley Sterling, deceased; Gloria Sterling, deceased.
- 5. Grandparents: Albert Wolfson, deceased; Mollie Wolfson, deceased; Eddie Sterling, deceased; Janie Wolfson, deceased.
- 6. Brothers and Spouses: None.
- 7. Sisters and Spouses: Judith Gitel, \$5/month, DCCC House Democrats Act Blue; Abbie & Mark Frank, None.

\*Kelly Keiderling-Franz, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

Nominee: Kelly Keiderling.  
Post: Uruguay.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

- Contributions, amount, date, donee:
- 1. Self: \$0.
- 2. Spouse: David W. Franz: \$0.
- 3. Children and Spouses (not married): Katherine K. Franz: \$0; Alexander K. Franz: \$0.
- 4. Parents: Wallace E. Keiderling—deceased; Maria del Rosario Keiderling: \$0.
- 5. Grandparents: Katherine Keiderling—deceased; Harvey Keiderling—deceased; Domingo Soruco—deceased; Luisa Rios de Soruco—deceased.
- 6. Brothers and Spouses: Keith L. Keiderling: \$0; Hedy Cyker: \$0.
- 7. Sisters and Spouses: Casey J. Keiderling: \$0; Jacques Naquet-Radigue: \$0.

\*Stephen Michael Schwartz, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Nominee: Stephen Michael Schwartz.  
Post: Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

- Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
- 1. Self: \$100, 07-13-13, Friends of Barbara Nuchereno.
- 2. Spouse: Kristy Doreen Cook: none.
- 3. Children and Spouses (Both children under 16 years of age): Hannah Hagere Schwartz: none, Jonas Randolph Schwartz: none.
- 4. Parents: Robert Norman Schwartz, none; Carole Lesses Schwartz—Deceased; Jean Suto Schwartz (Father's second wife), \$125, 10-22-13, Friends of Barbara Nuchereno.
- 5. Grandparents: Edward Idal Schwartz—Deceased; Liza Dudnik Schwartz—Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Edward A. Schwartz (brother), none; Sharon F. Schwartz (sister-in-law), none; Lewis L. Schwartz (brother), \$250, 08-29-12, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$250, 08-29-12, Obama for America; Patricia Pierson Schwartz (sister-in-law), \$250, 08-29-12, Obama for America; \$250, 10-23-13, Friends of Barbara Nuchereno.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Barbara Schwartz Nuchereno (sister), \$150, 06-07-15, Brenda FreedmanFamily Court; \$400, 09-25-14, Patrick Gallivan/NYS Senate; \$580, 07-25-12, Guy Marlette/Amherst Town Cncil; \$25, 05-01-13, Amherst Century Club; \$150, 03-06-13, Debra Givens/NYS Supreme Court; \$580, 07-25-12, Guy Marlette/Amherst Town Cncil; \$325, 05-12-12, Amherst Republicans. Louis J. Nuchereno (brother-in-law): \$250, 08-26-15, Danielle Restaino/Judge; \$125, 05-29-15, Ed Rath/County Legislator; \$1,000, 10-23-14, Ort for NYS Senate; \$15,260, 02-07-14, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; \$1,000, 10-22-13, Paul Wojtaszek/NYS Supr. Court; \$1,000, 09-03-13, DeBlasio/NYC Mayor; \$5,000, 09-11-13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; \$15,000, 08-30-13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; \$75, 07-26-13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; \$10,000, 06-24-13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; \$1,000, 06-24-13, Andrews/State Treasurer; \$250, 04-29-13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; \$250, 02-01-13, Mary Carney/Erie Cnty Family Crt; \$250, 06-20-12, Andrews/State Treasurer; \$2,500, 06-18-12, Mitt Romney/US President; \$2,500, 06-18-12, Mitt Romney/US President.

\*Christine Ann Elder, of Kentucky, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Liberia.

Nominee: Christine A. Elder.  
Post: Monrovia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

- Contributions, amount, date, donee:
- 1. Self: Christine A. Elder: none, N/A, N/A.
- 2. Spouse (see below note): Paul R. Hughes, Jr.: \$500, 3/30/11, Lofgren for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$500, 8/4/11, Friends of Roger Wicker; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$500, 11/15/11, Lofgren for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$500, 5/29/12, Anna Eshoo for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$500, 3/7/13, Anna Eshoo for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$1,000, 4/4/13, Lofgren for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$750, 1/15/14, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$500, 10/31/14, Lofgren for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$500, 3/23/15, Ready PAC; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., \$500, 6/30/15, Lofgren for Congress.
- 3. Children and Spouses: Eleanor A. Hughes: none, N/A, N/A; Christopher P. Hughes: none, N/A, N/A.
- 4. Parents: Allen M. Elder: none, N/A, N/A; Diane L. Elder, none, N/A, N/A.
- 5. Grandparents: Verrill J. Cass (deceased): none, N/A, N/A; Dorothy A. Cass (deceased): none, N/A, N/A; William Elder (deceased): none, N/A, N/A; Selma Geyer (deceased): none, N/A, N/A.
- 6. Brothers and Spouses: Gregory A. Elder: none, N/A, N/A.
- 7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A: none, N/A, N/A.  
Note re item 2 above: My husband's political giving record is bipartisan. Republican contributions outside the covered period include: Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Rep.

Lamar Smith (R-TX), Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R-WA), Longhorn PAC, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Rep. Rick White (R-WA), Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), and Rep. Connie Morella (R-VA). After November 2010, when his then-employer Adobe hired a Republican head of DC office <http://c1oo.01/Jul5uD> my husband focused his contributions on Democrats.

\*Elizabeth Holzhall Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic.

Nominee: Elizabeth Holzhall Richard.  
Post: Lebanon.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: (deceased).
3. Children and Spouses: N/A.
4. Parents: Vern F. Holzhall—None. Mary V. Holzhall—None.
5. Grandparents: (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: Vern J. Holzhall/Marianne Holzhall—None. John J. Holzhall/Rosalba Sanchez Burgos—\$25.00, 2012, Ron Paul.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Cheryl Sargent—None. Karen Rainier/Colin Rainier—None.

\*R. David Harden, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

\*Foreign Service nomination of Victoria L Mitchell.

\*Foreign Service nomination of Antonio J. Arroyave.

\*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Rian Harker Harris and ending with Jennifer Marie Schuett, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2016.

\*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Melinda L. Crowley and ending with Julie Elizabeth Zinamon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2016.

\*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Nathan Seifert and ending with Joshua Burke, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 14, 2016.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Patrick A. Burke, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Marshal for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and tes-

tify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2869. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve college savings under section 529 programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 2870. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prevent retaliation in the military, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2871. A bill to establish the position of Choice Program Ombudsman within the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs to manage complaints regarding the provision of hospital care and medical services under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. KING):

S. 2872. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the United States and its treatment under Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2873. A bill to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2874. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to protect the enrollment of incarcerated youth for medical assistance under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2875. A bill to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2876. A bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to issue a scientifically valid and State-supported recovery plan for the Mexican gray wolf; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2877. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to specify the availability of certain funds provided by the Department of Defense to States for drug interdiction and counter-drug activities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2878. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2879. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide further tax incentives for dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2880. A bill to prohibit, as an unfair and deceptive act or practice, commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2881. A bill to authorize the Department of Labor's voluntary protection program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2882. A bill to facilitate efficient State implementation of ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2883. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the requirement of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for the specialized treatment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2884. A bill to address the liability of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the lead contamination of the water supply of the City of Flint, Michigan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 2885. A bill to extend the runway at Pope Army Airfield; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2886. A bill to reauthorize the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 2887. A bill to require the Missile Defense Agency to conduct annual tests of the ground-based midcourse defense element of the ballistic missile defense system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2888. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for

Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2889. A bill to amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2010 to authorize an Innovation Corps; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2890. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of Christa McAuliffe; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2891. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 525 North Broadway in Aurora, Illinois, as the "Kenneth M. Christy Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2892. A bill to accelerate the use of wood in buildings, especially tall wood buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2893. A bill to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2894. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for salary reductions for certain employees of a pension plan in critical or declining status that reduces participant benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2895. A bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2896. A bill to eliminate the sunset date for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for such program, and to extend certain operating hours for pharmacies and medical facilities of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2897. A bill to amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2898. A bill to promote greater efficiency in contracting associated with the SBIR and STTR programs of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2899. A bill to remove Federal barriers to combating mosquito-borne transmission of

the Zika virus and promote public health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. Res. 447. A resolution designating May 1, 2016, as "National Purebred Dog Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 448. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of the teachers of the United States in building and enhancing the civic, cultural, and economic well-being of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BARR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 449. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 17th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through May 7, 2016; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 450. A resolution honoring May 1 through May 7, 2016, as "National Small Business Week" and celebrating the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 451. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week and honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 452. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 453. A resolution designating April 30, 2016, as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating

Young Americans"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

S. Res. 454. A resolution recognizing the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program on its 30th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 455. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historic significance of the Cinco de Mayo holiday; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 940

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 940, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to study the feasibility of providing certain taxpayers with an optional, pre-prepared tax return, and for other purposes.

S. 1287

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1287, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order

to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to provide sensible relief to community financial institutions, to protect consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1631

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to multiemployer pensions, and for other purposes.

S. 1830

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1830, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1852

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1852, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2123, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2123, supra.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2175, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2289

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2289, a bill to modernize and improve the Family Unification Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to reform laws relating to small public housing agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2454

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2454, a bill to limit the period of authorization of new budget authority provided in appropriation Acts, to require analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of existing programs for which continued new budget authority is proposed to be authorized by committees of Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 2478

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2478, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for the purchase of paper United States savings bonds with tax refunds.

S. 2487

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2487, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2540

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2540, a bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2557

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2557, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to repeal the suspension of eligibility for grants, loans, and work assistance for drug-related offenses.

S. 2566

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2566, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide sexual assault survivors with certain rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to genetically engineered food transparency and uniformity.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, nonprofit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small government jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2736, a bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2740, a bill to prohibit the transfer or release of individuals detained at

United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, to state sponsors of terrorism.

S. 2758

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2758, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove consideration of certain pain-related issues from calculations under the Medicare hospital value-based purchasing program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2758, *supra*.

S. 2759

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a non-refundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 2772

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2772, a bill to eliminate the requirement that veterans pay a copayment to the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive opioid antagonists or education on the use of opioid antagonists.

S. 2787

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide the same level of Federal matching assistance for every State that chooses to expand Medicaid coverage to newly eligible individuals, regardless of when such expansion takes place.

S. 2794

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

S. 2803

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2803, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to deposit certain funds into the general fund of the Treasury in accordance with provisions of Federal law with regard to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's Transitional Reinsurance Program.

S. 2825

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require compliance with domestic source requirements for footwear furnished to enlisted members of the Armed Forces upon their initial entry into the Armed Forces.

S. 2830

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2830, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for a school and child care lead testing grant program.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2835, a bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance for the rehabilitation and repair of high hazard potential dams, and for other purposes.

S. 2840

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2840, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2840, *supra*.

S. 2843

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2843, a bill to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to address the Zika crisis.

S. 2849

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2849, a bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

S. 2850

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2850, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolu-

tion providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "fiduciary" and the conflict of interest rule with respect to retirement investment advice.

S. RES. 340

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 340, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS or Da'esh) is committing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and calling upon the President to work with foreign governments and the United Nations to provide physical protection for ISIS' targets, to support the creation of an international criminal tribunal with jurisdiction to punish these crimes, and to use every reasonable means, including sanctions, to destroy ISIS and disrupt its support networks.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. KIRK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 436

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 436, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

S. RES. 442

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 442, a resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels and honoring the memory of the United States citizens murdered in those attacks, and offering thoughts and prayers for all the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the Belgian people, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of Belgium and all our allies in the face of continuing terrorist attacks on freedom and liberty.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3862

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3862 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3873

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3873 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3873 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED  
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 2885. A bill to extend the runway at Pope Army Airfield; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, when it comes to projecting America's power, I have said many times that North Carolina is the tip of the American spear. When our country calls, it is a safe bet that the first responders will be U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune or our paratroopers of the 18th Airborne stationed at Fort Bragg.

The 18th Airborne is America's Global Response Force. When called, units of the 18th Airborne can be anywhere in the world within 48 hours. Because of this unique mission—unique to Fort Bragg and the 18th Airborne—Pope Army Airfield is the busiest tactical airfield in the Armed Forces.

Unfortunately, Pope is also home of the shortest runway in the Army. If the 18th Airborne is put on alert, C-5 and C-17 aircraft are needed to launch the force, and they cannot depart fully fueled with a full load of paratroopers and equipment off of the airfield. The current Pope Army Airfield runway provides only 8,500 feet for takeoff; however, to take off, the C-17 needs a minimum of 10,500 feet and the C-5 requires 11,500 feet.

The Air Force's air refueling fleet is already stressed. The C-17s and C-5s used to carry out the Global Response Force missions have to leave Pope Army Airfield with full equipment and paratroopers but only about 60 percent of their fuel capacity. This requires them to go either to Charleston, SC, or Gander, Newfoundland, to get refueled so they can continue their mission. One refueling stop for an airlift coming out of Pope at Gander, Newfoundland, costs \$17,000 per hour. If 53 aircraft—roughly the number required to outload the heaviest brigade combat

team—have to refuel at Gander, it costs about \$2 million one-way because they can't be fully loaded when they take off from Pope Army Airfield. This refueling stop also adds 2.5 more hours to the time on the mission, and the mission objective is to be anywhere in the world in 48 hours.

Prior to the last round of BRAC, extending the Pope runway to accommodate fully loaded C-17 and C-5 aircraft was Air Mobility Command's No. 1 airfield project, and the U.S. Air Force said it was their No. 2 project. However, this has fallen off the Army's priority list, and I am not really sure why.

Extending the Pope runway to accommodate the airlift requirements of the Global Response Force and the 18th Airborne Corps is a national strategic priority. Therefore, I will be offering an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act during markup that requires the Army to report to the Senate their plans to extend the runway at Pope and whether it is the top priority for the Army. I think our paratroopers and crews need to know this. I know our taxpayers need to know this. And, more than anything, I want to make sure that when we deploy the proud men and women from the Green Ramp of Pope Army Airfield, we do it loaded and ready to go wherever they need to go in the United States or around the world.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2886. A bill to reauthorize the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Reauthorization of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000, also referred to as FRIMA. This Act was established to support healthy fish populations while simultaneously allowing for continued water diversions for irrigation and other uses in the Pacific Northwest. I championed this program's last reauthorization in 2009, and I can say with certainty that the pressing need for FRIMA has not gone away.

Throughout the Pacific Northwest there is a critical need for projects that improve fish passage without compromising important water diversion needs for agriculture and other uses. The sustainable coexistence of continued water diversions and healthy fish populations can be achieved through a number of interventions, such as installation of fish screens, removal of fish passage barriers, and carrying out inventories to better understand needs and priorities. The technology and the knowledge needed to carry out these projects are at our finger tips; the means, however, is not.

That is why FRIMA is such an important program for the Pacific North-

west. The act, overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides a Federal cost-share on the order of 65 percent to fund fish passage and fish screen projects at water diversion and irrigation sites in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. This voluntary cost-shared program authorizes \$25 million in Federal funds, to be equally shared among the 4 States, that can be leveraged to make these essential projects to improve fish passage and install fish screens come to fruition.

FRIMA has a history of demonstrated success in Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 127 projects have been funded through FRIMA to date. These projects have reopened more than 1,130 miles of habitat to fish passage. In total, 56 fish passage barriers have been removed, 130 water diversion sites have been screened, and 18 fish passage evaluations have been completed. This program has led to multiple accomplishments for communities in the Pacific Northwest, but there are still tens of thousands of unscreened water diversions in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. There is still work to be done, and FRIMA could provide the means to continue to make a difference for sustainable fisheries and water management.

At its core, FRIMA is centered on the concept of collaboration. This is a program borne through bipartisan and multi-sectoral support. FRIMA is embraced by water users, farmers, fisheries managers and conservation organizations alike. The economic and ecological integrity of our region depends on resilient fisheries and sustainable management of water resources, and FRIMA offers a means to concurrently make positive strides in sustainably managing both our water diversions and our treasured fishery resources.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2886

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FISHERIES RESTORATION AND IRRIGATION MITIGATION ACT OF 2000.**

Section 10(a) of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 777 note; Public Law 106-502) is amended by striking "2009 through 2015" and inserting "2017 through 2024".

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2893. A bill to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.



Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I am introducing The Library of Congress Sound Recording and Film Preservation Programs Reauthorization Act of 2016. I am pleased to have Senator LEAHY as a cosponsor. This bill would reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress through fiscal year 2026. The current authorization sunsets in September 2016. In addition to reauthorizing the programs, the bill would increase the National Recording Preservation Foundation's number of board members and place a cap on Federal matching funds similar to what is currently required of the National Film Preservation Foundation.

Congress created the National Film Preservation Board in 1988 and the National Film Preservation Foundation in 1996 to help save historically significant American films for the benefit of the public. In 2000, Congress created the National Recording Preservation Board and the National Recording Preservation Foundation to help save historically important American sound recordings.

The two boards advise the Librarian of Congress on national preservation planning policy, helping the Library develop and disseminate preservation and production standards for at-risk works. In addition, the Film Board selects films of importance to cinema and America's cultural and artistic history for the National Film Registry, while the Recording Board selects sound recordings which have been recognized for their cultural, artistic and/or historical significance to American society and the Nation's audio legacy for the National Recording Registry.

The two foundations are the private sector charitable affiliates of the Boards. They raise funds and distribute them to archives throughout the U.S. The Library's Federal match is used for small grants to archives, educational institutions, museums and local historical societies with small film and sound recording collections in need of preservation. A requirement of the grants is that recipients make these works available to researchers, educators and the general public.

These programs have allowed the Library of Congress, in collaboration with a wide range of industry organizations, no-profit libraries and archives, preservation organizations, artist guilds, educators and academics, to collect and preserve at-risk films and recordings all over the country.

My State of Iowa has benefitted directly from these programs. For example, the National Film Preservation Foundation has provided grants to preserve films held in Iowa institutions, including Coe College, Council Bluffs Public Library, Davenport Public Library, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, Iowa State University American Archives of the Factual

Film, and the University of Iowa. In addition, a number of Iowa-related items are preserved in the Library of Congress Packard Campus audio-visual collection, including copies of Iowa Public Radio and Public Television items from the American Archive of Public Broadcasting.

Iowa constituents have contacted my office about their support for the reauthorization of these programs. For example, I heard from Ben Johnson, Support Service Librarian at the Council Bluffs Public Library, Jill Jack, Director of Library Services, College Archivist and Associate Professor at Coe College, Tanya Zanish-Belcher, Director of Special Collection & Archives at Wake Forest University, and David McCartney, University Archivist at the University of Iowa, about the value of these programs to local libraries and historical societies, and how their organizations were in the possession of materials that were able to be saved with the help of these programs.

According to Mr. Johnson, the Council Bluffs Public Library received a grant to preserve a 1930s silent film entitled *Man Power*, which had been created "to boost the local economy by luring businesses to Council Bluffs. This historic film sat in our archives for over 80 years, unwatched and deteriorating over time. With the help of the [National Film Preservation Fund], we were able to preserve and digitize this wonderful time capsule of our local history. Thanks to the [National Film Preservation Foundation], this lost piece of history has been viewed hundreds of times and is now safe from decay and available for the public." Mr. Johnson wrote, "Did you know Council Bluffs Iowa had the first electric Streetcar system in the country? As a result of this grant we were able to see, for the first time, real, moving images of Council Bluffs from back when it was a major rail hub. I have no doubt that without support from the [National Film Preservation Foundation], vital pieces of local history would be lost forever."

Ms. Jack wrote, "Coe College received grants to preserve two films that depict campus life in the 1930s and 1960s. Once these historically rich films were preserved more than 170 people attended a screening of the films. Thanks to that event, the college was able to raise funds from alumni to preserve a third campus film from 1972. The public funding from the [National Film Preservation Foundation] helped us not only share our history with the public but also generated financial support from the community. Since posting the films on our website students, faculty and the public have viewed the films using them in academic and public history research."

According to a statement from Ms. Zanish-Belcher, who managed the National Film Preservation Foundation

film grant when she was Head of the Special Collections Department at Iowa State University, "[t]hanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation, NFPF, Iowa State University was able to preserve and make accessible an important group of films documenting the Rath Packing Company of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As the Head of the Special Collections Department at Iowa State at the time, I oversaw the preservation of these fragile nitrate films from the 1930s. Without support from the NFPF, these important visual documents of Iowa History would have been lost. The NFPF continues to help regional archives throughout the country, helping to save more than 2,230 films and collections in all 50 states. While most film preservation efforts focus on the Hollywood product, the NFPF is the only agency devoted to helping organizations like Iowa State University preserve films in their collections that would otherwise deteriorate and go unseen. These films provide important historical documentation depicting local and regional business, groups, and organizations of interest to both Iowa constituents and U.S. citizens."

According to a letter from Mr. McCartney, the University of Iowa received funds to preserve a number of films significant to Iowa history, including "a set of student-produced dance films (1939) believed to be the oldest thesis films of their type in the nation. Another noteworthy project is Iowa State's Rath Packing Company Collection (ca. 1933), a group of depression era films documenting the largest meatpacking company in the country. The films show the Rath test kitchen, packing plant operations, and advertising efforts. Thanks to a [National Film Preservation Foundation] grant, this collection is now available for scholars and historians."

I appreciate the fact that these Library of Congress programs have placed a special emphasis on assisting small and local projects that would otherwise have been lost or overlooked. Local libraries and historical societies have been helped by the National Film Preservation Foundation to rescue films that, according to Mr. Johnson, Ms. Jack and Mr. McCartney, "aren't Hollywood features but regional films and newsreels that document our history and culture." According to Ms. Jack, "we and other Iowa organizations have hundreds of other culturally and historically significant films that need preservation work to survive. These document the history of our state [of Iowa] from its earliest years to present time." So the biggest value that I see of these programs is that they boost smaller archives with few resources to protect their collections, and they provide smaller organizations with a path to learn about film preservation and successful production standards. These programs are an invaluable

partner to these small and local organizations in their efforts to save America's moving picture and sound recording heritage.

It is important to foster an environment that encourages the preservation of our nation's cultural resources, and films and music are a big part of the American experience. As such, vulnerable motion pictures and sound recordings of historic and cultural significance should be protected from disintegration and decay. I understand that many of these works already have been lost and that others are deteriorating rapidly. I am a history buff, so I am inspired when I see works that depict our American heritage—and especially life in Iowa and rural America—saved for future generations. We need to safeguard these precious items so they are not lost and so that generations of Americans to come can appreciate and learn about their historical and creative roots in both film and sound recordings. Many of these works are unique and rare, so I am pleased to support the Library of Congress programs and their effort to assist organizations all across the 50 States to preserve these treasures for students, researchers and the general public.

I look forward to swift action on this bill so that it can be enacted before these programs sunset at the end of September.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2893

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Library of Congress Sound Recording and Film Preservation Programs Reauthorization Act of 2016".

**SEC. 2. SOUND RECORDING PRESERVATION PROGRAMS.**

(a) NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION BOARD.—Section 133 of the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (2 U.S.C. 1743) is amended by striking "through fiscal year 2016" and inserting "through fiscal year 2026".

(b) NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.—

(1) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 152411(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking "through fiscal year 2016 an amount not to exceed" and inserting "through fiscal year 2026 an amount not to exceed the lesser of \$750,000 or".

(2) NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—Section 152403(b)(2) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "nine directors" and inserting "12 directors"; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking "six directors" each place it appears and inserting "8 directors".

**SEC. 3. FILM PRESERVATION PROGRAMS.**

(a) NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION BOARD.—Section 112 of the National Film Preserva-

tion Act of 1996 (2 U.S.C. 179v) is amended by striking "through fiscal year 2016" and inserting "through fiscal year 2026".

(b) NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.—Section 151711(a)(1)(C) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking "through 2016" and inserting "through 2026".

NOVEMBER 19, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,  
*U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY: I write to ask your support for reauthorization of the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF), the grant-giving public charity set up by Congress in 1996 to help save America's film heritage. I understand that the NFPF's reauthorization comes before the Senate this session.

In Iowa we benefit directly from the programs of the NFPF. The University of Iowa has received funds from the foundation to preserve several films significant to Iowa history. These include a set of student-produced dance films (1939) believed to be the oldest thesis films of their type in the nation. Another noteworthy project is Iowa State's Rath Packing Company Collection (ca. 1933), a group of depression-era films documenting the largest meatpacking company in the country. The films show the Rath test kitchen, packing plant operations, and advertising efforts. Thanks to an NFPF grant, this collection is now available for scholars and historians.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, Coe College, Davenport Public Library, and Council Bluffs Public Library also received grants to preserve films from the NFPF. We and other Iowa organizations have hundreds of other culturally and historically significant films that need preservation work to survive. These document the history of our state from its earliest years to present time.

Thanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation we have made important progress on saving this important material. To date the NFPF has helped rescue more than 2,600 films from all 50 states and these aren't Hollywood features but regional films and newsreels that document our history and culture.

The NFPF has been very effective since it started operations in 1997. I urge you to support their work. With additional funding the National Film Preservation Foundation can continue to work with organizations like the University of Iowa to save America's heritage. I would be happy to speak with your staff if you have any questions. Please phone, email or write if I can provide additional information.

Best wishes,

DAVID MCCARTNEY.

APRIL 21, 2016.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,  
*U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY: I write to ask your support for reauthorization of the National Film Preservation Foundation, the grant-giving public charity set up by Congress in 1996 to help save America's film heritage. I understand that the NFPF's reauthorization comes before the Senate this session.

In Iowa we have benefitted directly from the programs of the National Film Preservation Foundation. Coe College received grants to preserve two films that depict campus life in the 1930s and 1960s. Once these historically

rich films were preserved more than 170 people attended a screening of the films. Thanks to that event, the college was able to raise funds from alumni to preserve a third campus film from 1972. The public funding from the NFPF helped us not only share our history with the public but also generated financial support from the community. Since posting the films on our website students, faculty and the public have viewed the films using them in academic and public history research.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, Davenport Public Library, Council Bluffs Public Library, and Iowa State University also received grants to preserve films from the NFPF. We and other Iowa organizations have hundreds of other culturally and historically significant films that need preservation work to survive. These document the history of our state from its earliest years to present time.

The NFPF has been very effective since it started operations in 1997. To date the NFPF has helped rescue more than 2,600 films from all 50 states and these aren't Hollywood features but regional films and newsreels that document our history and culture. I urge you to support their work. With additional funding the National Film Preservation Foundation can continue to work with organizations like the University of Iowa to save America's heritage.

Best wishes,

JILL JACK.

NOVEMBER 19, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,  
*U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY: I write to ask your support for reauthorization of the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF), the grant-giving public charity set up by Congress in 1996 to help save America's film heritage. I understand that the NFPF's reauthorization comes before the Senate this session.

In 2012 Council Bluffs Public Library received a grant to preserve Man Power, a 1930 silent film created to boost the local economy by luring businesses to Council Bluffs. This historic film sat in our archives for over 80 years, unwatched and deteriorating over time. With the help of the NFPF, we were able to preserve and digitize this wonderful time capsule of our local history. Thanks to the NFPF, this lost piece of history has been viewed hundreds of times and is now safe from decay and available for the public.

Did you know Council Bluffs Iowa had the first electric Streetcar system in the country? As a result of this grant we were able to see, for the first time, real, moving images of Council Bluffs from back when it was a major rail hub. I have no doubt that without support from the NFPF, vital pieces of local history would be lost forever.

Thanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation, we and other local libraries and historical societies have been able to save important films that would otherwise be overlooked. To date the NFPF has helped rescue more than 2,600 films from all 50 states and these aren't Hollywood features but regional films and newsreels that document our history and culture.

The NFPF has been very effective since it started operations in 1997. They assist not only the largest film archives in the country, but also provide a path for smaller organizations to learn about film preservation and protect their collections. I urge you to support their work. With additional funding the

National Film Preservation Foundation can continue to work with organizations like Council Bluffs Public Library to save America's heritage. Thank you for your time and please be in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

BEN JOHNSON.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, two days ago, we recognized World IP Day, celebrating the profound contributions that artists and inventors make to our culture and beyond. The theme of this year's World IP Day was Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined, and events around the world focused on how to promote and protect creative efforts in the digital age. As we look forward to new and innovative digital creations we must also be vigilant in preserving the past.

We must ensure that the films and recordings that played vital roles in shaping and recording the American experience are preserved for future generations. Those works, created by previous generations, tell us who we are, and who we were, as a society. To help ensure that these records of our history, our dreams, and our aspirations can be viewed and appreciated by future generations, I am joining with Senator GRASSLEY to introduce legislation reauthorizing the Library of Congress sound recording and film preservation programs.

Congress has long recognized the importance of cultural preservation, creating the National Film Preservation Program in 1988 and the National Sound Recording Preservation Program in 2000 within the Library of Congress. Both programs help preserve historical and cultural artifacts that would otherwise disappear or be destroyed through the passage of time. The Library of Congress uses the programs to advance important preservation efforts including recognizing films and sound recordings on the National Film and National Recording Registries.

The programs also created the federally chartered National Film and National Recording Preservation Foundations. The foundations provide grants to a wide array of educational and non-profit organizations to preserve films and sound recordings. To date, the National Film Preservation Foundation has given grants to organizations in all 50 States, including to Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, Vermont, which used the money to preserve home movies of Robert Todd Lincoln's descendants from the 1920s to the 1940s. Well over 2000 films, many of which can now be viewed online, have been preserved through the Foundation's grants. Among the preserved films is the earliest feature film shot in Vermont, "A Vermont Romance" from 1916.

By reauthorizing these important programs through 2027, this legislation will allow the Library of Congress and the Foundations to continue their im-

portant work in preserving America's fading treasures, as well as providing grants that will help libraries, museums, and archives preserve these works and make them available for study and research. I urge my colleagues to act swiftly to pass this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NORTHEAST HISTORIC FILM,

*Bucksport, ME, April 20, 2016.*

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: Founded in 1986, Northeast Historic Film has built the largest existing collection of moving images documenting the history and heritage of northern New England. And since the founding of the National Film Preservation Foundation, the NFPF has been the largest and most important source of funds for preserving these works.

The preserved films include *A Vermont Romance* (1916), the earliest feature film shot in Vermont; film documentation of the 1927 flood; textile mill owners and workers in Maine; the home movies of Charles Norman Shay, a Penobscot Indian elder who is a decorated veteran of the D-Day invasion; Provincetown, Massachusetts, in 1915; a 4-H club in 1946; a tuberculosis sanitarium in 1934, and over two dozen other examples of community life and activity in the region.

Communications with colleagues in archives around the country inform us of the crucial significance of National Film Preservation Foundation funding. Moving image repositories from coast to coast benefit from NFPF grants. The dedicated staff, which efficiently shepherds NFPF financial resources, has ensured that our nation's heritage will continue to be available for study and enjoyment.

We are grateful to you and NFPF's friends in Congress for help in the past—and for assistance with the upcoming reauthorization. Our film heritage depends on it.

Sincerely,

DAVID WEISS and KARAN SHELDON,  
*Founders, Northeast Historic Film.*

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2895. A bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Extending Justice for Sex Crime Victims Act, which is a bill to extend the time for child sexual abuse victims to seek justice against their perpetrators.

I would like to thank Senator CORNYN for working closely with me on this important issue.

Tragically, all over the country, victims of sexual abuse are coming forward to tell their stories of abuse and exploitation at the height of their innocence when they were children.

Several from California, for example, have contacted my office, and described with great courage their pain and anguish.

Each of these individual stories represents an untold amount of pain and suffering. When you look at the numbers, you cannot help but feel devastated.

Indeed, the numbers reveal that no one is too far removed from being affected by deplorable crimes committed against children.

Studies indicate that at least one in four girls and about one in five boys is sexually abused.

It has been estimated that 90 percent of child victims never go to the authorities concerning their abuse.

For many of these children, coming to grips with the trauma is extraordinarily difficult.

Several research studies have described in painstaking detail the long-term effects that affect the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social development of abuse victims and sex trafficking victims.

Those who are victimized when they are children typically do not come forward with their abuse—if at all—until many years later, after the victims reach adulthood.

Simply put, the bill extends the civil statute of limitations in two ways for minor victims of Federal sex crimes—because these victims often need more time to realize the harm they have suffered and to seek redress.

First, the bill extends the statute of limitations until the age of 28—from age 21—for minor victims of particular offenses, such as sexual abuse and child pornography.

This brings the statute of limitations in line with a similar law that provides a civil remedy for victims of sex trafficking. The two laws are sections 2255 and 1595 of Title 18.

This provision was recently included, at my request, in the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2016, which the Judiciary Committee approved unanimously weeks ago.

Second, for the laws that provide civil remedies for sex abuse and sex trafficking victims, the bill clarifies when the statute of limitations begins to run.

The bill would clarify that, for both laws providing civil remedies for these victims, the time for a victim to bring a claim against the perpetrator would not begin to run until after the victim actually discovers the injury or the violation.

This is significant because victims of sex crimes are sometimes abused even before they can remember the abuse—some as young as 3-years old.

The bill therefore clarifies that the time for a victim to sue her perpetrator does not begin to run when the violation occurs, but rather when the victim first discovers the injury or the violation.

This is also important because victims of child pornography—who are also sexually abused—may not even

“discover” that their illegal, pornographic images are being distributed over the internet and elsewhere until later in life.

The bill therefore ensures that minor victims have an extended period to seek justice against their perpetrators after discovering their injury or violation.

Under current law, it is unclear from court opinions when victims must bring their claims, and Congress must make clear it has always intended these victims to have an opportunity to come forward and seek redress.

I want to thank Senator CORNYN again for working so closely with me on this issue.

I also want to acknowledge the support for this bill from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 447—DESIGNATING MAY 1, 2016, AS “NATIONAL PUREBRED DOG DAY”

Mr. TILLIS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 447

Whereas the human-canine bond predates history and individuals have enjoyed the companionship and assistance of dogs since the dawn of civilization;

Whereas dog ownership has existed in all cultures, races, climates, and economic situations;

Whereas more than 350 dog breeds exist worldwide, and more than 180 breeds are recognized by the American Kennel Club;

Whereas purebred dogs and breeders of purebred dogs have played a crucial role in United States history, dating to colonial times, during which George Washington had a foxhound breeding program, which established the American Foxhound breed;

Whereas responsible breeders of purebred dogs dedicate their lives to improving the health and well-being of dogs and preserving unique breeds of dogs;

Whereas purebred dogs were created to work alongside humans, and provide inestimable service as—

- (1) search and rescue dogs;
- (2) service dogs;
- (3) disease detection dogs;
- (4) police dogs;
- (5) conservation dogs;
- (6) livestock guardians;
- (7) therapy dogs; and
- (8) companions and guardians of families, homes, and property;

Whereas purebred dogs provide unparalleled service to the disabled as guide and service dogs, and are the choice of leading service dog breeding programs because of the heritable intelligence, and desirable and predictable qualities, of purebred dogs;

Whereas purebred military working dogs serve alongside the men and women of the United States Armed Forces in combat and in peacetime;

Whereas breed instinct enables purebred dogs to readily serve as—

- (1) avalanche dogs;
- (2) trackers and trailers;
- (3) herders;
- (4) controllers of vermin;
- (5) water rescuers;
- (6) carting and sled dogs;
- (7) retrievers;
- (8) protectors;
- (9) hunters; and
- (10) bird dogs;

Whereas the first “National Purebred Dog Day” was established on May 1, 2015;

Whereas millions of individuals, through social media and other avenues, recognize May 1 each year as “National Purebred Dog Day” and desire, on May 1, to expressly recognize the contributions of the purebred dog; and

Whereas individuals value all dogs, regardless of the ancestry of the dogs, and especially cherish a purpose-bred dog and the predictability of each respective breed of purpose-bred dog: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 1, 2016, as “National Purebred Dog Day” in celebration of purebred dogs and the many service and companion benefits purebred dogs have and continue to provide to the United States; and

(2) honors the dedicated and responsible breeders who work to preserve and advance their breeds and responsible dog ownership throughout the United States.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 448—RECOGNIZING THE ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TEACHERS OF THE UNITED STATES IN BUILDING AND ENHANCING THE CIVIC, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Whereas education and knowledge form the foundation of the current and future strength of the United States;

Whereas teachers and other education staff have earned and deserve the respect of their students and communities for the selfless dedication of the teachers and staff to community service and the futures of the children of the United States;

Whereas the purposes of National Teacher Appreciation Week, held from May 2, 2016, through May 6, 2016, are to raise public awareness of the unquantifiable contributions of teachers and to promote greater respect and understanding for the teaching profession; and

Whereas students, schools, communities, and a number of organizations representing educators are hosting teacher appreciation events in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) thanks the teachers of the United States; and

(2) promotes the profession of teaching by encouraging students, parents, school admin-

istrators, and public officials to participate in teacher appreciation events during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 449—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 7, 2016

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 449

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach the students' potential for academic success;

Whereas public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for children of the families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high-performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held accountable by the authorizers of the charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that the charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 43 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws authorizing public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2015–2016 school year, more than 6,800 public charter schools served more than 2,900,000 children;

Whereas enrollment in public charter schools grew from 400,000 students in 2001 to 2,900,000 students in 2016, a sixfold increase in 15 years;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 160 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in 14 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;

Whereas public charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in the charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas public charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove the ongoing success of the charter schools to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by the charter schools or risk closure;

Whereas a 2015 report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found significant improvements for students at urban charter schools, and compared to peers of traditional public schools, each year those students completed the equivalent of 28 more days of learning in reading and 40 more days of learning in math;

Whereas parental demand for charter schools is high, and there was an estimated 9 percent growth in charter school enrollment between fall 2014 and fall 2015; and

Whereas the 17th annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 1 through May 7, 2016: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, leaders, and staff of public charter schools across the United States for—

(A) making ongoing contributions to public education;

(B) making impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly in schools with some of the most disadvantaged students in both rural and urban communities; and

(C) improving and strengthening the public school system throughout the United States;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of the 17th annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 1 through May 7, 2016, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for public charter schools.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 450—HONORING MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 7, 2016, AS “NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK” AND CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS IN EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PETERS, Mr.

RISCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 450**

Whereas “National Small Business Week” has been declared by every President since 1963;

Whereas there are more than 28,000,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas nearly 90 percent of United States employers have fewer than 20 employees;

Whereas small businesses in the United States—

(1) represent 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees;

(2) employ over 48 percent of employees in the private sector;

(3) constitute 98 percent of businesses that export goods; and

(4) account for more than 46 percent of private sector output;

Whereas, on July 30, 1953, Congress established the Small Business Administration to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small businesses—

(1) to preserve free and competitive enterprise;

(2) to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property are made to small businesses; and

(3) to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the United States;

Whereas 63 percent of new jobs are created by small businesses; and

Whereas May 1 through May 7, 2016, will be celebrated as “National Small Business Week”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors May 1 through May 7, 2016, as “National Small Business Week”;

(2) celebrates the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States during National Small Business Week;

(3) recognizes the importance of—

(A) creating policies that promote an environment in which small businesses may succeed; and

(B) the Small Business Administration as a valuable resource for entrepreneurs in the United States; and

(4) supports efforts—

(A) to encourage consumers to use small businesses; and

(B) to increase awareness of the value of small businesses and the impact of small businesses on the economy of the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 451—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK AND HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM TO THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 451**

Whereas National Travel and Tourism Week was established in 1983 through the en-

actment of the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to designate the week beginning May 27, 1984, as ‘National Tourism Week’”, approved November 29, 1983 (Public Law 98-178; 97 Stat. 1126), which recognized the value of travel and tourism;

Whereas National Travel and Tourism Week is celebrated across the United States from May 1 through May 7, 2016;

Whereas more than 400 travel destinations throughout the United States are holding events in honor of National Travel and Tourism Week;

Whereas 1 out of every 9 jobs in the United States depends on travel and tourism and the travel and tourism industry supports 15,100,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry employs individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all the territories of the United States;

Whereas international travel to the United States—

(1) is the single largest export industry in the United States; and

(2) generates a trade surplus balance of approximately \$61,000,000,000;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry, Congress, and the President have worked to streamline the visa process and make the United States welcoming to visitors from other countries;

Whereas travel and tourism provide significant economic benefits to the United States by generating nearly \$2,100,000,000,000 in annual economic output;

Whereas leisure travel allows individuals to experience the rich cultural heritage and educational opportunities of the United States and its communities; and

Whereas the immense value of travel and tourism cannot be overstated: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week;

(2) commends the travel and tourism industry for its important contributions to the United States; and

(3) commends the employees of the travel and tourism industry for their important contributions to the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 452—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 452**

Whereas on average, an individual is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2 minutes, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network;

Whereas nearly 80,000 rapes were reported to law enforcement in 2013, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 5 women (or 18.3 percent) and 1 in 71 men (or 1.4 percent) surveyed in the United States in 2010 experienced a rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives;

Whereas sexual violence is also a burden for many individuals who serve the United States, and the Department of Defense estimates that approximately 19,000 members of

the United States Armed Forces experienced unwanted sexual contact in fiscal year 2014;

Whereas children and young adults are at significant risk of sexual assault, up to 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under 18 years of age, and up to 80 percent of sexual assault victims are under 30 years of age;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs of sexual assault, sexual assault has numerous adverse consequences, which can include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies, which enables many rapists to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas as many as ⅓ of sexual crimes are committed by individuals who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars of the survivors have healed;

Whereas advances in DNA technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to potentially identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas prosecution can lead to the incarceration of rapists and prevent those individuals from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

(1) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence; and

(2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

(1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800-656-HOPE and online.rainn.org); and

(2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the DoD Safe Helpline, Safe HelpRoom, and Safe Helpline mobile app each provide support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

(1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and

(2) online at SafeHelpline.org;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

(1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

(2) for no sexual assault victim to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2016 is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault, and the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 453—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2016, AS “DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 453

Whereas each year, people in many countries throughout the world, and especially in the Western Hemisphere, celebrate Día de los Niños, or Day of the Children, on April 30th in recognition and celebration of the future of their country—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States, and the well-being of children remains one of the top priorities of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States must nurture and invest in children to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the spirit of the United States;

Whereas in 2014, the Census Bureau estimated that approximately 17,900,000 of the nearly 55,400,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States are children under 18 years of age, representing ⅓ of the total Hispanic population residing in the United States and roughly ¼ of the total population of children in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic Americans, the youngest and largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States, celebrate the tradition of honoring their children on Día de los Niños and wish to share this custom with all people of the United States;

Whereas as the United States becomes more culturally and ethnically diverse, the people of the United States must strive to create opportunities that provide dignity and upward mobility for all children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and

family members, and children are responsible for passing on family values, morality, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education is most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas the latest data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (referred to in this preamble as “NAEP”) indicates that Latino students continue to score lower than the national average on reading assessments conducted at the elementary school, middle school, and high school levels—an achievement gap that has persisted for decades;

Whereas the most recent data by NAEP demonstrates that 81 percent of Latino fourth graders in public schools are not proficient in reading;

Whereas Latino authors and Latino protagonists remain underrepresented in literature for children, and less than 3 percent of books for children are written by Latino authors, illustrated by Latino book creators, or feature significant Latino cultural content, even though ¼ of all public school children are Latino;

Whereas research has shown that culturally relevant literature can increase student engagement and reading comprehension, yet some Latino students may go their entire educational experience without seeing themselves portrayed positively in the books that they read and the stories that they hear;

Whereas increasing the number and proportion of multicultural authors in literature for children elevates the voices of the growing diverse communities in the United States and can serve as an effective strategy for closing the reading proficiency achievement gap;

Whereas addressing the widening disparities that still exist among children is of paramount importance to the economic prosperity of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm the significance of family, education, and community among the people of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their futures, articulate their aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the National Latino Children’s Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the United States to declare April 30, 2016, as Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans, a day to bring together Latinos and communities across the United States to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society and invest in future generations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) designates April 30, 2016, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all people;

(B) are positive, uplifting, and help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about each other's cultures and share ideas;

(D) include all family members, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within families, which will enable children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to build relationships; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence and to find the inner strength, will, and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 454—RECOGNIZING THE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

Mrs. CAPITO submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 454

Whereas the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program (referred to in this preamble as "TRANSCAER") is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident;

Whereas TRANSCAER was founded in 1986; Whereas TRANSCAER members consist of—

(1) volunteer representatives from the chemical manufacturing, transportation, distribution, and emergency response industries;

(2) volunteer representatives from industry associations;

(3) volunteer personnel of those industries and industry associations; and

(4) government representatives;

Whereas TRANSCAER offers hundreds of training events each year;

Whereas TRANSCAER offered training to tens of thousands of responders between 1986 and 2016;

Whereas TRANSCAER is a unified industry initiative that promotes the safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials;

Whereas TRANSCAER aids community emergency response planning for hazardous material transportation incidents;

Whereas TRANSCAER builds strong relationships and trust with communities located along transportation routes, and those relationships and trust could help to ensure that an incident is handled safely, appropriately, and efficiently; and

Whereas TRANSCAER demonstrates the continuing commitment of chemical manufacturers and transporters to the safe transportation of hazardous materials: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program (commonly referred to as "TRANSCAER") on its 30th anniversary.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 455—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY**

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 455

Whereas May 5, or "Cinco de Mayo" in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of importance by Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which Mexicans defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla, 1 of the many battles that the Mexican people won in their long and brave fight for independence, freedom, and democracy;

Whereas the victory of Mexico over France at the Battle of Puebla represented a historic triumph for the Mexican government during the Franco-Mexican war of 1861-1867 and bolstered the resistance movement;

Whereas the success of Mexico at the Battle of Puebla reinvigorated the spirits of the Mexican people and provided a renewed sense of unity and strength;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of the finest troops of Europe in more than half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered and ill-equipped, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican army;

Whereas the courageous spirit that Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza and his men displayed during that historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas in a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez, the president of Mexico during the Battle of Puebla, once said, "El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz", meaning "respect for the rights of others is peace";

Whereas the sacrifice of Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination while, in the United States, the Union Army battled Confederate forces in the Civil War;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder—

(1) that the foundation of the United States was built by individuals from many countries and diverse cultures who were willing to fight and die for freedom; and

(2) of the close ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States; Whereas Cinco de Mayo encourages the celebration of a legacy of strong leaders and a sense of vibrancy in communities; and

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder to provide more opportunities for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic struggle of the people of Mexico for independence and freedom, which Cinco de Mayo commemorates; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 3884. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3885. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

SA 3886. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1635, to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

**SA 3884.** Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 143, line 12, insert "and for which the offender's release from any term of imprisonment was within 15 years of the commencement of the instant offense" before the period.

On page 146, line 11, insert "a term of imprisonment may be reduced only if the defendant has not been convicted of any serious violent felony and" after "offense,".

On page 146, line 12, strike "may".

On page 146, beginning on line 15, strike " , reduce the term of imprisonment for the offense".

On page 146, line 21, strike "if such" and insert "finds".

On page 147, line 7, insert " , including a review of any prior criminal conduct or any other relevant information from Federal, State, and local authorities" after "section".

On page 147, strike lines 11 through 20, and insert the following:

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—  
(i) by striking "or section 1010" and inserting " , section 1010"; and

(ii) by inserting " , or section 70503 or 70506 of title 46" after "963";

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) the defendant does not have—

"(A) more than 4 criminal history points, excluding any criminal history points resulting from a 1-point offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines;

"(B) a prior 3-point offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines; and

"(C) a prior 2-point violent offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines;" ; and

(C) after paragraph (5), by inserting the following:

"Information disclosed by a defendant under this subsection may not be used to enhance

the sentence of the defendant unless the information relates to a violent offense.”; and

On page 148, strike lines 15 through 25 and insert the following:

“(h) DEFINITION OF VIOLENT OFFENSE.—As used in this section, the term ‘violent offense’ means a ‘crime of violence’, as defined in section 16, that is punishable by imprisonment.”

On page 149, line 13, strike “or section” and insert “, section”.

On page 149, line 14, insert “, or section 70503 or 70506 of title 46,” after “963”.

On page 150, strike lines 7 through 14 and insert the following:

“(3) the defendant was not an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of other participants in the offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines;

On page 150, line 20, insert “, unless the defendant was a minor or minimal participant, as determined under the sentencing guidelines” before the semicolon.

On page 151, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

“Information disclosed by a defendant under this subsection may not be used to enhance the sentence of the defendant unless the information relates to a violent offense.

On page 152, strike lines 10 through 20 and insert the following: “United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ‘second or subsequent conviction under this subsection’ and inserting ‘violation of this subsection that occurs after a prior conviction under this subsection has become final’.”

On page 153, line 8, insert “a term of imprisonment may be reduced only if the instant violation was for a drug trafficking offense that did not involve a violation of clause (ii) or (iii) of section 924(c)(1)(A) of title 18, United States Code, the defendant has not otherwise been convicted of any serious violent felony, and” after “offense,”

On page 153, line 9, strike “may”.

On page 153, beginning on line 12, strike “, reduce the term of imprisonment for the offense”.

On page 153, line 18, strike “if such” and insert “finds”.

On page 154, line 4, insert “, including a review of any prior criminal conduct or any other relevant information from Federal, State, and local authorities” after “section”.

Beginning on page 154, strike line 5 and all that follows through page 155, line 23.

On page 156, line 1, strike “106” and insert “105”.

On page 157, line 1, strike “107” and insert “106”.

On page 158, line 1, strike “108” and insert “107”.

On page 162, line 3, strike “109” and insert “108”.

On page 162, line 25, insert “and organized by Federal district where applicable” after “paragraph (1)”.

On page 163, line 5, insert “, including referrals from investigative agencies of the Department of Justice,” after “prosecution”.

On page 166, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

#### SEC. 109. FENTANYL.

(a) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 401(b) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8)(A) In the case of a violation of subsection (a), if the mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin also contains a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide or any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-

phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide, then a court shall—

“(i) not impose a term of probation; and

“(ii) in addition to the term of punishment for the violation of this section, impose a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

“(B) A term of imprisonment imposed on a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision of law.

“(9)(A) In the case of a violation of subsection (a), if the mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide or any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide was represented to be or sold as heroin, then a court shall—

“(i) not impose a term of probation; and

“(ii) in addition to the term of punishment for the violation of this section, impose a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

“(B) A term of imprisonment imposed on a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision of law.”

(b) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8)(A) In the case of a violation of subsection (a), if the mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin also contains a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide or any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide, then a court shall—

“(i) not impose a term of probation; and

“(ii) in addition to the term of punishment for the violation of this section, impose a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

“(B) A term of imprisonment imposed on a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision of law.

“(9)(A) In the case of a violation of subsection (a), if the mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide or any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide was represented to be or sold as heroin, then a court shall—

“(i) not impose a term of probation; and

“(ii) in addition to the term of punishment for the violation of this section, impose a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

“(B) A term of imprisonment imposed on a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision of law.”

On page 170, beginning on line 1, strike “Private entities that will, on a volunteer basis” and insert “Nonprofit or other private organizations, including faith-based and community-based organizations, that will”.

On page 178, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 179, line 10 and insert the following:

“(A) ELIGIBLE PRISONER.—The term ‘eligible prisoner’ means—

“(i) an individual who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment pursuant to a conviction for a Federal criminal offense; or

“(ii) an individual within the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, including an individual in a Bureau of Prisons contracted facility.”

On page 191, line 21, strike “In” and insert “Notwithstanding the 10 percent limit described in paragraph (1) and in”.

On page 203, line 8, strike “title” and insert “Act”.

On page 203, line 9, strike “title” and insert “Act”.

On page 203, line 24, strike “and”.

On page 204, line 5, strike the period and insert “; and”.

On page 204, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

(iv) a description of how the reduced expenditures on Federal corrections and the budgetary savings resulting from this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, are currently being used and will be used to—

(I) increase investment in law enforcement and crime prevention to combat gangs of national significance and high-level drug traffickers through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program and other task forces;

(II) hire, train, and equip law enforcement officers and prosecutors; and

(III) promote crime reduction programs using evidence-based practices and strategic planning to help reduce crime and criminal recidivism.

On page 226, line 17, insert “and the Secretary of Labor” after “Affairs”.

On page 227, line 3, insert “and the Secretary of Labor” after “Affairs”.

On page 227, line 8, insert “and the Secretary of Labor” after “Affairs”.

On page 227, line 12, insert “AND DOL” after “VA”.

On page 227, line 13, insert “and the Department of Labor” after “Affairs”.

**SA 3885.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Afghanistan Accountability Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.

In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(4) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(5) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(6) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(7) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(8) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

#### TITLE I—EFFECTIVE AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

#### SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom, and since then the United States Armed Forces and the Afghan National Security Forces have made countless sacrifices in defending Afghanistan against the threat of terrorism and insurgency and by extension the United States and the wider world.



(2) Since 2001, the United States has worked with a broad coalition of nations that has helped to dramatically improve numerous development indicators within Afghanistan, including—

(A) a dramatic increase in the number of girls enrolled in primary education from an estimated 5,000 under the Taliban to 2,400,000 girls as of 2010;

(B) an increase in the percentage of individuals above the poverty line from 25.4 percent in 2002 to 35.8 percent in 2011;

(C) an increase in the percentage of individuals who now have access to an improved water source in rural areas from 22 percent in 2001 to 56 percent in 2012;

(D) a precipitous decline in maternal mortality from 1200/100,000 births in 1995 to 400/100,000 births in 2013; and

(E) an expansion of women's rights.

(3) Numerous research studies have shown that government corruption is a driver of conflict and particularly so in Afghanistan, where it has served as a powerful recruitment tool for the Taliban.

(4) Since the first democratic transfer of power in the history of Afghanistan in 2014, President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah have led a National Unity Government that has identified key security and development challenges in order to make Afghanistan a full and productive member of the community of democratic nations.

(5) The National Unity Government has renewed specific focus on addressing corruption within the country as a driver of instability, including reopening a fraud case involving high level officials and the Kabul Bank that resulted in the disappearance of an estimated \$1,000,000,000.

(6) In its report "Realizing Self Reliance: Commitments to Reform and Renewed Partnership", the Government of Afghanistan committed to the international community in London in December 2014, to address the "main drivers of corruption in Afghanistan," including "collusive procurement practices, weak rule of law and abuse of the legal system, and arbitrary regulations that build in incentives to pay bribes". Government of Afghanistan commitments included—

(A) forming an independent anti-corruption commission with time-bound prosecutorial powers;

(B) implementing recommendations by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee on a national action plan to reduce corruption;

(C) requiring all government officials to provide public declarations of their assets;

(D) meeting all Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements to further limit and investigate illicit fund flows;

(E) forming a national procurement board staffed by qualified professionals who will manage all large value contracts using internationally recognized standards and procedures; and

(F) delineating the roles, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of anti-corruption institutions such as the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOO) and the Attorney General to restrict them to focus on their core function of enforcement instead of oversight.

(7) The December 2014 Government of Afghanistan report "Realizing Self Reliance: Commitments to Reform and Renewed Partnership", expressed a commitment to "enhancing productivity, growth and revenues" by—

(A) developing natural resources through public-private partnerships that bring in rents, taxes, and profits;

(B) removing obstacles to trade and transit and ending smuggling that diverts revenue away from the treasury;

(C) negotiating expanded market access in regional and global markets;

(D) gradually formalizing the informal economy and changing the compact between the state and citizens to one where citizens pay taxes for services they tangibly benefit from; and

(E) transferring government payments electronically to eliminate losses in transit.

(8) In 2012, international donors and the Government of Afghanistan agreed to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework ("TMAF") which committed to provide \$4,000,000,000 in economic assistance per year from 2012-2015 and sustain assistance at or near the same levels of the past decade through 2017, while the Government of Afghanistan committed to meet benchmarks related to democracy and governance, public finance and revenue generation, and economic development.

(9) At the end of 2014, under the TMAF, the Government of Afghanistan had fallen short in meeting benchmarks related to: revenue collection, the enhancement of women's rights, corruption and the illicit economy, and the protection of human rights.

(10) In the Joint Declaration following the London Conference on Afghanistan of December 4, 2014, the international community and the new Government of Afghanistan agreed to refresh the existing TMAF and associated commitments at the 2015 Senior Officials Meeting based on the reform program and priorities as laid out by the Government of Afghanistan.

(11) Afghanistan faces great difficulties in making progress in countering illegal narcotics and remains the leading global illicit opium poppy producer.

(12) The illegal narcotics trade results in the transfer of illicit funds and encourages and also requires corrupt financial transactions, and, if minimized, could have beneficial impacts on trade and reduce overall levels of corruption.

(13) The international community has endorsed Afghanistan's longer-term development following the war and identified the criticality of the "transformation decade" from 2015-2024 outlined by the Government of Afghanistan and has acknowledged that the Government of Afghanistan will seek continued international assistance in order for it to become a stable, self-sustained partner in the community of democratic countries.

(14) As development assistance from the United States and broader international community gradually diminishes in the coming years, the accelerated development of the Afghan private sector and governing institutions becomes even more necessary to maintain the gains of the past decade and to enhance our mutual goals of Afghan security and stability.

(15) While Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have taken over lead combat responsibilities, they continue to operate in close coordination with, and with significant resources from the international community, under the Resolute Support Mission and in coordination with ongoing counter-terrorism operations. Development of civilian oversight institutions for the security sector has lagged. Such oversight will be important for ensuring that Afghan security forces are accountable and do not abuse their powers.

**SEC. 102. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Unity Government of Afghanistan has made a substantial commitment to reform that should be supported but also subject to heightened scrutiny by the Afghan people and international donors given past failures and persistent challenges in the country;

(2) Afghanistan is at a critical inflection point, having gone through political and security transitions as the international community draws down its military forces. The international community should work closely with the new government in supporting development priorities for the rest of the transformation decade that translate into producing concrete development results for the Afghan people;

(3) sustainable accountability and reform of Afghan governing institutions will not come from the international community but from a commitment by the Government of Afghanistan and society reinforced by domestic watchdog groups and internal government accountability monitoring mechanisms;

(4) the United States Government should deepen its dialogue on anti-corruption efforts with the Government of Afghanistan to develop effective oversight mechanisms to ensure large donor contracts do not contribute to corruption;

(5) the United States should encourage Afghanistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership, a multilateral initiative in which government and civil society collaborate to promote transparency, fight corruption, and use technologies to strengthen government;

(6) the United States should urge the Government of Afghanistan to build upon existing anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing legislation by developing effective regulations and institutions to implement reforms;

(7) the United States should urge the Government of Afghanistan to broaden personal asset disclosures to include members of the covered officials' immediate families or households and develop effective mechanisms for verifying disclosed information;

(8) in the event of future egregious cases of corruption in Afghanistan, the President should impose visa bans and asset freezes on those responsible, especially in instances where United States assistance is stolen or misappropriated;

(9) the United States Government should cooperate with the Government of Afghanistan and with international donors to develop a series of strict accountability benchmarks based on the refreshed Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and the Government of Afghanistan's own "Realizing Self Reliance" report commitments that will condition levels of assistance and the amount of on-budget assistance on anti-corruption performance acceptable to donors;

(10) the United States should support the Afghan Parliament to refine and strengthen the legal framework of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering laws to address beneficial ownership, countering bid-rigging and other contracting and procurement fraud, criminal investigations of financial transactions, complementary banks, personal asset or other financial declarations and disclosures as required by law or regulation, efforts to meet FATF requirements, and other areas to further inhibit the illicit flow of money;

(11) the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen its nascent private sector should be supported and sustained using the full array of tools of the

United States, including technical and legal assistance;

(12) United States assistance to the Afghan judicial system and other Afghan legal institutions that enable and empower private sector development by instilling greater investor confidence should be prioritized to ensure the protection of private property, the sanctity of contracts, and effective dispute resolution mechanisms for businesses and investors;

(13) the United States Government should identify opportunities for the United States to introduce trade facilitation as part of the economic relationship between the 2 countries;

(14) the Governments of the United States and Afghanistan should work together to identify more Afghan products and raw materials to be included on the United States Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) treatment list;

(15) the American University of Afghanistan is an emerging pillar in Afghanistan's education system and has provided a unique opportunity for higher education for Afghan youth, especially women; and

(16) the United States should encourage the Government of Afghanistan to implement with urgency electoral reforms in accordance with the "Agreement between the Two Campaign Teams Regarding the Structure of the National Unity Government".

#### SEC. 103. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR AFGHANISTAN.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to conduct assistance programs that result in highly effective, impact driven development outcomes for the people of Afghanistan while maintaining the highest standards of accountability for United States taxpayers;

(2) that all United States Government agencies and entities working in Afghanistan coordinate, plan, and regularly review plans in a coherent, well-informed process to develop United States policy and assistance programming;

(3) to support the development of effective Government of Afghanistan oversight institutions and domestic watchdog civil society organizations;

(4) subject to significant evident progress made in meeting TMAF accountability and improved governance as it relates to development, to abide by resource commitments made as part of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework;

(5) to provide incentivized assistance to Afghanistan's governing institutions based upon verifiable and measurable development outcomes and on-budget assistance based upon demonstrated capacity improvements that are mutually agreed to by the Government of Afghanistan and Government of the United States;

(6) to support the development of democratic governing institutions in Afghanistan, promote the development of a growing private sector, and strengthen civil society in Afghanistan;

(7) to recognize that Afghanistan's sustainable development is grounded in growing the regional economy, and to support the efforts of the Government and people of Afghanistan to build strong regional economic connectivity with the country's neighbors;

(8) to support, where appropriate, proven programs that promote private sector job creation in Afghanistan; and

(9) that assistance programs in direct support of Afghan women and girls remain a priority for the United States, including specific efforts to support women and girls edu-

cation, meaningful engagement in political and reconciliation processes, training and recruitment of Afghan female police and security forces, advancement of women's legal rights, economic development, and efforts to increase the overall health and well-being of Afghan women and girls.

#### SEC. 104. EFFECTIVE AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) STRATEGY TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Government of Afghanistan, shall develop a comprehensive interagency strategy for United States assistance that is sustainable and is not counter-productive to combating corruption in Afghanistan.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under paragraph (1) should include the following elements:

(A) Multi-year goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for targeted activities to strengthen selected Afghan official institutions and nongovernmental organizations to prevent, investigate, deter, and prosecute corruption.

(B) An operational plan incorporating all United States Government programming to implement the anti-corruption goals and objectives.

(C) A summary of United States efforts to coordinate with other international donors to ensure that anti-corruption advice or programming provided to the Government of Afghanistan is not contradictory.

(D) A focus on the development of governmental and nongovernmental Afghan capacity to ensure accountability and combat corruption.

(E) An evaluation of Afghan civil society anti-corruption capacities that includes their ability to use technology to combat corruption.

(b) AFGHANISTAN ANTI-CORRUPTION FUND.—Subject to the availability of funds, the President is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to official Government of Afghanistan anti-corruption and audit institutions and Afghan civil society watchdog groups in support of the anti-corruption priorities identified by the Government of Afghanistan and the United States Government. Subject to careful consideration by the United States Government of the legitimacy, efficacy, and direct impact and influence of such entities and individuals, offices, and organizations that are funded under this subsection could include—

(1) the Supreme Audit Office;

(2) the Attorney General;

(3) the Ministry of Justice;

(4) Inspectors General within key ministries;

(5) the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC);

(6) the major crimes task force, Technical Investigative Unit, and the Sensitive Investigative Unit;

(7) the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption;

(8) the Anti-Corruption Tribunal;

(9) the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan;

(10) the proposed procurement board; and

(11) civil society organizations engaged in oversight, anti-corruption advocacy, and support of good governance.

(c) PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS FREEDOM, AND SECURITY SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of State, in

consultation with the Secretary of Defense, is authorized to provide support for efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to improve oversight and accountability of the Afghan National Security Forces, including the Afghan National Police, and Afghan local police, and strengthen Afghan civil society and investigative journalists to provide watchdog oversight of these institutions. Subject to due consideration of the legitimacy, efficacy, and direct impact and influence of such entities and individuals, these efforts could include—

(A) supporting the ANSF to strengthen the capacity, independence, and power of its internal Inspector General to collect and investigate all credible reports of abuse by armed forces;

(B) supporting the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministries of Defense and Interior to be better capable to investigate and, if appropriate, criminally prosecute police, military, intelligence, and militia personnel, regardless of rank, found responsible for human rights abuses and war crimes;

(C) considering establishing a special independent mechanism to investigate government officials and security force officers implicated in abuses;

(D) supporting the Ministry of Interior to establish a centralized register of all detainees held in police and National Directorate of Security custody, and ensure that it is accessible to independent monitors and is updated regularly and in a transparent manner;

(E) supporting implementation of the Access to Information Law and the 2009 Mass Media Law, particularly provisions of the latter that would disband the Media Violations Investigation Commission and replace it with a Mass Media Commission;

(F) supporting the Attorney General's Office to undertake prompt, impartial, and thorough investigations into all attacks on journalists and media organizations and bring prosecutions as appropriate; and

(G) supporting the further establishment of civil society organizations to provide essential "watchdog" oversight of the police and armed forces; as well as efforts to strengthen and improve coordination among civil society organizations, such as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

#### SEC. 105. REPORTS.

(a) REPORTING ON CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2024, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report listing each individual who the President determines, based on credible evidence—

(1) is a Government of Afghanistan official, a senior associate, or close relative of such an official, who is responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; or

(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an activity described above.

(b) REPORT ON CIVILIAN-MILITARY ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States

shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes civilian-military assistance efforts in Afghanistan.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of lessons learned from conducting development programming in Afghanistan to include recommendations on how to improve coordination between United States development agencies and the United States Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of the ability of the United States Agency for International Development to advance development goals within Afghanistan, operating alongside providers of United States military assistance.

(C) An assessment of whether funding under the Commander's Emergency Response Program achieved the program's counter-insurgency goals, including force protection, and whether this program had any long term development impact, including any negative unintended consequences.

**SA 3886.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1635, to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 16, strike lines 10 through 12 and insert the following: “the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—”.

On page 30, lines 9 and 10, strike “in the event of a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran”.

On page 30, lines 20 and 21, strike “entering into a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran” and insert “the date of the enactment of this Act”.

On page 30, line 23, insert “the majority leader, the minority leader,” after “(1)”.

On page 31, line 1, insert “the Speaker, the majority leader, the minority leader,” after “(2)”.

Beginning on page 32, lines 24 and 25, strike “, as appropriate” and all that follows through “the United States” on page 33, line 1, and insert “with other United States Government agencies, including the intelligence community, and, as appropriate, the United States”.

Strike section 122.

On page 47, lines 14 and 15, strike “and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives” and insert “, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives”.

On page 90, line 24, insert “and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives” after “congressional committees”.

On page 92, line 18, insert “and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives” after “committees”.

On page 116, line 20, strike “Secretary of State” and insert “Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b))”.

Beginning on page 117, line 14, strike “Secretary of State” and all that follows through “in consultation with” on page 118, line 1, and insert the following: “Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom shall carry out paragraph (1)—

(A) in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate; and

(B) in consultation with

On page 160, line 16, insert “to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and” after “the report”.

Strike sections 501 and 502 and insert:

**SEC. 501. WORLDWIDE SECURITY PROTECTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for worldwide security protection shall to the extent practicable, before any such funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated for—

(1) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at other facilities; and

(3) locations with high vulnerabilities.

(b) **IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION SUPPORT PRIORITIZATION.**—In allocating funding for immediate mitigation support pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for—

(1) the purchasing of additional security equipment, including additional defensive weaponry;

(2) the paying of expenses of additional security forces; and

(3) any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

**SEC. 502. EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for Worldwide Security Upgrades within “embassy security, construction and maintenance” shall to the extent practicable, before any funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated in the prioritized order of—

(1) immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) other security upgrades to facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(3) all other immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b); and

(4) security upgrades to all other facilities or new construction for facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531.

(b) **IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION.**—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation projects pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for the construction of safeguards that provide immediate security benefits and any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

(c) **ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.**—No funds authorized to be appropriated shall be obligated for new embassy construction, other than for high threat, high risk facilities, unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Department has fully complied with the requirements of subsection (a);

(2) high threat, high risk facilities are being secured to the best of the United States Government's ability; and

(3) the Secretary will make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

(d) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on—

(1) funding for the priorities described in subsection (a);

(2) efforts to secure high threat, high risk facilities as well as high vulnerability locations facilities; and

(3) plans to make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 9 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Mental Health in America: Where Are We Now?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS,  
AND MINING

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Michael Jetvig, an intern in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 519 through 545 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Mark A. Baird

IN THE ARMY

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Thomas F. Spencer

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Gregory S. Champagne

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Marshall B. Webb

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Daniel J. Swain

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. James J. Keefe

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Andrea D. Tullos

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Bradley C. Saltzman

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Andrew E. Salas

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Craig D. Wills

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Tamhara L. Hutchins-Frye

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. William J. Prendergast, IV

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. William P. Barriage

Brig. Gen. Peter A. Bosse

Brig. Gen. Troy D. Kok

Brig. Gen. William S. Lee

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Marilyn S. Chiafullo

Col. Alex B. Fink

Col. John B. Hashem

Col. Susan E. Henderson

Col. Andrew J. Juknelis

Col. Jeffrey W. Jurasek

Col. Deborah L. Kotulich

Col. John H. Phillips

Col. Stephen T. Sauter

Col. Stephen E. Strand

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Paul J. Verrastro

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Timothy J. White

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Kyle J. Cozad

Rear Adm. (lh) Lisa M. Franchetti

Rear Adm. (lh) Roy J. Kelley

Rear Adm. (lh) David M. Kriete

Rear Adm. (lh) Bruce H. Lindsey

Rear Adm. (lh) James T. Loeblein

Rear Adm. (lh) William R. Merz

Rear Adm. (lh) Dee L. Mewbourne

Rear Adm. (lh) Michael T. Moran

Rear Adm. (lh) Stuart B. Munsch

Rear Adm. (lh) John B. Nowell, Jr.

Rear Adm. (lh) Timothy G. Szymanski

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Gen. Vincent K. Brooks

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Heithold

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment as Director, Air National Guard, and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Air Force under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10506:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Leon S. Rice

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Gen. Lori J. Robinson

## IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. John G. Rossi

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Robert B. Brown

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Arlan M. DeBlieck

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Rodney L. Faulk

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S  
DESK

## IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1219 AIR FORCE nomination of Martin T. Mitchell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1269 AIR FORCE nominations (23) beginning LAURA S. BARCHICK, and ending KEVIN J. WILKINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1270 AIR FORCE nominations (28) beginning MICHELLE D. AASTROM, and ending CYNTHIA J. WEIDMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1271 AIR FORCE nominations (446) beginning LAIRD S. ABBOTT, and ending CHRISTOPHER J. ZUHLKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1318 AIR FORCE nomination of Albert E. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1333 AIR FORCE nomination of Jonathan M. Letsinger, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1334 AIR FORCE nominations (42) beginning LLOYD TRAVIS A. ARNOLD, and ending KONSTANTINA ZUBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1335 AIR FORCE nomination of Kristie L. Partin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1336 AIR FORCE nomination of Aimee D. Safford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1337 AIR FORCE nomination of Tracey A. Gosser, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1338 AIR FORCE nomination of Todd R. Howell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

## IN THE ARMY

PN1220 ARMY nominations (3) beginning LARSS G. CELTNIIEKS, and ending PAULETTE V. BURTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1221 ARMY nomination of Eric Danko, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1222 ARMY nominations (2) beginning STEVEN N. CAROZZA, and ending NOAH C. CLOUD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1223 ARMY nomination of Ramit Ring, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1272 ARMY nomination of Geoffrey E. Anderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1274 ARMY nomination of Bruce H. Robinson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1275 ARMY nominations (2) beginning MATTHEW B. BOOTH, and ending DONALD W. MOYER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1276 ARMY nomination of Robert L. Cronyn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1277 ARMY nomination of Darrell W. Collins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1299 ARMY nomination of Devon D. Nudelman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1300 ARMY nomination of Calvin C. Thomas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1301 ARMY nominations (2) beginning STEPHEN G. CRUYS, and ending GREGORY J. LONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1302 ARMY nominations (2) beginning EDWARD S. BARNETT, and ending LYNN J. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1303 ARMY nominations (5) beginning TIMOTHY G. BONNER, and ending JAMES S. WELCH, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1304 ARMY nominations (7) beginning KRISTAL D. BEAN, and ending JUSTIN R. SCHLANSE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1305 ARMY nominations (19) beginning GEORGE A. BARBEE, and ending D013078, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1306 ARMY nominations (80) beginning GABRIELLE M. ANDREANIFABRONI, and ending YOUNG J. YAUGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1307 ARMY nominations (84) beginning TERRY L. AITKEN, and ending D010908, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1319 ARMY nomination of Travis H. Owen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1320 ARMY nominations (54) beginning JOSHUA T. ADE, and ending D012875, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1322 ARMY nomination of Timothy R. Teague, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1323 ARMY nomination of Eric E. Halstrom, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1324 ARMY nominations (4) beginning BRIAN D. BOBO, and ending ANTHONY D. FOURNIER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1325 ARMY nomination of Dennis N. Snelling, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1340 ARMY nomination of Kodjo S. Knoxlimbacker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1341 ARMY nomination of Lori R. Schanhals, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1342 ARMY nomination of Drew R. Conover, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1343 ARMY nomination of Bradley D. Osterman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1344 ARMY nomination of Francisco J. Lopez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1346 ARMY nominations (4) beginning TIMOTHY D. AIKEN, and ending JAMES R. WEAKLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1347 ARMY nomination of George A. Rollins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1348 ARMY nomination of McArthur Walker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1349 ARMY nominations (4) beginning TIMOTHY D. COVINGTON, and ending ERIC A. KENNEDY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1379 ARMY nomination of Nilson Orozcooviedo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 18, 2016.

PN1380 ARMY nomination of Pierre E. Saintfleur, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 18, 2016.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1126 MARINE CORPS nomination of John A. Yukica, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 28, 2016.

PN1129 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning MATRIX W. ELLIAS, and ending NICHOLAS J. TAZZA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 28, 2016.

IN THE NAVY

PN1201 NAVY nomination of Brian D. Hennessy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2016.

PN1224 NAVY nomination of Donald C. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1279 NAVY nomination of Stephanie M. Simoni, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1280 NAVY nomination of Jennifer L. Shafer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1281 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JUSTIN K. CONROY, and ending REBECCA L. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1282 NAVY nomination of Brice A. Goodwin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1283 NAVY nomination of Brian J. Hamer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1284 NAVY nomination of Scott F. Gruwell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1285 NAVY nomination of Shannon D. Lorimer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1308 NAVY nominations (11) beginning DANIELLE M. BARNES, and ending MARK R. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1309 NAVY nomination of William A. Hlavin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1312 NAVY nomination of Phillip G. Cyr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1350 NAVY nomination of Donald E. Speights, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1366 NAVY nomination of Luis A. Bencomo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

AFGHANISTAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 189, S. 1875.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1875) to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in *italic*.)

S. 1875

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Afghanistan Accountability Act of 2015”.

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

**TITLE I—EFFECTIVE AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**SEC. 101. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom, and since then the United States Armed Forces and the Afghan National Security Forces have made countless sacrifices in defending Afghanistan against the threat of terrorism and insurgency and by extension the United States and the wider world.

(2) Since 2001, the United States has worked with a broad coalition of nations that has helped to dramatically improve numerous development indicators within Afghanistan, including a dramatic increase in the number of girls enrolled in primary education from an estimated 5,000 under the Taliban to 2,400,000 girls as of 2010; an increase in the percentage of individuals above the poverty line from 25.4 percent in 2002 to 35.8 percent in 2011; an increase in the percentage of individuals who now have access to an improved water source in rural areas from 22 percent in 2001 to 56 percent in 2012; a precipitous decline in maternal mortality from 1200/100,000 births in 1995 to 400/100,000 births in 2013; and an expansion of women’s rights;

(3) Numerous research studies have shown that government corruption is a driver of conflict and particularly so in Afghanistan, where it has served as a powerful recruitment tool for the Taliban.

(4) Since the first democratic transfer of power in the history of Afghanistan in 2014, President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah have led a National Unity Government that has identified key security and development challenges in

order to make Afghanistan a full and productive member of the community of democratic nations.

(5) The National Unity Government has renewed specific focus on addressing corruption within the country as a driver of instability, including reopening a fraud case involving high level officials and the Kabul Bank that resulted in the disappearance of an estimated \$1,000,000,000.

(6) In its report “Realizing Self Reliance: Commitments to Reform and Renewed Partnership”, the Government of Afghanistan committed to the international community in London in December 2014, to address the “main drivers of corruption in Afghanistan,” including “collusive procurement practices, weak rule of law and abuse of the legal system, and arbitrary regulations that build in incentives to pay bribes”. Government of Afghanistan commitments included—

(A) forming an independent anti-corruption commission with time-bound prosecutorial powers;

(B) implementing recommendations by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee on a national action plan to reduce corruption;

(C) requiring all government officials to provide public declarations of their assets;

(D) meeting all Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements to further limit and investigate illicit fund flows;

(E) forming a national procurement board staffed by qualified professionals who will manage all large value contracts using internationally recognized standards and procedures; and

(F) delineating the roles, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of anti-corruption institutions such as the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOO) and the Attorney General to restrict them to focus on their core function of enforcement instead of oversight.

(7) The December 2014 Government of Afghanistan report “Realizing Self Reliance: Commitments to Reform and Renewed Partnership”, expressed a commitment to “enhancing productivity, growth and revenues” by—

(A) developing natural resources through public-private partnerships that bring in rents, taxes, and profits;

(B) removing obstacles to trade and transit and ending smuggling that diverts revenue away from the treasury;

(C) negotiating expanded market access in regional and global markets;

(D) gradually formalizing the informal economy and changing the compact between the state and citizens to one where citizens pay taxes for services they tangibly benefit from; and

(E) transferring government payments electronically to eliminate losses in transit.

(8) In 2012, international donors and the Government of Afghanistan agreed to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (“TMAF”) which committed to provide \$4,000,000,000 in economic assistance per year from 2012-2015 and sustain assistance at or near the same levels of the past decade through 2017, while the Government of Afghanistan committed to meet benchmarks related to democracy and governance, public finance and revenue generation, and economic development.

(9) At the end of 2014, under the TMAF, the Government of Afghanistan had fallen short in meeting benchmarks related to: revenue collection, the enhancement of women’s rights, corruption and the illicit economy, and the protection of human rights,

(10) In the Joint Declaration following the London Conference on Afghanistan of December 4, 2014, the international community and the new Government of Afghanistan agreed to refresh the existing TMAF and associated commitments at the 2015 Senior Officials Meeting based on the reform program and priorities as laid out by the Government of Afghanistan.

(11) Afghanistan faces great difficulties in making progress in countering illegal narcotics and remains the leading global illicit opium poppy producer.

(12) The illegal narcotics trade results in the transfer of illicit funds and encourages and also requires corrupt financial transactions, and, if minimized, could have beneficial impacts on trade and reduce overall levels of corruption.

(13) The international community has endorsed Afghanistan's longer-term development following the war and identified the criticality of the "transformation decade" from 2015-2024 outlined by the Government of Afghanistan and has acknowledged that the Government of Afghanistan will seek continued international assistance in order for it to become a stable, self-sustained partner in the community of democratic countries.

(14) As development assistance from the United States and broader international community gradually diminishes in the coming years, the accelerated development of the Afghan private sector and governing institutions becomes even more necessary to maintain the gains of the past decade and to enhance our mutual goals of Afghan security and stability.

(15) While Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have taken over lead combat responsibilities, they continue to operate in close coordination with, and with significant resources from the international community, under the Train, Advise and Assist (TAA) mission of Operation Inherent Resolve and in coordination with ongoing counter-terrorism operations. Development of civilian oversight institutions for the security sector has lagged. Such oversight will be important for ensuring that Afghan security forces are accountable and do not abuse their powers.

**SEC. 102. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Unity Government of Afghanistan has made a substantial commitment to reform that should be supported but also subject to heightened scrutiny by the Afghan people and international donors given past failures and persistent challenges in the country;

(2) Afghanistan is at a critical inflection point, having gone through political and security transitions as the international community draws down its military forces. The international community should work closely with the new government in supporting development priorities for the rest of the transformation decade that translate into producing concrete development results for the Afghan people;

(3) sustainable accountability and reform of Afghan governing institutions will not come from the international community but from a commitment by the Government of Afghanistan and society reinforced by domestic watchdog groups and internal government accountability monitoring mechanisms;

(4) the United States Government should deepen its dialogue on anti-corruption efforts with the Government of Afghanistan to develop effective oversight mechanisms to

ensure large donor contracts do not contribute to corruption;

(5) the United States should encourage Afghanistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership, a multilateral initiative in which government and civil society collaborate to promote transparency, fight corruption, and use technologies to strengthen government;

(6) the United States should urge the Government of Afghanistan to build upon existing anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing legislation by developing effective regulations and institutions to implement reforms;

(7) the United States should urge the Government of Afghanistan to broaden personal asset disclosures to include members of the covered officials' immediate families or households and develop effective mechanisms for verifying disclosed information;

(8) in the event of future egregious cases of corruption in Afghanistan, the President should impose visa bans and asset freezes on those responsible, especially in instances where United States assistance is stolen or misappropriated;

(9) the United States Government should cooperate with the Government of Afghanistan and with international donors to develop a series of strict accountability benchmarks based on the refreshed Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and the Government of Afghanistan's own "Realizing Self Reliance" report commitments that will condition levels of assistance and the amount of on-budget assistance on anti-corruption performance acceptable to donors;

(10) the United States should support the Afghan Parliament to refine and strengthen the legal framework of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering laws to address beneficial ownership, countering bid-rigging and other contracting and procurement fraud, criminal investigations of financial transactions, complementary banks, personal asset or other financial declarations and disclosures as required by law or regulation, efforts to meet FATF requirements, and other areas to further inhibit the illicit flow of money;

(11) the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen its nascent private sector should be supported and sustained using the full array of tools of the United States, including technical and legal assistance;

(12) United States assistance to the Afghan judicial system and other Afghan legal institutions that enable and empower private sector development by instilling greater investor confidence should be prioritized to ensure the protection of private property, the sanctity of contracts, and effective dispute resolution mechanisms for businesses and investors;

(13) the United States Government should identify opportunities for the United States to introduce trade facilitation as part of the economic relationship between the two countries;

(14) the Governments of the United States and Afghanistan should work together to identify more Afghan products and raw materials to be included on the United States Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) treatment list;

(15) the United States Government should establish a United States-Afghan Tax Commission to help spearhead a rapid and successful conclusion of a new Bilateral Tax Agreement similar to the Agreements with several of Afghanistan's neighbors, including Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan,

Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, India, and Pakistan;

(16) the American University of Afghanistan is an emerging pillar in Afghanistan's education system and has provided a unique opportunity for higher education for Afghan youth, especially women; and

(17) the United States should encourage the Government of Afghanistan to implement with urgency electoral reforms in accordance with the "Agreement between the Two Campaign Teams Regarding the Structure of the National Unity Government".

**SEC. 103. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR AFGHANISTAN.**

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to conduct assistance programs that result in highly effective, impact driven development outcomes for the people of Afghanistan while maintaining the highest standards of accountability for United States taxpayers;

(2) that all United States Government agencies and entities working in Afghanistan coordinate, plan, and regularly review plans in a coherent, well-informed process to develop United States policy and assistance programming;

(3) to support the development of effective Government of Afghanistan oversight institutions and domestic watchdog civil society organizations;

(4) subject to significant evident progress made in meeting TMAF accountability and improved governance as it relates to development, to abide by resource commitments made as part of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework;

(5) to provide incentivized assistance to Afghanistan's governing institutions based upon verifiable and measurable development outcomes and on-budget assistance based upon demonstrated capacity improvements that are mutually agreed to by the Governments of Afghanistan and the United States;

(6) to support the development of democratic governing institutions in Afghanistan, promote the development of a growing private sector, and strengthen civil society in Afghanistan;

(7) to recognize that Afghanistan's sustainable development is grounded in growing the regional economy, and to support the efforts of the Government and people of Afghanistan to build strong regional economic connectivity with the country's [neighbors; and]

(8) [to support, where appropriate, proven programs that promote private sector job creation in Afghanistan.] neighbors;

(8) to support, where appropriate, proven programs that promote private sector job creation in Afghanistan; and

(9) that assistance programs in direct support of Afghan women and girls remain a priority for the United States, including specific efforts to support women and girls education, meaningful engagement in political and reconciliation processes, training and recruitment of Afghan female police and security forces, advancement of women's legal rights, economic development, and efforts to increase the overall health and well-being of Afghan women and girls.

**SEC. 104. EFFECTIVE AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

(a) STRATEGY TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Government of Afghanistan, shall develop a comprehensive interagency strategy for United States assistance that is sustainable and is not counter-productive to combatting corruption in Afghanistan.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under paragraph (1) should include the following elements:

(A) Multi-year goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for targeted activities to strengthen selected Afghan official institutions and nongovernmental organizations to prevent, investigate, deter, and prosecute corruption.

(B) An operational plan incorporating all United States Government programming to implement the anti-corruption goals and objectives.

(C) A summary of United States efforts to coordinate with other international donors to ensure that anti-corruption advice or programming provided to the Government of Afghanistan is not contradictory.

(D) A focus on the development of governmental and nongovernmental Afghan capacity to ensure accountability and combat corruption.

(E) An evaluation of Afghan civil society anti-corruption capacities that includes their ability to use technology to combat corruption.

(b) AFGHANISTAN ANTI-CORRUPTION FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds, the President is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to official Government of Afghanistan anti-corruption and audit institutions and Afghan civil society watchdog groups in support of the anti-corruption priorities identified by the Government of Afghanistan and the United States Government. Subject to careful consideration by the United States Government of the legitimacy, efficacy, and direct impact and influence of such entities and individuals, offices, and organizations that are funded under this subsection could include—

(A) the Supreme Audit Office;

(B) the Attorney General;

(C) the Ministry of Justice;

(D) Inspectors General within key ministries;

(E) the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC);

(F) the major crimes task force, Technical Investigative Unit, and the Sensitive Investigative Unit;

(G) the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption;

(H) the Anti-Corruption Tribunal;

(I) the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan;

(J) the proposed procurement board; and

(K) civil society organizations engaged in oversight, anti-corruption advocacy, and support of good governance.

(c) PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS FREEDOM, AND SECURITY SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary of Defense, should provide support for efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to improve oversight and accountability of the Afghan National Security Forces, including the Afghan National Police, and Afghan local police, and strengthen Afghan civil society and investigative journalists to provide watchdog oversight of these institutions. Subject to due consideration of the legitimacy, efficacy, and direct impact and influence of such entities and individuals, these efforts could include—

(A) supporting the ANSF to strengthen the capacity, independence, and power of its internal Inspector General to collect and investigate all credible reports of abuse by armed forces;

(B) supporting the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministries of Defense and Interior to be better capable to investigate and, if appropriate, criminally prosecute police, military, intelligence, and militia personnel, regardless of rank, found responsible for human rights abuses and war crimes;

(C) considering establishing a special independent mechanism to investigate government officials and security force officers implicated in abuses;

(D) supporting the Ministry of Interior to establish a centralized register of all detainees held in police and National Directorate of Security custody, and ensure that it is accessible to independent monitors and is updated regularly and in a transparent manner;

(E) supporting implementation of the Access to Information Law and the 2009 Mass Media Law, particularly provisions of the latter that would disband the Media Violations Investigation Commission and replace it with a Mass Media Commission;

(F) supporting the Attorney General's Office to undertake prompt, impartial, and thorough investigations into all attacks on journalists and media organizations and bring prosecutions as appropriate; and

(G) supporting the further establishment of civil society organizations to provide essential “watchdog” oversight of the police and armed forces; as well as efforts to strengthen and improve coordination among civil society organizations, such as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

(d) DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFGHAN PRIVATE SECTOR.—

(1) REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY FUND.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Regional Economic Connectivity Fund from which funds may be made available from existing appropriations to enhance regional economic connectivity between Afghanistan and the countries of South and Central Asia.

(B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Regional Economic Connectivity Fund is to provide support for efforts to enhance Afghanistan's economic connectivity with its neighbors, thus improving the country's overall economic prospects and diminishing the need for international assistance in the future. The Regional Economic Connectivity Fund may be used to support programs in the following areas:

(i) Trade and transit fee normalization and electronic payment systems.

(ii) Capacity and skills development to improve collaboration among countries for border and customs.

(iii) Women-owned business networking.

(iv) Developing regional options on transit and customs to facilitate trade.

(v) Enhancing and implementing confidence building measures.

(vi) Encouraging regional energy and electricity development and sharing.

(vii) Market access and business conferences.

(viii) Intellectual and cultural exchanges to engage in regional problem solving.

(2) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—In addition to other transfer authorities available to the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) or other United States Government agencies or departments, funds that are specifically allocated towards addressing the situation in Afghanistan may be transferred to programs in South and Central Asia that promote regional economic connectivity with substantial and direct benefits to Afghanistan.

#### SEC. 105. REPORTS.

(a) REPORTING ON CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2024, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report listing each individual who the President determines, based on credible evidence—

(1) is an Government of Afghanistan official, a senior associate, or close relative of such an official, who is responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; or

(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an activity described above.

(b) REPORT ON CIVILIAN-MILITARY ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on civilian-military assistance efforts in Afghanistan.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of lessons learned from conducting development programming in a conflict zone to include recommendations on how to improve coordination between United States development agencies and the United States Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of the ability of the United States Agency for International Development to advance development goals within a conflict environment, operating alongside providers of United States military assistance.

(C) An assessment of whether funding under the Commander's Emergency Response Program achieved the program's stated goals and whether this program had any long term development impact, including any negative unintended consequences.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn, the Menendez substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3885) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1875), as amended, was passed.



Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL BISON LEGACY ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 438, H.R. 2908.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2908) to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2908) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### KIDS TO PARKS DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 435 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 435) designating May 21, 2016, as "Kids to Parks Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 435) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 21, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 448, S. Res. 449, S. Res. 450, S. Res. 451, S. Res. 452, S. Res. 453, S. Res. 454, and S. Res. 455.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 452

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I submitted a bipartisan resolution recognizing that April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Senators LEAHY, AYOTTE, CASEY, ERNST, and GILLIBRAND have joined as cosponsors of the resolution, and I thank them for their support.

Our purpose in introducing the resolution is to bring greater awareness to the problem of sexual assault and publicly acknowledge the survivors. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes, on average, in the United States. Sexual assault can take many forms, including rape, commercial sex trafficking, child sexual abuse, and stalking.

Rape, which is the second most violent crime in the United States—second only to murder, according to the FBI—can happen to anyone. According to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the consequences of rape can be profound for its victims, and may include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, or even suicide.

In communities across the United States, Americans have commemorated the month of April with activities designed to support survivors of sexual violence in their efforts to heal. Before the month comes to a close, it is important that Congress also express its support for the goals and ideals of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

I would also like to take a moment to mention several other bipartisan, anti-sexual assault measures that I have championed during the month of April, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these initiatives too.

First, just last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which I serve as chairman, cleared legislation that's designed to help sexual assault victims secure justice. I incorporated this language into the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act, a measure I introduced earlier this year at the urging of a young woman who survived a sexual assault and founded an organization, RISE, that's dedicated to helping other survivors.

The measure reported by our committee by voice vote on April 20th would amend the federal crime victims' statute to add a number of new rights specific to sexual assault survivors. If it's enacted, victims of federal crimes of sexual violence would have the right not to be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a medical forensic exam. They would have the right to have a sexual assault evidence collection kit preserved, without charge, until the statutory limitations period for prosecuting the crime has expired or ten years has elapsed. They would have the right to be informed of the results

when their forensic evidence is analyzed. And they would have the right to written notice of policies governing their evidence kit's collection and preservation, as well as the right to notice if that evidence is about to be discarded.

The latest version of the Adam Walsh Reauthorization also would make Justice Department grants available to entities that notify sexual violence victims of any applicable rights under state law. Finally, this legislation would extend the statutory period in which child survivors of human trafficking and child sexual abuse offenses can file suit against the perpetrators. The bill has been endorsed not only by RISE but also by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence. Senators SCHUMER, HATCH, FEINSTEIN, LEAHY, SHAHEEN, COONS, DURBIN, and KLOBUCHAR have joined as cosponsors.

Also last week, I joined Senator GILLIBRAND in calling on President Obama to take additional steps to investigate military sexual assault. We contacted the President to voice our concerns shortly after an organization known as Protect Our Defenders released a report questioning the accuracy of congressional testimony by a Pentagon official during a hearing on sexual assault in the military.

Last but not least, due to my concerns about campus sexual assault, I am an original cosponsor of the Campus Accountability and Safety Act. I joined Senators HELLER, McCASKILL, GILLIBRAND, AYOTTE, and others in introducing this bill last year. It would make additional support services available to student survivors of campus rape, require training standards and uniform discipline procedures for campus officials, and add transparency requirements for the Nation's universities. Earlier this week, the cosponsors of this measure came together to publicly call for prompt action on this legislation.

Mr. President, I will close by urging my colleagues to support adoption of the resolution we have submitted today.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 365 only, with no other executive business in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the nomination, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jacobson nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### VENEZUELA DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY EXTENSION ACT OF 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 445, S. 2845.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2845) to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets

and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italic.)

S. 2845

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Extension Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA.

Section 5(e) of the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-278; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "[December 31, 2021] *December 31, 2019*".

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2845), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2845

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Extension Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA.

Section 5(e) of the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-278; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "December 31, 2019".

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS AUTHORIZATION AND EMBASSY SECURITY ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 123, S. 1635.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1635) to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Corker amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3886) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To remove language relating to Iran hostages compensation, to provide that the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom shall have primary responsibility for religious freedom training, and to make other technical amendments)

On page 16, strike lines 10 through 12 and insert the following: "the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—".

On page 30, lines 9 and 10, strike "in the event of a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran".

On page 30, lines 20 and 21, strike "entering into a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran" and insert "the date of the enactment of this Act".

On page 30, line 23, insert "the majority leader, the minority leader," after "(1)".

On page 31, line 1, insert "the Speaker, the majority leader, the minority leader," after "(2)".

Beginning on page 32, lines 24 and 25, strike ", as appropriate" and all that follows through "the United States" on page 33, line 1, and insert "with other United States Government agencies, including the intelligence community, and, as appropriate, the United States".

Strike section 122.

On page 47, lines 14 and 15, strike "and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives" and insert ", the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives".

On page 90, line 24, insert "and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives" after "congressional committees".

On page 92, line 18, insert "and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives" after "committees".

On page 116, line 20, strike "Secretary of State" and insert "Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b))".

Beginning on page 117, line 14, strike "Secretary of State" and all that follows through "in consultation with" on page 118, line 1, and insert the following: "Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom shall carry out paragraph (1)—

(A) in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate; and

(B) in consultation with

On page 160, line 16, insert "to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and" after "the report".

Strike sections 501 and 502 and insert:

**SEC. 501 WORLDWIDE SECURITY PROTECTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for worldwide security protection shall to the extent practicable, before any such funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated for—

(1) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at other facilities; and

(3) locations with high vulnerabilities.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION SUPPORT PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate mitigation support pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for—

(1) the purchasing of additional security equipment, including additional defensive weaponry;

(2) the paying of expenses of additional security forces; and

(3) any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

**SEC. 502. EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for Worldwide Security Upgrades within “embassy security, construction and maintenance” shall to the extent practicable, before any funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated in the prioritized order of—

(1) immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) other security upgrades to facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(3) all other immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b); and

(4) security upgrades to all other facilities or new construction for facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation projects pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for the construction of safeguards that provide immediate security benefits and any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

(c) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—No funds authorized to be appropriated shall be obligated for new embassy construction, other than for high threat, high risk facilities, unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Department has fully complied with the requirements of subsection (a);

(2) high threat, high risk facilities are being secured to the best of the United States Government’s ability; and

(3) the Secretary will make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on—

(1) funding for the priorities described in subsection (a);

(2) efforts to secure high threat, high risk facilities as well as high vulnerability locations facilities; and

(3) plans to make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

The bill (S. 1635), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1635

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

**TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Subtitle A—Basic Authorities and Activities**

Sec. 101. American spaces review.

Sec. 102. Identifying bilateral investment treaty opportunities.

Sec. 103. Reinstatement of Hong Kong report.

Sec. 104. Interagency hostage recovery coordinator.

Sec. 105. United States-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue review.

Sec. 106. Report on human rights violations in Burma.

Sec. 107. Combating anti-semitism.

Sec. 108. Biotechnology grants.

Sec. 109. Definition of “use” in passport and visa offenses.

Sec. 110. Science and technology fellowships.

Sec. 111. Name changes.

Sec. 112. Anti-piracy information sharing.

Sec. 113. Report reform.

Sec. 114. Sense of Congress on the United States alliance with Japan.

Sec. 115. Sense of Congress on the defense relationship between the United States and the Republic of India.

Sec. 116. Sense of Congress on the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea.

Sec. 117. Sense of Congress on the relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

Sec. 118. Report on political freedom in Venezuela.

Sec. 119. Strategy for the Middle East in the event of a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran.

Sec. 120. Department of State international cyberspace policy strategy.

Sec. 121. Waiver of fees for renewal of immigrant visa for adopted child in certain situations.

Sec. 122. Sense of Congress on anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement within the Palestinian Authority.

Sec. 123. Support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of post-Soviet countries in light of Russian aggression and interference.

Sec. 124. Russian propaganda report.

Sec. 125. Approval of export licences and letters of request to assist the Government of Ukraine.

**Subtitle B—Additional Matters**

Sec. 131. Atrocities prevention board.

Sec. 132. United States engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

Sec. 133. Joint action plan to combat prejudice and discrimination and to foster inclusion.

Sec. 134. Report on developing country debt sustainability.

Sec. 135. United States strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally.

Sec. 136. International corruption and accountability.

Sec. 137. Quadrennial diplomacy and development review.

Sec. 138. Disappeared persons in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Sec. 139. Report on implementation by the Government of Bahrain of recommendations from the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry.

Sec. 140. Report on United States humanitarian assistance to Haiti and whether recent elections in Haiti meet international election standards.

Sec. 141. Sense of Congress with respect to the imposition of additional sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

**TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**Subtitle A—Organizational Matters**

Sec. 201. Rightsizing accountability.

Sec. 202. Integration of foreign economic policy.

Sec. 203. Review of Bureau of African Affairs and Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs jurisdictions.

Sec. 204. Special envoys, representatives, advisors, and coordinators.

Sec. 205. Conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution, and the inclusion and participation of women.

Sec. 206. Information technology system security.

Sec. 207. Analysis of embassy cost sharing.

Sec. 208. Parent advisory committee to the Interagency Working Group to Prevent International Parental Child Abduction.

Sec. 209. Improving research and evaluation of public diplomacy.

Sec. 210. Enhanced institutional capacity of the Bureau of African Affairs.

**Subtitle B—Personnel Matters**

Sec. 211. Review of Foreign Service Officer compensation.

Sec. 212. Repeal of recertification requirement for senior Foreign Service.

Sec. 213. Compensatory time off for travel.

Sec. 214. Certificates of demonstrated competence.

Sec. 215. Foreign Service assignment restrictions.

Sec. 216. Security clearance suspensions.

Sec. 217. Economic statecraft education and training.

Sec. 218. Report on diversity recruitment, employment, retention, and promotion.

Sec. 219. Expansion of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program.

Sec. 220. Retention of mid- and senior-level professionals from underrepresented groups.

Sec. 221. Review of jurisdictional responsibilities of the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs.

Sec. 222. Congressional notification of countries compliance with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Sec. 223. International religious freedom training program.

#### TITLE III—INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Subtitle A—United States Contributions to International Organizations

Sec. 301. Reports concerning the United Nations.

Sec. 302. Annual report on financial contributions to international organizations.

Sec. 303. Report on peacekeeping arrears, credits, and contributions.

Sec. 304. Assessment rate transparency.

Subtitle B—Accountability at International Organizations

Sec. 311. Preventing abuse in peacekeeping.

Sec. 312. Inclusion of peacekeeping abuses in country report on human rights practices.

Sec. 313. Evaluation of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Subtitle C—Personnel Matters

Sec. 321. Encouraging employment of United States citizens at the United Nations.

Sec. 322. Ensuring appropriate United Nations personnel salaries.

#### TITLE IV—CONSULAR AUTHORITIES

Sec. 401. Visa ineligibility for international child abductors.

Sec. 402. Presumption of immigrant intent for H and L visa classifications.

Sec. 403. Visa information sharing.

#### TITLE V—EMBASSY SECURITY

Subtitle A—Allocation of Authorized Security Appropriations.

Sec. 501. Worldwide security protection.

Sec. 502. Embassy security, construction and maintenance.

Subtitle B—Contracting and Other Matters.

Sec. 511. Local guard contracts abroad under diplomatic security program.

Sec. 512. Disciplinary action resulting from unsatisfactory leadership in relation to a security incident.

Sec. 513. Management and staff accountability.

Sec. 514. Security enhancements for soft targets.

Subtitle C—Marine Corps Security Guard Program

Sec. 521. Additional reports on expansion and enhancement of Marine Corps Security Guard Program.

Subtitle D—Defending High Threat, High Risk Posts

Sec. 531. Designation and reporting for high threat, high risk posts.

Sec. 532. Designation and reporting for high-risk counterintelligence threat posts.

Sec. 533. Enhanced qualifications for Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for high threat, high risk posts.

Sec. 534. Security environment threat list briefings.

Sec. 535. Comptroller General of the United States report on implementation of Benghazi Accountability Review Board recommendations.

Sec. 536. Foreign Affairs Security Training Center.

Sec. 537. Language training.

Subtitle E—Accountability Review Boards

Sec. 541. Provision of copies of accountability review board reports to Congress.

Sec. 542. Staffing.

#### TITLE VI—MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 601. Short title.

Sec. 602. Competitive hiring status for former employees of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

Sec. 603. Assurance of independence of IT systems.

Sec. 604. Protecting the integrity of internal investigations.

Sec. 605. Report on Inspector General inspection and auditing of Foreign Service posts and bureaus and operating units Department of State.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of State.

(3) **PEACEKEEPING CREDITS.**—The term “peacekeeping credits” means the amounts by which United States assessed peacekeeping contributions exceed actual expenditures, apportioned to the United States, of peacekeeping operations by the United Nations during a United Nations peacekeeping fiscal year.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

#### TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—Basic Authorities and Activities

##### SEC. 101. AMERICAN SPACES REVIEW.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) the full costs incurred by the Department to provide American Spaces, including—

(A) American Centers, American Corners, Binational Centers, Information Resource Centers, and Science Centers; and

(B) the total costs of all associated—

(i) employee salaries, including foreign service, American civilian, and locally employed staff;

(ii) programming expenses;

(iii) operating expenses;

(iv) contracting expenses; and

(v) security expenses;

(2) a breakdown of the total costs described in paragraph (1) by each space and type of space;

(3) the total fees collected for entry to, or the use of, American Spaces and related resources, including a breakdown by the type of fee for each space and type of space; and

(4) the total usage rates, including by type of service, for each space and type of space.

##### SEC. 102. IDENTIFYING BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY OPPORTUNITIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

State, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes a detailed description of—

(1) the status of all ongoing investment treaty negotiations, including a strategy and timetable for concluding each such negotiation;

(2) a strategy to expand the investment treaty agenda, including through—

(A) launching new investment treaty negotiations with foreign partners that are currently capable of entering into such negotiations; and

(B) building the capacity of foreign partners to enter into such negotiations, including by encouraging the adoption of best practices with respect to investment; and

(3) an estimate of any resources that will be needed, including anticipated staffing levels—

(A) to conclude all ongoing negotiations described in paragraph (1);

(B) to launch new investment treaty negotiations, as described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(C) to build the capacity of foreign partners, as described in paragraph (2)(B).

##### SEC. 103. REINSTATEMENT OF HONG KONG REPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2020, the Secretary shall submit the report required under section 301 of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5731) to the appropriate congressional committees.

(b) **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.**—The report submitted under subsection (a) should be unclassified and made publicly available, including through the Department's public website.

(c) **TREATMENT OF HONG KONG UNDER UNITED STATES LAW.**—

(1) **SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall certify to Congress whether Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is sufficiently autonomous to justify different treatment for its citizens from the treatment accorded to other citizens of the People's Republic of China in any new laws, agreements, treaties, or arrangements entered into between the United States and Hong Kong after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) **FACTOR FOR CONSIDERATION.**—In making a certification under subparagraph (A), the Secretary should consider the terms, obligations, and expectations expressed in the Joint Declaration with respect to Hong Kong.

(C) **EXCEPTION.**—A certification shall not be required under this subsection with respect to any new laws, agreements, treaties, or arrangements that support human rights, rule of law, or democracy in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

(2) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may waive the application of paragraph (1) if the Secretary—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States; and

(B) on or before the date on which such waiver would take effect, submits a notice of, and justification for, the waiver to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

##### SEC. 104. INTERAGENCY HOSTAGE RECOVERY COORDINATOR.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate an existing Federal officer to coordinate efforts to secure the release of United States persons who are hostages of hostile groups or state sponsors of terrorism. For purposes of carrying out the duties described in paragraph (2), such officer shall have the title of “Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator”.

(2) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall have the following duties:

(A) Coordinate and direct all activities of the Federal Government relating to each hostage situation described in paragraph (1) to ensure efforts to secure the release of all hostages in the hostage situation are properly resourced and correct lines of authority are established and maintained.

(B) Establish and direct a fusion cell consisting of appropriate personnel of the Federal Government with purview over each hostage situation described in paragraph (1).

(C) Develop a strategy to keep family members of hostages described in paragraph (1) informed of the status of such hostages and inform such family members of updates, procedures, and policies that do not compromise the national security of the United States.

(b) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator shall be limited to hostage cases outside the United States.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On a quarterly basis, the Coordinator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the members of Congress described in paragraph (2) a report that includes a summary of each hostage situation described in sub-section (a)(1) and efforts to secure the release of all hostages in such hostage situation.

(2) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DESCRIBED.—The members of Congress described in this subparagraph are, with respect to a United States person hostage covered by a report under paragraph (1), the Senators representing the State, and the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives representing the district, where a hostage described in subsection (a)(1) resides.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report under this subsection may be submitted in classified or unclassified form.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing the Federal Government to negotiate with a state sponsor of terrorism or an organization that the Secretary has designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) or any other hostage-takers.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HOSTILE GROUP.—The term “hostile group” means—

(A) a group that is designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a));

(B) a group that is engaged in armed conflict with the United States; or

(C) any other group that the President determines to be a hostile group for purposes of this paragraph.

(2) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term “state sponsor of terrorism”—

(A) means a country the government of which the Secretary has determined, for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 40 of the

Arms Export Control Act, or any other provision of law, to be a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism; and

(B) includes North Korea.

**SEC. 105. UNITED STATES-CHINA STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC DIALOGUE REVIEW.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, and in consultation with other departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall—

(1) conduct a review of the United States-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (referred to in this section as the “Dialogue”); and

(2) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains the findings of such review.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all commitments agreed to by the United States and China at each of the first 6 rounds of meetings;

(2) an assessment of the status of each commitment agreed to by the United States and China at each of the first 6 rounds of meetings, including a detailed description of—

(A) any actions that have been taken with respect to such commitments;

(B) any aspects of such commitments that remain unfulfilled; and

(C) any actions that remain necessary to fulfill any unfulfilled commitments described in subparagraph (B);

(3) an assessment of the effectiveness of the Dialogue in achieving and fulfilling significant commitments on United States priorities in the bilateral relationship, including—

(A) the security situation in the East and South China Seas, including a peaceful resolution of maritime disputes in the region;

(B) denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula;

(C) cybertheft of United States intellectual property;

(D) the treatment of political dissidents, media representatives, and ethnic and religious minorities;

(E) reciprocal treatment of United States journalists and academics in China, including issuance of visas;

(F) expanding investment and trade opportunities for United States businesses;

(G) repatriation of North Korean refugees from China to North Korea; and

(H) promoting and protecting rule of law and democratic institutions in Hong Kong; and

(4) recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Dialogue in achieving and fulfilling significant commitments on United States priorities described in paragraph (3), including consideration of the use of predetermined benchmarks for assessing whether the commitments achieved are significantly furthering such priorities.

**SEC. 106. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BURMA.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes in detail all known widespread or systematic civil or political rights viola-

tions, including violations that may constitute crimes against humanity against ethnic, racial, or religious minorities in Burma, including the Rohingya people; and

(2) provides recommendations for holding perpetrators of the violations described in paragraph (1) accountable for their actions.

**SEC. 107. COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.**

Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for Diplomatic and Consular Programs, \$500,000 shall be made available to the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, to be used in support of efforts by American and European Jewish and other civil society organizations, focusing on youth, to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of religious, ethnic, or racial intolerance in Europe.

**SEC. 108. BIOTECHNOLOGY GRANTS.**

Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 63. BIOTECHNOLOGY GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is authorized to support, through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, outreach, and public diplomacy activities, activities promoting the benefits of agricultural biotechnology, biofuels, science-based regulatory systems, and the application of such technologies for trade and development.

“(b) LIMITATION.—The total amount of grants provided pursuant to subsection (a) shall not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year.”.

**SEC. 109. DEFINITION OF ‘USE’ IN PASSPORT AND VISA OFFENSES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting before section 1541 the following:

**“SEC. 1540. DEFINITION OF ‘USE’ AND ‘USES’.**

“In this chapter, the terms ‘use’ and ‘uses’ shall be given their plain meaning, which shall include use for identification purposes.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 75 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 1541 the following:

“1540. Definition of ‘use’ and ‘uses’.”.

**SEC. 110. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS.**

Section 504 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1979 (22 U.S.C. 2656d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS RELATED TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements for science and technology fellowship programs of the Department of State.

“(2) RECRUITMENT; STIPENDS.—Assistance authorized under paragraph (1) may be used—

“(A) to recruit fellows; and

“(B) to pay stipends, travel, and other appropriate expenses to fellows.

“(3) CLASSIFICATION OF STIPENDS.—Stipends paid under paragraph (2)(B) shall not be considered compensation for purposes of section 209 of title 18, United States Code.

“(4) LIMITATION.—The total amount of assistance provided under this subsection may not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year.”.

**SEC. 111. NAME CHANGES.**

(a) PUBLIC LAW 87-195.—Section 607(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2357(d)) is amended by striking “Assistant

Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs" and inserting "Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science".

(b) PUBLIC LAW 88-206.—Section 617(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7671p(a)) is amended by striking "Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs" and inserting "Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science".

(c) PUBLIC LAW 93-126.—Section 9(a) of the Department of State Appropriations Authorization Act of 1973 (22 U.S.C. 2655a) is amended—

(1) by striking "Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs" and inserting "Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science"; and

(2) by striking "Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs" and inserting "Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science".

(d) PUBLIC LAW 106-113.—Section 1112(a) of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2652c(a)) is amended by striking "Verification and Compliance." and inserting "Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance (referred to in this section as the 'Assistant Secretary').".

#### SEC. 112. ANTI-PIRACY INFORMATION SHARING.

The Secretary is authorized to provide for the participation of the United States in the Information Sharing Centre located in Singapore, as established by the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia, done at Singapore November 11, 2004.

#### SEC. 113. REPORT REFORM.

(a) HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.—Section 549 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347h) is repealed.

(b) ROUGH DIAMONDS ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 12 of the Clean Diamond Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 3911) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. REPORTS.

"For each country that, during the preceding 12-month period, exported rough diamonds to the United States, the exportation of which was not controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and if the failure to do so has significantly increased the likelihood that those diamonds not so controlled are being imported into the United States, the President shall submit a semi-annual report to Congress that explains what actions have been taken by the United States or such country since the previous report to ensure that diamonds, the exportation of which was not controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, are not being imported from that country into the United States. A country shall be included in the report required under this section until the country is controlling the importation and exportation of rough diamonds through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.".

#### SEC. 114. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and Japan is a cornerstone of peace, security, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world;

(2) Prime Minister Shiuzo Abe's visit to the United States in April 2015 and historic address to a Joint Session of Congress symbolized the strength and importance of ties between the United States and Japan;

(3) in 2015, which marks 70 years since the end of World War II, the United States and

Japan continue to strengthen the alliance and work together to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for the Asia-Pacific region and the world;

(4) the Governments and people of the United States and Japan share values, interests, and capabilities that have helped to build a strong rules-based international order, based on a commitment to rules, norms and institutions;

(5) the revised Guidelines for United States-Japan Defense Cooperation and Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" will reinforce deterrence, update the roles and missions of the United States and Japan, enable Japan to expand its contributions to regional and global security, and allow the United States Government and the Government of Japan to enhance cooperation on security issues in the region and beyond;

(6) the United States remain resolute in its commitments under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan;

(7) although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

(8) the United States Government reaffirms that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

(9) the United States Government and the Government of Japan continue to work together on common security interests, including to confront the threat posed by the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(10) the United States Government and the Government of Japan remain committed to ensuring maritime security and respect for international law, including freedom of navigation and overflight; and

(11) the United States Government and the Government of Japan continue to oppose the use of coercion, intimidation, or force to change the status quo, including in the East and South China Seas.

#### SEC. 115. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has an upgraded, strategic-plus relationship with India based on regional cooperation, space science cooperation, and defense cooperation.

(2) The defense relationship between the United States and the Republic of India is strengthened by the common commitment of both countries to democracy.

(3) The United States and the Republic of India share a common and long-standing commitment to civilian control of the military.

(4) The United States and the Republic of India have increasingly worked together on defense cooperation across a range of activities, exercises, initiatives, and research.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) continue to expand defense cooperation with the Republic of India;

(2) welcome the role of the Republic of India in providing security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(3) work cooperatively with the Republic of India on matters relating to our common defense;

(4) vigorously support the implementation of the United States-India Defense Framework Agreement; and

(5) support the India Defense Trade and Technology Initiative.

#### SEC. 116. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has served as an anchor for stability, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region, and around the world;

(2) the United States and the Republic of Korea continue to strengthen and adapt the bilateral, regional, and global scope of the comprehensive strategic alliance between the 2 nations, to serve as a linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, recognizing the shared values of democracy, human rights, free and open markets, and the rule of law, as reaffirmed in the May 2013 "Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America";

(3) the United States and the Republic of Korea continue to broaden and deepen the alliance by strengthening the combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula, enhancing mutual security based on the Republic of Korea-United States Mutual Defense Treaty, and promoting cooperation for regional and global security in the 21st century;

(4) the United States and the Republic of Korea share deep concerns that the nuclear, cyber, and ballistic missiles programs of North Korea and its repeated provocations pose grave threats to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia and recognize that both nations are determined to achieve the peaceful denuclearization of North Korea and remain fully committed to continuing close cooperation on the full range of issues related to North Korea;

(5) the United States and the Republic of Korea are particularly concerned that the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of North Korea, including North Korean efforts to miniaturize their nuclear technology and improve the mobility of their ballistic missiles, have gathered significant momentum and are poised to expand in the coming years;

(6) the Republic of Korea has made progress in enhancing future warfighting and interoperability capabilities by taking steps toward procuring Patriot Advanced Capability missiles, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft, and RQ-4 Global Hawk Surveillance Aircraft;

(7) the United States supports the vision of a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons, free from the fear of war, and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and free market principles, as articulated in President Park's address in Dresden, Germany; and

(8) the United States and the Republic of Korea share the future interests of both nations in securing peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

#### SEC. 117. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States policy toward Taiwan is based upon the Taiwan Relations Act

(Public Law 96-8), which was enacted in 1979, and the Six Assurances given by President Ronald Reagan in 1982;

(2) provision of defensive weapons to Taiwan should continue as mandated in the Taiwan Relations Act; and

(3) enhanced trade relations with Taiwan should be pursued to mutually benefit the citizens of both countries.

**SEC. 118. REPORT ON POLITICAL FREEDOM IN VENEZUELA.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) an assessment of the support provided by the United States to the people of Venezuela in their aspiration to live under conditions of peace and representative democracy (as defined by the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States, done at Lima September 11, 2001);

(2) an assessment of work carried out by the United States, in cooperation with the other member states of the Organization of American States and countries of the European Union, to ensure—

(A) the peaceful resolution of the current political situation in Venezuela; and

(B) the immediate cessation of violence against antigovernment protestors;

(3) a list of the government and security officials in Venezuela who—

(A) are responsible for, or complicit in, the use of force in relation to antigovernment protests and similar acts of violence; and

(B) have had their financial assets in the United States frozen or been placed on a visa ban by the United States; and

(4) an assessment of United States support for the development of democratic political processes and independent civil society in Venezuela.

**SEC. 119. STRATEGY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE EVENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN.**

(a) **STRATEGY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, other members of the National Security Council, and the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States Government, develop a strategy for the United States for the Middle East.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy shall include the following:

(1) Efforts to counter Iranian-sponsored terrorism in Middle East region.

(2) Efforts to reassure United States allies and partners in Middle East.

(3) Efforts to address the potential for a conventional or nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

(c) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the strategy developed under subsection (a) to—

(1) the majority leader, the minority leader, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Speaker, the majority leader, the minority leader, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 120. DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERNATIONAL CYBERSPACE POLICY STRATEGY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall produce a com-

prehensive strategy, with a classified annex if necessary, relating to United States international policy with regard to cyberspace.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required in subsection (a) shall include:

(1) A review of actions and activities undertaken by the Secretary of State to date to support the goal of the President's International Strategy for Cyberspace, released in May 2011, to “work internationally to promote an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable information and communications infrastructure that supports international trade and commerce, strengthens international security, and fosters free expression and innovation”.

(2) A plan of action to guide the Secretary's diplomacy with regard to nation-states, including conducting bilateral and multilateral activities to develop the norms of responsible international behavior in cyberspace, and status review of existing discussions in multilateral fora to obtain agreements on international norms in cyberspace.

(3) A review of the alternative concepts with regard to international norms in cyberspace offered by other prominent nation-state actors, including China, Russia, Brazil, and India.

(4) A detailed description of threats to United States national security in cyberspace from other nation-states, state-sponsored actors and private actors, to United States Federal and private sector infrastructure, United States intellectual property, and the privacy of United States citizens.

(5) A review of policy tools available to the President of United States to deter nation-states, state-sponsored actors, and private actors, including, but not limited to, those outlined in Executive Order 13694, released on April 1, 2015.

(6) A review of resources required by the Secretary, including the Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues, to conduct activities to build responsible norms of international cyber behavior.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with other United States Government agencies, including the intelligence community, and, as appropriate, the United States private sector, and United States non-governmental organizations with recognized credentials and expertise in foreign policy, national security, and cybersecurity.

(d) **RELEASE.**—The Secretary shall publicly release the strategy required in subsection (a) and brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives upon its release, including on the classified annex, should the strategy include such an annex.

**SEC. 121. WAIVER OF FEES FOR RENEWAL OF IMMIGRANT VISA FOR ADOPTED CHILD IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.**

Section 221(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) **PERIOD OF VALIDITY; RENEWAL OR REPLACEMENT.**—

“(1) **IMMIGRANT VISAS.**—An immigrant visa shall be valid for such period, not exceeding 6 months, as shall be by regulations prescribed, except that any visa issued to a child lawfully adopted by a United States citizen and spouse while such citizen is serving abroad in the United States Armed Forces, or is employed abroad by the United States Government, or is temporarily abroad on business, shall be valid until such time, for a period not to exceed 3 years, as the adoptive citizen parent returns to the United States in due course of his service, employment, or business.

“(2) **NONIMMIGRANT VISAS.**—A non-immigrant visa shall be valid for such periods as shall be prescribed by regulations. In prescribing the period of validity of a non-immigrant visa in the case of nationals of any foreign country who are eligible for such visas, the Secretary of State shall, insofar as practicable, accord to such nationals the same treatment upon a reciprocal basis as such foreign country accords to nationals of the United States who are within a similar class, except that in the case of aliens who are nationals of a foreign country and who either are granted refugee status and firmly resettled in another foreign country or are granted permanent residence and residing in another foreign country, the Secretary of State may prescribe the period of validity of such a visa based upon the treatment granted by that other foreign country to alien refugees and permanent residents, respectively, in the United States.

“(3) **VISA REPLACEMENT.**—An immigrant visa may be replaced under the original number during the fiscal year in which the original visa was issued for an immigrant who establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer that the immigrant—

“(A) was unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity because of reasons beyond his control and for which he was not responsible;

“(B) is found by a consular officer to be eligible for an immigrant visa; and

“(C) pays again the statutory fees for an application and an immigrant visa.

“(4) **FEE WAIVER.**—If an immigrant visa was issued, on or after March 27, 2013, for a child who has been lawfully adopted, or who is coming to the United States to be adopted, by a United States citizen, any statutory immigrant visa fees relating to a renewal or replacement of such visa may be waived or, if already paid, may be refunded upon request, subject to such criteria as the Secretary of State may prescribe, if—

“(A) the immigrant child was unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity as a direct result of extraordinary circumstances, including the denial of an exit permit; and

“(B) if such inability was attributable to factors beyond the control of the adopting parent or parents and of the immigrant.”.

**SEC. 122. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ANTI-ISRAEL AND ANTI-SEMITIC INCITEMENT WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, commonly referred to as Oslo II, specifically details that Israel and the Palestinian Authority shall “abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda, against each other and, without derogating from the principle of freedom of expression, shall take legal measures to prevent such incitement by any organizations, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—Congress—

(1) expresses support and admiration for individuals and organizations working to encourage cooperation between Israeli Jews and Palestinians, including—

(A) Professor Mohammed Dajani Daoudi, who took students from al-Quds University in Jerusalem to visit Auschwitz in March 2014 only to return to death threats by fellow Palestinians and expulsion from his teacher's union;

(B) the Israel Palestine Center for Research and Information, the only joint Israeli-Palestinian public policy think-tank,

(C) United Hatzalah, a nonprofit, fully volunteer Emergency Medical Services organization that, mobilizing volunteers who are religious or secular Jews, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, provides EMS services to all people in Israel regardless of race, religion, or national origin; and

(D) Breaking the Impasse, an apolitical initiative of Palestinian and Israeli business and civil society leaders who advocate for a two-state solution and an urgent diplomatic solution to the conflict;

(2) reiterates strong condemnation of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement in the Palestinian Authority as antithetical to the stated desire to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace settlement; and

(3) urges President Abbas and Palestinian Authority officials to discontinue all official incitement that runs contrary to the determination to put an end to decades of confrontation.

**SEC. 123. SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND INVIOABILITY OF POST-SOVIET COUNTRIES IN LIGHT OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND INTERFERENCE.**

It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) supports the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of post-Soviet countries within their internationally recognized borders;

(2) expresses deep concern over increasingly aggressive actions by the Russian Federation;

(3) is committed to providing sufficient funding for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs of the Department of State to address subversive and destabilizing activities by the Russian Federation within post-Soviet countries;

(4) supports robust engagement between the United States and post-Soviet countries through—

(A) the promotion of strengthened people-to-people ties, including through educational and cultural exchange programs;

(B) anticorruption assistance;

(C) public diplomacy;

(D) economic diplomacy; and

(E) other democratic reform efforts;

(5) encourages the President to further enhance nondefense cooperation and diplomatic engagement with post-Soviet countries;

(6) condemns the subversive and destabilizing activities undertaken by the Russian Federation within post-Soviet countries;

(7) encourages enhanced cooperation between the United States and the European Union to promote greater Euro-Atlantic integration, including through—

(A) the enlargement of the European Union; and

(B) the Open Door policy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(8) urges continued cooperation between the United States and the European Union to maintain sanctions against the Russian Federation until the Government of Russia has—

(A) fully implemented all provisions of the Minsk agreements, done at Minsk September 5, 2014 and February 12, 2015; and

(B) demonstrated respect for the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine;

(9) calls on the member states of the European Union to extend the current sanctions regime against the Russian Federation; and

(10) urges the consideration of additional sanctions if the Russian Federation continue to engage in subversive and destabilizing activities within post-Soviet countries.

**SEC. 124. RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA REPORT.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Russian Federation is waging a propaganda war against the United States and our allies; and

(2) a successful strategy must be implemented to counter the threat posed by Russian propaganda.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually for the following 3 years, the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal officials, shall submit an unclassified report, with a classified annex, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that contains a detailed analysis of—

(1) the recent use of propaganda by the Government of Russia, including—

(A) the forms of propaganda used, including types of media and programming;

(B) the principal countries and regions targeted by Russian propaganda; and

(C) the impact of Russian propaganda on such targets;

(2) the response by United States allies, particularly European allies, to counter the threat of Russian propaganda;

(3) the response by the United States to the threat of Russian propaganda;

(4) the extent of the effectiveness of programs currently in use to counter Russian propaganda;

(5) a strategy for improving the effectiveness of such programs;

(6) any additional authority needed to counter the threat of Russian propaganda; and

(7) the additional funding needed to successfully implement the strategy referred to in paragraph (5).

**SEC. 125. APPROVAL OF EXPORT LICENCES AND LETTERS OF REQUEST TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS.—

(A) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the specified congressional committees a detailed list of all export license applications, including requests for marketing licenses, for the sale of defense articles and defense services to Ukraine.

(B) CONTENTS.—The list submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) the date on which the application or request was first submitted;

(ii) the current status of each application or request; and

(iii) the estimated timeline for adjudication of such applications or requests.

(C) PRIORITY.—The Secretary should give priority to processing the applications and requests included on the list submitted under subparagraph (A).

(2) LETTERS OF REQUEST.—The Secretary shall submit to the specified congressional committees a detailed list of all pending Letters of Request for Foreign Military Sales to Ukraine, including—

(A) the date on which each such letter was first submitted;

(B) the current status of each such letter; and

(C) the estimated timeline for the adjudication of each such letter.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

and every 90 days thereafter until the date set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit a report to the specified congressional committees that describes the status of the applications, requests for marketing licenses, and Letters of Request described in subsection (a).

(2) TERMINATION DATE.—The date set forth in this paragraph is the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the President certifies to Congress that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Government of Ukraine has been restored; or

(B) the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “specified congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

**Subtitle B—Additional Matters**

**SEC. 131. ATROCITIES PREVENTION BOARD.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President is authorized to establish, within the Executive Office of the President, an Interagency Atrocities Prevention Board (referred to in this section as the “Board”).

(b) DUTIES.—The Board is authorized—

(1) to coordinate an interagency approach to preventing mass atrocities;

(2) to propose policies to integrate the early warning systems of national security agencies, including intelligence agencies, with respect to incidents of mass atrocities and to coordinate the policy response to such incidents;

(3) to identify relevant Federal agencies, which shall track and report on Federal funding spent on atrocity prevention efforts;

(4) to oversee the development and implementation of comprehensive atrocities prevention and response strategies;

(5) to identify available resources and policy options necessary to prevent the emergence or escalation of mass atrocities;

(6) to identify and propose policies to close gaps in expertise, readiness, and planning for atrocities prevention and early action across Federal agencies, including training for employees at relevant Federal agencies;

(7) to engage relevant civil society and nongovernmental organization stakeholders in regular consultations to solicit current information on countries of concern; and

(8) to conduct an atrocity-specific expert review of policy and programming of all countries at risk for mass atrocities.

(c) LEADERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall be headed by a Senior Director, who—

(A) shall be appointed by the President; and

(B) shall report to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Senior Director is authorized to have primary responsibility for—

(A) recommending and, if adopted, promoting United States Government policies on preventing mass atrocities; and

(B) carrying out the duties described in subsection (b).

(d) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed of—

(1) representatives from—

(A) the Department of State;

(B) the United States Agency for International Development;



(C) the Department of Defense;  
 (D) the Department of Justice;  
 (E) the Department of the Treasury;  
 (F) the Department of Homeland Security;  
 (G) the Central Intelligence Agency;  
 (H) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

(I) the United States Mission to the United Nations; and

(J) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(2) such other individuals as the President may appoint.

(e) **COORDINATION.**—The Board is authorized to coordinate with relevant officials and government agencies responsible for foreign policy with respect to particular regions and countries to help provide a cohesive, whole of government response and policy direction to emerging and ongoing atrocities.

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report, with an unclassified annex, which shall include—

(1) an update on the interagency review mandated by Presidential Study Directive 10 that includes—

(A) an evaluation of current mechanisms and capacities for government-wide detection, early warning, information-sharing, contingency planning, and coordination of efforts to prevent and respond to situations of genocide, mass atrocities, and other mass violence, including such mass gender- and ethnicity-based violence;

(B) an assessment of the funding spent by relevant Federal agencies on atrocity prevention activities;

(C) current annual global assessments of sources of conflict and instability;

(D) recommendations to further strengthen United States capabilities to improve the mechanisms described in subparagraph (A); and

(E) evaluations of the various approaches to enhancing capabilities and improving the mechanisms described in subparagraph (A);

(2) recommendations to ensure burden sharing by—

(A) improving international cooperation and coordination to enhance multilateral mechanisms for preventing genocide and atrocities, including improving the role of regional and international organizations in conflict prevention, mitigation, and response; and

(B) strengthening regional organizations; and

(3) the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the interagency review described in paragraph (1).

(g) **MATERIALS AND BRIEFINGS.**—The Senior Director and the members of the Board shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives at least annually.

(h) **SUNSET.**—This section shall cease to be effective on June 30, 2017.

**SEC. 132. UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT IN THE INDO-PACIFIC.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a comprehensive assessment to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of the United States engagement in the Indo-Pacific, including with partners across the Indo-Pacific region.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The assessment submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of current and emerging United States diplomatic, national security, and economic interests and trends in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) a review of resources devoted to United States diplomatic, economic, trade, development, and cultural engagement and plans in the Indo-Pacific region during the 10-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) options for the realignment of United States engagement in the Indo-Pacific region to respond to new opportunities and challenges, including linking United States strategy more broadly across the Indo-Pacific region; and

(4) the views of noted policy leaders and regional experts, including leaders and experts in the Indo-Pacific region, on the opportunities and challenges to United States engagement across the Indo-Pacific region.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary, as appropriate, shall consult with—

(1) other United States Government agencies; and

(2) independent, nongovernmental organizations with recognized credentials and expertise in foreign policy, national security, and international economic affairs that have access to policy experts throughout the United States and from the Indo-Pacific region.

**SEC. 133. JOINT ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION AND TO FOSTER INCLUSION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to enter into a bilateral joint action plan with the European Union to combat prejudice and discrimination and to foster inclusion (referred to in this section as the “Joint Action Plan”).

(b) **CONTENTS OF JOINT ACTION PLAN.**—The Joint Action Plan shall—

(1) address anti-Semitism;

(2) address prejudice against, and the discriminatory treatment of, racial, ethnic, and religious minorities;

(3) promote equality of opportunity for access to quality education and economic opportunities; and

(4) promote equal treatment by the justice system.

(c) **COOPERATION.**—In developing the Joint Action Plan, the Secretary shall—

(1) leverage interagency policy expertise in the United States and Europe;

(2) develop partnerships among civil society and private sector stakeholders; and

(3) draw upon the extensive work done by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to address anti-Semitism.

(d) **INITIATIVES.**—The Joint Action Plan may include initiatives for promoting equality of opportunity and methods of eliminating prejudice and discrimination based on religion, race, or ethnicity, including—

(1) training programs;

(2) regional initiatives to promote equality of opportunity through the strengthening of democratic institutions;

(3) public-private partnerships with enterprises and nongovernmental organizations;

(4) exchanges of technical experts;

(5) scholarships and fellowships; and

(6) political empowerment and leadership initiatives.

(e) **DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The Secretary shall task an existing Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Joint Action Plan with his or her European Union counterpart.

(f) **LEGAL EFFECTS.**—Any Joint Action Plan adopted under this section—

(1) shall not be legally binding; and

(2) shall create no rights or obligations under international or United States law.

(g) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize—

(1) the Secretary to enter into a legally binding agreement or Joint Action Plan with the European Union; or

(2) any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives described in this section.

(h) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a progress report on the development of the Joint Action Plan to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 134. REPORT ON DEVELOPING COUNTRY DEBT SUSTAINABILITY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Treasury, shall submit a report containing an assessment of the current external debt environment for developing countries and identifying particular near-term risks to debt sustainability to—

(1) the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall assess—

(1) the impact of new lending relationships, including the role of new creditors;

(2) the adequacy of current multilateral surveillance mechanisms in guarding against debt distress in developing countries;

(3) the ability of developing countries to borrow on global capital markets; and

(4) the interaction between debt sustainability objectives of the developing world and the development-oriented investment agenda of the G-20, including the impact of—

(A) current debt sustainability objectives on investment in developing countries; and

(B) investment objectives proposed by the G-20 on the ability to meet the goals of—

(i) the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative; and

(ii) the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

**SEC. 135. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.**

(a) **GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter for 6 years, the Secretary of State shall develop or update a United States global strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. The strategy shall be transmitted to the appropriate congressional committees and made publicly available on the Internet.

(b) **INITIAL STRATEGY.**—For the purposes of this section, the “United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally”, issued in August 2012, shall be deemed to fulfill the initial requirement of subsection (a).

(c) **COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.**—In developing the strategy under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall consult with—

(1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies;

(2) the Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons; and

(3) representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations with demonstrated experience in addressing violence against women and girls or promoting gender equality internationally.

(d) **PRIORITY COUNTRY SELECTION.**—To further the objectives of the strategy described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall identify no less than 4 eligible low-income and lower-middle income countries with significant levels of violence against women and girls, including within displaced communities, that have the governmental or non-governmental organizational capacity to manage and implement gender-based violence prevention and response program activities and should, when possible, be geographically, ethnically, and culturally diverse from one another.

(e) **COUNTRY PLANS.**—In each country identified under subsection (d) the Secretary shall develop comprehensive, multisectoral, and holistic individual country plans designed to address and respond to violence against women and girls that include—

(1) an assessment and description of the current or potential capacity of the government of each identified country and civil society organizations in each such identified country to address and respond to violence against women and girls;

(2) an identification of coordination mechanisms with Federal agencies that—

(A) have existing programs relevant to the strategy;

(B) will be involved in new program activities; and

(C) are engaged in broader United States strategies around development;

(3) a description of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms established for each identified country, and their intended use in assessing overall progress in prevention and response;

(4) a projection of the general levels of resources needed to achieve the stated objectives in each identified country, including an accounting of—

(A) activities and funding already expended by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, other Federal agencies, donor country governments, and multilateral institutions; and

(B) leveraged private sector resources; and

(5) strategies, as appropriate, designed to accommodate the needs of stateless, disabled, internally displaced, refugee, or religious or ethnic minority women and girls.

(f) **REPORT ON PRIORITY COUNTRY SELECTION AND COUNTRY PLANS.**—Not more than 90 days after selection of the priority countries required under subsection (d), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the priority country selection process, the development of specific country plans, and include an overview of all programming and specific activities being undertaken, the budget resources requested, and the specific activities to be supported by each Executive agency under the strategy if such resources are provided.

(g) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives of this section.

**SEC. 136. INTERNATIONAL CORRUPTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

(a) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than June 1 of each year, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as the “USAID Administrator”), the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of appropriate intelligence agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a Country Report on Corruption Practices, with a classified annex,

which shall include information about countries for which a corruption analysis was conducted under subsection (b).

(b) **CORRUPTION ANALYSIS ELEMENTS.**—The corruption analysis conducted under this subsection should include, among other elements—

(1) an analysis of individuals and associations that comprise corruption networks in the country, including, as applicable—

(A) government officials;

(B) private sector actors;

(C) criminals; and

(D) members of illegal armed groups;

(2) the identification of the state functions that have been captured by corrupt networks in the country, including, as applicable functions of—

(A) the judicial branch;

(B) the taxing authority;

(C) the central bank; and

(D) specific military or police units;

(3) the identification of—

(A) the key economic activities, whether licit or illicit, which are dominated by members of the corrupt network; and

(B) other revenue streams that enrich such members; and

(4) the identification of enablers of corrupt practices, within the country and outside the country.

(c) **PUBLICATION AND BRIEFINGS.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish the Country Report on Corruption and Accountability submitted under subsection (a) on the website of the Department; and

(2) brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on the information contained in the report published under paragraph (1).

**SEC. 137. QUADRENNIAL DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW.**

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **QUADRENNIAL REVIEWS REQUIRED.**—Under the direction of the President, the Secretary of State shall every 4 years, during a year following a year evenly divisible by 4, conduct a review of United States diplomacy and development (to be known as a “quadrennial diplomacy and development review”).

(2) **SCOPE OF REVIEWS.**—Each quadrennial diplomacy and development review shall be a comprehensive examination of the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States for the next 4-year period until a subsequent review is due under paragraph (1). The review shall include—

(A) recommendations regarding the long-term diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States;

(B) priorities of the United States for diplomacy and development; and

(C) guidance on the related programs, assets, capabilities, budget, policies, and authorities of the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development.

(3) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting each quadrennial diplomacy and development review, after consultation with Department of State and United States Agency for International Development officials, the Secretary of State should consult with—

(A) the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, including the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chief Executive Officer of

the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Director of National Intelligence;

(B) any other Federal agency that provides foreign assistance, including at a minimum the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and, as appropriate, other members of Congress; and

(D) other relevant governmental and non-governmental entities, including private sector representatives, academics, and other policy experts.

(b) **CONTENTS OF REVIEW.**—Each quadrennial diplomacy and development review shall—

(1) delineate, as appropriate, the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States, consistent with appropriate national, Department of State, and United States Agency for International Development strategies, strategic plans, and relevant presidential directives, including the national security strategy prescribed pursuant to section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 404a);

(2) outline and prioritize the full range of critical national diplomacy and development areas, capabilities, and resources, including those implemented across agencies, and address the full range of challenges confronting the United States in this regard;

(3) describe the interagency cooperation, and preparedness of relevant Federal assets, and the infrastructure, budget plan, and other elements of the diplomacy and development policies and programs of the United States required to execute successfully the full range of mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(4) describe the roles of international organizations and multilateral institutions in advancing United States diplomatic and development objectives, including the mechanisms for coordinating and harmonizing development policies and programs with partner countries and among donors;

(5) identify the budget plan required to provide sufficient resources to successfully execute the full range of mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(6) include an assessment of the organizational alignment of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development with the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework referred to in paragraph (1) and the diplomacy and development mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(7) review and assess the effectiveness of the management mechanisms of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development for executing the strategic priorities outlined in the quadrennial diplomacy and development review, including the extent to which such effectiveness has been enhanced since the previous report; and

(8) the relationship between the requirements of the quadrennial diplomacy and development review and the acquisition strategy and expenditure plan within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.

(c) **FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLICY BOARD REVIEW.**—The Secretary of State should apprise the Foreign Affairs Policy Board on an ongoing basis of the work undertaken in the conduct of the quadrennial diplomacy and development review.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives under this section.

**SEC. 138. DISAPPEARED PERSONS IN MEXICO, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND EL SALVADOR.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States—

(A) values governance, security, and the rule of law in Mexico and Central America; and

(B) has reemphasized its commitment to this region following the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children from these countries across the international border between the United States and Mexico in 2014.

(2) Individuals migrating from Central America to the United States face great peril during their journey. Many go missing along the way and are often never heard from again.

(b) **REPORT OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in close consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) the number of cases of enforced disappearances in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador;

(2) an assessment of causes for the disappearances described in paragraph (1);

(3) the primary individuals and groups responsible for such disappearances; and

(4) the official government response in those countries to account for such disappeared persons.

**SEC. 139. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit an unclassified report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the implementation by the Government of Bahrain of the recommendations contained in the 2011 Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (referred to in this section as the “Bahrain Report”).

(b) **CONTENT.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the specific steps taken by the Government of Bahrain to implement each of the 26 recommendations contained in the Bahrain Report;

(2) an assessment of whether the Government of Bahrain has “fully complied with”, “partially implemented”, or “not meaningfully implemented” each recommendation referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) an assessment of the impact of the findings in the Bahrain Report for the United States security posture in the Arab Gulf and the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command.

**SEC. 140. REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI AND WHETHER RECENT ELECTIONS IN HAITI MEET INTERNATIONAL ELECTION STANDARDS.**

(a) **REAUTHORIZATION.**—Section 5(a) of the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) is amended by striking “De-

ember 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31, 2022”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Section 5(b) of the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(14) a determination of whether recent Haitian elections are free, fair and responsive to the people of Haiti; and

“(15) a description of any attempts to disqualify candidates for political officers in Haiti for political reasons.”.

**SEC. 141. SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (in this section referred to as the “DPRK”) tested nuclear weapons on 3 separate occasions, in October 2006, in May 2009, and in February 2013.

(2) Nuclear experts have reported that the DPRK may currently have as many as 20 nuclear warheads and has the potential to possess as many as 100 warheads within the next 5 years.

(3) According to the 2014 Department of Defense report, “Military and Security Developments Involving the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” (in this subsection referred to as the “2014 DoD report”), the DPRK has proliferated nuclear technology to Libya via the proliferation network of Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan.

(4) According to the 2014 DoD report, “North Korea also provided Syria with nuclear reactor technology until 2007.”.

(5) On September 6, 2007, as part of “Operation Orchard”, the Israeli Air Force destroyed the suspected nuclear facility in Syria.

(6) According to the 2014 DoD report, “North Korea has exported conventional and ballistic missile-related equipment, components, materials, and technical assistance to countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.”.

(7) On November 29, 1987, DPRK agents planted explosive devices onboard Korean Air flight 858, which killed all 115 passengers and crew on board.

(8) On March 26, 2010, the DPRK fired upon and sank the South Korean warship Cheonan, killing 46 of her crew.

(9) On November 23, 2010, the DPRK shelled South Korea’s Yeonpyeong Island, killing 4 South Korean citizens.

(10) On February 7, 2014, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in DPRK (in this subsection referred to as the “Commission of Inquiry”) released a report detailing the atrocious human rights record of the DPRK.

(11) Dr. Michael Kirby, Chair of the Commission of Inquiry, stated on March 17, 2014, “The Commission of Inquiry has found systematic, widespread, and grave human rights violations occurring in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. It has also found a disturbing array of crimes against humanity. These crimes are committed against inmates of political and other prison camps; against starving populations; against religious believers; against persons who try to flee the country—including those forcibly repatriated by China.”.

(12) Dr. Michael Kirby also stated, “These crimes arise from policies established at the

highest level of the State. They have been committed, and continue to take place in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, because the policies, institutions, and patterns of impunity that lie at their heart remain in place. The gravity, scale, duration, and nature of the unspeakable atrocities committed in the country reveal a totalitarian State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world.”.

(13) The Commission of Inquiry also notes, “Since 1950, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has engaged in the systematic abduction, denial of repatriation, and subsequent enforced disappearance of persons from other countries on a large scale and as a matter of State policy. Well over 200,000 persons, including children, who were brought from other countries to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea may have become victims of enforced disappearance,” and states that the DPRK has failed to account or address this injustice in any way.

(14) According to reports and analysis from organizations such as the International Network for the Human Rights of North Korean Overseas Labor, the Korea Policy Research Center, NK Watch, the Asian Institute for Policy Studies, the Center for International and Strategic Studies, and the George W. Bush Institute, there may currently be as many as 100,000 North Korean overseas laborers in various nations around the world.

(15) Such forced North Korean laborers are often subjected to harsh working conditions under the direct supervision of DPRK officials, and their salaries contribute to anywhere from \$150,000,000 to \$230,000,000 a year to the DPRK state coffers.

(16) According to the Director of National Intelligence’s 2015 Worldwide Threat Assessment, “North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missile programs pose a serious threat to the United States and to the security environment in East Asia.”.

(17) The Worldwide Threat Assessment states, “North Korea has also expanded the size and sophistication of its ballistic missile forces, ranging from close-range ballistic missiles to ICBMs, while continuing to conduct test launches. In 2014, North Korea launched an unprecedented number of ballistic missiles.”.

(18) On December 19, 2015, the Federal Bureau of Investigation declared that the DPRK was responsible for a cyberattack on Sony Pictures conducted on November 24, 2014.

(19) From 1988 to 2008, the DPRK was designated by the United States Government as a state sponsor of terrorism.

(20) The DPRK is currently in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1695 (2006), 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), and 2094 (2013).

(21) The DPRK repeatedly violated agreements with the United States and the other so-called Six-Party Talks partners (the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the People’s Republic of China) designed to halt its nuclear weapons program, while receiving significant concessions, including fuel, oil, and food aid.

(22) The Six-Party Talks have not been held since December 2008.

(23) On May 9, 2015, the DPRK claimed that it has test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the DPRK represents a serious threat to the national security of the United States and United States allies in East Asia and to

international peace and stability, and grossly violates the human rights of its own people;

(2) the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury should impose additional sanctions against the DPRK, including targeting its financial assets around the world, specific designations relating to human rights abuses, and a redesignation of the DPRK as a state sponsor of terror; and

(3) the President should not resume the negotiations with the DPRK, either bilaterally or as part of the Six-Party Talks, without strict preconditions, including that the DPRK—

(A) adhere to its denuclearization commitments outlined in the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks;

(B) commit to halting its ballistic missile programs and its proliferation activities;

(C) cease military provocations; and

(D) measurably and significantly improve its human rights record.

## TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### Subtitle A—Organizational Matters

#### SEC. 201. RIGHTSIZING ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving rightsizing recommendations pursuant to a review conducted by the Office of Management, Policy, Rightsizing, and Innovation relating to overseas staffing levels at United States overseas posts, the relevant chief of mission, in coordination with the relevant regional bureau, shall submit a response to the Office of Management, Policy, Rightsizing, and Innovation that describes—

(1) any rightsizing recommendations that are accepted by such chief of mission and regional bureau;

(2) a detailed schedule for implementation of any such recommendations;

(3) any recommendations that are rejected; and

(4) a detailed justification providing the basis for the rejection of any such recommendations.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—On the date on which the President's annual budget request is submitted to Congress, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of all rightsizing recommendations and responses described in subsection (a) from the preceding 5 years, including—

(1) a list of all such rightsizing recommendations made, including whether each such recommendation was accepted or rejected by the relevant chief of mission and regional bureau;

(2) for each accepted recommendation, a detailed description of the current status of its implementation according to the schedule provided pursuant to subsection (a)(2), including an explanation for any departure from, or changes to, such schedule; and

(3) for any rejected recommendations, the justification provided pursuant to subsection (a)(4).

(c) REPORT ON REGIONAL BUREAU STAFFING.—In conjunction with each report required under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit a supplemental report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) an enumeration of the domestic staff positions in each regional bureau of the Department;

(2) a detailed explanation of the extent to which the staffing of each regional bureau reflects the overseas requirements of the United States within each such region;

(3) a detailed plan, including an implementation schedule, for how the Department will seek to rectify any significant imbalances in staffing among regional bureaus or between any regional bureau and the overseas requirements of the United States within such region if the Secretary determines that such staffing does not reflect—

(A) the foreign policy priorities of the United States; or

(B) the effective conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States; and

(4) a detailed description of the implementation status of any plan provided pursuant to paragraph (3), including an explanation for any departure from, or changes to, the implementation schedule provided with such plan.

#### SEC. 202. INTEGRATION OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Under Secretary of Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, shall establish—

(1) foreign economic policy priorities for each regional bureau, including for individual countries, as appropriate; and

(2) policies and guidance for integrating such foreign economic policy priorities throughout the Department.

(b) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Within each regional bureau of the Department, the Secretary shall task an existing Deputy Assistant Secretary with appropriate training and background in economic and commercial affairs with the responsibility for economic matters and interests within the responsibilities of such regional bureau, including the integration of the foreign economic policy priorities established pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) COORDINATION.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary given the responsibility for economic matters and interests pursuant to subsection (b) within each bureau shall—

(1) at the direction of the relevant Assistant Secretary, review and report to the Assistant Secretary of such bureau on all economic matters and interests; and

(2) serve as liaison with the Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.

#### SEC. 203. REVIEW OF BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS JURISDICTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct a review of the jurisdictional responsibility of the Bureau of African Affairs and that of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs relating to the North African countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya; and

(2) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) the findings of the review conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) recommendations on whether jurisdictional responsibility among the bureaus referred to in paragraph (1) should be adjusted.

(b) REVIEW.—The review conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) identify regional strategic priorities;

(2) assess regional dynamics between the North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions, including the degree to which the priorities identified pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) are distinct between each such region; or

(B) have similar application across such regions;

(3) identify current priorities and effectiveness of United States Government regional

engagement in North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, including through security assistance, economic assistance, humanitarian assistance, and trade;

(4) assess the degree to which such engagement is—

(A) inefficient, duplicative, or uncoordinated between the North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions; or

(B) otherwise harmed or limited as a result of the current division of jurisdictional responsibilities;

(5) assess the overall coherence and effectiveness of the current division of jurisdictional responsibilities in Africa between the Bureau of African Affairs and the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, including with regard to coordination with other United States departments or agencies; and

(6) assess any opportunities and costs of transferring jurisdictional responsibility of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya from the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs to the Bureau of African Affairs.

#### SEC. 204. SPECIAL ENVOYS, REPRESENTATIVES, ADVISORS, AND COORDINATORS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on special envoys, representatives, advisors, and coordinators of the Department, which shall include—

(1) a tabulation of the current names, ranks, positions, and responsibilities of all special envoy, representative, advisor, and coordinator positions at the Department, with a separate accounting of all such positions at the level of Assistant Secretary (or equivalent) or above; and

(2) for each position identified pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) the date on which the position was created;

(B) the mechanism by which the position was created, including the authority under which the position was created;

(C) the positions authorized under section 1(d) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(d));

(D) a description of whether, and the extent to which, the responsibilities assigned to the position duplicate the responsibilities of other current officials within the Department, including other special envoys, representatives, and advisors;

(E) which current official within the Department would be assigned the responsibilities of the position in the absence of the position;

(F) to which current official within the Department the position directly reports;

(G) the total number of staff assigned to support the position; and

(H) with the exception of those created by statute, a detailed explanation of the necessity of the position to the effective conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States.

#### SEC. 205. CONFLICT PREVENTION, MITIGATION AND RESOLUTION, AND THE INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN.

Section 704 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) The Secretary, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall ensure that all appropriate personnel, responsible for, or deploying to, countries or regions considered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent conflict, including special envoys, members of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members of the civil service or foreign service,

and contractors, obtain training, as appropriate, in the following areas, each of which shall include a focus on women and ensuring women's meaningful inclusion and participation:

“(1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.

“(2) Protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons.

“(3) International human rights law and international humanitarian law.”

**SEC. 206. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM SECURITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall regularly consult with the Director of the National Security Agency and any other departments or agencies the Secretary determines to be appropriate regarding the security of United States Government and non-government information technology systems and networks owned, operated, managed, or utilized by the Department, including any such systems or networks facilitating the use of sensitive or classified information.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In performing the consultations required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make all such systems and networks available to the Director of the National Security Agency and any other such departments or agencies to carry out such tests and procedures as are necessary to ensure adequate policies and protections are in place to prevent penetrations or compromises of such systems and networks, including by malicious intrusions by any unauthorized individual or state actor or other entity.

(c) SECURITY BREACH REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Security Agency and any other departments or agencies the Secretary determines to be appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that describes in detail—

(1) all known or suspected penetrations or compromises of the systems or networks described in subsection (a) facilitating the use of classified information; and

(2) all known or suspected significant penetrations or compromises of any other such systems and networks that occurred since the submission of the prior report.

(d) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under subsection (c) shall include—

(1) a description of the relevant information technology system or network penetrated or compromised;

(2) an assessment of the date and time such penetration or compromise occurred;

(3) an assessment of the duration for which such system or network was penetrated or compromised, including whether such penetration or compromise is ongoing;

(4) an assessment of the amount and sensitivity of information accessed and available to have been accessed by such penetration or compromise, including any such information contained on systems and networks owned, operated, managed, or utilized by any other department or agency of the United States Government;

(5) an assessment of whether such system or network was penetrated by a malicious intrusion, including an assessment of—

(A) the known or suspected perpetrators, including state actors; and

(B) the methods used to conduct such penetration or compromise; and

(6) a description of the actions the Department has taken, or plans to take, to prevent future, similar penetrations or compromises of such systems and networks.

**SEC. 207. ANALYSIS OF EMBASSY COST SHARING.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that assesses the cost-effectiveness and performance of the International Cooperative Administrative Support Services system (referred to in this section as the “ICASS system”), including by assessing—

(1) the general performance of the ICASS system in providing cost-effective, timely, efficient, appropriate, and reliable services that meet the needs of all departments and agencies served;

(2) the extent to which additional cost savings and greater performance can be achieved under the current ICASS system and rules;

(3) the standards applied in the selection of the ICASS provider and the extent to which such standards are consistently applied; and

(4) potential reforms to the ICASS system, including—

(A) the selection of more than 1 service provider under certain circumstances;

(B) options for all departments or agencies to opt out of ICASS entirely or to opt out of individual services, including by debundling service packages;

(C) increasing the reliance on locally employed staff or outsourcing to local firms, as appropriate; and

(D) other modifications to the current ICASS system and rules that would incentivize greater effectiveness and cost efficiency.

**SEC. 208. PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION.**

Section 433(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 241(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

“(1) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary of State shall convene and chair an interagency working group to prevent international parental child abduction, which shall be composed of presidentially appointed, Senate confirmed, officials from—

“(A) the Department of State;

“(B) the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

“(C) the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary of State shall convene an advisory committee to the interagency working group established pursuant to paragraph (1), for the duration of the working group's existence, which shall be composed of not less than 3 left-behind parents, serving for 2-year terms, who—

“(A) shall be selected by the Secretary; and

“(B) shall periodically consult with the interagency working group on all activities of the interagency working group, as appropriate.”

**SEC. 209. IMPROVING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) conduct regular research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities

of the Department, including through the routine use of audience research, digital analytics, and impact evaluations, to plan and execute such programs and activities; and

(2) make the findings of the research and evaluations conducted under paragraph (1) available to Congress.

(b) DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint a Director of Research and Evaluation in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT.—The appointment of a Director of Research and Evaluation pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not result in an increase in the overall full-time equivalent positions within the Department.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director of Research and Evaluation shall—

(A) coordinate and oversee the research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs of the Department—

(i) to improve public diplomacy strategies and tactics; and

(ii) to ensure that programs are increasing the knowledge, understanding, and trust of the United States by relevant target audiences;

(B) report to the Director of Policy and Planning;

(C) routinely organize and oversee audience research, digital analytics and impact evaluations across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department;

(D) support embassy public affairs sections;

(E) share appropriate public diplomacy research and evaluation information within the Department and with other Federal departments and agencies;

(F) regularly design and coordinate standardized research questions, methodologies, and procedures to ensure that public diplomacy activities across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices are designed to meet appropriate foreign policy objectives; and

(G) report quarterly to the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, through the Commission's Subcommittee on Research and Evaluation established pursuant to subsection (e), regarding the research and evaluation of all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(4) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—Not later than 180 days after his or her appointment pursuant to paragraph (1), the Director of Research and Evaluation shall create guidance and training for all public diplomacy officers regarding the reading and interpretation of public diplomacy program evaluation findings to ensure that such findings and lessons learned are implemented in the planning and evaluation of all public diplomacy programs and activities throughout the Department.

(c) PRIORITIZING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of Policy, Planning, and Resources shall ensure that research and evaluation, as coordinated and overseen by the Director of Research and Evaluation, supports strategic planning and resource allocation across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(2) ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.—Amounts allocated for the purposes of research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available to be disbursed at the direction of the Director of Research and Evaluation among the research and evaluation staff

across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department should allocate, for the purposes of research and evaluation of public diplomacy activities and programs pursuant to subsection (a)—

(A) 3 to 5 percent of program funds made available under the heading “EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS”; and

(B) 3 to 5 percent of program funds allocated for public diplomacy programs under the heading “DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS”.

(d) LIMITED EXEMPTION.—The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) shall not apply to collections of information directed at foreign individuals conducted by, or on behalf of, the Department for the purpose of audience research and impact evaluations, in accordance with the requirements under this section and in connection with the Department’s activities conducted pursuant to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) or the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.).

(e) ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—

(1) SUBCOMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—The Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy shall establish a Subcommittee for Research and Evaluation to monitor and advise on the research and evaluation activities of the Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

(2) REPORT.—The Subcommittee for Research and Evaluation established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall submit an annual report to Congress in conjunction with the Commission on Public Diplomacy’s Comprehensive Annual Report on the performance of the Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors in carrying out research and evaluations of their respective public diplomacy programming.

(3) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) is amended by striking “October 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2020”.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUDIENCE RESEARCH.—The term “audience research” means research conducted at the outset of public diplomacy program or campaign planning and design on specific audience segments to understand the attitudes, interests, knowledge and behaviors of such audience segments.

(2) DIGITAL ANALYTICS.—The term “digital analytics” means the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, accumulated in digital format, to indicate the outputs and outcomes of a public diplomacy program or campaign.

(3) IMPACT EVALUATION.—The term “impact evaluation” means an assessment of the changes in the audience targeted by a public diplomacy program or campaign that can be attributed to such program or campaign.

**SEC. 210. ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strengthen the institutional capacity of the Bureau of African Affairs to oversee programs and engage in strategic planning and crisis management by—

(1) establishing an office within the Bureau of African Affairs that is separate and distinct from the regional affairs office specifically charged with overseeing strategy development and program implementation related to security assistance;

(2) planning to facilitate the long-term planning process; and

(3) developing a concrete plan to rightsize the Bureau of African Affairs not later than 180 days after the date enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the actions that have been taken to carry out subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts to carry out this section, and the Secretary shall use existing resources to carry out the provisions of this section.

**Subtitle B—Personnel Matters**

**SEC. 211. REVIEW OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER COMPENSATION.**

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall commission an independent assessment of Foreign Service Officer compensation to ensure that such compensation is achieving its purposes and the goals of the Department, including to recruit, retain, and maintain the world’s premier diplomatic corps.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) the results of the independent assessment commissioned pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) the views of the Secretary regarding Foreign Service Officer compensation.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all compensation received by Foreign Service Officers assigned domestically or overseas, including base salary and any other benefits, allowances, differentials, or other financial incentives;

(2) for each form of compensation described in paragraph (1)—

(A) an explanation of its stated purpose;

(B) a description of all relevant authorities, including statutory authority; and

(C) an assessment of the degree to which its historical and current use matches its stated purpose; and

(3) an assessment of the effectiveness of each form of compensation described in paragraph (1) in—

(A) achieving its stated purpose;

(B) achieving the recruiting and retention goals of the Department; and

(C) achieving the assignment placement needs of the Department.

**SEC. 212. REPEAL OF RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE.**

Section 305 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3945) is amended by striking subsection (d).

**SEC. 213. COMPENSATORY TIME OFF FOR TRAVEL.**

Section 5550b of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) The maximum amount of compensatory time off that may be earned under this section may not exceed 104 hours during any leave year (as defined in section 630.201(b) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations).”

**SEC. 214. CERTIFICATES OF DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCE.**

Not later than 7 days after submitting the report required under section 304(a)(4) of the

Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3944(a)(4)) to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the President shall make the report available to the public, including by posting the on the website of the Department in a conspicuous manner and location.

**SEC. 215. FOREIGN SERVICE ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTIONS.**

(a) APPEAL OF ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTION.—The Secretary shall establish a right and process for employees to appeal any assignment restriction or preclusion.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Upon full implementation of a right and process for employees to appeal an assignment restriction or preclusion, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) certifies that such appeals process has been fully implemented; and

(2) includes a detailed description of such process.

(c) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish the right and process established pursuant to subsection (a) in the Foreign Affairs Manual; and

(2) include a reference to such publication in the report required under subsection (b).

(d) PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION.—Section 502(a)(2) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3982(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) In making assignments under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that a member of the Service is not assigned to, or restricted from, a position at a post in a particular geographic area, or domestically in a position working on issues relating to a particular geographic area, exclusively on the basis of the race, ethnicity, or religion of that member.”

**SEC. 216. SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSIONS.**

(a) SUSPENSION.—Section 610 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4010) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

**“SEC. 610. SEPARATION FOR CAUSE; SUSPENSION.”; and**

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) In order to promote the efficiency of the Service, the Secretary may suspend a member of the Service without pay when—

“(A) the member’s security clearance is suspended; or

“(B) there is reasonable cause to believe that the member has committed a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment may be imposed.

“(2) Any member of the Foreign Service for whom a suspension is proposed under this subsection shall be entitled to—

“(A) written notice stating the specific reasons for the proposed suspension;

“(B) a reasonable time to respond orally and in writing to the proposed suspension;

“(C) representation by an attorney or other representative; and

“(D) a final written decision, including the specific reasons for such decision, as soon as practicable.

“(3) Any member suspended under this subsection may file a grievance in accordance with the procedures applicable to grievances under chapter 11.

“(4) If a grievance is filed under paragraph (3)—

“(A) the review by the Foreign Service Grievance Board shall be limited to a determination of whether the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) have been fulfilled; and

“(B) the Board may not exercise the authority provided under section 1106(8).

“(5) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘reasonable time’ means—

“(i) with respect to a member of the Foreign Service assigned to duty in the United States, 15 days after receiving notice of the proposed suspension; and

“(ii) with respect to a member of the Foreign Service assigned to duty outside the United States, 30 days after receiving notice of the proposed suspension.

“(B) The terms ‘suspend’ and ‘suspension’ mean placing a member of the Foreign Service in a temporary status without duties and pay.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 610 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 610. Separation for cause; suspension.”

**SEC. 217. ECONOMIC STATECRAFT EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**

The Secretary shall establish curriculum at the Foreign Services Institute to develop the practical foreign economic policy expertise and skill sets of Foreign Service officers, including by making available distance-learning courses in commercial, economic, and business affairs, including in—

- (1) the global business environment;
- (2) the economics of development;
- (3) development and infrastructure finance;
- (4) current trade and investment agreements negotiations;

(5) implementing existing multilateral and World Trade Organization agreements, and United States trade and investment agreements;

(6) best practices for customs and export procedures; and

(7) market analysis and global supply chain management.

**SEC. 218. REPORT ON DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT, EMPLOYMENT, RETENTION, AND PROMOTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quadrennially thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a comprehensive report to Congress that—

(1) describes the efforts, consistent with existing law, including procedures, effects, and results of the Department since the period covered by the prior such report, to promote equal opportunity and inclusion for all American employees in direct hire and personal service contractors status, particularly employees of the Foreign Service, to include equal opportunity for all races, ethnicities, ages, genders, and service-disabled veterans, with a focus on traditionally underrepresented minority groups;

(2) includes a section on—

(A) the diversity of selection boards;

(B) the employment of minority and service-disabled veterans during the most recent 10-year period, including—

(i) the number hired through direct hires, internships, and fellowship programs;

(ii) the number promoted to senior positions, including FS-01, GS-15, Senior Executive Service, and Senior Foreign Service; and

(iii) attrition rates by grade, civil and foreign services, and the senior level ranks listed in clause (ii);

(C) mentorship and retention programs; and

(3) is organized in terms of real numbers and percentages at all levels.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall describe the efforts of the Department—

(1) to propagate fairness, impartiality, and inclusion in the work environment domestically and abroad;

(2) to eradicate harassment, intolerance, and discrimination;

(3) to refrain from engaging in unlawful discrimination in any phase of the employment process, including recruitment, hiring, evaluation, assignments, promotion, retention, and training;

(4) to eliminate illegal retaliation against employees for participating in a protected equal employment opportunity activity;

(5) to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified employees and applicants with disabilities;

(6) to resolve workplace conflicts, confrontations, and complaints in a prompt, impartial, constructive, and timely manner;

(7) to improve demographic data availability and analysis regarding recruitment, hiring, promotion, training, length in service, assignment restrictions, and pass-through programs;

(8) to recruit a diverse staff by—

(A) recruiting women, minorities, veterans, and undergraduate and graduate students;

(B) recruiting at historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, women’s colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(C) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities;

(D) placing job advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and job sites oriented toward women and people of color;

(E) providing opportunities through the Foreign Service Internship Program and other hiring initiatives; and

(F) recruiting mid- and senior-level professionals through programs such as—

(i) the International Career Advancement Program;

(ii) the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program;

(iii) the Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship Program;

(iv) Seminar XXI at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Center for International Studies; and

(v) other similar, highly respected, international leadership programs; and

(9) to provide opportunities through—

(A) the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship Program;

(B) the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(C) the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program.

(c) SCOPE OF INITIAL REPORT.—The first report submitted to Congress under this section shall include the information described in subsection (b) for the 3 fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the report is submitted.

**SEC. 219. EXPANSION OF THE CHARLES B. RANGEL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM, THE THOMAS R. PICKERING FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, AND THE DONALD M. PAYNE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

(a) ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AUTHORIZED.—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary shall—

(1) increase by 10 the number of fellows selected for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program;

(2) increase by 10 the number of fellows selected for the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(3) increase by 5 the number of fellows selected for the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program.

(b) PAYNE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Undergraduate and graduate components of the

Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program are authorized to conduct outreach to attract outstanding students who represent diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds with an interest in pursuing a Foreign Service career.

**SEC. 220. RETENTION OF MID- AND SENIOR-LEVEL PROFESSIONALS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary should provide attention and oversight to the employment, retention, and promotion of underrepresented groups to promote a diverse ethnic representation among mid- and senior-level career professionals through programs such as—

(1) the International Career Advancement Program;

(2) Seminar XXI at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Center for International Studies; and

(3) other highly respected international leadership programs.

(b) REVIEW OF PAST PROGRAMS.—The Secretary should review past programs designed to increase minority representation in international affairs positions, including—

(1) the USAID Undergraduate Cooperative and Graduate Economics Program;

(2) the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(3) the Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship Program.

**SEC. 221. REVIEW OF JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN AND THE BUREAU OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS.**

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of State shall conduct a review of the jurisdictional responsibilities of the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) and the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of the review conducted under subsection (a), including recommendations on whether jurisdictional responsibility between the 2 offices should be adjusted.

**SEC. 222. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING.**

Section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days before the anticipated submission of each annual report under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of State shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees concerning the countries that will be upgraded to a higher tier or downgraded to a lower tier in such report.”

**SEC. 223. INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING PROGRAM.**

Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(2) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by inserting “REFUGEEES” before “The Secretary of State”;

(3) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS” before “The Secretary of State”;

(4) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom

appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b)) shall develop a curriculum for Foreign Service Officers that includes training on—

“(A) the scope and strategic value of international religious freedom;

“(B) how violations of international religious freedom harm fundamental United States interests;

“(C) how the advancement of international religious freedom can advance such interests;

“(D) how United States international religious freedom policy should be carried out in practice by United States diplomats and other Foreign Service Officers; and

“(E) the relevance and relationship of international religious freedom to United States defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs efforts to combat violent extremism.

“(2) **ROLE OF OTHER OFFICIALS.**—The Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom shall carry out paragraph (1)—

“(A) in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate; and

“(B) in consultation with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)).

“(3) **RESOURCES.**—The Secretary of State shall ensure the availability of sufficient resources to develop and implement the curriculum required under this subsection.

“(b) **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016, the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center shall begin training on religious freedom, using the curriculum developed under subsection (a), for Foreign Service officers, including—

“(A) entry level officers;

“(B) officers prior to departure for posting outside the United States; and

“(C) incoming deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

“(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The training required under paragraph (1) shall be substantively incorporated into—

“(A) the A-100 course attended by Foreign Service Officers;

“(B) the specific country courses required of Foreign Service Officers prior to a posting outside the United States, with training tailored to—

“(i) the particular religious demography of such country;

“(ii) religious freedom conditions in such country;

“(iii) religious engagement strategies; and

“(iv) United States strategies for advancing religious freedom.

“(C) the courses required of incoming deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

“(c) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—The curriculum and training materials developed pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) shall be shared with the United States Armed Forces and all other Federal departments and agencies whose personnel serve as attachés, advisors, detailees, or otherwise in United States embassies globally to provide training on—

“(1) United States religious freedom policies;

“(2) religious traditions;

“(3) religious engagement strategies;

“(4) religious and cultural issues; and

“(5) efforts to combat terrorism and violent religious extremism.”.

### TITLE III—INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### Subtitle A—United States Contributions to International Organizations

##### SEC. 301. REPORTS CONCERNING THE UNITED NATIONS.

(a) **REPORT ON ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS AGENCIES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) all activities at the United Nations and its subagencies that can be construed to exhibit an anti-Semitic bias, including official statements, proposed resolutions, and United Nations investigations;

(2) the use of United Nations resources to promote anti-Semitic or anti-Israel rhetoric or propaganda, including publications, internet websites, and textbooks or other educational materials used to propagate political rhetoric regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and

(3) specific actions taken by the United States Government to address any of the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) **REPORT ON ALL UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.**—Section 4(c) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287b(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

“(1) **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A detailed description of all assessed and voluntary contributions, including in-kind contributions, of the United States to the United Nations and to each of its affiliated agencies and related bodies—

“(i) during the preceding fiscal year;

“(ii) estimated for the fiscal year in which the report is submitted; and

“(iii) requested in the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for the following fiscal year.

“(B) **CONTENT.**—The description required under subparagraph (A) shall, for each fiscal year specified in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of that subparagraph, include—

“(i) the total amount or value of all contributions described in that subparagraph;

“(ii) the approximate percentage of all such contributions by the United States compared to all contributions to the United Nations and to each of its affiliated agencies and related bodies from any source; and

“(iii) for each such contribution described in subparagraph (A)—

“(I) the amount or value of the contribution;

“(II) whether the contribution was assessed by the United Nations or voluntary;

“(III) the purpose of the contribution;

“(IV) the department or agency of the United States Government responsible for the contribution; and

“(V) whether the United Nations or an affiliated agency or related body received the contribution and, if an affiliated agency or related body received the contribution, which such agency or body.

“(C) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.**—Not later than 14 days after submit-

ting a report required under this subsection to the designated congressional committees, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall post a text-based, searchable version of the description required by subparagraph (A) on a publicly available Internet website of that Office.”.

##### SEC. 302. ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 4(b) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287b(b)) is amended by striking “in which the United States participates as a member” and inserting “, including—

“(1) the amount of such contributions that were assessed by an international organization and the amount of such contributions that were voluntary; and

“(2) the ratio of United States contributions to total contributions received for—

“(A) the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, and other United Nations funds, programs, and organizations;

“(B) peacekeeping;

“(C) inter-American organizations;

“(D) regional organizations; and

“(E) other international organizations.”.

##### SEC. 303. REPORT ON PEACEKEEPING ARREARS, CREDITS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Section 4(c) of the United Nations Participation Act (22 U.S.C. 287b(c)), as amended by section 301(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) **PEACEKEEPING CREDITS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A complete and full accounting of United States peacekeeping assessments and contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the following:

“(i) A tabulation of annual United Nations peacekeeping assessment rates, the peacekeeping contribution rate authorized by the United States, and the United States public law that authorized the contribution rate for the United Nations peacekeeping budget for each fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 1995 through the fiscal year following the date of the report.

“(ii) A tabulation of current United States accrued shortfalls and arrears in each respective ongoing or closed United Nations peacekeeping mission.

“(iii) A tabulation of all peacekeeping credits, including—

“(I) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States;

“(II) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be unavailable to the United States;

“(III) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States from each open and closed peacekeeping mission;

“(IV) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be unavailable to the United States from each open and closed peacekeeping mission;

“(V) the total amount of peacekeeping credits applied by the United Nations toward shortfalls from previous years that are apportioned to the United States;

“(VI) the total amount of peacekeeping credits applied by the United Nations toward offsetting future contributions of the United States; and

“(VII) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States that could be applied toward offsetting United States contributions in the following fiscal year.

“(iv) An explanation of any claim of unavailability by the United Nations of any



peacekeeping credits described in clause (iii)(IV).

“(v) A description of any efforts by the United States to obtain reimbursement in accordance with the requirements of this Act, including Department of Defense materiel and services, and an explanation of any failure to obtain any such reimbursement.

“(B) PEACEKEEPING CREDITS DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘peacekeeping credits’ means the amounts by which, during a United Nations peacekeeping fiscal year, the contributions of the United States to the United Nations for peacekeeping operations exceed the actual expenditures for peacekeeping operations by the United Nations that are apportioned to the United States.”.

**SEC. 304. ASSESSMENT RATE TRANSPARENCY.**

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after each time the United Nations General Assembly modifies the assessment levels for peacekeeping operations, the Secretary shall submit a report, which may include a classified annex, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall describe—

(A) the change, by amount and percentage, of the peacekeeping assessment charged to each member state; and

(B) how the economic and strategic interests of each of the permanent members of the Security Council is being served by each peacekeeping mission currently in force.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF PEACEKEEPING ASSESSMENT DATA.—The Secretary shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to urge the United Nations—

(1) to share the raw data used to calculate member state peacekeeping assessment rates; and

(2) to make available the formula for determining peacekeeping assessments.

**Subtitle B—Accountability at International Organizations**

**SEC. 311. PREVENTING ABUSE IN PEACEKEEPING.**

Not later than 15 days before the anticipated date of a vote (or, in the case of exigent circumstances, as far in advance of the vote as is practicable) on a resolution approving a new peacekeeping mission under the auspices of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or any other multilateral organization in which the United States participates, or to reauthorize an existing such mission, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on that mission that includes the following:

(1) A description of the specific measures taken and planned to be taken by the organization related to the mission—

(A) to prevent individuals who are employees or contractor personnel of the organization, or members of the forces serving in the mission from engaging in acts of trafficking in persons, exploitation of victims of trafficking, or sexual exploitation or abuse; and

(B) to hold accountable any such individuals who engage in any such acts while participating in the mission.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of each of the measures described in paragraph (1).

(3) An accounting and assessment of all cases in which the organization has taken action to investigate allegations that individuals described in paragraph (1)(A) have

engaged in acts described in that paragraph, including a description of the status of all such cases as of the date of the report.

**SEC. 312. INCLUSION OF PEACEKEEPING ABUSES IN COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.**

Section 116(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (12)(C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(13) for each country that contributes personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions, a description of—

“(A) any allegations of such personnel engaging in acts of trafficking in persons, exploitation of victims of trafficking, or sexual exploitation and abuse while participating in such a peacekeeping mission;

“(B) any repatriations of such personnel resulting from an allegation described in subparagraph (A);

“(C) any actions taken by such country with respect to personnel repatriated as a result of allegations described in subparagraph (A), including whether such personnel faced prosecution related to such allegations; and

“(D) the extent to which any actions taken as described in subparagraph (C) have been communicated by such country to the United Nations.”.

**SEC. 313. EVALUATION OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) a comprehensive evaluation of current United Nations peacekeeping missions;

(2) a prioritization of the peacekeeping missions;

(3) plans for phasing out and ending any mission that—

(A) has substantially met its objectives and goals; or

(B) will not be able to meet its objectives and goals; and

(4) a plan for reviewing the status of open-ended mandates for—

(A) the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK);

(B) the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO); and

(C) the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

(b) APPROVAL OF FUTURE PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to ensure that no new United Nations peacekeeping mission is approved without a periodic mandate renewal.

(c) FUNDING LIMITATION.—The United States shall not provide funding for any United Nations peacekeeping mission beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act unless the mission has a periodic mandate renewal.

**Subtitle C—Personnel Matters**

**SEC. 321. ENCOURAGING EMPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.**

Section 181 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (22 U.S.C. 276c-4) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 181. EMPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS BY CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

“Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Department of State

Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report that provides—

“(1) for each international organization that had a geographic distribution formula in effect on January 1, 1991, an assessment of whether that organization—

“(A) is taking good faith steps to increase the staffing of United States citizens, including, as appropriate, as assessment of any additional steps the organization could be taking to increase such staffing; and

“(B) has met the requirements of its geographic distribution formula; and

“(2) an assessment of United States representation among professional and senior-level positions at the United Nations, including—

“(A) an assessment of the proportion of United States citizens employed at the United Nations Secretariat and at all United Nations specialized agencies, funds, and programs relative to the total employment at the United Nations Secretariat and at all such agencies, funds, and programs;

“(B) as assessment of compliance by the United Nations Secretariat and such agencies, funds, and programs with any applicable geographic distribution formula; and

“(C) a description of any steps taken or planned to be taken by the United States to increase the staffing of United States citizens at the United Nations Secretariat and such agencies, funds and programs.”.

**SEC. 322. ENSURING APPROPRIATE UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL SALARIES.**

(a) COMPENSATION OF UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations—

(1) to establish appropriate policies, procedures, and assumptions for—

(A) determining comparable positions between officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Nations headquarters in New York, New York, and in the United States Federal civil service;

(B) calculating the margin between the compensation of such officials at the United Nations headquarters and the civil service; and

(C) determining the appropriate margin for adoption by the United Nations to govern compensation for such officials;

(2) to make all policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1) available to the public; and

(3) to limit increases in the compensation of United Nations officials to ensure that such officials remain within the margin range established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/40/244, or any subsequent margin range adopted by the United Nations to govern compensation for United Nations officials.

(b) REPORT ON SALARY MARGINS.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees, at the time of the submission of the budget of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, that

(1) describes the policies, procedures, and assumptions established or used by the United Nations—

(A) to determine comparable positions between officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Nations headquarters in New York, New York, and in the United States Federal civil service;

(B) to calculate the percentage difference, or margin, between the compensation of such officials at the United Nations headquarters and the civil service; and

(C) to determine the margin range established in United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/40/244, or any subsequent margin range adopted by the United Nations to govern compensation for United Nations officials;

(2) assesses, in accordance with the policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1), the margin between net salaries of officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Nations in New York and those of comparable positions in the United States Federal civil service;

(3) assesses any changes in the margin described in paragraph (2) from the previous year;

(4) assesses the extent to which any changes in that margin resulted from modifications to the policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1); and

(5) provides the views of the Secretary on any changes in that margin and any such modifications.

#### TITLE IV—CONSULAR AUTHORITIES

##### SEC. 401. VISA INELIGIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTORS.

Section 212(a)(10)(C)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(10)(C)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by adding “or” at the end;

(2) in subclause (II), by striking “; or” at the end and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subclause (III).

##### SEC. 402. PRESUMPTION OF IMMIGRANT INTENT FOR H AND L VISA CLASSIFICATIONS.

Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(other than a nonimmigrant described in subparagraph (L) or (V) of section 101(a)(15), and other than a nonimmigrant described in any provision of section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) except subclause (b) of such section)”;

(2) by striking “under section 101(a)(15).” and inserting “under the immigration laws.”; and

(3) by striking “he” each place such term appears and inserting “the alien”.

##### SEC. 403. VISA INFORMATION SHARING.

Section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “issuance or refusal” and inserting “issuance, refusal, or revocation”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and on the basis of reciprocity”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “illicit weapons; or” and inserting “illicit weapons, or in determining the removability or eligibility for a visa, admission, or another immigration benefit of persons who would be inadmissible to, or removable from, the United States.”;

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “for the purposes” and inserting “for 1 of the purposes”; and

(ii) by striking “or to deny visas to persons who would be inadmissible to the United States.” and inserting “; or”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) with regard to any or all aliens in the database, specified data elements from each record, if the Secretary of State determines

that it is in the national interest to provide such information to a foreign government.”.

#### TITLE V—EMBASSY SECURITY

##### Subtitle A—Allocation of Authorized Security Appropriations.

###### SEC. 501. WORLDWIDE SECURITY PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for worldwide security protection shall to the extent practicable, before any such funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated for—

(1) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at other facilities; and

(3) locations with high vulnerabilities.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION SUPPORT PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation support pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for—

(1) the purchasing of additional security equipment, including additional defensive weaponry;

(2) the paying of expenses of additional security forces; and

(3) any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

###### SEC. 502. EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for Worldwide Security Upgrades within “embassy security, construction and maintenance” shall to the extent practicable, before any funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated in the prioritized order of—

(1) immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) other security upgrades to facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(3) all other immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b); and

(4) security upgrades to all other facilities or new construction for facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation projects pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for the construction of safeguards that provide immediate security benefits and any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

(c) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—No funds authorized to be appropriated shall be obligated for new embassy construction, other than for high threat, high risk facilities, unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Department has fully complied with the requirements of subsection (a);

(2) high threat, high risk facilities are being secured to the best of the United States Government’s ability; and

(3) the Secretary will make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees

not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on—

(1) funding for the priorities described in subsection (a);

(2) efforts to secure high threat, high risk facilities as well as high vulnerability locations facilities; and

(3) plans to make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

##### Subtitle B—Contracting and Other Matters.

###### SEC. 511. LOCAL GUARD CONTRACTS ABROAD UNDER DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 136(c)(3) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (22 U.S.C. 4864(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) in evaluating proposals for such contracts, award contracts to technically acceptable firms offering the lowest evaluated price, except that—

“(A) the Secretary may award contracts on the basis of best value (as determined by a cost-technical tradeoff analysis), especially for posts determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531 of the Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016; and

“(B) proposals received from United States persons and qualified United States joint venture persons shall be evaluated by reducing the bid price by 10 percent.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) an explanation of the implementation of section 136(c)(3) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991, as amended by subsection (a); and

(2) for each instance in which a contract is awarded pursuant to subparagraph (A) of such section, a written justification and approval that describes the basis for such award and an explanation of the inability of the Secretary to satisfy the needs of the Department by awarding a contract to the technically acceptable firm offering the lowest evaluated price.

###### SEC. 512. DISCIPLINARY ACTION RESULTING FROM UNSATISFACTORY LEADERSHIP IN RELATION TO A SECURITY INCIDENT.

Section 304(c) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834 (c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking “Whenever” in the first sentence immediately following the subsection heading and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever”; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

“(2) CERTAIN SECURITY INCIDENTS.—

“(A) UNSATISFACTORY LEADERSHIP.—Unsatisfactory leadership by a senior official with respect to a security incident involving loss of life, serious injury, or significant destruction of property at or related to a United States Government mission abroad may be grounds for disciplinary action.

“(B) DISCIPLINARY ACTION.—If a Board finds reasonable cause to believe that a senior official provided such unsatisfactory leadership, the Board may recommend disciplinary action subject to the procedures in paragraph (1).”.

**SEC. 513. MANAGEMENT AND STAFF ACCOUNTABILITY.**

(a) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE.**—Nothing in this Act or in any other provision of law may be construed to prevent the Secretary from using all authorities invested in the office of Secretary to take personnel action against any employee or official of the Department that the Secretary determines has breached the duty of that individual or has engaged in misconduct or unsatisfactorily performed the duties of employment of that individual, and such misconduct or unsatisfactory performance has significantly contributed to the serious injury, loss of life, or significant destruction of property, or a serious breach of security, even if such action is the subject of an Accountability Review Board's examination under section 304(a) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834(a)).

(b) **ACCOUNTABILITY.**—Section 304 of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by inserting “or has engaged in misconduct or unsatisfactorily performed the duties of employment of that individual, and such misconduct or unsatisfactory performance has significantly contributed to the serious injury, loss of life, or significant destruction of property, or the serious breach of security that is the subject of the Board's examination as described in subsection (a),” after “breached the duty of that individual”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY.**—Whenever a Board determines that an individual has engaged in any conduct described in subsection (c), the Board shall evaluate the level and effectiveness of management and oversight conducted by employees or officials in the management chain of such individual.”

**SEC. 514. SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS FOR SOFT TARGETS.**

Section 29 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2701) is amended, in the third sentence, by inserting “physical security enhancements and” after “Such assistance may include”.

**Subtitle C—Marine Corps Security Guard Program****SEC. 521. ADDITIONAL REPORTS ON EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF MARINE CORPS SECURITY GUARD PROGRAM.**

Section 1269(a)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 10 U.S.C. 5983 note) is amended by inserting “and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until the date that is three years after such date” after “of this Act”.

**Subtitle D—Defending High Threat, High Risk Posts****SEC. 531. DESIGNATION AND REPORTING FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.**

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on

Armed Services of the House of Representatives, a classified report, with an unclassified summary, evaluating Department facilities that the Secretary determines to be high threat, high risk in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) **CONTENTS.**—For each facility determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to subsection (a), the report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a narrative assessment describing the security threats and risks facing posts overseas and the overall threat level to United States personnel under chief of mission authority;

(2) the number of diplomatic security personnel, Marine Corps security guards, and other Department personnel dedicated to providing security for United States personnel, information, and facilities;

(3) an assessment of host nation willingness and capability to provide protection in the event of a security threat or incident, pursuant to the obligations of the United States under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961;

(4) an assessment of the quality and experience level of the team of United States senior security personnel assigned to the facility, considering collectively the assignment durations and lengths of government experience;

(5) the number of Foreign Service Officers who have received Foreign Affairs Counter Threat training;

(6) a summary of the requests made during the previous calendar year for additional resources, equipment, or personnel related to the security of the facility and the status of such requests;

(7) an assessment of the ability of United States personnel to respond to and survive a fire attack, including—

(A) whether the facility has adequate fire safety and security equipment for safe havens and safe areas; and

(B) whether the employees working at the facility have been adequately trained on the equipment available;

(8) if it is a new facility, a detailed description of the steps taken to provide security for the new facility, including whether a dedicated support cell was established in the Department to ensure proper and timely resourcing of security; and

(9) a listing of any high threat, high risk facilities where the facilities of the Department and other government agencies are not collocated, including—

(A) a rationale for the lack of collocation; and

(B) a description of what steps, if any, are being taken to mitigate potential security vulnerabilities associated with the lack of collocation.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK FACILITY.**—In determining which facilities of the Department constitute high threat, high risk facilities under this section, the Secretary shall take into account with respect to each facility whether there are—

(1) high to critical levels of political violence or terrorism;

(2) national or local governments with inadequate capacity or political will to provide appropriate protection; and

(3) in locations where there are high to critical levels of political violence or terrorism or where national or local governments lack the capacity or political will to provide appropriate protection—

(A) mission physical security platforms that fall well below the Department's established standards; or

(B) security personnel levels that are insufficient for the circumstances.

(d) **INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW AND REPORT.**—The Inspector General for the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall annually—

(1) review the determinations of the Secretary with respect to high threat, high risk facilities, including the basis for making such determinations;

(2) review contingency planning for high threat, high risk facilities and evaluate the measures in place to respond to attacks on such facilities;

(3) review the risk mitigation measures in place at high threat, high risk facilities to determine how the Secretary evaluates risk and whether the measures put in place sufficiently address the relevant risks;

(4) review early warning systems in place at high threat, high risk facilities and evaluate the measures being taken to preempt and disrupt threats to such facilities; and

(5) provide to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) an assessment of the determinations of the Secretary with respect to high threat, high risk facilities, including recommendations for additions or changes to the list of such facilities; and

(B) a report on the reviews and evaluations undertaken pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4).

**SEC. 532. DESIGNATION AND REPORTING FOR HIGH-RISK COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT POSTS.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives

(2) **PRIORITY 1 COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT NATION.**—The term “Priority 1 Counterintelligence Threat Nation” means a country designated as such by the October 2012 National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF).

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in conjunction with appropriate officials in the intelligence community and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that assesses the counterintelligence threat to United States diplomatic facilities in Priority 1 Counterintelligence Threat Nations.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the use of locally employed staff and guard forces and a listing of diplomatic facilities in Priority 1 Counterintelligence Threat Nations without controlled access areas; and

(B) recommendations for mitigating any counterintelligence threats and for any necessary facility upgrades, including costs assessment of any recommended mitigation or upgrades.

**SEC. 533. ENHANCED QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.**

The Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 206 (22 U.S.C. 4824) the following new section:

**“SEC. 207. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.**

“The individual serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for High Threat, High Risk Posts shall have 1 or more of the following qualifications:

“(1) Service during the last 6 years at 1 or more posts designated as high threat, high risk by the Secretary of State at the time of service.

“(2) Previous service as the office director or deputy director of 1 or more of the following Department of State offices or successor entities carrying out substantively equivalent functions:

“(A) The Office of Mobile Security Deployments.

“(B) The Office of Special Programs and Coordination.

“(C) The Office of Overseas Protective Operations.

“(D) The Office of Physical Security Programs.

“(E) The Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis.

“(3) Previous service as the Regional Security Officer at two or more overseas posts.

“(4) Other government or private sector experience substantially equivalent to service in the positions listed in paragraphs (1) through (3).”

**SEC. 534. SECURITY ENVIRONMENT THREAT LIST BRIEFINGS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and upon each subsequent update of the Security Environment Threat List (SETL), the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security shall provide classified briefings to the appropriate congressional committees on the Security Environment Threat List.

(b) CONTENT.—The briefings required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an overview of the Security Environment Threat List; and

(2) a summary assessment of the security posture of those facilities where the Security Environment Threat List assesses the threat environment to be most acute, including factors that informed such assessment.

**SEC. 535. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BENGHAZI ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes the progress of the Secretary in implementing the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the progress the Secretary has made in implementing each specific recommendation of the Accountability Review Board; and

(2) a description of any impediments to recommended reforms, such as budget constraints, bureaucratic obstacles within the Department or in the broader interagency community, or limitations under current law.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

**SEC. 536. FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER.**

(a) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees all documents and materials related to its consideration and analysis concerning the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center at Fort Picket, Virginia, and any alternative facilities.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees all documents and materials related to the determination to construct a new Foreign Affairs Security Training Center at Fort Picket, Virginia, including any that are related to the development and adoption of all related training requirements, including any documents and materials related to the consideration and analysis of such facility performed by the Office of Management and Budget.

**SEC. 537. LANGUAGE TRAINING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4851 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 416. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Diplomatic security personnel assigned permanently to, or who are serving in, long-term temporary duty status as designated by the Secretary of State at a high threat, high risk post should receive language training described in subsection (b) in order to prepare such personnel for duty requirements at such post.

“(b) LANGUAGE TRAINING DESCRIBED.—Language training referred to in subsection (a) should prepare personnel described in such subsection—

“(1) to speak the language at issue with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on subjects germane to security; and

“(2) to read within an adequate range of speed and with almost complete comprehension on subjects germane to security.

“(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors shall—

“(1) review the language training conducted pursuant to this section; and

“(2) make the results of such review available to the Secretary of State and the appropriate congressional committees.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-399) is amended by inserting after the item relating the section 415 the following:

“Sec. 416. Language requirements for diplomatic security personnel assigned to high threat, high risk posts.”

**Subtitle E—Accountability Review Boards**

**SEC. 541. PROVISION OF COPIES OF ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

Not later than 2 days after an Accountability Review Board provides its report to the Secretary of State in accordance with title III of the Omnibus Diplomatic and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4831 et seq.), the Secretary shall provide copies of the report to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and to the appropriate congressional committees for retention and review by those committees.

**SEC. 542. STAFFING.**

Section 302(b)(2) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4832(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Such persons shall be drawn from bureaus or other agency subunits that are not impacted by the incident that is the subject of the Board’s review.”

**TITLE VI—MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Improving Department of State Oversight Act of 2015”.

**SEC. 602. COMPETITIVE HIRING STATUS FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any employee of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction who completes at least 12 months of service at any time prior to the date of the termination of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (October 5, 2013), and was not terminated for cause shall acquire competitive status for appointment to any position in the competitive service for which the employee possesses the required qualifications.

**SEC. 603. ASSURANCE OF INDEPENDENCE OF IT SYSTEMS.**

The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the Department has made reasonable efforts to ensure the integrity and independence of the Office of the Inspector General Information Technology systems.

**SEC. 604. PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS.**

Section 209(c)(5) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3929(c)(5)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) REQUIRED REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each bureau, post or other office (in this subparagraph, an ‘entity’) of the Department of State shall, within five business days, report to the Inspector General any allegations of—

“(I) waste, fraud, or abuse in a Department program or operation;

“(II) criminal or serious misconduct on the part of a Department employee at the FS-1, GS-15, GM-15 level or higher;

“(III) criminal misconduct on the part of any Department employee; and

“(IV) serious, noncriminal misconduct on the part of any individual who is authorized to carry a weapon, make arrests, or conduct searches, such as conduct that, if proved, would constitute perjury or material dishonesty, warrant suspension as discipline for a

first offense, or result in loss of law enforcement authority.

“(ii) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Inspector General may, pursuant to existing authority, investigate matters covered by clause (i).

“(iii) LIMITATION ON INVESTIGATIONS OUTSIDE OF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—No entity in the Department of State with concurrent jurisdiction over matters covered by clause (i), including the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, may initiate an investigation of such matter unless it has first reported the allegations to the Inspector General as required by clause (i), except as provided in clause (v) and (vi).

“(iv) COOPERATION.—If an entity in the Department of State initiates an investigation of a matter covered in clause (i) the entity must, except as provided in clause (v), fully cooperate with the Inspector General, including—

“(I) by providing to the Inspector General all data and records obtained in connection with its investigation upon request of the Inspector General;

“(II) by coordinating, at the request of the Inspector General, such entity’s investigation with the Inspector General; and

“(III) by providing to the Inspector General requested support in aid of the Inspector General’s oversight and investigative responsibilities.

“(v) EXCEPTIONS.—The Inspector General may prescribe general rules under which any requirement of clause (iii) or clause (iv) may be dispensed with.

“(vi) EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.—Compliance with clauses (i), (iii), and (iv) of this subparagraph may be dispensed with by an entity of the Department of State if complying with them in an exigent circumstance would pose an imminent threat to human life, health or safety, or result in the irretrievable loss or destruction of critical evidence or witness testimony, in which case a report of the allegation shall be made not later than 48 hours after an entity begins an investigation under the authority of this clause and cooperation required under clause (iv) shall commence not later than 48 hours after the relevant exigent circumstance has ended.

“(vii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph may be interpreted to affect any duty or authority of the Inspector General under any provision of law, including the Inspector General’s duties or authorities under the Inspector General Act.”.

**SEC. 605. REPORT ON INSPECTOR GENERAL INSPECTION AND AUDITING OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS AND BUREAUS AND OPERATING UNITS DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the requirement under section 209(a)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3929(a)(1)) that the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors inspect and audit, at least every 5 years, the administration of activities and operations of each Foreign Service post and each bureau and other operating unit of the Department.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF MULTI-TIER SYSTEM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall assess the advisability and feasibility of implementing a multi-tier system for inspecting Foreign Service posts featuring more (or less) frequent inspections and audits of posts based on risk, including security risk, as may be determined by the Inspector General.

(c) COMPOSITION.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include separate portions prepared by the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors, and the Comptroller General of the United States, respectively.

**ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016, THROUGH MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, May 2, at 2 p.m., Thursday, May 5, at 11:30 a.m.; I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 5, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, May 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that following morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2028, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided between the two managers or their designees; further, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801 occur at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that for the purposes of rule XXII, the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801 be at 3:30 p.m. and the second-degree filing deadline occur under rule XXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016, AT 2 P.M.**

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:42 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 2, 2016, at 2 p.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS

ANGELA L. KOKOSKO RIPLEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

LESLIE GREENE BOWMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES

FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE MARTHA WAGNER WEINBERG, TERM EXPIRED.  
GEORGE SANCHEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE DOROTHY KOSINSKI, TERM EXPIRED.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

GAIL H. MARCUS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2018, VICE JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

KENT YOSHIHO HIROZAWA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THE JUDICIARY

PATRICIA D. BARKSDALE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE JOHN E. STEELE, RETIRED.

TODD E. EDELMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE RICHARD W. ROBERTS, RETIRED.

WILLIAM F. JUNG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE ANNE C. CONWAY, RETIRED.

PHILIP R. LAMMENS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE JOHN RICHARD SMOAK, RETIRED.

FLORENCE Y. PAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE REGGIE B. WALTON, RETIRED.

REGINA M. RODRIGUEZ, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE ROBERT E. BLACKBURN, RETIRED.

PATRICIA ANN TIMMONS-GOODSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE MALCOLM J. HOWARD, RETIRED.

ANNE RACHEL TRAUM, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA, VICE ROBERT CLIVE JONES, RETIRED.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

KATHLEEN MARIE MARSHALL, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 12, 2019, VICE ROSEMARY E. RODRIGUEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL D. LUNDY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. JEFFREY S. BUCHANAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DEAN OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 4335:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. CINDY R. JEBB

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

MICHELLE M. AGPALZA  
MATTHEW H. ALEXANDER  
NICOLE D. ALEXANDER  
CHRISTOPHER J. ANDERSON  
ERIC W. ANDERSON  
REGINALD J. ANDERSON  
CORY D. ARMSTEAD  
ALEXANDER C. BABINGTON  
CHRISTOPHER R. BAILEY  
KATRESHA M. BAILEY  
SCOTT A. BAILEY  
JASON A. BALLARD  
ROBERT J. BARTRUFF, JR.  
DANIEL B. BATEMAN  
DAVID J. BENJAMIN III  
ADAM C. BERLEW  
DUSTIN G. BISHOP  
JONATHAN A. BODENHAMER  
BRYAN M. BOGARDUS  
ANTWAN D. BROWN  
CARLA A. BROWN  
FRANKLIN J. BUKOSKI  
JAMES R. BURKES  
JEFFREY M. BURNETT  
MARK S. CAMPBELL  
CHRISTOPHER L. CAMPHER  
DEBBIE Y. CASE  
TIMOTHY J. CATALANO  
CARYDANIEL CEGLEDI

CHRISTOPHER L. CENTER  
 ANTHONY F. CERELLA  
 MARCOS A. CERVANTES  
 INDERA Z. L. CHANDLER  
 THOMAS W. CHANDLER III  
 CHRISTOPHER G. CHAPMAN  
 GEORGE W. CHILDS III  
 VICTOR J. CINTRONVELEZ  
 NATASHA S. CLARKE  
 TORRANCE G. CLEVELAND  
 JASON A. COLE  
 JAMES I. COLLAZO  
 JOHN E. COOPER  
 MATTHEW D. COX  
 JAMES L. CROCKER  
 RONNIE C. CROSBY  
 MALENM CRUZSEGARRA  
 JOHN M. CULLEN, JR.  
 DAMIAN R. CUNNINGHAM  
 WADE R. CUNNINGHAM  
 MICHAEL J. CUPP  
 CRAIG A. DANIEL  
 GREGORY S. DARLING  
 KYLE D. DAVIDSON  
 JUSTIN L. DEARMOND  
 FABIENNE DENNERY  
 HOWARD R. DONALDSON  
 STEVEN M. DUBUC  
 NELSON E. DUCKSON  
 EMANUEL M. DUDLEY  
 CHARLES D. ECKSTROM  
 STACY M. ENYEART  
 JACQUELINE S. L. ESCOBAR  
 GILBERTO ESCOBEDO  
 JANA K. FAJARDO  
 PATRICK D. FARRELL  
 PHOEBE E. FLYNN  
 SCOTT A. FRANCIS  
 RICHARD D. FRANK  
 RYAN B. GALLION  
 CHRISTOPHER J. GARVIN  
 JOSHUA S. GINN  
 JOEL P. GLEASON  
 ALEXANDER J. GONZALES  
 JEREMY C. GOTTSBALL  
 THOMAS E. GOYETTE  
 JOHN E. GRAY, JR.  
 ADAM W. GREIN  
 WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN  
 ROSE A. GUERRERO  
 DAVID G. GUIDA  
 DION HALL  
 CHRISTOPHER P. HAMMAN  
 KEVIN M. HARRIS  
 MICHAEL J. HARRIS  
 TRAVIS HARRIS  
 THOMAS J. HEILMAN  
 CYNTHIA P. HENDERSON  
 TRACIE M. HENRYNEILL  
 JON A. HERMESCH  
 JOSE HERNANDEZ  
 UCHE T. HEYWARD  
 TIMOTHY R. HICKMAN  
 RACHAEL M. HOAGLAND  
 NORMAN B. HODGES IV  
 DEREK W. HOFFMAN  
 KENNETH A. HOISINGTON  
 CASEY J. HOLLER  
 PAUL C. HUBBARD  
 JOEL A. HUFT  
 MICHAEL F. IANNUCILLI  
 ALANA R. JACKMAN  
 IRVIN W. JACKSON  
 THOMAS D. JAGIELSKI  
 ANDRE J. JOHNSON  
 PATRICE N. JOHNSON  
 SCOTT R. JOHNSON  
 BRIAN K. JONES  
 CENTRELL A. JONES  
 CHRISTOPHER S. JONES  
 LEAH N. JONES  
 MATTHEW S. JONES  
 RANDY F. JONES  
 RICARDO D. JONES  
 SAMUEL J. JUNGMAN  
 JEET H. KAJI  
 BRATCHA J. KELLUM  
 PATRICK L. KENDRICK  
 ALI A. KHANHERNANDEZ  
 GRACE H. KIM  
 PATRICK L. KNIGHT  
 JULIA M. KOBISKA  
 EVERETT LACROIX  
 DANIEL A. LANCASTER  
 JOHN W. LANKFORD, JR.  
 MARIWIN B. LARA  
 RENANTE L. LASALA  
 ANTHONY L. LEACH  
 MOSES J. LEE  
 RANDY P. LEFEBVRE  
 JOHN J. LIANG  
 KAREN F. LIEB  
 MICHAEL P. LILLES  
 JAMES A. LINDH II  
 TASHA N. LOWERY  
 GAVIN O. LUHER  
 RANDALL A. LUMMER  
 REBEKAH S. LUST  
 ANDREW J. LYNCH  
 PAUL B. MADDEN  
 ALINA C. MARTINEZ  
 JUAN C. MARTINEZBERNARD

BYRON C. MATTHEWS  
 NATHAN G. MCDUGGLE  
 JAMES M. MCGEE  
 STEPHEN P. MCGOWAN  
 JOHN W. MCGRADY  
 KENNETH W. MCGRAW  
 MATTHEW J. MCGRAW  
 JOSEPH V. MESSINA  
 DWAYNE S. MILBURN  
 ADAM M. MILLER  
 JADE P. MILLER  
 RICHARD P. MILLOY  
 JOHN D. MITCHEL  
 THOMAS R. MONAGHAN, JR.  
 CHARLES L. MONTGOMERY  
 PHILLIP E. MOORE  
 JOHANNA L. MORA  
 DAVID B. MOSER  
 DONYELL A. MOZER  
 SHAWN P. MUDER  
 AIMEE C. MYRICK  
 CHRISTOPHER M. NEAL  
 RYAN C. NESRSTA  
 ROBERT W. NEWSOM IV  
 JENNIFER L. NEWSOME  
 PETER D. NIENHAUS  
 MATTHEW P. NISCHWITZ  
 RYAN E. OCAMPO  
 JEREMIAH S. OCONNOR  
 DEANNE M. OJEDA  
 JAMES U. OKEKE  
 ANGEL R. ORTIZMEDINA  
 JOHN A. PADGETT  
 WILLIAM J. PARKER III  
 TERRELL D. PASLEY  
 THOMAS J. PATTERSON III  
 CHAD A. PEDIGO  
 PATRICIA A. PEELER  
 FRANCISCO PENA  
 GERALDO A. PERALTA  
 ROLANDO PEREZCRUZ  
 CURTIS S. PERKINS  
 WILLIAM C. PERKINS  
 THEODORE J. PETERS  
 TERRY A. PHILLIPS  
 JEREMIAH D. POPE  
 JEFFREY A. POQUETTE  
 ANTONIO V. A. PRESSLEY  
 RICHARD A. PRIER  
 GABRIEL W. PRYOR  
 EDGARDO A. PUENTE  
 ELIZABETH S. PURA  
 JENNIFER L. RADER  
 DOUGLAS N. RALPH  
 STEPHEN D. RAMELLA  
 JONATHAN P. RAMIREZ  
 DANIEL O. RAMOS  
 RACINE R. RANDOLPH  
 SHERDRICK S. RANKIN  
 MICHAEL S. RASCO  
 ALEXANDER P. RASMUSSEN  
 JOSE L. RAYAESCUTIA  
 WILLIAM A. REKER  
 TIMOTHY M. RENAHAN  
 MATTHEW O. REYNOLDS  
 THURMAN C. REYNOLDS  
 JOHN V. RIOS  
 LUIS R. RIVERA  
 LILLIAN A. ROBINSON  
 MICHAEL P. RODER  
 MCKEAL L. RODGERS  
 ANTHONY B. ROGERS  
 ARTURO ROQUE  
 ROBERT J. ROWE  
 JOHN M. RUTHS  
 JOHN V. SALLING  
 JUAN R. SANTTIGO, JR.  
 ROY M. SARAVIA  
 MICHELLE L. SCHAUMBURG  
 JASON W. SCHULTZ  
 WILLIAM S. SCHUYLER, JR.  
 CLARISSE SCOTT  
 JEFFREY J. SCOTT  
 SHAWN M. SEFFERNICK  
 TRAVIS L. SEPT  
 JAVIER SEPULVEDATORRES  
 JESSICA R. SEXTON  
 DERRICK N. SHAW  
 JEFF A. SHEARIN  
 KEVIN P. SHILLEY  
 ALPHONSO SIMMONS, JR.  
 QUINTINA V. SMILEY  
 DONALD D. SMITH  
 JEFFREY A. SMITH  
 KEVIN L. SMITH  
 CALINA M. SNYDER  
 EDGARDO SOSTRE  
 LAVERNE O. STANLEY  
 ROSHUN A. STEELE  
 GEORGE C. STEPHAN IV  
 KYLE L. STEVENS  
 KELLY M. STEWART  
 CECIL D. STINNIE  
 LAKICIA R. STOKES  
 JEFFREY R. STRAUSS  
 MARTIN L. STUFFLEBEAM  
 COURTNEY M. SUGAI  
 TERRENCE J. SULLIVAN  
 CHRISTINE M. TAKATS  
 JOSEPH E. TAYLOR  
 JENNIFER V. THIBEAULT  
 LYDIA Y. THORNTON

LOREN D. TODD  
 KEITH D. TOLER  
 PAUL A. TOMCIC  
 ISAAC M. TORRES  
 CARITA K. TOWNS  
 NOBLE TURNER, JR.  
 LEILANI M. TYDINGCO  
 JOHN F. VANN  
 THOMAS A. VELAZQUEZ II  
 BRADLEY S. WAITE  
 KEVIN J. WARD  
 MOLLY J. WEAVER  
 THOMAS J. WHIPPLE  
 BRIAN A. WHITE  
 OSHEA J. WHITE  
 GARY D. WHITTACRE  
 SONDRAL L. WILKERSON  
 BARRY L. WILLIAMS  
 JAMAL T. WILLIAMS  
 LATORRIS E. WILLIAMS  
 TERRENCE D. WILLIAMS  
 COREY D. WOODS  
 CURTIS L. YANKIE  
 ANDRE M. C. YEE  
 CHRISTINE R. YOUNGQUIST  
 BROCK A. ZIMMERMAN  
 D010800  
 D012116  
 D012924  
 D012925  
 D012971

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY  
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JACOB I. ABRAMI  
 ERIC R. ADAMS  
 BENJAMIN K. AFEKU  
 JAY H. ANSON  
 CHARLES M. AZOTEA  
 TERENCE W. BACON  
 HOSSEIN D. BAHAGHIGHAT  
 ROBERT J. BAKER  
 PAUL W. BALDWIN  
 SEAN A. BARBARAS  
 MICHAEL A. BARKER  
 KURT M. BARNEY  
 CHRISTINA A. BEMBENEK  
 JASON R. BIERKORTTE  
 JASON D. BILLINGTON  
 CHRISTIAN C. BJORNSSON  
 DAVID J. BLACK  
 JEREMY S. BOARDMAN  
 VINCENT J. BONCICH  
 THOMAS J. BOUCHILLON  
 ANDREW S. BROKHOF  
 ERICKA M. BROOKS  
 JASON C. BROWN  
 JARED L. BUCHANAN  
 STEPHEN A. BULTMANN  
 JOSHUA M. BUNDT  
 RYAN H. BURKE  
 MICHAEL P. BURNS  
 RETT B. BURROUGHS  
 MICHAEL R. BUSH  
 ROGER M. CABINESS II  
 JAMES D. CAHILL  
 ANDREW J. CAMP  
 JAYSON R. CAMPBELL  
 EDWARD W. CARDINALE  
 VERONICA A. CARROLL  
 WILLIAM H. CARROLL  
 CHRISTOPHER R. CARSON  
 NATALIE K. CASEY  
 MICHAEL W. CERCHIO  
 LATRICE K. CLARK  
 NICHOLAS J. CLARK  
 MICHAEL D. CLAYTON  
 BRYAN M. CLEARY  
 JEREMY L. CLICK  
 ENARDO R. COLLAZOALICEA  
 BRIAN T. COLLINS  
 CASEY D. CONNORS  
 KRISTINA J. CORNWELL  
 CASEY D. COYLE  
 ANDREW D. CROY  
 RICHARD M. CRUZ, JR.  
 EDWARD D. CUEVAS  
 PATRICK J. CULPEPPER  
 TIMOTHY M. CULPEPPER  
 KEVIN F. CUMMISKEY  
 ANDREW D. DAMICO  
 JASON N. DAUGHERTY  
 HEIDI B. DEMAREST  
 TRAVIS P. DETTMER  
 PETER DIGIORGIO  
 WILLIAM A. DONALDSON  
 WILLIAM R. DUFFY  
 TIMOTHY J. DUGAN  
 NATHANIEL DURANT III  
 JOHN N. DVORAK  
 RUSSELL J. EDMISTON  
 ROBERT A. ERICKSON  
 KENNETH C. EVANS  
 JASON C. FARMER  
 WILLIAM A. FERRARO  
 JOHN D. FINCH  
 MICHAEL A. FINDLAY  
 JEFFREY D. FISH  
 MARK A. FISHER  
 HEATHER M. FISK

CHRISTOPHER P. FOLK  
 DAVID FORD, JR.  
 FLOYD C. FORREST  
 DANIEL L. FOX  
 SAMUEL T. FULLER  
 RANDALL M. GABLE  
 JASON J. GALUI  
 JOSEPH N. GARDNER  
 RICHARD C. GERMANN  
 RONNIE E. GERONIMO  
 TIMOTHY M. GIBBONS  
 JOSEPH I. GILBERT  
 ROBERT B. GILLESPIE  
 DAVID M. GOHLICH  
 JAMES T. GOLBY  
 LESLIE D. GORMAN  
 MATTHEW W. GRAHAM  
 WILLIAM B. GREEN  
 STEVEN J. GRIBSCHAW  
 KEVIN J. GROPPPEL  
 STEVEN D. GUNTER  
 HEATHER N. GUNTHER  
 ROBERT A. HAMMACK  
 JENNIFER K. HAN  
 JOHN J. HANES  
 LEIF A. HANSEN  
 EDD D. HARRISON, JR.  
 JONPAUL J. HART  
 RICHARD E. HARTNEY III  
 JARED B. HARTY  
 RACHELLE T. HATHAWAY  
 CHRISTINA HAYES  
 PATRICK T. HEMMER  
 ROBERTO HERNANDEZ  
 WILLIAM M. HIGGINS  
 THOMAS W. HIGGINSON  
 NINA L. HILL  
 JENNIFER A. HINKLE  
 ANTONIO A. HINOJOSA  
 DEAN L. HINRICHSEN  
 BINH T. HO  
 DEVIN M. HOLLINGSWORTH  
 DAVID T. HORD  
 MICHAEL J. HOSLER  
 BENJAMIN W. K. HUNG  
 STEPHEN E. HUNT, JR.  
 YESENIA HUTCHER  
 RONALD IAMMARTINO, JR.  
 PAUL E. IRELAND  
 BRADLEY J. ISLER  
 JASON E. ISON  
 ERICA R. IVERSON  
 LASHAUNDA R. JACKSON  
 MICHAEL T. JACKSON  
 JEFFREY S. JAGER  
 JUNEL R. JEFFREY  
 BIJI T. JOHN  
 EUGENE L. JOLLY III  
 COURTNEY E. JONES  
 KEVIN T. JOYCE  
 BRIAN F. KAMMERER  
 JOSHUA D. KASER  
 SCOTT W. KEY  
 ANDREW R. KICK  
 NADINE M. C. KING  
 JILLIAN M. KLUG  
 KENNETH S. KONDO, JR.  
 JOSEPH T. KOSEK III  
 PHILLIP M. LACASSE  
 THOMAS LAFLASH  
 JOSEPH T. LATENDRESSE  
 PAUL B. LEMIEUX  
 MICHAEL P. LENART  
 EDWARD B. LERZ II  
 CONWAY LIN  
 SCOTT D. LINKER  
 CHYLON E. LONGMOSES  
 DAVID W. LOWE  
 PAUL L. MAHER  
 RYNELE M. MARDIS  
 BRADLEY J. MAROYKA  
 ALEXANDER MARRONE  
 VINCENT P. MARSCHEAN  
 STEPHEN M. MARSHALL  
 ARNULFO J. MARTINEZ  
 TOM O. MATCHIN III  
 LATASHA M. MATTHEWS  
 JASON A. MCANALLY  
 SEAN P. MCCAFFERTY  
 SEAN M. MCCLURE  
 MATTHEW M. MCCREARY  
 JOHN W. MCFARLIN, JR.  
 JAY G. MCGEE  
 CORY T. MCKOY  
 SCOTT D. MCLEARN  
 MEGAN A. MCSWAIN  
 JASON S. MEISEL  
 JOHN J. MELO  
 JENNIFER S. MENDEL  
 CHRISTOPHER L. MENG  
 PHILIP A. MESSER  
 MARK P. MICHELS  
 APRIL D. MILLER  
 JOSHUA T. MILLER  
 LAUREN J. S. MILLER  
 PATRICK J. MILLER  
 RICHARD S. MILLS II  
 KRISTOPHER S. MITCHELL  
 KELLY D. MONTGOMERY  
 RONANDO D. MOORE  
 DYLAN M. MORELLE  
 CHRISTOPHER F. MORRELL

JASON D. MOULTON  
 AIMEE J. MOWRY  
 DWAYNE A. MURRAY  
 JONATHAN C. NARVAES  
 PETER C. NELSON  
 RYAN L. NENABER  
 RICHARD A. NESSEL  
 LOUIS V. NETHERLAND  
 AARON M. NEWCOMER  
 RUSSELL G. NOWELS  
 RUSSELL F. NUNLEY  
 KEVIN P. OCONNELL  
 JOSEPH M. ODORIZZI  
 AMMILEE A. OLIVA  
 STEVEN J. OLSON  
 JOHN P. OPLADEN  
 ROGER B. ORDONEZ  
 DUSTIN R. ORNATOWSKI  
 RANDY T. OVERSTREET  
 THOMAS J. PAFF  
 MARCELO V. PAJO  
 MICHAEL A. PANARO III  
 JIN W. PARK  
 GABRIEL R. PARSLEY  
 WILLIAM W. PARSONS  
 KERI A. PASQUINI  
 RODRIG G. PAULETTO  
 ALEXIS A. PEAKE  
 HERIBERTO PEREZRIVERA  
 DAVID A. PHEASANT  
 CLINDON J. PHILLIPS  
 THOMAS D. PIKE  
 JAMES C. PILKAUSKAS  
 CHAD M. PILLAI  
 DALE L. PITTMAN  
 DANIEL J. POOLE  
 ELIZABETH M. POPIAK  
 ROSALBA POULOS  
 SUKHDEV S. PUREWAL  
 PHILLIP RADZIKOWSKI  
 SIEGFRIED T. RAMIL  
 GEORGE C. RANDOLPH, JR.  
 NATHAN T. REED  
 JAYNA B. REICHERT  
 JEREMY M. RIEHL  
 JOHN P. RINGQUIST  
 ADELISSA RIOJAS  
 RYAN M. ROBERTS  
 JOSE N. RODRIGUEZCASIO  
 ADALBERTO RODRIGUEZOLIVERA  
 MICHAEL P. ROGOWSKI  
 ANDREA M. ROSALES  
 ROBERT RUBIANO  
 ROBERTO J. SANTIAGO  
 DONALD W. SAPP  
 NATHAN C. SAUL  
 ASSLAN SAYYAR  
 JOSEPH E. SCHAEFER  
 NATHAN G. SCHMIDT  
 CLIFTON D. SCHMITT  
 PETER L. SCHNEIDER  
 JEFFREY F. SCHROEDER  
 KEVIN A. SCOTT  
 IAN P. SEIN  
 BENJAMIN K. SELZER  
 ROBERT J. SHADOWENS  
 BENJAMIN J. SHAHA  
 CHRISTOPHER M. SIMCOE  
 CRAYTON E. SIMMONS  
 STEPHEN T. SKELLS  
 BENJAMIN M. SMITH  
 WILLIAM T. SMITH  
 JARED W. SNAWDER  
 RICHARD J. SONNENFELD  
 PATRICK L. SOULE  
 JOHN M. SOVA  
 JOEL C. SPINNEY  
 CHRISTOPHER M. STAUDER  
 JENNIFER D. STCLAIR  
 KEVIN L. STEELE  
 CHRISTOPHER N. STELLE  
 JOSHUA N. STEPHENSON  
 GEOFFROY E. STGALDEPONS  
 MICHAEL K. STINCHFIELD  
 ORRIN G. STITT  
 ANDREW S. STLAURENT  
 POVILAS J. STRAZDAS  
 OLIVER D. STRETT  
 MARK C. STURGEON  
 DANIEL P. SUKMAN  
 JERMAINE L. SUTTON  
 ANDREW D. SWEDBERG  
 ANDREW D. SWEDLOW  
 KERT L. SWITZER  
 THOMAS B. TABAKA  
 BRENDAN S. TAYLOR  
 BENJAMIN R. THOMAS  
 THAD M. THOME  
 BRANDON S. THOMPSON  
 JOSEF THRASH III  
 DAVID J. TIER  
 MANDIE A. TIERINA  
 MICHAEL W. TILTON  
 JOHN D. TINCHER  
 ROBERT S. TOMPKINS  
 AKEMI A. TORBERT  
 ROBERT L. TRENT  
 JASON G. TULLIUS  
 JOHN E. TURNER, JR.  
 COLEY D. TYLER  
 NALONIE J. TYRRELL  
 BRADLEY C. VELOTTA

RANDALL S. VERDE  
 TREVOR E. VOECKS  
 BRIAN M. WADE  
 NEIL R. WALKER  
 WAYNE B. WALL II  
 JONATHAN B. WARR  
 JASON W. WARREN  
 DENNIS J. WEAVER  
 HANS J. WEBBER  
 CHRISTOPHER E. WELD  
 JASON E. WILLIAMS  
 JOSEPH B. WOOLSEY  
 STEPHEN F. WRIGHT  
 CHARLES R. ZIPPERER, JR.  
 D001312  
 D004904  
 D005748  
 D010396  
 D012123  
 D012483  
 D012692  
 D012735  
 G010002  
 G010041  
 G010065  
 G010080  
 G010400

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

RICHARD R. AARON  
 JASON E. ALBRIGHT  
 DANIEL C. ALDER  
 MICHAEL F. ALEXANDER  
 CHRISTOPHER M. ALMAGUER  
 LEE E. AMBROSE  
 TYLER K. ANDERSEN  
 BRIAN C. ANGELL  
 CURTIS M. ARMSTRONG  
 MATTHEW R. ARROL  
 DANIEL S. ARTINO  
 SHANNON P. ASERON  
 MICHAEL C. ATHANASAKIS  
 JASON W. ATKINSON  
 MARC J. AUSTIN  
 JOHN R. BACON  
 DEREK R. BAIRD  
 HAILEYESUS BAIRU  
 CHRISTINE M. BAKER  
 REGAN M. BALDWIN  
 ALHAJI S. BANGURA  
 KEITH A. BARANOW  
 JAMES A. BARLOW  
 RYAN D. BARNETT  
 STEVEN S. BARTLEY  
 JAMES A. BEAULIEU  
 RALPH L. BECKI  
 JONATHAN S. BENDER  
 KEITH W. BENEDICT  
 TOBIAS A. BENNETT  
 RYAN M. BERDNER  
 JOSHUA P. BERRYHILL  
 JAY A. BESSEY  
 BRIAN E. BETTIS  
 KEVIN T. BLACK  
 PATRICK D. BLANKENSHIP  
 JONATHAN G. BLEAKLEY  
 PENNY M. BLOEDL  
 KELLY O. C. BOIAN  
 LANE A. BOMAR  
 LORETO V. BORCE, JR.  
 RYAN P. BORTNYK  
 BRIAN J. BOSTON  
 STEPHEN E. BOURDON  
 WILLIAM H. BOWERS  
 JASON M. BRADLEY  
 THOMAS K. BRENTON  
 MATTHEW A. BRODERICK  
 DIOSABELLE T. BUACK  
 BOYCE R. BUCKNER  
 MICHAEL R. BUNDT  
 ANDREW E. BURGESS  
 RYAN T. BURKERT  
 JOHN J. BURKESCIA, JR.  
 MICHAEL J. BUSTOS  
 PHILIP A. BUSWELL  
 JASON L. BUURSMAN  
 VAUGHAN M. BYRUM  
 ELIZABETHANNE M. CAIN  
 ADAM S. CAMARANO  
 BRIAN C. CAMPBELL  
 WILLIAM R. CANDA III  
 ADAM M. CANNON  
 DON L. CANTERNA, JR.  
 MELISSA M. CANTWELL  
 MATTHEW P. CAPOBIANCO  
 MICHAEL H. CAPPS  
 ARGOT CARBERRY  
 ERIC D. CARLSON  
 JASON C. CARTER  
 JACOB L. CECKA  
 THOMAS D. CHAPEAU  
 GEORGE A. CHIGI  
 CHRIS C. CHOI  
 DAVID A. CIESZYNSKI  
 STEVEN D. CLAY  
 MICHAEL P. COCHRAN  
 NATHANIEL F. CONKEY  
 CHRISTOPHER J. G. COOK  
 JOHN W. COPELAND

CHAD P. CORRIGAN  
 BENJAMIN C. CROOM  
 RAMON J. CRUZZSANCHEZ  
 GREGORY E. CURRY II  
 CLAYTON D. CURTIS  
 DOUGLAS J. CURTIS  
 NICHOLAS K. DALL  
 ARNEL P. DAVID  
 IAN S. DAVIS  
 JOSHUA M. DAVIS  
 MARK A. DAVIS  
 CHRISTOPHER J. DAWSON  
 JASON W. DAY  
 ROGER T. DELAHUNT  
 CHRISTOPHER M. DEMPSEY  
 THURMAN S. DICKERSON III  
 CHRISTIAN N. DIETZ  
 ADAM B. DIGAUDIO  
 DANIEL C. DINICOLA  
 BRYAN J. DODD  
 EDWARD M. DOWNS, JR.  
 CLARA C. DRISCOLL  
 RICHARD E. DUNNING  
 ERIC N. DURRANT  
 JASON R. DYE  
 WILLIAM W. EARL  
 MICHAEL T. ELIASSEN  
 MATHEW D. ELLIOTT  
 MICHAEL J. ENGLIS  
 DAVID E. ESCOBAR  
 MICHAEL S. FARMER  
 BENJAMIN A. FIELDING  
 BRADFORD A. FISHER  
 JAMES D. FITZGERALD  
 PATRICK M. FLOOD  
 FRANKIE L. FLOWERS  
 WAYNE A. FOGEL  
 ROBERT L. FOSTER  
 DARREN B. FOWLER  
 JOHN T. FRANZ  
 BRYAN W. FRIZZELLE  
 THOMAS D. FROHNHOEFER  
 DAVID A. FULTON  
 MICHAEL R. FUNCHES  
 BRENDAN R. GALLAGHER  
 CASEY J. GALLIGAN  
 ANDREW A. GALLO  
 MICHAEL R. GARRY  
 JOSHUA M. GASPARD  
 MICHAEL E. GATES  
 RICHARD B. GEBHARDT  
 SHAWN H. GEIB  
 JONATHAN M. GENGE  
 STEPHEN R. GIBBS  
 BRIAN D. GILBERT  
 JARROD J. H. GILLAM  
 ANTHONY W. GORE  
 LAWRENCE L. GRANT  
 ROBERT L. GREEN  
 WILLIAM J. GRIFFITH IV  
 JOHN R. B. GUNTER  
 DAVID W. GUNTHER  
 NATHAN A. GUTHRIE  
 RYAN A. GUTHRIE  
 MICHAEL B. HALE  
 MARK D. HALL  
 THOMAS J. HANIFEN  
 TIMOTHY J. HANLEY  
 JAMES C. HARBRIDGE  
 ADAM W. HARLESS  
 JOSEPH G. HAROSKY  
 JUSTIN D. HARPER  
 PAUL G. HARRELL  
 WILLIAM B. HARRINGTON  
 PAUL D. HARRISON  
 JONATHAN T. HARTSOCK  
 KEITH A. HASKIN  
 ANDREW M. HENNING  
 DAVID F. HENNING, JR.  
 KYLE D. HENSON  
 MICHAEL S. HEQUEMBOURG  
 JOHNATHAN W. HESTER  
 LAWRENCE A. M. HICKS  
 RICHARD S. HILDEN  
 TERRY N. HILDERBRAND, JR.  
 TERRY L. HILT  
 WESLEY H. HIRAOKA  
 DAVID J. HODGES  
 JOSEPH E. HOFFMAN  
 DAVID T. HOLSTEAD  
 CHRISTOPHER T. HORMEL  
 SCOTT W. HERRIGAN  
 JAMES C. HOWELL  
 SEAN K. HUBBARD  
 DAVID M. HUDSON  
 JUSTIN D. HUFNAGEL  
 BRIAN M. HUMMEL  
 MARCUS S. HUNTER  
 GALEN L. HUSS  
 THOMAS L. HUSSEY  
 JEFFREY W. IRVING  
 ERICA D. JACKSON  
 JONATHAN B. JACKSON  
 KEITH L. JACOBS  
 BENJAMIN D. JAHN  
 KEVIN L. JAMES  
 WILLIAM F. JENNINGS  
 DEREK E. JOHNSON  
 JESSE R. JOHNSON  
 STEPHEN M. JOHNSON  
 TIMOTHY C. JOHNSON  
 JONATHAN J. JOHNSTON

JAMON K. JUNIUS  
 STEVEN L. KANE  
 LOUIS M. KANGAS  
 AARON J. KAUFMAN  
 JANETTE L. KAUTZMAN  
 ALLEN L. KEHOE  
 ANTHONY A. KELLER  
 TIMOTHY P. KELLY  
 EDWARD E. KENNEDY  
 KEVIN R. KILBRIDE  
 THOMAS J. KILBRIDE  
 RUSTIE W. KIM  
 JASON A. KING  
 DONALD L. KINGSTON, JR.  
 JONATHAN E. KLINK  
 CHARLES M. KNOLL  
 RYAN F. KOVARIK  
 FRANK K. KRAMMER, JR.  
 STEVEN L. KREH  
 CALVIN A. KROEGER  
 WILLIAM A. KRON  
 MATTHEW M. KUHN  
 DANIEL J. LAFOUNTAIN  
 CHRISTOPHER C. LANE  
 MICHAEL LANZAFAMA  
 JAMIE R. LAVALLEY  
 DOUGLAS A. LAXSON  
 TRI D. LE  
 CEDRIC G. LEE  
 CHONG Y. LEE  
 MATTHEW D. R. LEE  
 MARK A. LEGASPI  
 LEVIAS L. LEWIS  
 SAMUEL E. LINN  
 JEREMY F. LINNEY  
 RYAN D. LONG  
 CLIFTON J. LOPEZ III  
 JAY T. LUCKRITZ  
 KEITH P. MADERE  
 COLIN P. MAHLE  
 PATRICK J. MALONE  
 LISA R. MANN  
 TIMOTHY B. MANTON  
 NED B. MARSH  
 JONATHAN R. MARTIN  
 DOUGLAS A. MASSIE  
 RODRIC M. MCCLAIN  
 MARK R. MCCLELLAN  
 JESS MCCONNELL  
 RODNEY D. MCCUTCHEON  
 ARTHUR L. MCGRUE III  
 ALISSA A. MCKAIG  
 IAN J. MCKENNA  
 ERIC D. MCKINNEY  
 GREGORY W. MCLEAN  
 JOHN H. MCNAMARA  
 TIMOTHY P. MEADORS  
 JORGE J. MENDOZA  
 GABRIEL M. MESA  
 MATTHEW C. MILETICH  
 JOEL MILLAN  
 JOHN P. MILLER III  
 MARY K. MILLER  
 RICHARD A. MILLER  
 ERIC S. MINOR  
 AARON J. MOCK  
 JAMES M. MODLIN, JR.  
 TRAVIS F. MOLLIERE  
 DARREN R. MONIOT  
 BRIAN J. MOORE  
 ERICK J. MORALES  
 PAUL W. MORESHEAD  
 BRAD A. MORGAN  
 JAYSON B. MORGAN  
 CHRISTOPHER J. MORRIS  
 SEAN M. MORROW  
 CHRISTOPHER T. MORTON  
 DUANE L. MOSIER  
 BRIAN G. MULHERN  
 PHILIP J. MUNDWEIL  
 MICHAEL D. NELSON  
 JACE R. NEUENSCHWANDE  
 ROBERT J. NEUBAUER  
 KENNETH E. NIELSEN II  
 JEFFREY D. NOLL  
 WILLIAM F. NORDAI  
 PETER J. NORRIS  
 ERIC W. NYLANDER  
 MARK J. OBRIEN  
 ERIK C. OKSENVAAG  
 BRANDON L. OLIVEIRA  
 ANDREW L. OLSON  
 EDGAR J. OTALORA  
 ELIAS D. OTOSHI  
 JUSTIN R. PABIS  
 NATHAN A. PALISCA  
 BRADLY S. PARKER  
 MATTHEW L. PARKER  
 BRANDON W. PARRISH  
 ERIC A. PARTHEMORE  
 JATHAN R. PAYNE  
 KEVIN M. PELLEY  
 ALEXIS PEREZCRUZ  
 ERIK S. PETERSON  
 HIEU T. PHAM  
 DUSTIN E. PHILLIPS  
 KENNETH J. PHILLIPS  
 NICHOLAS J. PLOETZ  
 STEPHEN D. POE  
 TODD F. POLK  
 JEFFREY D. PORTER  
 GREGORY J. POVENSKI

DAVID W. PRESTON  
 ERIC R. PRIBYLA  
 JAMES D. PRITCHETT  
 THOMAS T. PUTNAM  
 JAMES A. RAINES, JR.  
 ANDREA RANDLE  
 JASON S. RAUB  
 DANIEL L. RAUSCH  
 THEODORE P. REAM  
 GERALD J. REBESCHINI  
 JENNIFER D. REED  
 ARLO J. REESE  
 SEAN M. REESE  
 GLEN D. RENFREE  
 JEFFREY P. RHODES  
 CHRISTOPHER J. RICCI  
 CHRISTOPHER O. ROBERTS  
 STEVEN G. ROBINS  
 GUYTON L. ROBINSON  
 MICHAEL R. RODICK  
 WILLIE RODNEY  
 ROBERT R. RODOCK  
 SONNY T. ROSALES  
 JEFFREY R. ROSENBERG  
 ANNMARIE D. RUPPERT  
 STEVEN G. RUSH  
 ARAYA S. RUTNARAK  
 JOSEPH W. RUZICKA  
 KATHRYN P. SANBORN  
 MARC J. SANBORN  
 KEITH P. SANDOVAL  
 JOHANNIE SANMIGUEL  
 DAVID A. SARRETTE, JR.  
 CHARCILLEA A. SCHAEFER  
 MATTHEW J. SCHER  
 MARTIN D. SCHMIDT  
 EDWARD B. SCHOENHEIT  
 STEVEN J. SCHULDT  
 JAMES D. SCOTT  
 JOSEPH C. SCOTT  
 JAMES H. SCULLION  
 JOSHUA T. SEVERS  
 MATTHEW D. SHAW  
 JAMES D. SHEFFIELD  
 WILLIAM H. SHOEMATE II  
 DOUGLAS S. SIMMONS  
 MARNY SKINDRUD  
 LAURA J. SKINNER  
 DAVID K. SMITH  
 STEPHEN T. SMITH  
 STEPHEN P. SNYDER  
 HUGH E. SOLLUM  
 ROBERTO C. SOLORZANO  
 JEFFREY J. F. SOUTER  
 DARREN T. SPEARS  
 JONATHAN C. STAFFORD  
 ANDREW D. STAPLES  
 MICHAEL H. STARZ  
 SHAWN P. STEELE  
 DAVID J. STEWART  
 WINCHESTER A. STIENS  
 KEVIN P. STONEROOK  
 IVEN T. SUGAI  
 EDWARD T. SULLIVAN  
 MARSHALL S. SYBERT  
 NATHANAE S. TAGG  
 JOSHUA A. TAYLOR  
 MICHAEL D. TEAGUE  
 RICHARD P. TETA  
 STEPHEN P. THIBODEAU  
 JOSEPH F. THOMAS  
 ANTHONY M. THOMPSON  
 JARED A. THOMPSON  
 MICHAEL B. THROCKMORTON  
 TRAVIS S. TILMAN  
 LAZANDER C. TOMLINSON  
 PATRICK R. TOOHEY  
 BRENDAN P. TOOLAN  
 JASON A. TOTH  
 RICHARD A. TOWNER  
 BRIAN J. TRITTEN  
 VICTOR E. TRUJILLO II  
 TIMOTHY A. TRYON  
 RICARDO A. TURNER  
 KYLE L. UPSHAW  
 JEREMY J. USSERY  
 DAVID A. UTHLAUT  
 MARCUS R. VARTAN  
 SETH W. VIEUX  
 CHRISTOPHER J. VITALE  
 TREVOR S. VOELKEL  
 MARK J. WADE  
 ANDREW J. WAGNER  
 RUSSELL O. WAGNER  
 MATTHEW A. WALKER  
 BRENNAN V. WALLACE  
 LEE S. WALLACE  
 STEVEN S. WALLACE  
 CHADRICK K. WALLEY  
 GREGORY A. WALLSTEN  
 SHERMAN C. WATSON  
 JASON R. WAYNE  
 MARTIN E. WEAVER  
 CHRISTOPHER P. WELLMAN  
 DANIEL E. WELSH  
 ROBERT J. WEST  
 AMY M. WHEELER  
 GRAHAM R. WHITE  
 REGINALD D. WHITE  
 NATHAN S. WHITFIELD  
 ANDREW J. WHITFORD  
 NATHAN A. WHITLOCK



ANDREW J. WILBRAHAM  
AARON M. WILLIAMS  
REGINALD E. WILLIAMS, JR.  
DAVID R. WILSON  
JARED P. WILSON  
NATHANIEL B. WILSON  
BARRY WINNEGAN  
PAUL W. WITKOWSKI  
CARL H. WOHLFEIL  
MATTHEW S. WOLFE  
RICHARD S. WOOLSHLAGER  
RYAN K. WORKMAN  
GLEN A. WRIGHT  
TIMOTHY F. WRIGHT  
PAUL M. WUENSCH  
LUCAS J. YOHO  
ALEXANDER L. YOUNG  
SALVADOR M. ZUNIGA  
D008125  
D004327  
D010376  
D010394  
D010456  
D010545  
D010570  
D010575  
D010805  
D010826  
D011529  
D011535  
D012181  
D012498  
D012722  
D012779  
D012798  
D012836  
D012873  
D012895  
D012923

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:  
*To be lieutenant colonel*  
CARL J. WOJTAZSEK  
THE FOLLOWING OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:  
*To be lieutenant colonel*  
G010339  
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:  
*To be colonel*  
MICHAEL A. IZZO  
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:  
*To be major*  
JOSHUA R. POUNDERS  
IN THE NAVY  
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:  
*To be lieutenant commander*

JOSEPH F. ABRUTZ III  
ALDEN Y. ARGANTE  
COLBY T. BACON  
BERRY T. BROWN  
SAMUEL BRYANT  
JEREMY K. CARROLL  
ANDREW G. CATOIRE  
JEREMIAH M. CHASE  
BRIAN J. DAVIS  
CAMERON D. DENNIS  
JAMES A. DIPASQUALE  
TREY J. DITTBERNER  
KEVIN J. FULLER  
EDWARD J. GREWAY, JR.  
THOMAS D. GROARK  
BRENT J. HOLLOWAY  
WILLIAM B. HOWARD  
GUILLERMO H. HOWELL  
JUAN J. HUIZAR  
MATTHEW K. JACOBSON  
KYLE W. KILLINGBECK  
TONY T. G. LE  
MYRON E. LIND  
MICHAEL R. MALIN  
DAXTON H. MOORE  
GARRETT T. MOORE  
DANIEL T. OLSON  
MATTHEW D. OWENS  
TIMOTHY W. ROE  
JASON L. ROGERS  
JORGE E. ROLDAN  
PETER C. SCHUNK  
JOHN H. SEEBODE  
JEREMIAH S. SHUMWAY  
NICHOLAS E. SWANDA  
ABDOULAYE SYLLA  
JAMES E. TROGDEN III

MICHAEL P. WOLCHKO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

DAVID H. MCALISTER

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:  
EMILY M. SCOTT, OF WYOMING

## CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 28, 2016:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERTA S. JACOBSON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. MARK A. BAIRD

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. THOMAS F. SPENCER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. GREGORY S. CHAMPAGNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. MARSHALL B. WEBB

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. DANIEL J. SWAIN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. JAMES J. KEEFE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. ANDREA D. TULLOS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. BRADLEY C. SALTZMAN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. ANDREW E. SALAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. CRAIG D. WILLS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. TAMHRA L. HUTCHINS-FRYE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be general*

GEN. CURTIS M. SCAPARROTTI

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. WILLIAM J. PRENDERGAST IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM P. BARRIAGE  
BRIG. GEN. PETER A. BOSSE  
BRIG. GEN. TROY D. KOK  
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM S. LEE

*To be brigadier general*

COL. MARILYN S. CHIAFULLO

COL. ALEX B. FINK  
COL. JOHN B. HASHEM  
COL. SUSAN E. HENDERSON  
COL. ANDREW J. JUKNELIS  
COL. JEFFREY W. JURASEK  
COL. DEBORAH L. KOTULICH  
COL. JOHN H. PHILLIPS  
COL. STEPHEN T. SAUTER  
COL. STEPHEN E. STRAND

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) PAUL J. VERRASTRO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) TIMOTHY J. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) KYLE J. COZAD

REAR ADM. (LH) LISA M. FRANCHETTI  
REAR ADM. (LH) ROY J. KELLEY  
REAR ADM. (LH) DAVID M. KRIETE  
REAR ADM. (LH) BRUCE H. LINDSEY  
REAR ADM. (LH) JAMES T. LOEBLEIN  
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM R. MERZ  
REAR ADM. (LH) DEE L. MEWBOURNE  
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL T. MORAN  
REAR ADM. (LH) STUART B. MUNSCHE  
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN B. NOWELL, JR.  
REAR ADM. (LH) TIMOTHY G. SZYMANSKI

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be general*

GEN. VINCENT K. BROOKS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. BRADLEY A. HEITHOLD

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR, AIR NATIONAL GUARD, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10506:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. LEON S. RICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE

AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be general*

GEN. LORI J. ROBINSON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. STEPHEN M. TWITTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. JOHN G. ROSSI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be general*

LT. GEN. ROBERT B. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. KENNETH D. JONES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. ARLAN M. DEBLIECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. RODNEY L. FAULK

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MARTIN T. MITCHELL, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAURA S. BARCHICK AND ENDING WITH KEVIN J. WILKINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHELLE D. AASTROM AND ENDING WITH CYNTHIA J. WEIDMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAIRD S. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER J. ZUHLKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ALBERT E. WHITE, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JONATHAN M. LETSINGER, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LLOYD TRAVIS A. ARNOLD AND ENDING WITH KONSTANTINA ZUBER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 14, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF KRISTIE L. PARTIN, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF AIMEE D. SAFFORD, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF TRACEY A. GOSSER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF TODD R. HOWELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LARSS G. CELTNIKS AND ENDING WITH PAULETTE V. BURTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC DANKO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN N. CAROZZA AND ENDING WITH NOAH C. CLOUD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RAMIT RING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GEOFFREY E. ANDERSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRUCE H. ROBINSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW B. BOOTH AND ENDING WITH DONALD W. MOYER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT L. CRONYN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DARRELL W. COLLINS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DEVON D. NUDELMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CALVIN C. THOMAS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN G. CRUYS AND ENDING WITH GREGORY J. LONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWARD S. BARNETT AND ENDING WITH LYNN J. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY G. BONNER AND ENDING WITH JAMES S. WELCH, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KRYSTAL D. BEAN AND ENDING WITH JUSTIN R. SCHLANSER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE A. BARBEE AND ENDING WITH D013078, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GABRIELLE M. ANDREANIFABRONI AND ENDING WITH YOUNG J. YAUGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TERRY L. AITKEN AND ENDING WITH D010908, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TRAVIS H. OWEN, TO BE MAJOR. ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA T. ADE AND ENDING WITH D012875, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 7, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY R. TEAGUE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC E. HALSTROM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN D. BOBO AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY D. FOURNIER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 7, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DENNIS N. SNELLING, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KODJO S. KNOXLIEMACKER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LORI R. SCHANHALS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DREW R. CONOVER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRADLEY D. OSTERMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF FRANCISCO J. LOPEZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY D. AIKEN AND ENDING WITH JAMES R. WEAKLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 14, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GEORGE A. ROLLINS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MCARTHUR WALKER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY D. COVINGTON AND ENDING WITH ERIC A. KENNEDY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 14, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NILSON OROZCOOVEDO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PIERRE E. SAINTFLEUR, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN A. YUKICA, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATRIX W. ELIAS AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS J. TAZZA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 28, 2016.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIAN D. HENNESSY, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DONALD C. KING, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF STEPHANIE M. SIMONI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. SHAFER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JUSTIN K. CONROY AND ENDING WITH REBECCA L. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRICE A. GOODWIN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIAN J. HAMER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT F. GRUWELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SHANNON D. LORIMER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIELLE M. BARNES AND ENDING WITH MARK R. THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM A. HLAVIN, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PHILLIP G. CYR, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DONALD E. SPEIGHTS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LUIS A. BENCOMO, TO BE COMMANDER.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
STEVE W. CRANDALL

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve W. Crandall, who passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on November 24, 2015. Steve served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War on the USS *Sperry*. After his service, Steve met his first wife Carol and they had two sons together, Steven and Shane. In 1976, Steve married his lifelong partner Cathy. Together, they raised Michael, Steven, and Scot.

Steve loved sports and being outdoors. Steve enjoyed fishing, hunting, boating and camping with his family. Steve played softball, bowled in leagues and won a couple golf tournaments through Raley's. Steve enjoyed volunteering his time coaching little league and always encouraged his boys in sports.

Through the years, Steve worked hard for his family. Steve worked for the Retail Clerks Union for over 20 years, was a co-owner of Aqua Magic, a carpet cleaning and restoration business and a garbage man with Recology until he was diagnosed with diabetes in 1999. Steve had many medical struggles through the rest of his years but he was always happy to see you and his positive personality was impossible to miss.

Steve's sanctuary was at the golf course. Thereafter, he worked at Green Tree Golf Club for approximately 12 years. Steve cherished his time there. Whether it was spending time with his friends, driving his beloved dog Sam around in the cart, teaching his sons and grandsons how to golf, or of course, working on the Course, he loved every day.

Steve always wanted to make you smile. We will miss his "slightly exaggerated" stories and his tall tales. We will miss the way he lit up a room when he walked in. We will miss his kind and generous heart.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents Glen and Iva Lee Crandall. Steve is survived by his loving wife Cathy, his sons Michael, Steve, Scot, Shane and their families. Sister Debbe Allen, four nieces and their families, as well as a dear "Papa" to nine grandchildren.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION  
INITIATIVE ACT

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the United States House of Representa-

tives for the passing of H.R. 223, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2015, which authorizes the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through Fiscal Year 2020 at \$300 million per year. This initiative continues to perform vital work to combat the influx of invasive species, restore polluted habitats, and clean up areas where significant harm has been caused by human activity; also known as Areas of Concern. H.R. 223 is a commonsense, non-partisan bill that creates jobs, restores communities, and boosts small businesses in the Great Lakes region.

Beginning in 2010, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been working hard to protect and preserve the largest freshwater system in the world. I would like to thank my dear friend Mr. DAVID JOYCE for leading this legislation to provide long-term stability for the protection and restoration of our beautiful Great Lakes, which are home to over 1.5 million jobs and more than thirty-five hundred plants and animals.

This initiative has made a significant impact in the 8th District of Minnesota; specifically, the St. Louis River, which is one of the largest Areas of Concerns in the Great Lakes Basin. With the support of federal and state agencies involved, this Area of Concern is making incredible progress.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congress for passing this vital piece of legislation to provide long-term stability to our Great Lakes region and I commend the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for all of the important work it does.

CONGRATULATING THE AIRBUS  
TEAM IN MOBILE ON DELIVERY  
OF FIRST A321

**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the determined men and women who work at the Airbus assembly facility in Mobile, Alabama, on the successful delivery of the first Alabama-built A321 to JetBlue.

I had the honor of attending the special delivery ceremony in Mobile on Monday, April 25th, to celebrate this momentous achievement and share our appreciation with those who made the aircraft a reality.

The ceremony was marked with a football theme. The marching band and cheerleaders from the University of South Alabama helped lead the crowd in cheers. The visiting dignitary sitting next to me asked about the theme, and I informed him that we take great pride in football down in Alabama.

I then informed him that the same amount of pride we take in our football teams, along with a ton of hard work, is put into the con-

struction of the A321 aircraft. The men and women who work for Airbus recognize how monumental this moment is for the Mobile community, the State of Alabama, and the entire United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident we will be building these aircraft in Mobile for many years to come, and I am so excited about the future of aviation in Southwest Alabama. So, on behalf of my constituents in Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate Airbus and all of their hardworking employees on this impressive achievement.

CELEBRATING LIONS CLUBS  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT DR.  
JITSUHIRO YAMADA'S LEADERSHIP

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, President of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization, for his many years of outstanding service and dedication. Dr. Yamada was elected by his peers in June 2015 to facilitate the work of 1.4 million Lions Clubs International members in over 200 countries and territories. Working with over 46,000 clubs, Dr. Yamada promotes an international effort to aid the blind and visually impaired, champion youth initiatives, and strengthen local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects.

As a member of the Lakeville Lions Club in Indiana, I have seen the impact Lions Clubs can have on local communities. They work to promote the principles of responsible government and good citizenship by uniting individuals from all walks of life with a mission to foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world. As President of Lions Clubs International, Dr. Yamada is the very embodiment of those ideals.

The world truly owes a great deal of respect and gratitude to incredible individuals like Dr. Yamada who have dedicated their lives to working for the common good. His commitment to improving the state of our world inspires many, facilitating the service of dedicated and passionate individuals across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebration of Dr. Yamada's leadership and continued accomplishments. His work brings communities together, strengthening our collective resolve.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONGRATULATING THE MAINE  
TROOP GREETERS ON WEL-  
COMING HOME 1,500,000 AMERICAN  
HEROES

**HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Maine Troop Greeters on recently welcoming home our 1,500,000th American hero.

I want to applaud and thank each one of these incredible individuals for their important, inspirational work to personally greet each American soldier—including hundreds of our canine heroes—when they return to U.S. soil through the Bangor International Airport, regardless of the time of day or night they arrive home.

Many of us remember the disgraceful treatment our brave servicemen received upon their arrival home from Vietnam. Thanks to the Maine Troop Greeter's incredible dedication, every military member now deployed overseas is welcomed back the way they deserve—with a friendly Maine face and heartfelt words expressing our Nation's great gratitude for their selfless service and joy for their safe homecoming.

I am privileged to be an honorary Maine Troop Greeter and to represent these incredible men and women in the United States Congress. I was also honored to invite Troop Greeter and American hero Norm Rossignol as my special guest at this year's State of the Union. America is the greatest country in the world because of patriots like these selfless individuals.

Again, I want to congratulate the amazing men and women of the Maine Troop Greeters on reaching this incredible 1.5 million troop milestone and I look forward to joining them again soon. God Bless America and God Bless the Maine Troop Greeters.

GERARDO BARAJAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gerardo Barajas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Gerardo Barajas is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gerardo Barajas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gerardo Barajas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the

same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW  
GARY, SAMUEL BORICK, AND  
JULIA FONTANA AS HONORABLE  
MENTION WINNERS OF THE 2016  
NATIONAL C-SPAN STUDENT  
CAM VIDEO CONTEST

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matthew Gary, Samuel Borick, and Julia Fontana, who participated in the 2016 National C-Span Student Cam Video Contest. The five-minute entry entitled "2016: The Race to Protect the Environment" earned them an honorable mention.

The team created the documentary to emphasize why environmental policy should be at the forefront of 2016's political debates. The team met with qualified individuals such as environmental advocate Peter Iwanowicz, environmental policy expert Barry Rabe, and the Honorable ROBERT CASEY, Jr., a United States Senator from Pennsylvania. Through these interviews, they explored why environmental issues are neglected by politicians and why public officials and aspirants at the highest level should make them a priority.

As many of my colleagues know, I am a passionate advocate for the environment. I believe preserving our natural, recreational, and cultural resources is an environmental, as well as an economic, imperative. I am impressed by these young people and their contribution to the national dialogue. Like them, I believe we need to take steps to ensure our environment is in good hands for future generations.

It is an honor to recognize the achievement of Matthew Gary, Samuel Borick, and Julia Fontana. May they continue to strive for excellence in their education and be good stewards of our planet.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 166 and 167, "nay" on roll call votes 168 and 169, "yea" on roll call vote 170, "nay" on roll call vote 171, and "yea" on roll call vote 172.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was at the White House to discuss criminal

justice reform and I was unable to return in time for roll call votes 170, 171, and 172. Had I been here, I would have voted Yes to 170, Ms. Waters Amendment; No to 171, Final Passage; and Yes to 172, on the Defend Trade Secrets Act.

COLLEEN OWENS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Colleen Owens for her award of Colorado's 2016 High School Principal of the Year. The Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) and a committee of her peers from the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals (CASSP) chose Principal Owens for this award.

For over five years Principal Owens has passionately worked to be a positive influence in the lives of students, teachers, parents and our community. She has sought to eliminate and improve upon many of the issues the school was facing, including a drastically decreasing enrollment of nearly 100 students per year. Her tireless efforts to help establish a firm sense of community to "RamNation" (as the school community is called) have helped to stabilize and reach new levels of engagement and achievement. She was also instrumental in bringing the one-of-a-kind Academy Program—which offers courses ranging from engineering, health, business, performing arts, global studies, and more—to help students prepare for college and other career opportunities.

Principal Owens's roots are deep within Green Mountain School. An alumna herself, she has served diverse roles at Green Mountain High School including student, teacher and assistant principal. In addition to supporting student success through the Academy model, Principal Owens promotes strong instruction and teacher development through Professional Learning Communities. Beyond her role in leading both students and staff, Owens has worked vigorously to strengthen the school's communication.

To say she is an accomplished administrator is an understatement. Principal Owens' dedication and enthusiasm for education is reflected in her exemplary contributions to the profession. I extend my deepest thanks to Principal Owens for her service to the students of Green Mountain High School. Thank you for your continuous dedication to education and to our local community.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORKERS'  
MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 28 as Workers' Memorial Day,

and to honor the men and women around the world who have suffered injuries or lost their lives in the workplace.

In Connecticut, the unions of the AFL–CIO are observing Workers' Memorial Day today with ceremonies on the steps of our State Capitol in Hartford and at the Workers Memorial in the Town of Groton's Washington Park.

Last Saturday was the 29th anniversary of one of the worst workplace disasters in Connecticut's history. On April 23, 1987, L'Ambiance Plaza, a 16-story building under construction in Bridgeport, collapsed. Twenty-eight construction workers lost their lives.

This disaster was preventable, and it was a wakeup call for Connecticut—and for our nation—that we can never afford to take workplace safety for granted. We've made some progress in the three decades since the L'Ambiance Plaza tragedy, but in the United States, 13 workers still die on the job during an average workday.

In Connecticut, 33 men and women died due to workplace accidents in 2014. That's more than two workers every month, just in my state, who don't return home to their loved ones at the end of a shift.

Nearly half of these men and women worked in the construction, transportation, and warehousing industries—industries that sustain thousands of Connecticut jobs. These workers are powering the economy of our state and of the nation, and we have a responsibility to keep them safe.

Today, on Workers' Memorial Day, we honor the memories and sacrifices of the thousands of men and women throughout the world who have been injured or lost their lives while doing their job.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
DIANNA MARIE HEGEDUIS ON  
THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
HER PASSING

**HON. JOSEPH J. HECK**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dianna Marie Hegeduis for her service to the state of Nevada.

Dianna was a resident of Las Vegas for 35 years and passed away on May 6, 2011, just five years ago.

A 1992 graduate of UNLV, Dianna pursued a legal education at Brigham Young University before returning to Nevada to start her career.

In her professional life, Dianna served as the executive director and general counsel for the Nevada Board of Osteopathic Medicine, where she worked to help improve access to medical care for Nevada residents in rural areas.

She also served as the Chief Deputy Attorney for the State of Nevada under Attorney General Brian Sandoval, arguing and winning several key cases before the Nevada Supreme Court.

But it was in her spare time serving as a community volunteer where Dianna made the most lasting impact on those around her.

She mentored young attorneys and helped them with job placements.

She served as a volunteer judge for high school debate competitions.

She was active in assisting members of our senior citizen community with their everyday needs.

Dianna Marie Hegeduis was an exemplary Las Vegan and Nevadan, and it is my great honor to join with her friends and family today to memorialize her dedication to the Silver State.

CELEBRATING FORT LUPTON  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Fort Lupton Middle School for its recognition as an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) National Demonstration school and an AVID School of Distinction, as well as for winning the coveted Game Plan for Success Award.

These merits are most deserved. Staying true to their motto, "Every Student, Every Day, Achieves and Learns," the students, teachers, and administration of Fort Lupton have dedicated themselves to the pursuit of education and the pursuit of college and career readiness.

If you walk through Fort Lupton, you will see data from the latest benchmark exams displayed throughout the building, celebrating success and conveying the need to work hard and aim high. It is because of the school's commitment to hard work and data-driven teaching that they have earned the prestigious Game Plan for Success Award. To honor this achievement, U.S. Women's National Soccer Star Megan Rapinoe presented the school with the \$5,000 prize and shared with the students tips for success in and out of the classroom.

Today, I also honor the principal of Fort Lupton Middle School, Candace Kensingler. Ms. Kensingler has shown incredible leadership and her passion for education is an inspiration for students and educators alike.

Mr. Speaker, I send my sincerest congratulations to the entire Fort Lupton Middle School community. Their academic success serves as an example throughout Colorado and the United States of America.

CHAZ VIGIL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chaz Vigil for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Chaz Vigil is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chaz Vigil is exemplary of the type of achievement that

can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chaz Vigil for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING PAY IT FORWARD  
DAY IN KENTUCKY

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Pay It Forward Day in Kentucky, as declared by Governor Matt Bevin to be recognized on April 28, 2016. I commend community, state and national leaders alike for promoting the spirit of goodwill and neighborly kindness through this nationwide effort.

Whereas, the aim of the Pay It Forward concept is to promote community spirit through acts of kindness;

Whereas, Pay It Forward Day is a worldwide effort being supported by people in more than 70 countries on six continents;

Whereas, Pay It Forward Day encourages people to do good deeds for others without asking for anything in return except for the recipients to pay it forward to others in need; and

Whereas, together we can make a difference by creating positive change in our community and world—one good deed at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Kentucky delegation, along with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to continue personal efforts to "Pay It Forward" with simple acts of kindness in their own congressional districts across the country.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA  
CUNNINGHAM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barbara Cunningham of Shenandoah, Iowa, for her upcoming retirement from the NEA on August 31st, 2016. For 35 years, Barbara served our community, and state as an educator in the Shenandoah Community School District, and an additional six years on the NEA-Retired Board of Directors.

Barbara has dedicated her life to teaching and enriching the lives of young people, and began her journey as a teacher right after completing her education. Barbara found the Shenandoah Community School District was the best fit for her as a physical education

(PE) instructor. The supplies and facilities were limited—Barbara describes the original gym as the size of a tractor trailer—yet Barbara made the best of it, as most of our teachers do, and focused on teaching her kids with what they had. Her positive attitude and dedication to her students left a lasting impact that cannot be measured.

For the last six years, Barbara has served on the NEA-Retired Board of Directors. She is a dedicated public servant who, even after retiring from teaching, continued to do more to help our youth and communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Barbara today as she approaches her retirement. Her expertise and hard work will be sorely missed by her colleagues and all those she has worked with over the years. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Barbara for her nearly 40 years of dedicated service and in wishing her nothing but continued success in her retirement.

REMARKS IN HONOR OF THE  
SERVICE OF COLONEL DAVID  
HAMILTON

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Colonel David Hamilton, of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation. Colonel Hamilton was born in Kingston, Jamaica and grew up in Holliston, Massachusetts. He began his career in the Army in 1984 after receiving a nomination to attend West Point from my great-uncle, the late Senator Edward Kennedy. Colonel Hamilton was commissioned as a Field Artilleryman upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1988.

Throughout his military career, his many assignments included serving as a Platoon Leader during Operation Desert Shield/Storm and then Company Fire Support Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division. As a Captain, Colonel Hamilton commanded two batteries and deployed his unit to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Guard. After battery command, he served as an Instructor at the School of Artillery in Puckapunyal, Australia.

Upon his return, Colonel Hamilton served in the 2nd of the Army's two Stryker brigades while at Fort Lewis before becoming the Mission Commander, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Detachment-San Francisco from 2004 to 2006. He then departed for Korea where he commanded a Field Artillery Paladin battalion in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division before deploying to Iraq to serve as an Analyst and Deputy Director in the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Commander's Initiatives Group at Camp Victory, Iraq from 2008 to 2009.

After concluding his deployment in Iraq, Colonel Hamilton was the Chief of the Training and Evaluation Division for the Brigade Modernization Command at Ft. Bliss, TX, before commanding the 212th Fires Brigade in the Army's 1st Armored Division from August 2011 to July 2013.

From July 1st, 2014 to April 29th, 2016 Colonel Hamilton served as the Chief of the Army House Liaison Division, fostering a strategic partnership with both the 113th and 114th Congress and working tirelessly to navigate the complex issues the Army faced during the last two legislative cycles.

With every deployment and every assignment, Colonel Hamilton brought unparalleled leadership and unquestioned commitment to the men and women serving beside him.

While he never sought recognition, he has earned numerous military awards for his accomplishments, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the NATO Medal, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and British Jump Wings.

In light of his achievements, the Army has assigned him to serve next as an Assistant Division Commander in the historic 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, GA.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Colonel David Hamilton's successful and decorated career as he and his family proceed to their next chapter. We are a nation grateful for the military service of the men, women, and families who sacrifice in defense of our freedom. I wish Colonel Hamilton and his family the best.

CODY FLOORING AND TILE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cody Flooring and Tile for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business Award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and non-profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and possess high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community and the environment.

Cody Flooring and Tile is a staple of the Golden community and has built its brand on a foundation of exceptional service and loyal relationships with customers. Steve Barrow founded the company out of his garage in Golden in 1996. While Steve is still president and the business remains based in Golden, the company has transformed, creating jobs, moving into a beautiful headquarters and expanding business to six states. This year, Cody Flooring and Tile celebrates 20 successful years of business, and I have no doubt they will find success in the next 20 years.

To Steve and all the employees of Cody Flooring and Tile, congratulations on receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award, and thank you for all you do for the Golden community.

COMMENDING DR. ANDREW W. GURMAN, FOR BEING ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Andrew W. Gurman on his inauguration as President of the American Medical Association on June 14th, 2016.

A native of New York, Dr. Gurman received his medical degree from the State University of New York Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, in 1980. He served his surgical internship in Bronx, New York, completing and following his passion for hand surgery at the Hospital for Joint Disease Orthopedic Institute in New York City.

In addition to his career as an orthopedic hand surgeon in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Dr. Gurman has served as the speaker and vice speaker of the AMA House of Delegates for eight years, a member of the Pennsylvania delegation for 20 years, a congressional contact for PAMED, and member on the American Society for Surgery of the Hand's Council on Government Relations.

Fortunately for our community, Dr. Gurman's achievements are not limited to his medical involvement, as he has also served as a professional chair for the United Way campaign, and a member of the board of trustees of the Altoona Symphony Orchestra.

It is with great pleasure that I highlight Dr. Gurman's inauguration to the presidency of the American Medical Association and commend him for his capacity to serve the 9th Congressional District in so many ways. I have no doubt he will continue to make an impact on our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 171 on H.R. 4498, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

HONORING MR. BOB EPLING

**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Bob Epling as he retires from his post as Chairman and CEO of Community Bank, a bank created with the intentions of being owned and operated by the community. Mr. Epling, who held his post since 1977, has always pushed the limits of what it means to be a business owner, and has used his means to serve the community.

He has been acknowledged countless times for his service to the South Florida community, including his most recent recognition for excellence in community service by the Dade County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Epling has always been firmly rooted in the South Florida community, evident through his role as President of the Florida Bankers Association and Orange Bowl Committee, as well as Chairman of the 1996 South Florida Olympic Soccer Organizing Committee. He also served as the Chairman of the Board of the International Hurricane Research Center for 20 years. In that role, Mr. Epling worked tirelessly to advance research for mitigating storm damage, which he witnessed firsthand when assisting with rebuilding efforts in Homestead after Hurricane Andrew.

It is an honor for me to recognize Mr. Bob Epling on the occasion of his retirement for all of his service to the community of South Florida for more than three decades.

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#### FOOTHILLS ANIMAL SHELTER

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Foothills Animal Shelter for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business Award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and non-profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and possess high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community and the environment.

Since its creation in 1976, the Foothills Animal Shelter (then known as the Jefferson Animal Center) has dedicated itself to providing the best possible care for every animal that comes through its doors. The organization cares for more than 9,500 animals every year and never turns an orphaned animal away. With the completion of its 33,000 square foot facility in 2010, the organization significantly improved care by adding a new medical suite to offer more on-site, cost-effective care and increasing the number of spays and neuters.

Congratulations to the Foothills Animal Shelter for receiving this well-deserved honor by the Golden Rotary, and thank you to all the employees for their continued commitment to our community and the animals they serve.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL S. WILSON, PRESIDENT, GD-OTS

### HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman who has dedicated his life to serving our nation—a true American leader and hero who hails from the state of Florida, Mr. Michael S. Wilson. Mike is retiring from General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical

Systems (GD-OTS) after forty-seven years of service to our warfighters and the defense industry. He currently serves as president of GD-OTS, a position he has held since 2001.

Mike has distinguished himself throughout his career, most notably by developing and fielding over 15 programs to our armed forces. The latest example of Mike's leadership is the fielding of the Ground Mobility Vehicle 1.1 program to the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

Mike led the highly successful merger of GD Armament and Technical Products (GDATP) and GD-OTS companies in 2013—resulting in present day GD-OTS. His efforts created significant synergy savings and efficiencies that directly benefitted GD-OTS customers and shareholders resulting in improved service to the customer. Under Mike's astute and hands-on leadership, GD-OTS revenue rose over 500 percent since acquisition in 2001. Mike created a persistent priority and focuses on safety across GD-OTS and accumulated an unparalleled safety record by any industry standards.

One of Mike's proudest career achievements can be framed by the performance of OTS during the urgent ramp-up required to meet surging demand of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF). Virtually overnight, Mike oversaw the ramp-up of all GD-OTS production lines to provide ammunition when it was needed the most.

During his career at GD, Mike led the effort to grow GD-OTS' organic production capabilities. With deft precision and timing, Mike skillfully invested in facility expansion and organic capabilities to achieve strategic vertical integration. This resulted in a dramatic expansion of core competencies and several new production franchises for GD-OTS.

Mr. Speaker, the Munitions Industrial Base, commercial industry, and each branch of our Armed Forces will miss Mike Wilson's leadership. As a nation, let us recognize his intrepid service and dedication to the mission of supporting our warfighters. And I ask that this body join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Mike S. Wilson on a most honorable, truly energetic, and innovative career.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE "INVESTING IN AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2016"

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Investing in America's Small Businesses Act of 2016. This important legislation allows Community Development Financial Institutions, known as CDFIs, to extend affordable credit to more small businesses in underserved communities through microloans. These small loans, under \$50,000, give businesses working capital, help them invest in new equipment or supplies, and have no pre-payment penalties.

I'm proud that the Investing in America's Small Business Act has gained the endorse-

ments of the CDFI Coalition and the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, the national voices for these community-based institutions.

The bill provides grants for CDFIs to establish loan-loss reserve funds for microloans, which will help CDFIs leverage private investment to expand small business lending in underserved communities.

Small businesses are critical engines of economic development and job creation. In underserved communities, however, small businesses with low-income and minority owners often have limited access to affordable credit they need to meet everyday demands or expand their operations. According to a study commissioned by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 2013, "the major constraint limiting the growth, expansion, and wealth creation of small firms—especially women- and minority-owned businesses—is inadequate capital."

Community Development Financial Institutions serve exactly these communities—with great success and economic benefit. In fact, a 2014 report by the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia found that despite serving predominately low-income markets, CDFI banks and credit unions had virtually the same level of performance as mainstream financial institutions. Despite this demonstrated success, CDFIs often lack the capital to meet the needs of many promising small businesses.

Recently, private sector financial institutions have stepped in to assist CDFIs in their mission to provide affordable, responsible lending to underserved communities. This month, JP Morgan Chase announced a five-year, \$125 million investment in CDFIs, building upon a pilot program which allowed 26 CDFIs to raise more than \$226 million—seven times JPMorgan's initial grant—and make \$100 million in loans, finance the preservation and development of over 2,000 units of affordable housing, and lend to over 130 small businesses.

These efforts are commendable, but private sector investments are not enough to address the significant need for small business credit in underserved communities. Research shows that minority-owned businesses typically encounter higher borrowing costs, receive smaller loans and see their loan applications rejected more often. CDFIs are well-placed to provide access to affordable credit through microloans to struggling small businesses and entrepreneurs in underserved communities.

Let's give small businesses in underserved areas the tools they need to create jobs and develop their communities. I am pleased to introduce this bill, and urge my colleagues to join in support.

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WILLIAM VOVAN

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud William Vovan for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

William Vovan is a 12th grader at Northglenn High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by William Vovan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to William Vovan for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to an electronic mishap, I voted incorrectly on H.R. 4498, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups (HALOS). I had intended to vote yea on roll call vote 171 on passage of the HALOS Act.

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HONORING THE CITY OF LEXINGTON ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT FOR EARNING A RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER PLATINUM DESIGNATION FROM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Lexington Electrical Department for earning a "Platinum" Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA). The "Platinum" RP3 designation establishes the Lexington Electrical Department, located in Lexington, North Carolina, as one of the most reliable and high-quality public power providers in the nation.

For the past seven years, the City of Lexington Electrical Department has been recognized by the APPA as an industry leader with a "Gold" level designation. However, with this "Platinum" designation, the Lexington Electrical Department joins an elite group of only 29 utility providers nationwide that have earned this impressive distinction. In order to be recognized as a "Platinum" provider, the provider must earn a score between 90 and 98 percent of the possible points across all scoring metrics used by the APPA. The City of Lexington accomplished this goal by excelling in the four RP3 disciplines established by the APPA: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement.

The Lexington Electrical Department has become a recognized leader not only in the

state of North Carolina, but across the entire country. Their innovative workforce training programs should serve as an example of how to prepare employees to meet the ever-growing demands of the 21st century. They have also demonstrated an unwavering commitment to providing high-quality services to the people of Lexington by engaging in public-service projects like the proactive tree trimming project, resulting in a significantly reduced number of power outages during this year's winter storm season. The people of Lexington should be comforted to know their utility needs are being provided by one of the finest utility departments in the entire nation, and should be proud of the staff at the Lexington Electrical Department who worked so hard to earn this distinguished honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the hardworking members of the City of Lexington Electrical Department for earning the American Public Power Association's "Platinum" Reliable Public Power Provider designation.

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ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CAUCUS

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the one year anniversary of the Congressional Historically Black Colleges and Universities Caucus, established last April by Reps. ALMA ADAMS (D-NC) and BRADLEY BYRNE (R-AL).

For over 170 years, our Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been at the forefront of preparing our nation's youth for a bright path and successful future. HBCUs have profoundly changed the American economic and social climate. They have changed the face of this nation and have opened the door for generations of African-American students. There are over 300,000 diverse students across the United States attending HBCUs today. Those and the millions of HBCU alumni are a testament to the importance of these institutions to America.

In 2008, I co-founded and co-chaired the first bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus with Reps. JAMES CLYBURN (D-SC) and JOHN DUNCAN (R-TN). Expanding federal opportunities for HBCUs and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), expanding dialogue in Congress, and upholding the traditions of these institutions are shared goals of mine and of the members who currently lead the caucus. I am proud to represent Paul Quinn College, which has provided their students with the tools to be successful leaders for over 130 years.

For much of their history, HBCUs opened the door to educational opportunities and career possibilities otherwise inaccessible to African-Americans. Over the past 50 years we have seen a modernization of that mission. Each year thousands of academically disadvantaged students graduate high school behind many of their peers. Many of these col-

lege-bound students graduated at the top of their class, yet did not have access to the rigorous coursework that would prepare them for higher education.

HBCUs offer the personalized attention and support to foster success in these students. They are paving the way for future scientists, engineers and doctors who may have otherwise been lost in the system. It is this chain of support that makes our nation's HBCUs so invaluable to America and the thousands of students who meet their potential under their guidance.

I am pleased that we are able to continue this dialogue in a meaningful way and I urge more members to join the Congressional HBCU Caucus.

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TAYLOR NORMAN

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Taylor Norman for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Taylor Norman is a 12th grader at Thornton High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Taylor Norman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Taylor Norman for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,218,673,186,359.42. We've added \$8,591,796,137,446.34 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.



IN TRIBUTE TO REVEREND  
TONGBER S. VANG

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Reverend Tongber S. Vang who passed away on February 21, 2016 at the age of 51. Tongber S. Vang was born in Sanau, Laos and was the eldest of 7 children. Tongber Vang immigrated to the United States at the age of 12, after living in refugee camps of Thailand with his family for a number of years. He lived first in Little Rock, Arkansas and eventually moved to Milwaukee and lived with his grandmother, Mao Xiong. He graduated from Milwaukee's West Division High School and attended Milwaukee Area Technical College with the intention of following a career in dentistry.

Tongber met Pa at Hmong New Year Celebration; he knew immediately she was the woman he would marry. He was touched by Pa's Christian faith and she encouraged his growth with Christ that led him to the ministry. On July 4, 1986, Tongber and Pa were married, and immersed themselves in the ministry, teaching Sunday school for children at Northwest Baptist Church. After Pa graduated from high school in 1988, they both attended and graduated from Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Missouri. After graduation, Tongber and Pa moved to Louisville, KY where they both attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. They studied during the week but their weekends included a 6-hour commute to and from Lansing, MI to perform church outreach to the Hmong community and coordinate a children's Sunday school ministry.

Pastor Tongber moved his family back to Milwaukee in 1997 and accepted a position working for AmeriCorps, Vista Program at the Milwaukee Public Schools. He engaged Hmong parents and students at both South Division and Washington High Schools. In the fall of 1997, Pastor Tongber made the decision to accept the offer to pastor his home church, the Hmong First Baptist Church.

Pastor Tongber led his congregation with incredible grace, love, and passion for the word of God. However, his deepest passion was caring and praying with and over members of the church. He led a successful capital campaign which resulted in the construction of the current church building. The church was his second family; he believed with true conviction that if families were okay, the church would be okay, as would the community and the world. Pastor Tongber devoted countless hours to support church ministries and ensuring goals were met. In 2010, he led a mission trip to Nan, Thailand.

Pastor Tongber is survived by his beloved wife Pa, their three wonderful sons—Solomon, Josiah, and Joseph, a loving daughter-in-law—Joann, and a cheerful 13-month-old granddaughter Charity Siabzoo, and a yet-to-be-born granddaughter named Genessa Hnub Tshiab.

While Pastor Tongber's time on earth was short, guided fully by his faith in God, he served his family, church and his community

selflessly. I was proud to call him a friend and was inspired by his good works. Mr. Speaker, this is why I rise to pay tribute to Tongber S. Vang, a true asset to the 4th Congressional District.

**ORAN BAZEL JR.**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Oran Bazel Jr. for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Oran Bazel Jr. is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Oran Bazel Jr. is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Oran Bazel Jr. for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. RUTH ELLEN WASEM ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ruth Ellen Wasem, a Specialist in Immigration Policy, will be retiring from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) at the end of this month. Dr. Wasem came to CRS in 1987 as an Analyst in Social Legislation, where she worked on teenage pregnancy, youth policy, homelessness, and immigration policy. She eventually moved full-time into immigration policy, where she became a recognized and leading expert in the field. Dr. Wasem is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where she received a Ph.D. and M.A. in History. She completed her undergraduate degree at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. Dr. Wasem was raised in Cadiz, Ohio.

Throughout her time at CRS, Dr. Wasem provided substantial legislative support to Members and Congressional staff who often turned to her for analysis, brainstorming, and consultation on various aspects of immigration and social welfare policy. Her work in these areas included assisting Congress with interpretations of current and proposed law, explaining agency operations, analyzing data, developing and analyzing legislative options,

and comparing legislative proposals at various stages of the process. Dr. Wasem's work was used by Congress in hearings, legislative development, markups, and preconference negotiations.

Dr. Wasem's extensive knowledge in immigration policy and her keen ability to frame and analyze issues of paramount concern to Congress often made her a prominent point of contact for Congressional staff. Her encyclopedic knowledge of immigration law and policy was on display during the past decade when Congress attempted to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Dr. Wasem provided an innovative view of the major categories of immigration issues and the key elements involved in reforming the nation's immigration system.

Dr. Wasem wrote numerous analytic and concise reports for Congress—well over 300 during her tenure at CRS. Dr. Wasem also contributed to the House Ways and Means Committee's Green Book. Her contribution to the Green Book consisted of high-level statistical analysis on nonimmigrant eligibility for public benefits.

Dr. Wasem was routinely chosen to moderate the immigration panels of CRS' biennial Legislative Issues and Procedures seminar for new Members in Williamsburg, Virginia. She also testified before Congressional committees numerous times throughout her tenure at CRS providing testimony on issues ranging from asylum to unauthorized migration to immigration and social policy data.

One of Dr. Wasem's most important contributions to CRS' work for Congress has been her leadership of the analysts, lawyers and information professionals who support Congressional consideration of immigration-related policy issues. As CRS' Immigration Team Leader, Dr. Wasem has been a mentor to her team members, as well as to Congressional staff. She unfailingly displayed great generosity and selflessness in devoting her time and energy to the issues of the day.

The Congressional Research Service has given Dr. Wasem a number of outstanding commendations and special achievement awards for legislative analysis in the areas of immigration policy, Haitian relief, health care reform, homeland security, temporary foreign workers, and welfare reform.

Dr. Wasem recently spent a year as a Kluge Staff Fellow at the Library of Congress where she researched legislative efforts to end national origins and race-based immigrant admissions to the United States, all of which culminated in the Immigration Act of 1965. During her time as a Kluge Fellow, Dr. Wasem was awarded the Abba P. Schwartz Research Fellowship, which is administered by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, to further her research in this area.

During her 29 years at CRS, and her 2 years of previous federal service, Dr. Wasem won the respect and admiration of her colleagues. Her steadfast dedication to serve Congress and her commitment to the highest standards of analytic, unbiased and timely response to Congressional requests for information and analysis have made a positive and lasting contribution to the Congressional policy discourse.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EARL "MARTY"  
MARTIN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Earl "Marty" Martin, as he is inaugurated today April 28, 2016, as the 13th President of Iowa's largest private university, Drake University in Des Moines.

Dr. Martin began his presidency on July 1, 2015. A fourth-generation attorney, Dr. Martin served for eight years in the U.S. Air Force as a legal officer, honing his leadership and analytic skills. Later, he joined the Texas Wesleyan School of Law faculty as a visiting professor and eventually became Associate Dean of the institution. Most recently, Dr. Martin served as Executive Vice President of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

His leadership philosophy is well-documented and so is his drive and focus to strengthen Drake University, its Drake neighborhood and emphasizing Drake University's standing as one of the nation's top 100 best values of private colleges.

Dr. Martin stated his greatest challenge as the new President, "I am never going to be wise enough. Wisdom is that combination of knowing the facts are occurring and being able to assess the choices. I always want to get better." Under his leadership, Drake University is continuing to grow and flourish.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate and proud alumnus of Drake University, I am honored to represent Dr. Martin and Drake University in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Martin on his inauguration and wishing him nothing but continued success.

STAR ROSAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Star Rosas for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Star Rosas is a 12th grader at Westminster High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Star Rosas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Star Rosas for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

AMERICA'S HBCUS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to celebrate and recognize the importance of educational opportunities that HBCU institutions create for thousands of young men and women from all walks of life.

As a member of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus which promotes and protects the interest of HBCUs by:

creating a national dialogue,  
educating Members of Congress and their staffs about the issues impacting HBCUs,  
drafting meaningful bipartisan legislation to address the needs of HBCUs, and  
supporting students and graduates of HBCUs by increasing access and career opportunities.

As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I am particularly concerned about the events of the last few weeks and months that highlight a national problem that involves the health and wellbeing of young African American boys and young men.

One important solution must be access to affordable quality education for every person in this nation.

I am proud to count Texas Southern University, as a constituent, a great HBCU—located in my home city of Houston.

I routinely partner with Texas Southern University to promote education opportunities and collaborate on community projects routinely.

I led the initiative to get Financial Aid Relief for the students and campus of Texas Southern University in the amount of \$13 plus million dollars.

I continue to keep the university community informed about major issues impacting citizens of the city of Houston, state of Texas.

Issues like Health Care, Economic Development, Education, and Social Security are of great importance to TSU academic programs.

I initiated the digitization projects for former U.S. Members of Congress Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland who both have permanent archives at Texas Southern University.

I helped establish the Barbara Jordan Medallion to be awarded each year at a ceremony held at Texas Southern University to an individual who advocates for the community.

I also assisted with the establishment of several scholarship Endowments at Texas Southern University.

I created a partnership with Comcast at TSU's School of Communication, which offers scholarships, internships and in-kind marketing.

I established the Center for Transportation, Training and Research in TSU's College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

On September 14, 1927, the Houston Public School Board agreed to fund the development of two junior colleges: one for whites and one for African-Americans.

On September 14, 1927, the Houston Public School Board provided \$2,800 in seed capital

to form a Junior College for African American students.

The initial enrollment for the first summer was 300 students.

On June 1, 1951, the name of the school was changed from Texas State University for Negroes to Texas Southern University after students petitioned the state legislature to remove the phrase "for Negroes."

When the university opened its doors in September 1947, it had 2,300 students, two schools, one division and one college—the Law School, the Pharmacy School, the Vocational Division, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1973, the 63rd Legislature designated Texas Southern University as a "special purpose" institution for urban programming, which added four more academic units:

the College of Education,  
the School of Public Affairs,  
the School of Communications and  
the Weekend College.

Today, Texas Southern University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs in the following academic colleges and schools:

the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences;  
the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences;  
the College of Science and Technology;  
the College of Education;  
the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs; the School of Communication;  
the Thurgood Marshall School of Law;  
the Jesse H. Jones School of Business;  
the Thomas Freeman Honors College; and  
the College of Continuing Education and the Graduate School.

Currently, Texas Southern University is staffed by approximately 1,000 faculty members and support personnel.

HBCU's have come a long way to be where they are today.

The most significant milestone for HBCU's was the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. The Board of Education*.

Howard University School of Law graduates successfully argued against the constitutionality of "separate but equal," opening the door for greater access to resources for institutions dedicated to education was a critical step forward.

However, it was not until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that the federal government had the capacity and focus to enforce desegregation.

Two years ago in our nation's Capital—Washington DC—we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech given at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

In that speech Dr. King spoke of a world where race would mean much less than the content of a person's character.

Martin Luther King said, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

HBCUs do not just educate—they build character.

The Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus will create and explore legislation that will increase support for HBCUs, such as the

Higher Education Act, America COMPETES, and Appropriations.

The Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus will also work to connect HBCUs to funding opportunities that ensure schools have the resources needed to educate and prepare students for the global workforce.

My focus is to support and continue my work with Texas Southern University and other HBCUs by:

- finding growth opportunities for HBCU students and graduates;

- working with private industry to connect students to jobs, internships, and scholarships; and

- opening up doors to HBCU students interested in coming to Capitol Hill.

Each Congressional Black Caucus member works to expose HBCU students to global experiences to learn about other cultures.

My office worked to assist students in my district in going on a trip to China—for many it was their first travel outside of the state of Texas.

That one experience transformed their lives—by expanding their horizon from being local to global.

JACOB FRESON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacob Freson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jacob Freson is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacob Freson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacob Freson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHWESTERN ENERGY UPON RECEIVING THE EMPLOYERS EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to help recognize Southwestern Energy (SWN) for receiving the Employers Excellence Award for Energy Efficiencies and Environ-

mental Improvements from the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association. This prestigious award is meant to honor businesses in northeastern Pennsylvania that have shown a commitment to providing energy-efficient solutions and environmental conservation. By continuing to harness domestic energy sources in the most efficient manner possible, while also preserving the environment for future generations to enjoy, SWN has provided my constituents with a superior quality of life that permeates all aspects of the community.

With over 80 years of experience in identifying and extracting domestic natural gas sources, SWN has helped lead the effort toward energy independence. This leadership and success continues to be dependent upon the dedication to their employees and to the communities in which they operate. Northeastern Pennsylvania has benefited tremendously from Southwestern Energy's commitment to environmentally conscious means of extracting our state's natural resources. I had the opportunity to meet with community leaders at the Tunkhannock, PA facility to witness firsthand the regional investment and economic impact of Southwestern Energy's projects in my district.

Launching their Energy Conserving Water (ECH2O) program in 2012, SWN pledged that for each gallon of fresh water used in their operations, they would replenish or offset an equivalent amount through conservation and innovation. In 2015, Southwestern Energy made significant progress toward their goal of achieving water neutrality in Pennsylvania. With the completion of the Fall Brook Acid Mine Drainage Treatment and Restoration Project, SWN has improved the water quality in the Susquehanna River throughout my district.

Mr. Speaker, Southwestern Energy's contributions to energy security and natural resource conservation in my district and state have been profound. Upon receiving the Employers Excellence Award for Energy Efficiencies and Environmental Improvements from the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association, Southwestern Energy has affirmed their place among leaders in our communities. I look forward to witnessing the continued involvement of SWN in my district and state, and am confident that their contributions to my constituents will have a lasting impact.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 172 on S. 1890, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

IN HONOR OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CATHEDRAL

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of St. Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Cathedral located in the district 1 represent in Manhattan, New York. It was the first Armenian church established in New York City.

After fleeing to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th century following the Hamidian Massacres and Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, the Armenians of New York City did not have their own church to worship in together. They held religious services in various churches, most of which were located in the neighborhood of the current cathedral. Purchasing a church was initially proposed in 1913. A successful fundraising effort allowed construction to begin for what was then known as the central cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church in 1915. The Cathedral officially opened its doors in 1916, but parishioners celebrated the Cathedral's centennial throughout 2015 at the same time as the centennial of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey in 1915.

For over a century, St. Illuminator's Cathedral has played a significant role in advocating for Armenians in the U.S. and around the world. Many Genocide survivors found their refuge in the United States, entering the country through Ellis Island. St. Illuminator came to serve as shelter to many of them once they arrived. Today, there remains a vibrant congregation, inspiring their community through faith and service.

I extend my congratulations to the pastor, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian who has led the church for 10 years, the Board of Trustees, and all members and friends of St. Illuminator, and wish them many more years of success and service to the Armenian American community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the anniversary of St. Illuminator's Cathedral and its contributions to the Armenian American residents of Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn as well as the larger Armenian American community in the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. By offering regional planning advice, technical consulting, and financial assistance, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has worked to empower communities

through long-term livability and vitality. TCRPC has exemplified an unwavering commitment to resolving regional issues facing my constituents in 103 municipalities of Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry counties.

Founded in 1966 as a forum for information sharing, consensus building, and coordination among communities in central Pennsylvania, TCRPC has worked tirelessly to advance quality of life issues across the region. They continue to promote the area's long-term sustainability through resource protection and the adaption of existing infrastructure to meet today's most pressing economic and social issues.

TCRPC's Regional Growth Management Plan stimulates community development and revitalization by supporting programs that integrate transportation, land use, and economic development efforts as well as environmental practices that protect air, land, and water resources. The Regional Growth Management Plan has contributed to lower energy costs for individual households, increased energy efficiencies, fostered greater availability of transportation options, opened more parks and community spaces, improved individual health, and heightened access to local food supplies.

Mr. Speaker, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has remained committed to the vision that central Pennsylvania is stronger when we work together. After five decades of committed service, Pennsylvanians in my district and beyond owe a debt of gratitude for the selfless work provided by TCRPC. I wish to congratulate TCRPC on 50 years of meaningful community engagement, and look forward to witnessing firsthand the continued service provided by such a strategic and charitable organization.

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HONORING THE CAREER OF  
SISTER DENISE A. ROCHE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and legacy of service of Sister Denise A. Roche, GNSH, Ph.D. upon the occasion of her retirement as President of D'Youville College.

A Buffalo native, Sister Denise is a graduate of Holy Angels Academy and D'Youville College. She went on to earn a master's degree in sociology from Boston University and a doctorate at the University of Massachusetts. Prior to being named President of D'Youville in 1979, she served as an instructor, acting chair, teaching assistant, assistant professor and associate dean at the college.

Sister Denise was named 14th President of D'Youville when she was just 36 years old, the youngest person ever to serve in that position. During her remarkable tenure lasting over 36 years, she has overseen 400 full-time employees and managed a \$50 million operating budget. Sister Denise led the college to triple its enrollment from 1153 in 1980 to more than 3100 in 2014, created major new academic offerings that attracted a significant number of new students, and achieved fiscal stability.

Under her leadership, the college endowment grew from \$1.2 million to \$34 million. During her presidency \$77 million was invested in the campus including a new library, three academic centers, gymnasium, apartment-style residence hall, athletic fields, and property and parking additions. These investments have improved on-campus life and helped stabilize the dynamic and diverse neighborhood in Buffalo's West Side surrounding the college.

Her strong belief in helping and encouraging all students has seen a multitude of success stories as former students come back to thank her for her faith in them and motivating them to succeed. She has supported "City As School," an alternative program for non-traditional high school students at D'Youville for more than a decade, resulting in young people reaching higher academic achievements and leading more productive lives.

To our community, Sister Denise is much more than president of the college. She is a consummate community leader whose advice and counsel is sought on a wide range of issues affecting the city of Buffalo. Her thoughtful and caring demeanor has endeared her to all whose lives she has touched.

Sister Denise has received many awards and accolades for her work at D'Youville and throughout Western New York, including Citizen of the Year by The Buffalo News in 1994, the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal from the University at Buffalo, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the WNY Hispanics and Friends Civic Association, and a Special Award presented to her by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She is a member of the WNY Women's Hall of Fame, and both Canisius College and Niagara University have awarded her honorary degrees.

While a very grateful community extends deep appreciation for Sister Denise's extraordinary leadership at D'Youville College, her work is far from over as she was recently nominated by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve as chair of the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority (NFTA). In this role, she will be responsible for the oversight of Erie and Niagara Counties' public transportation system, including the bus and rail systems, the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport and the Niagara Falls International Airport. As Chairwoman, Sister Denise will bring her decades of experience and expertise to the NFTA to continue serving the public.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life and distinguished career of this outstanding educator, leader and devoted Sister of the Grey Nuns, Sister Denise A. Roche. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our congratulations on an exemplary career and to commend her for her admirable work to enrich D'Youville College and the Western New York community and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

COMMENDING CAPTAIN WILLIAM  
KENNETH EARMAN ON HIS OUT-  
STANDING MILITARY SERVICE

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain William Kenneth Earman on his outstanding and exemplary military service.

In 1942, Mr. Earman joined the Army Air Force Cadet Program in the immediate aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Like many Americans of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Earman put his life on hold to defend our country against the evils that threatened our convictions, ideals, and existence.

Upon graduating from bombardier school in Big Spring, Texas, as a Second Lieutenant, Mr. Earman was assigned to the Seventh Air Force, which introduced him to the Pacific Theatre. Mr. Earman flew over forty missions in the Central Pacific in a B-24 J bomber named "The Sunsetter." He and his crew received numerous commendations and awards for their valor, including four Air Medals and two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

After his time in combat had concluded, Mr. Earman was promoted to First Lieutenant and returned to Big Spring to instruct incoming Army Air Force cadets, a reflection of his exemplary performance and expertise as a bombardier and navigator. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Earman was promoted and served as Flight Commander of the Ready Reserve Airmen in Rockdale, Texas, where he would eventually be promoted to Captain.

In June of 1961, Captain Earman received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force after nearly twenty years of meritorious service. This would mark the end of Captain Earman's long and distinguished military career.

On May 6th and 7th, Captain Earman will be participating with other World War II veterans in the twenty-ninth Dallas/Fort Worth Honor Flight to our nation's capital, accompanied by his son, William Kenneth Earman, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to recognize the service Captain Earman has given to this nation. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to rise with me today in appreciation of Captain Earman's remarkable service and sacrifice.

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RECOGNIZING MI WINDOWS AND  
DOORS, LLC UPON RECEIVING  
THE MANUFACTURERS EXCEL-  
LENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help recognize MI Windows and Doors, LLC (MIWD) upon receiving the Manufacturers Excellence Award for Community Involvement

from the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association. This prestigious award is intended to highlight the charitable commitment of companies in north-eastern Pennsylvania that exemplify the balance between private enterprise and public engagement.

Backed by exemplary customer service and product quality, MI Windows and Doors is one of the nation's largest suppliers of vinyl and aluminum windows and doors. MIWD should be proud of their outreach efforts, and by taking personal responsibility in the communities where they manufacture, it's only natural that such success would follow. Through their company-connected non-profit, The MIWD Charitable Foundation, MIWD has been committed to donating both time and funding to numerous local organizations, emergency response teams, and families in need.

Building personal connections with members of the community has consistently been a hallmark of MIWD's outreach efforts. This past fall, MIWD hosted a Friends and Family Day at their Gratz, PA facility in which members of the community were able to spend time within the facility to gain a better understanding of the daily operations and company as a whole. Their support for our nation's veterans has been unwavering as well. By providing in-kind donations of windows for the mortgage-free homes built by Homes for our Troops, MIWD has helped provide severely-wounded, post 9/11 veterans and their families with safe and reliable shelter.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize MI Windows and Doors, LLC as the recipient of the Manufacturers Excellence Award for Community Involvement from the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association. With such pronounced principles and a dedication to community development that permeates all aspects of life in north-eastern Pennsylvania, MIWD has come to embody the rewards that come from compassionate investments. I wish MI Windows and Doors, LLC all the best in their future endeavors, and am confident that they will continue to exemplify the positive relationship between a business and its community.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF JOHN FOX SULLIVAN

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Fox Sullivan, who is retiring after four decades as the publisher of the National Journal.

Most in this chamber knows John as the powerful media executive who transformed the National Journal into one of Washington's most respected periodicals. I've had the pleasure of knowing John as my childhood friend from Carmel, California.

The Sullivan family moved next door to my family in Carmel during the 1950s. Thanks to our mothers' shared interest in politics, our two families quickly became friends. Johnny, as we called him back then, and I attended

school together—from Carmel Sunset School to Carmel High School. After graduating, he left to attend Yale University and Columbia Business School.

Following a five-year career at Newsweek, John joined the still relatively young National Journal in 1975, where he would go on to serve as Publisher, President and CEO. Under his leadership, the National Journal would change the face of Washington journalism.

Shortly after John joined the National Journal, I reconnected with him at the Democratic National Convention in New York City in 1976. I was attending as a delegate and John noticed my name on the press roster. When my old high school friend found me in the Madison Square Garden crowd, I just happened to be sitting next to Jane Fonda. We shared a good laugh when he thought Jane and I were there together.

After reconnecting at the convention, John and I managed to stay in touch. He and his wife, Beverly, would come and visit in Carmel. It was a joy to catch up on family news and to discuss politics. My father often joined those discussions and I believe he became the first subscriber of the National Journal on the West Coast.

When I first came to Washington, the Sullivans returned that hospitality. Anyone who has ever had the fortune of dining with John and Beverly walked away with fond memories. Dinner parties in their beautiful home are known to be filled with charming people engaged in the most interesting conversations.

History will remember the role their Georgetown rowhouse played in the leadership bid of the first woman to become Speaker of the House. John and Beverly always made their home available to anyone to discuss politics. One evening, I brought Representatives George Miller and NANCY PELOSI and a few members of Congress who had not yet agreed to support her leadership campaign. Thanks to that dinner, commitments were made that solidified her leadership bid that eventually led to her Speakership.

Being a respected leader in one Washington wasn't enough for John. After moving to "Little" Washington, John was elected mayor of the historic Virginia town in 2010. He easily won reelection in 2014 with 28 of the 29 votes cast. Who in this chamber can boast about receiving 97 percent of the votes cast? That's how much people like and respect John.

From our youth spent in Carmel to our friendship here in Washington, I have always admired the way John and Beverly celebrated the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting on the day of John Fox Sullivan's much deserved retirement that we get to celebrate his life and all the good that has come from his service.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
JOAN EASTLUND

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joan Eastlund on her retirement

from Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois. For 37 years, Joan has demonstrated a strong commitment to education and activism, influencing the lives of thousands of students throughout her career. In fact, Joan has served as a mentor and inspiration to several staff members in my office.

Joan began her distinguished career at Black Hawk College in 1979, where she helped former manufacturing workers train for new careers. As a professor of Political Science, Joan introduced thousands of students to politics, inspiring many to pursue careers in the field themselves. To many students, Joan has been far more than just an educator, but also an incredible mentor and role model. She has shown her students the importance of fulfilling their civic duties, serving their communities, and working to advance causes that truly better our country.

In addition to her work as a professor, Joan has been an active figure in the fight for women's equality. She is a founding member of the Quad-Cities chapter of the National Organization for Women, a group dedicated to supporting women's rights all across the United States. During the 1970s and 1980s, Joan joined thousands of other activists as they marched to support landmark legislation to advance women's rights and equality.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Joan Eastlund for her commitment to inspiring the next generation of students and women in our region. Joan has undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of her students, and her retirement will be a significant loss to Black Hawk College.

I congratulate her on a well-earned retirement and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

COMMENDING JOSEPH SCIACCA

**HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staten Island resident Joseph Sciacca for his positive contributions to our community. Joseph was born in the Little Italy neighborhood and moved to Staten Island at the age of four. He grew up in Grant City and graduated from Tottenville High School in 1937. Joseph began a business career in his early adult years, but had to put this on hold when he was drafted into the military in 1941, serving until 1946. Joseph has been an outstanding model of success and humility in our community.

In the private sector, Joseph had a long career as a sales executive, but has remained involved with other causes throughout his life. In the mid-1960s, then-Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller named him a deputy commissioner of the State Athletic Commission, which issued regulations on boxing matches in New York. Later on, Joseph was named as a research assistant to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly.

Joseph has shown support for health care throughout his life. He is a former trustee of and currently on the advisory board for Bayley

Seton Hospital. Additionally, Joseph has been co-chairperson of the Seton Society, the hospital's fund-raising arm. Joseph is also a trustee of St. Elizabeth Ann's Hospital Care and Rehabilitation Center and is an honorary member of the American Cancer Society's Staten Island Chapter, as well as the Staten Island Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The organization that has remained closest with him throughout the years is the Staten Island Council of the Boy Scouts of America, of which he is the former president and currently a member of its executive committee. His affiliation with the Boy Scouts dates back to his son's youth. His unrelenting passion for helping children on Staten Island has been inspir-

ing, as Joseph is a man who stresses the greater good over the individual.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Sciacca's dedication to selflessly helping others has been remarkable. I thank him for all of his hard work and I am proud to honor this great man who has been such a strong influence on the residents of Staten Island.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, April 29, 2016**

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

May all the Members have the vision of a world where respect and understanding are the marks of civility, and where honor and integrity are the marks of one's character.

As Members take time in the coming week for constituency visits, give them the ability to hear the voices of all in their districts so that when they return, they are focused on the important work to be done.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

**THE JOURNAL**

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. TROTT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TROTT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

**RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARTIN AND CATHERINE TERBRACK**

(Mr. TROTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary

achievements of Martin and Catherine Terbrack of Troy, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Terbrack were recently recognized by CARE House of Oakland County as Foster Parents of the Year.

CARE House is a wonderful organization in southeast Michigan that provides services and counseling to children who are victims of abuse.

The Terbracks have cared for 33 children, newborn babies to 5-year-old kids, and are currently caring for a 14-month-old baby girl who was 6 weeks old and weighed only 4 pounds when they brought her into their home.

The Terbrack family has been involved in fostering for an amazing 73 years, with Martin's mother, Peggy, having cared for 150 children. That equates to about 90,000 bottles and 220,000 diapers.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when many have come to see our Nation defined by acrimony and division, the wonderful story of Martin and Catherine Terbrack of Troy, Michigan, reminds us all that there is more good in this world than bad.

They have taught us that many of our problems we face can be solved with love and generosity, and they remind us that we all have the power to touch people's lives for the better.

Martin and Catherine do that every day.

**REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4651**

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name from H.R. 4651.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

**BLACK APRIL AND FALL OF SAIGON**

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 30, marks 41 years since the fall of Saigon, commemorated as Black April in Vietnamese American communities across this Nation.

I introduced a resolution in remembrance of this event, and to honor the contributions and the sacrifices of Vietnamese Americans.

In addition, this week, in front of my congressional office, I am flying the

Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag, as recognized by States and localities across this country.

As we remember the fall of Saigon, I also believe it is critically important to continue to shine a light on human rights abuses in Vietnam.

When President Obama visits Vietnam next week, I hope he will make human rights a priority. Now is exactly the right time for Vietnam to begin respecting the rights of its own citizens.

**AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because April is Autism Awareness Month.

Autism is a condition that affects more than 3 million Americans and their families. Those living with autism spectrum disorders face challenges on a daily basis.

Though we have come a long way, much more must be done to ensure a high quality of life for all. Some of this work needs to happen right here in the United States Congress, but much of this work also needs to happen in our homes and in our communities.

That is why, together with my Disability Awareness Advisory Board, I have been fighting for greater acceptance and understanding, working to ensure that those with autism have greater access to education and employment and have the place they deserve within our community.

One of the great organizations in Illinois' 10th Congressional District is Lambs Farm. Those with developmental disabilities served by Lambs Farm are provided the opportunity to advance in all areas of life through ever-increasing residential, vocational, and recreational choices.

Together, we are striving for a society where those living with autism and other disabilities are free to pursue their passions, receive a high-quality education, and have their unique gifts celebrated.

**BOOSTING AMERICA'S EXPORTS ACT**

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, for corporations with a boardroom full of lawyers and thousands of employees, exporting products is something they do every day.

But for a small-business owner or startup entrepreneurs in places like Rockford, Galesburg, Peoria, or the Quad Cities, the deck is stacked against them on the global economic playing field.

That is why today I introduced the Boosting America's Export Act. It will help small- and medium-sized businesses expand economic opportunity and create more good-paying American jobs.

My bill will identify and assist small businesses that have the potential to sell the products in new markets.

We already know that small businesses create two out of every three jobs and, by building a business climate that helps them grow and succeed, we will strengthen working families across our Nation.

I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me in this effort.

#### INVESTMENT SPURRED BY SOUND FIDUCIARY RULES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.J. Res. 88, a measure to reject the Department of Labor's misguided fiduciary rule.

Just like ObamaCare gets between you and your doctor, this conflict-of-interest rule attempts to put Washington between you and your financial adviser, insisting on a broad, onerous piece of regulation rather than a simple solution based on best business practices that attracts plaintiff attorneys and a bonanza of new lawsuits.

Even State officials in New York, which is a Democratic stronghold, have proposed simpler solutions that inform consumers without burdening investment businesses, if only the Department of Labor would listen.

I implore the Senate to pass this measure and the President to listen to State officials, actual financial investors, and small investors, who have developed a better alternative, by signing this legislation into law and not stymieing investment for families and our economy.

#### LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, an American is killed with a gun every 16 minutes. And what is Congress' response?

Well, here is what we have become really good at. We have become really good at coming together for moments of silence. We do it every time there is a mass shooting. And, in 2015, there were 330 mass shootings.

We ask: Why can't we do more?

And our response, the response too often, is: We don't need to do anything else. There are plenty of laws on the books.

Why don't we enforce them? Well, the fact is that there is one thing we can do that is not on the books. We can require that everyone who buys a gun has a background check.

If you buy a gun in a store, you have to get a background check. But for gun shows, 100 gun shows a week, 5,200 gun shows a year, 5 million people traveling through those gun shows, there is no background check.

There is no background check for the millions of Internet ads or classified ads.

Let's pass mandatory background checks to help keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. That is what we can do, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is too much at stake for us to continue to ignore this tragedy. It is time for Congress to act.

#### RURAL HEALTH ACT OF 2016

(Mr. HARDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, last fall a hospital in my State closed its doors after years of being the only hospital within a 100-mile radius. Unlike in more populated communities, when a rural hospital closes, residents can be left with the frightening reality that emergency medical care and medical care services may be too far away.

Sadly, this is not the only isolated incident. More than 30 percent of America's rural hospitals are vulnerable to the conditions that may have caused the closure of 71 facilities in the last 6 years. The numbers increase each year, and we have to act now to prevent more families from losing their lifelines in times of emergency.

That is why I am introducing the bipartisan Rural Health Act of 2016. It will support existing rural hospitals by strengthening resources for State Offices of Rural Health and incentivize construction of new facilities for those communities in need.

Our rural communities need our attention. We cannot let them down.

#### HEROIN AND OPIOID ADDICTION

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of those we

have lost to heroin and opioid addiction.

Another 30 people are likely to die today, another 30 lives lost on top of the thousands that we are losing each year to this epidemic. We have lost daughters and sons, fathers and mothers, sisters, brothers. Friends, acquaintances, and coworkers alike have lost their battles with addiction.

Too often their deaths have been cloaked in the shadows. Obituaries remain silent on the cause of death. For too long our society has viewed opioid addiction as simply a moral failing rather than the treatable medical condition that it is.

While opioid addiction may start with an excessive prescription or an indiscretion of youth, it ends with a scientifically understood, increasingly treatable, medical condition in which the biochemical pathways necessary to normal decisionmaking in the brain have been hijacked and the chemistry of the brain permanently altered.

Heroin does not discriminate. It does not care if you are rich or poor, Black or White, a devoted mother, or a loving child. None of us are immune to its chemical grips.

So today I pay my respects. Those who fall prey to opioids are worthy of being mourned. They are not forgotten.

#### WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in 2010, the National Association of Community Health Centers stated:

Federally-Qualified Health Centers do not provide abortions to any of their patients, and we are not aware of any that have ever done so.

Remember last year we said we wanted to give community health centers more money because they assured us that they didn't do abortions?

However, on Tuesday, April 26, this week, we learned that some health center clinics in New York have been performing abortions.

The National Association of Community Health Centers has egregiously violated our trust. The fact that abortions are performed at these federally funded community health center clinics is astonishing.

We put our confidence in them, as providers of life-affirming women's health care, based on their commitment to not entangle such care with abortion. Abortion is not health care.

Mr. Speaker, we need an investigation into Community Health Centers to determine how many of their clinics are providing for, referring, or performing abortions, and the National Association of Community Health Centers should expel this network of New York clinics from their association.



□ 0915

**NATIONAL REENTRY WEEK**

(Ms. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Reentry Week—reentry after an individual has paid their debt to society. Eighty-five percent of individuals who are incarcerated eventually get out, and we need to make sure that they have access to a well-paying job and quality education when they return home.

Reentry programs work. Mr. Jerrel McCoy lives in south L.A. He is 45 years old and served 27 years in a California prison. Today Mr. McCoy works for SHIELDS for Families-Jericho Vocational Services, which works with formerly incarcerated individuals to help them secure and maintain employment to avoid going back to prison.

With the help of these reentry services, Mr. McCoy has purchased his first car and moved into an apartment. According to Mr. McCoy, reentry programs allowed him to apply skills developed during his incarceration, and he learned that he has gifts and potential. Today Mr. McCoy strives to offer these benefits to his clients.

Reentry services are smart and just.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT**

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 706, I call up the bill (H.R. 4901) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 706, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4901

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act” or the “SOAR Reauthorization Act”.

(b) **REFERENCES IN ACT.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (division C of Public Law 112-10; sec. 38-1853.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code).

**SEC. 2. REPEAL.**

Section 817 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113) is repealed, and any provision of law amended or repealed by such section is restored or revived as if such section had not been enacted into law.

**SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

Section 3003 (sec. 38-1853.03, D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “particularly parents” and all that follows through “with” and inserting “particularly parents of students who attend an elementary school or secondary school identified as one of the lowest-performing schools under the District of Columbia’s accountability system, with”.

**SEC. 4. PROHIBITING IMPOSITION OF LIMITS ON TYPES OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**

Section 3004(a) (sec. 38-1853.04(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **PROHIBITING IMPOSITION OF LIMITS ON ELIGIBLE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the program under this division, the Secretary may not limit the number of eligible students receiving scholarships under section 3007(a), and may not prevent otherwise eligible students from participating in the program under this division, based on any of the following:

“(i) The type of school the student previously attended.

“(ii) Whether or not the student previously received a scholarship or participated in the program, including whether an eligible student was awarded a scholarship in any previous year but has not used the scholarship, regardless of the number of years of nonuse.

“(iii) Whether or not the student was a member of the control group used by the Institute of Education Sciences to carry out previous evaluations of the program under section 3009.

“(B) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subparagraph (A) may be construed to waive the requirement under section 3005(b)(1)(B) that the eligible entity carrying out the program under this Act must carry out a random selection process, which gives weight to the priorities described in section 3006, if more eligible students seek admission in the program than the program can accommodate.”.

**SEC. 5. REQUIRING ELIGIBLE ENTITIES TO UTILIZE INTERNAL FISCAL AND QUALITY CONTROLS.**

Section 3005(b)(1) (sec. 38-1853.05(b)(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “, except that a participating school may not be required to submit to more than 1 site visit per school year”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (K) and (L) as subparagraphs (L) and (M), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) how the entity will ensure the financial viability of participating schools in which 85 percent or more of the total number of students enrolled at the school are participating eligible students that receive and use an opportunity scholarship;”;

(4) in subparagraph (L), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(N) how the eligible entity will ensure that it—

“(i) utilizes internal fiscal and quality controls; and

“(ii) complies with applicable financial reporting requirements and the requirements of this division; and”.

**SEC. 6. CLARIFICATION OF PRIORITIES FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.**

Section 3006(1) (sec. 38-1853.06(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “attended” and all that follows through the semicolon and inserting “attended an elementary school or secondary school identified as one of the lowest-performing schools under the District of Columbia’s accountability system; and”;

(2) by striking subparagraph (B);

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(4) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (3), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “or whether such students have, in the past, attended a private school;”.

**SEC. 7. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**

(a) **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS; COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 3007(a)(4) (sec. 38-1853.07(a)(4), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

“(F) ensures that, with respect to core subject matter, participating students are taught by a teacher who has a baccalaureate degree or equivalent degree, whether such degree was awarded in or outside of the United States;”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) conducts criminal background checks on school employees who have direct and unsupervised interaction with students; and

“(H) complies with all requests for data and information regarding the reporting requirements described in section 3010.”.

(b) **ACCREDITATION.**—Section 3007(a) (sec. 38-1853.07(a), D.C. Official Code), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraphs (2) and (3)” and inserting “paragraphs (2), (3), and (5)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—None of the funds provided under this division for opportunity scholarships may be used by a participating eligible student to enroll in a participating private school unless the school—

“(i) in the case of a school that is a participating school as of the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act—

“(I) is fully accredited by an accrediting body described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 2202(16) of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-134; sec. 38-1802.02(16)(A)–(G), D.C. Official Code); or

“(II) if such participating school does not meet the requirements of subclause (I)—

“(aa) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113), the school is pursuing full accreditation by an accrediting body described in subclause (I); and

“(bb) is fully accredited by such an accrediting body not later than 5 years after the date on which that school began the process of pursuing full accreditation in accordance with item (aa); and

“(ii) in the case of a school that is not a participating school as of the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, is fully accredited by an accrediting body described in clause (i)(I) before becoming a participating school under this division.

“(B) **REPORTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, each participating school shall submit to the eligible entity a certification that the school

has been fully accredited in accordance with subparagraph (A).

“(C) ASSISTING STUDENTS IN ENROLLING IN OTHER SCHOOLS.—If a participating school fails to meet the requirements of this paragraph, the eligible entity shall assist the parents of the participating eligible students who attend the school in identifying, applying to, and enrolling in another participating school under this division.

“(6) TREATMENT OF STUDENTS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP IN A PREVIOUS YEAR.—An eligible entity shall treat a participating eligible student who was awarded an opportunity scholarship in any previous year and who has not used the scholarship as a renewal student and not as a new applicant, without regard as to—

“(A) whether the eligible student has used the scholarship; and

“(B) the year in which the scholarship was previously awarded.”

(c) REQUIRING USE OF FUNDS REMAINING UNOBLIGATED FROM PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3007 (sec. 38-1853.07, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REQUIRING USE OF FUNDS REMAINING UNOBLIGATED FROM PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that any funds appropriated for the opportunity scholarship program under this division for any fiscal year remain available for subsequent fiscal years under section 3014(c), the Secretary shall make such funds available to eligible entities receiving grants under section 3004(a) for the uses described in paragraph (2)—

“(A) in the case of any remaining funds that were appropriated before the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, beginning on the date of enactment of such Act; and

“(B) in the case of any remaining funds appropriated on or after the date of enactment of such Act, by the first day of the first subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—If an eligible entity to which the Secretary provided additional funds under paragraph (1) elects to use such funds during a fiscal year, the eligible entity shall use—

“(A) not less than 95 percent of such additional funds to provide additional scholarships for eligible students under section 3007(a), or to increase the amount of the scholarships, during such year; and

“(B) not more than a total of 5 percent of such additional funds for administrative expenses, parental assistance, or tutoring, as described in subsections (b) and (c), during such year.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE.—Any amounts made available for administrative expenses, parental assistance, or tutoring under paragraph (2)(B) shall be in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes in accordance with subsections (b) and (c).”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) USE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND PARENTAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 3007 (sec. 38-1853.07, D.C. Official Code), as amended by this section, is further amended—

(1) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

“(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND PARENTAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall make \$2,000,000 of the amount made available under section 3014(a)(1) for each fiscal year available to eligible entities receiving a

grant under section 3004(a) to cover the following expenses:

“(1) The administrative expenses of carrying out its program under this division during the year, including—

“(A) determining the eligibility of students to participate;

“(B) selecting the eligible students to receive scholarships;

“(C) determining the amount of the scholarships and issuing the scholarships to eligible students;

“(D) compiling and maintaining financial and programmatic records;

“(E) conducting site visits as described in section 3005(b)(1)(I); and

“(F)(i) conducting a study, including a survey of participating parents, on any barriers for participating eligible students in gaining admission to, or attending, the participating school that is their first choice; and

“(ii) not later than the end of the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, submitting a report to Congress that contains the results of such study.

“(2) The expenses of educating parents about the eligible entity’s program under this division, and assisting parents through the application process under this division, including—

“(A) providing information about the program and the participating schools to parents of eligible students, including information on supplemental financial aid that may be available at participating schools;

“(B) providing funds to assist parents of students in meeting expenses that might otherwise preclude the participation of eligible students in the program; and

“(C) streamlining the application process for parents.”; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d), and subsection (e) (as added by subsection (c)(1)), as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(e) CLARIFICATION OF USE OF FUNDS FOR STUDENT ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE.—Section 3007(c) (sec. 38-1853.07(c), D.C. Official Code), as redesignated by subsection (d)(2), is amended by striking “previously attended” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “previously attended an elementary school or secondary school identified as one of the lowest-performing schools under the District of Columbia’s accountability system.”

#### SEC. 8. PROGRAM EVALUATION.

(a) REVISION OF EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3009(a) (sec. 38-1853.09(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY AND THE MAYOR.—The Secretary and the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall—

“(A) jointly enter into an agreement with the Institute of Education Sciences of the Department of Education to evaluate annually the opportunity scholarship program under this division;

“(B) jointly enter into an agreement to monitor and evaluate the use of funds authorized and appropriated for the District of Columbia public schools and the District of Columbia public charter schools under this division; and

“(C) make the evaluations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) public in accordance with subsection (c).

“(2) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary, through a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, shall—

“(A) ensure that the evaluation under paragraph (1)(A)—

“(i) is conducted using an acceptable quasi-experimental research design for determining the effectiveness of the opportunity scholarship program under this division that does not use a control study group consisting of students who applied for but did not receive opportunity scholarships; and

“(ii) addresses the issues described in paragraph (4); and

“(B) disseminate information on the impact of the program—

“(i) in increasing academic achievement and educational attainment of participating eligible students who use an opportunity scholarship; and

“(ii) on students and schools in the District of Columbia.

“(3) DUTIES OF THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES.—The Institute of Education Sciences of the Department of Education shall—

“(A) assess participating eligible students who use an opportunity scholarship in each of grades 3 through 8, as well as one of the grades at the high school level, by supervising the administration of the same reading and mathematics assessment used by the District of Columbia public schools to comply with section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b));

“(B) measure the academic achievement of all participating eligible students who use an opportunity scholarship in the grades described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) work with eligible entities receiving a grant under this division to ensure that the parents of each student who is a participating eligible student that uses an opportunity scholarship agrees to permit their child to participate in the evaluations and assessments carried out by the Institute of Education Sciences under this subsection.

“(4) ISSUES TO BE EVALUATED.—The issues to be evaluated under paragraph (1)(A) shall include the following:

“(A) A comparison of the academic achievement of participating eligible students who use an opportunity scholarship on the measurements described in paragraph (3)(B) to the academic achievement of a comparison group of students with similar backgrounds in the District of Columbia public schools.

“(B) The success of the program under this division in expanding choice options for parents of participating eligible students and increasing the satisfaction of such parents and students with their choice.

“(C) The reasons parents of participating eligible students choose for their children to participate in the program, including important characteristics for selecting schools.

“(D) A comparison of the retention rates, high school graduation rates, college enrollment rates, college persistence rates, and college graduation rates of participating eligible students who use an opportunity scholarship with the rates of students in the comparison group described in subparagraph (A).

“(E) A comparison of the college enrollment rates, college persistence rates, and college graduation rates of students who participated in the program in 2004, 2005, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 as the result of winning the Opportunity Scholarship Program lottery with such enrollment, persistence, and graduation rates for students who entered but did not win such lottery in those years and who, as a result, served as the control group for previous evaluations of the program under this division. Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to waive section 3004(a)(3)(A)(iii) with respect to any such student.

“(F) A comparison of the safety of the schools attended by participating eligible students who use an opportunity scholarship and the schools in the District of Columbia attended by students in the comparison group described in subparagraph (A), based on the perceptions of the students and parents.

“(G) An assessment of student academic achievement at participating schools in which 85 percent of the total number of students enrolled at the school are participating eligible students who receive and use an opportunity scholarship.

“(H) Such other issues with respect to participating eligible students who use an opportunity scholarship as the Secretary considers appropriate for inclusion in the evaluation, such as the impact of the program on public elementary schools and secondary schools in the District of Columbia.

“(5) PROHIBITING DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any disclosure of personally identifiable information obtained under this division shall be in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’) (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

“(B) STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—With respect to any student who is not attending a public elementary school or secondary school, personally identifiable information obtained under this division shall only be disclosed to—

“(i) individuals carrying out the evaluation described in paragraph (1)(A) for such student;

“(ii) the group of individuals providing information for carrying out the evaluation of such student; and

“(iii) the parents of such student.”.

(2) TRANSITION OF EVALUATION.—

(A) TERMINATION OF PREVIOUS EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary of Education shall—

(i) terminate the evaluations conducted under section 3009(a) of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (sec. 38-1853.09(a), D.C. Official Code), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, after obtaining data for the 2016-2017 school year; and

(ii) submit any reports required for the 2016-2017 school year or preceding years with respect to the evaluations in accordance with section 3009(b) of such Act.

(B) NEW EVALUATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with respect to the 2017-2018 school year, the Secretary shall conduct new evaluations in accordance with the provisions of section 3009(a) of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (sec. 38-1853.09(a), D.C. Official Code), as amended by this Act.

(ii) MOST RECENT EVALUATION.—As a component of the new evaluations described in clause (i), the Secretary shall continue to monitor and evaluate the students who were evaluated in the most recent evaluation under such section prior to the date of enactment of this Act, including by monitoring and evaluating the test scores and other information of such students.

(b) DUTY OF MAYOR TO ENSURE INSTITUTE HAS ALL INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT EVALUATIONS.—Section 3011(a)(1) (sec. 38-1853.11(a)(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT EVALUATIONS.—Ensure that all District of Columbia public schools and District of Columbia public charter schools make available to the Institute of Education Sciences

of the Department of Education all of the information the Institute requires to carry out the assessments and perform the evaluations required under section 3009(a).”.

**SEC. 9. FUNDING FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.**

(a) MANDATORY WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS.—Section 3011(b) (sec. 38-1853.11(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) ENFORCEMENT.—If, after reasonable notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary determines that the Mayor has failed to comply with any of the requirements of subsection (a), the Secretary may withhold from the Mayor, in whole or in part—

“(1) the funds otherwise authorized to be appropriated under section 3014(a)(2), if the failure to comply relates to the District of Columbia public schools;

“(2) the funds otherwise authorized to be appropriated under section 3014(a)(3), if the failure to comply relates to the District of Columbia public charter schools; or

“(3) the funds otherwise authorized to be appropriated under both paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 3014(a), if the failure relates to both the District of Columbia public schools and the District of Columbia public charter schools.”.

(b) RULES FOR USE OF FUNDS PROVIDED FOR SUPPORT OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.—Section 3011 (sec. 38-1853.11, D.C. Official Code), as amended by section 7(b) and section 8(a), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) SPECIFIC RULES REGARDING FUNDS PROVIDED FOR SUPPORT OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.—The following rules shall apply with respect to the funds provided under this division for the support of District of Columbia public charter schools:

“(1) The Secretary may direct the funds provided for any fiscal year, or any portion thereof, to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia.

“(2) The Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia may transfer the funds to subgrantees that are—

“(A) a specific District of Columbia public charter schools or networks of such schools; or

“(B) District of Columbia-based nonprofit organizations with experience in successfully providing support or assistance to District of Columbia public charter schools or networks of such schools.

“(3) The funds provided under this division for the support of District of Columbia public charter schools shall be available to any District of Columbia public charter school in good standing with the District of Columbia Charter School Board, and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Charter School Board may not restrict the availability of such funds to certain types of schools on the basis of the school’s location, governing body, or the school’s facilities.”.

**SEC. 10. REVISION OF CURRENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**

Not later than the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, the Secretary of Education and the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall revise the memorandum of understanding which is in effect under section 3012(d) of the Scholarships for Opportunity

and Results Act as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act to address the following:

(1) The amendments made by this Act.

(2) The need to ensure that participating schools under the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act meet fire code standards and maintain certificates of occupancy.

(3) The need to ensure that District of Columbia public schools and District of Columbia public charter schools meet the requirements under such Act to comply with all reasonable requests for information necessary to carry out the evaluations required under section 3009(a) of such Act.

**SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

Section 3013 (sec. 38-1853.13, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (10) as paragraphs (2) through (11), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

“(1) CORE SUBJECT MATTER.—The term ‘core subject matter’ means—

“(A) mathematics;

“(B) science; and

“(C) English, reading, or language arts.”;

and

(3) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting “household with a” before “student”.

**SEC. 12. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3014 (sec. 38-1853.14, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “and for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years” and inserting “and for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2021”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (a)(1), including amounts appropriated and available under such subsection before the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, shall remain available until expended.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(2) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Except as otherwise provided, the amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to school year 2017-2018 and each succeeding school year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4901.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are here to pass an important bill, Mr. Speaker. This bill is H.R. 4901, known as the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, or SOAR.

The SOAR Act continues a three-sector approach to education within the District of Columbia. The bill provides equal funding to D.C. public schools, D.C. public charter schools, and the Opportunity Scholarship Program which is commonly known as the OSP.

The OSP provides scholarships to students of low-income families, many of whom would otherwise attend low-performing schools. This program is bringing about educational opportunities to those who need it most.

Now, to some, this may sound familiar because in October of last year, we considered H.R. 10, also a bill to reauthorize the SOAR Act. But H.R. 4901 is very similar to H.R. 10; however, after H.R. 10 passed the House, changes were made to it through a bipartisan negotiation with the Senate. These changes actually strengthened the bill, and we are pleased to support this today.

The new bill brings greater transparency and accountability to the OSP through increased reporting requirements. The new bill strengthens accreditation requirements, and the new bill clarifies congressional intent around the use of carryover funds and access to the OSP. Out of a commitment to regular order and the understanding of how important this legislation is, we wanted Members to have the opportunity to debate and vote on these changes, which we did in our committee, and it passed out of our committee. Thus, we introduced H.R. 4901.

We improved the legislation, and now we are bringing it before the Chamber in an effort to pass the bill in its best possible form. I hope the House will see the value of this bill as it benefits families in the District, specifically low-income families in the District of Columbia.

The average income of a family with an OSP student is \$22,000 per year. Let me say that again. The average income of a family with an OSP student is \$22,000. This program offers these families more than just a scholarship, it is a lifeline. One OSP parent went so far as to describe the OSP as her salvation.

Mr. Speaker, the OSP is working. In the 2014–2015 school year, OSP students had a graduation rate of 90 percent. Ninety percent graduation rate. That should indicate to a lot of people that this thing is working. That is well above the national average of 82 percent and is certainly better than the average within the D.C. public schools, which is only about 64 percent.

However, I would be remiss if I did not note that the D.C. public schools increased their graduation rate 6 percentage points from 2014 to 2015, and we applaud that and hope that continues.

That is in part because this three-sector approach is actually working.

Opponents of the SOAR Act want to stop this legislation because they disagree with the OSP for purely ideological reasons. In fact, opponents, just like their supporters, know that OSP students do as well, if not better, on every measure compared to the public school counterparts. Opponents will likely even support allowing current OSP students to remain in the program until they finish high school.

If the OSP is so bad, though, it makes no sense to allow children to remain in it. The truth is that the program works, and we should reauthorize it so it can work for even more children. Unfortunately, opponents of the OSP will seek to end the entire three-sector approach in an effort to simply stop the OSP.

I do want to note that the Washington, D.C., Mayor, the D.C. Council chairman, and seven other members of the D.C. Council sent a letter to the congressional leadership urging the reauthorization of this program. The Mayor and a majority of the D.C. Council recognize the value of this legislation and are asking that we stand with them and not forsake the children of the District of Columbia.

A March 2016 letter signed by the Mayor and 8 of the 13 Members of the D.C. Council supporting the SOAR Act will be entered into the RECORD. The letter states: "These funds are critical to the gains that the District's public education system has seen in recent years."

It goes on to note how important the SOAR Act has been in maintaining and recruiting quality teachers and principals. District officials show strong support for this legislation, as does the Washington, D.C., community.

We are thrilled to have found common ground on this bill, and I welcome the District's support. I thank them for their valuable work in getting this legislation to this point. I am also excited that the SOAR Act is supported by the Washington Post. I will be inserting in the RECORD a position they took on March 14, 2016, to that effect.

Mr. Speaker, the SOAR Act's purpose is to improve education within the District, and I believe it is doing just that within public schools, charter schools, and the OSPs. It is providing families with a valuable choice, and it is allowing them to escape other situations that would not be nearly as conducive to their families.

I don't understand why the critics of the OSP are so opposed to the program, especially since it produces graduation rates far above the national average. This feat is even more notable when you realize that the OSP achieves better graduation rates than D.C. public schools at only two-thirds of the cost, so you get better graduation rates, and it is two-thirds of the cost of D.C. public schools.

I recognize the importance of our public education system and the need for public school improvement. That is why the legislation also authorizes funds for public education. We must recognize the reality before us. This past year, D.C. eighth graders had the lowest test scores in the Nation in math and reading, some of the most critical skills that they need to be successful in life. While D.C. public schools have made progress, clearly, much remains to be done.

Mr. Speaker, students within the District should not have to wait for these changes to come about. They deserve an alternative, a quality education, and they deserve it now. Let's work to improve public education in the District, but let's not hold back current students while those improvements happen. Let's allow them every opportunity available, such as an opportunity scholarship.

We are here today to debate a bill that works in every way to further the educational outcomes of Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, also let me just take a personal note to thank Speaker Boehner for his passion on this issue. For years he has championed this. He has done it in his private time, he did it in his public life, he did it as a Member of Congress, and he did it as the Speaker of the House. This was his. He championed this. It has been successful, and I am glad to carry the baton and make sure that there is school choice within Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a mother, I believe parents should seize any and every educational opportunity available to their children, so I certainly have no criticism of my own constituents who have seized this opportunity. In fact, in order to avoid disruption of the education of the current voucher students, I believe they should be allowed to remain in the program until high school graduation, and President Obama has offered a compromise to allow them to do so.

Consideration of this bill surely is unprecedented. Until today, I had never seen the House vote on virtually the same bill a second time in the same Congress, and that is about to happen here. The House, acted in October.

Why is this House acting redundantly again? Shouldn't the focus be on the Republican-led Senate where neither this bill—which is virtually the same as the bill that was passed before—nor its Senate companion has moved?

Last December, the Senate committee of jurisdiction canceled a scheduled markup of the bill to protect Republicans from this bill and especially from the civil rights amendments that had been proposed to the bill. Just last

month, Chairman CHAFFETZ himself—who is the chairman of the authorizing committee, and the subcommittee—requested that the bill be included in the upcoming—the upcoming—2017 appropriation bill because the chairman, knows that legislation on an appropriation is how this bill is going to be passed.

The problem is that there is little congressional support for vouchers except for vouchers in the District of Columbia, where nobody can vote for anybody except this Member. Congress has refused to create a national voucher program. Just last year during reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, both the House and the Senate voted on several national voucher amendments, and each failed. So you see, they don't want vouchers in their own districts.

Moreover, the Congress has never authorized the D.C. voucher program in the light of day. When Congress first created the program in 2004, and then reauthorized it in 2011, it did so by adding the voucher bill as riders to appropriations bills. And to protect Republican Senators running for reelection this year, that is what is going to happen again. The Senate has never passed a standalone D.C. vouchers bill, and yet it is being reauthorized now for the third time.

In this Congress alone, Republicans have introduced legislation to overturn D.C.'s gun safety laws, its laws on reproductive health, its laws on non-discrimination, its laws on marijuana, on labor, on immigration, and on education. It is, therefore, ironic to hear Republicans favorably cite the support of some D.C. government officials for passage of this bill.

Now, let me explain that because I don't want my colleagues to get away with mischaracterizing the position of the D.C. government on the bill before us today. When the House voted this bill last year, a majority of the D.C. Council wrote to Congress opposed to this voucher program. Last month, however, fearing the loss of \$40 million for public and charter schools, a bare majority wrote in support of this bill. You can't blame them.

I must say though, I am being hoisted on my own petard here. Ironically, the funding for public schools and public charter schools exists only because during the creation of the voucher program, I repeatedly said that funding for public and charter schools was the preference of D.C. residents. To his everlasting credit, the then-Archbishop of Washington then insisted that public and charter schools also receive funding in conjunction with the voucher funding.

The D.C. Mayor and a bare majority this year of the council sent a carefully crafted letter supporting this bill because they knew they were writing for the residents of the District of Colum-

bia who do not support vouchers. Their letter did not support the voucher program itself, but referred only to the bill's public and charter school funding.

□ 0930

Those who signed the letter, by the way, were even more concerned that the Congress, instead, could pass the radical Cruz-Meadows bill, which would permit D.C. students to use local funds, commandeer local funds, from the D.C. treasury to pay for private schools.

City officials recognized—and who can blame them—that Republicans have conditioned reauthorization of the public and charter school funding on reauthorization of the voucher funding. I understand their concern about losing public and charter school funding because it has been part of the city's education budget for a decade.

There is, of course, no reason for a unique Federal voucher program in the District of Columbia, in particular. According to the study of the program's effectiveness mandated by Congress, by statute, the D.C. voucher program has failed in its stated purpose. That purpose was to improve academic achievement. The voucher program has not improved academic achievement, as measured by math and reading test scores of students overall or of students the program prioritized from low-performing public schools.

Republicans, rightly, were disappointed with these results, so guess what they did. Instead of getting rid of a failed program, they simply changed the evaluation. The prior reauthorizations required the program's evaluation to be "conducted using the strongest possible research designed," and a randomized controlled trial—the gold standard—was therefore used.

It is almost laughable when somebody changes the test in order to pass it. In contrast, this bill requires the evaluation to be conducted—this time—using an acceptable—that means any acceptable—"quasi-experimental research design" and expressly prohibits the randomized controlled trial that was mandated before.

This dishonesty is transparent, Mr. Speaker. As researchers conducting an evaluation of the program point out, a randomized controlled study "is especially important in the context of school choice because families wanting to apply for a choice program may have educational goals and aspirations that differ from the average family."

The voucher program is also unnecessary. The District of Columbia has an unusually robust public school choice system, and it is available to every student. Now, I would wager that the District's choice system is the best in the Nation, and here is what it is.

Almost 50 percent of our children go to charter schools. Those charter schools were authorized when I worked

with Speaker Newt Gingrich to allow charter schools instead of vouchers to be the District's alternative school system. For the public schools, 75 percent of our children attend out-of-boundary public schools that they have chosen. So I ask any Member who has public choice that robust to make himself known during this debate.

The D.C. voucher program also exempts students from protection of Federal civil rights laws that apply to public and federally funded programs. Under the voucher program, the Federal funding is considered assistance to the voucher student and not to the school, apparently in order to avoid these important mandates for our schools. Therefore, the program is not considered a federally funded program, although the money comes from Federal funds.

This program is exempt from title IV and title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, from title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, from the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Everybody knows that this program is going to be reauthorized as a rider on an appropriations bill, which is how the D.C. vouchers bill has always been enacted, in 2004 and again in 2011.

This is a masquerade here this morning. I am sorry Members had to be held over. This could have been taken care of yesterday. Even if the bill is not reauthorized, however, everyone expects that Republicans will continue to fund the three sectors, as they have always done.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is correct that the Republicans have continued to fund the three-sector approach in Washington, D.C., and I am proud of that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), the chairman of the Republican Policy Committee.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4901, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act.

I want to commend Chairman CHAFFETZ for his work on this important policy and for continuing the legacy of former Speaker Boehner on this important issue.

Make no mistake about it, thousands of kids have access to the American Dream because of Speaker Boehner's dedication to the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program and education choice across the country.

I met one of those students in February during a hearing on Capitol Hill. Her name was Denisha Merriweather. Denisha provided some powerful testimony that I will not soon forget. She spoke of being locked in a failing

school, and she said: “When I was growing up, college was a dream that I didn’t even know that I had, and if it weren’t for an educational option Florida gave me 12 years ago, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Ms. Merriweather is the first in her family to graduate from high school and college, and she is now attending graduate school. That is powerful stuff, and it is just one example of the thousands of young people in America whose lives have been changed by school choice.

As chairman of the Congressional School Choice Caucus, I believe every child in America deserves the same kind of opportunity that Denisha had. But right now, for the majority of students in this country, real educational choice only exists if you can afford it.

Ask yourself this question: If your local school is failing your child and you can’t afford to move and you can’t afford to pay for private school, what options do you really have?

Make no mistake about it, that is the truth for thousands of key people here in Washington, D.C., and, frankly, all across the country. They are locked in a failing school that is failing their child, and they can’t afford to move and they can’t afford to pay for a private school. They are stuck.

That is why school choice and the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program matters. Programs like D.C. OSP empower parents to choose the best educational environment for their child, regardless of their income, their ZIP Code, or their lot in life. And despite some of the rhetoric on the other side of the aisle, this program takes zero dollars from D.C. Public Schools—zero dollars. Yet D.C. OSP has a big impact on D.C. students. In fact, the program lets more than 6,000 students attend the school that gives them the best opportunity to succeed. And even better, an incredible 90 percent—90 percent—of D.C. OSP students graduate from high school on time, an incredible success.

It turns out that empowering parents and empowering students works. We have miles to go before every kid in America has access to a great school. This issue is far bigger than just D.C. schools. But today’s bill will ensure that thousands of kids in Washington, D.C., have an opportunity, and every one of those kids matter.

This bill is worthy of our support. I ask my colleagues for their support.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman is so concerned about the millions of parents who can’t afford to send their children to private schools, his caucus had the perfect opportunity this year, because they have such a strong majority, to, in fact, pass voucher amendments, and they refused to do so for their own schools.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), my friend.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from the District of Columbia for yielding.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 4901.

Contrary to its title and contrary to what you just heard, this voucher program for schoolchildren in the District of Columbia has neither expanded opportunities nor delivered results for those students and their families. It has actually proven to be an unwise and unwelcome use of tax dollars, which ought to be of great concern to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Yet, rather than call for increased scrutiny, they are forcing the House to once again vote on a bill on which this Chamber has already acted.

In successive reports on the effectiveness of this program, the Department of Education has determined that students using these vouchers saw no statistically significant improvement in their overall achievement in math or reading—none.

In addition, the Department found that both parents and students from schools in need of improvement, the program’s intended beneficiaries, reported that their experience with the voucher program did not—not—improve their level of satisfaction with the education system or the education they were receiving.

I also find it extremely cynical that this reauthorization would weaken the very reporting requirements that have shown this program to be ineffective. When you don’t like the findings, I guess we suppress them.

Further, the Government Accountability Office has cited the program for not having sufficient financial controls and accountability measures, something I thought we favored. For example, the D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, which administers the program, repeatedly failed to comply with statutory financial reporting deadlines, and its “policies and procedures lack detail in several areas related to school compliance and financial accounting” to ensure Federal tax dollars are being used in accordance with the law.

Mr. Speaker, I also hope the great irony of this legislation is not lost on my colleagues. Those who claim to support the conservative principles of small government would again authorize \$60 million in taxpayer subsidies for a program that has failed to meet expectations for both educational achievement and financial stewardship. I guess there are carve-outs for our ideological favorites.

Further, self-proclaimed states’ rights conservatives are once again willing to impose the will of Congress on a local government—the District of Columbia—and they do it because they can. So much for Big Brother; so much for telling somebody we know best.

Finally, I want to remind my friends on the other side of the aisle of the

principles they espoused just last year when we worked in bipartisan fashion to pass legislation reforming No Child Left Behind.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CONNOLLY. In their own explanatory material for the Every Student Succeeds Act, Republicans say the new reforms are intended to restore local control by returning responsibility for accountability and school improvement to State and local leaders. Why doesn’t that apply here? Another ideological carve-out, Mr. Speaker.

Congress has no business imposing its will on the schools and families of the District of Columbia in this fashion. They are not guinea pigs for our ideological favorites.

□ 0945

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. KLINE. I thank Chairman CHAFFETZ for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, which will renew our vital investment in the children who live in the District of Columbia.

In passing the Every Student Succeeds Act last year, we took important steps to support and encourage greater school choice for students and their families. These reforms empower parents to do what is best for their children’s education, and they help ensure that all children are able to receive the excellent education they deserve regardless of their family’s background, income, or ZIP Code. Helping students escape failing schools so they can pursue brighter futures is an important priority, and that is exactly what the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program does for children in our Nation’s Capital.

For more than 10 years now, the program has enabled thousands of students to pursue the quality education necessary to excel both in the classroom and later in life—and excel they do. In fact, last year, 90 percent of 12th graders who received a scholarship through the program graduated from high school, and nearly 90 percent of them, Mr. Speaker, went on to pursue college degrees. The traditional D.C. public school system can make no such claim. These are very impressive results. Despite the claims of those who oppose these schools for, apparently, purely ideological, partisan reasons, with results like these—90 percent graduate, and 90 percent of those go on to college—it makes those claims that these schools are not performing well, frankly, laughable.

This legislation also authorizes support for D.C. public schools, and it will provide critical resources for its charter schools. I agree with the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia that the public charter schools in the District are performing well. They are giving some hope to mothers and fathers and grandmothers and grandfathers that their children will have a chance in life. I am very proud of those public charter schools. There are also parents—Presidents of the United States and so forth—who choose to send their kids to private schools, and that opportunity ought to exist for more children—for more students—in the District of Columbia. That is what the Opportunity Scholarship Program does. It provides another chance—another avenue, another road to hope—for children in our Nation's Capital.

Together, these measures are working to improve the traditional public schools that are struggling and that are still, too often, failing students—which is why there is a waiting line to get into charter schools and into private schools—and will make a positive impact in the lives of students across the District and will create much-needed educational opportunities for these children.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want the gentleman from Minnesota to know that there are waiting lines in the District of Columbia to get into many D.C. public schools and, of course, into many charter schools. We also know nothing about the schools that tell us 90 percent of their children graduate because this House has no information on them. What we do know is that the randomized study took children in D.C. public schools and compared them to students at exactly the same levels in the voucher schools—no difference in overall achievement. That is how we measure achievement in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4901, which would reauthorize the D.C. voucher program, known as the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, through 2021.

We don't spend enough money on education, so it is hard to justify diverting scarce public resources in order to finance private school education for a handful of students at the expense of the vast majority who attend public schools. Instead, we should focus our limited public resources on initiatives that improve education for all of our children. This is the promise of a public school education in the United

States, but the voucher programs undermine that promise while hiding behind the guise of school choice for students in need.

There are about 50 participating schools in the Washington, D.C., Opportunity Scholarship Program, but more than half of all of the participants are enrolled in just eight schools. Most of the schools in the program have higher tuition than the voucher covers, limiting the utility of the voucher and shifting the cost of education to the families that can't afford it—essentially, denying the opportunity to students whose families cannot afford the remainder of the tuition. Federal dollars are being provided to a small number of parents who can afford the choice and to others with students who are already enrolled in private schools when that money could have been used for our public school systems.

Although there are a few who can participate in the program, as the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia said, the results are disappointing. Research consistently demonstrates that the D.C. voucher program is an ineffective program that does not increase achievement. The four reports produced by the Department of Education found no improvement in reading and math after entering the voucher program for students coming from the most struggling D.C. public schools, nor did they find any statistically significant difference in math and reading academic performance from D.C. public schools. On average, Mr. Speaker, these schools are, at best, average.

When you cite statistics that say some may be doing well, you have to take into consideration that these are children from families who are very supportive of their children and that they would be doing well whether they were in the voucher program or not.

In addition to the disappointing results, we also found the voucher participants were less likely to have access to English language programs, special education supports, counselors, and other vital supports that ensure that all students remain on the path of academic success.

If the schools are not producing the promised results, why are we providing them with unrestricted Federal dollars?

Mr. Speaker, we could have improved the bill. We have a closed rule, so amendments were not allowed, but there were several amendments that should have been considered that I had offered. One would have protected the civil rights of students at schools that receive vouchers by requiring schools to certify that they provide each student with applicable civil rights protections. Another would have required any school receiving funds under this program to comply with the same Federal data and reporting requirements

that all public schools or other schools receiving Federal money have to provide. All of our congressional districts provide this information, but, unfortunately, it is not required under the voucher program.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to spend \$20 million to fund education in the District of Columbia, we ought to use it to improve education for everyone, not just for a few. This bill uses the money to help a few parents by subsidizing tuition in private schools, which many were already attending, at the expense of many, and it extends a program that fails to actually improve the education for students in Washington, D.C.

I join the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia in opposing this legislation.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, the graduation rate in the D.C. public schools is 64 percent. The graduation rate at the OSP program is 90 percent. Those are results, and they are worth every penny.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER), a member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, there are few times in this House that we can see an immediate impact from legislation. A few months ago, I remember meeting some families who were given a choice in the SOAR Act. I remember seeing the pride in their faces, but what I remember most was the hope they had—a hope that was new, a new hope in the future. America has always been about opportunity. The SOAR Act does exactly what it says in its title—Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act. The SOAR Act is impacting lives today, but it is changing lives forever.

Upward mobility starts with a strong education. It reminds me of my background in working with some gospel music arrangers. I was surprised at the high volume of sales in this particular industry, and one of the arrangers summed it up this way. He said: "Mark, ain't nobody likes it but the people."

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who oppose the SOAR Act and who oppose parents in having this opportunity, let me say this: Ain't nobody likes it but the people.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has 10 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Utah has 16 minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Public schools in the United States and big cities are improving, and it should be noted that the D.C. Public Schools district continues to be the fastest improving urban school district in the United States, according to data

released from the 2015 Trial Urban District Assessment. These schools deserve support. They are improving test scores unlike the voucher schools. In comparing the randomized study of those who wanted the voucher and didn't get it and who remained in the District public school system with those who wanted the voucher and got it, there was no difference in their math and English scores.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. NORTON. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that point, if you select students from families who can afford the tuition and who are very supportive of their students, is it a surprise that they may do better in graduation rates than the average?

Ms. NORTON. In reclaiming my time, the gentleman has brought up a very important point.

By the way, some of the students who accept this voucher are already in the private schools, so they already could obviously afford the program. They are already attending the voucher schools, and they have now gotten vouchers. If you have some free Federal money, let me have some.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Would they be expected to do better, with their supportive families, than the average?

Ms. NORTON. In reclaiming my time, I think they would be because they have families behind them, and they are being compared with students who often do not.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. The gentleman pointed out that, with the randomized studies, there was no difference in the public schools and the voucher programs. Those studies are the conclusion of vigorous research that there was no difference; is that right?

Ms. NORTON. In reclaiming my time, there was no difference, and yet improving academic performance was a stated reason for the voucher program.

I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in opposing the reauthorization of the D.C. voucher program.

Public schools are the foundation of the American education system. They represent a duty we have to provide every student in every community with an education that helps them realize their full potential. Vouchers prevent us from fulfilling that duty by redirecting taxpayer money away from our public schools, which are already underfunded, and into private institutions that do not open their doors to every child.

As with previous versions of the SOAR Act, this bill does nothing to en-

sure that students with disabilities have access to private schools. It also discriminates against low-income families. In 64 percent of the participating D.C. schools, the tuition costs more than the voucher can cover, which, effectively, excludes families who cannot afford to pay the difference. Even students who can afford to attend private school can be excluded based on their prior academic achievement, language ability, or other discriminatory factors. I had hoped we could address these concerns through the amendment process, but the majority has not allowed amendments to the bill.

You would expect private schools that can choose their own students to have exceptional records of student performance, but you would be wrong. Since 2007, there have been four congressionally mandated reports on the D.C. voucher program's impact on student achievement. Not one of those reports found a significant improvement in reading or math scores among participants.

Mr. Speaker, with the Every Student Succeeds Act, we are entering a new era in education policy that holds real promise for students and educators across the country. We should be focusing our attention and resources on improving institutions that serve all students.

I call on my colleagues to remember the obligation we have to every child and reject H.R. 4901.

□ 1000

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the Civil War, Lincoln addressed the Ohio regiment and he said that the beauty of a free government is that it gives every individual an open field and fair chance for their intelligence, enterprise, and industry to flourish.

That was something that he could speak of firsthand because he had grown up in the backwater. When you start talking about places like Illinois and Kentucky, that was so far removed from the corridors of power at that time and then he ends up being the President of the United States, that would have been unheard of in a country in Europe.

I think right now, when you look at our country, you have people who are born and you are supposed to be able to make the most of your God-given abilities, no matter your circumstances. Some people are born into privileged circumstances, and some people aren't. But if they have the desire to succeed, they need to be able to do that in America.

Yet, what we find now is there are so many kids who grow up in communities that have really failing school systems, and I think the number one thing to be able to better yourself in our modern society is with education.

Now, of course, the Federal Government doesn't have jurisdiction over K-12 education for the States, and I think that that is proper. I think, at times, the Federal Government has needed into that, and I think it has been counterproductive.

We do have jurisdiction over the District of Columbia. You have some families who are really in dire straits. There is a big D.C. bureaucracy that is not performing up to expectations. So this program is a lifeline to those families.

The average income is \$22,000 a year, which is not a lot in any community, but in Washington that is very, very little. It gives them a lifeline to be able to have an alternative school and maybe be able to make the most of their God-given ability.

Look, if the public school bureaucracy is doing well, then they can choose that. But if it is not and it is not working for them, then this gives them another option.

This is something that—having done the hearing at the school like we did on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, these are kids who are thrilled to be in these schools. I am just very happy to support this effort. I appreciate the chairman's work on this. We need to give every child the chance to succeed.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I proudly support the reauthorization of the SOAR Act because the SOAR Act provides the choice that parents in the District deserve. I supported H.R. 10 and I now support H.R. 4901, which made important improvements to H.R. 10.

This legislation we are considering today continues to empower low-income families in D.C. to take advantage of opportunities they may not otherwise be able to do. That is because H.R. 4901 is a bill that focuses on people, public schools, charter schools, Opportunity Scholarship Program, people with choices in each of those areas.

The SOAR Act is about improving the lives of students and families in the District in a profoundly personal way. Isn't that what true education is all about: personal achievement, improvement, and opportunity?

Take the story of Carlos Battle, as written about in the National Journal and a recent book on educational choice. Carlos received a scholarship through the OSP and attended Assumption Catholic School and then Georgetown Day School for high school.

As a result of this quality education, by choice, Carlos was able to attend Northeastern University in Boston. In fact, his mother says Carlos "almost surely wouldn't have gone to college" without the scholarship.



Carlos now talks about how many of his friends from his time in public school are still in the neighborhood and not doing well for themselves, and he said some even are in jail.

As he puts it: Everyone who was in my sixth grade class had the potential to achieve just as much as I did . . . that's just the unfortunate truth.

The OSP allowed Carlos to take advantage of his potential, and he kept on achieving all the way to Northeastern.

While in Boston, Carlos has spent time working at a nonprofit, helping give back to Boston public school students by helping them prepare for responsibilities of college where he has been able to lead workshops for public school students on college preparedness.

He is currently preparing to pursue a Ph.D. in a career as a child psychologist, and that would be an appropriate time for an applause line.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has 6 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Utah has 12 minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as I begin my remarks, I know that the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia would understand my sense of pride in acknowledging that, in my district, the Victory Early College High School, which is in the Acres Homes neighborhood and a part of the Aldine Independent School District, a public school, will be celebrating the National Blue Ribbon award ceremony this morning. I offer them congratulations and express my disappointment for not being there.

Obviously, they have been recognized as one of two schools in Houston nationally to earn the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon School at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., for closing the achievement gap. May I remind my colleagues that that is a public school system.

So I rise in opposition and join my colleague from the District of Columbia to oppose H.R. 4901, which would reauthorize the District of Columbia private school voucher program and the Opportunity Scholarship Program for 5 years.

The OSP program came about in 2004. In 2011, Congress reauthorized the OSP through fiscal year 2016. Under the SOAR Act, D.C. households with incomes that do not exceed 185 percent of the poverty line may receive an annual maximum voucher payment per student of \$8,000 for grades K–8 and \$12,000 for grades 9–12.

We all know that private schools are much more expensive than that. So, in essence, this creates a small class that pays money to schools that have not been assessed as to whether or not they are quality schools. Private schools can cost as much as \$50,000. Are we giving them \$50,000 while we are dumbing down the public school system? What is so disturbing is: Where is the data?

This bill, in particular, makes a significant change. The bill prohibits a control study group in making evaluations of the OSP and requires a less rigorous quasi-experimental research design than under the SOAR Act. Since 2004, almost \$200 million has been spent on D.C. voucher schools. Can you imagine what we would be able to do if that money was invested?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine what that could do?

I hear that 50 percent of D.C. children are in charter schools, but 50 percent of children in D.C. are using The Choice Program. What are we doing in America? By using this as a scapegoat, we are suggesting that we are not invested in public schools.

Finally, the D.C. Mayor and City Council members, as I understand, were only advocating that: If you don't fund the voucher program, don't leave us out for the public and charter school program. There is a vigorous Choice Program in D.C.

This bill undermines the public school system for all of us, and we should oppose the bill.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4901, the Scholarship for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act. As many will remember, the House passed a similar bill, H.R. 10, last year with 240 votes.

H.R. 4901 makes three specific changes to H.R. 10 to ensure the D.C. scholarship program continues to run efficiently and effectively for the foreseeable future.

First, this bill creates additional reporting requirements for the administrator of the scholarship program to ensure that the program is operating effectively.

Second, it requires that any District of Columbia school that participates in this scholarship program must be accredited.

Finally, the Department of Education has been withholding funds from the scholarship program and excluding qualified students from participating.

H.R. 4901 ensures that the Department of Education cannot withhold funds from the scholarship program

and that they cannot exclude students that are qualified to participate.

With these changes, this D.C. school scholarship program can continue to run efficiently and allow low-income families to better their educational experience and opportunities.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4901.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the SOAR Act. I want to talk for a moment about the elephant in the room, and that is the way in which it has become something of a tug of war between those who believe in choice in education and those who don't.

I think that, on the one hand, you have, for instance, taxpayer advocates who say: Wait a minute. If we are spending about \$30,000 per student and getting the results that we are out of the system, something ought to change.

There are other people who are advocates for the children of D.C., people like the former Mayor of this city, Anthony Williams, who said: Wait a minute. The scholarship program worked and it made a difference in people's lives.

There are people who are advocates for the marketplace who say: Wait a minute. There has been a revolutionary degree of change in technology and in output and in productivity as a result of marketplace forces, and maybe those marketplace forces ought to be at work in education as well.

I think, most of all, there are folks who acknowledge the fact that God makes every child different and that one size never fits all with the plethora of different personalities in children that are out there.

On the other hand, you have folks who say: Wait a minute. Let's do it the way we have always done it. We had schools set up this way in the 1970s, in the 1980s, in the 1990s, and in the 2000s. Let's do it the way we did it.

But, in that process, kids may be locked into schools that aren't working for them and for their families. They may be literally imprisoned in schools that aren't working.

So I think that what stands out about the SOAR Act is that it represents a set of keys so that kids would have additional choices. If we really believe that education is the cornerstone to opportunity in the 21st century, why not give kids as many keys as possible?

It could be a key to a charter school, a traditional public school, or a private school. It is a key of their choice because kids are indeed so different. That is what this bill acknowledges.

I commend the gentleman from Utah for what he has done on this front.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has 3¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Utah has 9 minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding and for his work on this important legislation.

As a proud member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I rise today in support of H.R. 4901, the Scholarship for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, also known as the SOAR Act.

This legislation would reauthorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships to low-income students so they may attend a D.C. private school of their parents' choice.

School choice is an effective tool that has proven to be successful in Washington, D.C. These scholarships have resulted in a 90 percent graduation rate, which is simply outstanding. I congratulate them on this.

Both of my parents were educators who instilled in me the importance of a good education, and I believe we should extend this opportunity to those who might not otherwise have it.

God created every child to be unique. As such, this legislation gives opportunities to students to receive an education chosen by their parents, those who know their child's needs best.

I encourage my colleagues to stand up in support of school choice and the SOAR Act to empower both parents and the students.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

□ 1015

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her advocacy for every child in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, last year we passed the Every Student Succeeds Act, a good bill, but instead of figuring out how to fund this bipartisan bill through our budget and appropriations process, which apparently has broken down, we are here in a legislative déjà vu re-debating a nearly identical bad bill we passed just months ago that will take money away from our public schools.

I am well aware of these attempts to divert money away from public schools and the failures of taxpayer-funded private schools. In the last 10 years, Wisconsin taxpayers have wasted \$139 million of taxpayer dollars on private schools that were later terminated from the voucher program due to their

lack of appropriate standards and accountability.

Further, in Wisconsin, 79 percent of the students who received a taxpayer-subsidized voucher in 2013 were already attending private schools. The SOAR Act would allow kids already in private schools to receive this funding. That means taxpayer dollars are being used not to advocate education, but instead as a form of tax policy. What is worse is that the taxpayer-funded voucher schools both in my State and here in D.C. are not providing equitable resources to special needs students with disabilities.

At the end of the day, this is also about results. Multiple Department of Education studies have concluded that the taxpayer-funded D.C. voucher program has failed to improve educational outcomes for participating students, and two U.S. Government Accountability Office reports have also identified its repeated management and accountability failures. Public funds should be used for public education which serves all students. It is that simple. I encourage everyone to oppose this bill.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. NORTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is going to be funded, and you can't blame the District of Columbia for wanting the public school and charter school funding that is in the bill. This bill is going to be funded. It was a Boehner bill, now it is essentially a Ryan bill, and I do want that understood.

I include in the RECORD the Council's letter from last year which opposed funding.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA,

Washington, DC, October 8, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,  
Chairperson, Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

CHAIRPERSON CHAFFETZ: We write as locally elected officials to express our opposition to renewed efforts to expand a federally funded school voucher program in the District of Columbia. We appreciate your interest in providing support to public education in the District. We strongly believe, however, that federal funds should be invested in the existing public education system—both public schools and public charter schools—rather than being diverted to private schools.

We support the decision by Congress and the President several years ago to phase out the voucher program. Multiple U.S. Department of Education reports indicate that the program has not lived up to the promises made by proponents. These studies along with two troubling Government Accountability Office reports have also revealed that many of the students participating in the voucher program attend private schools with fewer resources and lower standards than our public schools. The evidence is clear that the

use of vouchers has had no statistically significant impact on overall student achievement in math or reading, or for students from schools in need of improvement.

We have serious concerns about using government funds to send our students to private schools that do not have to adhere to the same standards and accountability as do public and public charter schools. For example, private religious schools, which 80% of students with vouchers attend, operate outside the non-discrimination provisions of the D.C. Human Rights Act. Moreover, the voucher proposal is inequitable: if fully funded, the authorization would provide many more dollars per student for vouchers than is allocated per student in public schools and public charter schools.

Although we believe that students who are already receiving a voucher should have the opportunity to maintain and use that voucher through graduation from high school, we do not support expansion of the program to new students. The District devotes considerable funds to public education, and our local policies promote choice for parents. Indeed, over the past decade the quality of public education in D.C. has increased, as a result of reforms and targeted investment. Families can choose from an array of educational institutions based on publicly—available performance metrics, both within the D.C. Public Schools system and among the myriad public charter schools. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has called the progress of D.C. Public Schools “remarkable”, while the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools has ranked the District's charter sector as the best in the country.

Despite such ample evidence that the Congressionally imposed voucher program is ineffective, while D.C. public schools improve every year, some members of Congress continue to see our city as their personal petri dish. It is insulting to our constituents, who vote for us but not for any voting member of Congress, that some of your colleagues push their personal agendas on D.C. in a way they could never do in their home states. Attacking D.C. home rule, including any expansion of the voucher program, is irresponsible governing on the part of Congress.

We call on you to respect the wishes of the District's elected officials on the quintessentially local matter of education as you consider this issue.

Sincerely,

DAVID GROSSO,  
D.C. Council, At-Large, Chairperson, Committee on Education.

CHARLES ALLEN,  
D.C. Council, Ward 6, Member, Committee on Education.

LARUBY MAY,  
D.C. Council, Ward 8.

ELISSA SILVERMAN,  
D.C. Council, At-Large.

ANITA BONDS,  
D.C. Council, At-Large, Member, Committee on Education.

YVETTE ALEXANDER,  
D.C. Council, Ward 7, Member, Committee on Education.

BRIANNE NADEAU,  
D.C. Council, Ward 1.

JACK EVANS,  
D.C. Council, Ward 2.

Ms. NORTON. This year, of course, recognizing that they might lose \$40 million, there was another bill, and a bare majority said: Give us the money.

But I want you to understand what the letter from the District of Columbia said.

“A reauthorization of the SOAR Act would help safeguard \$150 million in Federal funds for the D.C. Public Schools and public charter schools over 5 years.”

And they go on to say: “SOAR Act funding for D.C. Public Schools has been used to support initiatives that reward and increase retention of high performing teachers and principals. The funds also help attract more high quality teachers and principals to D.C. Public Schools and improve the efficiency with which schools are run.

“After years of decline, D.C. public school enrollment is rising for the first time in decades. Schools that previously struggled to fill their pre-kindergarten seats have waiting lists and other schools are attracting families back into the system at grade levels that have historically lost students.”

Clearly, we have a school system—and I cannot help but identify with them—that does not want to lose \$40 million for D.C. public schools and D.C. charter schools. I don’t ask anybody to change their vote. This program is going to be funded.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In conclusion, let me read the first sentence of the first paragraph from the D.C. Mayor, as well as the majority of the Council. “As Mayor and members of the Council of the District of Columbia, we support the three-sector Federal funding approach for D.C.’s K–12 education system that is authorized in the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results, the SOAR Act.”

It is clear this is producing results. I find it a little bit troubling when the opposition to the SOAR Act people stand up and say: Well, it is not producing results.

I will reiterate again that the average graduation rate at the D.C. public schools is 64 percent. The graduation rate for somebody who obtains the scholarship is 90 percent, and 92 percent of those people who get that scholarship go on to college. Those are laudable goals in any, any scenario.

And while this is done, this education is literally two-thirds of the cost, and it goes to people who really do deserve and need it, because the average annual income for somebody who is a recipient of this scholarship is \$22,000. A \$22,000 income in the District of Columbia for someone with kids is difficult, at best.

I want to thank, again, Speaker Boehner for his passion on school choice and particularly the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship. I also want to

thank our Senate colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT. Senator SCOTT joined us in a field hearing that we had in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He is a true believer and is passionate about school choice and the need to give everybody the best possible opportunities that we can.

So I think we have had a good debate. We had a good markup and discussion within the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I hope that we pass this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 4901, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Reauthorization Act.

Members of Congress, believe that together—the key to the future of our great nation is the quality of the education we provide our children.

We all know the story of some District of Columbia public schools: Low graduation rates, high dropout rates, low math and reading scores. And, we can all agree that the children in the District deserve a first class education.

A decade ago, I had the honor to Chair the District of Columbia Appropriations Subcommittee. In that capacity, we worked to create a program to give a ‘hand-up’ to children in Washington, DC. We built a ‘three-sector’ approach: public schools, charter schools, and the latter, the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides parents with funds to send their children to private or parochial schools.

The bill before us today will reauthorize the three-sector approach to school reform in the District of Columbia—including the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program—through FY 2021.

The DC Opportunity Scholarship Program is a huge success. Last year alone 3,246 students submitted applications to participate in these scholarships and the program accepted 1,244 students.

88 percent of high school graduates in 2015, who were Opportunity Scholarship recipients, enrolled at a 2- or 4-year college.

Congress should listen to the voices of parents and students and continue to work to ensure that this not only survives, but grows.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this critical legislation.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
Speaker, House of Representatives.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER REID, SPEAKER RYAN, AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: As Mayor and members of the Council of the District of Columbia, we support the three-sector federal funding approach for DC’s K–12 education system that is authorized in the Scholarships for Opportunities and Results (SOAR) ACT. Our support for the SOAR Act is rooted in the importance we place on the much-needed federal funding for DC Public Schools

(DCPS) and public charter schools which totaled \$30 million in FY2016. This funding is provided via our DC federal payments and does not take away from our state formula funding for education; rather, it adds to it. A reauthorization of the SOAR Act would help safeguard \$150 million in federal funds for DCPS and public charter schools over five years. These funds are critical to the gains that the District’s public education system has seen in recent years.

In addition, we are very concerned about a bill that was recently introduced in Congress, the Educational Freedom Accounts Act (H.R. 4426/S. 2455), which would require the District of Columbia to re-direct local funds from DCPS and the public charter schools toward Educational Savings Accounts for DC students who want to attend private schools. This bill would be harmful to the District’s progress on education and we strongly oppose it. SOAR Act reauthorization is far a better alternative and works for our families and school system.

SOAR Act funding for DCPS has been used to support initiatives that reward and increase retention of performing teachers and principals. The funds also help attract more high quality teachers and principals to DCPS and to improve the efficiency with which schools are run. After years of decline, DCPS enrollment is rising for the first time in decades. Schools that previously struggled to fill their prekindergarten seats have waiting lists and other schools are attracting families back into the system at grade levels that have historically lost students.

Public charter schools in the District represent 44 percent of the public school population of more than 85,000 students with 62 public charter schools on 115 campuses. Since FY2004, federal funds authorized in the SOAR Act have supported the acquisition, renovation, modernization, and expansion of charter school facilities in the District. These funds have also been used to improve academic achievement, teacher and leader quality and recruitment, instructional support, and graduation pathways.

The SOAR Act provides equal amounts of federal funding for the DCPS, public charter schools and the OSP. We understand that these funding streams are inextricably linked. We urge you to ensure that the SOAR Reauthorization Act (S. 2171/H.R. 10) becomes law before the end of this Congress so that this critical funding for K–12 education in the District of Columbia is not put in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser, Mayor; LaRuby May, Councilmember; Brandon T. Todd, Councilmember; Mary Cheh, Councilmember; Phil Mendelson, Chairman; Vincent Orange, Councilmember; Anita Bonds, Councilmember; Yvette M. Alexander, Councilmember; Kenyon R. McDuffie, Councilmember.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 14, 2016]  
FOR D.C., PREAUTHORIZING SCHOOL CHOICE IS  
THE RIGHT CHOICE  
(By Editorial Board)

IN THEIR zeal to kill off the federally funded scholarship program for poor D.C. students, opponents have peddled the fiction that Congress foisted the program on an unwilling city. In fact, the program was backed enthusiastically by then-Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) and a key D.C. Council member, and parent demand for scholarships far outstrips supply. So let’s hope that a letter from Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) and a majority of the council urging continued funding for

the program finally puts the myth to rest and helps allow more students to benefit from the program.

The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides needy students with vouchers to attend private schools of their choice, is up for reauthorization. As has happened before with all-too-depressing frequency since the scholarships were established in 2004, the program is under attack from unions and other opponents. If Congress fails to act, the city will also lose out on millions of dollars that go to its traditional and charter public schools as part of the three-sector federal funding deal.

The very real danger of the District losing \$150 million in federal funds over five years apparently finally sunk in with members of the council. Three members who previously had urged that the program be killed joined Ms. Bowser and five other members, including council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D), in a March 7 letter to congressional leaders in support of the Scholarships for Opportunities and Results (SOAR) Act. House Speaker PAUL D. RYAN (R-Wis.) in a statement called the support of the mayor and council “an important boost” in the effort to get reauthorization to the president’s desk.

We hope so. Mr. RYAN is right that “when we give more families a choice, more students succeed.” Uncertainty about the future of the program is the alleged reason the Education Department has, for several years, put a hold on funds that would allow additional students into the program. Officials with Serving Our Children, the nonprofit that took over administration of the scholarships in October, told us there are more than 1,900 applicants, with more expected, for just 146 new spots next year. If Congress doesn’t reauthorize the program, funding could dry up, with no new students accepted after the 2016-2017 school year. The scholarships provide a lifeline to low-income and underserved families, giving them the school choice that more affluent families take as a given. And because the program results in more federal money for D.C. public education and not less—another myth advanced by opponents—it’s time for Congress to act.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4901, as I did when the House debated a nearly identical measure last October.

We have been told that the purpose of this bill is to help all DC children get a better education.

I strongly support that objective, but this bill does not.

Let me be crystal clear: public funds should support public education.

But this bill proposes to spend \$100 million dollars over five years to fund vouchers to send students in the District of Columbia to private schools.

Coming from the city of Baltimore, I understand the complexities of turning around struggling inner city schools.

Almost ten years ago, I became deeply involved in improving one of my own neighborhood schools, the Maritime Industries Academy.

It takes vision, commitment, accountability and, yes, resources to begin the process of turning troubled schools around.

However, it is extremely difficult to turn around public schools if we divert public resources to private schools.

By dividing funding among DC Public Schools, DC Charter Schools, and private

school vouchers, this bill provides one-third of its total funding to voucher students, a tiny fraction of the District’s students.

The lack of equity is stunning. Our focus should be on maximizing the impact of the federal government’s limited resources to serve ALL of the District’s students.

This program was last authorized in 2011, over my strong objection and along party lines, despite the fact that the study on the program’s impacts mandated by law found that the use of vouchers had no effect on academic achievement, as measured by math and reading test scores.

Vouchers also had no impact on students’ perceptions of school safety and satisfaction.

We have heard all the Republican rhetoric justifying massive cuts to education funding—all the talk about budget constraints, about tightening our belts, and about making sacrifices.

But apparently all that goes out the window when Republicans want to give 100 million dollars in taxpayer funds to private schools.

As a graduate of public schools and a long-time advocate of quality public education, I believe our highest priority must be to use limited taxpayer dollars to support programs that will truly meet the educational needs of all children.

This bill does not do that. So I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 4901.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 4901, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization (SOAR) Act.

H.R. 4901 would reauthorize the District of Columbia’s private school voucher program, the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), for five years through 2021.

Simply put, this bill diverts much needed resources from the D.C. public school system into this unsuccessful and counterproductive voucher program.

We know that this voucher program has failed to improve academic achievement, threatens vital civil rights for students, undermines constitutional protections, and is poorly managed.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is just another Republican attack on the District of Columbia’s right to self-governance.

Even worse, the District’s government did not request this reauthorization—nor did its representative, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

If the District wants to establish a voucher program, it has the authority to do so.

But it hasn’t for many of the reasons I listed above.

Mr. Speaker, we should work to fully fund our public schools and ensure equal access to education for all students—not funnel additional funds into this ineffective and poorly managed program.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act.

Plenty of members have raised legitimate concerns with this bill, not the least of which is that students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the community in D.C. did not ask for this system to be forced on them.

A specific concern: The lack of protections for students with disabilities, arguably those who need protections the most.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—colloquially known as IDEA—has ensured for decades that children with disabilities throughout the nation receive the services and accommodations they need. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

Voucher schools should not get a free pass because of accounting gimmicks allowed under the voucher program.

When IDEA was passed, it did not have a clause that said “protect all students with disabilities except those students who choose to go to voucher schools.” I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and stand up for the civil rights that we all agreed every student deserves.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 706, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

#### MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. I am opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Ted Lieu of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4901 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Insert after section 7 the following new section:

#### SEC. 8. NONDISCRIMINATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITY AND PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS.

Section 3008(a) (sec. 38-1853.08(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by inserting “actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity,” after “national origin.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

My amendment would simply change the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program so that it could not discriminate against students based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sadly, we know that LGBT kids are often victims of bullying and hate. According to a survey by the Human

Rights Campaign, LGBT youth were twice as likely as their non-LGBT peers to report being verbally harassed and excluded.

Moreover, misguided anti-LGBT laws, such as those passed in North Carolina and Mississippi, continue to send a message that being LGBT is not okay, and that is wrong. As one of my Republican colleagues earlier today on the floor stated, God makes every child different. It is wrong to systematically discriminate against students because they are LGBT.

We need to send our kids a message that saying whom they love and the gender they identify with does not dictate their self-worth, and it certainly should not dictate whether or not they can get a voucher. I move that we begin to do this right now by passing my amendment to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Being LGBTQ is not a medical condition that needs to be cured. It is instead a beautiful reflection of what it means to be a human being.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, we went through regular order in our committee. We had field hearings. We had a markup. The gentleman was free to offer an amendment in committee. That did not happen.

This is a school choice bill. This is a bill that gives parents the opportunity to make choices about where their students can attend, and this scholarship program has been a very valuable tool. I am opposed to the motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 167, nays 228, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 178]

YEAS—167

Adams	Garamendi	Napolitano
Aguilar	Graham	Neal
Ashford	Grayson	Norcross
Bass	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Beatty	Green, Gene	Pallone
Becerra	Grijalva	Pascrell
Bera	Hahn	Pelosi
Beyer	Hastings	Perlmutter
Bishop (GA)	Heck (WA)	Peters
Blumenauer	Higgins	Peterson
Bonamici	Hinojosa	Pingree
Boyle, Brendan F.	Honda	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Hoyer	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Huffman	Price (NC)
Bustos	Israel	Quigley
Capps	Jackson Lee	Rangel
Capuano	Jeffries	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Richmond
Carney	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Kennedy	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cicilline	Kind	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kirkpatrick	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kuster	Schiff
Clay	Langevin	Schirder
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Scott (VA)
Clyburn	Larson (CT)	Scott, David
Cohen	Lawrence	Serrano
Connolly	Lee	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Levin	Sherman
Cooper	Lewis	Sinema
Courtney	Lieu, Ted	Sires
Crowley	Lipinski	Slaughter
Cuellar	Loeback	Smith (WA)
Cummings	Lofgren	Speier
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Lowe	Takano
Delaney	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Thompson (MS)
DelBene	Lynch	Titus
DeSaulnier	Maloney	Tonko
Deutch	Maloney, Carolyn	Van Hollen
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Vargas
Doggett	Matsui	Veasey
Doyle, Michael F.	McCollum	Vela
Edwards	McDermott	Velázquez
Ellison	McGovern	Walclosky
Eshoo	McNerney	Walz
Esty	Meeks	Wasserman
Foster	Meng	Schultz
Frankel (FL)	Moore	Waters, Maxine
Fudge	Moulton	Watson Coleman
Gabbard	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Gallego	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
		Yarmuth

NAYS—228

Abraham	Clawson (FL)	Foxx
Aderholt	Coffman	Franks (AZ)
Allen	Cole	Frelinghuysen
Amash	Collins (GA)	Garrett
Amodei	Comstock	Gibbs
Babin	Conaway	Gibson
Barletta	Cook	Gohmert
Barr	Costello (PA)	Goodlatte
Barton	Cramer	Gosar
Benishek	Crenshaw	Gowdy
Bilirakis	Culberson	Granger
Bishop (MI)	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (GA)
Bishop (UT)	Davis, Rodney	Graves (LA)
Black	Denham	Griffith
Blackburn	Dent	Grothman
Blum	DeSantis	Guinta
Bost	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Boustany	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Brady (TX)	Dold	Hardy
Brat	Donovan	Harper
Bridenstine	Duffy	Harris
Brooks (AL)	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (TN)	Heck (NV)
Buchanan	Ellmers (NC)	Hensarling
Buck	Emmer (MN)	Herrera Beutler
Bucshon	Farenthold	Hice, Jody B.
Burgess	Fitzpatrick	Hill
Byrne	Fleischmann	Holding
Carter (GA)	Fleming	Hudson
Carter (TX)	Flores	Huelskamp
Chabot	Forbes	Huizenga (MI)
Chaffetz	Fortenberry	Hultgren
		Hunter

Hurd (TX)	Mooney (WV)	Schweikert
Hurt (VA)	Mullin	Scott, Austin
Jenkins (KS)	Mulvaney	Sensenbrenner
Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (PA)	Sessions
Johnson (OH)	Neugebauer	Shimkus
Johnson, Sam	Noem	Shuster
Jolly	Nolan	Simpson
Jones	Nugent	Smith (MO)
Jordan	Nunes	Smith (NE)
Joyce	Olson	Smith (NJ)
Kelly (PA)	Palazzo	Stefanik
King (IA)	Palmer	Stewart
King (NY)	Paulsen	Stivers
Kinzinger (IL)	Pearce	Thompson (PA)
Kline	Perry	Thornberry
Knight	Pittenger	Tiberi
LaHood	Pitts	Tipton
LaMalfa	Poe (TX)	Trott
Lamborn	Poliquin	Turner
Lance	Pompeo	Upton
Latta	Posey	Valadao
LoBiondo	Price, Tom	Ratcliffe
Long	Reichert	Wagner
Loudermilk	Renacci	Walberg
Love	Ribble	Walden
Lucas	Rice (SC)	Walker
Luetkemeyer	Rigell	Walorski
Lummis	Roby	Walters, Mimi
Marchant	Roe (TN)	Weber (TX)
Marino	Rogers (AL)	Webster (FL)
Massie	Rogers (KY)	Wenstrup
McCarthy	Rohrabacher	Westerman
McCaul	Rokita	Williams
McClintock	Rooney (FL)	Wilson (SC)
McHenry	Ros-Lehtinen	Wittman
McKinley	Roskam	Womack
McMorris	Ross	Woodall
Rodgers	Rothfus	Yoder
McSally	Rouzer	Yoho
Meadows	Royce	Young (AK)
Meehan	Russell	Young (IA)
Messer	Salmon	Young (IN)
Mica	Sanford	Zeldin
Miller (FL)	Scalise	Zinke
Moolenaar		

NOT VOTING—38

Brady (PA)	Fincher	Newhouse
Butterfield	Graves (MO)	Payne
Calvert	Gutiérrez	Reed
Carson (IN)	Hanna	Rush
Collins (NY)	Himes	Sanchez, Loretta
Costa	Issa	Smith (TX)
Crawford	Johnson (GA)	Stutzman
Davis, Danny	Katko	Takai
DeFazio	Keating	Torres
Duckworth	Kelly (MS)	Tsongas
Engel	Labrador	Westmoreland
Farr	MacArthur	Whitfield
Fattah	Miller (MI)	

□ 1044

Messrs. ROKITA, DUFFY, and TROTT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. CAPUANO, JEFFRIES, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. HOYER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 224, noes 181, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 179]

## AYES—224

Abraham Guinta Pearce  
 Aderholt Guthrie Perry  
 Allen Hardy Pittenger  
 Amash Harper Pitts  
 Amodei Harris Poe (TX)  
 Babin Hartzler Poliquin  
 Barletta Heck (NV) Pompeo  
 Barr Hensarling Posey  
 Barton Herrera Beutler Price, Tom  
 Benishek Hice, Jody B. Ratcliffe  
 Bilirakis Hill Reed  
 Bishop (MI) Holding Renacci  
 Bishop (UT) Hudson Ribble  
 Black Huelskamp Rice (SC)  
 Blackburn Huizenga (MI) Rigell  
 Blum Hultgren Roby  
 Boustany Hunter Roe (TN)  
 Brady (TX) Hurd (TX) Rogers (AL)  
 Brat Hurt (VA) Rogers (KY)  
 Bridenstine Jenkins (KS) Rohrabacher  
 Brooks (IN) Jenkins (WV) Rokita  
 Buchanan Johnson (OH) Rooney (FL)  
 Buck Johnson, Sam Ros-Lehtinen  
 Bucshon Jolly Roskam  
 Burgess Jones Ross  
 Byrne Jordan Rothfus  
 Carter (GA) Joyce Rouzer  
 Carter (TX) Kelly (PA) Royce  
 Chabot King (IA) Russell  
 Chaffetz King (NY) Salmon  
 Clawson (FL) Kinzinger (IL) Sanford  
 Coffman Kline Scalise  
 Cole Knight Schweikert  
 Collins (GA) LaHood Scott, Austin  
 Comstock LaMalfa Sensenbrenner  
 Conaway Lamborn Sessions  
 Cook Lance Shimkus  
 Cramer Latta Shuster  
 Crenshaw Lipinski Smith (MO)  
 Culberson Long Smith (NE)  
 Curbelo (FL) Loudermilk Smith (NJ)  
 Davis, Rodney Love Stefanik  
 Delaney Lucas Stewart  
 Denham Luetkemeyer Stivers  
 Dent Lummis Thompson (PA)  
 DeSantis Marchant Thornberry  
 DesJarlais Marino Tiberi  
 Diaz-Balart Massie Tipton  
 Donovan McCarthy Trott  
 Duffy McCaul Turner  
 Duncan (SC) McClintock Upton  
 Duncan (TN) McHenry Valadao  
 Ellmers (NC) McKinley Wagner  
 Emmer (MN) McMorris Walberg  
 Farenthold Rodgers Walden  
 Fitzpatrick McSally Walker  
 Fleischmann Meadows Walorski  
 Fleming Meehan Walters, Mimi  
 Flores Messer Weber (TX)  
 Forbes Mica Webster (FL)  
 Fortenberry Miller (FL) Wenstrup  
 Foxx Miller (MI) Westerman  
 Franks (AZ) Moolenaar Whitfield  
 Frelinghuysen Mooney (WV) Williams  
 Garrett Mullin Wilson (SC)  
 Gibbs Mulvaney Wittman  
 Gibson Murphy (PA) Womack  
 Gohmert Neugebauer Woodall  
 Goodlatte Noem Yoder  
 Gosar Nugent Yoho  
 Gowdy Nunes Young (AK)  
 Granger Olson Young (IA)  
 Graves (GA) Palazzo Young (IN)  
 Graves (LA) Palmer Zeldin  
 Grothman Paulsen Zinke

## NOES—181

Adams Brooks (AL) Clarke (NY)  
 Aguilar Brown (FL) Clay  
 Ashford Brownley (CA) Cleaver  
 Bass Bustos Clyburn  
 Beatty Butterfield Cohen  
 Becerra Capps Connolly  
 Bera Capuano Conyers  
 Beyer Cardenas Cooper  
 Bishop (GA) Carney Costa  
 Blumenauer Cartwright Costello (PA)  
 Bonamici Castor (FL) Courtney  
 Bost Castro (TX) Crowley  
 Boyle, Brendan F. Chu, Judy Cuellar  
 F. Cicilline Cummings  
 Brady (PA) Clark (MA) Davis (CA)

DeGette Kuster  
 DeLauro Langevin  
 DeBene Larsen (WA)  
 DeSaulnier Larson (CT)  
 Deutch Lawrence  
 Dingell Lee  
 Doggett Levin  
 Dold Lewis  
 Doyle, Michael F. Lieu, Ted  
 Edwards LoBiondo  
 Ellison Loeb sack  
 Eshoo Lofgren  
 Lowenthal Lowey  
 Esty Lujan Grisham  
 Farr Lujan (NM)  
 Foster Lujan, Ben Ray  
 Frankel (FL) Fudge (NM)  
 Gabard Lynch  
 Gallego Maloney,  
 Garamendi Carolyn  
 Graham Maloney, Sean  
 Grayson Matsui  
 Green, Al McCollum  
 Green, Gene McDermott  
 Griffith McGovern  
 Grijalva McNerney  
 Hahn Meeks  
 Hastings Meng  
 Heck (WA) Moore  
 Higgins Moulton  
 Himes Murphy (FL)  
 Hinojosa Nadler  
 Honda Napolitano  
 Hoyer Neal  
 Huffman Nolan  
 Israel Norcross  
 Jackson Lee O'Rourke  
 Jeffries Pallone  
 Johnson (GA) Pascrell  
 Johnson, E. B. Pelosi  
 Kaptur Perlmutter  
 Kelly (IL) Peters  
 Kennedy Peterson  
 Kildee Pingree  
 Kilmer Pocan  
 Kind Polis  
 Kirkpatrick Price (NC)

## NOT VOTING—28

Calvert Graves (MO) Payne  
 Carson (IN) Gutiérrez Sanchez, Loretta  
 Collins (NY) Hanna Smith (TX)  
 Crawford Issa Stutzman  
 Davis, Danny Katko Takai  
 DeFazio Keating Torres  
 Duckworth Kelly (MS) Tsongas  
 Engel Labrador Westmoreland  
 Fattah MacArthur  
 Fincher Newhouse

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1051

So the bill was passed.  
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2016, I was unable to vote on H.R. 4901, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act. I would have voted in support of final passage of H.R. 4901, rollcall No. 179, had I been present.

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 179 on H.R. 4901, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Stated against:

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I missed a vote on H.R. 4901 in order to attend a family wedding. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 179 (H.R. 4901).

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 178, Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4901, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall No. 179, Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, H.R. 4901, I would have voted "no."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on April 29, 2016, due to a medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted: On The Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4901, I would have voted "yea." On Passage of H.R. 4901, I would have voted "nay."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Friday, April 29, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 178 and "nay" on rollcall vote 179.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 178 and 179. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 178 and "no" on rollcall 179.

### ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016, TO TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

### MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THE LIVES OF UGA STUDENTS LOST IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, my friends and colleagues from the Georgia delegation and I rise in honor of the lives of four bright young University of Georgia students who were killed in a tragic car accident outside of Athens on Wednesday evening.

We pray for and grieve for the families of Christina, Halle, Kayla, and Brittany, and the entire University of Georgia community. We also pray for Agnes, who remains in critical condition, that she may be healed.

The remarkable impact of these women upon UGA's campus is evidenced by the thousands of students, faculty, and staff who gathered yesterday in an outpouring of love, support, and remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy is every parent's worst nightmare, and our hearts ache for these families.

I ask all my colleagues and all of those watching to pray for these families and to join the Georgia delegation

in a moment of silence for Christina, Halle, Kayla, and Brittany, as well as for Agnes, and to know, in the words of Psalm 147:3: "He heals the brokenhearted and binds their wounds."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will please rise and join in a moment of silence.

**ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS AND CLASSIFIED ANNEX ACCOMPANYING INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017**

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce to all Members of the House that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has ordered the bill H.R. 5077, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, reported favorably to the House today, and will file its report on the bill in the House in early May.

Mr. Speaker, the classified schedules of authorizations and the classified annexes accompanying the bill are available for review by Members at the offices of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in room HVC-304 of the Capitol Visitor Center. The committee office will be open during regular business hours for the convenience of any Member who wishes to review this material prior to its consideration by the House.

I recommend that Members wishing to review the classified annex contact the committee's director of security to arrange a time and date for that viewing. This will ensure the availability of the appropriately cleared committee staff to assist Members who desire assistance during their review of these classified materials.

I urge interested Members to review these materials in order to better understand the committee's recommendations. The classified annexes to the committee's report contain the committee's recommendations on the intelligence budget for fiscal year 2017 and related classified information that cannot be disclosed publicly.

It is important that Members keep in mind the requirements of clause 13 of House rule XXIII, which only permits access to classified information by those Members of the House who have signed the oath provided for in the rules.

In addition, the committee's rules require that Members agree in writing to a nondisclosure agreement. The agreement indicates that the Member has been granted access to the classified annexes and that they are familiar with the rules of the House and the committee with respect to the classified nature of that information and the limitations on the disclosure of that information.

**NATIONAL CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH**

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my constituent and friend, Dawn Williamson, in raising awareness for congenital diaphragmatic hernia, also known as CDH.

Mr. Speaker, CDH affects over 1,000 babies in the United States per year and has affected more than 700,000 babies worldwide since the year 2000.

After giving birth to a child with CDH and finding no support groups for mothers of babies with CDH, my friend, Dawn, founded the Association of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Research, Awareness, and Support, or CHERUBS, for short, in 1995.

Headquartered in the beautiful town of Wake Forest, North Carolina, CHERUBS is an international charity helping over 5,700 families in 61 countries.

Mr. Speaker, babies born with CDH and their loving families face a difficult journey, and I rise today to raise awareness and to recognize the importance of strong individuals like Dawn Williamson, who work to make the journey for others easier and more comfortable than it was for her.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this resolution expressing support for the designation of April 2016 as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month. This condition is far too common for us to know so little.

□ 1100

**HONORING THE VICTORY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL**

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am always reminded of the greatness of America. When the word came: Go west, go west. A little church, a little general store, and a school.

I am excited this morning to honor the Victory Early College High School in Acres Home, sponsored by the Aldine Independent School District. And I thank Dr. Bamberg, the superintendent; the trustees; and, as well, Dr. Phyllis Cormier, for they are celebrating right now the National Blue Ribbon Award ceremony—yes, a public school.

Victory Early College High School is one of two schools in Houston and one of 335 schools nationally to earn the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon School at an award ceremony hosted by the Department of Education. They exemplify overall academic excellence. Yes, inner-city children, poor children, are showing progress and closing

achievement gaps among student subgroups. This particular school has been exemplary in both areas.

We are also celebrating Senior Signing Day because each of our graduating seniors will graduate under the distinguished high school plan, and all have been accepted to a 4-year university. They will announce their schools at this event—a public school.

The mayor will be there. I am in Washington. I wanted to pay tribute to them. And I want to thank Aldine for letting their M.O. Campbell Center be used for a shelter for those who are fleeing the flood.

**PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VETERANS ACT**

(Mrs. ROBY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Protection and Advocacy for Veterans Act. This bill will engage our protection and advocacy agencies to ensure veterans are receiving the mental health care and substance abuse treatment they deserve.

Increased demand from veterans returning from war, a national shortage of mental health professionals, and a prescription drug abuse epidemic have made it difficult for the VA to keep pace with the growing need in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, progress is being made, but I believe we can do better. I also believe that we owe it to our veterans to look beyond the traditional means and bring all available resources to bear in ensuring access to proper care for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

For 40 years, protection and advocacy agencies have monitored the quality of care in State-operated hospitals, psychiatric wards, and other facilities. They have the authority to inspect medical records, make recommendations to providers, and, when necessary, take legal action on behalf of patients. I believe bringing this high degree of patient advocacy expertise to the VA can greatly benefit our veterans.

**NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK**

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 24 to April 30 as National Infertility Awareness Week. Infertility is defined as the inability to conceive or carry a pregnancy to term after 12 months of trying to conceive.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and

the World Health Organization recognize infertility as a disease.

Today, one in eight couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility affects approximately 10 percent of the population, but rarely are the necessary medical treatments covered by insurance. Alarming, this, too, is the case for veterans who have served our country and have become infertile as a result of their service.

This issue strikes diverse groups, affecting people from all socioeconomic levels and cuts across racial, ethnic, and religious lines.

We must acknowledge the medical and emotional aspects of infertility and continue to support efforts to make treatment more accessible to help improve the quality of life for people with infertility.

This week, I ask that we all recognize and raise awareness on the issue of infertility as a disease and support the family-building efforts of those struggling with this disease of infertility.

#### TOP 50 BEST TOWNS FOR FAMILIES IN THE GARDEN STATE

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note a special distinction for several communities in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

New Jersey Family magazine has named several towns in the congressional district I serve as being among the top 50 best towns for families in the Garden State.

Nearing the top of the list, at second place, is Montgomery Township in Somerset County. Joining Montgomery on the top 50 list are Bethlehem, Berkeley Heights, Branchburg, Chester Township, Clinton Township, Cranford, Hillsborough, Lebanon, Long Hill, New Providence, and West Amwell.

I know these communities, and my wife and I live in Clinton Township. Each has excellent public schools, a strong local spirit, and each is a great place to plant roots and raise a family.

I congratulate the local leadership in these municipalities, the elected officials and community leaders—nearly all of whom are volunteers—for the excellent management of these towns. Each is very deserving of this recognition.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN L. SMITH OF THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the Las Vegas Review Journal, Nevada's largest newspaper, lost another standard bearer this week. John L. Smith, who

resigned after citing difficulties with management, spent nearly three decades enlightening, emboldening, and entertaining the Las Vegas community.

In his resignation letter, John L. Smith said that he learned to never punch down in his weight class, an approach that is rare in journalism today.

He wrote: "You don't hit little people. You defend them."

Those principles, reflected in his columns that appeared four times a week, made him a beloved figure, a respected wordsmith, and a community leader.

It is no surprise that during the week when he resigned, he received the Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism. It wasn't the first time his work had been recognized, and I am sure it will not be the last.

#### PARK FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A 2016 GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the administrators, staff, and students from the Park Forest Elementary School in State College, Pennsylvania, on being named a 2016 Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Park Forest is 1 of only 47 schools across the entire Nation to earn this distinction, which is given to schools for their innovative efforts to reduce their environmental impact and reduce utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure sustainability practices.

In addition to the elementary school's efforts to reduce its energy use and waste footprint, it has also received grants to construct an outdoor compost bin and created a garden compost program. The school grounds also include vegetable, herb, pollinator, and rain gardens. In partnership with Penn State University, the school has also built a greenhouse which later served as the model for two built at a school in Rwanda.

This just scratches the surface of the initiatives undertaken at Park Forest Elementary, and everyone involved deserves praise for their efforts.

#### OPIOID ADDICTION

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge House leadership to take action against the scourge of opioid addiction that is plaguing our communities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses

now surpass car accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 65.

In Baltimore, opioid overdose has been declared a public health emergency. There are about 19,000 active heroin users in Baltimore City, and far more who abuse prescription opioids.

But this isn't just an urban issue. I have personally heard from families from all walks of life throughout my district that have been devastated by heroin and prescription drugs. No socioeconomic level is safe.

To this end, I urge leadership to move the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act forward. Among other measures, this important bipartisan bill will expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help reverse overdoses, expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction, and expand disposal sites for unused prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of young people.

Only through a comprehensive approach can we stop and reverse current trends.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHIEF JUSTICE PERRY HOOPER, SR.

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and contributions of Chief Justice Perry Hooper, Sr., who passed away this past Sunday.

Justice Hooper was born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1925. He served our Nation in the United States Marine Corps before attending the University of Alabama School of Law. He went on to be elected probate judge and later circuit judge in Montgomery County.

His groundbreaking election as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 1994 marked the first time a Republican had served on the court since Reconstruction.

Justice Hooper brought dignity and grace to the Supreme Court, along with his consummate professionalism. He raised the court to a higher level. Whether you were a lawyer or a party, he treated you with respect and fairness.

Most importantly, Justice Hooper understood that judges don't make the law, but decide cases with wisdom and fairness. So on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to share my deepest sympathies with his wife, Marilyn, and four sons. Justice Hooper will never be forgotten.



RECOGNIZING SOPHIE MARIE  
EDWARDS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sophie Marie Edwards, an incredible young woman who has made ending hunger her personal passion.

Realizing that some of her friends in elementary school didn't have enough to eat, Sophie founded Square Meal Project when she was only 8 years old. Since then, she has raised more than \$6,000 for food banks and local feeding programs. Through her efforts, more than 1,000 kids have been able to receive a healthy summer lunch. She has also made it her mission to educate everyone she meets about the problem of hunger in America.

Sophie's work in her hometown of Marietta, Georgia, led her to be recognized as a youth advocate for the national No Kid Hungry campaign.

I am inspired by Sophie's commitment, by her compassion, and by her drive to end hunger. Sophie teaches us all that you are never too young to make a difference. I have no doubt that Sophie will continue to do great things to end hunger now.

AR KIDS READ

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work being done in my home State of Arkansas by AR Kids Read.

When I was the chamber of commerce chair in Little Rock, I was proud to help AR Kids Read expand 3½ years ago with the goal of improving literacy rates among our children in Arkansas.

In the 2014–2015 school year alone, AR Kids Read was able to provide over 400 trained tutors to serve 1 hour a week in 47 different schools in central Arkansas.

This inspirational program helps nearly 1,000 students each year struggling to learn to master reading in the first through third grades. AR Kids Read has been recognized by one of the five model programs at the Reading is Fundamental—RIF—50th Anniversary Gala here in Washington, D.C.

I extend my congratulations and best wishes for much continued success to AR Kids Read and thank all of my fellow citizens who volunteer as tutors.

MARY ANN WASIL MEMORIAL  
TOAST

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and to celebrate the life of Mary Ann Wasil, one of my personal heroes and one of the strongest women I have ever known, who passed away earlier this month.

Mary Ann possessed a tenacious spirit, an unyielding faith, a heart full of love, and an infectious smile. She was one of a kind. She was a police officer, an actor, a development officer for her church and its elementary school, and the founder of a nonprofit organization, a health activist, and a mother to three incredible children.

Breast cancer was what took Mary Ann from us, but it is also what one of her lasting legacies was born from—a successful and much-needed breast health initiative, the Get in Touch Foundation. She was a vocal champion for the Affordable Care Act and access to high quality, affordable health care for all.

In 2010, Mary Ann won a contract from Balboa Press to publish her memoir, "A Diary of Healing: My Intense and Meaningful Life With Cancer." Throughout its pages, you can hear Mary Ann's laughter, you can feel her courage, and you will often find yourself crying with her, experiencing the twists and the turns of her journey.

My heart goes out to Betsy, to Mary, and to Eddy. Your mother was quite simply an extraordinary human being, activist, author, mentor, friend, and mother. She lives on in our hearts forever.

□ 1115

CONGRATULATING CARSON WENTZ

(Mr. CRAMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, forgive me for being proud, but today my 750,000 fellow North Dakotans and I are standing a little taller as we celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of one exceptional young man.

Last night, every television in North Dakota was tuned in to the NFL draft to see who the lucky team would be who gets North Dakota State University quarterback Carson Wentz. The Philadelphia Eagles used the second overall pick to take Carson. Cheers and tears of pride and admiration for the most famous Bison football player ever expressed a sense of State patriotism.

NDSU's record of five consecutive FCS national championships took a backseat to one special Bismarck native, and rightfully so. Carson Wentz is more than a 6 foot, 5 inch superathlete. He is a man who takes God's incredible gifts and works them with an ethic of worship. His mind and heart are as big as his frame; and his pride is not in himself, but it is in his team, in his school, in his community, and in his State.

We are happy for the good people of Philadelphia, knowing that Pennsylvania is gaining much more than a great football player. They are gaining a great citizen. Congratulations, Eagles.

And God bless you in your new adventure, Carson Wentz. Thanks for being a great ambassador for North Dakota.

HONORING SERGIO KLOR DE ALVA

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergio Klor de Alva.

Sergio was a member of the Farr congressional team, and was taken from us in a tragic accident late Monday night. Sergio served as an intern in my office. He was engaging, kind, and ever helpful.

Upon leaving Washington, he returned to the University of California at Santa Cruz, and he won a place on the student council. He later volunteered his time to work in Congressman MIKE HONDA's reelection campaign. At 24, he had amassed a resume that spoke to the dedication and passion he had for civil service.

I was and continue to be impressed with this young man's incredible ambition. His future would have undoubtedly been one of public service.

Upon leaving my office, Sergio said in his exit interview:

I cannot tell the future, but I can see mine here. But until that day, know that I will miss this place.

Rest assured, Sergio, this place will miss you. God bless your short, but so meaningful, life and your beautiful family who have to live in the tragedy of your death.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF COUNTY  
CORNER

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a small town in Utah where I remember a Sinclair gas station that was situated where Route 39 intersects Route 134. It is a place where parents would stop to fill up their cars while taking their kids to school, and airmen would stop on the way to serve at Hill Air Force Base; where fathers would fill up the RV on the way to the family vacation, and I may have actually stopped to get a few Dr Pepper's as well. County Corner store is part of the Sinclair family, which is today celebrating their 100-year anniversary.

Today, there are 1,300 Sinclair-branded stations in 24 States. They operate the largest refinery in the Rocky

Mountain West, they have their offices located in Utah, and they have 1,200 employees.

You may actually recognize the green dinosaur that is the logo. It is an apatosaurus, and its name is Dino. It debuted at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933, has been a part of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, and is actually an honorary member of the Museum of Natural History.

In an era where it is sometimes en vogue to condemn the gas-powered engine, we have to realize that people drive to work, families drive to church, schoolbuses drive kids back and forth, as well as the fact that firefighters rush to help businesses that are threatened. The Sinclair Oil Corporation has a hand in making all that possible.

Happy birthday.

#### HONORING SAMUEL "BILLY" KYLES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the city of Memphis and the United States lost a great clergyman and civil rights leader this past week in Reverend Samuel "Billy" Kyles.

Samuel "Billy" Kyles was born in Mississippi, moved to Chicago, but found his home and his purpose in Memphis, Tennessee, where he founded Monumental Baptist Church and served there for 55 years.

He was a courageous man who helped integrate the Memphis schools. One of his daughters was one of the 13 young children that integrated the schools. He got on a bus and refused to go to the back of the bus in 1964 with six others and helped integrate the buses in Memphis. His life was dedicated to civil rights, making Memphis better, and serving his church members.

He is well known and remembered for being at the Lorraine Motel on the day that Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. On that occasion, he was near Dr. King and was a witness to the assassination, which he told people about throughout the country and is part of a documentary film called "The Witness."

He remembered Dr. King's work to all, witnessed what he did and what happened in Memphis. He lived his life as Dr. King would have wanted: trying to move civil rights forward and making America the country that it was supposed to be. A life well lived.

#### DEFUND NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration's foolish nuclear deal with Iran continues to get more troubling and damaging by the day.

Last week, we found out that the administration was spending \$8.6 million of our hard-earned tax dollars to buy nuclear material from Iran. That is right: the United States Government is borrowing money from China and the rest of the world to buy heavy water from Iran, water used in nuclear reactors.

This is insanely foolish. I thought that the goal of Obama's nuclear deal was to stop Iran's nuclear program, not subsidize it.

Iran remains the world's leading sponsor of terrorism. They have been directly tied to the deaths of thousands of U.S. servicemembers. Providing the Iranian regime with millions of tax dollars only gives them new financing to spread hateful ideology, terror, and death across the globe.

The Obama administration's payments to this terrorist regime further legitimize their growing nuclear ambitions. Is it any wonder that our allies no longer consider the United States a reliable partner?

Appeasement only emboldens bullies, terrorists, and dictators. Sadly, this is the path that this current administration has chosen.

#### VERIFYING OPTIMAL TOOLS FOR ELECTIONS ACT OF 2016

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there is a grave threat that is facing the American electoral process in 2016, and that is the soundness and the dependability of our voting machines and the integrity of our voting process.

Nationwide, authorities are tabulating crucial voting results using faulty, out-of-date electronic voting machines from the era that predated the smartphone. These outdated machines are prone to crashes and screen freezes that can cause unacceptably long wait times. Additionally, old voting machines remain vulnerable to being hacked and elections can be stolen.

My bill, the Verifying Optimal Tools for Elections Act of 2016, otherwise known as the VOTE Act, would allocate millions of dollars to assist States in replacing these aging voting machine dinosaurs. The VOTE Act would also allocate millions of dollars in grants to assist in developing new technologies to assure accuracy in the voting process, to protect voting machine source codes from being hacked, and to train election officials.

The aim of the VOTE Act is simple: the safeguarding of elections by ensuring the very integrity of the voting process, while protecting access to the ballot box.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2017:

Mr. Daniel M. Slane, Ohio

#### HONORING BRAZOS VALLEY JEFFERSON AWARD RECIPIENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BABIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Harper Cunningham, age 12, and Maggie Cunningham, age 10, from College Station, Texas, who are recipients of the 2016 Jefferson Award for the Brazos Valley.

The Jefferson Awards are presented annually to honor our unsung heroes, ordinary citizens who have done something extraordinary and that will have a lasting impact on the community. It is fitting that the Jefferson Award be presented to these two young girls, who not only exemplify what it means to serve, but who also share Thomas Jefferson's passion for reading.

Harper and Maggie Cunningham's passion for reading and for helping those in need led them to create an organization to promote literacy and the well-being of our community students. Their Books and a Blanket program provides a basket of books and a blanket to elementary schoolchildren in need across the Brazos Valley during the winter months.

Their mission is simple and impactful: they want all students to have access to books so that they, too, can experience the joy that comes from reading. Since 2012, Books and a Blanket has given away over 1,200 blankets and distributed over 33,000 books to over 2,500 children in need.

Mr. Speaker, these two young girls have done a tremendous job helping others, promoting literacy, and being inspiring leaders in our community. As President Ronald Reagan once said:

The greatest leaders are not necessarily the ones who do the greatest things. The greatest leaders are the ones who get other people to do the greatest things.

It is evident that Harper and Maggie are models of true leadership, and their desire to serve and empower others is inspiring. Young Americans like Harper and Maggie provide confidence for

all of us about the future of our great country.

I congratulate Harper and Maggie Cunningham for their hard work, selfless service, and for being awarded the 2016 Jefferson Award for the Brazos Valley. Gina and I look forward to hosting them in Washington later this year for the National Jefferson Awards ceremony.

I would also like to congratulate the other 2016 Jefferson Award winners from the Brazos Valley: Stephanie Sale, Alma Villarreal, and David Ruesink. Their selfless service to our community is inspiring and also worthy of these special recognitions. I am humbled to represent all of them in Congress.

As I close, I ask all Americans to continue to pray for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### AMERICA'S TO-DO LIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, we all got elected. I have been here 5 years now. You are fairly new to this institution. Everybody comes with a dream. You don't come because you are looking for new business cards. You come because you want to make a difference for folks back home. We all have about 700,000 bosses back home, and they want us to make a difference. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about some of those differences today.

You can't see it from where you are sitting, but I have got a little America's to-do list down here. I didn't have enough paper back in the office to do the entire to-do list. There is a lot out there, as I know you hear every weekend when you go home as well, but I put a couple of the top things out there.

□ 1130

I have "fix our roads and bridges" out there—just a terrible infrastructure issue. What separates America in terms of getting our goods to market around the globe is a world-class infrastructure. Investment in that infrastructure has waned in recent years as we have dangerous bridges and we have roads that are in desperate need of repair. That is one of those things—to maintain the postal roads—that the Constitution uniquely assigns to the United States Congress. That is on the to-do list.

Update our national WRRDA policy, Mr. Speaker. We are going to have wars

on this planet—mark my words—not over oil, but over fresh water. Having a freshwater infrastructure, maintaining our natural resources, taking care of and being good stewards of those resources that we have been entrusted with are critically important. It is one of those things that the Federal Government has a dominant role in doing. We have to get on that.

Tax relief, Mr. Speaker. Where is that family back home who isn't trying to figure out how next month works and the month after that and the month after that?

I keep hearing about this economic recovery, and yes, the numbers are getting better slowly, but they are not improving nearly fast enough. The folks cannot afford to support an inefficient Federal Government. Tax relief is on that list.

Medicare, Mr. Speaker. There is not a man or a woman in this Nation who depends on Medicare who does not know it is in fiscal peril. There is not enough money in the Medicare trust fund to meet the promises that we have made to America's seniors. There is not enough money in the Medicare trust fund even though working age men and women begin paying in on their very first paychecks to meet the promises of this generation and the next. We owe America better than that. Fixing that is on the to-do list.

Improving veterans' care, Mr. Speaker. For Pete's sake, talk about something that is uniquely this government's responsibility. We ask so much of the young men and women in uniform who serve and protect this Nation, and they ask nothing of us. We make promises to them, and we must keep those promises. It is hard to open up the newspaper and not read a story of America's failing its veterans. We must do better, and we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, cutting spending. For Pete's sake, when folks back home do send a dollar's worth of taxes to Washington, D.C., they don't believe they are going to get a dollar's worth of value out of it. They think it is going to get thrown down some rat hole somewhere, on some pet project that is not going to benefit anyone. They think it is going to get wasted on a regulatory infrastructure that isn't modernized for the 21st century. Every family has to do more with less in tough economic times, and the Federal Government is no different. This is just the beginning of the to-do list, Mr. Speaker.

It is dreary outside. There is a steady mist coming down. I haven't seen the Sun out there for days. Sometimes I get back home, and I hear that same kind of spirit coming from folks who are trying to feed and provide for their families. There is a dreariness out there, Mr. Speaker, such that folks feel like self-governance is not serving them in the way that it should. That is

why you and I ran for Congress and that is why I have come to the House floor today with good news.

It is true that when you open up the newspaper, it is failure after failure after failure, but that is not telling the story of the work that the good men and women of this Chamber are doing, that Republicans and Democrats are coming together to do, that the House and the Senate are coming together to do, that the Congress and the White House are coming together to do. In this election season of everybody's talking about what divides us, of everybody's talking about what the failures are, I want to talk about those things that unite us and on which we are succeeding for the American people together.

Mr. Speaker, there have been 36 short-term transportation extensions since the last time we passed a long-term transportation bill. Thirty six short-term extensions. If anybody is in the construction business, Mr. Speaker, they know you can't plan to build a bridge in a matter of days. This is a multiyear project. You need long-term planning and you long-term certainty.

Historically, that is what the Congress has provided: Republicans and Democrats coming together in a bipartisan way and Congress and the White House coming together to provide for a multiyear transportation bill. But it has been more than two decades, Mr. Speaker, since this body has passed a 5-year transportation bill—a multiyear transportation bill—that provides certainty to folks back home and that fulfills the commitment that every American citizen expects from the Federal Government in having collected gas taxes on every gallon of gas that the American consumer buys.

We all know about the infrastructure needs in this country. For more than two decades, Congress and the White House had not been successful in fulfilling that responsibility. When Republicans ran the show, we failed. When Democrats ran the show, we failed. When Republicans were in the White House, we failed. When Democrats were in the White House, we failed. But this Congress—the men and women gathered here with this President in the White House—came together, and we succeeded with the first long-term transportation bill in more than 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years of funding is just the beginning. I won't tell you this is the end of the show. Our Transportation and Infrastructure chairman, BILL SHUSTER of Pennsylvania, wants to do more. This isn't the end. This is the beginning. It is a fantastic beginning, and it is one that we ought to celebrate of \$305 billion going back to communities around this Nation to focus on safety and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it streamlines the process—the most dramatic streamlining of

the regulatory process. It often takes longer to get regulatory approval to build a bridge than it does to build the bridge itself—years wasted on approval processes that could have been streamlined while we are still being good stewards of our environmental resources. This bill does that. It also eliminates the increase in costs that come with those delays, Mr. Speaker, the increase in costs that come from that bureaucracy so as to make sure the American taxpayer is getting more value for his dollar.

Mr. Speaker, it shores up the highway trust fund, and we will talk a lot about trust funds in this time today. The highway trust fund was going bankrupt. The highway trust fund didn't have enough money to meet the needs of the American highways, so \$70 billion has been transferred into that trust fund to make sure that we are keeping the promises that we have made to America.

Mr. Speaker, it has been two decades since America has had this kind of transportation success. We did that together. Open up the newspaper and see the divides and see the failures, but know that this is a success that we had together.

Mr. Speaker, I had water resources on America's to-do list. It had been 6 years since we had passed water resources legislation in this body, not in 2008 when Republicans controlled the White House, not in 2009 when Democrats controlled everything, not in 2010 when Democrats controlled everything, and not in '11 or '12 or '13, but we have come together, and we have gotten that done. It is not easy. It is hard. It doesn't happen quickly. It happens slowly and deliberately. It has been 6 years since we have been able to succeed together in passing what we call the WRRDA bill, Mr. Speaker. Now it is done. Now it is the law of the land.

I want to make that clear, Mr. Speaker. I am not talking about bills today that the House has passed and are going nowhere. I am not talking about bills today that the House has passed and the Senate has passed but that are going nowhere. I am talking about bills today on which the House has worked entirely through the process, on which the Senate has worked entirely through the process, and those which the President of the United States has signed into law—bills that are laws and are making differences for America's families.

This WRRDA bill, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, is the most comprehensive policy reform bill, again, in two decades, Mr. Speaker. It accelerates project delivery because, again, there is no more urgent need—as we see in Flint, Michigan—than having a stable and safe water infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it goes into \$18 billion worth of projects—projects that have

been on the books for years but have failed, projects that folks have not committed the time and resources to complete—and it pulls those back in. It cancels all of those projects, saves that money, and rededicates it to projects that the American people can benefit from; and it strengthens the oversight and accountability because these are American taxpayer dollars we are talking about here. When they go out the door to localities back home, folks deserve to know they are being used responsibly. It is an increase in oversight and accountability. Again, it has been more than two decades since we have seen something of this kind. We got it done together—Republicans, Democrats, House, Senate, and White House.

Mr. Speaker, tax relief is on the list for American families, and tax relief was delivered by this body—this Congress—and this White House. Mr. Speaker, what Republicans failed to be able to do—and I am not knocking them. It was a difficult environment. I am a hardcore Republican from the great State of Georgia, but when George Bush was in the White House and when Republicans were running the House and when Republicans were running the Senate, they provided tax relief, but they couldn't make it permanent. They didn't have the votes to make it permanent, so it languished out there—families uncertain about what the tax future would hold, businesses uncertain about what the tax future would hold. Together, in this body, with the President's signature, we provided 99 percent of Americans the certainty that even George Bush and a Republican House and Senate could not do.

Divided government is hard, Mr. Speaker. Divided government is hard. The differences that we have on policy are dramatic, but there is still more that unites us as a Nation than divides us as a Nation. That is true in this Chamber as well, so we came together on tax policy and did that. Taxes were going to go up, Mr. Speaker. In this tough economy, taxes were going to go up on almost every family in the land. We prevented that income tax increase from hitting 99 percent of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to prevent the tax increase on 100 percent of Americans, but I couldn't get the votes to get that done, and I know you would have joined me in that. Sometimes you have a choice between can you get something done or will you get nothing done. Mr. Speaker, I promise you, if you are working hard in trying to provide for your family back home, you do not care who is to blame for a problem; you just want the problem fixed. We could have stood around this Chamber and we could have argued amongst ourselves about whether the perfect is the enemy of the good. We did not. We struggled to find agreement, and we

found that agreement, and we made a difference for 99 percent of Americans in the struggling economy to date. That counts, Mr. Speaker.

We talk about the to-do list as to the Medicare trust fund. Mr. Speaker, back in the late 1990s, when Newt Gingrich was the Speaker of the House and when Bill Clinton was the President, they made an effort to protect the Medicare trust fund from going bankrupt. This is something that has been on the minds of Americans all the way back to 1965. The Medicare trust fund has never been properly funded. Healthcare costs have always had a rate of inflation that has been higher than that of other services, and we have struggled with how to make the math work. They came up with a plan back in 1997 to fix it. The plan didn't work, and it was going to cause a dramatic reduction in what doctors were reimbursed and a dramatic reduction in the benefits that were available to senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, so what happened in 2003, when it came time for those first painful cuts to go into place, the first effort to protect the Medicare trust fund?

Congress kicked the can down the road. They delayed those cuts from going into place for 1 year.

What happened the next year?

They delayed it for a year again. The next year, they delayed it again. Then the next year, again and again and again and again—17 times, Mr. Speaker. We had come together and passed legislation that was designed to protect the Medicare trust fund, and when it came time to actually do the heavy lifting, we kicked that can down the road, all the while having the trust fund becoming more and more and more unstable. We all knew there was a problem, but nobody wanted to take the responsibility of fixing it.

Mr. Speaker, in this divided Congress, in this divided government, in this Washington that supposedly can't come together to fix American problems, we passed H.R. 2. It was the first bill out of the gate. Well, it was the second bill out of the gate, but it came right out in front. H.R. 2 was the first Medicare reform proposal to be signed into law in more than 10 years, and it solved a problem that had been created almost 20 years ago but that no Congress before or no President before had had the courage to permanently fix.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about Medicare as one of the third rails of politics—don't touch that rail, or else you will be defeated. This body is not about who wins and who gets defeated. This body is about who can make a difference. We needed to make a difference for folks who were relying on Medicare. There were 392 House Members and 92 Senators who supported this bill. We hadn't been able to fix it for almost 20 years. We hadn't been able to fix it, so the can had been kicked down the road 17 times.

We came together, grappled with it, struggled with it, but ultimately came up with a proposal that almost all of the House and almost all of the Senate could support. They called it the sustainable growth rate, the SGR, that eliminated this failing piece of Medicare policy, that bent the long-term cost curve of Medicare, extending the life of the trust fund. In fact, it cuts the actuarial deficit in Medicare by almost 10 percent.

□ 1145

This is heavy lifting, Mr. Speaker, that Congress has punted on and punted on and punted on. With the leadership we have here today, with the collaboration that we have here today, not only did we pass it, not only did the Senate pass it, but we were able to pass it into law.

There are many parts of Medicare, Mr. Speaker. There is part A, part B, part C, part D. \$2.4 trillion, Mr. Speaker, is the way we bent the cost curve on those various components of Medicare in order to protect and ensure Americans for another generation that Medicare would be there for them.

Veterans: Mr. Speaker, again, you cannot open up the newspaper today without seeing the way that the system is failing our veterans. There is nothing that brings us together more in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, than standing up for those who have stood up for us.

We did that in the Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, Mr. Speaker. It was the largest overhaul of veterans health care, again, in more than a decade.

When Republicans ran the whole show, we couldn't get it done. When Democrats ran the whole show, they couldn't get it done. When we are divided, but focused, on crisis in this country, we have come together and we have gotten it done for the first time, Mr. Speaker.

For the first time in the history of veterans health care, we have said: If the veterans healthcare system is failing you, but you, as a serviceman or -woman, did not fail us, we are going to give you a process to get outside of that veterans system. We are going to give you a chance to go see your own doctor. We are going to give you a chance to go see any specialist you need. We are going to give you a chance to get the care that we promised you, but that the bureaucratic healthcare system has failed to deliver.

Mr. Speaker, in all of these many years of budget cutting that we have talked about—trying to clamp down on spending, trying to make sure that all taxpayer dollars are being accounted for—so many accounts are going down, but veterans spending is going up.

Why? Because budgeting is about prioritizing. And when we come together not as Republicans or Demo-

crats, but as Americans, we prioritize those who have served us.

It is the biggest change in health care for veterans in over a decade, Mr. Speaker, and folks are finally able to get the health care that they need. That is not it. There is more.

There is still a system in place that is failing veterans, Mr. Speaker. We couldn't come together on reforming the entire Veterans Administration. But we did come together on saying that: If you work at the Veterans Administration and you are failing our veterans, there is no place for you on the Federal payroll.

You know how hard it is to get rid of failing Federal employees, Mr. Speaker. We came together in a bipartisan way to say: If you are in the upper echelons of the VA, we are asking more of you. If you are in charge of serving our veterans, we are asking more of you. If you fail, we are going to ask you to leave so we can get somebody else in there.

We streamlined the firing process, Mr. Speaker, to get rid of ineffective employees as we had not done before in Federal employment.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk budgets. You know ending budget deficits is one of America's priorities. You know getting out of the businesses of mortgaging our children's future is one of America's priorities.

From 1966 to 2009, Mr. Speaker—and I chose that time because that was the beginning of Medicare and Medicaid, which are two of the largest spending programs on the ledger today. They are two that have ballooned much larger than their authors ever suggested that they would. This is when we got into some really difficult entitlement spending decisions.

From 1966 to 2009, that 43-year period, the debt in this country went up by 55 percent relative to GDP. It is still these mandatory spending programs that are driving our debt, but over a 43-year period our debt went up 55 percent.

Mr. Speaker, in the first 3 years of the Obama administration, our debt went up another 34. For 43 years, it had gone up 55 percent, way too much, but a gradual increase. In 3 years, it went up 35 percent. We went from going up about 1 percent a year to going up 10 percent a year, Mr. Speaker.

Today, with this Congress, this House, this Senate, divided government, from 2012 to 2015, when we have been grappling with this issue together, when we have been looking for answers together, when no side had complete control, but we had to work together to find solutions, we have collapsed that increase back down to that 1 percent a year. There is so much more to do, but we just disagree.

The President introduces a budget every year. That budget never balances, not this year, not next year, not

10 years from now, not 100 years from now. The President has different investment priorities than I do.

I serve on the Budget Committee. We do a budget every year. It always balances. So I have budgets that balance and budgets that never come to balance. Clearly, that is a big gap to bridge.

We have begun to bridge it, Mr. Speaker, collapsing the dramatic increase in the debt to levels that are still too high, but don't threaten our security as years past have. But no one ever believed we would be able to come together to do that. No one ever believed we could work with the President to get that done, and, yet, we have.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of that comes from the Budget Control Act. One of the best votes I have taken in this institution was the vote for the Budget Control Act. It was the largest reduction in Federal spending in the history of the republic. Hear that, Mr. Speaker.

In divided government—in fact, there was a Republican House, Democratic Senate, Democratic President, dramatically divided government. Power of the filibuster in the Senate. Hard to get anything done. We came together because America needed us to, to reduce spending in the most dramatic way in the history of the republic. It is not because somebody had all the votes and they jammed it through, but because we worked together to find a policy that made sense.

Mr. Speaker, people always think, when you talk about big budget and deficit reductions, that you are talking about some sort of phony Washington, D.C., math. You have seen the examples where you raise spending by \$5 instead of \$10 and then you call that a cut. We have all seen that math. Nonsense.

When I talk about budgets, I am talking about real numbers. I am talking about money going out the door. I am talking, even though we have 10,000 men and women a day qualifying for Social Security and Medicare, 10,000 new applicants every day for Social Security and Medicare, working together, we reduced the total amount of money going out the door not just for 1 year, but for 2 years. That is not funny Washington, D.C., math, Mr. Speaker. Those are real numbers, real dollars, going out the door.

We bent the curve together. Some of my colleagues might say we did too much. I would say we haven't done nearly enough, but we came together and we made a difference for deficits.

Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest differences we can make for deficits is putting folks back to work. It turns out you can't pay taxes if you don't have a job. You have to have money coming in the door in order to be part of the system. So we focused together on creating American jobs. We focused

together on putting families back to work. Again, this is something that unites us. It does not divide us.

We have done it in the spirit of trade, Mr. Speaker. We have done it in the spirit of manufacturing. We have passed legislation here that the President signed into law that is working today to make sure, if you work in a manufacturing industry in America, you are not disadvantaged relative to foreign competition.

If we are trying to export the best products made in the world today, those manufactured by American hands, we are tearing down the trade barriers that are preventing those products from getting into the hands of customers who want them overseas. We have done that together.

When it comes to tearing down those trade barriers, Mr. Speaker, America is already virtually a free trade zone. We always say we will play fair with other nations, but other nations don't always say that to us.

So this Congress empowered the President to go out and do those negotiations, to tear down those barriers, to make sure that American working families always get a fair shake on the global scene. Mr. Speaker, we haven't seen that happen in a decade.

A Republican Congress came together to work with a Democratic President to say we are all in this boat together. Putting families back to work is not a Republican priority alone, though it is a Republican priority. It is not a Democratic priority alone, though it is a Democratic priority. It is an American priority. That is why America's House and America's Congress and America's President work on it together.

Mr. Speaker, that takes me back to where I started. I will put America's to-do list up here on the board. I talked about the dreary weather outside and kind of the dreary spirit that I feel sometimes when I talk to folks about how Congress is operating and how Congress and the President are working together and how America, in the spirit of self-governance, is succeeding or failing at addressing America's priorities.

Mr. Speaker, we did the first roads and bridges bill, \$305 billion, in more than two decades. It is more long-term certainty than America had seen in 20 years because it was the right thing to do.

We updated the national water policy, Mr. Speaker. We have done more—it was the most substantial, positive improvement to delivering clean water to American citizens than we have seen in more than a decade. We did that together.

Tax relief: Mr. Speaker, working together, we prevented taxes from going up on 99 percent of American families. Working together, we did things that George Bush and a Republican Con-

gress couldn't do because they didn't have the votes 15 years ago. We did that together because it was the right thing to do in this tough economy.

Mr. Speaker, we came together on Medicare reform. There were 17 short-term extensions, kicking the can down the road, Congress and the President afraid to take a stand and solve a problem. We came together and did that, Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, President Obama and America's Congress.

Improving veterans health care: Mr. Speaker, for the first time in American history, if the veterans healthcare system is failing you, we give you an exit ramp to go and see your physician, your specialist, the best that America has to offer, because, as a serviceman or -woman, we have made promises to you and, in a bipartisan, bicameral way, we are committed to keeping those promises. It is the biggest reforms in more than 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, we have cut spending. We have cut spending not with phony Washington, D.C., math, but with real dollars going out the door. The biggest deficit-reduction package in American history we did together, a divided government, divided Congress. But it is the right thing to do for the American people, and that is what this Congress is about.

Mr. Speaker, that is just the beginning of the to-do list. I don't want to feel like I am tooting the horn of bipartisanship in this institution. I didn't even have education reform on that list. I didn't have education reform on that list. But we have done it.

We have come together in a bipartisan way, bicameral, with the White House, signed into law the biggest evolution of education policy that we have seen in 10 years. Again, it has been more than a decade since we have come together to make sure that principals, teachers, and parents have more control over the education of children in our communities.

We repealed 49 different programs, Mr. Speaker. I am not saying hardcore conservative Republicans repealed them. I am not saying liberal Democrats repealed them. I am saying together we scoured the entire Federal education landscape looking for ways to do better for our families back home.

When we rolled up our sleeves, when we took off the Republican and Democratic labels, when we all sat down as parents and grandparents and community leaders about how to do better for our children, we found 49 programs, all of which had a constituency out there, all of which had somebody making a buck off of them, but they were programs that were failing our children and we ended them. We ended them together because it was the right thing to do. It is the biggest education reforms, Mr. Speaker, again, in more than a decade.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have the time to go through the difference that we are making together. From our veterans, H.R. 91, H.R. 203, H.R. 313, H.R. 2499, on and on and on, not bills that we have passed here in the House, though we have, but bills we have passed in the House, bills that have been passed in the Senate, bills that the House and Senate have come together on, bills that have been sent to the President's desk, and bills that the President has signed into law, making a difference.

□ 1200

Mr. Speaker, reducing the size and scope of government. H.R. 1626, H.R. 2029, H.R. 2048, and the list goes on and on and on. Doing things together for our bosses back home because they are going to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, creating jobs and expanding economic opportunity. Again, H.R. 2029, H.R. 22, H.R. 1000, S. 535. Mr. Speaker, yes, there are even some bills that originated in the Senate that are delivering for the American people. I am proud to say most of them start with H.R., but there are even a few Senate bills in there. Good ideas from the other body that we took on, that we made better, that we sent to the President's desk, that he signed.

Defending America's freedom and security, patient-centered healthcare solutions. Mr. Speaker, everybody talks about the President's healthcare bill. You are either for it or you are against it. It is a divisive issue. Nobody talks about the fact that there are parts of the President's healthcare bill that I believe are broken from the hard core right and that my friends on the left believe are broken, too. And so we have come together not once, not twice, not three times, not five times, but almost a dozen times to repeal parts of the President's healthcare bill that we all agreed were not serving the American people.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, it is not about who can be a good Republican or who can be a good Democrat. It is about who can be a good public servant, and that is never going to make the front page of the newspaper. It is never going to be a part of this Presidential election cycle. It is never going to be in a commercial on TV talking about how successful we are when the cameras go off, when the labels come off, and when we are focused on what we all came here to do, and that is to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to keep going on through this election cycle. There is going to be more division, there is going to be more strife, and there is going to be more finding out who is to blame and whose fault it is.

I have gotten to know the men and women in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. I confess, there were some of them that I wanted to dislike from the get-go. Oh, I wanted to dislike them. I had seen

them on TV, and I knew they didn't have any merit, didn't have any business being here, didn't have any desire to serve the American people.

Mr. Speaker, my confession here today is I was wrong. I was wrong. There are colleagues on the other side of the aisle with whom I disagree with about virtually everything, but for that one small issue on which we find some common ground, they will roll up their sleeves and they will bleed with me and sweat with me until we find a way to make a difference for families back home in their district and mine.

Mr. Speaker, there are folks on the other side who come down here on this floor and rail and rail and rail, and it is every partisan tagline that you could imagine, but when the camera goes off, they roll up their sleeves and they get to work on making a difference for their district and for mine.

Mr. Speaker, my voice is not loud enough to drown out all the division that is in a Presidential election campaign. Mr. Speaker, my voice is not loud enough to drown out all the commercials going on all over the country and all the headlines all over the country that talk about how Washington is a big cesspool, and it is broken, and we should just give up on self-governance altogether, but not me. My voice may not be loud enough, but it will be tireless.

I believe in self-governance. I believe that my district has priorities that are going to be different from priorities in another district, and that is okay. I believe that division sometimes brings out the best of ideas, and that is okay. I believe that my colleagues believe that there is no challenge too big for America to confront when Americans confront it together.

I do not know what November holds, but I know this: We have the best system of governance on the planet. It is not easy. It is not clean. It is not simple. But when you put the American people in charge, it is effective.

Mr. Speaker, you are not going to sell good newspapers talking about the difference that we make together in self-governance, but we are going to make that difference together. Folks here didn't come for the headlines. They came to do the things that mattered, and I am proud to work with folks on both sides of the aisle to get that done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2908. An act to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following

titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1635. An act to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 1875. An act to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 2845. An act to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014.

#### IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE NEWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as I listened to my good friend—and I think it is important that we note that our colleagues are good friends and Americans who care. That is why I have come to the floor to challenge the hearts and minds of my colleagues, for my discussion today, as the gentleman that preceded me, will be in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues to peruse and for the American people to peruse.

I do take note of the fact, as the gentleman recounted the history of budgets—and I might say that I, too, spent time working on the 1997 budget. I have been privileged to serve from that time when a bipartisan effort—with everyone, in essence, putting down their obstructionist perspectives—generated one of the best health insurance programs for our children, called CHIP, that the Nation has seen, that millions of American children are now insured.

But it is important to note that the present Republican majority failed to put a budget on the floor for us to vote up or down, primarily because there were Members in their own conference that would not vote because the cuts were not sufficient, even though trillions of dollars were cut from education and many other services that the American people need.

Now, I know that the American people are very independent. There are States that have worked very hard to ensure that their particular citizens in their State are well taken care of, but the one thing I know about the Federal Government, it is the umbrella on a rainy day.

I will go home to my district, having suffered the terrible impact of major flooding, 20 inches of rain devastating young families, devastating people who flooded just less than a year ago in May of 2015. Oh, we pulled ourselves up by our bootstraps, tore out carpet, threw out all of our personal possessions, but we needed the umbrella, FEMA, that is en route to my district now to help those who cannot help themselves or those who had never flooded in 50 years. So we cannot dis-

count the role of the Federal Government.

The United States military is the finest in the world. The Affordable Care Act, yes, needs to be fixed in certain areas, but 20 million Americans have gotten insurance, and more Americans have private insurance because they said, you know what, it is the right thing to do.

So it troubles me when we talk about a budget that should have been put on the floor that was a combination of the efforts of Democrats and Republicans, and when we listen to the President and work together, but no budget has come because they realize the draconian budget that is slashing government, throwing people out in the streets is not a budget that America can even tolerate. They could not overcome those that didn't even want that budget. They wanted to cut and slice education, resources to our military, health care, and the environment even more.

So I stand in the backdrop of that challenge to challenge this Congress again. I was one of the first Members of Congress to deal with raising the need for serious attention to the Ebola virus as it hit Texas in Dallas. The first American to be diagnosed was in our State of Texas.

I began as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security to ask what our airports were doing, how are we assessing those who are traveling into our country, and making sure that the Centers for Disease Control were at my airports, both in Dallas and in Houston, Texas.

Now 1 year later or a couple of years later, we are now facing this issue called the Zika virus. I want to be very clear, we are not paying the attention to this that we should.

A headline reads: "Scariest Than We Initially Thought." The CDC, the Centers for Disease Control, sounds a major alarm, a warning regarding the Zika virus. "Public health officials used their strongest language to date in warning about a Zika outbreak in the United States, as the Obama administration lobbied Congress for \$1.9 billion to combat the mosquito-borne virus."

What did I start out by saying?

The Federal Government should not run our lives, but it is the umbrella on a rainy day. It is the only entity that can muster the stakes and resources to deal with what the CDC has said is a far more serious issue.

If we look at Puerto Rico, they are the eye of the storm. Texas, the eye of the storm. Florida, the eye of the storm. It is important to note that we have not done what we should be doing.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, which has a core mission of emergency preparedness of State and local governments to be equipped to react to emergencies, I am acutely aware of the potential for the Zika virus to be a real

challenge for State and local governments in the coming months. You need our help.

This House has done nothing to respond to the President's request for \$1.9 billion in emergency funds. My friends, this is not a frivolous request.

What do emergency funds mean?

Someone said, just go write a check out of the operating budget of the United States. You want us to be more fiscally responsible than that. We have a budget. We have funding that we have to obligate to the other needs of this Nation. The reason why the President rose to the level of the emergency funding, because emergency funding can come immediately outside of the budgeting process and begin to get these dollars to community health entities in our States and the Centers for Disease Control, who will have to be dispatched to our States to help if the epidemic becomes uncontrollable. No action.

One leader in this House said they are doing absolutely nothing in response to the President's request. They don't want to give him the money. Thank goodness the Senate has just passed a compromise, the other body, \$1.9 billion in emergency funding for this important effort that we must have.

I come from Houston that has a tropical climate, with many climatic similarities with other States along the Gulf Coast, parts of Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean. Tropical climates are hospitable to mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus. In addition, Houston has a large and very diverse population that travels to many parts of the Zika virus-impacted zones located throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean where mosquito transmission of the Zika virus is a primary means of exposure to the illness.

People coming back and forth into the United States, citizens, those who have legal documents will travel across this Nation. There is no reason to point to these individuals and make them scapegoats. We should be prepared.

What about vacationers?

No matter how much you have spoken about the Zika virus, there will be vacationers who will still be going to places because they planned their vacation. They are going right into the heart of the storm.

As we well know, those women who will become pregnant will be the prime target for a devastating impact on their embryo, their baby that may be born with severe brain damage, lifelong brain damage.

We held a hearing early in March because I knew that I could not wait to educate my community. I called the Zika virus planning meeting along the Gulf Coast that would include doctors, agency officials, community service and faith-based organizations to start

to build the bridges between those communities to defeat Zika.

As you well know, the summer Olympics will be held this year, and all of our American athletes will be going to Brazil. Brazil is also one of the serious sites of the Zika-carrying mosquito. It is a very serious and important effort.

Communities across America should not be panicking, but they should be preparing their community health centers, their public health system to confront the Zika virus if it comes to their community either by way of an individual who needs treatment or by chance of this mosquito.

□ 1215

So I have called for a national task force on the prevention of Zika virus infections in order to target funding for tropical climate areas, like Houston, south Texas, Florida, and other places in the southern region of the United States that have a tropical population, and to focus on the environmental cleanup of city water and trash near populated areas.

Most people are aware of the extreme flooding—20 inches of rain—that hit my community just 10 to 15 days ago. There were large amounts of sitting water and trash in a tropical area, tires. I visited a site in my district after the rains that had sitting water. It was just an open, welcoming place for the Zika-carrying mosquito.

I have also asked for public education campaigns targeting all public and private pediatric clinics and OB/GYN services for pregnant women. I need them to be educated that any mosquito repellent that does not have the DEET name on it is not sufficient.

If you are traveling overseas, your mosquito repellent must say the word "DEET," which was work that I did in the United States Congress a few years ago when mosquito repellents did not have that word on them. We worked legislatively and with the EPA to ensure that you knew if it had that component. And you must be careful in using that as well.

We want to provide DEET repellent free to certain high-risk populations, in cooperation with private companies. Demand for DEET products will likely increase because the Zika virus is in the news. We may run out. So it is important that companies need to be alerted to set aside products for tropical areas along the south Texas coast and other States along that tropical area going along the Gulf Coast: Alabama, as I have said, Florida, Mississippi, and others.

And keep children's wading pools empty of water, my friends.

These are goals that should be met. I encourage stakeholders to be calm, but to meet with your infectious disease physicians, who are in all of your communities, along with your public health leaders, faith leaders, and oth-

ers, to educate about this particular disease.

It is important that we move on this call by the President. This is not frivolous. This is an effort that is as clear as if we had called a battalion into operation—the United States military—because we were under attack. This is prevention—being prepared for potential devastating impact.

These are not my words. One of the most renowned infectious disease doctors that we have the privilege of hosting in Houston at the Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and professor of pediatrics and molecular virology and microbiology at the Baylor College of Medicine, said the following points:

Zika virus infections will increase over the next few months. Effects of the infections on pregnant women in the first trimester will be, certainly, dangerous. It will impact on the poor. Leadership to fight the spread of the Zika virus must be local and must start now.

Dr. Peter Hotez said that this particular mosquito is the greatest killer of people in the world. They are also called the yellow fever mosquito. Now they are acquiring the Zika virus. Dr. Hotez says we are expecting 4 million Zika cases in the next 4 months, and to date, there are over a million cases in Brazil.

Remember, we are traveling back and forth. As all of you know, this is a small world. No one is kept from traveling internationally. We don't close our borders, in terms of Americans traveling on business or other responsibilities that they have.

Pregnancy, during the first trimester of pregnancy if the mother is exposed to the Zika virus, it can invade the central nervous system. Let me say this more clearly. In pregnancy, if the mother is infected in the first trimester of pregnancy, it can invade the central nervous system of the developing baby and inhibit brain development, which can result in stillbirths and brain damage. It occurs in 1 of every 10,000 births. And the rate for Zika virus exposure far exceeds that number.

Brain damage undermines the development either at birth, or the brain fails to develop properly after birth. The child will have difficulty in walking, difficulty in hearing, and difficulty with speech. Not all developmental consequences are known.

This is Dr. Hotez:

Three factors together make Zika virus a threat to poor communities: high concentrations of poverty—sitting trash and tires that may be found in many of our more depressed areas—the presence of the mosquitoes; environmental conditions that support mosquito breeding near people; and the lack of resources for people to isolate themselves from mosquitos, such as screens, replants, and air-conditioning.

Now, we all know that on the continent of Africa they have been able to



bring down the epidemic of malaria by making sure that charities like the United Nations and the Gates Foundation give mosquito nets to the people to assist them.

Well, in the United States, I know a lot of people think everybody has air-conditioning and that their doors and windows are closed. That is not true. There are people who have no air-conditioning and have their windows open or they have screens that have holes in them. It is sad to think, but it is true.

Or they are outdoors. They are walking along places that have this kind of circumstance—not because we want it to be that way, but after a terrible and devastating storm like we had in Houston, we have mounds of trash.

I want to thank the mayor of the city of Houston and the Harris County Judge for working diligently on why I asked for extra money for these areas: to clean up these trash areas. Now we have extra trash because we had this terrible flood. People are still out of their homes, and trash is still piled up in many places.

We need partnerships critical to defeating the Zika virus-carrying mosquitos. Zika virus control requires more than spraying for mosquitos. Mosquito and animal control need to use the best methods for preventing the spread of the disease.

We can no longer say that disease is a problem from a foreign country, because it will be a problem here. Dr. Umair Shah said the important lesson from Ebola and Zika is that there is a strong connection between global health and domestic health.

So, my friends, I am sounding the alarm not for panic, but preparation and preparedness, education, outreach, personal precaution, and understanding how to move around during this time, to cover up to prevent mosquito bites day and night—prevent the bites day and night—environmental cleanup. If you do not have the spray, use a mosquito net that you can purchase.

It is important to note that the Zika virus is not a local mosquito population, but it will travel. Travelers must be educated regarding the Zika virus. And if you are wondering about our local atmosphere, let me tell you of the latest news.

Thirteen Zika virus cases are now reported in Virginia. Two new cases were reported on Thursday, both of them in the northern region of Virginia, according to the Virginia Department of Health. I did not say Brazil. I said Virginia. There are now 388 cases nationwide as of Thursday. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 33 with the virus are pregnant. This is an action that we cannot avoid.

For anyone that has not seen the Zika virus-carrying mosquito, this is a mighty powerful mosquito. And don't in any way have me suggest that this is the size of it, but you can see the ele-

ments of it; and what we are taught is that it is a pretty strong mosquito, not to be deterred. We must get prepared.

So, as we look to the elements of preparedness, let me share some other issues that I think need to be addressed. I thought this was so important. The national media has helped us try to bring it to people's attention. I put an article in Time magazine myself, "Congress Must Act Immediately to Combat Zika Virus."

We are serious about this and have to get serious. We cannot have the Senate in a compromise of \$1.1 billion on the emergency supplemental that the President has asked for, yet this House has not done anything.

We are now going for the district work recess. I will be going home to my district to visit those individuals who are underwater, whose properties are outside of their home, mosquito gathering sites where trash is left not because they want to, but because so much has been torn up because of the water and we are waiting for it to be picked up. My community, my city needs these resources to do massive pickup of tires, massive cleanup of sitting water.

The Aedes mosquito is the most dangerous of the various Zika-carrying mosquitos. You can see that it is none too friendly looking. That is why I came to the floor today.

I want to leave with information directly to pregnant women, to give the information that we know to provide them with the importance of the issues that we are confronting.

I include in the RECORD letters, Mr. Speaker, that I wrote in March to the Secretary of Health and Human Services pleading for the task force. As well, I include a number of other items.

I also ask President Obama to look closely at the southern region and rim, where States like Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida are, because they will be the epicenter. Even though there are now 388 cases nationwide, 13 in Virginia, as the summer goes on, this is going to be of serious concern.

Let me suggest to you that this is a situation where women who are pregnant are taking heed. Pregnant women in Houston and their doctors weigh the risks of the Zika virus. This is a very real circumstance. And our climate is very tropical.

This mother, Tracy Smith, and her children are at their home. Smith is pregnant with twins, and she is worried about the approach of the mosquito season. So OB/GYN doctors are now having to prepare their mothers. What kind of protection should they take? What kind of mosquito repellent should they utilize? And what measures? Should they have mosquito nets inside their house, even though they may be living in an air-conditioned facility?

But what you say for one mother who may have a more economic level of opportunity than others, you need to say for the entire population of pregnant women, because there is no doubt. Dr. Hotez has said this is going to be a season where we have to be extremely concerned about the Zika virus and the Zika-carrying mosquito.

So what we are suggesting is mosquito traps. And they will be in these areas that are attractive to their environment and their trends: sitting water, dirty water, wading pools. They are not prohibited, if I might say, from getting an airplane ticket. They will get here on their own. We have to take it very seriously.

So, I want an immediate response by this House to pass the President's emergency supplemental and to work with the Senate on the \$1.1 billion that has been requested.

□ 1230

It is money to save lives of Americans. It is money to give pregnant women comfort that their newborn child can be born in this country with the best opportunity for survival and, of course, to reach their fullest potential.

Many of you have seen the video, tragically, of those babies with small brains that have now been born in countries in South and Central America. It is a sentence, although we love everyone, that we should not render to an unborn child.

And to that mother who is looking forward to raising that child, either her first or along with her other children, let me tell you what the Zika virus will do. Pregnant women can be infected with the Zika virus, as I said. The primary way that pregnant women get the Zika virus is through the bite of an infected mosquito.

Zika virus can be spread by a man in sex partners. A pregnant woman can pass Zika virus to a fetus. Zika virus can be passed from a pregnant woman to a fetus during pregnancy or at delivery and then that impact comes at a later time.

If a pregnant woman is exposed, we don't know how likely she is to get Zika. If a pregnant woman is infected, we still don't know how the virus will affect her or her pregnancy.

We don't know how likely it is that Zika will pass to a fetus. We don't know, if the fetus is infected, if the fetus will develop birth defects. It means that they cannot cure this in the womb.

We don't know whether her baby will have birth defects. We don't know if sexual transmission of the Zika virus poses a different risk of birth defects than mosquito-borne transmission.

So, because we have all these questions, we need the \$1.9 billion that the President asked, but we need it to begin to answer these questions and we

need to be able to have doctors like Dr. Hotez, a major leader in infectious disease, begin the research to know what is the best repellent not in terms of mosquito repellent, but what is the best scientific response to this dastardly and predictable potential of the Zika-carrying mosquito coming to the United States and having an impact on all of those who are excited about looking forward to the birth of a newborn baby.

I hope that, as we return from our work recess, this House and the Republican leadership, as was said earlier on the floor, end any partisan bickering, any debate or disagreement with the President of the United States, and accept the fact that he is the Commander-in-Chief and that his experts, the Centers for Disease Control, who are the entity to which all of us in our respective communities immediately turn for assistance on infectious diseases or natural disasters as it relates to health care—we call upon them to come to our districts and our States.

We ask them to help us and to make sure that we and our healthcare system are doing all that we can to be able to be helpful.

I do want to end by saying the reason why we are in such an alarm is there is now no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat the Zika infection so that, if you are infected, as a mother, there is nothing right now. So we have to work on the research and the preventative aspect in order to protect these unborn children.

The illness can be mild, with symptoms lasting for several days to a week. But it is that unborn child right now and the larger impact we have yet to understand.

People may not be sick. They may not be sick enough to go to the hospital. They may not die. For this reason, people might not realize that they have been affected. That means we don't know whether their infection can cause someone else to be infected because we need to do more research.

We know it is transmitted by this mosquito. We need to make sure we understand whether there is any other kinds of transmissions that we have.

We know that there have been Zika travel advisory notices. We know that this is not a happy experience for the countries that we have listed.

But I feel compelled to say that the Zika virus has been noted in Cape Verde, the Caribbean, Aruba, Barbados, Bonaire, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. territories St. Maarten, St. Vincent, The Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Zika virus is in Central America—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama—Mexico, the Pacific islands, American Samoa, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga.

The Zika virus is in South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guinea, Guyana, Paraguay, Surinam, and Venezuela.

I am not condemning these places. I am only asking that travelers take caution. And pregnant women need to take counsel from their OB-GYN.

So, my friends, our job and task here in this country is to be the umbrella on a rainy day. It is to ensure that the American people have all of the information that will help them make very important decisions.

It is to make sure that our health system and our doctors who are in their offices, in general medicine or internal medicine, have all the information and tools to be able to determine whether a woman has been infected and happens to be pregnant.

So my task here today is to say that we cannot wait. I am disturbed that we now have a week and we have not yet passed the emergency supplemental to help our friends in Puerto Rico, which, as I indicated, have a serious, serious opportunity to be without the resources that they need in the tropical climate that they are in to be able to confront the Zika virus. That is a U.S. territory. How unfair that is.

To my friends in this House, you cannot wait any longer. When we come back, there needs to be on the floor of the House a bill passing the Senate compromise or the \$1.9 billion emergency supplemental that the President has asked for, as the Commander-in-Chief. We need to roll up our sleeves. We need to ensure that the American people are taken care of.

And I just want to add this: Our military personnel are in tropical climates. We can treat them with limited dignity absolutely not.

They must have both the medical personnel and the equipment to either be of assistance to places where they are, where the epidemic may be, as they did when they were sent to Africa to help set up a hospital structure that did not exist.

We don't know where this will be the worst, and I can assure you that our military personnel may be called on, working with the Centers for Disease Control. Are we going to leave them without the resources they need? I hope not.

I take my role on the Homeland Security Committee very seriously. It is our responsibility to deal with the security of this Nation.

We have excellent Members who are working hard, such as my dear friend DONALD PAYNE, who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications. We work together to ensure that America is prepared.

Right now this Zika-carrying mosquito has the potential for being here in the United States and creating havoc among pregnant women and possibly others.

What is our task? It is, Mr. Speaker, to do our job and to prepare the American people. We owe that to the great and wonderful people of this Nation, to the mothers and fathers expecting that bundle of joy. We owe that to all of them.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, which has a core mission of emergency preparedness of state and local governments to be equipped to react to emergencies make me acutely aware of the potential for Zika Virus to be a real challenge for state and local governments in the coming months.

This emerging health issue is a matter of great importance and one that must be addressed in timely way through a coordinated effort by federal, state and local government joined with community partners.

Houston Texas has a tropical climate with many climatic similarities with other states along the Gulf Coast; parts of Central and South America as well as the Caribbean. Tropical climates are hospitable to mosquitoes that carry the Zika Virus.

In addition, Houston has a large and very diverse population that travels to many of the Zika Virus impacted zones located throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean where mosquito transmission of the Zika Virus is the primary means of exposure to the illness.

I have identified shared concerns among state, and local agency officials regarding a need to have a plan to address Zika Virus in the Houston and Harris County area that would include every aspect of the community.

For these reasons, I called the Zika Virus planning meeting along the Gulf Coast that would include doctors, agency officials, community service and faith based organizations to start to build the bridges between these communities to defeat Zika whether it was contracted through travel or mosquito borne transmissions.

Houston is fortunate to have diverse community of pastors who serve people in need throughout the area. Part of the Zika Virus response must be to ensure that we are doing all that we can and should be doing to reach every community.

Congresswoman JACKSON LEE's work on environmental mosquito mitigation issues:

As Congresswoman I worked with the EPA to get the word DEET on labels for mosquito repellent that contained the ingredient that remains the most effective mosquito repellent on the market.

CDC recommends that DEET is safe for use on children 2 months of age or older.

Congresswoman JACKSON LEE's Action Plan:

National Taskforce on Prevention of Zika Virus infections;

Target Funding to Tropical Climate areas—like Houston and South Texas in the U.S.;

Focus environmental cleanup of sitting water, and trash (tires) near populated areas;

Public Education campaign targeting all public and private pediatrics practices and OB/GYN service for pregnant women;

DEET Repellent;

Provide DEET Repellent free to certain high risk populations incorporation with private

companies [Demand for DEET products will likely increase because of Zika Virus in the news.]; Companies need to be alerted to sit aside product for tropical areas along the South Texas Coast that will have the strongest need for the products; and

Keep children's wading pools empty of water.

Goals of the Meeting of Congresswoman JACKSON LEE's March 10 Meeting in Houston Texas:

Engage stakeholders in a planning discussion on combating Zika Virus:

1. Learn what each agency is doing to address Zika Virus

2. Calm the community through information

3. Engage key stakeholders outside of government and health care in advance of Mosquito Season 2016

4. Outline the strategy to defeating Zika Virus breeding areas

5. Learn what needs to be done to effectively communicate with every community in the Houston/Harris County area

6. Discuss the emergency supplemental appropriations proposed by President Obama

What is Zika Virus:

Zika Virus is spread primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* [A-dees] species mosquito. It is important to remember that 80% of those who get the Zika Virus will feel no symptoms. The most common symptoms of Zika [Zee-Ka] are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The CDC reports based on what they know about the virus to date—Zika virus illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.

What is being done to address Zika Virus:

Federal: President Obama is seeking \$1.6 Billion in emergency supplemental appropriations to fund Zika Virus mitigation; response, local and state federal agency programs that address environmental clean up; public education, community engagement, testing; and mosquito abatement.

CDC has a disease surveillance unit at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Importance of advocating for the President's request:

Congresswoman JACKSON LEE advised that offices that will benefit from the resources to fight Zika Virus in their communities should make their views known regarding the emergency supplemental appropriations.

Speakers:

Dr. Peter Hotez, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology, Baylor College of Medicine, said.

4 Key points:

1. Zika Virus infections will increase over the next few months

2. Effects of the infections on pregnant women (first trimester)

3. Impact on the poor

4. Leadership to fight the spread of Zika Virus must be local

Dr. Peter Hotez said that *Aedes Aegyptus* mosquitoes are the greatest killer of people in

the world. They are also called the yellow fever mosquito.

Dr. Peter Hotez we are expecting 4 million Zika Virus cases in the next four months and to date there are over a million cases in Brazil.

Pregnancy during the first trimester of pregnancy if the mother is exposed to the Zika Virus it can invade the central nervous system of the developing baby and inhibit brain development, which can result in:

Still births;

Microcephaly [occurs in about 1 in every 10,000 births] the rate for Zika Virus exposure far exceeds that number. Microcephaly is brain under development either at birth or brain fails to develop properly after birth: Difficulty walking, Difficulty hearing, Difficulty with speech.

[Not all developmental or health consequences are known]

There are no tests to detect the virus, but not vaccine or cure.

Three factors together make Zika Virus a threat to poor communities: High concentrations of poverty; the presence of the *Aedes* mosquitoes; environmental conditions that support mosquito breeding near people and a lack of resources for people to isolate themselves from mosquitoes [screens, replants, air conditioning, etc.].

Zika virus disease in pregnant women in Bahia, Paraíba, and Pernambuco states, supports an association between Zika virus infection during early pregnancy and the occurrence of microcephaly.

Primary source of the virus is through infected mosquito bites. People to people transmissions are rare, but can occur if the virus load in the body is high sexual contact can spread the virus.

Leadership must be local; the CDC is only serving in a technical advisory role to local and state governments.

Dr. Umair Shah Executive Director for Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services, said:

Key points:

1. Partnerships are critical to defeating Zika Virus carrying mosquitoes

2. Zika Virus control requires more than spraying for mosquitoes

3. Mosquito and animal control use the best methods for preventing the spread of disease

Dr. Umair Shah said that the important lesson from Ebola and Zika is there is a strong connection between global health and domestic health.

We can no longer say that disease is a problem from that foreign country, because it will be a problem for the United States if it is not addressed wherever it might originate.

He said that you can only effectively clap with two hands. The partnerships that must be developed among local, state and federal agencies as well as community leaders are critical to the success of winning a fight against the Zika Virus.

Mosquito control will not be enough to deal with Zika Virus because the host mosquito that is a primary carrier has evolved to live on human blood—even when given a choice of animal or human blood the *Aedes Aegypti* will choose human blood. It lives near the ground—so spraying in the air will not work; it likes to be near people; it requires very little

water to breed; it can hide under leaves, and will seek out homes where people live.

Zika Virus response requires a new approach:

Education;

Outreach;

Personal precaution:

Cover up to prevent mosquito bites day and night: Slogan "Prevent the bite day and night"

Environmental cleanup—removing things that will hold water, small wading pools for children, gutters, grills, tires, toys, trash, etc.

If you do not have air conditioning use a WHOPEs approved net like Pramax (156 holes per square inch and long enough to tuck under the mattress)

Permethrin-treated bed nets provide more protection—do not wash them or expose them to sunlight, which would break down an insecticide that kills mosquitoes and other insects.

Important to note: Zika Virus is not in the local mosquito population yet.

All domestic Zika cases except one have been linked to travel.

Travelers must be educated regarding Zika Virus. They should know the symptoms and should seek care. They should not fear being shunned for having the virus.

Dr. Dubboun, Director of the Harris County Public Health Environmental Services Mosquito Control Division, prior to his current public service he served 25 years in the military.

Harris County Health Department Zika Website: [http://www.hcphes.org/publications/hcphes responds/ 2016 zi ka virus/](http://www.hcphes.org/publications/hcphes%20responds/2016%20zika%20virus/)

Key points:

1. Get rid of the mosquito breeding habitat.

2. Ecologically people are the preferred food source for *Aedes* mosquitoes.

3. No need to panic.

4. The solution to Zika Virus is community involvement.

Dr. Dubboun traveled to Brazil to join others in his field to sharing information on mosquito control with the hope of determining the best practices to achieve better results.

Dr. Dubboun said that the best approach to ending the threat of Zika virus is to get rid of the habitat that is used by the mosquito to breed. Ecologically people are the preferred food source for the *Aedes* mosquitoes.

He said that there was no need to panic because the weather right now (March 10, 2016–April 30, 2016) is not great for mosquito breeding, which means we have time to address environmental issues that support *Aedes* mosquito breeding.

Spraying will not work to control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito because this mosquito does not fly in the air—it stays close to the ground; can breed in very small amounts of water; and hide very well.

The solution to fighting the Zika Virus is community involvement in working to minimize the habitats that allow Zika Virus carrying mosquitoes to breed.

Dr. Gruber, Assistant Commissioner from Regional and Local Health Services for the State of Texas:

Key points:

1. Number of cases in Texas and nearly have are in Harris County they are travel related except one;

2. Core ways to address key elements of a stop Zika effort.

Dr. Gruber said that he was there from the state to listen to what was being said and to communicate that the state was planning to support communities in combating Zika Virus.

On April 14 the state of Texas there have been 31 confirmed cases of Zika Virus, we know this because the patients were ill enough to seek medical attention and the tests were positive. Twelve of those cases were in Harris County.

It is important to note that 80% of people who will be infected will have no symptoms, which means it is not possible to know how many people have returned from travel with the virus or antibodies after having been exposed.

1. Core ways to address the existence of Zika Virus:

a. Health community communication with the public;  
b. Correct vector control;  
c. Surveillance;  
d. Planning;  
e. Keep yards clean; i. Communicate to authorities any needs for services to assist with clean up or to address environmental issues related to Zika.

f. The battle against Zika must be viewed as a community fight—we must enroll people to become members of the Public Health Army.

Bishop James Dixon, Community of Faith Church:

Key points:

1. The poor are not equipped to protect themselves from anything;  
2. Education is key;  
3. Access to the Community is essential;  
4. Many churches have Haiti Missions that must be educated on this issue;  
5. Larger forum to engage the community on the issues of Zika Virus  
6. See others in the world as our neighbors, not as foreigners.

Bishop Dixon said that we must stop seeing the people of other nations as foreigners but neighbors.

People who are poor do not have the means of helping themselves. By the very definition of poverty—it is not just a state of being, but a state of existence, a state of mind, and the source of our ability to be compassionate, not just think compassionately.

Education is key to reaching those who are most in need, but breaking through the barriers of poverty will require a great deal of effort.

People must come from outside of these communities into them to knock on doors, pick up trash, hang mosquito netting, hand out DEET and show people how to use it, help the elderly who cannot do their own yard clean up, share with people the city and county numbers to call to remove trash and tires, and teach people how to police their yards for items that will allow mosquitoes to breed.

Prevention of Zika Virus transmission to humans must be the goal.

Houston has a very diverse community of pastors, ministers and religious community leaders who should be part of this discussion and the solution.

Dr. S.J. Gilbert Houston Metropolitan said that he wanted to bring the Zika Virus issue to the attention of the diverse ministers community and would support efforts by Congresswoman JACKSON LEE.

Dr. Raouf Arafat Houston Health and Human Services Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness said:

Key points:

1. Houston routinely deals with medical or health related emergencies;  
2. The talent in the city and county government health departments are unmatched in other locations around the nation;  
3. We work well together and see each other as partners;  
4. The Laboratory serves the entire area with testing services;  
5. Training of public health workers is essential; and  
6. Communication is essential.

City of Houston Website on Zika: [http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Epidemiology/Zika\\_Virus.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Epidemiology/Zika_Virus.html).

Dr. Arafat said that through surveillance and public health efforts that Houston routinely responds to and effectively addresses emergencies that never see the light of day because they are well managed.

Disease control and prevention are areas where Houston excels and very few areas of the country have a combination of very talented people working in city and county government on the issue of public health.

We have laboratory services that can test for Zika Virus, but only in cases where the CDC guidelines are met, e.g., recent travel to a region with the virus, symptoms consistent with the infection, etc.

As I have said the virus carrying mosquitoes are not in the Houston area.

My purpose in working on this issue is to make sure that Houston along with other Gulf Coast communities is prepared for the 2016 mosquito season.

The U.S. has the experience and we should use it to help other nations, by doing so we also help ourselves. The strength of the U.S. approach is the systems that have been built up and developed over time. These systems allow for us in Houston and Harris County to know if something serious is occurring in the city.

On January 1, 2016 people in this field of disease control expressed a position that it was important to start working on Zika Virus issues, but no one else was thinking about the virus. By January 29 everyone was talking about Zika Virus.

Stephen Williams, Director of Houston Health Department, said:

Key points:

1. There is no need to be alarmed;  
2. We have been thinking about this for some time;  
3. The key to success will be personal responsibility; and  
4. Environmental work has already begun.

Community action is important to meeting the challenge and each person must play a part in the overall success of the plan.

The school education plans for Zika Virus in Houston Texas will begin in early to late April.

During this same period they will be doing a visibility campaign for the public to learn about protecting themselves from the virus, which will include multipurpose centers and community health clinics.

There is no need for alarm about the topic of Zika, we deal with and take care of situa-

tions on a daily basis that no one ever knows about that are serious.

We will be successful in Houston if the funding the President requested are approved by Congress.

The city of Houston began ramping up waste cleanup in low income areas like the 3rd Ward located in my District by going after illegal dump sites.

However, breeding sources in yards is not something the city or county can take care of. If the trash is in a vacant lot or on the side of the road that is the government's responsibility, but private property is the owner's or occupant's responsibility.

Houston has organized an incident command structure to combat Zika Virus, which is the effort to better coordinate resources and planning across agencies.

Houston Sanitation Department is part of that effort.

Dr. David Persse, Physician Director, Emergency Medical Services, Houston Public Health Authority, said:

Key points:

1. Houston Emergency Command Center;  
2. Solid Waste Collection efforts;  
3. Phase I of Zika Virus Response;  
4. Phase II of Zika Virus Response.

Dr. Persse said Houston's Emergency Command Center has been ramped up, which includes Houston Department of Solid Waste, Department of Housing and Air Port Authorities, etc.

Dr. Persse said Houston and Harris County are in Phase I of the Zika Virus preparation where there is no virus in mosquitoes in the area and the only cases are coming from those who have traveled to areas where the infection is transmitted by mosquito bite.

During this phase Houston and Harris County will focus on environmental cleanup of breeding sites and education of homeowners about breeding mosquito sites on their property.

Goal: Get rid of breeding sites.

Phase II will focus on mosquito breeding and will start in mid-to late April into May.

Julie Graves, (Confirmed) MD, MPH, PhD Regional Medical Director Health Service Region 6/5S Texas Department of State Health Services, said:

Dr. Graves said that the need to coordinate among all agencies responsible for Zika Virus preparation, public education, remediation and control was critical. She said that chikungunya virus spread in the Caribbean was attributed to the lack of cooperation among governments and agencies.

[TIME, Apr. 20, 2016]

CONGRESS MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY TO  
COMBAT ZIKA VIRUS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NEED FEDERAL FUNDING  
TO PREVENT OUTBREAKS

(By Sheila Jackson Lee)

Members of Congress recently received news so chilling that it is imperative that they take immediate action to approve the about \$1.9 billion in emergency funding for Zika preparedness requested by the Obama administration. According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease, the mosquito that carries the Zika virus, which is already spreading rapidly in Latin America and the Caribbean, has been detected in nearly 30

states and could infect hundreds of thousands of people in Puerto Rico.

In Brazil, Zika has been identified as the cause in many recent cases of microcephaly, a birth defect resulting in babies being born with small heads and developmental problems. Zika poses a special risk for pregnant women since the virus can be transmitted through the bloodstream to the fetus. Previously, it was thought that Zika was only a problem during the first trimester of pregnancy, but according to officials at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, it has now been learned that the virus is likely to be a problem throughout the term of pregnancy.

In February, the Obama administration requested Congress to approve about \$1.9 billion in emergency Zika prevention funding, but to date Republican congressional leadership has not acted. If Congress does not act to approve the urgently needed funding, federal public health agencies will be forced to divert funding away from research into malaria, tuberculosis and a universal flu vaccine.

It is outrageous that the Republican congressional leadership is putting at risk the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of persons by refusing to do its job. The impact of that failure of responsibility is likely to be felt most severely in the congressional districts like the one I represent in Houston, Texas.

Because the summer months in areas along the Gulf Coast and the southwest region of the United States are unusually long and hot, Houston is expected to be an epicenter of any Zika outbreak in the U.S. In impoverished areas of the city and county, there are many open ditches in residential areas and lots where tires are illegally dumped. These are ideal breeding habitats for *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito species that carries the Zika virus. Experts now know that it can also be transmitted in other ways, including sex.

Mosquito control will not be sufficient to limit the spread of the Zika virus because the *Aedes aegypti* has evolved to live on human blood, which it will choose over animal blood whenever it has the opportunity to do so. This breed of mosquito lives near the ground and near people, which limits the effectiveness of areole spraying. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito can breed in a habitat as small as a cup of dirty water, it can hide under leaves, and it will seek out homes where people live.

To combat the threat posed by Zika, it is essential that the public be enlisted as the first line of defense. But for this effort to be successful, resources must be available to implement community-based mosquito control and abatement programs. That is why I have called upon the Republican congressional leadership to approve the requested about \$1.9 billion emergency Zika prevention funding immediately, with \$100 million dedicated to support local government efforts to conduct environmental cleanup activities to remove items in populated areas that promote mosquito breeding. This funding would also support coordinated public-education campaigns to encourage proactive efforts to seek early medical care when Zika virus symptoms are present, or early in a pregnancy.

The funding would also provide the resources to teach community residents how to check for and safely address mosquito breeding areas; repair or replace broken or torn door and window screens; and provide DEET mosquito replant products to low-in-

come communities and mosquito netting for beds in homes that have no air conditioning.

Last month, I convened the first of what are planned to be several strategic planning sessions with state and local officials to prevent any outbreak or spread of the Zika virus. Here in Houston and Harris County we are prepared to meet this serious challenge to public health and safety with determination and resolve. All we are lacking is the federal funding needed to succeed. And that is why Congress must act immediately.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 10, 2016.

Hon. SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL,  
Secretary of Health and Human Services, U.S.  
Department of Health and Human Services,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY MATHEWS BURWELL: I applaud the President and commend his designation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the lead federal agency charged with responding to the threat posed by the Zika virus. I am writing to request that the Department of Health and Human Services establish a National Taskforce on the Prevention of Zika Virus infections in pregnant women and girls.

The Zika Virus is a serious illness for pregnant girls and women. Zika virus can be spread from a pregnant woman to her fetus and has been linked to a serious birth defect of the brain called microcephaly in babies of mothers who had Zika virus while pregnant. Other problems have been detected among fetuses and infants infected with Zika virus before birth, such as absent or poorly developed brain structures, defects of the eye, hearing deficits, and impaired growth. CDC recommends special precautions for pregnant women. There is no treatment or cure for those infected with Zika Virus.

Experts believe the Zika Virus will be a seasonal epidemic for North America, but will primarily affect those states in the south and will flare up in the summer and continue into the fall in tropical zones. As you know, in Texas we have had particularly hot and long summers, with tropical zones along the Gulf Coast that include Houston Texas. There are two types of the *Aedes* mosquitoes known to carry the virus that found in the Houston area. Houston will possibly be ground zero for the United States because of environmental conditions that support breeding of mosquitoes that are known to carry Zika Virus in the Americas that are found in close proximity to low income areas and the proximity. Prevention measures consist of community based mosquito control programs that are able to reduce vector populations and personal protection measures to reduce the likelihood of being bitten by infected mosquitoes.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
Member of Congress.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUSSELL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting time. Sometimes you think

about the literary quote "These are the times that try men's souls," but there have been trying times before and there will be again.

But our Congress continues to be urged to do things that sound like a great solution, sound like a good, compassionate thing to do, but when you get to the bottom of them, sometimes they are the most uncompassionate things we could do.

For example, there are reports of sexual abuse victims who are female being deeply troubled. There are FBI statistics that indicate that perhaps 18, maybe 20, percent of women in America have been sexually assaulted. Other types of crimes on females raise the percentage even higher.

There are statistics that indicate transgender may be three-tenths of 1 percent. Who knows what the right numbers are? But I think we should be far more compassionate with female sexual abuse victims that comprise such a large number in weighing whether you want to have men come walking in on women in restrooms, dressing rooms.

Also, the talk has been this year that we are going to have sentencing reform because it is the compassionate thing to do.

We are told that there are massive, massive numbers of people who have been incarcerated in Federal prison for simple possession cases, and we have moved on. We have evolved in this country where we don't look on those as critically. So it is time to start releasing some of those people.

Having been a judge of a felony court, I can't say I did the right thing on sentencing in every case, but I can say I struggled. I got all the information that was available. I considered it before we ever undertook the sentencing hearing. I considered everything submitted at the sentencing hearing and wrestled and tried to get to a just and appropriate sentence.

Judges do that all over the country. Some think they are being compassionate and quickly release criminals, not being quite as dedicated to reviewing backgrounds and the indications of repeat offenses to come. So they release people too quickly, sentence them too lightly, and they go back and commit other offenses.

We know from the recidivism rate that is going to happen, but you try your best, as a judge, to do the right thing.

Then the thought of someone in Washington that never ever reviewed all of the facts of the case, never heard all of the evidence that you or the jury heard in assessing sentence, who have just got some big picture that they think they may be able to apply and generalize sufficiently—the thought is repugnant that they would come in and say: We are going to have this blanket set aside, a reduction in the sentence

that was achieved through a very deliberative process.

□ 1245

There are also a lot of fallacies and a lot of fiction that has been thrown out regarding sentences, some vast many that have been sentenced to and sitting in Federal prison for just having a little bit of marijuana; we have got to let those go.

Anybody that has prosecuted knows, whether you have prosecuted as a State prosecutor or a Federal prosecutor, Federal prosecutors have traditionally not been interested in small possession cases. They are not interested. They weren't in east Texas.

When I was in court, when I have been a prosecutor and a judge, the State prosecutors in east Texas and the Federal prosecutors actually worked very well together. Every now and then there might be a rare case where the State prosecutors would realize that there was a very heinous offense that was committed, but the Federal Court may have a higher range of punishment, and because this person is such a threat to society, might ask the Federal prosecutors to take a look to see if this is something you would be interested in pursuing. More often than not it was not. But most of those cases are handled in State court.

I don't have any doubt that we should be reviewing drug offenses when it comes to the new opium-related cases. There have been so many developments. We have got development of synthetics now that were not known, so they are not listed as items that would generate a prison sentence, that do enough damage to individuals that they should be considered to be listed in a crime to possess. So those are things we need to be constantly looking at.

There is an article from Adam Kredon of the Free Beacon from yesterday. The headline is: "Obama Administration Freed 19,723 Criminal Illegal Immigrants in 2015."

It says: "The Obama administration released nearly 20,000 illegal immigrants convicted of crimes from custody in 2015, according to new figures published by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau. The 19,723 illegals freed from custody during the last year had a total of 64,197 convictions between them, according to the data. This included 8,324 violent convictions and 208 homicide convictions."

Those are people who came into the country illegally who not only broke our immigration laws to come into the country, but some of them are coming in more than once illegally, some after they have been deported and come back in to commit more crimes, but nearly 20,000 released in 2015, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to ICE, and it doesn't appear that they are all being deported.

Certainly if they were, there is no bar to them turning right around and coming back. One man who had, I think it was, nine DWI cases that came before me in a felony court, and the Federal authorities had never been interested in deporting him until he had a violent accident. He came before me, and I sent him, appropriately, to prison. Within 6 months he is back in my court. So I had to ask, through the interpreter, that since I sent him to prison, how is he back in my court for a new crime of violence on other people?

It turned out that very shortly after I sent him to prison, finally, the Federal authorities acted—just much too late for victims that were involved—and they deported him. According to what he said through his interpreter, they took him down to the border and watched him go across the border. Then as soon as the people that deported him left, that same day, that same hour, he came right back across the border.

What about all the victims? Do we want to talk about compassion? What about all the victims of the people who have been harmed, hurt, and obviously cases of people being killed because we don't secure our border, and instead of letting people serve out the sentences that a court very deliberately sentenced, they let them go?

As if we are some ubiquitous group here in Washington, somehow once you come into the District of Columbia, we are so much wiser than any judge sitting on any court anywhere in the Federal system that we know better than they did.

I can tell you I have heard from judges from around the country that:

If I had known that some jerk in Washington was going to come around and reduce my sentence that I agonized to arrive at, I would have sentenced much more harshly so that the appropriate sentence would have been what was arrived at by the brilliant, wise, ubiquitous jerk in Washington that set it aside too early.

This article from April 12 is: "Sentencing Reform Legislation Would Disproportionately Favor Noncitizens."

It says: "U.S. prisoner data clearly shows two things. One, the majority of low-level drug offenders are serving their sentences in State, not Federal prisons. Two, most of those incarcerated in Federal prison for drug charges are noncitizens. While it may be worthwhile to pursue reform at the Federal level, it will do very little to address the problems identified by proponents of sentencing reform, and it would do almost nothing to reduce sentences for U.S. citizen drug offenders."

In fact, on further down it says:

"As of April 7, 2016, there were 196,285 prisoners in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, with 46.5 percent of these prisoners—91,270—sentenced for drug offenses. The percentage of pris-

oners incarcerated for drugs is just over 2½ times greater than the State prison population. However, overall, there are fewer prisoners serving time in Federal prison for drug charges than in State prisons," which have 212,000.

"The Federal Government collects data differently for State and Federal prisoners. In order to get the breakdown of offenses for Federal drug prisoners, data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission is available. Looking at the sentencing statistics from FY 2007 to FY 2015, a clear distinction between Federal and State prison populations is that the proportion of Federal prisoners serving time for drug possession is much higher than that for State prisoners, and Hispanics are disproportionately represented among Federal drug inmates . . . There is a higher ratio of Hispanics serving drug sentences for both trafficking and possession convictions in Federal prisons. As Daniel Horowitz points out, this is because many of the drug offenders in Federal prison are serving sentences for drug convictions related to the illicit drug trade on the U.S.-Mexico border.

"In response to a congressional request regarding sentencing data for Federal drug offenses, the U.S. Sentencing Commission sent data showing that 95 percent of the 305 individuals serving time in Federal prison for simple drug offenses are noncitizen . . . only 13 simple possession cases were tried in nonborder districts in FY 2014 . . . In a letter sent to Senator JEFF SESSIONS last fall, the Federal Bureau of Prisons reported that 77 percent of individuals convicted of Federal drug possession charges and more than 25 percent of individuals convicted of Federal drug trafficking charges in FY 2015 were noncitizen."

Sometimes graphs give us a good look and give us a better picture of what we are talking about than a word picture does. So here is what the Federal Bureau of Prisons reported last fall, that of all the people in prison, in Federal prison, U.S. Federal prison for drug possession charges and convictions, 77 percent are noncitizens of the United States.

That is right. We are using our United States prisons when it comes to Federal possession of drugs. Seventy-seven percent of them housed are noncitizens. Twenty-three percent of those in Federal prison for drug possession charges and convictions are citizens of the United States.

"The profile for Federal drug prisoners is different than at the State level, and this is why Congress needs to recognize and address these differences when crafting legislation that will effect this population. Federal drug and immigration enforcement are for now inextricably tied together, and Mexican drug cartels are a serious threat to public safety. A serious debate over

how to best address the War on Drugs and its effects on American communities can not ignore the immigration component.

“Sentencing reform bills reducing penalties for some Federal prisoners . . . are being portrayed by their supporters as a long overdue corrective to harsh sentencing laws for individuals who violate Federal drug laws, which they argue create racial disparities in the Nation’s prison population.

“Reforming drug sentencing laws is one thing. Releasing criminal aliens back into U.S. interior is quite another. The Obama administration has already shown its willingness to do the latter, including those who were deemed to be criminal threats to the public. Without a bill with strong, clear language and, most importantly, a Congress willing to extend oversight over the executive branch, it is plain that the sentencing reform legislation likely to soon come before Congress will accomplish little more than to provide an early release for dangerous criminal aliens, while still failing to hold President Obama to account for his failure to enforce U.S. immigration law.”

This article from Daniel Horowitz from this month’s *Conservative Review* said: “Yes, it was all an April Fool’s joke. The entire rationale and premise on which the top legislative priority of the D.C. people was built is an illusion. On a Federal level, there is no widespread epidemic of people being locked up for nonviolent drug offenses.

“The entire debate over the prison population on a Federal level is absurd. Proponents of jailbreak legislation speak about the issue in the abstract and concoct all sorts of myths as to who is sentenced for Federal crimes.

“This is, in fact, a finite and verifiable population. Why don’t we stop talking past each other and actually take a look at what is the 800-pound gorilla behind the Federal criminal justice system?”

□ 1300

From there he goes on to talk about illegal immigration and the effect on our prisons. He said:

“What is clear when you juxtapose the total convictions to the large number of immigration-related sentences and the drug trafficking convictions, the 800-pound gorilla in the room when dealing with Federal crimes, is—illegal immigration. Both directly, by clogging up the system with immigration cases, and indirectly, through the open border and drug cartels and proliferation of drugs, more than half of all Federal sentences are a byproduct of immigration and the drugs that are brought in as a result of the porous border . . . Hence, the entire premise of Federal jailbreak legislation—that there are infinite numbers of individuals serving time in Federal prison for

‘nonviolent drug offenses’—is complete bunk.

“If we would deal with the immigration problem and keep out much of the drug infestation by building the fence”—it doesn’t have to be a wall—“and implementing visa tracking, both the direct effects of immigration and the drug problem, which is a byproduct of immigration, would reach a manageable level. We would save a lot of money on incarceration costs and dramatically reduce the prison population, all without risking the safety and security of Americans by indiscriminately and retroactively releasing violent criminals into our communities.”

And people should understand, what most prosecutors will tell you is, especially in the Federal system—they don’t have plea agreements like normally you find in most States—they agree on what charges they will allow a defendant to plea to and which ones they will drop. So, if there is violence in an offense, if there is a gun used in a drug offense or violence in a drug offense and a Federal prosecutor is trying to get someone involved for carrying out that violent drug offense, but they know they want to get the guy that is over this one, they want to get the bigger fish and the even bigger fish, they are going to have to have some kind of negotiation at that level. And what they negotiate is: “All right. We will leave off the violent part of this offense and let you plead to that,” or, “We will leave out the burglary,” or, “We will leave out this other. We will leave out something else and we will let you plea to this, and the State has agreed they won’t pursue that burglary.” They work out an agreement so that part of the offense that would have gotten them a much more severe sentence is left out in return for their cooperation to go after the bigger fish.

So when somebody in Washington that has not analyzed the facts of each case and the reason for the recommended charge to be accepted by the court goes about and just releases somebody, they are normally going to do an injustice to the victims. Some say drugs are a victimless crime. Some are tempted to think that until they look at the involvement of drugs and violent crime in burglaries. It is phenomenal.

With a porous border the way we have, we see the drugs pouring in. And I literally say “we see.”

We had a hearing yesterday with a lady who lived down near the border. Actually, she pointed out that our Federal law enforcement immigration officials are about 25 miles north of the border. We are not enforcing the border there in Arizona where she was pointing out. She and her husband put up video cameras and displayed it in the hearing. Clearly, these were guys carrying big amounts of something, appar-

ently drugs, passing by back and forth, just bringing drugs into America because we were not enforcing and securing our border and our country.

If we want to have true sentencing reform, it should not be undertaken until the border is secure so that we know we are not releasing more criminals to the interior of the United States to commit more crimes and to be back involved in the drug trade.

I know some years back, after I got here, Congress decided to make it more difficult for people to get Sudafed because it was used in the process of producing methamphetamine. In east Texas, cooking methamphetamine was a problem. But most of the cooks stunk, so when people would smell something violent and they called in, immediately law enforcement would think, oh, maybe some meth is being cooked. They would go, and often that was the case. So we made it hard for law-abiding people to get Sudafed that works a whole lot better than Sudafed with any initials after it that is not true Sudafed.

Some in the DEA and law enforcement back in Texas tell me what has happened: Yeah, we were able to shut down a lot of methamphetamine cooking in Texas, but since our border is so porous, the drug cartels in Mexico right across our border are pouring through synthetics and far more potent drugs. They are hooking our young people, our Americans, on drugs that are harder to get off of and induce more unpleasantness and crime.

We really didn’t solve anything because we didn’t deal with what was called the 800-pound gorilla in the room. It is illegal immigration. It is an unsecured border.

And, of course, some can’t help but raise questions about political motivation. Because when you are trying desperately to win, say, a Presidential election or a local election, say, in Virginia, and you know from surveys that have been done, if you can restore the voting rights to people that have been in prison, a big majority of those will vote Democrat, and then when you think about the potential—wow.

So if we just cut loose a massive number of illegal immigrants that are in prison, and then you have a Governor like you have in Virginia who then says, hey, we are going to let felons have voting rights, never mind you are not supposed to vote unless you are a U.S. citizen, we are finding that there is fraud in elections despite what some say.

My friend John Fund had a good book on the fraud involved in elections and the voting process around the country. Look, if we are going to stop from disenfranchising real voters and real American citizens, then we have got to make sure that we have legitimate voters. That means voter ID. Why not? I mean, you have got to have an

ID to do much of anything in this country. Why not have one and make sure that the disenfranchising process is not happening because we make sure that every voter is a legitimate voter?

Those who were worried about it preventing minorities from voting, go look at places like Georgia. It has been established that, when photo ID requirements were added, there were actually more minorities that voted after that. It didn't just disfranchise the minority. What it disenfranchised were people that wanted to vote as illegal aliens or illegally.

But parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, I can't help but wonder if you were the head of a political party, hypothetically, if you were the head of a political party and your party believed their hope for winning the next election was to get people who were felons to vote, whether they reformed or not, maybe it is time to take a look at what your party stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE FINCA VIGIA  
FOUNDATION: A VERY SPECIAL  
U.S.-CUBA COLLABORATION TO  
RESTORE AND PRESERVE THE  
CUBAN HOME OF ERNEST HEM-  
INGWAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Finca Vigia Foundation, based in Massachusetts, and the extraordinary model it provides of what Americans and Cubans working together can accomplish.

Over the past 13 years, this special collaboration has restored and protected the home, documents, and related materials of Ernest Hemingway's home in Cuba, the Finca Vigia, located 12 miles outside of Havana, in the village of San Francisco de Paula.

Like so many stories on Capitol Hill, this one began when a visitor from Massachusetts walked into my office. Jenny Phillips had an interesting story to tell because her grandfather was Ernest Hemingway's editor and long-time friend, Maxwell Perkins.

She and her husband, Frank, had traveled to Cuba earlier that year to visit the Finca Vigia, which the Cubans had lovingly cared for and operated as a museum since Hemingway's death. We are grateful to those Cubans because there would be no Hemingway House without their decades of devotion to his memory and his legacy.

In addition to touring the house and grounds, Jenny and Frank also saw thousands of Hemingway documents and photographs that were in boxes and containers in the basement, most unknown to writers and researchers.

They recognized the priceless value of these papers to Hemingway scholars worldwide, but they also knew that the political divide between the United States and Cuba made their preservation and accessibility a problem.

Listening to her describe what was at stake, we took the first steps that would result in a wonderful binational process to save Hemingway's documents; preserve the architecture and physical structure of his home; restore his famous boat, the Pilar; and conserve and protect the contents of his home, including original furniture, clothing, a 9,000-volume library, original galley proofs and manuscripts, and over 4,000 photographs. Time and tropical climates are not kind to these delicate materials.

Partnering with the Social Science Research Council here in the United States, the Cuban Ministry of Culture, and the Cuban National Cultural Heritage Council, the CNPC, a plan of action was outlined to carry out a joint preservation project in Cuba and to conserve digitized and microfilm copies of all documents located in Hemingway's home to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and to the Cuban National Cultural Heritage Council.

In 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Eric Hershberg with the Social Science Research Council; Dr. Marta Arjona Perez of the CNPC; and witnessed by Frank and Jenny Phillips; Sandra Spanier with Pennsylvania State University and general editor of the Hemingway Letters Project; Sean, Angela, and Hilary Hemingway, who are the grandson, daughter-in-law, and niece of Ernest Hemingway; President Fidel Castro; and myself. Dozens of Cubans and Americans attended the signing, including my wife, Lisa.

Since then, scores of Cubans and Americans have worked together to make the dream of preserving this priceless legacy of Ernest Hemingway a reality.

□ 1315

This includes officials at the State Department, at the Commerce Department, and at the Department of the Treasury in both the Bush and Obama administrations who recognized the importance to America and the world in saving Hemingway's cultural history in Cuba and helped the project navigate the complicated requirements of U.S. regulations and license applications.

I would especially like to note and thank the many Cuban cultural officials and preservation, architectural, museum, and technical experts who made this dream come true. And I apologize if I leave anyone out.

I would like to begin with Cuban President Fidel Castro, whose unconditional support was essential to moving

this project forward, as well as Josefina Vidal during her service at the Cuban Interests Section here in Washington and later, following her return to Havana.

I want to highlight the role of then-Minister of Culture, the iconic Abel Prieto, who was such an enthusiastic and encouraging voice when we first began reaching out to Cuban officials in 2002, as well as his successors, Rafael Bernal and the current Minister of Culture, Julian Gonzalez Toledo.

Central to the success of the restoration and preservation of Hemingway's house, grounds, and its contents are:

Marta Arjona Perez, now deceased, who was the visionary voice on the project when she was president of the Cuban National Cultural Heritage Council, the CNPC;

Gladys Collazo Usallan, who is the current president of the CNPC, as well as her predecessors Manuel Palacios Soto and Margarita Ruiz Brandi;

Nestor Garciaga, vice president of the CNPC and chief conservator of the Hemingway papers;

Gladys Rodriguez Ferrero, long associated with the Hemingway collection and buildings and the former director of The Finca Vigia Museum, has been one of the most influential voices and actors in the preservation and restoration projects;

Ada Rosa Alfonso, the current director of The Finca Vigia Museum, and Isabel Ferrero, the current deputy director of the museum;

Architect Enrique Hernandez Castillo;

Structural engineer Livan Yanes Diaz;

Historic preservation architects Fernando Sanchez Rodriguez and Marco Antonio Vidal Garcia;

Conservators Elisa Serrano Gonzalez, Liabys Alfonso Perez, Rosalba Diaz Quintana, and Roberto Abaen Siglen;

Arborist Rafael Ibanez San Miguel and Manuel Valle Lopez from the Institute of Forestry Research.

Their leadership, participation, expertise, vision, and generosity have been the essential heart of this successful collaboration.

I know I speak for many Americans when I say that we share their pride and joy in having participated day by day in the restoration and preservation of Hemingway's legacy in Cuba.

I count each of them as a valued colleague and as a friend, and I feel honored to have had the privilege, even in a small way, of having worked with them on this historic project.

Initially known as the Hemingway Preservation Foundation, the nonprofit Finca Vigia Foundation has been the critical coordinating agent of U.S. professionals and technical experts who have contributed their expertise, skills, time, and passion to this major preservation undertaking.

Since 2004, the Foundation has harnessed the talents, skill, and collaboration of the National Trust for Historic



Preservation, the Social Science Research Council, Mystic Seaport, and the Northeast Document Conservation Center to create teams of engineers and architects, of preservationists and document conservators, and of botanists, builders, and photographers to:

Architecturally restore and preserve Hemingway's home to its 1950s splendor;

Restore Hemingway's famous yacht, the *Pilar*;

Conserve and digitize more than 10,000 documents, 4,000 photographs, and 5 rare Hemingway scrapbooks;

Preserve these original documents in Cuba and bring digital images to the United States to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston;

Design, in a joint U.S.-Cuban collaboration, an onsite archival storage facility with wet and dry conservation laboratories.

There are so many individuals, U.S. companies, and foundations that have made the restoration of Hemingway's house a personal passion. They have dedicated time and talent, materials, and funding to this initiative for over a decade. I would just like to mention a few:

First are the foundations whose early contributions allowed this project and The Finca Vigia Foundation to get its feet on the ground, explore with its Cuban partners how to bring this dream to fruition, and put the first cornerstones in place. They are the Ford Foundation, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, The Christopher Reynolds Foundation, the Stewart Mott Charitable Trust, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Next, I would like to recognize the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which has recognized The Finca Vigia Foundation in Cuba as a U.S. Historic Preservation site—the only such site outside of the United States—and whose experience and technical expertise in preservation and cultural conservation have been invaluable.

I would especially like to note the contributions of Richard Moe, the former President of the National Trust, and Paul Edmondson, the current general counsel with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Several foundations and U.S. companies have been involved directly in the preservation projects or in providing financial support for this work.

The lead sponsor for document conservation has been the EMC Corporation, headquartered in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and especially Bill Teuber, Chris Goode, and Joel Schwartz from the company. EMC also reached out to Intel and Emulex, which also provided financial support to the project.

The lead sponsors for the construction of archival storage and conservation laboratories are the Caterpillar Foundation and Caterpillar, Inc., along with the AT&T Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and American Express.

U.S. professionals who have been critical contributors and participants in the technical, document conservation, construction, and architectural teams are William Dupont, the former chief architect with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and currently a professor at the University of Texas, San Antonio; architect planners Leland Cott and Henry Moss with Bruner/Cott & Associates; structural engineer Michael Henry with Watson & Henry Associates; structural engineer Robert Silman with Robert Silman Associates; landscape architects Patricia O'Donnell with Heritage Landscapes; preservation architect Mary DeNadai with John Milner Architects; and Ronald Staley, a construction specialist from Christman Company in Lansing, Michigan.

Also very much involved are collections conservationist Wendy Claire Jessup and wooden boat curator Dana Hewson with Mystic Seaport.

In the first years of this project, attorney Thomas D. Herman provided invaluable pro bono advice, and attorney Michael Gurdak and his team from Jones Day have provided essential services throughout the project.

Special recognition must also be paid to the tireless work and engagement of Mary-Jo Adams and Robert Vila. Mary-Jo is the executive director of The Finca Vigia Foundation and is its very heart, soul, and beating blood. Without her efforts, this project would not have been possible.

Bob Vila is a builder, a well-known TV host especially of the PBS program "This Old House," and is a recognized building consultant. Bob has been involved on the ground in Cuba with overseeing every phase of the restoration of Hemingway's house and grounds.

Along with Jenny Phillips, he is the co-chair of The Finca Vigia Foundation, but more than anything, we know that, when Bob is on site in Cuba, all is right with the world and, if it isn't, he will make sure that it is.

Finally, I would like to recognize the work of Michael Mershon, who recently left my staff and who worked with me for over a decade on the Hemingway project.

Right now U.S. and Cuban technical teams are constructing a facility on the grounds to carry out on-site archival storage with wet and dry conservation laboratories. Known as the "taller," which means "workshop" in Spanish, this facility will ensure the longevity of the Hemingway papers. It will be the first building constructed in Cuba using U.S. materials and ingenuity since the 1950s.

The Cuban Ministry of Culture views this project as a possible prototype to be replicated across the country in the preservation of cultural heritage. The construction of this critical facility is possible because of the new regulations

announced by President Obama in December of 2014.

With very little money and largely during a period of daunting obstacles created by a tense political climate, The Finca Vigia Foundation and its team of experts, in close collaboration with Cuban professionals and experts, have done a great service for the American people, the Cuban people, and, indeed, all of the people of the world.

With passion and professional skill, they recognized that the life, memory, books, papers, and home of Ernest Hemingway are above politics and policies, which are fleeting, while art is eternal. They understand that the legacy of Ernest Hemingway is a shared heritage, belonging to both Cubans and Americans, and in one of the best models of what can happen when Americans and Cubans collaborate, they have made sure that it will never be lost.

I am so very grateful to Jenny and Frank Phillips for walking into my office 13 years ago and sparking a remarkable and personal journey for me. It has offered me the rare privilege to meet and work with so many extraordinary Cubans and Americans and to participate in preserving our shared heritage around the life and artistic achievements of Ernest Hemingway. I cannot wait to see what the next chapter brings.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE STEVE ISRAEL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVE ISRAEL, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 29, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I, Steve Israel, am submitting my resignation from the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy effective immediately. It has been a privilege and honor to serve in this position and one that I will never forget.

I believe strongly in the importance of robust programming for future and current military leaders facing ever evolving threats and challenges and West Point exceeds this standard with the top-notch education provided to cadets. In my visits to the Academy, I have been profoundly impressed by the leadership, students and staff, who should be commended for their service to our country.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Academy moving forward as a member of the House Appropriations Committee and value my time on the Board of Visitors tremendously.

Sincerely,

STEVE ISRAEL,  
Member of Congress.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical procedure.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

## SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1875. An act to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. 2845. An act to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

## ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1493. An act to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2908. An act to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

## SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,  
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5215. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools

during FY 2015, pursuant to 32 U.S.C. 112 note; Public Law 109-469, Sec. 901(f)(1); (120 Stat. 3537); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5216. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Finalization of Interim Final Rules (Subject to Any Intervening Amendments) Under Consumer Financial Protection Laws (RIN: 3170-AA06) received April 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5217. A letter from the Deputy Director, Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Black Lung Benefits Act: Disclosure of Medical Information and Payment of Benefits (RIN: 1240-AA10) received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5218. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5219. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program report covering FY 2014 and 2015, pursuant to Sec. 1252 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-52) and Sec. 1253 of the act, as amended by the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 300d-53); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5220. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's withdrawal of RG 3.29 — Preheat and Interpass Temperature Control for the Welding of Low-Alloy Steel for Use in Fuel Reprocessing Plants and in Plutonium Processing and Fuel Fabrication Plants [NRC-2014-0070] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5221. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's withdrawal of RG 3.28 — Welder Qualification for Welding in Areas of Limited Accessibility in Fuel Reprocessing Plants and in Plutonium Processing and Fuel Fabrication Plants [NRC-2014-0069] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5222. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's revision 4 of RG 1.134 — Medical Assessment of Licensed Operators or Applicants for Operator Licenses at Nuclear Power Plants received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5223. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's withdrawal of RG 1.1 — Net Positive Suction Head for Emergency Core Cooling and Containment Heat Removal System Pumps [NRC-2015-0107] received April 26, 2016, pursu-

ant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5224. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's withdrawal of RG 10.1 — Compilation of Reporting Requirements for Persons Subject to NRC Regulations [NRC-2014-0144] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5225. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's revision 1 of RG 1.124 — Response Strategies for Potential Aircraft Threats received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5226. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's revision 2 of RG 1.60 — Design Response Spectra for Seismic Design of Nuclear Power Plants received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5227. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's withdrawal of RG 1.37 — Quality Assurance Requirements for Cleaning of Fluid Systems and Associated Components of Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants [NRC-2014-0158] received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5228. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's revision 3 of RG 1.138 — Laboratory Investigations of Soils and Rocks for Engineering Analysis and Design of Nuclear Power Plants received April 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5229. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report covering the period from December 13, 2015, to February 10, 2016 on military force against Iraq, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 102-1, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 1501A-422) and 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5230. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on Gifts Given by the United States to Foreign Individuals for Fiscal Year 2015, pursuant to 22 U.S.C.A. 2694; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5231. A letter from the Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the results of an audit of the U.S. House of Representatives' annual financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015; to the Committee on House Administration.

5232. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2075; Added by Public Law 88-623, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 103-394, Sec. 104(f)); (108 Stat. 4110) and 28 U.S.C. 331; June 25,

1948, ch. 646 (as amended by Public Law 110-177, Sec. 101(b)); (121 Stat. 2534) (H. Doc. No. 114-127); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

5233. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2074(a); Added by Public Law 100-702, Sec. 401(a); (102 Stat. 4649) and 28 U.S.C. 331; June 25, 1948, ch. 646 (as amended by Public Law 110-177, Sec. 101(b)); (121 Stat. 2534) (H. Doc. No. 114-128); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

5234. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2075; Added by Public Law 88-623, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 103-394, Sec. 104(f)); (108 Stat. 4110) and 28 U.S.C. 331; June 25, 1948, ch. 646 (as amended by Public Law 110-177, Sec. 101(b)); (121 Stat. 2534) (H. Doc. No. 114-129); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

5235. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2075; Added by Public Law 88-623, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 103-394, Sec. 104(f)); (108 Stat. 4110) and 28 U.S.C. 331; June 25, 1948, ch. 646 (as amended by Public Law 110-177, Sec. 101(b)); (121 Stat. 2534) (H. Doc. No. 114-130); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

5236. A letter from the Chair, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary, together with the reasons for amendment, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(p); Public Law 98-473, Sec. 217(a) (as amended by Public Law 100-690, Sec. 7109); (102 Stat. 4419); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5237. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Lewis-Clark Valley Viticultural Area and Realignment of the Columbia Valley Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2015-0005; T.D. TTB-136; Ref: Notice Nos.: 149 & 149A] (RIN: 1513-AC14) received April 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5238. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report to Congress entitled, "The Medicare Secondary Payer Commercial Repayment Center in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395ddd(h)(8); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1893 (as amended by Public Law 109-432, Sec. 302(a)); (120 Stat. 2992); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

**PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself, Mr. DOLD, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H.R. 5122. A bill to prohibit further action on the proposed rule regarding testing of

Medicare part B prescription drug models; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. MEEHAN):

H.R. 5123. A bill to ensure that the United States provides for the families of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other emergency responders who fall in the line of duty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 5124. A bill to enforce the Sixth Amendment right to the assistance of effective counsel at all stages of the adversarial process, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide declaratory and injunctive relief against systemic violations of such right, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBESACK, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BASS, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 5125. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to discourage corporate inversions and to impose tax on unrepatriated earnings and unrecognized gains in connection with corporate expatriations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5126. A bill to enhance the early warning reporting requirements for motor vehicle manufacturers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. BLIRAKIS):

H.R. 5127. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to extend the exclusivity period for certain drug products developed or labeled so as to reduce drug abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. ROBY (for herself, Mr. ZELDIN, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5128. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to improve the monitoring of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. McCLINTOCK, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 5129. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agri-

culture to issue permits for recreation services on lands managed by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FARR, Ms. BASS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 5130. A bill to enhance public health and safety by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system for incarcerated pregnant women and mothers by establishing a pilot program of critical-stage, developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates, with risk and needs assessments, and risk and recidivism reduction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 5131. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to make improvements to voting system technology, election official training, and protecting voting system source code; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 5132. A bill to adjust the eastern boundary of the Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness Study Area in the State of Oregon to facilitate fire prevention and response activities to protect adjacent private property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARDY (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 5133. A bill to improve rural health services, including by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct an annual study on such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. SIRES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 5134. A bill to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr.

BABIN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SALMON, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. COOK, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BUCK, and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina):

H.R. 5135. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to provide that no regulation issued under section 38(a)(1) of that Act, and no policy or practice in implementing such a regulation, may prohibit the otherwise lawful export for sale or transfer of any firearm silencer, or any component, part, accessory or attachment for any firearm silencer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 5136. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require that any legislative or regulatory recommendation of the Federal Trade Commission be accompanied by an economic analysis and include a description of the rationale for such legislation or regulation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. HAHN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. DOLD, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. HILL):

H.R. 5137. A bill to reform the Moving to Work Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. LOVE (for herself, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mrs. LUMMIS, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H.R. 5138. A bill to allow women greater access to safe and effective contraception; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 5139. A bill to limit the use of funds available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2017 to procure, or enter into any contract for the procurement of, any goods or services from persons that provide material support to certain Iranian persons; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 5140. A bill to repeal certain regulations relating to veterinary feed directive drugs and medically important antimicrobial new animal drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BRAT, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr.

JONES, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MICA, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 5141. A bill to provide for the termination of the Central American Minors Refugee/Parole Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Ms. KUSTER, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 5142. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the sharing of health information concerning an individual's substance abuse treatment by certain entities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BARR, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 5143. A bill to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5144. A bill to amend the State Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2010 to help small businesses access capital and create jobs by reauthorizing the successful State Small Business Credit Initiative and to allow participating States to provide program funds to small businesses for development of affordable housing; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILLIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 5145. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to exclude abuse-deterrent formulations of prescription drugs from the Medicaid additional rebate requirement for new formulations of prescription drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 5146. A bill to provide for certain actions by the International Trade Administration in order to increase exports by small- and medium-sized enterprises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FARR, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 5147. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require that male and female restrooms in public buildings be equipped with baby changing facilities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 5148. A bill to amend the Department of Education Organization Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require publica-

tion of information relating to religious exemptions to the requirements of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 5149. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the circumstances under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide reimbursement for emergency ambulance services; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. DONOVAN (for himself, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. TONKO, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. HANNA, Mr. REED, Mr. KATKO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 5150. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5151. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an extension of the special survivor indemnity allowance provided to widows and widowers of certain deceased members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada (for himself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 5152. A bill to amend the hold harmless provision for career and technical education assistance grants to States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5153. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide for the designation of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court judges by the President, majority of the Supreme Court, Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 5154. A bill to require that State and local law enforcement agencies conform to Federal guidelines in using cell simulator devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 5155. A bill to establish a grant program to assist dislocated miners in receiving additional training and education to enable them to find and secure new jobs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5156. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide coverage under such Act for credit cards issued to small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 5157. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5158. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a conditional 10 percent rate of tax for certain businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5159. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize certain recycled water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 5160. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to include as part of the buildings and grounds of the National Gallery of Art any buildings and other areas within the boundaries of any real estate or other property interests acquired by the National Gallery of Art; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 5161. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the qualifications for licensed mental health counselors of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. BENISHEK):

H.R. 5162. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disclose to non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers certain medical records of veterans who receive health care from such providers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 5163. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for economic recovery in the Virgin Islands and Guam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. LEVIN):

H. Res. 712. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2016 as "Mental Health Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BLUM, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HULTGREN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SABLON, Mr. SALMON,

Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California):

H. Res. 713. A resolution honoring the vital role of small business and the passion of entrepreneurs in the United States during "National Small Business Week", beginning on May 1, through May 7, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H. Res. 714. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Fair Housing Act and Fair Housing Month, which includes bringing attention to the discrimination faced by minority populations in the United States in housing and housing-related transactions on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, familial status, disability, and religion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. MEHAN):

H. Res. 715. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2016 as "National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 716. A resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, a seminal moment in Ireland's journey to independence; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YODER (for himself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H. Res. 717. A resolution recognizing the importance of cancer research and the contributions of scientists, clinicians, cancer survivors and other patient advocates across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, and supporting the designation of May 2016 as "National Cancer Research Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

212. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 500, condemning the global unrelenting persecution of Christians and acts of terror and aggression against Christians; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

213. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 481, urging Congress to pass bills for the implementation of

the Veterans Affairs New Veterans Choice Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 5122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 5125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 5127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.R. 5128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 5129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 5131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution. This provision permits Congress to make or alter the regulations pertaining to Federal elections.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 5132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. HARDY:

H.R. 5133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 5135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Commerce Clause

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 5136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. McCARTHY:

H.R. 5137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3.

By Mrs. LOVE:

H.R. 5138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is in the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution as applied to providing for the general welfare of the United States through the administration of the Federal Drug Administration and in the power of the Congress To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States as enumerated by Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 5139.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have the Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof."

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 5140.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8 of the

United States Constitution, including, but not limited to, Clauses 1, 3, and 18

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5141.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 (the Naturalization Clause), which gives Congress sovereign control over immigration and the vesting of citizenship in aliens. In March 1790, Congress passed the first uniform rule for naturalization under the new Constitution. In *Chirac v Lessee of Chirac* (1817), the Supreme Court affirmed this power rests exclusively with Congress.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5142.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5143.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5144.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 5145.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1  
The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 5146.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5147.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 5148.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 5149.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1,

Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DONOVAN:

H.R. 5150.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5151.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada:

H.R. 5152.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5153.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 5154.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 3 ("Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.")

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia:

H.R. 5155.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8—Commerce Clause

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5156.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5157.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. McKINLEY:

H.R. 5158.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. McNERNEY:

H.R. 5159.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 5160.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 5161.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 5162.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 5163.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and excises, to pay Debts and provide for common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. Article IV, Section 3, The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or Property belonging to the United States.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 135: Mr. CALVERT.  
 H.R. 167: Ms. LEE.  
 H.R. 194: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
 H.R. 250: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. CLAY.  
 H.R. 297: Mr. SARBANES and Ms. BONAMICI.  
 H.R. 379: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
 H.R. 446: Mr. YARMUTH and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
 H.R. 499: Mr. POLIS.  
 H.R. 563: Mr. JOYCE.  
 H.R. 649: Mr. PAYNE.  
 H.R. 781: Ms. BONAMICI.  
 H.R. 814: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. OLSON.  
 H.R. 815: Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. COFFMAN.  
 H.R. 845: Ms. MOORE.  
 H.R. 885: Mr. SIMPSON.  
 H.R. 953: Mr. AGUILAR and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 973: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 980: Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. MCKINLEY.  
 H.R. 1100: Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
 H.R. 1109: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
 H.R. 1112: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H.R. 1141: Mr. CICILLINE.  
 H.R. 1192: Mr. BABIN, Miss RICE of New York, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.  
 H.R. 1220: Mr. AGUILAR.  
 H.R. 1312: Mr. WALBERG.  
 H.R. 1342: Mr. HARDY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. MENG.  
 H.R. 1422: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.  
 H.R. 1616: Mrs. LUMMIS.  
 H.R. 1635: Ms. DEGETTE.  
 H.R. 1718: Mr. FORTENBERRY.  
 H.R. 1779: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.  
 H.R. 1818: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. HECK of Nevada.  
 H.R. 1911: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 1943: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GALLEGRO, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 1972: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
 H.R. 2076: Mr. DELANEY.  
 H.R. 2090: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. LEE, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H.R. 2103: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. BEYER.  
 H.R. 2124: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. RUIZ.  
 H.R. 2140: Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
 H.R. 2141: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 2403: Mr. DENT.  
 H.R. 2430: Mr. LOBIONDO.  
 H.R. 2533: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
 H.R. 2571: Mr. PAULSEN.  
 H.R. 2694: Ms. NORTON and Mr. YARMUTH.  
 H.R. 2713: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 2726: Ms. NORTON, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2737: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LANCE, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2739: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 2748: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2799: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2903: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 2939: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2992: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 3012: Mr. MCCLEINTOCK.

H.R. 3069: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 3092: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3119: Mr. CARDENAS.

H.R. 3201: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3381: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 3406: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3513: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3514: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. DINGELL, and Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 3523: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 3535: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 3546: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 3632: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 3680: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3713: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 3742: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 3744: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 3846: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 3862: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 3870: Ms. TITUS, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3880: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 3892: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 3929: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SANFORD, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 3957: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 3964: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 3989: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 4065: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 4194: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 4223: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 4229: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 4247: Ms. GRAHAM and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 4262: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 4277: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 4301: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 4351: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4365: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4378: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 4389: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 4447: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 4450: Mr. HONDA and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4474: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 4480: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4488: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. NEAL, Mr. VELA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4514: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 4520: Mr. HILL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4524: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 4530: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4539: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 4556: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 4564: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 4599: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 4600: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4615: Mr. HONDA, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 4616: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 4625: Mr. GIBSON and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 4640: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. GALLEGRO.

H.R. 4667: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4695: Mr. CARDENAS and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 4715: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 4729: Mr. KILMER and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 4730: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 4760: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 4764: Ms. NORTON, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 4773: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 4775: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 4782: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 4795: Mr. BABIN and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 4796: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 4798: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 4810: Mr. MCCLEINTOCK.

H.R. 4819: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 4828: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 4830: Mr. SESSIONS and Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 4857: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4860: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 4872: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 4880: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 4912: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 4927: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 4932: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4935: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 4938: Mr. NUNES, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 4948: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4969: Mr. CHABOT and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 4980: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 5011: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 5022: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 5025: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5035: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 5044: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. VELA, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 5058: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 5064: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 5067: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 5076: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 5090: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. JONES, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. COOK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK

MALONEY of New York, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 5114: Mr. ZINKE.

H.J. Res. 51: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.J. Res. 87: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. PITTENGER, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. MCCLINCKOCK, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H. Con. Res. 17: Ms. PLASKETT.

H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Mr. OLSON.

H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. BOUSTANY.

H. Con. Res. 98: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H. Con. Res. 129: Mr. ISRAEL and Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 14: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. SCHRADER.

H. Res. 220: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIMES, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. PITTS.

H. Res. 221: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H. Res. 343: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HARDY, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 600: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H. Res. 631: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H. Res. 647: Mrs. TORRES, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MEEKS, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. HILL, and Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 650: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. UPTON.

H. Res. 686: Mr. DEFazio, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 700: Ms. BONAMICI.

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#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 4651: Ms. DELBENE.



**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

IN RECOGNITION OF RADNOR  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Radnor Middle School on being named a Don Eichhorn Schools: "Schools to Watch." Radnor Middle School is just one of six schools in Pennsylvania to earn this distinction this year.

The "Schools to Watch" list was developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. The program identifies middle schools where students are excelling academically and where teachers and administrators are improving curriculum and instruction, responding to the needs and interests of their students, and helping all students achieve success at high levels.

Mr. Speaker, Radnor Middle School has demonstrated its commitment to continued improvement and to educating young adolescents for future academic, social and professional success. I congratulate Radnor Middle School's hardworking administrators, teachers, staff and students for earning this impressive distinction.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW QUIROZ

**HON. WILL HURD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary bravery of Matthew Quiroz.

In September of 2012, Matthew, who is now 9 years old, was diagnosed with Wilms Tumor stage II. After more than 2 years of remission, Matthew was diagnosed with a metastatic Wilms Tumor last April. He has been fighting bravely for the past 4 years, spending his time between Lubbock, Texas, and his hometown of Fort Stockton, Texas, which lies squarely in my district.

Yesterday, Matthew received a warm homecoming with friends and family as he returned to Fort Stockton. Matthew's bravery and determination has been an inspiration to me and many others in Fort Stockton and I am truly honored to represent such a courageous young man. The warmth that the community of Fort Stockton has shown Matthew has been tremendous and serves as a testament to the close knit communities that can be found in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas.

I have no doubt that Matthew's extraordinary fortitude of character and incredible demonstration of bravery in the face of overwhelming adversity will continue to serve as

an inspiration to anyone who learns of his story.

LEGACY OF HISTORICALLY BLACK  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Historically Black Colleges and Universities created and fostered a generation of African American leaders who would have otherwise been denied an education due to segregation. The legacy and impact of HBCUs are far-reaching and especially worthy of praise and appreciation. Today, with more than 100 institutions across the nation, HBCUs still play a vital role in educating our youth, nurturing leaders and producing great innovators.

My district, the 7th Congressional District, is home to some of the most prominent HBCUs in the country, and I am very proud to represent those universities in the United States Congress through my work on the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus.

Education is the great equalizer that levels the playing field and can help break the cycle of poverty that affects families across the 7th Congressional District, the state of Alabama, and this nation.

Young people from every background and every walk of life deserve the right to reach their full potential.

As the daughter of two educators, I know firsthand the difference a strong education can make in achieving the American dream, regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic background.

HBCUs play a critically important role in educating our youth to prepare them in the areas of agriculture, science and cutting edge technology. In the State of Alabama alone, we have several HBCU institutions: From Alabama A&M, where students are working with government agencies to develop new technology to make our country safer. To Tuskegee University, where students are working with local communities and farmers to increase crop production and efficiencies. To Alabama State, where students are being trained as world class teachers equipped to educate our youth all across America.

Miles College, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) institution located in Fairfield, is an outstanding HBCU that also offers quality educational options to traditional students, those going back to college, and law students.

These are just a few examples of the critical work that is being done at HBCUs in Alabama. And I must say I am quite proud of all of the work that our HBCUs do on a daily basis. The numbers speak for themselves when it comes to the value of what is produced by HBCUs:

22 percent of Black students who earn a bachelor's degree do so from an HBCU.

Among Blacks, 40 percent of Members of Congress graduated from an HBCU, 12.5 percent of CEOs, 40 percent of engineers, 50 percent of professors at non-HBCUs, 50 percent of lawyers, and 80 percent of judges.

HBCUs are still needed in this country and should be recognized and respected for their unique contributions to its students and society as a whole.

As we move forward in Congress, I remain committed to working with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and HBCUs from my district and across this country as we fight to promote the value and legacy of HBCUs.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE TOWN OF  
CROGHAN

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 175th Anniversary of the town of Croghan in Lewis County, New York. The town of Croghan was named after the famous war hero from the War of 1812, Colonel George Croghan.

One of the major shapers of Croghan was Theodore Basselin. Mr. Basselin had interests in the businesses of timber, railroad, paper manufacturing, furniture, banking, and electric power generation. He was elected to be the first President of the Village of Croghan. Upon his death in 1914, Mr. Basselin left \$25,000 for the creation of a parochial school named Father Leo Memorial School in Croghan. The Basselin mansion and family cemetery still exist in Croghan today and are considered significant landmarks.

The town of Croghan is home to the American Maple Museum and Hall of Fame, the Oswegatchie Educational Center, and the Railway Historical Society of Northern New York Museum. One of the unique businesses in the town is the Croghan Meat Market that was founded in 1888 and is still going strong. The major businesses that are seen throughout the town are logging, farming, and the production of maple syrup. These businesses are vital to Upstate New York communities. Their products reach residents throughout New York and beyond, and will continue to be a strong asset to the state for years to come.

Congratulations to the town of Croghan on the 175th anniversary of your formation. I want to wish the people and businesses of Croghan continued success in the future.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

## TRIBUTE TO SHARON BAILEY

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for more than 30 years, Sharon Bailey served the hungry and homeless of our nation as the Vice President and Director of the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) program at United Way Worldwide.

Mrs. Bailey passed away on September 9th of last year. We offer our deepest sympathy to her husband and daughter and her extended family, but also to her staff at United Way, the National Board members she served over the years, and especially to the staffs at social services agencies across America that have worked with her since 1983.

The EFS program began in 1983 as a creation of the House Appropriations Committee. It was reacting to an outcry across the country to help supplement the local food and shelter providers dealing with a burgeoning problem. Later it was authorized, in 1985, as Title III of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. It's a unique program that is administered by a National Board that determines the funding allocations across the country as well as the eligible uses of the funds.

The EFS National Board is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with membership that includes the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, the Jewish Federations of North America, the National Council of Churches, the Salvation Army and United Way Worldwide. The program is administered at the local level by an EFS Local Board whose membership mirrors the National Board but also contains a representative of local government as well as other agencies active in assisting the homeless and hungry in the community. Eligible services include the provision of overnight shelter and served meals, assistance to food banks and pantries, one month's rental or mortgage assistance to prevent evictions, and one month's utility payments to prevent service cut-offs.

The program has a very broad distribution system, annually reaching out to up to 2,500 local communities and more than 12,000 local service organizations (both charitable and governmental). In order to administer such a large program, chiefly among the non-profit community, the EFS National Board chose United Way to serve as the program's Secretariat. It is in that role that Sharon Bailey began her three decades of service to the EFS program. That service included providing leadership to advance the emergency funds of more than \$4 billion over the life to the program rapidly while maintaining accountability at all levels.

In her position, Sharon served as the sounding board and counselor not only to her own staff but to hundreds of staff on EFS Local Boards as well as Local Recipient Organizations all across the county. She interpreted program policy and, when in doubt, brought waivers and similar requests before the National Board at its monthly meetings. She coordinated the annual audit of the program by independent outside firms, fulfilled

governmental requests for information, managed the EFS program's web site and maintained the overall budget of the program. It's important to note that all of this work at the national level was carried out with Sharon and her staff only using 1 percent of the program's 3.5 percent administrative budget.

Sharon also arranged the National Board's on-site visits to meet with Local Board and provider groups to understand the program's impact and to learn how to simplify and improve its processes. I attended one of these visits in my District several years ago and can attest to the open exchange of ideas, and also to Sharon Bailey's devotion to the people the program served. Perhaps a recognition of that devotion is the most fitting memorial to her dedication and service to our nation and the people most in need our help.

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 IN RECOGNITION OF SABRA WILLIAMS AND ROBY SO BEING NAMED CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE BY THE WHITE HOUSE
 

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**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two outstanding Angelenos, Sabra Williams and Roby So, both of whom were named Champions of Change by the White House for expanding fair chance opportunities.

Sabra Williams is the founder and director of the Actors' Gang Prison Project. An actress herself, Sabra conducts an 8-week theater program in prisons in California. Through her work, inmates have developed key social and emotional skills and also have increased their self-esteem and tolerance. As a result, the Department of Corrections has seen an 89 percent reduction in prison violations amongst inmates who have completed the Prison Project. Further, inmates who have gone through the program have the necessary skills to ease their transition back into society after prison, resulting in a lower risk of recidivism.

Roby So is a formerly incarcerated inmate of 12 years and has turned his harsh life experiences into helping others. Roby is the re-entry program manager at the Executive Clemency Initiative with Stanford Law School's Justice Advocacy Project. The program helps reintegrate returning inmates into society after long prison sentences. Roby is also a production supervisor in the entertainment industry, serving as an example to former inmates that they, too, can successfully reintegrate into society.

As our nation begins to cope with the tragic human toll of our mass incarceration experiment, I am proud of the work both Sabra and Roby do to help some of the most forgotten members of our society. The White House has rightly named them Champions of Change.

## MARIE WILLAN'S ONE HUNDRED TENTH BIRTHDAY

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marie Willan of Wadena, Minnesota who is celebrating her 110th birthday today. A lifelong resident of Wadena, Marie has always been an active member of her community, who put caring for her family and community before herself throughout her life. She put graduating high school on hold to take care of her eight siblings, her family's farm, then later her own son Roy. Never one to leave things unfinished, Marie returned to Wadena High School and in 2007 completed her high school diploma at age 101.

Her family, thankful for all Marie's support, says her secret to such a long life is not holding onto worries and problems. A strong woman all her life, Marie made a point not to get worked up over the little things and today looks back at a long vibrant life with over a century of memories shared with her family, friends, and community.

On this very special day for Marie and her loved ones, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Marie a happy 110th birthday.

## HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AU PAIR IN AMERICA

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to congratulate Au Pair in America on its 30th anniversary. Since its inception, Au Pair in America has been a leader in providing trusted live-in cultural care.

Au Pair in America is part of the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), based in Stamford, Connecticut. AIFS has maintained an exceptional record of leadership and innovation in the international education community for more than 50 years.

In 1986, Au Pair in America was the first program sponsor to be designated by the State Department to administer an au pair program. To date, Au Pair in America has placed more than 90,000 au pairs from nearly 60 countries in Europe, South Africa, the Americas, New Zealand, the Middle East and Asia with American host families in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

Au Pair in America has set a high standard for management of the program and its active engagement with both U.S. families and international au pairs. Its initial model—including careful screening, orientation and child safety courses for au pairs upon arrival, and the supervision of local Community Counselors—remains the program standard to this day.

The au pair program provides a unique and rewarding experience for U.S. families and au pairs. And both host families and au pairs benefit from the cultural exchange that takes place and the creation of "global families."

I commend Au Pair in America for its dedication in providing host families with the most complete and fulfilling childcare and cultural exchange experience available.

IN RECOGNITION OF B.W.  
"STONE" STONE

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of a pillar of service from our community in East San Diego County, Mr. B.W. "Stoney" Stone of Santee, who passed away on April 20, 2016, surrounded by his family and loved ones. We had over 90 years with Stoney but, honestly, the selfish side of us wishes we had him a bit longer because we knew East County was better with him by our side.

Born in Mesa, AZ in 1925, Stoney moved to East County with his parents as a teen, graduating from Sweetwater High School in 1943. Knowing how much service was a part of his character, it is no surprise that he immediately joined the Army Air Forces upon graduation, proudly serving his nation during World War II from 1943 through 1946. Stoney was also a successful businessman, opening Stoney's Rock & Roll Market in El Cajon, before moving into the banking industry and becoming President of Cajon Valley Bank and eventually retiring from Temecula Valley Bank in 2000. By his side throughout this successful career was Stoney's beautiful wife of 54 years Bonnie and a large family of five children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In our community, Stoney was known as "Mr. East County," and this was for good reason. Aside from his family, community service was Stoney's greatest passion, particularly helping underprivileged children. Stoney founded the East County Toy and Food Drive, which has been helping kids for the past 41 years and has become East County's largest Holiday charity collection event, assisting over 20,000 families and 50,000 children. In fact, the drive became so successful that, 14 years ago, Stoney asked the Salvation Army to come in and help organize the thousands of toy donations to ensure that they reached those in need. Eventually this event would be taken over by another great service leader in our community, the Viejas Band of Mission Indians, who have proudly carried on Stoney's legacy.

Aside from the Toy and Food Drive, Stoney was instrumental in helping the El Cajon Police Department with their D.A.R.E. program, which would eventually evolve into its own program named Stoney's Kids. This program has raised over \$800,000 since 1991 to assist underprivileged kids throughout the year in providing youth programs, summer camp, sport equipment, music instruments, exercise equipment for the disabled, and playground build-outs. As if this was not enough, Stoney was also involved with the Mother Goose Parade, the American Red Cross, and the Lion's Club, always serving with his personal motto, "It's All About the Kids."

In our community we like to say that "East County is a special place to live." The fact of the matter is that it's the people that make it special and there was no greater example of this than Stoney Stone. As the Congressman whose district has included East County for many years, I am proud to have had the privilege of knowing Stoney and learning from his commitment to service. And while we will miss him greatly, we are left with Stoney's example and legacy that challenges us to do more. Thank you Stoney, for everything.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE  
JARED HUFFMAN FOR BEING INDUCTED INTO THE GAUCHO HALL OF FAME

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my distinguished colleague and friend Representative JARED HUFFMAN of California's Second Congressional District for his induction into the "Gaucho Hall of Fame" at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB).

Born and raised in Independence, Missouri, JARED HUFFMAN graduated William Chrisman High School in 1982. His passion for volleyball led him to the West Coast where he attended UCSB. While there, he was a starter for the UCSB Men's Volleyball team and was recognized as a three-time NCAA All-American volleyball player. Upon graduating magna cum laude, JARED went on to play for the number 1 ranked USA Men's Volleyball Team in 1987.

In 1990, he graduated cum laude from Boston College Law School and served as an attorney for many years eventually representing the National Resource Defense Council working to protect the environment. JARED was elected to the California State Assembly in 2006 where he served on the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee and the Budget Committee. In 2012, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he continues to serve his constituents in California's Second Congressional District.

Since coming to Congress, JARED has served as a member of both the House Natural Resources and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committees, where he has been a leader in the fight to protect our nation's environment and public lands. JARED has had a long career of academic excellence, athletic achievements, and tireless dedication to public service. For all these reasons, he will be inducted into the UCSB Gaucho Hall of Fame on April 30, 2016.

I congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY  
SALINAS TRANSIT

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monterey Salinas Transit, located in

Monterey, California, where the history of California state government began.

April 30, 2016 marks the 125th anniversary of the start of public transportation in Monterey County. On this date in 1891, the Monterey & Pacific Grove Street Railway system started service with horse drawn street cars operating on a series of rails laid in the existing road network. The rail network connected the world famous Del Monte Hotel, now the home of the world famous Naval Postgraduate School, through the Oak Grove neighborhood to downtown Monterey and the Presidio of Monterey via Del Monte Avenue to Alvarado, Munras, and Tyler Avenues. Those first transit passengers could continue on Lighthouse Avenue through New Monterey and end their journey at 17th street in downtown Pacific Grove. That first day of operation coincided with a visit from the 23rd President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, who rode in a parade from Pacific Grove to the Del Monte Hotel.

The horse drawn streetcars ran for ten years until 1901 when they were replaced by an all electric powered street car fleet operated by the Monterey Gas & Electric Company in 1903. Electric streetcars ran in Monterey and what is now Seaside in a variety of forms through 1921, when the Monterey & Pacific Grove Railway was abandoned because it was unable to compete with more cost effective rubber-wheeled, internal combustion engine powered buses operated by the Bay Rapid Transit Company.

For the next 50 years, Bay Rapid Transit operated buses until the Monterey Peninsula Public Transit joint powers agency took over public operation of the transit system in September 1974. In July 1981, the MPT took over public transit operations for the City of Salinas forming the Monterey-Salinas Transit joint powers agency which eventually became the Monterey-Salinas Transit District in July 2010. At that time, the MST Board of Directors was expanded to include the cities of Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Sand City and Soledad. MST continued to grow and passengers can now connect to neighboring Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and San Luis Obispo counties.

One hundred and twenty five years later, Monterey-Salinas Transit buses and its wirelessly powered electric trolley continue to operate along the original routes of the first horse drawn street cars. And, MST continues to provide the same level of exceptional service and value to everyone who lives, works or visits the beautiful Monterey Bay region that riders of yesteryear experienced. With ridership of 4.5 million passengers a year, MST is a regional transportation asset that continues to innovate and provide exceptional value and service for the next one hundred twenty five years.

CONGRATULATING KIM BROWN ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE GRAPEVINE TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kim Brown on her well-earned

retirement from the Grapevine Police Department after serving over thirty years with the City of Grapevine, Texas.

Kim began her service with the City of Grapevine as a library aid and assistant where she worked for over three years before beginning her long and distinguished career with the Grapevine Police Department. Kim started with the Department as an Administration Clerk in 1989 and was soon promoted to Administration Division Secretary before eventually moving into the Criminal Investigations Division as an Investigative Assistant.

Since the beginning of her tenure in Grapevine, Kim has provided outstanding service to her community, which is apparent in the numerous commendations she has received while performing her duties. Most recently, Kim was awarded a Certificate of Merit in November, 2014, for her excellent performance.

Kim's exemplary work with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Grapevine Police Department has had a tremendous effect on the safety and security of Grapevine and the surrounding communities. Her legacy will leave a lasting mark on the City of Grapevine and the Grapevine Police Department for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the contributions Kim has made to the City of Grapevine. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Kim Brown on her many years of service.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF iFOSTER

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the iFoster jobs program for foster youth. Each May, we recognize National Foster Care Month, when we acknowledge the unique challenges facing American youth in foster care. The campaign recognizes not only the foster youth, but also the foster parents, family members, child welfare professionals, volunteers, and members of our communities who help our children find foster placements, and ultimately transition successfully out of the foster care system.

One of the most significant challenges facing foster youth as they transition out of the foster care system involves finding meaningful employment. As a Member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I am committed to identifying strategies to improve the well-being, education and employment outcomes for our foster youth. For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing iFoster's foster youth employment program.

The iFoster program launched in Placer County in May 2015 and has since expanded to Los Angeles County. Through a partnership with the grocery industry, it has developed an innovative employment program for transition age foster youth. The program provides participating youth with pre-employment skills training, employer matching, needed material resources, preferential hiring, on-the-job mentorship, and scholarship and career advancement activities. In its pilot year, the pro-

gram has placed over 100 youth, and achieved a 100 percent hire rate and a 90 percent six-month retention rate for participating foster youth. I am pleased that this May, the program will be launching in Riverside, San Bernardino and Sacramento counties, before being replicated nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, in advance of iFoster's expansion next month, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring its work in the state of California.

#### FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH 2016

### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of financial literacy month, which is observed in April of every year to emphasize the critical role consumer education plays in helping our constituents realize the American Dream.

Each year, too many Americans face difficulties purchasing automobiles, buying homes, paying for college, and even finding gainful employment due to poor credit history.

In fact, according to a 2014 American Bankers Association poll, 60 percent of Americans do not even know their own credit score.

As a member of the bipartisan Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, I am proud to work tirelessly with my colleagues to improve consumer financial education.

That is why I introduced the Free Credit Score Act of 2016, H.R. 5058 to require the inclusion of a credit score in a consumer's free annual credit report.

During this Financial Literacy Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in the effort to improve consumer education by co-sponsoring this piece of legislation.

#### IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK 2016

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate May 1 through 7 as National Travel and Tourism Week 2016 and to honor the valuable contributions of the travel and tourism industry in the United States.

As co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus since 1997, I have long recognized the benefits tourism brings to our national economy. With this being my last year as co-chair of the tourism caucus, I rise to remind my colleagues that the travel and tourism industry generates nearly \$950 billion annually and is a top 10 industry in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

I rise to celebrate my local tourism industry that generates nearly \$3 billion a year in my congressional district, and to thank Tammy Blount of the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Maggie Ivy of Visit Santa Cruz County for helping with that success.

I rise to celebrate an industry that supports more than 15 million jobs in the United States. That's 1 out of every 9 jobs related to tourism.

I rise to celebrate an industry that is America's largest services export industry, accounting for 10 percent of all U.S. exports of goods and services.

I rise to celebrate an industry that is present in every congressional district in the United States, an industry where success can be found by anyone with a positive attitude, a willingness to serve others and a desire to work hard.

I rise to support this year's National Travel and Tourism Week as an opportunity to express to the nation the importance of travel in creating economic growth and opportunity, and enhancing the quality of life throughout the United States.

#### CELEBRATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF JERUSALEM WESTERN SALISBURY CHURCH

### HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to bring to the House's attention the 275th Anniversary of Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church located in Salisbury Township, Lehigh County. The church is a shared ministry congregation of the Lutheran and United Church of Christ denomination and has maintained that structure since its origins as a little, log church in 1741.

The original church was alternatively referred to as the "Schmaltzgass Church," "the Little Lehigh Church," or the "Manguntsche Church." It was a place of spiritual and cultural fellowship for the Lutheran and Reformed practitioners in the surrounding community.

During their 275 years in Lehigh County, the men and women of the Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church have remained active and involved participants within the area. They provide both spiritual and physical aid to those in need and are part of the fabric of our community. Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church's congregation provides strong support to those in need through Lehigh County's Conference of Churches and the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank. Through their mission work and community engagement, they provide great service and support to those who are most in need.

I extend my thanks to the men and women of Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church for all that they do on a daily basis to make their church, their community, and Lehigh County a better, kinder place. I wish the congregation continued peace, joy, and fellowship on this happy anniversary.

#### HONORING ALICIA JARAMILLO

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Alicia Jaramillo,

a criminal division investigator with the Napa County District Attorney's Office. Ms. Jaramillo will honorably retire on May 6, 2016 after more than twenty-five years of public service.

Over her long career, Ms. Jaramillo has served the citizens of both Napa and Tulare counties on countless investigations and in assisting preparing felony cases for trial. She worked first with the Visalia Police Department, and then with the Bureau of Investigation of the Napa County District Attorney's Office. Ms. Jaramillo has demonstrated her commitment to her work and her clients by earning and maintaining several accreditations and certificates in law enforcement. As a full peace officer, the District Attorney's Office could rely on Ms. Jaramillo to respond to a call around the clock, and she has even travelled abroad to help her clients.

A true Napa County leader, Ms. Jaramillo has worked with many local organizations supporting peace officers, women, youth, and the Hispanic community. She sits on the board of directors for both Puertas Abiertas and the Napa County Hispanic Network, for which she previously served as President. In addition to her career accomplishments, her leadership has aided the Napa County Peace Officers' Association, the Napa Emergency Women's Services, the Woman Peace Officers' Association of California, the COPE Family Center, the Napa County Youth and Gang Violence Commission, the City of Napa Advisory Council, and the California Peace Officers' Memorial. Her service to these associations speaks volumes about her character and dedication to improving the lives of her neighbors.

We hope that Ms. Jaramillo will be able to spend time with her family in her retirement, including her husband of thirty years, Joe, and her three children, Eric, Aaron, and Jasmine.

Mr. Speaker, Alicia Jaramillo has dedicated her long and remarkable career to public service in Napa County. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today, and wish her the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO KALLAN PAULSEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kallan Paulsen. Kallan, a sophomore from Bondurant-Farrar High School was recently selected as the winner of the Congressional Art Competition from Iowa's 3rd Congressional District. She is the daughter of Jon and Darla Paulsen of Bondurant, Iowa.

An Artistic Discovery, the Congressional Art Competition is open nationwide to high school students. Since 1982, the competition has been an opportunity for Members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. A panel of 16 judges, one from each county in Iowa's 3rd Congressional District, reviewed over 70 submissions from schools throughout the district.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Kallan for her hard work and the artistic talents which she demonstrates. It is an honor to represent her and

her parents in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing her nothing but continued success as she continues her education.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND THE UNITED STATES VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM HOSTED BY FIRST MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH IN DUMFRIES ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and the United States Vietnam War Commemoration Program hosted by First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries on Sunday, February 28, 2016.

In recognition of more than a decade of combat by land, air, and sea, Congress authorized the Secretary of Defense through the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and to honor the more than 3 million service members and their families for their heroic service and sacrifice.

Through the facilitation of programs and activities at the local, state, and federal levels of government in partnership with community-based groups and organizations, more than 4,700 Vietnam War commemorative programs involving 9,514 partners have been scheduled throughout the nation. Each commemorative program is designed to meet or exceed the following objectives:

To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

To pay tribute to the contributions made on the homefront by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

One of these programs is being hosted by First Mount Zion Baptist Church, located in the 11th District of Virginia. Approximately 130 members of the church left their homes and their loved ones, risking their lives to serve our country during the 13-year span of the Vietnam War. I commend the leadership and the 4,300 current members of First Mount Zion Baptist Church for sponsoring a Vietnam War

commemoration program to honor and thank these men and women and their families who sacrificed so much.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and the United States Commemoration Program at First Mount Zion Baptist Church. Today we reaffirm our commitment to always honor and celebrate the members of our Armed Services, especially those men and women who served with distinction and valiantly defended this nation in that long and arduous war.

HONORING VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the veterans of the Vietnam War. As we commemorate its 50th anniversary, we must never forget the brave men and women who served our country from 1962 to 1975.

I am proud to represent a large veteran community. Almost a third of the 1.58 million veterans who live in my home state of Florida served in the Vietnam War. Palm Beach and Broward Counties are home to 157,000 veterans, more than 50,000 of whom served in Vietnam.

As a mother of a veteran who served during wartime, I understand the sacrifices made by these service men and women and their families. These veterans deserve our respect and gratitude.

I am proud to be here today to thank these Vietnam War Veterans for their service. We will never forget your courage.

IN MEMORY OF SERGIO KLOR DEALVA

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergio Klor DeAlva. Members take the floor more regularly than we would like, to speak to the value of our friends, mentors and constituents who have left us in this life. But it is always more difficult when we speak of members of our family. Sergio was a member of the Farr family who was taken from us in a tragic car accident late Monday night.

Sergio served as an intern in my office. He was such a unique spirit. Engaging, kind and ever helpful. One of our staff fondly remembers watching Sergio engage with my constituents on tours and in the office and enjoying the smile and sense of humor he brought to every situation.

Upon leaving us, he returned to UC Santa Cruz where he ran for and won a place on the student council. He later would volunteer his time as a part of the campaign team of our

colleague, MIKE HONDA. At 24, he had amassed a resume that spoke to the dedication and passion he had for civil service in whatever community he found himself. I was and continue to be impressed with this young man's ambition. His future would have undoubtedly been one of public service. We need more men and women like Sergio.

Upon leaving my office, interns are asked to participate in an exit interview. In this interview, the very last question asks if there is anything we should be left with. Sergio answered this question in the form of a self composed poem.

Mr. Speaker, I close with a quote from my young intern.

"I cannot tell the future  
but I can see mine here  
But until that day  
Know  
that I will miss this place."

Rest assured, Sergio, this place will miss you too.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND  
STAN SLOAN ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM CHI-  
CAGO HOUSE

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Stan Sloan, the longest-serving CEO in the history of Chicago House and honor his service to the Chicago LGBTQ community.

Rev. Sloan joined Chicago House in 2000 and in his 16 years of dedication and hard work, has quadrupled the amount of services offered at the agency. Reverend Sloan led the effort to establish the Midwest's first HIV/AIDS Employment Initiative and developed a city-wide Center for Disease Control Prevention Program. In addition, Rev. Sloan and Chicago House have opened the nation's first and most comprehensive center for Transgender services—including housing, employment, medical, and legal components at the Translife Center on Chicago's northside.

Last year, Rev. Sloan came to DC and led a Congressional Briefing entitled "The Economics of Equality", in which he shared his years of experience to highlight the prevalence of poverty in the LGBTQ community. Always a man of action, most recently Rev. Sloan conceived of and launched the groundbreaking effort Proud2Share, designed to promote community and philanthropic giving within the LGBTQ community to fight poverty and homelessness.

His efforts in HIV/AIDS and poverty have been recognized by being selected the award recipient for the Illinois Department of Public Health Red Ribbon Award as well as the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago Advocate of the Year Award. In 2010, Rev. Sloan was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

The importance of charity and philanthropy can never be understated. Empathy, drive, and compassion are what make a great lead-

er, and the community owes a debt of gratitude to Rev. Stan Sloan.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Reverend Stan Sloan for his tireless dedication to the LGBTQ community throughout his long and storied career. I urge my colleagues in congratulating Reverend Stan Sloan for all the work he has done both in the great city of Chicago and throughout our great nation.

TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON SAEUGLING

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Clayton Saeugling of Atlantic, Iowa, for receiving the highest Iowa Future Farmers of America (FFA) Award, the Iowa Farmer Degree Award. Clayton serves as President of the Atlantic Future Farmers of America Chapter.

Clayton said it is an honor to receive this award and "it can be something that younger members look up to for receiving it." Clayton has been active in the local FFA Chapter, focusing his activities on agronomy and livestock judging. He hopes to work and be a part of agriculture after he completes his studies at Iowa State University. His field of study will include animal science and agronomy. Clayton said his experiences in agriculture and activities in the FFA Chapter have broadened and enhanced his interest for a career. He enjoys meeting other FFA students from other competitions and exploring their experiences in agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Clayton for earning this award. It is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring his accomplishments and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future endeavors in agriculture.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUMP-  
START HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES  
UTILIZING SMALL ENTERPRISES  
ACT OF 2016

### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, recent studies show that 21.3 million households pay more than 30 percent of their incomes towards rental housing, up from 14.8 million in 2001. In turn, the demand for low-cost rental housing has increased as the supply of affordable rental units has decreased. Nationwide, there is a shortage of affordable housing options available to low- and middle-income Americans. That is why I am introducing the Jumpstart Housing Opportunities Utilizing Small Enterprises Act of 2016 or Jumpstart HOUSE Act.

In 2010, President Obama signed the Small Business Jobs Act, P.L. 111-240, which created the State Small Business Credit Initiative

(SSBCI). Funded with \$1.5 billion, the SSBCI disperses funds to participating states who in turn use credit support programs and state-sponsored venture capital programs to award funding to small businesses. Without reauthorization, the SSBCI is set to expire at the end of FY17. The Jumpstart HOUSE Act would reauthorize the SSBCI program for an additional 8 years with \$1.5 billion in new funding. Additionally, it will improve the program by requiring state business development agencies to set aside the lesser of \$2.5 million or 10 percent of unobligated funds, for small businesses to purchase, rehabilitate, or operate affordable housing units.

Since its inception, the SSBCI program has created or retained over 140,000 jobs, as well as, supported over 12,400 private sector loans to small businesses, 42 percent of which were made to low- and moderate-income communities. As we continually look for ways to advance economic growth, it is critically important to renew the SSBCI program to increase availability of credit for small businesses, generate jobs, and stimulate economic development. It also is critically important to improve the program by amending it to direct funds to job-creating small businesses that focus on increasing the stock of affordable housing units. The Jumpstart HOUSE Act would accomplish both of these goals.

The SSBCI program has demonstrated proven success in leveraging federal dollars to generate private access to capital for small businesses. Let's build off of SSBCI's success and extend it to increasing the supply of affordable housing nationwide.

I urge my colleagues to become a co-sponsor of the Jumpstart Housing Opportunities Utilizing Small Enterprises Act of 2016.

RECOGNIZING SALLY LAY FOR  
HER COMMITMENT TO THE DE-  
VELOPMENT OF THE ARTS IN  
GREATER PRINCE WILLIAM  
COUNTY

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mrs. Sally Lay who was recognized during the 6th Annual Hylton Performing Arts Center Awards Gala for dedicating her career to expanding the reach of the arts in Greater Prince William County.

Prior to her retirement in August 2015, Mrs. Lay served as the executive director of the Center for the Arts for 28 years. During her tenure, she spearheaded a five-year campaign to garner the support of the community and the public sector for the restoration of the old Hopkins Candy Factory in the City of Manassas. Her efforts paid off, and since 2002, the Center for the Arts has called the Candy Factory home. Signature programs include The Pied Piper Children's Theatre, Pied Piper Theatre Camps, Rooftop Productions, the Merchant Family Art Gallery, the Summer Sounds Concerts, and extensive arts education classes, many of which are hosted at the Hylton Performing Arts Center today.

In the midst of her demanding schedule, Mrs. Lay found time to serve on the board of directors for the Prince William County/Manassas Convention & Visitors Bureau and Leadership Prince William. Today, she remains actively engaged with the Rotary Club of Manassas and serves on the board of directors for the Prince William County Arts Council and Virginians for the Arts.

Mrs. Lay's deep roots in the community have served the residents of Greater Prince William County well. Over the course of her career, Mrs. Lay has received well-deserved recognition for her endless contributions, including receiving the Prince William County Arts Council/Prince William Chamber of Commerce Seefeldt Pioneer Award in 2005 and the Woman of the Year for the Greater Prince William Christmas Day Parade in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 6th Annual Hylton Performing Arts Awards Gala honoree, Mrs. Sally Lay, for being a tireless champion of the Arts in Greater Prince William County.

CELEBRATING SHIRLEY DRINKARD  
ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mrs. Shirley Drinkard. She will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on May 12, 2016.

Shirley Drinkard was born in Argonia, Kansas in 1916. Shirley was one of five siblings and during her childhood, the family would go fishing every Saturday night. When Shirley was 23 years old, she moved to Fulton, MO. Shirley graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Wichita University. Later, Shirley finished out her education with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics and a Master's Degree in Economics, both received from the University of Missouri—Columbia.

Shirley married Paul Drinkard, who was a WWII Veteran, when she was 30 years old, and they remained married for 35 years. Shirley and Paul had one son, Eddie Drinkard, one grandson, James Drinkard, and one great-granddaughter, Billie Drinkard.

Shirley worked for the University of Missouri Extension in Columbia, Missouri. She was the home economics teacher and department coordinator for 37 years. The University of Missouri also had Shirley teach business finance to local organizations.

Shirley always appreciated the opportunity to travel to numerous countries including: Italy, Canada, Spain, and Denmark. Shirley enjoys many hobbies which include: fishing, dancing, reading, playing cards and the piano. Over the years Shirley has continued to stay in contact with the University of Missouri Extension.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mrs. Drinkard on her 100th Birthday Celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 164 regarding "H.R. 4820: Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016." Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

I missed Roll Call vote number 165 regarding "H.R. 4096: Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act." Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF WENDY  
SPENCER

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS). As the Co-Chair of the National Service Congressional Caucus, it is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Spencer for her leadership and dedicated commitment to service programs.

Wendy Spencer was nominated by President Obama and was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in April 2012. Under her leadership, CNCS has launched new public-private partnerships, including FEMA Corps, School Turnaround AmeriCorps, STEM AmeriCorps, Justice AmeriCorps, and Financial Opportunity Corps. Wendy has also increased the agency's focus on reaching veterans and military families, overseen the national service response for many severe disasters, and strengthened relationships with public officials and local leaders.

Wendy Spencer's efforts to engage local leaders includes creating the annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service, where city mayors, county officials and tribal leaders express their appreciation for Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and volunteerism in general. When first launched in 2013, the Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service included 830 city mayors and local officials recognizing and celebrating service across the country. On April 5, 2016, 3,539 mayors, county officials and tribal leaders participated in the Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service—making it the largest one day gathering among public officials in history.

Through her innovative leadership and collaboration, Wendy Spencer has led national service programs in transforming lives and improving communities while implementing local solutions. Wendy Spencer is a pioneer of national service. Mr. Speaker, as community members, and various national and state community service leaders gather at OneOC in Orange County, California, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Wendy Spencer for her significant contributions and commitment to the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS).

HONORING MAYOR ROBERT  
BEUTTER FOR A DISTINGUISHED  
CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Mayor of Mishawaka Robert Beutter, and honor his many years of public service to the City of Mishawaka and our nation.

Mayor Beutter was born in Mishawaka, Indiana on April 6, 1935. He attended Indiana University and earned degrees in business administration and law. After graduating from law school, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

In 1972, Beutter became a member of the City of Mishawaka's Legal Staff, serving for 8 years. In 1984, he was first elected Mayor, and would serve five terms totaling 20 years. Upon completion of his time as Mayor, Beutter became the Assistant City Attorney where he served another 8 years until 2012.

Bob Beutter is a fixture in our community. He has been active on boards and in leadership roles for the Mishawaka Food Pantry; Boy Scouts of America; Salvation Army Kroc Center; Mishawaka Kiwanis Club; and Salvation Army Advisory Board.

He has received such honors as the Community Service and Leadership Award by the Boy Scouts of America; two Sagamore of the Wabash awards by two different governors; the American Legion Post 161's Veteran of the Year; and was named an Honorary Graduate from Bethel College.

Given all of Beutter's service to the community, it was only fitting that the City of Mishawaka's riverfront park was named after him, as it is the focal point of our community.

Beutter and his wife Mary have been married for 55 years. Together, they have helped build and grow Mishawaka. I want to thank them both for their service and sacrifice to help make our community a better place.

HONORING MR. RALPH KEECHLER

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ralph Keechler, who has served the City of Sonoma, California and the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority (SVFRA) for 60 years. In addition to his own volunteerism, Mr. Keechler has passed on his passion for service to his son, Joseph. Together, Ralph and Joseph Keechler have volunteered with the SVFRA for a remarkable 100 years combined.

Mr. Keechler is a Sonoma native, and served in World War II with the 75th Infantry Division. During his military service, Mr. Keechler participated in the Battle of the Bulge and earned the rank of Corporal. He has also

been an active member of the Native Sons of the Golden West for 71 years, promoting and preserving California's history and landmarks for future generations.

His work with the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority ensures fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to Sonoma and surrounding communities. Mr. Keechler currently serves as Division Chief of SVFRA, guaranteeing his experience informs the organization's operations.

Mr. Keechler has been a true leader in the Sonoma community. He and his late wife of 50 years, Barbara Keechler, have passed along their passion for service to their three children, Christine, Joseph, and Karen.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Keechler has dedicated his time and knowledge to serving his community for six decades, and Ralph and Joseph Keechler's unique contribution of a combined century of volunteerism is an inspiring example to our country. Therefore, it is fitting and proper to honor him here today.

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#### TRIBUTE TO DUPONT PIONEER

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Iowa company, DuPont Pioneer of Johnston, Iowa as they celebrate their 90th anniversary.

Founded in 1926 by former United States Vice President Henry A. Wallace, the Hi-Bred Corn Company, as it was originally known, set out to share the promise of hybrid seeds for all farmers. Early on, Wallace recognized hybrid seeds could offer tremendous value through higher yields and increased profitability for farmers. His instincts were right and his knowledge and understanding of corn genetics completely changed the manner in which crops were grown in the United States.

Today, DuPont Pioneer employs 13,000 people globally and partners with generations of loyal customers. This iconic company has grown from a small research facility in Johnston, Iowa, to a multi-billion dollar company serving customers in over 90 countries worldwide. With 2 million seed production acres and 100 research and development facilities around the world, DuPont has left a lasting impact on the State of Iowa and the agricultural industry.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 90 years DuPont Pioneer has left an indelible mark on the agriculture industry. Their innovation and forward thinking increases yields and food production around the world to feed a growing population. I commend DuPont Pioneer and their employees for a job well done. I also ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring this company for their unwavering commitment to agriculture and the state of Iowa. I wish DuPont Pioneer and their employees nothing but continued success in their future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING NOVEC FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE RESIDENTS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC), which was recognized during the 6th Annual Hylton Center for Performing Arts Awards Gala for its commitment to supporting communities in Northern Virginia.

Founded on January 1, 1983, the not-for-profit distribution cooperative provides electrical services to more than 160,000 homes and businesses located in Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Stafford, and Prince William counties, the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, and the Town of Clifton. As one of the largest electric cooperatives of its kind in the United States, NOVEC's service territory spans 651 square miles. Over the past 33 years, NOVEC has achieved and maintained excellence in the areas of safety, customer satisfaction, and technology management, showcasing an extensive record of efficiency and productivity. Their service is consistently ranked the best in the region, averaging a 99.99 percent average system reliability over the past 5 years. As a cooperative, NOVEC's customers have an ownership interest, and therefore, share in any profits generated by the company. These profits are allocated annually to improve the health and well-being of customer-owners and community residents.

NOVEC is invested in the community with emphasis placed in the areas of corporate sponsorship, community volunteerism, and customer outreach. Displaying its commitment to active community engagement, NOVEC reaches beyond the power lines and invests in the community. Customers and members of the general public are invited to take advantage of the services and resources offered by NOVEC, including financial scholarships, legislative tours to expose youth to the federal and state legislative processes, and hands-on engagement through volunteerism.

NOVEC works to inspire and empower the people it serves to take an active role in their community. A time-tested initiative is Operation Round-Up. Program participants voluntarily have their bill rounded up to the next dollar to assist local families who have fallen on hard times to pay for their winter heating bills through donations to heating-assistance programs at six local social service agencies. Since the establishment of Operation Round-Up in 1997, the program has generated close to \$750,000 in heating assistance. Another initiative unique to NOVEC is its relationship with the Hylton Performing Arts Center. NOVEC continues to serve as an instrumental partner through its constant support of the Hylton Center's artists and initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing NOVEC as the 6th Annual Hylton Performing Arts Awards Gala honoree for its involvement and investment in the residents of Northern Virginia.

#### HONORING MR. JOSEPH KEECHLER

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joseph Keechler, who has volunteered with the City of Sonoma, California and the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority (SVFRA) for 40 years. Mr. Keechler inherited his passion for service to his father, Ralph. Together, Joseph and Ralph Keechler have volunteered with the SVFRA for a remarkable 100 years combined.

Building on his family's roots in Sonoma, Mr. Keechler has developed his own strong ties to the area. He earned his Associate's Degree from Santa Rosa Junior College, and with his wife Susan, raised her children, Sam and Jack, in his hometown.

With his long history of service to our community, Mr. Keechler serves as a reliable and trusted leader in Sonoma. He has earned the rank of Captain with the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority, serving as a leader of the organization that ensures fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to Sonoma and surrounding communities. Furthermore, Mr. Keechler serves on the Board of the Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters' Association, sharing his firsthand experience for the benefit of other volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Keechler has dedicated his time and knowledge to serving his community for four decades, and Joseph and Ralph Keechler's unique contribution of a combined century of volunteerism is an inspiring example to our country. Therefore, it is fitting and proper to honor him here today.

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#### HONORING WORCESTER COMMUNITY LEADER MARGARET "PEGGY" MIDDAGH

### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of a remarkable community leader and environmental advocate from my district, Margaret "Peggy" Middaugh.

Peggy Middaugh's service in Worcester began when she joined the Regional Environmental Council as Executive Director in 1997. Serving in that role for 11 years, Peggy helped to transform REC from a small, volunteer-led organization into one of the region's leading environmental groups.

One of Peggy's signature accomplishments with the REC was creating the Youth Environmental Service Corps, that connected urban youth with nature by providing opportunities for them to hike and maintain Worcester's trails. This program eventually merged with urban gardens to create YouthGROW, an urban agriculture-focused youth development and employment program for low-income teens. YouthGROW currently employs low-income high school teens year-round, giving



them the opportunity to gain leadership and jobs skills as they maintain two urban organic farms. Hundreds of youth have graduated from YouthGROW since its inception in 2002.

Under her leadership, the REC built on its foundation of good work and expanded its focus into areas of environmental justice, urban agriculture, toxic use reduction, community gardens and youth development and leadership.

Peggy also built partnerships with state and local officials to implement a Toxic Use Reduction program that focused on educating residents in low income neighborhoods about how to reduce their exposure to household toxics, especially household cleaners and lead. The REC also developed Worcester's first Climate Action Plan under Peggy's leadership.

Peggy has served in a wide range of roles over the years, and the truth is, no matter where she is, Peggy is making a difference. She helped form the Friends of the Five Mile River, established recycling centers in Stow and North Brookfield, and as the outreach coordinator for the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition and a Conservation Commissioner for the Town of North Brookfield; she worked hard to help pass the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act of 1996.

Peggy has also worked diligently to bring together leaders from different parts of the community to address issues of hunger and food justice. She played a leading role in establishing "UGROW"—a grassroots, citywide community garden network. Today, Worcester has sixty two community gardens, eighteen of which are at city schools, as well as half a dozen urban orchards.

In response to the infestation of the invasive Asian Longhorn Beetle in Central Massachusetts, which led to the destruction of large portions of our urban forest, Peggy founded the Worcester Tree Initiative and acted as its Executive Director until her recent retirement. Under her leadership, the Worcester Tree Initiative brought together government, community and business leaders to develop and implement a plan that resulted in the planting of more than 30,000 trees in Worcester and the surrounding communities.

In addition to her work with the Regional Environmental Council and the Worcester Tree Initiative, Peggy has also been active in many community organizations and efforts through her roles as a founding member of the Blackstone Headwaters Coalition; on the Board of Directors of the Family Health Center of Worcester and the Main South Community Development Corporation; as a leader with the Castle Park Task Force; and as a volunteer for the homeless with the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Peggy has made everything that she has touched better. She is a shining example of what a truly dedicated public servant can achieve. And although Peggy is moving on to new challenges, just like the urban orchards she helped to establish, her contributions to my district will continue to grow and bear fruit for years to come.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH MIKA, MATTHEW MOLLOY, AND COURTNEY PAUL

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenneth Mika, Matthew Molloy, and Courtney Paul for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the spring of the 114th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these three and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All three of our interns have made plans to continue their education and professional occupations in Washington, D.C. and throughout the United States. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Kenneth Mika, Matthew Molloy, and Courtney Paul for their service this spring.

CONGRATULATING ZACK AND BRIE SMITHEY OF MISS AIMEE B'S TEA ROOM & GALLERY FOR RECEIVING THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 2016 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD—SERVICE CATEGORY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor constituents of mine, Zack and Brie Smithey. They are owners of Miss Aimee B's Tea Room & Gallery and are receiving the 2016 Employer of the Year Award, in the Service Category from the City of St. Charles Economic Development Department.

There is historical significance as Miss Aimee B's Tea Room and Gallery is in the National Register of Historic Places. Miss Aimee B's Tea Room and Gallery (the Marten/Becker House) remained in the family until 1982 when Miss Aimee Marie Louise Becker bequeathed it to the St. Charles County Historical Society. In 1991, Sherry Pfander and Judy purchased the Marten-Becker House from the St. Charles County Historical Society to start a business selling local arts and crafts. In January 2014, locals Zack and Brie Smithey proudly purchased the wonderful Miss Aimee B's Tea Room & Gallery. Miss Aimee B's takes pride in displaying local artists and crafters work in its upstairs shops.

Since the year 2014, Miss Aimee B's has increased sales by 20 percent. Zack and Brie

also work to repurpose, rebuild, and preserve the historical energy of the house. This practice honors the City of St. Charles efforts to preserve its historical Main Street. Miss Aimee B's employees are dedicated, knowledgeable, and well respected. These employees are what make Miss Aimee B's an enjoyable place to visit. Employees of Miss Aimee B's are encouraged to spend time with their families and friends, deepen their faith, lead healthy lifestyles, be kind to others, and to always show warm hospitality.

Miss Aimee B's is a proud contributor to the St. Charles Community. The house donates food, gift cards, and time to local galas, churches, animal shelters and families in need. In addition, Zack Smithey has raised thousands of dollars for local charities with his personal art pieces. Miss Aimee B's has also donated hundreds to local charities and holds charitable events for nonprofit organizations and individuals in need.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Miss Aimee B's for its accomplishment in the 2016 Employer of the Year Award—Service Category.

RECOGNIZING CURRENT AND FORMER PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS WHO ASSISTED AND SUPPORTED THE LOSS TEAM

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Prince William County Police Department for its invaluable participation in the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (or LOSS) team. On January 27, 2012, Action in Community Through Service (or ACTS) of Prince William, Inc. signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Prince William County Police Department to collaborate on the creation of a LOSS team.

The team is comprised of trained volunteers and staff who are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the ACTS Helpline. Since entering into the formal agreement with ACTS, members of the Prince William County Police Department have diligently supported this program by immediately contacting the LOSS team upon notification of deaths by suicide to the Criminal Investigations Division—Violent Crimes Bureau. The LOSS team then disseminates information about available community resources and provides ongoing support to people grieving the loss of a friend or loved one to suicide.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States for all ages; homicide ranks 17th. For every suicide, at least, six other lives are impacted. By ensuring survivors receive the support that is desperately needed, the LOSS team in partnership with the Prince William County Police Department helps individuals weather their grief and take steps to rebuilding their lives. Just knowing that they are not alone helps give the surviving families the strength to go on. Without the dedication and leadership of the Prince

William County Police Department, the LOSS team would not be able to sustain its successful first response program that continues to positively impact the lives of Prince William County residents each day.

It is my honor to submit the following names of current and former Prince William County Police Officers who have assisted and supported the LOSS program: Dan Carton, Brian Cavanaugh, Brian Coady, Darien Cupka, Dan Downey, Mike Fernald, Ben Grantham, Ray Hyatt, Rob Kasper, Joe Medawar, Juan Pena (deceased), Gina Pinedo, Astrid Robinson, Caillen Smith, Mike Sullivan, and Gary Van Dyke.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these Prince William County police officers for their tireless commitment to our community, the newly bereaved, ACTS, and the Prince William LOSS team.

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#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF COLUMBUS

### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Kiwanis Club of Columbus for celebrating its 100th year of serving the community.

Kiwanis International is a global volunteer organization with more than 8,000 clubs worldwide in over 80 countries. With a focus on serving children, members collectively organize nearly 150,000 service projects and raise nearly \$100 million every year in their communities.

As the fifth oldest club in the organization, The Kiwanis Club of Columbus was founded in 1916 and has been steadfast in its service for a century. The Club has been involved in a variety of projects in downtown Columbus, ranging from helping the homeless to providing scholarships to area students. While many of the members of The Kiwanis Club of Columbus are busy professionals, they commit to making time in their schedules to participate in these and other service projects, and to give back to our great community.

I would like to thank members of The Kiwanis Club of Columbus, past and present, for all they have done, especially for our kids. I also would like to congratulate them for reaching their Centennial Year.

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#### CONGRATULATING KIM BARK OF COMPLETE TRUCK & RV REPAIR FOR RECEIVING THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 2016 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD— JOHN HECK AWARD

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Kim

Bark. She is the owner of Complete Truck & RV Repair and is receiving the 2016 Employer of the Year Award—John Heck Award from the City of St. Charles Economic Development Department.

When Complete Truck & RV Repair opened as a family-run business in 2013, it had ten employees. Now, the shop is staffed by 22 employees and has been able to add Restoration, Fabrication, Auto & RV Detailing, and Towing Services. The Barks family also added another location for RV storage to continue serving their customers.

To say that Complete Truck & RV Repair contributes to the St. Charles community would almost be an understatement. Kim and her father are passionate about animals and built a dog park for guests who come to service their vehicles. Kim is also a supporter of the organization Dogs on Duty, Five Acres Animal Shelter, and the Humane Society.

Another part of Complete Truck & RV Repair's community outreach is its contribution to the St. Charles' Backstoppers. Kim's father has helped the Backstoppers raise money for over 15 years. Complete Truck & RV Repair is hosting the 1st Annual Backstoppers Summer Dance June 24th at the Machinists' Hall to continue this fundraising effort. The Barks and their repair business work year round to raise awareness for the Backstoppers. The business owns a fire truck, named Red. Red travels around town to various fire houses to promote awareness of the Backstoppers fund. Red also can be seen in various city parades.

Complete Truck & RV Repair hires veterans and is part of the Hire Heroes Program. The business honors veterans by giving them a discount. It currently has five veterans employed on the Complete Truck & RV Repair staff. Complete Truck & RV Repair also gives Police Officers, EMS, and Firefighters a discount on services.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Complete Truck & RV Repair for its accomplishment as the 2016 Employer of the Year Award—John Heck Award.

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#### NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for National Infertility Awareness Week, which has been federally recognized since 2010.

Infertility is a disease of the reproductive system that affects men and women equally, and millions of people—as many as 12 percent of reproductive-aged couples in America—suffer from this devastating disease, unable to start a family.

The good news is that treatment for infertility has advanced sharply in the last two decades, and includes in vitro fertilization, now considered the standard of care for many couples being treated for infertility.

Despite such 21st century advances, only 15 states currently provide coverage for even basic treatment for infertility.

It is my hope that National Infertility Awareness Week will encourage honest and candid dialogue among lawmakers and health professionals, in an effort to seek cures that will allow every American the opportunity to have a family.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, I want to congratulate RESOLVE, the nation's oldest fertility advocacy organization, for the brilliant work they are doing to raise awareness about infertility.

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#### HONORING THE 2016 VIENNA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vienna Business Association (VBA) and to congratulate the incoming 2016 board members.

Vienna is known for its local charm and strong small business community. Money Magazine and CNN have both rated Vienna as one of the best places to live in the United States. The vibrant community spirit exhibited by its residents and local businesses has fostered an exceptional quality of life that is sought out by so many.

The Vienna Business Association is the voice of the greater Vienna business community. It promotes business opportunities and development through networking and increased interaction between the commercial and residential communities within the town. Its members help maintain Vienna's small town feel by hosting and supporting many annual community events.

The VBA has thrived thanks to the diversity of its members and the leadership of its Board. I am pleased to submit the following names of the incoming 2016 board members: 2016 Chairman of the Board: George Creed.

Incoming Board Members: Mary Kay Claus, Kathy Georgen, Jeff Bollettino, Agnes Wasowski, James Cudney, Tracy Murphy, Michael Amouri.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the incoming board members and in commending the Vienna Business Association for their commitment to promoting the business community while encouraging social responsibility. I wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

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#### IN HONOR OF DALE EARNHARDT'S 65TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that I'm a huge supporter of NASCAR. In fact, I'm fortunate to represent Charlotte Motor Speedway, "The Rock" in Rockingham, many NASCAR teams, and the best fans in the world.

That's why I'm here today to pay tribute to NASCAR champion, Kannapolis, North Carolina native and my all-time favorite driver, Dale Earnhardt.

"The Intimidator" would have been 65 years old today, and I want to ask my fellow North Carolinians and racing enthusiasts to join me in celebrating his life and career.

A legend on and off the track, Dale lived the American Dream. He came from humble beginnings in Kannapolis, North Carolina and worked hard to become one of NASCAR's greatest heroes.

He earned seven NASCAR Winston Cup championships, tying "The King," Richard Petty. And through his success, he remained a man of the people who always gave back to the community he loved.

From his debut at Charlotte Motor Speedway in 1975, to his last NASCAR championship that he secured with a win at "The Rock" in 1994, to his final laps at the Daytona 500—battling to keep two cars he owned in the lead—Dale faced every obstacle and opportunity with unmatched courage, passion, determination and a tremendous sense of humor.

There's no question that Dale Earnhardt left a lasting impression on motorsports, on our community, and on NASCAR fans like me. Happy birthday, Number 3.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the weeks of April 18th and April 25th, I was unavoidably detained and missed several votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call No. 155, "no" on Roll Call No. 156, "no" on Roll Call No. 157, "no" on Roll Call No. 158, "yea" on Roll Call No. 159, "no" on Roll Call No. 160, "no" on Roll Call No. 161, "no" on Roll Call No. 162, "yea" on Roll Call No. 163, "yea" on Roll Call No. 164, "yea" on Roll Call No. 165, "yea" on Roll Call No. 166, "yea" on Roll Call No. 167, "no" on Roll Call No. 168, "no" on Roll Call No. 169, "yes" on Roll Call No. 170, "no" on Roll Call No. 171, "yea" on Roll Call No. 172, "no" on Roll Call No. 173, and "no" on Roll Call No. 174.

CONGRATULATING DAVID AND DEBBY SPETNAGEL OF FLEET FEET SPORTS FOR RECEIVING THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 2016 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD—RETAIL CATEGORY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor constituents of mine, David and Debby Spetnagel. They are owners of Fleet Feet Sports and are receiving the 2016 Em-

ployer of the Year Award, in the Retail Category from the City of St. Charles Economic Development Department.

Fleet Feet Sports opened its doors on April 12, 1993 and since then has been successfully serving the community. Since the first store opening in 1993, five additional stores have been opened. In 2001, Fleet Feet Sports opened its Chesterfield location. In 2008, Fleet Feet Sports welcomed a new store in South St. Louis County. On Fleet Feet Sports' 20th anniversary, David and Debby Spetnagel opened another store in Des Peres. The most recent store openings were in Town & Country in 2014 and O'Fallon in 2015.

Over the last several years, Fleet Feet Sports has maintained consistent sales while adding 24 new employees in 2015. Employees of Fleet Feet Sports are recognized throughout their time with the company by the owners, David and Debby Spetnagel. With this type of employee recognition, it cultivates the spirit of strong customer service which positively affects their business and creates continued successes.

Fleet Feet Sports has faced many challenges over the years. Overcoming a very competitive retail and run specialty market and adapting to an ever-pressing e-commerce environment were two of the hardest struggles faced by owners, David and Debby Spetnagel. To overcome these challenges, Fleet Feet Sports has had to consistently seek better ways to recognize and serve their customers as well as keeping their website and digital offerings up-to-date.

Fleet Feet Sports' dedication to the community is made evident by the various events it sponsors. The company hosts free social runs in the St. Charles area as well as Frontier Park. Throughout various donations of shoes and apparel, Fleet Feet Sports impacts numerous lives in the local community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Fleet Feet Sports for its accomplishment as the 2016 Employer of the Year Award—Retail Category.

CELEBRATING CARLOS ELIAS, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING AND THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and thank Carlos for his 17 years of outstanding service to the U.S. Capitol Building and the CVC.

As Superintendent, he oversees the care and maintenance of 1.5 million gross square feet of space and manages a talented staff of 250 employees. It is a tremendous responsibility and his meticulous attention to detail and love of this institution is obvious to all who encounter him.

I was grateful for his leadership in 2004 when he led a small group of Members, including me, as we took on the project of re-decorating/redesigning the Democratic Cloakroom. His multitasking skills and good humor

were much appreciated and made the project seamless and enjoyable from start to finish.

Carlos has been a great supporter of my efforts to learn Spanish. I take a class each week and Carlos always greets me in Spanish. Many Thanks (Muchas gracias).

I'd also like to thank his wife, Ana, and their two sons for sharing Carlos with us. His job was not a 9 to 5 one so I'm certain there were many times when his family sacrificed so he could execute and oversee projects—large and small—including four Presidential Inaugurations.

I wish Carlos all the best as he begins a new chapter as Vice President of Facilities at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and extend my thanks and gratitude for a job extraordinarily well done. Congratulations (Felicidades), Carlos.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BONNIE J. SLOAN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the honorable life of one of Toledo's daughters, Bonnie J. Sloan, an intellectual and a valued member of our community.

Bonnie was born in Toledo, Ohio on January 15, 1932 to Florence and Donald MacVay. She was a graduate of Waite High School and received a master's and doctoral degree from the University of Toledo, where she went on to teach.

Mrs. Sloan lived her life for her community and was a dedicated public servant, serving as a teacher and administrator in the Toledo Public Schools. Mrs. Sloan taught for a decade at Raymer School before becoming an assistant principal of McKinley School and later a principal of Burroughs School and Edgewater School.

During her tenure in the Toledo Public Schools, Mrs. Sloan was an elementary and curriculum supervisor. Under her leadership the school system developed a program to bring students from Northern Ohio colleges and universities into Toledo schools for teaching experience. Mrs. Sloan's top concern was always for the children she served, and she often commented to friends that she would greatly prefer to be in the classroom than an administrative office.

Her passion for education and instilling a thirst for knowledge did not end after her retirement from the Toledo Public Schools. Mrs. Sloan went on to work in higher education as a faculty member at Defiance College. After another decade Mrs. Sloan retired from teaching, but continued her work with Defiance College on the board of trustees.

Mrs. Sloan was also a distinguished author of several children's books, which she penned throughout her career. As in her professional life, Mrs. Sloan's personal life was also spent in service. She was a former president of Zonta Club II and the Flower Hospital Auxiliary, both cherished organizations that strengthen our community.

Bonnie was married to Gordon Sloan, a respected pharmacist, on June 16, 1956. They

celebrated fifty years together before his passing on December 21, 2006. The couple liked to joke about their relationship, Bonnie being a "city girl," and Doc being a "country boy." Their nieces and nephews were also beneficiaries of Bonnie's generosity and loving guidance.

Bonnie cherished time spent with her nieces and nephews, including the hours in which she enlisted them to help set up her classrooms. Later in life, she would take joy in time spent with her great-nieces and great-nephews.

Bonnie will be remembered lovingly by her brother, Harry MacVay, sister-in-law Connie, nieces and nephews, and her many friends. We offer them our prayers and hope that they find comfort in the wonderful memories of such an outstanding public servant, who will be remembered with affection and gratitude for her probing intellect, kind heart, and dedication to advancing Toledo as a community, its children and its future.

HONORING LEWIS ROSS BROWN, IV

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Virginia 11th Congressional District resident, Lewis Ross Brown, IV. At the age of seven, Lewis became the youngest member of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) on record.

Affectionately referred to as Lil' Lewis by friends and family, Lewis Ross Brown, IV is a second-grade student at Bel Air Elementary School in Prince William County. His favorite subjects are biology, chemistry, and mathematics. Inspired by his parents, scientists Dr. Lewis Ross Brown, III and Dr. Shamira Brown, Lewis aspires to become an Environmental Toxicologist with the federal government. In his spare time, Lewis enjoys reading books and viewing documentaries about African American and Latin American history to better advocate for racial and social justice. Lewis plans to maintain his perfect school attendance record throughout his public school education. After graduation from high school, he intends to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree at either Hampton University or Norfolk State University in Virginia and major in Environmental Toxicology with a double concentration in Chemistry and Toxicology. Given his recent acceptance into SETAC, Lewis is well on his way to achieving his goals.

With more than 6,000 active members, SETAC is one of the oldest global partnership non-profit organizations in the world. The organization provides a forum for scientists, managers, and other professionals to take a multidisciplinary approach to solving environmental problems. For the past 37 years, SETAC has effectively balanced the management and regulation of natural resources, research and development, and environmental education among academics, businesses, and all levels of government. As a recent inductee, Lewis is currently assembling a digital com-

puter project that will depict the aquatic toxicity effects of mercury contamination exposure in freshwater and marsh environments and on aquatic organisms exposed. Lewis hopes to present his project at the National SETAC meeting later this year.

Lewis' recent induction into SETAC is nothing short of astonishing. As a student in Prince William County Public Schools system, his achievement highlights the world-class education offered to residents of the 11th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Lewis Ross Brown, IV on his induction as the youngest member of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. I applaud his scientific curiosity and have full confidence in his future success as he continues to shatter barriers in the field of environmental toxicology and chemistry.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL  
INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to express my support for National Infertility Awareness Week, which has been federally recognized since 2010, and in support of the millions of people in this country, both men and women, who currently suffer from the inability to start a family because of infertility.

Infertility is a disease of the reproductive system that affects men and women equally, and as many as 12 percent of reproductive-aged couples in America suffer from this devastating disease.

It is also among the most frequently misunderstood diseases.

We observe National Infertility Awareness Week to increase public awareness and encourage honest and candid dialogue among lawmakers and health professionals, in an effort to address this painful disease and seek cures that will allow every American the opportunity to have a family.

In addition to the millions of couples of reproductive age who suffer from infertility, countless more who are diagnosed with cancer also face the probability of becoming infertile due to the effects of the treatment for cancer.

Imagine facing not only a cancer diagnosis, but learning that the very treatment will render you unable to have children.

An untold number of military veterans, including those returning from combat duty, suffer injuries that render them unable to have a baby without medical treatment.

The good news is that treatment for infertility has advanced sharply in the last two decades, and includes in vitro fertilization, or "IVF," now considered the standard of care for many couples being treated for infertility.

Despite such 21st century advances, however, many states still do not provide insurance coverage for IVF; in fact, only 15 states currently provide coverage for even basic treatment for infertility.

For many patients, IVF not only increases the chance of having a baby, it significantly reduces the incidence of multiple births.

A reduction in multiple births decreases health care and other costs both for insurance companies and families, and studies by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine show this treatment results in healthier babies.

I want to congratulate RESOLVE, the nation's oldest fertility advocacy organization, and the important and necessary work they are doing to raise awareness about the devastating effects caused by disease of infertility.

I urge all Members to join me in commemorating National Infertility Awareness Week.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
LIFESTREAM BEHAVIORAL CENTER

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize LifeStream Behavioral Center as they celebrate 45 years of service and Mental Health Month during the month of May. LifeStream is dedicated to their mission of supporting recovery, promoting health and creating hope. Mental Health Awareness Month is an important opportunity to highlight the progress that has been made thus far, as well as to inspire continued efforts toward building a better future for the next generation.

In 1969, LifeStream began as a component of Waterman Memorial Hospital in Eustis, Florida, and became a non-profit organization in 1971. Since its founding, LifeStream has expanded to twenty-one facilities and fifty-two programs to serve and empower those who suffer from mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness in Lake, Sumter, and Orange Counties. For 45 years, LifeStream has helped thousands of individuals in our community achieve recovery and reach their highest potential. Not only does LifeStream provide rehabilitative services and conduct research, they also engage in community outreach programs to provide families and individuals with the resources they need to live healthy lives.

This is a momentous year for LifeStream, and I am honored to join my friend, Jonathan Cherry, CEO/President of LifeStream in celebrating this milestone. The community and families of Central Florida are blessed to have a committed behavioral health center such as LifeStream, and I commend them for the measures they are undertaking to support recovery and provide hope to those in need.

CONGRATULATING ELLIOTT STIPES OF GREEN CLEAN COMMERCIAL FOR RECEIVING THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 2016 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD—SUSTAINABILITY CATEGORY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Elliott Stipes. He is the owner of Green Clean Commercial and is receiving the 2016 Employer of the Year Award, in the Sustainability Category from the City of St. Charles Economic Development Department.

Green Clean Commercial is a national company that joined the St. Charles community in 2015. Green Clean is a janitorial services company and currently employs 38 individuals locally. Green Clean strives for positive employee lifestyle through weekly recognition announced at weekly company culture meetings, employee of the month recognition, and annual recognition.

There have been some difficulties for Green Clean, but it has overcome these difficulties and maintained consistency with its customers and employees. Throughout the recession, Green Clean was able to be successful by committing to flexibility and partnership with its customers. Green Clean has created a supportive workplace with recognition, training, leadership, and compensation.

Green Clean is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council and was awarded “Best Janitorial Services Company” for 2015. To improve energy efficiency, Green Clean uses LED lighting in all offices and additionally uses motion sensors for its lighting, which reduces energy consumption. Additionally, Green Clean uses green seal certified cleaning solutions. Green Clean sets the standard for its customers through implementing recycling programs for the Green Clean employees and for the employees of the businesses for which it is providing janitorial services. Another way Green Clean is sustainable is by providing its employees with drinking thermoses, which will in turn reduce water bottle waste.

Green Clean is passionate about its community involvement and encourages its employees to also become involved with volunteering opportunities. Green Clean hosts a donation drive to support a local organization, “Youth in Need.” Additionally, Green Clean supports programs that are initiatives of its customers across the country.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Green Clean Commercial for its accomplishment in the 2016 Employer of the Year Award—Sustainability Category.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HBCU CAUCUS

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to speak in recognition of the one-year anniversary of the Bipartisan HBCU caucus and highlight the great impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

HBCUs continue to stand as a bastion of learning and advancement for so many students of color. About 20 percent of African American students earning their bachelor’s degrees do so from HBCUs.

HBCUs serve a disproportionate number of low-income, first-generation students. More than 75 percent of HBCUs students rely on Pell Grants and almost 13 percent of students rely on PLUS loans. It is clear that, for many students who would otherwise find higher education out of reach, HBCUs provide a strong pathway to success. HBCUs also provide a strong value to students and their families, allowing for a small-college experience with lower tuition and fees than comparable institutions.

This includes schools like Florida Memorial University, located in Florida’s 24th district. Florida Memorial has the distinction of being the only historically black university in southern Florida and one of the oldest academic institutions in the entire state of Florida. Under the leadership of Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis, Florida Memorial continues to provide students with the quality education, leadership skills, and heart for service they need to become strong global citizens in our changing world.

As a proud graduate of an HBCU, I am proud to work with my colleagues to advance policies that benefit HBCUs. I want to thank Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS of North Carolina and Congressman BRADLEY BYRNE of Alabama for their strong leadership on this bipartisan caucus over the past year. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues for the betterment of HBCUs in Florida and across the country.

DESIGNATING MAY 2016 AS DIRECT DEPOSIT AND DIRECT PAYMENT VIA ACH MONTH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May as the Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via Automated Clearing House (ACH) Month. NACHA—The Electronic Payments Association serves as the trustee of the ACH Network, which is supported by 12,000 financial institutions across the nation. Working together they enable payments such as direct deposit and direct payment via ACH. Annually, the ACH Network transfers 24 billion Direct Deposits and Direct Payments, totaling more than \$41 trillion.

Direct Deposit is the deposit of funds for payroll, employee expense reimbursement, government benefits, tax and other refunds, annuities and interest payments. Direct Payment transactions can include bill payments, person-to-person payments, business-to-business payments, and online and mobile purchases.

Today, more than 80 percent of U.S. workers receive their regular pay using Direct Deposit via ACH, and consumers pay 800 million bills each month with Direct Payment via ACH. Direct Deposit and Direct Payment are an easy, safe, convenient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to make and receive payments. Use of Direct Deposit and Direct Payment enable consumers and businesses alike to save costs, save time and protect the environment by eliminating the time, hassle and expense of writing and cashing paper checks and making trips to the bank or credit union.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the month of May as Direct Deposit and Direct Payment via ACH Month, and I urge all members of the community to consider Direct Deposit and Direct Payment as a valuable option to make and receive payments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 179, Number 177, Number 176, Number 175, Number 172, and Number 171 I am not recorded because I was absent. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on passage.

SUPPORTING WORK OF THE HIGHLAND CENTER

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, Highland County, Va., is a little slice of heaven. Anyone who lives there or has visited this beautiful area knows exactly what I mean. I am honored to represent the Sixth Congressional District in the House of Representatives, including this unique region of the Commonwealth.

Part of what makes Highland County special is that it is remote. It is a living example of how vibrant rural America remains. That has plenty of advantages and in many ways Highland County remains a well-kept secret. But that also comes with a unique set of challenges, including limited access for businesses and limited opportunities for growth. In a region that continues to be known for its heavy reliance on an agri-business economy, the Highland Center is an important asset in helping preserve jobs and encourage new enterprises.

With the mission of serving all citizens of Highland County by being a catalyst for cultural and economic development, the Highland

Center in Monterey, Va., has become a gathering place and treasured landmark in the community. Since its inception in 1998, I have visited the facility to see its programs in action and have been kept well-informed about the variety of ventures that it supports in the Alleghany Highlands.

The Highland Center has spent a great deal of time building public and private connections to sustain its many operations, including a business incubator, a farmers market, and the Youth Employment Program. Today, the Highland Center houses 13 tenants representing a mix of small businesses, individual artists, and non-profit organizations. It also serves as a public venue for community events.

Most recently, the Center has embarked upon an effort to renovate the old school building that serves as its headquarters. On May 1, the Highland Center will hold a ribbon-cutting to officially unveil its newly renovated facility. While the Highland Center was temporarily relocated to the historic Highland Inn during construction, the organization's work in the community did not cease. The improvements made to the Highland Center over the past 13 months will aid in the Center's innovative and collaborative work as well as efforts to further integrate this vital community center into the local economy.

The reopening of the Highland Center is a long-awaited occasion. I thank the Highland Center Board members, Executive Director Betty Mitchell, and the countless volunteers for their hard work and dedication to seeing this through. I wholeheartedly support the Highland Center's drive to develop creative solutions to rural Virginia's needs. I wish the Center great success as it reopens its much-improved facility.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF  
THE 2016 NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME  
AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame (NVFHOF) and to congratulate the 2016 inductees and scholarship award recipients.

Participation in organized sports instills many values that will serve our youth well throughout life, including sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, and the work ethic developed by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal.

For 26 years, the NVFHOF has recognized the efforts of players, coaches, officials, and cheerleaders from local youth and scholastic football programs and inducts a few exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions to the game. In addition, the NVHOF presents several student-athletes with scholarships to help defray the cost of college.

I commend the NVFHOF and congratulate the following students, coaches and community leaders who are being recognized during the 26th Annual NVFHOF Awards Banquet:

\$1,500 Scholarship Award Recipients: Madeleine Maria Morgan, Riley Newell, Michael Vaughn, and Kullen Kritsky

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2016 Inductees: Eugene Y. Chung, Robert Meadows, and Brian Newell

Football Officials of the Year: Brian Pelleteir, Dave McKee, Darelle Crandall

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Michael Godwin

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Bill Curran

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: Brian Edwards

High School Coaches of the Year: Kyle Simmons, Jason Dawson

High School Players of the Year: Tyler Scanlon, Ceneca Espinoza, Jr., Kevin Allen, Zac Kerxton, Josh Hurlburt, Zach Burdick

Youth Coaches of the Year: Brian Conway, Rex Petrey, Phil Anderson, and Randy McCargo

Youth Sports Players of the Year: Max Garrison Gomez, Christopher Allen, Jalen Thomas Walker, Chet Kane Collins, Charlie O'Connor, Will Allen, Luke Fernandez, Clayton Rosenberger, Tyga Golden, Henry Hogan, Brodie Carroll, Michael Honesty, Mason Miles, Dayton Lipscomb, Scott Woods II, Nate Williams, Matthew Flenniken, Darius Brown, Clayton Sheffield, Nick Anderson, Dominick Keator, and Andrew Margiotta

Youth Cheerleaders of the Year: Ariana Lewis, Natteria Tillery, Aislinn Emery, Jessica Daly, and Janelle Lenore

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Northern Virginia Hall of Fame as well as those students, coaches and community leaders who are being honored at the 2016 Football Hall of Fame celebration.

HONORING LT. PRESLEY NEVILLE  
O'BANNON

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, Presley Neville O'Bannon. He was born in Virginia in 1776, where his father served as a captain in the Continental Army. O'Bannon was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1801 and was quickly promoted to First Lieutenant in 1802. He served on the USS *Argus*, one of many ships used in the protection of United States commerce against the Barbary pirates. In 1805 he was selected for a special mission. During a storm, the USS *Philadelphia* went aground off the coast of Tripoli and the 180 member crew was captured and imprisoned at Derne. Lieutenant O'Bannon led a few brave Marines through fierce enemy fire, took possession of one of the enemy's batteries, and planted the American flag. He became the first American to raise our flag on foreign soil during a time of war. Weeks of fighting ensued and finally the captured Americans were freed. The bravery of Lt. O'Bannon and others is forever commemorated in the Marine Corps Hymn in the words "To the Shores of Tripoli".

Hamet Karamanli, the new leader of Tripoli, was so appreciative of the actions of Lt. O'Bannon that he presented him with the now famous blade of Damascus, a jeweled sword with a Mameluke hilt. U.S. Marine Corps officers still wear the Mameluke sword today as part of their dress uniform.

Lieutenant O'Bannon left the Marine Corps in 1807 and moved to Logan County, Kentucky to live for the rest of his days. He served in both the Kentucky House of Representatives and the Kentucky Senate. He died on September 12, 1850 at the age of 74. The Daughters of the American Revolution removed his remains to the cemetery in Frankfort, Kentucky in 1920 and erected a memorial to this "Hero of the Derne".

Lieutenant Presley Neville O'Bannon was a true American hero and I am proud to honor his memory before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING MAYOR KEN SUNSERI

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and honor Mayor Ken Sunseri of my hometown of Haleyville, Alabama. Mayor Sunseri has served as the mayor of Haleyville since 2008 and has proven himself to be a leader who has shown dedication to the city and every citizen thereof.

Mayor Sunseri is not only the leader of my hometown, but he is also the leader of men. During the Vietnam War, Sunseri served his country as a platoon leader with the First Infantry Division and retired at the rank of Colonel. He is one of our country's brave veterans whom we can all be proud.

Over the years he has dedicated himself to his country and his local community. In 2004 he was awarded the Civitan Citizen of the Year. In 2005 his involvement in the Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) program led to his being named the most outstanding ACE volunteer.

He has held numerous Board positions and received many awards, most recently receiving the 2011 Haleyville High School Alumni Service and Dedication Award. Sunseri has served Haleyville through many widespread agencies including President and Deputy District Governor of the Haleyville Lions Club, President of the Haleyville Chamber of Commerce, President of the Haleyville Merchants Association, Member, Haleyville Library Board, Member, Haleyville Housing Authority, Member, Haleyville Industrial Recruiting Committee, Member, Individual and Family Support Board, Board Chairman 310 Board, Winston/Marion Counties.

As Mayor, Sunseri was approached with an opportunity to construct a new city hall for Haleyville. Under his leadership this project was completed in January 2016 and will serve citizens for decades to come.

Most importantly, Mayor Sunseri is married to Kay Sunseri and they have three children: David Sunseri, Beth Moore and Jennifer Sunseri. They also have five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mayor Sunseri for his long service to so many in Haleyville and Winston County and the State of Alabama.

STORYCORPS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the founder and co-chair of the Public Broadcasting Caucus and a strong supporter of public media and federal funding for humanities, I would like to raise awareness of StoryCorps. As one of the largest oral history projects, StoryCorps invites people from across the country to record and preserve their stories for future generations within their archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. StoryCorps recently arrived on Capitol Hill and is welcoming individuals to record, preserve, and share their stories at their MobileBooth recording venue, which will be parked outside of the Library of Congress until May 15, 2016.

Since 2003, generous support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and others has enabled StoryCorps to collect over 65,000 stories from more than 110,000 participants in all 50 states. They record interviews at various venues across the country, including at their MobileBooth, which tours the nation year-round. StoryCorps also shares excerpts of collected interviews with a national audience of millions through weekly broadcasts on NPR, broadcasts on local public media stations in towns and cities across the country, animated shorts on PBS, and via digital media and best-selling books. StoryCorps' work has been widely recognized with several George Foster Peabody Awards, a MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, and most recently, the 2015 TED Prize.

All StoryCorps' activities are carried out in collaboration with local and national partners. Each year, StoryCorps partners with hundreds of community-based organizations from across the country—including local schools, public libraries, local public media stations, hospitals, veterans' affairs centers, and others—to record, preserve, and share the stories of their constituents. In these ways, StoryCorps is promoting a deeper understanding—both historic and contemporary—of people living in diverse communities that contribute to our nation's rich diversity. This important work would not be possible without federal support of public broadcasting, and I urge my colleagues to continue their support.

I also hope that my colleagues and their staff will have time to visit the StoryCorps MobileBooth at the Library of Congress in the coming days to learn more and participate.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF W. BREWSTER ELY IV

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to W. Brewster Ely IV on the occasion of his retirement as Headmaster of Town School for Boys in San Francisco, after more than a quarter of a century of inspiring and thoughtful educational leadership and service to the San Francisco community.

I join generations of Town School students, families, educators and staff in expressing our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Ely for the indelible mark he has left on a treasured San Francisco institution and on the lives of all who passed through its halls.

Brewster Ely arrived at Town School in 1989, carrying the strong personal values and traditions of his family—following in his father's footsteps as an educator, and as a headmaster himself for 24 years.

During his 27 years as Headmaster, Ely helped countless students discover their strengths and talents, pursue their dreams, express their creativity and develop their unique character. Each and every morning, Headmaster Ely greeted his students with a handshake that conveyed his commitment to their education, his respect for their well-being, and the promise of a bright future.

With Ely's leadership, the campus has been dramatically transformed and the performing arts and athletic programs expanded. He has had a significant and lasting impact on every aspect of Town School life. When he retires, Ely will have served as Headmaster for more than a third of the Town School's nearly 80-year history.

Headmaster Ely also worked to support the educational opportunities of those beyond the Town School. In 1990 Ely co-founded Project Discover, an educational summer camp serving low income children in the San Francisco Bay Area. He created the New Teacher Institute which trains new educators and administrators to carry on the academic excellence and values of Town School throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and further.

Brewster Ely has been deeply committed to our San Francisco community. He has served on the boards of the San Francisco Zoo, the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco, KIPP Bay Area Schools, Carney Sandoe and Associates, Stevenson School and the International Boys' Schools Coalition, of which he was president.

I join the Town School Community in thanking Brewster Ely's family, his wife Nancy and his children Jenny, Jamie and Katherine for sharing their magnificent husband and father with the San Francisco community. My husband Paul and our son Paul Jr., a Town School alumnus, join me in wishing Brewster Ely an enjoyable and rewarding future.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 RECIPIENTS OF THE DALE CITY MULTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2016 recipients of the Dale City Multicultural Achievement Awards sponsored by Dale City Christian Church. The purpose of the event is two-fold: to highlight the extraordinary work of individuals who are improving the lives of people within the local community and to offer financial assistance to high school seniors pursuing higher education.

Since 1984, the Dale City Multicultural Achievement Awards have recognized the accomplishments of African-Americans in the community. Formerly known as the "Afro Achievement Organization," the Dale City Multicultural Achievement Award and Scholarship Organization under the leadership of Bishop Patrick O. Thomas and Rhonda Pittman highlight the achievements of residents.

This year's award recipients highlight the achievements of African-Americans under the motto: "For if a man does not know his history, he cannot know his future." It is my honor to submit names of the recipients of the 2016 Dale City Multicultural Achievement Awards:

Pastoral Leadership: Pastor Douglas Greene, Sr.

Religious Leadership Award: Rev. Marvin Hargrove

Educational Leadership Award: Mrs. Sheila Coleman and Ms. Rae Darlington

Public Service Award: Del. Michael Futrell

Community Service Award: Doves & Eagles of Faith—Mrs. April Barrett and Roses Home Healthcare—Ms. Michelle Wimberly

Professional Leadership Award: Mrs. Beverly Johnson and Mr. Kevin Williams

Business Achievement Award: Dunkin Donuts—Mr. Jerome Johnson and We Do Weddings, Etc.—Mrs. Cheri Walker

Christian Service Award: Mrs. Lousia Cannon and Trustee Donnell Richardson

Faithfulness Award: Ms. Annie Brown and Ms. Christine Dunbar

Dedication Christian Family Award: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McCastle & Family

Senior Christian Service Award: Miss Kristen Mitchell and Mr. Blake Conquest

Junior Christian Service Award: Mr. Aaron Dade and Mr. Cameron Harris

2016 High School Senior Scholarship Recipients: Mr. Blake Conquest, Mr. Tyland Crawford, Mr. James Curtis, Miss La'Ren Davis, Miss Kira Dixon, Miss Kaelyn Larry, Miss Kristen Mitchell, and Miss Seqouyah Portee

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 2016 Dale City Multicultural Achievement Awards recipients and in thanking them for their individual efforts to ensure we each maintain a quality life and live a better tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make it to the April 28, 2016, vote on H.J. Res. 88. If present, I would have voted NO on H.J. Res. 88, the resolution to disapprove of the final Department of Labor fiduciary duty rule.

The Department of Labor thoughtfully and carefully crafted the rule over five years with the input of thousands of written comments from academics, advocacy groups, and industry and the benefit of 4 days of field hearings and hundreds of meetings. The final rule will protect retirement savers from conflicts of interest that encourage advisors to prioritize their financial gain over that of their clients.

TRIBUTE TO HALEY CARLSON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Haley Carlson of Atlantic, Iowa, for receiving the highest Future Farmer of America (FFA) Award, the Iowa Farmer Degree Award. Haley is a member of the Atlantic Future Farmer of America Chapter.

Haley has a strong commitment to agriculture and hopes to be involved in agriculture in the future. Haley said, "To accomplish this goal is really motivating." Her plans include an agriculture education and becoming an advocate for agriculture issues. In order for Haley to receive this award it took many years of hard work and determination to be successful in agriculture. She has been an active member in the Atlantic FFA Chapter, exhibited livestock at the Cass County Fair and served as an officer of her FFA Chapter, as well as participating in numerous activities and contests. Haley had to accomplish a supervised agriculture experience project, maintain records of the project, and complete an application for consideration in completing her requirements for the award.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Haley for earning this award. It is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her accomplishments and in wishing her nothing but continued success in her future endeavors in agriculture.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. FREDERICK V. MILLER

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Frederick V. Miller of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Dr. Miller was an inspiration to all those who knew him—

From his selfless and passionate work on behalf of our society's most vulnerable people—critically-ill newborn and premature infants;

To his service in the United States Army; To his business career that helped care for South Floridians;

He truly lived a life of public service, with a vigor and spirit that lifted up every person he knew.

I had the distinct pleasure and privilege in the Florida Legislature to work with Dr. Miller to pass the "Drive Thru Baby Bill" which mandated that insurance companies cover the care after a birth that new mothers need—not the middling coverage they received before Dr. Miller lent his voice and service to our efforts.

Recognizing a problem with too many newborns being born with hearing challenges that went undetected, Dr. Miller worked with me to pass the Newborn Infant Screening Act to ensure that all newborns in the State of Florida had their hearing checked soon after birth.

I will always remember him as a man of science;

A kind man who cared deeply for his patients and;

A man who worked tirelessly to better the lives of mothers and children.

My thoughts are with his wife Sharon; his sons Harrison and Sterling; and their entire extended family.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF THE 2016 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the honorees of the 2016 Prince William County Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.

The Prince William Chamber of Commerce is comprised of a diverse membership, which represents nearly 70,000 employees. Together, they create a sustainable environment where businesses and people thrive by focusing on business growth, economic development, advocacy, education, and community outreach.

For the fifth year in a row, the Chamber will recognize excellence in business, innovative practices, and outstanding contributions to the community at the 2016 Prince William Chamber Business Awards. This year, the Chamber adds the Charles J. Colgan Visionary Award and industry-specific awards to ensure varying industry sectors have the chance to stand out. The annual awards ceremony is held to honor local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment through their commitment to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan region.

It is my honor to submit the 2016 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Business Award recipients:

Excellence in Small Business Award: Harry H. Horning Financial Services.

Business Excellence Award: Micron Technology, Inc.

Emerging Business Award: FreshySites.

Innovative Practice/Partnership of the Year Award: Heavy Construction Contractors Association.

Community Outreach Award: Bookworm Central.

Government Contractor of the Year Award: Zeiders Enterprises, Inc.

Outstanding Customer Service Award: Okra's Cajun Creole.

Tech Company of the Year Award: Tracen Technologies, Inc.

Agnes L. Community Service—Arts and Education Award: Christ Chapel Academy.

Agnes L. Community Service—Health and Human Services Award: Habitat for Humanity of Prince William County.

Charles J. Colgan Visionary Award: Parr and Associates.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in commending the Prince William Chamber of Commerce and in congratulating the 2016 Chamber Business Awards winners for their outstanding service and achievements. Their efforts, on behalf of a diverse community population, ensure the continued development of Prince William County as one of the premier counties in the United States in which to live, work, and play.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DELTA KAPPA GAMMA'S MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the many accomplishments of the Massachusetts chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) on the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding. Delta Kappa Gamma has played an integral role in supporting women in education across the world. Here at home, the Alpha Upsilon chapter has been promoting their values of uniting, honoring and advancing female educators in our very midst for seventy-five years.

Founded in 1929 in Austin, Texas, Delta Kappa Gamma was conceived as a forum for teachers from all environments to come together in the spirit of professional betterment. DKG has always sought to reach out to teachers from all walks of life. From rural school teachers to urban college professors, it has been the vision of the organization to celebrate distinguished female educators.

On June 30, 1941, the Alpha Upsilon chapter of DKG was established at the historic Park Plaza Hotel in downtown Boston as the 44th such chapter in the nation. Since its founding, this Massachusetts chapter has flourished—providing many opportunities and resources for its active members.



Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the women of Delta Kappa Gamma for all they have done in advancing the cause of education around the world and in celebrating their 75th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING KEITH LEVY OF ROYAL CANIN USA FOR RECEIVING THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 2016 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD—MANUFACTURING/INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Keith Levy. He is the President of Royal Canin USA and is receiving the 2016 Employer of the Year Award, in the Manufacturing/Industrial Category from the City of St. Charles Economic Development Department.

Royal Canin USA is a global dog and cat food company which originated in France in 1968. In the United States, you'll find Royal Canin associates hard at work at the company's headquarters and manufacturing facilities located in St. Charles, Missouri. Royal Canin USA has created an inviting workplace for its employees with numerous incentives: family day for all associates to attend with their families, pet friendly offices where associates can bring their pets to work, take your sons and daughters to work day, and two off-leash dog parks outside its offices.

Over the last year, Royal Canin USA has added 25 associates in the St. Charles office and 100 overall. It has expanded its office to add workspace for 90 new associates. Royal Canin USA honors the longstanding tradition of rewarding its employees for their dedication and work. Associates are eligible for bonuses and to be recognized by Royal Canin's "Make a Difference Program." This program recognizes employees who have made a positive impact on the company.

Royal Canin USA's dedication to the community is made evident by its involvement with numerous community leadership initiatives. Royal Canin provides dog food to the state's Puppies for Parole program, where offenders train shelter dogs. This training makes the dogs eligible for adoption, while positively impacting the inmates and offenders. Royal Canin also hosted an Advanced Puppies for Parole Gala, which was attended by the First Lady of Missouri. In addition, the dog food company donates food to a pet food bank called "Rescue Bank." This bank distributes pet food to shelters in need across the country. Royal Canin USA recently held a local 5k run and walk with proceeds benefitting a local dog therapy association.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Royal Canin USA for its accomplishment as the 2016 Employer of the Year Award—Manufacturing/Industrial Category.

HONORING GOVERNOR JOSEPH KERNAN FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Governor Joseph E. Kernan and honor him for a long career in public service.

Kernan is the oldest of nine children and a graduate of St. Joseph High School in South Bend, Indiana. He attended the University of Notre Dame where he was a catcher on the baseball team and earned a degree in government. Upon graduation, Kernan joined the U.S. Navy where he served as a Naval Flight Officer aboard the U.S.S. *Kitty Hawk*. During a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam, Kernan was shot down and held captive as a POW for nearly 11 months. After his release from captivity, Kernan continued to serve his country on active duty. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, two Purple Hearts, and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service.

After his military service, Kernan worked in the private sector as a successful businessman before serving as South Bend's City Controller from 1980 to 1984. In 1987, he was elected Mayor of South Bend and would become the longest serving mayor in the city's history.

In 1996, Frank O'Bannon and Kernan were elected as Indiana's governor and lieutenant governor and were reelected in 2000. As lieutenant governor, Kernan served as president of the Indiana Senate, director of the Indiana Department of Commerce, and commissioner of Agriculture. In particular, Kernan played a vital role in improving services for veterans, having spearheaded a Veterans Outreach Initiative to educate veterans on available benefits through the state and federal government.

In 2003, after the unfortunate passing of Governor Frank O'Bannon, Kernan assumed the role of Governor until 2005. Since then, he has been active in the community, serving in various leadership roles.

Governor Kernan and his wife Maggie have spent their careers serving the city, state, and nation. On behalf of Hoosiers in the Second Congressional District, it is my honor to thank them both for their service and sacrifice to our community.

HONORING SHIRLEY DOBSON

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Mrs. Shirley Dobson on her 25 years of service as the chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. With the focus being to mobilize prayer and to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in the culture of the United States of America, the National Day of Prayer includes over

40,000 prayer gatherings in all 50 states. Millions of people across the nation participate at courthouses, city halls, community centers and at the U.S. Capitol Complex in Washington, D.C.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance that occurs on the first Thursday in May and people of all faiths are asked to pray for the nation. The National Day of Prayer dates back to 1952 when a joint resolution was passed by both the House and the Senate.

Shirley Dobson has worked diligently along with so many others over the last 25 years to bring the nation together around prayer. In addition to her leadership with the National Day of Prayer Task Force, Mrs. Dobson is nationally recognized for her many contributions to women's affairs, Christian Organizations, and the institution of the family.

Shirley Dobson has been invited to the White House by many Presidents over the past 30 years and has been recognized by numerous national organizations that are focused on faith, family and spreading God's word to the world.

Mrs. Dobson is also an author. She and Gloria Gaither have co-authored a four-book series for families. The books are focused squarely on faith and the family and how those two should always go hand-in-hand. Shirley and her daughter also wrote a book together titled, *Welcome to Our Table*.

Shirley Dobson is the wife of psychologist and author, Dr. James Dobson, founder of Family Talk. She and her husband reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado and have two grown children, Danae and Ryan. They also are proud grandparents of two grandchildren.

It is my privilege to honor such a fine person as Shirley Dobson and to recognize her contributions to faith and family in America and especially her tremendous work with the National Day of Prayer.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF AURORA, COLORADO

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my hometown of Aurora, Colorado on its 125th birthday.

Aurora has been a center of rich history throughout its 125 years as a city.

In the year 1866, on the heels of the gold rush, a man named Thomas Gully and his family decided to settle into a quiet ranching and farming life in what is now the city center of Aurora.

Less than 30 years later, thirty-six Aurorans voted to incorporate Aurora, then known as Fletcher, and it was officially formed on April 30, 1891. Throughout the years, Aurora has transformed from the Gully's quiet ranching and farming community to the bustling urban metropolis we see today.

From humble beginnings, Aurora has grown to be the 3rd largest city in Colorado with a rich and ethnically diverse population.

Aurora continues to thrive and grow, with a number of new construction and redevelopment projects already in motion. New businesses and residences, revitalized community centers, and even new light rail expansion all

mark the 125th anniversary of the city of Aurora.

Even in the face of this advancement, the Gully House, believed to be the oldest structure in Aurora, still stands as a symbol of our

humble past and a reminder of the progress we have made together as a city.

So, in recognition of our past, present, and future, Happy Birthday, Aurora, and I look forward to celebrating many more.

**SENATE—Monday, May 2, 2016**

The Senate met at 2 and 5 seconds p.m., and was called to order by the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.



**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 2, 2016.

*To the Senate:*

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. GRAHAM thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.



**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2 and 30 seconds p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 5, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, May 3, 2016

The House met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROONEY of Florida).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 3, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS J. ROONEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live, and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness, and good in its greatness.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 706, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution

706, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. on Friday, May 6, 2016.

Thereupon (at 3 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, May 6, 2016, at 9 a.m.

### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5239. A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods — The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014 [FNS-2014-0040] (RIN: 0584-AE29) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5240. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Lycoming County, PA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2016-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8431] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5241. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Clay County, AR, and Incorporated Areas) [Docket ID: FEMA-2016-0002] [Internal Docket No.: FEMA-B-1145] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5242. A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 [FNS-2011-0029] (RIN: 0584-AE18) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5243. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Annual Financial and Actuarial Information Reporting (RIN: 1212-AB30) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5244. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMCS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Programs; Medicaid Managed Care, CHIP Delivered in Managed Care, and Revisions Related to Third Party Liability [CMS-2390-F] (RIN: 0938-AS25) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5245. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Procedures for Handling Retaliation Complaints Under Section 402 of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act [Docket No.: OSHA-2011-0859] (RIN: 1218-AC58) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5246. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to Syria, originally declared on May 11, 2004, by Executive Order 13338, as modified, is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2016, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 114-132); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5247. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustment for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 150105004-5355-01] (RIN: 0648-XE569) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5248. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rules — Accounting and Reporting of Business Combinations, Security Investments, Comprehensive Income, Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities [Docket No.: EP 720] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5249. A letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (02REG), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Corrections — VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Nomenclature Change for Position Title (RIN: 2900-AP65) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5250. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (02REG), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Health Care for Certain Children of Vietnam Veterans and Certain Korea Veterans — Covered Birth Defects and Spina Bifida (RIN: 2900-AP09) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5251. A letter from the Adjutant General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, transmitting the proceedings of the 116th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, July 18-22, 2015,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1332; (Public Law 90-620 (as amended by Public Law 105-225, Sec. 3); (112 Stat. 1498) (H. Doc. No. 114-131); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5252. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Rev. Rul. 2016-11) received May 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5253. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Annual Price Inflation Adjustments for Contribution Limitations Made to a Health Savings Account Pursuant to Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code (Rev. Proc. 2016-28) received May 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5254. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Sections 6708 Failure to Maintain List of Advisees With Respect to Reportable Transactions [TD 9764] (RIN: 1545-BF39) received May 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5255. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations and removal of temporary regulations — Suspension of Benefits under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 [TD 9765] (RIN: 1545-BM66, RIN: 1545-BM86) received May 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5256. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Determination of Adjusted Applicable Federal Rates under Section 1288 and the Adjusted Federal Long-Term Rate under Section 382 [TD 9763] (RIN: 1545-BM20) received May 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5257. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Examples of Program-Related Investments [TD 9762] (RIN: 1545-BK76) received May 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5258. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Medicare Program; Temporary Exception for Certain Severe Wound Discharges From Certain Long-Term Care Hospitals Required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016; Modification of Limitations on Redesignation by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board [CMS-1664-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AS88) received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4957. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building" (Rept. 114-534). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4231. A bill to direct the Librarian of Congress to obtain a stained glass panel depicting the seal of the District of Columbia and install the panel among the stained glass panels depicting the seals of States which overlook the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building; with an amendment (Rept. 114-535, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4641. A bill to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-536). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas (for herself, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 5164. A bill to provide for a permanent extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DELANEY (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JONES, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NOR-TON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 5165. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide a partial exemption to veterans from the eligibility requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illi-

nois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HARPER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BRAT, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 5166. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain employees of Members of Congress and certain employees of State or local governmental agencies with access to case-tracking information of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. ELLISON):

H. Res. 718. A resolution honoring the 75th Anniversary of Flotilla 11-1, 8th District-Western Rivers Region, Coast Guard Auxiliary; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

214. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the Territory of Guam, relative to Resolution No. 299-33 (COR), expressing I Liheslaturan Guahan's unequivocal support for H.R. 4345, cited as the National Community Service Improvement Act of 2015; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

215. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 228, urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that will enhance hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women nationwide; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 5164. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DELANEY:

H.R. 5165. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5166. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Title I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 224: Mr. AGUILAR.  
 H.R. 539: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mr. GIBSON.  
 H.R. 563: Mr. DeFAZIO.  
 H.R. 605: Ms. HAHN.  
 H.R. 721: Mr. RUSSELL.  
 H.R. 729: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.  
 H.R. 1123: Mr. AGUILAR.  
 H.R. 1185: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 1197: Mr. ROYCE, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
 H.R. 1212: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mr. MILLER of Florida.  
 H.R. 1221: Mr. HIGGINS.  
 H.R. 1356: Mr. BOST.  
 H.R. 1398: Mr. GRAYSON.  
 H.R. 1552: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H.R. 1594: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
 H.R. 1784: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
 H.R. 1877: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Ms. DELAURO.  
 H.R. 2138: Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
 H.R. 2218: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. CALVERT.  
 H.R. 2350: Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 2658: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
 H.R. 2759: Mr. HANNA and Ms. DELAURO.  
 H.R. 2980: Mr. PASCRELL.  
 H.R. 3117: Mr. CICILLINE.  
 H.R. 3119: Mr. WELCH, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mrs. BUSTOS.  
 H.R. 3226: Mr. CICILLINE.  
 H.R. 3337: Mr. KILDEE.  
 H.R. 3355: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 3523: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. VELA.  
 H.R. 3706: Mr. WOMACK and Mr. MESSER.  
 H.R. 3722: Mr. MULLIN.  
 H.R. 3832: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 3870: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. DeFAZIO.  
 H.R. 4166: Mr. FOSTER.  
 H.R. 4172: Mr. SIRES.  
 H.R. 4251: Mr. O'ROURKE.  
 H.R. 4365: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota and Ms. BONAMICI.  
 H.R. 4448: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. GIBBS.  
 H.R. 4456: Mr. MCKINLEY.  
 H.R. 4505: Mr. NUNES.  
 H.R. 4554: Mr. MCKINLEY.  
 H.R. 4599: Mr. ROKITA.  
 H.R. 4622: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
 H.R. 4626: Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
 H.R. 4668: Ms. LEE.  
 H.R. 4806: Ms. LEE and Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
 H.R. 4835: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 4843: Mr. ROTHFUS.  
 H.R. 4851: Mr. PITTS.  
 H.R. 4982: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. ROKITA.  
 H.R. 4992: Mr. LOBIONDO.  
 H.R. 5029: Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 5044: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. BASS, and Mr. CICILLINE.  
 H.R. 5047: Mr. BYRNE.  
 H.R. 5061: Mr. HUNTER.  
 H.R. 5075: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
 H.R. 5090: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 5113: Mr. CLAY and Mr. ELLISON.  
 H.R. 5130: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
 H.R. 5147: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
 H. Con. Res. 89: Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
 H. Res. 655: Mr. CARNEY.  
 H. Res. 693: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. ROSS.  
 H. Res. 700: Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
 H. Res. 712: Mr. FATTAH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

CONGRATULATING MAJOR REY VALDES ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Major Rey Valdes, who has served the Miami-Dade community as a police officer for over thirty-one years.

Major Valdes began his career as an officer, and has risen steadily through the ranks. Throughout his time in the Miami-Dade Police Department he has exhibited a passion for continued education, respect and compassion for his colleagues, and an understanding of the seriousness and importance of the profession he chose.

At various times during his career, Major Valdes worked with the homicide bureau, the narcotics bureau, and warrants management in several different roles throughout the department. In his current position, Major Valdes is responsible for all aspects of the Communications Bureau of the Miami-Dade Police Department. The Communications Bureau is the largest 9-1-1 Center in the southeastern United States, and the fourth largest in the country.

Even as he is preparing to leave the department, Major Valdes is currently studying to take the test to be certified as an Anti-Money Laundering Specialist. This credential will add to his value as a Certified Fraud Examiner. He hopes to continue to work in the field of fraud examination after his retirement.

Miami-Dade has been lucky to have had such an exceptional individual serving in its police force. Through the years, I have gotten to know Rey personally, as his daughter Katrina serves as my communications director, and am honored to call him a friend. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Rey on his illustrious and productive career, and extend my warmest wishes to his wife Elizabeth, and children Giorey, Armani, and Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Major Rey Valdes for his tremendous service to the Miami community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING 10,000 DEGREES

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 10,000 Degrees in honor of its 35th anniversary. A nonprofit located in Marin

County, California, 10,000 Degrees has worked to get thousands of underserved students into and through college.

Founded in 1981, 10,000 Degrees has awarded approximately \$56 million in scholarships during its three and a half decades, and has over 18,000 alumni of the program. Participants come from low-income households, and approximately 90 percent are the first in their families to attend college. Currently, the program serves 4,500 family members and students annually—nearly 90 percent of whom are people of color—and facilitates millions in scholarships and non-loan financial aid.

Not only does 10,000 Degrees help pay for higher education, they are committed to preparing students for college success. With early college awareness training, financial aid counseling, and mentoring services, the organization ensures that over 80 percent of their students complete college—nearly three times the national rate of low income students, and significantly higher than both the national average and the average of students from affluent families.

10,000 Degrees has been an effective organization since its origin, with a wide-ranging impact that has touched thousands of lives in Marin County. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank 10,000 Degrees on their 35th anniversary for their impressive efforts toward making college accessible to all, and to wish them success in the decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2016, on Roll Call Number 178 on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 4901, "To Reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes," I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

On April 29, 2016, on Roll Call Number 179 on passage of H.R. 4901, "To Reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes," I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on passage of H.R. 4901.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors

Council on their 50th Anniversary. NCHC is devoted to educational excellence, serving over 800 colleges and universities and 325,000 students in varying disciplines across the nation.

Two institutions of higher education in my district are NCHC members, Long Island University and SUNY College at Old Westbury.

Long Island University boasts academically talented students from each corner of our country studying in an array of majors. The Long Island University Honors Program offers high achieving students the opportunity to focus on a multitude of topics as they prepare themselves for professional careers and post-graduate studies.

SUNY Old Westbury's Honors College is more than just academics. The Honors College strives to ensure an enriched academic and social experience for its members and to create an environment that fosters active and innovative learning.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Long Island University, SUNY Old Westbury and the National Collegiate Honors Council for their outstanding contributions to our nation's educational and professional communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to amend my vote on Roll Call No. 179 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 4901) to YES.

I inadvertently voted in the negative. In my view, every child deserves access to a quality education without fear of being ostracized, punished, or discriminated against because of their race, religion, gender, ability, or because they are LGBT. I have long been an outspoken advocate for efforts to protect individuals from discrimination because of who they are or whom they love. That has not and will not change.

26TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 26th annual DC Black Pride celebration on May 27–29, 2016.

DC Black Pride 2016 is a multi-day festival featuring a reception, films, a poetry slam, a church service, educational workshops, community town hall meetings, a basketball tournament, an awards ceremony, and a health

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and wellness expo, among other events. We in the District of Columbia are pleased and proud that the DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation's capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first Black Pride festival, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)) and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents. The Center For Black Equity, the celebration's organizing body, chose: "I AM U. U R ME. WE ARE PRIDE!" as the theme for this year's celebration.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center For Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Hutton with assistance from a volunteer advisory board, which coordinates this annual event and consists of Andrea Woody-Macko; Shannon Garcon; Genise Chambers-Woods; Réginald Shaw-Richardson; and Gladece Knight.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 26th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in the District of Columbia are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

CONGRATULATING VALLEY HOPE  
AT GRAPEVINE ON THEIR FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Valley Hope at Grapevine on their fifteenth anniversary of service in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Nearly fifty years ago in Norton, Kansas, Valley Hope began providing affordable treatment services to those within their community suffering from addiction and needing assistance. Since first opening in 1967, Valley Hope has grown to offer their services in seven states and provides support to thousands of individuals in need. Over the last fifteen years, Valley Hope has provided the residents of Grapevine and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex with addiction treatment and rehabilitative services, impacting the lives of countless Texans and their families struggling with addiction. By providing comprehensive treatment services for substance use disorders, Valley Hope is able to increase the quality of life of their patients and allow them the opportunity to live their lives free from the anchors of addiction.

The nation's substance abuse epidemic continues to spread throughout our cities, our communities, and our schools. I commend Valley Hope for their efforts to address this crisis and tackle an issue of such great importance head on. Rehabilitation services such as

those offered by Valley Hope provide a tremendous benefit to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts Valley Hope has made towards ending chemical dependency and substance use disorders. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Valley Hope at Grapevine on their fifteenth anniversary of service.

IN HONOR OF ELENA IZCALLI MEDINA FOR HER RECOGNITION BY  
RENOWNED POET LAUREATE  
JUAN FELIPE HERRERA AT THE  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elena Izcalli Medina on being honored by United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera at the Library of Congress.

The 21st Poet Laureate Consultant Juan Felipe Herrera celebrated the conclusion of the first year of his laureateship by honoring young poet Elena Izcalli Medina at the Library of Congress. Elena Izcalli is a 7th grader attending High Tech Middle School in Chula Vista, California. She has been writing poetry for four years. She first received praise from Herrera in 2012 for her poem "Where I am from" which Herrera said "contained a philosophical reflection about how all of us are impermanent. It was just a solid poem where she really touched base with wisdom."

Herrera made an unprecedented gesture by arranging for Elena Izcalli and her family to attend the last lecture of his first term. Herrera presented Elena Izcalli to guests and dignitaries at the Library of Congress where she read her poem "One Day" on April 13, 2016. I would like to submit her poem.

ONE DAY

(by Elena Izcalli Medina)

One day the border will come down  
And all the colors will flow and  
We will grant ALL a crown.

One day police brutality will be no more  
And ALL will have equality no matter who  
you  
Are fighting for.

One day we will ALL love each other  
No matter what skin what religion  
because we are from the same mother.

One day we will treat the environment like  
a human being  
And ALL of nature  
Can go back to being free.

One day when someone is shot  
Black and brown Lives will matter  
And ALL will stand up to the cops.

One day we will have peace between coun-  
tries  
and instead of starting war  
we will grant each other awards

One day we will find each other the same  
and realize we ALL go through  
sunshine and rain.

One day we will look at women  
so they are not objectified  
But we'll pay attention to who they are in-  
side

and instead of calling them bossy

We will take away the y.

'Cause I wonder why,  
why this belief is still alive.

My hair flies freely in the wind  
Me being proud of the color of my skin  
I inhale clean air and exhale my worries

But one worry that stays inside me  
is the idea

that this one day might not come  
One day.

One day we'll all be free  
and proud to be

Under the same sun  
singing songs of freedom

\*Last stanza borrowed from Matisyahu

HONORING 23 WORLD WAR II VET-  
ERANS FROM OREGON FOR  
THEIR HONOR FLIGHT TO THE  
NATION'S CAPITAL

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 23 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Clifford W. Anderson, Army; Bernard D. Brown, Army; Charles E. Brown, Army; Donald S. Doughton, Army; Wayne G. Homes, Army; Alvin W. Mohr, Army; Mikio Tamiyasu, Army; Delmar G. Wilks, Army; William A.P. Lawrence, Army Air Forces; Robert E. Parry, Army Air Forces; John T. Reeves, Army Air Forces; Ray A. Snook, Army Air Forces; Richard L. Harriman, Merchant Marines; William D. Alder, Navy; Alvin O. Bradford, Navy; George W. Hayes, Navy; Gorder R. Hoefler, Navy; John T. Hyer, Navy; Raymond M. Mader, Navy; James D. Walker, Navy; William E. Wetmore, Navy; George W. Zentgraf, Navy; and Jeanne E. Heuett, Women's Army Corps.

These 23 heroes join the estimated 20,000 to 25,000 veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. from their home states in 2016, adding to the more than 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

I would also like to recognize the nine volunteers traveling on this trip who have also served our country: Eden R. Brown, Army Air Forces; Clement K. Hyer, Army; James E. Morley, Army; Theodore J. Riehl, Army; Marc R. Snook, Army; Michael Allegre, Army Air Forces; George W. Hyes, Marine Corps; and William M. Lawrence, Navy. These brave men and women put their lives on the line for our freedom, and they continue their dedication to service by contributing to this great cause and honoring those that came before them.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for



their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION OF DR. RON AND MARY THOMAS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND AND THE GREATER TACOMA COMMUNITY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ron & Mary Thomas, who this spring will complete their thirteenth and final year at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. Dr. Thomas has served as the University's thirteenth President since 2003 and has left a historic mark on this already prestigious institution of higher education.

The University of Puget Sound is a more diverse, inclusive, comprehensive, accessible, and transformational place because of their leadership. Thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community members have been positively impacted by their presence in this community.

Prior to arriving at Puget Sound, Dr. Thomas served as a faculty member at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and Trinity College. His career in higher education is decorated with numerous recognitions for contributions in writing, student life, and institutional leadership. With the arrival of Ron and Mary Thomas to Tacoma in the summer of 2003, the University of Puget Sound began its historic growth and transformation.

Mr. Speaker, for the past thirteen years, Dr. Thomas has led and overseen a renewal of the already beautiful University of Puget Sound campus. To complement the already stunning views of Mt. Rainier and towering Douglas fir trees, Dr. Thomas and his staff directed over \$200 million in campus capital improvements. These projects include a new academic science complex, upgrades in residential facilities, and athletic and recreational centers to bolster student life. Thankfully, Dr. Thomas and his team ensured that these projects were encompassed into a thoughtful and comprehensive campus master plan.

In addition to physical improvements on campus, Dr. Thomas and his wife Mary will forever be remembered in Tacoma for their dedication to the community and for successfully following through on their vision to connect the Puget Sound campus to the community that surrounds it. Since their arrival, Ron and Mary have been generous with their time and resources in supporting the civic and cultural institutions of Tacoma.

Mr. Speaker, during his tenure at UPS, Dr. Thomas helped create the "Tacoma Public Schools Commitment," which created a clear pathway for local students to attend this private, liberal-arts education at an affordable price. Given the community's diversity and challenges in paying for higher education, this

initiative will help grow future generations of engaged and educated citizens of Tacoma.

Mr. Speaker, I join the larger Tacoma communities in expressing my gratitude today in the United States Congress for Dr. Ron and Mary Thomas for their thirteen years of leadership and dedication. As the proud Representative for Tacoma, WA in the House of Representatives, I offer my best wishes on their future adventures together.

CONGRATULATING THE BAND CHEAP TRICK FOR THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE ROCK N' ROLL HALL OF FAME

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the band Cheap Trick on their induction into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame. Cheap Trick is rightfully being honored by this iconic institution for their outstanding contributions to the music industry.

Cheap Trick, from our Congressional District in Rockford, Illinois, has performed over 5,000 times in the last four decades, sold over 20 million records and has 40 gold and platinum recording awards. They have also been recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for their incredible contributions to music and pop culture.

Cheap Trick has been a staple of rock and roll for the past four decades, and their music has provided inspiration for young musicians for years and for decades to come. Despite their demanding tour schedule, Cheap Trick has always remembered their roots in Rockford and has always found time to perform in their hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Cheap Trick for their contributions to the rock and roll community, and for always making Rockford proud. I congratulate them again on their well-earned induction into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING HORIZON COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Horizon Community Middle School for their participation at the White House Science Fair and for their recognition as a Samsung Solve for Tomorrow National Winner.

A classroom of 40 seventh and eighth graders designed and produced a fully functioning prosthetic limb for local disabled Marine Corps veteran, Kyle Kelly. The limb was designed to help Kyle live a more active lifestyle, even allowing him to hike, ski, and skateboard comfortably.

Three students from the Horizon group, Simon-Peter Frimpong, Grayson Fast, and

Maya Maxfield-Villard presented this project to President Obama at the annual White House Science Fair on April 13th.

It's inspiring to see students taking an interest in solving real-world problems through STEM while also helping veterans in need. These student innovators serve as an example for students throughout Colorado and the United States.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the students and teachers of Horizon Community Middle School for all of your hard work on this important cause.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 155.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote number 155.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLISH DAY AT THE CONNECTICUT STATE CAPITOL

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize today's Polish Day celebration at the Connecticut State Capitol, and to congratulate the Polish people in celebrating the 225th anniversary of Europe's oldest written constitution.

Poland adopted the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. With the leadership of King Stanislaw August, Poland's constitution established many of the same principles of freedom and democracy ratified in the United States, like freedom of religion, the separation of powers, and political equality.

I am proud to represent New Britain, Connecticut, which has more residents of Polish descent than any other community in our great state. Polish-Americans have made invaluable contributions to the social, cultural, and economic life and history of communities in central and northwest Connecticut, and throughout our great state.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Poland, I am committed to strengthening the bilateral relationship between Poland and the United States. Those bonds of friendship date back centuries, and have only grown stronger through solidarity in the Cold War and continued collaboration to expand economic opportunity and promote security in the region and around the world.

So Mr. Speaker, on this Polish Constitution Day, it is my privilege to join neighbors across Connecticut and the entire United States in celebrating the 225th anniversary of Poland's first constitution. I know that this House joins me in honoring the many contributions of the people of Poland and those of Polish descent in developing democracy and furthering the cause of freedom throughout the world.

H.R. 5130, THE “STOP INFANT MORTALITY AND RECIDIVISM REDUCTION ACT OF 2016” (“SIMARRA ACT”)

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, last Friday I introduced the “Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016,” or the “SIMARRA Act,” which will help the Federal Bureau of Prisons to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system for pregnant offenders, by establishing a pilot program of critical-stage, developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates.

It is time that our nation recognizes a long-persistent need to break the cycle of generational, institutional incarceration amongst mothers convicted of non-violent crimes and the children they birth behind prison bars.

H.R. 5130, the “SIMARRA Act of 2016,” gives those infants born to incarcerated mothers a chance to succeed in life.

“SIMARRA” is not merely yet another second chance program, demanding leniency from the criminal justice system.

Instead, H.R. 5130 asks our national criminal justice system what it can do for those young Americans born and relegated to a life of nearly impossible odds of survival.

“SIMARRA” provides that first chance—a first chance for American infants—that many of their mothers, born themselves to mothers behind bars, never received.

We have a unique opportunity to nurture infants with the “SIMARRA Act of 2016,” providing them a true head start.

A 2015 article in the National, estimated that at least 10,000 babies are born to American prisoners annually.

This issue is affecting more children and women than we realize.

The New York Times reported that approximately 25 percent of incarcerated women are pregnant, carrying children, on admission to prison, or gave birth during the previous year, still requiring special medical and nutritional resources for the health of their infants, as well as themselves.

Current Federal Bureau of Prison policy dictates that, in most cases, incarcerated mothers relinquish their children immediately after giving birth, handing them over to friends or family members, and most often to the foster care system.

Eleven percent of those children separated from incarcerated mothers and placed into foster care experienced at least two changes in caregivers during the period of the mother’s incarceration; and sometimes these mothers, even when they have short prison sentences, never see their child again—forever lost to the foster-care system.

This practice is devastating the wellness and safety of American infants, denying them the ability to lactate, bond and thrive with their mother’s host body, as healthy infants require during the critical stage of development.

Children born to mothers in prison and removed to social services programs also experience parental separation, and often illicit substance use, mental illness, and domestic violence, all of which are adverse childhood experiences associated with morbidity and premature mortality.

Neo-natal health science tells us that positive social interactions in a child’s early years are considered critical to the development of healthy social relationships and personality growth.

Studies indicate that, upon entering early childhood educational programs, children born to incarcerated women are at higher risk of behavioral health problems than their peers.

It should not surprise anyone familiar with the juvenile criminal justice system that children of incarcerated women are more likely to be caught up in the criminal justice system themselves, deflating the upward trajectory of their life’s potential.

The writing is on the wall: there is a positive, statistically significant correlation between the total incarceration rate and the infant mortality.

Studies reveal that newborn babies separated from their mothers, due to confinement, suffer health and psychological complications such as weakened attachment, bonding and abandonment at exponentially compounded rates.

Ten states currently operate successful similar programs and studies have shown that 71 percent of the babies served attained attachment goals with their inmate-mothers while in a prison nursery setting, a percentage greater than that reported by most low-risk, community children whose mothers had no criminal history or involvement.

Nursery participants also had a lower recidivism rate compared to non-participating mothers.

In spite of the fact that the mothers of most of these children had not internalized secure attachment in their own childhoods, 71 percent

of the babies achieved secure attachment with their own mothers while in the prison nursery setting.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the national infant mortality rate is 5.96 deaths per 1,000 births, increasing to 7.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births for Hispanic inmates, and 14.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births among African American inmates.

Other studies have documented that parental incarceration elevates the risk of early infant death by 29.6 percent for the average infant, concentrating effects during the post-neonatal period.

The data demonstrates that incarceration compounds women’s depression and the risk of contracting infectious or chronic stress-related illnesses, which may harm infant health through numerous mechanisms also increasing infant mortality rates.

The “SIMARRA Act” will decrease unprecedentedly high current infant mortality rates and allow inmate mothers to provide healthy and safe gestation to protect their unborn, as well as bond with infants during their first 30 months of life, designated by the CDC as one of the most critical stages of development.

Further, H.R. 5130 simultaneously implements risk and needs assessments, risk reduction incentives, and risk and recidivism reduction programs to address the healthcare, safety and rehabilitative needs of new-mother-inmates as they serve their sentence.

Mass incarceration not only fosters inequality but also diminishes a child’s chances of surviving its first year of life, which combined together can further hinder a child’s life chances.

The most likely long-term mechanism through which imprisonment affects infant mortality is through its effects on maternal health.

Mr. Speaker, as a nation we do not have a person to waste, so we must embrace practices that nurture the bonds between mother and child.

The “SIMARRA Act” will provide resources and programming to ensure a healthy and safe environment for these children during their critical stages of development.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring and supporting H.R. 5130, the “Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016” or the “SIMARRA Act.”

**SENATE—Thursday, May 5, 2016**

The Senate met at 11:31 and 15 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN HOEVEN, a Senator from the State of North Dakota.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 5, 2016.

*To the Senate:*

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN HOEVEN, a Senator from the State of North Dakota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. HOEVEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
MAY 9, 2016, AT 3 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m., on Monday, May 9, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:31 and 50 seconds a.m., adjourned until Monday, May 9, 2016, at 3 p.m.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, May 6, 2016

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 6, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon our Nation. Bless the work of the Members of the people's House, most at home interacting with their constituents. May they toil diligently to bring about solutions to the pressing issues facing our Nation, especially during the contentious season of party primaries.

Bless all men and women across our country, especially those who work in service to others: police, firefighters, health care providers, teachers, those who work in local, State and national government, and those men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 706, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY, Republican Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 4703(b) of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Act (20 U.S.C. 4703), I am pleased to appoint our colleague Rep. MARTHA MCSALLY of Arizona to the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*House Majority Leader.*

### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 706, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at noon for morning-hour debate.

### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5259. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting a letter reporting a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Entrepreneurial Development Account (#028-00-0400), pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258, Sec. 1; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

5260. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John W. Hesterman III, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5261. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General David M. Rodriguez, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5262. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral William E. Gortney, United States Navy, and his ad-

vancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5263. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Colonel John S. Laskodi, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5264. A letter from the Acting Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Annual Report on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation for 2015, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2166(i); Public Law 106-398, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 107-314, Sec. 932(a)(1)); (116 Stat. 2625); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5265. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Weapons Council, Department of Defense and Department of Energy, transmitting a certification that the amounts requested for the National Nuclear Security Administration in the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2017 meet nuclear stockpile and stockpile stewardship program requirements, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 179(f)(1); Public Law 99-661, Sec. 3137(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 112-239, Sec. 1039); (126 Stat. 1927); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5266. A letter from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Fair Lending Report for April 2016, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5493(c)(2)(D); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 1013(c)(2)(D); (124 Stat. 1970); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5267. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Changes to Exchange Act Registration Requirements to Implement Title V and Title VI of the JOBS Act [Release No.: 33-10075; 34-77757; File No.: S7-12-14] (RIN: 3235-AL40) received May 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5268. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Community Services Block Grant Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2013 and the Community Services Block Grant Performance Measurement Report, pursuant to Secs. 678B(c) and 678E(b)(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5269. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2015 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report: National Quality Strategy 5th Anniversary Update, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 299b-2(b)(2); Public Law 106-129, Sec. 2(a); (113 Stat. 1658); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5270. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0428; FRL-9945-29] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5271. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Removal of I/M Program in Memphis and Revisions to the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan for Shelby County, Tennessee [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0250; FRL-9945-91-Region 4] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5272. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Carfentrazone-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0030; FRL-9942-47] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5273. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mefenoxam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0014; FRL-9944-82] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5274. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticide Tolerance Crop Grouping Program Amendment IV [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0766; FRL-9944-87] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5275. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Propanamide, 2-hydroxy-N, N-dimethyl-; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0524; FRL-9944-10] received April 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5276. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Commissioner's Orders for A.B. Brown and Clifty Creek [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0075; EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0090; FRL-9946-08-Region 5] received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5277. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho: Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R10-OAR-2015-0855; FRL-9946-00-Region 10] received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5278. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Butanedioic acid, 2-sulfo-, C-C9-11-isoalkyl esters, C10-rich, disodium

salts; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0213; FRL-9945-58] received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5279. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clethodim; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0035; FRL-9945-68] received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5280. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for Billings, MT 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> Nonattainment Area [EPA-R08-OAR-2015-0205; FRL-9945-64-Region 8] received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5281. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluxapyroxad; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0324; FRL-9945-48] received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5282. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision to the Research, Development and Demonstration Permits Rule for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2015-0126; FRL-9943-87-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AG75) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5283. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Technical Amendments to Performance Specification 18 and Procedure 6 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0696; FRL-9944-26-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS86) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5284. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Clarification of Test Procedures for Fluorescent Lamps Ballasts [Docket No.: EERE-2009-BT-TP-0016] (RIN: 1904-AD58) received May 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5285. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed items to the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778 note; Public Law 105-261, Sec. 1512 (as amended by Public Law 105-277, Sec. 146); (112 Stat. 2174); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5286. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification for FY 2016 that no United Nations agency or United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organi-

zation that promotes, condones, or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 287e note; Public Law 103-236, Sec. 102(g) (as amended by Public Law 103-415, Sec. 1(o)); (108 Stat. 4301); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5287. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to Congress on the Millennium Challenge Corporation's FY 2015 obligations and expenditures for assistance provided to each eligible country, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7712; Public Law 108-199, Sec. 613(a); (118 Stat. 221); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5288. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-023, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5289. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-005, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5290. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-105, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326) and 22 U.S.C. 2776(d)(1); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(d) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (90 Stat. 740); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5291. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 16-016, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5292. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to France, Transmittal No. 16-34, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b)(1); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(b) (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 536); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5293. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period of December 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with Sec. 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5294. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination pursuant to Sec. 451 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5295. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-376, "Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency Salary Approval Temporary Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5296. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-377, "Supporting Normalcy and

Empowering Children in Foster Care Temporary Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5297. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-375, "Firehouse Parking Exception Regulation Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5298. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-374, "Youth Suicide Prevention and School Climate Survey Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5299. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Semiannual Report to Congress for October 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5300. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of Treasury, transmitting notification of Designation of acting officer and Discontinuation of service in acting roll, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5301. A letter from the HR Specialist, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5302. A letter from the Vice President, Government Relations, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting the Authority's Statistical Summary for FY 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. Sec. 8G(h)(2); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 8G(h)(2) (as added by Public Law 100-504, Sec. 104(a)); (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5303. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Refuge-Specific Regulations; Public Use; Kenai National Wildlife Refuge [Docket No.: FWS-R7-NWRS-2014-0003] [FF07RKNA00 FXRS12610700000 167] (RIN: 1018-AX56) received May 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5304. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report providing an FY 2017 Estimate for the Free Clinic Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 233(o)(6)(C); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title II, Sec. 224 (as amended by Public Law 104-191, Sec. 194); (110 Stat. 1988); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5305. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Fire Safety Requirements for Certain Health Care Facilities [CMS-3277-F] (RIN: 0938-AR72) received May 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5306. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Second Quarterly Report for FY 2016 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4332(b)(2); Public Law 103-353, Sec. 2(a) (as added by Public Law 110-389, Sec. 312(c)); (122 Stat. 4165); jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

5307. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report providing information regarding all applications made by the Government during calendar year 2015 for authority to conduct electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1807; Public Law 95-511, Sec. 107; (92 Stat. 1795) and 50 U.S.C. 1862(c); Public Law 95-511, Sec. 502(c) (as added by Public Law 109-177, Sec. 106(h)(3)); (120 Stat. 200) and 18 U.S.C. 659 note; Public Law 109-177, Sec. 307(d); (120 Stat. 240); jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Intelligence (Permanent Select).

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

*[Pursuant to section 5 of H. Res. 706, the following report was filed on May 4, 2016]*

Mr. THORNBERRY: Committee on Armed Services. H.R. 4909. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 114-537). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

*[Filed on May 6, 2016]*

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1486. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to bring the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection into the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-538). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5046. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-539). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5048. A bill to require a study by the Comptroller General of the United States on Good Samaritan laws that pertain to treatment of opioid overdoses, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-540). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5052. A bill to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-541, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce

discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5052 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 5167. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for residential energy efficient property and the energy credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. UPTON (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HULTGREN, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 5168. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of Christa McAuliffe; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 5169. A bill to strengthen welfare research and evaluation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 5170. A bill to encourage and support partnerships between the public and private sectors to improve our Nation's social programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. PAULSEN):

H.R. 5171. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts to include rollovers for charitable life-income plans for charitable purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 5172. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and phaseout the energy credit for certain property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TAKAI:

H.R. 5173. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a grant program to provide assistance for the acquisition, construction, retrofitting, or renovation of residences that are visitable for individuals; to the Committee on Financial Services.

#### MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

216. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 13, urging Congress by legislative enactment, to provide protections for adoption and implementation of state sage-grouse conservation plans; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 5168.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8. "The Congress shall have the power . . . to coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and measures;"

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 5169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 5171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, which states "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes," and Article I, Section 7, which states "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. TAKAI:

H.R. 5173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Consitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 430: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 624: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 711: Mr. MARINO and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 756: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 1199: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 1519: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 1608: Mr. JONES, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. LoBiondo.

H.R. 2083: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 2132: Ms. LEE and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2274: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 2296: Mr. TONKO and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2431: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2668: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 3294: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3365: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 3523: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 3870: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 4223: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 4499: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4694: Mr. SIREs.

H.R. 4763: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4813: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4904: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 4922: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 4965: Ms. NORTON and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 4966: Ms. NORTON and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 5090: Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. WELCH, Mr. REED, Mr. BOST, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. SPEIER, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 5130: Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mrs. BEATTY.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

59. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Electors of the city of Platteville, WI, relative to a resolution supporting an amendment to the United States Constitution stating that only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights and that money is not speech; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

#### HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 6, 2016*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate ten exemplary men and women from Broward County who were recently elected to the Broward Senior Hall of Fame.

These outstanding citizens are individuals from all walks of life who have contributed greatly to the vibrancy and well-being of South Florida. Many have served in the military, held elected offices and judgeships, volunteered, and worked as doctors. Several have provided distinguished service on boards of organizations that benefit our communities and make Broward County the outstanding place that it is to live, raise a family, and retire.

The names of these ten distinguished inductees to the Broward Senior Hall of Fame are Sandra K. Booth; Mitchell "Mitch" Ceasar; Commissioner Sue Gunzburger; Mohsin Jaffer, MD; Marie Goodrum Johnson; George A. Kling, MD; Arlene Lakin, Esquire; Patti Lynn; Judge Ronald J. Rothschild; and Jack Shifrel.

Again, congratulations to these outstanding individuals. I wish them the best of luck with their induction and continued service to Broward County. It is with great pleasure that I honor them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I look forward to hearing of their continued work and service.

### NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

#### HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 6, 2016*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Infertility Awareness Week, which ran from April 24–30. The CDC recognizes infertility as the inability to get pregnant after one year of trying. It affects both men and women, and there are a variety of causes. Resolve, the National Infertility Association, estimates that it affects approximately 10 percent of the population.

For couples dealing with infertility, there are a number of options. They can choose to adopt, or try to conceive through IUI, medications, or assisted reproductive technology like in vitro fertilization (IVF). Although none of these methods is guaranteed, improvements to technologies and treatments in recent years

have increased the likelihood of successful therapy.

Not all families have access to this technology. Under present law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expressly prohibited from covering IVF for women and men who have served our country in uniform. This is especially galling considering that many of these veterans are facing infertility as a result of injuries incurred during their service. That is why Senator MURRAY and I introduced the Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act—to repeal this outdated policy and specifically authorize provision of fertility treatment. Our bill also provides other important resources to military families, including cryopreservation of gametes and adoption assistance.

As we recognize National Infertility Awareness Week, it is my sincere hope that we not lose sight of Americans experiencing infertility. And it is long past time that Congress authorizes VA to cover fertility treatments, including IVF to wounded veterans, so they can achieve their dreams of starting families.

### COMMEMORATING MOTHER'S DAY

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 6, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 108th observance of Mother's Day.

As a mother of two children myself, I understand the hardships and difficulties that so many mothers face every day in our country.

We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of home and family as the true foundation of the Nation.

I want to pay tribute to my late mother, Ivalita Jackson, who stood the test of time in raising and rearing her children.

To the mothers of Houston, too many to name here, I salute you for your dedication to raising and saving your children.

Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation.

Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding and compassion, all while overcoming the challenges of modern society.

I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work.

Mothers have a huge influence on our everyday lives; as William Ross Wallace's famous poem reminds us: "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

It is in the same breath that I commend all mothers, including those giving birth to infants who will take their first breath and suckle first from mothers behind prison bars.

These infants' lives are just as valuable as those of any young Americans upon whom we will come to rely on, in building the next great generation.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the infants of mothers across the nation die at a rate of 5.96 deaths per 1,000 births.

Those deaths increase to a devastating 7.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births for Hispanic mothers when they are incarcerated, and an appalling 14.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births among African American mothers behind bars.

Other studies have documented that incarceration of mothers elevates the risk of their children dying by 29.6% for the average infant, concentrating effects during the post-neonatal period.

If these mothers' children are to grow strong and resilient, we must ensure that they have access to the nourishment and sustenance that only their mothers can provide, body and soul, in order to sustain their formidable futures for which we, alongside their mothers, hope and pray.

Cognizant of the dangerous phenomenon affecting these mothers and snipping at the heels of the life to which they give young Americans, I recently introduced H.R. 5130 the, "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016," or the "SIMARRA Act," to expand healthcare and wellness services in Critical Stage Development Nurseries for infants and their mother-inmates.

H.R. 5130 allows infants, born to female inmates in federal prisons, to remain with their mothers in specialized housing units during the critical stages of their development in efforts to reduce infant mortality amongst this population, and to reduce recidivism rates amongst their mothers once they have completed their sentences.

Many of these mother-inmates self-report being born themselves to mothers in prison; but instead of retaining necessary physiological and psychological bonds with their mothers, many were wrenched apart and placed in the fledgling foster-care system.

Eleven percent of those children separated from incarcerated mothers and placed into foster care experienced at least two changes in caregivers during the period of the mother's incarceration; and sometimes these mothers, even when they have short prison sentences, never see their child again—forever lost to the foster-care system.

As a mother, I cannot imagine being unable to contribute to the sustainability of my child's life and wellness.

This practice is devastating the wellbeing and safety of America's infants, denying them the ability to lactate, bond and thrive with their

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



mothers, as healthy infants require during the critical stage of development.

Just as we commemorate Mother's Day, it is time that our nation recognizes a long-persistent need to break the cycle of generational, institutional incarceration amongst mothers convicted of non-violent crimes and the children they birth behind prison bars.

H.R. 5130, the, "SIMARRA Act of 2016," gives those infants born to incarcerated mothers a chance to succeed in life.

"SIMARRA" is not merely yet another second chance program, demanding leniency from the criminal justice system for repentant mothers.

Instead, H.R. 5130 asks our national criminal justice system what it can do for those mothers' children—young Americans born and relegated to a life of nearly impossible odds of survival.

"SIMARRA" provides that first chance—a first chance for American infants—that many of their mothers, born themselves to mothers behind bars, never received.

We have a unique opportunity to nurture infants by uniting them with their mothers through the "SIMARRA Act of 2016," better preparing them to endure the harsh realities of this world.

Further, H.R. 5130 simultaneously implements risk and needs assessments, risk reduction incentives, and risk and recidivism reduction programs to address the healthcare, safety and rehabilitative needs of new-mother-inmates while they serve their sentence.

The most likely long-term mechanism through which imprisonment affects infant mortality is through its effects on maternal health.

Mothers are fighting to keep their children alive and we, as guardians, have an opportunity to say that the buck stops here when it comes to the next generation—any sins that the mother may have committed need not be visited upon her child.

Mr. Speaker, as a nation we do not have a person to waste, so we must embrace practices that nurture the bonds between mother and child.

In observance of May 8, 2016, we will honor mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, stepmothers, foster mothers and godmothers who take in children, mothers who adopt, those who act as mothers, and those women who have no relations by blood, but who give the gift of mothering to children.

In hindsight, we can never thank our mothers enough for all the sacrifices they have made for us.

Thus, in our reflection, let us include the children of all mothers regardless of the circumstances under which they came to walk the Earth.

I wish every mother a safe and happy Mother's Day this Sunday and hope to echo the message that we value your contributions and will safeguard your efforts because they benefit us all.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southeast Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization in Southeast Fort Worth, Texas, as they host their 2nd Annual Pathway's Banquet, highlighting the work of local leaders for their contributions to empowering our local youth and adults.

The Southeast Community Development Corporation was founded in April 2014, by Pastor Robert J. McGinty, who saw a need to continue to serve others after retiring from 36 years of service in law enforcement. Since its founding, the program has found success in providing education support, mentoring, leadership development, health and wellness initiatives, and programs where participants can prepare themselves for financial literacy, life-skills, job readiness, and empowerment for home ownership.

One of their most successful programs is the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, the only all-male program in Texas aimed at building strong, literate, and empowered children to serve a fundamental role within their families, communities, and nation. Young men between the ages of 13 and 17 participate in an interactive summer reading-based curriculum to improve their reading level and to curb summer learning loss. In addition, the scholars participate in college tours and community service projects and learn valuable tools to expand their educational opportunities.

Every year, the Southeast Community Development Corporation hosts their Annual Pathways Banquet to honor local government, city, business, and community leaders for their contributions to creating "Pathways for the City's Youth and Adults."

This year, the organization will host its 2nd Annual Pathways Banquet at the Tarrant County Community College Trinity River Campus, where they will honor Tarrant County Commissioner Roy C. Brooks, Former Dallas Cowboy Greg Ellis, and former TCC Chancellor, the late Erma Johnson Hadley, for their work and commitment to expanding opportunities for our adults and youth in the Tarrant County community.

In honor of the Southeast Community Development Corporations 2nd Annual Pathways Awards ceremony, and the invaluable service the organization provides to the Fort Worth community, this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Friday, May 6, 2016.

RECOGNIZING POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY ON MAY 3, 2016

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Polish Constitution Day on May 3, 2016 and the Polish Constitution Day Parade in my hometown of Chicago on May 7, 2016.

On May 3, 1791, Poland ratified the first democratic constitution of its kind in Europe. The document laid the groundwork for a constitutional monarchy and, eventually, the spread of democracy in the region.

The Polish Constitution Day Parade is a longstanding Chicago tradition. The Parade brings together nearly 100,000 people for festivities that include floats, folk dancing, and polka bands. This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Parade, which recognizes Chicago's vibrant Polish American community. Polish Americans make up over 7 percent of Chicago's population and have made notable contributions to the arts, academics and even politics. In fact, Chicagoland has the largest Polish community outside of Poland and is home to many organizations that celebrate Polish culture and heritage, including the Polish Women's Alliance of America based in my district.

Ada Ezlakowska will serve as this year's Queen of the Parade, and Jan Krawiec will be Grand Marshal. Mr. Krawiec is a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor who fought in the Polish Resistance during World War II and helped run the underground press. He moved to Chicago after being tortured by the Gestapo and detained at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald. He attended Loyola University in my district and travelled to the U.S.S.R. with President Nixon. I am proud that he will be honored on Saturday.

The United States and Poland share a deep bond. We need to strengthen that relationship by increasing opportunities for travel and cultural exchange. I am proud to support Poland's proposed inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program. This would promote short-term travel between our countries, encouraging cultural and political ties as well as easing travel for families with members in both countries.

Polish Constitution Day is a time to celebrate our Polish American community. I congratulate Chicago on 125 years of marking this special occasion.

RECOGNIZING CINCO DE MAYO

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 6, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize the holiday of Cinco de Mayo commemorating the victory of the Mexican Army 1862 over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War.

The fifth day of May, or Cinco de Mayo, is a special day because it represents the importance of freedom, liberty and determination for the people of Mexico and for Mexican-Americans.

It was on that day, May 5, 1862, that untrained, outnumbered, and outgunned Mexican forces—determined to protect their land—successfully defended the town of Puebla against the French.

The quest for an independent Mexico started on September 16, 1810, when the people of Mexico, following the will to become a free nation, refused to submit to Spanish rule.

The struggle went on for 10 years.

Finally, in 1821, the first independent Mexican government was established.

But being an independent nation was not easy.

Over the years, Mexico received economic support from several nations, France and England among them.

Later on, even Spain supported the new country.

Thus, Mexico became heavily indebted to foreign powers.

Due to ongoing political unrest caused by many groups struggling for power, Mexico was not able to pay back the loans.

On July 17, 1861, President Benito Juarez issued a moratorium in which all-foreign debt payments would be suspended for a period of two years, with the promise that after this period, payments would resume.

In 1862, France, Spain, and England dispatched their fleets to Mexican shores pursuing not only money but also land and rights as payment for their loans.

A government representative greeted them and explained that Mexico acknowledge its debts, but had no funds to pay them.

They were offered payment warrants in exchange.

The Spaniards and the British decided to accept the warrants and withdrew from the scene.

But the French government's representative did not accept the offer and ordered his troops to invade the country and head toward Mexico City, the nation's capital.

They had to cross through the state of Puebla to get to the capital.

Mexican President Benito Juarez, reacted immediately and prepared the defense.

He commanded Ignacio Zaragoza, a young and brave General, to fortify the City of Puebla and repel the French invaders.

The battle was by no means even.

France, under Louis Napoleon's rule, had the most world's powerful army, and sent more than six thousand men to invade Mexico.

But the courage and the love of freedom impelled the Mexican people to fight back.

General Ignacio Zaragoza led 5,000 ill-equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians called Zacapoaxtlan.

On the 5th of May 1862, the forts of Loreto and Guadalupe, in the city of Puebla, became the scene of the historical defeat of the great European army.

Against overwhelming odds, they managed to drive back the French army, achieving a total victory over soldiers deemed among the best trained and equipped in the world and embarking on the end of the European domination in America.

For Mexico, this day has come to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism in the history of Mexico.

In our country, Cinco de Mayo is also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage Mexican Americans have brought to the United States.

Hispanics are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States.

According to the most recent data available, the estimated Hispanic population in the U.S. is 42.7 million—constituting 14 percent of our nation's population.

Hispanics now own a record number of small businesses—1.6 million, with annual revenues of more than \$221 billion.

Small businesses create two-thirds of American jobs, and the fastest-growing small business sector is Latino-owned firms.

Today, there are 32 Hispanic Members in the United States Congress, including 3 Senators and 29 House Members, many of whom are Mexican-American, representing constituencies in all regions of the country, from California to New York, from Arizona to Illinois, from Colorado to Florida.

These gains and numbers tell us that Hispanics are a driving force in our country—economically, socially and politically.

Hispanics share the common goals with all other Americans of freedom, opportunity, and a chance to build a better life.

In pursuing these aspirations, Hispanics have made important contributions to life in the United States in the fields of culture, sports, entertainment, business enterprise, science, politics and others.

Today, millions of Americans will join our neighbors to the south in celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

On this day, we are reminded that all people—regardless of their race, color, or gender—have enriched cultures and are worthy of respect and self-determination.

I am happy to be here today to celebrate this momentous day and to recognize the values, traditions, and positive contributions of the Mexican culture.

**SENATE—Monday, May 9, 2016**

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank You for the life and legacy of former Senator Bob Bennett. Lord, we praise You for his diligence, integrity, intellect, and courage, for he has left exemplary footprints for us to follow. Be with his beloved widow Joyce, comforting her, his loved ones, and friends in their grief.

Lord, we also remember Sergeant Christopher Eney, Officer Jacob Chestnut, Detective John Gibson, and Sergeant Clinton Holtz of the U.S. Capitol Police, who gave the last full measure of devotion. Remind us that Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

Today, give our lawmakers the singularity of heart to seek, find, and follow Your will so that their legacy will also be exemplary.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

**THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we will return to the consideration of the energy security and water infrastructure funding bill today. As we do so, I wish to remind colleagues of the importance of returning to regular order and working through the appropriations process.

A return to regular order means empowering Senators from both sides to make more responsible judgments as to how taxpayer dollars are spent. It means allowing Senators to better represent the voices of their constituents throughout the legislative process. Beginning the process early means giving Senators from both sides more opportunity to debate and offer ideas they think might make these bills even better.

This is the way the appropriations process is supposed to work, and with a little cooperation, we can keep it moving forward this week.

The bill before us will support energy innovation and waterway infrastructure. It will promote commerce and public safety. It will help maintain our nuclear deterrence posture.

These are priorities that should be important to all of us. So let's continue to work today and move this bill forward.

**REMEMBERING BOB BENNETT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, tomorrow the Democratic leader and I will have the honor of celebrating Senator Bennett's life at a memorial service, but I also wish to say a few words about this dear friend and colleague now.

Bob Bennett said there are two kinds of Senators in Washington—workhorses and show horses. It is clear to anyone who knew him which path Senator Bennett followed. This former chaplain, entrepreneur, and CEO came to the Senate with a long resume and a formidable work effort. Over his 18 years of service, Bob typified the constructive player with the steady hand, the kind of Senator who preferred the low-key work of legislating to the bright lights of the media.

Bob worked hard to develop relationships in both parties, and he approached everything he did with creativity, with substance, and with honor.

Senator Bennett served as a member of our conference leadership team, sat on important committees, and pressed forward on a range of different issues.

He also shared my interest in the First Amendment. Bob would be the first to tell you that he viewed his most important job as being a husband. I think his wife Joyce felt the same way. In more than 50 years of marriage, the Bennetts worked together to raise six children. They were blessed with 20 grandchildren as well.

Many of us remember the active role Joyce played in the life of the Senate family over the years, and so we are thinking of her today. We are thinking of the entire Bennett family too.

The Senate honors the memory of Senator Bob Bennett. We will miss him greatly.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). The Democratic leader is recognized.

**REMEMBERING BOB BENNETT**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last Wednesday, the Senate lost one of its Members, our friend and colleague Bob Bennett. He passed away at his home in Arlington, VA.

There is a whole lot I can say about Bob Bennett. He was my friend. Landra and I were close to him and his lovely wife Joyce. As Senator MCCONNELL said, he was a three-term Senator. He was a scholar, author, and celebrated businessman. He took over this company, Franklin Quest—those little books that were so popular a number of years ago. It had four employees. Within 7 years, that company had 1,000 employees, and its income was \$100 million a year. Some of you will remember the little Franklin day planner we all had because of Senator Bennett.

When I think of Senator Bennett, courage comes to mind. He was one of the most courageous Senators with whom I served. He was a conservative Republican from a conservative State, Utah. A majority of the time he voted that way.

But Bob also firmly believed neither political party nor their differing ideologies had a monopoly on good governance, and he spoke about this openly. This is what he said during his farewell speech on the Senate floor:

The Democrats are the party of government. Going back to their roots with Franklin Roosevelt, they come to the conclusion that if there is a problem, government should solve that problem. The Republicans are the party of free markets, and they come to the conclusion that if there is a problem, it should be left to the markets to solve it. And they are both right. That is the thing I have come to understand here. There are some problems where government is the solution—but not always. There are some problems where free markets do provide the solution—but not always.

Bob Bennett practiced what he preached. In the fall of 2008, the global markets were in a free fall. The American economy was reeling. Something needed to be done.

President George W. Bush turned to Congress for help. Where else could he turn? We, the Congress, passed the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, which prevented the collapse of our Nation's largest financial institutions. Despite the pressure from his own party, Senator Bennett voted for TARP. He voted to save our country and our economy. It was perhaps the most courageous vote ever cast in the Senate.

It didn't sit well with the tea party, which was very strong in Utah. They used the State's Republican primary to remove Senator Bennett from office. It

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

is a very unusual procedure there. If it had been any other State in the Union, Bob Bennett would still be in the Senate.

But in spite of all of that, Bob was blessed with an unshakeable moral compass. He knew what he did was right, and he had no regrets. Time and a resurgent American economy had vindicated Senator Bennett's vote on TARP and other things.

I count myself very fortunate to have served with this good man. I will forever be grateful for him—this honorable, decent person who was my friend.

Today my thoughts are with his family, his wife Joyce, who is an accomplished flutist. She is a professional flute player.

On codels I took with Senator Bennett—I remember one where we left here and went to Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador—over the great lands that we passed and over the waters that we passed, often she would come and entertain us with her flute. She is a marvelous woman. I want her to know that Senator Bennett will be missed by the Senate, the people of Utah, our country, and me.

#### MAYORAL ELECTION IN LONDON, ENGLAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a notable thing happened this weekend across the Atlantic. The people of London, England, elected Sadiq Khan as the first Muslim mayor of their city. The mayor of the city of London is a Muslim, a proud Muslim. That election speaks to the openness and tolerance exhibited by England.

Let us not forget that England is a Protestant nation. According to the Nation's most recent census, the people of London are predominantly Christian. When London voters went to the polls, they refused to allow Mr. Khan's religion to be the deciding factor. They refused to give in to the bigotry and Islamic rhetoric that is plaguing American politics. Instead, Londoners voted for the candidate whom they thought would best represent their interests and who happened to be a Muslim.

The election of Sadiq Khan is an example of how a democracy should operate—independent of fear and prejudice. This is what he said yesterday:

I have spent my entire life encouraging minority communities to get involved in civil society, in mainstream politics. I've been fighting extremism and radicalization all my life. You should conduct politics in a positive way to enthrone people to get involved.

Many of us in the United States would do well to learn from Mayor Khan's example.

#### DONALD TRUMP AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Donald Trump is the Republican Presidential

nominee. Let's think about that—the party of Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and many other Republicans, such as Ronald Reagan and Dwight Eisenhower. The party of these great people nominated a misogynistic, anti-Latino, anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant xenophobe. The party of Teddy Roosevelt nominated a billionaire con man who scams working people.

Donald Trump represents everything that Americans detest about a system that is rigged for the super-rich. Here is a person who was born into immense wealth, but he uses his father's fortune to rip people off and intimidate those who speak out against his shady business practices.

Here is a person who was gifted with the resources to make a difference in the world. He could be doing many things to improve the lives of working Americans. Instead, he has only worked to build his own celebrity, his own brand. He uses that fame as a bully pulpit to sow hatred and intolerance.

Yet, in spite of all of this, Donald Trump is now the Republican Party's Presidential nominee. He is no accident. His nomination is not some mistake. Donald Trump is the natural evolution of a party that spent 8 years honing a platform that is anti-immigrant, anti-woman, anti-Obama, and anti-working people.

It wasn't all that long ago that Republicans used to engage Democrats on policy. There was a time when we could work together on substantive legislation. I saw it. I felt it. It was wonderful.

But all that ended when President Obama was elected. Senator McConnell ordered a total blockade of any policy proposed by President Obama and any Democrats. Led by Senator McConnell, Republicans have abandoned the marketplace of ideas. They abandoned thoughtful policy for fear and resentment politics.

It didn't matter where these ideas came from. It didn't matter if they came from Republicans. Republican leaders repeated their one big line over and over: "Whatever President Obama proposes, even if it's a Republican idea, it cannot help you and will hurt you."

These are not my ideas. They have been written about and confirmed for years.

For Republicans, it wasn't about helping the American people anymore. It was all about embarrassing and humiliating President Obama and frustrating his agenda no matter the cost.

All the while, Donald Trump was watching as the Republican Party lost its identity and its moral compass. Trump watched as Republican leaders embraced the darkest elements of their party.

Now Trump is doing what he learned from Senator McConnell and every other Republican leader for the past 8

years. Trump watched how Republicans in Congress treat American women. He saw Republicans block equal pay for women and undermine women's health care. "Planned Parenthood" became a swear word. Donald Trump has treated women with disdain. He has called women dogs, pigs, and he defends rape.

Trump watched as congressional Republicans walked away from comprehensive immigration reform. He listened as House Republicans likened DREAMers to drug mules. Is it any surprise that Donald Trump—now the Republican nominee—uses Latinos and immigrants to generate fear, to be a fearmonger? He has called undocumented immigrants criminals and rapists.

Donald Trump has watched Republicans deny the existence of climate change, and he is following in their footsteps. He would rather believe in crackpot conspiracy theories than accept climate change. It is real, but this is what he said about climate change: "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make United States manufacturing noncompetitive." Try that one on. That is a direct quote. That kind of harebrained thinking has no place in the White House, but sadly it is not far from the anti-science climate change denial that is now Republican Party doctrine.

On nearly every issue, Donald Trump has simply adopted the positions of the modern Republican Party. Through their obstruction and anti-Obama politics, Senator McConnell and Republican leaders constructed Donald Trump's Presidential campaign and his platform piece by piece. He is the nominee of the Republican Party, and he is the nominee the Republican leaders deserve. Now the Republican Party is his.

Republicans want Trump to be their standard bearer. They are scrambling to get behind this hate-spewing nominee. There is no better example of Republicans marching lockstep with Trump than the Supreme Court vacancy. The Republican National Committee is trying to bring their party together by promising this dangerous man will appoint Justices to the Supreme Court. Republicans say they want their misogynistic, anti-women, anti-Latino, anti-middle class billionaire to determine the balance of the Supreme Court for the next generation. Republican Senators say they trust the judgment of a man who mocks our veterans, belittles JOHN MCCAIN as not being a war hero, and mocks Americans with disabilities. They want him to fill the Supreme Court. It is a sad day for this country when the Republican Party trusts the judgment of a vile, swindling billionaire. But anyone who has been paying attention to what Republicans have been doing the past 8 years should not be shocked.

Hillary Clinton is going to be the Democratic nominee. I support Hillary Clinton. I am not hiding from that. Republican Senators need to stop waffling about Donald Trump. Not going to the convention doesn't take away the fact that he is the Republican nominee. I have heard a number of Republican Senators say: I am not going to the convention. Well, that solves the problem, doesn't it? Republican Senators need to say whether they are going to vote for this guy. The Republican Party's chickens have come home to roost in the form of Donald J. Trump.

Mr. President, I ask the Presiding Officer to announce—I see Senator ALEXANDER, the senior Senator from Tennessee, on the floor—the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The President pro tempore.

#### REMEMBERING BOB BENNETT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of the memory of a humble statesman and an adored colleague and a dear friend, Senator Bob Bennett. Bob passed away peacefully in his house last week with his wife and children gathered around him by his bedside. In the wake of his passing, the Bennett family has witnessed an outpouring of love as thousands of individuals from across the country have reached out to pay their respects to a man who served selflessly to the very end of his service here. To the many expressions of love and admiration that have already been offered in Bob's honor, I wish to add a few words of my own.

I had the distinct privilege of serving alongside Bob Bennett for nearly two decades as we jointly represented our beloved State of Utah here in the United States Senate. During the many years of our service together, Bob became more than a respected partner; he was a trusted confidante and a cherished friend.

In this Chamber, Senator Bennett was widely revered as a wise and thoughtful leader committed to finding innovative solutions to the most difficult challenges of the day. But above all else, he was a passionate fighter for the people of Utah, who were always foremost in his mind. I have never met someone so committed to his constitu-

ency as Senator Bennett was to the people of Utah.

It is no exaggeration to say that every Utahn has benefited from Bob's public service. You cannot ride the train, take public transportation, or drive on the freeway in our State without seeing the fruits of Bob's labor in the Senate. As Utah faced unprecedented expansion and economic growth, Senator Bennett worked tirelessly to ensure that our State's infrastructure kept pace with the demands of a booming population. Were it not for Bob and the indispensable role he played in securing much needed funding for these transportation projects in Utah, our State would not be the prime destination for business, entrepreneurship, and innovation that it is today.

I need not rehearse all of Senator Bennett's accomplishments in the Senate because his public legacy speaks for itself. The TRAX and FrontRunner public transportation systems in Utah are perhaps the most tangible symbols of that legacy, but there are plenty more. I join all Utahns in thanking Senator Bennett for his many years of loyal service to the Beehive State. We love him, and we will miss him dearly.

In addition to fighting tirelessly for the people of Utah, Senator Bennett exercised remarkable prudence as an appropriator and provided principal leadership on the Banking Committee and as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee. He was a talented lawmaker, skilled at forging consensus and reaching compromise without sacrificing his core conservative values.

Over the 18 years that Senator Bennett served in this Chamber, he consistently demonstrated sound judgment and strong leadership. In a short time, he gained the trust of his Republican colleagues, who considered him a trusted resource on matters of strategy and policy. After seeing Bob's rapport with other legislators, then-Senate majority leader Bill Frist asked him to serve on the leadership team. Senator Bennett also served in leadership positions alongside Majority Leader MCCONNELL, with whom he shared a deep and meaningful friendship.

While Senator Bennett was well known for his quiet, contemplative demeanor, he was also regarded as an orator—a good one. He came frequently to the floor to engage his colleagues on the most complex issues of the day. He was exceptionally articulate, speaking with an eloquence and ease that reflected the brilliance of a well-cultivated mind. Whether he was giving a public address or holding a private conversation, Bob could explain even the most complicated policies in simple, understandable terms. He was a pre-eminent communicator whose talents will be sorely missed.

Mr. President, up to this point, I have spoken at length about how Senator Bennett will be remembered as a

public figure, but I also wish to speak about how I will remember him as a personal friend.

Bob Bennett was one of the most humble men I have ever met. In a Chamber teaming with outsized egos and rampant self-importance, Bob stood apart. He always eschewed the spotlight and never esteemed himself above anyone else. On some days, you could even find him riding the Metro in to work. When a staffer asked him why we opted for public transportation instead of a personal driver, Bob simply said: "Because the Metro is more convenient." This anecdote is indicative of Bob's character. He resisted the trappings of public office and truly saw himself as a servant of the people.

Perhaps more importantly, he never let the office of Senator define him. Maybe that is because he came to Congress with such a rich and varied background. Prior to his work here, Bob had already served as a Mormon military chaplain, a congressional liaison with the Nixon administration, a public relations director for billionaire Howard Hughes, and as the chief executive officer of FranklinCovey. For Bob, being a Senator was never something that was central to his personal identity; it was merely a job title that allowed him to serve others in a greater capacity.

Allow me to share a simple story that illustrates Bob's humility and willingness to serve. Many years ago, Bob befriended a blind couple in his local Mormon congregation. Every single Sunday, Bob would pay the couple a personal visit, drive them to church, and stay by their side for the duration of meetings—always ready and always eager to help. For Bob, faithfully serving this elderly couple was just as important as fulfilling his duties in the Senate. That, Mr. President, is heartfelt humility and love unfeigned.

I often wondered what it was that enabled Bob to serve so selflessly. I believe the answer is simple: It was his faith in and love for Jesus Christ, whom he looked to as a model of servant leadership. Bob believed in the Christian teaching that when you are in the service of your fellow men and women, you are only in the service of your God. This belief animated his service until the very end.

For as long as Bob was physically able, he was an active volunteer in his church congregation. In fact, just 3 weeks ago he hosted a doctrinal discussion with dozens of Latter-day Saints seeking to build their faith. In this meeting, Bob bore testimony of Jesus Christ and his perfect example of love and sacrifice. The next day, Bob suffered a stroke and was admitted to the hospital for the last time.

Both in public office and in private life, Bob Bennett was a model of selfless service. We were blessed by his work in the Senate and will continue to benefit from his example of humble

leadership. I pray that we might always remember Bob's humility and kindness and seek to emulate these qualities ourselves as we work together to overcome the challenges facing our country.

Mr. President, having said all of that, Bob was very fortunate to have Joyce as his companion. She is a terrific human being, very talented—a flute instructor, a tremendous flutist. He has wonderful children, each one of whom has made contributions in our society that are exemplary. His friends will always remember Bob as somebody who really accomplished a lot in his life as well as the lives of many thousands of people around him.

I personally am deeply grateful for the kindness he showed to me, the friendship we had together, and the privilege I had of serving with him. I will miss Bob very much, and I think all of us who knew him well will miss him. He was truly a great example.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments about Senator Bennett; and then I will yield the floor to Senator NELSON, who has another schedule; and then, for the information of Senators and staff, I will make some comments on how we are going to proceed on the Energy and Water bill, which I hope we can wrap up pretty quickly, but I will wait until Senator NELSON finishes.

Mr. President, I am glad I had a chance to hear the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, as well as Senator REID and Senator HATCH, all of whom were great friends of Bob Bennett, as was I.

Bob Bennett came to Washington with his father Wallace Bennett, who was a U.S. Senator. He was in the Senate when I first came here as a Senate aide. I first met Bob nearly 50 years ago, when we, in effect, both worked for Bryce Harlow, who was President Nixon's Chief of Congressional Relations. Mr. Harlow, who is revered in Washington still, would have Saturday morning meetings with all of those of us who had the job of being congressional liaisons with Members of Congress. Bob Bennett was in the Transportation Department, and I was Mr. Harlow's assistant and telephone answerer in the White House at the time. We got to know each other then. We have known each other ever since. He and his wife Joyce visited with us in our home in Tennessee and we traveled with them and worked together on a variety of issues. They became very special friends.

He was chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, to which Senator HATCH referred, which had so much to do with his home State of Utah. He handled that with great diligence and great effectiveness for a number of

years. That is the bill we are working on today in the Senate.

I will be at his service tomorrow, as will other Senators. I simply wanted to add my voice to those of the majority leader, the Democratic leader, and his colleague Senator HATCH in saying we all greatly admired Bob. He served our Nation brilliantly and well and eloquently.

I heard his farewell address. It was one of the best I have ever heard. I remember one of the things he said: The great value as a Senator is that you not only have a say, you have a vote.

Bob Bennett had a lot to say, he cast a lot of votes, and a lot of us listened very carefully to what he had to say and greatly respected his votes. We have lost a great friend, and Utah and our country lost a great public servant.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I will talk about the Zika virus, but I want to first add a comment about Senator Bob Bennett.

A gentleman's gentleman, a legislator's legislator, a Senator who would reach across the aisle in order to get the workable consensus in order to get something done.

Doesn't that sound like the type of person we need in the Congress today in order to confront the issues we are facing? I was saddened to hear the news he had passed on.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to give an update. The Zika virus is raging. It is certainly raging in Puerto Rico. It is expanding greatly in this country, and the State with the most infected cases is my State of Florida.

I have been on this floor many times asking for the President's request of \$1.9 billion to attack the Zika virus. About \$800 million of that is, No. 1, to replace the Ebola emergency fund, which they have raided since the Congress has not given them the funding in order to try to get at the problem to begin with, which is somewhere around \$500 million to \$550 million. They need another \$225 million to increase Medicaid in Puerto Rico, where it is now estimated that by the end of the year, 25 percent of the population of Puerto Rico—25 percent—will be infected because that is where this mosquito—called the aegypti mosquito—that transmits the virus is raging, but beware, especially as we are going into the warm summer months, this aegypti mosquito is all over the Southern United States. Anyplace that is hot, humid, and where there is rain—because rainwater will not all dissipate. It may be in a bottle cap. It may be in a dishpan. It may be in a birdbath. Where there is stagnant water, that mosquito will lay its larva, and that is

the breeding ground to hatch the aegypti.

About 1½ weeks ago, when we were here before the recess, there were approximately 1,000 cases reported in the United States, which included 570 in Puerto Rico and 94 in Florida. Now, just a little over a week later, it is already up to 1,133 cases across the country—up to 629 in Puerto Rico and 107 in my State. Just today, two more cases were reported by the Department of Health in the State of Florida.

The bottom line is, the virus is spreading, and it is spreading quickly. Not only is it spreading, but the CDC confirmed the first Zika-related death of a 70-year-old man who died of complications in Puerto Rico.

Over the break, I met with a group of Puerto Rican leaders in Florida. Basically, Puerto Rico does not have the resources it needs to provide protection from the virus.

I was just talking to Senator HATCH, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, about getting the financial crisis addressed in Puerto Rico. We can see how that is spilling over into not being able to attack the Zika crisis where it is raging out of control because of the transmission in Puerto Rico by these mosquitos. Out of the 3.5 million population of Puerto Ricans on the island, it is estimated by the CDC that 800,000 of them could be infected by the end of this year.

So that U.S. territory—remember, they are American citizens. These are fellow Americans who are in trouble—is struggling under the weight of crippling debt in the financial crisis, and we haven't helped them yet. They have a Medicaid Program that is capped and it is running out of cash. The physician shortage is getting worse. What is happening is that because of the financial problems, the professionals—the doctors and lawyers and nurses, especially those in health care—because they cannot get compensated, they are leaving the island and going to the mainland. As a matter of fact, it is estimated that something between 85,000 and 100,000 may be leaving the island this year, coming to the mainland United States. The benefit is that a lot of those professionals are coming to Florida, but look at the gaping hole in health care that is leaving for the island.

It seems to me that as Senators, it is our duty to protect our fellow Americans and curb the spread of this virus now. So I have introduced what the administration requested. I have had Senators say we have not given a plan for the \$1.9 billion. I have given the plan over and over until this Senator is blue in the face. There is a specific breakout that I have entered into the RECORD several times, the last of which was when we were last in session 1½ weeks ago. The bill has 35 cosponsors, but unfortunately there is not one Republican

Senator who is a cosponsor. It doesn't make sense. The spread of the Zika virus is not a partisan issue, and yet it seems to have been characterized that way.

I urge our colleagues to come together on this for the good of the American people. For their health and safety, let's approve this \$1.9 billion emergency request. This is the same kind of emergency funding request that would be in the aftermath of an earthquake, a hurricane, or some other natural disaster. It has now affected the American people. It is an awful virus, and we need to get at it and stop it before it is too late.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, for the information of Senators and staff members, I would like to make a few comments about the Energy and Water appropriations bill that we will be moving to at 4 this afternoon. Senator FEINSTEIN is in an intelligence briefing and will be here about 4 as we will. We will have more to say at that time, but here is my view of where we are: At 5:30 today, the Senate, for the third time, will vote on whether it is time to cut off debate and finish the bill. The first two votes failed, and they failed for one reason. They failed because of differences of opinion about the amendment by the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, which said that in the year 2017, the United States could not use tax dollars to buy heavy water from Iran as we are doing in 2016. So we will vote for the third time today on whether to cut off debate and finish the bill.

Here is what I would suggest our goal should be. This is just my opinion, but I have talked with the majority leader, the Democratic, and I have talked with Senator FEINSTEIN and a number of other Senators. No. 1, we should dispose of the Cotton amendment the way we normally dispose of issues about which we disagree. We should vote on them. That is what we do in the Senate—we vote. If you are in the Grand Ole Opry, you sing.

So we have a difference of opinion about the Cotton amendment. Let's vote on it. It is relevant to the bill. It is properly filed. It is germane. Senator COTTON has been very flexible. He has offered to decide it in many different ways. He has offered to modify his amendment. He has offered to allow it to be considered separately. He has offered for us to vote at a 60-vote level, and then he would withdraw it if he should lose. He has offered to vote it at 60 votes on cloture on his amendment.

So he has offered us an opportunity to vote on his amendment in many dif-

ferent ways. He just wants a vote. In my view, a Senator who has a relevant and germane amendment is entitled to a vote, and I am supporting his right to a vote. Then, once we vote on the amendment and dispose of it, we should finish the bill.

So I am optimistic. I see no reason why today or tomorrow—certainly no later than Wednesday—we cannot vote on and dispose of the Cotton amendment and vote on and finish the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

So I say to Senators and staff members, if I were planning my week, I would plan on there being a vote on the Cotton amendment. Now, they may ask how I know that. Well, I know this: that any majority leader has the right to file cloture on an amendment like the Cotton amendment, and by Wednesday we will vote on it at 60 votes. My own view is, since we are basically finished with the bill, except for the Cotton amendment, why would we not agree to wrap up things and do it tomorrow or even today? We could finish the bill today, with a vote on the Cotton amendment at 60 votes, with a vote on cloture, and a vote on final passage.

As much as I defend the right of the Senator from Arkansas to have a vote, I am going to oppose his amendment on the merits, which I will describe in just a minute, but it is time to bring this bill to a conclusion. I think most Senators agree with that, and that is what we need to do.

Let me discuss for a moment, remind Senators and those listening, why this bill is so important. As the majority leader says, it covers a lot of essential services in this country. For example, every time there is a flood in the Midwest, 15 or 20 Senators show up wanting more money for flood control. Our inland waterways are in need of reconstruction. The harbors on the west coast and in Charleston, Mobile, and many other places need deepening. We need to stay No. 1 in supercomputing in the world. About half of this legislation has to do with our nuclear weapons program—modernizing it and keeping us safe. All 17 of our National Laboratories are in the Office of Science under this legislation. Despite staying within strict budget limits, we have agreed to the highest level of appropriations for our Office of Science, out of which comes so much of our economic growth, of any appropriations bill in history.

In addition to that, we have gone through a very careful process. About 80 different Members of the Senate have come to Senator FEINSTEIN and me with policy changes that they would like to see in the bill that are in the bill. Eighty means about half Republicans and half Democrats. I know that it is important to them because I have already heard reports of many Senators being home last weekend tak-

ing credit for all of these provisions they have gotten in the bill, which we haven't passed yet.

I don't blame them for that. There are a lot of provisions in this bill that are important to the country and important to my State of Tennessee. I am reminding Senators that this is an important bill in which they have had a lot of say. In addition, on the floor, we have already processed 17 different amendments—about as many Democratic amendments as Republican amendments. We did all of that in a matter of 3 or 4 days before we reached an impasse on the Cotton amendment.

We are basically done with step one of our most basic constitutional work, which is oversight and appropriations of about \$1 trillion in spending. This is the first of 12 bills. This Energy and Water appropriations bill has not gone across the floor in regular order since 2009. It is time we do that. We are very close to doing that.

Let me say a word about the amendment by the Senator from Arkansas. As I said, I have, for the last week, defended his right to have a vote, and he will have a vote. Make no mistake about it, he will have a vote, but I intend to oppose it on the merits for three reasons. The first is this, and let me say this very carefully: If the United States is not allowed to buy heavy water from Iran next year as it is this year, it creates the possibility that Iran will be able to sell that heavy water to other countries, including North Korea, which might use it to make nuclear weapons. Let me say that again. If we are not allowed to buy it by this amendment, someone else will buy it. Heavy water is a distilled form of water. By itself, it is not hazardous. It is not radioactive. It can be used for many peaceful purposes. The United States uses about 70 tons of it every year. For example, this year the Oak Ridge National Laboratory is buying 32 tons from Iran—6 tons of which we will be used for its big neutron microscope. The rest will be sold over time to universities, to hospitals, to manufacturers for medical research, for fiber optics—all for peaceful purposes.

This heavy water—this distilled form of water—can also be used to make plutonium to make nuclear weapons, which is why we do not want Iran to have it. We want it out of Iran. We want it somewhere else. If we don't want them to have it, and if we need it and we in the United States don't produce it and we don't buy it, what does Iran do with its heavy water? It sells it to somebody else, perhaps. We don't know who, but it could be any one of a number of countries, including North Korea. In a big meeting over there now—the biggest they have had in three decades—they are talking about nuclear weapons.

Respectfully, in my view, this is bad policy. I oppose it. I support the Senator's right to have a vote, and he will have a vote, but when we have that vote, I will vote no.

The second reason I oppose the amendment is it doesn't belong on the appropriations bill. The Senator has a right to have it on there, but I hear a lot of lectures of us appropriators in our Republican lunches from distinguished members of our so-called authorizing committees—committees such as Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Intelligence—saying: You Senators on the Appropriations Committee are making a lot of decisions you shouldn't be making. We should be making the policy decisions.

What is more of a policy decision than what to do with Iran's heavy water? This isn't a debate about whether you support the Iran nuclear agreement. I voted against that. I am opposed to that. This is a question about what do you do about the 200 tons of heavy water that can be used either for peaceful purposes or to make nuclear weapons over the next few years.

I would think there would be no issue that would be more suitable for discussion by the Foreign Relations Committee or the Armed Services Committee or the Intelligence Committee, nor can I think of many issues less suitable just to pop up as an amendment on an appropriations bill. If we can't decide issues like this that are filled with national security implications, why do we have a Foreign Relations Committee? Why do we have an Armed Services Committee? Why do we have an Intelligence Committee?

It is not just the possibility that it might go to Iran, the issue cuts the other way as well. Senator COTTON or someone else who favors the amendment might say: Well, if we buy more heavy water from Iran, perhaps that creates a market for Iran. Maybe that incentivizes them to make more heavy water and keeps them in production for a long period of time. Then, later on, they misuse it. Maybe that is possible.

Then there is the question of what effect a decision by the United States to not allow our tax dollars to buy heavy water for our peaceful purposes have on other countries that produce heavy waters, such as India, such as Argentina or Canada, which doesn't now produce it but uses it. What are the implications? At this time, when there has never been a more dangerous recent time in the world, what are the national security implications of what to do about Iran's disposal of heavy water—water we don't want it to have, water we don't produce but which we need, and water we do not want to get into the hands of other countries, such as perhaps North Korea, which could use it to make nuclear weapons. I cannot think of a more appropriate issue to be considered by the Foreign Relations Committee.

There is a third reason we should take into account when voting on this. The President says he will veto it. I will say more about Presidential vetoes in a minute. I don't think we should pull the cord and stop the train just because the President says he will veto something. The White House has said they will veto something 85 times in the last year and a half. If we stopped our work every time they did that, we would only be meeting on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings. But we ought to take into account the fact that the President might veto it, and placing this amendment on this bill would be a sincere but in my opinion a futile gesture because we would end up with no amendment after the Presidential veto. We might end up with no Energy and Water appropriations bill for yet another year.

I have some differences with some of my friends on the other side. Some of them think that whenever the President says veto, we should stop. I don't agree with that. I think we should go ahead. If he wants to veto, he vetoes, but I think we should take that into account. Some of them say that whenever a controversial amendment comes up, we should not move forward with the bill.

Here is what we agreed to this year. After last year, I agreed, anyway, to make sure we did not in the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee—and I see the Senator from California is here, which we worked on together. We kept controversial amendments off the bill in our subcommittee. There were a number that tried to come on. We said, if they are controversial, bring them to the floor. Last year on that bill went the waters of the United States amendment, and it killed the bill. The Democrats wouldn't move forward with it. I thought they should have, but they did not. It was not on the bill this year. Senator HOEVEN held it until we got to the floor. He offered the amendment at 60 votes and it didn't pass.

We honored our word. We kept the controversial amendments off the bill in committee, but amendments that are relevant and germane when they come to the floor are entitled to be heard. We should dispose of the Cotton amendment the way we dispose of our other differences. We should just vote on it.

Especially since the Senator from California is here, let me talk about another aspect of our work on the bill that is important in the Senate; that is, the word "restraint." For example, Senator FEINSTEIN is very concerned about the cruise missile. She could have offered an amendment in the subcommittee or she could have today that would have made a major change in our policy toward the cruise missile, but she chose not to do that. She chose instead to have a hearing. We will do

that, and then we will take the next step, whatever that turns out to be. She knows, if she had moved ahead with that, that would have been a very provocative thing to do, made it harder to pass the bill. She chose not to do it.

The Senators from South Carolina, Mr. GRAHAM and Mr. SCOTT, are very concerned about the plutonium MOX facility in South Carolina. The administration has recommended that we close it and move to a different way of disposing of that plutonium. Senator FEINSTEIN and I agree with that.

We could have tried to make that policy decision in this bill or the South Carolina Senators could have tried that, too, but we thought it was a policy decision that should first be considered by the authorizing committee—in this case, the Armed Services Committee. We met with the representatives of Senator MCCAIN and Senator REED, and they have agreed to have a hearing. This is how we are dealing with that.

Senator SHELBY, from Alabama, is highly stirred up about what we call the Georgia-Florida-Alabama water wars. He would like to have his amendment to resolve that problem on this bill, but he has stepped back from that on this bill and allowed us to move ahead with it.

None of those Senators had to do that, but they did that knowing that it is the basic constitutional duty of this body to do its appropriations work, and they made it possible. I would have preferred Senator COTTON not offer this amendment on this bill, but he did. Since it is relevant and since it is germane and since we did not deal with it in committee, I think the right way to approach it is to say: Let's dispose of it the way we dispose of other differences of opinion. Let's vote on it and let's move on.

If I may say through the Chair, before Senator FEINSTEIN came, I said, in my view, I wanted the Senators and staff to know we would be voting today for the third time on whether to cut off debate, and my hope was that we could dispose of the Cotton amendment at 60 votes and we could then finish the bill.

I also said that while I defended Senator COTTON's right to offer the amendment and that he will get a vote—because the majority leader has the parliamentary tools to file cloture and make sure there is a vote on the Cotton amendment by Wednesday—I intend to vote against the Cotton amendment because I think it risks the possibility that Iran's heavy water might be sold to a country, such as North Korea, that could use it to make nuclear weapons. I think first it should be considered by the Foreign Relations Committee or the Armed Services Committee or the Intelligence Committee. For those reasons, I intend to vote against it.

I am hopeful that when we get to 5:30, maybe conversations would continue,



and the possibility could even exist that we could agree today to vote on the Cotton amendment at 60 votes, dispose of it, vote on cloture to move ahead with the bill, and have final passage of the bill. If we can't do that, I see no reason we can't do it over the next couple of days.

I thank the Senator from California for the way she has worked with me on this issue. We have gotten almost to the finish line. She and I would like to set a good example for the other 11 appropriations bills that are coming up. There are other bills beyond that which we need to deal with, such as the 21st-century cures legislation on biomedical research, and there is the Zika legislation that many Senators are interested in. My hope is that we will find a way to resolve the only major issue that remains so we can pass a bill that virtually every Senator in this body has some interest in and will probably vote for.

I am optimistic and hopeful that we can move quickly on disposing of the Cotton amendment so we can finish the bill. Ideally we would do it today, but we can certainly get it done by tomorrow or Wednesday.

I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Morning business is closed.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

Alexander amendment No. 3804 (to amendment No. 3801), to modify provisions relating to Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all time during quorum calls until 5:30 p.m. today be charged equally between both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I wish to address the distinguished chairman of this subcommittee. Working with Senator ALEXANDER on this bill has been a very good experience for me, and I think my friend knows that. We take great pride in getting things done.

I very much appreciate his mentioning the standoff on the nuclear cruise missile legislation in some form of analogy, but I will say this: I have been in this body a long time, as has the Senator from Tennessee, and we both know that not everybody gets their vote. It just doesn't work that way. I can remember having an amendment on a bill year after year after year, and I never got a vote for it. That is not an unusual thing to happen. What has been unusual is to have one person take down a bill—particularly an appropriations bill.

We were hoping we could demonstrate that we worked out our difficulties with this legislation. The Senator from Tennessee gave on some points, and I gave on some points. As my friend was good enough to mention, one of the points I gave on is something that I consider to be a very big issue which has not yet been settled, and that is a standoff nuclear cruise missile—and it has not yet been satisfactorily demonstrated to me that it is necessary—and that we do not have a satisfactory conventional weapon that can go through air defense systems. I believe we do. In any event, there is a strong constituency that feels as I do. Senator ALEXANDER has been good enough to give me a hearing and some report language which contains some questions which the Defense Department will hopefully answer forthwith. I appreciate that, and that was enough for me. The standoff nuclear cruise missile is something we need to look more deeply into.

The amendment that our side is so strongly opposed to, accompanied by the White House, is where one Senator is essentially hitting at the Iran nuclear agreement. The Iran nuclear agreement is not something that all of us don't know a lot about. A great deal of time was spent on it. There was a great deal of discussion both in subcommittees and on the floor, and there was a vote on it. So to a great extent, in my mind, it is very much a settled issue. The President has the right to go ahead with it, and I think that is very important. More importantly, Iran has kept the agreement and Iran has lived up to the terms of this nuclear-related agreement. If one thinks Iran doesn't know what is going on, one is wrong. Some of us went to meet with the Iranian Foreign Minister, and there was a question as to what is happening now, and of course there was concern.

Having said that, the chairman gave me a hearing and some report language. I certainly would have no objection to giving the Senator from Arkansas a hearing, and yet I would not stand here and say that we should not protect the sanctity of that agreement, because I believe we should.

I think the administration has done the right thing with the sale of this heavy water because we know if that

heavy water is used in the United States of America, it will be used for peaceful purposes. A lot of it will go to a distinguished lab in the State of the Senator from Tennessee as well as other places. It can be sold to licensed businesses that do medical research and other kinds of manufacturing, such as carbon fiber, et cetera, where the nuclear component of heavy water is helpful. We know that if it goes on the open market, North Korea—if they were to be a buyer—would not use it for peaceful purposes; they would use it to help enrich plutonium for a bomb. So it makes imminent sense to me.

The reason I oppose what is happening so strongly is because it is a strike at the Iran nuclear agreement, and it is seen that way by the administration. The administration has said they will veto the bill if this is in it. I don't want to lose the bill because of this—because of one Senator who wants to strike out with that agreement. I think that is the wrong thing to do.

The Senator from Tennessee has been good enough to discuss this with me, and I really do appreciate that. We have discussed it in our caucus. There are very strong feelings about not moving to cloture until this issue is settled. I would certainly be happy to help settle it. From the conversation Senator ALEXANDER and I had yesterday, it is my understanding that he is willing to oppose it. I trust that is still the case.

I wish to ask a question to the chairman of our subcommittee through the Chair.

Is it correct that the Senator from Tennessee would stand in opposition to this amendment?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, the answer to that question is yes, and I wish to continue my answer to the question. While I defend Senator COTTON's right to have a vote, I see it a little differently than Senator FEINSTEIN. Senator FEINSTEIN supports the Iran agreement; I oppose it. In my opinion, this is not a vote about the Iran agreement; this is a question about what we should do with Iran's heavy water.

I will oppose the Cotton amendment, No. 1, because if it were adopted, it would create the possibility that Iran's heavy water might be purchased not by the United States for peaceful purposes but will be purchased by countries like North Korea that might use it to make nuclear weapons; and No. 2, I think it would be more appropriate to have the Foreign Relations Committee, the Armed Services Committee, or the Intelligence Committee consider it. For those reasons, I intend to vote against the Cotton amendment.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I thank the Chair and I thank the Senator. I think that is a very wise response, and I think it is a correct response. I think it does belong in the Foreign Relations Committee.

We have worked so hard to get a bill that could set a standard for this body so we could go back to regular order and begin to get appropriations bills passed in this house. Candidly, I don't want to lose that opportunity, and I think we still have it. Hope still reigns eternal, in my view, and I hope Senator COTTON will see that this is not worth taking down this bill, because I believe that would happen. I believe there are enough votes to deny cloture, and that is too bad. I don't want to see it because that means it is going to happen with other bills. It means that we are going to have what some term as poison pill amendments. The administration views this as a poison pill amendment. We know at Interior there are poison pill amendments. Both Senator ALEXANDER and I have chaired that committee, and we know what happens. We are trying to set an example on this floor by working things out.

It would seem to me that a reasonable Senator might say: All right. I am not going to hold up this bill. I made my point. I realize what is happening. I know this heavy water is going to be put to good use in this country. I know that Iran has to limit its supply at 130 metric tons, so we know this heavy water is out of Iran. As a matter of fact, it is in a storehouse in Oman. It is on the market, and the United States has said we would buy it. That is the right thing to do to set an example so that nuclear proliferation does not take place, and this is part of that. It is my hope that we will be able to resolve that.

The Senator from Tennessee is imminently reasonable, and I like to believe that I am reasonable, I say to my colleague. I am hopeful that maybe before the hour of 5 p.m., we might be able to come to some agreement; otherwise, I think the cloture motion will be defeated.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I thank the Senator from California. She and I will talk some more. I think we have stated the similarity in our positions, which is our opposition to the Cotton amendment, and the difference in our positions. She sees it as intricately related to the Iran nuclear agreement, which she passionately supports, and I see it as a separate issue because I oppose the Iran agreement. I don't think we will work that out in public here over the next hour and a half, so I suggest we continue our conversations between us, the majority, and the Democratic leader, and see where we get by 5:30 p.m. My hope is that we can dispose of the Cotton amendment, finish the bill, and get on with the other important business of the Senate sooner rather than later.

I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

REMEMBERING BOB BENNETT

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I wish to make some remarks about our wonderful colleague who passed away last week, Senator Bob Bennett. Two of Senator Bennett's favorite Senators are here on the floor this afternoon—Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator ALEXANDER. What Senator Bennett liked so much about Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN is what we have seen this afternoon. The two of them have a difference of opinion with respect, I gather, to the Iran deal. I happen to share Senator FEINSTEIN's view, but the two of them are trying to find common ground here in the Senate. That is the Senate at its best, and that is exactly what Bob Bennett liked so much about both my colleague from California and my colleague from Tennessee. So I think it is very fitting that I open my remarks about Senator Bennett after having listened once again to the Chair and ranking member talk about how the Senate is supposed to do business.

There are so many wonderful things to say about Bob Bennett, but I thought I would begin by talking about Senator Bennett's favorite subject because of something he created. He saw it is a great opportunity for the Senate, and he called it the grand bargain. Whenever I had a chance to sit down and talk with him—I had joined the Finance Committee—he would talk about the opportunities that were related to taxes. He often talked with Senator ALEXANDER and me, as my colleague remembers.

He talked to us about health care and taxes. He was very interested in innovation. By the way, I think he was one of the first Senators who purchased a hybrid vehicle close to 20 years ago, and he used that discussion to branch into the kinds of building connections that you have to do when you are talking about how you are going to increase the standard of living for Americans in a constantly changing world where you are really dealing with global economics. We don't just sell stuff to people down the street; we are competing against economic forces from all over the world.

When Senator Bennett talked about his idea of a grand bargain—and you could be sitting with him in the Senate dining room, for example, and he probably took out a napkin if he couldn't find a piece of paper—what he was interested in was what I call principled bipartisanship. In other words, nobody gets everything they want, but what you try to do is find principles that you feel strongly about and principles that the other side feels strongly about—and that is what Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN were talking about this afternoon—and you find some common ground.

It was very fortunate, as I look at my career in public service, that I had a

chance to work with Bob Bennett. I will tell you, the way I see it, there was no better grand bargain in life than a friendship with Bob Bennett. We differed on plenty of stuff, just as I am sure Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator ALEXANDER differ on matters. Bob would always say: RON is pro-choice, I am pro-life; RON was against the Iraq war, I was for the Iraq war. But we didn't spend our time arguing about those kinds of things. What we were interested in was finding ways to solve problems.

I remember one example that I think my colleagues on the floor remember as well. Back at the time of Y2K, the turn of the century—oh, my goodness, one would have thought that western civilization was going to end. We were going to have this technology meltdown. It was going to be chaos around the world. Well, there were two bills at the time, two pieces of legislation. There was a bill from our former colleague, Senator Dodd, and Senator Bennett. I was a young upstart member of the Commerce Committee. Senator MCCAIN, knowing my interest in technology policy, basically gave me a great honor by saying “Why don't you be my running mate?” because he was the chairman of the committee. So there were two bills; one was Senator MCCAIN and I as the junior running mate, and the other was Bob Bennett and Chris Dodd. Everybody said there was going to be all kinds of fighting among the four of us. Nobody is going to agree. Nobody will pass a piece of legislation, and the country, as a result, will not be prepared.

Well, because of Bob—I basically was the newcomer to the Senate. This was a big, important piece of legislation. Bob and Chris Dodd and Senator MCCAIN basically said: We are not going to have any part of some bickerfest here in the U.S. Senate; we are going to solve a problem. And they did. You bet, it picked up opposition. There were some folks on the progressive side who had reservations about some provisions, and there were some folks on the conservative side who had reservations about the legislation. We passed a bill. I remember going down to the Y2K center that night and staying up all night. I can't claim that our legislation was responsible for such a smooth-running transition, but we like to think that the fact that the Senate decided to set aside partisanship and actually get something done was constructive.

The reality is that Bob Bennett firmly believed that he was elected to do more than just get reelected. I think that was right in the core of how he worked in the U.S. Senate.

I have been in public life awhile. I was the director of the Gray Panthers for a number of years when I was a young man with a full head of hair and rugged good looks. I was always dreaming about being a major part of health

reform, so I put together a bill. I said: I think my party is right that we are never going to get health care fixed unless we have universal coverage; otherwise, it will be cost shifting, and there won't be prevention. But the Republicans had a valid point, too, that there ought to be a role for the private sector.

So I was talking to Republicans, and Senator ALEXANDER remembers these visits. I went in to see Senator Bennett, whom I watched on the floor talking about health care, and he sounded like someone who might be interested, but I still thought it was a long shot. I said: My God, he is a really conservative fellow from Utah. He and a progressive fellow from Oregon probably don't have much in common, except for the fact that they are both tall. I talked to him in his office. He later said to a newspaper person: I gave the closest thing that you do in the Senate to convey that I really wasn't interested because you never say no, especially to somebody sincere. He said that a number of times. So he thought about it, and he spent time talking to people.

I remember this as if it were yesterday because his seat was across the aisle, just a few seats away. He and Senator Rockefeller were the tallest Senators at the time; Senator Kerry and I kind of came in—I don't know—third or fourth or something like that. He came bounding over and he said: I want to do this with you. And I did a kind of double take because I thought, I don't think I am hearing this right. He said: Yes, you are talking about how the Democrats are right about universal coverage, and I am going to have to get my side kind of acclimated to that, but you acknowledge that there ought to be a role somehow, some way for the private sector. I said: You bet, that was the point. He said: I am in.

So one of his newspapers—in looking at all the kind things that have been said—said that Bob Bennett did so much good work. We hope what his career stood for was that you could find common ground and that the Senate would remember going forward that bipartisanship is not a death sentence. Bipartisanship is a chance to find a way to solve problems, whether it was Y2K, which was exciting, or something else.

I think it is worth mentioning, because I did a stint as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, that Bob Bennett put together a truly impressive public lands bill. It involved one of his fast-growing counties—Washington County—and several hundred thousand acres of wilderness, of land management, by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service alike. Suffice it to say that when I heard about it for the first time, Senator Bennett asked for my

help, and I thought, man, there is no way he is going to be able to move something like this because you had all the progressive environmental organizations, you had lots of people from the counties who of course resisted these sorts of things, and you had lots of challenges in the West putting together public lands policies. We saw it again here recently in eastern Oregon. But Bob Bennett pulled it off. He pulled it off because he pretty much just smothered both sides with attention. Each side would have a point. He would respond. He would send his staff down to talk to people. And those who wouldn't normally possibly agree came together and found common ground on public lands policy.

I remember because the President signed it in 2009, Senator Bennett and I were in the back—I guess largely because we were the tallest—and we talked about how unlikely it was that we would be there and that we would have all of these opportunities to serve together.

As we remember Bob Bennett, my hope is we will understand, as did Senator Bennett, that, much like today, neither side had enough votes to get everything it wanted. That was the case then, and it continues to be the case today. He understood that no single party had a lock on all the good ideas, but rather than just shrug his shoulders or go out and race for a microphone in order to score some sort of quick political advantage, Bob Bennett, in his career in the Senate, stood for what we call principled bipartisanship.

I imagine there are going to be a number of farewells this week to a wonderful friend, a terrific Senator, in my view, and an even better person. I just hope that apropos of what we have seen with Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator ALEXANDER, as they approach another big vote, let's put as much of our time and effort into finding common ground as possible. Sometimes it can't be done. I get that, and Bob Bennett did too. But certainly we can put vastly more time and effort into finding common ground, pursuing what Bob Bennett was all about because he was a U.S. Senator who gave public service a good name.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, if I may, I want to thank the Senator from Oregon for those remarks.

My colleagues might be interested to know that I was chairman of Rules, and Bob was the ranking member, and this was during the period before the first inauguration of Barack Obama. As we all know, the Rules Committee is in charge of making the arrangements for the occasion.

Bob was really just a wonderful person to work with. In the first place, we

worked really well together. We sat down, we went over the problems, and we talked about solutions. Then came the subject of the Senate lunch following the inaugural. Well, I didn't pay much attention to it. Then I realized that this was a huge thing. It was in National Statuary Hall. There were decorations. We had to get a fine painting. In this case, I arranged for it to be a great California landscape by Thomas Hill, which came from the museum in New York. To plan for it, there is something that has been traditional, which is the meal tasting, and Senator Bennett and his wonderful wife Joyce and my husband and I went up to the fourth floor, and the table was set as it would be set at this lunch. We did a tasting from every culinary caterer who was bidding to do the lunch, believe it or not, and I think there were four of them. So there were four entrees and four salads and four desserts. And Joyce and Bob and Dick and I sat there, and we went through the motions and did it. But it was with great humor. And the two of them together really were a very special couple.

The Senator from Oregon knew him in a different way than I knew him. Bob Bennett truly was a man among men. He had a humility about him, but he also had a real can-do sense, and he really cared about his Senate term. I know Senator ALEXANDER knew him well. It was really wonderful for me on the Rules Committee because it was much the way the Senator from Tennessee is on Energy and Water appropriations.

I had a chance to meet Joyce and get to know her, and it was very special. I think we put on a very good inaugural—a bipartisan inaugural, if you will—and I just want to say thank you, Senator.

Mr. WYDEN. Thank you.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Because this really was a man who didn't participate in any obstruction or any difficulty. He was always positive and always willing to do his part and to help. That is really very special.

I would like to give my best to his family and his friends. The State of Utah had a wonderful Senator in Bob Bennett, and he will be missed.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS ACT

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak in support of

legislation reforming the MTB, or the miscellaneous tariff benefit process. I am pleased to help this legislation advance. It is my hope that this bill will soon be on the President's desk. As many will remember, a dark cloud hung over the Congress with regard to the practice of earmarking in early 2009.

The feeding at the earmark trough had long since expanded to the point of ridiculousness. Earmarks exploded to their annual record of \$29 billion in 2006. They were long a problem before that, but it had become much, much worse at that time.

Congress had become accustomed to powerful Members getting a large chunk of the earmark pie, and rank-and-file Members would fight over the scraps.

We saw less and less true oversight as more and more spending was doled out in congressional back rooms. It wasn't just spending on earmarks that we didn't have good oversight on. It was the entire Federal budget. It was largely a problem because so much of our time in Congress was spent doling out earmarks and making sure that every Member got a few and that they were scattered around. We really gave up on the oversight that we should have been conducting.

At the same time, earmarks opponents had ample opportunity to shame the process by highlighting bridges to nowhere, teapot museums, and the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, for example, receiving these earmarks.

But attention on the issue focused sharply in early February of 2009, when reports surfaced that a lobbying firm specializing in defense appropriations had been raided by the FBI. The New York Times noted that the firm "set up shop at the busy intersection between political fund-raising and taxpayer spending, directing tens of millions of dollars in contributions to lawmakers, while steering hundreds of millions of dollars in earmarks contracts back to his clients."

The cloud over Congress darkened even further with suggestions of pay-to-play straw-man contributions, the reimbursing of employees for political contributions, and pressuring others for political giving. In quick succession, both the House and the Senate rightly put in place a moratorium over all earmarks, a ban that has remained intact ever since.

While we gladly said goodbye to the bad old days of congressional pork-barrel spending, we soon found out that there were several things that Congress only knew how to do through earmarking. This included the so-called miscellaneous tariff benefits, or MTBs.

MTBs are provisions that, when signed into law, provide tariff and duty relief for imports that are not domestically produced. The historic MTB process benefited from a consensus-driven

process administered by the International Trade Commission that, for the most part, set it apart from the much ridiculed Federal largesse doled out by earmarking. Unfortunately, the original process also required that an original bill be introduced by a Member of Congress—a specific bill for a specific tariff reduction, often to benefit a particular for-profit company.

I have long held that doing away with these individual bills and establishing an MTB process that relies on the ITC to accept and review proposals over which Congress has final say would be preferable. Such an approach would both comply with the earmark moratorium while providing taxpayers a measure of confidence that undue influence was not being inappropriately exerted.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with both House and Senate leadership and with members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means on moving such a proposal forward.

To be clear, my goals of being an original cosponsor of the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016 and vocally supporting moving forward with legislation reforming the MTB process is twofold. First and foremost, cutting tariffs is the right thing to do. In fact, I would support permanent tariff reductions as a means of furthering the benefits of free trade and lightening the burden on U.S. producers. In addition, the longer we go without being able to move forward with MTB bills, the more threatened the earmark moratorium is.

I wish I could say that all Members of Congress are willing to permanently walk away from this wayward process of congressional earmarking, but that is not the case. Those wishing to go back to the bad old days will use any excuse to support ending the earmark moratorium.

Reforming the MTB process not only provides a path for much needed tariff relief and a modicum of confidence for taxpayers, but it is also good for the long-term survival of the earmark moratorium.

I am pleased to be a part of this effort moving forward. The House companion legislation passed with overwhelming support. I believe there were only two dissenting votes in the House. It is my hope that the Senate will soon follow suit.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Tim Scott, Marco Rubio, Michael B. Enzi, Daniel Coats, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Thad Cochran, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, David Vitter, Patrick J. Toomey, Rand Paul.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3801, offered by the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, as amended, to H.R. 2028, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) would have voted "yea."

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 66 Leg.]

## YEAS—50

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Ayotte	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Rounds
Capito	Hatch	Rubio
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	Menendez	Vitter
Donnelly	Moran	
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heller	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Lee	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McConnell	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Cornyn	Kirk	Sanders
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Durbin	McCaskill	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The Senator from Tennessee.

AMENDMENT NO. 3804 WITHDRAWN

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I withdraw my amendment No. 3804.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 3878 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I offer the Cotton amendment No. 3878.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. COTTON, proposes an amendment numbered 3878 to amendment No. 3801.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to purchase heavy water produced in Iran.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Cotton amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3878 to amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thad Cochran, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, Marco Rubio, David Vitter, Patrick J. Toomey, Steve Daines, Richard C. Shelby, James Lankford, John Thune, James M. Inhofe, Lisa Murkowski, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts, John Barrosso, John Hoeven.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Bob Corker, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, Joni Ernst, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Daniel Coats, Chuck Grassley, Shelley Moore Capito, Thad Cochran, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES RICHARDSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the career of Dr. James "Jim" Richardson, who is retiring from the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR, this year.

Dr. Richardson is stepping down from his positions as director of judicial studies and foundation professor of sociology and judicial studies after 48 years of service to UNR. His commitment and dedication to the judicial studies and justice management programs have been invaluable in preparing students for careers in the jus-

tice system. Dr. Richardson has enriched the lives of hundreds of students, including the many undergraduate students he introduced to the field of sociology and the doctoral candidates he mentored as they completed their dissertations.

In addition to his teaching activities, Dr. Richardson has been a prolific researcher and writer. He was among the first researchers to focus on new religious movements. He has been praised for his interdisciplinary approach to sociology, particularly for his incorporation of subjects such as law, psychology, and economics into the study of religion. Dr. Richardson has authored or coauthored 9 books, more than 150 articles, and 85 book chapters. In addition, he has held nearly 350 presentations in almost 30 countries. Through his work, Dr. Richardson has made important contributions to the scholarship of sociology and has enriched academia as a whole.

Dr. Richardson has had an impact on the practice of law and the justice system in more direct settings as well. For instance, he has served as an expert witness on a variety of legal cases. He has also been a consultant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has worked to help law enforcement officials better understand the interaction between the justice system and religious groups. In addition, Dr. Richardson has researched several issues for the Nevada Supreme Court.

I congratulate Dr. Richardson on his many successes and decades of dedicated service to UNR and to the Silver State. Both the justice system and academia have benefitted from his work, and I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from this evening's vote on cloture on the substitute amendment No. 3801 to the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, H.R. 2028, which was not agreed to.

On rollcall vote No. 66, had I been present, I would have voted to oppose cloture. The junior Senator from Arkansas has proposed an amendment which would grind the Senate's appropriations process to a halt while undermining U.S. national security. This amendment is simply another attempt to undermine the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA, that has verifiably eliminated the threat of Iran's nuclear program to the United States, Israel, and the international community. In fact, the junior Senator from Arkansas attempted to undermine this national security agreement before it was even negotiated by leading a partisan letter to Iran's Supreme Leader, implying that Congress would

not honor any potential diplomatic resolution to the conflict. The unprecedented attempt failed.

Now that this agreement has been implemented, he is trying to undermine it again by attempting to prohibit the Department of Energy from taking actions which support the deal and remove nuclear-related materials from Iran—actions which, if needed, are important to U.S. national security. As such, I strongly oppose this effort and continue to support the forceful implementation of the JCPOA in order to continue to prevent Iran from ever possessing a nuclear weapon.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-34, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to France for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$72 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-34

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Government of France.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$45 million.  
Other \$27 million.  
TOTAL \$72 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Three-hundred and twelve (312) AGM-114K1A Hellfire Missiles.

One-hundred two (102) AGM-114N1A Hellfire Missiles.

Fifty (50) ATM-114Q1A Hellfire Training Missiles.

Non-MDE items included in this request are: Hellfire Missile conversion kits; blast fragmentation sleeves and installation kits; containers; and transportation.

(iv) Military Department: Army (FR-B-WAA, Amendment 8).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: FR-B-WAA-42.2M-09 JAN 08.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 29 2016.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Government of France—Hellfire Missiles

The Government of France previously requested the potential sale of one hundred twelve (112) AGM-114K1A Hellfire Missiles, one hundred two (102) AGM-114N1A Hellfire Missiles, fifty (50) ATM-114Q1A Hellfire Training Missiles. Non-MDE consists of four (4) Hellfire Missile Mock-Up Sectional Models, four (4) Hellfire II AGM-114N Warhead Mock-Ups, thirty (30) Hellfire M36-E4 Training Missiles, sixty (60) Hellfire M60 Dummy Missiles, M299 Launcher Spare Parts (O and I Level), Hellfire Missile Spare Parts (O and I Level), M36-4 Training Missile Spare Parts (O and I Level), Integrated Logistics Support Hardware Equipment, Training, U.S. Government Technical Assistance, one hundred (100) Dome Covers, three (3) Hellfire AGM-114K1A Warhead Sections, three (3) Hellfire AGM-114N1 Warhead Sections, thirty (30) LASS Simulators, three (3) AN-205Bs, forty-four (44) IRIS, three (3) Calibration Cables, AN-205B Test Equipment Spare Parts, AGM-114N1 Warheads without Electronic Safe, Arm and Fire Device, thirteen (13) AGM-114K1A Main Warheads with No Control Interface Group, thirteen (13) AGM-114K1A Precursors, Hellfire Tripod Launcher with Launch Control without Laser, Technical Data Documentation, Publications, Repair and Return Services, Classified Technical Data Package, Unanticipated and Unprogrammed Requirements, sixteen (16) Hellfire II AGM-114K1A Missile Sleeves, Hellfire M60 Dummy Missile Spare Parts, sixty (60) M34 Hellfire Training Missile, and Conversion Services for M34 Dummy Missiles. The MDE value of these items was \$20 million; the total implemented value of the initial case and amendments was \$42 million.

Of the items listed above, France has already received (via a below Congressional threshold-level FMS case, FR-B-WAA) one-hundred and twelve (112) AGM-114K1A Hellfire Missiles, one hundred two (102) AGM-114N1A Hellfire Missiles, fifty (50) ATM-114Q1A Hellfire Training Missiles, Hellfire Missile conversion kits, blast fragmentation sleeves and installation kits, containers, and transportation.

France has requested that this existing FMS case, FR-B-WAA, be amended with the possible sale of two-hundred (200) AGM-114K1A Hellfire Missiles, Hellfire Missile conversion, blast fragmentation sleeves and installation kits, containers, and transportation. The estimated MDE cost in this amendment is \$25 million. The total estimated cost is \$30 million.

As the amendment requested by France will raise the value of FR-B-WAA over the Congressional notification threshold, this transmittal notifies what will be the total quantities and value of the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) with this proposed amendment. The estimated cost of MDE is \$45 million. The total estimated cost is \$72 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the capability of a NATO ally. France is a major political and economic power in Europe and a key democratic partner of the United States in ensuring peace and stability around the world. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist France to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The additional missiles will meet France's operational requirements for a precision-guided tactical missile for its Tigre Attack Helicopter. The purchase will directly support French forces actively engaged in operations in Mali and Northern Africa, providing them the capability to successfully engage targets with minimal collateral damage. France will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There is no principal contractor for this sale as the missiles are coming from U.S. Army stock. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives in France.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-34

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. AGM-114K1A, AGM-114N1, and ATM-114Q1: The highest level for release of the K1A semi active laser is SECRET, based upon the software. Software documentation (e.g., Data Processing, Software Requirements, Algorithms) are not authorized for disclosure. The highest level of classified information that could be disclosed by a proposed sale or by testing of the end item is up to and including SECRET. The highest level that must be disclosed for production, maintenance, or training is up to and including SECRET. Reverse engineering could reveal SECRET information. Vulnerability data, countermeasures, vulnerability/susceptibility analyses, and threat definitions are classified SECRET or CONFIDENTIAL. Detailed information to include discussions, reports and studies of system capabilities, vulnerabilities and limitations that leads to conclusions on specific tactics or other counter countermeasures (CCM) are not authorized for disclosure.

2. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government and are releasable to the Government of France. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0H-16. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 14-18 of 07 July 2014.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0H-16

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

i. Purchaser: Government of Singapore  
ii. Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 14-18; Date: 07 July 2014; Military Department: Air Force.

iii. Description: On 07 July 2014, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 14-18, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) of nine-hundred and thirteen (913) KMU-556 B/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits for Mk-84 2000 lb bombs, one-hundred (100) FMU-152A/B Live Fuzes, and three-hundred (300) DSU-40 Laser Precision Guidance Set. Also included were containers, munition trailers, support equipment, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical support, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated major defense equipment (MDE) cost is \$43 million. The total estimated program cost is \$63 million.

This transmittal reports the enhancement of the KMU-556 F/B JDAM kits to include SAASM/AJ (Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module with Anti-Jam) GPS receivers. There is no increase in the total estimated MDE cost or total estimated program cost.

iv. Significance: This report is being provided because at the time of the original notification, Singapore was not approved for anti-jam capability. Singapore received DoD approval for anti-jam capability on 22 October 2015.

v. Justification: This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major Southeast Asian partner in counterterrorism and an important force for political stability and economic progress in South East Asia.

vi. Date Report Delivered to Congress: MAY 02, 2016.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0H-16

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology

1. The Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) is not a stand-alone weapon. It is a "bolt-on" guidance package that converts unguided bombs into precision-guided munitions (PGMs). Weapon accuracy is dependent on target coordinates and present position

coordinates entered into the guidance control unit. The Inertial Navigation System (INS), using updates from the Global Positioning System (GPS), helps guide the bomb to the target via the use of movable tails fins. With the addition of a laser guidance nose kit, the JDAM is able to engage moving targets. The JDAM all-up-round (AUR) (JDAM kit, unguided bomb body, and tail fuze) is UNCLASSIFIED; technical data for JDAM is classified up to SECRET.

2. This transmittal reports the enhancement of the KMU-556 F/B JDAM kits to include anti-jam Global Positioning System (GPS) capability. The KMU-556 F/B Tail Kit with Global Positioning System Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module with Anti-Jam (GPS/SAASM/AJ) is the tail kit for the GBU-31F(V) 1/B and GBU-56 F (V)/B. Information revealing SAASM implementation details are classified SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Singapore.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, Va.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
Speaker of the House,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-28, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Tunisia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100.8 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-28, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Tunisia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100.8 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ED ROYCE,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-28, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Tunisia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100.8 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-28

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Tunisia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$44.3 million.  
Other \$56.5 million.  
Total \$100.8 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Twenty-five (25) Embedded GPS/Inertial (EGI) Navigation Systems (INS).  
Twenty-four (24) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS).  
Ten (10) AGM-114R Hellfire Missiles.  
Eighty-two (82) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) Rounds.

Non-MDE: This request includes the following Non-MDE: To be installed on each of the twenty-four (24) EDA OH-58D aircraft: one (1) SHP Rolls-Royce 250-C3OR/3 Engine, one (1) AN/ARC-164 UHF Radio, one (1) AN/ARC-186 VHF Radio, one (1) PC-DTS-V Data Recorder, two (2) AN/ARC-201D Radios, one (1) AN/APX-118 IFF Transponder, one (1) AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Radar Signal Detecting Set, one (1) AN/AVR-2B Laser Warning Receiver, one (1) M134 DH Mini-Gun, one (1) M3P Aircraft Gun System, and two (2) M260 Rocket Launchers.

This request also includes: fifty (50) AN/AVS-6 Night Vision Goggles (NVGs), five-hundred thousand (500,000) 12.7mm rounds for the M3P Gun System, 2.3 million 7.62mm rounds for the M134DH Mini-Gun, the A965M1 Decoy Chaff Cartridges, M211 and M212 Advance Infrared Countermeasures Munition flares, eighty-two (82) MK66 MOD 4+ 2.75 rocket motors and eighty-two (82) M152 High Explosive (HE) warheads to support the APKWS, one (1) EGI for the Combined Armament Avionics Electrical Trainers, six (6) M279A1 Hellfire Launchers, associated test and support equipment, technical support, the Army's Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aviation Program Manager's Office (NSRWA PMO) technical support, Security Assistance Management Directorate's (SAMDM) program technical support, additional contractor support, Peculiar Ground Support Equipment (PGSE), Post Production Support Services (PPSS), Government Furnished Equipment (GFE), Retrofit Service Notice (RSN), Repair and Return (R&R), communication and navigation equipment, aircraft survivability equipment, displays, flyable storage, transportation of aircraft, publications, and training.

(iv) Military Department: Army (IBD).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TU-B-USS-12 JAN 15-\$405M.

(vi) Sales Commission. Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: MAY 03, 2016.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Tunisia—OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Aircraft Equipment and Support

The Government of Tunisia has requested a possible sale of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twenty-five (25) Embedded GPS/Inertial (EGI) Navigation Systems (INS).

Twenty-four (24) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS).

Ten (10) AGM-114R Hellfire Missiles.

Eighty-two (82) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) Rounds.

This request includes the following Non-MDE: To be installed on each of the twenty-four (24) WA OH-58D aircraft: one (1) SHP Rolls-Royce 250-C30R/3 Engine, one (1) AN/ARC-164 UHF Radio, one (1) AN/ARC-186 VHF Radio, one (1) PC-DTS-V Data Recorder, two (2) AN/ARC-201D Radios, one (1) AN/APX-118 IFF Transponder, one (1) AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Radar Signal Detecting Set, one (1) AN/AVR-2B Laser Warning Receiver, one (1) M134 DH Mini-Gun, one (1) M3P Aircraft Gun System, and two (2) M260 Rocket Launchers.

This request also includes: fifty (50) AN/AVS-6 Night Vision Goggles (NVGs), five-hundred thousand (500,000) 12.7mm rounds for the M3P Gun System, 2.3 million 7.62mm rounds for the M134DH Mini-Gun, the A965M1 Decoy Chaff Cartridges, M211 and M212 Advance Infrared Countermeasures Munition flares, eighty-two (82) MK66 MOD 4 2.75 rocket motors and eighty-two (82) M152 High Explosive (HE) warheads to support the APKWS, one (1) EGI for the Combined Armament Avionics Electrical Trainers, six (6) M279A1 Hellfire Launchers, associated test and support equipment, technical support, the Army's Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aviation Program Manager's Office (NSRWA PMO) technical support, Security Assistance Management Directorate's (SAMD) program technical support, additional contractor support, Peculiar Ground Support Equipment (PGSE), Post Production Support Services (PPSS), Government Furnished Equipment (GFE), Retrofit Service Notice (RSN), Repair and Return (R&R), communication and navigation equipment, aircraft survivability equipment, displays, flyable storage, transportation of aircraft, publications, and training.

The total estimated value of MDE is \$44.3 million. The total overall estimated value is \$100.8 million.

Tunisia has been approved to receive twenty-four (24) OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Helicopters via the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) Program under a separate notification. That separate notification included only the OH-58D airframes, thus this transmittal includes all the major components and customer-unique requirements requested to supplement the EDA grant transfer.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of Tunisia which has been, and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in

the North African region. The United States is committed to the security of Tunisia, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Tunisia to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters along with the parts, systems, and support enumerated in this notification will improve Tunisia's capability to conduct border security and combat operations against terrorists, including Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Libya, and Ansar al-Sharia, Tunisia (AAS-T). These helicopters will further modernize the Tunisian armed forces and increase its interoperability with U.S. forces and other coalition partners. Tunisia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor for this effort is unknown and will be determined during contract negotiations. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of approximately ten (10) additional U.S. Government and approximately fifteen (15) contractor representatives to Tunisia for approximately five (5) years to support the fielding, maintenance, and personal training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-28

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

#### Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This sale will involve the release of sensitive technology to Tunisia. The OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Helicopter weapons system is classified up to SECRET. The OH-58D aircraft features advanced avionics and other technologically sensitive systems. Aircraft in the U.S. Government configuration will be equipped with one (1) SHP Rolls-Royce 250-C30R/3 Engine, one (1) AN/ARC-164 UHF Radio, one (1) AN/ARC-186 VHF Radio, one (1) PC-DTS-V Data Recorder, two (2) AN/ARC-201D Radios, one (1) AN/APX-118 IFF Transponder, one (1) Embedded UPS/Inertial (EGI) Navigation System (INS), one (1) AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Radar Signal Detecting Set, one (1) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS), one (1) AN/AVR-2B Laser Warning Receiver, one (1) M134 DH Mini-Gun, one (1) M3P Aircraft Gun System, two (2) M260 Rocket Launchers, Hellfire Missile System, the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS), AN/AVS-6 Night Vision Goggles (NVGs), the AGM-114R Hellfire Missile, A965M1 Decoy Chaff Cartridges, M211 and M212 Advance Infrared Countermeasures Munition flares.

2. Sensitive and/or classified (up to SECRET) elements of the proposed OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Helicopter sale include hardware, accessories, components, and associated software: Embedded GPS/Inertial (EGI) Navigation System (INS), the AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS), the AN/APX-118 Transponder Identify Friend or Foe (IFF), the AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Radar Signal Detecting Set, the AN/AVR-2B Laser Detecting Set, the AN/AVS-6 Night Vision Goggles (NVGs), the AGM-114R Hellfire Missiles, the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) All-Up-Rounds (AURs), A965M1 Decoy Chaff Cartridge, and the M211

and M212 Advance Infrared Countermeasures Munition flares. Additional sensitive information includes operating manuals, and maintenance technical orders containing performance information, operating and test procedures, and other information related to support operations and repair. The hardware, software, and data identified are classified to protect vulnerabilities, design, and performance parameters, and other similar critical information.

a. The EGI/INS is a navigation platform that combines an inertial sensor assembly with a fixed reception pattern antenna (GPS receiver and a common Kalman filter). The EGI system is the primary source for position information. The EGI is UNCLASSIFIED. The GPS crypto variable keys needed for highest GPS accuracy are classified up to SECRET.

b. The AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System utilizes electro-optical sensors to warn the aircrew of threatening missile launch and approach.

This system detects and performs data hand-off so countermeasures can be automatically dispensed. The system provides pilots hostile fire indication. The system hardware components are UNCLASSIFIED without installed software. When software is installed, the system is classified up to CONFIDENTIAL.

c. The AN/APX-118 Identification Friend or Foe combined transponder interrogator system is UNCLASSIFIED unless evaluator parameters are enabled, which are SECRET.

d. The AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Radar Signal Detecting Set provides warning of radar directed threats to allow appropriate evasive maneuvers and deployment of radar countermeasures. The system hardware components are UNCLASSIFIED without installed software. When the software is installed, the system is classified up to CONFIDENTIAL.

e. The AN/AVR-2B Laser Detecting Set is a passive laser warning system that can receive, process, and provide for the display of threat information. The system, hardware components, and software are UNCLASSIFIED.

f. The AN/AVS-6 Night Vision Goggles (NVG) is a 3rd generation aviation NVG offering higher resolution, high gain, and photo response to near infrared. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED and technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

8. The AGM-114R Hellfire Missile has sensitive technology contained within operational semi-active laser seeker. The highest level for release of the AGM-114R is SECRET, based upon the semi-active seeker and warhead. Reverse engineering could reveal CONFIDENTIAL information. Vulnerability data, countermeasures, vulnerability/susceptibility analyses, and threat definitions are classified SECRET or CONFIDENTIAL.

h. The Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) All-Up-Round (AUR) is an air-to-ground weapon that consists of an APKWS Guidance Section (GS), 2.75-inch MK66 Mod 4 rocket motor, and MK152 warhead/fuze. APKWS uses a semi-active laser seeker. The GS is installed between the rocket motor and warhead to create a guided rocket. The APKWS may be procured as an independent component to be mated to appropriate 2.75-inch warheads/fuzes and rocket motors purchased separately or may be purchased as an AUR. The overall classification is SECRET.

i. The A965M1 is a 25.4mm Decoy Chaff Cartridge. All cartridge components including



the cartridge case, piston, end cap, and theoretical band coverage are UNCLASSIFIED. The specifications and drawings for this item are also UNCLASSIFIED. Radar Cross Section (RCS) measurements of deployed chaff are CONFIDENTIAL. Chaff deployment timing, sequence, pattern, and effectiveness against radar threats are SECRET/NOFORN.

3. Software, hardware, and other data/information, which is classified or sensitive, is reviewed prior to release to protect system vulnerabilities, design data, and performance parameters. Some end-item hardware, software, and other data identified above are classified at the CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET level. Potential compromise of these systems is controlled through management of the basic software programs of highly sensitive systems and software-controlled weapon system on a case-by-case basis.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar capabilities. Weapon system effectiveness to persecute adversaries kinetically and strategically would be greatly compromised, and interoperability with friendly forces would be adversely impacted.

5. A determination has been made that Tunisia, the recipient country, can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Tunisia.

#### TRIBUTE TO NEW JERSEY STUDENTS ENLISTING IN THE ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I wish to honor 61 high school seniors in Camden County, NJ, for their commendable decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Of these 61, 20 have elected to join the U.S. Army: Dalton Bretz, Freddy Guzman, Alliyah Rowe, Joseph Davis, James Helsel, Siobhan Reheuser, Joseph Stone, Natalie Reyes, William Landsaw, Marcon Quinagon, Joshua Roque, Pasquale Joseph Livecchi, Jalen Reginald Tompkins, Erik Santos, Quiyara Alexis Miller, Anthony Eugen Evans, Raymundo Ricco, Luis Francisco Mansilla, Maxwell Flaherty, and Michael Felix.

Six have elected to join the U.S. Navy: Keelei Galloway, James Hyland, Domenic Miraglia, Delaney Carr, Ryan Moore, and Vincent Dinicolas.

Five have elected to join the U.S. Air Force: Madison Shields, Noah Forsman, Samuel Lugo, Dustin McGunnigle, and Krystal Ford.

Eighteen have elected to join the U.S. Marine Corps: Jonathon Brunick, Bilal Gibson, Jacob Rivera, Keith Mennig, Michael Andrescavage, Anthony Shaffer, Vincent Bulgarino, Sarah Astor, Austin Cole, Antoniel Ri-

vera-Santos, Christopher Morales, Andrew Jago, David Foulks, Joseph Esguerra, Jacob Jelesiewicz, Andre Lopez, Lineilys Ramos Sanchez, and Joseph Rios.

And 12 have elected to join the New Jersey National Guard: Shersy Batista, Sherly Batista, Joselyn Chevere, Anthony Crispaldi, Allison Johnson, Nicholas Lombardo, Mary Grace Oinal, Nicholas Oliver-Simons, Jasmine Perez, Angel Rivera, Savanna Sanchez, and John Scullan.

These 61 individuals will also be honored on May 17, 2016, at the Our Community Salutes of South Jersey recognition ceremony in Voorhees Township, NJ.

The future of our Nation remains strong because of young men and women like these 61 individuals who have decided to step forward and commit themselves to the defense of our Nation and to upholding the ideals upon which it was founded. Indeed, these New Jerseyans represent the very best of America, and they should rest assured that the full support of the Senate as well as that of the American people are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

It is thanks to the dedication of untold numbers of patriots, like these 61 whom we are able to meet here today in the Senate and openly debate the best solutions to the many and diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom throughout the world. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 JOHN HEFFERNAN

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize CWO2 John S. Heffernan, Retired, for his leadership and dedication to our State and Nation as a soldier, a veteran, and a volunteer. He is truly a public servant.

Mr. Heffernan enlisted in the Army in 1962 and began his military career with basic training at Fort Chaffee, AR. He completed telecommunications training at Fort Gordon, GA, and then served as a cryptographer in the 33rd Signal Battalion at Fort Richardson, AK.

Mr. Heffernan was discharged from the Army on March 19, 1965, and briefly assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group, Reinforcement, before joining the Arkansas National Guard less than a week later. He served as a personnel staff noncommissioned officer, ultimately reaching the enlisted rank of sergeant first class, E-7. In 1980, Mr. Heffernan was appointed as a warrant officer and served as a mili-

tary personnel technician and later promoted to the rank of chief warrant officer 2.

After completing more than 27 years of military service and approximately 25 years as a fulltime, dual status military technician for the Arkansas Army National Guard, Mr. Heffernan retired as a servicemember and as a civil service employee and was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group, Retired Reserves, in 1990.

Shortly after his retirement, Mr. Heffernan went back to work as a family assistance officer at Fisher Armory in North Little Rock in support of the 148th Evacuation Hospital and the 25th Rear Operations Center, during their deployment to Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Following Desert Storm, Mr. Heffernan saw the need to assist military retirees and their families, so for the next 5 years, he provided his voluntary services at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. After his time at Camp Robinson, Mr. Heffernan spent the next 18 years, providing voluntary retirement services at the Little Rock Air Force Base, becoming the director of retiree activities in 2000. Mr. Heffernan has been a tireless advocate and the go-to person in central Arkansas for all matters related to military retirees and their families. In April, Mr. Heffernan retired as a volunteer, but remains active in the military and veteran community by serving as the retiree representative on the board of directors for the National Guard Association of Arkansas.

For more than half of a century, Mr. Heffernan has been a selfless servant to others. I take this opportunity to recognize and say thank you to CW2 John S. Heffernan, Retired, for his service to Arkansas, our Nation, and his fellow man. May God continue to bless him in his retirement.●

##### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join Senator FEINSTEIN and me in recognizing the centennial of the San Diego Zoo Global, a world-class facility dedicated to providing expert animal care and promoting wildlife conservation.

Founded in 1916, the San Diego Zoo Global began as a sanctuary for abandoned animals left behind after the Panama-California Exposition held in San Diego. The zoo expanded quickly, opening its doors to rare and exotic animals donated by private owners, purchased from circuses and other zoos, and rescued from the wild. In the 1950s, zoo director Dr. Charles Schroeder had the idea of exhibiting animals in a large, free-range habitat that provided space for breeding and conservation research. His dream became a reality in 1972 with the opening of the

San Diego Zoo Safari Park, a one-of-a-kind 1,800-acre habitat that is now home to more than 3,200 animals. Over half of the park has been set aside as protected native species habitat.

Throughout the years, the San Diego Zoo Global has played a critical role in preserving rare wildlife and habitats through its Institute for Conservation Research, housed in the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center for Conservation Research. Founded in 1975, the institute is one of the largest zoo-based research centers in the world and has led several successful efforts to protect some of the world's most endangered species, including the magnificent California condor. The zoo led the effort to save the condor by designing and implementing a successful 25-year captive-breeding process that reintroduced the species to its native habitat. At the start of the program, the California condor was near extinction; today the current condor population is more than 420, with approximately 200 living in the wild in California, Arizona, Utah, and Mexico.

The San Diego Zoo Global is also making an immediate and lasting impact in our Nation's classrooms. Each year, the San Diego Zoo and the Institute for Conservation Research hosts a workshop for middle and high school teachers from across the United States. This hands-on experience allows educators to develop innovative lessons in conservation to bring back to their students.

Over the past 100 years, the San Diego Zoo Global has opened its doors to millions of visitors from around the globe, setting a new standard for zoological institutions worldwide. Senator FEINSTEIN and I want to congratulate the staff, volunteers, and supporters of this extraordinary organization for the important role they play in the care and preservation of our earth's most beautiful creatures and habitats. We know their work will continue to make a profound difference for generations to come.●

#### REMEMBERING SAMUEL STATEN, SENIOR

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I remember the distinguished life and career of Mr. Samuel Staten, Sr., who passed away at the age of 80 on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Sam was not only a trusted adviser and dedicated father, but a pillar of strength for thousands in the labor movement and Philadelphia. I would like to take this time to not only send my condolences to his family, but to reflect upon his remarkable life. He spent 50 years in the labor industry and dedicated his career to strengthening the rights of workers and the bonds of friendship between the communities of Philadelphia. He worked his entire life for the betterment of his fellow workers and experi-

enced firsthand the hardships that inadequate wages and benefits can have on hard-working Americans.

Sam's presence was felt in the labor movement long before his time as one of Philadelphia's most prominent civic leaders. He spent 10 years as a construction laborer in Philadelphia in the 1960s and remembered working for \$2.60 an hour, without health care, without a pension plan, without any of the support many of our Nation's workers have come to enjoy today. His experience in the transformative decade of the sixties showed him not only the importance of the labor movement, but the power that collective action can have for the well-being of the community and the Nation.

Following 10 years as a construction worker, Sam's capacity for leadership and his ability to unite people were recognized when he became a field representative for Laborers' Local 332 in 1970. His skills and leadership helped him to quickly rise through the ranks, and in 1973, he was appointed assistant business manager for Local 332. The high esteem in which he was held by his colleagues continued to be evident in 1978 when he was elected business manager for Local 332 and held that position until 2008. He also served as the secretary-treasurer of the Laborers' District Council of the Metropolitan Area of Philadelphia & Vicinity. He officially retired from Laborers Local 332 and the Laborers' District Council in 2010.

Never one to narrow his focus to just one area, he brought his leadership and insight to countless other organizations. Over the years, he served as a trustee of the Laborers' District Council Building & Construction Health & Welfare Fund, delegate to the Philadelphia Building & Construction Trades Council, board member of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, member of the African-American Chamber of Commerce, trustee of the Laborers' District Council Building & Construction Pension Fund, board member of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority, and member of the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Appeals Board. These represent only a few of the many organizations to which Sam lent his support, but show the extensive influence and support he has given to the Philadelphia area.

Given the breadth of his dedication to the workers and people of Philadelphia, it is unsurprising that his leadership extended even further through charitable work. He helped to found the Laborers' District Council Charity Fund through an act that, though remarkable, was typical of Sam. At a 1987 Friends of Labor Committee dinner held in his honor, Sam was presented with \$25,000 for his service over the years. However, he saw the gift not as a chance to help himself, but an opportunity to improve the lives of oth-

ers. He chose to donate the money to charity, which in turn inspired his colleagues and gave birth to the Laborers' District Council Charity Fund. Renamed the Samuel Staten, Sr., Charitable Trust in 2011, the organization continues to provide thousands of dollars in services and scholarships to Local 332 members in need.

Throughout his life he fought for the dignity and well-being of hard-working Americans and, regardless of his success, never forgot his roots in the labor movement. He experienced both great success and hardship, but regardless of the hand he was dealt, he always saw an opportunity to extend that hand to others in need. As he rose through the ranks of Local 332, he brought together diverse communities and labor interests for the benefit of the community. Even when confronted with the tragic death of his son, Qaid Staten, Sam's dedication to the community could not be diminished. His son was killed just months before he was to attend Howard University, but Sam chose to honor his son not through grief, but through the creation of the Qaid Staten Memorial Scholarship Fund, which continues to provide support to other young students preparing to enter college. Sam's life was a story of uncommon acts of kindness in service of the common good.

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a grateful nation, I would like to once again extend my deepest condolences to the family of Samuel Staten, Sr. Philadelphia and the Nation may have lost a distinguished leader, dedicated public servant, and devoted father and grandfather, but we will never lose the positive change he brought to the city of Philadelphia, the impact he had on the lives of thousands, nor the legacy of idealism, compassion, and community service that he has left so others may continue to fight for the causes of dignity and equality to which he dedicated his life.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL COOKE

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Director Paul Cooke of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control for his 35 years of service to Colorado.

Paul's steadfast leadership throughout his career in fire and emergency services has had an extremely positive impact on Colorado's public safety. Mr. Cooke first began as a volunteer firefighter in 1979, and he has since served in a variety of capacities as a career fireman, fire chief, and other influential roles in local and State government.

Paul's contributions to Colorado's fire safety and first responder system are immeasurable. I commend his bravery and fortitude during times of tragedy, specifically his direction during the South Canyon fire.

Additionally, his work with local and State officials developed and implemented some of Colorado's most significant fire prevention and safety programs. Most notably are the updates to the State's fire protection services, organization of the State-level fire and life safety programs, as well as the statewide first responder training programs.

I thank Director Paul Cooke for his dedicated hard work throughout his entire career and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE TWIN CITIES DIVISION OF THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Afton, MN, flotilla of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Established in 1941, this flotilla is the oldest in Minnesota.

The volunteers of the Coast Guard Auxiliary dedicate their time to making sure our community's lakes and rivers are safe. As the Land of 10,000 Lakes, flotillas in Minnesota have a fulltime job. From performing search and rescue operations, to teaching boating safety courses, for 75 years, the Afton flotilla has helped to ensure that Minnesota waterways are safe and accessible.

Over the years, when our State has faced natural disasters such as flooding of the Mississippi River and the Red River, the Afton flotilla has worked side-by-side with local, State, and Federal authorities to aid in search and rescue operations, evacuations, and emergency communications. When the I-35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis tragically collapsed in 2007, the volunteers of the Afton flotilla were ready to work with emergency response teams and helped catalog the countless amount of debris examined during the investigation. Even after the disaster was over, the flotilla monitored boater safety once the river was finally reopened.

Even more than responding to disasters, the Afton flotilla works to prevent disasters on the water, making sure that river navigation tools are in working order and patrolling during regattas and other events. There is no way for us to know just how many lives were saved over the past 75 years through the hard work of the Afton flotilla volunteers.

I join all of my fellow Minnesotans in applauding the Afton flotilla's momentous anniversary and the dedication of its volunteer members over the past 75 years. I would also like to thank all of the auxiliary volunteers in Minnesota and across the country who keep our communities and waterways safe.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT F. NORTON, USA, RETIRED

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor COL Robert F. Norton, USA, Retired, on the occasion of his retirement as deputy director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America, MOAA.

After serving in the Army Reserve for several years while he worked as a schoolteacher, Colonel Norton volunteered for full-time Active Duty with the Army in 1978. He served in various assignments on the Army headquarters staff and the office of the Secretary of the Army, specializing in Reserve manpower and personnel policy matters. He served two tours in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, first as a personnel policy officer and then as senior military assistant to the Assistant Secretary.

Colonel Norton retired from the Army in 1995. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Army War College, and the Kennedy School of Government senior officials in national security course at Harvard University.

After his retirement, Colonel Norton continued his service as a defense contractor for 2 years, including time in Bosnia and other locations, but he found his true calling when he joined MOAA's government relations staff in 1997, specializing in National Guard, Reserve, and veterans benefits issues.

In his nearly 19 years with MOAA, Colonel Norton testified before Congress more than 30 times and played a major role in a wide array of legislative accomplishments. Foremost among these was the post-9/11 GI Bill, where Colonel Norton's efforts played a pivotal role in ensuring this legislation included provisions for the Guard and Reserve, as well as transferability of benefits to family members.

Colonel Norton also played a key role in winning legislation extending military health coverage to members of the Guard and Reserve and their families and authorizing early retirement credit for Guard and Reserve members called up for combat zone service.

Colonel Norton's 38 years of service to our country and to those who serve and have served in uniform, as well as their families and survivors, is in keeping with the highest standards of excellence and is worthy of special recognition as he and his spouse, Colleen, embark on the next phase of their lives.●

REMEMBERING FRANK LEVINGSTON

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Frank Levingston of Lake Charles, LA. Known affectionately as Uncle Frank,

Levingston was the Nation's oldest living World War II veteran until his passing last week.

Levingston was born on November 13, 1905, to Frank and Ida Levingston in Cotton Valley, LA. He was one of seven children. Along with his younger siblings, Levingston helped to maintain approximately 200 acres of land, which remains in his family today.

When the United States entered World War II after the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Levingston enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942, where he dutifully served as a private and automobile serviceman during World War II and participated in the Allied invasion of Italy. After his honorable discharge from the Army in 1945, he became a union worker specializing in cement finishing. In 1981 Levingston moved to Lake Charles, LA, which he called home for the rest of his life.

As the oldest living World War II veteran, Levingston saw many changes and much growth during his lifetime, including the Great Depression, the Jim Crow era, and the civil rights movement. In November 2015, he was invited by Austin, TX, Honor Flight to travel to Washington, DC, to visit the White House and lay a wreath at the National World War II Monument in remembrance of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Frank Levingston entered eternal rest on May 3, 2016. It is a privilege to join with the Senate to honor Frank Levingston's life, his accomplishments, and his commitment to serve his country.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF GREGORY CHAMPAGNE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Gregory Champagne, sheriff of St. Charles Parish, LA.

Born and raised in St. Charles Parish, LA, Champagne attended Hahnville High School and graduated from Nicholls State University in 1979 with a B.A. in government. Champagne went on to earn a J.D. from the Louisiana State University Law Center in 1982, after which he served as the assistant district attorney in St. Charles Parish for nearly 14 years. In 1995, Champagne was elected to serve as sheriff of St. Charles Parish. He was reelected in 1999 with overwhelming support and has won the subsequent four elections, making him the second sheriff in St. Charles Parish history to win six terms.

In 2003, Sheriff Champagne was selected Louisiana Sheriff of the Year by the Louisiana Crime Victim's Coalition. Champagne was also elected by his peers to serve as president of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association from 2007 to 2008. Currently, he serves as the first vice president of the executive committee for the National Sheriff's

Association, NSA, which represents 3,080 sheriffs across the United States. Sheriff Champagne additionally chairs the NSA's legal affairs committee and sits on the congressional affairs committee, global affairs committee, and homeland security committee. Most recently, Champagne joined the U.S. Department of Justice's National Commission on Forensic Science, using his decades of experience and expertise to advise the Justice Department on fighting crime and keeping our communities safer.

Champagne has been married for over 30 years to Alice Landry Champagne and is an active member of the St. Charles Parish community. Champagne is a longtime member of the Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus Council 2409, and the Holy Family Catholic Church. Sheriff Champagne has also served as a mentor with the St. Charles Parish Public School District for over 10 years. In his downtime, the Sheriff enjoys playing music and is known for being an accomplished trumpet player and a member of multiple bands.

Today I would like to honor Sheriff Champagne for his remarkable career and to thank him for his endless commitment to serving the community of St. Charles Parish.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARGARET N. LAURANT

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Ms. Margaret N. Laurant, of Slidell, LA.

Ms. Laurant was born in Bonfouca, LA, in 1926 to Jean and Elmonia Narcisse, both of whom were direct descendants of original French settlers of Bonfouca. Ms. Laurant is the last remaining of her nine siblings and currently serves as the matriarch of the Narcisse family. As a young child, Ms. Laurant dealt with racism firsthand. She recalls attending a small segregated one-room school called the Golden Key. Later she attended middle school at the St. Tammany Parish Training School for Negroes, where each day she walked to school as she was unable to ride a school bus with her White schoolmates. Soon after completing her middle-school education, Ms. Laurant selflessly began working full time in an effort to ease her family's financial hardships.

In 1946, Ms. Laurant met her future husband, Norvell Laurant, in her hometown of Bonfouca. After marrying, the couple left Louisiana for Columbus, OH, where Mr. Laurant was stationed in the U.S. Army and Air Force. After receiving an honorable discharge from the military in 1948, the two moved back to Bonfouca. There, they built their home and raised seven children, to whom they stressed the importance of strong Christian values and a well-rounded education. Leading by example, Ms. Laurant attended adult

evening classes at St. Tammany High School. During this time she also worked as a housekeeper to provide for her family. Using her past experiences, Ms. Laurant advocated for racial integration in schools throughout Salmen and Slidell, LA, to ensure that African-American students were treated fairly and received a quality education. Ms. Laurant still resides in Bofouca, now an incorporated part of Slidell, where after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, she rebuilt the home in which she raised all seven of her children.

As she approaches her 90th birthday, I would like to honor Ms. Laurant's life, her accomplishments, and her commitment to her community and advancing the rights of African Americans during a tumultuous time in our Nation's history. I wish her the happiest of birthdays.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 29, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1493. An act to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2908. An act to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bills were signed on April 29, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2901. An act to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4901. An act to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5019. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 88. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary".

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4703(b) of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Act (20 U.S.C. 4703), the Majority Leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: Ms. MARTHA MCSALLY of Arizona.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2017: Mr. Daniel M. Slane of Ohio.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2901. An act to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5019. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.J. Res. 88. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary".

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 29, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5306. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Propanamide, 2-hydroxy-N, N-dimethyl-; Exemption from the Requirement

of a 'Tolerance' (FRL No. 9944-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5307. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pesticide Tolerance Crop Grouping Program Amendment IV" (FRL No. 9944-87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5308. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mefenoxam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9944-82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5309. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Carfentrazone-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9942-47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5310. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9945-29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5311. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010" (RIN0584-AE18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5312. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of Exemption Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0046) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5313. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods—The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014" (RIN0584-AE29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5314. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the

Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5315. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General David M. Rodriguez, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5316. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John W. Hesterman III, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5317. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral William E. Gortney, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5318. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5319. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation for 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5320. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finalization of Interim Final Rules (Subject to Any Intervening Amendments) Under Consumer Financial Protection Laws" (RIN3170-AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5321. A communication from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fair Lending Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5322. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5323. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5324. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Clarification of Test Procedures for Fluorescent Lamps Ballasts"

((RIN1904-AD58) (Docket No. EERE-2009-BT-TP-0016)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5325. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations and Standards Branch, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf - Blow-out Preventer Systems and Well Control" (RIN1014-AA11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5326. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Removal of IM Program in Memphis and Revisions to the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan for Shelby County, Tennessee" (FRL No. 9945-91-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5327. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Temporary Exception for Certain Severe Wound Discharges From Certain Long-Term Care Hospitals Required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016; Modification of Limitations on Redesignation by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board" ((RIN0938-AS88) (CMS-1664-IFC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5328. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Medicare Secondary Payer Commercial Reimbursement Center in Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5329. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5330. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Programs; Medicaid Managed Care, CHIP Delivered in Managed Care, and Revision Related to Third Party Liability" ((RIN0938-AS25) (CMS-2390-F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5331. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-005); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5332. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-016); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5333. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-023); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5334. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-105); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5335. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5336. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report certifying for fiscal year 2016 that no United Nations agency or United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes and condones or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5337. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Millennium Challenge Corporation during fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5338. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Black Lung Benefits Act: Disclosure of Medical Information and Payment of Benefits" (RIN1240-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5339. A communication from the Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Handling Retaliation Complaints Under Section 402 of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act" (RIN1218-AC58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5340. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a fiscal year 2017 estimate for the Free Clinic Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5341. A communication from the Chair, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines that were proposed by the Commission during the 2015-2016 amendment cycle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5342. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5343. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United

States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5344. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5345. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5346. A communication from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the report on activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5347. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Care for Certain Children of Vietnam Veterans and Certain Korea Veterans—Covered Birth Defects and Spina Bifida" (RIN2900-AP09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5348. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Corrections—VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Nomenclature Change for Position Title" (RIN2900-AP65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5349. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5350. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Lewis-Clark Valley Viticultural Area and Realignment of the Columbia Valley Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5351. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accounting and Reporting of Business Combinations, Security Investments, Comprehensive Income, Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" (RIN2140-AB18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5352. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2016 Gulf of Alaska Pollock Seasonal Apportionments" (RIN0648-XE528) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5353. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE532) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5354. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XE499) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5355. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustment for the Common Pool Fishery" (RIN0648-XE569) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5356. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XE539) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5357. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Aggregated Large Coastal Shark and Hammerhead Shark Management Group Retention Limit Adjustment" (RIN0648-XE531) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5358. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XE556) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-161. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Delegates of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to provide funding for the West Virginia National Guard to sustain and enhance

its capabilities in its role in a regional catastrophe and to modernize the antiquated avionics of its fleet of C130s and other aircraft to meet global airspace requirements for 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, In the event of a regional catastrophe, West Virginia's east-west highways, including I-68 and I-64 are links to the major exit corridors from the FEMA National Capital Region (NCR) westward and, assuming that a regional catastrophe will likely include Baltimore to the north of the NCR and Richmond to the south of the NCR, westward evacuation utilizing these highways is highly likely and is, in fact anticipated; and

Whereas, The routes through West Virginia will traverse rural areas that do not have infrastructure adequate for what could be a mass of evacuees in the worst-case scenario; experience in regional emergencies, such as Superstorm Sandy in 2012, illustrates some shortcomings in planning that is less focused on regions and more on states; and

Whereas, West Virginia is perfectly (and geographically) postured to support any emergency or disaster response to the NCR, including mass evacuation westward; and

Whereas, FEMA regions do not necessarily represent grouping of states likely to be involved in some scenarios; FEMA region III contains the NCR and West Virginia as its western-most edge and in a major catastrophe, Regions V, with Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, VII with Missouri, and IV with Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina are likely to be involved in some combinations; and

Whereas, The National Guard, through the use of Emergency Management Assistance Compacts, can operate across state lines to provide vital response capability in security, transportation, medical, housing, communications, command and control, and others based on its dual role in military preparedness and state civil support; and

Whereas, Military Force Structure assigned to the National Guard must be considered by Federal Military planners for the dual use they can encounter; National Guard Organizations require personnel, equipment, organization, training, leadership and funding to maintain federal military standards and to be prepared to respond to a domestic emergency or disaster; and

Whereas, Regional catastrophic planning is dependent on National Guard assets, capabilities and responsiveness; consequently, it is also critical that federal military planners assess the impact of their force structure changes on regional capability needs as well as those that are state specific; and

Whereas, The C-130 H3 "Hercules" aircraft assigned to the 130th Airlift Wing of the West Virginia National Guard at Yeager Airport in Charleston, West Virginia will eventually become obsolete without system modernization to the communication, navigation, and surveillance (CNS) components; National Air Traffic Control (ATC) agencies and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) are modernizing airspace faster than the U.S. Air Force is updating C-130 avionics capabilities; and

Whereas, Aircraft component acquisition becomes increasingly difficult as fewer C-130 H aircraft remain in the Air Force inventory and the unique components of the C-130, including its self contained navigational system (SCNS), face short term supply chain shortages that could be remedied with aircraft avionics modernization; and

Whereas, The contract to perform maintenance on aircraft flight computers is re-

newed annually and this perpetual reliance on short term contracts increases sustainment cost and challenges mission effectiveness and operational planning; and

Whereas, Reliance on short term contracts and antiquated avionics will increase Air Force expense in the long run as it translates to more expensive mission-essential contracts and increased fuel expenditures due to inefficient routing; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia;* That the Legislature hereby urges the United States Congress to provide funding for the West Virginia National Guard to sustain and enhance its capabilities in its role in a regional catastrophe and to modernize the antiquated avionics of its fleet of C-130s and other aircraft to meet global airspace requirements for 2020; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives and to the members of West Virginia congressional delegation.

POM-162. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Delegates of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency not to prohibit conversion of vehicles to race cars; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

Whereas, The United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a regulation to prohibit conversion of vehicles originally designed for on-road use into racecars; and

Whereas, The regulation would also make the sale of certain products for use on such vehicles illegal. The proposed regulation was contained within a nonrelated proposed regulation entitled "Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles—Phase 2"; and

Whereas, The regulation would impact all vehicle types, including the sports cars, sedans and hatch-backs commonly converted strictly for use at the track. While the Clean Air Act prohibits certain modifications to motor vehicles, it is clear that vehicles built or modified for racing, and not used on the streets, are not the "motor vehicles" that Congress intended to regulate; and

Whereas, "This proposed regulation represents overreaching by the agency, runs contrary to the law and defies decades of racing activity where EPA has acknowledged and allowed conversion of vehicles," said Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) President and CEO Chris Kersting. "Congress did not intend the original Clean Air Act to extend to vehicles modified for racing and has reinforced that intent on more than one occasion"; and

Whereas, SEMA submitted comments in opposition to the regulation and met with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to confirm the agency's intentions. The United States Environmental Protection Agency indicated that the regulation would prohibit conversion of vehicles into racecars and make the sale of certain emissions-related parts for use on converted vehicles illegal. This would certainly be detrimental to the economy; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia;* That the State of West Virginia hereby respectfully urges the Environmental Protection Agency not to prohibit conversion of vehicles to race cars; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the State of West Virginia respectfully urges the Environmental Protection Agency not to issue its final regulations until the legislatures of the states have submitted comments; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the State of West Virginia forward official copies of the resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and West Virginia's representatives in Congress.

POM-163. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska relative to their ratification of the Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 381

Whereas, The first Congress of the United States, at its first session, held in New York, New York, on the twenty-fifth day of September, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, passed the following resolution to amend the Constitution of the United States of America, in the following words and figures in part, to wit:

The Conventions of a number of the States having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution;

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring,* That the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz.:

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Members of the One Hundred Fourth Legislature of Nebraska, Second Session:*

1. That such proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States be ratified.

2. That the Clerk of the Legislature send copies of this resolution to the Administrator of the General Services Administration, the President of the United States Senate, and the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

POM-164. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to an amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1331. A bill to help enhance commerce through improved seasonal forecasts, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-248).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1073. A bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes

to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-249).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1846. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to secure critical infrastructure against electromagnetic threats, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-250).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1915. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-251).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2494. A bill to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2900. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards for information found on social media that lead to the arrest or conviction of an individual involved in the planning of an act of terrorism in the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2901. A bill to enhance defense and security cooperation with India, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2902. A bill to provide for long-term water supplies, optimal use of existing water supply infrastructure, and protection of existing water rights; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2903. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to former United States Senator Max Cleland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2904. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2905. A bill to require the President to develop a policy for determining when an action carried out in cyberspace constitutes an act of war against the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2906. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to require congressional approval of de-

terminations to revoke the designation of the People's Republic of China as a non-market economy country for purposes of that Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2907. A bill to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to strike the termination date for funding for pilot projects to increase Colorado River System water in Lake Mead, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 456. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Federation of Teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 457. A resolution relative to the death of Conrad Ray Burns, former United States Senator for the State of Montana; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DUR-

BIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 458. A resolution relative to the death of Robert F. Bennett, former Senator of the State of Utah; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 459. A resolution recognizing the importance of cancer research and the vital contributions of scientists, clinicians, cancer survivors, and other patient advocates across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, and designating May 2016, as "National Cancer Research Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 39

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 39, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 71

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 174

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 174, a bill to end offshore tax abuses, to preserve our national defense and protect American families and businesses from devastating cuts, and for other purposes.

S. 282

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 282, a bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the



cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to strengthen the position of the United States as the world's leading innovator by amending title 35, United States Code, to protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the country's economy.

S. 689

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1049

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to establish an insurance policy advisory committee on international capital standards, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 1352

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1390

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1390, a bill to help provide relief to State education budgets during a recovering economy, to help fulfill the

Federal mandate to provide higher educational opportunities for Native American Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1651

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1651, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1679

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1679, a bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1685

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1685, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications.

S. 1709

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1709, a bill to reduce risks to the financial system by limiting

banks' ability to engage in certain risky activities and limiting conflicts of interest, to reinstate certain Glass-Steagall Act protections that were repealed by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1715

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1715, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims.

S. 1883

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1883, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 2021

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2021, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2100

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2100, a bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2348, a bill to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, and for other purposes.

S. 2386

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2386, a bill to authorize the establishment of the Stonewall National Historic Site in the

State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 2540

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2540, a bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2598

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2598, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish rules for payment for graduate medical education (GME) costs for hospitals that establish a new medical residency training program after hosting resident rotators for short durations.

S. 2730

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2730, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, known as the "Ghost Army", collectively, in recognition of its unique and incredible service during World War II.

S. 2752

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2752, a bill to prohibit the facilitation of certain financial transactions involving the Government of Iran or Iranian persons and to impose sanctions with respect to the facilitation of those transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 2756

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2756, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to Iranian persons responsible for knowingly engaging in significant activities undermining cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

S. 2772

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2772, a bill to eliminate the requirement that veterans pay a copayment to the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive opioid antagonists or education on the use of opioid antagonists.

S. 2791

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2791, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2841

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2841, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil-, gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

S. 2843

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2843, a bill to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to address the Zika crisis.

S. 2849

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2849, a bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

S. 2862

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2862, a bill to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties.

S. 2866

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2866, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the sharing of health information concerning an individual's substance abuse treatment by certain entities.

S. 2877

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2877, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to specify the availability of certain funds provided by the Department of Defense to States for drug interdiction and counter-drug activities.

S. 2880

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2880, a bill to prohibit, as an unfair and deceptive act or practice, commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 2882

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2882, a bill to facilitate efficient State implementation of ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes.

S. 2895

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

S. RES. 381

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 381, a resolution honoring the memory and legacy of Michael James Riddering and condemning the terrorist attacks in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on January 15, 2016.

S. RES. 418

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 418, a resolution recognizing Hafsat Abiola, Khanim Latif, Yoani Sanchez, and Akanksha Hazari for their selflessness and dedication to their respective causes, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 442

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 442, a resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels and honoring the memory of the United States citizens murdered in those attacks, and offering thoughts and prayers for all the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the Belgian people, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of Belgium and all our allies in the face of continuing terrorist attacks on freedom and liberty.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID:

S. 2903. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to former United States Senator Max Cleland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2903

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Max Cleland Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2016”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

(1) Joseph Maxwell “Max” Cleland has demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism and has served as an inspiration to friends, family, veterans, and many others while dedicating his life to the public service of the United States.

(2) Max Cleland began his career in public service when he joined the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps as a young college student, went on active duty in the United States Army (in this section referred to as the “Army”) in 1965 as a Second Lieutenant, and volunteered for service in Vietnam, rising to the rank of Captain.

(3) The Army recognized Max Cleland with a Silver Star for his gallantry in action during the Battle of Khe Sanh in April of 1968. According to the letter of commendation from the Army, “The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 8, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Captain (Signal Corps) Joseph Maxwell Cleland, United States Army, for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.”

(4) Max Cleland, a Battalion Signal Officer dispatched to set up a radio relay antenna, was severely wounded on the battlefield and, as a result, lost both of his legs and his right arm. Cleland would endure 18 months of extremely difficult rehabilitation and recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and hospitals of the Department of Veterans Affairs (in this section referred to as “VA hospitals”) in Washington, DC. In 1969, Cleland testified before the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate on the hardships faced by veterans returning home from war.

(5) Upon returning to Georgia, Max Cleland was determined to continue his public service and, in 1970, at the age of 28, was elected as the youngest Georgia State senator and helped pass legislation to make public facilities accessible for veterans, older people, and individuals with disabilities.

(6) Max Cleland later came to Washington, DC and joined the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs as a professional staff member, investigating VA hospitals across the country and the treatment of service members returning from Vietnam.

(7) In 1977, President Jimmy Carter named Max Cleland, then just 34 years old, the youngest ever individual, and first Vietnam veteran, to serve as Administrator of the Veterans Administration. As Administrator,

Cleland helped create the “Vet Center” counseling program, which later expanded to 300 facilities nationwide helping veterans and their families receive psychological care for post-traumatic stress disorders and other problems associated with warfare.

(8) Following his term as Administrator of the Veterans Administration, Max Cleland returned to elective office in 1982 when he was elected as Secretary of State of the State of Georgia. As Secretary of State, Cleland implemented the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) in Georgia and added almost 1,000,000 new voters to the rolls.

(9) Max Cleland was elected to the United States Senate in 1996 and would go on to chair the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate. In the Senate, Cleland was known for his work in expanding benefits for service members and in improving veterans’ health care, education, and the environment.

(10) After his service in the Senate, Max Cleland continued his distinguished career in public service by becoming a commissioner on the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (commonly referred to as the “9/11 Commission”) and later as a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

(11) In 2009, President Barack Obama named Max Cleland Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. As Secretary of the Commission, Cleland is charged with commemorating both the permanent cemeteries of the United States located in foreign countries and the military memorials, monuments, and markers demonstrating where members of the United States Armed Forces have served overseas since World War I.

(12) In 2010, President Obama again called on Max Cleland to serve his country and Cleland again accepted. This time, Cleland agreed to serve as co-chair, and eventually the inaugural chair, of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery, which was established to help fix the problems facing the final resting place for many of the heroes of the United States. After his tenure as chair, Cleland was awarded the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service of the Army, the highest honorary award that the Secretary of the Army can confer on a civilian.

(13) After overcoming some of the most difficult challenges imaginable, Max Cleland has spent almost five decades of his life in service to the United States and the country is forever indebted to his service.

**SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to Joseph Maxwell “Max” Cleland.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under this Act at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(2) SALE OF DUPLICATE MEDALS.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals under paragraph (1) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

**SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2907. A bill to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to strike the termination date for funding for pilot projects to increase Colorado River System water in Lake Mead, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2907

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PILOT PROJECTS TO INCREASE COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM WATER IN LAKE MEAD.**

Section 206 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (43 U.S.C. 620 note; Public Law 113-235) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—  
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and inserting a period;

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and  
(C) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through “Funds in the” in paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(c) LIMITATIONS.—Funds in the”; and  
(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 456—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 456

Whereas May 9, 2016, is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Federation of Teachers (referred to in this preamble as the “AFT”);

Whereas the AFT was founded in Chicago on May 9, 1916, when 8 local unions formed the AFT and were granted a charter signed by the AFL President, Samuel Gompers;

Whereas those 8 local unions were—  
(1) the Chicago Teachers Federation;  
(2) the Chicago Federation of Men Teachers;

(3) the Chicago Federation of Women High School Teachers;

(4) the Gary, Indiana, Teachers Federation;

(5) the Teachers Union of New York;

(6) the Oklahoma Teachers Federation;

(7) the Scranton, Pennsylvania, Teachers Association; and

(8) the High School Teachers Union of Washington, D.C.;

Whereas, during the first century of the AFT, the AFT has grown mightily into a diverse union of professionals that champions principles of fairness, democracy, economic opportunity, and high-quality public education, healthcare, and public services for students, the families of the students, and communities;

Whereas the AFT advances those principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining, political activism, and the daily work of members of the AFT in the communities the members serve; and

Whereas members of the AFT and affiliates of the AFT have played a crucial role in major milestones such as the civil rights movement, education reform, women's rights, and the evolution of the middle class: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates May 9, 2016, as the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Federation of Teachers; and

(2) expresses hope that the American Federation of Teachers will honor its proud past by meeting the challenges of the future with the same level of commitment to the goals, ideals, and principles it championed during the first century of the American Federation of Teachers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 457—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF CONRAD RAY BURNS, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. McCAIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr.

THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 457

Whereas Conrad Ray Burns was born in Gallatin, Missouri in 1935, and married Phyllis Jean Kuhlmann in 1967;

Whereas Conrad Ray Burns served in the United States Marine Corps from 1955 to 1957, serving in Japan and Korea;

Whereas Conrad Ray Burns served as Yellowstone County Commissioner from 1986 to 1988;

Whereas Conrad Ray Burns was first elected to the United States Senate in 1988 and served three terms as a Senator from the State of Montana with honor and distinction;

Whereas Conrad Ray Burns was the longest-serving Republican Senator from the State of Montana: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Conrad Ray Burns, former member of the United States Senate;

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Conrad Ray Burns.

SENATE RESOLUTION 458—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF ROBERT F. BENNETT, FORMER SENATOR OF THE STATE OF UTAH

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. McCAIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr.

WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 458

Whereas Robert F. Bennett was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1933 and attended the University of Utah, at which he was elected student body president;

Whereas, from 1953 to 1955, Robert F. Bennett served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the British Isles Mission;

Whereas, from 1957 to 1960, Robert F. Bennett served in the Utah Army National Guard, spending 6 months on active duty and 2 years as a chaplain;

Whereas, from 1969 to 1971, Robert F. Bennett worked as chief congressional liaison at the Department of Transportation and was given a Department of Transportation Outstanding Achievement Award;

Whereas, from 1984 to 1991, Robert F. Bennett was the first chief executive officer of the Franklin International Institute and in that role, in 1989, Robert F. Bennett was named by Inc. Magazine as the Entrepreneur of the Year for the Rocky Mountain Region;

Whereas Robert F. Bennett was first elected to the Senate in 1992 and served 3 terms as a Senator of the State of Utah with honor and distinction; and

Whereas Robert F. Bennett served—

(1) on the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Energy and Natural Resources, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Appropriations, Environment and Public Works, and Rules and Administration of the Senate;

(2) as Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee; and

(3) as the Republican Chief Deputy Whip: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Robert F. Bennett, former member of the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Robert F. Bennett.

SENATE RESOLUTION 459—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CANCER RESEARCH AND THE VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF SCIENTISTS, CLINICIANS, CANCER SURVIVORS, AND OTHER PATIENT ADVOCATES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE DEDICATED TO FINDING A CURE FOR CANCER, AND DESIGNATING MAY 2016, AS ‘NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH’

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 459

Whereas, in 2016, cancer remains one of the most pressing public health concerns in the United States;

Whereas, in 2016, more than 1,600,000 individuals in the United States are expected to

be diagnosed with cancer and more than 595,000 individuals in the United States are expected to die from the disease;

Whereas 1 in 2 men in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer during his lifetime, and 1 in 3 women in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer during her lifetime;

Whereas approximately 77 percent of individuals diagnosed with cancer are over 55 years of age;

Whereas cancer accounts for approximately 1 in every 4 deaths, is the second most common cause of disease-related death in the United States, and is projected to become the number 1 disease-related killer of individuals in the United States;

Whereas the incidence of cancer is expected to grow significantly, reaching 2,300,000 cases per year by 2030;

Whereas racial and ethnic minorities, as well as low-income, rural, and elderly populations, continue to suffer disproportionately in cancer incidence, prevalence, and mortality;

Whereas the term "cancer" refers to more than 200 diseases that collectively represent—

(1) the leading cause of death for individuals in the United States under 85 years of age;

(2) the second leading cause of death for all individuals in the United States; and

(3) the leading cause of disease-related death among children in the United States;

Whereas the most recent estimates by the National Institutes of Health indicated that the overall economic costs of cancer to the United States were \$216,600,000,000 and the economic burden of cancer is expected to rise as the number of cancer deaths increases;

Whereas the investment in cancer research by the United States has yielded substantial advances in cancer research and has saved and improved millions of lives;

Whereas scholars estimate that every 1 percent decline in cancer mortality saves the economy of the United States \$500,000,000,000;

Whereas advancements in understanding the causes, mechanisms, diagnoses, treatments, and prevention of cancer have led to cures for many types of cancers and have converted other types of cancers into manageable chronic conditions;

Whereas, in 2011, the 5-year survival rate for all types of cancer was greater than 65 percent and, in 2015, more than 14,500,000 cancer survivors lived in the United States;

Whereas therapies and effective screening tools for some types of cancer remain elusive and some cancers, including pancreatic, liver, lung, ovarian, and brain cancers, continue to have extraordinarily high mortality rates and 5-year survival rates that are typically less than 50 percent;

Whereas partnerships among research scientists, the general public, cancer survivors, patient advocates, philanthropic organizations, industry, the Federal Government, and State and local governments have led to advanced breakthroughs, early detection tools that have increased survival rates, and a better quality of life for cancer survivors;

Whereas precision medicine holds great promise in treating many forms of cancer;

Whereas almost all of what is known about cancer diagnosis, treatment, and prevention comes from the 3 to 5 percent of patients who enroll in clinical trials, but these trials enroll relatively homogeneous patient populations, leaving a lack of evidence to guide treatments for a large proportion of the other 95 to 97 percent of patients who do not participate in or do not qualify for studies;

Whereas the explosion of new science, treatments, and diagnostic tests make broad reaching data initiatives and breaking down organizational barriers to share information more important than ever so it can be determined how best to apply breakthrough treatments to the diverse population of the United States; and

Whereas advances in cancer research have had significant implications for the treatment of other costly diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, HIV/AIDS, and macular degeneration: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of cancer research and the invaluable contributions of researchers in the United States and around the world who are dedicated to reversing the cancer epidemic;

(2) designates May 2016, as "National Cancer Research Month"; and

(3) supports efforts to—

(A) establish cancer research as a national and international priority; and

(B) eliminate the more than 200 diseases that collectively represent cancer.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3887. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3888. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3889. Mr. ENZI (for Ms. HEITKAMP) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 546, to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3887. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. None of the funds made available by this Act that would be provided to the Bureau of Reclamation for reservoir projects, operations, administration of water rights, or other action in the Republican River Basin may be used in a manner that does not comply with each applicable—

(1) current resolution of the Republican River Compact Administration, dated November 24, 2015, for accounting and reservoir operations for 2016 and 2017; and

(2) State order necessary to carry out that resolution.

SA 3888. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3801 proposed by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. None of the funds made available by this Act that would be provided to the Bureau of Reclamation for reservoir projects, operations, administration of water rights, or other action in the Republican River Basin may be used in a manner that does not comply with each applicable—

(1) current resolution of the Republican River Compact Administration, dated November 24, 2015, for accounting and reservoir operations for 2016 and 2017; and

(2) State order necessary to carry out that resolution.

SA 3889. Mr. ENZI (for Ms. HEITKAMP) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 546, to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "RESPONSE Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. RAILROAD EMERGENCY SERVICES PREPAREDNESS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS, AND SAFETY EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE.

Section 508 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 318) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the RESPONSE Act of 2016, the Administrator shall establish, as a subcommittee of the National Advisory Council, the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation Subcommittee (referred to in this subsection as the 'RESPONSE Subcommittee').

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), the RESPONSE Subcommittee shall be composed of the following:

“(A) The Deputy Administrator, Protection and National Preparedness of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or designee.

“(B) The Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety of the Pipeline and

Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or designee.

“(C) The Director of the Office of Emergency Communications of the Department of Homeland Security, or designee.

“(D) The Director for the Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations of the National Transportation Safety Board, or designee, only in an advisory capacity.

“(E) The Chief Safety Officer and Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety of the Federal Railroad Administration, or designee.

“(F) The Assistant Administrator for Security Policy and Industry Engagement of the Transportation Security Administration, or designee.

“(G) The Assistant Commandant for Response Policy of the Coast Guard, or designee.

“(H) The Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response of the Environmental Protection Agency, or designee.

“(I) The Chief Safety Officer and Assistant Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, or designee.

“(J) Such other qualified individuals as the co-chairpersons shall jointly appoint as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of the RESPONSE Act of 2016 from among the following:

“(i) Members of the National Advisory Council that have the requisite technical knowledge and expertise to address rail emergency response issues, including members from the following disciplines:

“(I) Emergency management and emergency response providers, including fire service, law enforcement, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services.

“(II) State, local, and tribal government officials, including Adjutants General.

“(ii) Individuals who have the requisite technical knowledge and expertise to serve on the RESPONSE Subcommittee, including at least 1 representative from each of the following:

“(I) The rail industry.

“(II) The oil industry.

“(III) The communications industry.

“(IV) Emergency response providers, including individuals nominated by national organizations representing local governments and personnel.

“(V) Emergency response training providers.

“(VI) Representatives from national Indian organizations.

“(VII) Technical experts.

“(VIII) Vendors, developers, and manufacturers of systems, facilities, equipment, and capabilities for emergency first responder services.

“(iii) Representatives of such other stakeholders and interested and affected parties as the co-chairpersons consider appropriate.

“(3) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The members described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) shall serve as the co-chairpersons of the RESPONSE Subcommittee.

“(4) MEETINGS.—

“(A) INITIAL MEETING.—The initial meeting of the RESPONSE Subcommittee shall take place not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the RESPONSE Act of 2016.

“(B) OTHER MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting, the RESPONSE Subcommittee shall meet at least twice annually, with at least 1 meeting conducted in person during the first year, at the call of the co-chairpersons.

“(5) CONSULTATION WITH NONMEMBERS.—The RESPONSE Subcommittee and the program

offices for emergency first responder training and resources shall consult with other relevant agencies and groups, including entities engaged in federally funded research and academic institutions engaged in relevant work and research, which are not represented on the RESPONSE Subcommittee to consider new and developing technologies and methods that may be beneficial to preparedness and response to rail hazardous materials incidents.

“(6) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The RESPONSE Subcommittee shall develop recommendations, as appropriate, for improving emergency first responder training and resource allocation for hazardous materials incidents involving railroads after evaluating the following topics:

“(A) The quality and application of training for local emergency first responders related to rail hazardous materials incidents, with a particular focus on local emergency first responders and small communities near railroads, including the following:

“(i) Ease of access to relevant training for local emergency first responders, including an analysis of—

“(I) the number of individuals being trained;

“(II) the number of individuals who are applying;

“(III) whether current demand is being met;

“(IV) current challenges; and

“(V) projected needs.

“(ii) Modernization of training course content related to rail hazardous materials incidents, with a particular focus on fluctuations in oil shipments by rail.

“(iii) Avoiding overlap of training content across agencies and the private sector to provide complementary opportunities for rail hazardous materials incidents courses and materials, including the following:

“(I) Promoting integrated course content through public-private partnerships.

“(II) Regular and ongoing evaluation of course opportunities, adaptation to emerging trends, agency and private sector outreach, effectiveness and ease of access for local emergency first responders.

“(iv) Online training platforms, train-the-trainer and mobile training options.

“(B) The effectiveness of funding levels related to training local emergency first responders for rail hazardous materials incidents, with a particular focus on local emergency first responders and small communities near railroads, including the following:

“(i) Minimizing overlap in resource allocation among agencies.

“(ii) Minimizing overlap in resource allocation among agencies and private sector.

“(iii) Maximizing public-private partnerships where funding gaps exists for specific training or cost-saving measures can be implemented to increase training opportunities.

“(iv) Adaptation of priority settings for agency funding allocations in response to emerging trends.

“(v) Historic levels of funding across Federal agencies for rail hazardous materials incident response and training, including funding provided by the private sector to public entities or in conjunction with Federal programs.

“(vi) Current funding resources across agencies.

“(C) The strategy for integrating commodity flow studies, mapping, rail and hazardous materials databases and other relevant data for local emergency first respond-

ers and increasing the rate of access to the individual responder in existing or emerging communications technology.

“(7) REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the RESPONSE Act of 2016, the RESPONSE Subcommittee shall submit a report to the National Advisory Council that—

“(i) includes the recommendations developed under paragraph (6);

“(ii) specifies the timeframes for implementing any such recommendations that do not require congressional action; and

“(iii) identifies any such recommendations that do require congressional action.

“(B) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after receiving the report under subparagraph (A), the National Advisory Council shall begin a review of the report. The National Advisory Council may ask for additional clarification, changes, or other information from the RESPONSE Subcommittee to assist in the approval of the recommendations.

“(C) RECOMMENDATION.—Once the National Advisory Council approves the recommendations of the RESPONSE Subcommittee, the National Advisory Council shall submit the report to—

“(i) the co-chairpersons of the RESPONSE Subcommittee;

“(ii) the head of each other agency represented on the RESPONSE Subcommittee;

“(iii) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(iv) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

“(v) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

“(vi) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

“(8) INTERIM ACTIVITY.—

“(A) UPDATES AND OVERSIGHT.—After the submission of the report by the National Advisory Council under paragraph (7), the Administrator shall—

“(i) provide annual updates to the congressional committees referred to in paragraph (7)(C) regarding the status of the implementation of the recommendations developed under paragraph (6); and

“(ii) coordinate the implementation of the recommendations described in paragraph (6)(C)(i), as appropriate.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—After submitting the report required under paragraph (7), the RESPONSE Subcommittee shall submit additional reports and recommendations in the same manner and to the same entities identified in paragraph (7) if needed or requested from Congress.

“(9) TERMINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the RESPONSE Subcommittee shall terminate not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of the RESPONSE Act of 2016.

“(B) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may extend the duration of the RESPONSE Subcommittee for 1 additional year if the Administrator determines that an additional report and recommendations are needed from the RESPONSE Subcommittee after the termination date set forth in subparagraph (A).”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 9, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the

Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and

select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Katherine Kaufer:									
Qatar	Dollar		340.65						340.65
Bahrain	Dinar		1,094.17						1,094.17
Israel	Shekel		1,629.00						1,629.00
Romania	Dollar		390.50						390.50
United States	Dollar				13,633.99				13,633.99
United States	Dollar				161.86				161.86
David Gillies:									
Qatar	Dollar		340.65						340.65
Bahrain	Dinar		1,094.17						1,094.17
Israel	Shekel		1,629.00						1,629.00
Romania	Dollar		390.50						390.50
United States	Dollar				13,633.99				13,633.99
United States	Dollar				161.86				161.86
Brian Potts:									
Jordan	Dinar		710.82						710.82
Israel	Shekel		2,086.00						2,086.00
United States	Dollar				9,347.72				9,347.72
Jacqueline Russell:									
Jordan	Dinar		710.82						710.82
Israel	Shekel		2,086.00						2,086.00
United States	Dollar				9,347.73				9,347.73
Erik Raven:									
Jordan	Dinar		710.82						710.82
Israel	Shekel		2,086.00						2,086.00
United States	Dollar				9,347.73				9,347.73
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Mozambique	Metical		731.21						731.21
Zimbabwe	Dollar		940.00						940.00
Botswana	Pula		630.31						630.31
Namibia	Dollar		390.00						390.00
Kay Webber:									
Mozambique	Metical		374.00						374.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar		434.00						434.00
Botswana	Pula		290.00						290.00
Namibia	Dollar		167.00						167.00
Linda Good:									
Mozambique	Metical		683.89						683.89
Zimbabwe	Dollar		890.00						890.00
Botswana	Pula		568.12						568.12
Namibia	Dollar		357.00						357.00
Jason Wheelock:									
Tunisia	Dinar		407.74						407.74
United Kingdom	Pound		970.00						970.00
United States	Dollar				3,229.96				3,229.96
Paul Grove:									
Algeria	Dinar		806.00						806.00
Tunisia	Dinar		600.99						600.99
United Kingdom	Pound		970.00						970.00
United States	Dollar				3,635.36				3,635.36
Alexander Carnes:									
Algeria	Dinar		806.00						806.00
Tunisia	Dinar		600.99						600.99
United Kingdom	Pound		970.00						970.00
United States	Dollar				3,634.06				3,634.06
Virginia Boney:									
United Kingdom	Pound		970.00						970.00
Tim Rieser:									
Vietnam	Dong		1,210.97		245.85				1,456.82
South Korea	Won		270.00						270.00
United States	Dollar				3,104.00				3,104.00
Carlisle Clarke:									
Dominican Republic	Peso		970.00						970.00
Haiti	Gourde		111.00						111.00
United States	Dollar				1,090.96				1,090.96
Rachel Santos:									
Dominican Republic	Peso		970.00						970.00
Haiti	Gourde		111.00						111.00
United States	Dollar				1,090.96				1,090.96
Dianne Nellor:									
Dominican Republic	Peso		970.00						970.00
Haiti	Gourde		111.00						111.00
United States	Dollar				1,090.96				1,090.96
Jessica Schulken:									
Dominican Republic	Peso		970.00						970.00
Haiti	Gourde		111.00						111.00
United States	Dollar				1,090.96				1,090.96
Senator Jeff Merkley:									
Ireland	Euro		114.00						114.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Qatar	Qatari Riyal		906.70						906.70
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal		1,122.00						1,122.00
Israel	Shekel		2,372.00						2,372.00
Adrian Sneed:									
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal		1,018.66						1,018.66
Israel	Shekel		2,272.00						2,272.00
Qatar	Qatari Riyal		856.70		568.53				1,425.23
United States	Dollar				6,717.54				6,717.54
Senator Shelley Moore Capito:									
Japan	Yen		214.00						214.00
Thailand	Baht		468.21						468.21
Burma	Kyat		676.00						676.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Qatar	Dollar					142.37			142.37
Bahrain	Dinar					487.26			487.26
Israel	Shekel					1,046.98			1,046.98
Romania	Dollar					277.35			277.35
Dominican Republic	Peso					653.00			653.00
Algeria	Dinar					474.00			474.00
Tunisia	Dinar					198.94			198.94
United Kingdom	Pound					33.85			33.85
Israel	Shekel					2,113.69			2,113.69
Vietnam	Dong					338.57			338.57
Israel	Shekel					5,578.66			5,578.66
Qatar	Dollar					159.96			159.96
Saudia Arabia	Saudi Riyal					878.80			878.80
Dublin	Dollar					238.83			238.83
Japan	Yen					46.00			46.00
Thailand	Bhat					219.90			219.90
Burma	Kyat					692.00			692.00
Total			44,682.59		80,565.49	13,580.16			138,828.24

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR THAD COCHRAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Apr. 27, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tom Cotton:									
Japan	Yen		504.00						504.00
Thailand	Baht		300.00						300.00
Myanmar	Kyat		326.00						326.00
Brian Colas:									
Japan	Yen		287.52						287.52
Thailand	Baht		255.93						255.93
Myanmar	Kyat		277.75						277.75
* Delegation Expenses:									
Japan	Yen					276.00			276.00
Thailand	Baht					242.46			242.46
Myanmar	Kyat					1,490.66			1,490.66
Senator Jack Reed:									
United States	Dollar				13,624.16				13,624.16
Iraq	Dinar		8.00						8.00
Djibouti	Franc		15.00						15.00
Elizabeth King:									
United States	Dollar				13,724.16				13,724.16
Iraq	Dinar		8.00						8.00
Djibouti	Franc		15.00						15.00
Michael Kuiken:									
United States	Dollar				13,552.60				13,552.60
Iraq	Dinar		8.00						8.00
Djibouti	Franc		15.00						15.00
Michael Noblet:									
United States	Dollar				13,740.16				13,740.16
Iraq	Dinar		8.00						8.00
Djibouti	Franc		15.00						15.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Iraq	Dinar				4,800.00				4,800.00
Djibouti	Franc					691.94			691.94
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand:									
Austria	Euro		389.75						389.75
Israel	Shekel		1,133.28						1,133.28
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		436.79						436.79
Turkey	Lira		576.27						576.27
Jess Fassler:									
Austria	Euro		376.32						376.32
Israel	Shekel		985.44						985.44
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		436.79						436.79
Turkey	Lira		467.05						467.05
Moran Banai:									
Austria	Euro		363.29						363.29
Israel	Shekel		979.16						979.16
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		436.79						436.79
Turkey	Lira		363.04						363.04
Senator Tim Kaine:									
Austria	Euro		378.69						378.69
Israel	Shekel		1,623.05						1,623.05
Turkey	Lira		354.95						354.95
Nicole Porreca:									
Austria	Euro		378.69						378.69



CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include members like Mary Naylor, Senator Mazie Hirono, Betsy Lin, Adam Barker, Kathryn Wheelbarger, Mariah McNamara, Anish Goel, Thomas Goffus, Cord Sterling, David E. Sayers, Daniel Lerner, Jonathan Epstein, Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator John McCain, Christian Brose, Elizabeth O'Bagy, Senator Tom Cotton, Senator Joni Ernst, Senator Dan Sullivan, Senator James Inhofe, and Anthony Lazarski, listing their travel expenses across various countries.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ethiopia	Birr		412.31						412.31
Spain	Euro		235.20						235.20
Luke Holland:									
Australia	Dollar		855.33						855.33
Singapore	Dollar		449.16						449.16
Tanzania	Shilling		298.25						298.25
Rwanda	Franc		300.67						300.67
Ethiopia	Birr		412.31						412.31
Spain	Euro		236.75						236.75
Mark Powers:									
Australia	Dollar		803.42						803.42
Singapore	Dollar		423.30						423.30
Tanzania	Shilling		286.98						286.98
Rwanda	Franc		290.18						290.18
Ethiopia	Birr		413.31						413.31
Spain	Euro		232.31						232.31
Senator Mike Rounds:									
Australia	Dollar		705.20						705.20
Singapore	Dollar		331.40						331.40
Tanzania	Shilling		196.67						197.67
Rwanda	Franc		211.24						211.24
Ethiopia	Birr		443.33						443.33
Spain	Euro		122.80						122.80
Dan Adelstein:									
Australia	Dollar		705.20						705.20
Singapore	Dollar		331.40						331.40
Tanzania	Shilling		196.67						197.67
Rwanda	Franc		211.24						211.24
Ethiopia	Birr		443.33						443.33
Spain	Euro		122.80						122.80
* Delegation Expenses:									
Australia	Dollar					3,448.00			3,448.00
Singapore	Dollar				869.00				869.00
Tanzania	Shilling					250.00			250.00
Rwanda	Franc					5,770.59			5,770.59
Ethiopia	Birr				586.47		1,766.38		2,352.85
Spain	Euro						2,800.77		2,800.77
Thomas Goffus:									
United States	Dollar				10,626.50				10,626.50
Pakistan	Rupee		440.00						440.00
Kathryn Wheelbarger:									
United States	Dollar				12,254.46				12,254.46
Pakistan	Rupee		585.00						585.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		41.00						41.00
Anish Goel:									
United States	Dollar				5,224.76				5,224.76
Pakistan	Rupee		310.03						310.03
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar				11,192.72				11,192.72
Pakistan	Rupee		322.03						322.03
* Delegation Expenses:									
Pakistan	Rupee					361.43			361.43
David E. Sayers:									
United States	Dollar				14,967.00				14,967.00
Taiwan	Dollar		1,075.68						1,075.68
Ozge Guzelsu:									
United States	Dollar				15,271.56				15,271.56
Taiwan	Dollar		946.68						946.68
* Delegation Expenses:									
Taiwan	Dollar						2,750.47		2,750.47
Adam Barker:									
United States	Dollar				14,055.26				14,055.26
Germany	Euro		294.00						294.00
Tunisia	Dinar		214.75						214.75
Morocco	Dirham		364.27						364.27
* Delegation Expenses:									
Tunisia	Dinar						56.57		56.57
Mariah McNamara:									
United States	Dollar				6,138.29				6,138.29
Ukraine	Hryvnia		546.88						546.88
Israel	Shekel		1,382.54						1,382.54
* Delegation Expenses:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia				879.07				879.07
Israel	Shekel				255.36				255.36
Senator Roger Wicker:									
United States	Dollar				11,807.96				11,807.96
Austria	Euro		1,718.00						1,718.00
Joseph Lai:									
United States	Dollar				11,807.96				11,807.96
Austria	Euro		1,718.00						1,718.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Austria	Euro					463.59			463.59
Senator Jeff Sessions:									
United States	Dollar				23,761.12				23,761.12
Belgium	Euro		1,147.17						1,147.17
Pete Landrum:									
United States	Dollar				23,761.12				23,761.12
Belgium	Euro		1,147.12						1,147.12
* Delegation Expenses:									
Belgium	Euro					352.14			352.14
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
United States	Dollar				24,963.82				24,963.82
Belgium	Euro		998.19						998.19
Estonia	Euro		354.62						354.62
Bryan Maxwell:									
United States	Dollar				24,772.31				24,772.31
Belgium	Euro		988.80						988.80
Estonia	Euro		336.80						336.80
Joshua Lucas:									
United States	Dollar				23,385.42				23,385.42
Belgium	Euro		1,005.45						1,005.45

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Estonia	Euro		375.86						375.86
* Delegation Expenses:									
Estonia	Euro						78.94		78.94
Thomas Goffus:									
United States	Dollar				13,856.67				13,856.67
Germany	Euro		652.76						652.76
Italy	Euro		314.38						314.38
Mariah McNamara:									
United States	Dollar				13,756.06				13,756.06
Germany	Euro		785.88						785.88
Italy	Euro		313.21						313.21
James B. Hickey:									
United States	Dollar				9,923.75				9,923.75
Germany	Euro		634.14						634.14
Israel	Shekel		1,005.38						1,005.38
* Delegation Expenses:									
Germany	Euro						675.50		675.50
Israel	Shekel				251.55		454.23		705.78
Kathryn Wheelbarger:									
United States	Dollar				9,122.26				9,122.26
Egypt	Pound		293.55						293.55
Qatar	Riyal		344.76						344.76
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		585.66						585.66
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		1,018.64						1,018.64
Kuwait	Dinar		424.87						424.87
Adam Barker:									
United States	Dollar				8,776.46				8,776.46
Egypt	Pound		293.55						293.55
Qatar	Riyal		359.76						359.76
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		903.22						903.22
Michael Kuiken:									
United States	Dollar				9,241.45				9,241.45
Egypt	Pound		254.11						254.11
Qatar	Riyal		335.38						335.38
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		507.81						507.81
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		767.64						767.64
Kuwait	Dinar		351.87						351.87
Egypt	Pound						62.82		62.82
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				146.60				146.60
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						874.00		874.00
Kuwait	Dinar						348.10		348.10
Total			78,314.37		467,438.82		43,712.74		589,465.93

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95—384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN McCAIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Apr. 22, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mike Enzi:									
Australia	Pounds		770.55						770.55
Singapore	Dollar		441.06						441.06
Tanzania	Shilling		239.54						239.54
Rwanda	Franc		311.39						311.39
Ethiopia	Burr		415.06						415.06
Spain	Euro		211.43						211.43
Total			2,389.03						2,389.03

SENATOR MIKE ENZI,  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Apr. 29, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Thune:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,656.29						1,656.29
* Delegation Expenses:									
David Quinalty:									
United States	Dollar				7,094.66				7,094.66
Spain	Euro		1,469.96						1,469.96
Senator Bill Nelson:									
United States	Dollar				2,292.95				2,292.95
Costa Rica	Colon		884.67						884.67
Total			4,010.92		9,387.61		792.16		14,190.69

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95—384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,  
Apr. 25, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Isaac Edwards (United States, Sweden) and a Total row.

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Apr. 18, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Senator Mark Warner, Senator Bob Casey, Jr., Caitlin Gearen-Frazier, \* Delegation Expenses, Christopher Campbell, A. Jay Khosla, Everett Eissenstat, Douglas Petersen, Sarah Bittleman, Joshua Sheinkman, Elizabeth Bell, Tim Del Monaco, Amber Kirchhoefer, Jane Lucas, Carla McGarvey, Emily Spain, Jay Sulzman, and Matthew VanKuiken.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Australia, United States, Japan, Malaysia, and Total.

\* Delegation Expenses include transportation, embassy overtime, as well as official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

SENATOR ORRIN HATCH, Chairman, Committee on Finance, Apr. 22, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Senator Ben Cardin, Algene Sajery, Senator Christopher Coons, Christina Gleason, Senator Jeff Flake, Chandler Morse, \* Delegation Expenses, Senator Ben Cardin, Debbie Yamada, Jodi Herman, Senator Cory Gardner, Senator Edward Markey, \* Delegation Expenses, and Thomas Mancinelli.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Turkey	Lira		434.50						434.50
* Delegation Expenses:									
Austria	Euro						96.37		96.37
Israel	Shekel						2,067.10		2,067.10
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						414.44		414.44
Turkey	Lira						181.29		181.29
Senator Chris Coons:									
Switzerland	Franc		2,247.22						2,247.22
Senator Bob Corker:									
Switzerland	Franc		3,021.81						3,021.81
United States	Dollar				4,913.86				4,913.86
Todd Womack:									
Switzerland	Franc		2,556.75						2,556.75
United States	Dollar				11,587.66				11,587.66
Benjamin Purser:									
Switzerland	Franc		2,560.20						2,560.20
United States	Dollar				1,132.50				1,132.50
* Delegation Expenses:									
Switzerland	Franc						3,168.65		3,168.65
Senator Bob Corker:									
Germany	Euro		1,093.27						1,093.27
* Delegation Expenses:									
Germany	Euro						4,148.63		4,148.63
Senator Bob Corker:									
Croatia	Kuna		284.80						284.80
Kosovo	Euro		188.26						188.26
United States	Dollar				11,996.96				11,996.96
David Kinzler:									
Serbia	Dinar		286.00						286.00
Croatia	Kuna		516.00						516.00
Kosovo	Euro		236.00						236.00
United States	Dollar				12,173.15				12,173.15
Benjamin Purser:									
Serbia	Dinar		286.00						286.00
Croatia	Kuna		565.68						565.68
Kosovo	Euro		198.46						198.46
United States	Dollar				12,173.15				12,173.15
* Delegation Expenses:									
Serbia	Dinar						227.00		227.00
Croatia	Kuna						504.00		504.00
Kosovo	Euro						1,673.29		1,673.29
Senator Bob Corker:									
Qatar	Riyal		789.95						789.95
United States	Dollar				10,507.55				10,507.55
David Kinzler:									
Qatar	Riyal		806.65						806.65
United States	Dollar				12,148.55				12,148.55
Michael Phelan:									
Qatar	Riyal		761.57						761.57
Afghanistan	Dollar		108.00						108.00
United States	Dollar				12,148.55				12,148.55
* Delegation Expenses:									
Qatar	Riyal						152.34		152.34
Senator Cory Gardner:									
Estonia	Euro		215.00						215.00
Germany	Euro		412.00						412.00
United States	Dollar				12,022.10				12,022.10
Chris Hansen:									
Estonia	Euro		207.00						207.00
Germany	Euro		387.00						387.00
United States	Dollar				12,022.10				12,022.10
* Delegation Expenses:									
Estonia	Euro						419.85		419.85
Senator Edward Markey:									
Ireland	Euro		1,032.44						1,032.44
United States	Dollar				4,504.86				4,504.86
Philip McGovern:									
Ireland	Euro		791.00						791.00
United States	Dollar				4,532.00				4,532.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Ireland	Euro						1,140.00		1,140.00
Senator David Purdue:									
Serbia	Dinar		45.11						45.11
Germany	Euro		818.17						818.17
* Delegation Expenses:									
Germany	Euro						4,148.63		4,148.63
Brooke Eisele:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		1,809.00						1,809.00
United States	Dollar				6,982.86				6,982.86
Christen Mogavero:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		1,635.99						1,635.99
United States	Dollar				6,982.86				6,982.86
* Delegation Expenses:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						347.31		347.31
Heather Flynn:									
Central African Republic	Dollar		1,725.00						1,725.00
Rwanda	Franc		336.00						336.00
United States	Dollar				8,071.16				8,071.16
* Delegation Expenses:									
Rwanda	Franc						55.06		55.06
Christopher Ford:									
United Kingdom	Euro		419.96						419.96
Ukraine	Hryvnia		798.09						904.28
United States	Dollar				2,929.46				2,929.46
Benjamin Purser:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,250.52						1,356.71
United States	Dollar				5,359.71				5,359.71
Chris Socha:									
Belgium	Euro		224.21						224.21
Germany	Euro		293.94						293.94
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,304.41						1,410.60

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total		
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	
United States	Dollar				2,936.46				2,936.46	
* Delegation Expenses:										
Ukraine	Hryvnia						1,807.57		1,807.57	
Belgium	Euro						904.61		904.61	
Chris Hansen:										
Qatar	Riyal		633.16		568.52				1,201.68	
Saudia Arabia	Riyal		847.66						847.66	
Israel	Shekel		1,881.00						1,881.00	
United States	Dollar				6,647.54				6,647.54	
Philip McGovern:										
Qatar	Riyal		679.93		568.52				1,248.45	
Saudia Arabia	Riyal		666.66						666.66	
Israel	Shekel		1,811.35						1,811.35	
United States	Dollar		2,175.01						2,175.01	
* Delegation Expenses:										
Qatar	Riyal						159.96		159.96	
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						878.81		878.81	
Israel	Shekel						5,578.80		5,578.80	
Jodi Herman:										
Germany	Euro		712.69						712.69	
Greece	Euro		502.00						502.00	
United States	Dollar				12,219.10				12,219.10	
Damian Murphy:										
Germany	Euro		795.45						795.45	
Greece	Euro		623.00						623.00	
United States	Dollar				2,532.80				2,532.80	
Charlotte Oldham Moore:										
Germany	Euro		660.45						660.45	
Greece	Euro		623.00						623.00	
United States	Dollar				2,532.80				2,532.80	
Jessica Moses:										
Germany	Euro		795.45						795.45	
Greece	Euro		623.00						623.00	
United States	Dollar				2,532.80				2,532.80	
* Delegation Expenses:										
Germany	Euro						2,359.10		2,359.10	
Greece	Euro						1,539.00		1,539.00	
Clyde Hicks:										
Egypt	Pound		876.00						876.00	
Tunisia	Dinar		673.55						673.55	
United States	Dollar				3,275.16				3,275.16	
Morgan Vina:										
Egypt	Pound		635.00						635.00	
Tunisia	Dinar		585.08						585.08	
United States	Dollar				3,275.16				3,275.16	
* Delegation Expenses:										
Egypt	Pound						514.39		514.39	
Tunisia	Dinar						386.21		386.21	
Carolyn Leddy:										
Bangladesh	Taka		496.00						496.00	
Nepal	Rupee		448.67						448.67	
United States	Dollar				6,276.90				6,276.90	
Andrew Olson:										
Bangladesh	Taka		443.25						443.25	
Nepal	Rupee		364.00						364.00	
United States	Dollar				6,311.90				6,311.90	
Damian Murphy:										
Belgium	Euro		1,716.02						1,716.02	
Poland	Zloty		568.00						568.00	
Belarus	Ruble		632.00						632.00	
United States	Dollar				4,234.59				4,234.59	
Brittany Beaulieu:										
Belgium	Euro		1,716.02						1,716.02	
Poland	Zloty		568.00						568.00	
Belarus	Ruble		632.00						632.00	
United States	Dollar				4,234.59				4,234.59	
* Delegation Expenses:										
Belgium	Euro						754.38		754.38	
Belarus	Euro						22.86		22.86	
Benjamin Purser:										
Germany	Euro		119.00						119.00	
Georgia	Lari		1,186.47						1,186.47	
United States	Dollar				2,836.90				2,836.90	
John Rader:										
Germany	Euro		119.00						119.00	
Georgia	Lari		724.91						724.91	
United States	Dollar				2,436.56				2,436.56	
* Delegation of Expenses:										
Germany	Euro						628.48		628.48	
Georgia	Lari						623.61		623.61	
Benjamin Purser:										
Russia	Ruble		1,870.94						1,870.94	
Korea	Won		681.50						681.50	
United States	Dollar				8,193.95				8,193.95	
John Rader:										
Russia	Ruble		1,918.09						1,918.09	
Korea	Won		670.05						670.05	
United States	Dollar				8,193.95				8,193.95	
* Delegation Expenses:										
Russia	Ruble						1,204.00		1,204.00	
Korea	Won						227.27		227.27	
Aigene Sajery:										
Haiti	Dollar		560.00						560.00	
United States	Dollar				1,181.56				1,181.56	
Brandon Yoder:										
Haiti	Dollar		560.00						560.00	
United States	Dollar				1,024.46				1,024.46	
* Delegation Expenses:										
Haiti	Dollar						775.00		775.00	
Rolfe Michael Schiffer:										
Korea	Won		55.00						55.00	

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Japan	Yen		412.00						412.00
United States	Dollar				3,260.10				3,260.10
<b>* Delegation Expenses:</b>									
Korea	Won						527.20		527.20
Japan	Yen						852.71		852.71
<b>Dana Stroul:</b>									
Jordan	Dinar		760.82						760.82
United Arab Emirates	Dinar		413.84						413.84
United States	Dollar				11,891.40				11,891.40
<b>Brandon Yoder:</b>									
Canada	Dollar		495.73						495.73
United States	Dollar				2,951.71				2,951.71
<b>James Greene:</b>									
Canada	Dollar		495.73						495.73
United States	Dollar				2,951.71				2,951.71
<b>Total</b>			103,839.16		259,301.74		107,584.65		470,725.55

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Apr. 22, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
<b>Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:</b>									
Germany	Euro		863.28						863.28
<b>Christopher Mewett:</b>									
Germany	Euro		863.28						863.28
<b>* Delegation Expenses:</b>									
Germany	Euro						2,483.71		2,483.71
<b>Senator John Cornyn:</b>									
Japan	Yen		740.00						740.00
Thailand	Baht		568.21						568.21
Burma	Kyat		776.00						776.00
<b>* Delegation Expenses:</b>									
Japan	Yen						25.09		25.09
Thailand	Baht						121.23		121.23
Burma	Kyat						484.11		484.11
<b>Total:</b>			3,810.77				3,114.14		6,924.91

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Apr. 21, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
<b>Scott Cheney:</b>									
United States	Dollar				2,283.74				2,283.74
Belgium	Euro		890.28						890.28
<b>Total</b>			890.28		2,283.74				3,174.02

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER,  
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,  
Apr. 3, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ryan Tully			504.00						504.00
			300.00						300.00
			326.00						326.00
Ryan Kaldahl			287.16		13,059.10				13,346.26
			503.50		702.20				1,205.70
			696.87						696.87
					66.14				66.14
Kerry Suttten			287.16		13,059.10				13,346.26
			503.50		702.20				1,205.70
			696.87						696.87



CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 30, 2016—Continued

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include names like Mike Pevzner, Paul Matulic, Hayden Milberg, John Matchison, Senator Daniel Coats, Nick Casciano, Brian Walsh, Emily Harding, Kerry Suttan, Ryan Kaldahl, Nate Adler, Tara McFeely, Randy Bookout, Paul Matulic, Ryan White, Senator Richard Burr, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Mark Warner, Senator Angus King, Jr., and Senator Daniel Coats.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 30, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Dr. Brian Monahan			657.01						657.01
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
			432.14						432.14
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Christian Cook			657.01						657.01
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
			432.14						432.14
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Brian Miller			572.16						572.16
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
			432.14						432.14
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Mike Pevzner			416.59						416.59
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
			432.14						432.14
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Jongsun Kim			572.16						572.16
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
			432.14						432.14
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Desiree Thompson Sayle			657.01						657.01
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
			432.14						432.14
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Jim Catella			588.32						588.32
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Tom Hawkins			657.01						657.01
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
			432.14						432.14
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Dean Hingson			588.32						588.32
			427.47						427.47
			1,160.00						1,160.00
			754.55						754.55
			432.14						432.14
* Delegation Expenses							379.38		379.38
							125.68		125.68
							756.79		756.79
							1,325.92		1,325.92
							722.30		722.30
Jennifer Barrett			381.69						381.69
			1,100.00						1,100.00
			509.05						509.05
			370.53						370.53
Total			71,489.81		159,951.26		45,346.29		276,787.36

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE—AMENDED FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 30, 2015

Table with 10 columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include Christian Cook, Tara McFeely, Jongsun Kim, and Total.

SENATOR RICHARD BURR, Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Mar. 14, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Table with 10 columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include Congressman Chris Smith, Paul Protic, Scott Flipse, \*Delegation Expenses, and Total.

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Chairman, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Apr. 22, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Table with 10 columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include David Killion, \*Delegation Expenses, and Total.

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER F. WICKER, Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mar. 26, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Table with 10 columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include Thomas Hawkins and Total.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total .....			4,436.97		14,110.86				18,547.83

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,  
 Chairman, Committee on Majority Leader, Apr. 29, 2016.

**RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF  
 CONRAD RAY BURNS**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Elaine and I were saddened by the passing of Conrad Burns last month. Senator Burns was a big personality from a big State. He will certainly be missed by those who had the opportunity to know him.

Our thoughts were with Phyllis and the Burns family then, and they remain with Phyllis and the Burns family today.

The Senate remembers this former colleague.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 457, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 457) relative to the death of Conrad Ray Burns, former United States Senator for the State of Montana.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 457) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF  
 ROBERT F. BENNETT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 458, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 458) relative to the death of Robert F. Bennett, former Senator of the State of Utah.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 458) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
 MAY 10, 2016**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2028; further, that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments under rule XXII to the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801 be at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow; finally, that the Senate adjourn today under the provisions of S. Res. 457 and S. Res. 458.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Tennessee.

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to make brief comments concerning the status of the Energy and Water appropriations bill, following the actions of the majority leader. I said most of what I had to say earlier.

Here is my view of it. Tonight, and for the third time, the Senate voted not to end debate on the Energy and Water appropriations bill, even though we have virtually finished all of our work on it. We have one difference of opinion, and it is a big one. It is provocative. It is the Cotton amendment that would prohibit U.S. tax dollars

being used next year to purchase heavy water from Iran.

The majority leader has filed cloture on the Cotton amendment, which means that after tomorrow—the intervening day—we will have a vote on the Cotton amendment on Wednesday. We will dispense with it the way we usually dispense with issues about which we have large differences of opinion: We vote on them. Sometimes we can work them out, sometimes we can withdraw them, and sometimes we can't. So we are going to vote on it. Senator COTTON has said that if he should not win the amendment, he will withdraw it. That will dispose of the Cotton amendment, and then we can move on and finish the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

I said earlier today, and I will reiterate, that while I have defended Senator COTTON's right to offer his amendment—it is germane and it is relevant—I will vote no on his amendment for two reasons. One reason is I believe it raises the possibility that if the United States is not allowed to buy heavy water from Iran, then it puts it on the international market and it could be purchased by other countries, such as North Korea, for use in making nuclear weapons.

This is not a vote for or against the Iran nuclear agreement. I am opposed to that agreement. This is a question about what to do about the heavy water that Iran has, which it has to get rid of, which can be used either for peaceful purposes, which we use it for in the United States when we have it—we use it for the neutron microscope at the Oak Ridge Laboratory, we use it for fiber optics, we use it for MRI imaging, we use it in a variety of ways—or it can be used to make plutonium and nuclear weapons. Now is not the time to be increasing the possibility that heavy water from Iran could be put on the international market and sold to a country such as North Korea, which might use it to make nuclear weapons. That is No. 1.

No. 2, while the amendment is relevant and germane, this is an amendment that ought to be considered first in the Foreign Relations Committee or the Armed Services Committee. I get a lot of lectures sometimes in our Republican lunches about appropriators making decisions that ought to be in the authorizing committee. Well, this is

one of them. If there were an issue that raises more such complex national security issues, it would be hard to think of one. Might this heavy water be used by a country to make nuclear weapons or, on the other hand, if we purchase it, does it create a market or an incentive for Iran to produce more heavy water? What happens to India, which produces heavy water? What happens to Argentina? What happens to the need of the United States for heavy water, since we don't produce it at all, yet we need it? Iran produces it. We don't want them to have it. We don't produce it. We need it. We don't want North Korea to have it. These are complex national security issues that ought not to be decided on an amendment to this bill.

I will be voting no on the Cotton amendment because of the fear that it might create the possibility that putting it on the international market would put this distilled water, which could be used peacefully, in the hands of those who might make a bomb with it, and because I think an appropriate way to handle it is to first allow the Foreign Relations Committee or the Armed Services Committee to deal with it.

This is a sincere amendment. I have defended the right of the Senator from Arkansas to offer his amendment. My friends on the other side don't like the amendment. They see it as provocative. They see it as a poison pill. That is a difference we will just have to work out over time.

This is the U.S. Senate. The right way to work out differences we can't otherwise work out is simply to vote. The majority leader has made sure we will have a vote on the Cotton amendment by Wednesday.

My hope is that as important as this Energy and Water appropriations bill is, that Senator FEINSTEIN and I could work with the Democratic leader and the Republican leader and others to see if we might not agree tomorrow on a way to vote on the Cotton amendment and finish the bill.

As I have said earlier, 80 different Senators have important provisions in the bill. I know that. I know they are important because many of my colleagues went home over the last week and took credit for passing them, even though we have a little more work to do.

So while we have one difference of opinion left—and it is a big one—I think the majority leader has put us on a path to come to resolution by Wednesday, and I hope by tomorrow.

Let me conclude by thanking Senator FEINSTEIN. She feels as passionately about this as Senator COTTON does. Maybe she feels more passionately about it. I respect and understand that, but I also respect the fact that she and I are bringing the first appropriations bill to the floor, and it is our basic constitutional duty to do so.

We haven't had an Energy and Water appropriations bill make it all the way across the floor under regular order since 2009. That is not the way the railroad is supposed to run around here. We need to show the American people that we can resolve our differences and come to a result, so we will do that. We will have a vote, and then we will finish the bill. I hope we can do it tomorrow.

I look forward to continuing my discussions with the Senator from California and other interested Senators to get it resolved.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to thank the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee for his views and for his very instructive actions to move this bill to fruition. I know we both think it is an important bill. We know the subject that Senator COTTON has raised is also important.

I think there has been a good discussion on it and understanding of the pros and cons, so I think now we can wait until Wednesday, an hour after we come in, for the vote, and we will see what the will of the Senate is.

I want the chairman to know I am very grateful for the actions he has taken because this is enabling us to pass the bill and see it enacted into law, we hope.

So thank you very much, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, during our break, last Thursday the New York Times ran a story that was as heartrending and gut-wrenching as I have read in a long time. The headline was: "One Week in April, Four Toddlers Shot and Killed Themselves."

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, May 5, 2016]

ONE WEEK IN APRIL, FOUR TODDLERS SHOT AND KILLED THEMSELVES

(By Jack Healy, Julie Bosman, Alan Blinder, and Julie Turkewitz)

Kansas City, Mo.—Sha'Quille Kornegay, 2 years old, was buried in a pink coffin, her favorite doll by her side and a tiara strategically placed to hide the self-inflicted gunshot wound to her forehead.

She had been napping in bed with her father, Courtenay Block, late last month when she discovered the 9-millimeter handgun he often kept under his pillow in his Kansas City, Mo., home. It was equipped with a laser sight that lit up like the red lights on her cousins' sneakers. Mr. Block told the police he woke to see Sha'Quille by his bed, bleeding and crying, the gun at her feet. A bullet had pierced her skull.

In a country with more than 30,000 annual gun deaths, the smallest fingers on the trigger belong to children like Sha'Quille.

During a single week in April, four toddlers—Holston, Kiyon, Za'veon and Sha'Quille—shot and killed themselves, and a mother driving through Milwaukee was killed after her 2-year-old apparently picked up a gun that had slid out from under the driver's seat. It was a brutal stretch, even by the standards of researchers who track these shootings.

These are shooters who need help tying their shoelaces, too young sometimes to even say the word "gun," killed by their own curiosity.

They accidentally fire a parent's pistol while playing cops and robbers, while riding in a shopping cart, after finding it in the pocket of the coat their father forgot to wear to work. The gun that killed Sha'Quille last Thursday was pointing up, as if being inspected, when it fired.

They are the most maddening gun deaths in America. Last year, at least 30 people were killed in accidental shootings in which the shooter was 5 or younger, according to Everytown For Gun Safety, a gun control advocacy group that tracks these shootings, largely through news reports.

With shootings by preschoolers happening at a pace of about two per week, some of the victims were the youngsters' parents or siblings, but in many cases the children ended up taking their own lives.

"You can't call this a tragic accident," said Jean Peters Baker, the prosecutor of Jackson County, Mo., who is overseeing the criminal case in Sha'Quille's death. Her office charged Mr. Block, 24, with second-degree murder and child endangerment. "These are really preventable, and we're not willing to prevent them."

Gun control advocates say these deaths illustrate lethal gaps in gun safety laws. Some states require locked storage of guns or trigger locks to be sold with handguns. Others leave safety decisions largely to gun owners.

Twenty-seven states have laws that hold adults responsible for letting children have unsupervised access to guns, according to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, though experts say such measures have, at best, a small effect on reducing gun deaths. Massachusetts is the only state that requires gun owners to store their guns in a locked place, though it has not stopped youngsters there from accidentally killing themselves or other children.

Gun rights groups have long opposed these kinds of laws. They argue that trigger locks can fail, that mandatory storage can put a gun out of reach in an emergency, and that such measures infringe on Second Amendment rights.

"It's clearly a tragedy, but it's not something that's widespread," said Larry Pratt, a spokesman and former executive director of Gun Owners of America. "To base public policy on occasional mishaps would be a grave mistake."

In Kansas City, Sha'Quille's family is trying to come to grips with her death and the murder charge facing Mr. Block. In interviews, several relatives said they did not believe he deserved to be convicted of felony murder, but some questioned his judgment in leaving a loaded gun out while he slept as well as his actions after he discovered that his daughter was grievously wounded.

According to court records, Mr. Block told the police that immediately after the shooting, he went to the bathroom, wrapped the gun in a shirt and put it into a vent in the

floor. He then ran outside carrying his dying daughter and yelled for a neighbor to call for help. He was also charged with evidence tampering.

Sha'Quille's mother, Montorre Kornegay, said that she had recently separated from Mr. Block after more than five years together, but that they remained close. She said he loved the girl, whose first word was "Daddy." When he called Ms. Kornegay from jail, he told her he was sorry and talked about how much he missed Sha'Quille.

The girl was just 2, but wanted to be older, telling people she was already 5. She would run through the house, playing her own private game of peekaboo, relatives said. In a cacophony of squeaky children at home, relatives could always distinguish Sha'Quille's low, raspier voice. One day, she'll be a singer, they told one another.

"What happened was wrong," Ms. Kornegay said. She said that she did not think Mr. Block deserved to face a murder charge, but that he had behaved irresponsibly. "Why didn't you stay up and watch her?"

Parents, police officers and neighbors from Georgia to California are asking similar painful questions this week. Here are some of their stories.

#### 'STAY WITH ME'

In 2015, there were at least 278 unintentional shootings at the hands of young children and teenagers, according to Everytown's database. During the week in April when Sha'Quille and the other children died, there were at least five other accidental shootings by children and teenagers. Alysee Defee, 13, was shot in the armpit with a 20-gauge shotgun she had used for turkey hunting in Floyd County, Ind. Zai Deshields, 4, pulled a handgun out of a backpack at her grandmother's home in Arlington, Tex., and shot her uncle in the leg.

A child who accidentally pulls the trigger is most likely to be 3 years old, the statistics show.

Holston Cole was 3, a boy crackling with energy who would wake before dawn, his pastor said. He loved singing "Jesus Loves Me" and bouncing inside the inflatable castle in his family's front yard in Dallas, Ga.

About 7 a.m. on April 26, he found a .380-caliber semiautomatic pistol in his father's backpack, according to investigators. The gun fired, and Holston's panicked father, David, called 9-1-1. Even before a dispatcher could speak, Mr. Cole wailed "No, no!" into the phone, according to a redacted recording.

Mr. Cole pleaded for his 3-year-old son to hold on until the ambulance could arrive: "Stay with me, Holston," he can be heard saying on a 9-1-1 tape, his voice full of desperation. "Can you hear me? Daddy loves you. Holston. Holston, please. Please."

Holston was pronounced dead that morning.

The local authorities have been weighing what can be a difficult decision for prosecutors and the police after these shootings: Whether to charge a stricken parent or family member with a crime. While laws vary among states, experts said decisions about prosecution hinge on the specific details and circumstances of each shooting. What may be criminal neglect in one child's death may be legally seen as a tragic mistake in another.

Officials with the Paulding County Sheriff's Office have suggested that they expect Mr. Cole to face, at most, a charge of reckless conduct.

"Anything that we do, criminally speaking, is not going to hold a candle to the pain

that this family feels," said Sgt. Ashley Henson, a spokesman for the sheriff's office. Sergeant Henson said investigators had sensed early on that the shooting was accidental. "You want to be able to protect your family and take care of your family, but on the same hand, you've got to be safe with your weapons," he said.

Some gun control groups have urged states and district attorneys to prosecute such cases more aggressively, saying that, grief aside, people need to be held responsible for what are easily preventable deaths.

Brent Moxey, the pastor who officiated at Holston's funeral, said the boy's father was already haunted. "I think he runs the scenario over and over and over in his mind." Mr. Moxey said the family—which did not respond to a message left at their home seeking comment—was still asking for privacy.

About 1,000 mourners attended Holston's funeral on April 30, remembering a boy who loved superheroes and would sometimes wrestle cardboard boxes. The day he died, he spent time alongside his mother, Haley, as she read the Bible, playing with the highlighter pen she used to note passages, Mr. Moxey said.

"This little boy loved to tinker and to play, and he loved to get into things," Mr. Moxey said, describing the very impulse that probably led to Holston's death. "He loved to figure out how stuff works."

#### A RINGING PURSE

In Indianapolis, Kanisha Shelton would stay protectively near her 2-year-old son, Kiyan, watchful of the stray dogs known to roam through the neighborhood.

But on the night of April 20, Ms. Shelton stepped away from the boy, leaving him in the kitchen while she was upstairs. She had placed her purse out of his reach on the kitchen counter, but when her phone started ringing, the boy apparently pushed a chair close to the counter, climbed onto it and reached for the purse, according to an account from a cousin, John Pearson. There was also a .380-caliber Bersa pistol in it.

Just after 9 p.m., Ms. Shelton heard a loud bang and rushed downstairs. There, in the kitchen, she found Kiyan lying on the floor, bleeding from a gunshot wound to the chest. He was rushed to a local children's hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Ms. Shelton's mother, who answered her daughter's cellphone, said the family did not want to speak about the death. No criminal charges have been filed.

The police in Indianapolis said such scenes were becoming more common. "The mother was obviously very shaken up," Capt. Richard Riddle said. Indeed, on Sunday night, another child, 10 years old, died in what the police say appears to have been another accidental shooting.

A 2013 investigation by The New York Times of children killed with firearms found that accidental shootings like these were being vastly undercounted by official tabulations, and were occurring about twice as often as records said.

Dr. Garen J. Wintemute, an emergency physician and a researcher at the University of California, Davis, who studies the public health effects of gun violence, said that nearly everyone—from toddlers to adults—can fail to accurately distinguish toy guns from real guns, loaded guns from unloaded ones.

"That doesn't stop them from playing with it," he said.

Mr. Pearson said he sympathized with Ms. Shelton and thought of Kiyan's death as a tragic accident. "It was up on the counter, so I do think she thought she put the gun away,

out of the baby's reach," Mr. Pearson said. "She's going to be in a living hell."

Essie Jones, who lives across the street, said Ms. Shelton had recently taught Kiyan to ride a small bicycle with training wheels, guiding him on the bike in the driveway. "They'd be up in the yard playing," she said. "He was very happy."

In a condolence book online, Dianna Mitchell-Wright, who identified herself as "Auntie," wrote of her anguish over losing the boy she had nicknamed "My Main Man." "All I have are memories," she said, "and your pictures in my cellphone."

#### ANGUISHED GOODBYES

The coffin that held Za'veon was no bigger than a piece of carry-on luggage, and it was so light that two pallbearers easily carried it through the packed St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Bermuda, La.

His full name was Za'veon Amari Williams, but to his family in Natchitoches, the 3-year-old was known as Baby Zee. On April 22, he found a pistol and shot himself in the head, according to Detective John Greely of the Natchitoches Police Department. When paramedics arrived, they found the mother cradling the boy and crying that he was not breathing, according to KSLA News 12.

The police arrested a companion of the mother, Alverious Demars, 22, on charges of negligent homicide and obstruction of justice. Detective Greely said that the police believed that the pistol belonged to Mr. Demars, and that he hid it after the toddler shot himself. The police have not found the weapon.

"As a responsible adult it's his obligation to secure that—to make sure a child does not get ahold of it," Detective Greely said, explaining why Mr. Demars had been arrested.

The family declined to speak, but in a Facebook post, the boy's mother, Destiny Williams, wrote that she had not been able to sleep and was a "useless sad waste." "I can't take life," she wrote. "Why is it so cruel and unrelenting and unforgiving?"

The funerals for these children were filled with a similar anguish.

At the funeral for Baby Zee, the wails and screams grew so loud during a final moment of goodbye that ushers closed the church doors to give the family privacy. In Georgia, Holston's father tearfully read a letter that reflected on how the family used to sing "Jesus Loves Me." At the Kansas City funeral for Sha'Quille, family members crumpled as they looked into the coffin, shaking with tears or kissing her.

The day after Sha'Quille was buried, her maternal grandmother, Pamala Kornegay, reflected on the girl who was missing from the cluster of grandchildren who sat coloring on her living room floor. Ms. Kornegay said she was not angry with Sha'Quille's father.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, the article included harrowing stories like this one:

Sha'Quille Kornegay, 2 years old, was buried in a pink coffin, her favorite doll by her side and a tiara strategically placed to hide the self-inflicted gunshot wound to her forehead. She had been napping in bed with her father late last month when she discovered the 9-millimeter handgun he often kept under his pillow in his Kansas City, Missouri home. It was equipped with a laser sight that lit up like the red lights on her cousins' sneakers. Her father told the police he woke to see Sha'Quille by his bed, bleeding and crying, the gun at her feet. A bullet had pierced her skull.

On the night of April 20th, Kanisha Shelton had placed her purse out of her 2-year-old

son Kiyan's reach on the kitchen counter, but when her phone started ringing, the boy apparently pushed a chair close to the counter, climbed onto it and reached for the purse. There was also a .380-caliber Beretta pistol in it. Just after 9 p.m., Ms. Shelton heard a loud bang and rushed downstairs. There, in the kitchen, she found Kiyan lying on the floor, bleeding from a gunshot wound to the chest. The police in Indianapolis said such scenes were becoming more common.

As someone who has advocated for commonsense protections against gun violence for decades and now as a Senator from Connecticut, where we know all too well the horrors of gun violence and the deep wounds and death they can wreak on innocent children, and especially as a parent of four children who have been those ages, these stories, for me, are truly heartrending and gut-wrenching. My heart goes out to the families of these children and the families of countless other children who were lost as a result of these gun deaths—too many such families too often and so many of them preventable.

Last year, there were 278 unintentional shootings by young children or teenagers, most of them having no idea what they were doing. In the week at the end of this April when four toddlers shot themselves, at least five other children and teenagers accidentally shot themselves or other people.

In-depth investigations have strongly suggested that these shootings are significantly undercounted because of differing rules across the country and jurisdictions about how such deaths are to be reported. Some areas designate any death in which one person shoots another as a homicide, even if the shooter is 2 years old and has no intent to kill.

The gun lobby relies on these misleading statistics to oppose laws that could reduce and prevent these kinds of heart-wrenching stories and deaths, such as safe storage laws or technology such as trigger locks. How could they be opposed? The gun lobby argues that these deaths are vanishingly rare, outpaced by other causes of child mortality. Of course, they perpetuate the misinformation by continuing to oppose any research, any fact-finding into gun violence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, continuing to even block our ability to better understand the problem, let alone address it.

I continue to have great difficulty understanding the anti-safety advocacy of these groups. Time and again in American history we have recognized that products posing a risk to consumers—particularly to children—require regulation to make them as safe as possible, no matter what the product, no matter what the industry. That has been the American way. We put seatbelts in cars and require drivers to learn what they are doing in obtaining a license. We put childproof caps on medicine bottles and dangerous house-

hold products, even if they have domestic uses. If we have taken concrete steps to ensure that children can't open a bottle of aspirin, I am baffled that we can't do more to prevent these violent deaths. Why aren't we doing everything we can to make sure that children can't kill themselves or others or injure themselves or others with firearms?

There is no lack of ideas for how to remedy this situation. President Obama recently announced that as part of the White House's anti-gun violence initiative, he will move forward to promote the development of smart gun technology which is designed to ensure that no one except the owner can fire it. Even if the gun makes it into the hands of someone who should not have it, whether a child or a criminal, the gun will not be accessible. Like other steps the President has outlined in the absence of congressional action which remains sorely needed, this smart gun initiative utilizes existing laws and resources to challenge research, innovation, and enforcement toward more effectively cutting down on gun violence. Surely, we have a consensus among the American people, among gun owners, and among anybody belonging to groups that seemingly oppose these commonsense measures that we need to do more and do it better to prevent these child deaths.

On smart guns in particular, the White House will provide guidance for enhancing safety technology and help to manufacture and test smart firearms and to facilitate their purchase by State and local governments. Working in partnership with private sector innovators and local jurisdictions, this initiative holds tremendous promise.

Even while smart guns that depend on advanced technology are being developed, existing mechanisms provide remedies as well—low-tech remedies. Trigger locks and indicators of whether a gun is loaded are in widespread use today. Studies have suggested that a third of accidental deaths could be prevented by the use of childproof safety locks and loading indicators. Our laws should encourage and even require their adoption. States around the country have also developed a variety of safe storage bills that prohibit storing firearms in places that are accessible to children. Tragic experience has shown us that, as important as it is for families to discuss guns with their children, simply admonishing them to avoid going near guns won't work, particularly when the children are too young to understand what guns are and what they can do, and, most especially, when they are playing with other children in other families' homes, where those guns may be accessible and loaded.

The answer is to insist that adults take responsibility. They need to be held responsible for keeping firearms

off limits, which is really the only realistic option to cut down these tragic deaths of children.

Laws requiring that kind of responsibility and accountability are supported by two-thirds of Americans. Unfortunately, the gun lobby has continually, constantly, insistently, and consistently opposed progress in these areas. Their steadfast opposition has also prevented the Consumer Product Safety Commission—which has a praiseworthy track record of success keeping children safe from hazards and ranging from lead in toys to dangerous cribs—from regulating firearms or even issuing guidance about how they could be designed more safely for children.

I have been coming to the floor of the Senate for a number of years to speak about the need for legislation to address the gun violence epidemic in this country, clearly a public health crisis. If there were a flu epidemic or another kind of contagious disease causing 30,000 deaths a year, we would have urgent, drastic action. We need to do the right thing. There are stories reported such as those last week of the unspeakable horror of a child too young to understand what is happening who encounters a gun and uses it, such as Sha'Quille, Kiyan, and Holston Cole, a 3-year-old boy with crackling energy, who would wake right before dawn. His pastor said: He loved singing "Jesus Loves Me." He put a gun to his head and, unknowingly, pulled the trigger. We can avoid that type of tragedy. We can do better, and we must act.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### REMEMBERING CONRAD BURNS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, last week the world and the Burns family lost Senator Conrad Burns. There are thousands of reasons to celebrate the life of Senator Conrad Burns, but I will only mention a few, while I hope others write down their memories to help fill the void.

He made friends instantly and could quickly find a way to relate to anyone. He had a story for every situation. That is the most effective way to make a point. I particularly enjoyed his marital advice, which he learned in Hudson, WY. His stories always had a location and a person. He said Hudson is where he spent a week one day—but it is where he bet a friend \$100 that his wife Phyllis could beat his friend's wife in a foot race. He wasn't able to talk Phyllis into racing, but fortunately, the friend must not have had any luck with his wife, either, as he didn't show up.

While Conrad was a consummate, effective Senator, his love for his faith, his family, and friends made him special. He was a man who lived by example. He was willing to share about his

life to help with our lives. He mentored me and many others with his plain speaking, and timely, sort of abrupt suggestions. He didn't waste time or words, but he always had time to help.

He also probably never realized the difference he made. I know he never realized the difference he made daily while he worked on legislation, much of which he never got credit for but was effective at getting finished.

He had a special talent for speaking and presenting that always got people's attention. For example, he was able to take difficult issues involving telecommunications and make them understandable to his colleagues and hold their interest. That is an unmatched talent. He had a unique ability to sell ideas that came from his vast, real-life experience in agriculture, radio, and especially in auctioneering. He could get you to buy into his idea, and you didn't even realize that you had bid. His experience in small business gave him the ability to make people understand the kinds of decisions small businesses have to make—how many decisions, how far in advance they had to be made, and how critical that was to how well the United States does. His staff would occasionally suggest other words or phrases he might use after the fact. He recognized and made a case for the importance of small business as the engine of our economy.

Golf gave him an outlet for his frustration and provided relaxation and an opportunity for less stressful conversations. I am not a golfer, but Conrad always made the experience enjoyable and memorable.

His ability to sell is best noted when he auctioned a special Kenai handmade quilt and got \$15,000 when the best ever previous price was \$3,000. Incidentally, he made the \$3,000 quilt sale too.

By now, Conrad has had a chance to have a heart-to-heart talk—that is the only kind of talk you could have with Conrad, and especially in Heaven—with his daughter Kate, who passed away several years ago. I picture him playing golf in Heaven, where he is learning firsthand that some of those stories about clergy playing golf are true. I bet he even has a use for a saddle again and is still keeping up on the ag futures.

Conrad, you have been missed and will be missed as your memory reminds and inspires us. Your family is in our prayers as we grieve and celebrate your life along with them.

#### REMEMBERING BOB BENNETT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, unfortunately, last week we also lost another former colleague, Senator Bob Bennett of Utah. There are 1,000 reasons to celebrate the life of Senator Bob Bennett, but I will only mention a few.

While he was the consummate effective Senator, his love for his faith, his

family, and his friends really made him special. He was a man who lived by example. He was quiet but effective. He mentored me and many others by giving gentle, timely suggestions.

His presentations at the Prayer Breakfasts helped us to know him and his faith better. He demonstrated what he learned at church and, particularly, on his mission, and he was willing to share that with us to help our lives. But his life was a living example of his faith.

He also probably never realized the difference he made in people's lives with his involvement with the Franklin Planner alone. I know he never realized the difference he made daily as he worked with people on legislation, much of which he never got credit for, but he was effective in making sure it got done in a reasonable way.

He had a special talent for speaking and presenting. He could take numbers from the Joint Economic Committee, which he chaired, and make them understandable to his colleagues. That is an unmatched talent. People go to sleep with numbers. His experience in small business gave him the ability to make people understand how small businesses operate, how they get their employees, the difficulties of buying things in advance that they don't know they are going to sell, and how critical that is to the U.S. economy. He recognized and made a case like no other person for how important small business was as the engine of our economy.

Yes, Bob, you have been missed, and you are missed. Your family is in our prayers, and we grieve with them.

I yield the floor.

#### RESPONSE ACT OF 2015

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 155, S. 546.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 546) to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Heitkamp substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3889) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 546), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### AMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ORGANIZATION ACT AND THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 1976

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4238, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4238) to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4238) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 451, S. Res. 436.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 436) supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

S. RES. 436

*Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;*

*Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being preventable and treatable;*



Whereas fighting malaria is in the national interest of the United States, as reducing the risk of malaria protects members of the Armed Forces and other people of the United States serving overseas in malaria-endemic regions, and reducing malaria deaths helps to lower risks of instability in less developed countries;

Whereas the elimination of malaria remains a bipartisan priority of the United States Government;

Whereas, on December 14, 2006, President George W. Bush stated at the White House Malaria Summit, "So we are acting, and we're leading. And with partners across the world, we are helping the people of Africa turn the tide against malaria. The goal of defeating malaria is a challenging goal, yet it can be done. It's not going to require a miracle, it just requires a smart, sustained, focused effort.";

Whereas, on September 27, 2015, President Barack Obama stated at the United Nations General Assembly, "Billions of our fellow human beings are at risk of dying from diseases that we know how to prevent. Many children are just one mosquito bite away from death. And that is a moral outrage. It is a profound injustice. It is literally a matter of life and death, and now the world must act.";

Whereas support for efforts to fight malaria is in the diplomatic and moral interest of the United States, as that support generates goodwill toward the United States and highlights the values of the people of the United States through the work of governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations of the United States;

Whereas efforts to fight malaria are in the long-term economic interest of the United States because those efforts help developing countries—

- (1) identify at-risk populations;
- (2) provide a framework for critical emergency disease treatment;
- (3) provide better health services;
- (4) increase local governance needed to address substandard and counterfeit medicines that exacerbate malaria resistance;
- (5) produce healthier and more productive workforces;
- (6) advance economic development; and
- (7) promote stronger trading partners;

Whereas, in 2015, malaria transmission occurred in 95 countries and territories;

Whereas an estimated 3,200,000,000 people are at risk for malaria, with 214,000,000 active cases, the vast majority of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for 90 percent of malaria deaths in the world;

Whereas young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by malaria;

Whereas malaria greatly affects the health of children, as children under the age of 5 account for an estimated 70 percent of malaria deaths each year;

Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal and neonatal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights;

Whereas heightened national, regional, and international efforts to prevent and treat malaria during recent years have made significant progress and helped save hundreds of thousands of lives;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 by the World Health Organization states that, in 2014, approximately 55 percent of people in sub-Saharan Africa slept under an insecticide-treated mosquito net, and household surveys indicated that 90 percent of people used an insecticide-treated mosquito net if such a net was available in the household;

Whereas, in 2014, approximately 116,000,000 people were protected by indoor residual spraying;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 further states that, between 2000 and 2015—

(1) malaria mortality rates decreased by 60 percent around the world;

(2) in the African Region of the World Health Organization, malaria mortality rates decreased by 66 percent; and

(3) an estimated 6,200,000 malaria deaths were averted globally, primarily as a result of increased interventions;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 further states that, out of 95 countries and territories with ongoing transmission of malaria in 2015—

(1) 10 countries are classified as being in the pre-elimination phase;

(2) 10 countries are classified as being in the elimination phase; and

(3) 9 countries are classified as being in the prevention of malaria reintroduction phase of malaria control;

Whereas continued national, regional, and international investment in efforts to eliminate malaria, including prevention and treatment efforts, the development of a vaccine to immunize children from the malaria parasite, and advancements in insecticides, are critical in order to—

- (1) continue to reduce malaria deaths;
- (2) prevent backsliding in areas where progress has been made; and
- (3) equip the United States and the global community with the tools necessary to fight malaria and other global health threats;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative (referred to in this preamble as the "PMI") and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

Whereas, in 2011, an independent, external evaluation, prepared by Boston University, examining 6 objectives of the PMI, found the PMI to be a successful, well-led program that has "earned and deserves the task of sustaining and expanding the United States Government's response to global malaria control efforts";

Whereas the PMI Strategy 2015-2020 articulates the malaria goal of the United States Government of working with countries and partners to further reduce malaria deaths and substantially decrease malaria morbidity, towards the long-term goal of elimination;

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to ending malaria deaths through the PMI, which is led by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private sector entities;

Whereas the PMI focuses on helping partner countries achieve major improvements in overall health outcomes through improved access to, and quality of, healthcare services in locations with limited resources; and

Whereas the PMI, recognizing the burden of malaria on many partner countries, has set a target by 2020 of reducing malaria mortality by 1/3 from 2015 levels in PMI-supported countries, achieving a greater than 80 percent reduction from original 2000 baseline levels set by the PMI, reducing malaria morbidity in PMI-supported countries by 40 percent from 2015 levels, and assisting not fewer than 5 PMI-supported countries to meet the criteria of the World Health Organization for national or sub-national pre-elimination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria morbidity, mortality, and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(4) welcomes ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination;

(5) recognizes the goals, priorities, and authorities to combat malaria set forth in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria and to work with developing countries to create long-term strategies to increase ownership over malaria programs; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and increase their support for and financial contributions to efforts to combat malaria worldwide.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 436) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE PUBLIC TRUST

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I rise this evening to read into the RECORD a portion of the New York Times Magazine profile yesterday of Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama.

Before reading the article, though, titled "The Story-Teller and the President," I wish to explain briefly why I think this piece is so important for us to consider in this Chamber.

We live in a time of precipitous change, both in American Government and in communications more broadly.

We don't admit it enough in this body, but the Congress in the last decade-plus is extraordinarily weak by historical standards. At the same time, the media is rapidly fragmenting. These two vacuums are being filled by the executive branch in ways that are badly damaging, both to the separation of powers and to the idea of a meaningfully engaged citizenry. There can be little doubt that our Founders would be troubled by what is occurring in our time.

Washington is in the process of replacing self-evident truths with self-serving spin, and this is dangerous, for no one is entitled to his or her own facts. I sit intentionally at the desk of Daniel Patrick Moynihan in this body precisely because he was committed to the idea of a shared set of facts before our debates began. Yet this story makes clear that the executive branch feels empowered to proclaim its own narratives.

This is bigger than Republicans and Democrats. This is about the legislature's check on the Executive, and it is about all of our accountability in this city to the people. To my Democratic colleagues who supported the Iran deal, does it trouble you at all that the White House displays obvious contempt for you? For your voters and for my voters, will you stand for this kind of fundamentally dishonest spin from future Republican administrations—because I pledge to you that I will not from any administration of either party.

Some will say this is just one story of one staffer who wanted to brag and got carried away—someone who wanted to boast about if the whole world could be his canvas, but we should be clear that it is ultimately elected officials who bear responsibility for the ongoing evaporation of public trust in our time.

I want to underscore this point. These, my comments tonight, are not about whether you share the President's view that the Iranian nuclear deal was a prudent move or whether you share my view that it was a disaster. That is not the point at issue today. Obviously, foreign policy is critically important, but this story tonight is about whether we take truth seriously. It is about whether we care about the public trust.

There is a widespread view around here that our chief job is "to pass legislation." That is incorrect. Our main job, and indeed the oath we took, is to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, which is about limited government and about the separation of powers.

Our job is to ensure that the Nation is well governed and that the public can believe that the public can have trust and confidence that the Nation is well governed. This necessarily means that oversight is at least as important as passing or repealing particular

pieces of legislation. This horrific story should be a screaming siren to all of us of both parties.

Newsrooms are obviously still struggling to understand what vigorous and independent reporting will look like in the digital age, but it remains true that freedom that ordered liberty will remain dependent on an informed citizenry, and that requires a serious and a free press. Good journalism, serious journalism, that takes actual facts seriously and then grapples with those facts honestly, is an important and a high calling.

I plan to read about one-fourth of this New York Times piece into the RECORD, but please note that I will skip over many proper names for ease of audible understanding. Picking up then about 40 percent of the way into the profile, the story continues:

The job he [Ben Rhodes] was hired to do, [was] namely to help the President of the United States communicate with the public, [and this job] was changing in equally significant ways, thanks to the impact of digital technologies that people in Washington were just beginning to wrap their minds around. It is hard for many of us to absorb the true magnitude of the changes in the news business—40 percent of newspaper industry professionals have lost their jobs [inside] the last decade—in part because readers can absorb all [forms of new] news they want from social media platforms like Facebook, which are valued in the tens and hundreds of billions of dollars and pay nothing for the [so-called] "content" they provide to their readers. You have to have skin in the game—[that is] to be in the news business, or depend in a life-or-death way on its products—to understand the radical and qualitative ways in which words appear in familiar typefaces [but have yet] been changed. Rhodes [was singling] out a key example to me one day, laced with the brutal contempt that is a hallmark of his private utterances. "All these newspapers used to have foreign bureaus," he said. "[But] now they don't. They call us to explain to them what's happening in Moscow [or in] Cairo. [And] most of the outlets are reporting on world events from Washington. The average reporter we talk to is [just] 27 years old, and their only reporting experience consists of being around [a few] political campaigns. That's a sea change. They literally know nothing."

In this environment, Rhodes has become adept at ventriloquizing many people at once. Ned Price, Rhodes's assistant, gave me a primer on the way it's done. The easiest way for the White House to shape the news, he explained, is [just] from the briefing podiums, each of which has its own dedicated press corps. "But then there are [all of these force] multipliers," he said, adding, "We have our comrades, [and I] reach out to a couple [of] people, and you know I wouldn't wanted to name them—"

[I interrupt him and I say] "I can name them," [and I tick] off a few names of prominent Washington reporters and columnists who often tweet in sync with [the] White House[']s messaging [operation].

Price [laughs]. "I'll say, 'Hey, look, some people are spinning this narrative that this is a sign of . . . weakness,'" he [continues].

[And I interrupt again] "but—"

"In fact, it's a sign of strength!" I [say, chuckling with him].

"And I'll give them some color," Price [continues] "and the next thing I know, lots of these guys are in the dot-com publishing space, and [they] have [their] huge Twitter followings, and [then] they'll be putting this message [as their own]."

This is something different from old-fashioned spin, which tended to be an art best practiced in person. In a world where experienced reporters competed for scoops and where carrying water for the White House was a cause for shame, no matter which party was in power, it was much harder to sustain a "narrative" over any serious period of time. Now the most effectively weaponized 140-character idea or quote will almost always carry the day, and it [will be] very difficult for even good reporters to necessarily know where the spin is coming from or why.

When I later visited Obama's former campaign mastermind David Axelrod in Chicago, I brought up the soft Orwellian vibe of an information space where old media structures and hierarchies have been erased by Silicon Valley billionaires who convinced the suckers that information was "free" and everyone with access to Google was now a reporter. Axelrod, a former newspaperman, sighed. "It's not as easy as standing in front of a press conference and speaking to 70 million people like past presidents have been able to do," he said. The bully pulpit by and large doesn't exist anymore, he explained. "So more and more, over the last couple of years, there's been an investment in alternative means of communication: using digital more effectively, going to nontraditional sources, understanding where on each issue your constituencies are going to be found," he said. "I think they've approached these major foreign policy challenges as campaign challenges, and they've run campaigns, and [their] campaigns have been very sophisticated."

Rhodes's innovative campaign to sell the Iran deal is likely to be a model for how future administrations explain foreign policy to the Congress—

Note that. The administration is going to have to campaign to the Congress—

and the public. The way in which most Americans have heard the story of the Iran deal presented—that the Obama administration began seriously engaging with the Iranian officials in 2013 in order to take advantage of a new political reality in Iran, which came about because of elections that brought [so-called] moderates to power in that country—[this story of 2013] was largely manufactured ["manufactured" is their verb] for the purpose of selling the deal. Even where the particulars of that story are true, the implications that readers and viewers are encouraged to take away from those particulars are often misleading [and] false. Obama's closest advisers always understood him to be eager [for] a deal with Iran [back in 2012] and even since the beginning of his presidency. "It's the center of the arc," Rhodes explained to me two days after the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, was implemented. He then checked off the ways in which the administration's foreign policy aims and priorities converged [in] Iran. "We don't have to be [in the kind of] cycles of conflict if we can find other ways to resolve these issues," he said. "We can do things that challenge the conventional thinking that, you know,

'AIPAC doesn't like this,' or 'the Israeli government doesn't like this,' or 'the gulf countries don't like it.' It's the possibility of improved relations with adversaries. It's non-proliferation. So all these threads that the president's been spinning—[and in this sense I don't mean it] in the press sense [of spinning, spinning] for almost a decade, they kind of all converged around Iran.'

In the narrative that Rhodes shaped, the "story" of the Iran deal began in 2013, when a "moderate" faction inside the Iranian regime led by Hassan Rouhani beat a regime of [so-called] "hardliners" in an election and then began to pursue a policy of "openness," which included a newfound willingness to negotiate the dismantling of its [so-called] nuclear weapons program. The president set out the timeline himself in his speech announcing the nuclear deal on July 14, 2015, [President Obama]: "Today, after two years of negotiations, the United States, together with our international partners, has achieved something that decades of animosity has not." While the president's statement was technically accurate—there had in fact been two years of formal negotiations leading up to the signing of the J.C.P.O.A.—it was also actively misleading, because the most meaningful part of the negotiations with Iran [were from mid-2012] many months before Rouhani and the "moderate" camp were chosen in an election among candidates handpicked by Iran's supreme leader, the Ayatollah. . . . The idea that there was a new reality in Iran was politically useful to the Obama administration. By obtaining broad public currency for the thought that there was a significant split in the regime, and that the administration was reaching out to moderate-minded Iranians who wanted peaceful relations with their neighbors and with America, Obama was [therefore] able to evade what might have otherwise been a divisive but clarifying debate over the actual policy choices that [the] administration was making.

I want to repeat that sentence, by misleading the public on the date on which negotiations began and therefore seizing upon this election that happened a year later, "Obama was able to evade what might have otherwise been a divisive but clarifying debate over the actual policy choices that [the] administration was making."

By eliminating the fuss about Iran's nuclear program, the administration hoped to eliminate a source of structural tension between the two countries, which would create the space for America to disentangle itself from its established system of alliances with countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel and Turkey. With one bold move, the administration would effectively begin the process of a large-scale disengagement from the Middle East.

The nerve center for the selling of the Iran deal to Congress, which took place in a concentrated three-month period between July and September of last year, was located inside the White House, and is referred to by its former denizens as "the war room." The White House Office of Legislative Affairs helped run the team, which included three to six people from each of several agencies . . . which were the State Department, Treasury, the American delegation to the United Nations (i.e., Samantha Power), at times . . . the Department of Defense and also the Department of Energy and the National Security Council. Rhodes "was kind of like the quarterback," running the daily video con-

ferences and coming up with lines of attack and parry. "He was extremely good about immediately getting to a phrase or a way of getting the message out that just made more sense," [staff members report]. Framing the deal as a choice between peace and war was Rhodes's go-to move—and proved to be a winning argument.

And just to be clear, that wasn't the choice. The choice wasn't between war and peace, and they knew it. They were spinning the public, the press, and the Congress.

The person [credited] with running the digital side of the campaign . . . the director of digital response for the White House Office of Digital Strategy, . . . became known in the war room and on Twitter as @TheIranDeal.

That is the Twitter handle.

Early on, Rhodes asked her to create a rapid-response account that fact-checked everything related to the Iran deal. "So, we developed a plan that was like: The Iran deal is literally going to be the tip of everything we stand up online," [we were told]. "And we're going to map it onto what we [already] know about the different audiences we're dealing with: the public, pundits, experts, the right wing, Congress." By applying 21st century data and networking tools to the white glove world of foreign affairs, the White House was able to track what United States senators and the people who worked for them, and influenced them, were seeing [at different moments] online—and make sure that no potential negative comment passed without a tweet.

As she explained how the process worked, I was struck by how naive the assumption of a "state of nature" must seem in an information environment that is mediated less and less by experienced editors and reporters with any real prior knowledge of the subjects they write about. "People construct their own sense of source and credibility now," [the staffer told me]. "They elect whoever they're going to believe." For those in need of more traditional-seeming forms of validation, handpicked Beltway insiders like Jeffrey Goldberg of *The Atlantic* and Laura Rozen of *Al-Monitor* helped retail the administration's narrative. "Laura Rozen was my RSS feed," [the staffer said]. "She would just find everything and retweet it."

Rhodes's messaging campaign was so effective not simply because it was a perfectly planned and executed example of digital strategy, but also because he was personally involved in guiding the deal itself.

In the interest of time, I am going to skip over a few paragraphs that tell how Jake Sullivan and other administration players traveled to Oman to secretly meet with the Iranians in the summer of 2012.

The White House point person during the later stage of the negotiations was Rob Malley, a favored troubleshooter who is currently running negotiations that could keep the Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad in power. During the course of the Iran talks, Malley told me, he always kept in close contact with Rhodes. "I would often just call him and say, 'Give me a reality check,'" Malley explained. "He could say, 'Here is where I think the president is, and here is where he will be.'" He continued, "Ben would try to anticipate: Does it make sense policywise? But then he would also ask himself: How do we sell it Congress? How do we

sell it to the public? What is it going to do to our narrative?"

Malley is a particularly keen observer of the changing art of political communication; his father . . . who was born in Cairo, edited [a] politics magazine . . . and proudly provided a platform for Fidel Castro and Yasir Arafat, in the days when the leaders' words might take [several] weeks to travel from Cuba or Cairo to Paris. "The Iran experience was the place where I saw firsthand how policy, politics and messaging all had to be brought together, and I think that Ben is really at the intersection of all three. He reflects and he shapes [all three] at the same time."

As Malley and representatives of the State Department, including Wendy Sherman and Secretary of State John Kerry, engaged in formal negotiations with the Iranians, to ratify details of a framework that had already been agreed upon, Rhodes's war room did its work on Capitol Hill and with reporters. In the spring of last year, legions of arms-control experts began popping up at think tanks and on social media, and then became key sources for hundreds of often-clueless reporters. "We created an echo chamber," he admitted, when I asked him to explain the onslaught of freshly minted experts [who were] cheerleading for the deal. [He continued:] "They were saying things that validated what we had given them to say."

When I suggested that all this dark metafictional play seemed a bit removed from rational debate over America's future role in the world, Rhodes nodded. "In the absence of rational discourse, we are going to discourse the [expletive] out of this," he said. "We had test drives to know who was going to be able to carry our message effectively, and how to use outside groups like Ploughshares, the Iran Project and whom-ever else [they needed to use]. So we knew the tactics that worked" [he said]. He is [very] proud of the way he sold the Iran deal. "We drove them crazy," he said of the deal's opponents.

Yet Rhodes bridled at the suggestion that there has been anything deceptive about the way the agreement itself was sold. "Look," [he said] "with Iran, in a weird way, these are state-to-state issues. They're agreements between governments. Yes, I would prefer that it turns out that Rouhani and Zarif . . . are real reformers who are going to be steering this country into the direction I believe it can go in, because their public is educated and, in some respects, pro-American. But we are not betting on [any of] that."

Do you all remember what we heard last summer when they were testifying before us? We never heard this. We never heard this was the spin, but they didn't actually believe it. But now here, when the guy's thinking about his next step in life, we hear the real story. I will continue.

In fact, Rhodes's passion seems to derive not from any investment in the technical specifics of sanctions or centrifuge arrays, or any particular optimism about the future course of Iranian politics and society. Those are matters for the negotiators and area specialists. Rather, it derived from his own sense of urgency of radically reorienting American policy in the Middle East in order to make the prospect of American involvement in the region's future wars a lot less likely. When I asked him whether the prospect of this same kind of far-reaching spin campaign being run by a different administration is something that scares him, he admitted that it does. "I mean, I'd prefer a

sober, reasoned public debate, after which members of Congress reflect and take a vote. . . . But that's impossible" [he concluded].

Mr. President, truth is bigger than talking points, and self-government deserves more than spin. Does President Obama think there is such a thing as domestic propaganda? Does he think it is OK? Do we in this Chamber think it is OK?

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2:15 P.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that

it stand adjourned under the previous order as a further mark of respect to the late Senators Conrad Burns of Montana and Bob Bennett of Utah.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:10 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 2:15 p.m.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

**MAY 11**

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222

10 a.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine leveraging the United States science and technology enterprise. SR-253

Committee on Finance  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Customs and Border Protection agency. SD-215

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's overtime rule and the rising costs of doing business. SR-428A

2:15 p.m.  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
Business meeting to consider S. 1163, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, S. 2580, to establish the Indian Education Agency to streamline the administration of Indian education, and S. 2739, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine S. 2417, to amend the Indian Health

Care Improvement Act to allow the Indian Health Service to cover the cost of a copayment of an Indian or Alaska Native veteran receiving medical care or services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and S. 2842, to amend and reform the Johnson-O'Malley Act to award contracts to certain tribal organizations, Indian corporations, school districts, States, and consortia of tribal organizations. SD-628

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law  
To hold hearings to examine the proposed Federal Communications Commission privacy rules. SD-226

3 p.m.  
Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Charles P. Blahous, III, and Robert D. Reischauer, both of Maryland, both to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, and a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund. SD-215

**MAY 12**

9 a.m.  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management  
To hold hearings to examine due process in administrative hearings. SD-342

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222

10 a.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Susan Faye Beard, of Maryland, to be Inspector General of the Department of Energy. SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine America's role in the world. SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 2348, to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other

crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, S. 2577, to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, S. 2840, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and the nominations of Ronald G. Russell, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Inga S. Bernstein, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Stephanie A. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, and Suzanne Mitchell, and Scott L. Palk, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. SD-226

2 p.m.  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

**MAY 13**

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222

**MAY 17**

10 a.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the status of advanced nuclear technologies. SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife  
To hold hearings to examine marine debris and wildlife, focusing on impacts, sources, and solutions. SD-406

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine America's insatiable demand for drugs, focusing on assessing the Federal response. SD-342

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

MAY 19

MAY 24

MAY 25

2:30 p.m.

10 a.m.

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 2017-2022 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program.  
SD-366

To hold hearings to examine understanding the role of sanctions under the Iran Deal.  
SD-538

To hold hearings to examine understanding the role of sanctions under the Iran Deal, focusing on Administration perspectives.  
SD-538

**SENATE—Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

The Senate met at 2:15 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROB PORTMAN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, help us to so live that the generations to come will know of Your mighty acts.

Today, guide our Senators in the path You have created, inspiring them with the potency of Your powerful presence. May they trust You in times of adversity and prosperity, knowing that they will reap a productive harvest if they persevere. Lord, keep them from underestimating the power of Your great Name, inspiring them never to forget that nothing is impossible with You. Give them the wisdom to solve the hard problems of our times and grace to live in harmony with one another.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 10, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB PORTMAN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. PORTMAN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday we had another opportunity to move the energy security and water infrastructure funding bill forward, and I was disappointed to see it stalled once again.

I wish to reiterate what Senator ALEXANDER, the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, said. Advancing this funding bill is important—not only for policy but also for process. Members worked in committee and arrived at a bill they reported out unanimously. Many more Members had their voices heard on the floor, where we processed 17 amendments from both Democrats and Republicans.

Now, after much research, debate, and input from both sides, we are almost ready to move this bill across the finish line. We have one outstanding issue to address. It is the amendment authored by Senator COTTON, and we will have a vote on it no later than tomorrow. Senator COTTON was rightly concerned about the administration's recent announcement that it would purchase so-called heavy water from Iran, so he filed an amendment that would keep the funds we are appropriating through this bill from being spent on future heavy water purchases from that country.

Let me repeat that point. This amendment does not impact the current heavy water agreement. Instead, it aims at preventing future funds from going to Iran—funds that country could use to procure ballistic missiles or air defenses that could be used against us or our allies.

I agree with Senator COTTON's objective, and I will be supporting his amendment, which aims to keep Americans safe. But regardless of Members' positions on this issue, we will each have an opportunity to have our opinions count with a vote. Whether or not Senators support the amendment, this is the way the process works.

The amendment is a restriction on the use of funds—clearly a matter related to the use of appropriated funds.

No matter how Senators choose to vote on this amendment, we all know the importance of moving forward with this Energy and Water appropriations bill.

I leave colleagues with one last point offered by Senator ALEXANDER yesterday. This energy security and water infrastructure funding bill is one that “virtually every Senator in this body has some interest in,” and passing it would help us “set a good example for the other 11 appropriations bills.”

We will soon have the opportunity to keep moving forward.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Cotton) amendment No. 3878 (to amendment No. 3801), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to talk today about judges, specifically

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district court judges across our country. We have a number of judges in Pennsylvania who have not moved forward, and I want to speak to that today.

I think it is a case of or a story about obstruction. It is as simple as that, and there is no excuse for this kind of obstruction. These nominees came from Senators of both parties, and that applies to Pennsylvania, as well, and have had all their credentials vetted and approved by the Judiciary Committee.

Pennsylvania currently has four nominees to the district court, and one seat on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals is vacant as well. All of these excellent nominees deserve immediate consideration and confirmation.

The Pennsylvania judges were agreed to by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY. We worked together to arrive at a consensus. Just by way of example, the two we are talking about today, in particular, Judge Susan Baxter and Judge Marilyn Horan, are Pennsylvania judges who have sterling qualifications and credentials, were selected on a bipartisan basis, as I mentioned, in our State, were unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and they have been languishing now for months, even after Judiciary Committee consideration.

We have two other Pennsylvania district court nominees, Judge John Colville and Judge Milton Younge, who are still inexplicably stuck in the Judiciary Committee, despite being equally qualified and nominated the same day as Judge Baxter and Judge Horan.

So the old expression applies here: Justice delayed is justice denied. That is what we are seeing when we have this kind of obstruction preventing the confirmation of judges who have come through the Judiciary Committee.

The American people have fundamental basic rights. I believe one of those rights is to expect that their courts are working with a full complement of judges. President Obama has seen just 17 judges confirmed in the last 2 years of his Presidency so far—I know we are still in the midst of those 2 years but 17 judges to date in the last 18 months, roughly—compared to 68 when Democrats controlled the Senate the last years of President Bush's administration.

We have seen the same obstruction at all levels of the court system. For example, we know the chief judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Judge Merrick Garland, has in fact been completely obstructed—not even getting a hearing, not even getting a vote of any kind. That might be the most glaring and egregious example of obstruction. So when it comes to Judge Garland and his consideration to be a member of the Supreme Court, I hope our Republican colleagues would simply do their job. That is what the Con-

stitution tells us we must do. The Constitution says advise and consent, not advise and consent when you feel like it or when it is politically expedient.

One last point about the judiciary, in terms of how essential it is to our democracy, is that we pride ourselves as a nation having a judiciary which is independent—separate from the legislative branch, separate from the executive branch—an independent and in fact coequal branch of government, not an institution that is the instrument of one party, especially the party in power.

So when it comes to Judge Garland, we simply ask Republican Senators to do their job: allow a hearing, conduct a hearing, ask a lot of questions, and then have a vote on Judge Garland to be a Justice.

On district court nominees, it is as simple as agreeing to what has already been agreed to; that all these candidates are of the highest caliber and they are through the Judiciary Committee. All we need now is for folks in the Senate to come together and make a collective decision to move these district court judges forward.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the Senator withhold his suggestion of an absence of a quorum?

Mr. CASEY. Yes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, for bringing to the attention of this body the fact that we have not met our constitutional responsibility in the advice and consent of appointments made by the President to the courts.

I think we all understand the challenge on the Supreme Court of the United States, where the failure to hold a hearing on Judge Garland, basically saying the President's term is no longer 4 years but 3 years in an election year, makes no sense at all. We have all been talking about that, but as Senator CASEY pointed out, this is now becoming a matter for our district courts.

Let me share with my colleagues. This past week, I went by the U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, MD, and had a chance to talk with some of the judges who were there. They were telling me there is a serious urgency to fill the vacancies on the Maryland District Court. We have two vacancies on the Maryland District Court. One was appointed by the President in March of last year, Paula Xinis, to fill the vacancy. We have a judicial emergency in Maryland. The President did his job in making the nomination in March of 2015. For reasons I don't quite understand, it took 6 months before the Judiciary Committee reported out that nomination, but they did. They re-

ported it out in September 2015, 6 months later. This is not a controversial appointment. It passed by voice vote out of the Judiciary Committee.

Paula Xinis is well qualified. She has clerked for judges. She has a distinguished record in public service, public interest law as well as in private law. I could go through her full record. I have done it before, but Paula Xinis has now been waiting over a year for consideration.

So I am sort of puzzled. Is the Republican leadership now telling us that the term of a President is no longer 4 years but 2 years for the appointment of district court judges? This is a non-controversial appointment that should have been confirmed well before now and is still on the calendar. As my friend from Pennsylvania pointed out, when we look at the number of actions this Congress has taken on President Obama's appointments—17 confirmations by the Senate—compared to a comparable number in 2008, when the Democrats controlled the Senate and it was in the last 2 years of President Bush's term, 68 nominations were filled in that year.

Currently, we have 20 nominations on the Executive Calendar waiting for action that have been approved by non-controversial votes of the Judiciary Committee. The number of vacancies has increased in these 2 years from 43 to 79.

I know the distinguished leader is on the floor. I am hopeful we will find a way forward so we can act on some of these nominations.

Mr. President, I yield the floor to my colleague from Pennsylvania.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 307, Calendar No. 357, Calendar No. 358, Calendar No. 359, Calendar No. 362, Calendar No. 363, Calendar No. 364, Calendar No. 459, Calendar No. 460, Calendar No. 461, Calendar No. 508; further, that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be made in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as I had noted before we left for recess, the



way to look at these judicial appointments is to talk about apples and apples, not apples and oranges.

At this point in President Bush's 8 years, he had 303 judicial nominations confirmed. President Obama so far has had 324. According to my math, that is 21 more judges confirmed during the 8 years of President Obama to this point than during the 8 years of President Bush to this point.

That said, we are looking to see if we can set up another vote on a judicial nominee, but until that process is complete, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, as I pointed out to my colleagues, the number of vacancies has increased during this term from 43 to 79. We have judicial emergencies in our State and many States around the Nation. So I am going to try a smaller number and see whether we can get agreement on that.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 307, Xinis; Calendar No. 357, Martinotti; Calendar No. 358, Rossiter; Calendar No. 359, Stanton; that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

As I indicated a moment ago, the way to measure a President's success in getting judges confirmed is to compare two Presidencies—President Bush, who was in office for 8 years, and President Obama, who will be in office for 8 years—to this point. At this point, President Obama has received 21 more judicial confirmations than President Bush did to this point. So he has been treated very fairly.

Therefore, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 307, Paula Xinis, nominee for the District of Maryland; that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table

with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, there are today 81 vacancies in our Federal courts, 29 of which are judicial emergencies.

I note, with respect, that the majority leader has compared the number of district court nominees confirmed under the previous President and the current President; but, in my view, what matters most is that there are 29 judicial emergencies in district courts across this country and that there are 20 district court nominees who were voted out of the Judiciary Committee on unanimous voice votes that continue to await action on this floor—the one that I just sought a unanimous consent for, Paula Xinis of the District of Maryland, and 19 others. At this point, 1½ years into this Congress, only 17 judges have been confirmed to district courts in this United States, and last year the Senate matched a record for confirming the fewest in more than half a century—11 for the entire year.

What I am most concerned about is its impact on the operations of the courts of the United States. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I am frustrated and concerned. We have 24 nominees waiting for a hearing in the committee as well; 7 of these nominees are to courts of appeals, including AUSA Rebecca Ross Haywood, who has been nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the appellate court covering my home State of Delaware.

Then, of course, there are ongoing concerns about the vacancy on the Supreme Court. It has been 55 days since President Obama nominated Chief Judge Merrick Garland—a consensus candidate who was previously confirmed to his seat on the DC Circuit by a bipartisan majority of the previous Congress—to our Nation's highest Court.

Last week, a bipartisan group of former Solicitors General—Paul Clement, Todd Olson, and Ken Starr, former SGs who have served in both Republican and Democratic administrations—endorsed Judge Garland as “superbly qualified,” having “demonstrated the temperament, intellect, and experience to serve” on the Supreme Court. I am gravely concerned that we have sunk to a level in terms of the delays in confirmation of qualified judicial nominees to the courts at all levels in our country, that we are

having a significant ongoing and negative impact on the functioning of our courts and access to justice in this country. Sadly, obstruction in this body has allowed too many of our courts to grind to a halt on the important business of our Federal judicial system. I believe it is time we do our jobs. There are vetted, qualified Americans ready, willing, and able to serve in our Nation's justice system. We should embrace their willingness to serve and let them get to work.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, was there a unanimous consent request?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. No further consents are pending. The Senator from Utah.

REMEMBERING ROBERT F. BENNETT

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a man who was truly a giant in my home State of Utah and in this institution, the U.S. Senate.

He was a friend to everyone he met and someone whose life of service to the people of Utah we celebrate. At the same time, we mourn his passing: Senator Robert F. Bennett.

Senator Bennett loved the political arena. Though his heart was always with his family in Utah, he spent many years working on Capitol Hill in both the Senate and the House, and later as a congressional liaison for the Department of Transportation. He also spent many years in business, where his management abilities and his keen mind helped build a successful corporation and earn him awards such as Inc. Magazine's “Entrepreneur of the Year.”

But Senator Bennett's true passion was for sound public policy, for the development of good policy. He cared little about who wrote policy, and he cared even less for who would get the credit for good policy. So long as wise politics were enacted into law, he was happy. That was his objective, and it was a noble one at that.

This was apparent to me after a memorable conversation I had with him in 2010, just a few days before our State's Republican nominating convention, at which we were both candidates. I was in the lobby of a local radio and television station, waiting to go on the air and watching the national news on a large television screen. I don't remember the exact issue that was being discussed, but I remember the general topic, and I will never forget what happened as I watched this broadcast.

Senator Bennett walked into the lobby and, seeing me, simply strolled over to stand next to me. To be honest, I was anticipating the type of understandably awkward interaction that might occur between candidates near the end of a heated political contest. Instead, with his charismatic and characteristic charm and affability, he quickly put me at ease by nodding toward the screen and saying rather diplomatically, “You know, there's a pretty good chance that you will be the

person who has to deal with this issue.”

Having gracefully diffused the situation and diffused any tension that might have otherwise been between us at that moment, he proceeded to share some words of wisdom and personal insights, imparting to me some of the lessons he had learned from his own experience on that matter. It was clear to me that he had not only thought long and hard about it but that he was ultimately less concerned with who addressed the issue, less concerned with who would get credit for fixing the problem, and more concerned with ensuring that the problem was dealt with thoughtfully, wisely, and in a manner most likely to result in a good outcome for the American people. In Senator Bennett's view, there was no such thing as a political opponent; there were only potential political allies.

Although Senator Bennett was a serious statesman, he was also one who did not take himself too seriously. This is one of the many reasons people everywhere were drawn to him. Many Utahns will remember his flair for self-deprecating humor emblazoned on his campaign billboards in 2004. Summarizing Senator Bennett's most distinctive qualities, one billboard read: “Bold. Brilliant. Beanpole.” In a slight variation on the same theme, another one of his billboards read: “Big Heart. Big Ideas. Big Ears.” And perhaps everyone's favorite declared: “Better looking than Abraham Lincoln,” adding parenthetically, “just barely.” In the political arena, where inflated egos loom large, Bob Bennett was a breath of fresh air.

Senator Bennett's command of public policy was legendary. He could speak extemporaneously and at length on everything from the Federal budget, to Utah's changing demographics, to business trends, and he could do so without any notes.

He was a master storyteller, one who had the uncanny ability to entertain and challenge his audience at the same time—the result of a lifetime of learning and profound thinking. He always maintained an open mind, never unwilling to rethink policy issues in light of new information. These qualities are but a few of the reasons he was a trusted colleague, and he was trusted by colleagues on both sides of the aisle of this Chamber.

Although much has been written about his public and his political accomplishments, there was a side to him that does not receive the attention it probably deserves. A day in the life of a U.S. Senator is often stressful and invariably unpredictable. Under such circumstances, the likelihood of error is high, and as one of his staffers once told me, “There were plenty of times that scheduling mistakes were made, and anger at us”—the staff—“certainly would have been justified.” But these

same staffers also said that in 18 years in the U.S. Senate, they never saw Bob Bennett get angry or even so much as raise his voice at any of his staff members. He was always kind, patient, and understanding with them, and they were committed and loyal to him in return. I am convinced that one of the reasons so many Members of the Senate trusted Bob Bennett so completely was that they saw how his own staff treated him and how he returned that trust.

I have been the beneficiary of the staff that he built. Some of my very best staffers were those whom I hired from Senator Bennett's office, who not only helped me get my office up and running but helped keep it running efficiently and effectively as the trained professionals they were, having been mentored by one of the greats of this institution.

Senator Bennett was a man of the utmost integrity and was the same calm, deliberate, and thoughtful person whether speaking in public or speaking to close confidants. At 6 feet 6 inches, he towered over most people, but that didn't prevent him from meeting people where they were, treating everyone with dignity and respect, and exhibiting true understanding and true compassion for all with whom he interacted.

Whether he was talking with ranchers in Iron County or consulting a grieving parent visiting him in his Salt Lake office or debating the Chairman of the Federal Reserve during a Banking Committee hearing, Bob Bennett treated everyone the same—with kindness, respect, and concern.

He often quoted President Reagan's famous aphorism that “there is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit.” But Senator Bennett didn't just recite those words; he lived them. They were part of who he was and what he did.

On more than one occasion, he worked for months on end to craft a legislative solution to a difficult issue, only to discover at the last moment that the price of its passage would be to give all the credit to someone else. Because his objective was—first and foremost—to make sure the right thing was done, this was a price Senator Bennett was always willing to pay. This was an obstacle from which he never shied away. This was something that never deterred him from doing the right thing.

Since the election of 2010, I have been asked countless times about my relationship with Senator Bennett. My answer invariably reminds me of the great privilege it is to serve the State of Utah in his seat. Our conversations were always meaningful and focused on innovative approaches to dealing with difficult and important policy issues. A consummate statesman and a classic

gentleman, he always made clear to me that good policy is always good politics in the end.

Senator Bennett's achievements were numerous, and he will be remembered for his tremendous impact on the State of Utah. However, I am certain that if he were to make a list of his greatest accomplishments, it would likely say nothing about his business successes or his political endeavors. Rather, it would focus entirely on his family—on his dear wife Joyce, the 6 children they raised together, and on their 20 grandchildren.

Senator Bennett truly was, in every way, a giant. He was a man of integrity, a man whose word was truly his bond, and a man who left both the State of Utah and his country better than he found them. He was a man who had a firm and unwavering commitment to his faith in God and was true to that faith until the very end.

It is my hope and prayer that Senator Bennett's wife Joyce, his children, and his grandchildren are comforted at this difficult time, knowing that our State and our country are forever grateful for their husband, father, and grandfather's exemplary life of service.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD).** The majority whip.

**Mr. CORNYN.** Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague from Utah for his generous remarks about our friend, Senator Bob Bennett. I had the opportunity to serve with Senator Bennett for a number of years. Those of us who are of a certain age, who were raised in the Star Wars period—sometimes I think about Bob Bennett as the Jedi Master, the Obi-Wan Kenobi, one of the wise men of the Senate whom it has been my pleasure to come to know and learn from. Certainly, we will miss him. We send our very best wishes and condolences to Joyce and their entire family, along with 20 grandchildren. It is a huge, wonderful family of which I know he was very, very proud.

**WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SENATE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH REFORM**

**Mr. President,** I want to talk a little bit about the Senate's work and what we have been able to do and what we still have to do. In the past we knew there had been an experiment, principally under the leadership of the former majority leader, now the minority leader, Senator REID, of basically not allowing the Senate to function and not allowing Senators, including Members of the majority party, to offer amendments, lest people be forced to vote on things they later would be held accountable for by the voters. What a concept that is.

In fact, we have seen a different approach at work under the leadership of Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate majority leader in the 114th Congress, over the last, roughly, year and a half. It is one where everyone gets to participate,

and when people have a better idea, they are allowed to offer that by way of an amendment and constructive proposal to improve legislation and to try to do what they can to build consensus, to get legislation passed in the Senate and the House, and get it on the President's desk. We are going to have differences. Of course we are. But it is important that we try and that we not just come here to make speeches and vote no on everything, but we actually try to find some way of getting to yes, particularly where it doesn't violate our principles and where we are able to make incremental progress on the work we have been sent to do.

Fortunately, we have seen the Senate get back to work. We just recently passed important legislation, such as the Energy Policy Modernization Act—a bill that will update our country's energy policies. This follows on the heels of a vote late last year where we lifted the antiquated ban on crude oil exports. It is something to give our domestic producers access to global prices for their products, something that encourages domestic production and helps us become less dependent on foreign imports and helps us help our friends and allies around the world who are sometimes dependent for their source of energy on some pretty unsavory characters who can cut it off, using energy as a weapon. But, particularly, it is important in terms of getting Americans back to work.

While the unemployment rate continues to tick down to roughly about 5 percent, the untold story is the percentage of people actually participating in the workforce is at a 30-year low, and people have, unfortunately, given up looking for work in too many instances, making that 5-percent unemployment statistic a little bit misleading. We learned again last week, I think it was, that our economy grew at 0.5 percent.

I remember when we used to talk around here about the economy growing at 4 percent or 3 percent, at least. In other words, as population increases, the only way more jobs get created is for our economy to continue to grow. There are not a lot of problems that America has that couldn't be made better by a growing economy. Unfortunately, we have seen the negative consequences of some of the policies, particularly of the executive branch when it comes to regulation, which have made that very difficult. We have been making some progress in the Energy Policy Modernization Act as part of that. It has passed consumer-friendly legislation that will help people get access to energy help and provide the incentives for them to conserve.

We have also done things such as pass a reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Act, the FAA. That may not seem like a big deal unless, of course,

you fly in an airplane and care about safety. The legislation we passed—I think the Senate has done that—has helped regulate the growing number of remotely run aircraft or drones to make sure those don't conflict with passenger planes, so those will be safer. That is just another example.

We have also passed important legislation to deal with this prescription drug abuse crisis. Many call it the opioid abuse crisis, which happens too often. When people can't get access to the addictive prescription painkilling drugs they have been prescribed, they turn to the cheaper forms of addictive drugs such as heroin. We were able to pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act back in March, and I know the House of Representatives—I believe this week—is taking up this same legislation. My hope is that we can continue to work together to bring relief to those struggling with addictions and to help save those who would otherwise suffer from a fatal overdose of drugs. We still have a lot of work ahead of us.

We started the appropriations process last month, which I know has been an enormous frustration to a lot of people. I remember all too clearly, as the Presiding Officer does, the alternative, which was doing it in a 12-step process. The regular appropriations process was to do an omnibus appropriations bill at the end of the year, which is a lousy way of doing business. We would have one bill that would spend roughly \$1 trillion. That process lacked the transparency and accountability that necessarily goes into a step-by-step process, where we move 12 separate appropriation bills across the floor. We all said we wanted to do this. This basic work is done by the legislature so we can pay the bills according to the limits we have agreed upon in terms of spending, but we keep running into roadblocks.

Last night we had a vote to try to get back on the Water and Energy appropriations bill. The obstacle appears to be that our friends on the other side of the aisle don't want to vote on the germane amendment that was offered by the Senator from Arkansas. As a result of their objections to proceeding in the normal way to consider germane amendments like that one, the fact is, the majority leader had to file for cloture on that bill in order to guarantee that there will be a vote on that amendment. Hopefully, once that is resolved, we will get back on final passage of that appropriations bill and then move on to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. After that, I believe the plan is to move on to the VA-Military Construction appropriations bill. In other words, it is not fancy work, but it is our work, and it is something we should be doing in a transparent and methodical sort of way.

These bills actually represent the fundamentals of legislating—the sort of blocking and tackling. They include resources to fund our military, which is something we all say we are for. We need to keep our commitments to our veterans, which is a sacred obligation, and we need to help provide the necessary infrastructure across our country. We need to keep the folks who serve our country in diplomatic posts abroad and those who protect our borders here at home safe. I hope we can grind our way through this so we can take up and pass all 12 appropriations bills. The people who have elected us deserve that and not some end-of-the-year mad dash to the finish line, where everybody comes away pretty much dissatisfied by the process.

Beyond the appropriations process, I also want to point out some important work being done at the committee level in the Senate. I serve on the Judiciary Committee under the leadership of Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY from Iowa. At the end of April, I was proud to join a number of my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to announce major proposals to reform our criminal justice system. Back when I went to law school, more years ago than I would like to recount, we were told the criminal law was supposed to be used to punish people who violated the law, to deter others who might be tempted to commit crimes in the future, and to rehabilitate people who made a mistake and ended up in prison. My experience and observation has been we have largely forgotten the rehabilitation process.

Beginning in 2007, in Texas and other States, we began to provide incentives for low-risk offenders who were in prison who, if given the opportunity, would begin the process of turning their lives around. They might be dealing with a drug or alcohol addiction or an education deficit, such as the fellow I heard about when I was in a prison in East Texas recently. The shop teacher at that prison said: I have guys in my shop class in this prison who can't even read a ruler. How in the world are they supposed to get a job on the outside? How in the world are they supposed to turn their lives around once they get out of prison? We simply seem to forget that people who are in prison will usually get out of prison, and the only question is: How well equipped will they be to work in civil society and to hopefully turn their lives around and become productive members of society.

I am not naive enough to say or to think that everyone will take advantage of those opportunities, but we know that many will take advantage of those opportunities. That is not just conjecture, that is based on the experience of States like Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina.

As former attorney general and longtime Federal district judge in New

York, Michael Mukasey, said: The gold standard in terms of criminal justice reform is the crime rate. I know there has been some discussion about the incarceration rate, and some people want to talk about other things, but he said the real question has to do with the crime rate. If the crime rate is going down, you are doing something right. If the crime rate is going up, you are doing something wrong. The good news is the crime rates in places like Texas have gone down as a result of some of these programs which help to prepare those who are willing to take and accept this help so they can turn their lives around. It has also helped us deal with the ballooning prison system cost. Indeed, in Texas alone we have been able to shut down three prisons as a result of reducing the population, slowing down and in many cases eliminating this turnstile, where people go to prison, get out, commit other crimes, and end up right back in prison again. This is an example of criminal justice reform which I know the President is for.

There is another component of sentencing reform which I think very sensibly deals with some of the mandatory prison sentences that were passed many years ago with the best intentions but some of which have really overshot the mark. The most important element, when it comes to a criminal sentence, is the certainty of the sentence, not the length of the sentence. Again, Judge Mukasey, former Attorney General of the United States said: Many times people who commit crimes have impulse-control problems, and they are not thinking about what is going to happen to them 25 years from now or 50 years from now. They are thinking about what will happen to them next week, today, or later tomorrow. So I believe the certainty of punishment is a more important consideration than the length of the punishment.

It may make some people feel good to say we are going to put somebody away for the rest of their lives, and in some instances that is the appropriate punishment, but when it involves a nonviolent offense and they are stacking mandatory sentences in a way that is disproportionate to the offense that was committed, I think it is appropriate to consider changing the mandatory minimum sentencing.

We also created a safety valve. Nobody who is currently in prison gets the benefit of the changes in the mandatory minimum sentences without appearing in front of the same Federal district judge who sentenced that person to prison in the first place. That Federal district judge will be able to not only consider the circumstances of the crime but the postconviction and postincarceration conduct as well as the comments and input of any victims of the crime. This way they can deter-

mine—based on all of the circumstances—whether you ought to be given the benefit of that reduced mandatory minimum sentence. It is not a get-out-of-jail-free card. It gives that person a right to be considered by a Federal district judge as long as it does not involve a serious crime as defined by Federal law. We categorically excluded that to make sure this is focused primarily on nonviolent offenders, those who are least likely to put the community at risk.

There is one other area that I think we have an opportunity to work on and perhaps succeed with because there seems to be no real objection to the idea; that is, how to deal with people who have mental illness in our society. Back in the old days, people with mental illness used to be put in institutions. They were basically locked up and the key was thrown away. Well, we know that didn't work very well. It was basically warehousing people with mental illness. Someone had the idea to deinstitutionalize those with mental illness. That way they would get to live in the community and would then receive the sort of followup help, assistance, and care they needed in order to maximize their potential, whatever it might be. It was good in theory, but after the deinstitutionalization took place, people ended up living in the streets—the homeless whom all of us see. They are obviously mentally ill, but they live on the streets or end up in our criminal justice system because they are not getting the treatment that might help them to become more adaptive and productive.

I told this story before, and I will repeat it briefly now. I have a friend who is the sheriff of Bexar County, in San Antonio, TX. While at a meeting recently here in Washington, DC, he said: How would you like to meet the largest mental health provider in America. I said: Sure. She said: Let me introduce you to the sheriff of Los Angeles County. In other words, the person who runs the LA County jail. In addition to the homeless who are living on our streets or crowding our emergency rooms with a variety of illnesses—real and imagined—a large number of people end up in our jails.

Thanks to great innovative programs like that in Bexar County, San Antonio, TX, and as a result of what Sheriff Pamerleau and others have done, we began to address the problem at its root and are making sure that people who need help are not just warehoused in jail but are actually diverted to a treatment facility. I have introduced legislation which I think might help the situation, and that is called the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act. The fact is, Adam Lanza's mother—Adam Lanza was the shooter at Sandy Hook who stole his mother's gun, killed his own mother, and then went on to murder those poor, innocent

children at Sandy Hook Elementary School—basically had two choices: One is she could seek an involuntary, temporary commitment to a mental institution, after which he gets out, he is angry at her, their relationship deteriorates even more, and she has nowhere else to turn or we could have a mechanism where she could go to a civil court and ask a judge to enter a court order requiring her son to undergo outpatient treatment, to make sure he saw a psychologist or mental health professional and was actually compliant with the doctor's orders in terms of taking his medication.

One of the biggest problems in the mental health area is that people will simply start to feel better and then quit taking their medicine. As a result, they end up becoming sicker and sicker and sicker. In Adam Lanza's case—because his mother really didn't have any mechanism to make him comply with his doctor's order to take his medication—he basically became more and more mentally ill until this tragedy occurred. I am not saying this would have necessarily prevented that tragedy, but I think it would provide another tool that loved ones can use, and I believe need, when a member of their family suffers from symptoms of mental illness and simply refuses to deal with it and comply with their doctor's orders.

This month is actually National Mental Health Awareness Month, and it is an appropriate time for us to talk not only about the solution—or at least something that will improve the status quo, when it comes to mental illness in our country—but it is also a time to educate people about mental health issues and to highlight ongoing efforts and to support those who are struggling.

I dare to say that there is not a single family in America that is not affected by this problem or, perhaps, if it is not an immediate family member, then it is somebody they know or somebody with whom they live in the community. So we have a lot of work to do.

Criminal justice reform and mental health reform are two issues that are absolutely the opposite of partisan; they are nonpartisan issues. There are issues where people have different points of view, and that is fine. Let's see where we can build consensus and what things we may have to leave for future legislation. The basic point is that, even though the media is obsessed with what is happening in the Presidential race and the primaries on both sides, we have been able to continue to do the people's work here. There is a lot to be done, and, frankly, there is a lot more that we can do. But we have an opportunity to build on nearly a year and a half of a strong bipartisan record of accomplishment, one that has benefitted both those in the

majority and the minority. Frankly, the focus shouldn't be on us—on who is up and who is down—but on what we are able to do together to pass legislation that helps the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we all know that the Obama administration's 8 years in office is beginning to wind down. As it does, as is natural for a President ending his time in office, the President and the members of his team are starting to focus on their legacy and on how they want to be remembered.

Now with regard to this administration's policies in the Middle East, unfortunately for them, the legacy and narrative that is beginning to take hold is one of not leveling with the American people—not one of honesty. That should concern all of us—all of us in this body, whether Democrats or Republicans.

When the President of the United States is in open disagreement with the Secretary of Defense and with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on one of the most critical issues our Nation faces—whether to send our sons and daughters into combat—it should be cause for significant concern for all of us in this body and across the country.

President Obama has repeatedly told the American people that U.S. troops in the Middle East are not in combat. In 2010, he announced that we were “ending our combat mission in Iraq,” and in 2014, he used the same words to talk about Afghanistan. More recently, he said that our mission in Syria “will not involve American combat troops fighting on foreign soil.”

Yet, just less than 2 weeks ago, in a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, when Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dunford, were asked if our troops in the Middle East, Syria, and Iraq are engaged in combat, these two senior U.S. officials unequivocally said: Yes, they are. To the members of our military serving overseas, particularly in the Middle East, Secretary Carter and General Dunford were stating the obvious. Indeed, there have been recent news reports in the Washington Post and in the Military Times that describe up to 200 Marines at a place called Fire Base Bell in northern Iraq, firing artillery missions on a daily basis in support of

Iraqi troops in order to kill ISIS terrorists. Our soldiers serving in the Middle East as part of the Joint Special Operations Command conduct regular counterterrorism missions to kill and capture terrorists in the Middle East. Of course, we see on a daily basis our brave pilots from all the different services, who have dropped approximately 40,000 bombs in Iraq and Syria in close air support missions, focused on destroying and killing ISIS members and their infrastructure and their logistics bases.

Since 2014, almost 1,200 bombs and close air support missions have been conducted in Afghanistan. Just yesterday, we were informed of a successful strike—again, a coalition strike with fighter aircraft—that killed three ISIS leaders.

These missions have entailed risk. Some of the members of our military have been killed and others have been wounded, but there is no doubt that all of what I have just described is the very definition of combat. The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have both stated this.

Indeed, in a lead editorial in the Military Times on Friday entitled “It's a combat mission, Mr. President,” the editorial concluded by saying:

When U.S. and allied troops are on Islamic State turf with the mission of wiping it from existence, they are on a combat mission. Calling it anything else is wrong.

To Secretary Carter's credit, at a hearing last week, he agreed and stated unequivocally that “these [members of our military] are in combat . . . and I think we need to say that clearly.”

This is the Secretary of Defense. Well, apparently the White House didn't get the memo. Last week, when asked about a very brave Navy SEAL who unfortunately was killed in a fierce firefight involving U.S. Special Operations forces, Kurdish commandos, and Islamic State fighters, White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters that “the relatively small number of U.S. servicemembers that are involved in these operations are not in combat but are in a dangerous place.” That is the White House—“relatively small” and “not in combat.”

Why does President Obama and his White House continue to peddle the fiction that U.S. forces are not engaged in combat? That is a really important question that we need to be asking. Why? The whole world knows that we are. Why are they peddling this fiction to the American people?

Perhaps the Commander in Chief is truly unaware that our military forces are in combat, and there are hundreds of them that are. If that is the case, that would be very troubling indeed. What is more likely is that the President has told the American people repeatedly that he will end wars and won't send combat troops to the Middle

East, and so the word contortions coming from the White House are part of the twisted attempt to salvage and protect the President's legacy. But by spinning the truth for political purposes, the President is coming perilously close to leaving a legacy of dishonesty when it comes to our military involvement in the Middle East.

Much more worrisome, this dishonesty comes with a cost. First and foremost, it diminishes the service and sacrifice of our troops and their families. Again, in the Military Times editorial on this very topic, on Friday it stated:

Calling it a training mission [in the Middle East] is cold comfort to the parents, spouses and children of the deployed troops. . . . The more the White House insists these troops are not part of a combat mission, the more distrust it breeds in the ranks [of our military] and among the public. It's viewed as the sort of condescending semantics Washington plays to deny the obvious. That can only serve to erode support for the [important] mission.

Americans serving in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan know that they are in combat. The Commander in Chief needs to acknowledge this fact and the bravery it entails and not disguise the true nature of their duty.

Second, the costs that come with this dishonesty is that it further undermines the administration's very tenuous foreign policy credibility regarding its stated goal of degrading and destroying ISIS. While this is the correct goal, a series of missteps in the Middle East, including the President's failure to enforce his own redline when it was crossed by Bashar al-Assad in Syria has brought us to the point where our adversaries and our allies question U.S. credibility and resolve. Islamic State terrorists know that they are in combat against American forces. They see it every day. But when the President says otherwise, it signals a lack of conviction, making it harder for us to defeat these terrorists.

Third, this dishonesty about the role of our troops allows Presidential candidates to duck a tough issue. For example, Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has repeatedly said—unchallenged by anyone, including in the media—that she would continue the President's policies of not sending combat troops to Syria and Iraq. But the President is sending combat troops to Syria and Iraq.

Finally, and more broadly, by playing fast and loose with the facts about our policies in the Middle East, the Obama administration is making it harder to gain congressional support for its policy. I strongly believe that when the executive branch and the legislative branch on national security and foreign policy issues are in agreement and working together, that is when we are strongest as a country. I have been critical of this administration's policies in certain areas and supportive in others. If Congress feels like

the administration is being played and the American public is not getting the courtesy of the truth, support in this body for these important policies will crumble.

We saw an extreme example of this over the weekend in a remarkable New York Times Magazine piece about the President's Deputy National Security Advisor, who is credited with selling the Iran nuclear deal to Congress and the American people. We see line after line in a very lengthy article about not leveling with the American people on that deal, which we debated here on the Senate floor.

Let me give you a couple of quotes from that article. One is just how they sold the deal. Now I am quoting the article.

The way in which most Americans have heard the story of the Iran deal presented—that the Obama administration began seriously engaging with Iranian officials in 2013 in order to take advantage of a new political reality in Iran, which came about in 2013 because of elections that brought moderates to power in that country—was largely manufactured [by the White House] for the purpose of selling the deal.

So here we have White House officials saying they manufactured a story to sell the nuclear deal to the Congress and the American people.

Another quote talked about a speech the President gave on the deal—a very important speech—and it says:

While the President's statement and speech was technically accurate—

This is about the timing of the negotiations—

it was also actively misleading.

So again a top White House official is pretty much admitting that he was fabricating a narrative to get the American people and the Congress of the United States to “sell” and “buy off” on the Iran deal.

You know, reading this article, one gets the sense that to some of the people in the White House, this is all a game. Facts don't matter, but cleverness does. The quotes in the article from young White House officials are almost gleeful when they recount how they sold the nuclear deal to “clueless reporters”—any of the press listening, I hope you like that adjective—and Members of Congress and how the White House created an “echo chamber” and were the puppet masters, literally putting words in the mouths of Members of Congress and reporters to sell this deal.

My colleagues should read this article. Again, it is like a game. But, of course, this is not a game. All of this—American troops in combat, whether the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism should obtain a nuclear weapon—this is not a game. This is a deadly serious reality.

I was reminded of this serious reality this past week when I spent much of my recess with the assessment and se-

lection team of the Marine Corps' Special Operations Command. It wasn't clever 30-somethings with fine arts degrees out in the field, working on little sleep, but 20-somethings of all backgrounds, from every corner of America, going through some of the most rigorous military training possible. Some of these young marines will make the cut for Special Operations Command and others won't, but all are striving for the honor of defending their Nation during challenging times. No doubt in due time many will be heading to the Middle East and other parts of the world, doing their duty to keep us safe.

The Obama administration owes these brave young Americans the truth, not spin. The Obama administration owes Congress the truth, not spin. The Obama administration certainly owes the American people the truth, not spin. The sooner the President and his White House start leveling with the American people about our roles and our policies in the Middle East, the better it will be for all of us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, before I give my intended remarks and while the Senator from Alaska is still on the floor, let me just share with him—although I probably would not have used some of the pejorative terms, let me agree with him that this distinction that has been made between combat troops and noncombat troops in the Middle East is ridiculous.

We need a more fulsome discussion on the floor of the Senate as to the scope of our deployment there. We just heard evidence last week that we have U.S. troops on the ground in Yemen in addition to Iraq and Syria. Frankly, the appropriate forum to have that discussion is a debate on an authorization of the use of military force to fight our enemies in the region.

So, while I might not share the way in which the sentiments were expressed, I think that this conversation about brave men and women—American soldiers—putting their lives on the line as we speak in the Middle East is as important as it gets. The fact that we are not having a broader discussion about this is deeply problematic. So I thank the Senator for raising the issue. I hope it is something on which we can come together as we provide legal cover and perhaps restrictions on the use of force in the region. So I thank the Senator for bringing up this important subject.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. President, I am here today to talk about the 21,000 people a year, 2,600 a month, 86 a day—these are rough numbers—who are killed by guns all across the country. A lot of the kids who grow up in neighborhoods like the North End of Hartford or the East End of Bridgeport—it feels like a war zone

because they fear for their life every day as they are walking to school. The levels of PTSD—when virtually every one of these kids knows someone very close to them who has been shot, it rivals the diagnoses that come back from war zones abroad.

Today, in my campaign to try to bring the voices of victims to the floor of the Senate, I want to talk about one aspect of this epidemic that is all across the country; that is, the epidemic of young children being killed accidentally by guns. The numbers are really hard to believe, that in this country, in any one given year, there are somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 children and teens who die from guns in the United States. That does not even count all of the kids who suffer nonfatal gun injuries; in 2010, the official number was about 18,000. There is a lot of reporting that suggests that the numbers we know are dramatically lower than what the actual numbers are, that there are a lot of injuries that happen in the home because of guns that are not reported as part of the official statistics.

Here are just a handful of headlines from recent papers, including this New York Times headline: “One Week in April, Four Toddlers Shot and Killed Themselves.”

On average, last year, in 2015, people were getting shot by toddlers on a weekly basis. I think it is time that we start talking about this epidemic of young kids—as young as 1 or 2 years old—getting their hands on weapons and either killing themselves or killing their parents or their brothers or their sisters and that we start talking about the fact that this is not happening anywhere else in the world.

Here are the rates of gun deaths per 100,000—this is children and teens. We are going to take high-income countries. I mean, it is not close. Canada, our neighbor, is the next highest with 0.75 per 100,000, but 3.24 children and teens die from gun homicides, gun deaths—accidental, intentional—every year. Other countries barely register. There is nothing unique about the nature of American children that explains this away. The only thing that can explain this is the large number of unsafe weapons that are available to children. So I want to talk for a little bit today about what is happening out there.

Here is the broader number. On average, every day 46 people are shot or killed by accident with a gun. In 2015 there were at least 278 unintentional shootings at the hands of young children and teenagers. So these are young kids and teenagers unintentionally firing a weapon. We know there are at least 278. The New York Times found that unintentional shootings occurred roughly twice as often as the records indicate because of idiosyncrasies in terms of how such deaths from accidental shootings are classified.

We know there are about 1.7 million children and youth under the age of 18 who are living in homes with loaded and unlocked firearms. Some 1.7 million kids are in homes with loaded and unlocked firearms. A Harvard survey showed that children who live in gun-owning households, by a rate of 70 percent—these are kids under the age of 10—70 percent of kids under the age of 10 who live in households that have a gun knew where their parents stored the guns, even when they were hidden, and 36 percent of those kids under 10 years old reported that they themselves had handled the weapons. One out of three kids under 10 had found the weapon and had handled the gun. One analysis found that 70 percent of unintentional child deaths from firearms could have been prevented if that firearm had simply been stored, locked, or unloaded.

So this is a part of the story of gun violence in this country that does not often get talked about, but given this one horrific week we had in April, maybe we can have a conversation about what we can do to try to reduce the number of accidental shootings that happen at the hands of little kids. My goal in these speeches is to tell you who these victims are, so, as hard as it is, let me tell you a little bit about some of the children who passed away in this week during April.

Holston Cole was a 3-year-old from Dallas, GA, who shot himself with his father's loaded gun on April 26. The gun, according to his father, was located in a backpack. Holston removed it from the backpack and then accidentally fired the weapon. Autopsy results confirmed that the shot was both accidental and self-inflicted. After the gun fired, Holston's father called 9-1-1. I wouldn't recommend that you listen to the recording. You will hear the father wailing: "No, no! Stay with me, Holston. Can you hear me? Daddy loves you. Holston. Holston, please. Please."

This was a kid who was full of energy from morning until night, as his relatives described. His pastor, who officiated Holston's funeral, remembered Holston as a boy who loved superheroes and sometimes wrestled cardboard boxes. He loved to play in small, inflatable bouncy castles whenever he could.

Sha'Quille Kornegay was 2 years old when, on April 21, in Kansas City, MO, she died after accidentally shooting herself in the head with her father's gun. She had been taking a nap with her father when she found the gun under a pillow on the bed, where her father generally kept it. Her father woke up from the nap to Sha'Quille by his bed bleeding and crying, the gun at her feet. Sha'Quille's mother was devastated by her daughter's loss and noted that the daughter's first word was "daddy." She was buried in a pink coffin, her favorite doll by her side and a tiara strategically placed to hide the

self-inflicted gunshot wound to her forehead.

Finally, and I promise I will stop, Kiyon Shelton, 2 years old, same week, Indianapolis, IN, shot and killed himself with a handgun that he found in his mother's purse. She had briefly stepped away when the toddler climbed on to the kitchen counter and reached for his mother's purse, where her cell phone was ringing, and he found the weapon. He fired the weapon, and he was wounded in his shoulder. In critical condition, he was quickly taken to a nearby hospital, but he died shortly thereafter.

A neighbor who lived across the street remembered that Kiyon had just learned how to ride a bicycle. He was out on his little bike with training wheels. Everybody knew his mother used to keep watch of the stray dogs in the neighborhood, trying to keep her son safe. He was 2 years old. He died because he was reaching for a ringing cell phone in his mom's bag and shot himself.

There is a way to solve this. I know we are not supposed to have props on the floor, but this is a cell phone. It opens and closes based on my fingerprint. There is technology ready and available to make sure that a weapon can only be fired by the owner of that weapon. Yet there is a pretty open conspiracy in the gun industry today to prevent that technology from becoming available to consumers. Smith & Wesson tried. They tried to develop a smart weapon, but they were boycotted. They were boycotted by the rest of the gun industry. When retailers have tried to sell smart guns in their stores, they have faced boycotts regularly and in some cases even threats of physical violence.

It doesn't make sense to most people. Why on Earth would the gun industry not want—or the gun lobby not want safe guns to be an option, to be available? From what I understand, it is rooted in a law that was passed a decade ago by New Jersey that says if smart-gun technology is developed, it will be mandatory. First, that is one State's law, so there is no national conspiracy to mandate that every single gun be a smart gun. But let's play this out. Let's say that technology was developed so that you could ensure that no gun could be fired if it wasn't fired by you or another authorized user of the gun. I think it would be logical for us to have a conversation as to whether that should be mandatory. Maybe we won't develop technology that is fail-safe enough. Maybe it will always make sense to have that as an option. But when we figured out how to make cars safer, we required that technology to be built in as a part of the car.

I don't think we are to the point where we could discuss making that technology mandatory on guns, but I

wouldn't suggest that it should be something we should rule out. To the extent that a retailer or a gunmaker wants to invest in understanding how to make a gun more fail-safe, how to build in this kind of technology—whether it be your fingerprint or other biometrics, other guns connected to a wristband that you may wear—they should be able to sell those. They should be able to make them without facing reprisals from the rest of the gun lobby and the gun industry.

Shouldn't we try to do something to prevent these deaths, one every week last year? That is just people who were shot by toddlers, in addition to the dozens more children who accidentally injured or killed themselves with a weapon.

I struggle to try to figure out the ways in which we can come together on this issue. I certainly understand there are difficult compromises on issues like the prohibition of certain weapons. But smart-gun technology is something on which we should be able to come together.

The President has taken steps on his own. He has started a process by which Federal agencies would help to stimulate research in smart-gun technology, maybe with the goal of a pilot program being developed at a law enforcement agency to try to buy some of these weapons. The President has taken steps on his own, but we could do something together, and we should because it is only a problem here. It is not a problem anywhere else. To me, that has to tell us that we are doing it wrong and that there is something more we can do so that this reality—that U.S. children and teens are 17 times more likely to die from a gun than children in the 25 other high-income countries combined—isn't a reality for much longer. If there is anything we could do to stop there from being another Kiyon, another Sha'Quille, and another Holston, we should do it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I rise for the 136th time in my series of speeches on the continuing threat of global climate change. Real science—the peer-reviewed kind—continues to prove the established connection between carbon pollution and the

startling changes we see in our climate and oceans, changes that are so profound that we will leave to our children and grandchildren a world very different from the one we knew growing up. Nonetheless, powerful fossil fuel interests still willfully spread disinformation about climate science. There are obvious similarities between the fossil fuel industry's denial of its products' climate effects and the tobacco industry's denial of its products' health effects. These similarities are sufficient that a proper inquiry should be made about pursuing a civil lawsuit like the one the Justice Department brought and won against Big Tobacco.

I have made that suggestion and, wow, did that set off an outburst. The rightwing climate denial outfits and the fossil fuel industry mouthpieces went into high gear. I think there were about 100 spontaneous reactions to my Washington Post op-ed and to a related question that I asked Attorney General Lynch. This outburst was interesting. There was usually only a degree or two of separation between the outlets and mouthpieces engaged in this outburst and the fossil fuel industry. Most of the arguments were the same, with the same telling falsehoods, omissions, and oversights. Among these misstatements, various outlets said that the aim of any such investigation would be to "silence climate dissidents" and squelch "independent thought"; indeed, that such an inquiry would be "an affront to the scientific method." Any investigation of fraud would be an attack on science.

Well, maybe if most of your science is fraud, you see things that way, but the charge is just not true in any ordinary sense of the words involved. And the language was nearly hysterical. I was the Grand Inquisitor Torquemada and mighty ExxonMobil was lonely Galileo; the State attorneys general were involved in a "Soviet-style investigation" and "gangster government." Oh, it was big talk indeed.

It does raise this question: If the Wall Street Journal editorial page and the other fossil fuel industry mouthpieces were such resolute guardians of the scientific method, where were they when actual peer-reviewed climate scientists were investigated and harassed and bullied for doing their jobs? We took a look, and here is what you see from the mouthpieces: possible civil investigation of the fossil fuel industry, massive indignation, actual investigations of legitimate climate scientists, silent equanimity.

Here is some of the history. This February, the chairman of the House Science Committee issued a government subpoena to NOAA Administrator Kathy Sullivan, seeking to investigate NOAA scientists' deliberative materials. And this was not the first time. The chairman issued a previous government subpoena against NOAA sci-

entists after the journal *Science* published a NOAA report debunking the fossil-fuel-funded climate deniers' contention that global warming had paused. So the junior Senator from Rhode Island mentions a possible inquiry into fossil fuel industry fraud, and industry mouthpieces go ape. The committee chairman actually issues subpoenas against scientists and not a peep.

In 2005, the former chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee thought to investigate the personal emails of a climate scientist after he published a study showing the rapid increase in global temperatures. This investigative effort was so rank that even fellow Republicans objected. Sherwood Boehlert, then a Republican Congressman from New York, expressed his "strenuous objections" to the chairman's "misguided and illegitimate investigation." Even with that public warning of a misguided and illegitimate investigation against scientists, there was not a peep from the mouthpieces.

In 2010, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli of Virginia launched an investigation against a University of Virginia faculty member—a climate scientist, of course. The Attorney General served the University of Virginia with a series of civil investigative demands to produce documents related to the work of the offending UVA faculty member. Well, to its credit, UVA refused, and won a multiyear legal battle with the Attorney General that went all the way to the Virginia Supreme Court.

Again, attorneys general consider investigating the fossil fuel industry, and all the mouthpieces go ape. An actual attorney general harasses an actual climate scientist to the point where the university has to send its lawyers to defend him, and from the mouthpieces, there was not a peep through all those years of litigation.

In 2011, as the Cuccinelli investigation was underway, an oil industry front group called the American Tradition Institute, which is now known as the Energy & Environment Legal Institute, doubled down and sought identical materials from UVA through a Freedom of Information Act request. Again, UVA objected, and in 2014 the Supreme Court of Virginia unanimously threw that out, too, based on, quoting an earlier Virginia circuit court ruling in the case, "the concept of academic freedom . . . and the interest in protecting research."

So you suggest an investigation of the industry, and the denial apparatus goes ape. But here an industry front group actually went out to investigate climate scientists in a way that caused the Supreme Court of Virginia to call in the concept of academic freedom against them. And they are still at it. Despite the UVA loss in court, the En-

ergy & Environment Legal Institute has since filed FOIA requests against scientists at NASA, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, the University of Delaware, and the University of Arizona. That is some double standard.

In 2009, a hacker stole more than 1,000 emails and 3,000 other documents from climate scientists at the University of East Anglia in Britain who were working on a United Nations report on climate change. Naturally, the climate denial apparatus went to work to select passages from the emails to assert that the climate scientists manipulated data. This turned out after multiple—yes—investigations to be false. Six official investigations ensued, clearing everyone of any wrongdoing: a three-part Penn State University investigation, two separate reviews commissioned by the University of East Anglia, a United Kingdom Parliamentary report, an investigation by the NOAA inspector general's office, and an investigation by the National Science Foundation's inspector general's office.

Throughout all of these investigations of the climate scientists, was there a peep of concern out of these mouthpieces about investigative intrusion on science? Nope.

Here in this Chamber, a Senator, then the ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, our senior Senator from Oklahoma, publicly called for a criminal investigation into American and British scientists who had worked on the U.N. report or had communications with the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit. The Senator claimed that scientific data "was contrived and fabricated" and that "in an attempt to conceal the manipulation of climate data, information disclosure laws may have been violated." He even named 17 key players in the controversy, including—wouldn't you know it—that UVA scientist who had been the subject of harassment by the attorney general. His staff report suggested that the scientists violated fundamental ethical principles and "may have violated Federal law." He called scientists at the Climate Research Unit "scientists who commit crimes."

Wow. There you go—a Senator calling for criminal investigation of actual climate scientists. That must have set these mouthpieces squawking about the intrusion of investigation into science; right? Well, actually, no. Again, there was not a peep of concern.

Mr. President, climate science constantly finds itself in the crosshairs of a climate denial apparatus that has an ugly side. InsideClimate News reports climate scientists often face death threats, vituperation, claims of fraud, and other forms of intimidation. And science is starting to look at that denial apparatus. Sound, peer-reviewed



academic work shows how a carefully built apparatus of disinformation has been misleading the public and policymakers about the risks of carbon. That is scientific work. Sound, peer-reviewed academic scientific work shows how disinformation campaigns, funded by fossil fuel interests, have sowed doubt about climate science and have been effective in shaping American public opinion.

A recent study by 16 scientists, including John Cook of the University of Queensland, Naomi Oreskes of Harvard University, and Peter Doran of Louisiana State University, examined the discrepancy between what the public thinks and what scientists know about climate change, and they found “the consensus that humans are causing recent global warming is shared by 90–100 percent of publishing climate scientists.” Why the gap in public recognition from what the scientists know? Because of a persistent effort “manufacturing doubt about the scientific consensus on climate change.”

Part of the work of this denial apparatus has been to harass and investigate climate scientists over and over and over again. So when these mouthpieces with one or two degrees of separation from the fossil fuel industry have an outburst about the sanctity of science from any investigation, well, that deserves an eyebrow. And when the only time their concern for scientific integrity appears is when an investigation might look at the fossil fuel industry, but they are quiet as mice whenever actual climate scientists are being investigated, well, that merits further skepticism.

There are a lot of reasons why the scientific integrity argument doesn't apply to a fraud investigation of the fossil fuel industry and its front groups. Actually, there are too many reasons for me to go into here and now in the allotted time. But here is the bottom line. No. 1, the argument is a phony, designed to protect from investigation an industry that may well have engaged in deliberate fraud on a massive scale. No. 2, the clamor is phony, whipped up a hundredfold but through industry mouthpieces. And, No. 3, the sincerity is completely phony because the mouthpieces have had nothing to say for years, when real climate scientists were actually investigated. They only swung into action when the possibility emerged that the fossil fuel industry may have to face investigation for fraud.

There is a wooden cross in faraway Antarctica memorializing the Scott expedition to the South Pole. It is carved with the closing line from Alfred Lord Tennyson's “Ulysses”: “To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.”

To the real physicists, chemists, oceanographers, meteorologists, geologists, and climatologists actually engaged in climate science, let me say,

you embody this spirit of discovery and perseverance. The real scientists have not shrunk in the face of fossil fuel threats, investigations, and intimidation. The fossil fuel campaign of denial has not stymied the flow of new climate research nor dimmed the fervor with which the real climate scientists pursue and share their knowledge. These men and women—hardworking and often unsung—deserve our praise, and, after some of the nonsense they have been put through, they probably also deserve an apology. But right now they must be looking on in wonderment—and, I hope, with some wry humor—at the sudden outburst of newfound concern from fossil fuel mouthpieces for the so-called sanctity of the scientific process. Of all the people to make that claim, this crew has the least business making it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). The Senator from Arkansas.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LORRAINE WOOD BORMAN

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, today I would like to honor Mary Lorraine Wood Borman, of Fayetteville, AR, as this week's Arkansan of the Week for her commitment to the National Down Syndrome Society as a self-advocate ambassador for the great State of Arkansas. Her advocacy to improve the quality of life for those living with Down syndrome is noteworthy, and she is a joy and inspiration to many across the State.

Outside her work as an activist, Mary is an involved and multitalented junior at Fayetteville High School in Fayetteville, AR. Not only does she excel academically—as indicated by her track record as an honor roll student—but she is also a gifted athlete and has won awards in swimming events at the Arkansas State Special Olympics for 3 years. Mary is also a talented dancer and actress, specializing in hip-hop, jazz, and the waltz.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Mary when she visited my Washington, DC, office while in town for the Buddy Walk, hosted each year by the National Down Syndrome Society. Because of Mary's advocacy and compelling reasoning, I cosponsored the ABLE to Work Act of 2016 shortly after our meeting. This bill will help persons with disabilities save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts.

Mary has big dreams, and I am confident she will achieve them. I look forward to keeping track of her many accomplishments in the future. Arkansas is lucky to have someone like Mary Borman fighting to make our State a better place, and I applaud her for her work. Her story is a testimony of our spirit as Arkansans, and I am certain it will inspire others to take action on causes they believe in.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL WILLIAM GORTNEY

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, I rise to recognize and commend ADM Bill Gortney, who will retire on June 1 of this year after 39 years of exceptional leadership and service to our country. Most recently, Admiral Gortney served as commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO.

In his current capacity, Admiral Gortney is responsible for homeland defense, defense support for civil authorities, and theater security cooperation with Mexico and the Bahamas. Additionally, as head of the binational NORAD command with Canada, he is responsible for aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning in the defense of North America. For those of you who have children, I think you may know what NORAD also does, which is, of course, the very famous Santa tracker every year on Christmas Eve. It has been a tremendous pleasure to work closely with Admiral Gortney since joining the Senate. In particular, as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, I have often sought his advice and counsel to gauge the threat of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile program to our homeland.

Born to William and Gloria Gortney in La Jolla, CA, Admiral Gortney is no stranger to military service. He is a second-generation naval aviator. His father retired as a captain in the Navy in 1970, after 28 years of service that included time in World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam.

Admiral Gortney received his Wings of Gold in 1978 at Naval Air Station in Beville, TX, and began an illustrious career as a naval aviator under the call sign “shortney.”

Admiral Gortney has completed numerous successful fleet and staff assignments both in the United States and abroad. His first opportunity for command was on board the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* from 1994 to 1995. From there he amassed an impressive resume of command experience, including three command tours in the U.S. Central Command area of operations, providing support to maritime security operations and combat operations of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. These assignments included commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet/Combined Maritime Forces, Bahrain; commander of Carrier Strike

Group 10 on board the USS *Harry S. Truman*; and commander of Carrier Air Wing 7 on board the USS *John F. Kennedy*.

His first flight tour was as the deputy chief of staff for Global Force Management and Joint Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, VA. More recently, he served as director of the Joint Staff, then commanded U.S. Fleet Forces Command prior to taking command at NORAD and USNORTHCOM.

Admiral Gortney has flown over 5,360 mishap-free flight hours on the Corsair II and F/A-18 Hornet and completed 1,265 carrier-arrested landings. His military decorations include: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two awards; Navy Distinguished Service Medal, two awards; Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit, four awards; and Bronze Star, among many others.

From other nations, his military decorations include: the French National Order of the Legion of Honor Award; the Bahrain Medal, First Class; the Secretary of the National Defense for Mexico Military Merit 1st Class Medal; and Secretary of the Mexican Navy Naval Distinction 2nd Class Medal.

Admiral Gortney's unique combination of operational experience, charismatic leadership, and unyielding patriotism has served him well in a lifetime of military service. Today we honor his admirable service to our Nation and all the airmen, sailors, soldiers, marines, and civilians who have served alongside him.

We offer our heartfelt appreciation to Bill, his wife Sherry, their children Stephanie and Billy, daughter-in-law Jackie, and grandchildren Gavin and Grayson for all of their sacrifice and support to our country.

On behalf of the Senate and a grateful nation, I congratulate him on a job well done and wish him the best as he begins a hard-earned retirement. I just wish that his retirement would land him in Colorado Springs, but I think he has other ideas.

Admiral Gortney, we thank you for your service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING BOB BENNETT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this morning I joined many of my colleagues in bidding a formal farewell to our colleague, Senator Bob Bennett, who died last week. It was great to see

Senators from both sides of the aisle at Senator Bennett's viewing and funeral service. It was fitting. Bob Bennett was a proud conservative, he was an old-fashioned conservative, but he understood that the Senate only really works when we talk to each other and reason things out. He was old school. He understood that principled compromise is not a moral or political sin. It is an ideal we should strive for. It is how we solve big problems in America. It is the only way the Senate can work.

I served with Bob Bennett for years on the Senate Appropriations Committee. He was an honorable man, a dyed-in-the-wool fiscal conservative. He had an 84-percent lifetime approval rating from the American Conservative Union, but he was a real-world conservative, not an ideologue. No vote demonstrated that more clearly than the vote he cast in 2008 to create the Troubled Asset Relief Program, known as TARP.

I am not going to forget the day when Hank Paulson, Treasury Secretary under President George W. Bush, came to talk to us about the economy. Lehman Brothers had just declared bankruptcy. Secretary Paulson told us that the entire U.S. financial system could collapse within days, maybe hours. He warned that such a collapse of the U.S. financial system would trigger a global economic cataclysm.

Bob Bennett knew that he was taking a supreme political risk, but Bob Bennett voted to create the TARP program anyway. He risked his political career rather than risk the life savings of untold millions in America and around the world. He paid a price for it. In 2010 Bob Bennett became the first incumbent Senator in Utah in 70 years to lose reelection after he was toppled in his party caucus.

Senator Bennett challenged orthodoxy on a lot of other issues as well. Bob Bennett, a devout Mormon, supported embryonic stem cell research, with very careful restrictions. In 1996 he was one of only three Senators from his party to vote against amending the U.S. Constitution to criminalize flag-burning. He said that he thought flag-burning was reprehensible—as we all do—but that it occurred far too infrequently to warrant changing the Constitution. That amendment failed in the Senate by one vote.

When the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform in 2006, Senator Bob Bennett of Utah was one of the many Members of his party to stand up and support it. Four years later, when the Senate voted on the DREAM Act—a key part of that earlier bill and one that I introduced 15 years ago—the political winds on the right had shifted dramatically. There were only three of my colleagues from across the aisle on the Republican side who supported passing the DREAM Act

in 2010. Bob Bennett was one of them. I will never forget it. I will always be grateful to him for that courageous vote. He understood that we needed a realistic, humane way to deal with immigration in this Nation of immigrants.

Robert Bennett was a member of one of his State's leading families. His grandfather, Heber J. Grant, was the president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His father, Wallace Bennett, served four terms in the Senate.

Bob came to Washington in 1962 to work as an aide in his father's office, when such arrangements were still allowed. In 1969 he took a job as a top congressional liaison for the U.S. Transportation Department under President Nixon. His short tenure at Transportation earned him an unlikely footnote in history. For decades, some conspiracy theorists speculated that he was Deep Throat—the Nixon administration insider who helped steer the Washington Post's Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in reporting the Watergate scandal. That theory was finally disproved with the death of former FBI Deputy Director Mark Felt, who was, in fact, the real Deep Throat.

Bob Bennett did not need public service. He had already built a successful career in business before he decided to run in 1992 for the seat his father once held. He took a pay cut to serve his State and our Nation in the Senate.

Bob Bennett and I disagreed on many issues. When we did, he was always principled and polite. I suspect that was a reflection of his upbringing, watching his father serve in the Senate, where Members of differing political parties could disagree without questioning the other Senator's motives.

In his last political race in 2010, Senator Bennett was targeted by the force we now refer to as the tea party. After his loss, he spoke to a reporter for the Salt Lake Tribune. He said, "The political atmosphere obviously has been toxic, and it is very clear that some of the votes I have cast have added to that toxic environment."

Then Bob Bennett said something that any Senator would be fortunate to be able to say at the end of his tenure. "Looking back on them—with one or two very minor exceptions—I wouldn't have cast any of them any differently even if I'd known at the time it would cost me my career because I have always done the best I can to cast the vote that I think is best for the state and best for the country."

I extend my condolences to Senator Bennett's family—a wonderful, large family—that includes his brother and sister, his widow Joyce, their six children—Julie, Robert, James, Wendy, Heather, and Heidi—and 20 grandchildren. There are so many of Bob Bennett's former staffers and friends

who join me in paying this great tribute.

AMENDMENT NO. 3878

Mr. President, Congress is supposed to be working on an appropriations bill, and we were moving in that direction until the Senator from Arkansas sought to add an amendment to the Energy and Water appropriations bill. This amendment was designed to undermine the historic agreement that the Obama administration reached with Iran for the sole purpose of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The Senator who offered this amendment had led an unprecedented letter to Iranian hardliners in the middle of President Obama's negotiations. He said to the hardliners in Iran—with a letter signed, I believe, by 46 other Republican letters—that they were wasting their time negotiating with this President, that whatever he agreed to would be undermined by Congress and particularly by the next President.

In all of the time I have followed the history of the Senate, I cannot remember a letter of that nature being sent by Senators of either political party to undermine a delicate negotiation involving peace in an important part of the world.

Now we are stuck until we deal with his amendment. Regardless of whether you agree with the Iran agreement, adding this amendment to the Energy and Water appropriations bill would destroy all of the hard work that Senators ALEXANDER and FEINSTEIN have put into drafting this bipartisan bill.

I wish to tell you why this amendment from the Senator from Arkansas is a poison pill. This amendment would prevent the Department of Energy from spending any fiscal year 2017 funds to purchase heavy water produced in Iran.

The JCPOA agreement closed four pathways through which Iran could get to breakout time for a nuclear weapon in less than a year. It bought valuable time for Israel, for other nations in the Middle East, and for the United States before Iran could violate the agreement and build a nuclear weapon.

As part of this agreement, Iran agreed to limit the amount of heavy water it would accumulate. Any heavy water in excess of 130 metric tons had to be disposed of, moved out of Iran.

The Department of Energy has announced that its Isotope Program will purchase 32 metric tons of heavy water from Iran to fulfill a significant amount of the domestic heavy water needed in America for research and industrial applications. There is no American domestic source for this heavy water. This transaction provides U.S. industry with a critical product, and it enables Iran to rid itself of excess heavy water, ensuring this product will never be used for developing a nuclear weapon.

Heavy water is used in the development, production, and sale of compounds used in biomedical and diagnostic research such as MRIs and pharmaceutical development, as well as chemistry, physics, and environmental analysis.

A portion of this heavy water will be used at the Spallation Neutron Source, or SNS, at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. The heavy water will increase the intensity of the beam, which will—according to Laboratory Director Thom Mason—benefit hundreds of research teams.

While the administration does not anticipate undertaking another purchase of heavy water from Iran, we should not give up—with this amendment offered by the Senator from Arkansas—the ability to ensure that this material, which potentially could be used in Iran's nuclear industry, is instead put to use in the United States by our industry for peaceful research and product development.

The amendment offered by the Senator from Arkansas really focuses on one thing—to undermine this agreement with Iran. After we have seen tons of fissile material removed from Iran, 16,000 centrifuges destroyed, and a major potentially dangerous reactor decommissioned, this Senator from Arkansas believes it was a bad agreement and we ought to let the Iranians go about their business.

I couldn't disagree more. Taking this heavy water out of Iran makes that region of the world safer for Israel and for the other countries in the region. For Iran to keep this heavy water is a temptation that we should eliminate by defeating this amendment by the Senator from Arkansas.

His amendment will jeopardize an historic agreement that limits Iran's ability to produce nuclear arms. That is an important protection for the entire world. It would deny researchers and industries in our country a resource they need to make new scientific discoveries, medical diagnoses, and probably save lives. That is more than enough reason to reject the amendment being offered by the Senator from Arkansas.

I urge my colleagues to do so.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. President, 3 months ago, the President asked Congress for funding to help prepare for and combat the Zika virus. That very week I sat in an Appropriations Committee hearing with the representatives for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, who talked about how time sensitive that request was.

In the 13 weeks since that hearing, Republicans have put up roadblocks, set preconditions, and really mocked the administration for arguing that there was urgency to fight the Zika virus—a virus which is dangerous for

pregnant women, children, and many others.

What has happened in the 13 weeks while the President's request for \$1.9 billion has languished before the Republican-controlled Congress?

Over 1,100 Americans in 43 States, Washington, DC, and U.S. territories—including over 100 pregnant women—have contracted the Zika virus. Six more have contracted Guillain-Barre syndrome, an autoimmune disorder that can cause paralysis and death.

Recently, the first Zika-caused death was reported in Puerto Rico. In Illinois, 13 people have tested positive for Zika, with at least 3 pregnant women. Over the last 13 weeks, while the Republican leadership in Congress has ignored the President's request for emergency funding, we have learned even more about Zika and its danger. We now know it is linked to serious neurological damage and birth defects. We now know it can be sexually transmitted. Warmer weather is coming, and we know the spread of Zika will grow even worse. It seems as if everyone across the world recognizes the urgency of this public health threat to the United States except for the Republicans in Congress.

Last week, Major League Baseball announced it was canceling two scheduled ball games to be played in Puerto Rico because the players were concerned about contracting the Zika virus.

I spoke with CDC Director Tom Frieden 2 weeks ago. He told me this is no way to seriously fight a public health danger. We need a multiyear commitment so CDC, NIH, and public health departments can begin studies to understand the risks to others, improve our surveillance system, study how long these mosquitoes actually carry the virus, and develop a vaccine as quickly as possible.

The CDC takes this seriously. The Centers for Disease Control is the frontline of defense of the United States of America when it comes to public health danger. How seriously do they take the Zika virus? They have dedicated 1,000 staff members to fighting it. They understand this is a public health emergency, and we have a limited opportunity to catch up and try to stop its spread.

Last week I held a roundtable event in Chicago with local health department officials, medical professionals, and vector control experts. They are doing everything they can to prepare for Zika in high-risk areas—laying traps to collect mosquitoes for testing and ramping up health communications to providers and the public. We are lucky because in our part of the United States there is no evidence of the mosquito that is the carrier. However, travelers who have contracted the virus in other places can bring it back to our region, and they can be the carriers for it to be spread to other people.

As a major transportation hub in Chicago and Illinois, we must be prepared to deal with these travelers carrying the Zika virus. I have the highest confidence in our State and in local health officials, but they need a helping hand.

Because congressional Republicans have refused to pass the emergency supplemental Zika funding, the administration has been forced to divert resources from Illinois to States such as Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi to fight Zika. We are taking public health resources out of other States to send them to the frontline States on the Zika virus. I understand it, but it is totally unnecessary. If the Republican leadership in Congress accepted their responsibility, took this seriously, and realized lives were at stake, we would have approved the President's emergency request long ago.

My State of Illinois and the city of Chicago just lost a total of \$2 million in CDC public health emergency preparedness grants—money diverted from our State to deal with local public health challenges with the Zika virus in frontline States.

The Illinois Public Health Director told me: "We don't get to be eight percent less prepared, even with eight percent less money" from the CDC.

Health departments across Illinois use these grants to prepare and respond to outbreaks of all kinds, such as Ebola, Zika, and a new bacterial outbreak—Elizabethkingia. Already that has taken six people's lives in my State. So we are removing the money to protect the people in Illinois to go to the frontline of the Zika virus attack because the Republican majority in Congress will not approve the President's emergency supplemental request.

Robbing Peter to pay Paul is shortsighted. We need to ensure we aren't diverting necessary Ebola money to use for the Zika virus. I don't understand it. In the last election, many Republicans were making a big issue about Ebola and its threat to the United States, and now they are so sanguine and so calm as to take the money away from protecting us from the spread of Ebola and spend it on Zika on a temporary basis because they won't address the serious threat of both problems. The CDC, incidentally, is reporting new flare-ups of Ebola in Guinea after learning that the virus can stay in a man's system for over a year. Just because it may not be front-page news anymore, the Ebola crisis, incidentally, is not over. Funding is still needed.

We have seen Zika coming for many months. We were warned, and we have had the administration's detailed comprehensive plan sitting on the desk of the Republican leaders in the House and Senate.

Right before Congress adjourned 2 weeks ago, Senate Democrats sent a letter to Republican leader Senator MITCH MCCONNELL urging immediate action on the Zika supplemental, and we introduced a bill to provide the necessary funding. We tried to bring it up. We were blocked by the Republican leadership.

So what do Republicans think we should do—send a memo to mosquitoes telling them not to buzz and bite until they get around to funding the President's emergency request?

I have news for them. The summer mosquito season is about to hit and hit hard in some parts of our country. Where this mosquito that carries the Zika can be found, people will be in danger.

Researchers at NASA have forecasted that by midsummer, cities nationwide, such as St. Louis, Kansas City, New York City—not just southern cities like Miami and Houston—could possibly be a venue for these Zika-carrying mosquitoes. They found that not just geography but rainfall, transportation hubs, and challenging socioeconomic conditions translate to less air conditioning and worse housing infrastructure. They can all contribute to the presence of these mosquitoes. We are learning more and more about Zika and the cases are growing.

As we near the summer travel season and we start hearing more about the Rio Olympic Games, inaction and further delay will put many women—particularly childbearing women—and their kids in danger.

I urge my Republican colleagues in both chambers: Work with us to approve this money this week before it is too late.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak on one additional issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are publications given to us on the floor of the Senate. One of them is the Executive Calendar.

This Executive Calendar and parts of it may be characterized as a political obituary column because, you see, these are the nominees of the Obama administration for important posts across America—the names on here—and many of them have been sitting for months and some for over a year, and they are waiting for Senate action.

So far this Congress we have approved 17 Federal judges—2 circuit court judges, and 15 district court judges. There are 20 judicial nominees still sitting on this calendar. You think to yourself: Well, they must be pretty controversial if they are still sitting on the calendar.

Every single one of them was reported unanimously from the Senate Judiciary Committee. There were no dissenting votes, no objections. Still

they just sit and sit and sit on the calendar.

Why? Well, we know we have a serious problem with not just these 20, but there is the fact that we have 87 vacancies in the Federal judiciary, many of them in an emergency situation.

Why? Why in the world would some of these nominees, some of whom have been supported by Republican Senators—why aren't they being called for a vote, a routine vote on the floor of the Senate? It is part of the obstruction that the Republican Party has decided to make part of their leadership in the Senate. And, of course, exhibit A in that obstruction is the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court, occasioned by the untimely death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

It has been nearly 2 months since President Obama nominated Chief Judge Merrick Garland to fill the Scalia vacancy on the Supreme Court. It has been 3 months since Justice Scalia passed away—3 months—and still the Republican-led Senate has refused to consider President Obama's nominee to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. We ought to be doing that right now.

Today we received all of the investigative materials and binders and questionnaire answers from Judge Garland—boxes and boxes, thousands of pages—available to be reviewed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and every Member of the Senate. It is the Senate's constitutional obligation under article II, section 2, to provide advice and consent when the President submits such a nomination.

Mr. President, it is rare for a political figure or a publicly elected official to stand up and use the word "never," but I am about to use it. We have never—never in the history of the U.S. Senate—denied a Supreme Court nominee from a President a hearing or a vote—never. For 100 years, these nominees have been sent through the Senate Judiciary Committee with a public hearing. And every pending nominee for an open Supreme Court vacancy has been voted upon at some point by Senators.

We had a press conference today, and we talked about the precedent. Senator FRANKEN of Minnesota noted the time when John Adams had lost the Presidential election but filled a vacancy on the Supreme Court by nominating John Marshall to be a member of that Court. So here was John Adams, a defeated President, making a nomination to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court.

In the Senate, in those days, there were still Founding Fathers, men who had actually written the Constitution. Five of them were Members of the Senate when John Marshall's nomination came before them. If there was ever a lameduck, it was John Adams, who had been defeated for reelection and had a few months more to serve but who

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made a nomination for the Supreme Court and, by voice vote, the U.S. Senate approved him, including the five Founding Fathers who joined in that effort.

The argument being made on the Republican side is: Well, we can't fill this vacancy until after the election. We have to wait to see if President Trump will be chosen by the American people, and then he will get to fill this vacancy on the Supreme Court. Interesting. I missed it. I read the Constitution and thought for sure that President Obama was elected for 4 years in 2012. By the Republicans' math, it was 3 years and 2 months. He's a lameduck and has no power left. Well, they are wrong. By a margin of 5 million votes, Barack Obama was reelected President over Mitt Romney. Now this decision by the Republicans to stop this President from exercising his constitutional authority is just wrong.

What about Judge Garland? Judge Garland is one of the most extraordinary nominees ever presented to this Senate. He is now the chief judge of the DC Circuit Court. That is the second highest court in the land. He is well respected. He has received the endorsement of many different groups, and people who are conservative and liberal alike respect his judgment, as they should. He has done his job and done it well, but the Republicans in the Senate refuse to do their job. They say it is because they want the next President to fill that seat. I cannot even imagine the nominee that a President Donald Trump would send to the Senate.

Last week, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, a man named Reince Priebus, announced that Mr. Trump was the presumptive nominee of the Republican Party. It is astonishing to me that Senate Republicans would seriously want to put Donald Trump in charge of filling Supreme Court vacancies. How would they explain that to their constituents? Most of them are saying they are not even going to attend the Republican convention for fear of what it will do to their political reputations, and yet they are trusting the judgment of Donald Trump to shape the highest Court of the United States of America?

Make no mistake. By failing to move on Merrick Garland's nomination now in a timely and fair way, Republicans have cast their lot with Mr. Trump. That is a risky bet for the American people. The American people also understand Merrick Garland is well qualified and rock solid. Every week we see more praise for him.

Last week, nine former Solicitors General, Republicans and Democrats alike, sent a public letter praising Judge Garland. The list of people who signed this letter includes prominent Republicans and Democrats: Ken Starr, Drew Days, Walter Dellinger, Ted Olson, and Paul Clement. We know the

Solicitor General serves as the Federal Government's chief advocate before the U.S. Supreme Court. They know the Supreme Court as well as anyone, and they know a good judge when they see one. Here is what they said about Judge Garland:

As a group, we have argued hundreds of cases before the United States Supreme Court and the Federal Courts of Appeals. Each of us has served as the United States Government's top representative before the Supreme Court. And while we have served in different administrations, we are unified in our belief that Judge Garland is superbly qualified to serve on the Supreme Court if he were confirmed. We are confident that Judge Garland would bring his brilliance, work ethic, and broad experience to the cases that come before him.

That is very high praise, isn't it? Clearly, President Obama selected a nominee highly regarded by advocates who know the Supreme Court better than most. Yet my Republican colleagues will not even give this superbly qualified nominee the dignity of a public hearing. They would rather keep a Supreme Court seat vacant for more than a year and allow the Court to deadlock for a year with 4-to-4 votes on key cases and wait in hopes they can roll the dice with President Donald Trump and his Supreme Court nominee. It is hard to fathom how this strategy is respectful of the constitution or in the best interest of our Nation.

Not only are Senate Republicans failing to do their job in considering Judge Garland's nomination, they are obstructing 20 other well-qualified judicial nominees who are currently pending on the Senate floor.

The Senate Republicans, as I have said, have held votes on only 17 judicial nominees this Congress. That is the lowest total in decades, far fewer than the 68 judges the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed in the last 2 years of George W. Bush's administration. Republicans are apparently content to leave vacancies on courts across the United States and even on the Supreme Court of the United States. Is that why they were elected, to leave vacancies on these courts? They cannot hide from the fact that there is a need in this country for competent jurists to guide us in these Federal courts.

I hope a few more of my Republican colleagues will come to their senses. Rather than saving judicial seats for Donald Trump to fill, they should do their job and give President Obama's well-qualified nominees a hearing and a vote, and they should start with Merrick Garland.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter from these Solicitors General.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S.  
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER REID, CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY, AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: Each of us headed the Office of the Solicitor General. Our service took place under both Republican and Democratic Presidents. We write collectively in support of Judge Merrick Garland's qualifications to serve as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. We believe that Judge Garland has demonstrated the temperament, intellect, and experience to serve in this capacity.

Merrick Garland has a history of excellence in the Law. He served in high ranking Justice Department posts, as a partner at a major law firm, an Assistant United States Attorney, a law clerk on the United States Supreme Court, a law clerk on the Second Circuit for the legendary Judge Henry Friendly, and, of course, for nearly the last two decades, as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He presently serves as the Chief Judge of that Circuit, where he is known for his collegiality and is widely respected by his colleagues and litigants who have come before him.

As a group, we have argued hundreds of cases before the United States Supreme Court and the federal Courts of Appeals. Each of us has served as the United States Government's top representative before the Supreme Court. And while we have served in different Administrations, we are unified in our belief that Judge Garland is superbly qualified to serve on the Supreme Court if he were confirmed.

We are confident that Judge Garland would bring his brilliance, work ethic, and broad experience to the cases that come before him. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Neal K. Katyal (Acting Solicitor General, 2010–2011), Gregory G. Garre (Solicitor General, 2008–2009), Paul D. Clement (Solicitor General, 2005–2008), Theodore B. Olson (Solicitor General, 2001–2004), Barbara D. Underwood (Acting Solicitor General, 2001), Seth P. Waxman (Solicitor General, 1997–2001), Walter E. Dellinger III (Acting Solicitor General, 1996–1997), Drew S. Days III (Solicitor General, 1993–1996), Kenneth W. Starr (Solicitor General, 1989–1993).

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to say welcome home and thank you to our Vietnam veterans, our true American heroes, as our community honors their courage and allegiance today in Moncks Corner, SC. Their celebration, which took place on May 6, 2016, is one small way we can take the time to show gratitude and appreciation for the men and women who fought for our Nation.

With one brother in the military and one recently retired after 30 years, I know firsthand the sacrifices our veterans and their families have made in order to protect and serve our amazing country.

We should celebrate these heroes every day. It is our responsibility to say thank you in tangible ways, such as this party. The Vietnam war era was one of the most challenging in our Nation's history, and it is truly my honor to recognize the service of our brave veterans who sacrificed for our freedom. Their dedication will never be forgotten.

You all put your lives on the line for our country, and because of people like you, I am proud to be an American. Thank you for your service. You deserve praise, recognition, and respect. God Bless America.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION CONCERT CHOIR

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the University of Mount Union Concert Choir as it continues its spring tour, which began Sunday, May 8, at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

Mount Union's concert choir prides itself as one of the oldest collegiate choirs in the United States and has been part of the school's history since 1896. Arts at the collegiate level can enrich the student experience, giving music students and nonmusic students the opportunity to practice their vocal or instrumental skills and share their talents with both the campus and the local community. The group, comprised of individuals from almost every academic department, is a testament to the school's strong liberal arts mission.

The group is led by Dr. Grant Cook III, the director of choral activities and

an associate professor of music at Mount Union, an accomplished musician and conductor. His commitment to the arts gives these vocalists the opportunity to do what they love and be part of a strong team of singers.

I am thrilled these young musicians have the opportunity to travel from Ohio to our Nation's Capital to kick off a tour that will take them from the National Cathedral to Virginia to Pennsylvania to New Jersey. This is an opportunity to see new parts of the country and show others what their university and our State have to offer.

I wish all the students the best for a safe tour, including Tim Anderson, Alexandria Augustine, Angelica Bartholomew, Erin Bell, Anthony Bucci, Ali Caldwell, George Carr, Ian Donaldson, Sarah Donkin, Collin Edwards, Nick Embrogno, Caelyn Eppler, Abbie Fox, Connor Funk, Elizabeth Gallo-way-Purcell, Bradley Geist, Victoria Ginty, Matt Gorman, Jennifer Gotschall, Ben Hayes, Zach Henkels, Kyle Herman, Sarah Hohenadel, Kenan Irish, Rachel Irwin, Zak Jaeb, Jacqueline Jepsen, Abigail Lantz, David Lenahan, Jason Lopez, Patrick McKitrick, Paige Morris, Marcus Morrison, Hunter Munroe, Megan Ostrofsky, Rebecca Passer, Jesse Reed, Natalie Ricciutti, Abigail Robertson, Jacob Rogers, Emily Siedel, Clinton Simmons III, Mary Anne Snyder, Chris Tucker, Abigail Van Auken, Alex Waitinas, Haley Walls, Tony Walsh, Jenna Waterman, Tommy Wines, Sarah Yannie, Martin Zapata, and Megan Zwart.●

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINCLAIR OIL CORPORATION

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Sinclair Oil Corporation.

Spanning a remarkable century of operation, Sinclair Oil has been resolute amid good and hard times in our Nation and helped shape our growing country. Built by the ingenuity and drive of Harry Ford Sinclair, Sinclair Oil employs more than 1,200 people nationwide. Harry F. Sinclair, who founded the company in 1916; Earl Holding, who purchased Sinclair Oil in 1976 and led the company for more than three decades; and Ross B. Mathews, who currently serves as chief executive officer of Sinclair, must be recognized for their innovation and determination in building Sinclair into an American pioneer. Their commitment and the support of their families and exceptional employees have enabled Sinclair to stand and succeed through the test of 100 years.

Sinclair Oil Corporation is immensely diversified. Twenty-four States are home to 1,300 Sinclair stations. The company is engaged in the exploration, refining, and distribution

of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, asphalt, and petrochemical feedstock. It also owns and operates cattle ranches and several renowned hotels and resorts, including Sun Valley Resort, The Grand America Hotel, and the Little America hotels and travel centers. The resourcefulness, skill, and initiative of the company's leadership and staff drive it forward into a new century of opportunity. I commend them all for the strong legacy they have built.

I have been blessed to have the Holdings as friends over the years. The Holdings were always very kind and supportive to my wife, Susan, and me, and I have valued the involvement Sinclair has had in shaping our communities, State, and Nation. America's success is built on the hard work and know-how of the men and women who have overcome challenges and turned their ideas into successful businesses that boost our economy and generate jobs. Countless individuals have benefited from Sinclair Oil Corporation and the goods and services it provides. I congratulate all those involved with the company on a century of achievements and wish them all the best for continued accomplishments.●

## TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW PROFESSORS

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, education is a critical to ensuring a bright future for both individuals and our society at large. There is no more important or more noble profession than teaching. Many of us have had teachers who changed our lives—myself included—educators who taught us not only the facts and figures but also instilled in us a love for learning and an interest in the world beyond the city limits of our hometowns.

As a U.S. Senator representing the great State of Kansas and as an alumnus of the University of Kansas School of Law, it is my privilege to celebrate the careers of three outstanding legal academics: Mike Davis, Sandra Craig McKenzie, and Martin Dickinson.

Mike Davis began teaching at the University of Kansas School of Law in 1971, but his academic life in Kansas began years earlier. Davis earned his bachelor's degree with honors from Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. After completing his undergraduate education, Davis attended the University of Michigan Law School, where he was an editor on the Michigan Law Review.

After earning his juris doctor and practicing law in the private sector, Davis went on to work with the Office of Economic Opportunity, culminating in becoming the associate director of planning and research for the legal services program. Davis then became a legislative assistant for Representative

Louis Stokes before returning to Kansas to begin his career in teaching future lawyers.

Professor Davis joined the KU Law faculty in 1971 and has had an impactful and storied career. He earned the "Immel Award for Teaching Excellence" and the title of Centennial Teaching Professor of Law. In addition to earning teaching accolades, Davis served as dean of KU Law School for 9 years and served as the interim dean from 2005 to 2006. Outside his teaching duties, he served as the American Bar Association standards and accreditation committees chair and was of counsel to the Kansas City firm of Stinson Morrison Hecker for 20 years.

Colleagues at the law school praised Professor Davis's dedication to promoting the university's law school program. Students were also grateful for his commitment to maintaining a challenging and rewarding learning environment. The Kansas community thanks Mike Davis for his service, dedication, and contributions to the university's law school and the State of Kansas.

Sandra Craig McKenzie arrived at KU Law in 1979 and has been a positive presence in Kansas ever since.

McKenzie's legal life did not begin in our State, but she arrived in Lawrence with high accolades. McKenzie earned a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and then went on to the University of New Mexico's School of Law, where she graduated magna cum laude and was a member of the New Mexico Law Review.

After the receipt of her juris doctor, McKenzie went on to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Oliver Seth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and later spent 4 years working in tax and estate planning in Albuquerque before turning her talents to teaching.

Sandra Craig McKenzie joined the KU Law faculty in 1979 as one of the institution's first female law professors. Professor McKenzie was KU Law's Elder Law LL.M. program director and an esteemed contributor to the elder law community, as well as a sought-after voice in Kansas local government law. McKenzie served as the law school's ombudsman and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Order of the Coif.

Friends and colleagues say her tenure was marked by accessibility as a teacher, dedication to women in the law, and leadership in making KU's law community a safe and equitable space for all students. The University of Kansas was without question enriched by Sandra McKenzie's committed 36-year career at the school of law, and her many contributions are appreciated throughout the university community.

Martin B. Dickinson is the longest serving faculty member at the University of Kansas School of Law, where his

distinguished 48-year tenure has earned him the highest regard from the university community. Dickinson received a bachelor of arts degree from KU in 1960 and then went on to receive a master of arts degree from Stanford University in 1961 and his juris doctor from the University of Michigan in 1964, where he was editor-in-chief of the Michigan Law Review. After finishing at Michigan, Dickinson became an associate at Holme, Roberts & Owen in Denver, where he practiced until joining KU Law.

Dickinson joined the KU Law faculty in 1967 and quickly rose through the ranks, moving from assistant professor to associate professor in just 2 years. In 1971, Dickinson was named dean and professor of law at KU, a title he held until 1980. While serving as dean, Dickinson made great strides in strengthening the school's profile both in Kansas and nationally, creating new admission criteria, successfully appealing to the Kansas Legislature to fund a new building for KU Law and recruiting outstanding new faculty. These accomplishments put the KU Law community on a path toward growth and sustainability, and the university thanks him for these contributions.

As his impressive decade as dean drew to a close, Dean Dickinson returned his focus to teaching alongside an of counsel position at Barber, Emerson, Springer, Zinn & Murray in Lawrence, KS.

He also served on numerous State-level advisory committees related to property taxes, income tax, estate tax, and trust administration—all of which have made recommendations leading to important revisions of Kansas law. Additionally, Dean Dickinson gained nationally recognized authority in estate planning and taxation and became a coauthor of standard publications in those fields.

In 1986, Professor Dickinson was named the Robert A. Schroeder Distinguished Professor of Law, KU Law's top honor. As a highly respected teacher and mentor in the KU Law community, Dickinson also received other top awards, including: the "Chancellor's Award for Excellence" in 1988; the "Moreau Student Counseling Award" in 1988, 1995, 1997, and 2009; the "Immel Award for Teaching Excellence" in 1997; and a Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence in 2002.

The Kansas Bar Association conferred the "President's Award for Outstanding Service" on Dickinson, as well as the Phil Lewis Medal of Distinction. He also received the "ALIBA Harrison Tweed Award" for excellence in continuing legal education and is a fellow at the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, the American College of Tax Counsel, and the American Bar Foundation.

Professor Dickinson retired from the University of Kansas School of Law in

2015, as professor emeritus, leaving behind a rich legacy that has deeply impacted the entire KU community. The university will remember Dean Dickinson as a highly respected teacher, mentor, and friend.

In the fall 2015 edition of the KU Law magazine, Dickinson was quoted as saying, "Over the last five decades, KU Law has demonstrated an impressive capacity to respond to changes in Kansas, the nation, the world and the legal profession while continuing to honor its rich tradition."

It is without question that KU Law has been able to navigate these changes because of Martin Dickinson's leadership, and KU's continuing tradition is no doubt marked by his impressive tenure at KU Law.

Professors Dickinson, McKenzie, and Davis were instrumental in my own education and those of countless others. The products of their work, within academia and beyond, are vast, and my words today seek to reflect those contributions to the University of Kansas, the State itself, and the many communities to where their lessons were extended by way of their former students. As Professors Davis, McKenzie, and Dickinson near retirement, let us say thank you and celebrate their accomplished careers and the impact they had on the University of Kansas, their communities, and the State of Kansas.●

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. VITTER, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

Special Report entitled "Summary of Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 113th Congress" (Rept. No. 114-252).

By Mr. ROBERTS, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 2917. An original bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to ensure protections of futures customers, to provide relief for farmers, ranchers, and end-users that manage risk to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2908. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1265 Hurffville Road in Deptford Township, New Jersey, as the "First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2909. A bill to amend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 to allow for the use of

certain assets of foreign persons and entities to satisfy certain judgments against terrorist parties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 2910. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to implement processes and procedures to provide expedited treatment of fetal anomalies under the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2911. A bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to make it unlawful for a packer to own, feed, or control livestock intended for slaughter; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 2912. A bill to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2913. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to provide certain benefits in connection with service in the Selected Reserve for preplanned missions in support of the combatant commands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2914. A bill to amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to protect classified information in Federal court challenges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 2915. A bill to enhance public awareness of federally funded research and development projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2916. A bill to provide that the pueblo of Santa Clara may lease for 99 years certain restricted land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 2917. An original bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to ensure protections of futures customers, to provide relief for farmers, ranchers, and end-users that manage risk to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2918. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the eligibility of employees of a land management agency in a time-limited appointment to compete for a permanent appointment at any Federal agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 460. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of Cascade Head Preserve, an Oregon natural icon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons ensure that each chief executive officer of a Federal penal or correctional institution provides a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter of the Federal penal or correctional institution for firearms carried by certain employees of the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive co-insurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the

vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 683

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 683, a bill to extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to establish a scorekeeping rule to ensure that increases in guarantee fees of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac shall not be used to offset provisions that increase the deficit.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1112, a bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to improve energy savings by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1566

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware



(Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1566, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for coverage of oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2151, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act.

S. 2230

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2230, a bill to require the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress on the designation of the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

S. 2386

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2386, a bill to authorize the establishment of the Stonewall National Historic Site in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 2388

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2388, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for reciprocal marketing approval of certain drugs, biological products, and devices that are authorized to be lawfully marketed abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 2440

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2440, a bill to amend the Real ID Act of 2005 to repeal provisions requiring uniform State driver's licenses and State identification cards, and for other purposes.

S. 2464

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2464, a bill to implement equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

S. 2487

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2487, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2605

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2605, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with an option to provide medical assistance to individuals between the ages of 22 and 64 for inpatient services to treat substance use disorders at certain facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2628

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2628, a bill to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 2653

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2653, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish an award program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through higher education.

S. 2675

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2675, a bill to provide for the adjustment of the debts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

S. 2676

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2676, a bill to provide for the adjustment of the debts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2686, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, nonprofit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2756

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2756, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to Iranian persons responsible for knowingly engaging in significant activities undermining cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

S. 2770

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require providers of a covered service to provide call location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user of such service to an investigative or law enforcement officer in an emergency situation involving risk of death or serious physical injury or in order to respond to the user's call for emergency services.

S. 2826

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2826, a bill to ensure the effective and appropriate use of the Lowest Price Technically Acceptable source selection process.

S. 2840

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2840, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

S. 2897

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2897, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to arbitration.

S. 2903

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2903, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to former United States Senator Max Cleland.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 460—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASCADE HEAD PRESERVE, AN OREGON NATURAL ICON

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following res-

olution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 460

Whereas 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of Cascade Head Preserve, a 270-acre preserve that is located north of Lincoln City, Oregon, and was protected from development in 1966;

Whereas, nestled within lands managed by the United States Forest Service, Cascade Head Preserve is home to many species of wildlife, plants, and grassland communities that were once abundant along the Oregon coast;

Whereas the local community and volunteers helped protect Cascade Head Preserve 50 years ago and, along with The Nature Conservancy, have remained actively engaged in its stewardship;

Whereas Cascade Head Preserve, along with the adjacent segment of the Siuslaw National Forest, has been recognized as a National Science Research Area and a United Nations Biosphere Reserve for its ecological significance;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 15,000 people visit Cascade Head Preserve annually, using it as a laboratory of nature to learn about grassland restoration and threatened species, such as the Oregon silverspot butterfly, or to enjoy recreational activities along the Pacific Ocean and its coastal estuaries;

Whereas Cascade Head Preserve is known for harboring rare and endemic plants, including 99 percent of the known Cascade Head catchfly flower population;

Whereas Cascade Head Preserve has hosted teams of well-known ecologists and experts from universities, zoological institutions, and Federal and State agencies who have employed cutting-edge science to catch, rear in captivity, and reintroduce into nature the threatened Oregon silverspot butterfly;

Whereas tourism and recreation in Cascade Head Preserve have helped stimulate the local economy by supporting seasonal and full-time jobs and by driving economic activity along the Oregon coast; and

Whereas Cascade Head Preserve also serves as a classroom for youth from across the United States who learn about the importance of restoring habitats adjacent to Cascade Head Preserve, including the restoration of tidal wetlands that provide a vital habitat for salmon and the recent protection of 122 square miles of marine reserves along the Oregon coast, which support community fisheries and local livelihoods: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of Cascade Head Preserve; and

(2) applauds the outstanding commitment of the stewards of Cascade Head Preserve, naturalists, volunteers, and community leaders for—

(A) protecting the ecological significance of Cascade Head Preserve; and

(B) supporting the local economy through tourism and recreation.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3890. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3891. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3892. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3893. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3894. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mrs. ERNST) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4336, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service.

SA 3895. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mrs. ERNST) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4336, supra.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3890. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On line 1, strike "4 days" and insert the following: "3 days".

SA 3891. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

SA 3892. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 3893. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 2 days after enactment.

SA 3894. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mrs. ERNST) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4336, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons

whose service has been determined to be active service; as follows:

On page 2, line 1, strike “BURIAL” and insert “INURNMENT”.

On page 2, line 8, strike “that” and insert “that.”.

On page 2, line 11, insert “above ground” before “inurnment”.

**SA 3895.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mrs. ERNST) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4336, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inurnment in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service.”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Can Evidence Based Practices Improve Outcomes for Vulnerable Individuals and Families?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Terrorism and Instability in Sub-Saharan Africa.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Understanding Dyslexia: The Intersection of Scientific Research & Education.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight and Reauthorization of the FISA Amendments Act: The Balance between National Security, Privacy and Civil Liberties.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 3:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff: Dave Deptula, during the remainder of today’s session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**CHILDREN OF FALLEN HEROES SCHOLARSHIP ACT**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1352 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1352) to increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen public safety officers, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1352) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1352

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act”.

**SEC. 2. CALCULATION OF ELIGIBILITY.**

Section 473(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087mm(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “(in the case of a student who meets the requirement of subparagraph (B)(i)), or academic year 2015–2016 (in the case of a student who meets the requirement of subparagraph (B)(ii)),” after “academic year 2009–2010”; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) whose parent or guardian was—

“(i) a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and died as a result of performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001; or

“(ii) actively serving as a public safety officer and died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer; and”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(A) ARMED FORCES.—Notwithstanding”;

(B) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A), (B)(i), and (C) of paragraph (2)”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, unless the Secretary establishes an alternate method to adjust the expected family contribution, for each student who meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B)(ii), and (C)

of paragraph (2), a financial aid administrator shall—

“(i) verify with the student that the student is eligible for the adjustment;

“(ii) adjust the expected family contribution in accordance with this subsection; and

“(iii) notify the Secretary of the adjustment and the student’s eligibility for the adjustment.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **TREATMENT OF PELL AMOUNT.**—Notwithstanding section 1212 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796d-1), in the case of a student who receives an increased Federal Pell Grant amount under this section, the total amount of such Federal Pell Grant, including the increase under this subsection, shall not be considered in calculating that student’s educational assistance benefits under the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program under subpart 2 of part L of title I of such Act.

“(5) **DEFINITION OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘public safety officer’ means—

“(A) a public safety officer, as defined in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b); or

“(B) a fire police officer, defined as an individual who—

“(i) is serving in accordance with State or local law as an officially recognized or designated member of a legally organized public safety agency;

“(ii) is not a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a chaplain, or a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew; and

“(iii) provides scene security or directs traffic—

“(I) in response to any fire drill, fire call, or other fire, rescue, or police emergency; or

“(II) at a planned special event.”.

### SEC. 3. CALCULATION OF PELL GRANT AMOUNT.

Section 401(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “The Amount” and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (C), the amount”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) In the case of a student who meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B)(ii), and (C) of section 473(b)(2)—

“(i) clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be applied by substituting ‘from the amounts appropriated in the last enacted appropriation Act applicable to that award year, an amount equal to the amount of the increase calculated under paragraph (7)(B) for that year’ for ‘the amount of the increase calculated under paragraph (7)(B) for that year’; and

“(ii) such student—

“(I) shall be provided an amount under clause (i) of this subparagraph only to the extent that funds are specifically provided in advance in an appropriation Act to such students for that award year; and

“(II) shall not be eligible for the amounts made available pursuant to clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (7)(A).”.

### SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

### SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

### AMERICAN MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4923, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4923) to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4923) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

### PROVIDING FOR THE BURIAL IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY OF THE CREMATED REMAINS OF CERTAIN PERSONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4336 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4336) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ernst amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the Ernst title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3894) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 2, line 1, strike “BURIAL” and insert “INURNMENT”.

On page 2, line 8, strike “that” and insert “that.”.

On page 2, line 11, insert “above ground” before “inurnment”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 4336), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 3895) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inurnment in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service.”.

### RECOGNIZING HAFSAT ABIOLA, KHANIM LATIF, YOANI SANCHEZ, AND AKANKSHA HAZARI FOR THEIR SELFLESSNESS AND DEDICATION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAUSES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 450, S. Res. 418.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 418) recognizing Hafsata Abiola, Khanim Latif, Yoani Sanchez, and Akanksha Hazari for their selflessness and dedication to their respective causes, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to honor and congratulate the Vital Voices Global Partnership and the 2016 Vital Voices Award recipients.

Over the last 15 years, the Vital Voices Global Partnership has trained and mentored more than 14,000 women in 144 countries. Vital Voices equips these women leaders with the management, business development, marketing, and communication skills required to expand their enterprises, provide for their families, and create jobs in their communities. By helping to identify, invest in, and bring visibility to these extraordinary women around the world, Vital Voices is helping to unleash the enormous leadership potential of these women to transform lives and accelerate the pace of peace and prosperity.

This year’s award recipients include: Hafsata Abiola of Nigeria, founder of the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy that campaigns to end violence against women—Hafsata trains young female leaders and works to increase civic participation; Khanim Latif of Iraq, the director of Asuda—Khanim places her life at risk to provide safe-haven to victims of sexual and gender-based violence, works to protect survivors of domestic violence, and fights threats of honor killings, female genital cutting, and sexual violence; Yoani Sanchez of Cuba, creator of Generacion Y—Yoani created this blog in April 2007 to capture daily life in Cuba in an effort to encourage political change and increase public awareness and engagement; and Akanksha Hazari of India—

Akanksha fights to deliver basic necessities such as clean water and electricity to impoverished communities and to empower the underserved in India.

Such leaders, through their selfless efforts and advocacy, continue to advance social justice, support democracy, and work to increase stability across the globe.

I am pleased to have submitted this resolution, along with my friend and colleague Senator FEINSTEIN, recognizing the 2016 Vital Voices Global Partnership Award recipients and commending them for their efforts to advance economic opportunity, increase political and public leadership, combat violence against women, and empower women to address global instability.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon

the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 418) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 12, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 11, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 11; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate then re-

sume consideration of H.R. 2028; I further ask that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is not invoked on the Cotton amendment No. 3878, there be an hour of debate equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senator COTTON or his designee be recognized to withdraw the amendment without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:17 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, May 10, 2016

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 10, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, SR., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### MARIJUANA V. HEROIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today on our calendar we have got about 10 bills dealing with a very serious issue in America: opioids and heroin. This is an awful problem we have in our Nation. There is more and more use of opioids and heroin and death resulting from it than at any time that I can recall in the past.

I had a young friend a few years back who died of a heroin overdose. I have known of other promising young people in Memphis who have died of heroin overdoses. This is a problem all over the country, but predominantly in the northeast and predominantly in Caucasian areas. It has become an issue, as it should, of importance. But none of the bills that we are going to deal with today—all of which are good, and all of which I will support—deal with the real problem; and that is, the recognition in our country that we treat all drugs as a law enforcement problem, a criminal problem, and not as a health problem; and that we treat most all drugs on the same level and give law enforcement

the same incentives to arrest dealers and/or users for any drug and not encourage them and give them reasons—besides public safety—to emphasize their enforcement on opioids and heroin.

In the drug schedules which we have in our country that lay out the order in which we think drugs are the most serious, Schedule I is at the top; and in that classification are heroin, LSD, ecstasy, and marijuana.

I ask you each not to answer reflexively which of those four don't fit. Marijuana does not fit.

Our laws should show that heroin is a serious problem and that marijuana is not as serious a problem; that users should be dealt with in ways that don't put them in jail and, in the case of marijuana possession, don't cause them to lose scholarship opportunities, housing opportunities in Federal facilities, or jobs later on.

We also shouldn't have law enforcement, through asset forfeiture, get moneys from people they arrest; fund their activities by making arrests; and have it be presumed in law that moneys and/or properties that are involved in the transactions of those drug deals are involved and that law enforcement gets to keep those items. It gives law enforcement a reason to go after marijuana—which is easier to find and make money—rather than heroin.

We need to study marijuana to see what its medical uses are. We don't need to use it to incarcerate and cripple for the future jobs for young people. We need to encourage young people not to do any drugs at all, not to do alcohol, not to smoke cigarettes, and to take their time as youths to be youths, to be young, to learn, and to fill their minds with knowledge for a better life later. But if, as a youth or as an adult, they should use an illegal substance, they should be dealt with as having a problem and not be given a scarlet letter that stays with them for the rest of their lives.

So my work has been and will continue to be to try to make more sense of our drug laws; to see that the scheduling is smarter, that heroin and opioids continue to be at the top, and that marijuana is not in that listing; and to do things that encourage law enforcement to arrest people that are dealing in and selling heroin and opioids, which cause death and cause people to be addicted to the point where they will commit crimes to secure moneys to keep their habit going, and to not have equal incentives to go

after marijuana that does none of those things.

### BABY BODY PARTS FOR SALE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the research that the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives is conducting. I encourage everyone to examine the exhibits from the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives' investigation on their Web site: [energycommerce.house.gov/select-investigative-panel](http://energycommerce.house.gov/select-investigative-panel).

On April 20, 2016, Chairman MARSHA BLACKBURN held a hearing on the "Pricing of Fetal Tissue" and found broad consensus among witnesses that Federal law may have been violated when abortion clinics profited from the sale of baby body parts.

This grave circumstance has caused considerable concern because one of the underpinnings and so-called safeguards of the statute that allowed for the donation of fetal tissue for transplantation and research was that this tissue would not be sold.

The author of the statute, former Congressman Henry Waxman, stated during floor debate in 1993:

This amendment would enact the most important safeguards to prevent any sale of fetal issue for any purpose, not just the purpose of research. It would be abhorrent to allow for a sale of fetal tissue and a market to be created for that sale.

Yet this is what is happening today.

As seen on Exhibit B2, the "Procurement Business"—the name is redacted—markets itself in its brochure as a way for clinics to make additional income by allowing procurement business technicians to collect fetal tissue and organs from aborted babies immediately after an abortion is completed. The brochure uses the words "financially profitable," "fiscally rewards," and "financial benefit."

The Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives' investigation revealed that the procurement business technician performs every conceivable task in the harvesting process immediately after an abortion occurs. However, procurement businesses—essentially the middlemen between the abortion clinics on the one hand and the end users, the experimenters or researchers, on the other—still pay abortion clinics a fee, even though the clinics are not incurring any additional costs in the process.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Exhibit D1 shows the abortion clinic charged the middleman \$11,365 for harvested baby parts—called POCs—and blood.

Exhibit D2 shows the abortion clinic charged the middleman, again, this time \$9,060 for harvested baby parts, or POCs, and blood, even though the clinic did not incur any additional expense in the harvesting process. After obtaining the organs from the clinic, the middleman then made it easy for end users to purchase baby body parts.

Exhibit C3, the procurement business order form, or drop-down menu, for baby organs, illustrates just how easy this is. On the left side of the menu, one can choose: What type of tissue would you like to order? And under a multitude of options—a few of which are listed on the right—one could choose up here at the top, brains. These are little baby brains. Next you must select the number of specimens. And I suppose one could say six baby brains. Continuing down the list of questions, gestational range from start to end? One can select 16 to 18 weeks.

Then it asks: Add another tissue type? One could answer yes and scroll through the numerous options and have the opportunity to pick, for instance, female reproductive system and ovaries. You could then ask for five of those at 15 to 16 weeks. Then you could add, down at the bottom here, tongue.

So these are the options.

For crying out loud, this is the Amazon.com of baby body parts, a market for baby body parts. It is repulsive, outrageous, and I urge you to go to the Web site to see the exhibits.

This is a market for baby body parts where you get what you pay for.

This is utterly repulsive. Absolutely outrageous. Each one of these baby tongues or baby brains belongs to a little human baby. This business is nothing more than a fetal corpse market. How can anyone defend such an abhorrent practice?

These exhibits illustrate that, in both intent and practice, these clinics make money well above any actual costs they incur. They are making a profit. Go to the Select Panel's website [energycommerce.house.gov/select-investigative-panel](http://energycommerce.house.gov/select-investigative-panel) and see for yourself the revealing exhibits that show how these organizations may have broken the law and profited from this gruesome, inhumane practice of baby body part harvesting and trafficking.

#### URGING BOEING NOT TO SELL AIRPLANES TO IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about some news that has come to my attention and to the attention of the House recently, and that is that there is an iconic American aviation company—that is, the Boeing Company—that that has entered into preliminary talks with Iran.

And the thinking is for Boeing to sell planes to Iran.

I guess when you first hear about that, you say: Well, what is the big deal? Why is everybody so uptight about this? Why can't everybody relax and just let some commerce happen?

Here is what is the big deal; here is why we ought not relax; and here is why Boeing shouldn't be in these discussions; and, ultimately, it is my sincere hope, Mr. Speaker, that Boeing does not sell planes to the Iranians:

The entire Washington foreign policy establishment; that is, the House of Representatives, the Senate, the United States State Department, and the administration all agree on one thing. They all agree that Iran is still the world's leading state sponsor of terror.

There is no credible organization; there is no credible voice today that says: No, no, no. That is not true anymore. In fact, the President has acknowledged this; the Secretary of State has acknowledged this; the national security adviser has acknowledged this.

And if that is true—and it is true—how can someone, how can a company, how can an American institution say, we are going to do business with them? And how can it be true that we are going to sell something that can be easily converted for the use of terrorism?

You see, planes are fungible. Airplane parts are fungible. Unless we think that only Boeing is beginning these sorts of discussions—we know what Airbus is doing. Airbus has made a decision to go in and do business with this terrorist regime.

Why I am urging these companies—and particularly Boeing, as an iconic American company, as a company that has come to symbolize what? American strength, American innovation, and American greatness. And then to be complicit with the Iranians and the sheer possibility and, I would argue, probability that those airplanes will be converted to warplanes.

Now, just so I am clear, I am not making an argument nor a suggestion today that Boeing is doing anything illegal. I am not making that argument.

But here is my point: just because something is legal doesn't make it good; just because something is legal doesn't make it right.

□ 1215

There are some people who are saying: Well, look, other manufacturers are selling into that marketplace. And let me ask you this, Mr. Speaker. When has history ever been kind to the excuse: Well, somebody else was doing it, so I decided to do it too? History, Mr. Speaker, is a merciless judge and disciplinarian against that sort of argument.

So what is the problem? Here is the problem. It is the Islamic Revolu-

tionary Guard Corps that completely dominates the Iranian economy, and they certainly completely dominate the aviation sector of the economy. Iran Air was recently taken off the terrorist watch list by the State Department. Most people think that it was an agreement through the Iran nuclear deal and that it wasn't really deserved, but they were only recently on it. Regardless, the fungibility of these products can easily move into other areas of the sector.

There are some people that say: Look, it is an emerging market and we ought to be selling American products there. No, Mr. Speaker. What we ought to do is recognize that there are things that are more important than American profits, and that is the integrity of American businesses not to be complicit in this shameful activity and to sort of draw a blind eye towards this activity to say we can somehow sell these products and they won't end up in the hands of terrorists. It is naive, it is a wrongheaded move, and I urge Boeing in the strongest possible terms not to be complicit in this activity.

#### HONORING BILL KNAPP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize and honor the accomplishments of an individual who exemplifies what it means to be an Iowan, to be an American.

Bill Knapp is being honored by the Van Meter High School Booster Club and American Legion Post 403 as an Iowa hero and legend, and it is for good reason. Bill has given much to the community. He spent his life giving back. Throughout his life, his career, and his philanthropic efforts, he has demonstrated, and continues to demonstrate, a commitment to our State and our country, to people.

Bill was born in 1926 and grew up on a farm in Allerton in southern Iowa. Growing up in Allerton was where Bill first learned the value of a hard day's work, of an earned day's pay. He learned the value of making do with less, anticipating the needs of others, and helping those less fortunate. He learned self-sacrifice, honesty, and integrity. He has carried with him these Iowa values throughout his life.

Bill turned 17 in 1944. Observing World War II from quite a distance in Iowa, this young man heard the call to serve our country. He did not ignore that call; he answered it. He convinced his parents to sign off on his enlistment into the United States Navy.

In the spring of 1945, Bill took part in the Battle of Okinawa as a coxswain on the USS *Catron*. Alongside many others from across the country, Bill bravely

served. And unlike many of these gentlemen who were with him who didn't come back, Bill returned home.

After 2 years in the U.S. Navy and the end of the Second World War, Bill returned to Allerton. He took business courses, took to real estate, rolled up his sleeves, got to work, and soon formed Iowa Realty. Under Bill's leadership, Iowa Realty grew, prospered, and became the largest real estate company in Iowa.

Bill has had some tremendous successes, but he has never forgotten his Iowa values. Instead, he continues to embody what it means to be an Iowan. His selflessness and willingness to give back is evident in everything that he continues to do. He is known statewide. He is known nationally for his philanthropic efforts, as well as his special commitment to Iowa. He has placed a strong emphasis on helping to turn Iowa's capital city, beautiful Des Moines, into the thriving metropolis we see today.

I imagine I speak for many when I say how incredibly grateful I am for Bill's donation of land to our State, which was used for Iowa's first and only veterans cemetery in Van Meter. Thanks to Bill's generosity, our veterans in Iowa, who have so selflessly served our country, have a final resting place. It is truly hallowed ground. We, as Iowans, have a place to honor our country's heroes.

But his generosity to Iowa's veterans didn't stop. He was instrumental in the creation of the Veterans Reception Center in Van Meter, where families and friends gather and pay their respects following the burial of a loved one or friend. It has helped bring the community of Van Meter, my hometown, together.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Iowans like Bill in the United States Congress. He is generous, he is thoughtful, he doesn't forget where he came from, and he has spent a lifetime embodying Iowan values. He has given so much, he continues to give selflessly, and he puts others before himself in ways that we will probably never know. But that is okay if we don't know. He gives because it is the right thing to do. He is a humble soul with a big heart.

I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring Bill, an Iowa hero and legend.

Thank you and congratulations, Bill. We are proud of you.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You are the shepherd of souls. During the 114th Congress, many guest chaplains have led the House in prayer. Today, we wish to lift up these leaders and their faith communities across this country.

Their prayers for this Nation and its government lingers in this room. Bless them for their efforts to renew people in faith, hope, and love. Inspire them as they preach and guide Your people in so many districts of this Nation.

May they never lord it over those assigned to them, but instead, be examples of servant leadership to all in the flock. And when Your glory is revealed, chief shepherd of us all, may all leaders in faith and government receive the unfading crown of glory.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all we do be for Your greater honor and glory.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause one, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### COMMEMORATING VIETNAM VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, May 6, marked Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day, a day set aside by law in South Carolina to remember and thank our brave soldiers that fought heroically in the Vietnam war. To mark this day, the Combat Veterans Group held a Day of Remembrance ceremony to honor local Vietnam veterans across the State for their service.

I was grateful to join them and pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our veterans. I appreciate the service of Commander of the South Carolina Combat Veterans Group Tommy Olds, featured speaker retired Captain Walter Allen Mouzon, and Executive Director Renee Joy. The program was inspiring and uplifting for dedicated Vietnam veterans.

While serving as chairman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, I have visited Vietnam twice to monitor U.S.-Vietnamese efforts to recover MIAs. I was pleasantly surprised to find a deep affection by the Vietnamese for American servicemembers and a desire for stronger American-Vietnamese relationships of friendship.

I am especially grateful for the Vietnam service of the late Captain Michael Alan McCrory, Sr., a VMI graduate, of McLean, Virginia.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE FAILING TO DO THEIR JOB

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, here we are back again, another week in Congress where Republicans in Congress continue to fail to do their job to act to protect American families in crisis.

Whether it is the ongoing water crisis in my hometown of Flint or the threat of the Zika virus, the American people look to us for action. They deserve action to protect American families. In my own hometown of 100,000 people, the people still cannot drink their water. It is a disaster.

Typically, as Americans, we come together to act. It is this body that brings us together as a Congress to act to protect Americans in their moment of greatest need. Yet, Republicans in Congress fail to do their job.

My bill, the Families of Flint Act, would provide relief evenly divided between the Federal and State government. No hearings in committee, no votes on the floor of the House of Representatives. The American people deserve a Congress that will do its job and will act on their interests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we immediately take up my bill.

#### HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ANSWERS THE ALARM

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, a chemical warehouse in my Texas district exploded into a startling



inferno. Fiery containers of chemicals shot into the air like rockets. The smoke and heat were intense. But the Houston Fire Department quickly answered the alarm.

Mr. Speaker, over 200 firefighters from 32 fire stations responded to the hellish inferno. Spring Branch Elementary and nearby homes were evacuated. But the smoke and fire were conquered. The school and homes were saved. Not one person was injured.

Mr. Speaker, firefighters are a special breed. They risk their lives to save our lives. They restore order from chaos. These firefighters are to be thanked and appreciated. Firefighter courage and dedication to protecting us is part of what makes them a special breed.

While others flee in haste of impending danger, the firefighter, with sirens, red lights, horns, red and white trucks, charge into the jaws of heat, smoke, and fire to defeat and conquer danger.

Mr. Speaker, Houston firefighters answered the alarm—they always answer the alarm.

And that is just the way it is.

**SALUTING HOUSTON MAYOR  
SYLVESTER TURNER**

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a caring mayor, the mayor of the city of Houston, Mayor Sylvester Turner.

Over the last couple of months, which is the first of his term, many challenges have confronted his administration, one of which was the terrible, devastating floods of mid-April when so many thousands, many of them mothers and children, were displaced in my congressional district. Because of those terrible storms, \$400 million of cars were lost, people lost their jobs, and businesses were destroyed.

Mayor Turner continued to be that caring, steady hand working across political lines, working with the county judge, working with council members, and the Federal Government. One thing that he steadily did was listen to the council and the advice of his staff as I sat in meetings, taking ideas, establishing a relief fund, joining now with the Osteens in Lakewood, and having this wonderful concert to continue to provide relief, but yet showing the caring and loving nurturing of a father.

In the midst of all of this, he lost a dear brother, a Vietnam vet. But steady, strong, and determined, he continued to nurture those who could not help themselves.

What a pleasure to be able to work with a mayor, one who is ready to listen and to be able to answer the concerns of a constituency, but make hard decisions.

I salute you, Mayor Turner, as someone who cares about our city, and works with all of us to make their lives better and our city the best.

**ONLY 6 PERCENT OF AMERICANS  
TRUST THE MEDIA**

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans' confidence in the national media continues to erode.

A Media Insight Project poll found that only 6 percent now say they have a great deal of confidence in the media. Americans are rightfully skeptical of the news they receive, as they believe it is riddled with inaccuracies and bias.

Nearly 90 percent say it is important for the media to get their facts correct in their news reports, which they often do not. Many said the media coverage of a particular event was one-sided. One respondent commented that, "I'm also a bit scared for what other things they have gotten wrong or only given half-truths to."

Media bias is both real and unfortunate. Americans will continue to distrust the national liberal media until the media stops telling them what to think.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 10, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 10, 2016 at 9:26 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4238.

That the Senate passed S. 546.  
That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 457.  
That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 458.  
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,  
KAREN L. HAAS.

**RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

**FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT OF  
2016**

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2755) to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2755

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016".

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act—

(1) the term "Capitol-flown flag" means a flag of the United States flown over the Capitol in honor of the deceased individual for whom the flag is requested;

(2) the terms "chaplain", "firefighter", "law enforcement officer", "member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew", and "public agency" have the meanings given such terms in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b);

(3) the term "immediate family member", with respect to an individual, means—

(A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of the individual or a person to whom the individual stands in loco parentis; or

(B) any other person related to the individual by blood or marriage;

(4) the term "public safety officer" means an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, as a firefighter, or as a chaplain; and

(5) the term "Representative" includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

**SEC. 3. PROVIDING CAPITOL-FLOWN FLAGS FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of an immediate family member of a firefighter, law enforcement officer, member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew, or public safety officer who died in the line of duty, the Representative or Senator of the family may provide to the family a Capitol-flown flag, together with the certificate described in subsection (c).

(b) NO COST TO FAMILY.—A Capitol-flown flag provided under this section shall be provided at no cost to the family.

(c) CERTIFICATE.—The certificate described in this subsection is a certificate which is signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Representative, or the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Senator, providing the Capitol-flown flag, as applicable, and which contains an expression of sympathy for the family involved from the House of Representatives or the Senate, as applicable.

#### SEC. 4. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Architect of the Capitol shall issue regulations for carrying out this Act, including regulations to establish procedures (including any appropriate forms, guidelines, and accompanying certificates) for requesting a Capitol-flown flag.

(b) REVIEW.—The regulations issued under subsection (a) shall take effect upon approval by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

#### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2022 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act, to be derived from amounts appropriated in each such fiscal year for the operation of the Architect of the Capitol, except that the aggregate amount appropriated to carry out this Act for all such fiscal years may not exceed \$40,000.

#### SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, except that a Capitol-flown flag may not be provided under section 3 until the regulations issued under section 4(a) take effect in accordance with section 4(b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous matter in the RECORD on the consideration of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2755, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act. The bill before us would allow Members of Congress to honor our heroes with a United States flag flown over this Capitol. These brave individuals include firefighters, law enforcement officers, and members of rescue squads and ambulance crews. The measure gives us the opportunity to express our Nation's gratitude towards those who have answered the call to serve and protect our communities.

Our Nation's flag flown in their honor would also include a congressional certificate signed by both the Speaker of the House and the individ-

ual's Representative or the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Senator who is providing the flag for the family.

When most people are running away from danger, our Nation's first responders run towards it. Whether it is a firefighter rushing into a burning building, an EMT responding at high speed to save someone's life, or a police officer pursuing a routine traffic stop, the job puts these individuals in harm's way on a daily basis.

As our local communities know all too well, in far too many cases, brave men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe in America. I stand here today with my colleagues to thank each responder for their service and dedication to their communities. They answer our calls for help. As an institution and as a nation, it is right for us to remember the sacrifice and honor that these individuals make for America's families.

As a 38-year veteran of law enforcement myself, it is a special honor to be able to stand here today and usher this legislation forward. I want to thank all of those who helped make this possible.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Florida, a former sheriff himself.

I rise today in strong support of S. 2755, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016.

I want to thank, also, Congressman PETER KING, who has been a strong supporter of the first responder community and for championing this issue for many, many years. I want to thank Senator ROY BLUNT and Senator CHUCK SCHUMER for helping move this bill through the Senate.

This bipartisan legislation will create a program to provide flags flown over the United States Capitol to the family members of public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty at no cost to the family.

Our first responders make tremendous sacrifices to keep our communities safe. Should one of those brave men or women make the ultimate sacrifice, the least we can do to recognize their contributions to society, show our gratitude for their service, and express our sympathy to their families for their loss is present them with a flag flown over the United States Capitol.

This bill has the strong support of the National Fraternal Order of Police and the Sergeants Benevolent Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support swift passage of this bipartisan legislation so we can send it on to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of law enforcement issues in the Congress, I

cannot support this enough. This is a very important piece of legislation and will do a lot in terms of goodwill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his support. We in law enforcement—and I still say “we in law enforcement”—do appreciate it any time Congress reaches out and does something positive for our law enforcement families, even though it is after the fact.

This is one of those times where, as sheriff, I had to preside over in-the-line-of-duty deaths. As a rookie police officer outside of Chicago, my first year on the job, one of the guys that I went to the academy with was shot and killed. I moved to Florida and became a deputy sheriff and rose up the ranks to sheriff.

One of the things that I always worried about as a father and as a husband was: What am I leaving to my family? How are they going to be taken care of in the future? And what is going on in this country today in regards to belittling law enforcement? Trust me, we make mistakes, and I think that reasonable people understand that; but when you condemn a whole profession, it is unconscionable.

I think this is the type of thing that we need to do. I do appreciate this is very bipartisan in nature and that it is really lifting up all of our first responders. We think back to 9/11, when those firemen and police officers rushed into the Twin Towers and those that lost their lives as others were leaving the towers toward safety. They did the unthinkable, and that is to rush into a burning building. Or they rush in somewhere where they know there is an armed intruder. They do it on a daily basis. They don't ask for much, but we as Members of Congress really stand up for them and their families by this simple act.

This is not a huge, huge thing, but I will tell you what; to a grieving family, it is a small token of the appreciation that the United States of America, this Congress and the Senate, can bestow on a family in their deepest sorrow. It is not going to bring back their loved one, but I will tell you, they are going to look at that flag and remember the fallen and how great a person they were.

So it is not just what we do today; it is really about what has happened. The gentleman from New Jersey talked about the Senate; and Mr. KING, from this House, from New York, moved this legislation through. It has been a pleasure to stand here today, to come here today and talk for all those who can't talk for themselves; they can't speak for themselves.

My 38 years in law enforcement was probably the best time of my life because I was actually doing something

and protecting people on a regular basis. I can't think of a greater honor than to fly a flag of this Nation over this Capitol and give that to the grieving family of a fallen first responder. Mr. Speaker, knowing that this institution is behind them, so stand the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2755, the "Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016," which allows Members and Senators, at the request of an immediate family member of a fallen emergency responder, to have a flag flown above the United States Capitol in their memory.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am intimately aware, as are my colleagues, of the great sacrifices made by our emergency responders.

This is why I am proud that earlier this Congress the House passed H.R. 2795, the FRIENDS Act, which I introduced.

I introduced the FRIENDS Act because it embodied the important and fundamental idea that we have an obligation to ensure that the first responders who protect our loved ones in emergencies, have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their loved ones are safe while they do their duty.

S. 2755 and the FRIENDS Act embody the spirit of bipartisanship that is needed in this Congress.

These brave men and women who risk everything by running towards danger should be honored by this Congress by streamlining the process to have a flag flown above the U.S. Capitol in their memory.

Let us not forget the 15 brave volunteer firefighters who perished in the city of West, Texas, in 2013 when a fertilizer plant exploded.

This tragedy serves as a reminder of the risks and dangers undertaken each day by our firefighters and other first responders to keep us safe.

Since 1996 in the city of Houston there have been 20 firefighters that have lost their lives protecting others.

They are District Chief Ruben Lopez, Firefighter Steven C. Mayfield, Firefighter Lewis E. Mayo III, Firefighter Kimberly A. Smith, Captain Jay Paul Jahnke, Probationary Firefighter Kevin Wayne Kulow, Captain Grady Don Burke, Assistant Chief David Louis Moore, Captain James Arthur Harlow Sr., Captain Damion Jon Hobbs, Cadet Firefighter Cohnway Matthew Johnson, Captain Thomas William Dillion, Engineer Operator Robert Ryan Bebee, Firefighter/EMT Robert Herman Garner, IV, Captain Matthew Rena Renaud, Firefighter Anne McCormick Sullivan, Firefighter Daniel D. Groover, Captain Dwight "B.B." W. Bazile, Firefighter Richard J. Cano, and Cadet Steven Whitfield II.

Since 1860, 109 Houston Police officers have fallen in the line of duty.

In 2015 officer Richard K. Martin was killed when he was intentionally struck with a car when he was laying down spike strips during a pursuit.

I have on many occasions requested that U.S. Flags be flown above the Capitol in the

memory of fallen first responders and presented them to the family members.

First responders are called to serve and few outside of their ranks can understand why they do the work that they do each day placing their lives in harm's way to save a stranger.

The greatest example of the selflessness of first responders was the hundreds of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, emergency management service personnel, port authority workers, and federal officers and agents who rushed into the Twin Towers on September 11th 2001, to save lives.

On that terrible day 366 first responders sacrificed their lives so others may live.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 2755 because this bill streamlines the process to have a flag flown in the memory of the fallen emergency responders in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2755.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE OPIOID MANAGEMENT AND INCORPORATING SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ACT**

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4063) to improve the use by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, to improve patient advocacy by the Secretary, and to expand the availability of complementary and integrative health, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4063

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Promoting Responsible Opioid Management and Incorporating Scientific Expertise Act" or the "Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act".

**SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF OPIOID SAFETY MEASURES BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) EXPANSION OF OPIOID SAFETY INITIATIVE.—

(1) INCLUSION OF ALL MEDICAL FACILITIES.— Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall expand the Opioid Safety Initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include all medical facilities of the Department.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall establish guidance that each health care provider of the Department of Veterans Affairs, before initiating opioid therapy to treat a patient as part of the comprehensive assessment conducted by the health care provider, use the Opioid Therapy Risk Report tool of

the Department of Veterans Affairs (or any subsequent tool), which shall include information from the prescription drug monitoring program of each participating State as applicable, that includes the most recent information to date relating to the patient that accessed such program to assess the risk for adverse outcomes of opioid therapy for the patient, including the concurrent use of controlled substances such as benzodiazepines, as part of the comprehensive assessment conducted by the health care provider.

(3) ENHANCED STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall establish enhanced standards with respect to the use of routine and random urine drug tests for all patients before and during opioid therapy to help prevent substance abuse, dependence, and diversion, including—

(A) that such tests occur not less frequently than once each year; and

(B) that health care providers appropriately order, interpret and respond to the results from such tests to tailor pain therapy, safeguards, and risk management strategies to each patient.

(b) PAIN MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Opioid Safety Initiative of the Department, the Secretary shall require all employees of the Department responsible for prescribing opioids to receive education and training described in paragraph (2).

(2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—Education and training described in this paragraph is education and training on pain management and safe opioid prescribing practices for purposes of safely and effectively managing patients with chronic pain, including education and training on the following:

(A) The implementation of and full compliance with the VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain, including any update to such guideline.

(B) The use of evidence-based pain management therapies, including cognitive-behavioral therapy, non-opioid alternatives, and non-drug methods and procedures to managing pain and related health conditions including medical devices approved or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of patients with chronic pain and complementary alternative medicines.

(C) Screening and identification of patients with substance use disorder, including drug-seeking behavior, before prescribing opioids, assessment of risk potential for patients developing an addiction, and referral of patients to appropriate addiction treatment professionals if addiction is identified or strongly suspected.

(D) Communication with patients on the potential harm associated with the use of opioids and other controlled substances, including the need to safely store and dispose of supplies relating to the use of opioids and other controlled substances.

(E) Such other education and training as the Secretary considers appropriate to ensure that veterans receive safe and high-quality pain management care from the Department.

(3) USE OF EXISTING PROGRAM.—In providing education and training described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall use the Interdisciplinary Chronic Pain Management Training Team Program of the Department (or success program).

(c) PAIN MANAGEMENT TEAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Opioid Safety Initiative of the Department, the director of each medical facility of the Department shall identify and designate a pain management team of health care professionals, which may include board certified pain medicine specialists, responsible for coordinating and overseeing pain management therapy at such facility for patients experiencing acute and chronic pain that is non-cancer related.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTOCOLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with the Directors of each Veterans Integrated Service Network, the Secretary shall establish standard protocols for the designation of pain management teams at each medical facility within the Department.

(B) CONSULTATION ON PRESCRIPTION OF OPIOIDS.—Each protocol established under subparagraph (A) shall ensure that any health care provider without expertise in prescribing analgesics or who has not completed the education and training under subsection (b), including a mental health care provider, does not prescribe opioids to a patient unless that health care provider—

(i) consults with a health care provider with pain management expertise or who is on the pain management team of the medical facility; and

(ii) refers the patient to the pain management team for any subsequent prescriptions and related therapy.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the director of each medical facility of the Department shall submit to the Under Secretary for Health and the director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network in which the medical facility is located a report identifying the health care professionals that have been designated as members of the pain management team at the medical facility pursuant to paragraph (1).

(B) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) with respect to a medical facility of the Department shall include—

(i) a certification as to whether all members of the pain management team at the medical facility have completed the education and training required under subsection (b);

(ii) a plan for the management and referral of patients to such pain management team if health care providers without expertise in prescribing analgesics prescribe opioid medications to treat acute and chronic pain that is non-cancer related; and

(iii) a certification as to whether the medical facility—

(I) fully complies with the stepped-care model of pain management and other pain management policies contained in Directive 2009-053 of the Veterans Health Administration, or successor directive; or

(II) does not fully comply with such stepped-care model of pain management and other pain management policies but is carrying out a corrective plan of action to ensure such full compliance.

(d) TRACKING AND MONITORING OF OPIOID USE.—

(1) PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS OF STATES.—In carrying out the Opioid Safety Initiative and the Opioid Therapy Risk Report tool of the Department, the Secretary shall—

(A) ensure access by health care providers of the Department to information on controlled substances, including opioids and benzodiazepines, prescribed to veterans who

receive care outside the Department through the prescription drug monitoring program of each State with such a program, including by seeking to enter into memoranda of understanding with States to allow shared access of such information between States and the Department;

(B) include such information in the Opioid Therapy Risk Report; and

(C) require health care providers of the Department to submit to the prescription drug monitoring program of each State information on prescriptions of controlled substances received by veterans in that State under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) REPORT ON TRACKING OF DATA ON OPIOID USE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the feasibility and advisability of improving the Opioid Therapy Risk Report tool of the Department to allow for more advanced real-time tracking of and access to data on—

(A) the key clinical indicators with respect to the totality of opioid use by veterans;

(B) concurrent prescribing by health care providers of the Department of opioids in different health care settings, including data on concurrent prescribing of opioids to treat mental health disorders other than opioid use disorder; and

(C) mail-order prescriptions of opioid prescribed to veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF OPIOID RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS.—

(1) INCREASED AVAILABILITY AND USE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maximize the availability of opioid receptor antagonists approved by the Food and Drug Administration, including naloxone, to veterans.

(B) AVAILABILITY, TRAINING, AND DISTRIBUTING.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(i) equip each pharmacy of the Department with opioid receptor antagonists approved by the Food and Drug Administration to be dispensed to outpatients as needed; and

(ii) expand the Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution program of the Department to ensure that all veterans in receipt of health care under laws administered by the Secretary who are at risk of opioid overdose may access such opioid receptor antagonists and training on the proper administration of such opioid receptor antagonists.

(C) VETERANS WHO ARE AT RISK.—For purposes of subparagraph (B), veterans who are at risk of opioid overdose include—

(i) veterans receiving long-term opioid therapy;

(ii) veterans receiving opioid therapy who have a history of substance use disorder or prior instances of overdose; and

(iii) veterans who are at risk as determined by a health care provider who is treating the veteran.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on carrying out paragraph (1), including an assessment of any remaining steps to be carried out by the Secretary to carry out such paragraph.

(f) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION AND CAPABILITIES IN OPIOID THERAPY RISK REPORT TOOL OF THE DEPARTMENT.—

(1) INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall include in the Opioid Therapy Risk Report tool of the Department—

(A) information on the most recent time the tool was accessed by a health care provider of the Department with respect to each veteran; and

(B) information on the results of the most recent urine drug test for each veteran.

(2) CAPABILITIES.—The Secretary shall include in the Opioid Therapy Risk Report tool the ability of the health care providers of the Department to determine whether a health care provider of the Department prescribed opioids to a veteran without checking the information in the tool with respect to the veteran.

(g) NOTIFICATIONS OF RISK IN COMPUTERIZED HEALTH RECORD.—The Secretary shall modify the computerized patient record system of the Department to ensure that any health care provider that accesses the record of a veteran, regardless of the reason the veteran seeks care from the health care provider, will be immediately notified whether the veteran—

(1) is receiving opioid therapy and has a history of substance use disorder or prior instances of overdose;

(2) has a history of opioid abuse; or

(3) is at risk of becoming an opioid abuser as determined by a health care provider who is treating the veteran.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “controlled substance” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(2) The term “State” means each of the several States, territories, and possessions of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING OF JOINT WORKING GROUP ON PAIN MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Pain Management Working Group of the Health Executive Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs—Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee (Pain Management Working Group) established under section 320 of title 38, United States Code, includes a focus on the following:

(1) The opioid prescribing practices of health care providers of each Department.

(2) The ability of each Department to manage acute and chronic pain among individuals receiving health care from the Department, including training health care providers with respect to pain management.

(3) The use by each Department of complementary and integrative health and complementary alternative medicines in treating such individuals.

(4) The concurrent use by health care providers of each Department of opioids and prescription drugs to treat mental health disorders, including benzodiazepines.

(5) The practice by health care providers of each Department of prescribing opioids to treat mental health disorders.

(6) The coordination in coverage of and consistent access to medications prescribed for patients transitioning from receiving health care from the Department of Defense to receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(7) The ability of each Department to identify and treat substance use disorders among

individuals receiving health care from that Department.

(b) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the working group described in subsection (a)—

(1) coordinates the activities of the working group with other relevant working groups established under section 320 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) consults with other relevant Federal agencies with respect to the activities of the working group; and

(3) consults with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense with respect to, reviews, and comments on the VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain, or any successor guideline, before any update to the guideline is released.

(c) CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall issue an update to the VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—In conducting the update under subsection (a), the Pain Management Working Group, in coordination with the Clinical Practice Guideline VA/DoD Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain Working Group, shall examine whether the Clinical Practical Guideline should include the following:

(A) Enhanced guidance with respect to—

(i) the coadministration of an opioid and other drugs, including benzodiazepines, that may result in life-limiting drug interactions;

(ii) the treatment of patients with current acute psychiatric instability or substance use disorder or patients at risk of suicide; and

(iii) the use of opioid therapy to treat mental health disorders other than opioid use disorder.

(B) Enhanced guidance with respect to the treatment of patients with behaviors or comorbidities, such as post-traumatic stress disorder or other psychiatric disorders, or a history of substance abuse or addiction, that requires a consultation or comanagement of opioid therapy with one or more specialists in pain management, mental health, or addictions.

(C) Enhanced guidance with respect to health care providers—

(i) conducting an effective assessment for patients beginning or continuing opioid therapy, including understanding and setting realistic goals with respect to achieving and maintaining an expected level of pain relief, improved function, or a clinically appropriate combination of both; and

(ii) effectively assessing whether opioid therapy is achieving or maintaining the established treatment goals of the patient or whether the patient and health care provider should discuss adjusting, augmenting, or discontinuing the opioid therapy.

(D) Guidelines to govern the methodologies used by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to taper opioid therapy when adjusting or discontinuing the use of opioid therapy.

(E) Guidelines with respect to appropriate case management for patients receiving opioid therapy who transition between inpatient and outpatient health care settings, which may include the use of care transition plans.

(F) Guidelines with respect to appropriate case management for patients receiving

opioid therapy who transition from receiving care during active duty to post-military health care networks.

(G) Guidelines with respect to providing options, before initiating opioid therapy, for pain management therapies without the use of opioids and options to augment opioid therapy with other clinical and complementary and integrative health services to minimize opioid dependence.

(H) Guidelines with respect to the provision of evidence-based non-opioid treatments within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, including medical devices and other therapies approved or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of chronic pain as an alternative to or to augment opioid therapy.

**SEC. 4. REVIEW, INVESTIGATION, AND REPORT ON USE OF OPIOIDS IN TREATMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the Opioid Safety Initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the opioid prescribing practices of health care providers of the Department.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Recommendations on such improvements to the Opioid Safety Initiative of the Department as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(B) Information with respect to—

(i) deaths resulting from sentinel events involving veterans prescribed opioids by a health care provider of the Department;

(ii) overall prescription rates and prescriptions indications of opioids to treat non-cancer, non-palliative, and non-hospice care patients;

(iii) the prescription rates and prescriptions indications of benzodiazepines and opioids concomitantly by health care providers of the Department;

(iv) the practice by health care providers of the Department of prescribing opioids to treat patients without any pain, including to treat patients with mental health disorders other than opioid use disorder; and

(v) the effectiveness of opioid therapy for patients receiving such therapy, including the effectiveness of long-term opioid therapy.

(C) An evaluation of processes of the Department in place to oversee opioid use among veterans, including procedures to identify and remedy potential over-prescribing of opioids by health care providers of the Department.

(D) An assessment of the implementation by the Secretary of the VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain.

(b) QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives a progress report detailing the actions by the Secretary during the period covered by the report to address any outstanding findings and recommendations by the Comptroller General

of the United States under subsection (a) with respect to the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF PRESCRIPTION RATES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually for the following five years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives a report, with respect to each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to collect and review information on opioids prescribed by health care providers at the facility to treat non-cancer, non-palliative, and non-hospice care patients that contains, for the one-year period preceding the submission of the report, the following:

(1) The number of patients and the percentage of the patient population of the Department who were prescribed benzodiazepines and opioids concurrently by a health care provider of the Department.

(2) The number of patients and the percentage of the patient population of the Department without any pain who were prescribed opioids by a health care provider of the Department, including those who were prescribed benzodiazepines and opioids concurrently.

(3) The number of non-cancer, non-palliative, and non-hospice care patients and the percentage of such patients who were treated with opioids by a health care provider of the Department on an inpatient-basis and who also received prescription opioids by mail from the Department while being treated on an inpatient-basis.

(4) The number of non-cancer, non-palliative, and non-hospice care patients and the percentage of such patients who were prescribed opioids concurrently by a health care provider of the Department and a health care provider that is not health care provider of the Department.

(5) With respect to each medical facility of the Department, information on opioids prescribed by health care providers at the facility to treat non-cancer, non-palliative, and non-hospice care patients, including information on—

(A) the prescription rate at which each health care provider at the facility prescribed benzodiazepines and opioids concurrently to such patients and the aggregate such prescription rate for all health care providers at the facility;

(B) the prescription rate at which each health care provider at the facility prescribed benzodiazepines or opioids to such patients to treat conditions for which benzodiazepines or opioids are not approved treatment and the aggregate such prescription rate for all health care providers at the facility;

(C) the prescription rate at which each health care provider at the facility prescribed or dispensed mail-order prescriptions of opioids to such patients while such patients were being treated with opioids on an inpatient-basis and the aggregate of such prescription rate for all health care providers at the facility; and

(D) the prescription rate at which each health care provider at the facility prescribed opioids to such patients who were also concurrently prescribed opioids by a health care provider that is not a health care provider of the Department and the aggregate of such prescription rates for all health care providers at the facility.

(6) With respect to each medical facility of the Department, the number of times a pharmacist at the facility overrode a critical

drug interaction warning with respect to an interaction between opioids and another medication before dispensing such medication to a veteran.

(d) INVESTIGATION OF PRESCRIPTION RATES.—If the Secretary determines that a prescription rate with respect to a health care provider or medical facility of the Department conflicts with or is otherwise inconsistent with the standards of appropriate and safe care, the Secretary shall—

(1) immediately notify the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives of such determination, including information relating to such determination, prescription rate, and health care provider or medical facility, as the case may be; and

(2) through the Office of the Medical Inspector of the Veterans Health Administration, conduct a full investigation of the health care provider or medical facility, as the case may be.

(e) PRESCRIPTION RATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term "prescription rate" means, with respect to a health care provider or medical facility of the Department, each of the following:

(1) The number of patients treated with opioids by the health care provider or at the medical facility, as the case may be, divided by the total number of pharmacy users of that health care provider or medical facility.

(2) The average number of morphine equivalents per day prescribed by the health care provider or at the medical facility, as the case may be, to patients being treated with opioids.

(3) Of the patients being treated with opioids by the health care provider or at the medical facility, as the case may be, the average number of prescriptions of opioids per patient.

**SEC. 5. MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN VETERAN INFORMATION TO STATE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE MONITORING PROGRAMS.**

Section 5701(l) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "may" and inserting "shall".

**SEC. 6. MODIFICATION TO LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES.**

Section 705 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 703 note) is amended to read as follows:

**"SEC. 705. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

"The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the aggregate amount of awards and bonuses paid by the Secretary in a fiscal year under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, or any other awards or bonuses authorized under such title or title 38, United States Code, does not exceed the following amounts:

"(1) With respect to each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021, \$230,000,000.

"(2) With respect to each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024, \$360,000,000."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend or add any extraneous material to their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4063, as amended, the Promoting Responsible Opioid Management and Incorporating Scientific Expertise—or the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE—Act.

When our Nation's servicemembers transition from military life to civilian life, they carry with them the skills, experiences, memories, and relationships that will last a lifetime. Unfortunately, many of them also carry significant pain as a result of injuries that they incurred while in service to this great Nation.

Veterans, in general, experience chronic pain at a higher rate than their nonveteran counterparts. What is more, chronic pain is one of the most frequent conditions facing the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Effectively managing this pain, which often occurs alongside a number of other comorbid conditions, is a challenge for which the Department of Veterans Affairs has been increasingly turning to opioid-based medications to meet that challenge.

Now, while opioids, when used appropriately, can be effective in treating pain, opioid medications are extremely high risk. Unfortunately, VA's own research has found that veterans are at an increased risk for many adverse outcomes that may accompany opioid use, including substance abuse, overdose, and self-inflicted injuries.

Given that, VA's recent reliance on opioid medications to manage veteran pain is alarming. According to a CBS News report on VA data, the number of opioid prescriptions written by VA providers rose an astonishing 259 percent from 2002 to 2013. During that same time period, VA's total patient population increased only 29 percent.

The sad reality behind an overreliance on opioids became apparent at the VA Medical Center at Tomah, Wisconsin, last year. In response to a series of complaints made in 2011 and 2012, the VA Office of the Inspector General conducted a review of alleged inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances and abuse of authority at the Tomah VA Medical Center. The IG found that the number of opioids prescribed in Tomah was "at considerable variance" with the other VA medical facilities in that region and was a cause for "potentially serious concerns."

ferred to it as "Candy Land" and to the facility chief of staff as the "Candy Man." Jason Simcakoski was one veteran who was being treated by the Tomah VA Medical Center.

In August of 2014, Jason died from the combined effect of the multiple prescription medications he received as an in-patient. He put his trust in a system that ultimately failed him.

He left behind a young daughter and a grieving family, some of whom are with us today. Unfortunately, the failures in Tomah, the failures that led to Jason's death, are not isolated. There are countless others just like him in the VA across this country.

Chronic pain and the conditions that frequently accompany it are undoubtedly complex, and concerns about an overreliance on opioids are certainly not unique to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

But the VA alone has the responsibility to treat our Nation's most heroic citizens, meaning VA does have a unique responsibility to act responsibly.

The bill before us would help the Department do just that by improving and expanding opioid safety initiatives, strengthening the VA/Department of Defense joint working group on pain management, mandating that VA medical facilities disclose information to State-controlled substance monitoring programs, and requiring VA review, investigate, and report on the use of opioids among veteran patients.

The manager's amendment to H.R. 4063 would require the Department and DOD to update their joint clinical practice guidelines for the management of opioid therapy to reflect the latest medical practices.

The bill would also direct VA to ensure that every employee who prescribes opioids receives education and training on pain management and safe prescribing practices and every VA medical facility has a designated pain management team.

It would further require VA to maximize the availability of Food and Drug Administration-approved opioid receptor antagonists to ensure that veterans most at risk of opioid overdose have access to and training on potentially life-saving drugs that can counter the devastating effects of an opioid overdose.

I am grateful to the vice chairman of the full Veterans' Affairs Committee, GUS BILIRAKIS, for sponsoring this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 9, 2016.

Hon. JEFF MILLER,  
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 4063, the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall

It is no wonder that the veterans being treated in Tomah commonly re-

within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill the Committee on Armed Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4063 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, May 10, 2016.*

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4063, as amended, the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act.

I agree that the Committee on Armed Services has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this legislation and I appreciate your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill.

I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral to H.R. 4063, as amended, the Committee on Armed Services is not waiving its jurisdiction.

This exchange of letters will be included in the Committee's report on H.R. 4063, as amended.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Christine Hill, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health.

Thank you for your commitment to the well-being of our nation's veterans.

With warm personal regards, I am,  
Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,  
*Chairman.*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4063, as amended, the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act.

I would like to thank my friend from Florida, the vice chair of the committee, Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS, for introducing this bill and for his passionate leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to take a moment to thank Chairman MILLER for his extraordinary leadership on this bill and on issues that pertain to veterans generally. I thank the chairman so much for all of his work. In fact, the rumor among our colleagues is that he runs the most bipartisan committee on Capitol Hill. I thank him for his leadership.

The epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths is a national problem.

It is a public health crisis, Mr. Speaker, that affects constituents living in all of our districts and all of our States.

Opioid use disorder is a chronic relapsing disease of the brain. Yet, the stigma associated with opioid use disorder keeps people from seeking, accessing, or maintaining treatment.

In 2014, according to The New York Times, over 47,000 people died from a drug overdose. That is 125 Americans each day who lost their lives due to addiction or abuse. Of these, more than 61 percent involved opioids.

Across the country, Mr. Speaker, nearly 260 million prescriptions are written for opioids, enough, according to the Centers for Disease Control, for every American adult to have their own bottle of pills that can be highly, highly addictive.

In my home State of North Carolina, fatal drug overdoses have jumped 75 percent since 2002. According to an article in February from The Charlotte Observer, nearly half of the accidental drug overdose deaths in 2010 were associated with prescriptions that had been filled within 60 days of death.

It is estimated that North Carolina has spent over \$582 million in healthcare costs stemming from opioid abuse. This is nearly \$59 for each man, woman, and child in my home State of North Carolina. This is a healthcare problem, Mr. Speaker, that affects all levels of our society. One of the main drivers is the overprescription of opioids to manage pain.

Veterans are at an even greater risk. The statistics on veterans experiencing chronic pain are absolutely staggering. Over 50 percent of all veterans enrolled and receiving care at VA medical facilities experience chronic pain, with over half a million veterans managing pain with prescribed opioids. Compared to the general population, veterans are prescribed opioids at a much, much higher rate.

But there is a growing awareness that the long-term prescription of opioids to manage chronic pain can have severe and sometimes tragic—yes, tragic—consequences. It has been reported that veterans, our beloved veterans, are twice as likely to die from accidental overdose compared to non-veterans.

As a Member of Congress that represents the "Nation's Most Military Friendly State"—and we like to say that all of the time—and as an Army veteran, as I am myself, I am alarmed and committed to bringing about a solution.

But addressing this crisis will not be easy. The Veterans' Affairs Committee members know that so very well. It is not going to be easy. It will take the work of all of us working together. It will take education. It will take research into more effective and less addictive ways to treat chronic pain.

It will take the combined work, Mr. Speaker, of our States and the Federal Government to address what the CDC has termed "the worst drug addiction epidemic in the country's history," and the chief medical officer of my State's medical board has called it "an unequivocal health crisis."

This bill, Mr. Speaker, we are debating today marks a major step forward, and it will go a very long way in helping to lessen this public health emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) of the 12th District of Florida, the vice chairman of the full committee, somebody who has been a stalwart on this and many other veteran issues.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member. I appreciate it.

I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 4063, the Promoting Responsible Opioid Management and Incorporating Scientific Expertise, or the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act.

This important bill helps us fulfill our promise to past, current, and future veterans, our true American heroes, Mr. Speaker.

I introduced the PROMISE Act in response to the tragic death of Marine Corps Corporal Jason Simcakoski at the Tomah, Wisconsin, VA Medical Center.

Jason's death, caused by a mixed drug toxicity and the combination of various medications, was an avoidable tragedy. My colleagues and I worked with local veterans, veterans organizations, and other stakeholders to get this done right.

I am honored to discuss the need for this bill in the presence of Jason's family, who join us in the Capitol on this memorable day. We could not do it without them.

The PROMISE Act can't bring Jason and others like him back. But, like Jason's family expressed to me, this will ensure future veterans get the treatment they need for their physical and invisible wounds.

Currently, VA treatment for chronic pain is largely the prescription of opioids without consideration of a patient's personal history or preferences. Unfortunately, there is a lack of data on veteran opioid use. There are also inefficiencies in the VA identifying abuse of opioids and with patient follow-up to determine effectiveness of these drugs on a case-by-case basis.

The PROMISE Act is the congressional action needed to rectify these problems. The PROMISE Act increases safety for opioid therapy and pain management, ensures more transparency at the VA, and encourages more outreach and awareness of the patient advocacy program for veterans.

My bill also acknowledges that VA patient services do not stop at the initial consultation. It requires the VA to maintain realtime tracking of data on opioid use to help prevent overmedication and misuse or overuse of medication.

I want to thank Speaker RYAN; Representative BUTTERFIELD, of course; our great chairman, Mr. MILLER from Florida, a real good friend of mine; Representative KIND, Representative RICE, and many others who supported this bill and worked to make this happen.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to uphold our commitment and promise to those that pay the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), and I thank Mr. KIND for coming to the floor. There is not a Member of this body who works harder than him on issues that pertain to veterans.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from North Carolina for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act.

Jason was a veteran who unfortunately saw his life end way too soon while receiving treatment at the Tomah VA Medical Center in the heart of my congressional district.

I want to thank, first of all, Subcommittee Chairman BILIRAKIS for the leadership and support that he has shown this legislation. He has been a real joy to work with.

I want to thank Chairman MILLER for the leadership he has provided the committee and for the concern and the attention that he has given to all of our veterans throughout our country.

I want to thank Representative BUTTERFIELD and the other members of the committee for the strong bipartisan support that this legislation enjoys on the floor today.

Jason was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, in 1978 in my congressional district. He is the son of Marvin and Linda Simcakoski. He is a graduate of Stevens Point Pacelli High School.

Shortly after his graduation, he joined the Marine Corps, where he reached the rank of corporal, receiving the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one star, a Certificate of Commendation, the Rifle Sharp Shooters Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged in February of 2002. Jason loved being a marine, and he was very proud to serve his country.

He married Heather in 2010 in Stevens Point, and they had a beautiful daughter named Anaya. I am proud that many members of Jason's family came out to Washington this week to see the passage of this bill today: his mother Linda, his wife Heather, his

daughter Anaya, who are in the Chamber with us today. His father, Marvin, who was also intimately involved in helping draft this legislation and see it through, was unfortunately unable to attend.

But I commend all of them because this is how legislation is meant to work, by reaching out to veterans organizations, getting direct feedback from the veterans themselves, their families, healthcare providers. We have known for some time that we have had a pain management problem not just in the VA medical system, but throughout our entire healthcare system.

This unfortunately came to light through numerous investigations at the Tomah VA Medical Center over the course of the last few years, which ultimately helped and precipitated the legislation that we have before us today.

□ 1600

Jason's family's guiding star in all of this, based on the numerous conversations that I have had with them and that they have had with Chairman BILIRAKIS and even with Speaker RYAN, was to ensure that the care and the treatment that our veterans receive be enhanced so that no veteran and no family would have to go through and endure what they did.

Jason was receiving pain management and was under the opioid medication at Tomah. This legislation, I think, advances that goal. I don't think anyone can be here with absolute certitude and promise a family or future veterans that mistakes won't happen in the future; but I think what is contained in this legislation is a significant step in the right direction, with the understanding that more work is needed.

The bill would require a review and an update of the VA's Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain. It requires all opioid prescribers at the VA to have enhanced pain management and safe opioid prescribing education and training. It improves the realtime tracking of and access to data on the opioid use of veterans in order to prevent overmedication. It provides additional resources to assist the VA's ability to counter overdoses. It expands the Opioid Safety Initiative to all VA medical facilities. It updates the Joint Working Group of the VA and DOD to focus on opioid prescribing practices, the use of alternative pain therapy, and the coordination when a service-member transitions from the DOD into the VA care setting. It also encourages the use of alternative and complementary forms of pain management. Lastly, it requires the VA to report on prescription rates so we can better assess the problem and find solutions.

This is a work in progress not just within the VA system, not just with the reforms that are currently being

implemented at the Tomah VA Medical Center in my congressional district, but throughout the entire healthcare system. We as a Nation have not done a very good job of managing pain at all levels. I am glad and I am proud that this Congress sees the need to move forward on a comprehensive opioid legislation bill. Hopefully we can get that to the finish line yet this year. There is also a major VA reform bill that we are working on—excellent vehicles in order to include some of the provisions of this legislation as we move forward.

If there is any hope and promise that out of the tragedy of Jason's death good things can come of it, I think the legislation that we have before us today, the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act, gives us that hope and gives us that opportunity. I couldn't think of a more powerful legacy in Jason's name than this legislation.

I ask all of my colleagues to give their support of this legislation today. Again, I thank the leadership of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the help, the assistance, and the focus that they have provided on this important piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that it is not in order to introduce to the House individuals present in the gallery.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding and for his efforts and the efforts of all of those who are involved in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, my concern here is twofold. First of all, as a pharmacist with over 30 years of experience and practice, this is a deep concern of mine.

Secondly, I believe we have a duty to our servicemen and -women who have sacrificed their lives to serve and protect our country. Studies have shown that soldiers and veterans use opioid painkillers far more frequently than civilians because their military training and combat lead to far more injuries. In fact, a report by the American Public Health Association found that the fatal overdose rate among VA patients is nearly double the national average. Something needs to be done. The VA is doing a disservice to our veterans by prescribing too many opioids at too high quantities. That is why H.R. 4063 is so important.

H.R. 4063 directs the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to jointly update the VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain so it adequately reflects the current environment we face with opioid abuse. It also directs the VA to modify and establish initiatives and protocols to better address the misuse of opioids by our veterans.

These changes, I believe, will be one step toward ensuring that the services



provided to our men and women of the military will improve their overall care and will move us closer to fulfilling our duty of servicing our servicemen and -women.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is bipartisan legislation like this that makes me proud to be a Member of the United States Congress. I want to thank each one of my colleagues for his role in making this day happen.

I thank Jason's family. I am not going to single them out except to make reference to them. I just want to thank Jason's family for making the journey to Washington today for this very important and momentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I wish that we did not have to discuss this tragedy today on the floor. Jake is not with us, not by his choice. His wife is a widow; his daughter is now fatherless; his parents lost a son.

Why? Why did he die of a drug overdose inside of the very hospital in which he sought protection?

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all Members will support this legislation today. It is not that it will bring Jake back, but it may prevent this from occurring to another veteran in the future.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4063, the "Promise Act."

H.R. 4063 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) to jointly update their respective clinical practice guidelines.

The practice guideline pertains to the management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain.

The guidelines spell out procedures for: (1) prescribing opioids for outpatient treatment, (2) (con-tra-in-di-ca-tions) contraindications for opioid therapy, (3) treatment of patients with post-traumatic stress disorder, (4) psychiatric disorders, or a history of substance abuse or addiction, (5) and management transitioning patients.

The guidelines also prescribe routine and random urine drug tests, as well as treatment options to augment opioid therapy designed to minimize opioid dependence.

This bill examines the VA's evidence-based therapy treatment model for treating veterans' mental health conditions.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will be expected to update safety measures for opioid therapy, expand the use of alternative medicine, and conduct audits of the VA health care system through a nongovernment entity.

The VA will be required to request documentation of medical license violations during the past 20 years and any settlement agreements for medical-related disciplinary charges from the medical board, of each state.

All VA medical facilities will implement the opioid safety initiative and train employees to effectively dispense pain management techniques through the establishment of pain management teams.

Enhancing national oversight, the VA is also expected to track and monitor opioid use and access to state program information, increase the availability of Food and Drug Administration-approved opioid receptor antagonists, and modify the computerized patient record system, as well as internal audits.

Adjusting the computerized patient record system will ensure that health care providers accessing veterans' records are notified of their use of opioid therapy.

This system also informs health care providers of substance use disorder or opioid abuse histories.

The Promise Act of 2016 institutes pilot programs within the VA to evaluate the feasibility of wellness programs complementing veteran pain management and related health care services.

I support this legislation because it will promote safety measures for opioid therapy and alternative medicine.

H.R. 4063 is a positive step in the right direction and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.R. 4063, the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act. As those who defend our liberty return home from service, their fight for freedom internalizes. The homecoming of our nation's veterans often marks their entrance into a new war—a constant battle against a visceral and intangible enemy: substance abuse. As we pass this important legislation, we afford our veterans the adequate support to fight this uphill battle, thus allowing our nation's fallen soldiers to rise as they repeatedly repel attacks from addiction. We must pass the PROMISE Act, because if we do not look out for the protectors of our freedom, who will look out for us?

Through my experiences as an EOE investigator at the USPS, I saw firsthand the divisive consequences of substance abuse on addicts, their loved ones, and communities as a whole. The PROMISE Act will bring nationwide uniformity to opioid addiction prevention efforts by implementing opioid treatment and therapy guidelines, expanding VA safety initiatives, and establishing research-based committees to measure the quality of treatment methods. While some may question why we are voting today to help those who have broken our nation's laws, just consider: who were the citizens that protected our freedom and nurtured our liberty when they were called upon? Now that our soldiers are the ones in need, who are we to deny them?

Just as veterans took on the duty of defending our communities, we must come together to halt the increasing opioid addiction rate for the sake of veterans and the good of America as a whole. The PROMISE Act will serve to acknowledge veterans' selfless sacrifice by establishing a forgotten American ideal: that we as a nation will always care for those who protect and defend our freedom. While no amount of money could ever buy back that which was sacrificed in the name of liberty, the passage of this legislation will alleviate some of the

hardships faced by opioid-dependent veterans. As we look to find the most effective methods for treating opioid addiction, the PROMISE Act will serve as a strong step toward reversing our nation's substance abuse epidemic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4063, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to improve the use by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ARIEL RIOS FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4957), to designate the Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building."

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4957

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia shall be known and designated as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ariel Rios Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4957.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4957 would designate the Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia, as the Ariel Rios Federal Building.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation, along with the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management—my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and my colleague from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

Special Agent Ariel Rios joined the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in 1978, where he became one of the most effective agents who was assigned to then-Vice President George H. W. Bush's task force. Special Agent Rios worked as an undercover agent as part of the task force.

During his undercover assignment in 1982, he and another agent arranged to meet two suspects at a motel in Miami, Florida, to purchase large quantities of drugs and machine guns. A confrontation ensued and, during a struggle, Special Agent Rios was shot and was seriously wounded. He died shortly after in the hospital on December 2, 1982.

Special Agent Rios received a number of posthumous awards, including the Secretary of the Treasury's Exceptional Service Award and a Meritorious Service Award from the Dade County Chiefs of Police Association. The previous location of the ATF headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue bore his name for 27 years. During that time, the ATF relocated to a new headquarters building, and the old building was occupied by another agency and was renamed. H.R. 4957 would appropriately name the current location of the ATF headquarters after Special Agent Rios.

I am very proud to recognize this American hero who so sadly perished while protecting the people of Miami, my hometown, from crime and drugs. As a Member with the honor of representing south Florida in Congress, I thank Special Agent Rios for his service to our country, and I thank his family for their sacrifice of such a brave person on behalf of all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank Representative CURBELO.

I am pleased that this bill is being considered by the House this afternoon during National Police Week. I also appreciate Subcommittee Chairman BARLETTA's support of this measure and the support of the other members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, who also agreed to be original cosponsors of this great bill, which would name the current headquarters of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or the ATF, after fallen Special Agent Ariel Rios.

As was mentioned by my colleague, Agent Rios was born in 1954. He attended the John Jay College of Crimi-

nal Justice in Manhattan, and he graduated with a degree in criminal justice in 1976. Agent Rios immediately started his career in criminal justice by working for the Department of Corrections in both Washington, D.C., and in New York City. Later, he joined the ATF in 1978 and developed a reputation as an effective law enforcement officer.

In 1982, Agent Rios was working as a member of Vice President George H. W. Bush's anti-drug task force. It was here that he was shot and killed while working undercover to unravel a drug ring in Miami, Florida.

In 1985, Congress saw fit to honor the ultimate sacrifice that Special Agent Rios made. Congress acknowledged the fact that he was the first ATF agent to die in the line of duty by naming the headquarters of the ATF building the Ariel Rios Memorial Building. This name stood for nearly 30 years until the building was renamed for President Clinton in 2012 so as to reflect the fact that the old building now housed the EPA. Unfortunately, the "Ariel Rios" name was not transferred to the new ATF headquarters.

This bill seeks to correct this omission and name the new ATF headquarters as the Ariel Rios Federal Building.

As a former police officer, I have a special appreciation for the risks that face officers each and every day. Agent Rios' death serves as a reminder that when law enforcement officers walk out the door and leave their families for the day, they are putting their lives on the line to protect our communities.

It is fitting that the House is considering this legislation during National Police Week, which is an annual event when thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in events that honor those who have been killed in the line of duty. By naming the ATF headquarters after Mr. Rios, a front line law enforcement officer, we offer a very public tribute to the commemoration of the sacrifices that too many officers have made.

This legislation comes at the request of many current and former agents who would not rest until this recognition was restored to Special Agent Rios. Because of their tireless efforts, the House will vote today to restore the name of Special Agent Rios to the ATF headquarters. This is an overdue and well-deserved acknowledgment of both Special Agent Rios and of the nearly 20,000 law enforcement agents who have died in the line of duty in the United States of America.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that so many on both sides of the aisle from our committee have agreed to cosponsor this legislation. I am also honored that Mr. ROGERS, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, supports this bill.

Former President George H. W. Bush has written Congress in support of

naming this building after Special Agent Rios, as have several former Directors of the ATF and as have several organizations that represent law enforcement officers.

I am very proud that this legislation is being considered today, and I urge my colleagues to support my bipartisan bill that honors Special Agent Rios.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) for his leadership on this issue.

This, of course, is a simple naming bill, but it honors one of the many men and women who paid the ultimate price to keep Americans safe. This has a special place in my heart, obviously, because this took place in my community where Special Agent Rios lost his life.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4957.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### KINGPIN DESIGNATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4985) to amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to protect classified information in Federal court challenges.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4985

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Kingpin Designation Improvement Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN FEDERAL COURT CHALLENGES RELATING TO DESIGNATIONS UNDER THE NARCOTICS KINGPIN DESIGNATION ACT.

Section 804 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1903) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN FEDERAL COURT CHALLENGES RELATING TO DESIGNATIONS.—In any judicial review of a determination made under this section, if the determination was based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the

Classified Information Procedures Act) such information may be submitted to the reviewing court *ex parte* and *in camera*. This subsection does not confer or imply any right to judicial review.”.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on this measure.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am pleased to call up the Kingpin Designation Improvement Act, which was favorably reported this week by the Judiciary Committee on which I also sit.

This bipartisan bill, introduced by the gentleman and gentlewoman from New York, Mr. KATKO and Miss RICE, helps to ensure that classified information used in the designation of foreign drug kingpins may be protected from public disclosure so that it cannot be used by drug lords and terrorists.

Under current law, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, otherwise known as OFAC, is able to designate international drug traffickers as kingpins. These designations are published in the Federal Register, and the individuals are added to the list of specially designated nationals, which effectively blocks any U.S.-based asset and their access to the U.S. financial system. This is a potent weapon against international drug traffickers.

Since the enactment of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act 16 years ago, OFAC has designated more than 1,800 individuals, all of them non-U.S. persons. These include not only high-profile drug traffickers, but also individuals who are using drug proceeds to support international terrorism.

Now, listed persons can seek removal of those sanctions by challenging them in Federal court. The tricky part arises when OFAC designations are based on classified information. We do not want to hand drug lords and terrorists the sources and methods we have for uncovering their nefarious activities. We also do not want OFAC to be deterred from making the designations our national security requires because they are worried that such classified info may be publicly disclosed.

For these reasons, other key OFAC sanctions laws, like the International

Emergency Economic Powers Act, provide protections for classified information. Under that statute, OFAC can submit such information *ex parte* and *in camera* directly to the judge outside of public view.

H.R. 4985 just incorporates that same protection in the Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. Also, it is worth remembering that these designations are not something done secretly in the dead of night. They result from the coordination of five Federal agencies. They are published publicly, and they are reported to 10 congressional committees, 5 in the House and 5 in the Senate, some of which receive the classified background on the designated persons.

I want to thank Foreign Affairs Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE, and Ranking Member CONYERS for moving this bipartisan bill promptly to the floor.

H.R. 4985 is an important tool in our fight against high-level narcotics traffickers and deserves our unanimous support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Representative KATKO and Representative RICE for introducing this bill, H.R. 4985, the Kingpin Designation Improvement Act, which helps ensure that Federal courts can review sanctions against drug kingpins without forcing law enforcement or the intelligence community to publicly release classified information.

H.R. 4985 would amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act modeled on the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The Kingpin Act allows the President to designate and apply economic sanctions against any significant foreign narcotics trafficker. This authority provides a powerful tool to combat narcotics trafficking around the world.

For example, just last month, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, which administers these sanctions, targeted a Mexican drug cartel and the three brothers who run it, freezing their assets and banning U.S. persons from doing business with them.

As with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, designations made under the Kingpin Act may be challenged in court. However, unlike IIEPA, the Kingpin Act contains no explicit authority for judges to privately review classified information. This gap in authority means it is only a matter of time until the government will be forced to choose between disclosing classified material and allowing a confirmed narcotics trafficker to avoid justice.

H.R. 4985 would address this issue by adding a new section that explicitly

authorizes the government to allow judges to privately review classified information when individuals challenge their designation as kingpins under the act. This provides a simple fix to a gap in current law, bringing the Kingpin Act in line with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and improving our ability to ensure the law functions as intended.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for its introduction, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), the author of this bill.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking Judiciary Committee Chairman GOODLATTE for his efforts and his committee's efforts in shepherding this bill through the committee, where it received unanimous support.

I also want to thank my colleague across the aisle, Representative RICE. We have partnered together on many bills that have passed the House to help keep our country safe and to keep it free from drug trafficking. Both of us having a background as prosecutors on a Federal level will help us going forward.

This legislation makes important changes that strengthen the Kingpin Act and enhance the protection of classified information. The Kingpin Act has played an important role in our Nation's efforts to fight drug trafficking for nearly two decades. In the last two decades, I was heavily involved with drug trafficking as a Federal organized crime prosecutor, so I understand the importance of the statute on a firsthand basis.

The act established a process to sanction individuals involved in international narcotics trafficking. More than 1,800 individuals, all non-U.S. persons, have been designated as drug kingpins by the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control under the Kingpin Act. This designation precludes these traffickers from using the U.S. financial system and, in so doing, places a major obstacle in front of their efforts to move and use their ill-gotten gains.

Many of the individuals placed on the kingpin list are put there on the basis of classified information. The law provides a process by which these individuals can seek removal from the list in Federal court, but, unfortunately, the law currently doesn't protect classified information in such delisting cases. This opens up the possibility that some kingpins won't be sanctioned at all or will be removed from the kingpin list, despite significant evidence of their illicit activities, in order to protect classified information.

This bill simply makes it clear that the Office of Foreign Assets Control

may submit classified information in defense of its kingpin designations in a nonpublic, protected setting in order to safeguard classified information. This bill will make it easier to sanction international drug kingpins who cause enormous problems both in the United States and in their home countries. It will make it harder for these criminals to carry out their dangerous and destructive drug trade.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the House's consideration of this bill, alongside several other important measures, to fight back against the opioid epidemic gripping much of our Nation, and certainly in my district as well.

My district has been extremely hard-hit by this epidemic as well as a scourge of dangerous synthetic substances, which I hope to address at a later time during this Congress. Almost every family in my district has been affected by this epidemic or knows someone who has.

We need to fight back against the kingpins for profiteering off this misery. It is gratifying to see the House working together across the aisle to tackle these enormous problems, and our country will be better off for it.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York for the introduction of this bill. It closes an important gap in the statute, which will enhance the safety of our country and provide essential review confidentially.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I just want to echo what my good friend from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) has stated.

As a former prosecutor, and Mr. KATKO, who was a former prosecutor, and my good friend from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), who was a mayor and had jurisdiction over law enforcement agencies, we all know what the importance of this legislation is.

I want to thank the authors of this. I want to thank the staff members who worked on this. This is going to improve the lives of not only Americans, but people around the world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from Virginia, Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE, his Ranking Member, Mr. CONYERS, and the gentleman and gentlelady from New York—Mr. KATKO and Miss RICE—for their work on H.R. 4985, the Kingpin Designation Improvement Act, which deserves our support.

In the context of today's floor debate, it is important that we discuss the extensive role of Iran's primary regional proxy—Hezbollah—in the international drug trade.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration announced that they have, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies

from 7 other nations, disrupted a global criminal enterprise Hezbollah was using to finance its participation in the Syrian conflict, as well as to plan for a future war with Israel.

Unfortunately, this is nothing new. For years, Hezbollah has had business connections with South American drug cartels, and has been using them to enter the narcotics trafficking business. In 2011 and 2013, the Department of the Treasury and other agencies designated core Hezbollah members and affiliates for engaging in international narcotics networks.

As a result, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015, which I authored and passed into law in December, required specific Administration reporting on Hezbollah's international narcotics trafficking networks.

Unfortunately, once a terrorist organization enters this business, they seldom leave. Sanctions relief for Iran as a result of the Administration's flawed deal with that regime, and the resulting inflow of Iranian money to Hezbollah will not likely cause them to turn away from the lucrative drug industry. Rather, it may enable Hezbollah to double down on their efforts to finance their destructive regional activities.

For example, instead of 150,000 rockets on Israel's northern border, Hezbollah could afford to field 300,000, financed by the Iranian regime and Hezbollah's trafficking of narcotics into our communities.

With this in mind, it is important that we have robust Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act authorities in place, which this legislation ensures. I support the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4985.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

#### TRANSNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 32) to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 32

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015".

##### SEC. 2. POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE OR DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF UNLAWFUL IMPORTATIONS.

Section 1009 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 959) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking "It shall" and all that follows and inserting the following: "It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance in schedule I or II or flunitrazepam or a listed chemical intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that such substance or chemical will be unlawfully imported into the United States or into waters within a distance of 12 miles of the coast of the United States.

"(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a listed chemical—

"(1) intending or knowing that the listed chemical will be used to manufacture a controlled substance; and

"(2) intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that the controlled substance will be unlawfully imported into the United States."

##### SEC. 3. TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS OR SERVICES.

Chapter 113 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2318(b)(2), by striking "section 2320(e)" and inserting "section 2320(f)"; and

(2) in section 2320—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) traffics in a drug and knowingly uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with such drug;"

(B) in subsection (b)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "counterfeit drug" and inserting "drug that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug"; and

(C) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

"(6) the term 'drug' means a drug, as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 32, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

International drug traffickers are profiting off the misery of American citizens, including our children. In recent years, our Nation has experienced an epidemic of opioid abuse. A significant part of that epidemic involves the trafficking of illicit heroin across our borders and into our communities and homes. Every Member in this Chamber today has a heartbreaking story about a constituent or a constituent's child who has been lost to this scourge.

The irony, Mr. Speaker, is that international drug traffickers know our drug trafficking laws as well as, if not better than, most Americans do. They know that if they simply employ a middleman to take the drugs from them and transport them into the U.S., it makes it much harder, if not impossible, for U.S. law enforcement to prosecute them under those drug trafficking laws.

Why is it more difficult, you might ask. Because under current law the government must prove that a trafficker knew the drugs were headed for the United States. Drug trafficking organizations in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and other Central and South American source nations sell their illicit products to Mexican traffickers who, in turn, traffic the drugs into the United States.

This makes it difficult, under current law, for Federal prosecutors to make cases against such source nation manufacturers, wholesale distributors, brokers, and transporters since direct evidence of their intent that the drugs are bound for the United States is difficult, if not impossible, to develop.

The result is that source nation malefactors who produce and distribute illegal narcotics escape prosecution under U.S. law because they feign ignorance of the drug's ultimate destination. This has happened with increasing regularity over the past several years, and it is Congress' responsibility to address this problem.

S. 32, the Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015, is identical to H.R. 3380, legislation that was introduced by my Committee on the Judiciary colleagues, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI).

This bill makes crucial changes to our Federal drug laws to give law enforcement additional tools to combat extraterritorial drug trafficking. It does this by amending the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to stipulate that, when a narcotics trafficker or manufacturer has a "reasonable cause to believe" that the illegal narcotics he produces or traffics will be sent into the U.S., the U.S. may prosecute him. This amendment will permit Federal prosecutors to pursue extraterritorial drug traffickers who are not directly smuggling drugs into the United States but who facilitate it.

S. 32 also amends the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to address the increasingly prevalent problem of trafficking in listed chemicals, which are chemicals regulated by the DEA because they are used in the manufacture of controlled substances. During a recent codel to South and Central America, several of my colleagues and I heard firsthand how drug trafficking organizations have relied upon shadowy chemical suppliers in the manufacture of methamphetamine, heroin,

cocaine, and other dangerous narcotics. S. 32 would enable Federal prosecutors to reach chemical traffickers who knowingly facilitate and benefit from the illicit production and smuggling of listed chemicals.

Both of these amendments will allow Federal law enforcement to go after not the lowly drug mules moving drugs into the United States, but the criminals who facilitate at a high level, within the source nation, the trafficking of narcotics and precursor chemicals into the United States. As one law enforcement official has said to me, it is better to fight this battle there than here.

In addition to these important reforms, S. 32 also amends the criminal counterfeit law to include an intent requirement for trafficking in counterfeit drugs. I am pleased the House is taking up this important bill, which the Senate has already passed unanimously, so that it can move expeditiously to the President's desk.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
*Washington, DC, May 10, 2016.*

HON. BOB GOODLATTE,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: I am writing to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on S. 32, Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015, so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on S. 32 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
*Washington, DC, May 10, 2016.*

HON. FRED UPTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding S. 32, the "Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015," for which the Committee on Energy and Commerce received an additional referral.

I am most appreciative of your decision to forego formal consideration of S. 32 so that it may proceed to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you are waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees

on any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

Finally, I am pleased to include this letter and your letter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of S. 32.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,  
*Chairman.*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like, first, for everyone to know that we here in the Congress are working to address the current heroin epidemic. We know that illegal drugs continue to present a public health crisis that impacts individuals and families in communities across the United States. S. 32 attempts to address the illegal importation of the drugs coming into the United States by amending section 959 of the Controlled Substances Act.

We have a bit of a problem here, but no one has worked on this longer or harder than Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE. It is in that spirit that I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for capturing what we in the Committee on the Judiciary have been doing over the last couple months. We have been working in a very effective, bipartisan manner to deal with the whole scheme, if you will, of criminal justice reform. We have been extensively involved in what has become a major epidemic across this Nation.

I listened to a number of legislative initiatives, one dealing with a veteran who died from a drug overdose that was just debated here on the floor of the House. As I was flying in today, we knew there was an incident in my district where a motorcyclist was killed by a driver, a young woman who was under the influence of opioids. We know that this Transnational Drug Trafficking Act is an important act, and we want to continue in our bipartisan effort.

It is important for me to note a concern that I do not believe the sponsors intended, but which I believe must be addressed. This bill is intended to help us do more to combat the importation of illegal drugs into our country, but it could also subject more people to mandatory minimum sentencing, an unfortunate feature of our criminal justice system that we must address.

The United States has been suffering from the damaging effects of illicit drug trafficking for decades. The majority of the drugs wreaking havoc in the United States originate in foreign countries, moving from one country to the next under the direction of powerful and wealthy drug kingpins. I think all of my adult life, Mr. Speaker, we have heard the words "drug kingpins"—you cannot live in urban America without hearing about them; you cannot live in Texas without hearing

about them—many of whom never see or touch the drugs or enter the boundaries of this country themselves.

Foreign drug kingpins in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru are leading producers of cocaine imported into the United States. These kingpins lead operations which sell to traffickers in Mexico, who receive the drugs from Central America, South America, or Mexico and then smuggle the drugs into the United States.

Certainly, drugs come from all over. The Obama administration reported instances of Afghan drug trafficking working with West African drug trafficking organizations to smuggle heroin into the United States. It is around the world.

I support the idea that these drug kingpins are dangerous, but S. 32 is intended to help Federal prosecutors successfully prosecute foreign drug traffickers whose criminal activity outside the U.S. threatens the health, safety, and security of Americans at home.

Section 959 makes it a crime to manufacture or distribute controlled substances or certain chemicals used to make controlled substances intended or knowing that the substance or chemical will ultimately be brought illegally into the U.S. or within 12 miles of the coast of the U.S. In recent years, Federal prosecutors reported difficulties enforcing this statute in some instances.

Some drug traffickers are aware of the methods used to charge and then extradite foreign criminals into the U.S. for prosecution. Drug traffickers simply avoid any discussion of the destination of the drug shipments. S. 32 would amend section 959, making it easier for prosecutors to obtain a conviction against drug traffickers who operate in other countries. That is certainly an important mission.

I am troubled, however, that lowering the intent requirement in the statute without limiting its use to leaders and organizers would expose even low-level offenders to mandatory minimum sentences. We are working now to stop that tide so that we can restore the criminal justice system to be just and fair. This would happen, depending on the quantity of drugs involved.

Historically, mandatory minimums created in the late 1980s to target kingpins have been largely applied to low-level, nonviolent offenders. Mandatory minimums have led to unwarranted and unfair sentences and overincarceration. As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I am engaged with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address the problem of mandatory minimum sentencing. I am concerned that S. 32 may make matters worse.

In the Committee on the Judiciary, Ranking Member CONYERS proposed a

very thoughtful amendment to H.R. 3380, the House companion to this bill, to specify that the reduced intent standard would only apply to leaders and organizers of foreign drug trafficking organizations. The amendment would have made certain that the substantial resources, time, and money necessary to extradite foreign criminals will be expended only on those individuals whose prosecution would disrupt the chain, the pipeline, or dismantle drug trafficking networks. If this bill was amended as recommended, it would be a useful tool to help target leaders of transnational organized crime from Africa to Afghanistan, to South and Central America and beyond, networks in the U.S. and abroad, priorities and objective detail in the President's strategy to combat transnational organized crime.

In a climate in Congress when we are working on a bipartisan basis to make our criminal justice system more just and effective and to reduce mandatory minimums, the best course is for us to limit the scope of this bill to high-level drug traffickers—a simple fix. While we do not have the opportunity to amend this bill today, I ask that my colleagues vote against it so that we may continue to work to address this concern, which would not undermine the goals of the bill.

S. 32 also corrects an error in section 2320 of title 18, the statute that governs trafficking in counterfeit goods and services. In order to prove the offense of trafficking in drugs with counterfeit marks, there must be proof that the accused knowingly used a counterfeit mark on or in connection with a trafficked drug. I support those changes.

The underlying change and spirit of the bill is a positive one. We are working here together. This scourge is something we must attack.

May I simply say, Mr. Speaker, I commend the sponsors of this bill for their desire to improve our ability to pursue, convict, and ultimately imprison top-level drug traffickers who have plagued our Nation for decades and beyond. Although I believe this bill still requires a simple change to address the unintended issue impacting mandatory minimum sentencing, I look forward to us working in the manner in which we can work, and I look forward to this concluding in a positive way.

Mr. Speaker. Although I support the goals of the Transnational Drug Trafficking Act, I must note a concern that I do not believe the sponsors intended but which I believe must be addressed.

This bill is intended to help us do more to combat the importation of illegal drugs into our country.

But, it could also subject more people to mandatory minimum sentencing—an unfortunate feature of our criminal justice system that we must address.

The United States has been suffering from the damaging effects of illicit drug trafficking for decades.

The majority of the drugs wreaking havoc in the U.S. originate in foreign countries, moving from one country to the next, under the direction of powerful and wealthy drug kingpins—many of whom never see or touch the drugs or enter the boundaries of this country themselves.

Foreign drug kingpins in Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru are the leading producers of cocaine imported into the U.S.

These kingpins lead operations which sell to traffickers in Mexico, who receive the drugs in Central America, South America, or Mexico and, then, smuggle the drugs into the U.S.

In 2011 the Obama Administration reported instances of Afghan drug trafficking operations working with West African drug trafficking organizations to smuggle heroin into the U.S.

I support enhanced efforts to combat international drug trafficking.

S. 32 is intended to help federal prosecutors successfully prosecute foreign drug traffickers whose criminal activity outside of the U.S. threatens the health, safety, and security of Americans at home.

At present, Section 959 of Title 21 targets criminal conduct committed outside of the United States.

Section 959 makes it a crime to manufacture or distribute controlled substances or certain chemicals used to make controlled substances, intending or knowing that the substance or chemical will ultimately be brought illegally into the U.S. or within 12 miles of the coast of the U.S.

In recent years, federal prosecutors have reported difficulties enforcing this statute in some circumstances.

Since drug traffickers are aware of the methods used to charge and, then, extradite foreign criminals into the U.S. for prosecution, drug traffickers simply avoid any discussion of the destination of their drug shipments.

This tactic leaves prosecutors with no direct evidence that the traffickers know the ultimate destination of their drugs or the drugs produced using their chemicals.

S. 32 would amend Section 959, making it easier for prosecutors to obtain a conviction against drug traffickers who operate in other countries.

Prosecutors would no longer be required to prove the accused intended or actually knew the drugs or chemicals would be brought illegally into the U.S.

S. 32 would reduce the level of intent necessary to prove the accused's guilt, requiring prosecutors to only prove that there was reasonable cause for the accused to believe the drugs or chemicals used to make the drugs would be brought illegally into the U.S.

I am troubled, however, that lowering the intent requirement in the statute, without limiting its use to leaders and organizers would expose even low-level offenders to mandatory minimum sentences, depending on the quantity of drugs involved.

Historically, mandatory minimums created in the late 80's to target kingpins have been largely applied to low-level, non-violent offenders.

Mandatory minimums have led to unwarranted and unfair sentences and overincarceration.

As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, I am engaged with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address the problem of mandatory minimum sentencing.

I am concerned that S. 32 may make matters worse.

In the Judiciary Committee markup, Ranking Member CONYERS proposed an amendment to H.R. 3380, the House companion to this bill, to specify that the reduced intent standard would only apply to leaders and organizers of foreign drug trafficking organizations.

The amendment would have made certain that the substantial resources, time, and money necessary to extradite foreign criminals would be expended only on those individuals whose prosecution would disrupt or dismantle drug trafficking networks.

If this bill was amended as recommended, it would be a useful tool to help target leaders of transnational organized crime networks in the U.S. and abroad—priorities and objectives detailed in the President's Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime.

In a climate in Congress when we are working on a bipartisan basis to make our criminal justice system more just and effective and to reduce mandatory minimums, the best course is for us to limit the scope of this bill to high-level drug traffickers.

While we do not have the opportunity to amend this bill today, I ask that my colleagues vote against it so that we may continue to work to address this concern, which would not undermine the goals of the bill.

S. 32 also corrects an error in Section 2320 of Title 18, the statute that governs trafficking in counterfeit goods and services. In order to prove the offense of trafficking in drugs with counterfeit marks, there must be proof that the accused knowingly used a counterfeit mark on or in connection with a trafficked drug, and I support this change.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I commend the sponsors of this bill for their desire to improve our ability to pursue, convict, and, ultimately, imprison top-level drug traffickers, although I believe the bill still requires a change to address the unintended issue impacting mandatory minimum sentencing.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO), a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the chief sponsor of the House companion legislation to the bill before the House at this time.

□ 1645

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership in committee and today on this important bipartisan piece of legislation.

I also would like to thank my colleague, Congressman PIERLUISI, for his stalwart support and work on this bipartisan bill.

The chairman of the Judiciary Committee is correct in recognizing that Federal law often fails to keep up with lawbreakers. As a former U.S. attorney, I am acutely aware of the ways

criminal organizations adapt their practices to skirt Federal law and harm American citizens. This bill directly responds to one scenario that has played out time and again in our Federal courts.

I would like to start by making a key point about the purpose of this bill and the type of organizations it targets. Our focus through this bill is the leaders of sophisticated, often multinational drug-trafficking organizations with expansive networks of distribution internationally.

This includes source nation manufacturers primarily in South and Central America. They are a significant source, if not the largest source, of deadly drugs on the streets and in homes across America. It also includes the leaders of large "middleman" wholesale trafficking and distribution organizations.

I want to stress that the bill does not target petty dealers or low-level smugglers in the final chain to the narcotics' final destination. Instead, the focus is on higher levels of the drug-trafficking chain beyond our borders. These are the decisionmakers who have twisted our law for their own profit.

Federal law requires prosecutors to prove that defendant manufacturers and traffickers knew the narcotics were destined for the U.S. Under their direction, drugs are manufactured and packaged for illegal wholesale distribution in these countries outside of the U.S. In many instances, the final destination is the United States. But these individuals can hide their knowledge or insert additional middlemen to potentially evade prosecution.

One recent case in the D.C. Federal district court perfectly depicts this problem. On trial were two Guatemalan nationals, leaders of an organization that received tons of cocaine over 13 years from manufacturers in Colombia and Venezuela. They built runways and warehouses to store and receive such massive quantities of narcotics. They then distributed the drugs to additional middlemen in Mexico.

It was known that these drugs reached the U.S. But the defendants claimed that, once they passed them on, they had no knowledge of its ultimate destination. At trial, this was their only defense. Currently, the law allows them to claim ignorance and simply put the blame on those who do their bidding.

My district and many of my colleagues' districts face a growing heroin epidemic. Our efforts this week to counter this crisis are crucial to stopping it.

My final point. This bill is about dismantling international drug-trafficking organizations. It is about bringing to justice the source nation manufacturers and middlemen wholesalers behind the flow of deadly narcotics across our borders, nothing else.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill so we can make that happen today.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that we must stop the flow of illegal drugs coming into the United States from foreign countries.

I want to commend our colleagues who have worked with Ms. JACKSON LEE on this, and I want to commend the chairman of the full committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, as well for dealing with this very important subject.

Mr. Speaker, we must avoid subjecting more people to mandatory minimum sentences. As a matter of principle, I oppose mandatory minimum sentences because they are unjust and unwise.

The flaws in mandatory minimum sentencing have led to extraordinary injustices, prison overcrowding, and excessive cost to taxpayers. They have been shown to have a disparate impact on minorities.

While I am committed to combating the importation of illegal drugs in this country, I must oppose the expansion of mandatory minimum sentences, which is what S. 32 would do.

In the Judiciary Committee markup, I offered an amendment to limit the scope of the changes that would be made by this bill to the leaders or organizers of the drug organizations, in other words, the real kingpins.

Whether or not it is the intent of this bill to target low-level offenders, too often it is precisely these individuals who are easier to arrest, easier to convict, and subject to mandatory penalties.

Now, while I understand that we are today considering a Senate-passed bill, I maintain that we should take the time to address this issue. This bill's expansion of those convicted under the statute should be limited to kingpins, those to whom mandatory minimum penalties were originally intended to apply in the first place.

So, accordingly, I sincerely ask my colleagues to vote against this bill so that we may address this concern.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, without question, illegal drugs imported into the United States have harmed our citizens and our communities in innumerable ways. It is critical that appropriate steps be taken to address this problem.

Although S. 32 is a well-intentioned effort to do so, I believe that this bill should be amended to address a concern related to mandatory minimum sentencing. On this basis, I oppose the bill in its current form.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the ranking subcommittee member of the Judiciary Committee from Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 32, the Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015. While I support the underlying goal of combating drug trafficking, existing federal criminal laws already prohibit and punish this conduct. This bill however weakens existing mens rea standards, and therefore could lead to the application of mandatory minimums to action which the defendant did not know was illegal.

This bill therefore is a perfect example of four of the most common problems in crime policy.

First, it is a textbook example of overcriminalization, namely the careless creation and addition of federal crimes without reviewing if that conduct is already sufficiently prohibited and can be prosecuted under existing federal criminal laws. Existing federal laws prohibit importation and exportation of controlled substances, possession with intent to distribute such substances, or attempt or conspiracy to do so and therefore already prohibit the very conduct S. 32 was drafted to reach.

Our federal code contains over 5,000 offenses carrying criminal penalties, but a precise count eludes not only the Congressional research service but also the Department of Justice, the agency charged with prosecuting those offenses. The House Judiciary Committee's bi-partisan Overcriminalization Task Force, upon which I served as Ranking Member, found that our Congressional appetite to add new federal offenses to demonstrate that we were "tough on crime," instead of relying on existing state or federal statutes, was a significant driver. If we are serious about cleaning up our federal code, it starts with ensuring that the first question we ask when introducing, marking up, or voting on a bill is whether that bill is necessary. There is no such evidence in the record that the Department of Justice has been unable to investigate or prosecute these such cases under existing law, nor is there any evidence that the present punishment for violation of these laws is insufficient.

Second, the mens rea standard in S. 32 is weaker than the criminal intent standards of existing federal drug statutes carrying mandatory minimums. This means that the government can convict based on a lower standard of proof. Again, the need for a robust mens rea standard is a key Constitutional requirement that ensures that citizens are not deprived of their liberty, absent a showing that they were aware that their conduct was prohibited and they intended to engage in that unlawful conduct. In the wake of discussions about the importance of mens rea in protecting defendants who act with innocent intent and/or no notice of the illegality of their conduct, it is disappointing to see a step in the wrong direction that makes it easier for the government to convict them based upon a weaker standard.

Third, applying S. 32 would lead to unintended consequences due to this weaker mens rea standard. Specifically, not only does S. 32 criminalize "intending" or "knowing" that one of the prohibited chemicals will be used to manufacture a controlled substance, but also

"having reasonable cause to believe that the controlled substance will be unlawfully imported into the United States."

Many legitimate industrial chemicals, such as anhydrous ammonia found in fertilizer or ephedrine found in sinus medication, and natural substances, such as the alkaloid fluid extracted from the bulbs of poppy plants, can also be used to process and synthesize some illicitly produced drugs.

Thus, the problem S. 32 presents is that it may sweep too broadly. For example, a fertilizer manufacturer or pharmaceutical company or florist in Europe could be criminally liable and subject to a mandatory minimum penalty. That is because under S. 32's rubric, any manufacturer, importer, or distributor of any substance that some illicit chemist seeks to turn into an existing, or as-of-yet-developed, controlled substance would be vulnerable to federal criminal charges. The problem is that S. 32's "reasonable cause to believe" benchmark is intellectually bankrupt—is it "reasonable cause to believe that the entity they are shipping it to has requested it for illicit purposes" or merely "reasonable cause to believe that these are the types of chemicals that could be turned into illicit drugs?"

Lastly, this bill expands the universe of conduct to which a mandatory minimum applies. Research and evidence in the past few decades has demonstrated that mandatory minimums are ineffective deterrents, waste the taxpayers' money, force judges to impose irrational sentences, and discriminate against minorities, particularly with regards to drug offenses. Unfortunately, there are too many mandatory minimums in the federal code. If we expect to do anything about that problem, the first step has to be to stop passing new ones. The mandatory minimums in the code today did not get there all at once—they got there one at a time, each one part of a larger bill, which on balance might have been a good idea. Therefore, the only way to stop passing new mandatory minimums is to stop passing bills that contain mandatory minimums. Giving lip service to the suggestion that you would have preferred that the mandatory minimum had not been in a bill, then voting for it anyway, just creates another mandatory minimum and guarantees that those who support mandatory minimums will include them in the next crime bill. And more mandatory minimums will be created and the failed war on drugs will continue.

If our goal is to ensure that we prosecute transnational drug traffickers, let us provide adequate funding to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to do so under multiple federal statutes that already achieve that goal, without raising these problematic implementation and fairness concerns.

In summary, while I support the underlying goal of S. 32, I have grave concerns about its redundancy, its erosion of the mens reas standard commonly used in these offenses, its broad sweep and its use of mandatory minimums. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote no on S. 32.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 32.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GOOD SAMARITAN ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5048) to require a study by the Comptroller General of the United States on Good Samaritan laws that pertain to treatment of opioid overdoses, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5048

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. FINDING.

The Congress finds that the executive branch, including the Office of National Drug Control Policy, has a policy focus on preventing and addressing prescription drug misuse and heroin use, and has worked with States and municipalities to enact Good Samaritan laws that would protect caregivers, law enforcement personnel, and first responders who administer opioid overdose reversal drugs or devices.

#### SEC. 3. GAO STUDY ON GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS PERTAINING TO TREATMENT OF OPIOID OVERDOSES.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on—

(1) the extent to which the Director of National Drug Control Policy has reviewed Good Samaritan laws, and any findings from such a review, including findings related to the potential effects of such laws, if available;

(2) efforts by the Director to encourage the enactment of Good Samaritan laws; and

(3) a compilation of Good Samaritan laws in effect in the States, the territories, and the District of Columbia.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Good Samaritan law" means a law of a State or unit of local government that exempts from criminal or civil liability any individual who administers an opioid overdose reversal drug or device, or who contacts emergency services providers in response to an overdose; and

(2) the term "opioid" means any drug, including heroin, having an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability similar to morphine or being capable of conversion into a drug having such addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.



The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5048, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5048, the Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016, was introduced by our colleague, Congressman FRANK GUINTA, co-chair of the House Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. This legislation directs the Government Accountability Office to study the various Good Samaritan laws in effect in States across the country.

Generally speaking, every State has some form of Good Samaritan law, which protects from prosecution citizens who render aid in good faith to someone in need of assistance. As a general matter, courts will not hold a Good Samaritan liable if he or she rendered care as a result of an emergency, the emergency or injury was not caused by the Good Samaritan himself, and the care was not given in a negligent or reckless manner.

In the context of opioids, Good Samaritan law refers to laws that provide immunity for responding to an opioid overdose by rendering aid or by calling 9-1-1.

Today more than half the States and the District of Columbia have enacted some form of Good Samaritan law that provides immunity or limits liability for those who report an opioid overdose or render care to a person experiencing such an emergency.

In my home State of Virginia, the general assembly passed a Good Samaritan law in 2015, which provides immunity for individuals who contact emergency services to report an overdose, provided the caller remains at the scene of the overdose until law enforcement responds, identifies himself when law enforcement responds, and cooperates with any criminal investigation.

Given the recent proliferation of these laws at the State level and Congress' desire and duty to address the opioid epidemic, it is fitting we assess how the various Good Samaritan laws work to protect our citizens and help save lives. H.R. 5048 will direct the GAO to help us get the information we need.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5048, the Good Samaritan Assessment Act. This legislation is part of a series of bills the House is considering this week in an effort to address the growing public health crisis in our Nation that is being caused by a surge in heroin use and abuse of other opioid drugs.

Without question, abuse of opioid drugs can have serious long-term effects, including physical and functional changes to the brain affecting impulse, reward, and motivation. But opioid abuse can have a more immediate and serious consequence. An overdose can threaten the life of the victim.

In recent years, heroin and prescription opioid drug overdoses have risen sharply in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose deaths more than doubled between 1999 and 2014. In 2014 alone, more than 47,000 people died from drug overdoses, the highest of any previous year.

Fortunately, many of these tragic deaths can be prevented through the administration of an opioid reversal drug such as naloxone. But to be effective in saving lives, these drugs must be administered on an emergency basis.

First responders answering emergency calls or caregivers who are treating drug users are frequently in the best position to administer a lifesaving reversal drug in time to be effective.

An overdose victim's family and friends as well as other drug users are often the first people to be aware that an individual is suffering a drug overdose. Nevertheless, these individuals can hesitate or even fail to call 9-1-1 out of fear that they may be prosecuted or otherwise held liable if something goes wrong.

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Similarly, first responders and other potential caregivers may hesitate or fail to administer emergency medical treatment for fear of possible adverse consequences.

To alleviate such concerns and help ensure that overdose victims receive timely medical treatment, the Office of National Drug Control Policy has been working with States and municipalities to enact so-called Good Samaritan laws.

These laws are intended to protect from civil or criminal liability first responders, caregivers, and others who call for emergency assistance in overdose cases or administer opioid reversal drugs.

Currently, 35 States and the District of Columbia now have at least some form of a Good Samaritan or a 9-1-1 drug immunity law, but the protections afforded by these laws vary significantly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

H.R. 5048 directs the Government Accountability Office to study and report to the appropriate committees of Con-

gress on the efforts of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to expand Good Samaritan protections.

In addition, the study would examine any law that exempts from civil or criminal liability individuals who contact emergency service providers in response to a drug overdose or who administer opioid reversal drugs to overdose victims.

The report must also include a compilation of Good Samaritan laws currently in effect. The analysis and data required to be generated by H.R. 5048 will greatly assist Congress in understanding the various policies adopted by the States.

Accordingly, I sincerely urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5048.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, REVIVE! is the Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education program for the Commonwealth of Virginia. REVIVE! provides training to professionals, stakeholders, and others on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency with the administration of naloxone.

REVIVE! is a collaborative effort led by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, working alongside the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Health Professions, recovery community organizations such as the McShin Foundation, OneCare of Southwest Virginia, the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia, and other stakeholders.

Virginia has been severely impacted by opioid abuse, particularly the abuse of prescription drugs. In 1999, the first year for which such data is available, approximately 23 people died from abuse of fentanyl, hydrocodone, methadone, and oxycodone, the leading prescription opioids abused, commonly referred to as FHMO.

By 2013, the most recent year for which complete data is available, 386 individuals died from the abuse of FHMO, an increase of 1,578 percent, with fentanyl being the primary substance fueling this increase.

In 2013 alone, there was an increase of more than 100 percent in deaths attributed to fentanyl use. In 2013, as before in 2011, drug-related deaths happened at a higher per capita level, 11 deaths per 100,000, than motor vehicle crashes, 10.1 per 100,000.

The 2013 data provides evidence of other disturbing trends in Virginia, including a sharp rise in heroin deaths. In 2010, only 49 deaths in Virginia were attributed to heroin use. By 2013, that figure had risen to 213, an increase of 334 percent in only 4 years, while cocaine deaths remained relatively level.

The changes in drug-related deaths in Virginia in 2013 are not limited to

which substances had the greatest impact. The geography of the opioid epidemic in Virginia is shifting as well.

In past years, the western portion of Virginia, the portion that I represent, typically accounted for approximately one-third of drug-related deaths in any given year. In 2013, for the first time since these records have been maintained, the prevalence of drug-related deaths was spread evenly over the Commonwealth, as the eastern region of Virginia saw an increase of more than 51 percent in drug-related deaths in a single year.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Ladies and gentlemen, H.R. 5048 will help to provide valuable information that will assist comprehensive efforts needed to combat the growing scourge of opioid abuse that is affecting millions of Americans and help reduce the tragic loss of life resulting from drug overdoses.

Accordingly, I urge support of the passage of H.R. 5048.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA), the chief sponsor of the legislation, to close debate.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, the Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016.

This legislation simply directs the GAO to study State and local Good Samaritan laws that protect caregivers, law enforcement personnel, and first responders who administer opioid overdose reversal drugs or devices, as well as those who contact emergency service providers in response to an overdose from civil or criminal liability.

A Good Samaritan law offers legal protection to people who give reasonable assistance to those who are or who they believe to be injured, ill, or otherwise incapacitated.

These laws vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction but generally they prevent an individual who has voluntarily helped a victim in distress from being successfully sued or prosecuted for wrongdoing. Their purpose is to keep people from being reluctant to help an individual in need for fear of legal repercussions.

This legislation is crucial toward understanding which Good Samaritan laws are working well to provide a framework for others to follow.

In my home State of New Hampshire, last year we had 430 people die from a drug-related overdose. The number continues to climb because the coroner's office has not concluded the autopsies from last year.

Imagine a family member who is trying to grieve over their loved one who

had the illness of addiction and somebody stood over that body and was afraid to help.

I think that this legislation is important, and I am glad that it is striking a bipartisan tone, because this is about saving lives. This is about providing assistance to those who are in moments of deepest despair in their life.

I work on this issue not just on behalf of my constituents and the 50,000 people across the country who have passed due to this sickness, but I also do it in the name of my friend, Abi Lizotte, who is a survivor, who is 8 months clean, with a 6-month old child, who testified at a hearing in New Hampshire about the possibility of success because she had somebody who assisted her.

This addiction has ripped the country apart. We have an obligation as a Congress to act, and I am so pleased with the leadership of Chairman GOODLATTE and so many Republicans and Democrats who have shared the same hope and understanding that life is worth fighting for.

So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I appreciate the committee's work, the chairman's work, the bipartisan work.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5048, the "Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016."

Our nation currently faces epidemic levels of opioid drug users and addicts, with a corresponding increase in the number of opioid drug overdoses and deaths.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, drug overdose death rates more than doubled between 1999 and 2014.

Each day, more than 100 Americans die as a result of an overdose, making drug overdoses the leading cause of death in the United States.

Compounding this tragedy is the fact that many of these deaths could have been prevented if the victim had received emergency medical treatment.

Opioid reversal drugs such as Naloxone have proven effective in reversing opioid drug overdoses and reviving victims.

But a victim's chances of surviving an overdose can depend on how quickly medical assistance is received.

Those closest to a victim—family, friends, or other drug users—are commonly the first to become aware that an individual is suffering an overdose and needs emergency medical assistance.

Their prompt call to 9-1-1 can mean the difference between life and death.

Similarly, first responders or other persons serving as caregivers to individuals with drug problems are often in the best position to promptly administer a reversal drug.

However, such life-saving assistance may not be made available in time if a witness to an overdose delays or fails to call 9-1-1, or a caregiver or first responder does not promptly administer an overdose reversal drug or device, due to fear that they might be prosecuted

or otherwise held responsible for their involvement, or held liable if something goes wrong.

To encourage people to seek medical attention for someone suffering an overdose, and to have first responders trained, equipped, and able to administer opioid reversal drugs or devices, states and localities need to enact Good Samaritan laws that protect from criminal or civil liability individuals who seek or provide life-saving assistance in drug overdose situations.

In 2013, only ten states and the District of Columbia had such drug overdose Good Samaritan laws.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has been working with states and municipalities to enact Good Samaritan laws providing protections to individuals who call for emergency assistance and first responders, law enforcement personnel, and caregivers who administer opioid reversal drugs or devices.

Thanks in part to ONDCP's efforts, 35 states and the District of Columbia now have some form of Good Samaritan or emergency drug treatment immunity law.

Under this bill, the General Accounting Office would provide the appropriate House and Senate committees with a report on the results of ONDCP's work, as well as a compilation of the various Good Samaritan laws currently in effect.

While the report will not take a position on any formulation of such laws, this information will be helpful to Congress and the states in cataloging and understanding the various approaches states are taking with respect to this issue.

With more information, we can make better decisions and adopt the best approach.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5048.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5048 the Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016. Addiction to opioids and other prescription pain relievers have become an epidemic in the United States. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, about 2.1 million Americans have an addiction to opioid drugs. While the use or prescription can assist individual pain, the risk for addiction is becoming a major problem. This has resulted in people being put into situations to try to save someone's life a drug overdose. According to current law, any emergency personnel who administers drugs to combat an overdose can be prosecuted.

If individuals are worried that they will be punished for saving someone's life, many lives could be lost to drug overdoses. According to estimates between 2002–2014 the number of deaths from heroin have quadrupled and prescription opioids have killed more Americans than all other drugs combined. In my district, I have seen many people affected by drug abuse issues and the Good Samaritan Assessment Act will not only help save the lives of people in our district, but American's nationwide. This bill will start the process to allow individuals to not be criminally charged for people administering drugs to save someone's life.

The Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016 will require the Comptroller General of the United States to study Good Samaritan

laws that pertain to opioid overdoses and other purposes. By passing this legislation to do research there would be more efforts to encourage Good Samaritan laws to be put into place in the United States.

I would like to close by saying that I am proud of our chamber for taking this important step to make sure that Americans would not face the possibility of being criminally prosecuted for trying to save someone's life. I also want to thank my colleagues for recognizing the importance of being a good samaritan, and actively helping those in need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5048.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**OPIOID PROGRAM EVALUATION ACT**

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5052) to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5052

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Opioid Program Evaluation Act" or the "OPEN Act".

**SEC. 2. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROGRAM.**

(a) EVALUATION OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE GRANT PROGRAM.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall complete an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program under part LL of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 administered by the Department of Justice based upon the information reported under subsection (d) of this section.

(b) INTERIM EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall complete an interim evaluation assessing the nature and extent of the incidence of opioid abuse and illegal opioid distribution in the United States.

(c) METRICS AND OUTCOMES FOR EVALUATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall identify outcomes that are to be achieved by activities funded by the Comprehensive Opioid Grant Abuse Program and the metrics by which the achievement of such outcomes shall be determined.

(d) METRICS DATA COLLECTION.—The Attorney General shall require grantees under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program

(and those receiving subawards under section 3021(b) of part LL of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968) to collect and annually report to the Department of Justice data based upon the metrics identified under subsection (c).

(e) PUBLICATION OF DATA AND FINDINGS.—

(1) PUBLICATION OF OUTCOMES AND METRICS.—The Attorney General shall, not later than 30 days after completion of the requirement under subsection (c), publish the outcomes and metrics identified under that subsection.

(2) PUBLICATION OF EVALUATION.—In the case of the interim evaluation under subsection (b), and the final evaluation under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall, not later than 90 days after such an evaluation is completed, publish the results of such evaluation and issue a report on such evaluation to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate. Such report shall also be published along with the data used to make such evaluation.

(f) ARRANGEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—For purposes of subsections (a), (b), and (c), the Attorney General shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences.

**SEC. 3. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM.**

(a) EVALUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall complete an evaluation of any program administered by the Secretary that provides grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse based upon the information reported under subsection (d) of this section.

(b) INTERIM EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an interim evaluation assessing the nature and extent of the incidence of opioid abuse and illegal opioid distribution in the United States.

(c) METRICS AND OUTCOMES FOR EVALUATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify outcomes that are to be achieved by activities funded by the programs described in subsection (a) and the metrics by which the achievement of such outcomes shall be determined.

(d) METRICS DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall require grantees under the programs described in subsection (a) to collect and annually report to the Department of Health and Human Services data based upon the metrics identified under subsection (c).

(e) PUBLICATION OF DATA AND FINDINGS.—

(1) PUBLICATION OF OUTCOMES AND METRICS.—The Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after completion of the requirement under subsection (c), publish the outcomes and metrics identified under that subsection.

(2) PUBLICATION OF EVALUATION.—In the case of the interim evaluation under subsection (b), and each final evaluation under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall, not later than 90 days after such an evaluation is completed, publish the results of such evaluation and issue a report on such evaluation to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-

ate. Such report shall also be published along with the data used to make such evaluation.

(f) ARRANGEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—For purposes of subsections (a), (b), and (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences; or

(2) enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an entity that is not an agency of the Federal Government.

(g) EXCEPTION.—If a program described under subsection (a) is subject to an evaluation substantially similar to the evaluation under subsection (a) pursuant to another provision of law, the Secretary may opt not to conduct an evaluation under subsection (a) of such program.

**SEC. 4. DEFINITION.**

In this Act, the term "opioid" has the meaning given the term "opiate" in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

**SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

**SEC. 6. MATTERS REGARDING CERTAIN FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.**

Section 609Y of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10513) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "There is" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (c), there is"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) For fiscal year 2022, there is authorized to be appropriated \$16,000,000, to provide under this chapter Federal law enforcement assistance in the form of funds."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5052, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5052, the Opioid Program Evaluation Act, or OPEN Act, is a bill that would require an evaluation of the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Grant Program that will be authorized by H.R. 5046, and other opioid-related grant programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

This bipartisan bill, sponsored by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the minority whip, requires the Attorney General, through an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences and the Secretary of HHS,

through an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences, or other entity, to:

Identify outcomes that are to be achieved by the activities funded by Congress to address opioid abuse;

Develop the metrics by which each program's performance will be evaluated;

Complete an interim evaluation assessing the nature and extent of opioid abuse and illegal opioid distribution in the United States;

And carry out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs.

Additionally, to increase transparency and facilitate the evaluation of the performance of the programs, the bill requires grantees to collect and annually report data on the activities conducted pursuant to these programs.

Evaluations such as these can be Congress' best measure of how well a Federal program or agency is operating. At their conclusion, we hope to learn, for example, whether a substantial number of criminal justice agency personnel have received training on substance abuse disorders and co-occurring mental illness and adapted their procedures accordingly.

We also hope to learn the extent to which offenders offered a treatment alternative to incarceration have benefited from a response that integrates substance abuse services into the traditional criminal justice system.

I agree with the bill's sponsors that Congress must demand greater achievement and increased transparency and accountability with respect to our Federal grant programs. Therefore, I thank the bill's sponsors for the contribution this bill makes to the effort to address opioid abuse, as well as to our congressional oversight efforts.

I urge support of this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: I am writing to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on H.R. 5052, a bill to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes, so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on H.R. 5052 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record

during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, May 4, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5052, a bill to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes, which the Judiciary Committee ordered reported favorably to the House on April 27, 2016.

I am most appreciative of your decision to forego formal consideration of H.R. 5052 so that it may proceed to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you are waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees on any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

Finally, I am pleased to include this letter and your letter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 5052.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman.

□ 1715

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5052, the Opioid Program Evaluation Act, otherwise known as the OPEN Act. The OPEN Act is part of a comprehensive, bipartisan series of proposals being considered by Congress to combat the opioid abuse epidemic that is afflicting millions of Americans. For example, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act will provide critical funding assistance to States so that they can create and implement a wide variety of strategies, including alternatives to incarceration, that are designed to reduce opioid abuse.

These grant programs have tremendous promise, as they will enable criminal justice agencies to focus on what is likely to be the most effective solutions based on their specific, individual needs. Jurisdictions, for example, may choose to implement the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion approach established with success in Seattle and which is beginning to be used in other cities.

The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act would also assist with the provision of medication-assisted treatment and help first responders prevent deaths by allowing them to obtain and administer drugs that revive overdose victims. Strategies like these are worthy of our continued support.

At the same time, it is important that we track the actual results of these programs so that we can objectively determine the most successful strategies for combating opioid abuse and adjust our efforts and resource allocation accordingly.

The OPEN Act is a commonsense measure that will provide a meaningful way to assist the effectiveness of these grants. Under this act, the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services will identify outcomes achieved by activities funded under these grant programs. The OPEN Act requires these agencies to develop the metrics by which the achievement of such outcomes can be objectively analyzed. Those outcomes and metrics will, in turn, be studied by the National Academy of Sciences or other independent evaluators and reported on to Congress. Armed with this information, Congress will then be able to assess the success of the programs funded by these grants.

I, therefore, support H.R. 5052 and commend it without reservation to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader, who is also the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank the chairman for his work in dealing with opioid abuse throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, where I come from in Kern County, California, over 160 people are sent to the emergency room for opioid overdoses every single year. Every single one of those stories is tragic.

Addiction tears families apart, it uproots communities, and it deprives people of the basic freedom to live the lives they want. Opioid addiction is only getting worse in this country. The most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data show that 78 Americans die every single day from overdose—78 Americans.

We need to do something about it. Ultimately, it is individuals, families, and the communities that are on the front line in the fight against addiction. But Congress can do something, too. The Federal Government can and should support community efforts to stop opioid abuse and help those in recovery.

So we have over one dozen bills we will pass this week that target at the center of the opioid addiction: the drug trade, prescription abuse, health care, prevention, you name it.

But it is not enough to pass laws and start new programs. After all, a lot of government programs sound good, but they don't mean as much if they don't

work. Most programs, if not every government program, are created with the very best of intentions; but good intentions don't make good government.

When Congress decided to set up a program using money and resources from the American people, we had better be sure that what we are doing is making a difference and actually helping those in need as best we can. That is why Congressman STENY HOYER and I drafted the Opioid Program Evaluation Act, better known as the OPEN Act, because we need to actually help stop the abuse, not just create programs to talk about it. We need to prevent addiction from happening. We need to help those addicted to recover, and we can't afford to waste time and money accomplishing these goals.

Ultimately, we need to use the power of data to determine if these programs actually work. It is that simple. We live in the age of data, and innovators around the country and around the world are using data to do everything from providing better service to customers, to preventing disease and to preventing crimes across this country.

We can learn from that. We need to bring data and innovation into government. When we do that, we can ensure government programs work as intended and that it is in the most effective way possible. That is what this bill will do. It gives healthcare officials, researchers, and engaged citizens the opportunity to see exactly what their government is doing and then to use the information to make the best possible treatment for those who are addicted to opioids.

For months now, I have been working with other Members on the Innovation Initiative with this exact goal: to modernize government. This is just the latest bill shaping our policies and reforming the way Washington works.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to join and support this bill.

I want to thank the minority whip for his work, his thoughtfulness, and his research in making this happen.

Today is a vote for accountability. Vote for more than just words. Vote to effectively fight the opioid epidemic.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority whip of the Congress and the co-author of this measure.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the ranking member and former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and, if I could say, in a bipartisan bill, maybe the next chairman of the Judiciary Committee, with all due respect to my friend Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman very much for bringing this bill to the floor.

I thank the majority leader for his comments, and I rise in support, obviously, of this legislation, which I am proud to cosponsor with my friend, the

majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, from California.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, as he said, will help ensure that future investments in the fight against opioid addiction are allocated in the most effective way possible. We owe that to the American people, and we owe it to the effectiveness of our efforts against this scourge on our country.

Our bill requires the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to develop, as you have heard, metrics by which opioid-related grant programs will be evaluated: Do they work? Are they worth the investment? It will facilitate data collection and analysis in order to determine best practices—what works and what doesn't—so policymakers can best target resources.

The opioid epidemic is a major public health challenge that requires and demands bipartisan cooperation and leadership across the branches and offices of our government at the Federal, State, and local levels. This crisis has already quadrupled—quadrupled—the rate of overdose deaths between 2000 and 2013 and continues to plague communities across the country.

Between 2007 and 2014, 237 people in southern Maryland died as a result of prescription opioid overdoses, and 287 more died from using heroin, a drug to which those addicted to opioid painkillers often turn when they can no longer access prescription medications. This is a critical problem affecting lives and families across the Nation, which is why the Congress must take action and is doing so on a bipartisan basis.

In addition to the OPEN Act, the House is considering a number of bipartisan bills this week that will likely be adopted as part of an amendment to the legislation passed in the Senate, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA.

Democratic Members have been instrumental in writing these bills in such a way that the policies and programs they create have the greatest chance of saving lives and preventing addiction. The good news is they have worked with their Republican colleagues, and their Republican colleagues have worked with them. These bills reflect the seriousness with which Democrats and Republicans have been leading on this issue and the bipartisan nature of efforts in Congress to address the challenge.

But it isn't enough to enact these bills and the ones put forward by my Republican colleagues. We need to ensure that our efforts to combat opioid addiction receive the funding necessary to succeed. That funding is not in this bill, nor is it in some of the other bills that will be considered. It is nice to say that we ought to get something done, but if we do not apply the resources to accomplish the objective, it is empty rhetoric and political posturing.

President Obama has requested \$1.1 billion to fight opioid addiction, but the majority has not yet committed to acting on that request, nor has it committed to funding the bipartisan legislation that we expect to pass this week. The legislation is good, but if we don't give it the resources to be implemented, it will not bring the relief that is needed.

So as we work together to take these important steps to prevent opioid abuse and promote recovery, Congress needs to work together to ensure that these efforts are not left unfunded. I am certain that there is a way we can work together to pay for them and help our communities fight this epidemic that has destroyed so many lives and devastated communities and families across this country.

Again, I want to thank the Republican leader, Mr. MCCARTHY. He and I have found opportunities to work together, and we believe those have had positive results. He has partnered with me on this OPEN Act, and I hope we can keep working together to fund these initiatives and help end the scourge, the cancer, of opioid abuse and addiction in our country. If we do so, Americans will thank us, and they will think we have done a better job, frankly, than they think we are doing.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to say to my colleagues I deeply appreciate the observations and perceptions on both sides of the aisle in dealing with this subject.

The approaches to dealing with opioid abuse should be based on evidence of their effectiveness and ability to save lives. The OPEN Act will provide the information necessary to properly make that evaluation. Accordingly, I sincerely urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5052.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5052, the "Opioid Program Evaluation Act of 2016," otherwise known as the "OPEN" Act.

This is an important bill intended to provide a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of the grant programs being considered by Congress to address the serious and growing problem of opioid abuse.

The current surge in the use of heroin and other opioid drugs such as hydrocodone and oxycodone requires a strong, national response.

Opioid abuse leads to physical and functional changes to parts of the brain affecting, impulse, reward, and motivation.

In recent years, it is estimated that the number of heroin users in the United States has grown to over 680,000 people.

Similarly, the use of other opioids, such as hydrocodone and oxycodone has grown by 100 percent and 500 percent respectively.

To fight this crisis involving illegal opioids and the abuse of prescription opioids, we must employ a multi-faceted approach that actually achieves results.

This bill would evaluate the effectiveness of H.R. 5046, the “Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act,” a bill reported by the Judiciary Committee.

That bill was written with the goal of assisting States in the implementation of a variety of strategies, including:

Providing treatment alternatives to incarceration; training criminal justice agency personnel on substance use and co-occurring mental illness; increasing collaboration between State criminal justice agencies and State substance abuse systems; purchasing opioid reversal drugs and devices for first responders and providing training to carry and administer opioid reversal drugs and devices; and implementing medication-assisted treatment programs used or operated by criminal justice agencies.

As opioid abuse grant programs move forward, it is important we find a way to evaluate the success of these strategies and the effectiveness of the programs in implementing them.

This is why I support the requirements of the OPEN Act.

Specifically, the OPEN Act will:

Instruct the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to identify outcomes to be achieved and develop metrics for evaluating success in achieving those outcomes; enlist the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate and report to Congress on the outcomes and metrics of the grant programs; require grantees to report annually on the progress made through the grants; and instruct the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to complete an evaluation of the effectiveness of their grant programs after five years.

I am confident that the comprehensive approach we are taking to address opioid abuse will help address the Nation’s growing epidemic.

For these reasons, I support the OPEN Act and the goal of ensuring the best possible response to treat and prevent opioid abuse in America, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5052, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1730

**BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015**

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 125) to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 125

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2015”.

**SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.**

Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(23)) is amended to read as follows:

“(23) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out part Y, \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”.

**SEC. 3. EXPIRATION OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.**

Section 2501 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 379611) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) EXPIRATION OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriated funds’ means any amounts that are appropriated for any of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 to carry out this part.

“(2) EXPIRATION.—All appropriated funds that are not obligated on or before December 31, 2022 shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury not later than January 31, 2023.”.

**SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON 2-YEAR LIMITATION ON FUNDS.**

It is the sense of Congress that amounts made available to carry out part Y of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 379611 et seq.) should be made available through the end of the first fiscal year following the fiscal year for which the amounts are appropriated and should not be made available until expended.

**SEC. 5. MATCHING FUNDS LIMITATION.**

Section 2501(f) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 379611(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) LIMITATION ON MATCHING FUNDS.—A State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe may not use funding received under any other Federal grant program to pay or defer the cost, in whole or in part, of the matching requirement under paragraph (1).”.

**SEC. 6. APPLICATION OF BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TO ANY ARMOR VEST OR BODY ARMOR PURCHASED WITH FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS.**

Section 521 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42

U.S.C. 3766a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a grantee that uses funds made available under this part to purchase an armor vest or body armor shall—

“(A) comply with any requirements established for the use of grants made under part Y;

“(B) have a written policy requiring uniformed patrol officers to wear an armor vest or body armor; and

“(C) use the funds to purchase armor vests or body armor that meet any performance standards established by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

“(2) In this subsection, the terms ‘armor vest’ and ‘body armor’ have the meanings given such terms in section 2503.”.

**SEC. 7. UNIQUELY FITTED ARMOR VESTS.**

Section 2501(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 379611(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “; or” and inserting “; and”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) provides armor vests to law enforcement officers that are uniquely fitted for such officers, including vests uniquely fitted to individual female law enforcement officers; or”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 125, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since 1999, the Bulletproof Vest Program, or BVP, has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of \$393 million in Federal funds for the purchase of over 1 million bulletproof vests. The Bulletproof Vest Grant Program is a critical resource for State and local jurisdictions that has proven to save lives.

We must be sure that our law enforcement officers are protected from the risks inherent in the job. In 2016 alone, there have been 17 police officers killed by gunfire. In March, a bulletproof vest saved the life of Officer Andy Harris, who was shot when he responded to a shots fired call. He is but one of many officers saved by a bulletproof vest.

Based on data collected and recorded by the Department of Justice, protective vests were directly attributable to

saving the lives of at least 33 law enforcement and corrections officers in 20 different States in a single year. At least 14 of those lifesaving vests had been purchased, in part, with BVP funds.

This bill reauthorizes BVP grants at \$25 million per year and extends the authorization through 2020. The bill has the support of all major law enforcement organizations, and has been approved by the Senate. With this authorization, we will immediately be impacting the safety of our law enforcement officers.

Law enforcement officers across the United States put their lives on the line every day to protect their communities and fellow citizens. As they continually make sacrifices for us, we must ensure that we provide them with resources to protect their lives as they protect ours.

Today's approval of legislation reauthorizing a critical bulletproof vest grant program for State and local law enforcement officers will save lives. I thank Representative LOBIONDO and Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member LEAHY for their work on this issue and dedication to our Nation's law enforcement officers.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Members of the House, I rise in strong support of S. 125, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

This bill, which would provide matching grants to State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies so that they can purchase bullet-resistant vests for their officers, is important for several reasons.

To begin with, S. 125 will facilitate the provision of critical protection to law enforcement officers, who often risk their lives while serving our communities. While some of the approximately 800,000 law enforcement officers throughout the United States do have some form of bullet-resistant armor, far too many of these brave men and women are not afforded the same protection due to State and local budget constraints.

Since its inception, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program has assisted State and local law enforcement agencies in obtaining the necessary protection equipment to safeguard the lives of their officers. To date, this program has provided more than 1 million officers with lifesaving vests. During the past 30 years, bullet-resistant vests have saved the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers.

The timeliness of this bill provides a perfect opportunity to acknowledge National Police Week. Right now, thousands of law enforcement officers are in Washington, D.C., to honor their

fellow officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Each year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial holds a vigil to recognize the newly engraved names of officers who died while serving and protecting the people in our communities.

We must do everything in our power to protect those who protect us. The Bulletproof Vest Program will help prevent the deaths of officers, and we hope that even fewer names will have to be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

The bill is critical because it provides up to 50 percent of the costs for an officer's new armor vest. The officer's department, in turn, pays the remaining costs. Importantly, small police departments that service areas with less than 100,000 residents receive priority funding under this measure.

Finally, S. 125 responds to the critical concern that bullet-resistant vests—to achieve their intended goals of protecting an officer from life-threatening gunshots—must meet certain standards. To this end, the bill requires a law enforcement agency to purchase body armor that meets strict performance standards set by the National Institute of Justice.

Additionally, the agency must have a policy that encourages officers to wear their vests while on duty. And, the agency must ensure that these vests properly fit female officers as well.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support S. 125.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of S. 125, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act.

Our brave law enforcement officers put their lives in harm's way every day to protect our communities. The least we can do is provide them with the proper safety gear.

That is why we must authorize the highly successful Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program to ensure that all of America's law enforcement officers have access to the lifesaving protection they need. My friend, Mr. REICHERT, from the coast, and myself, pledged when we became co-chairs of public safety in the Congress many, many years ago that not only do we need more police on the beat, but we need to protect them. There is no question in my mind we have allowed the bad guys to outarm the good guys, and we have to take a look at that.

Since it was established in 1999, this program has provided grantees with approximately \$247 million for more than 1 million lifesaving vests in over 13,000

State and local law enforcement agencies throughout the country. I did not hear any of those communities turn back the money. You are talking about 13,000 State and local law enforcement agencies.

There is a place for the Federal Government. There are responsibilities we cannot circumvent. While many officers are protected by bullet-resistant armor, there are an alarming number of officers in departments across our country that cannot afford this same protection due to local budget constraints.

As long as I am in Congress, I will continue to do all that I can to work closely with law enforcement officials, not just talking with them and patting them on the back, so they have adequate resources to protect themselves while patrolling our streets.

I urge my colleagues to support swift passage of this bipartisan legislation that will help improve the protection of our law enforcement officials.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for my closing remarks.

First, I would like to recognize the distinguished Senator from Vermont, PATRICK LEAHY, as being very, very influential in developing the measure before us under discussion now.

In closing, I note that we expect our law enforcement officers to protect those who are unable to protect themselves. But to do so, however, we must ensure that these brave men and women are themselves protected.

In 2012, for example, armor-resistant vests were credited with saving the lives of 33 law enforcement officers in 20 different States. Fourteen of those vests were purchased with the help of Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program funds.

In my home district in Michigan, the police departments for Highland Park, Melvindale, Romulus City, Wayne County, and others have received funds through this important program.

While some of the approximately 800,000 law enforcement officers throughout our country do have some form of bullet-resistant armor, far too many of these brave men and women are not afforded the same protection due to State and local budget constraints.

It is with great pleasure and privilege that I assure every Member of the House that S. 125 will ensure that this program continues to provide such vitally needed assistance.

I urge support for this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a member of the Judiciary Committee, and he will close debate on our side.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, last month, a few weeks ago, Alden Clopton was on patrol after midnight. He is a deputy constable in Houston, Texas. He works for the constable's office at Precinct 7.

Constables are just like deputy sheriffs and police officers. They have all the power under the State of Texas laws as any other police officer.

He was on routine patrol with his rookie partner trainee, Ann Glasgow, and they made a traffic stop in a tough part of town in Houston, Texas. As the investigation is taking place, Mr. Speaker, some outlaw snuck up behind Alden Clopton and pulled out a pistol and shot at him six times in the back.

Some of those bullets made their mark and some of those bullets missed. He owes his life, he says, to the bulletproof vest that he was wearing. Constable May Walker, a constable at Precinct 7, said he survived because he was wearing a vest.

□ 1745

You may have never heard of Alden Clopton, but he is a peace officer who comes from a peace officer family. His wife is a deputy sheriff; his three brothers are all in law enforcement; and his son is a cop in Mississippi, I believe. He lives today because he had a bulletproof vest on. As the ranking member has said and as the chairman has said, we owe it to peace officers to protect them when they go out in society and do society's dirty work for us—to protect and serve us.

This week is National Police Week. We honor our police officers—those who protect us, those who work the thin blue line to protect us from those who would do us harm. This is an appropriate piece of legislation to show peace officers like Alden Clopton and all of those throughout the country that we have their backs—that we support them—and that Congress is going to do what is necessary to protect them while they protect us.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, the Senate counterpart to my legislation, H.R. 228, that will reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act, comes during a momentous week in law enforcement—National Police Week, starting this Sunday.

Thank you, as well, to the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. VISLOSKY, for working with me on this legislation since its original passage in 1999.

Recent tragic events highlight the threats our men and women in uniform face each day.

However, these all-important vests cannot protect the lives of those who do not have access to them.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that we give law enforcement the tools they need so they may do their jobs and carry out their duties safely and effectively.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership program is one of those critical tools.

In fact, we know from some of the most recent statistics, that 14 of 33 officers saved by bulletproof vests, were purchased using funds from the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.

Since 1999, over 13,000 jurisdictions across the country have participated in the BVP program.

I encourage those law enforcement officials and concerned citizens listening, especially those in South Jersey, to apply for this vital program.

The deadline to do so, May 16th, is quickly approaching.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 125.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SELF-DEFENSE AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2137) to ensure Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety, and the safety of their families, during a covered furlough.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2137

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act of 2015”.

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Too often, Federal law enforcement officers encounter potentially violent criminals, placing officers in danger of grave physical harm.

(2) In 2012 alone, 1,857 Federal law enforcement officers were assaulted, with 206 sustaining serious injuries.

(3) From 2008 through 2011, an additional 8,587 Federal law enforcement officers were assaulted.

(4) Federal law enforcement officers remain a target even when they are off-duty. Over the past 3 years, 27 law enforcement officers have been killed off-duty.

(5) It is essential that law enforcement officers are able to defend themselves, so they can carry out their critical missions and ensure their own personal safety and the safety of their families whether on-duty or off-duty.

(6) These dangers to law enforcement officers continue to exist during a covered furlough.

##### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “agency” means each authority of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States;

(2) the term “covered Federal law enforcement officer” means any individual who—

(A) is an employee of an agency;

(B) has the authority to make arrests or apprehensions for, or prosecute, violations of Federal law; and

(C) on the day before the date on which the applicable covered furlough begins, is authorized by the agency employing the individual to carry a firearm in the course of official duties;

(3) the term “covered furlough” means a planned event by an agency during which employees are involuntarily furloughed due to downsizing, reduced funding, lack of work, or any budget situation including a lapse in appropriations; and

(4) the term “firearm” has the meaning given that term in section 921 of title 18, United States Code.

##### SEC. 4. PROTECTING FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO ARE SUBJECTED TO A COVERED FURLOUGH.

During a covered furlough, a covered Federal law enforcement officer shall have the same rights to carry a firearm issued by the Federal Government as if the covered furlough was not in effect, including, if authorized on the day before the date on which the covered furlough begins, the right to carry a concealed firearm, if the sole reason the covered Federal law enforcement officer was placed on leave was due to the covered furlough.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 2137, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we honor our law enforcement heroes for the annual Police Week, I rise in support of H.R. 2137, the Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act of 2015.

Federal law enforcement officers face potentially dangerous situations on a daily basis whether they are on duty or off duty. Accordingly, they are permitted to carry their government-issued firearms on their persons even when they are not on duty. However, during the 2013 government shutdown, at least three Federal agencies forbade their law enforcement officers from carrying their government-issued firearms or credentials during the furlough. This decision potentially endangered these officers' lives by putting them at an unnecessary risk. Further, it prevented these highly trained officers from being able to respond to a critical incident or threat.



The Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act will ensure that officers are able to defend and protect themselves on and off duty by allowing all covered Federal law enforcement officers to continue to carry their government-issued firearms during a furlough or a government shutdown. Allowing our highly trained and experienced Federal law enforcement officers to carry their firearms during a furlough not only ensures their safety and protection, but the safety and protection of their families and those around them.

As we honor our Nation's law enforcement officers this week during the annual National Police Week, let's ensure that the brave men and women of the Federal law enforcement community have the capability to defend themselves and others and to respond to threatening situations even in a time of furlough.

I thank the bill's sponsor, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, for his work on this important measure, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Members of the House, I rise in support of H.R. 2137, the Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act.

This bill would authorize Federal law enforcement officers to carry their government-issued firearms during government shutdowns and administrative furloughs that result from lapses in appropriations. Essentially, this measure would help ensure that those who protect us are able to continue to do so even during an official furlough. The ability of our Federal law enforcement officers to respond to critical incidents should not be impeded, particularly when violent crimes are committed in their presence.

H.R. 2137 does not expand Federal law enforcement officers' authority to carry firearms. The bill merely authorizes these officers to continue to carry their federally issued firearms as if a furlough had not occurred. This legislation recognizes the very real threat of harm that many of our officers face, particularly special agents, on a regular basis—a threat that does not simply disappear because of a government shutdown.

In 2012, for example, more than 1,800 Federal law enforcement officers were assaulted and, of those, approximately 200 sustained serious injuries. Even when off duty, Federal law enforcement officers remain the target of assault. For example, between 2011 and 2014, 27 law enforcement officers were killed while they were off duty.

Although this legislation only concerns Federal officers, I want to take a moment to recognize the State, local, and Federal officers who have sac-

rificed their lives in serving our communities.

This week, law enforcement officers throughout the United States have come to Washington to show their support for our fallen officers during National Police Week. In the spirit of National Police Week, it is vitally important that our Federal officers are able to protect people in our communities, themselves, and their family members from the continuing threats they encounter. Given the fact that H.R. 2137 facilitates this critical goal, I am eager to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), a member of the Judiciary Committee and the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise today in support of H.R. 2137, the Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act.

I thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS for their support of this legislation and for their commitment to getting it to the floor today. With their support, H.R. 2137 passed the Judiciary Committee on a voice vote.

I also thank my friends, Congresswoman GABBARD from Hawaii, Congressman REICHERT from Washington, and Congressman PASCRELL from New Jersey, for joining me in introducing H.R. 2137 and for their strong support of this bill.

Finally, I thank Senator TOOMEY for introducing the companion legislation in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this legislation to provide better protections for law enforcement officers, and I am glad to see that it is moving forward. It is particularly fitting that we consider this bill this week during National Police Week. Thousands of law enforcement officers are here from all over the country to commemorate their partners who have fallen in the line of duty and to recognize their sacrifices and contributions. I thank them for their service.

This is also a special week for this Congressman from the Ninth Congressional District of Georgia because I am a proud son of a Georgia State trooper. I know firsthand how hard they work and of the sacrifices they make in their time away from their families. He made sure that my brother and I had all of the chances at life that he had. I thank him because I know when he was off duty, as I was growing up, he was no less concerned about protecting the community. The dangers that were associated with his job didn't stop just because he came home to us. I think this holds true for all law enforcement officers.

Our law enforcement officers are highly trained and they are well aware

of the responsibilities that are associated with their jobs. In light of that training and of the dangers faced by officers, Federal law enforcement officers are typically allowed to carry their firearms 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It just seems like common sense. Federal law enforcement officers don't cease to be officers when they are off duty. Crime doesn't stop simply because an officer isn't working on a particular day. The Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act recognizes that and takes important steps to ensure that law enforcement officers can better protect themselves.

In 2013, during the Federal Government shutdown, at least three Federal agencies determined that the Anti-deficiency Act required them to forbid their law enforcement officers from carrying their agency-issued firearms or their personally owned firearms that were authorized by the agency. This interpretation of the law meant that at least 1,800 officers were disarmed.

During this time, there were reports confirming that at least one disarmed Federal law enforcement officer was attacked while off duty. Fortunately, she was able to get away unharmed, but the incident highlights the real dangers that officers face even while off duty. In fact, in 2012 alone, more than 1,800 Federal officers were assaulted with 206 of them having sustained serious injuries. From 2008 to 2011, more than 8,500 Federal law enforcement officers were assaulted; and in the last 3 years, 27 Federal law enforcement officers have been killed while off duty.

The threats and dangers are real. That is why, at a minimum, we should ensure that the policies to protect law enforcement officers are clear and consistent. However, there are reports that officers were disarmed inconsistently at other agencies. It is clear that the policies varied by agency. This level of inconsistency does not make sense, just as the policy to disarm officers doesn't make sense.

H.R. 2137 ensures that it is clear that Federal law enforcement officers can carry their weapons in the event of a lapse of appropriations or of an administrative furlough. Under the bill, officers retain the right to carry their government-issued firearms for personal protection or to respond to a critical incident.

Importantly, this bill does not protect those who are on administrative leave or those who have lost the right to carry. It does not expand firearms carry authority to law enforcement officers who do not currently possess it, but it does ensure that there is a consistent policy for those officers who are able to carry and who are furloughed through no fault of their own.

The legislation is narrowly tailored, but it has a large impact. H.R. 2137 recognizes that Federal officers could be

confronted by job-related threats whether they are on duty or off. It recognizes that officers need to be able to protect themselves, their families, and their communities. This bill is a bipartisan agreement that protects our law enforcement officers, who put their lives on the line to protect us, and it makes sure that it is a priority. This bill is supported by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the National Association of Police Organizations.

H.R. 2137 is a sign of the recognition that we must do everything in our power to ensure that law enforcement officers have access to the tools they need to protect themselves and the public. Speaking also as a State trooper's kid, it reminds me that my dad, for all that he did in the 30-plus years that he worked, was on duty when he was not on duty. This is simply a recognition that all of our officers carry that same trust, and we want to give them the tools to do what they need to do.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a senior member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the authors of this legislation, as well as the previous speaker, my friend, for his articulation of this bill, and I thank all of the Members who are on the floor joining in support of H.R. 2137, the Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act of 2015. I thank Mr. CONYERS, the ranking member, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, let me express my recognition and appreciation of the thousands of families who will come to honor those police officers who have fallen in duty—many of them, their loved ones. We honor law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. The loss of one officer's life is one too many. In considering the myriad of dangers our officers face, we must ensure they have the appropriate authority to protect our communities and themselves.

I support this legislation because it will make it clear that the brave Federal law enforcement officers who protect us will not be forced to lock away their government-issued firearms in the event of official furloughs, such as those occasioned by government shutdowns.

□ 1800

Our Federal law enforcement officers must be prepared to respond to numerous threats faced each day by our country, and this bill will help them do so without expanding any existing authority or creating new ones.

This bill ensures our Federal law enforcement agencies uniformly provide our special agents and other law enforcement officers with the necessary support to respond to critical incidents.

Our officers are highly trained and understand the importance associated with possessing government-issued weapons.

Let me conclude my remarks by again expressing my appreciation to the authors and the chairman and the ranking member of the full committee.

I look forward as we move forward on legislation such as the Law Enforcement Integrity Act. We want to continue to give our police officers the skills and tools to be able to do the work that they love, and that is protecting the men and women of this Nation.

Again, I offer my appreciation, respect, and sympathy as we honor those who have fallen in duty to all of their families.

I ask support for H.R. 2137.

I wish to express my full support for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2015.

I am a cosponsor of the House version of this bill, and I support adoption of this Senate-passed bill so that we can send it to the President for signature.

In an effort to keep our citizens safe, law enforcement and correctional officers put their lives on the line each day, in every state and territory of the United States.

Gun violence poses a lethal threat to all of us, and our law enforcement officers are often particularly at risk while protecting us.

Reauthorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program will provide our officers with needed protection when they come face-to-face with individuals who seek to do harm to the officers and others.

Last year, 42 law enforcement officers were killed by gunfire.

Seventeen law enforcement officers have already been killed by gunfire this year.

In some instances, greater availability of protective vests may have saved the lives of these officers.

This program not only promotes the purchase of protective vests and body armor, but it also encourages officers to protect themselves by wearing the equipment.

In order to receive funds, grantee jurisdictions must certify during the application process that they have a mandatory wear policy.

This requirement ensures that all uniformed patrol officers in a grantee jurisdiction will wear protective vests or body armor while on duty.

Each vest purchased through the program must pass strict performance standards set by the National Institute of Justice.

The program also gives special consideration to jurisdictions with fewer than 100,000 residents.

Without these grants, small jurisdictions might not be able to include this life-saving equipment in their budgets—leaving officers vulnerable to the daily dangers of policing.

Last year, in my district, the Houston Community College Police Department received \$8,260.45 from the BVP program, enabling the purchase of 24 protective vests.

And the Jacinto City Police Department was able to purchase 7 armor vests with \$2,135.90 received through the BVP program.

The state of Texas received a total of \$1,090,175.60 in matching funds from this program in 2015, which made the purchase of 2,834 new protective vests possible.

Since its inception in 1999, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program has helped provide more than 1 million vests as of December 2014, to law enforcement officers in more than 13,000 jurisdictions.

The number of women in law enforcement continues to grow.

Yet much of the protective armor currently offered is primarily designed for male officers.

To be certain female officers receive the same level of protection as their male counterparts, the BVP program gives priority to jurisdictions that provide uniquely-fitted vests, including protective vests that conform anatomically to females.

From conducting traffic stops to responding to domestic violence calls, our law enforcement officers often face extreme danger.

Those dangers are evidenced this week—National Police Week—as we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives to protect us and our communities.

As we honor our law enforcement officers during National Police Week, with particular recognition for the sacrifice of fallen officers and their families, it is fitting that we complete work on this legislation today so that it may become law.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support S. 125.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of H.R. 2137.

I thank Representative DOUG COLLINS. This is a good, gutsy bill. I thank my co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus, Representative DAVE REICHERT, who is always there for every law enforcement person in this country, regardless of which level that law enforcement officer serves, be it Federal, state, county, or local, and Representative TULSI GABBARD for introducing this bipartisan legislation.

Federal law enforcement officers risk their own safety to make our communities safer every day. We need to make sure that they have the tools they need to do the job.

Law enforcement officers were ordered—and you have heard this before—to lock up their government-issued weapons and were prohibited from carrying their government-issued credentials while carrying their personally owned weapon during the last government shutdown.

This decision potentially endangered one female agent. We just heard that described. Thankfully, she was able to deescalate the situation and walk away unharmed.

This incident serves as a reminder that criminals don't care if Federal officers are furloughed, and it highlights the very real need to ensure that law

enforcement officers have the means to protect themselves regardless of their duty status.

This bill will allow the brave members of the Federal law enforcement community to have the capability to defend themselves and respond to threatening situations even in a time when they are off or furloughed.

I urge my colleagues to support swift passage of this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for my concluding remarks.

Members of the House, in 2004, Congress, in recognition of the serious dangers faced by the Federal law enforcement officers, passed the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, which authorizes Federal law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons in any jurisdiction in the United States.

Passage of H.R. 2137 would ensure that, when appropriations lapse or another government shutdown occurs, which we hope it won't, Federal law enforcement officers authorized to carry firearms will continue to be able to carry their government-issued firearms throughout the shutdown's duration for personal protection and to respond to critical incidents.

I urge support for this bill. I thank all of the Members who contributed to it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it and support our law enforcement officers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we honor police week, I rise in support of another common sense bill that would benefit the men and women who serve our nation in federal law enforcement.

The Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act is a simple bill, it allows a federal law enforcement officer to carry their government issued firearm during a furlough in the same way that they could carry their weapon if there was no furlough.

The risks that federal law enforcement officials face are the same whether or not they are on furlough or not. Some federal law enforcement officials have even been specifically targeted because of their positions.

These brave men and women should not be put in jeopardy due to a budget shortfall or an inability to pass a budget. The risks they face are the same, they have the right to defend themselves.

I thank Rep. COLLINS for bringing this bill forward, and I urge your support today.

That's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2137.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOVERING MISSING CHILDREN ACT

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3209) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the disclosure of certain tax return information for the purpose of missing or exploited children investigations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3209

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Recovering Missing Children Act".*

**SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RETURN INFORMATION RELATING TO MISSING OR EXPLOITED CHILDREN INVESTIGATIONS.**

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(i)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—*

*(1) by inserting "or pertaining to the case of a missing or exploited child," after "may be a party," in subparagraph (A)(i),*

*(2) by inserting "or to such a case of a missing or exploited child," after "may be a party," in subparagraph (A)(iii), and*

*(3) by inserting "(or any criminal investigation or proceeding, in the case of a matter relating to a missing or exploited child)" after "concerning such act" in subparagraph (B)(iii).*

*(b) DISCLOSURE TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—*

*(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(i)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:*

*"(C) DISCLOSURE TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE CASE OF MATTERS PERTAINING TO A MISSING OR EXPLOITED CHILD.—*

*"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an investigation pertaining to a missing or exploited child, the head of any Federal agency, or his designee, may disclose any return or return information obtained under subparagraph (A) to officers and employees of any State or local law enforcement agency, but only if—*

*"(I) such State or local law enforcement agency is part of a team with the Federal agency in such investigation, and*

*"(II) such information is disclosed only to such officers and employees who are personally and directly engaged in such investigation.*

*"(ii) LIMITATION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—Information disclosed under this subparagraph shall be solely for the use of such officers and employees in locating the missing child, in a grand jury proceeding, or in any preparation for, or investigation which may result in, a judicial or administrative proceeding.*

*"(iii) MISSING CHILD.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'missing child' shall have the meaning given such term by section 403 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5772).*

*"(iv) EXPLOITED CHILD.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'exploited child' means a minor with respect to whom there is reason to believe that a specified offense against a minor (as defined by section 111(7) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16911(7))) has or is occurring."*

*(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—*

*(A) Section 6103(a)(2) of such Code is amended by striking "subsection (i)(7)(A)" and inserting "subsection (i)(1)(C) or (7)(A)".*

*(B) Section 6103(p)(4) of such Code is amended by striking "(i)(3)(B)(i)" in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting "(i)(1)(C), (3)(B)(i)".*

*(C) Section 7213(a)(2) of such Code is amended by striking "(i)(3)(B)(i)" and inserting "(i)(1)(C), (3)(B)(i)".*

*(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3209, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker and Members, this week we have thousands of members of the law enforcement community here in Washington to celebrate Police Week.

Every day police officers throughout our country wear the uniform with pride, and they understand the tremendous responsibility that comes with it, putting the safety of others before the safety of themselves.

They protect us, they protect our families, and they protect our neighborhoods. We owe it to these police officers to give them every reasonable tool possible to solve crimes and keep our communities safe.

Unfortunately, police officers are currently being denied a critical resource when it comes to solving child abduction and missing children cases. While many may picture the perpetrators of these crimes as strangers, the reality is actually very difficult to fathom, and that is because every year there are more than 200,000 cases of children that are abducted by a parent or a relative.

The psychological and emotional damage inflicted on a child in these cases can be devastating. Abducted children often are moved from city to city and prohibited from going to school or participating in youth activities due to a fear by the perpetrator of being caught. Many of these children are told that the parent that they are separated from is dead or no longer wants them.

Statistics show that an abducted child is at a higher risk for physical abuse, and some psychologists believe that family abduction is one of the most devastating forms of child abuse.

Here is the opportunity, Mr. Speaker. Research shows that, in a significant number of child abductions, the perpetrator will file a tax return using this

child's Social Security number, providing a current address, and a potential case-breaking discovery.

One report found that as many as 46 percent of these cases could be solved if law enforcement had access to this information. While this type of critical tax information can be accessed to solve other serious crimes, current law does not allow police officers to access Federal tax records to help them find an abducted child. Without such a valuable tool, it could be very difficult for law enforcement to solve these cases when the suspect has left the area and has taken action to conceal their new location.

The bipartisan Recovering Missing Children Act will allow investigators to access this critical information and reunite families. This is a commonsense fix that fills the information gap, potentially solving thousands of cases and saving lives.

It is endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Sergeants Benevolent Association, the National Association of Police Officers, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, and the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters in support of H.R. 3209.

APRIL 7, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. SANDER LEVIN,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and  
Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN & REPRESENTATIVE LEVIN: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 3209, the "Recovering Missing Children Act," and to request that the Committee consider and mark up this legislation at the earliest possible opportunity.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that more than 200,000 children are abducted by their parents or other close relatives every year. According to findings from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, however, new addresses for these missing children can be identified as often as 46 percent of the time through analysis of taxes subsequently filed using either the suspected perpetrator's or the missing child's Social Security Number. Unfortunately, despite the value that this evidence would have in combating child abductions, the IRS is currently constrained from providing the relevant tax information to law enforcement.

To the extent that law enforcement needs access to every available tool to aid in the swift recovery of missing children, H.R. 3209 would solve this problem by filling the information gap. Specifically, the bill would amend current law to add the case of a missing child to the list of exceptions that allow the IRS to release tax return information to law enforcement. Given the sensitivity of taxpayer data, the bill would limit the disclosure of relevant tax information solely to those law enforcement officers who are engaged in the recovery of a missing child or the subsequent investigation and prosecution of the alleged abductor. As a result, we believe the "Recovering Missing Children

Act" strikes the proper balance between protecting taxpayer privacy and facilitating the ability of law enforcement to reunite missing children with their families.

H.R. 3209 represents a commonsense solution to the unintended consequences of laws protecting taxpayer information that is limited to specific scenarios of child abduction. On behalf of our organizations and the men and women of law enforcement that we are proud to represent, we therefore stand ready to work with you and the other Members of the Committee to advance the "Recovering Missing Children Act" as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

FEDERAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION;  
FRATERNAL ORDER OF  
POLICE;  
INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS  
OF POLICE;  
MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION;  
MAJOR COUNTY SHERIFFS'  
ASSOCIATION;  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
POLICE ORGANIZATIONS;  
NATIONAL NARCOTIC  
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS'  
COALITION;  
SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT  
ASSOCIATION NYPD.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING &  
EXPLOITED CHILDREN,  
Alexandria, VA, January 12, 2016.

Hon. ERIK PAULSEN,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PAULSEN: On behalf of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the families and children we serve, I am writing to express our support for your legislation, the Recovering Missing Children Act (H.R. 3209). This bill provides law enforcement with an additional tool in their search for missing and exploited children.

As you know, NCMEC was created as a private, non-profit organization in 1984 and designated by Congress to serve as the national clearinghouse on issues related to missing and exploited children. NCMEC provides services to families, private industry, law enforcement, victims, and the general public to assist in the prevention of child abductions, the recovery of missing children, and the provision of services to combat child sexual exploitation. NCMEC performs 22 functions, including those related to assisting law enforcement, families, and others regarding family abductions.

Child abduction by a parent is a crime under both federal and state law. These children suffer emotional abuse, including lack of identity and grief over the loss of a parent. The abductor may give the child a false explanation for the abduction and/or indicate that the searching parent no longer wants the child. Abductors who move the child between cities, or between countries, make it difficult for law enforcement and the searching parent to locate and recover the child.

In order to ensure that law enforcement has access to information that could lead to the recovery of a missing or exploited child, we believe the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) database is one resource that could provide key information to help law enforcement. A 2007 study by the Department of Treasury Inspector General for Tax Adminis-

tration (TIGTA) confirmed that the IRS database contains information that could help law enforcement investigating these cases. For example, according to the study, addresses that were different from those where the children and/or alleged abductors lived at the time of the abductions were found for 46% of the missing children (237 out of 520) and 34% of the alleged abductors (104 out of 305). Thus, making it apparent that IRS information could help law enforcement investigating cases involving missing and exploited children.

The current framework of the Internal Revenue Code makes it very difficult, and often impossible, for federal law enforcement investigating missing child cases to use the exceptions from Section 6103 to access IRS information.

A clarification in the law is necessary to ensure the disclosure of IRS data that could lead to the recovery of a missing or exploited child. As such, we believe the legislation you have sponsored—the Recovering Missing Children Act—could enhance law enforcement's ability to locate missing and exploited children.

NCMEC is proud to lend our support to this important legislation and we are grateful for your dedication to the safety of our nation's children.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. CLARK,  
President and CEO.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative JOE COURTNEY, for his leadership and bipartisan advocacy on this issue.

I also thank my friend, Mr. PASCARELL, who is on the Ways and Means Committee, for his leadership, along with Congressman REICHERT, who is a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus, for getting behind this legislation, showing again that both parties can work together on meaningful legislation that improves the lives of American families.

As we prepare for the National Missing Children's Day coming up on May 25, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill today so we can give investigators the tools that they need to crack the case and bring a missing child home.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3209, the Recovering Missing Children Act. I thank my friend, Representative ERIK PAULSEN, for introducing it. It is strong, it is reasonable, and it is the right thing to do. Representative JOE COURTNEY has waited and worked for this legislation for a long time.

As a father and a grandfather, I can't even begin to imagine what parents go through in the event their child goes missing. I can't imagine it. I really can't. And I certainly can't imagine hearing that law enforcement is handicapped in its ability to do everything possible to help bring their child back.

Mr. Speaker, there are 200,000 kids that are abducted by a family member every year. That is something for another day perhaps, but it is part of this problem here.

In 2007, a study by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, TIGTA—we use that term a lot in the Ways and Means Committee—found that tax return information could be helpful in many cases involving missing children.

TIGTA reviewed whether IRS data would show addresses for persons claiming tax benefits with respect to those missing children after the time of the abduction or their suspected abductors. That sounds pretty bizarre, but that is happening.

TIGTA looked at 520 missing children's cases and found that the IRS data showed new addresses for 46 percent of the cases. Similarly, IRS data showed new addresses for 34 percent of suspected abductors.

Federal law rightly prohibits the IRS from disclosing confidential taxpayer information except in a limited number of exceptions. For example, this information may be released to Federal Government employees if ordered by a Federal judge in preparation for a nontax-related criminal prosecution.

H.R. 3209 would add criminal investigations related to missing or exploited children as one of these exceptions. We should be thankful to the author of this legislation because this is a critical exception that should have been done a long time ago.

The bill would also allow this information to be released to State and local law enforcement officials who are working with the Federal agency in its missing or exploited child investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), who has long been an advocate for law enforcement and has always been on the front lines helping law enforcement with their initiatives and helping victims.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank both Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. PASCRELL for their support and for the energy and the effort they put behind this legislation.

As I was sitting here waiting for my turn to speak, I was thinking to myself that I will be 66 years old here in a few weeks. So half of my life, 33 years, was in law enforcement. It kind of stunned me for a second.

□ 1815

I have been in Congress now 11½ years. I have found that there are some very, very good friends here in Congress who support law enforcement. This is not a partisan issue. Mr. PASCRELL and I have been great partners as co-chairs of the Law Enforcement Caucus, and he is a valiant fighter for law enforcement, firefighters, all first responders. We make a great team. As you can see, there are others who have joined us here today.

In my 33 years, Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to work on patrol, to search for kids in that moment in time where you get a call to a shopping mall and a mother has turned her head for a minute or a father has just let go of the hand of the child for a second and turned around and the child is gone. You can just see the panic in their eyes and the fear in their face. But a few minutes later, they are found wandering around in a toy shop or hiding somewhere, playing hide-and-seek, and they have their child back within minutes.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are other families that aren't so fortunate, that I have had the honor of meeting, where their child had been missing for years. Some are fortunate enough, Mr. Speaker, to get their child back. I have been at the other end of that, where you search and you find. I found a young man up in the mountains of Alaska who had been taken by his father and whisked away in an old camper and hidden in the mountains of Alaska. We found him safe and returned him to his mom.

Mr. Speaker, I have also had the sad experience of finding a missing child dead. I have had to be the one who went to the home and notified the mom and dad: We found Cindy, but she is not alive. Someone killed her.

These are tough cases. When I was working these cases, I would say to the family: We are going to get your child back, and we will find the person responsible for taking your child. When I was a detective, I said the same thing: We are going to be tough, and we will find them.

Today, with this Federal legislation, we are even saying it in stronger words. Now the local law enforcement agencies have the power of the Federal Government. That information that we needed back in the day when I was an officer on the street or a detective on the street, I didn't have. But today we are going to give them that power and authority.

The message today is: those who take children from their homes, those who take children off the streets, we will find you—we will find you—because I don't want police officers knocking on a door and telling a parent that their child won't be coming home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, when I was a detective on the Green River Task Force, we solved over 2,000 cases of missing women, young women, and girls over that period of time. We solved 51 murders, and we worked closely with the families. Those detectives who went home every night did not go home and stop thinking about these cases. I know that every one of

those detectives and every one of the families involved in that investigation today appreciate the action of Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. PASCRELL, and all those who support this bill.

I know families that actually kept their child's bedroom exactly the way it was the day they went missing, for 5 or 6 years. They didn't change a thing because they always have hope. They always have hope that their daughter or their son will be coming home, until the day that door gets a knock and the officer arrives and says: We found little Johnny, or, Little Johnny won't be coming home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support this legislation. I appreciate so much the action by everyone involved in bringing this forward.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY). He has worked very hard on this issue for a very, very long time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PASCRELL for yielding time, and I thank my good friend and colleague ERIK PAULSEN for his great work in getting us to this point today where finally we are going to move this measure forward.

It is almost 5 years to the day that Mr. PAULSEN and I introduced this legislation, along with a number of others, in 2011, to deal with this really, just almost inexplicable anomaly in the law which basically says that one arm of the government—the IRS—can actually know the whereabouts of a missing child but can't share that information with another arm of government—namely, State and local law enforcement—which, in most cases, almost 100 percent of cases involving missing children, is the level of government that actually deals with the investigation and attempts to recover children.

So you have a situation where you have got all these resources and efforts happening at the State and local level scurrying around, trying to find leads for abducted children, yet the government is sitting on information in terms of tax returns that were filed with the Social Security number of the child who is missing or the suspected abductor, and the two levels of government can't talk to each other.

This legislation will break down that barrier and allow, again, timely information to be shared for the thousands of children, which we know from data that the missing children foundation and other law enforcement groups have been sharing with Congress over a number of years.

So again, as was said earlier, the data is astonishing: 200,000 abductions are reported each year; 12,000 tend to last longer than 6 months. In 2007, the Treasury Department looked at 1,700 Social Security numbers of missing kids and found that, as Mr. PASCRELL

said, over a third had been used in returns after the abduction.

For some it is really kind of hard to imagine how an abducting relative or even stranger could have the nerve to file a tax return and claim the Social Security and child exemption for the child that they have in their possession, but the data shows that, in fact, that happens. It may be because they are anxious to get the refund; it may be because they don't want to be violating a second set of laws in terms of not filing a tax return. But the fact of the matter is that there are thousands of children that the government knows their whereabouts, and this law will allow that information to be shared. For every family that will benefit from it, it really is just an amazing opportunity for us to really relieve the stress and pain that these horrible cases inflict year in and year out.

As I said, it took 5 years. We have a great coalition of outside groups that are supporting it. As Calvin Coolidge once said: "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence . . . The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." This, I think, is an example of it. It took 5 long years, but the House is now poised to move forward on H.R. 3209, Recovering Missing Children Act, and again we want to get swift passage and move this through the Senate and to the President's desk so that we can, again, provide a lot of relief and solace to families that are anxiously looking for their loved ones.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, having no other speakers, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

When Mr. REICHERT said before that we will track you down and find you, he meant it, because he was on many a chase in his 33 years in law enforcement, and he always gave special attention to those that involved children.

I want to congratulate Representative PAULSEN. Most of the time, almost all the time, he always provides a reasonable resolution to problems. I mean that.

I know that we simply cannot have information at our fingertips that can help bring an abducted child home and not allow law enforcement to use it. Allowing law enforcement to use information that can help locate missing and abducted children is a no-brainer. We need to establish a system that protects taxpayers' privacy but also allows law enforcement to do its job. This bill does just that.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation. It has been a good, bipartisan few hours.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I won't go on too much longer. We have had great testimony

and offerings today by folks who have been working in a very bipartisan way on a very key component that has been around for 5 years but will absolutely make a difference in solving missing child abduction cases. It is common sense, it is bipartisan, and most importantly, it will help reunite families with missing children.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3209, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4957, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5052, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### ARIEL RIOS FEDERAL BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4957) to designate the Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 0, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 180]

YEAS—401

Abraham	Davis, Danny	Jackson Lee
Adams	Davis, Rodney	Jeffries
Aderholt	DeFazio	Jenkins (KS)
Aguilar	DeGette	Jenkins (WV)
Allen	Delaney	Johnson (GA)
Amash	DeLauro	Johnson (OH)
Amodel	DeBene	Johnson, E. B.
Ashford	Denham	Johnson, Sam
Babin	Dent	Jolly
Barletta	DeSantis	Jones
Barr	DeSaulnier	Jordan
Barton	DesJarlais	Joyce
Bass	Deuth	Kaptur
Beatty	Diaz-Balart	Katko
Becerra	Dingell	Keating
Benishek	Doggett	Kelly (IL)
Bera	Dold	Kelly (MS)
Beyer	Donovan	Kelly (PA)
Bilirakis	Doyle, Michael	Kennedy
Bishop (GA)	F.	Kildee
Bishop (MI)	Duffy	Kilmer
Bishop (UT)	Duncan (SC)	Kind
Black	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)
Blackburn	Edwards	King (NY)
Blum	Ellmers (NC)	Kinzinger (IL)
Blumenauer	Emmer (MN)	Kirkpatrick
Bonamici	Engel	Kline
Bost	Eshoo	Knight
Boustany	Farenthold	Kuster
Boyle, Brendan	Farr	Labrador
F.	Fitzpatrick	LaHood
Brady (PA)	Fleischmann	LaMalfa
Brady (TX)	Fleming	Lamborn
Brat	Flores	Lance
Bridenstine	Forbes	Larsen (WA)
Brooks (AL)	Fortenberry	Larson (CT)
Brooks (IN)	Foster	Lawrence
Brown (FL)	Fox	Lee
Brownley (CA)	Franks (AZ)	Levin
Buchanan	Frelinghuysen	Lewis
Buck	Fudge	Lieu, Ted
Bucshon	Gabbard	Lipinski
Burgess	Gallego	LoBiondo
Bustos	Garamendi	Loeb
Butterfield	Garrett	Loeb
Byrne	Gibbs	Long
Calvert	Gibson	Loudermilk
Capps	Gohmert	Love
Capuano	Goodlatte	Lowenthal
Cárdenas	Gosar	Lowe
Carney	Gowdy	Lucas
Carson (IN)	Graham	Luetkemeyer
Carter (GA)	Granger	Lujan Grisham
Carter (TX)	Graves (GA)	(NM)
Cartwright	Graves (LA)	Luján, Ben Ray
Castro (TX)	Graves (MO)	(NM)
Chabot	Grayson	Lummis
Chaffetz	Green, Al	Lynch
Chu, Judy	Green, Gene	Marino
Cicilline	Griffith	Massie
Clark (MA)	Grothman	Matsui
Clarke (NY)	Guinta	McCarthy
Clay	Guthrie	McCaul
Cleaver	Hahn	McClintock
Clyburn	Hanna	McCollum
Coffman	Hardy	McDermott
Cohen	Harper	McGovern
Cole	Harris	McHenry
Collins (GA)	Hartzler	McKinley
Collins (NY)	Heck (NV)	McMorris
Comstock	Heck (WA)	Rodgers
Conaway	Hensarling	McNerney
Connolly	Hice, Jody B.	McSally
Conyers	Higgins	Meadows
Cook	Hill	Meehan
Cooper	Himes	Meeks
Costa	Hinojosa	Messer
Costello (PA)	Holding	Mica
Courtney	Honda	Miller (FL)
Cramer	Hoyer	Miller (MI)
Crawford	Huelskamp	Moolenaar
Crenshaw	Huizenga (MI)	Mooney (WV)
Crowley	Hultgren	Moore
Cuellar	Hunter	Moulton
Culberson	Hurd (TX)	Mullin
Cummings	Hurt (VA)	Mulvaney
Curbelo (FL)	Israel	Murphy (FL)
Davis (CA)	Issa	Murphy (PA)

Nadler Ros-Lehtinen Thompson (PA)  
 Napolitano Roskam Thornberry  
 Neal Ross Tiberi  
 Neugebauer Rothfus Tipton  
 Newhouse Rouzer Titus  
 Noem Roybal-Allard Tonko  
 Nolan Royce Torres  
 Nugent Ruiz Trott  
 Nunes Ruppertsberger Tsongas  
 O'Rourke Rush Turner  
 Olson Russell Upton  
 Palazzo Ryan (OH) Valadao  
 Pallone Salmon Van Hollen  
 Palmer Sánchez, Linda Vargas  
 Pascrell T. Veasey  
 Paulsen Sanford Vela  
 Payne Sarbanes Velázquez  
 Pearce Scalise Visclosky  
 Pelosi Schakowsky Wagner  
 Perry Schiff Walberg  
 Peters Schrader Walden  
 Peterson Schweikert Walker  
 Pingree Scott (VA) Walorski  
 Pittenger Scott, Austin Walters, Mimi  
 Pitts Sensenbrenner Walz  
 Pocan Serrano Wasserman  
 Poe (TX) Sessions Schultz  
 Poliquin Sewell (AL) Waters, Maxine  
 Polis Sherman Westernman  
 Pompeo Shimkus Weber (TX)  
 Posey Shuster Webster (FL)  
 Price (NC) Simpson Welch  
 Price, Tom Sinema Wenstrup  
 Quigley Sires Westerman  
 Rangel Smith (MO) Westmoreland  
 Ratcliffe Smith (NE) Williams  
 Reed Smith (NJ) Wilson (FL)  
 Reichert Smith (TX) Wilson (SC)  
 Renacci Smith (WA) Wittman  
 Ribble Speier Womack  
 Rice (NY) Stefanik Woodall  
 Rice (SC) Stewart Yoder  
 Rigell Stivers Yoho  
 Roby Stutzman Young (AK)  
 Roe (TN) Swalwell (CA) Young (IA)  
 Rogers (AL) Takano Young (IN)  
 Rogers (KY) Thompson (CA) Zeldin  
 Rokita Thompson (MS) Zinke

NOT VOTING—32

Castor (FL) Herrera Beutler Norcross  
 Clawson (FL) Hudson Perlmutter  
 Duckworth Huffman Richmond  
 Ellison Langevin Rohrabacher  
 Esty Latta Rooney (FL)  
 Fattah MacArthur Sanchez, Loretta  
 Fincher Maloney, Scott, David  
 Frankel (FL) Carolyn Slaughter  
 Grijalva Maloney, Sean Takai  
 Gutiérrez Marchant Whitfield  
 Hastings Meng Yarmuth

□ 1850

Mr. RANGEL and Ms. KAPTUR changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 180, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 180, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

OPIOID PROGRAM EVALUATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5052) to direct the Attorney

General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 181]

YEAS—410

Abraham Collins (NY) Goodlatte  
 Adams Comstock Gosar  
 Aderholt Conaway Gowdy  
 Aguilar Connolly Graham  
 Allen Conyers Granger  
 Amash Cook Graves (GA)  
 Amodei Cooper Graves (LA)  
 Ashford Costa Graves (MO)  
 Babin Costello (PA) Grayson  
 Barletta Courtney Green, Al  
 Barr Cramer Green, Gene  
 Barton Crawford Griffith  
 Bass Crenshaw Grothman  
 Beatty Crowley Guinta  
 Becerra Cuellar Guthrie  
 Benishek Culberson Hahn  
 Bera Cummings Hanna  
 Beyer Curbelo (FL) Hardy  
 Bilirakis Davis (CA) Harper  
 Bishop (GA) Davis, Danny Harris  
 Bishop (MI) Davis, Rodney Hartzler  
 Bishop (UT) DeFazio Heck (NV)  
 Black DeGette Heck (WA)  
 Blackburn Delaney Hensarling  
 Blum DeLauro Hice, Jody B.  
 Blumenauer DeBene Higgins  
 Bonamici Denham Hill  
 Bost Dent Himes  
 Boustany DeSantis Hinojosa  
 Boyle, Brendan Desaulnier Holding  
 F. DeSjarlais Honda  
 Brady (PA) Deutch Hoyer  
 Brady (TX) Diaz-Balart Hudson  
 Brat Dingell Huelskamp  
 Bridenstine Doggett Huffman  
 Brooks (AL) Dold Huizenga (MI)  
 Brooks (IN) Donovan Hultgren  
 Brown (FL) Doyle, Michael Hunter  
 Brownley (CA) F. Hurd (TX)  
 Buchanan Duffy Hurt (VA)  
 Buck Duncan (SC) Israel  
 Bucshon Duncan (TN) Issa  
 Burgess Edwards Jackson Lee  
 Bustos Ellison Jeffries  
 Butterfield Ellmers (NC) Jenkins (KS)  
 Byrne Emmer (MN) Jenkins (WV)  
 Calvert Engel Johnson (GA)  
 Capps Eshoo Johnson (OH)  
 Capuano Esty Johnson, E. B.  
 Cárdenas Farenthold Johnson, Sam  
 Carney Farr Jolly  
 Carson (IN) Fitzpatrick Jones  
 Carter (GA) Fleischmann Jordan  
 Carter (TX) Fleming Joyce  
 Cartwright Flores Kaptur  
 Castro (TX) Forbes Katko  
 Chabot Fortenberry Keating  
 Chaffetz Foster Kelly (IL)  
 Chu, Judy Foxx Kelly (MS)  
 Cicilline Franks (AZ) Kelly (PA)  
 Clark (MA) Frelinghuysen Kennedy  
 Clarke (NY) Fudge Kildee  
 Clay Gabbard Kilmer  
 Cleaver Gallego Kind  
 Clyburn Garamendi King (IA)  
 Coffman Garrett King (NY)  
 Cohen Gibbs Kinzinger (IL)  
 Cole Gibson Kirkpatrick  
 Collins (GA) Gohmert Kline

Knight Nunes Sherman  
 Kuster O'Rourke Shimkus  
 Labrador Olson Shuster  
 LaHood Palazzo Simpson  
 LaMalfa Pallone Sinema  
 Lamborn Palmer Sires  
 Lance Pascrell Smith (MO)  
 Langevin Paulsen Smith (NE)  
 Larsen (WA) Payne Smith (NJ)  
 Larson (CT) Pearce Smith (TX)  
 Lawrence Pelosi Smith (WA)  
 Lee Perlmutter Speier  
 Levin Perry Stefanik  
 Lewis Peters Stewart  
 Lieu, Ted Peterson Stivers  
 Lipinski Pingree Stutzman  
 LoBiondo Pittenger Swalwell (CA)  
 Loeb sack Pitts Takano  
 Lofgren Pocan Thompson (CA)  
 Long Poe (TX) Thompson (MS)  
 Loudermilk Poliquin Thompson (PA)  
 Love Polis Thornberry  
 Lowenthal Pompeo Tiberi  
 Lowey Posey Tipton  
 Lucas Price (NC) Titus  
 Luetkemeyer Price, Tom Tonko  
 Lujan Grisham Quigley Torres  
 (NM) Rangel Trott  
 Lujan, Ben Ray Ratcliffe Tsongas  
 (NM) Reed Turner  
 Lummis Reichert Upton  
 Lynch Renacci Valadao  
 Marino Ribble Van Hollen  
 Massie Rice (NY) Vargas  
 Matsui Rice (SC) Veasey  
 McCarthy Richmond Vela  
 McCaul Rigell Velázquez  
 McClintock Roby Visclosky  
 McCollum Roe (TN) Wagner  
 McDermott Rogers (AL) Walberg  
 McGovern Rogers (KY) Walden  
 McHenry Rokita Walker  
 McKinley Ros-Lehtinen Walorski  
 McMorris Roskam Walters, Mimi  
 Rodgers Ross Walz  
 McNerney Rothfus Wasserman  
 McSally Rouzer Schultz  
 Meadows Roybal-Allard Waters, Maxine  
 Meehan Royce Watson Coleman  
 Meeks Ruiz Weber (TX)  
 Messer Ruppertsberger Webster (FL)  
 Mica Rush Welch  
 Miller (FL) Russell Wenstrup  
 Miller (MI) Ryan (OH) Westerman  
 Moolenaar Salmon Westmoreland  
 Mooney (WV) Sánchez, Linda Whitfield  
 Moore T. Williams  
 Moulton Sanford Wilson (FL)  
 Mullin Sarbanes Wilson (SC)  
 Mulvaney Scalise Wittman  
 Murphy (FL) Schakowsky Womack  
 Murphy (PA) Schiff Woodall  
 Nadler Schrader Yarmuth  
 Neal Schweikert Yoder  
 Neugebauer Scott (VA) Yoho  
 Newhouse Scott, Austin Young (AK)  
 Noem Scott, David Young (IA)  
 Nolan Sensenbrenner Young (IN)  
 Nugent Sessions Zeldin  
 Sewell (AL) Zinke

NAYS—1

NOT VOTING—22

Castor (FL) Hastings Meng  
 Clawson (FL) Herrera Beutler Norcross  
 Duckworth Latta Rohrabacher  
 Fattah MacArthur Rooney (FL)  
 Fincher Maloney, Sanchez, Loretta  
 Frankel (FL) Carolyn Slaughter  
 Grijalva Maloney, Sean Takai  
 Gutiérrez Marchant

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1900

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF TONY CASTILLO

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Tony Castillo, a longtime friend of mine from my hometown of Aurora, Colorado, who recently passed away.

Tony and I had a friendship that started in our youth. We had so much in common. Tony and I both came from military families. Our late fathers had both married war brides in the aftermath of World War II. They were career enlisted soldiers who were transferred to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center for their last assignment in 1964 when we were both just 9 years old. Our military families both came from previous assignments in Europe.

While I followed in my father's footsteps and joined the military, Tony stayed in Aurora and eventually married the love of his life, Nita Adkins of Pueblo, Colorado. Tony and Nita raised two extraordinary children, Ben and Jess, in a loving family that has been inseparable.

Tony was an extraordinary example of a great friend, a loving husband, a devoted father, and he will always be remembered and missed by all who knew him.

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#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I rise today in recognition of May as National Foster Care Month.

Growing up, my parents welcomed many foster children into our family, providing them with a stable and nurturing environment.

One of the biggest challenges for youth in foster care is finding their forever family. Even youth who age out of foster care still need a place to call home after they turn 18, and whether through reunification, adoption, or an individual plan, every foster youth deserves a permanent home.

Mr. Speaker, these children belong to all of us, and we are all responsible for their well-being. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing May as National Foster Care Month.

#### RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF PENN STATE'S RED CELL ANALYTICS LAB

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize members of Penn State University's Red Cell Analytics Lab, a unique organization intended to educate students on how to combat threats in an age of ever-evolving technology.

Last weekend, I visited with members of the lab, and I listened in awe to how they are working with local law enforcement to keep students, staff, and spectators safe at events such as Penn State football games and the university's annual dance marathon, or THON.

Quite simply, these students have become experts at recognizing threats and security holes—essential skills in today's world where governments, technology firms, and corporations must stay one step ahead of those who seek to do us harm. I was happy to learn that members of the Red Cell Analytics Lab move on to great careers, working for companies in our financial and technology sectors, along with the Federal Government.

It is unfortunate that these talents are necessary in today's world, but I am glad they are being cultivated at Penn State University.

#### THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week, we are going to take up a package of bills that I support dealing with the massive heroin epidemic plaguing places like Ohio, but all over the country.

In my congressional district, we saw, a few months back, over 22 overdoses. In Trumbull County alone, 7 deaths; in Summit County, city of Akron, 56 people died of a heroin overdose, compared to just 40 in 2013. Now, in Ohio, these drug overdoses have been the leading cause of accidental deaths in our State, bypassing car accidents.

This House this week is going to do the responsible thing and pass key legislation and hopefully combine with the Senate legislation. But there is a missing piece on the recovery side. We need to make sure that, as we address this issue, it is comprehensive: it is about addiction and it is about treatment, but it also must be about recovery.

So I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for these important pieces of legislation that are coming forth. I will support them, but knowing that we have got a lot more work to do and that the bottom line is we need money behind these programs.

The President put in his budget over \$1 billion. We need to make sure that the resources get down to the local community so that we can help stem the tide of this epidemic in our country.

#### SUPPORTING TSC GLOBAL AWARENESS DAY AND MAX LUCCA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to lend my voice in support of TSC Global Awareness Day on May 15.

Tuberous sclerosis complex, or TSC, is a rare genetic disease that causes uncontrolled tumor growth across the face, body, and organs of affected individuals. Unfortunately, there is no cure for TSC.

South Florida's own Max Lucca—look at that sweet young face—was diagnosed with TSC when he was only 2 weeks old. Now he is 8, and Max Lucca has thrived because of the constant love and care provided by his parents, Vanessa and Max. Max Lucca enjoys baseball—as you can see—and hanging out with his best buddy.

So please think of this sweet young boy, Max Lucca, and others living with TSC on May 15 for TSC Global Awareness Day, and let's work together to find new treatments and a cure for this tragic disease.

#### GIVING HOPE TO DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY PATIENTS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a genetic disorder, Duchenne muscular dystrophy,



that has caused heartbreak for families across the country. The genetic mutation, found typically in boys, weakens muscles and leaves most sufferers confined to wheelchairs. Due to lung or heart failure, most afflicted with Duchenne pass away before their 25th birthday.

However, there is hope with new medical advancement that could increase the lifespan and improve the quality of life for those living with Duchenne. A new drug was used in a medical trial where every participant was able to walk for 4 years after starting the treatment, and on top of that, there were no negative side effects. However, the FDA has yet to approve this new drug, even with such promising results.

Mr. Speaker, Duchenne muscular dystrophy is an awful condition that more or less guarantees a short life for those who live with it. Medical advancement is giving hope to those patients for a longer and a better life, but bureaucratic redtape is preventing those folks from accessing it. It is time for the FDA to remove those roadblocks and to move forward for a new, possible, life-improving treatment.

SALEM TOWNSHIP FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, a natural gas pipeline exploded in Salem Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, immediately destroying one home, injuring a resident, and forcing the evacuation of a dozen other homes.

I rise to thank the first responders who selflessly and swiftly arrived on the scene:

Forbes Road Volunteer Fire Department Chief Bob Rosatti led incident command during the crisis, and he is to be commended for the tremendous job he did. In addition to Chief Rosatti's department, the following volunteer fire departments also responded: Slickville, White Valley, Export, Crabtree, Greensburg, Delmont, Hannastown, Grandview, New Alexandria, Jeannette, Harrison City, Washington Township, Saltsburg, Tunnelton, and Sardis.

These departments were joined by seven other local, county, and State agencies. The firefighters, police, and emergency teams who choose these selfless and courageous professions make our communities safer, better places to live, and for this, we should all be grateful.

THE IRAN DEAL

(Mr. DESANTIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, Ben Rhodes from the administration said that the Iran deal would be the ObamaCare of the administration's second term. When I heard that, I thought, "Sheesh," because a lot of us don't think highly of ObamaCare. We don't think it has worked out well. We didn't think the Iran deal was going to work out well. But now that actually has a deeper meaning.

ObamaCare was sold to the American people on a set of deceptions: if you like your plan, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep him; you are going to pay \$2,500 less per family for health insurance. Now, it turns out, so was the Iran deal.

They concocted a narrative—a false narrative—that, with the election of Rouhani, a moderate who really wanted to have an opening, this was a once-in-a-generation opportunity for America to seize this day and strike a deal with Iran—even though they are the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism—and bring peace to the world.

That was all false. This started before Rouhani was elected. He is not a moderate. This was a deal made in conjunction with Iran's hard-liners; and as we are seeing now with how they are behaving, it is benefitting Iran's hard-liners.

ObamaCare we can fix. It will be tough. But we may not be able to recover if Iran gets a nuclear weapon.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Nurses Week, a time to celebrate the contribution of over 3 million registered nurses around our country. They are our friends and neighbors who care for our loved ones and treat us when we are sick.

A nurse is usually the first person we talk to at the doctor's office, even first thing in the morning. A nurse may be the first person we meet in life. Increasingly, as the American population ages, nurses are filling larger roles.

In New Hampshire, especially rural regions, we need them more than ever. At job fairs I hosted in Manchester and Laconia, healthcare employers are scouring the State for help. I cosponsored the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act to allow nurse practitioners to visit more patients at home.

Nurses are on the front lines of the heroin epidemic in the Granite State and around the country. Some are Members of Congress, putting their kindness, compassion, and understanding to work in government. During National Nurses Week, please

thank a nurse for his or her contributions.

□ 1915

PUBLIC LAND ACCESS BY THE GO ACT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the current process to obtain outfitter and guide permits for hiking, hunting, and fishing exhibitions on our public lands for recreation events is too expensive and very complicated. Guides and outfitters should not have to navigate arbitrary rules, inconsistent practices, and unresponsive Federal agencies.

As a result, I have introduced the Guides and Outfitters Act, known as the GO Act, H.R. 5129, which will renew the authorization for these recreation permits while eliminating burdensome red tape.

This measure will also cap permit fees, ensure that fees are charged only for activities on the actual public lands, not on private lands, provides categorical exclusions for previously studied uses to reduce delays, and allows online applications.

The GO Act is consistent with my commitment to increasing public access to the public lands, making Federal agencies more responsive to the communities in which they operate and removing unnecessary bureaucratic red tape that keeps people off of their lands.

NATION'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining us this evening for this critically important discussion.

I thank the chairs of the bipartisan task force on the opioid epidemic for their leadership and tenacity in pushing reforms. I thank Congresswoman KUSTER and Congressman GUINTA.

This week the House will debate solutions to our Nation's opioid crisis. If there has ever been a time to put away

partisan differences and ideological rhetoric, it is now. I am proud of the work of the task force in supporting bipartisan bills to help stem the tide of this epidemic.

This is a public health crisis that reaches into every community. It is an equal opportunity killer, without regard for age, gender, race, or economic background. It does not care if you are a Democrat or a Republican.

In Massachusetts, just last year we lost nearly 1,400 lives to this opioid crisis. Half of all of the deaths in Massachusetts of opioid overdoses involve heroin, but prescription opioid overdoses are also surging. Between 2013 and 2014, they increased by over 90 percent. In my State more than others, the epidemic is claiming the lives of our young people ages 25 to 34.

Too many parents are trying to save their child from opioid addiction's deadly grip, and they are counting on us for help. That is why we are here this evening—to do everything we can to save lives.

At the center of this debate are the families at home who speak out and bravely share their stories so no other parent has to endure the pain of losing their child.

Tonight I am thinking of Debbie Deagle, who I met in October during a town hall in Revere, Massachusetts. In front of a large audience she told the story of Stephen, her only child, who she lost to opioid addiction. In her words, she was inconsolable and it was difficult to make it through each day. She was also angry because not a month had gone by in the last 15 years she hadn't heard of somebody overdosing, but nobody wanted to talk about it and everybody was too ashamed.

Debbie talked about the shame her son felt. She described him as brilliant, her miracle child. She raised him as a single mother and, while it was hard, his beautiful life was a gift she cherished.

He was smart, witty, a songwriter, and a musician. He had a bright future. He had graduated with honors from St. John's Prep and went to Northeastern University, where he became a computer science major, which was his gift.

It was four impacted wisdom teeth his freshman year of college and the opioids that he took for pain that started him on his road to addiction. When his substance abuse disorder derailed Stephen's life, Debbie started reading blogs where people commented: They are only junkies. They should just cull the herd. That is what got her angry. She thought: These aren't animals. These are children.

On their own, Debbie and her son battled addiction, insurance companies, and the courts. In the end, it was a battle they lost. On January 8, 2015, Stephen Deagle passed away after his excruciating struggle with opioids, and

his mother lived her worst nightmare saying goodbye to her only son.

When we asked Debbie if we could share her story, her request was simple: Please get Congress to do something. We deserve real solutions now.

So my request to this Congress is to listen to Debbie and the pleas of too many other moms like her. This crisis is an urgent calling for Congress to act and save lives.

This week we will have the opportunity to pass legislation that will give critical tools to address this crisis. Ultimately, however, we must also provide the financial resources to our State and local partners to change the course of this epidemic.

I thank you for all the work that is being done.

I yield to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman CLARK for yielding, and I extend my gratitude to her for joining me tonight in this Special Order.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to join bipartisan members—Republican and Democrat—from around the country to talk about heroin abuse, an increasingly deadly public health crisis.

Last year I joined with my colleague from New Hampshire, Congresswoman KUSTER, to create The Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. We strive to fight the tragedy of opioid addiction and fatal overdose from around the Nation.

Since its creation last October, our task force has grown to 80 members. Our growth and impact is a testament to the depth of the crisis and the focus of the Members of this body.

In my home State of New Hampshire, abuse and overdose claimed the lives of 430 people in 2015. To put that number in perspective, that is 1 out of every 3,000 residents died of an overdose last year. The CDC reports that, nationally, overdose deaths have tripled over the last 10 years.

I am proud of the work we have done so far to combat this epidemic. But as many struggling families and ailing communities know, there is much more work to be done.

A few weeks ago the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic proposed a legislative agenda. Our bills would assist law enforcement, treatment providers, and recovery personnel in their battle against the epidemic.

During this Heroin and Opioid Awareness Week, we will see our legislation come to the floor for a vote. I am pleased that my colleagues have tirelessly worked to protect our loved ones from this epidemic, and I am proud to cosponsor many bills coming to the floor this week, including the House response to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

To address the comprehensive nature of this epidemic, we must provide a

comprehensive legislative package to bolster the efforts of those helping our communities.

I have filed several amendments to this package for this week. They will increase grants for medication-assisted treatments and long-term recovery.

I also have filed legislation that would reauthorize recovery court programs for 3 years, and I am grateful that my bill, the Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016, passed by suspension in the House earlier today. I hope this provision will be included in the conference report.

Very simply, these provisions are absolutely crucial to aiding those in need. My colleagues and I have committed to seeing the House of Representatives pass the strongest and most comprehensive plan possible.

I believe we will do our due diligence to pass this plan, go to conference with the Senate, and put a bill on the President's desk before June.

Our plan is urgently needed. Nearly 129 people die every day from an opioid overdose. In my district and around the country, I hear from families and friends who know someone coping with substance use disorder.

We will only make a dent in this great challenge by listening to its victims. We need to hear fathers like Doug Griffin of Newton in New Hampshire's First District. His daughter, Courtney, fell victim to heroin abuse at just 20 years old.

Doug remembers Courtney as a bright, lively girl with a great sense of humor and a deep passion for life. She played music. She loved s'mores. Courtney told Doug she planned to become a marine and serve her country.

But 3 years later she was lost on the streets, in and out of rehab facilities. Prescription pills, fentanyl, and street heroin ensnared Courtney into a fatal web of addiction. She lost the will to live.

Because Courtney's pain was so great and because she had so few options for treatment, Doug says he and his family hid the truth from the outside world. To help others, they are speaking out now, just as this body is this evening.

Doug is courageously telling everyone he knows about the warning signs of heroin abuse and the deficiencies in our public response. Millions of Americans share Courtney's story and Doug's anguish. It is only by speaking out and sharing grief that we will remove the stigma preventing far too many from seeking help.

Tonight it is about telling the truth. It is about finding the solutions we need and why we need them. It is about putting political disagreements aside and cooperating for the common good, for the common good not just of our constituents, but our country.

As the House considers this vital legislation, I encourage my colleagues to listen to their constituents, hear their

stories, share their struggles, and help them fight back. We could win this public emergency, and it starts this week with the comprehensive CARA legislation.

I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for working so judiciously and in a manner that I think puts people ahead of anything else that this body is doing. I commend my colleagues, and I am honored to work with them on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the congresswoman from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts just to the south of my district.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GUINTA.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman CLARK for organizing this really important discussion here this evening.

The scope of the problem in terms of what is facing our Nation is pretty astonishing when you look at the statistics from the Centers for Disease Control.

In 2004, 7,000 Americans lost their lives to heroin overdoses. Fast-forward 10 years and that number is now over 27,000. Again, the statistics land in suburban America, rural America, and urban America.

But at the end of the day, behind every one of those numbers is a story of a human being and a family. That is why this discussion is so important tonight.

Next to me I have a chart showing the face of Justice Kelly, who is a 21-year-old from Tolland, Connecticut. Tolland, Connecticut, is the quintessential small-town New England community. It is about 5 miles from where I live. Her mother, Jennifer, moved there hoping that this was going to be a great community to raise her child, and she went through the public school system.

Battling depression, she fell victim to heroin addiction and for the last number of years has been battling this with methadone treatment in and out of facilities and programs.

Last summer she really finally went to her family and just begged them to get access to a long-term rehab program. Unfortunately, the waiting lists were months. The facilities in Connecticut, like so many other parts of the country, were full.

In August of 2015, when she again was in a predicament where she lost her asthma medication, the combination of suffering from asthma and a heroin overdose resulted in her being rushed to the hospital with an overdose condition.

The good news is that the folks at the emergency room were able to save her life. But as her mother said, "As we pulled into the parking lot of the ER, I knew at that moment I was losing her.

All I remember from that moment on was being more scared than I have been in my entire life. I saw a whole team of people come outside and try and save my baby's life. I stood there helpless and alone. All I could do was look to God."

She now is in a permanent vegetative state, as the photograph next to me indicates, and there really are no signs of improvement.

Her mother went on to say, "They saved my daughter's life that day, but it's been a very hard journey. Justice's injury is so severe that the likelihood Justice will ever recover is very slim. More than likely, I will have to make the decision to bring my baby home with hospice."

This story shows that this problem extends far beyond even the fatalities. It also is going to leave people with chronic life-changing conditions, like this beautiful young girl from Tolland, Connecticut.

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Mr. Speaker, this issue is now coming to the floor this week with a number of measures authorizing different changes and approaches to this program.

I want to, again, emphasize the fact that I come from the State with the highest per capita income, but even in Connecticut, people cannot find access to treatment beds. That is why at some point we have to bring this discussion to a higher level and realize that we need to get resources out to the communities so that law enforcement can at the front lines deal with this issue in emergency situations, so that we have treatment options for families like the Kelly family in Tolland, Connecticut, and so that we go upstream in terms of prevention and education so as to get to the root causes of the pathways to heroin and opioid addiction. This is going to require an all-hands-on-deck approach.

Yes, let's support the legislation that is coming forward this week, let's make smart policy changes, and let's authorize different programs. At the end of the day, we need to put our money where our mouth is in that we need to treat this like it is a natural disaster. As a Nation, we would instantly respond to a hurricane that is taking human lives at a clip much slower, in fact, than what is happening with the heroin opioid crisis.

Let's move forward with the \$600 million request for emergency supplemental funding, which is before the Appropriations Committee, so that we will not just talk about solving this problem but, again, put the resources out there so that the police, the addiction counselors, the treatment folks, and all of the families who are out there who are desperate for help will know that our country is going to treat this as the true crisis that it is and will

know we will get the resources all across the country.

Again, I thank Representative CLARK for organizing this discussion. Jennifer Kelly, Justice's mother, thanks the gentlewoman for letting us have an opportunity to tell the story about her daughter.

As a Nation, let's move forward with all of the resources and good ideas because that is the only way we are ever going to come to terms with this problem and solve it.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Please extend our thanks to Jennifer's family for sharing that story, and I thank the gentleman for his advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO).

Mr. KATKO. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, during my 15 years as a Federal prosecutor in Syracuse, New York, I witnessed firsthand on a daily basis the devastating impacts of drug use, in general, and of heroin, in particular, and the terrible impacts it had on the well-being of our children, on the lives of those directly involved, and on the safety of our community. Tragically, the devastating impact of heroin and other opioids has gotten much worse in recent years.

As a Federal prosecutor, I have seen every possible drug known to man on the streets. I have never seen anything that has had the devastating effects that heroin has had on our communities. Literally, fatal incidents are happening on a regular basis.

One of my top priorities during my time in Washington has been to facilitate a community dialogue on this public health epidemic to discuss ways of treating and preventing addiction. At every forum, at every town hall, at every business I visit, at every hospital I visit, I hear from my constituents of the devastation this epidemic is inflicting on our communities. I hear tragic stories about friends or family members succumbing to heroin addiction. I hear from medical workers and first responders about the strain this epidemic is placing on their resources. I hear stories of pain and loss, and I want to share a few of those with you to illustrate what I am talking about.

During the course of the six town halls I have conducted or have participated in throughout my district over the last several months, we have routinely heard of the stories of victims. In particular, families have told of the loved ones they have lost. One individual really caught my attention. They all caught my attention, but this one was pretty devastating.

Morgan Axe was a beautiful young woman and a great athlete—just a great kid overall—who battled addiction with heroin for several years. At 24 years old, she became pregnant and she stopped taking heroin completely in order to protect her baby. She

stopped taking any drugs that would have helped her with her cravings, and she was doing great. At the fifth month—at 5 months of being clean—a boyfriend thought it would be a good idea to give her a dose of heroin. We have the telephone records to show it. She took that heroin and she died, as did her baby.

Her mother had to come to that forum and talk about this. I applaud her for the openness with which she talked about it, for the pain that she shared with us, and for the lessons that can be learned from this. It can happen to anybody. It is not an inner city drug. When we were growing up, we used to think of heroin users as individuals who would be under a bridge somewhere or in an alley, but that is not the way it is. It affects those in the suburbs, the wealthy, the poor, and everyone in between.

I have one other quick story. When I was renting my congressional office, the individual who was showing me the office had a sad look in his eye. He began to tell me the story about his daughter, who was the Final Four MVP for the NCAA Junior College Lacrosse the year before. She died of a heroin overdose because she got into heroin after that championship.

It is an epidemic with enormous consequences, and it is getting worse. The epidemic of addiction is claiming the lives from every age, class, and race, like I mentioned. I know that society doesn't like to talk about drugs, addiction, and overdose, but this is a problem that we can no longer ignore, and it is one that we must absolutely, positively, address. The scourge must be stopped.

I am absolutely proud to be part of the House action that is being taken this week on several measures that will help to fight against this growing opioid epidemic and through the passage of my drug kingpin bill earlier today. Much remains to be done, and I hope that Congress will build on the actions this week and will continue to work on efforts in a bipartisan manner so we can fight back and save people from addiction.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman for sharing Morgan's story with us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the western part of the Commonwealth, Mr. NEAL.

Mr. NEAL. I thank Congresswomen CLARK and ANN KUSTER and Congressman FRANK GUINTA for the good work that they have done in calling attention this evening to this crisis that now threatens to overwhelm rehabilitation centers across the country. What I want to specifically cite in my comments for the next few minutes is a very human story. Her name is Bethany, and she wrote to me on January 13 of this year.

Dear Congressman NEAL:

I am writing to you regarding the heroin prescription pill crisis our State and Nation is currently entrenched in. I am a physician assistant who graduated from Wake Forest Baptist Medical School in their Physician Assistants program in 2003. I have worked in various outpatient clinics, as well as at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, and at the Cooley Dickinson emergency room operations in Northampton, Massachusetts. I have treated overdose patients, have been alongside physicians who have pronounced patients deceased from an overdose, as well as having referred patients to crisis support teams, outpatient treatment, and rehabs.

After all of this, I never expected that I would become addicted to prescription painkillers after a series of surgeries and illness. I suffered in silence, alone in fear, shame, and guilt. I was a functioning professional who referred my addicted patients to various resources, but when I tried to reach out for help, I hit roadblocks.

For instance, the emergency room I worked in was outsourced so that when I went to the emergency room director on two separate occasions to ask to go to the Employee Assistance Program, I was told that those resources were only available to hospital employees. I tried outpatient therapy and 12-step programs, but I kept sliding backwards.

After years of struggling, I couldn't keep silent any longer. I confessed my addiction to a coworker. I felt that, finally, help would come. Instead, I was fired for cause and without benefits. The fear that had kept me silent for all of those years was now my reality. My husband was a stay-at-home dad.

And now how could we support our three children?

I felt like my life was falling apart. Little did I know that what I was doing was actually falling into place. With family support, I found a rehab program for 6 months where I could go with two young children. I saw my oldest on the weekends.

After graduating rehab, I interviewed and signed up with the Massachusetts professional reporting system. For 5 years, I have called in daily. I am subjected to at least 15 random drug tests a year. I go to 2 to 4 hours of recovery meetings every week and attend a professionals in recovery meeting weekly. It was in the professionals meetings that I finally found a sense of belonging. It was the vital piece of the puzzle that had been lacking as I searched for recovery but kept backsliding.

She writes in this letter to me of her strong faith and how it helped to get her through this very difficult time in her life, but she also points out that the system is broken, that the emergency room funding for reaching individuals is inadequate, that pain management is inadequate, that pain scales, treatments are inadequate.

She writes:

I found myself overtreating pain at times because I was taught that we could get sanctioned from not treating pain. I felt obligated to treat someone's subjective pain without objective findings or reason.

She writes of all of the challenges that she faced, all having started because of surgeries and illnesses that she had that required medication that, in fact, in the end, she could not successfully escape.

She testified in a forum that I held. She was courageous enough to get up

and talk about the problems that she had.

Do you know what?

She is doing better.

So we call attention to those tonight who might find a path forward from the grim reality of heroin that sells on the streets of Springfield and Hartford for \$3 a bag. This was an individual who had a normal working relationship with colleagues. This was an individual who went to work faithfully, had a professional designation, and found herself caught up in the opioid crisis because of the prescriptions that had been given to her early on.

I know of the maintenance plan that is being proposed and of the suggestions that are being offered for more physicians to secure training and how opioids might be extended to those who need them, but I would implore this Congress to act favorably upon that proposal and that legislation.

We all regularly go to caucus meetings, we go to a host of get-togethers, at which we always attempt to upgrade our skills. There is nothing that will upgrade your skills like the coarseness of a campaign—I can tell you that—but we all find that professional opportunity to challenge ourselves to do better in this institution.

That should not be unlike those who are outside of the institution. Where you regularly require courses for attorneys, CPAs, and others, why not for physicians so they may receive the training that today would be readily available with the assistance of this Congress, hopefully after the vigorous activity that we will take this week?

I close as I opened. I thank Congresswoman CLARK for her leadership, Congresswoman KUSTER for her leadership, and Congressman GUINTA for his leadership on this issue. I am telling you, across western and central Massachusetts, this is devastating families. There is an opportunity here for the Congress to respond.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. I thank Mr. NEAL for the critical story that Bethany shared with him and that the gentleman shared with us. We know how devastating this crisis has been in western and central Massachusetts, and we thank the gentleman for all of his leadership on it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK).

Ms. STEFANIK. I thank Ms. CLARK.

Mr. Speaker, first, I want to take a moment to thank my colleagues Mr. GUINTA, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. CLARK for their work and tireless efforts to combat the heroin epidemic that is sweeping across our Nation.

Over the last 15 years, heroin-related deaths have quadrupled, leaving families and communities across this country shattered. This crisis has been felt acutely in my district where the region is a major pipeline for illicit drug trafficking.

Last November, law enforcement in Washington County, New York, made 11 arrests in one morning of individuals who were illegally selling heroin, cocaine, and prescription drugs. In New York's North Country, I have seen and heard from those in recovery and from those still struggling that heroin addiction and prescription drug abuse is a lifelong challenge. In my district, heroin addiction tragedies have caused parents to bury their children and have left spouses widowed and young children parentless.

These drugs reach out and impact even the strongest members of our communities. Addiction is a disease that does not discriminate. The support offered by treatment centers like St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment & Recovery Center in Saranac Lake is critical to those who suffer from this disease. Several veterans whom I had the opportunity to visit with at St. Joseph's have seen the harsh reality of war and are now fighting battles at home—one against heroin and opioid addiction and another against post-traumatic stress disorder.

Heroin abuse touches our communities, our homes, and our families in ways that have grave effects on everyday people and everyday lives. As heroin use has increased, police departments across this Nation have seen a rapid rise in related crimes, such as sex trafficking, domestic disputes, larceny, burglary, and prostitution—all tied to heroin use.

This week, I am honored to stand with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to advance legislative solutions to this widespread and insidious crisis. As a member of Representatives GUINTA's and KUSTER's bipartisan task force to combat heroin abuse and assist law enforcement efforts, we have worked tirelessly to find solutions. The legislation we present this week provides critical tools to medical personnel and law enforcement for stemming the flow of drugs and enhancing treatment options and availability.

These are real problems that need to be addressed through innovation, cooperation, and thoughtful action. I am confident that we can secure a better heroin-free future for our Nation. These efforts are not the end of the House's work on this issue. We will continue to seek solutions to this crisis that has touched families across my district and across our Nation.

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On behalf of the families, communities, and veterans in New York's 21st Congressional District and across the country, I urge my colleagues to join those of us here tonight as we work to eliminate the heroin epidemic facing this country.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. STEFANIK for telling us of the work of St. Joseph's and

highlighting the importance of the impact of this crisis on veterans.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I first thank my colleagues, Congresswoman CLARK for leading this effort, Congressman GUINTA, as well as Congresswoman ANN KUSTER, who have worked tirelessly to move the heroin task force agenda forward. I applaud their persevering efforts and House leadership's acknowledgement of the danger and devastation the heroin and opioid epidemic has caused across our great Nation.

This serious situation impacts every county in the 9th District of Ohio, stretching across all of northern Ohio. We have been impacted more heavily due to the major Ohio turnpike, I-80/I-90, and easy transport networks that link to international smuggling access points.

The largest of our district's five counties, Cuyahoga County, recently declared a public health emergency because of record rates of overdoses. The county lost a staggering 181 citizens in the first 4 months of 2016, a rate of overdose death that, if continued, would more than double the 2015 numbers for that county.

Mayors across our district report to me the dramatic increase in emergency calls connected to the epidemic. For northern Ohio, spikes in opioid overdoses are outpacing the ability of local hospitals and rehabilitation facilities to respond effectively.

This week's legislative activity is imperative to communities across America. I encourage our colleagues in leadership to work expeditiously to conference the legislation. Send it to the President with funding immediately. People's lives and local community stability and safety are waiting for our action.

Tonight I would like to share the stories of three young adults—two named Matt and one named Tracy—who have been victimized by the heroin and opioid epidemic.

The first is Matt who was 29 from Toledo, Ohio, who never thought he would become a drug addict. He never knew anything about drugs. He never even smoked cigarettes as a youth. He had a great upbringing and a good home with an amazingly loving family. He went to private schools from kindergarten through high school, then to college at a Division I university on a full athletic scholarship for baseball after graduating with a 4.0 GPA.

So what happened, you ask?

He tore his rotator cuff as a sophomore in college and was given a prescription for 90 percent Percocet. It only took about a week before he became physically dependent and totally reliant. Percocet became the gateway portal to self-annihilation.

To sum up, his next year, Percocet pills got expensive, and he dropped out

of college. And one day, not being able to find any pills because of the price and lack of availability, he was offered heroin, which was cheaper and stronger. And from that day on, he was hooked and injected heroin for 9 years.

Matt transformed into a shell of who he used to be, a shell of who he wanted to be and who he always imagined to become. Matt lost everything and everyone in his life because of heroin. After 13 arrests in four different states, he is now a convicted felon. He overdosed and died, having been kept alive for 5 days by machines in ICU.

How could this have happened to such a promising young man?

Heroin and opioid abuse sees no boundaries. It is death masquerading as medicine.

In Toledo, there are only 16 federally funded detox beds for an estimated 10,000 opiate addicts. We simply have to have legislation that allows for more detox facilities. There are programs like Team Recovery that have made a difference in the lives of individuals like Tracy, whose story I will place in the RECORD.

Let me just say that if there are families out there who need assistance, one can call 1-800-662-4357 for advice and direction. That is an addiction hotline, 1-800-662-HELP. The life you save may be your own or that of a relative, friend, or loved one.

Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank my colleagues FRANK GUINTA and ANN KUSTER who have worked tirelessly to move the Heroin Task Force agenda forward. I applaud their persevering efforts and House Leadership's acknowledgment of the danger and devastation the heroin and opioid epidemic has caused across this great nation.

This serious situation impacts every county in our 9th Ohio district that stretches across all of northern Ohio. We have been impacted more heavily due to the major Ohio Turnpike, I-80-90, and easy transport networks that link to international smuggling access points.

The largest of our district's five counties, Cuyahoga County, recently declared a public health emergency because of record rates of overdoses. The County lost a staggering 181 citizens in the first four months of 2016, a rate of overdose deaths that if continued, would more than double 2015 numbers for the County.

Mayors across our district report to me the dramatic increase in emergency calls connected to the epidemic. For Northern Ohio, spikes in opioid overdoses are outpacing the ability of local hospitals and rehabilitations facilities to respond effectively. This week's legislative activity is imperative to communities across America. I encourage our colleagues and leadership to work expeditiously to conference the legislation. Send it to the President, with funding, immediately.

People lives and local community stability are waiting for our action.

Tonight, I want to share the stories of three young adults—two named Matt—and one named Tracy. Individuals from our district who have been victimized by the heroin and opioid epidemic.

The first is Matt, who was 29, from Toledo, Ohio. He never thought he would become a drug addict. He never knew anything about drugs, not even wanting to smoke cigarettes as a youth. He had a great upbringing in a good home, with an amazingly loving family. He went to private schools from kindergarten through high school, then to college at a Division 1 university on a full athletic scholarship for baseball after graduating with a 4.0 GPA. So what happened, you ask?

He tore his rotator cuff as a sophomore in college and was given a prescription for 90 Percocet. It only took about a week before he became physically dependent and totally reliant. Percocet became the gateway portal to self-annihilation.

To sum up—his next year, Percocet pills got expensive and he dropped out of college. One day, not being able to find any pills because of the price and lack of availability, he was offered heroin, which was cheaper and stronger. From that day on he was hooked, and injected heroin for 9 years.

Matt transformed into a shell of who he used to be, a shell of who he wanted to be—and who he always imagined to become. He lost everything—and everyone—in his life because of heroin.

After thirteen arrests in four different states, he is now a convicted felon. He overdosed and died, having been kept alive for 5 days by machines in ICU. How could this have happened to such a promising young man? Heroin and opioid abuse sees no boundaries. It is death masquerading as medicine.

In Toledo, there are only sixteen federally funded detox beds for an estimated 10,000 opiate addicts. Another young man also named Matt was one of the lucky ones who was able to secure a detox bed through Ohio's Drug Abuse Response Team, or DART program. Today, it has been almost eight months since he was able to secure the bed, which has changed his course completely.

In detox, along with three friends, all of which remain sober, Matt started Team Recovery, an advocacy group for addicts that makes recovery available and achievable. Team Recovery strives to change the stigma attached to addiction and make people realize addicts are not bad people. They are people who need medical help.

Team Recovery speaks to Ohio students between 6th grade and college-age, about drugs and alcohol, and offers assistance to family members and friends of those who need healing and support. They hope to eventually spread their efforts across the nation.

Today, Matt has turned his life around and reconnected with family and friends. He speaks daily with police, judges, coroners, doctors, treatment providers, police & fire chiefs, all in an effort to collaborate in this fight against opiates. His message is positive and clear. Recovery is possible, and it is beautiful.

Working alongside Matt at Team Recovery is Tracy, 39 years old, who point blank told me that she is a recovering addict. Tracy started smoking marijuana when she was 15, to numb the pain from past sexual abuse, not otherwise knowing how to cope in a healthy way. She moved from Toledo, to Chillicothe, Ohio in 2001, where she met a man who introduced her to opioid pills and cocaine. At age

24, she started using cocaine and it wasn't long before she used it every day.

Eventually, she started to smoke it and even inject.

For 6 years her addiction was so bad she lost everything: jobs, friends, family, everything she owned, even her dignity and morals. She was alone fighting the worst battle of her life.

In 2007, she was caught with possession of cocaine, after reoffending shortly after, she was sent to prison. Rather than give Tracy any chance to seek treatment, she was sent to prison for 5 years.

In prison, she realized there were just as many drugs in prison as on the street. Being there did not help. She needed treatment, not a prison sentence. It is nearly impossible to find a treatment facility because there are so few available.

From the age of 15 until May 4, 2007, Tracy abused drugs. What drove her to sobriety? She was so tired of losing everything, living couch to couch, doing illegal things to get drugs and having her dignity and morals stripped away because she was chasing a high. She was ready for a change, to take back the life she lost during her addiction.

Today, her life has changed dramatically. A week ago, on May 4th, she celebrated 9 years of sobriety. Now, she uses her experience of moving past addiction to help others. She is in college, studying psychology to become a substance abuse counselor. She started a job at a recovery house as a resident advisor and is also an active member of Team Recovery.

The legislative action the House will address this week will provide much needed correction to our justice and health systems—which have not adapted fast enough to this crisis.

I wish to emphasize a few lessons Team Recovery highlighted to me. These are the recommendations of individuals who understand the plight of heroin and opioid addiction better than most:

1. There needs to be more funding for detox beds. They should not be limited to 16 beds per facility.

2. Medicaid should not cap facilities to 16 detox beds.

3. Prevention, education, and awareness are paramount! The innovative approach of Team Recovery's school presentations allows students to better relate, impacting their understanding and behavior.

4. Better monitoring of prescription prescribing and over-prescribing is needed. Creating stricter limitations on prescription counts is highly necessary.

5. Suboxone and Methadone (opioids) are not the solution to an opiate epidemic for everyone, but cannot be ruled out as an option for some.

6. Vivitrol is a key resource and should be utilized more.

7. Recovery is possible but detox and treatment are paramount. Jail without addiction treatment fails those who need help.

8. Opioids impact the way the brain functions. Recovery can take months, if not years, if it is to be effective.

Finally, if anyone listening is facing this terrible monster of addiction, or you know a friend or loved one who is, call 1-800-662-HELP.

That's 1-800-662-4357 for advice and direction.

The life you save may be your own, or that of a relative, friend or loved one.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. KAPTUR for putting a face to this addiction with the moving stories of Matt and Tracy.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. CLARK and Mr. GUINTA for their hard work in making this Special Order happen tonight and in moving forward on this very, very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, opioid use is an epidemic in this country, and unfortunately the problem is only getting worse.

I want to also commend Senator ROB PORTMAN for his leadership in introducing and passing in the other body CARA, legislation to combat opioids, especially heroin. I would expect that whatever we pass here in the House—and we are considering a number of bills—will ultimately be reconciled with the Senate and Mr. PORTMAN's bill over in the Senate. This will help many struggling Americans.

I talked to a member of a city council in one of the smaller communities in my district back in—I represent the greater Cincinnati area—in Lorain County. It happened to be North Bend.

According to the last census, there are only 857 people who live in the entire village, so it is pretty small. But the first councilperson that I talked to talked about the heroin problem they are having in this community. This is a very small community, kind of a normal, middle class area. There are great people, families, hardworking people. Yet, heroin is becoming a scourge in this community.

William Henry Harrison, one of our earlier presidents—he has his monument and was buried—is from this community. It is just amazing to me to think that if it is hitting a small community like this, it is hitting virtually everywhere.

Simply put, we must find workable solutions to this epidemic. High income, low income, urban, suburban, rural, it really doesn't matter. This epidemic is impacting communities all across this country.

In fact, in my home State of Ohio, 13 out of 16 congressional districts are designated as high intensity drug trafficking areas by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Back in 2014, just a little over a year ago, we had a staggering 2,744 heroin deaths in our State alone. Obviously, States all over the country are having this problem as well.

Mr. Speaker, in searching for an answer to this problem—I happened to be the dean of the Republicans in Ohio—we had a briefing with the head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Michael Botticelli. We actually learned an awful lot about what is happening in our State and nationally.

Basically what we learned is that there are two fronts. It is reducing the supply and it is eliminating the demand. Supply reduction is a complex issue. Since much of the heroin is coming across the Mexican border, obviously, increased border security is important. Treatment is absolutely important.

The Drug Enforcement Agency often has take-back days where people can drop off old prescriptions to licensed agents for disposal. What we have seen are that an awful lot of especially young people who are getting hooked on heroin start out with prescription drugs, and oftentimes it is something that they got from a family member in their own home.

Despite additional control mechanisms, if there is one thing we have learned over the years, it is almost impossible to completely cut off the supply of any particular drug. So we must also eliminate the demand.

We need to focus on drug treatment and prevention programs. For example, in Cincinnati, we have something called the Talbert House, which is one of many nonprofits that help folks in southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky to combat substance abuse. So there are many, many programs that we already have. We need to have more.

I want to, again, commend the fact that this is happening in a bipartisan manner. We have a lot of Members in the House, both Republicans and Democrats, who have come together and have a lot of good plans. They have talked with the folks in their districts. I commend my colleagues for working on this together in a bipartisan manner.

Let's reconcile what we pass here with the Senate, let's get this passed into law, and let's move this forward on this very, very critical issue.

I thank the gentlewoman from Massachusetts for pulling this Special Order together this evening.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for reminding us that even rural America has not been spared this epidemic.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is an emotional night for me. I thank the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for guiding us. I also thank Representatives GUINTA and KUSTER. I am so moved by the fact that we are here on a bipartisan statement.

As I spoke to Ms. KUSTER and indicated, as a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations count me in, as she began to expand the tragic window of the impact of drug addiction, particularly opioids. Let me speak very quickly because I have a lot to say.

This is an epidemic that has gone beyond reason. Between 2000 and 2014, al-

most half a million people died from drug overdoses. In 2014 alone, more than 47,000 people died of drug overdoses. The largest percentage of overdose deaths in 2014 were attributed to opioids like prescription painkillers, methadone, morphine, and heroin.

Today in the Rules Committee, we made it clear that we want to work with doctors and law enforcement. We also said that we understand the use of painkillers during end of life. We understand that, so we are not here to condemn. We are here to help.

I am so glad that the Judiciary Committee will have on the floor this Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act that responds to this crisis. It is a treatment bill where we will bring together law enforcement and substance abuse treatment persons.

This emergency is compounded due to the perilous connection between prescription painkillers and heroin. Approximately three out of four new heroin users report that their use began with their abuse of prescription drugs.

Not only were 11 million people at risk of overdosing due to their abuse of prescription painkillers, 11 million people were also at risk of becoming addicted to heroin with its attendant risks.

We have heard the stories, and let me share some with you very quickly. I read one on the plane as I came up. It was a very painful story. A woman was detained in a fatal car wreck. In that car was her little 2-year-old and a little 7-year-old. She was on hydrocodone. She sideswiped two cars and then killed a person on a motorcycle. That person's family does not have them anymore. This woman will be subjected possibly to life imprisonment. Those children will not have a mother.

What about the situation in Ohio?

We don't know what the circumstances were, but eight persons of a family were killed execution style. Drugs were behind it.

What about this mother who supplied hydrocodone and alcohol to her son and his date on prom night?

There is an epidemic that we must confront. There are those who would do wrong, but those who are addicted.

This is evidenced by a study, "How the Heroin Epidemic Differs in Communities of Color." It is important, as I stand here and look at the suburban and rural areas, that we, again, remember how it has doubled among African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans and that we look to the kind of resources that would include all.

In conclusion, let me share these numbers with you that I think are so very important. They are startling. The increase in overdose by rates: 267 percent by the White population from 2010 to 2014. 213 percent by African Americans from 2010 to 2014. 137 percent by Hispanic. And Native Americans, 236 percent. Not one person can

be counted out that needs to be included in our work here on the floor of the House.

I am glad that we are making this statement today and next week because now America knows the Congress is speaking, the bully pulpit will be heard, and I hope we can save lives.

I am pleased to join my colleagues of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic to speak on this important issue impacting all Americans.

I want to thank Congressman FRANK GUINTA (R-NH) for his leadership in elevating this issue to a national forum that has drawn unprecedented attention and concern.

We must take action because today a leading killer of Americans is drug overdose.

Between 2000 and 2014, almost half a million people died from drug overdoses.

Many of these deaths were preventable.

In 2014 alone, more than 47,000 people died of drug overdoses.

The largest percentage of overdose deaths in 2014 was attributed to opioids—like prescription painkillers, methadone, morphine, and heroin.

Specifically, 28,647 people overdosed and died because of an opioid in 2014.

We are experiencing an emergency that impacts citizens in every state, city, and town in this country—that is prescription painkiller and opioid abuse.

This emergency is compounded due to the perilous connection between prescription painkillers and heroin.

Prescription painkiller abuse is the strongest risk factor for future heroin use.

Approximately three out of four new heroin users report that their use began with their abuse of prescription painkillers.

Heroin use becomes appealing to those addicted to prescription painkillers because it is cheaper and easier to obtain.

Due to its potency, heroin use tends to lead to addiction.

Heroin addiction is often deadly, leading to overdose or other chronic diseases.

The rate at which the occurrence of heroin overdose deaths increased is cause for alarm.

In the four years between 2010 and 2014, heroin overdoses more than tripled.

More than 10,500 people died from heroin overdoses in 2014.

In 2013, more than 8,200 people died from heroin overdoses.

In that same year, 11 million people admitted to improper use of prescription painkillers.

Not only were 11 million people at risk of overdosing due to their abuse of prescription painkillers, 11 million people were also at high risk of becoming addicted to heroin—with its attendant risks and dangers.

This current crisis requires an immediate and comprehensive response and the bill before us today is one element of a broader strategy.

I am proud to say that I have worked with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee and with members of the Heroin Task Force to introduce and cosponsor legislation that help combat this deadly epidemic.

Legislation Supported by Jackson Lee

1. Bipartisan Comprehensive Legislation:

H.R. 953—Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015; Representative SENBRENNER, F. JAMES, Jr. [R-WI-5] (Introduced 2/12/15); 124 Cosponsors (84 Dems—including SJL, 40 Reps); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 3719—“Stop the Overdose Problem Already Becoming a Universal Substance Epidemic Act of 2015” or the “STOP ABUSE Act of 2015”; Representative GUINTA, FRANK C. [R-NH-1] (Introduced 10/08/2015); 8 Cosponsors (4 Dems, 4 Reps); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 4697—Prevent Drug Addiction Act of 2016; Representative ESTY, ELIZABETH H. [D-CT-5] (Introduced 03/03/2016); 2 Cosponsors (Reps); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

2. Legislation to Improve Pain Management Practices:

H.R. 4499—the “Promoting Responsible Opioid Prescribing Act of 2016” and as the “PROP Act of 2016”; Representative MOONEY, ALEXANDER X. [R-WV-2] (Introduced 02/09/2016); 31 Cosponsors (18 Rep, 13 Dem); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 2805—Heroin and Prescription Opioid Abuse Prevention, Education, and Enforcement Act of 2015; Representative BROOKS, SUSAN W. [R-IN-5] (Introduced 06/17/2015); 41 Cosponsors (23 Reps, 18 Dems); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 1821—Opioid Overdose Reduction Act of 2015; Representative NEAL, RICHARD E. [D-MA-1] (Introduced 04/15/2015); 6 Cosponsors (4 Reps, 2 Dems); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 2335—Stop Tampering of Prescription Pills Act of 2015; Representative KEATING, WILLIAM R. [D-MA-9] (Introduced 05/14/2015); 9 Cosponsors (5 Dems, 4 Reps); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 4599—Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016; Representative CLARK, KATHERINE M. [D-MA-5] (Introduced 02/24/2016); 14 Cosponsors (10 Dems, 4 Reps); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 4063—Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act; Representative BLIRAKIS, GUS M. [R-FL-12] (Introduced 11/18/2015); 30 Cosponsors (17 Reps, 13 Dems); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

3. Legislation to Improve Treatment:

H.R. 2536—“Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act” or the “TREAT Act”; Representative HIGGINS, BRIAN [D-NY-26] (Introduced 05/21/2015); 25 Cosponsors (18 Dems—including SJL, 7 Reps); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 4076—The Reforming and Expanding Access to Treatment Act or the “TREAT Act”; Representative TURNER, MICHAEL R. [R-OH-10] (Introduced 11/18/2015); 6 Cosponsors (all Dems); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 3865—Cradle Act; Representative JENKINS, EVAN H. [R-WV-3] (Introduced 10/29/2015); 38 Cosponsors (30 Reps, 8 Dems—including SJL); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 4586—Lali’s Law; Representative DOLD, ROBERT J. [R-IL-10] (Introduced 02/23/2016); 3 Cosponsors (2 Dems, 1 Rep); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

H.R. 2872—Opioid Addiction Treatment Modernization Act; Representative BUCSHON, LARRY [R-IN-8] (Introduced 06/24/2015); 5 Cosponsors (4 Reps, 1 Dem); \*No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties.

Sentencing Reform Legislation:

H.R. 3713—Sentencing Reform Act of 2015; Representative GOODLATTE, BOB [R-VA-6] (Introduced 10/08/2015); 65 Cosponsors (48 Dems—including SJL original, 17 Reps)

We must make our best efforts to prevent individuals from moving from painkillers to heroin by making treatment for addicts more accessible by encouraging the use of evidence-based programs, such as medication-assisted treatment.

Life-saving overdose reversal drugs, like naloxone, are most valuable in the hands of trained individuals who regularly come in contact with individuals who are prone to drug overdoses.

It is important that we support these measures that will increase the use and availability of naloxone and other overdose reversal drugs to first responders.

Addiction is a disease that affects the brain and eventually changes the behavior of addicts, causing them to experience mental health issues and encounter legal problems.

Treatment is the most reasonable and effective approach to diverting these individuals away from homelessness and prison.

[From WETA FRONTLINE, Feb. 23, 2016]

HOW THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC DIFFERS IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR  
(By Sarah Childress)

Most of the media attention in the current nationwide heroin epidemic has focused on the uptick in overdose deaths among suburban, white, middle-class users—many of whom turned to the drug after experimenting with prescription painkillers.

And it’s among whites where the most dramatic effect has been seen—a rise of more than 260 percent in the last five years, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

But the epidemic has also been seeping into communities of color, where heroin overdose death rates have more than doubled among African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans, but gone largely overlooked by the media.

People develop addictions for a variety of reasons, which makes it difficult to gather concrete data on what’s happening in each community, said Dr. Wilson Compton, deputy director at the National Institute of Health’s National Institute on Drug Abuse. “To a certain extent, these are hidden behaviors, and we only notice people at the end of their lives sometimes,” he said. “So we don’t always know all of the pathways that lead to this.”

FRONTLINE spoke to experts and community outreach workers around the country to try to understand the differences. While some have followed a similar trajectory as the white community, a closer look at the epidemic in some communities of color reveals a different story.

And outreach workers in several cities say that while funds and attention have been directed to aid white opioid and heroin users in the suburbs, they are still struggling to get

the resources they need to support minorities who are dealing with the same addiction.

“Our job is to help those services really make it deep into the community,” said Jacqueline Robarge, founder and director of Baltimore-based Power Inside, which serves drug users who are mainly African-American women. “And if they aren’t going to arrive, we want to have an accounting that these people have been suffering for decades. It really is disingenuous if the resources are only going to be directed at the suburbs and the counties where, basically, the white folks are getting high.”

□ 2000

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. JACKSON LEE for her advocacy and leadership and always championing our communities of color who have also been devastated by this crisis.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and thank her and Mr. GUINTA for this very important evening where we are talking about a plague on our country.

I am pleased to stand here today to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in resolve to find real solutions for the heroin and opioid epidemic hitting our communities and our Nation. Our Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic is actively bringing together law enforcement, treatment, and recovery experts to share critical information that has been helping us to better understand the issue.

This House is working on crafting better laws that will help law enforcement tackle this problem so that treatment and recovery professionals can effectively offer lifesaving treatments to those currently suffering from addiction.

Our words must be followed by action. We are working with all levels of government, from the Federal down to the local level, as well as the private sector and nonprofits to fix this problem.

For example, I introduced the Co-Prescribing Saves Lives Act with my Democratic colleague, Congressman BILL KEATING, which would encourage physicians to co-prescribe naloxone alongside opioid prescriptions and make naloxone more widely available in Federal health settings. Naloxone is a safe and effective antidote to opioid-related overdoses, including heroin and fentanyl, and is used as a critical tool in preventing fatal opioid overdose, having reversed more than 26,000 overdoses between 1996 and 2014.

I have cosponsored and supported several other bills, such as the ones we are working on this week, to advance stronger, up-to-date solutions to this brutal epidemic.

But it is the human side of the story that motivates us. Every district has



their stories, and I commend the families that are speaking out so that others don't experience the pain and loss that they have.

Vonda Probst from Friedens, Pennsylvania, lost her son Jared Carter to a heroin overdose 2 years ago. Jared enjoyed motorcycle riding, four wheeling, fixing old cars, and being outdoors. He would have turned 30 last summer. There are far too many stories like Jared's in Pennsylvania and throughout the Nation, stories about lives full of potential and value that are cut short by drug abuse.

Chad Schilling was another individual from my district whose family has spoken out. Chad died last month at the age of 32. He was the third member of his high school's 2001 football team. "It can happen to anybody," Jeff Schilling, Chad's dad, said. "I don't care if you're poor, you're homeless, you're wealthy, it can happen to you. So get help."

And then there is Tony Swalligan. As stated in an editorial in *Johnstown's Tribune-Democrat*, Kathi, Tony's mother, wants others to know that she is both grieving and angry that heroin claimed Tony, her baby, the youngest of 10, who was just 23 years old.

She said: "As a woman of faith, I'm taking this to God and asking him to damn heroin. That's how I feel: Damn heroin."

"You only have to come over to the funeral home," Tony's mother said, "to know there's absolutely nothing fun about heroin. And it's not just themselves they're killing. They're doing this to their whole family. You think, 'Ooo, I want to get high.' But you're killing your whole family."

His mother said: "What part of 'heroin is highly addictive' don't our young people understand? Do they all think they're 6 feet tall and bulletproof?"

It is these stories that are all too often, but we must, we can find effective solutions to the opioid epidemic for these families. I am confident, by working together, we can turn the tide and save lives. I thank, again, my colleagues for organizing this very important hour.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ROTHFUS for sharing the stories of Jared, Chad, and Tony and really putting a face and a name to this epidemic.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues very much for organizing this Special Order and for the bipartisan approach to dealing with such a challenging issue.

I would like to rise today to share some of the stories, as my colleagues have, about my constituents whose lives have been impacted by addiction.

We are now so well aware that addiction to prescription opioids is on the

rise nationwide. In my home State of Maine, that trend has also been accompanied by a drastic increase in the use of heroin and other illicit drugs. Sadly, now heroin and other drugs provide a cheaper, more readily available alternative to diverted prescription medicines. The unpredictable formulations of these drugs, which can vary drastically in toxicity, have made Maine's epidemic of addiction particularly deadly.

In cities, small towns, and rural areas across the State, people are dying each week. Everyone knows someone—a family member, a friend, a neighbor—who has overdosed. No one is immune. People from every background, income level, and generation are at risk.

One of the individuals we have tragically lost was a brother of a staff member of mine. His name was David McCarthy, and his struggle with addiction was captured in a feature this summer in *The Washington Post*, entitled, "And Then He Decided Not to Be." David, who had been sober for several months, relapsed on the evening before he left home to return to his winter job at a ski resort.

His family came forward to speak openly and honestly about his death because they believe, as I do, that removing the stigma and silence around addiction is an essential part of treating it as the serious illness that it is.

One of the most poignant aspects of this family's experience is that the day after David's death, his brother Michael overdosed on the same batch of heroin. In Michael's case, however, he was found while he was still alive, and the same paramedics who responded to David's death happened to have a physician with them who administered an overdose reversal drug to revive him, so he survived. With his family's support, he has now entered a long-term treatment program. Access to those resources, like readily available Narcan and quality treatment opportunities, quite literally saves lives.

I am deeply frustrated and disappointed that my colleagues here in Congress have been unable to come together to provide funding to address this epidemic. I am very glad to see the House working on legislation this week related to opioid abuse, but the reality is, without funds appropriated to support the new programs created, many of these bills are nothing more than political rhetoric.

I am afraid that some lawmakers would prefer to have people suffering from addiction continue to turn to our already overburdened emergency rooms for care, to continue asking them to enter treatment, only to be turned away because they can't pay, or asking those people who are addicted to continue struggling to recover while also dealing with homelessness, food insecurity, and a range of other challenges. That is just unacceptable.

Every victim of this epidemic represents an incredible loss, not only to the people who love them, but to all of us, in the form of missed potential.

This summer I had the pleasure of meeting Chris Poulos, a University of Maine law graduate who was working to get his security clearance for a fellowship at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. The process was especially difficult for him because he is a convicted felon who was arrested for drug possession during a period of addiction to opioids and other drugs; but now Chris is devoting his considerable talent and intellect to helping others—not despite, but because of his own recovery. The State of Maine and our country are better off because he could access treatment when he needed it.

Our constituents need treatment, and they need it now. States can't face the epidemic alone, and they shouldn't have to. The difference Federal funding can make became clear to me recently when I visited Crossroads, a recovery center in my district. Through a Federal grant, they established a treatment program for pregnant and parenting women which allows them to remain unified with their children while working on their recovery.

One participant, Helen, came to the program while pregnant with her fourth child. The caring staff at Crossroads worked with her to ensure that she was able to bond with her baby after his birth and help facilitate her transition to a long-term sober housing program. I am proud that Federal funding played a part in her recovery. I firmly believe that helping Helen to get clean is a great investment in her, in her children, and in our society.

During my visit to Crossroads, though, I heard about the many people who struggle to access affordable treatment or find themselves left without any support when they have completed it. They, too, need us urgently.

Congress needs to come together and appropriate emergency funds to combat the epidemic of opioid abuse in our country. Clearly, it is a matter of life and death.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Maine. I thank her for sharing the personal story of David and Michael. I know that, in my extended office family, we grieve and remember and will continue to work for change for Kyle and Emmett, who we have lost in the past year as well. We will remember all the names that were mentioned in this first hour of Stephen, Jennifer, Morgan, Bethany, Matt, Tracy, Jared, Chad, Tony, David, and Michael.

I thank my colleague from New Hampshire again for his work on this bipartisan task force.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4641, ESTABLISHING PAIN MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5046, COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. STIVERS (during the Special Order of Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-551) on the resolution (H. Res. 720) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4641) to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5046) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMBATING THE HEROIN AND OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), who is doing great work in this area. New England is particularly stressed with an opioid epidemic, as are many other States around the country, but her work is important because we share a cross-State border. We need to continue to work together on this particular issue.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD), a leader on the heroin and opioid epidemic and bringing legislation to the floor.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend for yielding. I want to thank Representative GUINTA for his leadership with the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. I also want to thank Representative KUSTER and Representative CLARK for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, between 2001 and 2014, there was a threefold increase in pre-

scription drug overdoses. What was amazing is that during that same period of time there was a sixfold increase in heroin overdoses in the United States. This is truly an epidemic. Today every 19 minutes, someone dies from a heroin overdose.

In Chicago's collar counties, we lose one individual every 3 days. In Cook County, it is more than one a day. As the co-chair of the Illinois Suburban Anti-Heroin Task Force, I have seen the unimaginable suffering that heroin has brought into families in our community. Naloxone, however, has proven to be hugely successful as a lifesaving antidote. When used, naloxone helps restore breathing that has been stopped by an overdose of heroin.

In Lake County, Illinois, alone, over the course of a little bit over a year, over 74 lives have been saved with naloxone. This program equips police with the overdose antidote and trains them how to administer this medication. What was fascinating was that the police force didn't have to be asked to do this. They actually requested to have the opportunity because they were coming to these scenes over and over and over again, usually about 5 to 7 minutes before first responders and the fire department would come, before the paramedics would be there. They didn't want to actually watch these young people, these individuals, these people who were addicted just wither away and die. So they were given naloxone, they were given the training, and thus we have seen the success in one county across our country.

My work with the Lake County Opioid Initiative inspired me to introduce Lali's Law with Representative CLARK. Our bill is named in honor of Alex Laliberte, a young man from Stevenson High School, who passed away just before his finals in his sophomore year.

Now, what is amazing about Alex is that Alex was a normal guy. He played sports, had lots of friends, had good grades, your typical all-American, red-blooded young man. Yet when he was in college in that first part of his sophomore year, he started to get sick, and he went into the hospital. His parents and his teachers, nobody really knew what was wrong, but he was actually going through withdrawal from prescription drugs. He would get better and then, all of a sudden, would repeat this process, until eventually he passed away.

Lali's Law will help increase access to naloxone by providing grant money to States as they implement standing order programs that will allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone over the counter without a person-specific prescription. With increased access, the World Health Organization says that we will be able to save at least 20,000 additional lives each and every year.

□ 2015

Naloxone is one piece of the puzzle to combat the opioid epidemic. Another piece is getting addicts saved by naloxone—those that have had that second chance at recovery—into treatment.

This summer the Lake County Opioid Initiative is rolling out another program with the help of police officers who are trying to become that link between the addicts. They are trying to get those suffering from addiction into treatment centers that can actually help them. They want to bring them in.

They say: We don't want to put you in handcuffs. We don't want to put you behind bars. We actually want to get you into treatment. So bring your paraphernalia in, bring the drugs in here, and let's try to get you into an area where you can get that treatment that you need.

We are also encouraging people to properly dispose of their excess medications, especially prescription opioids. The Lake County Underage Drinking and Drug Prevention Task Force has set up drug take-back boxes throughout Lake County at police departments.

What is amazing is that, over the course of the last year, they have collected 12,000 pounds of prescription drugs. This is just in the police station.

So we went to Walgreens and said: Please help us. Please help us get this word out. Please help us make it easier for us to allow people to get their prescriptions that they don't need—the excess—back. They are able to and said they would happily to do that.

I am so pleased to announce that Walgreens said they are going to put 500 prescription take-back boxes throughout the country. This is a huge step forward. CVS is working on education programs. So we appreciate those outside of the Congress that are helping us in this regard.

I am thrilled that we are taking up these incredible bills, these great bills, these steps forward that will help our communities combat the opioid epidemic by leveraging resources in our judicial and public health systems.

I encourage my colleagues to take a look at these very seriously. I encourage my colleagues not only to vote for these, but I encourage my colleagues to go back to their community and educate their citizens, their families, their organizations in their district, about this incredible epidemic.

There are parents I encounter today that say, "It is not in my neighborhood," and it is, "It is not in my school," and it is. The evidence is far too overwhelming.

Frankly, this is why this week, in a bipartisan effort, Republicans and Democrats alike are coming together to shed light on what we see each and every day.

Because there is no way in the world we can have another parent walk into

a bedroom to find another child that has overdosed without doing all that we can to try to prevent that tragedy from happening ever again.

So, again, I want to thank FRANK GUINTA, I want to thank ANN KUSTER, and I want to thank all of those that have come tonight to help combat this incredible epidemic.

Mr. GUINTA. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD), for his leadership in Lali's Law and making sure that that bill comes to the floor for passage, as it is incredibly important to his district and honors Alex and his challenge.

I yield to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), my friend and the co-chairman of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, who is working diligently with me on this task force to do everything we can to help citizens of our State and the Nation.

Ms. KUSTER. I thank Mr. GUINTA for his leadership and all of the participants in this bipartisan Special Order who are putting a face on the heroin epidemic all across the country.

This evening I rise, as co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have spoken to highlight the impact that this devastating impact has had in our home State of New Hampshire and all across the country.

Just a few months ago our task force held a similar Special Order to focus on the human impacts of this crisis and how it is affecting families and friends and colleagues in communities all across our districts. While the crisis has continued, the good news is that we are now making important progress toward a solution here in Congress.

I am appreciative of the important work that the Senate undertook in passing the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, and I want to thank Democratic and Republican leadership as well of the relevant committees for their hard work in recent weeks in bringing legislation to the floor of the House this week.

At the same time, I call upon my colleagues to ensure that this important work fulfills its intended purpose by providing the necessary assistance to treatment and recovery efforts that are so critical to responding to this crisis.

Recently, in January, I spoke about my dear friend Kriss' stepdaughter, Amber, who tragically died from an overdose after a treatment bed was unavailable for her after leaving incarceration. This story, of course, illustrates the tragic consequences that limited treatment capacities can have for vulnerable members of our communities.

Another heartbreaking story in my district involves Carl, the son of my constituent and good friend, Sue Messinger.

At 24 years old, Carl had been using heroin on and off for about a year be-

fore he finally approached his parents to talk about his addiction. To put it simply, his parents were stunned.

Carl was a recent college graduate who earned good grades and had his eyes set on applying to dental school. It was almost inconceivable to them that such a high-achieving young man could fall victim to opioid addiction. But as they learned that day and as we all now know too well, there is no one face of addiction.

After discussing his addiction at length with his parents and asking for their help and support as he began his journey to recovery, Carl's parents were able to secure him a place at a detox program over 50 miles away from home, the only one that would take him as a cash-paying client because their insurance would not cover an opioid detox program.

Six days later Carl successfully completed the detox and was discharged to return home to his parents. Over the next several weeks, Carl continued on his road to recovery. He passed every drug test and remained resolutely committed to avoiding all drugs and alcohol. His family was so pleased to see him getting better with each and every day.

But when Carl came down with an upper respiratory infection shortly thereafter, a fatal error occurred in treating the infection. Unaware of Carl's history of addiction and his recent completion of detox, the doctor who saw Carl for his respiratory infection prescribed Cheratussin AC syrup, a narcotic cough suppressant.

Triggered by the codeine in the cough syrup, Carl's addiction was instantly reawakened. When Carl could resist the craving no longer, he decided to inject. The substance he injected, however, was pure fentanyl, 50 times more powerful than heroin. He died of an overdose in his family's home.

There were no labels on the bottle that indicated that cough medicine could trigger such drug-seeking behavior and no way for Carl or his parents to know that his cough medicine could pose such a fatal danger.

Since his death, his mother Sue has spoken out about the need to reform labeling requirements to make sure that no other family has to endure what she has had to live through. Carl was an educated, kind, driven young man who came from a supportive family, and this tragedy could occur to anyone.

The tragedy of Carl's story is why I was proud to help introduce Jessie's Law. Sponsored by Representative WALBERG, this bill would seek to ensure that medical professionals have full knowledge of a patient's previous opioid addiction.

It seeks to do this by requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop standards for the prominent display of a patient's history of

opioid addiction in their medical records when those patients consent to include that information and by ensuring that the information can more easily be shared among providers with consent.

While this legislation was only recently introduced and is not included in the current package of bills, I am hopeful we can work on bipartisan basis to bring this important bill to the floor before the end of this session.

I am very pleased with the legislation we are considering this week that will have a measurable impact to move the needle in finding this epidemic.

Among the 15 bills on the floor this week, half are part of the legislative agenda developed by the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic that I started with my colleague, Congressman GUINTA. Additionally, provisions of several other bills are included in legislation being considered.

So this week represents truly important progress in the House. It is critical that those who have engaged in the fight against the epidemic continue to press on in our efforts to include critical financial assistance for prevention, treatment, and recovery in our final bill.

As we reflect tonight on those we have lost to this epidemic and those who are still fighting it, let us continue to focus to ensure our communities have the help that they need to put this crisis behind us.

Again, I thank all of our colleagues who are working to stop this epidemic.

Mr. GUINTA. I want to thank the gentlewoman from New Hampshire for talking about Carl and our good friend Kriss and her stepdaughter Amber.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), my colleague.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I thank Representative GUINTA for yielding and for his incredible and sustained leadership, along with Representative KUSTER and others, on this important bipartisan work.

I know that we all wonder if the work that we do here in the Nation's capital—the bills that we consider, the votes that we cast—is having an impact on individuals.

I truly believe—and I know that each of us do—that, if we can pass the bills that are being discussed here tonight, we can get them through the Senate and on the President's desk. If they could become law, we literally could save lives. We could see families being saved.

For some that we represent, the opioid drug use may seem a world away. But, sadly, the numbers remove any doubt about heroin's impact so close to home when we have heard those stories told over and over again this evening.

By every metric, the effects of heroin has reached epidemic levels. I heard

Representative COURTNEY earlier today here on the floor speak about the epidemic as a national emergency. With that I agree.

In Pennsylvania, heroin overdoses and opioid abuse will kill more people than homicides or influenza. In some States, it is more deadly than automobile accidents.

There are several reasons for the rising statistics, Mr. Speaker, including the increased supply and decreased cost of heroin and the increasing number of Americans addicted to opioid painkillers.

At a townhall meeting last fall in Quakertown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in my district, graduates of the Bucks County Drug Court shared their inspirational journeys toward recovery.

These stories, while marked with tragedy, are also punctuated with the hope that their message can save others from the pain and the loss of heroin addiction. Their message is having an impact.

My community of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and others around this country are joining in the fight against drug abuse. Just 2 weeks ago, Bucks County residents helped dispose of more than 10,394 pounds of old pills and prescription drugs.

I just heard this evening both Representative DOLD and Representative CHABOT speak about what they referred to as drug take-back days. We in Bucks County have removed literally tons of prescription drugs from the street, medicine cabinets, and from the water stream. Remove the supply as we work to remove the demand.

As a member of the task force, I am continuing to work with leaders like those speaking here tonight in both political parties toward a common goal of developing and enacting these national policies to stem the rising tide of drug use and drug abuse.

Through the hard work of this task force and the tireless efforts of local recovery advocates across our country, this week the House will take an important step toward passing comprehensive policies designed to help combat the opioid epidemic facing our Nation.

I am proud to be part of this effort that will undoubtedly help save others from the pain and the loss of addiction.

I thank Representative GUINTA for his leadership. We look forward to the success of these bills here this week.

Mr. GUINTA. I thank Congressman FITZPATRICK for his leadership on the bipartisan task force and for working with us to combat this significant challenge.

I yield to the gentleman from Staten Island, New York (Mr. DONOVAN).

Mr. DONOVAN. I thank Congressman GUINTA and Congresswoman KUSTER for their leadership in this area.

Mr. Speaker, this week the House of Representatives will act to pass a

package of bills addressing the opioid crisis.

One of them, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, will authorize new grant programs for cities and nonprofits for education, treatment, and enforcement, and not a minute too soon.

Opioid abuse is an epidemic. It is everywhere you look. It is in our neighborhood, in our social circles, and in our schools. Too many parents have buried their sons and daughters or watched them struggle for years with addiction, treatment, and relapse. It has to stop.

An effective response needs to address three areas: education, treatment, and enforcement. Today's youth have to be educated about the dangers of addiction, and loved ones need to learn to recognize the early signs.

□ 2030

The legislation the House will pass this week authorizes new grants to prevent the next generation from abusing pills and heroin.

Proven diversion programs, like the drug treatment courts I participated in as district attorney of Staten Island for 12 years, should have the resources and the staffing needed to accomplish their mission: To get users off of drugs.

The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act authorizes grants to establish new drug courts and expand those already in operation. However, we must follow up on our efforts this week and ensure that the grant application process is not overly complicated and onerous.

In the past, the Federal grant processes has discouraged effective treatment organizations from seeking the resources made available by Congress. This is a national health emergency, and the bureaucracy must not get in the way of treatment.

Mr. Speaker, this week marks a major step forward. Congress is directing resources towards programs and policies that have been effective, and will continue to evaluate what is working and what is not. By working together and getting the right tools to local experts, we can beat this demon of addiction.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his work on the Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, I thank him for his work on the task force and continuing the fight in this epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Mr. GUINTA, Ms. KUSTER, and the previous Special Order leader, Ms. CLARK. This is tremendously a great turnout for such an important subject, and for you three to lead it. Especially my good friend, Mr. GUINTA, I want to say thank you on behalf of the many families who

have been affected by this epidemic in Central Illinois where I am blessed to serve. I think this shows how serious Congress is about addressing the issue of opioids and addiction in our country, and I am happy the House is going to consider important pieces of legislation this week.

I want to read a quote from today's Bloomington, Illinois, Pantagraph. It says: "The profile of a typical heroin user shooting up in an alley or backstage at a rock concert no longer holds true."

According to the CDC, there were more than 1,700 drug overdose deaths in my home State of Illinois in 2014, and the eighth highest in the Nation.

As of March of this year, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported that 761 deaths in 2015 were attributed to heroin alone. And while the majority of these occur in the Chicagoland area, our State's rural communities, the communities that I serve, have seen a noticeable rise of heroin-related deaths in recent years.

As a matter of fact, just yesterday in Bloomington, Illinois, the towns of Bloomington, Normal, McLean County, I was there. There have been seven deaths last year attributed in that one county to heroin use.

I had the opportunity to join McLean County Sheriff Jon Sandage and County Coroner Kathy Davis and talk about what they see firsthand.

Mr. Speaker, I saw for the first time in my life what heroin looked like in the evidence locker at the McLean County Sheriff's Office just yesterday. I also had the opportunity to ride along with McLean County Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Albee, a handler in the department's K-9 Unit, and his dog, Keej, who liked to bark at me a lot while I was in that car.

We discussed the recent rise in heroin overdoses, as well as the 70 percent increase in arrests for controlled substance possession that the McLean County Sheriff's Office says they have seen in the last year. And during that ride-along, I got to experience a stop where drugs were found, but not heroin.

This is the community where my daughter just finished her freshman year in college. I have seen how this epidemic cannot just touch larger communities, many urban communities like Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County, it touches my home county of Christian County, too.

Mr. Speaker, just a few years ago our county health department director was arrested for heroin use and heroin possession. If it can happen to our own county health department director, it can happen to anyone, regardless of your socioeconomic status.

Mr. Speaker, there are many factors that have made this epidemic widespread, from prescription practices, to the actions of cartels south of the border; and that is why we are addressing

this important issue this week in the House of Representatives.

I am proud to join with my colleague, Mr. GUINTA. I want to thank him and the rest of the colleagues who have come here tonight to support this important issue.

I can't wait to vote in a bipartisan way for every single bill we are going to take up this week to address this very important issue.

Mr. GUINTA. I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his being here this evening, his leadership. He has talked very eloquently over the last several months about constituents of his that he is working so closely to help in creating an opportunity for recovery. So I thank the gentleman and thank him for being here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Chester, Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Kevin Steele, who is the district attorney in Montgomery County, one of the four counties that I represent a portion of in southeastern Pennsylvania, noted earlier this week that there were 2,500 drug overdose deaths in Pennsylvania over the past year, 60 alone in Montgomery County.

This is what he said: "We're seeing numbers we haven't seen before. We're on pace to have the deadliest year for overdoses."

Now, not all of them are heroin, but quite a good number of them are.

I did not plan on coming down here to the House floor and speaking about any particular individual who I know, and I won't name names; but I will say this, and this is a bit of a surreal moment for me.

Between the time that I left my office and I came to the House floor, my brother texted me to let me know that someone that he went to high school with, who he was good friends with, who played in my backyard growing up, had passed away.

I then reached out to my other friend, who let me know that it was indeed, by all accounts, heroin. And in speaking with this friend, he shared with me the names of a few other individuals from my high school that I was completely unaware of who have passed away in the past 6 months, kids I haven't seen or heard from in 15 or 20 years, but nevertheless, it strikes very close to home for me and I am sure a lot of Members here tonight who have had firsthand experience with the epidemic.

As a member of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, I do want to thank Mr. GUINTA and his leadership. We have an opportunity this week to take constructive steps to combat the heroin and opioid epidemic that damages our communities and destroys families, and we have that opportunity by bringing a series of commonsense, bipartisan bills to the House floor for consideration.

Now, it is a package of bills. I won't get into the specifics of each one. I would rather paint with a little bit more of a broad brush here this evening and simply say that these legislative efforts to take constructive steps to get direct and immediate resources to those on the front line in this battle, our first responders, our physicians, and healthcare providers, our local and municipal officials, is a tremendous step forward in the right direction.

I served as a county commissioner, and I can tell you, I know the challenges that our local emergency responders and law enforcement professionals face each and every day.

Indeed, last week I was in Berks County, one of the four counties I represent, and had a roundtable with the county commissioners there, the district attorney, the director of the emergency department at the local hospital, and also drug treatment professionals.

It is very clear that we need a multi-lateral approach between drug treatment professionals, medical professionals, local officials. They each play a different role, but the theme is somewhat the same.

We have outdated regulations, we have insufficient resources, and we need to better align the resources that we are providing. And that is what we are going to do this week in the House, positive productive steps on a bipartisan basis to get those on the front lines in our communities, the resources they need. In doing so, we will better empower our local first responders, our local law enforcement, and our community healthcare providers.

I would be remiss if I didn't also speak about the issue of prevention, prevention in the first instance. Abuse-deterrent medications are critical. Our life sciences industry in my district and across this country are making tremendous strides. It is a key component in preventing addiction for many in the first instance.

Let me conclude, though, with this, Mr. Speaker. As legislators, as lawmakers, we can't end this epidemic. A law, any number of laws that simply pass the House that may get signed into law are not going to end an epidemic. We understand that—and I want the American people to understand tonight—we are not saying that by passing laws, we end the epidemic.

But what we can do is improve collaboration and better align resources from and for the various stakeholders so that together we can turn the trajectory of this epidemic, which is on a very dangerous course, we can turn it into a declining direction, which is what we need to do. We need to turn this around.

We have a tremendous opportunity here in the House this week to take very positive steps in that direction, and I want to thank Mr. GUINTA for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for being here this evening and for his leadership in authoring the Prevent Drug Addiction Act of 2016, another mechanism by which we can provide opportunity to those who suffer from the ailment of addiction. His work is very well-regarded on the bipartisan task force and, again, I thank him for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to another honorable gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN), my good friend.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Hampshire and all of my colleagues who have taken this approach to comprehensive discussion on what we can do with legislation to deal with the issue of not just heroin abuse, but the opioids that are now a precursor.

I would suggest that just about everybody who has come to this floor comes with a personal story. Mine is very personal as well.

The name of the act that I am sponsoring that is part of this comprehensive package is the John Thomas Decker Act.

John was an athlete of great talent. He was one of the record holders for more than a decade as a receiver who went on to Cornell as part of a program in which he was a lacrosse player, a program that won a national championship during his time there.

But John, like so many student athletes, suffered from a knee injury that impacted his ability to play, and like so many, he played through the pain. And one of the things that he used in order to deal with that pain was opioids, opioids that in the beginning were prescribed, and then subsequently were used by him without a prescription.

But that should not surprise you, because one of the things that we look at with respect to college athletes is that 23 percent of college athletes, according to one NCAA study, have been prescribed pain medications during the course of the year. Another 6 percent, on top of that, self-prescribe with opioids.

So as a result, we have almost 1 in 4—more than 1 in 4 dealing with opioids. The problem being that that leads, oftentimes, to an addiction. There is a misunderstanding, a belief among many that it is a much safer drug because it has been prescribed, but not a recognition that it can lead, in weeks and even days with daily use, to a psychological dependency, which can lead toward the addiction.

Many people think that because they have been able to get it under control, they will return to it at some time later at a dosage that they used before, and because of the concentration being higher, they will return, and oftentimes it can lead, as it did in John

Thomas Decker's situation, to an overdose.

The John Tomas Decker Act is designed to enable, at the high school level, the Centers for Disease Control to reach out, study the impact of opioid use among high school athletes and better arm those who engage with them to monitor the use of those who have been prescribed it, to screen for history of current drug use, depression, other kinds of things that can lead to addiction, and begin to educate not just those student athletes, but those who are in charge of those student athletes about the great concern of opioid abuse, which can lead to heroin addiction and, ultimately, death.

□ 2045

I'm grateful for the leadership of my colleague from New Hampshire and her counterpart across the aisle for their work in this important area. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support the John Thomas Decker Act, and I know that all of us will be committed to doing everything we can to stay ahead of this very, very challenging issue for our Nation.

Mr. GUINTA. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for his leadership on the John Thomas Decker Act and his work in fighting this addiction as well.

Again, I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS).

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the United States is in the middle of a drug crisis that is ravaging urban and rural communities alike. We have seen the overdose rates skyrocket in the United States in recent years. My home State of West Virginia sits atop the list, and I have seen firsthand the destruction that the disease of addiction has brought to our cities and towns.

But imagine for a moment actually starting your life in the throes of withdrawal. This is the tragic reality for thousands of newborns nationwide. During pregnancy, a baby is exposed to any drugs the mother takes. As soon as they are born, their bodies begin going through withdrawal from heroin, opioids, and other drugs. Not even babies are immune from the effects of this drug epidemic.

Until you see these babies going through withdrawal yourself, you cannot imagine their suffering. Their bodies shake with tremors. Their cries are heartbreaking. They are sensitive to noise, to light, and even to touch. No baby should have to go through withdrawal in their first hours, in their first days or weeks of his or her life.

We in the House are working together on this critical issue. We are passing much-needed legislation to create a path to recovery and a path to a healthy start in life for every child.

I am honored to have legislation included in this package of bills this week. The Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act will expand our knowledge of coverage and care for newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome, or NAS, babies suffering from withdrawal after birth from the exposure during pregnancy.

The dramatic increase of NAS, the challenges to developing new models of care, and breaking down regulatory barriers are things I know all too well. I helped start Lily's Place in my hometown of Huntington, West Virginia, which treats NAS newborns in a stand-alone facility. The care given is complementary to the traditional hospital setting. Lily's Place offers clinical care by doctors and nurses, as well as social workers for families.

Hearing the cries of these newborns will forever change you. We owe it to each and every child to make sure they have a chance to start their lives healthy and happy.

I wish to thank Congressman GUINTA and Congresswoman KUSTER for their leadership on the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. By working together, we can find solutions and build a brighter future.

Mr. GUINTA. I want to thank the gentleman from West Virginia for his leadership on the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act. I look forward to voting this week in favor of the gentleman's legislation, and I appreciate the gentleman's compassion and passion for the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia, Congressman CARTER.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order to discuss such an important issue.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong pharmacist, I have experienced firsthand the struggles that medical professionals and Americans face with prescription drug abuse. Many don't realize, but medical professionals are not immune to prescription drug abuse. I have had several colleagues in the pharmacy profession who have struggled with prescription drug abuse.

In addition, I was the cosponsor in the Georgia General Assembly when the Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program was created. I believe that PDMPs are one of the most important tools in the fight against prescription drug abuse. As a pharmacist, I experienced several customers who would walk into my store with an out-of-State driver's license. As you can imagine, I was a little hesitant to fill a prescription of someone who has a Kentucky driver's license when my store is in south Georgia.

I believe the best way to address this issue is to work as a team. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and anyone else who is part of an individual's medical team has a role to play. We must work

together if we want to win against this powerful epidemic.

In addition, community leaders, community service centers, and any other entity that is involved in community health has a role to play. We must all work together as a community to help people who are struggling with addiction.

I encourage all of my colleagues to get involved in this issue. It is one that will destroy your communities and its families from the inside out, and you won't know you have a problem until it is almost too big to fight.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire for holding this Special Order. I hope we can continue to work together on this issue because this work will never be done.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for his leadership, and particularly for his expertise in the area of pharmacology. It is a critical component of understanding that we need to achieve based on the opioid crisis. I appreciate the gentleman's leadership and his ability to work with the Congress to make sure that we are finding and striving for solutions beyond opioids for prescriptions for pain in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California, Congressman KNIGHT.

Mr. KNIGHT. I want to thank Congresswoman KUSTER and Congressman GUINTA for taking a leadership role in this epidemic. This is something that has gone across the country. We have seen huge rises in the Northeast and across the Midwest, but this is something that is not immune from any one of our districts.

I, along with Representatives ESTY and COSTELLO, are sponsoring legislation to establish education programs for both consumer awareness and practitioner training to get at the root of most of these addictions.

As a police officer for 18 years with the LAPD, I have seen an awful lot of drug addiction and drug addiction problems in our streets. We saw rock hit our streets many, many years ago, and that is still infiltrating many of our urban areas in America. Then we moved on to other drugs like meth and heroin.

Heroin was always one of those kind of taboo drugs, but today it is not. We have seen a lot of the kids that get addicted because they got a sports injury or they got some other issue and have gotten a prescription drug, and they have moved on from the oxys when they have run out of these opioids and they have moved on to heroin.

So it has not become a taboo drug. It has actually been a new drug that they can continue on their addiction; and they don't understand what it is doing to their body, and they don't understand the addictions that are hurting them and, in some instances, killing them.

We have seen heroin and fentanyl taking over our streets and not just moving from California to Maine, but absolutely taking over America and hurting our kids and killing our kids in record numbers.

My wife is also an NICU nurse. She has been an NICU nurse for about 20 years, and she has seen the effects of little babies that have come in and are now addicted to these drugs, and they are addicted to heroin. Seeing what this does to a baby that is born premature and now addicted to this drug makes your heart go out, but you also understand the problems that these babies are going to have probably for a very long time in their young lives.

If we don't do something, this will continue to ravage our kids, and it will continue to kill our kids on our streets. If Congressman GUINTA and Congresswoman KUSTER had not brought this forward, then somebody would have had to. But who? So I say I thank you to them both for doing this. I know it ravages your State of New Hampshire, but it also affects our States and our cities across the country. Without leadership, this would have continued to go on.

These bills that we are voting on will do something. They will have an effect. The local administrations have to have an effect. Our counties and our States have to have an effect or this will continue on.

So I say I thank you to the gentlewoman and the gentleman, and I encourage everyone to vote on these.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT) for his service on the task force, his service for the last 18 years in uniform, and the gentleman's continued service here in the Congress. The gentleman's depth and understanding of the issue is critical to the passage of the legislation that we are bringing to the floor this week. I look forward to continuing our work with the gentleman, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from our great State of New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), my esteemed colleague, who is the co-chairman of the bipartisan task force.

Ms. KUSTER. I thank the gentleman, Mr. GUINTA, for his leadership and to everyone who participated tonight.

The idea behind a Special Order to put a face on this terrible heroin epidemic and addiction, generally, is to create compassion and empathy both among our colleagues and for those of you who may be watching at home. We need a societal change in the way we approach substance use disorder. We need to understand that this is a disease. I say at home, frequently, every time you hear the word "addict," think of the word "diabetic." We don't say to someone: We can't treat you because you have just eaten cake. Essentially,

we say: That is a really hard disease for you to live with, and we want to help you.

That is the message that we want to convey tonight to families in New Hampshire and all across this country. We want to be a part of the solution, and that is going to include prevention, education, treatment, access to treatment, expanding access to treatment, and then lifelong recovery.

We know that the brain changes under the misuse of prescription drugs or opiates or heroin, and we need to have the patience to help people get through not just the treatment itself, but the recovery period. We need homes where people can live in a substance-free environment, and we need supports and mental health supports. We have learned that four out of five heroin users have a co-occurring mental health issue typically untreated and typically not getting any kind of help with that. So in a sense, what you have are people that are self-medicating.

We also know that four out of five heroin users are coming to this through prescription medication, so we need to reach out and work with our healthcare providers. I am very proud that both the American Medical Association and the American Hospital Association are supporting many of the bills that we have coming forward on the floor this week.

So this is the beginning. Our work is not done, but the message tonight is that Congress is coming together in a bipartisan way to tackle this head-on, to help these families, to help people get treatment, and to put an end to this terrible, terrible disease.

I thank the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. GUINTA. I want to thank the gentlewoman, my colleague from our State of New Hampshire, where, unfortunately, last year, 430 people perished due to opioid abuse and addiction. That is 1 out of every 3,000 of our residents. It is a significant challenge in our State, in the Northeast, and New England, but all across the country. Almost 50,000 people, last year, died of this epidemic.

It is not just an epidemic, but an emergency, one that I believe this Congress is firmly standing strong in a bipartisan way to find solutions, to do our part at the Federal level to make sure that we have every opportunity not just to help those who seek treatment and recovery, but also to strengthen law enforcement, to focus on those individuals who are selling these drugs across the country, from California to New Hampshire, but also being proactive in prevention and in education.

We often speak of our friends and constituents in New Hampshire that continue to suffer, but we also talk about our children. I have a 12-year-old

and an 11-year-old that I hope will live lives without and free from drugs. I want to make sure that every seventh- and eighth-grader in the State of New Hampshire understands the severity of the problem and understands that this is something that is deadly that we cannot even take once.

As you mentioned, the challenge of fentanyl, lacing a pill of heroin with as many as three small pieces of fentanyl the size of grains of sand can kill a person. Most people don't realize that. This is a deadly, deadly epidemic.

□ 2100

This week the House of Representatives takes up a whole host of bills. After the Senate passed their CARA Act 94-1, we have had four committees of jurisdiction work and try to improve that piece of legislation.

I look forward to sharing a very strong bipartisan vote this week on a whole host of bills, going to conference with the Senate, and getting this bill to the President's desk. It is a mark of bipartisanship and it is a mark of leadership, something that the country needs to see from this institution and from this city.

I want to thank all of my colleagues who participated in this Special Order tonight to kick off Heroin and Opioid Awareness Week. We have heard stories of success and difficulty come in equal measure from every corner of the country.

I commend the House for passing a comprehensive bipartisan bill for the relief of the vulnerable, the victimized, and distressed in my district, in your district, and throughout the Nation. Any measure we take to lighten even slightly the burden of suffering patients and families can make the difference between fatal despair and renewal.

The House is scheduled to take up several similar measures this week. It is my hope that, when combined, our efforts will begin to form a solution to this harrowing and tragic national crisis. We will continue to work for safe communities and effective evidence-based treatments.

But I want to end this evening on a favorable note. I want to share the story of my friend, Abi Lizotte, who the gentlewoman from New Hampshire, Congresswoman KUSTER, knows all too well.

Abi Lizotte last year had been addicted to heroin for an extended period of time and had nowhere left to turn. Her family wouldn't help her. Her friends wouldn't help her. Even the people she bought drugs from wouldn't help her.

She was 8 months pregnant. She finally called a nurse, a nurse that had helped her earlier in the year, and asked for assistance. She went to the hospital and thankfully was able to see a physician. That physician told her

that she was days away from dying while she was carrying her child.

Thankfully, through the grace of God and the help of people in New Hampshire, she was able to start the process of recovery. Today my friend Abi—and I am proud to call her my friend—has testified in front of our committee hearings in New Hampshire, has testified about the experience that she had and the loneliness and despair that she experienced. She is now 6 months clean with an 8-month-old son named Parker. It is a story of success.

She continues each and every day to strive for that success for others. She actually goes to schools in New Hampshire and speaks to kids about her experience in the hope that other people will not fall to the same experience she had over the last several years.

I count her as a friend, but I focus our work in her name, just as you focus your work in the name of Kriss Soterian's stepdaughter, Amber, because these are people we know. These are people that we don't just represent. They are people that we want to try to save.

I am very, very happy to see our leadership, the bipartisanship this week in the legislation that will come to this floor, and I pray that next year we don't see the same number of deaths, that we start to see a decline.

But, regardless, this is just the beginning of this process where we will continue to fight for every life, to fight for every person who is dealing with the disease of addiction, and will continue to work in a bipartisan way because people of our Nation deserve it.

I want to thank my colleague again, ANN KUSTER from New Hampshire, my co-chair of the bipartisan task force, for her leadership. I thank the speakers this evening. I look forward to a productive week and a productive year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTERMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we are back in session and things have continued to proceed on. I appreciate so much my colleagues calling attention to this national disaster, really. Opioids are being used at what seem to be unprecedented levels.

I know, since I have been here, there was basically a war against the use of methamphetamines. So we restricted law-abiding citizens' access to Sudafed, one decongestant that works on me and has since it was discovered.

We have had more drugs pouring across our southern border, according to what DEA agents and local law enforcement have been telling me in

Texas and Border Patrol down at our border, DPS at our border. Drugs pouring in seem to have more purity and be more devastating to people that get hooked on them.

Obviously, we have had doctors and nurses. I have sentenced many professionals, a number of them at least, for crimes committed. And they are getting access to opioids, but it is a problem.

What concerns me, also, is that it appears this administration is saying: We will help you clean up the criminal justice inadequacies as long as you will pass bills that will get a lot of people, thousands and thousands of people, released from prison early.

We have seen from the figures that were provided to Senator JEFF SESSIONS, pursuant to his request, that, of all the people in Federal prison for possession of illegal substances, 77 percent of them are not citizens of the United States. That is 77 percent of those in Federal prison for possession are not U.S. citizens. So, obviously, this President has been giving illegal, unconstitutional amnesties out like they were water at a marathon.

Hopefully, the Supreme Court is once and for all going to assure that that stops. But it makes sense when you look at this as being an election year and the Democratic Governor of Virginia makes thousands of felons eligible to vote.

All they need is to get out of prison, and then this President wants thousands and thousands more released from prison. The old saying is true here in Washington: No matter how cynical you get, it is never enough to catch up.

We should do criminal justice reform. I have been pushing for it for the years I have been here, I guess for the last 8 years.

But if it is only going to get signed into law if it is combined with scrapping the sentences that were arrived at by judges agonizing over an appropriate sentence, then I hope and pray it will not happen until January of next year, when a new President is in office, so that it does not get linked.

I mean, the cynicism for an administration to say, "Yeah. We will do the criminal justice reform that is necessary, but only if you will allow us to release thousands and thousands from prison," which there is no question that people will be murdered, people will be robbed, people will be assaulted, shot, burglarized in crimes that never would have happened if the President hadn't pushed the early release of so many criminals.

I hope and pray that we will be the guardians here in the House of those American citizens that would be killed, robbed, burglarized, assaulted, if the President gets his way and releases people early. We can't allow that to happen if we are going to keep our oath to the American people.

We have heard so often in this room and, goodness, we have heard right here across the street in front of the Supreme Court people that claim to be illegally in this country.

The only reason I am saying claim to be illegally in this country is we have heard that all the people in this country are in the shadows and we need to bring them out of the shadows.

These people that were claiming to be illegally here protesting in front of the Supreme Court recently were not in the shadows. They were in full sunlight out in front of the United States Supreme Court and, in fact, blocking traffic there right in front of the Supreme Court building. Ultimately, the police just shut off the streets because so many people were in the streets.

This story from yesterday in the Washington Examiner is entitled "Cashing in: Illegal Immigrants get \$1,261 more welfare than American families."

The story says:

"Illegal immigrant households receive an average of \$5,692 in Federal welfare benefits every year, far more than the average 'native' American household, at \$4,431, according to a new report on the cost of immigration released Monday.

"The Center for Immigration Studies, in an analysis of federal cost figures, found that all immigrant-headed households—legal and illegal—receive an average of \$6,241 in welfare"—

I will point out parenthetically here that that is an average. Obviously, not everybody gets welfare that is here legally and illegally. Obviously, there are lots of households that don't get welfare. But this is an average.

And the article says:

"41 percent more than native households. As with Americans receiving benefits such as food stamps and cash, much of the welfare to immigrants supplements their low wage jobs.

"The total cost is over \$103 billion in welfare benefits to households headed by immigrants. A majority, 51 percent, of immigrant households receive some type of welfare compared to 30 percent of native households, said the analysis of Census data."

I would like to insert, Mr. Speaker, when STEVE KING and I visited in London, England, with the Social Security office equivalent there, they pointed out that, in order to receive Social Security-type benefits in England, the law requires proof that you have been in the country for 5 years before you are eligible.

We were told—I didn't see them, but we were told that, in applying to come to the country or being in the country, you had to agree not to apply for benefits for 5 years, the idea being, if they are just an immigrant magnet for people who want to come get welfare, they would go broke. That was their reasoning. And, actually, it is quite good reasoning.



□ 2115

As one of the leaders there in the office made clear, she said: "Look, we want to make sure that people coming into England are going to be contributors to our society and not just takers from our society."

I don't know if she has been successful. Apparently there are people who come in who are just takers there; but this idea is interesting. It puts to the test whether someone is just coming in to get welfare benefits one has never participated in, has helped pay for, or if one is coming in to help make America a better country.

Of course, some think: If I come to America and if they are paying me benefits, obviously, America is a better country because my getting welfare makes it a better country. But most of us would not necessarily agree with that. At least, I hope most would not.

But in seeing this figure that the total cost is over \$103 billion for welfare benefits to households that are headed by immigrants, possibly as much as anything else, it ought to indicate that our immigration policies and certainly this administration need dramatic changes. Perhaps it would be good to put a pause on immigration until we get this worked out because we are doing great damage to our country and we are doing great damage to other countries.

Anyway, this goes on to read: "Immigrants receiving the most, in the study of 2012 figures, come from Mexico and Central America. Their average annual taxpayer-funded welfare collection is \$8,251, 86 percent higher than the benefits received by native households, said the report."

Mr. Speaker, that is pretty staggering. These are, apparently, 2012 figures? Mexico and Central America? Immigrants from Mexico and Central America are receiving, on average, \$8,251 per year.

It is pretty clear. You don't have to be that great of a mathematician. I was good at math in junior high and in high school. In college, I only had to study for 15 minutes for the final to make an A in algebra. But you don't have to be good at math to know that no nation can sustain itself when it is giving people who are rushing into the country over \$8,000 without their ever contributing a dime to the ongoing of the country.

In any event, the article reads: "The new report follows another that found President Obama seeking \$17,613 for every new illegal minor, more than Social Security retirees get."

That is just mind-boggling. In the words of Bo Pilgrim, that is mind-boggling. It is \$17,613 that President Obama sought to provide to every illegal immigrant minor—a person under 18. They have come into the country, breaking our law to get here. Yes, I have been there at all hours of the day

and night on the border. No one comes across that border unaccompanied. You can't get across the Rio Grande, in the areas they were coming across, unaccompanied—4-year-old, 6-year-old, 8-year-old children as they stand there. I have seen them come up from the bank, and they are being helped. You see a woman helping this child, and the child is looking to her for answers, looking to her for instructions, looking to her for help. Then she gets up there, and she asks: Oh, is this your child?

Oh, no. I don't know her at all. She is not accompanied. Nobody is with her.

Yes, you are with her, and all of these other people are with her, but we call it unaccompanied.

Then, of course, the President wants \$17,613 for every new illegal immigrant who is under 18, which, as the article points out, is more than he would seek for Social Security retirees.

Again, from *The Washington Examiner*, it is talking about author Jason Richwine, who noted that illegal immigrants are barred from directly receiving welfare, but, instead, they get it via their legal children.

"Illegal immigrants are barred from directly accessing most, though not all, welfare programs, but they can receive welfare through their U.S.-born children. Legal immigrant households, which have greater eligibility for welfare, cost \$6,378, on average," he wrote.

"The average household"—again, this is just an average household—"headed by an immigrant, legal or illegal, costs taxpayers \$6,234 in Federal welfare benefits.

"The average immigrant household consumes 33 percent more cash welfare, 57 percent more food assistance, and 44 percent more Medicaid dollars than the average native household.

"At \$8,251, households headed by immigrants from Central America and Mexico have the highest welfare costs of any sending region.

"The greater consumption of welfare dollars of immigrants can be explained in large part by their lower level of education and larger number of children compared to natives. Over 24 percent of immigrant households are headed by a high school dropout compared to just 8 percent of native households. In addition, 13 percent of immigrant households have three or more children versus just 6 percent of native households."

So when you do the math, as some people actually have, our Nation is not long for the world unless we get on a lawful track. I have seen and had signs shoved in front of my face over in front of the Supreme Court that Jesus was an immigrant and that Jesus was a refugee. This thing I know from everything we have been taught, from everything that is in the Bible, is that Jesus was never an illegal immigrant. Jesus made clear you render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. You follow the

law. He never broke the law nor advocated breaking the civilian law; though, those who crucified him clearly violated the law.

An article here from *The Washington Free Beacon* today, by Adam Kredo, reads: "Report: Homegrown violent extremists planting roots across U.S.; foiled ISIS attacks, plots, and terror funding grows across Nation."

"At least 75 homegrown violent extremists were found to be operating across the United States in 2015, with the largest portion of these individuals pledging allegiance to the ISIS terror group, according to recent figures published by New Jersey's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

"The largest number of homegrown extremists were caught providing material support to various terror organizations, while at least 21 percent of the terrorists were found to be planning attacks in the United States, according to the figures.

"Another 10 percent successfully carried out terror attacks in California, New York, Tennessee, and Massachusetts, according to the data, which shows that the New York City area was home to the largest number of violent extremists."

That term "violent extremists" is so beloved by this administration so they don't have to use the term "radical Islamists" or "Islamic jihadists."

Yet, here is an article from Craig Bannister today: "Administration's Censorship of State Department Video Mirrors Deletion of Hollande's 'Islamist' Remark."

The article reads: "The State Department's censorship of an on-camera confession made by spokeswoman Jen Psaki appears identical to the recent censorship by the White House of video of French President Hollande speaking the words 'Islamist terrorism,' exposed by MRCTV.

"FOX News' James Rosen reported on Monday that the State Department edited out an on-camera admission by Psaki in 2013 that it is Obama administration's policy to lie to the American people, and that the Iran nuclear deal was 'a good example' of a time it did.

"The administration used the same censorship tactics earlier this year when it edited out audio of President Hollande calling 'Islamist terrorism' the root of terrorism today . . ." The White House Web site has censored a video of French President Francois Hollande saying that "Islamist terrorism" is at the "roots of terrorism." The White House briefly pulled video of a press event on terrorism with President Obama, and when it reappeared on the whitehouse.gov Web site and YouTube, the audio of Hollande's translator goes silent, beginning with the words "Islamist terrorism," then begins again at the end of his sentence.

"The two censorships by the Obama administration follow the same pattern:

"A comment objectionable to the administration was edited out of the official video posted on a government Web site,

"The censorship was discovered and documented because the official government transcript had not been edited,

"The missing video was, somehow, found and restored to the version on the government Web site—after the censorship had been exposed, and

"The administration pleaded ignorance of the editing once it had been made public.

"Rosen's revelation begs a question posed to MRCTV multiple times since it broke the Hollande story:

"Is this an isolated incident, or are there other times the administration has edited out comments it doesn't want the American people to hear?"

Consistent with actions like preventing people from hearing the French President point out the truth that Islamic terrorism is at the root of all terrorism—most terrorism it certainly is—here is a front page magazine story: "Obama Frees USS *Cole* Bombing Terrorist. American lives don't matter," from Daniel Greenfield.

"On Thursday morning, sailors on board the USS *Cole* were lining up for an early lunch. Seventeen of them died as an al Qaeda bomb on board a fishing boat tore through the hull outside the gallery. The dead included 15 men and two women, one of whom had a young child. For 3 weeks, the crew of the USS *Cole* struggled to keep their ship from sinking while working waste deep in water with bucket brigades, sleeping on the deck, and living surrounded by the terrible aftermath of the terrorist attack.

"The survivors, wounded and whole, received the words 'Glory is the Reward of Valor,' written on the bent steel removed from the site of the explosion that tore through their ship and their lives.

□ 2130

"The President of the United States promised that justice would be done:

"To those who attacked them, we say: You will not find a safe harbor. We will find you and justice will prevail."

As the article says: "Despite Clinton's words, justice did not prevail."

The article goes on to point out all the injustice of what President Obama has done in freeing this bomber involved in the USS *Cole* bombing. He is a murderer of 17, wounder of three dozen or so in an attack on a United States military ship.

The United States cannot long exist when this is the way we treat those who are trying to destroy us.

In a May 5 account in *The Weekly Standard's* story, "Obama's Foreign Policy Guru Boasts of How the Administration Lied to Sell the Iran Deal," it says:

"It's hardly any wonder that Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes has a 'mind meld' with his boss, the President. According to a David Samuels New York Times Magazine article to be published Sunday and already posted to the Web site, Rhodes, like Barack Obama, is contemptuous of 'the American foreign-policy establishment.' What Obama calls the 'Washington playbook' dictating the sorts of responses available to American policymakers, Rhodes calls the 'Blob.'"

This article points out what is in the news right now, that the Obama administration—and I am being careful—that the Obama administration was responsible for a lie perpetrated against the American people. They claim they were dealing with moderates in Iran. They knew they were dealing with radicals, and Ben Rhodes is lying. He brags about all the lying they did to keep the Senate from standing up and having the courage to say this is a treaty. It is being done with radical Islamists in Iran. It hurts all our friends, helps our enemies. We will not allow that to happen. We are taking a vote on the Iran treaty as a treaty.

And then when they did, if the Democrats tried to block it, then this, more than anything else they have ever taken up, would be something they should say, as HARRY REID did, we may not have 60, but this is critical. We vote on the Iran treaty and vote it down.

So 51 votes sets aside cloture, and they drive forward. It doesn't get the two-thirds vote, and we stop the radicals in Iran from getting the hundreds of billions that will flow not just in 1 year, but over a period of time.

I met with Baloch people, Baloch leaders today. The southern part of Iran, southern southwest part of Pakistan, those are indigenous Baloch areas. The most productive oilfields of Iran are Baloch areas.

They have been so unfairly terrorized and mistreated. They know what terrorists the leaders of Iran are.

We have friends in those areas of Iran and Pakistan, and this administration chose to lie to the American people to get the Senate to do nothing to stop them. And people around the world will die as a result of the lies that Ben Rhodes has now admitted to.

God help us all.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through May 13.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 546. An act to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 29, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 2908. To adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

H.R. 1493. To protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5308. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Term Limit for Energy Savings Contracts (DFARS Case 2015-D018) [Docket No.: DARS-2015-0050] (RIN: 0750-A174) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5309. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Multiyear Contract Requirements (DFARS Case 2015-D009) [Docket No.: DARS-2015-0067] (RIN: 0750-A180) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5310. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Long-Haul Telecommunications (DFARS Case 2015-D023) [Docket No.: DARS-2015-0046] (RIN: 0750-A172) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5311. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Disclosure

to Litigation Support Contractors (DFARS Case 2012-D029) [Docket No.: DARS-2014-0017] (RIN: 0750-AH54) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5312. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Audit of the Exchange Stabilization Fund's Fiscal Years 2015 and 2014 Financial Statements", pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5302(c)(2); Jan. 30, 1934, ch. 6, Sec. 10 (as amended by Public Law 97-258, Sec. 5302(c)(2)); (96 Stat. 994); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5313. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Department of Labor Implementation of OMB Guidance on Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension (RIN: 1291-AA38) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5314. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Establishment of Procedures for Requests for Correction of Errors in Rules (RIN: 1904-AD63) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5315. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5316. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic, originally declared on May 12, 2014, by Executive Order 13667, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2016, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 114-133); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5317. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(d)(1); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1; (86 Stat. 619); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5318. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-378, "Transportation Reorganization Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5319. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a Designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5320. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting

the Inspector General's semiannual report for October 1, 2015, through May 31, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Public Law 95-452); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5321. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — List of Fisheries for 2016 [Docket No.: 150306230-6303-02] (RIN: 0648-BE88) received May 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3209. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the disclosure of certain tax return information for the purpose of missing or exploited children investigations; with an amendment (Rept. 114-542). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2137. A bill to ensure Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety, and the safety of their families, during a covered furlough (Rept. 114-543). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. S. 125. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-544). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee of Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 4590. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-545). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 4063. A bill to improve the use by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, to improve patient advocacy by the Secretary, and to expand the availability of complementary and integrative health, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-546, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4985. A bill to amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin designation Act to protect classified information in Federal court challenges (Rept. 114-547, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. KLINE. Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 4843. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require certain monitoring and oversight, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-548). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 295. A bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Uni-

versities Historic Preservation program; with an amendment (Rept. 114-549). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2009. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona; with an amendment (Rept. 114-550). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 720. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4641) to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5046) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-551). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1818. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians; with an amendment (Rept. 114-552). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3680. A bill to provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program for co-prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs; with an amendment (Rept. 114-553). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3691. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women and to establish a pilot program to provide grants to State substance abuse agencies to promote innovative service delivery models for such women; with an amendment (Rept. 114-554). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4586. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to States for developing standing orders and educating health care professionals regarding the dispensing of opioid overdose reversal medication without person-specific prescriptions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-555). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4599. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to permit certain partial fillings of prescriptions; with an amendment (Rept. 114-556). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4976. A bill to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to seek recommendations from an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration before approval of certain new drugs that are opioids without abuse-deterrent properties, and for other purposes; (Rept. 114-557). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4969. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide for informational materials to educate and prevent addiction in teenagers and adolescents who are injured playing youth sports and subsequently prescribed an opioid; with an amendment (Rept. 114-558). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4978. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the United States and its treatment under Medicaid; with an amendment (Rept. 114-559). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4982. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate and report on the in-patient and outpatient treatment capacity, availability, and needs of the United States; with an amendment (Rept. 114-560). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4981. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to improve access to opioid use disorder treatment; with an amendment (Rept. 114-561, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4063 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4981 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 5174. A bill to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to educational assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5175. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove, for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, programs of education determined to have utilized deceptive or misleading practices in violation of section 3696 of such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 5176. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to carry out a research program to evaluate the effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program in addressing the needs of certain minority veterans; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CURBELLO of Florida (for himself and Mr. SIREN):

H.R. 5177. A bill to improve disaster mitigation programs, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 5178. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide educational and vocational counseling for veterans on campuses of institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 5179. A bill to limit the authority of personnel of the Department of Homeland Security to prohibit a citizen or permanent resident of the United States from boarding as a passenger on an aircraft or cruise ship based on inclusion of the individual in a watchlist, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 5180. A bill to alleviate the ethanol blend wall under the renewable fuel program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5181. A bill to counter foreign disinformation and propaganda, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LONG (for himself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico):

H.R. 5182. A bill to promote the development of safe drugs for neonates; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 5183. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 5184. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand rules related to investment by nonresident aliens in domestic mutual funds and business development companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5185. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for disclosure for charity employees and board members previously implicated in terror finance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 5186. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude employer contributions to 529 plans from gross income and employment taxes and to allow a deduction for individual contributions to such plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 5187. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the alternative simplified credit for research expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.J. Res. 92. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to give States the right to repeal Federal laws and regulations when ratified by the legislatures of two-thirds of the several States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.J. Res. 93. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Res. 719. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 2016 as "Health and Fitness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H. Res. 721. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 8, 2016, through May 14, 2016, as Food Allergy Awareness Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H. Res. 722. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the Federal workforce; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

217. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 291, urging Congress to reform the federal requirements relative to high school graduation rates during the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

218. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, relative to House Resolution 1001, condemning the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel and calls upon its governmental institutions to denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

219. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, relative to House Resolution 1001, condemning the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel and calls upon its governmental institutions to denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submittal regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 5174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TAKANO:  
H.R. 5176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:  
H.R. 5177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: The Commerce Clause

By Mr. WENSTRUP:  
H.R. 5178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. AMASH:  
H.R. 5179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Due Process Clause (“[N]or shall any person . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law . . .”)

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (“The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution . . . all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.”)

By Mr. FLORES:  
H.R. 5180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:  
H.R. 5181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. LONG:  
H.R. 5182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution, which states “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. MOULTON:  
H.R. 5183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. PAULSEN:  
H.R. 5184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POE of Texas:  
H.R. 5185.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1  
By Mr. POLIQUIN:  
H.R. 5186.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 gives Congress the “Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises.”

By Mr. TIBERI:  
H.R. 5187.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:  
H.J. Res. 92.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V  
By Mr. GOHMERT:  
H.J. Res. 93.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This resolution is enacted pursuant to the powers conferred by the United States Constitution upon Congress by Article V, which provides that “The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution . . . which shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States . . .”

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 194: Mr. LATTA.  
H.R. 213: Mr. STEWART.  
H.R. 228: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 239: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 343: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 353: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
H.R. 499: Mr. POE of Texas.  
H.R. 546: Ms. GRAHAM.  
H.R. 563: Mr. LEWIS and Ms. DELAURO.  
H.R. 576: Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 605: Mr. SALMON.  
H.R. 632: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. GUINTA.  
H.R. 649: Mr. RUSH and Ms. MENG.  
H.R. 711: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 729: Mr. LANGEVIN.  
H.R. 748: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 756: Mr. TAKAI and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 799: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 842: Mr. RICHMOND.  
H.R. 863: Mr. ROKITA.  
H.R. 864: Mr. MEEHAN.  
H.R. 865: Mr. PITTINGER.  
H.R. 921: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. PITTINGER.  
H.R. 923: Mr. COOK, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. LABRADOR, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 973: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. ISRAEL.  
H.R. 980: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. RUSSELL.  
H.R. 1062: Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 1109: Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 1111: Mr. McDERMOTT.  
H.R. 1112: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 1117: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H.R. 1130: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. BOUSTANY.  
H.R. 1171: Mr. GIBBS.  
H.R. 1197: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. MEEHAN.  
H.R. 1220: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HILL, and Mr. ZELDIN.  
H.R. 1221: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 1233: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GUINTA, and Mr. PAULSEN.  
H.R. 1310: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 1312: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. STIVERS.  
H.R. 1336: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1397: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 1398: Mr. RUSH, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 1421: Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 1427: Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. COOK, and Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 1453: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 1519: Mr. WALZ.  
H.R. 1594: Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 1655: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
H.R. 1667: Mr. CHAFFETZ.  
H.R. 1718: Mr. HILL, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 1779: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 1818: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. TURNER.  
H.R. 1854: Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 1887: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 1911: Mr. SANFORD, Mr. YODER, and Mr. LUTKEMEYER.  
H.R. 1942: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. GOWDY.  
H.R. 1943: Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. Cárdenas.  
H.R. 1961: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 1969: Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 2016: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 2067: Mr. BYRNE.  
H.R. 2090: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and Mr. HIMES.  
H.R. 2096: Ms. HAHN.  
H.R. 2121: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 2123: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 2132: Mr. POCAN and Mr. TAKAI.  
H.R. 2142: Mr. ZELDIN.  
H.R. 2189: Mr. Cárdenas.  
H.R. 2218: Mr. COOK, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 2221: Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 2254: Mr. RUSH, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 2260: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 2290: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.  
H.R. 2293: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Mr. YOHO.  
H.R. 2296: Mr. TAKAI and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 2309: Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 2315: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. PITTINGER.  
H.R. 2350: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. DENT.  
H.R. 2450: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 2460: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. BOUSTANY.  
H.R. 2526: Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 2654: Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 2658: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 2669: Mr. ZELDIN.  
H.R. 2713: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 2726: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mrs. LOWEY.  
H.R. 2741: Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 2802: Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 2811: Mr. AGUILAR and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 2817: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 2847: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 2867: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 2883: Mrs. LOVE and Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 2903: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BRAT, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HULTGREN, and Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 2966: Mr. REED.  
H.R. 2976: Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 2980: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
H.R. 2992: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.  
H.R. 3025: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

- H.R. 3026: Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 3054: Mr. GRAYSON.  
H.R. 3099: Mr. MESSER, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 3110: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 3119: Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 3177: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 3178: Mr. COFFMAN.  
H.R. 3179: Mr. COFFMAN.  
H.R. 3180: Mr. BOST, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. COFFMAN.  
H.R. 3209: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3222: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. WALKER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 3226: Mrs. LOWEY.  
H.R. 3229: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
H.R. 3235: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. FOSTER.  
H.R. 3286: Mr. HUNTER.  
H.R. 3308: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.  
H.R. 3309: Mr. JONES.  
H.R. 3380: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. ZELDIN.  
H.R. 3381: Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. NEAL, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ZELDIN.  
H.R. 3514: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. CROWLEY.  
H.R. 3632: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 3666: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 3680: Mr. SHUSTER and Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 3687: Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 3691: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. TURNER.  
H.R. 3713: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FOSTER, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 3720: Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 3722: Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 3765: Ms. SPEIER.  
H.R. 3779: Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
H.R. 3793: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 3799: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. MULVANEY.  
H.R. 3834: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 3861: Mr. KATKO, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. VARGAS.  
H.R. 3870: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 3913: Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 3957: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. GOSAR.  
H.R. 3989: Mr. ROYCE.  
H.R. 4006: Mr. MASSIE.  
H.R. 4013: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 4016: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. ROSKAM.  
H.R. 4062: Mr. RUSH, Mr. REED, and Mr. JONES.  
H.R. 4073: Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 4160: Mr. TAKAL.  
H.R. 4165: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 4167: Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H.R. 4172: Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 4223: Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 4230: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 4236: Mr. RICHMOND.  
H.R. 4247: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.  
H.R. 4262: Mr. FLORES and Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 4321: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 4352: Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 4383: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.  
H.R. 4422: Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 4435: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 4447: Mr. DEFAZIO and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.  
H.R. 4448: Mr. WILLIAMS.  
H.R. 4450: Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 4479: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. HIMES, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 4488: Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. VEASEY.  
H.R. 4491: Mr. BERA, Ms. TITUS, and Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 4554: Mr. KATKO.  
H.R. 4559: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.  
H.R. 4586: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. TURNER, and Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 4599: Mr. TURNER and Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 4602: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. MEEHAN.  
H.R. 4606: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 4611: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 4613: Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 4615: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 4623: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 4625: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. JONES.  
H.R. 4640: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JOYCE, and Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 4653: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 4656: Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 4662: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
H.R. 4665: Mr. COSTA, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 4681: Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 4701: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. COLLINS of New York.  
H.R. 4715: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
H.R. 4717: Mr. PITTS.  
H.R. 4718: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.  
H.R. 4730: Mr. COFFMAN, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. ROKITA.  
H.R. 4732: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 4740: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 4764: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 4766: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. RUSSELL, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.  
H.R. 4768: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 4773: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mrs. LUMMIS.  
H.R. 4774: Mr. POCAN and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 4792: Mr. TONKO and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 4797: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4806: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4833: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 4843: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. TURNER.  
H.R. 4856: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. MULVANEY.  
H.R. 4880: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. REICHERT.  
H.R. 4893: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. MULVANEY.  
H.R. 4904: Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 4924: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4928: Mr. COOK, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. ROKITA.  
H.R. 4932: Ms. HAHN and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 4942: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4956: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota and Mr. LUCAS.  
H.R. 4958: Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 4969: Mr. PAULSEN and Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 4978: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. TURNER.  
H.R. 4980: Mr. STEWART, Mr. BRAT, and Mrs. BLACK.  
H.R. 4982: Mr. KILMER and Mr. TURNER.  
H.R. 4985: Mr. PITTENGER.  
H.R. 4991: Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 4994: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 4999: Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
H.R. 5001: Mr. MEEHAN.  
H.R. 5015: Mr. HUNTER.  
H.R. 5028: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.  
H.R. 5031: Mr. DESANTIS.  
H.R. 5047: Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
H.R. 5063: Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. FORBES.  
H.R. 5073: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 5082: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. RENACCI.  
H.R. 5113: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.  
H.R. 5130: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.  
H.R. 5135: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.  
H.R. 5142: Mr. BENISHEK.  
H.R. 5148: Ms. NORTON and Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 5165: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.  
H.R. 5166: Mr. RUSH, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. ROYCE, and Mrs. BLACK.  
H.R. 5170: Mr. DOLD, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mrs. BLACK.  
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. LEVIN.  
H. Con. Res. 50: Mr. GUTHRIE.  
H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. DUNCH of South Carolina and Mr. LUCAS.  
H. Con. Res. 100: Mrs. HARTZLER.  
H. Con. Res. 128: Mr. FLEMING, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. ROUZER.  
H. Con. Res. 129: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. JEFFRIES, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. CONYERS.  
H. Res. 28: Mr. REED.  
H. Res. 54: Mr. REED.  
H. Res. 207: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. RENACCI.  
H. Res. 263: Mr. VARGAS.  
H. Res. 318: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H. Res. 551: Mr. VEASEY and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.  
H. Res. 569: Mr. CAPUANO.  
H. Res. 591: Mr. YODER, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, and Mr. ADERHOLT.  
H. Res. 605: Ms. ESTY.  
H. Res. 647: Mr. HONDA.  
H. Res. 650: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H. Res. 660: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. CICILLINE.  
H. Res. 681: Mrs. DINGELL.  
H. Res. 686: Ms. BASS, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. MOORE.  
H. Res. 690: Mr. KEATING and Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
H. Res. 691: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H. Res. 693: Mr. FLEMING and Mr. POSEY.  
H. Res. 707: Mr. WALKER and Mr. RENACCI.  
H. Res. 712: Mr. PETERS, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. LOBIONDO.  
H. Res. 716: Mr. KEATING, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr.

May 10, 2016

BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

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PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

60. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to urging Congress to enact legislation clarifying that, in the future, no change may be made in the design and appearance of U.S. coinage or paper currency

without first being approved by both houses of Congress via the standard legislative process; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 2016 ARMED FORCES ENLISTEES FROM FREDERICKSBURG, VA

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 121 high school seniors in the Fredericksburg, Virginia area who plan to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

Altizer, Zachary; Barrett, Isiah Thomas; Buckley, Jacob Thomas; Croce, Reed; Dingus, Adam Jacob; Dreyer, Jacob Clark; Eiley III, Raymond; Fones, Sean Tyler; Gill, Tyler James; Gordon, Jarrett Reid; Hanse, Martin; Hardy, Tanner Ramsey; Hebdon, Curtis Allen; Higgins, Draylon C; Holmes, Gregory Rolland; Jackson, Anthony; Kelly, Benjamin Wyatt; Knowles, Trent Hunter; Krieter, Jacob Andrew; Krieter, Joseph Paul; Lawson, Ethan William; Lisovich, Thomas Jerome; Lloyd, Coby Jacob; McAllister, William Edward; Michalechen, Alec; Moore, Jahlii; Nelson, Jacob Robert; Oliviera, Logan; Ross, Mathew Andrew; Shay, Matthew Ellis; Sivigny, Douglas; Tibbs, Lytesha Tayquona; Vangorder, Tanner Clyde; Ziadeh, Clinton Austin.

Manuel, Jackson; Ewer, Winter; Patterson, Chance William; Gaskins, Taquana Athalia; Foley, Michael Andrew; Andah, Kow Issiw; Pierson, Thomas Richard; Huber, Colby Toler; Hayes, William Cody; Leitch, Nicholas Ashley; Apperson, Brandon Alex; Martinez, Carlos Everardo; Kirkpatrick, Jacob Aaron; Ruff, Jordan Thomas Philip; Dileo, Robert Gerard; Rock, Desmond Marcell; Gainey, English Blake; Whitaker, Bradley Eugene; Cook, John Lee; Bermudez, Brency; Broussard, Nicole Lynn; Shivers, Jonathan Jay; Snyder, Andrew Thomas; Kinsella, Sean William; Green, Heaven Leigh; Lee, Kelsey Reed; Sublett, Gregory Allen; Sanat, Reza Emanuel; Mariner, Robert Anthony; Abielmona, Mazen; Silver, Benjamin Isaac Landon; Good, Connor David; Straughan, Jessica Lee; Aron, Curtis Davion; Stillabower, Adam Bradley; Sampath, Vimal Ganapathy; Dogra, Praveen; Sanit Asante, Kweku; Valencia Alvarez, Mario Gabriel; Cory, Hunter; Dunn, Sean; Garcia, Jose; Grant, Jame; Isom, Khaliyah; Licht, Benjamin; Moffo, Borian; Owens, Tomomi; Patterson, Arielle; Smith, Toby; Abdullah, Arahim; Cross, Nygel; Sporney, Kory.

Dejesus, Sarah; Herin, Justin; Travers, Carrington; Williams, Namon; Lowery, Krystal; Lober, Zachary; Gilstrap, Jaclyn; Alexander, Mikayla; Patton, David; Deputy, William; Smith, Gary.

Auerbach, Anthony; Baskerville, Dre'Shawn; Beitzel, Nathaniel; Castellino, Rachel; Dale,

John Barron; Davis, Brody Logan; Eubanks, Lamont; Fuller, Corey; Gray, Kevin; Hicks, Zahn; Holman, Andrew James; Holmes, Kendall; Howard, Alexandra; Hunley, David; Jolly, Autumn Nicole; Mamboyo, Juan E. Balguin; McGovern, Samuel; Mullins, Blaine; Prince, Colton Dean; Proudfoot, Garrison A.; Savoie, Henry; Soper, Charles Grayson; Stauber, June Maria, Jacob, Lydia.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 5th Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served, and will serve, a debt of gratitude.

HONORING JANE EHRLICH

### HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jane Ehrlich, who served for nearly two decades as Columbia Memorial Hospital's chief executive officer.

Jane is this year's Columbia County Association's Distinguished Citizen Award recipient. She has always been passionate about the healthcare field and expanding access in Columbia and Greene Counties.

From an early age, Jane knew she was called to the healthcare profession; tending to her dolls and pets as patients. By the age of 16, she was working in health care. Jane took advantage of a program that allowed high school juniors entering their senior year to work full-time as a nurse's aide and rotate through the hospital.

Following nursing school, Jane worked as a clinical nurse in New York City and Boston. Eventually she was introduced to the administration side of healthcare, to which she took an interest. This led Jane to pursue an MBA with a major in Health Care Administration.

Jane was ultimately offered the position of CEO at Columbia Memorial Hospital in 1994. At the time, the hospital was nearly bankrupt and was losing patients to other area facilities. Shortly after assuming the role, Jane brought the board of directors together and improved the hospital's financial stability and performance, made technological upgrades, and improved staff accommodations and morale. Through these successes, the surrounding community was presented with expanded care and access to vital medical services.

By 1997, Jane's leadership put the hospital in the fiscal position to add a new unit called

The Family Birthplace. This state of the art facility encouraged birth as a family experience and was shortly followed by the Kellner Wing. The Kellner Wing housed the Emergency Department and Surgical Services. These important expansions proved the hospital was poised for a bright future.

Jane further worked to expand the hospital's physician network that focused on patient-centric care and a nearly fully integrated system.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Ehrlich has distinguished herself throughout her remarkable twenty-plus-year career with Columbia Memorial Hospital where she has expanded care and choice in Upstate New York. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her countless achievements during a remarkable career, thank her for what she did to expand healthcare access for my home county and the surrounding area, and wish her all the best in her retirement.

SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in recognition of one of our nation's most iconic institutions as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. The San Diego Zoo is one of our city's most cherished landmarks, and has been consistently recognized among the world's top zoos. But it is much more than a zoo—it is an economic driver, it educates thousands of children and teachers, and it includes the largest zoo-based conservation research center in the world. It is a place where generations of families have come to appreciate and celebrate the great significance of our planet's most amazing creatures.

The San Diego Zoo was founded in 1916 by Dr. Harry M. Wegeforth, Dr. Paul Wegeforth, Dr. Fred Baker, Dr. Joseph C. Thompson, and naturalist Frank Stephens. It began as a sanctuary for animals abandoned after the 1915–1916 Panama-California Exposition held in San Diego, and it quickly became a home for exotic animals donated by private owners, purchased from circuses and other zoos, and recovered from challenging situations in the wild. It is now one of the largest and most important institutions in our city of San Diego and in the State of California.

Under current President and CEO Doug Myers' stewardship and vision, the San Diego Zoo has transformed into San Diego Zoo Global, an internationally acclaimed conservation organization. With the mission to "Save species worldwide by uniting our expertise in animal care and conservation science with our dedication to inspiring a passion for nature," this truly global organization aids recovery efforts around the world. San Diego Zoo

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Global's Institute for Conservation Research took the lead in saving the California condor by designing and implementing a successful captive-breeding program. Thanks to their tireless efforts, a species that was on the brink of extinction 25 years ago now has a population of over 420, with more than 200 living in the wild in California, Arizona, Utah, and Mexico.

San Diego Zoo Global is also investing in the future of conservation. Its Global Wildlife Biobank, which stores frozen viable cell cultures, tissue samples, and DNA of more than 10,000 individual animals representing 1,000 species, is perhaps the most important biological vault in the world. This invaluable resource will help San Diego Zoo Global in its mission to lead the fight against extinction, and researchers, universities, and scientific institutions around the world will use it for generations to come.

San Diego Zoo Global is not only a catalyst for wildlife conservation, it is an economic driver, attracting more than five million visitors annually and employing our citizens in its parks and research facilities. In 2014, a San Diego Taxpayers Association research study reported that San Diego Zoo Global had an annual economic impact of \$1.2 billion—roughly the GDP of Australia. It is one of our city's largest and most stable private employers with 1,610 full-time employees, approximately a quarter of whom have been with the institution for more than 20 years.

In addition, San Diego Zoo Global is making an immediate and lasting impact in our nation's classrooms, producing educational materials for children and hosting hands-on conservation research workshops for middle and high school teachers from around the country. Educating and inspiring the next generation to be passionate about wildlife conservation is vital for long-term conservation efforts, and it all begins with one teacher inspiring one classroom.

David Attenborough once said, "People are not going to care about animal conservation unless they think that animals are worthwhile." San Diego Zoo Global and their tireless dedication to saving species has not only taught us all that animals are indeed worthwhile—they have set a new standard for zoological institutions worldwide to adopt and share their commitment to wildlife conservation. San Diego Zoo Global has educated generations to appreciate and understand that all creatures, from the African elephant to the kangaroo rat, are vitally important to life here on Earth—and that we all have a role to play in their care and conservation.

On behalf of San Diego's Congressional Delegation, I graciously commend San Diego Zoo Global on their 100th Anniversary, for being a beacon for our city of San Diego—driving our economy, educating our students, and bringing the world's animals into our lives, our classrooms, and our consciousness—and leading the fight to end extinction.

RECOGNIZING OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today to recognize the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular, those who defended our country. Every President since Kennedy has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May, asking the entire nation to pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs, and other such activities. Centers such as the Salvation Army Golden Age Center in Buffalo, New York are dedicated to serving those who have given so much.

When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthday. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing. A meeting in April 1963 between President John F. Kennedy and members of the National Council of Senior Citizens led to designating May as "Senior Citizens Month," the prelude to "Older Americans Month."

Older Americans Month includes a community of older Americans who deserve recognition for their contributions to our nation and recognizes that older adults are trailblazers—advocating for themselves, their peers, and their communities—paving the way for future generations. This act is committed to raising awareness about issues facing older Americans and helping all individuals to thrive in communities of their choice for as long as possible. We appreciate the value of inclusion and support in helping older adults successfully contribute to and benefit from their communities.

I wholeheartedly believe that our community can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of all ages by, promoting and engaging in activity, wellness, and social involvement; emphasizing home and community-based services that support independent living and ensuring community members can benefit from the contributions and experience of older adults.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize Older Americans Month. I urge every resident to take time this month to acknowledge older adults and the people who serve them as powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to our community, such as those at the Salvation Army Golden Age Center.

HONORING LORRAINE MIVILLE IN CELEBRATION OF HER 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Lorraine Miville in celebration of her reaching the milestone 85th birthday.

As she reflects on the great memories and milestones that have highlighted the past eighty five years, I know she will think fondly on all that she's accomplished and the positive impact she's had on New Hampshire.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Miville on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LIVING LEGACY OF ROSE SCHETROMPF ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to celebrate Rose Schetrompf of Bedford County for recently turning 100 years old. As this tremendous milestone illustrates, Rose is truly a remarkable person. She is a loving parent and grandparent, a long-time small business owner, and a pillar in the community.

Starting in the 1950s, at the Murphy building in Everett, Pennsylvania, Rose opened up Rose Schetrompf Beauty Shop, which she subsequently managed until she was 95 years old. While the location of Rose Schetrompf Beauty Shop may have moved around Everett over the years, one thing always stayed the same: her business's reliable and quality work, which is evidenced by the fact that some of Rose's most loyal customers went to the shop for over 40 years.

I think everyone who went to Rose over the years has their own story, but one that stands out is her commitment to serving her customers. Nothing could stop Rose, including a broken bone. As the story goes, when Rose sustained a broken wrist, she worked right through the injury instead of taking time off, like many people with a physically demanding job might have. Additionally, she is known for her continued willingness to learn the newest hairstyles, which ensured her long-standing business success over the years. When Rose isn't working, she has always been known for finding ways to give back to the community, and that is something that may be just as memorable as her beauty shop.

When people are asked to describe Rose, one of the first things they say is that she is a genuinely great person. During Rose's recent birthday celebration, one of her grandchildren asked her what she attributed her long and full life to. Rose's answer was, "hard work." So today on behalf of the people of

Bedford County I would like to thank and recognize Rose for her hard work and role in the community.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA'S NEWLY NATURALIZED CITIZENS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty-one individuals who will take their oath of citizenship on Friday, May 13, 2016. This memorable occasion, presided over by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen, will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On May 13, 2016, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Inger Adriana Hamilton, Allen Grayson Oliver, Filip Kaevski, Deepa Majumdar, Mary Kumba Narsu Nyuma, Harnek Singh Bhangoo, Leda Louie Medera Sarmiento, Reynaldo Zavala Reyes, Dhruvi Dharmesh Shah, Shaymaa Kareem Abdulameer, Saima Ali Khan, Lyubov Mykolayivna Shteyn, Obren Gutovic, Eugenio Miranda Leon, Andrea Leal Espino, Carlos Grageda Arzate, Mary Cruz Aguilar, Mia Bella Alvarado, Arturo Amezcua, Elena Leona Bowser, Sherry Chen, Jose Estrada, Fatima Dinora Vazquez, Maria Concepcion Gonzalez, Tin Mang Hlawnceu, Emilia Tabas Jagier, Jesse Jimenez, Mirlym Italia Milfort, Dimitar Vladimir Paunche, Rose Tran, and Chinelo Marilyn Udokoro.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on May 13, 2016. They, too, are American citi-

zens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING JACK BERITZHOFF

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jack Beritzhoff, who passed away on Thursday, April 21 in San Rafael, California at the age of 97. A Merchant Marine who served in both World War II and the Korean War, Mr. Beritzhoff advocated for the federal government to recognize his service and the service of nearly a quarter million other WWII Merchant Mariners.

After a sea accident curtailed his Navy service, Mr. Beritzhoff joined the war effort as a Merchant Marine, a civilian sailor on ships carrying military cargo and supplies. During the war, he and his fellow Mariners delivered 203 million tons of materials, including bombs, guns, tanks, and troops, at great personal risk. Although the WWII Merchant Marines faced the second highest casualty rate, they were not officially recognized as Veterans. During the war, President Franklin Roosevelt had promised that the Mariners would receive full Veterans' benefits, but when he passed away that promise died with him. Mr. Beritzhoff and his fellow mariners were left out of the G.I. Bill, and it was not until an act of Congress in 1988 that they became eligible for Veteran status, which allowed them to enter VA hospitals, among other services.

In the years since, Mr. Beritzhoff was a fierce advocate for recognizing the Mariners' contributions to the war, lobbying the White House and Congress and writing a book about his experience at sea. Last year, my colleagues JANICE HAHN and JOHN DUNCAN introduced H.R. 563, the World War II Merchant Mariners Act. If passed, the bill would recognize the 3,000–5,000 eligible WWII Merchant Mariners “for their bravery and sacrifice,” and award them \$25,000 each.

A lifelong Californian, Mr. Beritzhoff will be remembered for his sense of humor, love for his family, and steadfast devotion to his cause. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and express our deepest condolences to his surviving family and friends.

HONORING REVEREND JON PEDIGO

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of Ordination of our pastor and friend, Reverend Jon Pedigo.

Reverend Pedigo currently serves as a pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in East San Jose and has been a fixture in our com-

munity's spiritual life for over two decades. His dedicated and adroit leadership in the issues of immigrant and workers' rights, LGBT rights, and a focus on carving a path forward to a more peaceful world have been well known and a source of pride throughout our community. As a pastor at St. Julie Billiart Parish in South San Jose, Reverend Pedigo delivered his homily on the story of Bartimaeus in this way: “Physical sight was Bartimaeus's issue,” he said, “but the real sin was the blindness in the seeing-people around him. Seeing-people see skin color, status, age, gender, weight, orientation, education level, etc. They do not see the real you.” Reverend Pedigo has been and continues to be a strong advocate for equal rights and fairness before our laws and in our culture.

As he now serves the community at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, a spiritual haven to many working class immigrant families, Reverend Pedigo helps draw together multiple generations of parishioners of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and preaches inclusivity and mutual respect in the face of the issues that sometimes divide our society. “In a time of hate, we must be love,” he has said. “At a time of exclusion, we must be inclusive.”

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to honor Reverend Pedigo for his twenty-five years of service to our community. Reverend Jon Pedigo is an exemplar of selfless service to others. With his dedicated work, he has served to improve the lives of the parishioners who come to him for solace, respite, and guidance. I know that his many friends and colleagues join me in recognizing this milestone in his life.

RECOGNIZING APRIL 17 AS WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

**HON. SCOTT H. PETERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 17 as World Hemophilia Day.

Hemophilia is among the range of disorders that impacts fewer than 200,000 annually—thereby classifying it as a rare disease. It is a genetic disorder in which the blood doesn't clot, causing excessive bleeding and easy bruising. Without proper treatment, it can lead to organ damage, serious joint and muscle problems, and terrible pain. More than 20,000 Americans suffer from hemophilia, including an estimated 400 newborns.

In my district, the Hemophilia Association of San Diego County provides educational programming and support services for families in San Diego. They have worked with national organizations and industry partners to improve healthcare, support research, and provide necessary resources for the bleeding disorders community since 1973.

Today, there are about 141 federally-funded treatment centers and programs across the country, including two Hemophilia Treatment Centers in San Diego; Rady Children's Hospital and the University of California San Diego Health. The financial burden for individuals with severe hemophilia is often \$250,000

a year or more. It is important to acknowledge the financial burden for individuals with severe hemophilia and their families. We must continue to invest in research and support efforts to make treatment more accessible to help improve the quality of life for people with Hemophilia.

RECOGNIZING ROSEANNE BUTLER-SMITH AS SHE IS HONORED BY THE AMHERST WOMEN'S INTER-CLUB COUNCIL

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Roseanne Butler-Smith for her honorable service and dedication to our communities, especially our libraries, on the occasion of the Kentucky Derby Luncheon at the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, hosted by the Amherst Women's Interclub Council.

Ms. Butler-Smith earned her B.A. degree in History from Canisius College, as well as a Master's in Library Science and Information from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is an active member of the community who loves to garden, travel, and even serves as a Boy Scout Leader with Troop 468. She currently serves as the Director of the Amherst Public Libraries, which includes the Williamsville Branch Library. Ms. Butler-Smith is a member of the New York State Library Association, American Library Association and Public Library Association.

In 2005, budget cuts eliminated funding for the Williamsville Library, which had been a fixture of the town for over 100 years. Ms. Butler-Smith, along with a few dedicated others, raised funds to enable the library to remain open. Afterward, the Williamsville Business Association's Community Enhancement Committee founded the "Love Your Village; Love your Library" movement in support of the Williamsville Library. In 2012, the first annual gala fundraiser for the library was held. In the last five years, the event has grown enormously, and has successfully raised thousands of dollars for the Williamsville branch.

As Amherst Library Director, Ms. Butler-Smith manages the use of this funding. Ms. Butler-Smith's leadership has resulted in great accomplishments for the Williamsville library, including the ability for the library to remain open every Saturday throughout the year.

Ms. Butler-Smith's dedication to our community is equaled only by her commitment to her family. With her husband of 25 years, Gordie Smith, they have raised three children: Ryan, Conner, and Colleen.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the work of Mrs. Roseanne Butler-Smith. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing thanks for her admirable work for Western New York.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2016 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FIRST ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

**HON. DAVE BRAT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 39 Henrico County, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the United States Armed Forces.

Anderson, Darius; Burch, Jayvon; Byron, Charles; Carter, Samuel; Castro, Juan; Christiani, Josiah; Clune, Thomas; Collins, Michael; Dickerson, Carlos; Englehart, Austin; Feggins, Roman; Ferguson, Kobe; Goodwin, Deberry; Gootee, Nabeel; Grammer, Cameron; Hairiston, Bronzel; Hall, Charles; Hopper, Cameron; James, Donovan; Johnson, Dustin; Kelly, Terrell; Kern, Joshua; Lane, Desmond; Lopez, Arnulfo; Lumpkin, Eric; Marks, Preston; Martin, Kolton; Mayer, Ryan; Miller, Dion; Morin, Kobe; Peatross, Jahmal; Porter, John; Scheerer, Grayson; Stanley, Markus; Testroet, David; Tyler, Gavin; Warren, Nyquan; Whiteside, Henry; and Williams, Michael.

These students will be honored by the Henrico Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their Annual Military Enlisted Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, May 10 at Hermitage High School in Henrico, VA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

CONGRATULATING JEFF GRANT ON WINNING A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Jeff Grant on winning a Golden Apple award.

Jeff Grant, A.P. biology, anatomy and physiology teacher at Downers Grove North High School, was awarded with a 2016 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. The Golden Apple is awarded to only twelve high school teachers in Illinois and is a testament

to Jeff's commitment to enriching the lives of our nation's students.

Jeff, a Downers Grove North grad himself, has invested his time and energy into connecting students with science, experts from the field, and real hands-on research. His classroom is filled with pictures of Nobel Prize winners and astronauts, many of which have written to his class and sent personal messages to students after Jeff reached out to them. Downers Grove North principal Scott Kasik described him saying, "He's always searching for ways to connect kids with science, to make science real, to get them excited about the wonder of science. Jeff is a self-described science geek, but I think he's made being a science geek a really cool thing to be."

We as a nation benefit greatly from teachers like Jeff, who dedicate themselves to the pursuit of academic excellence among our students today.

Mr. Speaker and my distinguished colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating Jeff Grant on receiving a Golden Apple award.

AN AMERICAN WITH A FELONY CHARGE IS STILL AN AMERICAN

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today on this Restoration Tuesday, I rise to acknowledge the continued voter suppression around the country during this election year and the ongoing battle for protection of the constitutional right to vote.

Across the country, voting polls have been shut down and voters have been shut out. New voter ID laws have been passed and eligible voters have been passed up. The American people want to vote. With so many new state laws that have made it harder for voters to get to the polls, we must take a hard look around and ask the question—why don't we want people to vote? Why make voting for eligible voters harder and not easier? The leaders in Congress need to have an answer to this question. Suppression of the right to vote is especially un-democratic and ultimately un-American.

Not only are voting rights being attacked through its process, but there are Americans in this country that have been targeted as well. A felony charge does not automatically make someone any less American. Why then, should Americans who have served their time be removed from the democratic process? Just last month, Governor McAuliffe of Virginia had a response to this question; and his action made a clear statement—former felons are still Americans and they still have rights. Faced now with not only severe scrutiny but a lawsuit as well, Governor McAuliffe boldly did what he believes to be constitutional, democratic and right when he restored the voting rights of all Virginians with a prior felony conviction who fully served their time and have been released from supervised probation or parole.

The state of Virginia is not alone. On March 10 of this year, Maryland also restored the right to vote for an estimated 40,000 individuals with past felony convictions. On that date, Maryland joined 13 other states as well as the District of Columbia in putting a stop to this continued disenfranchisement that plagues the majority of states in the country, including Alabama. We may be faced with great opposition, but fear of a fight is not an excuse to run away from doing what is right.

I don't have to remind anyone that this is an election year. But when I look around and see the ongoing suppression of the right to vote, I feel obligated to remind us all of what is at stake in this election. Every vote counts. Everyone who calls the USA their home will have to deal with the consequences of this election. Americans who are convicted felons will have to deal with the consequences. They should not have to deal with these consequences in silence. They too have a voice and they too must be heard.

Voting rights need protection and eligible voters need proponents of the Constitution and the democratic process to fight for them—to fight for their rights. The suppression needs to stop, the oppression needs to stop and the excuses need to stop. There is too much at stake this election year and Congress needs to stand up and do something about it now.

On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues should join the 168 Members of Congress and support H.R. 2867—the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. Let's restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is the right thing to do.

#### HONORING NELS JOHNSON

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nels Johnson of Fairfax, California, for more than 40 years of outstanding reporting at the Marin Independent Journal (IJ), the largest daily newspaper in Marin County. Mr. Johnson's columns and articles have sparked conversations and changed policies in our community for decades, and his presence in the paper will be sorely missed.

A graduate of Rutgers University in New Jersey, Mr. Johnson initially came to California in a Volkswagen van on a cross-country road trip in the early 1970s. After working briefly at a weekly paper in Tiburon, he joined the IJ as a reporter in May of 1972, where he continued to work through his retirement on April 28 of this year.

Mr. Johnson's encyclopedic knowledge of Marin County and its government is unparalleled. During his tenure, he covered some of the largest stories in the North Bay. From the Trailside Killer to the Mount Vision Fire to monitoring Supervisors' expense accounts, Mr. Johnson was at the forefront of the news he

covered—and once, famously, became part of the story himself. When an elderly couple in Inverness disappeared in 1994, his reporting led investigators to find the truck in nearby Lake Nicasio.

Throughout my years as a California State Assemblyman and now as Member of Congress, I always found his coverage to be tough, fearless, and fair. He often used his voice to empower the voiceless, particularly in elevating threats facing local fisheries and fishers. I appreciate the unbridled passion for journalism Mr. Johnson brought to the Marin IJ, and his honest approach to both big and small stories.

I know I am not the only one of his readers who will miss Mr. Johnson's dogged reporting, insight into local news and issues, and, of course, his column on fishing. Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we honor and thank Nels Johnson for his immeasurable contributions to civic life in Marin County and California.

#### RECOGNIZING DEBORAH HABES AS SHE IS HONORED BY THE AMHERST WOMEN'S INTERCLUB COUNCIL

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Deborah Habes for her honorable service and dedication to our community on the occasion of the Kentucky Derby Luncheon at the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, hosted by the Amherst Women's Interclub Council.

A resident of the Village of Williamsville since 1977, Ms. Habes has been the cornerstone to her community for several years. She has been the Village of Williamsville Deputy Clerk since 2001, and previously occupied the role of Village Building Department Clerk from 1991 to 2001.

In addition to her official duties, Ms. Habes volunteers extensively. She is a member of the Williamsville Business Association (WBA) on the Board of Directors. Currently she is Chair of the WBA Community Enhancement Committee, Chair of the 'Love Your Village, Love Your Library Mad Hatter Returns!' Fundraiser Gala since 2012, volunteer member of the Village Beautification Committee since 1990, and Volunteer Chair of the Village of Williamsville Garden Walk since 2010, and Volunteer Chair of the annual Village/WBA Main Street in Bloom Project. As a village resident, village volunteer and a village employee, she aids in this committee's mission to bring together Village residents, businesses and the Village government as a unified community force.

In 2005, drastic budget cuts eliminated the branch from county funding. After the great, and much appreciated efforts of other dedicated community members enough funds were raised to allow the library to remain open, but with very limited hours. Under Ms. Habes' leadership the committee picked up the reins, and continued to support this library

by starting the 'Love Your Village; Love Your Library' movement and presented the inaugural Gala Fundraiser inside the Williamsville Library in February 2012. They have now celebrated 5 years of increasing success for this now signature Village-centric event, and the Committee is happy to report that through a combined effort, thousands of dollars have been raised in the last 5 years solely for the support of the Williamsville Branch.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the work of Mrs. Deborah Habes. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our thanks for her admirable work to better the Village of Williamsville.

#### HONORING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2016

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise to commend numerous exceptional leaders from Indiana who were honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame's Class of 2016. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as this year's inductees include: Greg Ludkovsky, Frank Schilling, Harley Snyder, JoAnn Birdzell, Urschel Laboratories, Incorporated, and State Senator Earline Rogers. For their many contributions to the advancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees were recognized at a ceremony at the Radisson Hotel Celebrity Ballroom in Merrillville, Indiana, on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

Since 2007, Greg Ludkovsky has been vice president of global research and development at ArcelorMittal. He has been a driving force for global customer relations, which has changed ArcelorMittal from a materials supplier to a solutions supplier. Greg works directly with automotive original equipment manufacturers to develop one-of-a-kind steel. In addition, he has been a leader in engaging East Chicago school students by bringing them into the facility to teach them about the science and technology that takes place at ArcelorMittal each day.

Frank Schilling is the president of Schilling Home Improvement Center. Schilling Home Improvement Center has been very successful and currently serves more than 400 contractors. In addition, Schilling Development currently has 1,000 lots ready for housing development in Northwest Indiana. Frank and his wife, Shirley, have put much time and effort into building the Shrine of Christ's Passion, located in Saint John. This moving interactive prayer trail illustrates the last days of the life of Jesus Christ. Frank is very active in charitable organizations and is involved with the Women's Crisis Center and the American Heart Association.

Harley Snyder is a real estate and land development executive and the president of HSC, Incorporated. He recently completed ten years as the governor's founding appointee to the Northwest Indiana Regional Development

Authority. In this position, he worked on the development of the Gary/Chicago International Airport, as well as the expansion and improvement of the South Shore commuter rail line. Throughout his truly impressive career, Harley has helped to develop some 3,000 homes in Lake and Porter Counties. In 1976, he became the first chairman of the Realtor's Equal Opportunity Committee, which created the first non-discrimination agreement. This helped to ensure that people of any race or religion could own a home. In addition, Harley has served on the board of Valparaiso University for twenty years, is a member of the Porter County Community Foundation, and was the first chairman of the Northwest Indiana Forum.

JoAnn Birdzell is the chief executive officer (CEO) for Saint Catherine Hospital in East Chicago. JoAnn has been a leader in healthcare administration for many years. In 1995, she was named senior vice president of operations for Ancilla Systems, where she oversaw seven hospitals throughout Indiana and Illinois. In 2001, she assisted in the merger of Saint Catherine Hospital and Saint Mary Medical Center with the Community Healthcare System. As CEO of Saint Catherine Hospital, JoAnn leads through modern management techniques and follows the hospital's mission to serve all in need of medical care. In addition, she is a member of the Indiana Hospital Association Board, has helped to promote Medicaid expansion in Indiana, and assisted in the founding of the Nazareth Home in East Chicago.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is Urschel Laboratories, Incorporated. For over 100 years, Urschel Laboratories has been known for its innovation, excellent customer service, and generosity. Recently, the company completed construction of its new \$80 million facility. In March of this year, the Urschel family sold the company to its employees in order to ensure a secure retirement for each of them. In addition, the Urschel family has given much of its time, effort, and contributions throughout the years to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Porter County, the Valparaiso Family YMCA, and the William E. Urschel Pavilion ice rink in Valparaiso.

The recipient of the Partners in Progress Award and the keynote speaker for the event is the Honorable Earline Rogers, Indiana State Senator. For decades, Senator Rogers has been one of the Indiana General Assembly's most valuable and impactful leaders. Earline served eight years in the Indiana House of Representatives before she was elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1990, and the effect she has had on the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond is truly inspiring and immeasurable. To name just a few of her countless accomplishments, Senator Rogers helped to create casino gaming in Indiana, co-authored riverboat gaming legislation, helped to raise the age at which the death penalty can be applied in Indiana to the age of eighteen, assisted with the creation of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, and has been instrumental in major education reform. In addition, Senator Rogers serves as a member of the Northwest Indiana Transportation Study Commission and the Indiana Lakes Management Work Group, and is president of the board of trustees for the Gary YWCA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding leaders upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. They are truly deserving of this honor, and for their exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, each of them is worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING JUDGE TERRY TALLMAN FOR HIS SERVICE TO MORROW COUNTY AND THE STATE OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Judge Terry Tallman for his many years of dedicated public service in Morrow County. Terry is set to retire at the end of his term after serving 18 years as Morrow County Judge, the longest in history, and I would like to pay tribute to his leadership for the people of Morrow County and the Columbia Basin.

Terry grew up working on his family's farm in Adrian, Oregon. After graduating high school in 1963, Terry continued working on the farm until he joined the Navy amidst the Vietnam War in 1969. Serving aboard the USS *Kitty Hawk*, Terry was responsible for maintaining the ship's ultrasound systems and making repairs on the aircraft, skills he enjoyed learning and putting to use.

It was through the Navy that Terry met Cheryl, his wife of 42 years. While stationed in California the couple was introduced by Cheryl's brother with whom Terry served. The two were married in 1974 following Terry's discharge from the Navy. Terry then took the opportunity to attend college at both the University of Oregon and Oregon State University before returning to the family farm in Adrian. With the continuing development of irrigated agriculture in the Columbia Basin at the time, Terry and his brother saw a wonderful opportunity to put their skills to use on their own, and, in 1978, Terry and Cheryl moved to the Boardman area.

After establishing a successful custom farming operation in Boardman, Terry began to take interest in serving his community. His efforts and success on the City of Boardman Planning Commission led numerous community members to encourage him to run for Mayor of the City of Boardman, a position he won and held for 5 years. In 1999, the position of County Judge was vacated and Terry successfully ran for the seat.

Since then, Terry's career has been marked by an impressive long term vision for Morrow County. His skill at administering the county budget and staying fiscally responsible has left the county in a markedly better financial position. Under Terry's leadership, Morrow County has seen substantial growth in a broad range of economic activities from wind turbine projects to value-added agriculture processing and data centers.

With federal forests, an Army chemical depot and a Navy bombing range located

within the county, communities experience plenty of federal hurdles while striving to grow their economies. Terry and I worked closely on many of these issues as he made sure the needs of the local communities were not ignored by the federal government. Throughout, I appreciated and counted on his counsel and suggestions as we plotted a path forward to a solution. Whether it was wind energy and transmission line development on the edge of the bombing range, or ensuring the Army turns the Umatilla Depot land over to the communities as planned, I knew I would find Terry in the middle of the issue working to foster economic growth and balance the national security needs at the sites. Thanks to Terry's dedicated efforts over the past 18 years to tackle these issues and invest in the future, Morrow County has welcomed that growth with room to take advantage of new opportunities ahead.

As Terry begins his transition into retirement, I know he will look forward to free time to spend with his 3 children and grandchild, as well as plenty of time to spend doing what he loves on his farm again.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in recognizing and thanking my good friend, Judge Terry Tallman, for his many years of leadership and wise counsel in Morrow County.

HONORING CHARLES BLACK

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Charles Black, who passed away on Monday, March 14 in Corte Madera. Born in Sydney, Australia, Mr. Black was a World War II Veteran who supported American troops in the Pacific with the Royal Australian Air Force. In his retirement, he and his wife settled in Marin County, where they continued to visit new places, sail, and enjoy life and family.

Born in 1926, Mr. Black developed an early love for travel and boating. His family spent summers in New Zealand, and at the age of 10, took a 9-month trip around the world—which included a visit to the almost-completed Golden Gate Bridge. As a teenager, he witnessed WWII firsthand when a Japanese submarine fired torpedoes on American ships. When Mr. Black turned 18, he joined the Royal Australian Air Force to fight with the Allied troops in the Pacific Theatre.

Following the war, he worked as a purser on ships sailing throughout the South Pacific and Asia, serving his entire career with Burns Philip. In 1972, he married Joanne Holloway of Corte Madera. In 1982, they began spending half the year in Sydney and half in Tiburon, and later settled full-time in Marin County. There, Mr. Black was an active member of the Tiburon Rotary Club, and was able to pursue his passion for sailing.

Mr. Black will be remembered for his extraordinary kindness, spirit of adventure, and love for his family. He is survived by his children Liza and John, and his grandchildren Thomas, David and Claire. For his civic engagement and service during WWII, it is appropriate that we pay tribute to Charles Black

today and express our deepest condolences to his surviving family and friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL  
DREW T. DOOLIN

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the service of Colonel Drew T. Doolin, of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency, or JIDA, who will retire from the United States Marine Corps on July 1, 2016, after 30 years of distinguished and faithful service to our nation. Colonel Doolin significantly contributed to the global fight against Improvised Explosive Devices during his final tour of duty as JIDA's Chief of Staff. His direction and oversight were crucial in ensuring our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines serving in harm's way had the necessary capabilities and training to protect them from improvised threats.

Colonel Doolin's service has spanned a variety of command and staff billets to include Chief of Staff and assistant Chief of Staff for Aviation Ground Support at Third Marine Aircraft Wing; Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Group 37; Commanding Officer, Combat Logistics Battalion 7 during two combat deployments to Iraq; Director, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Exercise Training Branch J-7; Director, Lifecycle Management Branch, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Director, Logistics Operations Team, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Commandant of the Marine Corps' Executive Research Fellow at the Brookings Institute; and Military Aide to Vice President Dick Cheney.

Colonel Doolin's decorations include the Legion of Merit Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of second award, the Joint Staff Badge, and the Vice Presidential Service Badge.

By his side throughout his successful career and arduous deployments have been Maribeth, his wonderful wife of 28 years, and their children Kendra, Ryan, Delayna and Caroline. Their love and support has aided and strengthened Colonel Doolin throughout his service and I congratulate them as well on this special occasion. I am proud to share in the celebration of Colonel Doolin's military career, and as he and his family move to this next chapter of his life, I wish Colonel Doolin "fair winds and following seas" as he embarks on his future endeavors. Semper Fidelis Marine.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF JAMES  
BURKUSH AND HIS SERVICE TO  
THE CITIZENS OF NEW HAMP-  
SHIRE

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Granite State first responder for his thirty-nine years of service to the Manchester Fire Department in Manchester, NH.

Chief James Burkush joined the Manchester Fire Department in 1977 and became Chief in 2008. Firefighter Burkush was a standout member of the department and worked through the ranks of the department over the next thirty one years before being appointed Chief on February 19, 2008. Throughout his storied career Chief Burkush responded to many different calls, but it is the efficiency and professionalism with which Chief Burkush handled every situation, no matter how dire, that makes him an exceptional leader and role model. Chief Burkush remains an exemplary public servant, and I applaud his dedication to making his community a better, safer place to live.

On April 29, 2016 Chief Burkush retired from the Manchester Fire Department with thirty nine years of service to the people of Manchester and the Granite State. He will now take on the role of Chief with the Hooksett Fire and Rescue Department. On behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of New Hampshire, I thank him for his dedicated service to the community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARTY  
MARASCO'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
AND RETIREMENT FROM THE  
ALTOONA-BLAIR COUNTY DEVEL-  
OPMENT CORPORATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Martin Marasco's many invaluable contributions to and retirement from the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation.

Mr. Marasco has been the President and CEO of the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, known as ABCD Corp, since 1994. His work has been fundamental in helping the industrial and commercial economic expansion in Blair County. Specifically, under his leadership, ABCD Corp. has facilitated over 800 economic development projects, totaling in excess of \$1.5 billion in total project costs that have resulted in the creation and retention of over 19,000 jobs. Thanks to his hard work, Blair County has seen the growth and introduction of businesses, which in turn have helped improve the standard of living for many families and individuals in Blair County.

Among his many responsibilities, Mr. Marasco was the Executive Director of the

Blair County Industrial Authority and Blair County General Authority, which are public agencies that help provide information and pathways for public funding and taxable and tax-exempt financing.

Furthermore, I am happy to highlight that this dedication has not gone unnoticed, as Mr. Marasco has been the recipient of awards from the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA), Boy Scouts of America, Kiwanis Club, Italian Heritage Society and others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Mr. Marasco, who has devoted his life to serving Blair County. On behalf of the many people he has positively impacted, I offer our tremendous gratitude. I am proud to serve constituents like Mr. Marasco, and wish him well in retirement.

HONORING NATIONAL TEACHER  
APPRECIATION WEEK

**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week as National Teacher Appreciation Week. This is an opportunity to demonstrate our heartfelt gratitude to all the exceptional men and women who dedicate their life's work towards the education of our youth. As a former member of the Miami-Dade County's School Board, I know firsthand the commitment and sacrifices our teachers make to ensure that our students have a solid educational foundation. Our teachers are the key to guiding our students in becoming the productive citizens and future leaders of our nation. With each lesson they teach, they bring wisdom, instill growth, inspire love, and enlighten the path for our youth. It is with profound honor and humility that I thank teachers universally for being mentors and motivators.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. GERVAIS  
OXENDINE

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend Mr. Gervais Oxendine and to commemorate the legacy of service to North Carolina he left behind.

Mr. Gervais Oxendine ("Mr. Gervais" as he was affectionately referred to by folks in Robeson County) was born on August 18, 1943 in Robeson County. After growing up in the area and attending Pembroke State College (now UNC Pembroke), Gervais was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He served his country for four years during the Vietnam War aboard the USS *Forrestal*.

Mr. Gervais' lifetime of service to our country continued even after his enlistment ended. His son, Eric Oxendine, is currently a U.S. Navy Captain. Gervais was also an integral

member of the Lumbee Warriors Association, a local non-profit group that helps veterans across the region who are struggling with PTSD. Additionally, Gervais was a lifetime member of VFW Post 2843 in Pembroke.

Gervais was a successful businessman, working more than 32 years in key management positions for Abbott Laboratories. Gervais played an important role in the company's expansion into the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and received Abbott Lab's President's Award on four separate occasions.

More than any of his notable career or military accomplishments, folks across North Carolina knew Gervais as a man who fought fiercely for Robeson County and the Lumbee Native American Tribe. Mr. Gervais served on the UNC Pembroke Board of Trustees for eight years, during which time he worked closely with North Carolina Board of Governors officials to advocate for UNCP. He was also a key leader for issues facing the Lumbee Tribe, and aggressively supported efforts for federal tribal recognition, along with additional state and federal resources for his people.

Mr. Gervais was seen as the go-to-guy in Robeson County when it came to turning political ideas into real policy reforms to help the region. He was one of my first supporters in the area, and I'll never be able to repay the debt of gratitude I owe for his friendship and counsel over the years. I'm going to dearly miss my friend, Gervais Oxendine, but I know his legacy will live on through his wonderful wife, Dr. Olivia Holmes Oxendine, his two sons and three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Mr. Gervais Oxendine for his service to Robeson County and his commitment to bettering the lives of everyone in our community and state.

HONORING PETER "P-B" BIELAK

**HON. CHRIS COLLINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peter "P-B" Bielak of Washington, D.C., who recently received the Silver Beaver Award for his outstanding contributions to the Boy Scouts of America here in the District of Columbia.

P-B has dedicated his life to furthering the scouting movement and preserving its storied legacy in the United States. A Scout Historian for over 40 years and enthusiastic vexillologist, P-B is the person scouts go to with questions about old patches, uniforms and flags. A symbol of his dedication to getting more boys involved in scouts, P-B recently helped found the Helping Other Scout Troops Incorporate Needed Gear (HOSTING) program, which collects uniforms, sleeping bags, backpacks, tents, and cooking gear for financially needy youth and adults all over the D.C. area. Due to its overwhelming success, the HOSTING program outgrew its warehouse space and plans to increase its imprint on the community.

P-B is also the founder of the History Of Scouting Trail (H.O.S.T.), located in Wash-

ington, D.C. This set of four interactive hikes allows scouts and leaders to learn about the founders of the Boy Scouts of America while exploring the nation's capital.

As Chairman of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I have had the privilege of working with P-B on a number of occasions to promote scouting on a national level. P-B embodies the twelve points of the Scout Law, so I know he is always prepared and doing his best in every aspect of life.

A role model for young scouts, P-B is a tireless advocate for the D.C. scouting community. His receipt of the Silver Beaver Award is certainly well-deserved. I congratulate him on this honor and look forward to working with him to increase the positive impact scouting can have on our nation's young men.

WILLIAM P. THOMAS

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of William P. Thomas, of the Third Congressional District, and to express my sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones he has left behind, and to recognize his service, as well as his career and community engagement.

William, a resident of Stafford Township, New Jersey, was a graduate of Cardinal Hayes Memorial High School in New York City and attended Princeton University before he enlisted in the U.S. Army to defend our country during World War II as part of the Fifth Ranger Battalion. For his honorable service, he received five medals, including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. When he returned home from the war, determined to provide for his family, he started his own company, William P. Thomas Builders. The company was successful and completed projects, which included 500 homes, motels, a 55-unit ocean-front condominium in Ship Bottom and work on the Ocean County Courthouse. He also developed Deer Lake Park in Stafford.

William began selling real estate in 1953 and was extremely prosperous, eventually becoming president of the New Jersey Association of Realtors and the New Jersey Shore Multiple Listing. Thomas ultimately became the broker-owner of Prudential Zack Shore Properties in Toms River, which recently became Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Zack Shore Realtors, a business now overseen by his son and sister.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have had William P. Thomas as a hardworking and dedicated member of their community. It is with a heavy heart that I commemorate his honorable service to our country, as well as his fruitful career and life, and recognize the lasting legacy that he has left behind, before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING ZIM SCHWARTZE ON RECEIVING THE MISSOURI 9-1-1 DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Springfield-Greene County, Missouri, 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Director Zim Schwartze on receiving the Missouri 9-1-1 Director of the Year Award.

The 9-1-1 Director of the Year award is given annually at the Missouri Public Safety Communications Conference, and honors a director who has performed in an exceptional manner for that year. The winner is chosen by a combination of Missouri Chapters of Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, the National Emergency Number Association and the Missouri 9-1-1 Directors Association.

Schwartz retired as a captain in the Columbia Police Department before her current role as emergency communications director. She had previously served as director for the Boone County Joint Communications 9-1-1 and in the Office of Energy Management. In addition to her primary job, she is also an adjunct professor at the Law Enforcement Training Institute in Columbia and the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, the treasurer of the Missouri 9-1-1 Directors Association, and has volunteered for the Missouri Special Olympics for over 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, Zim Schwartze has dedicated her life to serving the Missouri community. In addition to her immense service through her police work, her leadership and organization of the Missouri emergency services has been invaluable. She is the model of an ideal public servant, and I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my deep appreciation and gratitude for all she has done for Missouri. On behalf of the 7th district, I thank Zim for her service and extend my congratulations on this well-deserved award.

HONORING THE HARTVILLE EAGLES BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hartville Eagles Boys Basketball team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Championship to finish their already impressive season. Coach Brett Reed led the team to a dominant 64-37 win over Iberia in the championship game at Mizzou Arena earlier this spring.

The final victory came at the end of an 18 game win streak, concluding the best boys basketball season in Hartville history. In addition to winning the first Class 2 Missouri State Championship for Hartville, the team also won the Clever Tournament, the Mountain Grove

Tournament, the Summit Conference, and became the Class 2 District 9 Champions for the fourth straight year. Ending with an overall record of 29–4, the team showed its ability to compete on a statewide level, with their only losses coming from opponents in higher classes.

The Missouri Basketball Coaches Association recognized the outstanding success of the Eagles' season by naming Brett Reed the Class 2 Boys Basketball Coach of the Year as well as naming Ryan Ward the Class 2 Boys Basketball Player of the Year. In addition, Ryan Ward and Deric Jones were both named members of the All-State Class 2 Boys Basketball Team.

For these exceptional achievements, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the Hartville Eagles Boys Basketball Team before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RABBI NORTON D.  
SHARGEL

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my fellow congregant, Rabbi Emeritus Norton Shargel, who is celebrating the 70th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 14th.

I have had the great pleasure of knowing Rabbi Shargel since moving to Westchester County and joining his congregation. He has served as a spiritual leader for the Jewish Community Center of Harrison (JCCH) since 1970. Throughout his time as Rabbi, he has enriched our community with his insight and warm demeanor, and his dedication to his congregation is unflinching.

Throughout his life, Rabbi Shargel has committed himself to his rabbinical studies. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Semitics from Johns Hopkins University, and a degree in Religious Education from Baltimore Hebrew College. He first entered the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1954 and studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem before earning his Master of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinical Degree in 1959. He also holds a degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Beyond his impressive academic resume, the Rabbi has worked as a spiritual leader in various communities. In 1959, Rabbi Shargel served as an army chaplain at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was an active member of the local Jewish community. He then moved to Easton, Pennsylvania, where he served as leader of the Bnai Abraham Synagogue. During his time in Easton he founded "ProJect," an interfaith, interracial group devoted to improving the community.

Since 1970, Rabbi Shargel has served JCCH and has worked to improve interfaith cooperation in the community. He organized an interfaith Bible Study Group and has developed an ongoing dialogue with local clergy. He has served as President of the Westchester Board of Rabbis and helped create

the first Westchester Clergy Institute, a seminar for clergy of all faiths. Since 1998, Rabbi Shargel has served as an Adjunct Professor of Religion at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, teaching courses in Judaism and Holocaust Studies.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Rabbi Shargel my friend, confidant, and spiritual leader. I congratulate him on a lifetime of commitment to the Jewish community, and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 70th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah.

RECOGNIZING HARRY CORNELL,  
THE FORMER CEO OF CAR-  
THAGE, MISSOURI'S LEGGETT &  
PLATT INCORPORATED

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harry Cornell, the former CEO of Carthage, Missouri's Leggett & Platt, Incorporated. Harry's contributions are to be memorialized with a statue in his likeness on the manufacturer's campus, which will also be renamed in his honor.

Born to Mack and Marjorie Cornell in 1928, Harry is a true Missourian. He went to the University of Missouri and, upon graduation, immediately joined Leggett & Platt. After 3 years, Harry was selected to be a plant manager at their factory in Ennis, Texas, and was elected to Leggett & Platt's Board of Directors a mere five years later in 1958. Seeing an opportunity to expand the company, he purchased a majority of the stock for Leggett & Platt and was soon appointed CEO.

Cornell served as CEO for Leggett & Platt for nearly 40 years, and was instrumental in creating the thriving company that we know today. Under his tenure, Leggett & Platt experienced unprecedented growth; Leggett & Platt sales increased exponentially, moving from \$7 Million a year to over \$3.7 Billion in sales. Furthermore, Harry oversaw the company when it was added to the Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) index and continued to serve on Leggett & Platt's Board of Directors after his tenure as CEO until 2008—retiring after 50 years with the company.

Those who worked with Harry during his four decades leading Leggett & Platt knew that he subscribed to the following unattributed quote, which was prominently displayed in his office or repeated by him: "Success is founded on a constant state of discontentment, interrupted by brief periods of satisfaction on the completion of a job particularly well done."

Mr. Speaker, Harry Cornell is not only a shining example of the business acumen that makes America the great country it is, but he is also a true Missourian to his core. I would like to extend my thanks, both personally and on behalf of the 7th district, for his integral role in developing Leggett & Platt into one of Missouri's true titans of industry, creating countless jobs and keeping our economy strong and healthy. I urge my colleagues to join me as I congratulate Harry on his storied and influential career, which is a living testament to the American Dream.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF COL. HOWARD L. WILLIAMS  
(RET)

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passing of Colonel Howard L. Williams (Ret), affectionately known as "Chappie," who sadly passed away on March 25, 2016.

Born and raised in Emporia, VA, Chappie worked briefly in the Norfolk Navy Yard after high school and then, in 1943, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps with the 123rd Platoon at Montford Point Camp, New River, North Carolina. After completing segregated boot training, he served with honor in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of WW II as a member of the 1st Marine Ammunition Company 7th Depot. His company provided ammunition support in the Marshall Islands, Saipan and landed on D Day at Okinawa in support of the 1st & 6th Marines Division.

In September 1945, Chappie went ashore with the first troops of the 1st Marine Division 3rd Amphibious Corps in North China to perform occupation duty.

He was honorably discharged from the Marines in 1946, and as a result of the GI Bill attended Virginia State University, where he graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Education. While attending Virginia State he was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in the ROTC. Chappie served in the military for over 30 years in numerous assignments with the United States Marines Corp, Army National Guard and the US Army Reserves. He retired with the rank of full Colonel as the Director for Supply and Transportation in the 510th Field Depot, United States Army.

After college, he began a long career teaching in the Baltimore City Public Schools at Harlem Park Middle, Dunbar High, and at Baltimore City College, finally retiring from the Baltimore City School Board in 1994.

Chappie was the recipient of numerous awards for his contributions to organizations in the community. In June 2012, he received the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the segregated Marine Corp units known as the Montford Point Marines.

He leaves behind his wife of 56 years, Marilyn, and two devoted sons, Michael and David.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to remember the life and legacy of Colonel Howard L. Williams (Ret), who served this nation with honor and distinction. He will be dearly missed by all.

RECOGNIZING MILDRED JANE  
WORSHAM AND LANDON WORSHAM

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in recognition of the service



and dedication of Mildred Jane Worsham and Landon Worsham to the Chatham Presbyterian Church and the entire Chatham community.

Mildred Jane Worsham has been serving the Chatham Presbyterian Church congregation as their organist for over 70 years. Mrs. Worsham began playing for Chatham Presbyterian in 1945 at the age of sixteen. Over the years, she shared that duty with the late Augusta Parrish on an every-other-month basis, and she now serves as the sole organist.

In addition to her duties as organist, Mrs. Worsham has also served as the church's longstanding session clerk, Choir Director, taught Sunday School, Bible School and Bible Studies, and Mrs. Worsham had the honor of being named the first female elder of Chatham Presbyterian Church and was one of the church's first female deacons. She was also a commissioner for the Presbytery of the Peaks, which included 129 churches spanning parts of Central Virginia, Southside, the New River Valley and Allegheny Highlands, and served as the Commissioner to the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in the United States. Mrs. Worsham has also been a member of the Sylvania Garden Club, the Homemaker's Club, and assisted her husband's work as Chief of the Chatham Volunteer Fire Department for over 50 years.

For decades, Landon Worsham's service to the Chatham community has extended far beyond firefighting. In 2013, I had the privilege of joining the Town of Chatham, Virginia to honor Mr. Worsham for his 60 years of service to Chatham as a volunteer firefighter, 50 of which he spent as fire chief. In addition to this tremendous accomplishment, Mr. Worsham has been an active volunteer at the Chatham Presbyterian Church, serving as the superintendent of Chatham Presbyterian's Sunday school for over 50 years and counting. Mr. Worsham is also an elder at the church and has served numerous times on the session.

Mr. Worsham also served as a leader in the Chatham Lions Club and the Chatham Jaycees, as well as serving as the Vice President of the Pittsylvania County Fire-Rescue Association. He also served his country in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, and was wounded in New Guinea and awarded the Purple Heart.

I ask the members of this House of Representatives to join with me and the entire Chatham community in thanking and honoring the service and dedication of Mildred Jane and Landon Worsham to the Chatham Presbyterian Church and the Town of Chatham, and to the surrounding counties and our great nation.

HONORING COLONEL GREGORY BAINÉ

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the fine career and honorable service of a man whose actions have helped

maintain the safety and security of our nation's fight against terrorism, Colonel Greg Baine. After 29 years of faithful service to our country, Colonel Baine is retiring from the United States Army. It is with great pride and honor that I recognize Colonel Baine for his tireless devotion to the well-being of our nation.

After graduating from Beaumont Charlton Pollard High School, Colonel Baine earned his political science degree from Texas A&M University. Colonel Baine began his military career in 1987 with the United States Army, where he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant with a duty in Sinai, Egypt. As a natural leader, he earned the esteemed rank of Colonel by serving our nation in duties in Saudi Arabia, Kosovo, Germany and two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Colonel Baine is a true patriot; devoted and loyal, an honorable defender of liberty and freedom.

Colonel Baine commanded the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment during his 14 month combat tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I had the privilege of meeting Colonel Baine while in Iraq in 2008. His role in our nation's fight on terrorism will never be forgotten. After Iraq, he volunteered for another 13 month combat tour to Afghanistan, where he commanded Regional Support Command South in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Throughout his career, Colonel Baine's service and dedication have consistently earned him the recognition of his superiors. The list of this model citizen's accomplishments will have enduring effects on our nation.

A dedicated family man, Colonel Baine married his college sweetheart, Heidi. Together they are the proud parents of two grown children, Gary Baine, II and Alexia.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I commend this remarkable Texan for his exemplary service and dedication to not only the State of Texas, but the nation as a whole. Thank you, Colonel Baine, for a lifetime of selfless service to our country.

And that is just the way it is.

REMEMBERING JUDGE JOHN J. GARRITY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant for Maryland, Judge John J. Garrity, who sadly passed away on April 14 at the age of eighty-two. John and I had been friends for many years, going back to the 1960's, when I was a young State Senator and he was an Assistant State's Attorney and President of the Prince George's County Young Democrats.

John began his life in the St. Joseph's Orphanage in Burlington, Vermont, and after finishing secondary school joined the U.S. Navy, where he served honorably from 1955-1959. During that time he married his wife, Bertha Ann, with whom he would spend sixty wonderful years and raise two sons, Kevin and John Jr. He earned undergraduate and law degrees from American University and began practicing law in Maryland in 1964.

John first served as Assistant State's Attorney for Prince George's County in 1967 and two years later became Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland. He was selected as a Prince George's County Commissioner in 1970 and then elected to the Prince George's County Council the following year, serving as its Chair in 1973. In 1974, the people of Maryland Legislative District Twenty-Two sent him to the House of Delegates in Annapolis, and in 1978 he became my colleague in the State Senate, when I was serving as its President. While in the Senate, John stood up for the rights of crime victims and sponsored legislation to ensure that victim impact statements could be given during sentencing, ensuring their voices would be heard in court. In 1982, John was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals, where he served with distinction for twelve years.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss John Garrity very dearly, and I will never forget his friendship or his kind spirit. He was so proud of his service to Maryland and to our nation, and he was proud as well of his Irish roots. My thoughts and prayers are with his Ann, Kevin, John Jr., daughter-in-law Karen, and grandchildren Kelly, Colleen, and Kerry. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Judge John J. Garrity for lending talents and wisdom to the work of securing justice and creating opportunity for Marylanders throughout his life and career.

HONORING PACE UNIVERSITY'S LIENHARD SCHOOL OF NURSING

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of Pace University's Lienhard School of Nursing, and to applaud its work in educating generations of nurses.

Founded in 1966, the Lienhard School of Nursing was Westchester County, New York's, first collegiate nursing program. Over the past fifty years, the School has maintained its commitment to excellence and scholarship by embracing change and always focusing on meeting the health needs of the general public.

The School has offered the highest level of education to nursing students and has paved the way in designing innovative new nursing programs, including the first nurse-managed health care unit on a college campus, one of the first nursing programs in the country for second career individuals, and was an early Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. This leadership in the field of nursing makes the School one of the finest in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the Lienhard School of Nursing in my district. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the School during its fiftieth anniversary year.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PALATINE, ILLINOIS

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Palatine, Illinois.

Since its origin, Palatine has been dedicated to building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike and has been a model for Illinois towns to follow. It is no surprise that the village motto is, "A Real Home Town".

In the years since its first settler, George Ela, and its incorporation on April 2nd, 1866, Palatine has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Palatine boasts a population of over 60,000 people, a large multi-national corporation, and a four year college. Over the years, Palatine has developed a well-deserved reputation as a village with small-town heritage, big city ambition, and hometown charm.

On the occasion of this 150th Anniversary, we join together to celebrate Palatine's legacy of growth and prosperity and to look ahead to the opportunities facing this great village and our nation.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Palatine, Illinois and wishing her residents a very successful year ahead.

CONGRATULATING DALE HUHNE OF MUNCIE, INDIANA

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional volunteer effort of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church volunteers, led by Dale Huhnke of Muncie, Indiana, on October 24, 2015.

On this day, known as Make a Difference Day, Dale managed a group of church volunteers in an effort to help struggling Muncie families. Their targeted acts of giving included everything from providing a family a fresh bag of groceries to giving a needed haircut. Dale's strong leadership on Make a Difference Day helped more than 180 Muncie families enjoy a better and happier quality of life.

Dale will be recognized for his extraordinary efforts this year at the Make A Difference Day National Awards Luncheon on May 12, 2016. Each winner is awarded a \$10,000 donation to ensure they are able to continue their community projects in the future.

Today, I am proud to thank Dale for his leadership and the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church volunteers for their philanthropic spirit and ongoing commitment to improving the lives of Muncie families. I hope

that fellow Hoosiers will be inspired by Dale to be a force of good in their own communities as well.

HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS ANSWER THE ALARM

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the station numbers of the Houston Firefighter who answered the call of the Spring Branch Fire in Houston, Texas on May 5th, 2016.

Station Number 2, Station Number 4, Station Number 5, Station Number 6, Station Number 8, Station Number 10, Station Number 11, Station Number 12, Station Number 13, Station Number 15, Station Number 17, and Station Number 22.

Station Number 24, Station Number 28, Station Number 30, Station Number 31, Station Number 38, Station Number 39, Station Number 42, Station Number 49, Station Number 50, Station Number 51, Station Number 57, and Station Number 60.

Station Number 62, Station Number 66, Station Number 67, Station Number 69, Station Number 75, Station Number 77, Station Number 78, Station Number 83, Members from OEC (Office of Emergency Communications), and Village Fire Department (Mutual Aid).

TRIBUTE TO TIM COOPER

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the hard work and dedication of Tim Cooper. Mr. Cooper went to work as a custodian for the North St. Francois County R-1 School District on April 8, 1970. He was 20 years old. He retires from that same school district on June 30, 2016, just a day shy of his 67th birthday.

Mr. Cooper has been a custodian who took his job very seriously, but at the same time, he took every opportunity to be a friend to the students and staff he saw every day. He worked first at Desloge Elementary School, then preferred a change of scene at the high school. But, a year later, he returned to the elementary students and staff he loved so well at the same school, now called Parkside Elementary.

His Principal, Brandon Gregory, calls Tim "one of the greatest men I have ever worked with who takes care of everyone around here. He seeks neither praise nor recognition." His coworkers say he is what "makes Parkside." Former students say they always looked up to him—and they still do. One former student recalls him helping her dig through the lost and found until they located her purple winter coat. He is respected and loved by all.

Mr. Cooper has lived the motto that whatever you do, do it well. He has loved his work

and that has shown through every one of the 46 years he's been a part of the North County district.

For his dedicated service to the students and staff of the North St. Francois County School District, it is my privilege to honor Tim Cooper today before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2016 inductees to the Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Broward Senior Hall of Fame, which recognizes Broward County residents over 60 for their volunteer work.

This is the 33rd year that the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Broward County has inducted residents into the Hall of Fame. The names of this year's 10 honorees are the following: Sandra K. Both, Mitchell "Mitch" Ceasar, Commissioner Sue Gunzburger, Moshin Jaffer, Marie Goodrum Johnson, George A. Kling, Arlene Lakin, Patti Lynn, Judge Ronald J. Rothschild, and Jack Shifrel.

I am pleased to honor this year's inductees and thank them for their contribution to our community.

HONORING ROCK AND WRAP IT UP & LENA AND JOSEPH MANDELBAUM HUMANITARIAN AWARD

**HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rock and Wrap it Up, a nationwide nonprofit organization based in New York's fourth congressional district. This incredible organization has spearheaded an extremely effective and innovative effort to fight hunger and poverty by collecting and donating surplus food and supplies from music and sports venues, hotels, and schools.

Rock and Wrap it Up started on a relatively small and local scale, partnering with the Nikon at Jones Beach Theater in my district to collect and distribute food that had been prepared by the venue but not sold. Over the past two decades, Rock and Wrap it Up has grown exponentially both in size and scope, partnering with several renowned music groups, dozens of professional sports teams, international hotel chains, and more than 300 schools nationwide, to help collect surplus food, toiletries, school supplies and other assets and sharing them with various anti-poverty agencies.

Today Rock and Wrap it Up has more than 5,000 members in 500 cities and five countries. The organization not only helps feed millions of hungry people each year but it also teaches its partners and interested groups

how to leverage their contracts and resources to ensure that leftover food and supplies are donated, allowing its network and mission to grow even when the organization is not directly involved. Rock and Wrap it Up has touched millions of lives across the country and around the world, and I am truly grateful for all of their work and extremely proud that this organization calls our district home.

I would also like to thank Beth and Lenny Fliegel, recipients of the Rock and Wrap It Up Lena and Joseph Mandelbaum Humanitarian Award, for their incredible support and dedication to this organization and its mission.

AMERICAN PATRIOTISM—TAKING CARE OF OUR HEROES

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while patrolling the blue South Pacific seas, two American Stallion helicopters collided off the coast of Hawaii. It was January 14, 2016. Twelve U.S. Marines on board perished. Despite rescue efforts by air and sea, the Marines were never found. Their watery graves are only known to God. Major Shawn Campbell, 41, and Corporal Matthew Drown, 23, were Texas' own.

In the aftermath of this tragic loss, the military community banded together, ready to support the family who had just experienced one of the most traumatic moments that a young family can possibly be faced with. The U.S. military always takes care of its own. That is one reason why our warriors, and their families make the U.S. Military the best in the world.

In particular, Kalie Rhodes and her mothers group (Mothers of Preschoolers) quickly sprang into action, ready to lend a hand and shoulder to those who were distraught by tragedy. The MOPS meet twice a month, joining together in fellowship to connect and learning different parenting and life skills. Katie is the wife of Captain Johnathan Rhodes, a 2002 graduate of Kingwood High School and 2006 graduate of West Point.

Kalie and her team provided support for the visiting families of the missing Marines. They not only prepared meals and cared for some of the smaller children, they also bought and distributed a wide variety of gift cards for food, gas and clothing. The support and encouragement from MOPS and Kalie to the families of those killed is impressive.

As the search continued John Hedley's (USMA '68) Veterans coffee shop in NC donated over \$500 and Craig Carson's (USMA '68) company in Indiana donated over \$5,000. The Military community never stops supporting each other. We were shown this once again as the Wingman Foundation (ex-Naval and Marine aviators) served as a clearing house for the monetary donations and reimbursed the moms for out-of-pocket expenses. In addition, they donated \$50,000 to the families.

Furthermore, the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund (USMA '86) has provided scholarships for all the children of the deceased Marines. This

scholarship program for the kids of the fallen Marines is commendable and inspiring. This is an excellent way to take care of those that have lost a parent.

The fallen Marines were honorably doing their duty, taking care of America. Now Americans are returning the favor by taking care of those military families. These individuals who spring to action, ready to help at a moment's notice are fiercely patriotic. They are the backbone of a rare breed—the American breed that protects us.

And that is just the way it is.

GINGER ONTIVEROS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO VVC FOUNDATION

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15 years of service given by Ginger Ontiveros to the Victor Valley College Foundation. Recently, Ginger announced that she will be stepping down from her role as Executive Director of the foundation.

Under Ginger's leadership, the Victor Valley College Foundation was transformed into a regional powerhouse. Her expertise resulted in the foundation raising over \$27 million since 2012. In addition, her tireless efforts led to the securing of \$15 million in California Career Pathways funding.

Ginger was also instrumental in professionalizing the foundation staff. She recruited seven development professionals, implemented an award-winning public relations campaign, and produced a quarterly magazine to connect the community with the college.

Ginger may be leaving the Victor Valley College Foundation, but her legacy will undoubtedly live on. She truly made a difference in her community, but most importantly she improved the educational opportunities for students at the college.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,190,059,553,782.20. We've added \$8,563,182,504,869.12 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS OF THE OZARKS ON RECEIVING THE BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA GOLD STANDARD AWARD

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Ozarks on recently being selected as a Gold Standard Award recipient by the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America.

Each year, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America selects 16 local chapters out of more than 300 to receive the Gold Standard Award, which is bestowed in recognition of their having contributed extraordinary improvements to their communities.

Springfield based Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Ozarks has earned the award for the first time since the chapter's inception 33 years ago. This year, they recruited more than 250 new men and women, resulting in an escalated number of matches between mentors and their mentees. To build on their success, the organization aims to recruit an additional 130 members this year, which would expand their reach to more than 600 at-risk youths.

Mr. Speaker, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Ozarks provides a virtually immeasurable value to my constituents in Missouri's Seventh Congressional District. By giving children in our community stable role-models to look up to, they've pivotally redirected young lives toward drastically brighter futures. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Ozarks on achieving this well-deserved commendation, and sincerely thank them for their dedication to America's future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT PITTENGER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 166 through roll call no. 172, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call no. 166, I would have voted YEA, Roll Call no. 167, I would have voted YEA, Roll Call no. 168, I would have voted YEA, Roll Call no. 169, I would have voted YEA, Roll Call no. 170, I would have voted NAY, Roll Call no. 171, I would have voted YEA, and Roll Call no. 172, I would have voted YEA.

IN HONOR OF MY PHAM

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. My Pham on her recent recognition as Giant Food's 2015 Community Leader

of the Year Award. This award is given annually to a Giant Food employee who is recognized as a leader who has demonstrated a desire to give back to their local community and enrich the lives of those around them. Ms. Pham was selected for her leadership on community engagement initiatives from a consideration pool that consisted of 82 Giant district stores. What a remarkable accomplishment.

Ms. Pham won this award due to her ongoing, proactive work in Leesburg and the greater Loudoun area where she strives to be a role model to the community and help those less fortunate. Currently, Ms. Pham is working with the local Rotary Club in Ashburn to fill more than 600 backpacks with much needed school supplies for children in the community. Ms. Pham's efforts are joined by Ms. Sharon Wright, owner of Loudoun Clear Marketing and Leesburg Girl Scout Troop 913 Leader, along with Girl Scout troops throughout Loudoun County.

Together, they are decorating the donation bins and handing out fliers during this "school supply blitz" to ensure each backpack is full of necessary school supplies. Additionally, the Ashburn Rotary Club is crafting store-specific posters and coordinating pickup and delivery of the school supplies.

Ms. Pham has collaborated with eight counterparts from other local Giant stores to host this "school supply blitz," which is scheduled to launch on July 21st of this year and I look forward to monitoring both Ms. Pham and Giant Food's efforts to serve the needy across Loudoun County. Ms. Pham's "school supply blitz" is much needed and most appreciated by our community and will do so much for children and families in our area. I am honored to recognize Ms. Pham and the work she has done to bring local businesses, children, and other organizations together to achieve a common goal of helping less fortunate members of our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND  
DEDICATED SERVICE OF THE  
HONORABLE DENNIS "NICK"  
NICHOLSON

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of the Honorable Dennis "Nick" Nicholson. Northwest Florida suffered a tremendous loss with Commissioner Nicholson's passing on April 29, 2016; however, the legacy of this truly remarkable man will be remembered for many years to come.

Commissioner Nicholson was a Georgia native born in Hiawassee on June 23, 1936 to Everett and Grace Nicholson. Raised in Ohio, he graduated from Canton Timken High School in 1954 and enlisted in the United States Air Force. Commissioner Nicholson served his country with honor and distinction for 26 years, retiring at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant.

Although his military service culminated at Hurlburt Field in 1981, Commissioner Nichol-

son's passion for public service continued. Following two terms on the Fort Walton Beach City Council, he was elected to serve on the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners from 1995 to 2002. Additionally, Commissioner Nicholson served on several local boards, including the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council and the Air Force Enlisted Village—home to surviving spouses of retired enlisted U.S. Airmen. He was also a dedicated member of the Fort Walton Beach Elks Club and a board member for the First United Methodist Church of Fort Walton Beach.

Most will remember Commissioner Nicholson as a man of integrity and a consummate public servant who was instrumental in establishing the Emerald Coast Conference Center, constructing the handicapped access at Marler Park, and helping Okaloosa Island recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Opal in 1995. Those who are blessed to have known him best will also remember this lifelong Ohio State and Cleveland Browns football fan as a compassionate and devoted family man.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I am privileged to recognize the Honorable Dennis "Nick" Nicholson and pay tribute to his honorable lifetime of service to the Northwest Florida community and our great Nation. Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences to Josie, his best friend and wife of nearly 60 years; their four children. Deborah Demyan (Andrew) of Shalimar, Florida; Scott Nicholson (Michele) of Shalimar, Florida; Sandra Thompson, of Pensacola, Florida and Suzy Nicholson Hunt (Rich) of Destin, Florida; grandchildren: Shelby Demyan, Cody Nicholson, Hannah Miller (Marshall) of Annapolis, Maryland and Shane Nicholson; and the entire Nicholson family.

HONORING TAIWANESE AMERICAN  
HERITAGE WEEK

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwanese American Heritage Week. During this week, celebrations of Taiwanese culture, the history of Taiwan, and the contributions of Taiwanese Americans will take place across our country, including in my district, in Central New York.

This year marks the 37th anniversary of the enactment into law of the Taiwan Relations Act which functions as the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwanese relations. Today, this law continues to provide a strong foundation for the bond between the people of both countries.

Taiwanese Americans have made invaluable contributions to the diversity and prosperity of American society. Taiwanese Americans have succeeded as successful and notable artists, Nobel Laureate scientists, researchers, human rights activists, business leaders and so much more.

Taiwanese American Heritage Week provides us with an opportunity to learn more about the outstanding contributions men and women from Taiwan have made to our nation,

and to the world. During this special week, we are able to embrace America's diversity and celebrate the spirit of community that binds us together as one nation.

HONORING ANTHONY RUSSO III

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Anthony "Tony" Russo III, of the Third Congressional District, and to express my sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones he has left behind, as well as to recognize his career and community engagement.

Tony was one of Burlington County's most well-known and respected farmers and was a former member of the Burlington County Board of Agriculture and was described as both "a pillar of the Tabernacle community" and "a giant in New Jersey agriculture." His farm celebrated its 75th anniversary last year and is one of the most well-known farm stands in South Jersey, in very large part due to Tony who took over operations of the farm after the death of his father in 1991.

Tony and his wife Maryann were married for 50 years and enjoyed working together on the farm, along with his son and daughter-in-law. A tragic accident claiming his life has left a devastating void in the lives of his family, friends, and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have had Anthony "Tony" Russo III as a selfless and dedicated member of their community, whose generosity and vivacious spirit will never be forgotten. It is with a heavy heart that I commemorate his career and life, and recognize the lasting legacy that he has left behind, before the United States House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF MARY CATHERINE  
(KITTY) VAN BORTEL

**HON. CHRIS COLLINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine who was recently awarded one of the highest honors in her industry.

Mary Catherine (Kitty) Van Bortel, president of Van Bortel Subaru in Victor, New York, which is located in my Congressional district, was named the 2016 TIME Dealer of the Year. Ms. Van Bortel received this highest honor out of a select group of dealers from across the country recognized at the 99th annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Convention & Exposition in Las Vegas on April 1st.

The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors. Recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing

commitment to community service. In fact, Ms. Van Bortel was one of only 50 auto dealers from 16,000 nationwide—nominated for the 47th annual award.

The award is sponsored by TIME in association with Ally Financial, and in cooperation with NADA. A panel of faculty members from the Tauber Institute for Global Operations at the University of Michigan selects one finalist from each of the four NADA regions and one national Dealer of the Year.

A 1972 graduate of Palmyra-Macedon Central High School in Palmyra, New York, Ms. Van Bortel earned a B.A. in psychology from Wells College in Aurora, New York, in 1976. Although her father was a car dealer who owned 17 franchises at one time, she began her career at a dealership independent of her family.

Having first worked at Ridley Ford in Webster, New York where she became the top salesperson, Ms. Van Bortel was later a sales manager at Holtz Mercedes-Benz and BMW in Rochester, New York, before opening a used-car lot—her first step toward owning a dealership.

She later convinced Subaru to give her a chance and opened Van Bortel Subaru in 1991 vowing to make it the largest-volume Subaru dealership in the nation. Within seven years, that goal was achieved. Her business has since expanded to include Van Bortel Chevrolet in Macedon, New York, and Van Bortel Ford in East Rochester, New York, both of which she owns with her brother.

The reputation which she has built over the last 30 years has been the most rewarding part of her automotive career. And that reputation includes an unwavering commitment to giving back to her community. A nine-year breast cancer survivor, Ms. Van Bortel is dedicated to spreading the word that early detection is the cure. She has raffled off pink Ford Mustangs, given countless speeches to those who would listen and become a major contributor to the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester. Other organizations Ms. Van Bortel supports include: National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House in Rochester; The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure (fundraising cycling event); Warrior Salute (assists veterans as they transition back to civilian life); Vistor/Farmington Food Cupboard (Thanksgiving baskets); IAC Kids: It's About Caring for Kids (help families in the Greater Rochester region going through financial hardships due to their child's severe illness); House of Mercy in Rochester (homeless shelter and advocacy group); Open Door Mission in Rochester (homeless shelter); Catholic Charities USA and many other local organizations.

In addition, Ms. Van Bortel has received numerous awards for her community service and business leadership, including the 2009 Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award from the Saunders School of Business at Rochester Institute of Technology; 2011 Athena Award from the Women's Council of the Rochester Business Alliance and 2009 Rochester Women's Network "W" Award.

In 2005, she was named one of the "100 Leading Women in the North American Auto Industry" by Automotive News.

Ms. Van Bortel was nominated for the TIME Dealer of the Year award by Robert Vancavage, president of the New York State Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the members of the New York Congressional delegation, please allow me to once again congratulate Ms. Mary Catherine (Kitty) Van Bortel on this prestigious award and thank her and her family for their involvement in the Rochester area.

I wish her, her family, and her employees at the dealerships a prosperous and bright future.

HONOR OF POLICE WEEK—  
MAY 15–21, 2016

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the men and women who support and defend our communities by putting their lives on the line each and every day.

Police Week is a time set aside to honor not only our fallen heroes, but all men and women in law enforcement work tirelessly to protect our neighborhoods. While it is often in emergencies that we remark at their courage and perseverance, we know that they remain vigilant every day. I send my deepest condolences to the friends and family members of these brave women and men who so proudly wore the police uniform.

One hundred twenty-eight officers lost their life last year, including one from Minnesota. Investigator Steven Martin Sandberg was shot and killed on Sunday, October 18, 2015. His selfless dedication to protect and serve the community of Aitkin County will be forever remembered.

This week, we honor Officer Steven Sandberg and the other law enforcement officers who lost their lives last year. With profound gratitude we thank them for all they do to keep our cities safe. Congress must continue to ensure that our law enforcement professionals have the resources they need to protect our communities.

THANKING MELISSA LEAYM-FERNANDEZ FOR HER CHARITY AND SERVICE

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Leaym-Fernandez for the support she has offered to the city of Flint and its students during the Flint Water Crisis.

Ms. Leaym-Fernandez is a professional artist and visual arts teacher in Flint Community Schools. Flint schools have an art budget of less than one dollar per student annually, but Ms. Leaym-Fernandez makes it her mission to combat this by providing opportunities and re-

sources for Flint students to express themselves artistically. She has worked tirelessly to find funding opportunities to empower both her visual arts program and the students within it since she took the lead two years ago.

Ms. Leaym-Fernandez emphasizes the importance of artistic expression by focusing her efforts on the population of disenfranchised students in her district who need her help the most, especially those students who attend an alternative education institution. Fostering success in students who vary from being teen parents, on probation, or have learning or discipline difficulties is a commendable mission. Especially in light of the ongoing water crisis. By striving to give students the resources they need to express themselves creatively and artistically, Ms. Leaym-Fernandez sets an admirable example for teachers and community members alike.

It is my honor to represent such active and charitable members of our community, and Melissa Leaym-Fernandez is a shining example. The type of direct and individual care that Ms. Leaym-Fernandez has shown is exactly what the students of Flint need.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by Ms. Leaym-Fernandez and thank her for the service she has provided to the students and city of Flint.

THANKING HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS FOR THEIR CHARITY AND SERVICE

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the students of Holt Public Schools for the support they have offered to the city of Flint and its residents during the Flint Water Crisis.

Seven students from Washington Woods Middle School and Dimondale Elementary have embarked on a campaign to donate a truckload of drinking water to Flint residents. The students quickly accomplished their fundraising mission by selling rubber ducks at local community events, and cooperation with Meijer stores and UFCW Local 951 assisted in their donation effort. The student group is continuing their successful community service campaign and plans on raising funds for the delivery of another truckload of water.

To date, over \$4,500 has been raised by the group's Truck of Water for Flint GoFundMe fundraiser. This has allowed a truckload of over 36,000 water bottles to be delivered to Flint residents, and the second load of drinking water is forthcoming. The type of direct care that these students have shown is exactly what the residents of Flint need. It is my honor to represent such active and charitable members of our community, and this group of young students is a shining example.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by these Holt Public Schools students, and I thank them for the service they have provided to the city of Flint.

CONGRATULATING KILLOTTA  
TARTT-WALL ON BEING NAMED  
NATIONAL HEAD START TEACH-  
ER OF THE YEAR

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Killotta Tartt-Wall for her unwavering commitment to equal educational opportunities and student success.

Ms. Tartt-Wall has worked in the educational field for 12 years. She has worked as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher for five years and has worked for the Head

Start program for seven years. For two summers she also taught the Tot Lot summer Preschool Program. All of her teaching has been done in the Flint area with Flint families and children.

Ms. Tartt-Wall is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young children and their families. She believes that one of the pathways out of poverty is having a good educational foundation that focuses on partnering with families to help ensure the success of the children she works with.

Head Start is the national commitment to give every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, an opportunity to succeed in school and in life. When Head Start was first launched in 1965, the idea of providing comprehensive health, nutrition, and education services to children in poverty was revolu-

tionary. The Head Start Model, developed over the decades has been built on evidence-based practices and is constantly adapting—using the best available science and teaching techniques to meet the needs of local communities.

This year, Ms. Tartt-Wall was nominated for the National Head Start Teacher of the Year by her peers. She has a reputation of having endless enthusiasm and a passion for working with at-risk families and children. Ms. Tartt-Wall is an outstanding example of what one person can do to bring hope and success to the children and families affected by the Flint Water Crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ms. Killotta Tartt-Wall for her dedication to the families of Flint and commitment to educational success.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 11, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF FORTENBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### THE COST OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we talk a lot in this Chamber about the burdensome regulations that Federal agencies frequently place on the American public. Last week the Competitive Enterprise Institute released a report that puts a price tag on the rules implemented by the Federal bureaucracy, saying that Federal regulation and intervention cost American consumers and businesses nearly \$2 trillion in lost economic productivity and higher prices in 2014. That is simply unacceptable.

Many of these rules hinder innovation and job creation and are costly to businesses and consumers. As a former small-business owner, I know firsthand how the government can make it more difficult for a business to be successful. I recognize the true costs of overregulation, such as lost productivity, increased expenses, and new financial and legal liabilities, which many policymakers often forget about.

Just last month, the House approved a disapproval resolution to stop the

Obama administration from implementing its flawed fiduciary rule, which will significantly impact the ability of Americans to receive advice on how to save for retirement and make it more difficult for businesses—in particular, small businesses—to establish retirement plans. The rule, which contains more than 1,000 pages of new regulations, makes it cost prohibitive to offer advice or services to low- and middle-income Americans by increasing compliance costs and the risk of litigation.

The Department of Education is constantly putting obstacles in the path of innovation, and these unnecessary regulations are stifling pioneering higher education institutions at a time when forward-thinking solutions are desperately needed. More redtape and hoops to jump through are not going to promote diverse choices for students. In fact, they often add administrative costs on schools—costs that are typically passed on to students in the form of higher fees and tuition. That is why I have introduced legislation to reduce Federal intrusion and limit the costly regulatory burden on colleges and universities.

As my colleagues and constituents know, the issue of unfunded mandates has been a particular interest of mine for a long time. It is frequently overlooked in the debates about reforming our regulatory system and carrying out Federal policies. It is all too easy for Washington bureaucrats to write off concerns expressed by a handful of local governments or a small subset of private businesses. But these decisions have real costs and real effects on the individuals, families, and communities we each represent.

My legislation, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, does not seek to prevent the Federal Government from regulating; rather, it seeks to ensure that its regulations are deliberative and economically defensible. Asking regulators to consider thoroughly and understand the cost of a rule in addition to its benefits should not be controversial.

Republicans are often accused of opposing all regulations, but that is just not true. We are in favor of common-sense rules, and we believe it is possible to alleviate the regulatory burden on small businesses and other job creators while balancing public safety and consumer interests.

Regulation by bureaucratic fiat is not what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they created our govern-

ment. I applaud Speaker RYAN for creating the Task Force on Reducing Regulatory Burdens and look forward to seeing its suggestions for a modern and transparent regulatory system that makes it easier to invest, produce, and build in America.

### ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY/DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Yom Ha'atzmaut, the commemoration of the Israeli Declaration of Independence in 1948. This day of celebration is always immediately preceded by Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day.

This timing is no accident. The people of Israel know that their freedom comes at a high price. Today I am humbled to join them in remembering more than 23,000 soldiers and victims of terrorist attacks who have paid this price, including 68 soldiers and police officers and 32 civilians over the past year alone.

The strong relationship between the United States and Israel dates back more than six decades. On May 14, 1948, just 11 minutes after the provisional government of Israel, led by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, proclaimed a new state, President Harry S. Truman announced: "This government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the provisional government thereof. The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel."

This year, Israelis will celebrate their independence as they always have, gathering for public shows, performing Israeli folk dances, singing Israeli songs, and spending the day with families at picnics or on hikes. The holiday will conclude with the awarding of the Israeli Prize to men and women who have made unique contributions to culture, science, the arts, and humanities.

For American Jews, the celebration of Israel's independence has always been a way to express solidarity with the State of Israel. In many communities, it is a special occasion for Jewish organizations and synagogues of different denominations to come together for a single, united celebration of Israel's creation and existence, both of which have defied great odds.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Just one day after President Truman recognized the new Jewish state's existence, five neighboring Arab countries amassed their armies and invaded, determined to remove the dream of Israel from the pages of history. But after months of fighting, Israel emerged stronger than it was before, with more territory under its control.

Since then, the people of Israel have lived under the threat of violence for nearly seven decades. They survived the Six-Day War in 1967, the Yom Kippur War in 1973, and insurgencies that targeted soldiers and civilians alike. Through it all, the friendship between the United States and Israel has remained strong. We stood together to oppose Soviet aggression during the cold war, and we continue to stand together today, united in the fight against terrorism and global extremism.

This friendship is rooted in much more than strategic interests. The United States and Israel have always shared common values. As the most stable and successful democracy in the Middle East, Israel is committed to the values of equality and freedom, including a free press, freedom of religion, and the right to self-determination through democratic elections.

Today, at a pivotal moment in the history of the world, it is more important than ever for the United States to stand with the people of Israel. I have been proud to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on legislation to strengthen the ties between our two countries. The United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Act, which I introduced earlier this year, will establish a joint Cybersecurity Center of Excellence where the leaders from our two countries can work together on cybersecurity and the protection of critical infrastructure. In the House Foreign Affairs Committee, we have worked to advance legislation that condemns efforts to inflame anti-Semitic sentiments by the Palestinian Authority. These are critical issues we must continue to work on in the pursuit of our common objectives and our shared values.

I congratulate the State of Israel on the anniversary of its independence, and I look forward to continuing to work to strengthen the relationship between our two countries even further.

#### THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA: A DEMOCRACY IN A ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the world leader in freedom and democracy, it is in our national interest to see the same freedoms we enjoy spread to people throughout the world.

The Republic of Georgia is a small and young democracy in an area that is more known for its authoritarian rule than freedom. Georgia formally declared its independence in 1918, but 4 years later, the Soviet bear invaded and declared Georgia a Soviet Socialist Republic. But the Georgian people are resilient, and with the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Georgia again declared its independence from Russia.

Over the past 25 years, Georgia has become the freest country in its region. It sets up a stark contrast to the dictatorship of Putin in the north. However, the Russians never gave up on their ambitions to control Georgia.

I was in Georgia in 2008 when Russian troops invaded and took one-third of Georgia. I saw the Russian tanks up on the hill. And, Mr. Speaker, the Russians still illegally occupy one-third of the nation of Georgia.

The Russians want to impose tyranny upon Georgia precisely because of Georgia's quest for democracy and liberty. Georgia has made good governance a cornerstone of its reforms, grown the economy, and made significant progress toward creating a democratic society.

The world witnessed Georgia's first peaceful democratic transition of power from one party to another in 2013, and it has improved media freedom for 4 consecutive years, according to Reporters Without Borders. In fact, Freedom House ranks Georgia number one in the region for its freedom of the press.

Georgia has also made significant strides when it comes to corruption. It even ranks higher than some European Union countries and other U.S. allies according to Transparency International.

When it comes to business and free markets, Georgia makes it to the top of the pack. The World Bank ranked Georgia among the top 25 countries easiest to do business in.

The fact is that the Georgian people and their government share our Western values. A recent poll found that more than three-quarters of the Georgian people support their government's goal to join the European Union. Nearly 70 percent of Georgians also support Georgia's joining NATO. The United States should be vocal and support Georgia's quest to be in NATO.

For the past 25 years of independence, Georgia has been a valuable ally of the United States. Due to Georgia's free market system, low corruption, and simplified tax system, many American companies have invested in Georgia, especially in the energy sector.

The U.S. should negotiate a free trade agreement with Georgia to add jobs to both of our economies and send a message that Georgia is an important friend of the United States.

Georgia is also a vital partner in the battle against international terrorism.

It has provided more troops to the effort in Afghanistan than any other non-NATO member. Thirty-three Georgian troops have fought and died on the battlefield with American troops, and 900 Georgian troops still remain in Afghanistan.

The Georgians are now preparing to hold elections in October. To ensure that these parliamentary elections are free and fair, the Georgians have invited international, independent election observers to monitor those elections in October.

The United States and our NATO allies must remain firm in our support for Georgia. Georgia is a sovereign country whose boundaries should be respected—even by Putin. Russia knows Georgia is a symbol of democracy in the region. That is why Putin continues to rattle his sabres in the entire neighborhood. Dictator Putin knows if Georgia is a successful democracy, then Georgia's neighbors are going to want to follow that lead and become more democratic. It is in our national interest to support Georgia and their democratic aspirations in their journey for liberty.

Fifty years ago, our President John F. Kennedy talked about liberty. He stated what the American policy is regarding liberty. I hope and believe it is still our policy today. Here is what he said, Mr. Speaker: "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

That applies to Georgia, Mr. Speaker. And that is just the way it is.

#### EPIDEMIC OF OVERDOSE DEATHS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, next to me is a map of the United States which shows the sickening increase in overdose deaths in this country due to heroin and opioid use over the last decade or so.

The first map is a map from the Centers for Disease Control statistics in 2004, when roughly 7,000 Americans lost their lives to opioid overdose. Again, the red color shows the intensity of regions where deaths occurred in excess of 20 per 100,000. The blue is 10 per 100,000 or less.

□ 1015

In 2014, over 28,000 Americans lost their lives to heroin and opioid overdose deaths. As you can see, the red portions of the country are increasing at an alarming rate. We have not gotten the 2015 statistics yet from the Centers for Disease Control, but by all indication from State numbers that are coming out, this map is actually going to get worse for the 2015 numbers.



Mr. Speaker, we have an epidemic in this country which far surpasses any challenge that is presented by any natural disaster. If we had an attack on the homeland that took the number of lives that these maps represent, this Congress would be on fire in terms of trying to move resources and help to communities all across the country.

Again, it is indiscriminate. It hits rural America, it hits suburban America, it hits urban America, and it hits age groups and ethnic groups across the board.

Today we are going to be taking up some legislation, H.R. 4641 and H.R. 5046. The first bill has 2 cosponsors; the second has 10 cosponsors. The first provides for establishment of an interagency task force to talk about pain medication, and the second is to authorize, not appropriate, different programs for heroin and opioid reduction. They are benign bills. It would be impossible for anyone to object to them.

But to be very clear, there is not a penny in either of these measures to help law enforcement. The police and fire who are responding to these crises day in and day out back home in eastern Connecticut are burning out because of the frequency of these calls. There is not a penny in these measures for treatment beds, for detox, or for long-term care treatment. In the State of Connecticut, it takes 4 to 6 months to get treatment.

These are addicts who are at points in their lives where to talk about a 4- to 6-month time span is to talk about an eternity. If you talk to the families who are dealing with their loved ones who are ensnared in these addictions, 4 to 6 months is really basically being told that there is no treatment available.

There is not a penny for prevention and education. If we go upstream, that is how we solve this problem in terms of better practices for opioid and heroin prescription.

It is not a coincidence that the White House last night issued a statement on this legislation, which basically points out the fact that they "do little to help the thousands of Americans struggling with addiction."

The statement goes on to say that these alarming trends which are represented on this map "will not change by simply authorizing new grant programs, studies and reports. Congressional action is needed to fund the tools communities need to confront this epidemic and accelerate important policies like training health care providers on appropriate opioid prescribing, an essential component of this effort."

The President submitted a budget with \$1 billion of new funding paid for offset for 2017 that would put money into those three buckets: prevention and education, law enforcement, and treatment, again, no action by the ma-

majority in terms of dealing with actual funding to help people out there desperate for help.

There is a bill also to provide emergency supplemental funding of \$600 million for this year to get that help out now. We presented it to the Rules Committee last night, and it was rejected.

If we had a hurricane or a tornado or a forest fire that was ravaging parts of this country or an attack on the homeland, this place would not hesitate about getting resources out there to help the folks that would respond to that type of a crisis; yet, somehow we have turned a blind eye to the thousands of Americans who are suffering from addiction and to the thousands of law enforcement fire and police who are responding to these calls literally as we are sitting here today.

There are hundreds of people per day who are dying because of this problem, and we, again, are providing no resources about better opioid prescription practices and getting better education, particularly to our young people, that clearly this map shows we must do if we are going to get our arms around this conflict and this problem.

Today there will be votes. There will be a lot of self-congratulatory rhetoric about the fact that we are moving on this. But, remember, there is not a penny for law enforcement, for treatment, or for prevention and education. Until we do that, we are kidding ourselves that we are going to turn this alarming, disturbing trend around.

#### SOUTH DADE VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the long-overdue south Dade Veterans Affairs clinic adjacent to Homestead Air Reserve Base, part of my congressional district.

Community-based outpatient clinic facilities in Homestead and Key Largo are extremely limited in the amount of services that they provide. This project, therefore, can no longer be ignored, Mr. Speaker. Currently, these local military personnel, retired servicemembers, and veterans are not getting the proper support that they have so rightfully earned.

As the wife of a Vietnam veteran and a stepmother of two marine aviators, I am passionate about safeguarding our Nation's military members and their families and fighting for the services they need in order for them to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Our military does not quit on us, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly will continue fighting for them.

It is estimated that there are more than 22,500 veterans, Active-Duty mili-

tary, and recently deployed reservists eligible for VA medical services within a 20-mile radius of Homestead Air Reserve Base. Currently, those living in Homestead who require more than the limited services offered at Homestead Outpatient Clinic must travel about 70 miles roundtrip to the VA Medical Center in order to get the proper care that they desperately need. Veterans living in the Upper Keys have to travel even further, oftentimes more than 160 miles roundtrip.

This is completely unacceptable. It is a huge burden for our servicemen and -women and their families who have already sacrificed so much for us and our Nation. This new clinic would not only improve access to care for veterans in Homestead and the Upper Keys, but it would also enhance the quality of care throughout the region by reducing pressure on the Miami VA Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, the south Dade VA clinic is a project that has a great deal of support throughout my district, including the Department of Defense personnel at Homestead Air Reserve Base and the Military Affairs Committee of the south Dade Chamber of Commerce.

I have also received thousands of constituent support cards, many of which I have here with me today. Here is a bunch, and here is a bunch. There are just thousands, Mr. Speaker.

Once again I would like to express my strong support for the long-overdue south Dade Veterans Affairs clinic adjacent to the Homestead Air Reserve Base. These local veterans have waited too long already, and they deserve nothing less than the successful completion of a new facility as soon as possible.

#### CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON ITS 68TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the democratic Jewish State of Israel as it marks its Independence Day.

Though the Jewish people have historical ties to Israel that date back millennia, in just 68 years of statehood, look at all that Israel has accomplished. Israel is a world leader in education, in technology, and in innovation. It is a vibrant and open democracy with a robust economy that thrives despite the constant threats that it faces daily.

The United States can have no greater friend than Israel not only because we share the same interests, but because we also share the same values and beliefs, such as democracy and the rule of law. That is why it is imperative that our two nations sign a new memorandum of understanding to ensure that Israel has the capability and the capacity to defend herself and her citizens from all threats and be a shining example of democracy for the entire region.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work to strengthen the already-strong relationship between the U.S. and Israel. I congratulate the Jewish state and her citizens on its 68th Independence Day.

#### WAR ON DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is a major front on the war on drugs that is only now getting the attention it deserves. We will be discussing it later today on the floor dealing with opioid addiction.

Instead of arresting or citing over 600,000 people for marijuana last year, which had zero overdose deaths and which a majority of Americans think should be legal, we should redouble our efforts to fight the abuse of opioid prescription painkillers and the epidemic of opioid deaths.

Because of reckless marketing and lax oversight, there is an overdose death every 19 minutes; 78 people a day die, 20,000 last year. This is directly related to many heroin addicts. Deaths on heroin are increasing because the addict's drug of choice when their supply of opioids is interrupted shifts to heroin.

2.1 million suffer from substance abuse and 1,000 people a day are admitted to emergency rooms for opioid related causes. We have a challenge that needs to be addressed. There is plenty of blame to go around: the drug company's marketing practices, pill mills and unscrupulous doctors whose government regulators were asleep at the switch; and the DEA, which cannot get its priorities or its story straight.

I am hopeful that today's action on the floor will be the first step. As my friend and colleague from Connecticut pointed out, today's legislation really doesn't speak meaningfully to what we are going to have to do: prevention and treatment, which ultimately can help disrupt this cycle of abuse.

There is one simple step that I think would make a profound difference. We are introducing legislation today to deal with disposal of prescription drugs. We are issuing approximately one prescription per adult in the United States, 260 million this year.

There are tens of millions of these pills floating around and left over. And what do people do? Many of them just flush them down the toilet or leave them in the medicine cabinets.

Well, flushing them into the sewer system is not a good idea because we are slowly medicating millions of Americans who are having traces of these drugs showing up in their system from drinking water. They are expensive to remove. Leaving it in the medicine cabinet is how many people find

drugs to abuse. Teenagers steal unused medicines out of medicine cabinets in homes that they visit or from family members.

We are proposing a safe drug disposal tax credit, which would offer qualified entities such as retail pharmacies, narcotics treatment programs, and long-term care facilities a tax credit to be able to deal with disposal of these prescription drugs on site.

Locating safe drug disposal and take-back programs at pharmacies and other healthcare sites will increase access to this safe medicine disposal and will remove millions of these highly dangerous drugs from the hands of people who shouldn't have them.

By all means, let's have the debate today. Let's start moving forward. A look at the broader challenges of treatment and prevention is long overdue. Hopefully, the DEA gets its priorities straight in the future.

But, in the meantime, providing a tax credit for safe disposal is a small step, which should have bipartisan support and will make a difference in every community across America to end this epidemic of prescription overdose deaths.

#### CONGRATULATING BROCKWAY'S GRACE PRESTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the efforts of Grace Preston, a sixth grader from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

Grace visited Washington, DC, last week to accept the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, a ceremony at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Grace was one of only two students in Pennsylvania to be honored with this award, which recognizes outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Grace has raised more than \$4,000 in the past 3 years to improve the lives of animals in her community through the sale of homemade dog treats, cat toys, and flea and tick repellent.

□ 1030

She became interested in helping animals after her family adopted a pet from a local shelter.

Through her efforts, Grace has raised enough money to enable the local Humane Society to purchase a storage shed, as well as other supplies, such as rabies gloves. She has also provided animal oxygen mask kits to a local fire department for pets that have been caught in fires; has helped pay for a shelter dog's surgery; and has collected animal food for the pets of needy families.

Grace's work is an example that students all across the Nation should look

toward. I know she has made her school and her community proud.

#### LEADERSHIP FOR CLEAN WATER

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week was National Drinking Water Week. This designation is to highlight the importance of drinking water across our Nation and the need to reinvest in the infrastructure that brings tap water into our homes.

Quality water has been credited with vastly extending the life expectancy here in the United States by eliminating the sickness from diseases that are spread through drinking water, such as typhoid fever. While we have made great progress in improving water across our Nation, there is always more work to be done.

In Congress, since 1996, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund has helped to fund public water systems and infrastructure projects in order to meet public health goals and to comply with Federal regulations. Last year alone, Congress provided \$2.3 billion to the EPA for local drinking water and sewer construction projects through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds.

Good water is not only vital for good health, but it is also essential for our State's number one industry: agriculture. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania continues to provide substantial food, fiber, and energy for residents across our Nation. With this in mind, promoting and sustaining healthy waters and soil is essential.

As chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, with jurisdiction over Federal conservation programs that are administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service and forestry practices, we work to provide leadership and resources to promote the health of our watersheds, soils, and forests.

To help meet those needs, I was proud to work on the 2014 farm bill, which provides many positive tools for farmers and landowners. From on-farm operations to estuary management, the United States Department of Agriculture plays an important role in managing and in improving both water and soil quality. The farm bill is the guiding authorization for the Department. Programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, or the CRP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or the EQIP, and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, or the RCPP, are a few of the critical ones that directly impact soil and water quality in our country and certainly in Pennsylvania.

As we have seen so many times in Pennsylvania and around the country, once a watershed or water source is harmed, it often takes generations to recover. History shows us just how important clean water is. It also demonstrates how hard it is to fix a water source once it has been contaminated.

I remain committed in Washington and certainly in my home State of Pennsylvania to helping our professionals, volunteers, business community, nonprofits, such as Trout Unlimited and Watershed Associations, as well as academic and research institutions, such as Penn State, in their efforts to preserve our State's water and our country's water for future generations.

#### MR. SCOTT'S VISIT TO OREGON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, when I travel around northwest Oregon, I often hear from parents who struggle to afford child care, which in Oregon can cost as much as a year of college tuition. I hear from people who can't find work because their skills don't match up with the jobs that are available in their areas, and I hear from students who are overwhelmed by the cost of their college educations.

These are not problems without solutions. As policymakers, we should be addressing the challenges our families face. It is possible to give every child the opportunity to succeed, to close the achievement gap, to make college accessible and affordable, to expand family-friendly workplace policies, and to make sure we have a 21st century workforce. In fact, we can't afford to let these problems continue to hold us back.

This week, I welcomed to Oregon Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, the ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Together we saw and discussed some of the struggles our working families face. We had a whirlwind day that included substantive discussions about how to give children, young people, and working families the support they need to succeed. We talked about how to open the doors of opportunity that are closed for too many.

I invited Mr. SCOTT to Oregon because he has a remarkable record of standing up for working families. On the Education and the Workforce Committee, we worked together on the Every Student Succeeds Act to strengthen our public schools, and on the Older Americans Act to support our growing population of older adults.

He has also been a leader for working families by his standing up to attacks on the National Labor Relations Board and by his protecting retirees through his support for the Department of Labor's rule to ban conflicts of interest in retirement advice. During his visit this week, I showed Mr. SCOTT the innovative and collaborative nature that sets Oregon apart.

Oregon is a leader in addressing barriers that are faced by working families. Last year our State legislature

raised the State's minimum wage and passed legislation to provide workers with paid sick days to care for themselves or their families.

At our forum on early childhood development, we discussed how this country's workplace policies have not kept up with our changing workforce. Andrea Paluso from Family Forward Oregon told us that even the iconic image of the Cleaver family does not accurately reflect the diversity of American families.

In fact, Barbara Billingsley, the actress who played June Cleaver on "Leave It to Beaver," was in real life a single, working mom.

We heard from others about how food insecurity and hunger interfere with the ability of too many children to focus in school and about how early childhood education correlates to positive health outcomes and academic achievement later in life.

I am proud of Oregon for taking so many positive steps to protect working families, but these changes shouldn't be happening just for some. We should be having these conversations and discussions in Congress as well. Our economy will be stronger and our families will be healthier when we acknowledge that families need policies that work for them, not against them. We need equal pay for women, good wages, paid leave, and affordable child care to support families in Oregon and across the country.

Looking toward our future, I want students today to have the same opportunities I had. I worked my way through community college, college, and law school, and I graduated with a very manageable amount of student debt. Unfortunately, that opportunity is out of reach for too many of today's families.

Again, Oregon is a national leader. Oregon Promise, our State's free community college plan, will help put education within reach for thousands of students. Oregon's leaders have recognized that the future of our economy relies on an educated and innovative workforce to create and fill the jobs of the 21st century.

During our visit, I introduced Mr. SCOTT to Fernando, who participates in the Portland Community College's very successful Future Connect Program. This program connects low-income, first-generation college students with financial aid resources, personalized academic advising, internships and job training, and an intensive summer orientation, all of which help them to succeed in college. This program is critical to Fernando, who is a DACA student, and to other first-generation college students. Fernando told us that Future Connect made a difference, it made him feel at home in college. Oregon knows it is not enough just to get students to college, but that it is important that they stay there and finish

their degrees. Now Fernando is off to a 4-year university and is pursuing his plans to become a dentist.

I am incredibly proud of the State I represent. Congress can learn a lot from the Oregon spirit of innovation and collaboration. I was glad to show Mr. SCOTT the progress we have made in Oregon, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remove the many obstacles that are holding back working families and that are keeping young people from achieving their full potential, because when we open the doors of opportunity to everyone, we all succeed.

#### A STRONGER AMERICA OR A PATH TO ECONOMIC DISASTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, in 2009 and 2010, when the other side of the aisle had complete control of Congress and the White House, the American people saw what liberals would pass when given free rein and a blank check.

With Dodd-Frank, Democrats deemed it necessary to punish small community banks with burdensome regulations they cannot afford to comply with. Dodd-Frank created a new, unaccountable bureaucracy called the CFPB, which is funded in a way that obscures its transparency and prevents Congress' direct oversight of the agency. The lack of accountability like that seen with the CFPB and the heavy hand of agencies like the EPA and the IRS have become hallmarks of this administration.

With the stimulus bill, Democrats gave handouts to their union and so-called green energy friends. Taxpayers were on the hook for loan guarantees to companies like Solyndra, which used its political connections in the White House to push through irresponsible loan approvals. When Solyndra went bankrupt, it was at the cost of the American people. Many other smaller boondoggles came out of the stimulus: silly studies on ducks, over \$1 million on road signs that promote the stimulus, and over \$3 million for a tunnel for turtles in Florida.

This leaves ObamaCare. Too many Americans have felt the negative consequences of what boils down to a government takeover of the healthcare industry. The President claimed this law would decrease premiums by \$2,500 per year. Instead, they have risen since ObamaCare has been enacted. To go with the increase in cost, many Americans have seen a sharp decrease in their choices. There are fewer plans available, restricting the ability of hardworking families to choose coverage that is appropriate for their circumstances.

Taken together, this trio of liberal policies is adding layers of bureaucratic red tape, forcing Americans to

pay more for health care and putting taxpayers on the hook.

In 2009, Democrats used the blank check to add \$1.5 trillion in discretionary spending. When Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives in 2011, we put discretionary spending on a downward trend. Discretionary spending funds our Federal agencies such as the EPA and the IRS, as well as the Department of Defense. We have made real cuts in spending, not slowdowns in growth and not projected cuts down the road—honest-to-God cuts in spending. Since I took office in 2011, discretionary spending has been cut significantly by \$434 billion.

But this does not address mandatory spending, which is the real driver of our national debt. This includes programs like food assistance, welfare, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest on our debt. Reforms are needed to ensure these programs work efficiently and are sustainable. Because of the way ObamaCare was written and enacted, mandatory spending also includes large portions of ObamaCare funding. Mandatory spending is on autopilot and will continue with or without Congress' annual appropriations process.

The fact is we have to change the law. That means both Chambers of Congress have to pass reforms and the President has to sign them or we have to override a veto. Mandatory spending accounts for three-quarters of all money spent by the Federal Government. This is a 180-degree change from when I was a teenager, when in 1970, mandatory spending was only about a third of government spending.

Realistically, there is only one path to a balanced budget and shrinking our national debt. That path is to pass a budget and use a process called reconciliation. A budget facilitates reconciliation, which only requires a 51-vote majority in the United States Senate and avoids a filibuster by liberals who want to continue running up America's credit card. Not doing a budget forfeits the opportunity to do reconciliation. Reconciliation with mandatory spending program reforms, coupled with real tax and regulatory reforms, will send a strong signal to our entrepreneurs and businesses, which will unleash innovation and the American spirit and will, thus, grow our economy and provide for our national defense. A vibrant economy will provide for our national security and priorities without raising taxes.

We have an opportunity with a new President next year to send two reconciliation bills to his desk—one for this fiscal year and another for the next fiscal year. Elections do matter, and this one has historic implications—one being a path to a stronger America and opportunity for every American or a path on a downward spi-

ral of economic disaster, risking our personal and economic freedoms. God help us.

#### AMERICA IS SADDLED WITH BAD TRADE DEALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, how does America get saddled with these bad trade deals?

If we look at our free trade agreements, we see a 425 percent increase in our trade deficit with those FTA countries. You get that statistic if you include NAFTA, which, of course, is the granddaddy of all of our free trade deals, and that doesn't even count our worst deal, which was granting most favored nation status to China.

So how do we end up with such bad deals?

First, the elites convince themselves that it is good for the country. They do this because they love the theory of the economic textbook and don't feel comfortable looking at the practice of how business actually works.

Second, the elites benefit from these deals. These deals help economists and Wall Street and attorneys, so they convince themselves that they are good for the country as a whole and create a subcultural echo chamber in which it is a subcultural norm that all smart people realize that these are good trade deals. In having convinced themselves to support these deals, they use a combination of condescension, false appeals to patriotism, and sneaky tactics to saddle the American people with these trade deals.

□ 1045

Take a look at the effect on working families. America needs a raise. To get it, we need a severe labor shortage. We would have millions of additional jobs, a desperate labor shortage, if only we had balanced trade with the world.

Let's look at TPP and its inclusion of Vietnam. We were told that the Trans-Pacific Partnership will give us free access to the Vietnamese market. There is only one problem: in Vietnam, there is no freedom and there is no market. In fact, we will not have access except as the Communist Party of Vietnam decides to grant it on the basis of crony capitalism, but our workers are going to have to compete against 40-cent-an-hour Vietnamese labor.

Now, we are told that in Vietnam, under this deal, it won't be illegal to organize a union. They won't put you in jail for organizing a union. What they will do is they will plant drugs on every union activist and arrest them for that. You are not going to see free unions in Vietnam, and that will hurt working families in the U.S.

So how do they sell it? They claim that it may take jobs away, but it is a

necessary sacrifice because we have to contain China. As the ranking member of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, I am here to tell you the TPP is great for China.

First, we are told, well, we get to write the rules. No. These are Wall Street's rules. They are not the rules of the American working family.

Second, TPP enshrines the idea that currency manipulation is just fine. So China gets the single most important change in the rules of international trade.

Finally and most obscurely, there are the rules of origin. Now we know that, under this deal, goods that are made in Vietnam or Japan come right in to the United States with no tariffs. What you don't know is the goods that are 50, 60 percent, 70 percent made in China then go to Vietnam or Japan where they can put a made-in-Japan sticker on it and send it to the United States—that is when they admit that it is 50 or 60 percent made in China.

As a CPA, I will tell you, if you are in a position to admit that your goods are 60 percent made in China, that means they can be 90 percent made in China. So China gets to fast-track their goods into the United States, no tariffs, and we get no access to the Chinese markets. So it is a really bad deal.

How do you pass it? You use sneaky tactics. They don't have the votes to pass it now. The American people would rise in opposition to try to pass it now. So they are going to wait for the lame duck and then have a group of retiring Members of this body shaft the American people with the TPP.

We do have a solution. We need to get all three remaining Presidential candidates to declare, if sneaky tactics and lame duck sessions are used to impose TPP on America, that they will, in their first month in office, pull us back out of TPP. Unless we hear that clearly from the three Presidential candidates, all of whom oppose TPP, that they not only oppose it, but they will erase anything that happens in a lame duck session, then the elites will prevail. We will lose jobs again. Our workers will have to compete with 40-cent-an-hour labor. Chinese goods will be fast-tracked into the United States with "Made in Japan" and "Made in Vietnam" stickers on them.

It is time for the Presidential candidates to go beyond saying they are against it. They have to declare that they will make sure that any lame duck approval of TPP that happens in December will be erased the following January.

#### HEROIN OPIOID CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, the growing heroin and opioid crisis has especially hit home in my district in Suffolk County, New York. There was a

2015 report issued in New York State that showed that, out of all 62 counties in New York, it was my home county that was hit the hardest by the rise of heroin and opioid abuse. We had the highest number of heroin-related overdose deaths of any county in New York.

As a member of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, I have spoken with affected families directly. Addiction is a truly devastating disease that shatters lives, families, and communities. It is a disease that only continues to spread at rapid rates, and more can and must be done to counteract the damage it has done and prevent its rapid advancement.

Working closely with my local community, I have been pursuing a more localized solution to address this crisis. Hosting multiple drug task force roundtables in Suffolk County, I have been able to bring together local elected officials, law enforcement, health professionals, community groups, parents, concerned residents, and those in recovery to discuss various ways that we can work together to combat this epidemic. Over the past year, working with both local residents and my colleagues in Congress, I have been pushing to advance legislation in the House that would help provide us with the resources we need to end the growing epidemic crisis on Long Island.

Just last week, joined by my local community, I was proud to announce that there has been progress made to pass several important bills this week aimed at improving and increasing access to treatment, enforcement, and education. The House is now passing many of these critically important measures over the course of the next few days.

While I have been dedicating the most amount of my time advocating for the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA, H.R. 593, many other important proposals are also moving forward.

One other bill that I cosponsor is H.R. 4641, which will be passing today, which would improve the guidelines for prescribing opioids and pain medication by creating a Federal interagency and stakeholder task force that would review, modify, and update best practices for pain management in prescribing pain medication. While there are many legitimate reasons and needs for some to be treated with pain medication, those highly addictive pills pose a serious risk. This critical bill would help ensure that all parties, from prescribers to patients, have access to the most up-to-date information so that lawful prescription use does not become addicting.

Just a few of the other bills include the Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2016, H.R. 4982, which would require Congress receive a report on substance abuse treatment availability and infrastructure needs in the

U.S., and legislation that would task a Federal agency to create a plan on how to deal with the opioid and heroin epidemic, H.R. 4976.

Legislation is passing to help stop the flow of illegal narcotics into our country, to keep drugs out of our communities and off our streets, such as legislation to help law enforcement officials identify and target drug traffickers, H.R. 3380, and to allow for easier prosecution of these criminals, H.R. 4985.

There is not one piece of legislation that will completely solve this overwhelming crisis, but finally Congress is taking a big step forward in the fight against drug abuse. We must always do everything in our power to provide our local communities with the resources necessary to help stop and prevent drug abuse through treatment, enforcement, and education, which is why I will continue pushing these efforts in the House.

I have spoken to parents of those recovering, parents of those who are unfortunately lost. It is impacting lives. It is devastating families.

Have a conversation in each of our districts, all 435 congressional districts, and we all hear the story all too often. It is not any race, gender, or socioeconomic status. It is not one particular school district. It is impacting all of our children.

As the father of two 9-year-old girls, I visited their class last week. I think of their generation, and it is important that this generation in Congress today does everything in our power this week and beyond to combat this epidemic.

#### WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SELMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a hidden jewel in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District: Wallace Community College Selma. Wallace Community College Selma is a stellar 2-year institution that provides incredible educational opportunities to the students of Dallas County and across the Black Belt of Alabama.

Now, more than ever, America needs greater innovation in our educational system to meet the demanding needs of tomorrow. Outstanding higher education institutes in the State of Alabama are producing some of our State's and our Nation's best and brightest who will lead us into the next era of American innovation.

Wallace Community College Selma is leading that charge in my district through its dual enrollment program, which allows high school students to complete college courses and graduate with a high school diploma as well as an associate degree from this junior college.

In 2008, Wallace Community College Selma graduated 31 students from the Selma Early College High School, which was the first of its kind on a college campus in the State of Alabama. The 2016 graduating class will include 22 dual enrollment students, including 20 students that participated in a special partnership with Tuskegee University.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute program with Tuskegee allowed Wallace Community College Selma to increase the participation of underrepresented minority students from Alabama's Black Belt counties in the important fields of science and research. This dual enrollment program with Tuskegee offers high school students an opportunity to take classes at Wallace Community College Selma as well as Tuskegee, and to graduate with their high school diploma as well as an associate degree in science.

Mr. Speaker, the dual enrollment program at Wallace Community College Selma is accomplishing what it set out to do: to give Dallas County high school students a head start in college. The benefits of this important opportunity are immeasurable: cutting the cost and the time spent in college while providing high school students significant exposure to the types of classes and fields of interest that will give them an important advantage and jump start on their peers.

Collaborations like these are so critically important to our youth gaining important and invaluable educational experience while obtaining college credit through dual enrollment. America must encourage more of these types of programs as we seek to lead the world in educating our people and attracting new generations of high-tech and high-paying jobs.

As a Member of Congress for the Seventh Congressional District, I take great pride in working to offer solutions that will help lay the foundation for creating better paying jobs and for our educational system to thrive in the future. I am so proud to acknowledge today the tremendous efforts and the outstanding programs offered at Wallace Community College Selma which exemplify the invaluable role our 2-year colleges play in our communities.

This college's leadership and innovation in creating a 21st century learning environment is to be commended—what a jewel to have serving the students of the Black Belt of Alabama. I am proud to represent them in my district and also to help encourage more students to participate in the dual enrollment program and Wallace Community College Selma.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. James Mitchell for his tremendous leadership as president of Wallace Community College Selma. I want to commend the faculty, administrators, and students of Wallace Community

College Selma for being truly outstanding.

This Friday, May 13, 2016, is graduation day at Wallace Community College Selma. I want to congratulate the entire class of 2016 and especially acknowledge the academic achievement of the 22 dual enrollment students who will receive a special congressional commendation on Friday. The names of these students will be listed in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts and the tremendous achievements of the Wallace students who participated in Alabama Skills USA:

Alabama Skill USA winner Jonniece Collins won first place in masonry and, as such, was the first woman in the State of Alabama to win this honor.

Other winners included Roderick Perkins, who won second place in masonry; Terrence Campbell, who won third place in masonry; and Francis Phillips, who won second place in cosmetology in the men's hair design competition.

I want to also pay special tribute to the outstanding athletic achievements of Ki'Onna Likely, who was the 2015–2016 Alabama Community College Conference Player of the Year as well as NJCAA Second Team All-American.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all of the accomplishments of the outstanding students and graduates of Wallace Community College Selma and to praise the leadership of Dr. James Mitchell and the hardworking staff and faculty of Wallace Community College.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2016. I wish you all the very best in all of your future endeavors. We are counting on you to make a difference.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

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#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House. Enlighten their hearts, and give them the light and strength to know Your will and make it their own.

Guide them by Your wisdom, and support them with Your power. For You desire justice for all, and we ask You to enable them to uphold the rights of all.

May they be not misled by ignorance nor corrupted by fear or favor, but rather faithful to all that is true. As they work through this day and these weeks, may they temper justice with love, and may all their deliberations be pleasing to You.

May all that is done within these hallowed halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

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#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the JOURNAL of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAHOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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#### REMEMBERING FIREFIGHTER RICHARD SHELTRA

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Firefighter Richard Sheltra of the Pineville Volunteer Fire Department.

Firefighter Sheltra died a hero while battling a fire on April 30, but he was a hero long before he volunteered to step into that burning building.

Firefighter Sheltra had service in his blood. He had great examples because his parents were also volunteer firefighters, all dedicated Christians attending Forest Hill Church.

Whenever the call went out, Firefighter Sheltra dropped whatever he was doing to go help. So strong was his commitment to serve and protect the families involved that he was often first on the scene.

Firefighter Sheltra was Pineville's Rookie of the Year in 2015. He was in the process of applying to the Char-

lotte Fire Department when he died at the age of 20.

While Mr. Sheltra was an excellent firefighter, he was an even greater servant of God. Please join me in praying for Firefighter Sheltra's family and the Pineville Volunteer Fire Department during this time of immense grief and, also, asking God to protect all of the brave men and women who serve our communities each and every day.

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#### UNITED STATES' RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL IS MORE IMPOR- TANT THAN EVER

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honor and privilege of traveling to Israel for the fourth time. Congressman SCHIFF and I joined the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Dan Shapiro, at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem for Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We watched six survivors, each representing 1 million innocent civilians killed, light the torch and share their stories of loss and survival. It was a powerful, moving, and emotional moment.

I am not sure one can begin to understand the devastation of the Holocaust until you have stood in Dachau or Auschwitz or heard stories from survivors themselves that seem too horrific to be real.

The United States' relationship with Israel is more important than ever. No matter what other threats we face, the United States and Israel must remain the closest of friends and continue to work together to ensure the security of our trusted ally.

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#### HONORING KANE COUNTY OFFICER OF THE YEAR DEAN TUCKER

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Officer Dean Tucker on being named Kane County's Officer of the Year for saving the life of a 7-year-old girl.

Last June Officer Tucker responded to reports of an early-morning two-car collision. Upon arrival, witnesses alerted him to an SUV believed to be submerged at the bottom of a retention pond. Surveying the scene from the shoreline, Tucker spotted 7-year-old Monserrat Alanis Ramirez 40 yards away, flailing on the surface.

Acting decisively, Officer Tucker quickly removed his gear, dove into the water, and wrapped his arms around the girl to keep her afloat. Fatigue quickly set in and Tucker called out to a fellow Aurora police officer, David Bliss, and a passerby for help. The

passerby provided support, swimming alongside Tucker, while Officer Bliss waded in and pulled Tucker and the girl to safety.

Tragically, Monserrat's mother and brother did not survive. However, the brave actions of Officer Tucker prevented further loss of life. We salute his selfless courage.

#### BREAKING ADDICTION TO OPIOIDS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act.

Like the TREAT Act, which I introduced, this bill would allow qualified physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe the medical treatment patients need to break their addiction to opioids. Utilizing these healthcare professionals is crucial to combat this epidemic, especially in medically underserved areas.

The bill would also increase the number of patients that physicians can prescribe Suboxone to from 100 to 250 per year. This is a step in the right direction. But there is no cap on the prescription of opioids, and it is counterproductive to cap treatment for opioid addiction.

The TREAT Act would eliminate this cap. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions has reported out a version with an annual cap of 500 patients. I urge my colleagues to support the Senate position so that more Americans can access this lifesaving treatment.

I thank the sponsors of this bill, Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. TONKO, and the Senate sponsor of the TREAT Act, ED MARKEY, for their work on this important initiative.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Police Week, a week we set aside to thank the 780,000 police officers who put on a badge nationwide and risk their lives to protect our communities.

We thank them for their brave service. Our police officers play an essential role in our community, working to keep us safe, upholding the rule of law, and responding to emergencies. The 18th District of Illinois is home to many upstanding, honorable, courageous, and self-sacrificing police officers.

Mr. Speaker, we also take time this week to mourn the loss of our fallen officers whose lives were lost in the line of duty. On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of

duty somewhere in the United States every 61 hours.

That is why I am proud to support a measure on the floor this week to extend the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020. We need to ensure our officers have the necessary equipment to keep them safe.

Just this winter South Jacksonville, Illinois, in my district grieved the loss of one of its very own police officers in the line of duty.

I also want to take this time to thank the support network that supports our police officers, their parents, wives, husbands, and children, for the sacrifices they make when their loved ones serve as police officers.

Let us show our men and women who wear the badge how much we value their crucial work.

#### OPIOID AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the crucial importance of addressing the heroin epidemic that is sweeping across this Nation.

I have been holding a series of regional briefings in my home State of New Hampshire to hear firsthand from communities working to fight this crisis. I have heard from far too many families who have lost loved ones to this epidemic because no treatment options were available.

In the fall of 2014, a high school French teacher in one of my towns who was beloved by her students died of an overdose, in part, because she could not get access to the treatment she needed.

And my good friend, Kriss Blevens, lost her stepdaughter, Amber, to addiction when no treatment beds were available.

This is simply unacceptable. We need to take action now to fight back against this epidemic and arm our communities with the resources to help individuals struggling to overcome the devastating pull of addiction.

I am a cofounder of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. We recently announced a package of 15 bills. I urge my fellow members to pass these bills this week. Let's help American families.

#### WHITE HOUSE DECEPTION ON IRAN ARMS DEAL

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend The New York Times published a disturbing story about the Obama administration's efforts to ma-

nipulate press coverage of the Iran deal.

When the deal was signed last year, many of my colleagues and I warned that Iran could not be trusted to follow these temporary restrictions on their nuclear weapons program, but key staffers in the White House worked to create an echo chamber for their false claims about the Iran deal.

The Obama administration spun a concocted story about a moderate regime coming to power in Iran that was suddenly willing to change their approach to their pursuit of nuclear weapons and their relationship with the rest of the world.

As it turns out, the administration had already begun talks with Iran well before new President Rouhani took office. Iran already knew how desperate President Obama was to sign this or any deal which allowed them to extract several key concessions. The deal only provides temporary restrictions on Iran's nuclear weapons program while giving Iran permanent relief from sanctions.

Meanwhile, Iran will continue to support terrorism and further destabilize the region as well as violate the missile test program in the agreement.

The Obama administration's misleading campaign to convince the American people to support the Iran deal has dangerous consequences for us deceiving the public and their trust in government as well as putting our allies around the world, such as Israel, in danger and that trust as well.

#### LEAD CONTAMINATION

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is not a new problem. Lead in school drinking water has been a problem in communities across this Nation for years. So why isn't there more outrage and talk about it among my colleagues?

Even Chris Christie has ordered lead testing in New Jersey public schools. When New Jersey's Governor starts to admit that there is a problem that demands government action, you know the situation must be dire.

No child takes a drink from a water fountain in school and thinks about whether the water is contaminated or not. It is our job to protect our children, and that means ensuring the safety of school drinking water.

Congress should pass and the President should sign my TEST for Lead Act. The bill requires States to help schools establish programs to test for lead in the drinking water if those States receive Federal funding for safe water programs. It would ensure transparency by requiring disclosure of high levels of lead in schools. Most importantly, it would help keep our children safe.

## OPIOID OVERDOSES

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I am concerned by the great opioid epidemic that is sweeping our Nation.

Every day more than 78 Americans die from opioid overdoses—78 Americans. Think about that. That is more than three every hour. Nearly 2 million Americans are addicted to or abuse opiate-based painkillers.

Unfortunately and, frankly, very sadly, my home State of Utah is all too familiar with these statistics, as we are fifth in the Nation in the most opioid-related deaths.

These drug addictions are destroying opportunities and are devastating families and communities all across the country. We simply must take steps to help alleviate this suffering.

I am proud to be supporting a number of bills that the House will be debating and voting on this week to combat opioid abuse, legislation that will lead to updated best practices for prescribers of pain medication, legislation that will improve drug abuse programs, and legislation that will give States and local communities more flexibility to attack this problem and the problems that are unique to those communities.

I urge support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and am pleased to see that there is bipartisan support of these much-needed reforms.

□ 1215

## OPIOID ADDICTION IS A NATIONAL EMERGENCY

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to tell the story of Alex Recupido, a troubled high school graduate of 2010, an accomplished pianist, a kid who was known for his creativity. He had gotten his nursing license and had moved to Florida when prescription drugs led to a heroin addiction and Alex died in 2014.

Sadly, Alex is not alone as 723 people died last year in my small State of Connecticut, and roughly 30,000 Americans will die this year of opioid addiction. By any standard, this is a national emergency.

At great long last, this House is acting this week on a series of bills to improve the training, the awareness, and the treatment that we offer to people who are caught in this cycle. I am concerned, though, Mr. Speaker, that the total funds called for by all of these bills—about \$100 million—is completely inadequate for a national emergency.

At the end of the day, it is the resources, not the words, that we must offer. I believe we can do better. Our citizens are worth it. For people out there like Alex Recupido, it is a matter of life and death.

## FACEBOOK SHOULD SHARE CONSERVATIVE NEWS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent story from the tech blog Gizmodo details Facebook's alleged efforts to suppress conservative views in its popular trending news section.

Former curators of the trending news section said they were routinely told to ignore news stories of interest to conservative readers. Censoring stories from popular conservative news sites to fit a liberal political agenda does a severe disservice to the American people.

A recent Pew Research Center study found that two-thirds of American adults use Facebook to get news. Facebook has an obligation and a public responsibility not to silence conservative voices. Facebook should give the American people an honest appraisal of the news when it comes to deciding what is trending on its Web site. Anything less is intentionally trying to manipulate public opinion to promote a liberal agenda.

## SECURE GUNS AND PROTECT OUR KIDS

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, last week we read a powerful story under the headline: "One Week in April, Four Toddlers Shot and Killed Themselves."

Last year, toddlers shot someone with unsecured guns at a rate of one per week, and we are outpacing that horrific rate this year.

I stand here over and over, begging for Congress to act on gun violence, but today I plead for gun owners to be smart about the guns in their homes.

The groups Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety are educating Americans and are encouraging gun owners to secure guns in their homes and vehicles, to model responsible behavior, to ask about unsecured guns in other homes, to recognize the risks of teen suicides, and to tell their peers to be smart by sharing these simple steps to stop heartbreaking violence. Our society is saturated with guns. There are 357 million guns and there are 317 million people—the highest concentration in the world.

As The New York Times noted, if owners do not secure these guns, they

will continue to end up in the hands of "shooters who need help tying their shoelaces, too young sometimes to even say the word 'gun,' killed by their own curiosity."

Mr. Speaker, on this gun issue, let's come together, all of us, to secure guns and to protect our kids.

## LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May as Lupus Awareness Month.

According to the Lupus Foundation of America, as many as 2 million Americans, including my lovely stepdaughter, Katharine Lehtinen, are living with lupus, and another 16,000 new cases are reported across our Nation each year; but new research and collaborative projects offer hope that we are getting closer to safer and more effective treatments.

The Lupus Research Institute, in particular, has funded over 150 Novel Research Grants. These funds are aimed at forging scientific breakthroughs to better understand the disease and to help patients who are living with lupus. Because of the advancing science, 2016 may very well mark a new and exciting year in the long fight against this mysterious autoimmune disease.

Mr. Speaker, as this poster reads, "For a future with no lupus, we must know lupus."

## NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Nurses Week. It is an opportunity to honor the 3.1 million registered nurses who are primary providers of hospital patient care.

Right now at hospitals and health centers across America, nurses are offering essential, lifesaving treatment for patients. Every day nurses encounter and overcome challenges that most of us will never face. Honoring the work of nurses is especially important for me on a personal level as my grandmother, Lucy Cicilline, was a proud nurse at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island, for many years.

Let's honor the work of nurses by passing H.R. 2083, the bipartisan Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act, which is a bill that I am proud to cosponsor that will require hospitals to create staffing plans for nurses, establish new whistleblower protections, improve nurse retention, and make hospitals safer both for nurses and their patients.



I am honored to recognize National Nurses Week, and I thank all of America's great nurses for all that they do.

**HONORING THE LEGACY OF HARRY WU**

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, on April 26, the world lost an extraordinary man.

As a political prisoner in China for 19 years, from 1960 to 1979, Harry Wu endured torture, forced labor, and severe hunger. It was not until 3 years after Mao Zedong's death that Harry Wu was released.

His alleged crime?

As a 23-year-old student, Wu had criticized the Soviet invasion of Hungary and was given, according to Wu, a life sentence of labor, torture, and the teachings of Mao. After being freed, he devoted his life to exposing the horrors of the so-called reform through labor camps.

After moving to the United States in 1985, Wu began returning to China to secretly document the labor camps, known as laogai. His work was showcased both on CBS and on the BBC in the early 1990s and continued through his Laogai Research Foundation and museum in Washington. He testified before Congress on China's unfulfilled promises of reform, forced abortions and sterilizations, Internet censorship, and religious repression.

We can honor his tremendous work by ensuring the truths he revealed are not forgotten and by continuing to defend human rights in China and across the world.

**DR. CASTRO AND THE CONSUL OF MEXICO AWARD**

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Joseph Castro, the president of Fresno State University. Dr. Castro is the president of one of the finest universities in the Western United States. It also happens to be my alma mater.

Since Dr. Castro has been president, it has been clear that he wants to make a positive difference in the lives of all students, especially of those who are from California's San Joaquin Valley. Over 60 percent of the students are the first in their families to attend a university, and it has over 25,000 students today.

This is one of the many reasons the Consul General of Mexico honored Dr. Castro with the Ohtli Award, which is the highest award given to exceptional leaders who improve the lives of the Hispanic community abroad.

Dr. Castro is truly deserving of this award. He understands the immigrant communities throughout the valley and throughout the region and my home, which we are also proud to represent. It is a special place. It is where he was from originally, from California, and he is the first Hispanic president to be appointed at Fresno State.

Please join me in honoring Dr. Joseph Castro and the entire Fresno State faculty and staff for all they do for the students to ensure that they have access to a high quality, affordable college education, because they are the future of America.

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK**

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's Health Week.

Our goal this week is to empower women to prioritize and to take charge of their health. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, women can access preventative care for little or no cost, but there still are concerning gaps in women's health.

One out of four women reports not visiting a doctor because of the cost, and nearly two out of three women in America die from chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, which is why women need quality, affordable, and accessible health care.

Protecting and improving the health of American women is one of my top priorities in Congress. I fought to insert language in the annual defense bill to ensure that our brave servicewomen and female veterans have access to adequate health services that fully address their specific medical needs, including preventative care and infertility treatments.

We have seen increasing attacks on women's health in Congress. So it is important, more than ever, that we ensure women's access to contraception and to their constitutionally protected right to choose.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 11, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representa-

tives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 11, 2016 at 9:12 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4923.

That the Senate passed S. 1352.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 4336.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York

**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4641, ESTABLISHING PAIN MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5046, COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2016**

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 720 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 720

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4641) to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying

this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5046) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-52. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 1230

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on House Resolution 720, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward today on behalf of the Rules Committee.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016, and H.R. 4641, a bill to establish an interagency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and for prescribing pain medication.

For H.R. 5046, the rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

And for H.R. 4641, the rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Both rules are structured rules that make in order numerous amendments.

Yesterday the Rules Committee received testimony from members of the Judiciary Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and multiple other Members on their amendments. H.R. 5046 was marked up by the Judiciary Committee, and H.R. 4641 was reported by the Energy and Commerce Committee. Both bills have broad bipartisan support.

These bills are part of the House's effort to combat our Nation's growing opioid epidemic. They reflect a commitment to address this devastating problem in a constructive and meaningful way.

Opioid abuse hits communities all across this country, rich and poor, rural, suburban, and urban, and it takes a major toll. In 2012, an estimated 2.1 million in the United States were suffering from substance abuse disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers. An estimated 467,000 people were addicted to heroin.

In the same year, in Georgia, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation found that prescription drugs played a role in 592 deaths in 152 of 159 counties for which autopsies were performed.

Mr. Speaker, just the other day I was having coffee with a dear friend of mine who I have known for 20 years. As we were talking and I mentioned what we were doing here, he brought forth that just in the last little bit in his own family life he has seen relatives that have been touched by this epidemic of painkillers and substance abuse issues. This is something that can affect anyone in any family, and this is why we are here today.

The bills before us today take steps to combat the opioid epidemic and drug addiction.

H.R. 5046, introduced by Mr. SENSENBRENNER from Wisconsin, establishes a comprehensive opioid abuse grant program. The program encompasses new and existing Department of Justice programs, including training for first responders, law enforcement, drug courts, residential substance abuse treatment, and criminal investigations for the unlawful distribution of opioids.

Importantly, this bill provides flexibility for the States to use the funds where they are needed most. It does so by establishing one grant program that has numerous allowable uses. The bill also ensures that there isn't duplication and eliminates redundancy.

I was proud to support this bill at the Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 4641, introduced by Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS of Indiana, establishes a pain management best practices interagency task force. This task force will include representatives from Federal agencies, state medical boards, healthcare professionals, experts from addiction recovery communities, and others knowledgeable in the field.

The task force will be responsible for reviewing and updating best practices for acute and chronic pain management in an evidence-based manner. It will also be responsible for sharing the information found with healthcare professionals. This bill recognizes that responses to the opioid epidemic need to be coordinated and thoughtful.

Addiction is happening far too often with devastating consequences. Further, it is shown that prescription opioid abuse often leads to heroin abuse—and the sheriffs in my part of my State can attest to this every day—compounding this problem.

In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control, 45 percent of people who used heroin were addicted to prescription opioid painkillers.

Heroin has frequently been thought of as an inner-city problem, but we are starting to see it more and more outside of cities and spreading to rural areas, too. This problem is a problem for America. This problem has exploded.

According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, heroin deaths have increased in Georgia by 300 percent. That is an astonishing and very tragic statistic.

CDC statistics on opioid abuse show 18,893 overdose deaths related to prescription pain relievers and 10,574 overdose deaths related to heroin in 2014. Those are staggering numbers.

The opioid epidemic affects everyone, and I believe that most people could tell you of a family member or friend who has suffered in some way because of this problem.

Also, Mr. Speaker, it affects babies who are born addicted to opioids and other drugs. These children, through no fault of their own, are born with a serious and heartbreaking problem. They then go through dangerous withdrawals and can be left with lasting health consequences. We have to find a way to stop this.

The opioid epidemic affects veterans, whose battle scars are treated by a VA whose answer too often is to prescribe high quantities of opioids with little thought to the consequences.

I am a chaplain in the United States Air Force Reserve. I served in Iraq. I saw firsthand the scars that the battlefield can leave, both physical and mental. We need a support system for our veterans. We need to address their pain. We need to ensure that they have an avenue to get the help they need.

I believe that the bills that this rule provides for will take the steps to make that happen. Our veterans deserve our very best.

Addiction issues are often related to other co-occurring disorders, including mental health issues. Addiction claims victims, and addiction is a disease.

We must not turn a blind eye to those in need. We must work to halt the opioid epidemic, and we must act to prevent more deaths and to stop the growth and spread of the problem. Today's bills are a step toward doing that, and I am glad that we have the opportunity to discuss those in an open manner.

These bills are brought forward due to the hard work of many Members. In particular, I thank Chairmen GOODLATTE and UPTON, Ranking Members CONYERS and PALLONE, Congresswoman BROOKS, Congressman SENSENBRENNER, and their staffs for their work in bringing these important reforms together. These reforms are a step in the right direction.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for the customary 30 minutes.

I rise to speak on the rule for consideration of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, and H.R. 4641, a bill to provide for the establishment of an interagency task force to

review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes.

By the end of this week, the House will have taken up a total of 17 bipartisan opiate-related bills, each a critical measure to help us tackle the opioid crisis in a variety of ways as we work to end this scourge hurting so many communities across our country and costing the lives of so many all across this country.

I am pleased that the House will be considering this critical bipartisan legislation this week. But in all honesty, I am also very concerned that Republicans are not proposing the new funding that is necessary to meaningfully address the opioid crisis.

So, in addition to passing the bipartisan legislation on the floor this week, which authorizes a new grant program, we must also provide real, new resources in the form of appropriations to ensure that the initiatives in this legislation can be fully implemented.

If we don't do that, all the speeches that we will give this week will amount to empty rhetoric. We need to make sure we fund these priorities. This is an emergency.

Opiate addiction is inflicting a savage daily toll in neighborhoods across America. According to the CDC, 78 Americans die from an opiate overdose every day, and many of them are young people. In 2013, the number of heroin users was 681,000, an increase of more than 250,000 users since 2002. This crisis is affecting every region across the country and every demographic group.

I have long said that Congress must provide the meaningful resources that are needed to make a difference and save lives. Today I am pleased that we are coming together and taking action to attempt to do just that. These are important first steps.

In New England, we know all too well the terrible toll of the opiate epidemic. Having seen the damage it has done to the communities that I represent in central and western Massachusetts, tackling the opiate epidemic has long been a top priority for me.

Across Massachusetts, the number of opiate overdose deaths climbed by nearly 10 percent, up from 1,228 in 2014 to 1,379 in 2015. Once all cases are finalized by the medical officials in Massachusetts, it is estimated that there will be an additional 63 to 85 deaths for 2014 and 118 to 179 deaths in 2015.

In Worcester County alone, home to the second largest city in New England, opiate-related deaths jumped from 163 in 2014 to 177 in 2015. Looking back at the last 16 years, we can see an even bigger increase. In 2000, there were 59 opiate-related overdose deaths in Worcester County, a small fraction of the 1,289 deaths in 2015.

Most of last year's victims were between the ages of 25 and 44, in the

prime of their lives with so much to live for. Many left behind families heartbroken and devastated by these senseless deaths. These families included husbands, wives, children, and so many more who loved them and desperately wanted them to get the help that they needed and to be able to live.

The opiate epidemic is even harder to cope with for those who have seen young people lose their lives to addiction. In Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, one high school principal said that, in the 11 years he has been principal, he has known of 33 students who have been active heroin addicts and 7 of them died. And in a recent forum, he learned that there had been even more that he had not known about.

Part of the problem is the stigma associated with heroin use. I think a lot of us think we know what heroin use and addiction looks like, but the reality is it can take hold of anyone, including our neighbors, our friends, and even our own family members.

However, instead of giving in to despair, communities in Massachusetts and across the country are responding to the opiate epidemic with strength and with courage. They are helping to lead grassroots State and national coalitions to raise awareness and educate people about the crisis and provide resources to help those ensnared by the addiction.

The Central Massachusetts Opiate Task Force, chaired by Worcester County District Attorney Joe Early, is a great example of this. They are working to bring greater awareness of the problem to residents. Members of the task force attend many of the coalition forums and also go into schools to talk to students directly.

The opiate task force serving Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region in Massachusetts is another example. It is co-chaired by John Merrigan, Franklin County Register of Probate; Chris Donelan, the Franklin County Sheriff; and David Sullivan, the Northwestern District Attorney.

I am so thankful for these and other task forces and coalitions in Massachusetts and across the country for coming together quickly to address this public health crisis and for their tenacity in fighting for individuals and families struggling with addiction.

Just this week I had the opportunity to join community leaders at North Brookfield High School in central Massachusetts for an event with Chris Herren, a former constituent of mine from Fall River and a former Boston Celtics player who now travels in New England and across the country to speak about his own recovery from addiction and the need for young people to stay drug free.

I am also grateful to my fellow members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation for being strong partners in this fight. JOE KENNEDY is a

member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and has been a leader on this issue. He is the lead Democratic sponsor of H.R. 4641. A number of amendments sponsored by Massachusetts Members were made in order last night, including several from KATHERINE CLARK, as well as amendments from SETH MOULTON, BILL KEATING, and STEPHEN LYNCH.

□ 1245

I also want to commend the leadership of the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER). She has been out front on this issue for a long, long time, and we appreciate her leadership.

The simple truth is that we are not going to arrest our way out of this problem. Prevention and treatment must be at the heart of our approach to tackling this epidemic. As part of the comprehensive approach called for, we must equip our young people with the skills necessary to identify constructive ways to deal with problems so that turning to drugs is never an option.

We must make every effort to ensure that treatment is available to those who seek it because it takes courage and strength to admit that you need help. I am pleased that this legislation that we are considering this week would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the legislation this rule makes in order, H.R. 5046. The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act would establish the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program. With \$103 million provided annually over 5 years, this program would help provide vital assistance to States and local agencies to fund treatment alternatives to incarceration, opioid abuse prevention, training, and education.

The program's grants could be used to train first responders in carrying and administering opioid overdose reversal drugs, support prescription drug monitoring programs, strengthen collaborations between criminal justice agencies and substance abuse systems, or for programs targeted toward juvenile opioid abuse programs.

This legislation, I think, is a commonsense, bipartisan step that goes a long way toward providing the critical help that Americans across this country need to combat our opioid epidemic.

I also support H.R. 4641, a bill that would provide for the establishment of an interagency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes. Creating this task force is another key step to help strengthen our national response to the opioid crisis and increase interagency collaboration as we marshal all our resources in this fight.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who worked very hard to bring this additional bipartisan

legislation to the floor this week so we could begin to tackle this opioid crisis. These bills take important steps to cut the risk of opioid addiction among veterans managing chronic pain, take on international drug traffickers, improve the treatment and care of babies who are born addicted to opioids, help reduce opioid use among young people, and strengthen access to opioid overdose reversal medication.

There are many issues that Democrats and Republicans do not see eye to eye on, but I am pleased that both parties seem to be coming together, at least on this first step, to tackle the opioid crisis. For families and communities across the country who have already lost so much and so many to this epidemic, there has never been a more important time for us to take action.

I want to thank the leaders of both parties for helping to bring these bipartisan bills to the House floor. I do believe that we can end the opioid crisis once and for all.

But again, in conclusion—and I have to stress this—we need to provide the funding to our communities that are struggling to deal with this opioid and heroin crisis. This is an emergency. That is how you have to classify this and look at it. This is an emergency. People are dying. Without providing the additional resources needed, we will not be part of the solution.

The ideas that we have compiled today that will be debated this week are all good ideas, but they won't be real ideas unless they are funded. I worry that this Congress might not be up to the challenge. We have emergencies in Flint, Michigan, with the water crisis, and we have not done what we need to do to provide emergency funding to that community. We have a growing emergency with the Zika virus, and we can't get an emergency appropriations bill to the floor here today. I think that we need to understand that this crisis has risen to the level of an emergency. We need to do what is right. We need to not only pass these bills, but we need to commit in a bipartisan way that we are going to provide the necessary funding. I hope we can do that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, and H.R. 4641, which will establish an interagency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescription pain medication.

Overprescription of opioids is leading to addiction, shattering lives, and creating death around our country. In my home State of New Hampshire, deadly

overdoses following the abuse of heroin and opioids claimed the lives of over 430 people last year alone. That is about 1 in every 3,000 people from my State falling victim to an epidemic, succumbing to a preventable problem. According to the CDC, overdose deaths have tripled over the last 10 years.

Desperate families, too long, are crying out for help. I commend my colleagues for rising to the occasion in this legislative response, tackling this issue in a bipartisan way, and making the proper commitment to fund an adequate response to help those who are in need.

These two pieces of legislation are designed to assist those battling the epidemic on the front lines, from law enforcement officers to underfunded recovery systems and personnel, and everyone in between. I am moved time and time again by the painful stories of the victims and courageous individuals coming to their aid, and I urge the House to offer its support in this struggle.

I was pleased that just last night the Committee on Rules accepted my amendment, allowing prevention and recovery programs to accept grant money authorized by the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment when it comes to the House floor tomorrow.

As the House response to the Senate-passed Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, these bills are a joint step toward progress and safety. I am a proud sponsor of many of these bills coming to the floor this week, and I hope for their swift and timely passage as urgent relief for those who are suffering around our Nation.

We must provide a thorough and wide-ranging plan to meet the enormity of this terrible epidemic, which invades every corner of the United States, takes lives across traditional divides, and manifests itself in ways to which we are not accustomed.

My colleagues and I are committed to seeing the House of Representatives answer this challenge by passing the most vigorous and inclusive plan possible. I am confident we will do all that we can to pass this plan this week, go to conference with the Senate, and put a bill on the President's desk before June.

Our plan is urgently needed. Almost 130 people die every day from opioid overdoses. Eighty percent of the opioids prescribed worldwide are prescribed here in the United States. In my district and around the country, I hear from families and friends who know someone coping with substance use disorder.

We will only make a dent in this great challenge by listening to its victims. We need to listen to fathers like Doug Griffin of Newton, New Hampshire. His daughter Courtney fell victim to heroin abuse at 20 years old.

Doug remembers Courtney as a vivacious girl, funny, passionate, and charming. She loved music and s'mores and told Doug she planned to become a marine, a beautiful young woman prepared to sacrifice for her country in one of its greatest and most honorable services. That was Courtney.

But 3 years later, she was lost on the streets, overwhelmed by the sorrow and confusion this epidemic instills, moving from rehab facility to rehab facility. Prescription pills, fentanyl, and street heroin ensnared Courtney in a fatal web of addiction, and she lost the will to live. Courtney was a 20-year-old girl—20 years old—a neighbor, a friend, a daughter. How can we begin to comprehend the depth of that kind of tragedy?

Because Courtney's pain was so great and because she had so few options for treatment, Doug says he and his family hid the truth from the outside world. To help others, they are speaking out now; and by speaking out and listening, we start to understand this tragedy. Doug is courageously telling everyone he knows the warning signs of heroin abuse and the deficiencies in our public response. Millions of Americans share Courtney's story and Doug's anguish. It is only by speaking out and sharing grief that we will remove the stigma preventing far too many from seeking help.

This week, during Heroin and Opioid Abuse Awareness Week, we have an opportunity to hear, learn, share, and fight back. We can hear the stories of grieving and resolute families, the stories of resilient victims. We can learn of the intensity of their experiences and glean from them the lessons we need to fight back. We can share their lessons and bring them to bear in our discourse and through our legislation, and we can start to turn the tide.

As the House considers this vital legislation, I encourage my colleagues to listen to their constituents, hear their stories, share their struggles, and help them fight back.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, I think that every Member of this House should support the underlying legislation. There will be some good amendments offered. Unfortunately, there were a lot of good amendments that were not made in order by the Committee on Rules last night. There will be some suspensions that will come to the floor that I think deserve our support. And I am anxious to go to conference with the Senate, anxious to put a bill on the President's desk.

I don't want to spoil this bipartisan moment, but none of this means anything if we don't fund it. These aren't appropriations bills that we are dealing with. I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said, well, we will deal with that in the appropri-

tions process. Well, because of the dysfunction of this place, we are not going to deal with the appropriations bills in any real way until after the election. I don't think we can wait. I think we need an emergency supplemental appropriations bill to deal right now with this crisis that has already claimed so many lives.

Let's all come together and pass these authorizing bills, but we need to do more than that. The President has requested \$1.1 billion, I think, to try to help provide resources to communities to deal with this crisis. We haven't funded that. So bills that set up grant programs that we all support, initiatives that we all think are important, that is good; but if the money is not there to actually fund these and implement these programs, then we are not doing our job. I would just argue that we have waited too long. It is an emergency. We ought to do this, and we ought to have an emergency supplemental appropriations bill on the floor immediately and get relief to our communities today.

Mr. Speaker, I support all these measures that the House will consider this week; however, as I said, they can't be the final word. We have to approve additional funding to develop a comprehensive response to this epidemic, which is an emergency. I am going to ask my colleagues to defeat the previous question. If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that provides \$600 million in funding to address the opioid epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), a leader on this issue, to discuss our proposal.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank all my colleagues for the bipartisan work that is happening this week.

I am proud to be a co-chair with the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA) of the Bipartisan Taskforce to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, Members of Congress from all across the country coming together to address this crisis.

I rise, however, to oppose the rule and, as Mr. MCGOVERN has said, we intend to move the previous question. I am bringing to the House floor a Democratic substitute opioids package to include \$600 million in critical funding to address this opioid epidemic.

We have an emergency. People are dying, as Mr. GUINTA said—in my own State, our State of New Hampshire, over 420 people in 1 year. We have a

better chance in New Hampshire of dying from an opioid epidemic death from fentanyl, from heroin, from drugs off the street, than we do of dying in a car accident. This is an emergency, and it is a crisis.

My substitute bill will provide vital funding for all of the bills that we are discussing, for bills that will provide the grants the Committee on the Judiciary has brought forth in H.R. 5046, introduced by Mr. SENSENBRENNER, for law enforcement, for drug courts.

I have just this week been to the graduation of a drug court. We can turn lives around, but we need funding for drug courts to spread all across our country, for the good work that my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), put into the Energy and Commerce bill, H.R. 4641, to create the task force.

Mr. GUINTA and I had an original bill, the STOP ABUSE Act, that created a task force, and we are so pleased that that task force will move forward. We need to bring together the experts to determine why now, what is happening in our society that opioid overdoses are leading people, leading this addiction, this substance use disorder that is a disease, leading people to go from prescribed medication from their physician into heroin off the streets and, in our State, is now being laced with fentanyl, which is a lethal combination.

□ 1300

The substitute will provide a total of \$600 million in vital new resources to address this epidemic, and my understanding is that we have not included this funding in these underlying bills. We want to support the underlying bills, but it is critical to have the funding.

New Hampshire has now gone from number 24 in the Nation in deaths per population to number 3, seemingly overnight. I have traveled around my district bringing together stakeholders, law enforcement, treatment providers, long-term recovery, which is a critical aspect of this, physicians, hospitals, police, everyone to the table. In Keene, in Nashua, in Concord, in the north country of our State, we now have mayors' committees. We have the Governor having a major summit this week. Here is the answer: we have solutions.

I serve on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I was so proud to bring to one of our congressional task force hearings Dr. Julie Franklin from the VA in White River Junction, Vermont, who is doing critical frontline research with people, veterans who are experiencing chronic pain. This is lifelong pain. She has worked with them with acupuncture, with mental health treatment, with physical therapy, with all different kinds of wellness

and yoga, and she has decreased the use of opiate medication by 50 percent. We can do this, but we need funding.

I urge you to vote “no” on the rule. I ask my colleagues to please support the substitute package that will include a critical \$600 million in funding.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Augusta, Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), my good friend and someone who has spent a great deal of time looking into these issues. I appreciate his willingness to come speak on it today.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding to me to speak on this important threat to our country, our State, and our communities.

Our Founders made a promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In America today, in every State, in too many families, there is a palpable undercurrent of pain, loss, and suffering that is caused by this horrendous opioid crisis.

Sadly, nearly one in five Americans knows someone who has been addicted to opioids. Nearly every 12 minutes, someone in the U.S. dies of a drug overdose; every 25 minutes, a baby is born suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A recent CDC study found that, in 2009, more Americans died from prescription drugs than motor vehicle accidents, marking the first time drug-related deaths have outnumbered motor vehicle-related deaths since 1979, when the government started tracking drug-related deaths.

Unfortunately, my home State of Georgia is not immune to this growing epidemic. According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, in 2012, prescription drugs played a role in 592 deaths in 152 of the 159 counties in Georgia for which it performs autopsies.

These heartbreaking numbers are far too high and tragic. We must take action to combat this crisis so that those addicted and their loved ones may start the road to healing. This week my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives are bringing opioid addiction out of the shadows to stop this devastating crisis.

I am proud of the tireless work of my colleagues in the Judiciary Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Education and the Workforce Committee, on which I serve, to prevent, treat, and streamline access to care for those addicted to opioids.

My colleagues and I have worked to advance bipartisan solutions that address this crisis, from helping newborns who are born into addiction to creating an interagency task force to update best practices for prescribing opioid painkillers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ALLEN. This is only the start of our work in the United States Congress on this important subject. The road to recovery will be long and hard fought, but the American spirit is as strong as ever and will prevail.

Together we will help our brothers and sisters in Christ become whole again. The very soul of this country is at stake. I am pleased the people’s House is taking proactive steps to fight this epidemic.

I urge my colleagues to support the rule and support the numerous bills coming before the House this week.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree that this is a crisis and that we need to come up with solutions and we need to do something rather than just talk about it.

I support—and I think I speak for the Democrats—and we all support the bipartisan legislation that is being brought to the floor, not only the bills that are going to be considered under this rule, but many of the suspension bills that will be brought to the floor this week. I expect that they will be passed nearly unanimously.

But I think what I do have a problem with is the fact that we have funded none of these things. I have a problem with the fact that some are content to wait until the appropriations process kind of works its way through this House, which, as we all know, is not going to be probably until December.

We have already been informed that we will probably deal with an omnibus package sometime after the election. Because there is infighting within the Republican ranks here in the House in trying to come to an agreement before the election, it is just too difficult. I regret that very, very much because I don’t think that we can wait until December before we actually fund some of these priorities that are in this bill.

The reason why I hope my colleagues will support the Democratic substitute is because it actually funds. It is an appropriation. It funds these priorities. It puts our money where our rhetoric is. It makes the money available now, and we know it is there and communities will know that they can depend on it.

So I think we really want to be effective in our battle against this scourge of opioids and heroin addiction that has touched every district in this country.

We have all been to too many funerals. We have all seen the heartbreak up close and personal. But if we want to do something about it, we have to not only come up with the ideas, we have to fund these ideas.

That is why I am urging that Members vote “no” on the previous question. It is so that we can bring a funding component to this. Let’s not wait until December. This is an emergency. We should have had an emergency supplemental bill. That is not coming.

So this is a chance to put some money behind these priorities and actually fund all these great ideas that we all, in a bipartisan way, say we support.

I urge my colleagues to support all the underlying bills, but to vote “no” on the previous question so we can bring this appropriations bill up to actually fund them. So I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question and to also vote “no” on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard—and we have spent the last almost 40 minutes talking about it—the opioid epidemic is out of control, but we have the opportunity today to start addressing that problem in a meaningful way.

The rule provides for consideration of legislation that will enact measures to address this problem through multiple avenues to ensure that we are taking a comprehensive approach to stopping this scourge.

It takes important steps to address the serious and growing threat of opioid abuse. It keeps a promise that we won’t sit idly by while people continue the battle of addiction and die.

For that reason, I urge my colleague to support the rule and both H.R. 5046 and H.R. 4641.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 720 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5189) to address the opioid abuse crisis. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 5189.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time,

and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 173, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 182]

YEAS—215

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barton  
Benishek  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Culberson  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Dold  
Donovan  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs

Gibson  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hensarling  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Katko  
Rouzer  
Kelly (MS)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaHood  
Lamborn  
Lance  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaull  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)

Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Ribble  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman

Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack

Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)

Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

NAYS—173

Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Castro (TX)  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Larsen (WA)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeback  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney  
Carolyne  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano

Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Speier  
Swaikwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—45

Jenkins (WV)  
Joyce  
Kelly (PA)  
LaMalfa  
Langevin  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)  
Meehan  
Price, Tom  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Rogers (AL)

Rokita  
Roskam  
Russell  
Slaughter  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (WA)  
Takai  
Tiberi  
Vargas  
Walberg  
Webster (FL)  
Welch  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield

□ 1328

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded. Stated for:

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was at a hearing and not able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was unavoidably detained at a Ways and Means Committee Hearing. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was at a Ways and Means hearing and was not able to make it to the floor in time. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 182. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Stated against:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 182, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for one rollcall vote Wednesday, May 11, 2016. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall No. 182.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today, Wednesday, May 11, 2016, I missed the first vote in a series of votes because I was at a medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote No. 182 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 720).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 255, noes 163, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 183]

AYES—255

Abraham	Buchanan	Crenshaw
Aderholt	Buck	Cuellar
Allen	Bucshon	Culberson
Amash	Burgess	Curbelo (FL)
Amodei	Byrne	Davis, Rodney
Babin	Calvert	Denham
Barletta	Carter (GA)	Dent
Barr	Carter (TX)	DeSantis
Barton	Chabot	DesJarlais
Benishek	Chaffetz	Diaz-Balart
Bilirakis	Clawson (FL)	Dold
Bishop (MI)	Coffman	Donovan
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Duckworth
Black	Collins (GA)	Duffy
Blackburn	Collins (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Blum	Comstock	Duncan (TN)
Bost	Conaway	Ellison
Boustany	Cook	Elmiers (NC)
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Emmer (MN)
Brat	Costa	Farenthold
Bridenstine	Costello (PA)	Fitzpatrick
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Fleischmann
Brooks (IN)	Crawford	Fleming

Flores	LoBiondo	Rokita
Forbes	Long	Rooney (FL)
Fortenberry	Loudermilk	Ros-Lehtinen
Fox	Love	Roskam
Franks (AZ)	Lucas	Ross
Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer	Rothfus
Garrett	Lummis	Rouzer
Gibbs	Lynch	Royce
Gibson	MacArthur	Ruppersberger
Gohmert	Marchant	Russell
Goodlatte	Marino	Salmon
Gosar	Massie	Sanford
Gowdy	McCarthy	Scalise
Granger	McCaul	Schiff
Graves (GA)	McClintock	Schweikert
Graves (LA)	McHenry	Scott, Austin
Graves (MO)	McKinley	Sensenbrenner
Griffith	McMorris	Sessions
Grothman	Rodgers	Shimkus
Guinta	McSally	Shuster
Guthrie	Meadows	Simpson
Hanna	Meehan	Sinema
Hardy	Messer	Smith (MO)
Harper	Mica	Smith (NE)
Harris	Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Hartzler	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Heck (NV)	Mooleenaar	Stefanik
Hensarling	Mooney (WV)	Stewart
Hice, Jody B.	Moulton	Stivers
Higgins	Mullin	Stutzman
Hill	Mulvaney	Thompson (PA)
Himes	Murphy (FL)	Thornberry
Holding	Murphy (PA)	Tiberi
Hudson	Neugebauer	Tipton
Huelskamp	Newhouse	Trott
Huizenga (MI)	Noem	Turner
Hultgren	Nugent	Upton
Hunter	Nunes	Valadao
Hurd (TX)	Olson	Walberg
Hurt (VA)	Palazzo	Walden
Issa	Palmer	Walker
Jenkins (KS)	Pascrell	Walorski
Jenkins (WV)	Paulsen	Walters, Mimi
Johnson (OH)	Pearce	Walz
Johnson, Sam	Perry	Weber (TX)
Jolly	Pittenger	Webster (FL)
Jones	Poe (TX)	Wenstrup
Jordan	Poliquin	Westerman
Kaptur	Pompeo	Westmoreland
Katko	Posey	Williams
Keating	Price, Tom	Wilson (SC)
Kelly (MS)	Ratcliffe	Womack
Kelly (PA)	Reed	Woodall
King (IA)	Reichert	Yoder
King (NY)	Renacci	Yoho
Kinzinger (IL)	Ribble	Young (AK)
Kline	Rice (SC)	Young (IA)
Knight	Rigell	Young (IN)
Labrador	Roby	Zeldin
LaHood	Roe (TN)	Zinke
LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)	
Lamborn	Rogers (KY)	
Lance	Rohrabacher	

NOES—163

Adams	Cohen
Aguilar	Connolly
Ashford	Conyers
Bass	Courtney
Beatty	Crowley
Becerra	Cummings
Bera	Davis (CA)
Beyer	Davis, Danny
Bishop (GA)	DeFazio
Blumenauer	DeGette
Bonamici	Delaney
Boyle, Brendan	DeLauro
F.	DeBene
Brady (PA)	DeSaulnier
Brown (FL)	Deutch
Brownley (CA)	Dingell
Bustos	Doggett
Butterfield	Doyle, Michael
Capuano	F.
Cárdenas	Edwards
Carney	Engel
Carson (IN)	Eshoo
Castro (TX)	Esty
Chu, Judy	Farr
Cicilline	Foster
Clark (MA)	Frankel (FL)
Clarke (NY)	Fudge
Clay	Gabbard
Cleaver	Gallego
Clyburn	Garamendi

Graham	Lipinski	Payne	Sherman
Grayson	Loeb sack	Pelosi	Sires
Green, Al	Lofgren	Perlmutter	Slaughter
Green, Gene	Lowenthal	Peters	Smith (WA)
Gutiérrez	Lowe	Peterson	Speier
Hahn	Lujan Grisham	Pingree	Swalwell (CA)
Heck (WA)	(NM)	Pocan	Takano
Honda	Luján, Ben Ray	Polis	Thompson (CA)
Hoyer	(NM)	Price (NC)	Thompson (MS)
Huffman	Maloney, Carolyn	Quigley	Titus
Israel	Maloney, Sean	Rangel	Tonko
Jackson Lee	Matsui	Rice (NY)	Torres
Jeffries	McCollum	Richmond	Tsongas
Johnson (GA)	McDermott	Roybal-Allard	Van Hollen
Johnson, E. B.	McGovern	Ruiz	Vargas
Kelly (IL)	McNerney	Rush	Veasey
Kennedy	Meeks	Ryan (OH)	Vela
Kildee	Meng	Sánchez, Linda	Velázquez
Kilmer	Moore	T.	Visclosky
Kind	Moore	Sanchez, Loretta	Wasserman
Kirkpatrick	Nadler	Sarbanes	Schultz
Kuster	Napolitano	Schakowsky	Waters, Maxine
Langevin	Neal	Schrader	Watson Coleman
Larsen (WA)	Nolan	Scott (VA)	Welch
Larson (CT)	Norcross	Scott, David	Wilson (FL)
Lawrence	O'Rourke	Serrano	Yarmuth
Lee	Pallone	Sewell (AL)	

NOT VOTING—15

Capps	Grijalva	Latta
Cartwright	Hastings	Pitts
Castor (FL)	Herrera Beutler	Takai
Fattah	Hinojosa	Whitfield
Fincher	Joyce	Wittman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1335

Messrs. BRADY of Pennsylvania and AL GREEN of Texas changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for: Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 183, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against: Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 183.

ESTABLISHING PAIN MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4641.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 720 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4641.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.



□ 1340

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4641) to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes, with Mr. POE of Texas in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this week we have and will continue to hear harrowing and personal stories on the House floor about how opioid addiction is devastating local communities and families across the country. Just last night, my colleagues shared some of their stories. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) shared a story about a promising collegiate athlete whose star was extinguished when a minor injury led to an addiction and his eventual overdose and death. Ms. KUSTER from New Hampshire told of a constituent named Amber who tragically died of an overdose after a treatment bed was unavailable for her after leaving incarceration.

We are going to hear many more stories today about this epidemic that has touched every community in every State of our country, an epidemic that has exploded in recent years to the point where every 12 minutes someone is dying of a drug overdose in this country. By the end of this debate, there may be over five people who have died of an overdose.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has meticulously investigated this epidemic over the past year with multiple hearings and expert witnesses. The result is a thoughtful package of solutions focused on prevention and treatment that will help those facing addictions and their families deal with this opioid and, subsequently, heroin crisis. The statistics couldn't be more stark.

The United States only represents 5 percent of the world's population, yet we consume 80 percent of the world's pain medication. Yet 80 percent of heroin users started with a prescription to legal pain medication. Nearly 260 million opioid prescriptions were written in the United States in 2012, outpacing the number of American adults by 20 million.

As we debate this crisis, this is not just about statistics, because we are

actually talking about husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, parents, and, sadly, our children. A parent who has inspired me is a woman named Justin Phillips from Indianapolis, a Hoosier mom who lost her son, Aaron, to a heroin overdose at the age of 20.

Out of her heartbreak, she found a calling to keep local and national attention on the issue of heroin and opioid abuse, she said, "until the dying stops." She became a leading voice for families facing addiction in Indiana, and she founded Overdose Lifeline, a nonprofit organization devoted to purchasing those lifesaving drugs, those reversal drugs, for Hoosier first responders. But she didn't stop there.

She helped pass a bill at our statehouse, called Aaron's Law, to provide access to overdose reversal drugs for others beyond first responders. Justin is just like so many other moms and dads. She needs our help to prevent more kids like Aaron from being lost to heroin and opioid abuse.

Her story made me realize that solving this public health crisis, this epidemic, must be a top priority for Congress and for the Federal Government, and inspired me to work with my colleague from across the aisle, Congressman KENNEDY of Massachusetts, to lead these efforts in the House to combat the heroin opioid crisis.

This week we are taking up a series of bills that are going to make a real difference—we hope. They must make a real difference in turning back this scourge.

□ 1345

Now, I have cited the number of opioid prescriptions written in 2012, which outpaces the number of American adults. But the fact is that our prescribers—our doctors, our nurse practitioners, our dentists, and others—are often unaware that, in many cases, their efforts to properly treat their patients' pain can inadvertently create longer term addiction issues.

While there are certainly legitimate medical needs for pain medication opioids, many prescribers are unaware that, in many cases, their efforts to properly treat their patients' pain can inadvertently create these long-term addiction issues.

In an effort to address this, the CDC recently developed guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic pain. In order to improve the way opioids are prescribed to patients with severe and chronic pain, these guidelines seek to reduce their overuse and their abuse.

H.R. 4641, which I introduced with Representative KENNEDY, would ensure that the CDC's opioid prescribing guidelines are reviewed, modified, and updated where needed by an inter-agency task force and expert stakeholders from the prescriber community, the patient community, the addiction community, and the recovery

community to reflect best practices going forward.

The task force will be comprised of representatives from the Federal relevant agencies as well as those who deal with this problem day in and day out: physicians, dentists, pharmacists, hospitals, overdose reversal specialists, and pain and addiction researchers.

This task force will also include representatives from State medical boards, pain advocacy groups, medical professional associations, mental health and addiction treatment communities.

The scope and breadth of this group will ensure that the practices are thoughtfully reviewed, modified, and updated. They will take into account the different types of opioids, opioids within and between different classes, the availability of deterrent technology as well as nonpharmacological and medical device alternatives to opioids. It is important that the task force consider the broadest scope of pain management options.

It is also important that this isn't just going to be another bureaucratic report that is compiled and sits on a shelf that is reviewed by congressional researchers and congressional staff. They must report out to Congress, lay out best practices, and provide a strategy for disseminating these best practices for pain management and recommendations at medical facilities.

We have to do more in this country. Failure to address a major part of this epidemic from the outset will perpetuate the cycle of addiction in our communities. This is but one important step. There are many, many bills that the House is considering.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4641, a bill to create an interagency task force on pain management. This legislation passed the committee with unanimous support.

In 2014, pharmacies in the United States dispensed approximately 245 million prescriptions for opioids. This is enough to provide a script to every adult in our entire Nation.

At the same time, we know that over 5 million Americans use prescription pain relievers either recreationally or to satisfy an opioid addiction.

This combination has produced tragic results. 2014 produced the highest number of drug overdose deaths than any previous year on record, with opioids and heroin driving the recent surge.

Unfortunately, our Nation's doctors and healthcare providers have not been provided the tools and education necessary to safely prescribe these medications in the midst of an opioid epidemic.

Recently, an article in the New England Journal of Medicine examined this

topic and found that “many physicians admit that they are not confident about how to prescribe opioids safely, how to detect abuse or emerging addiction, or even how to discuss these issues with their patients.”

As a result, we have created a patchwork of prescribing practices with tremendous variation both geographically as well as even within the same field.

This bill would create an interagency task force on pain management to review, modify, and update best practices on management and development of a strategy to disseminate those best practices to prescribers, pharmacists, and other stakeholders.

Those best practices will increase the tools available to providers who prescribe opioids more safely and be able to detect and intervene earlier in instances of substance use disorders.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, which is part of the opioid epidemic package that we are moving on the floor today on suspension.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), our chairman.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, every 12 minutes someone in the U.S. dies of a drug overdose. Abuse of prescription painkillers and heroin has impacted every single community. It is an epidemic. It doesn't have boundaries and doesn't discriminate.

We have lost a lot of good kids and a lot of good people in my State and every State. As I travel back and forth to Michigan virtually every week, I meet a family member who has lost somebody with this very tragic story.

This last week it was a mother and a wife of a fellow who had committed suicide in Mattawan, Michigan. It breaks your heart.

Yes, we know the numbers. They are staggering. The CDC reports that nearly 260 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2012. That is one for every single U.S. adult, as my friend Mr. PALLONE said, with another 20 million to spare.

A recent study from the Kaiser Family Foundation found that one in five Americans say they have a family member who has been addicted to prescription painkillers.

The epidemic is unique to the U.S., as Americans consume 80 percent of the world's opioid prescriptions. It is not unique. It is a frightening reality, but we have to face the epidemic head-on. That is why today is an important step.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee, we have held a number of hearings over the last year with testimony from so many experts on the front lines. What we learned is eye-opening.

Federal policies toward opioid addiction in the past year have often over-

emphasized a one-size-fits-all law enforcement approach. It is clear through our listening sessions that it is a public health crisis and that our strategy should reflect the complex dynamic between public health and criminal activity. We know that we cannot simply incarcerate our way out of this epidemic.

The bills that we are considering today touch on a spectrum of issues driving the opioid crisis. While there is no one solution, these bills represent good steps in addressing a problem that has rapidly grown.

I want to thank all of my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee and off for working to adhere in a bipartisan way these important bills that will really make a difference in every one of our communities.

The House leadership deserves recognition on both sides for their swift consideration of these bills. I want to thank, in particular, my good friend, Mr. PALLONE, for working with us to get these bills across the finish line, through the committee process, and now on the floor.

Our work is going to continue. We owe this effort to the past, present, and, sadly, future victims of this epidemic: our neighbors, friends, and families across every part of the country, every demographic group. We owe it to the families and we owe it to the communities who are suffering from this addiction.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), who is the Democratic sponsor of this bill and has worked a lot on the opioid epidemic problem.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Mr. PALLONE for yielding, for his leadership on this issue throughout his time on Energy and Commerce, particularly over the last several months since I have been on the committee trying to galvanize support from all of our colleagues to recognize the impact that this is having every single day.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for including H.R. 4641 in this package of bipartisan opioid-related bills.

None of our districts has been spared the heartbreaking headlines about lives lost to the opioid crisis. We have heard from each of our constituents who have attended funerals for friends, neighbors, classmates, colleagues, and family members. The bills we are considering this week are a promising step forward as we find ways to respond to this crisis.

To my colleague, Congresswoman BROOKS, thank you for your partnership on this issue and on so many others. We have both seen firsthand how lack of access to treatment can lead those suffering from addiction to our courts. With this bill, we are trying to change the course of their path to stop addiction before it even begins.

Mr. Chairman, last week the Boston Globe wrote a series of articles about

the opioid crisis in my home State of Massachusetts. The statistics are devastating. Nationally, heroin overdose rates have tripled in the last 5 years. At home, our State faces a heroin overdose rate that is twice the national average.

Last year alone, nearly 1,400 Massachusetts families lost loved ones to opioid overdoses. Between 2013 and 2014, prescription opioid overdoses nearly doubled. During that same time, the number of people in Massachusetts who overdosed on a combination of heroin and prescription opioids rose by almost 500 percent.

The Globe also noted that there has been a noticeable shift from opioids to heroin with one exception, Bristol County, where many of my constituents live. In trying to explain that exception, the reporter included a haunting line that has stayed with me ever since.

He wrote that, in Bristol County, “prescription opioids remain a dominant killer, though it's not clear whether that's because this area is somehow less susceptible to heroin or if it's merely a matter of time.”

Mr. Chairman, we cannot accept a reality with a rise in heroin overdoses as “merely a matter of time.” We have all said it over 100 times. When it comes to a Federal response, there is no silver bullet.

But H.R. 4641 tries to focus on what I believe offers us one of the very best opportunities for combating this problem: stopping addiction before it ever starts.

The bill will create a new task force dedicated to the job of reviewing, modifying, and updating best practices for the management of pain and the prescription of pain medication.

Voices from HHS, the VA, FDA, DEA, NIH, and other agencies will join prescribers, substance use disorder professionals, patients suffering from chronic pain, and patients who have lived through the heartbreaking reality of becoming addicted to prescription pills.

These advocates and experts are on the front lines of this fight every single day. Under their guidance, this task force will ensure we implement the policies that balance responsible pain management with the urgency that our opioid crisis requires.

Again, I am encouraged by the bipartisan progress we are making on this issue; yet, our work is just beginning.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and look forward to working with each of them to build on this momentum.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I think, as you can see, Members on both sides of the aisle know of people in our districts, our States, and across our

country that have been tragically affected by opioid abuse and overdose.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their work on this legislation, especially my friend from Indiana, Mrs. BROOKS.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4641. This is a very important bipartisan step forward to combat opioid abuse. This issue hits close to home, all of our homes.

The State of Oregon ranked near the top or at the top for nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers in the Nation. With opioid prescriptions serving as a gateway to heroin, it is no surprise that deaths from drug overdoses have surpassed those of car accidents in my State.

Last week, in Medford, Bend, and Hermiston, I hosted roundtables with community leaders and affected families to talk about what they are seeing on the front lines.

Physicians, first responders, members of law enforcement, and families all were there sharing their stories, talking about how important the work we are doing here today is to them and our communities. All of them are on the ground combating this problem every day. We had excellent discussions.

H.R. 4641, in addition to the 17 other bipartisan bills we are voting on this week, will help combat this epidemic. This bill will help prevent lawful prescription use from spiraling into abuse by developing best practices for the treatment of pain.

In Medford, I heard from a father who had seen the impacts of addiction on his own family. His sister, who was a nurse, died of an overdose after years of suffering from addiction and bouncing between pharmacies, passing off forged prescriptions.

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He spoke about how better tracking and treatment could have helped catch his sister's problem earlier and, perhaps, made counseling more effective. As it was, she was only caught because two pharmacies in a small town happened to check with each other. You see, by then, it was too late.

Today, this man is working to help his son with an addiction that started with a prescription for a high school sports injury that drifted into a heroin addiction. He spoke to the importance of counseling, support, and trying to avoid addiction through better prescribing practices.

Echoing those sentiments, a therapist I spoke to in Hermiston experienced 10 years of addiction of opioids after she was prescribed painkillers for a broken foot. Then when she tried to overcome this addiction, she could not find any help. So she traveled more than 5 hours, from Milton-Freewater, Oregon, to Marysville, Washington, because she could not find a physician in

her region to prescribe Suboxone, an important medicine to help people break free from opioids.

Addiction is an equal opportunities destroyer. It crosses all segments and regions of our country, and often the disease shows no symptoms.

One emergency room physician relayed a story about a recent patient he had no reason to believe had an addiction problem until he saw in the database that the patient just received 60 pills the week before.

Opioids are highly effective at providing relief and improving the quality of life for those in debilitating pain. But if we don't know how to appropriately prescribe them, it's no wonder we got to this place. We need to increase access to counseling, medication-assisted therapy and treatment for those battling addiction. Echoing what I heard from health practitioners across my district, opioid addiction is a biopsychosocial disease—it's as complicated as diabetes and requires a multi-pronged approach.

That's why it is so important that we pass H.R. 4641 and all of these bills this week to give health providers, first responders, law enforcement, and those battling addiction the tools they need to overcome the epidemic of opioid abuse.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. I thank my colleague for yielding time.

Mr. Chairman, opioid abuse has become, as we have heard today, a critical national issue as 78 Americans are killed by heroin and prescription drug overdoses each day, and drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury-related deaths in the United States.

The number of unintentional overdose deaths from prescription painkillers almost quadrupled between 1999 and 2013; but as bad as the opioid epidemic is across the country, it is much more severe in my home State of New Mexico, which has had one of the highest rates of overdose deaths in the country for several years. Unfortunately, it is getting worse. From 2013 to 2014, the death rate from drug overdoses in New Mexico increased 21 percent. Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, has the highest overdose death rate in the Nation—one in 500 people dies from overdose—which is about six times the national average.

The over-prescription of opioids for pain management is part of the problem, and an increasing number of patients is becoming dependent on these powerfully addictive medications. In fact, 259 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2012—more than one for every adult in the United States. Once addicted to these prescription opioids, many then turn to heroin and to synthetic opioids due to their increased availability, lower prices, and higher purity.

We must act to respond to this public health crisis, but we need to do it in a

balanced way. We need to be mindful of the millions of Americans who suffer from chronic pain. We need to ensure that patients and providers continue to have access to the best, most medically appropriate course of treatment while cutting off access to those who abuse the system.

This is why I strongly support H.R. 4641, which would establish an inter-agency task force to review and update medical best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication; but we can't stop here. We have to do more than just study the problem, because only 11 percent of Americans who need treatment for substance abuse are receiving it. Many of those who remain find themselves in our criminal justice system. Our prisons have become de facto treatment centers. More than 65 percent of our prison population has a substance abuse problem.

We have to provide the funds necessary to fully invest in opioid prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment programs. We have to support the placement of substance abuse treatment providers in the communities that are most in need, like Rio Arriba County. We have to improve access to the overdose reversal drug, naloxone, which can help save countless lives every year.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which will address this disease that has destroyed the lives of so many.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4641.

Prescription drug abuse, particularly with opioids, has become a national epidemic. It affects all of our communities. The bill before us today will authorize an important task force to determine and disseminate best practices for pain management.

The need for best practice guidelines was highlighted last week during a substance abuse panel I hosted in my district with Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Botticelli. One woman shared her story of addiction and struggle to receive help following a surgery she had had as a 15-year-old gymnast. We must give people like her the tools they need for prevention and treatment in order to stop the spread of this epidemic.

I thank the gentlewoman for sponsoring this bill. Please support this great bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

Mr. CRAMER. I thank Mrs. BROOKS for her leadership on this—Mr. KENNEDY's as well—and for bringing this

important legislation to our committee and to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to support H.R. 4641.

With heroin addiction now being three times greater than it was a decade ago, we know it doesn't matter where you come from. Whether you are on an Indian reservation, on a farm, in the middle of a city, in a suburb, in a small town, or whether you are in a Fargo high school, at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, or at Bismarck State College, it doesn't matter what your lot is in life. It doesn't matter what your income level is. It doesn't matter what your social status is. This opioid abuse crisis affects people from all walks of life, and it is about time we acknowledged it and tried to deal with it at this level.

This bill is pretty basic, but is pretty profound as well because it takes advantage of the collective opportunity of the collective talents, experiences, and backgrounds of the people on the ground who are dealing with it every day. It brings it all together and facilitates it at every level of government in every community and in every State whether it is North Dakota or Indiana or Massachusetts. It is the beginning, I believe, of a profound solution.

Just as much as anything, I applaud the efforts of the leadership who brought this to us, and I grieve with so many parents as we have heard their stories. This year, in the Fargo, North Dakota, area alone, there have been a minimum of 10 fatal overdoses because of this crisis.

I will stand shoulder to shoulder with anybody and everybody in this Chamber, as well as in the Chamber on the other side of the Capitol, to help solve this problem.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4641 so we can continue to involve the practices of pain management and the prescribing of pain medication to fight the opioid abuse epidemic in this country.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I have provided prescription medications to Americans for over 30 years. In that time, I have personally witnessed the struggles that both medical professionals and patients face with prescription drug abuse.

There are many steps that must be taken to address this epidemic. One priority should be to involve practices related to pain management and the prescribing of pain medication. This bill does just that. This bill creates an interagency task force to continually review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication. Through the new task force, experts in fields related

to prescription drug abuse and pain management will be able to involve best industry practices that will give clarity to our fight against this epidemic.

I commend Representative BROOKS and the Committee on Energy and Commerce for their work on this bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank all of my colleagues. I thank particularly the leadership of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. There have also been other committees—the Judiciary Committee, the Committee on Education and the Workforce—that have been working on bills. This is not something that any one Member of this body has truly been a leader on. So many different Members have been leading on this because it has affected our communities, our families, our neighborhoods.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this important bill because, as the gentleman from North Dakota said, the Federal Government has not done enough yet. This will be an opportunity for us to bring together all of the Federal agencies that are involved in this problem, which have been part of the problem, and try to change the way our prescribers throughout the country work on the pain management issues the country faces, which, hopefully, will yield a much lower overdose rate—a rate which now exceeds the motor traffic fatalities in this country and which is the leading cause of calls to our poison centers. More importantly, it has devastated so many parents and friends who have found their friends who have overdosed from either heroin or opioids.

I am so pleased that we are finally beginning to recognize that we cannot arrest our way out of this problem. It is a disease. It is something that so many people cannot stop on their own. They need help. With all of these experts coming together on this task force to provide the best practices for the country, I hope we can turn the tide and save many lives.

I urge the bill's passage by my colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this bill. As I said, this interagency task force is an important part of this larger opioid package that we produced in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on a bipartisan basis. I know the rest of those bills are going to come up on suspension—or most of them—this afternoon. I can't emphasize enough the importance of this package, as well as this bill, as being part of it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute, recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 4641

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES FOR THE USE OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and

(2) the term “task force” means the Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force convened under subsection (b).

(b) **INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE.**—Not later than December 14, 2018, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, shall convene a Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force to review, modify, and update, as appropriate, best practices for pain management (including chronic and acute pain) and prescribing pain medication.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The task force shall be comprised of—

(1) representatives of—

(A) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(B) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(C) the Food and Drug Administration;

(D) the Department of Defense;

(E) the Drug Enforcement Administration;

(F) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(G) the Health Resources and Services Administration;

(H) the Indian Health Service;

(I) the National Academy of Medicine;

(J) the National Institutes of Health;

(K) the Office of National Drug Control Policy; and

(L) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration;

(2) State medical boards;

(3) physicians, dentists, and nonphysician prescribers;

(4) hospitals;

(5) pharmacists and pharmacies;

(6) experts in the fields of pain research and addiction research;

(7) representatives of—

(A) pain management professional organizations;

(B) the mental health treatment community;

(C) the addiction treatment and recovery community;

(D) pain advocacy groups; and

(E) groups with expertise on overdose reversal;

(8) a person in recovery from addiction to medication for chronic pain;

(9) a person with chronic pain; and

(10) other stakeholders, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(d) DUTIES.—The task force shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date on which the task force is convened under subsection (b), review, modify, and update, as appropriate, best practices for pain management (including chronic and acute pain) and prescribing pain medication, taking into consideration—

(A) existing pain management research;

(B) recommendations from relevant conferences and existing relevant evidence-based guidelines;

(C) ongoing efforts at the State and local levels and by medical professional organizations to develop improved pain management strategies, including consideration of differences within and between classes of opioids, the availability of opioids with abuse deterrent technology, and pharmacological, nonpharmacological, and medical device alternatives to opioids to reduce opioid monotherapy in appropriate cases;

(D) the management of high-risk populations, other than populations who suffer pain, who—

(i) may use or be prescribed benzodiazepines, alcohol, and diverted opioids; or

(ii) receive opioids in the course of medical care; and

(E) the 2016 Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(2) solicit and take into consideration public comment on the practices developed under paragraph (1), amending such best practices if appropriate; and

(3) develop a strategy for disseminating information about the best practices developed under paragraphs (1) and (2) to prescribers, pharmacists, State medical boards, educational institutions that educate prescribers and pharmacists, and other parties, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(e) LIMITATION.—The task force shall not have rulemaking authority.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the task force is convened under subsection (b), the task force shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) the strategy for disseminating best practices for pain management (including chronic and acute pain) and prescribing pain medication, as developed under subsection (d);

(2) the results of a feasibility study on linking the best practices described in paragraph (1) to receiving and renewing registrations under section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(f)); and

(3) recommendations for effectively applying the best practices described in paragraph (1) to improve prescribing practices at medical facilities, including medical facilities of the Veterans Health Administration and Indian Health Service.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 114-551. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 11, strike “and”.

Page 4, line 13, insert “and” after the semicolon.

Page 4, after line 13, insert the following:

(M) the Office of Women’s Health;

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer a very straightforward amendment to H.R. 4641.

The amendment would include the Office of Women’s Health in the interagency task force created under the bill.

As we all know, the underlying bill includes a list of Federal agency representatives to be included in the interagency task force, which will review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication.

However, the bill does not currently include the Office of Women’s Health. The Office of Women’s Health, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was established in 1991 to improve the health of women by advancing and coordinating a comprehensive women’s health agenda to address healthcare prevention and service delivery.

The Office of Women’s Health works with numerous government agencies, nonprofit organizations, consumer groups, and associations of healthcare professionals to coordinate and advance policies and programs that best meet the unique healthcare needs of women.

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As a national leader in the health of women and girls, the Office of Women’s Health has critical specialized expertise that will help the interagency pain management task force address the unique pain management needs of women who may be pregnant or who may be nursing.

This expertise is desperately needed because opioid abuse among women has increased substantially in recent years. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of women who fall victim to an opioid-related fatality increased an alarming 400 percent from 1999 to 2010, totalling 48,000 women who have died during that span of time.

During this decade, opioid abuse among women increased more than abuse of any other drug, including cocaine and heroin. Shockingly, the CDC

reports that in 2010, 18 women per day died of a prescription painkiller overdose, accounting for nearly 7,000 women in total.

It is critically important that we include experts on women’s health in the opioid task force. Women who are pregnant or who may be nursing have specialized healthcare needs, and the Office of Women’s Health is uniquely qualified to ensure that the interagency task force takes the needs of women and girls into account as it examines best practices for pain management in prescribing pain medication.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I support the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. At this time, I thank the gentlewoman from California for the amendment. I think it strengthens the bill. I think it is very important that the Office of Women’s Health is added to the task force. So many of us have had the opportunity to visit NICUs in hospitals and have seen drug-addicted babies. So I do believe that having the perspective of the Office of Women’s Health would be critically important.

So often women’s health has not been given the proper attention that it deserves, and I would ask for support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I want to urge all my colleagues on this side of the aisle to support the bill as well.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey and the gentlewoman from Indiana. I think we all realize the importance of ensuring that this interagency task force is effective and works, and I think the eyes on specific healthcare needs of women and girls is most important.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. BROOKS OF INDIANA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), I offer amendment No. 2.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 15, strike “physicians” and insert “subject to subsection (d), physicians”.

Page 4, line 18, strike “pharmacists” and insert “subject to subsection (d), pharmacists”.

Page 5, after line 10, insert the following:

(d) CONDITION ON PARTICIPATION ON TASK FORCE.—An individual representing a profession or entity described in paragraph (3) or (5) of subsection (c) may not serve as a member of the task force unless such individual—

(1) is currently licensed in a State in which such individual is practicing (as defined by such State) such profession (or, in the case of an individual representing an entity, a State in which the entity is engaged in business); and

(2) is currently practicing (as defined by such State) such profession (or, in the case of an individual representing an entity, the entity is in operation).

Page 5, line 11, strike “(d)” and insert “(e)”.

Page 7, line 1, strike “(e)” and insert “(f)”.

Page 7, line 3, strike “(f)” and insert “(g)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply would require that any of the individuals who are appointed to the task force under H.R. 4641, whether they be a physician, a dentist, a nonphysician prescriber, or pharmacist who is eventually appointed by the lead of Health and Human Services, that that individual shall be a licensed prescriber and practicing in their appropriate State or that they, at a minimum, should have an active license and that they should be a practicing prescriber in that State.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I support the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 18, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent paragraphs accordingly):

(6) first responders;

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would ensure that first responders are included for membership on the Pain Management Best Practices Interagency Task Force. This is a commonsense amendment.

First responders, like police officers and other emergency room staff, are the first on the scene when a person overdoses. And they are the first to administer emergency treatments and resuscitation programs. These are the people who have the first contact with victims of opioid overdose.

It would make sense that if we are putting together a task force to address the terrible opioid problem—and specifically pain management best practices—we should include the views and opinions of those who are first on the scene and in the best position to save lives.

Being first on the scene to overdose emergencies, first responders often interact with patients in pain. Yet, most first responders, especially EMS responders, have no pain management standards as part of their accreditation.

The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services does not include a pain management standard as part of its clinical assessment, nor is pain management a major part of EMS education. As a result, first responder attitudes vary. According to a 2012 Yale study, there is a widespread reluctance within the EMS community to administer opioids to those who legitimately need it out of a fear—perhaps unfounded—that patients could be addicts seeking drugs.

First responders certainly do encounter people who are not prescription painkiller dependent. However, it is often not possible for paramedics to know with certainty if a patient is an addict or even whether the addict is also experiencing legitimate pain.

This level of uncertainty and varying degrees of attitudes within the first responder community, along with the unique experience and insight into the opioid epidemic, warrants the inclusion of first responders to the Pain Management Best Practices Interagency Task Force membership.

Mr. Chairman, this is very simple, we are putting together a Pain Management Best Practices Interagency Task Force. We should include police officers. We should include paramedics. We should include people who are on the

front lines of fighting this battle every day that is a battle of life and death.

I urge the support of my amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, for the record, I support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 20, insert the following:

(7) experts in the fields of adolescent and young adult addiction research;

Page 4, line 21, strike “(7)” and insert “(8)”.

Page 5, line 6, strike “(8)” and insert “(9)”.

Page 5, after line 7, insert the following:

(10) a person in recovery from addiction to medication for chronic pain, whose addiction began in adolescence or young adulthood;

Page 5, line 8, strike “(9)” and insert “(11)”.

Page 5, line 9, strike “(10)” and insert “(12)”.

Page 6, line 13, strike “and”.

Page 6, after line 13, insert the following:

(E) the distinct needs of adolescents and young adults with respect to pain management, pain medication, substance use disorder, and medication-assisted treatment; and

Page 6, line 14, strike “(E)” and insert “(F)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, a special thanks to Congresswoman BROOKS, Congressman KENNEDY, and Congressman PALLONE for introducing this important bipartisan bill to address a devastating public health crisis.

The opioid epidemic is a scourge on this country. In my district alone, 400 people have died in the last 4 years as a direct result. As we all know, there is no silver bullet to fix this problem. But what we can do and what we must do is find every possible way to help those people already affected and stop it from reaching more victims.

When substance use disorder starts in adolescence, it affects key development and societal changes in young people's lives. It can interfere with the brain's ability to mature properly and have potentially lifelong consequences.

We know that a large majority of adults in substance abuse treatment start using prior to the age of 18, and we need to make sure that the voices of adolescents and young adults are heard in this conversation.

The underlying bill establishes a pain management task force that will include many different stakeholders and experts. This amendment would add an expert in adolescent and young adult addiction and a person in recovery from addiction to medication for chronic pain that began in adolescence or young adulthood to the bill's list of experts.

This amendment would also call on the task force to consider the distinct needs of adolescents and young adults as it develops best practices for pain management and medication.

Mr. Chairman, this is a commonsense amendment to help our young people dealing with this epidemic. I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I do support the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I very much want to thank the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK). I believe that this does strengthen the task force. I appreciate and welcome the attention and focus on adolescents.

We had the opportunity to travel to the NIH and to learn so much about the research that is being done there. I believe in having an expert in adolescent and young adult addiction because we do know that that is where it so very often begins. So I appreciate and thank the gentlewoman for strengthening the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON) to offer amendment No. 5.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 3, strike "and".

Page 5, after line 3, insert the following:

(E) veteran service organizations; and

Page 5, line 4, strike "(E)" and insert "(F)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from New

Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

□ 1430

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON) would basically add representatives of veterans service organizations to the Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force that we have discussed and that we support on a bipartisan basis. I urge support for Mr. MOULTON's amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I support this amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, while the task force was designed with the Veterans Administration as a key member of the task force, I do believe that this bill would strengthen the task force in that representatives from veterans service organizations often speak on behalf of and are the first line of defense and advocates for veterans.

Obviously, as we know, veterans seek their medical treatment often from VA hospitals and VA facilities. We know that there has been a significant problem with overprescribing at some of our VA facilities. I believe that this amendment will strengthen the task force and the bill. I urge passage or adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), the sponsor of the amendment.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Chairman, the addiction epidemic has touched every community and demographic in America, but our veterans have been hit particularly hard. Veterans suffer from chronic pain at a higher rate than the civilian population, often due to injuries they sustained during their service. This puts our veterans at high risk of developing addiction and presents unique challenges as they search for ways to cope with the pain caused by the wounds of war.

The results of veteran addiction are tragic. Approximately 68,000 veterans struggle with opioid use. Veterans are also almost twice as likely to die from accidental opioid overdoses than non-veterans.

We need to do more to ensure that we are not losing veterans to the disease of addiction, while also ensuring that they get the absolute best care possible when they return home. That is why it is imperative that the veteran commu-

nity has a seat at the table as we begin the process of reviewing and updating our pain management best practices.

By adding a representative of a veterans service organization to the inter-agency task force created by this bill, my amendment will ensure that the unique challenges our veterans face are part of the conversation.

In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), for their bipartisan cosponsorship and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Boston Scientific for their support of this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I urge support for the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. NOLAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 8, strike "and".

Page 5, after line 8, insert the following:

(10) an expert on active duty military, armed forces personnel, and veteran health and prescription opioid addiction;

Page 5, line 9, strike "(10)" and insert "(11)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, Members of the House, my amendment simply would ensure that the concerns and the interests of Active-Duty members of our Armed Forces and veterans have their interests and concerns taken into consideration by the interagency task force.

The simple truth is that there is a greater need and use of opioids among Active Duty and veterans of our Armed Forces simply because of the many serious accidents and injuries that they incur in combat and in training.

Over half of the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have had to use opioids as painkillers from the accidents and the injuries that they have suffered. That is well over half a million of our finest and bravest citizens here in this country, and an 80 percent increase in its use over the last decade.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out as well that overdose from opioids is twice the rate among our Active-Duty

servicemembers and veterans of that of the general population. Also, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that, because of problems that we have been seeing in the Veterans Administration with veterans having a difficult time sometimes getting appointments to get their prescriptions filled, they have been tragically forced to go to alternative street measures, including heroin, with disastrous consequences for our soldiers and our veterans. Our veterans, our men and women of the Armed Forces, deserve better.

This is a growing problem, a growing concern, and my amendment would simply require that they be represented on this interagency task force so that their interests, their concerns can be properly reflected and reported in the findings and results of this interagency task force.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I support the amendment as well.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota, again, for strengthening the representation on the task force. While I do feel that the VSOs are a strong voice for veterans and will continue to be, I believe the addition specifically of Active-Duty military is something that would be a very strong voice. While DOD is represented on the task force, I think actually having specific Active-Duty military personnel and those who are currently serving and are currently dealing with their pain as a result of their service would be an important addition.

I thank the gentleman, and I urge passage of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for her leadership on this important issue and her support for this important amendment, most importantly the great work she is doing here on behalf of our veterans and our men and women in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MRS. WATSON COLEMAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 8, strike "and".

Page 5, after line 8, insert the following:

(10) an expert in the field of minority health; and

Page 5, line 9, strike "(10)" and insert "(11)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would simply ensure that, as we address what has rightly been called an epidemic, we consider the unique impacts and issues of drug addiction for minority communities by adding an expert on minority health to the task force that is created by this bill.

The dangers of opiate addiction are apparent across the board. Abuse of prescription opioids has contributed to a flood of cheap heroin to all communities.

Over the past 4 years, we have seen a 269 percent increase in heroin overdose deaths in White communities, but also a 213 percent increase in Black communities, 137 percent increase in Latino communities, and 236 percent in Native American communities.

With that in mind, it is important to remember that the opiate epidemic—both heroin and its prescription painkiller counterparts—looks very different from the perspective of communities of color. The compassion and clemency that we are showing now and the evidence-based solutions we are embracing were needed long ago, way before abuse by predominantly White and suburban communities.

As we craft the tools to solve this crisis, we must ensure the policies we create will help everyone affected. Adding an expert in minority health to this task force helps to make sure that the diverse needs of all Americans are represented at the table. We still live in a world of significant biases.

Just last month, the University of Virginia released a study that found that White medical students and residents genuinely believed that Black patients were less sensitive to pain and had less sensitive nerve endings than White patients, bearing out at least one reason for the consistently documented lack of pain management provided to Black patients.

As we give this task force the vital task of improving how we prescribe some of the most powerful and still-critical medication for pain management, let's do our part to eliminate as much bias as possible. This amendment takes an important step toward reaching that goal. I hope my colleagues will support it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I support the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for this important addition to the task force. I think that she has brought forth some interesting points and some statistics with respect to the opioid abuse and addiction problems facing the minority community. A minority health expert that is very focused on this would add tremendous expertise to the depth of this task force. I support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for her leadership and for her support of this initiative.

Let me close by adding this. We are considering a number of bills this week aimed at curing the opioid and heroin epidemics ravaging so many American families. As we do so, we need to consider two things:

First is that communities of color have unique needs that deserve just as much consideration. That is why I have offered this amendment, and it is a theme I hope to see continued in other legislation we will debate.

The second is that, when we head back to our districts on Friday after completing consideration of these bills, we should not wash our hands and walk away from this issue. We need to fund the programs we have authorized. We need to look back with a critical eye at the ways we criminalized addictions in the past and offer those whom we failed solutions that will allow them to reenter society. Our work cannot stop there. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, after line 18, insert the following:

(B) research on trends in areas and communities in which the prescription opioid abuse rate and fatality rate exceed the national average prescription opioid abuse rate and fatality rate;

Page 5, line 19, strike "(B)" and insert "(C)".

Page 5, line 22, strike "(C)" and insert "(D)".



Page 6, line 6, strike “(D)” and insert “(E)”.  
 Page 6, line 14, strike “(E)” and insert “(F)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chairman, the underlying bill before us authorizes the creation of an interagency task force to combat the opiate epidemic. I want to commend the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for their hard work on this issue.

This important legislation will make it easier to tackle this crisis in a holistic way that addresses all angles of the crisis, including law enforcement, education and prevention, and, most importantly, treatment and lifelong recovery.

I thank Congresswoman BROOKS and Congressman KENNEDY for their great work on this bill, as well as the leadership of the chair and the ranking member.

□ 1445

In fact, a similar provision to this legislation was included in the STOP ABUSE Act that I introduced with my colleague, Mr. GUINTA, last year. Today he has joined me in introducing this important bipartisan amendment that will further improve the scope of the task force’s effort.

In New Hampshire and across the country, four out of every five heroin users started out misusing prescription opioid medication. Last year more than 25,000 people died across this country from overdoses on prescription drugs.

There are complex reasons for why we have seen such a dramatic rise in prescription drug misuse, but one of the causes that we must examine more closely is prescribing practices and overprescribing.

I recently joined my colleague, Congressman MOONEY of West Virginia, in introducing legislation that would address this problem. This amendment with Mr. GUINTA would help to shine more light on prescription drug misuse by requiring the task force to research addiction trends in communities with high rates of prescription drug misuse and overdoses.

This research will be invaluable in the effort to identify why this crisis is hitting certain regions of our country particularly hard and in identifying further potential corrections to prescribing practices that can be made.

I thank my colleagues for taking up such important legislation this week, and I urge support for this amendment.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment of-

ferred by my colleague, Congresswoman KUSTER, and myself, originally part of the STOP ABUSE Act that we authored earlier this year, as previously mentioned.

This amendment would simply require the task force to research addiction trends in communities with high rates of prescription drug abuse.

In our home State of New Hampshire, much of the heroin abuse we have seen today can be traced back to the over-prescribing of narcotic drugs. This trend, which began in the 1990s, paved the way for the rampant heroin abuse that we are seeing today.

Last year, as you know, 430 people in our State died of an opioid overdose. This year that number is expected to be exceeded. So this amendment would research these trends so we can work to resolve the problem before the epidemic continues and expands. I would urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from New Hampshire for her tireless work not just here, but on the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat Heroin Epidemic. We are clearly providing options and solutions to help those families in need.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I will just close by thanking Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana for her leadership, Mr. KENNEDY for his leadership in offering this legislation, and thank Mr. GUINTA for this amendment.

I urge our colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment that will allow us to understand the underlying increase in the use of opioid medication and prescription drugs that are leading people into substance use disorder and, ultimately, sadly, into the use of heroin and fentanyl that is killing so many people in our homes and communities.

I yield back the balance of my time.  
 The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BYRNE). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 3, strike “and”.

Page 6, line 5, before the semicolon insert “and the coordination of information collected from State prescription drug monitoring programs for the purpose of preventing the diversion of pain medication”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4641 that will require the interagency task force created by this legislation to study and report on the coordination of information collected from state prescription drug monitoring programs, or PDMPs, as part of its effort to update best practices for pain management strategies.

State PDMPs play a critical role in preventing the diversion of pain medication as well as other controlled substances. Chief among their benefits, access to a State PDMP provides an invaluable resource to prescribing physicians by allowing them to review a patient’s history of prescription drugs and to spot signs of opioid abuse so that they may proactively refer a patient to substance abuse treatment, if appropriate. They allow medical professionals to intervene before an addiction spirals out of control.

Now active in 49 States, PDMPs can also inform prescribing physicians if a patient has recently accessed pain medication elsewhere and help to detect potential doctor-shopping activities by individuals with no legitimate medical need. Further, PDMPs also play an important role in identifying forged or stolen prescriptions.

While information sharing between some adjacent State PDMPs currently exists to prevent illicit doctor-shopping activities from occurring across State lines, I believe it is time that we boost efforts to strengthen the sharing of information across all State PDMPs.

I recently met with physicians from my district who described from their experience how prevalent the issue of doctor shopping is, particularly in the State of California, and how it is becoming more and more common for individuals with histories of opioid abuse to attempt to receive illicit prescriptions in nearby States.

With passage of this amendment, I urge the task force to explore the benefits of potentially establishing a national PDMP that will vastly approve our ability to prevent and disincentivize doctor shopping in all regions of the country, and I look forward to working with other concerned Members on this important topic.

By requiring that the interagency task force include State PDMP information as it formulates its expert input and improves prescribing guidelines, we will be able to better understand what is and isn’t working and how we may be able to harness the power of State PDMPs to develop an effective national response to the opioid crisis that has devastated communities across the country.

It is beyond doubt that prescription drug monitoring programs serve an invaluable purpose, and any effort to address overprescription must include

consideration of important data that is gleaned across State PDMPs.

While I hope that this Congress will ultimately provide the necessary resources to assure we are able to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent opioid addiction and increase access to treatment, the recommendations developed by the task force created under this bill are an important initial step that must come to pass before achieving that goal.

I urge support for this amendment and for the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I am in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from California for offering this amendment.

We know from talking to a lot of physicians and medical educators as well that the use of these PDMPs is a critically important tool in their tool chest to combat against those patients who might be doctor shopping.

We know, though, that not all States use it. Not all prescribers actually check that PDMP system like they should. So I appreciate the Congressman's concept of a feasibility study as to whether or not there should be a national PDMP system, and I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for her support as well as all of her good work in trying to address the opioid crisis in the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, after line 5, insert the following:

(D) ongoing efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels to examine the potential benefits of electronic prescribing of opioids, including any public comments collected in the course of those efforts;

Page 6, line 6, strike "(D)" and insert "(E)".

Page 6, line 14, strike "(E)" and insert "(F)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple. It directs the task force to consider any potential benefits from increasing the electronic prescribing of opioids.

We know that, with the increasing sophistication of health information technology, we have an opportunity to use that information for the benefit of our public health. We also know that paper prescriptions are subject to being stolen, copied, and misused.

While that is a fact, 67 percent of prescriptions nationally are ordered electronically, but the rate for controlled substances is less than 1 percent.

Electronic prescribing of opioids has the potential to provide data to help us identify problems, whether from a user or a prescriber, and focus our interventions on saving lives and preventing addiction.

Back home in my district, Cambridge Health Alliance has adopted electronic prescriptions for controlled substances and have found it reduces fraud and allows administrators to track prescription patterns and detect overprescribing. Electronic prescriptions can be a key tool in fighting this epidemic. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. ROTHFUS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 13, strike "and".

Page 6, after line 16, insert "and" after the semicolon.

Page 6, after line 16, insert the following:

(F) the practice of co-prescribing naloxone for both pain patients receiving chronic opioid therapy and patients being treated for opioid use disorders;

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my good friend from Indiana for her leadership on this very important piece of legislation as well as the chairman and ranking member of the committee for working together to bring it to the floor today.

The United States is being ravaged by skyrocketing levels of prescription

opioid and heroin abuse. This brutal epidemic has accounted for more than 28,000 American deaths in 2014, destroying families and devastating local communities alike.

My constituents in western Pennsylvania have been particularly hard hit. In the past two decades, there has been a 470 percent increase in drug overdose deaths. The vast majority of these have been heroin and opioid related.

Two weeks ago, at a local hospital in my district, five overdoses were treated in 1 day alone. In February, the same facility treated 20 overdoses in just 2 days.

We need meaningful and evidence-based solutions to combat this scourge. I have worked to help develop those solutions as part of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic and by holding roundtables with stakeholders in my district.

I strongly believe that the legislation we are considering today is another step forward in that process by creating an interagency task force to review and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication.

As part of its work, the task force will consider various types of data and practices. For example, it must consider the existence and availability of different classes of opioids, including those with safety measures such as abuse deterrent technology. It must also consider how high-risk populations are managed by medical professionals.

The legislation has been entirely silent on the issue of naloxone, however. Thus, the amendment that I offered with my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) simply seeks to have the task force take into consideration the practice of coprescribing this lifesaving drug as part of its work.

Naloxone has the ability to revive a victim who has suffered an overdose within minutes. It is both safe and effective and has been used successfully to counteract more than 26,000 overdoses between 1996 and 2014. First responders who have seen what naloxone can do have referred to it as the miracle drug.

The American Medical Association and many community, State, and national groups have supported coprescribing naloxone to patients who are taking opioids as a critical part of the solution to the rising epidemic of opioid overdose-related deaths.

Considering the practice of coprescribing naloxone, particularly for high-risk populations or when other avenues of treatment have been tried and failed, it is an essential part of addressing the opioid and heroin epidemic.

By reviewing and updating best practices with respect to coprescribing naloxone, the interagency task force can ensure that health professionals at

all levels, both inside and outside of government, are fully informed when prescribing and treating patients.

Simply put, Americans who are struggling with opioid and heroin addiction cannot be treated if they lose their lives to drug overdose. It is essential that we get naloxone into the hands that need it the most in a safe and effective manner. My amendment would ensure that the task force takes a close look at this.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Mr. ROTHFUS' amendment to H.R. 4641.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

I rise today in support of this amendment, our amendment. It is an amendment that I believe will move the task force to consider the practice of coprescribing of overdose reversal drugs such as naloxone as part of the review of its best practices for pain management and for prescribing pain medication.

Importantly, the medical community now realizes the need for having these important guidelines in place and having them being addressed, as over 80 percent of the AMA members have indicated they see the need for these guidelines now and the importance in terms of saving lives.

As a former district attorney, I took a public health approach a decade and a half ago, starting an Anti-Heroin Task Force. At the time, in our State, two people, on average, were dying every day from these overdoses. In just the last 6 years, that number has increased to almost four people a day.

As a Congressman, this hits really close to home to me because our latest stats in 2014 indicate that a quarter of the overdose deaths in Massachusetts occurred in counties in my district. Over 60 percent occurred in the cities of Fall River and New Bedford alone.

In fact, nearly twice the statewide average in Cape Cod, where the highest percentage of per capita rate of opioid-related overdoses occurs, represents a significant part of the epidemic in our Commonwealth.

Going forward, Mr. ROTHFUS and I introduced Co-Prescribing Saves Lives Act legislation to require Federal health agencies, including HHS, the Department of Defense, and the VA, to create guidelines for coprescribing naloxone alongside opioid prescriptions and making naloxone more widely available.

Our legislation creates a grant program as well, so the States will have the resources to do the same.

As our partnership shows, in an often divided Congress, we are coming together. We are coming together to confront a uniquely American epidemic.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, to close, increased access to naloxone, particularly for patients who are at high risk, has been identified as one of the most powerful tools for reducing the number of opioid and heroin-related overdose deaths.

Let's ensure that our health professionals are fully informed of this option when prescribing and treating patients.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 13, strike "and".

Page 6, after line 16, insert the following:

(F) research that has been, or is being, conducted or supported by the Federal Government on prevention of, treatment for, and recovery from substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults relative to any unique circumstances (including social and biological circumstances) of adolescents and young adults that may make adolescent-specific and young adult-specific treatment protocols necessary, including any effects that substance use and substance use disorders may have on brain development and the implications for treatment and recovery;

(G) Federal non-research programs and activities that address prevention of, treatment for, and recovery from substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults, including an assessment of the effectiveness of such programs and activities in—

(i) preventing substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults;

(ii) treating such adolescents and young adults in a way that accounts for any unique circumstances faced by adolescents and young adults; and

(iii) supporting long-term recovery among adolescents and young adults; and

(H) gaps that have been identified by Federal officials and experts in Federal efforts relating to prevention of, treatment for, and recovery from substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults, including gaps in research, data collection, and measures to evaluate the effectiveness of Federal efforts, and the reasons for such gaps;

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would direct the task force to consider the programs and research relative to adolescents and young adults.

We know that addiction and recovery often start early, and we need to focus research on how to address the unique needs of our adolescents and young adults.

We need to understand how years of opioid abuse can affect the development of the brain, how it affects the development of coping skills, and how we can best support our kids in long-term recovery.

Most importantly, there are many gaps in research on this subject, and we need to know the status of the current research and where we need to focus our resources.

Recently, I met a constituent named Ryan. In seventh grade, he started taking drugs. When he did, he told me he felt like he finally fit in, like he had found the answers to the problems he felt and the pain he felt.

By the time he was 13, he started drinking, taking pills, and stealing money from his family. His mother was panicked. The minute he walked out of the house he had to get high. He also felt powerless.

At 15, he became convinced he was a bad person. He felt ashamed that he couldn't change, not even for his mother.

The last time he relapsed, his mom told him he couldn't see friends anymore, and he threw a piece of glass at her.

She looked him in the eyes and said: I don't know who you are anymore.

He went into treatment for three additional months, and that treatment is what changed his life. He said that it saved him. One day at the sober house he remembers sincerely laughing for the first time, and he thought: There's hope for me.

All these little things he forgot about himself, like humor, kindness and empathy. He said: I no longer felt like the shell of a person.

He asked for our leadership for two things: the people in recovery need not to be ashamed. It is not what defines them, even when their addiction starts very young; and that we need to come up with funding for treatment.

Ryan is an inspiration to me, and we owe it to the young victims of this epidemic to focus on the unique impact of this public health crisis on adolescents and young adults.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I support the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I would like to, once again, thank the gentlewoman from Massachusetts for this important amendment. As she spoke, she reminded me of a visit that I made to a recovery high school; and there are more recovery high schools being created across the country.

But I think when I visited the recovery high school in Indianapolis, called Hope Academy, it reminded me, as I listened to these young people, of the very different needs, but the very, very serious desire that they have to find themselves again, as the gentlewoman just stated.

A young woman who was turning 17 the next day shared that it was going to be her first birthday in 3 years where she would be sober, and she thanked her classmates and her colleagues there as they sat in that circle, and asked that they help her make sure that she didn't go home that night and relapse because she couldn't remember a birthday, really, where she had been sober.

So I do believe that having more studies specifically with respect to the programs and the research about adolescents and young adults is critically important because that is where it all starts.

I support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, again, I just want to thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for all her leadership and advocacy, and my good friend and colleague from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for his as well. This bill and their work will make an incredible difference to families across the country.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 19, strike "and".

Page 6, line 25, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 6, after line 25, insert the following:

(4) review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing

pain medication, specifically as it pertains to physician education and consumer education.

Page 7, line 15, strike "and".

Page 7, line 20, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 7, after line 20, insert the following:

(4) the modified and updated best practices described in subsection (d)(4).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would empower the interagency task force to help communities spread awareness about the dangers of drug addiction through consumer education, and help medical providers more effectively and safely address patient pain management.

Along with my colleague, Representative KNIGHT, I proudly introduced this amendment that was inspired by bipartisan legislation that I introduced earlier this year, with Representatives KNIGHT and COSTELLO, and that was identified as a legislative priority by the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic that I proudly serve on with so many of my colleagues here in this House.

Mr. Chairman, there is not a community in this great country that hasn't been touched by drug addiction, not one. Addiction knows no bounds. It knows no race, no gender, no economic status, no party affiliation.

In January, I was honored to have James Wardwell, the Chief of Police in New Britain, Connecticut, join me for the President's State of the Union Address, and he came to join me because of his leadership and his concern about the need to address this growing public health crisis.

Chief Wardwell, and many other first responders, medical professionals, substance abuse counselors, family members, and recovering addicts, have worked with me to help craft legislation to address our growing epidemic of prescription drug and heroin addiction.

I am glad that today, this House is taking action. Today's legislation is an example of what we, in Congress, are supposed to be doing. Our job is to work together, Democrats and Republicans, to address the needs of the American people.

Whenever I go home to central and northwest Connecticut, at community forums in Torrington, at Congress on Your Corner events in Waterbury and the Farmington Valley, constituents come up to me and ask: What are you in Congress doing to help our families with the heroin epidemic?

The families in Connecticut and across this country who are losing loved ones to drug addiction cannot afford for us to wait. We need to act now.

Recovering from addiction is possible, but it is hard. So much of our effort to combat drug addiction is focused on helping folks get the treatment they need, and that is important, but it is not enough to treat the crisis. We must help prevent people from getting addicted in the first place.

Our bipartisan amendment does just that by directing the interagency task force to establish guidelines that help prescribers more effectively and safely manage their patients' pain, and that strengthens consumer education about opioid addiction.

Our amendment takes an important step toward preventing drug addiction. Those who prescribe narcotics would benefit from an increased education about the dangers of addiction and ways in which they can help minimize the risks associated with prescribing narcotics.

Those hardest hit by this epidemic would benefit from having access to educational materials in our schools, community centers, and from local law enforcement, that help warn people about the dangers of opioid use and possible addiction.

I am very encouraged that the House and Senate are taking action to address this public health crisis, and I will continue doing everything within my power to make addiction prevention a priority.

Opioid and heroin addiction have already taken so many young lives and needlessly torn apart so many families. We can't wait for more lives to be destroyed before we take action.

So let's work together today to prevent our children, our students, our patients, our neighbors, our families, and our friends, from becoming victims of this terrible public health crisis. Let's work together today to stop drug addiction before it begins.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I support the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for this important amendment.

Certainly, the job of the interagency task force, besides producing best practices and reviewing and modifying and talking about them, is not just to generate a report that Congress will have, as I have said, sitting on a shelf someplace, and that our staff or the Congressional Research Service can look at and study; it is really meant to educate the public, to educate the public, whether or not they are people in schools, whether or not they are in our hospitals.

But I think, most importantly, we need to make sure that our prescribers

are being educated. We have had roundtable discussions with our medical educators, and there is a push around the country, and I applaud that push around the country of our medical educators, whether it is in our med schools for physicians or for nursing programs, dental programs, but to try to start at a much earlier level in their medical education about the research and the studies and the best practices around opioids.

Certainly, as being a lawyer, we are required to do continuing medical or continuing legal education, and it is something that I know that physicians and prescribers are certainly required to get continuing medical education. I just want to continue to encourage and applaud them for seeking out that medical education around opioids. I think it is critically important.

With this amendment, I think it will strengthen and educate our prescribers about the need to continue to educate themselves on pain management practices and the use of opioids.

I urge the amendment's passage.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1515

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, again, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative KNIGHT, for cosponsoring this amendment. I would like to thank the bipartisan leadership for taking up this issue, and my good friend, the gentlewoman from Indiana, Representative BROOKS, for her leadership. I would like to thank the advocates in Connecticut who have worked so tirelessly with me, Chief Wardwell and Shawn Lang, among others. Shawn Lang recently was recognized by the White House for her advocacy and leadership on this issue for many, many years.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 19, strike "and".

Page 6, line 25, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 6, after line 25, insert the following:

(4) examine and identify—

(A) the extent of the need for the development of new pharmacological, nonpharmacological, and medical device alternatives to opioids;

(B) the current status of research efforts to develop such alternatives; and

(C) the pharmacological, nonpharmacological, and medical device alternatives to opioids that are currently available that could be better utilized.

Page 7, line 15, strike "and".

Page 7, line 20, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 7, after line 20, insert the following:

(4) the results of the examination and identification conducted pursuant to subsection (d)(4), and recommendations regarding—

(A) the development of new pharmacological, nonpharmacological, and medical device alternatives to opioids; and

(B) the improved utilization of pharmacological, nonpharmacological, and medical device alternatives to opioids that are currently available.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chair, on January 8, 2014, an extraordinary thing happened in Vermont. Our Governor, Peter Shumlin, giving a State of the State Address, devoted its entirety to the opioid epidemic in Vermont. I remember how stunned people were that a Governor would take such a difficult topic and spend his entire address on it. I remember the reaction of many of my colleagues here, who said: Peter, isn't that dangerous? You are talking about something that is not great for the reputation of the State.

What, in fact, was great for the reputation of the State was that our Governor and our leaders acknowledged the existence of a problem that was creating heartbreak and heartache in all of our communities; and a problem acknowledged is the first step in dealing with a problem to be solved.

Since then, Vermont has been extraordinary in its efforts to attack this problem. Communities like Rutland, St. Albans, Barre, and Burlington have coordinated with the police force, with our medical providers and our hospitals to provide a treatment-based approach to helping folks who have an addiction to opioids—many of them coming by it as a result of prescriptions for legitimate medical needs.

We had, in Rutland, a community coming together to create Project VISION, which has faith-based groups, the police, and the medical community doing everything they can to basically give individual attention to folks who are trying to help themselves get off of opiates.

The problem continues to be severe, but what we have is a community that is fully engaged in it, including our State legislature, which provided funds for treatment—a treatment-based approach—to helping people with a hub-and-spoke system that is really working well. Folks who are getting prescriptions, folks who have a problem, an addiction, are getting access to methadone or other prescribed prod-

ucts, take that in a hub so it is supervised, and they are able then to go to work.

So this has been a situation in Vermont where, as a result of the Governor's focus on the problem, we have had community engagement to stem the tide of this issue.

It has been working, but challenges remain because we don't have enough treatment funds. This legislation is an important acknowledgment on the part of Congress that we are getting it, that across this country we are all being affected by the challenges that our communities face.

I thank the sponsors of this legislation, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. UPTON, too, for their leadership.

My hope, by the way, is that we get the message, too, in Congress that we have got to send some funds back to our communities that are struggling with these programs. We can't micro-manage the treatment here. It is up to the courageous people in our communities to do it, and some of the tax dollars that they send to us we have got to send back to them. That is why I, among others, am supporting an emergency appropriation of \$600 million. That would help quite a bit.

The amendment that I have on this bill, which establishes an interagency task force to review, modify, and update the best practices for pain management, would ask that we also review developing nonopioid forms of pain relief. If opioids diminish pain but they create misery, let's find another way to do it and help our folks who need pain relief to get it.

The second thing, it would examine existing nonopioid alternatives that could be better utilized.

So this is tremendous that there has been such a bipartisan coming together to sponsor practical steps that we can take. I see us in Congress as essentially acknowledging what Governor Shumlin identified as a real problem for us and we are hearing about in our communities. But I hope we are ready to take some next steps and actually focus on getting resources back to our communities that are doing the very, very challenging work at the local level where it needs to be done to help folks relieve themselves from the addiction of opioids.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part A of House Report 114-551.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, after line 25, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent subsections accordingly):

(e) CONSIDERATION OF STUDY RESULTS.—In reviewing, modifying, and updating, best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, the task force shall take into consideration existing private sector, State, and local government efforts related to pain management and prescribing pain medication.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, I want to take time to recognize the gentleman from New Jersey, representing the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for their service not only to this conference, but also to the issues and the ideas that are being brought forth.

The gentlewoman from Indiana has served our Nation as a United States attorney in Indiana. She has been on the front line of battles, albeit a few years ago, but the front line of battles that the American people face, how we protect the American public from all sorts of things that get in our way as families and communities. But in this case today, she is serving as a Member of Congress firsthand to fight a problem with opioids. Opioids are a synthetic heroin, Mr. Chairman, and synthetic heroin is a national problem. It is a national problem and one which this Congress is undertaking.

We are following up today on the United States Senate bill and this bill that came through regular order in the House of Representatives under two primary committees. The Judiciary Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee have addressed bills that are being debated today that will be passed, will be done in a bipartisan way, and will bring the best ideas of the House of Representatives to the plate. With that in mind, that is what I stand for today, sir, to do.

I join in, as my colleague from Vermont has done, in adding to this interagency task force with an amendment that I brought forth that I would ask us to consider. I will offer this amendment to ensure that the existing best practices of State and local governments, as well as the private sector, are specifically considered as the task force which was established by H.R. 4641 conducts their business.

Mr. Chairman, the opportunity for us to understand the amendment process means that not only I, but also other Members of this body, bring forth ideas that we think are the best ways to combat this problem. I believe in State and local governments. I believe in the private sector. I think they are the essence of, really, where the rubber

meets the road on the solution of problems, not to kick around ideas and to find something that doesn't work, but to kick around ideas that do work.

Local communities, local governments, and the private sector collaborate back home daily. They do this in Dallas, Texas, which is my home, which I represent, and we have something that is called the Dallas Area Drug Prevention Partnership. It was established in 2007, and it represents what I believe is the best collaborative effort between local communities focusing on preventing drug abuse.

A few years ago, Dallas, Texas, the epicenter of something that was a heroin epidemic, was looking at a marketing effort by Mexican drug dealers with something that was called cheese. Cheese was a marketing effort, but it was heroin, and it was being packaged and sold as cheese. In fact, it caused the death of some 25 people in Dallas, Texas, very quickly before law enforcement recognized what the problem was.

Law enforcement worked with community leaders, church leaders, religious leaders, Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troops, youth groups, YMCAs, and we got a handle on what the problem was. But it was not solved by the Federal Government. It was not done just by an interagency departmental group of people in Washington, D.C. It was solved with Washington, D.C., and with people back home who saw the problem firsthand, who took responsibility for the problem firsthand.

In this case, what we are trying to say is we are dealing with a nationwide epidemic, a nationwide epidemic which we have spoken very plainly about today that is one that is caused through opioid use and then the transition to heroin at some point in a person's life. It is creating thousands of deaths across our country. Something must be done. But the something to be done is a collaborative effort between the Federal Government, interagency responsibility up in Washington and other places back home, but with State and local organizations and with private sector organizations that really will be not just the boots on the ground, but many times with the best expertise about the best way to do it in the best place.

Mr. Chairman, I bring forth this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

The amendment was agreed to. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to. The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SES-

SIONS) having assumed the chair, Mr. BYRNE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4641) to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 720, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1530

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### INFANT PLAN OF SAFE CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4843) to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require certain monitoring and oversight, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4843

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act”.

**SEC. 2. BEST PRACTICES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS OF SAFE CARE.**

Section 103(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (8) as paragraphs (6) through (9), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4), the following:

“(5) maintain and disseminate information about the requirements of section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii) and best practices relating to the development of plans of safe care as described in such section for infants born and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder;”.

**SEC. 3. STATE PLANS.**

Section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(B)(iii)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “to ensure the safety and well-being of such infant following release from the care of healthcare providers, including through—”

“(I) addressing the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of the infant and affected family or caregiver; and

“(II) the development and implementation by the State of monitoring systems regarding the implementation of such plans to determine whether and in what manner local entities are providing, in accordance with State requirements, referrals to and delivery of appropriate services for the infant and affected family or caregiver”.

**SEC. 4. DATA REPORTS.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 106(d) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(d)) is amended by adding at the end of the following:

“(17)(A) The number of infants identified under subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii).

“(B) The number of infants for whom a plan of safe care was developed under subsection (b)(2)(B)(iii).

“(C) The number of infants for whom a referral was made for appropriate services, including services for the affected family or caregiver, under subsection (b)(2)(B)(iii).”.

(b) *REDESIGNATION.*—Effective on May 29, 2017, section 106(d) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(d)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (17) (as added by subsection (a)) as paragraph (18).

**SEC. 5. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT.**

(a) *AMENDMENT.*—Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 114. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT.**

“The Secretary shall conduct monitoring to ensure that each State that receives a grant under section 106 is in compliance with the requirements of section 106(b), which—

“(1) shall—

“(A) be in addition to the review of the State plan upon its submission under section 106(b)(1)(A); and

“(B) include monitoring of State policies and procedures required under clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B); and

“(2) may include—

“(A) a comparison of activities carried out by the State to comply with the requirements of section 106(b) with the State plan most recently approved under section 432 of the Social Security Act;

“(B) a review of information available on the Website of the State relating to its compliance with the requirements of section 106(b);

“(C) site visits, as may be necessary to carry out such monitoring; and

“(D) a review of information available in the State’s Annual Progress and Services Report most recently submitted under section 1357.16 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 113, the following:

“Sec. 114. Monitoring and oversight.”.

**SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services or any other officer of the Federal Government to add new requirements to section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)), as amended by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4843.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4843, the Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act.

Every 25 minutes in America, a baby is born suffering from opiate withdrawal. It is an eye-opening statistic. The more you consider what it really means, the more tragic it becomes.

Every 25 minutes a child enters the world having already been exposed to drugs. Every 25 minutes a newborn has to pay the price for something that he or she was defenseless against. Every 25 minutes another infant becomes a victim of the national opiate crisis.

These are the victims this bill will help protect. Federal policies, including the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, or CAPTA, have long supported State efforts to identify, assess, and treat children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

The law provides States with resources to improve their child protective services systems if they assure the Department of Health and Human Services that they have put in place certain child welfare policies, for example, requiring healthcare providers to notify child protective service agencies when a child is born with prenatal illegal substance exposure and requiring the development of something known as a safe care plan to keep these newborns and their caregivers healthy and safe.

Last year a Reuters investigation examined the care that infants receive when they are born to parents struggling with opiate addiction. The investigation detailed the heartbreaking consequences those infants had to endure, consequences like suffering through the physical pain of withdrawal and, in the most shocking cases, terrible deaths.

It is hard to imagine that stories like these could be any more tragic. Unfortunately, they are because they should have and, in many cases, could have been prevented. As Reuters revealed, HHS is providing Federal funds to States that do not have the necessary child welfare policies in place.

In short, the law is not being properly followed and enforced and some of our most vulnerable children and families are slipping through the cracks.

That is why Representative CLARK and I worked with a number of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle and introduced the legislation before us today. The bill requires HHS to better ensure States are meeting their legal responsibilities when it comes to preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect.

Through a number of commonsense measures, it strengthens protections for infants born with illegal substance exposure, improves accountability related to the care of infants and their families, and ensures States will have the best practices for developing plans to keep infants and their caregivers healthy and safe.

As the House works this week to fight the opiate epidemic that is destroying communities and lives across the country, these are commonsense reforms that we all should embrace. By working together and advancing this legislation, we can help ensure these children, their mothers, and their families have the help they need and the care that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join with Representative BARLETTA to introduce this important bill to help the most vulnerable victims of the opioid epidemic.

In every corner of our country, the opioid crisis is having a devastating effect. In Massachusetts, last year 1,379 people succumbed to fatal overdoses. Nationwide, drug overdoses are the leading cause of accidental death and we lose 129 people a day to fatal drug overdoses. This epidemic doesn’t see race, gender, income, or political ideology and does not spare newborns and infants.

We know that every 25 minutes a baby is born suffering from opioid withdrawal symptoms. This is a condition known as neonatal abstinence syndrome. While there is no silver bullet

to address this crisis in our country, this bill takes important steps to help.

This bill, the Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act, strengthens and updates the care plans required by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974, also known as CAPTA.

CAPTA itself is up for reauthorization. This is just one portion of that important legislation where timely reauthorization will protect children in many different and difficult situations.

This legislation will help infants by ensuring that States have access to the best practices for establishing safe care plans for newborns with prenatal substance exposure.

It will also improve accountability by collecting data on the incidence of babies born exposed to drugs and the care that is provided to them and their families.

Perhaps most importantly, it will prevent tragedies by ensuring that babies and their moms and their families have the supports they need to be healthy and to build a future. We know that children have the best opportunity to thrive when their parents and caregivers are at the center of care.

I am grateful to the partnership with Representative BARLETTA and glad that we are taking this important step with this bill to ensure that the whole family is healthy and successful and supported.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BARLETTA for yielding the time and for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act. Like many of the bills the House has slated to consider this week, this legislation will help address the growing opioid epidemic that has swept across America, focusing specifically on the most vulnerable among us.

This crisis has led to a number of painful consequences for individuals and families across the country. But few are as tragic as those suffered by infants born to parents struggling with an opioid addiction.

As is often the case with addiction, the parents' struggle affects those around them, including their newborns. In fact, according to a recent Reuters investigation mentioned earlier by Mr. BARLETTA, more than 130,000 babies born in the United States in the last decade entered the world addicted to drugs.

This report described the pain suffered by newborns going through withdrawal and told the stories of infants who actually lost their lives because of

a terrible addiction. Many of the stories are too disturbing to even mention. But perhaps even more disturbing than the details is the fact that these deaths should have been prevented.

Current policies, including the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, are meant to prevent these tragedies from ever happening. The law is simple. If a State wants to receive Federal funding, then the State has to provide some basic assurances about their child welfare policies. The Department of Health and Human Services has a responsibility to ensure those policies are actually in place.

As we now know all too well, this important Federal law is not being properly followed and enforced. Earlier this year I sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services to better understand how it works with States to ensure they are meeting current child welfare requirements.

Not surprisingly, the Department passed the buck and suggested recent changes to the law somehow absolved them from their enforcement responsibilities, a disappointing response, to say the least.

Fortunately, thanks to the work of Mr. BARLETTA and Ms. CLARK, we are here today to consider our response to this preventable problem: the bill before us today. I appreciate their leadership in developing a bipartisan bill that will require the Department to do its job and assist States in their efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and to help ensure the most vulnerable victims of the opioid epidemic receive the help and care they desperately need.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4843, the Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act.

Mr. Speaker, one of our highest national priorities should be to ensure that children have early quality opportunities to remove barriers to success in future life. But children born dependent on addictive substances face severe obstacles to overcome, and we know that many of these obstacles can be removed.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, CAPTA, is meant to support infants born addicted to these illegal substances. Unfortunately, nearly every State fails to follow the CAPTA requirements, which work to ensure that children born of these circumstances have a plan of safe care that will help them grow up healthy.

H.R. 4843 is a strong positive first step to safeguard the well-being of our Nation's most vulnerable children. It will strengthen an infant's plan of safe care. It will help families and caregivers give the guidance and support

they need in order to provide a nurturing environment for these children.

I welcome this bipartisan agreement to amend CAPTA as part of the comprehensive efforts to intervene and treat those affected by substance abuse. I therefore urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4843.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for his leadership on this issue and so many involving the welfare and health of our children.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, in response to an inquiry from the Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman KLINE and Chairman ROKITA of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, HHS indicated that it would request additional information from States regarding their child protective services notification processes and plans of safe care policies. HHS has started this process.

I include in the RECORD the HHS Children's Bureau Program Instruction requesting this additional information.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

1. Log No: ACYF-CB-PI-16-03
2. Issuance Date: April 13, 2016
3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau
4. Key Words: Title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan; Annual Progress and Services Report; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act State Plan; Chafee Foster Care Independence Program; Education and Training Vouchers Program

PROGRAM INSTRUCTION

To: State Agencies, Territories, and Insular Areas Administering or Supervising the Administration of Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (the Act); Organization Designated by the Governor to Apply for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Programs State Grant Funds; State Independent Living and Education and Training Voucher Coordinators.

Subject: June 30, 2016, submission of: (1) the second Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) to the 2015-2019 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) for the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services (CWS), the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) and Monthly Caseworker Visit Grant programs; and the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) and the Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program; (2) the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Plan update; and (3) the CFS-101, Part I, Annual Budget Request, Part II, Annual Summary of Child and Family Services, and Part III, Annual Expenditure Report—Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, CFCIP, and ETV.

Legal and Related References: Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, sections 421-425, 428, 430-438, and title IV-E, section 477 of the Act; sections 106 and 108 of CAPTA (42 U.S.C. 5106a. and 5106d.), as amended by Public Law (P.L.) 111-320, the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010; the Indian Child Welfare Act. (ICWA) of 1978 (P.L. 95-608); the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-



638); 45 CFR Parts 1355 and 1357; The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351); the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148); the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-34); the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113-183); and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-22).

Purpose: This Program Instruction (PI) provides guidance to states, territories, and insular areas (hereafter “states,” unless otherwise noted) on actions they are required to take to receive their allotments for federal fiscal year (FY) 2017 (subject to the availability of appropriations) authorized under title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, section 106 of CAPTA, CFCIP and ETV programs.

This PI summarizes the actions required in completion and submission of (1) the second APSR to the 2015–2019 CFSP, (2) the CAPTA Update, and (3) the CFS–101, Parts I, II, and III.

A separate PI addresses requirements for tribes, tribal consortia, and tribal organizations applying for funding under these programs.

We note that the title IV-B programs (subparts 1 and 2) are required to be reauthorized periodically by the Congress. The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, signed into law on September 30, 2011, last reauthorized funding for these programs for five years through FY 2016. The guidance provided in this PI assumes that the programs will be extended without significant changes. Should new legislation be enacted that would affect the steps that states must take to receive funding for FY 2017, additional guidance will be provided.

#### INFORMATION: ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAM INSTRUCTION

##### Section A. Background

Section B. Continued Integration of the Child and Family Services Review Process with the CFSP/APSR

Section C. Requirements for 2017 APSR (Due June 30, 2016)

Section D. CAPTA State Plan Requirements and Update

Section E. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

Section F. Updates to Targeted Plans within the 2015–2019 CFSP

Section G. Statistical and Supporting Information

##### Section H. Financial Information

Section I. Instructions for the Submission of the 2017 APSR for States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia

Section J. Submittal Rule for Insular Areas

##### Attachments

#### SECTION D. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND UPDATE

States submitted a plan for the CAPTA State Grant on June 30, 2011. Once approved by CB, the CAPTA State Plan remains in effect for the duration of the state’s participation in the CAPTA State Grant program. However, section 108(e) of CAPTA requires states receiving a CAPTA State Grant to submit an annual report describing its use of the grant. To facilitate coordination between the CAPTA State Plan and the title IV-B plan, as required by section 106(b)(2)(A) of CAPTA, CB requires that the annual report describing use of CAPTA funds be submitted with the APSR. In addition, CB encourages states to use CAPTA State Grant funds in a manner that aligns with and supports their

overall goals for the delivery and improvement of child welfare services, as they continue to implement their 2015–2019 CFSP and APSR goals.

#### IN THE STATE’S 2017 ANNUAL CAPTA REPORT

Describe substantive changes, if any, to state law or regulations, including laws and regulations relating to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, that could affect the state’s eligibility for the CAPTA State Grant (section 106(b)(1)(C)(i) of CAPTA). The state must also include an explanation from the State Attorney General as to why the change would, or would not, affect eligibility. (Note: States do not have to notify ACF of statutory changes or submit them for review if they are not substantive and would not affect eligibility.)

Describe any significant changes from the state’s previously approved CAPTA plan in how the state proposes to use funds to support the 14 program areas enumerated in section 106(a) of CAPTA. (See section 106(b)(1)(C)(ii) of CAPTA.)

Describe how CAPTA State Grant funds were used, alone or in combination with other federal funds, in support of the state’s approved CAPTA plan to meet the purposes of the program since the state submitted its last update on June 30, 2015 (section 108(e) of CAPTA).

Submit a copy of the annual report(s) from the citizen review panels and a copy of the state agency’s most recent response(s) to the panels and state and local child protective services agencies, as required by section 106(c)(6) of CAPTA.

Update on Services to Substance-Exposed Newborns

In addition to the information outlined above, CB requests an update from states on implementation of CAPTA provisions relating to substance-exposed newborns. Sections 106(b)(2)(B)(ii) and (iii) of CAPTA require states to have a statewide program relating to child abuse and neglect that includes:

—policies and procedures (including appropriate referrals to child protection service systems and for other appropriate services) to address the needs of infants born with and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including a requirement that health care providers involved in the delivery or care of such infants notify the child protective services system of the occurrence of such condition of such infants, except that such notification shall not be construed to—

I. establish a definition under Federal law of what constitutes child abuse or neglect; or  
II. require prosecution for any illegal action.

—the development of a plan of safe care for the infant born and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

The most recent national data on child abuse and neglect from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) showed increases in FY 2014 compared to FY 2013 in the number of children referred to CPS, the number of children who received a CPS investigation or alternative response and the number of children who were determined to be victims of child abuse and neglect. While increases nationally were relatively small, some states saw increases of 15 percent or more in the number of children determined to be victims. Nationally, states reported to NCANDS that more than one-quarter (27.4%) of victims were younger than

3 years and that the victimization rate was highest for children younger than 1 year (24.4 per 1,000 children in the population of the same age).

State commentary and data on risk factors associated with reports of abuse and neglect indicate that caretaker alcohol and drug abuse are significant factors associated with reports of child abuse and neglect. For states reporting to NCANDS, 9.2 percent of victims and 3.8 percent of nonvictims were reported with the alcohol abuse caregiver risk factor and 26.0 percent of victims and 8.2 percent of nonvictims were reported with the drug abuse caregiver risk factor. Beyond reports to NCANDS, increasing public attention is being paid to the significant effect of opioid addiction on individuals, families and communities.

In light of these trends, states are requested to provide an update on their implementation of these provisions of CAPTA.

#### IN THE 2017 CAPTA ANNUAL REPORT

Describe the policies and procedures the state has in place to address the needs of infants born with and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including a requirement that health care providers involved in the delivery or care of such infants notify the child protective services system of the occurrence of such condition of such infants (section 106(b)(2)(B)(ii) of CAPTA). We note that such notification should occur in any instance in which an infant is demonstrating withdrawal symptoms due to prenatal drug exposure, whether the drugs were obtained legally or illegally.

Describe the state’s policies and procedures for developing a plan of safe care for infants born and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)). Describe which agency or entity is responsible for developing a plan of safe care, how it is monitored and how follow-up is conducted to ensure the safety of these infants.

Describe any technical assistance the state needs to improve practice and implementation in these areas, including how to support mothers and families, as well as infants, through a plan of safe care.

Amendments to CAPTA made by P.L. 114–22, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015:

As noted in Section A of this PI, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 included amendments to CAPTA that become effective on May 29, 2017.

The law amended CAPTA’s definition of “child abuse and neglect” and “sexual abuse” by adding a special rule that a child shall be considered a victim of ‘child abuse and neglect’ and of ‘sexual abuse’ if the child is identified, by a state or local agency employee of the state or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking (as defined in sections 103(9)(A) and (10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)).

—As defined in section 103(10) of TVPA, “sex trafficking” means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

—As defined in section 103(9)(A) of TVPA, “severe forms of trafficking in persons” means sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

The amendments also specify that, notwithstanding the general definition of a "child" in CAPTA, a state may opt to apply the sex trafficking portion of the definition of "child abuse and neglect" and "sexual abuse" to a person who has not attained age 24.

In addition to expanding the definitions of child abuse and neglect and sexual abuse applicable to the CAPTA State Grant, the law added new requirements to the list of assurances a state must provide to receive a CAPTA State Grant. Each state will now need to provide an assurance that the state has in effect and is operating a statewide program, relating to child abuse and neglect that includes:

—provisions and procedures regarding identifying and assessing all reports involving known or suspected child sex trafficking victims (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) (22 U.S.C. 7102)); and

—provisions and procedures for training CPS workers about identifying, assessing and providing comprehensive services to children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with state law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters.

Finally, the amendments add to the list of data elements a state must annually report, to the maximum extent practicable, as a condition of receiving their CAPTA State Grant. Beginning with submission of FY 2018 data, the CB expects to ask states to report the number of children who are victims of sex trafficking. The CB anticipates collecting this information through NCANDS. Additional information on NCANDS data reporting will be provided separately from this PI.

#### IN THE 2017 CAPTA ANNUAL REPORT

Describe the steps that the state is taking or will need to take to address the amendments to CAPTA relating to sex trafficking in order to implement those provisions by May 29, 2017.

Provide an assessment of the changes the state will need to make to its laws, policies or procedures to ensure that victims of sex trafficking, as defined in sections 103(9)(A) and (10) of the TVPA, are considered victims of child abuse and neglect and sexual abuse. We note that it is likely that some states will need to make changes to state laws to come into compliance. Indicate whether the state is electing to apply the sex trafficking portion of the definition of "child abuse and neglect" and "sexual abuse" to persons who are over age 18 but have not yet attained age 24.

Provide an update on the state's progress and planned activities in the coming year to develop provisions and procedures regarding identifying and assessing all reports involving known or suspected child sex trafficking victims.

Provide an update on the state's progress and planned activities in the coming year to develop provisions and procedures for training CPS workers about identifying, assessing and providing comprehensive services to children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with state law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters.

In addition, no later than May 29, 2017, states must submit the new CAPTA assurances relating to sex trafficking. These assurances are to be provided in the form of a certification signed by the State's Governor

(see Attachment F). The signed assurance may be returned with the 2017 CAPTA Annual Report submitted with the APSR due June 30, 2016, if the state is ready to submit them by that time. If not, the state may submit the certification at a later date, but no later than May 29, 2017.

If the state anticipates it will be unable to submit these assurances by May 29, 2017, provide an explanation as to why that is the case.

Identify any technical assistance needs the state has identified relating to implementation of the amendments to CAPTA made by the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015.

States must include all required information indicated above in their 2017 CAPTA Annual Report to be submitted as part of the 2017 APSR. Missing or incomplete information will result in the withholding of CAPTA funds until such time as approval can be granted by CB. Please note that compliance with the eligibility requirements for a CAPTA State Grant program is a prerequisite for eligibility to receive funding under the Children's Justice Act State Grant Program, authorized by section 107(a) of CAPTA.

Finally, to facilitate ongoing communication between CB and states on issues relating to CAPTA and child abuse and neglect, please submit the name, address, and email for the state CAPTA coordinator (also known as the State Liaison Officer) or where this information can be found on the state's website.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4843, the Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act. Introduced by my colleague and friend, Mr. BARLETTA, this bill takes steps to strengthen protections for our Nation's most precious and vulnerable population: infants and children.

In Pennsylvania alone, nearly 8,000 infants were diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome between 2010 and 2014, and that number is increasing every day.

□ 1545

Neonatal abstinence syndrome, or NAS, is defined by the National Institutes of Health as a set of problems that occurs in a newborn who was exposed to addictive opiate drugs while in the mother's womb. Infants experiencing NAS can endure fevers, rapid breathing, seizures, and even death.

While States are currently required to certify to the Department of Health and Human Services that they have developed a safe care plan for infants born under these conditions, it has come to light that HHS does not independently verify State plans unless there is a specific reason to do so.

My cosponsorship of this bill is a direct assertion of my belief that our Nation's infants deserve more from legislators, Federal agencies, and the administration. This valuable legislation will help clarify the intent of safe care plans, provide States with best prac-

tices for keeping infants safe, and improve accountability across the board.

Mr. Speaker, every district in every State in the United States has been affected by what has been referred to as a substance abuse epidemic. While there is hope in the fact that the House is taking up more than a dozen opioid bills this week, we must not lose sight of the long road ahead of us.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4843 and join the fight to defend our Nation's children.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4843, the Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act, because when newborn infants are tragically affected by illegal substance abuse, they deserve the best possible care and treatment.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which was enacted in 1974, set the groundwork for Federal coordination in addressing the issues of neglect and child abuse that is present in our country. H.R. 4843 builds on that by updating and improving existing laws to ensure that States are utilizing Federal dollars in a safe and effective way in providing care for children who suffer from illegal substance abuse, withdrawal symptoms, or fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Under this bill, infants who are born with having had exposure to illegal substances will have strengthened protections through improved safe care plans and best practices. As a lifelong pharmacist and healthcare professional, I have seen firsthand families as they struggle to provide the care that is needed by infants who suffer from these conditions.

I commend Congressman BARLETTA and the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their leadership on this important legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill so we can care for precious newborn infants across the country.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. I thank Mr. BARLETTA for what he is doing here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 4843, the Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act, which takes important steps in protecting our most vulnerable citizens from the damaging effects of addiction.

As communities in Michigan and around the country fight against the growing opioid epidemic, it is important for stakeholders at all levels to

work together to reverse the trends of addiction and find solutions for the families who are swept up by this public health crisis. Tragically, we know that, every 25 minutes, a baby is born in our country having been exposed to drugs and suffering from opioid withdrawal.

A Federal law is already in place to help ensure these newborns have the necessary protections and care once they are born, but the system is still failing some of our most defenseless children and their families. Recent investigations have uncovered the failure of the Department of Health and Human Services to effectively monitor the implementation of State-level plans to prevent child abuse and neglect, and some States are still receiving taxpayer dollars despite their not following the laws that are in place to ensure the safe care of newborns.

The bill we are considering today would require HHS to review and confirm that States are properly following and enforcing the policies that are outlined in Federal law to protect infants who are affected by drug dependency. It also strengthens protections for infants who have been exposed to illegal substances, and it ensures best practices are disseminated to States for developing plans to keep infants and their caregivers safe.

Mr. Speaker, we must do better to provide these babies and their mothers with the help they need.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives BARLETTA and CLARK, for their leadership in crafting this bipartisan bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in support.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, many thanks to the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his partnership and his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly proud that this legislation takes a comprehensive look at not only protecting our newborns and infants but at putting the supports in place to ensure that their mothers and fathers and grandparents and families have the services they need and deserve to have the best outcomes for these babies and children and their family units. I am very pleased that this bill is before us today, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

In closing, I reiterate the purpose and the importance of this legislation. No government, Federal or State, should be allowed to skirt its responsibilities on the taxpayers' dime, especially when those responsibilities involve the health and safety of children. We have seen what can happen when

they do, and none of us should be okay with allowing those kinds of consequences to continue. Making sure they don't is a responsibility that we all share.

In the end, this bill is not about pointing fingers or about placing blame. It is about the kids who need help, not only the infants who are affected by the opioid crisis, but all of the victims of child abuse and neglect. This bill is about ensuring that we work together to strengthen the protections for our country's most vulnerable children and their families.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4843, the "Improving Safe Care for the Prevention of Infant Abuse and Neglect Act," approved by the Education and the Workforce Committee.

In the past decade and a half, the growth in the number of physicians prescribing opioids to help patients deal with pain from surgeries, dental work and chronic conditions has resulted in an increasing number of patients becoming dependent on the powerful and highly addictive painkillers—with patients not only abusing the use of those painkillers but often turning to heroin once their opioid prescription ended.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nearly 259 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2012, more than enough for every adult in the United States, and it is estimated that in 2013 nearly 4.5 million people in the United States without a valid medical need were using prescription painkillers.

The Health and Human Services Department estimates that the number of unintentional overdose deaths from prescription painkillers almost quadrupled between 1999 and 2013 and that abuse of prescription opioids now kills nearly 30,000 Americans each year.

The "Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" (CAPTA; PL 93-247) was enacted in 1974 to coordinate federal and state efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

The law provides states with federal funds to improve their child protective services systems; however, to receive the funds, states are supposed to implement certain child welfare policies.

CAPTA was amended in 2003 by the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act," (PL 108-36) that requires health care providers to notify child protective services agencies when a child is born with prenatal substance exposure or addiction.

The protective services agencies are supposed to develop a "safe care plan" to protect the babies.

The law explicitly states that it is meant to protect drug-dependent newborns and not to punish mothers who are dealing with addiction.

In December 2015, Reuters published the first in a series of articles documenting the failure of health care providers and state child protective services to help these infants.

Based on information from 2013, the latest year for which data are available, there were 27,000 cases of drug-dependent babies born that year, up from 5,000 in 2003 when CAPTA's notification requirements were enacted.

However, more than 30 states do not require doctors to report cases of infants born with addictions.

Some states have interpreted the law to mean that only addiction to illegal substances need be reported.

This means that if the mother is taking prescribed drugs, even if the infant is born with an addiction, they do not require that the addiction be reported.

In addition, even in states where infants born with drug dependencies must be reported to child protective services agencies, these agencies often take no steps toward developing a safe care plan for these infants.

As a result, infants die because of neglect or abuse in their homes.

Reuters identified 110 fatalities since 2010 of babies and toddlers whose mother used opioids during pregnancy and who later died from causes that could have been prevented.

I recognize that infant mortality is at unprecedentedly high rates in our nation.

Seeking to right the same wrongs as H.R. 4843, the "Improving Safe Care for the Prevention of Infant Abuse and Neglect Act," I introduced the "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016," or the "SIMARRA Act," which will help the Federal Bureau of Prisons to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system for pregnant offenders, by establishing a pilot program of critical-stage, developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates.

It is time that our nation recognizes a long-persistent need to break the cycle of generational, institutional incarceration amongst mothers serving time for non-violent crimes and the children they birth behind prison bars.

H.R. 5130, the "SIMARRA Act of 2016," gives those infants born to incarcerated mothers a chance to succeed in life.

"SIMARRA" is not merely yet another second chance program, demanding leniency from the criminal justice system.

Instead, H.R. 5130 asks our national criminal justice system what it can do for those young Americans born and relegated to a life of nearly impossible odds of survival.

"SIMARRA" provides that first chance—a first chance for American infants—that many of their mothers, born themselves to mothers behind bars, never received.

H.R. 4843 requires the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) to review and confirm that states have enacted and implemented the child protection policies required by the Child Abuse and Treatment Act, including the requirement that addicted newborns are cared for.

Specifically, in order to receive a grant for its child protective services system, a state must certify that it has a law or statewide program for child abuse and neglect that includes a safe care plan for an infant born with substance addiction after the infant is released from the care of health care providers.

HHS must monitor the compliance of each state that receives a grant.

Under the measure, states must also develop and implement monitoring systems to follow the safe care plans and determine whether local entities are providing referrals to, and delivery of, appropriate services for the infant and the affected family or caregiver.

States must include in their annual data reports the total number of affected infants for whom a safe care plan was developed and for whom there were referrals to appropriate services, including services for the affected family or caregiver.

The bill requires HHS to maintain and disseminate information regarding the requirements and best practices relating to the development of safe care plans for infants born with substance addiction.

H.R. 4843, the "Improving Safe Care for the Prevention of Infant Abuse and Neglect Act," is a valuable piece of legislation that I encourage my colleagues to support.

Additionally, I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring and supporting all legislation targeting the improvement of care for the prevention of infant abuse and neglect, such as H.R. 5130, the "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016" or the "SIMARRA Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4843, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 4641, and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4843.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

**ESTABLISHING PAIN MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 4641) to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 4, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 184]  
YEAS—412

- |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Abraham        | Davis, Rodney  | Huffman        |
| Adams          | DeFazio        | Huizenga (MI)  |
| Aderholt       | DeGette        | Hultgren       |
| Aguilar        | Delaney        | Hunter         |
| Allen          | DeLauro        | Hurd (TX)      |
| Amodei         | DelBene        | Hurt (VA)      |
| Ashford        | Denham         | Israel         |
| Babin          | Dent           | Issa           |
| Barletta       | DeSantis       | Jackson Lee    |
| Barr           | DeSaunier      | Jeffries       |
| Barton         | DesJarlais     | Jenkins (KS)   |
| Bass           | Deutch         | Jenkins (WV)   |
| Beatty         | Diaz-Balart    | Johnson (GA)   |
| Becerra        | Dingell        | Johnson (OH)   |
| Benishek       | Doggett        | Johnson, E. B. |
| Bera           | Dold           | Johnson, Sam   |
| Beyer          | Donoy          | Jolly          |
| Bilirakis      | Doyle, Michael | Jones          |
| Bishop (GA)    | F.             | Jordan         |
| Bishop (MI)    | Duckworth      | Joyce          |
| Bishop (UT)    | Duffy          | Kaptur         |
| Black          | Duncan (SC)    | Katko          |
| Blackburn      | Duncan (TN)    | Keating        |
| Blum           | Edwards        | Kelly (IL)     |
| Blumenauer     | Ellison        | Kelly (MS)     |
| Bonamici       | Ellmers (NC)   | Kelly (PA)     |
| Bost           | Emmer (MN)     | Kennedy        |
| Boyle, Brendan | Engel          | Kildee         |
| F.             | Eshoo          | Kilmer         |
| Brady (PA)     | Esty           | Kind           |
| Brady (TX)     | Farenthold     | King (IA)      |
| Brat           | Farr           | King (NY)      |
| Bridenstine    | Fitzpatrick    | Kinzinger (IL) |
| Brooks (IN)    | Fleischmann    | Kirkpatrick    |
| Brown (FL)     | Fleming        | Kline          |
| Brownley (CA)  | Flores         | Knight         |
| Buchanan       | Forbes         | Kuster         |
| Buck           | Fortenberry    | LaHood         |
| Bucshon        | Foster         | LaMalfa        |
| Burgess        | Fox            | Lamborn        |
| Bustos         | Frankel (FL)   | Lance          |
| Butterfield    | Frelinghuysen  | Langevin       |
| Byrne          | Fudge          | Larsen (WA)    |
| Calvert        | Gabbard        | Larson (CT)    |
| Capps          | Gallego        | Lawrence       |
| Capuano        | Garamendi      | Lee            |
| Cárdenas       | Garrett        | Levin          |
| Carney         | Gibbs          | Lewis          |
| Carson (IN)    | Gibson         | Lieu, Ted      |
| Carter (GA)    | Gohmert        | Lipinski       |
| Carter (TX)    | Gosar          | LoBiondo       |
| Castro (TX)    | Govdy          | Loeback        |
| Chabot         | Graham         | Longren        |
| Chaffetz       | Granger        | Long           |
| Chu, Judy      | Graves (GA)    | Loudermilk     |
| Cicilline      | Graves (LA)    | Love           |
| Clark (MA)     | Graves (MO)    | Lowenthal      |
| Clarke (NY)    | Grayson        | Lowe           |
| Clawson (FL)   | Green, Al      | Lucas          |
| Clay           | Green, Gene    | Luetkemeyer    |
| Cleaver        | Griffith       | Lujan Grisham  |
| Clyburn        | Grijalva       | (NM)           |
| Coffman        | Grothman       | Lujan, Ben Ray |
| Cohen          | Guinta         | (NM)           |
| Cole           | Guthrie        | Lummis         |
| Collins (NY)   | Gutiérrez      | Lynch          |
| Comstock       | Hahn           | MacArthur      |
| Conaway        | Hanna          | Maloney, Sean  |
| Connolly       | Hardy          | Marchant       |
| Conyers        | Harper         | Marino         |
| Cook           | Harris         | Matsui         |
| Cooper         | Hartzler       | McCarthy       |
| Costa          | Heck (NV)      | McCaul         |
| Costello (PA)  | Heck (WA)      | McClintock     |
| Courtney       | Hensarling     | McCollum       |
| Cramer         | Hice, Jody B.  | McDermott      |
| Crawford       | Higgins        | McGovern       |
| Crenshaw       | Hill           | McHenry        |
| Crowley        | Himes          | McKinley       |
| Cuellar        | Hinojosa       | McMorris       |
| Culberson      | Holding        | Rodgers        |
| Cummings       | Honda          | McNerney       |
| Curbelo (FL)   | Hoyer          | McSally        |
| Davis (CA)     | Hudson         | Meadows        |
| Davis, Danny   | Huelskamp      | Meehan         |

- |             |                  |                |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| Meeks       | Rice (SC)        | Stutzman       |
| Meng        | Richmond         | Swalwell (CA)  |
| Messer      | Rigell           | Takano         |
| Mica        | Roby             | Thompson (CA)  |
| Miller (FL) | Roe (TN)         | Thompson (MS)  |
| Miller (MI) | Rogers (AL)      | Thompson (PA)  |
| Moolenaar   | Rogers (KY)      | Thornberry     |
| Moore       | Rohrabacher      | Tiberi         |
| Moulton     | Rokita           | Tipton         |
| Mullin      | Rooney (FL)      | Titus          |
| Mulvaney    | Ros-Lehtinen     | Tonko          |
| Murphy (FL) | Roskam           | Torres         |
| Murphy (PA) | Ross             | Trott          |
| Nadler      | Rothfus          | Tsongas        |
| Napolitano  | Rouzer           | Turner         |
| Neal        | Roybal-Allard    | Upton          |
| Neugebauer  | Royce            | Valadao        |
| Newhouse    | Ruiz             | Van Hollen     |
| Noem        | Ruppersberger    | Vargas         |
| Nolan       | Rush             | Veasey         |
| Norcross    | Russell          | Vela           |
| Nugent      | Ryan (OH)        | Velázquez      |
| Nunes       | Salmon           | Visclosky      |
| O'Rourke    | Sánchez, Linda   | Wagner         |
| Olson       | T.               | Walberg        |
| Palazzo     | Sanchez, Loretta | Walden         |
| Pallone     | Sanford          | Walker         |
| Palmer      | Sarbanes         | Walorski       |
| Pascrell    | Scalise          | Walters, Mimi  |
| Paulsen     | Schakowsky       | Walz           |
| Payne       | Schiff           | Wasserman      |
| Pearce      | Schrader         | Schultz        |
| Pelosi      | Schweikert       | Waters, Maxine |
| Perlmutter  | Scott (VA)       | Watson Coleman |
| Perry       | Scott, Austin    | Weber (TX)     |
| Peters      | Scott, David     | Webster (FL)   |
| Peterson    | Sensenbrenner    | Welch          |
| Pingree     | Serrano          | Wenstrup       |
| Pittenger   | Sessions         | Westerman      |
| Pocan       | Sherman          | Westmoreland   |
| Poe (TX)    | Shimkus          | Williams       |
| Poliquin    | Shuster          | Wilson (FL)    |
| Poirer      | Simpson          | Wilson (SC)    |
| Pompeo      | Sinema           | Wittman        |
| Posey       | Sires            | Womack         |
| Price (NC)  | Slaughter        | Woodall        |
| Price, Tom  | Smith (MO)       | Yarmuth        |
| Quigley     | Smith (NE)       | Yoder          |
| Rangel      | Smith (NJ)       | Yoho           |
| Ratcliffe   | Smith (TX)       | Young (AK)     |
| Reed        | Smith (WA)       | Young (IA)     |
| Reichert    | Speier           | Young (IN)     |
| Renacci     | Stefanik         | Zeldin         |
| Ribble      | Stewart          | Zinke          |
| Rice (NY)   | Stivers          |                |

NAYS—4

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Amash       | Labrador |
| Brooks (AL) | Massie   |

NOT VOTING—17

- |              |                 |             |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Boustany     | Goodlatte       | Pitts       |
| Cartwright   | Hastings        | Sewell (AL) |
| Castor (FL)  | Herrera Beutler | Takai       |
| Collins (GA) | Latta           | Whitfield   |
| Fattah       | Maloney         |             |
| Fincher      | Carolyn         |             |
| Franks (AZ)  | Mooney (WV)     |             |

□ 1615

Mr. ELLISON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. ENGEL changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 184, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 184, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

**INFANT PLAN OF SAFE CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). The unfinished business is

the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4843) to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require certain monitoring and oversight, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 185]

YEAS—421

Abraham Comstock  
 Adams Conaway  
 Aderholt Connolly  
 Aguilar Conyers  
 Allen Cook  
 Amash Cooper  
 Amodel Costa  
 Ashford Costello (PA)  
 Babin Courtney  
 Barletta Cramer  
 Barr Crawford  
 Barton Crenshaw  
 Bass Crowley  
 Beatty Cuellar  
 Becerra Culberson  
 Benishek Cummings  
 Bera Curbelo (FL)  
 Beyer Davis (CA)  
 Billirakis Davis, Danny  
 Bishop (GA) Davis, Rodney  
 Bishop (MI) DeFazio  
 Bishop (UT) DeGette  
 Black Delaney  
 Blackburn DeLauro  
 Blum DelBene  
 Blumenauer Denham  
 Bonamici Dent  
 Bost DeSantis  
 Boustany DeSaulnier  
 Boyle, Brendan DesJarlais  
 F. Deuth  
 Brady (PA) Diaz-Balart  
 Brady (TX) Dingell  
 Brat Doggett  
 Bridenstine Dold  
 Brooks (AL) Donovan  
 Brooks (IN) Doyle, Michael  
 Brown (FL) F.  
 Brownley (CA) Duckworth  
 Buchanan Duffy  
 Buck Duncan (SC)  
 Bucshon Duncan (TN)  
 Burgess Edwards  
 Bustos Ellison  
 Butterfield Ellmers (NC)  
 Byrne Emmer (MN)  
 Calvert Engel  
 Capps Eshoo  
 Capuano Esty  
 Cárdenas Farenthold  
 Carney Farr  
 Carson (IN) Fitzpatrick  
 Carter (GA) Fleischmann  
 Carter (TX) Fleming  
 Castro (TX) Flores  
 Chabot Forbes  
 Chaffetz Fortenberry  
 Chu, Judy Foster  
 Ciilline Foxx  
 Clark (MA) Frankel (FL)  
 Clarke (NY) Frelinghuysen  
 Clawson (FL) Fudge  
 Clay Gabbard  
 Cleaver Gallego  
 Clyburn Garamendi  
 Coffman Garrett  
 Cohen Gibbs  
 Cole Gibson  
 Collins (GA) Gohmert  
 Collins (NY) Goodlatte

Knight Nolan  
 Kuster Norcross  
 Labrador Nugent  
 LaHood Nunes  
 LaMalfa O'Rourke  
 Lamborn Olson  
 Lance Palazzo  
 Langevin Pallone  
 Larsen (WA) Palmer  
 Larson (CT) Pascrell  
 Lawrence Paulsen  
 Lee Payne  
 Levin Pearce  
 Lewis Pelosi  
 Lieu, Ted Perlmutter  
 Lipinski Perry  
 LoBiondo Peters  
 Loebsock Peterson  
 Lofgren Pingree  
 Long Pittenger  
 Loudermilk Pocan  
 Love Poe (TX)  
 Lowenthal Poliquin  
 Lowey Polis  
 Lucas Pompeo  
 Luetkemeyer Posey  
 Lujan Grisham Price (NC)  
 (NM) Price, Tom  
 Lujan, Ben Ray Quigley  
 (NM) Rangel  
 Lummis Ratcliffe  
 Lynch Reed  
 MacArthur Reichert  
 Maloney, Carolyn Renacci  
 Maloney, Sean Carolyne Ribble  
 Marchant Rice (NY)  
 Marino Rice (SC)  
 Massie Richmond  
 Matsui Rigell  
 McCarthy Roby  
 McCaul Roe (TN)  
 McClintock Rogers (AL)  
 McCollum Rogers (KY)  
 McDermott Rohrabacher  
 McGovern Rokita  
 McHenry Rooney (FL)  
 McKinley Ros-Lehtinen  
 McMorris Roskam  
 Rodgers Ross  
 McNeerney Rothfus  
 McSally Rouzer  
 Meadows Roybal-Allard  
 Meehan Royce  
 Meeks Ruiz  
 Meng Ruppertsberger  
 Messer Rush  
 Mica Russell  
 Miller (FL) Ryan (OH)  
 Miller (MI) Salmon  
 Moolenaar Sánchez, Linda  
 T.  
 Moore Sanchez, Loretta  
 Moulton Sanford  
 Mullin Sarbanes  
 Mulvaney Scalise  
 Murphy (FL) Schakowsky  
 Murphy (PA) Schiff  
 Nadler Schrader  
 Napolitano Schweikert  
 Neal Scott (VA)  
 Neugebauer Scott, Austin  
 Newhouse Scott, David  
 Noem Sensenbrenner

WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOT ARLINGTON INURNMENT RESTORATION ACT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4336) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service, with the Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

- (1) On page 2, line 1, strike "BURIAL" and insert "INURNMENT".
- (2) On page 2, line 8, strike "that" and insert "that,".
- (3) On page 2, line 11, insert "above ground" before "inurnment".

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inurnment in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

OPIOID REVIEW MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4976) to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to seek recommendations from an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration before approval of certain new drugs that are opioids without abuse-deterrent properties, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4976

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Opioid Review Modernization Act of 2016".

NOT VOTING—12

Cartwright Franks (AZ) Mooney (WV)  
 Castor (FL) Hastings Pitts  
 Fattah Herrera Beutler Takai  
 Fincher Latta Whitfield

□ 1622

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**SEC. 2. FDA OPIOID ACTION PLAN.**

Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is amended by inserting after section 569 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 350bbb-8) the following:

**“SEC. 569-1. OPIOID ACTION PLAN.**

“(a) NEW DRUG APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), prior to the approval pursuant to an application under section 505(b) of a new drug that is an opioid and does not have abuse-deterrent properties, the Secretary shall refer the application to an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration to seek recommendations from such advisory committee.

“(2) PUBLIC HEALTH EXEMPTION.—A referral to an advisory committee under paragraph (1) is not required with respect to a new drug if the Secretary—

“(A) finds that such a referral is not in the interest of protecting and promoting public health;

“(B) finds that such a referral is not necessary based on a review of the relevant scientific information; and

“(C) submits a notice containing the rationale for such findings to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

“(b) PEDIATRIC OPIOID LABELING.—The Secretary shall convene the Pediatric Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration to seek recommendations from such Committee regarding a framework for the inclusion of information in the labeling of drugs that are opioids relating to the use of such drugs in pediatric populations before the Secretary approves any labeling or change to labeling for any drug that is an opioid intended for use in a pediatric population.

“(c) SUNSET.—The requirements of subsections (a) and (b) shall cease to be effective on October 1, 2022.”

**SEC. 3. PRESCRIBER EDUCATION.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, as part of the Food and Drug Administration's evaluation of the Extended-Release/Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall develop recommendations regarding education programs for prescribers of opioids pursuant to section 505-1 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355-1), including recommendations on—

(1) which prescribers should participate in such programs; and

(2) how often participation in such programs is necessary.

**SEC. 4. GUIDANCE ON EVALUATING THE ABUSE DETERRENCE OF GENERIC SOLID ORAL OPIOID DRUG PRODUCTS.**

Not later than 2 years after the end of the period for public comment on the draft guidance entitled “General Principles for Evaluating the Abuse Deterrence of Generic Solid Oral Opioid Drug Products” issued by the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research of the Food and Drug Administration in March 2016, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall publish in the Federal Register a final version of such guidance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4976, the Opioid Review Modernization Act of 2016, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

□ 1630

Opioid use disorder and overdose deaths have reached epidemic levels. A comprehensive approach is needed to reverse these trends and the tragic toll they have taken on families and communities across our country.

The Food and Drug Administration does have a critical role to play in such an approach. Patients living with serious pain must have access to safe and effective therapies to help them function and lead productive lives. FDA reviews prescription pain relievers, like all new drug products, to determine whether their benefits outweigh their risks.

It is important that the FDA hear recommendations from expert advisory committees prior to making key product and labeling decisions, particularly to ensure that any such risks are effectively communicated, understood, and mitigated.

Specifically, H.R. 4976 requires that FDA receives input from an advisory committee regarding approval of new opioids that do not utilize abuse-deterrent properties, in addition to developing a framework for labeling any opioid intended for pediatric use.

The bill also requires the agency to finalize guidance on evaluating abuse deterrence in generic opioid medications and issue recommendations regarding prescriber education tied to the risk evaluation mitigation strategy programs.

This bill would strengthen FDA's Opioid Action Plan, defining outcomes with meaningful timeframes. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4976.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4976, the Opioid Review Modernization Act.

We know that there is not one solution addressing the opioid crisis that is striking communities across the coun-

try. A comprehensive approach that balances the appropriate use of opioids, while deterring misuse and diversion, requires the involvement of many government agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration.

As the agency tasked with reviewing pain medications for safety and effectiveness, we know that the FDA can play a critical role in addressing the safe use of these products for patients with chronic or acute pain.

I was pleased when the FDA announced earlier this year that the agency developed a comprehensive action plan to help reduce the burden of opioid abuse on American families and communities. In this plan, the FDA outlined concrete steps it intended to take, including:

Expanding its use of advisory committees before approving any new opioid drug that does not have abuse-deterrent properties;

Updating the risk evaluation and mitigation strategy program to incorporate advisory committee recommendations regarding medical training on pain management and safe prescribing of opioids; and

Taking actions to expand patient access to abuse-deterrent formulations for opioids to help discourage their abuse.

The Opioid Review Modernization Act builds on these efforts and would require the FDA to work closely with expert advisory committees before making critical opioid approach and labeling decisions, develop recommendations regarding prescriber education programs that address extended-release and long-acting opioids, including those who should participate and how often, and encouraging development and approval of generic opioids with abuse-deterrent properties.

H.R. 4976 will engage a key public agency, the FDA, to help address our current opioid crisis by improving regulatory oversight of opioids early in the process while also assisting prescribers in the safe dispensing of these products.

I would like to thank Representative SEAN PATRICK MALONEY and Congressman LEONARD LANCE for their leadership in introducing this bill. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4976.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), my good friend and a fellow member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank Mr. GUTHRIE of Kentucky and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas for their leadership on this overall issue. We on the Energy and Commerce Committee have worked in a completely bipartisan fashion on this terrible crisis that affects the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4976, the Opioid Review Modernization Act. I thank Congressman

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY from the State of New York for his partnership on this legislation, and I certainly thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE of the Energy and Commerce Committee for leading this and many other bipartisan bills to passage today that address this pressing national issue.

This bill and the larger package together are a great step forward in the fight against the scourge of drug addiction. In my home State of New Jersey, we face a drug epidemic that is hitting many communities hard, and that is true across the entire Nation. This crisis strains law enforcement and taxpayer resources, and, of course, tragically, it cuts too many lives short.

H.R. 4976 targets opioid addiction's strong ties to prescription drug abuse and the issue of overprescription. Studies have shown healthcare providers write nearly 300 million opioid prescriptions a year in this country. That number is truly staggering.

Our legislation will make sure that the Food and Drug Administration rigorously reviews the benefits and risks of opioid pain medications and how they are communicated to prescribers and patients. The bill reforms critical product approval and labeling decisions and encourages the development and approval of opioids with abuse-deterrent properties.

Our Federal health agencies must be working in concert with the medical and pharmaceutical communities to combat drug abuse, and this legislation helps make that happen.

Just last week I met with Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Prosecutor Anthony Kearns on what law enforcement is doing on the ground level to fight this epidemic. In New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, the county prosecutor is the equivalent of the county district attorney in most States across the Nation.

Public servants like Prosecutor Kearns and others are doing all they can to protect our children and keep our local communities drug free, but this legislative package will help in their efforts and give them and other governmental entities more critical tools.

Those in Washington and local leaders need to be working together for the benefit of the American people. H.R. 4976 and the larger package will work toward that goal and ultimately help combat this drug abuse crisis.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY), a cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas for yielding. I want to echo my thanks as well to Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE and my good friend, Mr. LANCE of New Jersey.

I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 4976, the Opioid Review Modernization Act.

Heroin and opioid addiction is a serious and growing epidemic, especially in the communities I represent in the lower Hudson Valley of New York. After more than 55 townhalls with my neighbors across the Hudson Valley in the last 3½ years, I can say there is no subject I have heard about more in visits to communities throughout my district. Really, everywhere I go, I hear heartbreaking stories of addiction and of loss, and we have had far too many funerals.

I spoke to a woman named Cynthia in Newburgh who told me her son struggles every day with addiction. He is trying to stay clean, but he can't find a meeting locally to visit.

A woman named Samantha from Brewster said she is worried about the basic lack of options for treating addicts like her son.

Patricia in Warwick has said the facilities there lack the basic necessities for treating addicts like her son.

We have a shortage of beds for patients who are seeking treatment. In Dutchess County, New York, alone, we have seen a 160 percent increase in the number of drug overdoses since 2009. This epidemic is being felt nationwide. It doesn't care about the color of your skin or the size of your paycheck.

Deaths from heroin overdoses have more than tripled since 2010 in our country, and it is often driven by an addiction first to prescription pain medicine. We now have more than 47,000 people dying a year, the equivalent of 125 Americans every day. It is a staggering figure, Mr. Speaker, and we in Congress can and must do more to fight this growing epidemic.

So my bill takes an important, but simple, step to avoid opioid addiction and to avoid further loss by using both new technologies and a little common sense.

Specifically, it would require the Food and Drug Administration to consult with expert advisory committees for the approval of new opioids that do not use deterrent properties, such as extended-release capsules. We know this can thwart the misuse of these products by people who are struggling with addiction.

Additionally, the legislation will encourage the development of generic opioids that utilize these abuse-deterrent properties. And, of course, the FDA can do more.

We can require them to evaluate and make recommendations on better programs to prevent prescribers of opioids from overprescribing, since we often hear that it is that overprescription that leads people into trouble with opioids and, later, with heroin.

As part of a comprehensive package of legislation to combat the opioid epidemic, my bill is just one more tool in our toolkit, providing incentives for pharmaceutical companies to use antiabuse technologies and create a

plan to educate our well-meaning doctors about the potential dangers of prescription opioids.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important measure.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, the FDA's Opioid Action Plan, is important in our larger package of bills. I urge my colleagues to support this measure, H.R. 4976.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to voice my support for H.R. 4976, which would complement the efforts taken by the Food and Drug Administration to combat the opioid abuse crisis.

The opioid epidemic has hit nearly all communities across the country—young and old, rich and poor, urban and rural. The Energy and Commerce Committee has held a number of hearings on this issue, inviting a wide range of stakeholders to come and share with us their suggestions on how Congress can help to address this crisis. What has been made clear is that there is not one solution. It will take the collaboration and expertise of a variety of agencies, and it must not only appropriately account for the need for access to opioids for those with acute and chronic pain, but it must also discourage misuse and diversion.

As the public health agency responsible for reviewing pain medications for safety and efficacy, the Food and Drug Administration should play a critical role in making clear how prescription opioids can be safely used, in encouraging the development of technologies to prevent abuse, and identifying what education would assist prescribers who treat patients with opioids.

In February, FDA outlined an action plan that included a number of steps focused on the agency's regulatory approach to opioids.

These actions included: reassessing the risk-benefit approval framework for opioid use; convening an expert advisory committee before approving any new drug application for an opioid that does not have abuse-deterrent properties; consulting with the Pediatric Advisory Committee regarding recommendations for pediatric opioid labeling before any new labeling is approved; updating the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy or REMS program for extended-release and long-acting opioids regarding prescriber training; developing changes to immediate-release opioid labeling to include additional warnings and safety information; reviewing options to make naloxone more accessible, such as availability over-the-counter; and strengthening post-market requirements, among other steps.

I was pleased by the agency's announcement as I believe it was an important step forward in improving regulatory oversight of opioids, and would help to take another step towards addressing the opioid crisis holistically.

H.R. 4976, the Opioid Review Modernization Act, was introduced by Representatives SEAN

PATRICK MALONEY and LEONARD LANCE to build on the actions announced by the FDA. The legislation would require the agency to work closely with expert advisory committees before making critical product approval and labeling decisions, make recommendations regarding education programs for prescribers of extended-release and long-acting opioids, and would encourage the development and approval of generic opioids with abuse-deterrent properties.

These actions will be critical to improving the way we regulate opioids to ensure that these products are used safely and appropriately and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I am writing with respect to H.R. 4981, the "Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act," which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 4981 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4981 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4981, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 4981.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4891, the "Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act."

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on the bill, and I agree that your decision will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4891 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4976.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CO-PRESCRIBING TO REDUCE OVERDOSES ACT OF 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3680) to provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program for co-prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3680

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL DRUGS PRESCRIBING GRANT PROGRAM.

##### (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may establish, in accordance with this section, a five-year opioid overdose reversal drugs prescribing grant program (in this Act referred to as the "grant program").

(2) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant made under this section may not be for more than \$200,000 per grant year.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this section, the term "eligible entity" means a federally qualified health center (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)), an opioid treatment program under part 8 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, any practitioner dispensing narcotic drugs pursuant to section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)), or any other entity that the Secretary deems appropriate.

(4) PRESCRIBING.—For purposes of this section and section 3, the term "prescribing" means, with respect to an opioid overdose reversal drug, such as naloxone, the practice of prescribing such drug—

(A) in conjunction with an opioid prescription for patients at an elevated risk of overdose;

(B) in conjunction with an opioid agonist approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) for the treatment of opioid abuse disorder;

(C) to the caregiver or a close relative of patients at an elevated risk of overdose from opioids; or

(D) in other circumstances, as identified by the Secretary, in which a provider identifies a patient is at an elevated risk for an inten-

tional or unintentional drug overdose from heroin or prescription opioid therapies.

(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in such form and manner as specified by the Secretary, an application that describes—

(1) the extent to which the area to which the entity will furnish services through use of the grant is experiencing significant morbidity and mortality caused by opioid abuse;

(2) the criteria that will be used to identify eligible patients to participate in such program; and

(3) how such program will work to try to identify State, local, or private funding to continue the program after expiration of the grant.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section may use the grant for any of the following activities, but may use not more than 20 percent of the grant funds for activities described in paragraphs (4) and (5):

(1) To establish a program for prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone.

(2) To train and provide resources for health care providers and pharmacists on the prescribing of opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone.

(3) To establish mechanisms and processes for tracking patients participating in the program described in paragraph (1) and the health outcomes of such patients.

(4) To purchase opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone, for distribution under the program described in paragraph (1).

(5) To offset the co-pays and other cost sharing associated with opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone, to ensure that cost is not a limiting factor for eligible patients.

(6) To conduct community outreach, in conjunction with community-based organizations, designed to raise awareness of prescribing practices, and the availability of opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone.

(7) To establish protocols to connect patients who have experienced a drug overdose with appropriate treatment, including medication assisted treatment and appropriate counseling and behavioral therapies.

(d) EVALUATIONS BY RECIPIENTS.—As a condition of receipt of a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall, for each year for which the grant is received, submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services information on appropriate outcome measures specified by the Secretary to assess the outcomes of the program funded by the grant, including—

(1) the number of prescribers trained;

(2) the number of prescribers who have co-prescribed an opioid overdose reversal drug, such as naloxone, to at least one patient;

(3) the total number of prescriptions written for opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone;

(4) the percentage of patients at elevated risk who received a prescription for an opioid overdose reversal drug, such as naloxone;

(5) the number of patients reporting use of an opioid overdose reversal drug, such as naloxone; and

(6) any other outcome measures that the Secretary deems appropriate.

(e) REPORTS BY SECRETARY.—For each year of the grant program under this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the appropriate committees



of the House of Representatives and of the Senate a report aggregating the information received from the grant recipients for each year under subsection (d) and evaluating the outcomes achieved by the programs funded by grants made under this section.

**SEC. 3. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO PRESCRIBERS IN CERTAIN FEDERAL HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL FACILITIES ON BEST PRACTICES FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL DRUGS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) may, as appropriate, provide information to prescribers within Federally qualified health centers (as defined in paragraph (4) of section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa))), and the health care facilities of the Indian Health Service, on best practices for prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone, for patients receiving chronic opioid therapy, patients being treated for opioid use disorders, and other patients that a provider identifies as having an elevated risk of overdose from heroin or prescription opioid therapies.

(b) NOT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL STANDARD OF CARE.—The information on best practices provided under this section shall not be construed as constituting or establishing a medical standard of care for prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone, for patients described in subsection (a).

(c) ELEVATED RISK OF OVERDOSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “elevated risk of overdose” has the meaning given such term by the Secretary, which—

(1) may be based on the criteria provided in the Opioid Overdose Toolkit published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and

(2) may include patients on a first course opioid treatment, patients using extended-release and long-acting opioid analgesics, and patients with a respiratory disease or other co-morbidities.

**SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

**SEC. 5. CUT-GO COMPLIANCE.**

Subsection (f) of section 319D of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-4) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “(except such dollar amount shall be reduced by \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2018)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3680, the Co-Prescribing to Re-

duce Overdoses Act of 2016, introduced by my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. SARBANES of Maryland.

In 1999, there were 6.1 overdose deaths per 100,000 Americans involving opioid analgesics and heroin. By 2014, that number doubled to 14.7 overdose deaths. The rate of overdose for individuals aged 24 to 34 nearly tripled, going from 8.1 overdose deaths per 100,000 to 23.1 overdose deaths.

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that can prevent opioid overdose deaths by binding to the opioid receptors in the body and preventing the overdose. The World Health Organization estimated that, if naloxone was more widely available in the United States, more than 20,000 overdose deaths could be prevented annually.

H.R. 3680 is a step in promoting wider access of naloxone or other opioid-overdose reversal drugs that may come to market. It directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program for coprescribing opioid reversal drugs and helps develop best practices for doing so.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for H.R. 3680, the Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act. We must do more to prevent opioid addiction and ensure those currently suffering have access to potentially lifesaving treatments.

Naloxone has been proven effective in reversing opioid overdoses, and it is a cost-effective public health intervention. Naloxone blocks and reverses the effects of opioid medication and is used to treat narcotic overdose in emergency situations.

In addition to recent efforts to improve access to naloxone through first responders and community-based health organizations, providing naloxone to at-risk patients in a healthcare setting may reduce overdoses and encourage patients to use prescription drugs more safely.

□ 1645

The Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act would create a demonstration grant program to facilitate coprescribing of naloxone when appropriate.

Coprescribing refers to the practice of prescribing that naloxone alongside an opioid prescription to patients with heightened risk of overdose. This could include patients who take significant doses of opioids for long-term chronic pain management, patients with a history of substance abuse, or patients who have been discharged from emergency care following poisoning or intoxication from an opiate.

The bill would further authorize funding to train healthcare providers and pharmacists on coprescribing, establish mechanisms for tracking patients and their health outcomes, and other efforts to expand access to naloxone.

We must act swiftly in order to save lives and stem the growing prescription drug epidemic in our country. The Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act is an important step toward preventing overdose deaths, which is a critical part of the fight against our devastating drug crisis.

I want to thank the bill’s sponsor, the gentleman from Maryland, Representative JOHN SARBANES, who is a member of our Subcommittee on Health, for his leadership in introducing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3680, which is one of several initiatives being taken up by the House this week to combat the devastating opioid epidemic our Nation is facing.

Every person in my district knows someone who has been impacted by this crisis, and each day that we wait is another day we go without taking action to save the lives of the people feeling the terrible effects of this addiction.

Each day without action is another day that our communities are ravaged by these drugs.

We can combat this crisis and repair our communities. This is a needed step that both Republicans and Democrats are working together to achieve.

I strongly support this legislation because it will provide funding to our health centers to coprescribe naloxone, a lifesaving drug.

My entire district has been plagued by the scourge of this crisis. The alarming rise in overdose deaths show the urgent need for naloxone to be readily available to both healthcare professionals and those with increased risk of overdose.

These efforts are one part of a broader solution that will undoubtedly save lives. I applaud my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for taking these steps, and I look forward to continuing to work to make our communities a safer place by ridding them of this epidemic.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3680.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr.

SARBANES), my colleague on the committee.

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank Ranking Members PALLONE and GREEN, as well as Chairmen UPTON and PITTS, for working diligently with me to bring this bill to the floor today.

This bipartisan bill, the Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act, would create a demonstration project to encourage prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs like naloxone to patients at an elevated risk of overdose, as well as to a close relative of such a patient.

Why is this bill needed, Mr. Speaker?

More than 100 Americans are dying every single day of preventable drug overdose, and overdose fatality is now the leading cause of accidental death in the Nation.

In 2014, in my home State of Maryland, there were 887 opioid-related deaths. In Baltimore, 192 people died from heroin overdoses. In Anne Arundel County in 2014, there were 360 opioid overdoses, fatal and nonfatal; 49 of those were fatal.

The problem is getting worse. From 2001 to 2013, there was a fivefold increase in the total number of deaths from heroin. This is an epidemic, but it is an epidemic that we can begin to stem if we take action.

Naloxone is a drug that safely and effectively reverses both opioid and heroin-induced overdoses, if administered in time. It has been used by nonmedical personnel with only minimal training for over 15 years, and has been proven to lower overdose mortality by almost 50 percent.

More people need access to this lifesaving medication. One part of that proactive approach is the idea of coprescribing naloxone to patients, or their caregivers, who are taking opioids and are at high risk of overdose.

The Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act would create a demonstration project for federally qualified health centers, opioid treatment centers, and other providers, to encourage coprescribing of naloxone and other opioid reversal drugs.

This bill has been endorsed by the AMA, the American Society of Addiction Medicine; the American Academy of Family Physicians; and the Harm Reduction Coalition.

There are five Republican cosponsors, I am pleased to say, proving that this is a bipartisan issue affecting virtually every part of the country.

I am pleased as well to note that the bill received unanimous support in the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I urge support of this bill today because I know that it will save lives and help begin to stem the tide of this terrible epidemic.

I also support the other bills being debated this evening, and believe that

these are all important initiatives to address the opioid crisis.

However, it is just as critical that we provide adequate resources for all aspects of this epidemic to prevent addiction, to provide effective treatment, and to increase access to lifesaving opioid reversal drugs in order to truly bring an end to this epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, one of the great privileges of the people's House, people come here from all walks of life with all different expertise.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), the only registered pharmacist that serves in the House of Representatives, who is here to speak on this and several of the bills today.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3680, the Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act, which gives patients the tools they need to protect themselves from opioid overdoses.

H.R. 3680 calls for the Department of Health and Human Services to create a grant program that will increase the ability for healthcare providers to coprescribe opioid reversal medication like naloxone when those providers prescribe opioid-based medications for patients.

This new direction by HHS will work to decrease the risk of fatally overdosing on opioids while also allowing healthcare providers to learn more about the opioid reversal medication benefits.

In addition, with the grant money, providers will be able to track patient outcomes to make sure that the reversal medication has the desired effect.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I consider it my duty to always care for my patients and give them every tool I can to protect and serve them the best way I can, and I have carried this duty to the United States House of Representatives.

The Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act does just this and is a major step in the right direction to ending the opioid addiction deaths in America.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) bringing this forward and all the bipartisan work that was put into it. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3680 the "Co-Prescribing To Reduce Overdoses Act of 2015."

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a

grant program to support prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone, for patients at an elevated risk of overdose, including patients prescribed an opioid.

Opioids are drugs with effects similar to opium, such as heroin and certain pain medications.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nearly 259 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2012, more than enough for every adult in the United States.

In 2013 nearly 4.5 million people in the United States without a valid medical need were using prescription painkillers.

Both states and the federal government have begun responding to this growing public health crisis.

The Obama administration has awarded \$94 million to community health centers to improve and expand the delivery of substance abuse services.

H.R. 3680 would encourage and train health care providers to prescribe lifesaving overdose reversal drugs.

Enacting this legislation will help reduce drug overdoses across the country by giving at-risk patients better access to lifesaving overdose reversal drugs.

The plague of opioid overdose deaths across the nation is disturbing, but there are ways to combat this trend.

H.R. 3680 is supported by the American Medical Association, the American Society of Addiction Medicine and the Harm Reduction Coalition.

A party, or organization receiving a grant under this legislation will use the grant for the following reasons:

1. To establish a program for coprescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs.
2. To train and provide resources for health care providers and pharmacists on the coprescribing of opioid reversal drugs.
3. To establish mechanisms and processes for tracking patients participating in the program.
4. To purchase opioid overdose reversal drugs for distribution.
5. To offset the copays and other cost sharing associated with opioid overdose reversal drugs to ensure that cost is not a limiting factor for eligible patients.
6. To conduct community outreach, in conjunction with community based organizations, designed to raise awareness of coprescribing practices and the availability of opioid overdose reversal drugs.
7. To establish protocols to connect patients who have experienced a drug overdose with appropriate treatment, including medications assisted treatment and appropriate counseling and behavioral therapies.

Mr. Speaker, the mounting number of people adversely affected and the over 25,000 lives lost expressly demonstrates the need for this type of legislation.

H.R. 3680 is a positive step in the right direction and I urge all members to support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3680, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**NURTURING AND SUPPORTING HEALTHY BABIES ACT**

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4978) to require the Government Accountability Office to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the United States and its treatment under Medicaid, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4978

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act” or as the “NAS Healthy Babies Act”.

**SEC. 2. GAO REPORT ON NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (NAS).**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (in this section referred to as “NAS”) in the United States.

(b) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN REPORT.—Such report shall include information on the following:

(1) The prevalence of NAS in the United States, including the proportion of children born in the United States with NAS who are eligible for medical assistance under State Medicaid programs under title XIX of the Social Security Act at birth and the costs associated with NAS through such programs.

(2) The services for which coverage is available under State Medicaid programs for treatment of infants with NAS.

(3) The settings (including inpatient, outpatient, hospital-based, and other settings) for the treatment of infants with NAS and the reimbursement methodologies and costs associated with such treatment in such settings.

(4) The prevalence of utilization of various care settings under State Medicaid programs for treatment of infants with NAS and any Federal barriers to treating such infants under such programs, particularly in non-hospital-based settings.

(5) What is known about best practices for treating infants with NAS.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Such report also shall include such recommendations as the Comptroller General determines appropriate for improvements that will ensure access to treatment for infants with NAS under State Medicaid programs.

**SEC. 3. EXCLUDING ABUSE-DETERRENT FORMULATIONS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM THE MEDICAID ADDITIONAL REBATE REQUIREMENT FOR NEW FORMULATIONS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The last sentence of section 1927(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act

(42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(c)(2)(C)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, but does not include an abuse-deterrent formulation of the drug (as determined by the Secretary), regardless of whether such abuse-deterrent formulation is an extended release formulation”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to drugs that are paid for by a State in calendar quarters beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 4. LIMITING DISCLOSURE OF PREDICTIVE MODELING AND OTHER ANALYTICS TECHNOLOGIES TO IDENTIFY AND PREVENT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after section 1128J (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7k) the following new section:

**“SEC. 1128K. DISCLOSURE OF PREDICTIVE MODELING AND OTHER ANALYTICS TECHNOLOGIES TO IDENTIFY AND PREVENT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE.**

“(a) REFERENCE TO PREDICTIVE MODELING TECHNOLOGIES REQUIREMENTS.—For provisions relating to the use of predictive modeling and other analytics technologies to identify and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII, the Medicaid program under title XIX, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program under title XXI, see section 4241 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7m).

“(b) LIMITING DISCLOSURE OF PREDICTIVE MODELING TECHNOLOGIES.—In implementing such provisions under such section 4241 with respect to covered algorithms (as defined in subsection (c)), the following shall apply:

“(1) NONAPPLICATION OF FOIA.—The covered algorithms used or developed for purposes of such section (including by the Secretary or a State (or an entity operating under a contract with a State)) shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO USE AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY STATE AGENCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency may not use or disclose covered algorithms used or developed for purposes of such section except for purposes of administering the State plan (or a waiver of the plan) under the Medicaid program under title XIX or the State child health plan (or a waiver of the plan) under the Children’s Health Insurance Program under title XXI, including by enabling an entity operating under a contract with a State to assist the State to identify or prevent waste, fraud, and abuse with respect to such programs.

“(B) INFORMATION SECURITY.—A State agency shall have in effect data security and control policies that the Secretary finds adequate to ensure the security of covered algorithms used or developed for purposes of such section 4241 and to ensure that access to such information is restricted to authorized persons for purposes of authorized uses and disclosures described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—State agencies to which information is disclosed pursuant to such section 4241 shall adhere to uniform procedures established by the Secretary.

“(c) COVERED ALGORITHM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered algorithm’—

“(1) means a predictive modeling or other analytics technology, as used for purposes of section 4241(a) of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7m(a)) to identify

and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII, the Medicaid program under title XIX, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program under title XXI; and

“(2) includes the mathematical expressions utilized in the application of such technology and the means by which such technology is developed.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) MEDICAID STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 1902(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (80), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (81), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (81) the following new paragraph:

“(82) provide that the State agency responsible for administering the State plan under this title provides assurances to the Secretary that the State agency is in compliance with subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 1128K(b)(2).”.

(2) STATE CHILD HEALTH PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 2102(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(a)(7)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “, and” at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) to ensure that the State agency involved is in compliance with subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 1128K(b)(2).”.

**SEC. 5. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

Section 1941(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w-1(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be available to the Fund, for expenditures from the Fund for fiscal year 2021 and thereafter, \$5,000,000.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4978, the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act, sponsored by Representative EVAN JENKINS. This commonsense, bipartisan piece of legislation contains two important policies which will help strengthen our efforts to curb opioid abuse.

First, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to carefully study ways to improve care for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, NAS. NAS is a drug-withdrawal syndrome that most commonly occurs after an in-utero exposure to opioids that has, sadly, grown into prevalence in recent years.

As the New England Journal of Medicine noted last year, from 2000 through 2009, the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome in the United States nearly tripled, with several States reporting even larger recent increases.

That same study noted that, in 2013, the number of NICU hospital days nationwide attributed to the care of infants with NAS was six to seven times greater than it was in 2004.

So this bill will expand our knowledge of care of NAS babies by requiring GAO to study what is known about the prevalence of NAS in the United States, the number of NAS babies covered by Medicaid, the settings for care of NAS babies, and access to care for NAS babies under State Medicaid programs.

Based on the recommendation of Representative ANDY BARR, the bill also directs GAO to identify what is known about best practices providing care for infants with NAS.

This comprehensive study, including the research focusing on best practices, can help us improve our efforts to provide care for some of the most vulnerable among us.

This bill takes a second important step to help combat opioid abuse by fixing an unintended consequence with the Medicaid drug rebate program that effectively discourages drug manufacturers from producing opioids that are harder to abuse.

Specifically, this second policy would exempt abuse-deterrent formulations of drugs from the definition of "line extension" for the purpose of calculating Medicaid rebates.

Abuse-deterrent formulations of drugs represent a critically important tool in the Federal policy toolbox. In its Opioids Action Plan, FDA said its goal is to "expand access to abuse-deterrent formulations to discourage abuse." And in its ADF guidance to manufacturers, the agency said it "considers the development of these products a high public health priority."

This policy enjoys bipartisan support, and was introduced by Representative BILIRAKIS previously. This policy was also included in the President's FY 2017 budget, which noted that correcting the law would "incentivize continued development of abuse-deterrent formulations."

This policy can help save lives. Currently, more than 4 million Americans misuse or abuse prescription painkillers and more than 16,000 individuals die from prescription painkiller overdoses each year. This change will help ensure there is continued investment in important abuse-deterrent drug technologies to help reduce the number of patients who abuse opioid drugs.

Finally, to help offset the cost of the Medicaid drug rebate change, this bill includes a third policy that was introduced by Representative BILIRAKIS in the past, and recently was included in the President's 2017 budget.

It would protect from public disclosure the program integrity algorithms CMS uses to identify and predict waste,

fraud, and abuse in Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP.

Today the mathematical algorithms and predictive technologies that CMS uses in Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP are vital to uncovering fraud, waste, and abuse.

However, if various aspects of these algorithms were to become publicly known, fraudsters could utilize the information to redirect their schemes to avoid detection.

This policy would simply prevent the disclosure of these anti-fraud tools from freedom of information-related laws while still allowing CMS and State Medicaid and CHIP programs to freely share algorithms and other predictive analytic tools. Doing so saves taxpayers money and offsets the cost of the rebate policy.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would enhance our knowledge about how to care for infants with NAS, encourage more abuse-deterrent formulations of drugs, and prevent powerful, anti-fraud tools from falling into the wrong hands.

I urge support for this commonsense, bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I rise to voice my support for H.R. 4978, the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act.

Nearly every community in every State has been impacted by heroin and opioid addiction. Tragically, newborns are the most vulnerable victims of this epidemic. It is estimated that every 25 minutes, a baby is born suffering from neonatal abstinence syndrome, or opioid withdrawal. According to a study by the New England Journal of Medicine, from 2004 to 2013, the incidence of NAS has quadrupled.

Neonatal abstinence syndrome, or NAS, arises from the exposure to opioids during pregnancy and impacts far too many of our Nation's newborns. Maternal exposure to opioids can be caused by both nonprescription and prescription medication, and the subsequent neonatal withdrawal can result in extended hospital stays and severe, heartbreaking symptoms.

□ 1700

NAS is associated with preterm births and low birth weight complications such as respiratory distress and seizures.

H.R. 4978, the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act, is an important part of our efforts to combat drug abuse. The legislation will expand our knowledge of care and treatment for babies with NAS. It will direct the GAO to identify the prevalence of NAS and the number of cases covered by Medicaid, the setting of care for these infants, and identify access barriers to

treatment. H.R. 4978 will further our ability to meet this crisis head-on and provide America's children the healthy start they deserve.

I want to thank the bill's sponsor, Representative CHERI BUSTOS, for her leadership in introducing this bill and urge my colleagues to support the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS), my friend and the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as you have just heard, every 25 minutes in this Nation a baby is born who was exposed to drugs during pregnancy. This is called neonatal abstinence syndrome, or NAS, and it is a devastating way to begin one's life.

Today before the House is the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act. I am proud to sponsor this bipartisan legislation that will expand our knowledge of care for babies born with NAS.

Hearing the sounds of babies crying as they experience drug withdrawal is heartbreaking. We can only truly address this crisis by working together. For the past 5 years, I have worked tirelessly in my hometown of Huntington, West Virginia, to help those treating newborns with NAS and to help find new and innovative treatment methods.

This firsthand experience highlighted the many challenges facing hospitals, doctors, nurses, and others seeking to treat these babies, and it has shown me the suffering these babies experience and just how much we need to help them. This bill will bring much-needed information on best practice models of care to our healthcare providers for the most vulnerable impacted by this drug crisis.

Through this bill, we will also learn more about just how many newborns are suffering from withdrawal and more about the Federal obstacles to treating them. This bill will bring us closer to guaranteeing a healthy and happy start to life for every newborn.

I thank the Energy and Commerce Committee's chairmen, Chairman UPTON and Chairman PITTS, for their tireless work to find solutions to the drug crisis and to help NAS babies start their lives healthy and happy. I thank Congresswoman CHERI BUSTOS for joining me in cosponsoring this legislation.

We are making progress. We must continue to strive for solutions to this tragic epidemic.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS).

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GENE GREEN for yielding me time and for working with me to

find better treatment for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, also known as NAS.

Mr. Speaker, every 25 minutes, as we have heard, every 25 minutes in America, another baby is born addicted to heroin or other deadly opioids. It results from their mother's struggle with addiction.

As the heroin epidemic sweeps our towns and our cities throughout the United States and impacts far too many families, many of the most overlooked victims have been the most vulnerable among us. It is heart-wrenching and it is terrible that an innocent newborn, trembling, crying uncontrollably, clenching her small fists, and gasping for air, again, is born every 25 minutes.

These are just a few of the symptoms babies face when they are born addicted to opioids, and nothing from my perspective as a mother and as a grandmother could be more demanding of our immediate attention. That is why I joined Congressman EVAN JENKINS from West Virginia to introduce the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act.

This bipartisan legislation will improve care for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. It will expand our knowledge of care for NAS babies, including its prevalence in the United States. It will also examine access to care for NAS babies under the State Medicaid programs and direct the Government Accountability Office to identify any Federal obstacles to care for NAS babies.

In short, this legislation will do a top-to-bottom review to make sure we are doing everything we can to help babies born with addiction and withdrawal.

Mr. Speaker, we must do our part to help all children reach their full potential.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my friend and colleague from the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4978, the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act. This bill will help our most vulnerable Americans.

H.R. 4978 will require the GAO to study and report on the prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome to help determine the size and scope of this prescription drug problem and its impact on newborns.

Neonatal abstinence syndrome refers to a group of conditions that occur when a child is born addicted to narcotics and is going through withdrawal. This, unfortunately, affects my district in Florida and all over the country.

I visited babies in the hospital. In 2013, during a drug summit in Pasco County, health officials discussed the

growing problem of babies born addicted to prescription drugs. Pinellas County, my home county, at that time ranked first in the State for babies born addicted. We must do all we can to help those struggling infants and their families.

This bill also includes two provisions I have worked on to reform Medicaid payments for abuse deterrent formulations and fight fraud in Medicare and Medicaid. Currently, Medicaid does not sufficiently cover abuse deterrent formulations for generic drugs. During a hearing, I spoke to Secretary Burwell about this problem, and she expressed to me the need for a legislative fix to this payment issue. This bill provides a solution and helps prevent drug abuse within Medicaid.

This bill also includes a provision to protect the predictive analytic algorithm which identifies and prevents the payment of improper claims in Medicare. These tools, designed to prevent fraud, need to be protected from being disclosed to bad actors.

Back in 2013, I introduced legislation to protect these predictive analytic algorithms from the Freedom of Information Act disclosure, and H.R. 4978 includes this important legislation.

This legislation will help protect our newborns and all those facing prescription drug abuse and addiction.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Representative JENKINS and the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4978.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), my good friend and fellow Kentuckian.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) for his leadership on this issue, and I want to thank my colleague from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for his leadership on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to support his bill, H.R. 4978, the NAS Healthy Babies Act, which seeks to increase our understanding of neonatal abstinence syndrome and would help further strengthen best practices for treating this dangerous but preventable condition.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, there has been a dramatic increase in maternal opioid use; and as a tragic result, a baby is born suffering from neonatal abstinence syndrome, or NAS, every 25 minutes in the United States.

To help address this public health challenge, this legislation contains language drafted in coordination with my constituent, University of Kentucky pediatrician, Dr. Henrietta Bada-Ellzey, and members of the Sixth Congressional District Drug Abuse

Task Force. Specifically, this provision would mandate a study which would gain critical data about the specific treatment options given to newborns with NAS during and after their hospital stay and identify treatment outcomes. This vital information would help lead pediatricians to provide improved care for the most vulnerable in our society.

I would like to thank the leader's office and the Energy and Commerce Committee staff for giving me an opportunity to include this important recommendation from the Sixth Congressional District Drug Abuse Task Force in this legislation. The opioid heroin crisis in America impacts every congressional district, and my district is not immune. So I am proud that the people's House is taking up a series of important measures to combat this scourge in our society, and I can't think of any more important measure than dealing with these innocent victims of NAS.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), my good friend.

Mrs. WAGNER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act, which will improve care for babies who are so sadly suffering from exposure to opioids while in their mother's womb.

Hospital usage for opioid overuse in Missouri increased 137 percent between 2005 and 2014, with the highest rates being in the St. Louis region. We must do everything we can to combat this epidemic from all angles.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely heart-breaking to stand in front of you knowing that in the United States an opioid-dependent baby is born every 20 minutes, immediately suffering from withdrawal: trembling, crying inconsolably, and clenching their tiny muscles as they gasp for breath.

My principal mission as a Member of this Chamber is to provide a voice to the voiceless, and it is our duty to defend the most vulnerable. Ensuring babies have access to care and allowing them to recover from these horrible physical and emotional circumstances is not only common sense, but, Mr. Speaker, it is simply the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 4978, and I thank Representative EVAN JENKINS for introducing this legislation.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my good friend.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding and for his work on this most important subject, as well as the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4978, the NAS Healthy Babies Act because newborn infants deserve every opportunity to live a happy and healthy life.

H.R. 4978 requires the Government Accountability Office to compile a report on the amount of babies born each year with NAS, Medicaid insurance coverage for families that have an NAS baby, and Federal obstacles for children who seek treatments for NAS. With this new information, we can increase our understanding of NAS and our ability to provide care for babies born with NAS. This new understanding is vital, considering the number of newborns with NAS has increased with the rise in the number of Americans addicted to opioids.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I believe we should take every step possible to fight the addiction crisis in America, and the protection of our children should be our top priority. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN).

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, it cannot be said enough that every 25 minutes in this great country, there is a baby born addicted to drugs. Last year alone, 1,000 of those babies were born in the great State of Maine.

Now, 80 percent of these addicted infants are covered by Medicaid and treated at local hospitals, but our hospitals are overwhelmed. They are not equipped to provide the specialized care that these babies desperately need to recover from the drugs in their tiny bodies. I am very proud to serve as an original cosponsor of the Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act.

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I am thrilled that this bill, Mr. Speaker, is being considered today on the floor. I want to congratulate Congressman EVAN JENKINS from West Virginia, a Republican, and I want to congratulate Congresswoman BUSTOS from Illinois, a Democrat, for their leadership on this issue. This is not a political issue, Mr. Speaker. This is about our kids. This is about our babies. This is about that generation.

H.R. 4978 made sure that we get the information we need as to how hospitals and other medical facilities are currently treating these addicted babies, such that we can fill in the gap with Medicaid coverage.

Mr. Speaker, every baby born into this world deserves our compassion and our care. This bill offers real hope for a

healthy and a safe and a loving start for thousands of American babies born addicted to drugs.

Let's all get together and get this done, Mr. Speaker. This is not a political issue. This is about our kids.

Mr. GENE GREEN from Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from West Virginia and our colleague from Illinois for moving this forward.

I urge the passage of H.R. 4978, and I would like for my colleagues to vote for this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4978, the "Nurturing & Supporting Healthy Babies Act," approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee.

In the past decade and a half, the growth in the number of physicians prescribing opioids to help patients deal with pain from surgeries, dental work and chronic conditions has resulted in an increasing number of patients becoming dependent on the powerful and highly addictive painkillers—with patients not only abusing the use of those painkillers but often turning to heroin once their opioid prescription ended.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nearly 259 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2012, more than enough for every adult in the United States.

It is estimated that in 2013 nearly 4.5 million people in the United States without a valid medical need were using prescription painkillers.

The Health and Human Services Department estimates that the number of unintentional overdose deaths from prescription painkillers almost quadrupled between 1999 and 2013 and that abuse of prescription opioids now kills nearly 30,000 Americans each year.

Both states and the federal government have begun responding to this growing public health crisis, with many states moving to make anti-overdose drugs more available and shield first-responders from liability in administering those drugs.

President Obama, meanwhile, has updated prescribing guidelines to encourage doctors to be more cautious when prescribing opioid painkillers and to emphasize non-opioid therapies for certain conditions.

Additionally, the Obama administration has awarded \$94 million to community health centers to improve and expand the delivery of substance abuse services.

In the president's FY 2017 budget the administration proposed \$1.1 billion to combat drug addiction and is also considering modifying certain rules to improve treatment.

Our counterparts in the Senate, on March 10, 2016, passed S. 524, an antioioid abuse bill that would authorize grants for opioid treatment services and first-responder training in using anti-overdose drug by a 94–1 vote, as well as create a task force to review and update best practices for prescribing pain medication.

S. 524 also mandates investigations into heroin distribution and unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, and requires the creation

of a national drug awareness campaign that takes into account the association between prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

The science indicates that opioids can have particularly harrowing effects on infants whose mothers took the drugs during pregnancy, including medical issues stemming from drug withdrawal known as neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Advocacy groups note that the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome almost tripled from 1.20 per 1,000 hospital births in 2000 to 3.39 per 1,000 hospital births in 2009.

In conjunction with H.R. 4978, the "Nurturing & Supporting Healthy Babies Act," the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that 45 percent of births in the United States are now covered by the joint federal-state Medicaid program.

This bill directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to Congress on neonatal abstinence syndrome among children covered by Medicaid, including any federal barriers to treating such infants.

The GAO must also provide recommendations for improvements that will ensure access to treatment for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome under state Medicaid programs.

Additionally, the measure modifies Medicaid to provide incentives for the development of abuse-deterrent formulations of prescription drugs and to prevent disclosure of Medicaid anti-fraud algorithms.

The bill requires that GAO's report identify the prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome in the United States, including the proportion of affected children who are eligible for Medicaid at birth and the costs associated with neonatal abstinence syndrome.

GAO will also be required to examine Medicaid-eligible services that are available for treatment of infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome, settings for such treatment, related reimbursement methodologies and costs, and the utilization of various care settings under state Medicaid programs for such treatment.

This GAO's report must be submitted to Congress within one year of the bill's enactment.

Seeking to right the same wrongs as H.R. 4978, the "Nurturing And Supporting Healthy Babies Act," I introduced the, "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016," or the "SIMARRA Act," which will help the Federal Bureau of Prisons to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system for pregnant offenders, by establishing a pilot program of critical-stage, developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates.

It is time that our nation recognizes a long-persistent need to break the cycle of generational, institutional incarceration amongst mothers serving time for non-violent crimes and the children they birth behind prison bars.

H.R. 5130, the, "SIMARRA Act of 2016," gives those infants born to incarcerated mothers a chance to succeed in life.

"SIMARRA" is not merely yet another second chance program, demanding leniency from the criminal justice system.

Instead, H.R. 5130 asks our national criminal justice system what it can do for those

young Americans born and relegated to a life of nearly impossible odds of survival.

“SIMARRA” provides that first chance—a first chance for American infants—that many of their mothers, born themselves to mothers behind bars, never received.

The bill excludes abuse-deterrent formulations of prescription drugs from Medicaid’s additional rebate requirement for new prescription drug formulations, which is intended to encourage the development of these drugs by allowing drug companies to reduce the rebates they otherwise must pay to Medicaid.

The measure also limits disclosure of predictive modeling and other analytics technologies that are used to identify and prevent waste, fraud and abuse in Medicaid, including by exempting covered program integrity algorithms from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and requiring state Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies to have adequate data security policies to ensure the security of covered algorithms.

Finally, the measure makes \$5 million available to the Medicaid Improvement Fund for expenditures for FY 2021 and beyond.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4978 would not, on net, change direct spending over the 2017–2026 period.

While opponents argue that some provisions of the bill will increase direct spending by \$80 million over that period, I point out that other provisions would decrease direct spending by the same amount balancing the total cost.

Enacting the legislation would affect direct spending, rather than revenues.

Under current law, pharmaceutical manufacturers are required to pay rebates to states for prescription drugs provided through Medicaid.

The formula which determines rebate amounts in the Medicaid program has several components, with some components generating rebates that are paid to states and shared with the federal government, and others generating rebates that are paid to states and subsequently transferred in their entirety to the federal government.

Abuse deterrent formulation, or ADF, is a new technology that is being implemented by the pharmaceutical industry to prevent the abuse of prescription pain medications.

For example, some ADFs make it more difficult for an individual to crush, break, or dissolve a drug to inappropriately extract and use its active ingredient.

Under the bill, the component of the rebate formula that would no longer apply to ADFs of brand-name drugs is one that is paid to states and transferred in full to the federal government.

Therefore, states would not be directly affected by this section of the bill.

CBO estimates that this section would increase federal Medicaid costs by about \$75 million over the 2017–2026 period by reducing rebates.

CBO anticipates that an increasing number of ADFs of brand name drugs will launch over time; therefore, the component of the rebate affected by H.R. 4978 would also grow over time.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any

of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2026.

H.R. 4978 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

In sum, H.R. 4978, the “Nurturing & Supporting Healthy Babies Act,” is a valuable piece of legislation that I encourage my colleagues to support.

Additionally, I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring and supporting all legislation targeting the improvement of care for the prevention of infant abuse and neglect, such as H.R. 5130, the, “Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016” or the “SIMARRA Act.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4978, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the United States and its treatment under Medicaid, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**IMPROVING TREATMENT FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN ACT OF 2016**

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3691) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women and to establish a pilot program to provide grants to State substance abuse agencies to promote innovative service delivery models for such women, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3691

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the “Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act of 2016”.*

**SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN.**

*Section 508 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb-1) is amended—*

*(1) in subsection (p), in the first sentence, by inserting “(other than subsection (r))” after “section”; and*

*(2) in subsection (r), by striking “such sums” and all that follows through “2003” and inserting “\$16,900,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021”.*

**SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM GRANTS FOR STATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AGENCIES.**

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 508 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb-1) is amended—*

*(1) by redesignating subsection (r), as amended by section 2, as subsection (s); and*

*(2) by inserting after subsection (q) the following new subsection:*

*“(r) PILOT PROGRAM FOR STATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AGENCIES.—*

*“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under subsection (s), the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment shall carry out a pilot program under which competitive grants are made by the Director to State substance abuse agencies to—*

*“(A) enhance flexibility in the use of funds designed to support family-based services for pregnant and postpartum women with a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder, including opioid use disorders;*

*“(B) help State substance abuse agencies address identified gaps in services furnished to such women along the continuum of care, including services provided to women in nonresidential based settings; and*

*“(C) promote a coordinated, effective, and efficient State system managed by State substance abuse agencies by encouraging new approaches and models of service delivery.*

*“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program under this subsection, the Director shall—*

*“(A) require State substance abuse agencies to submit to the Director applications, in such form and manner and containing such information as specified by the Director, to be eligible to receive a grant under the program;*

*“(B) identify, based on such submitted applications, State substance abuse agencies that are eligible for such grants;*

*“(C) require services proposed to be furnished through such a grant to support family-based treatment and other services for pregnant and postpartum women with a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder, including opioid use disorders;*

*“(D) not require that services furnished through such a grant be provided solely to women that reside in facilities;*

*“(E) not require that grant recipients under the program make available through use of the grant all services described in subsection (d); and*

*“(F) consider not applying requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (f) to applicants, depending on the circumstances of the applicant.*

*“(3) REQUIRED SERVICES.—*

*“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall specify a minimum set of services required to be made available to eligible women through a grant awarded under the pilot program under this subsection. Such minimum set—*

*“(i) shall include requirements described in subsection (c) and be based on the recommendations submitted under subparagraph (B); and*

*“(ii) may be selected from among the services described in subsection (d) and include other services as appropriate.*

*“(B) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—The Director shall convene and solicit recommendations from stakeholders, including State substance abuse agencies, health care providers, persons in recovery from substance abuse, and other appropriate individuals, for the minimum set of services described in subparagraph (A).*

*“(4) DURATION.—The pilot program under this subsection shall not exceed 5 years.*

*“(5) EVALUATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality shall fund an evaluation of the pilot program at the conclusion of the first grant cycle funded by the pilot program. The Director of the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, in coordination with the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment shall submit to the relevant committees of jurisdiction of the House of*

Representatives and the Senate a report on such evaluation. The report shall include at a minimum outcomes information from the pilot program, including any resulting reductions in the use of alcohol and other drugs; engagement in treatment services; retention in the appropriate level and duration of services; increased access to the use of medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of substance use disorders in combination with counseling; and other appropriate measures.

“(6) STATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AGENCIES DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘State substance abuse agency’ means, with respect to a State, the agency in such State that manages the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant under part B of title XIX.”.

(b) FUNDING.—Subsection (s) of section 508 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb-1), as amended by section 2 and redesignated by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Of the amounts made available for a year pursuant to the previous sentence to carry out this section, not more than 25 percent of such amounts shall be made available for such year to carry out subsection (r), other than paragraph (5) of such subsection. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, no funds shall be made available to carry out subsection (r) for a fiscal year unless the amount made available to carry out this section for such fiscal year is more than the amount made available to carry out this section for fiscal year 2016.”.

#### SEC. 4. CUT-GO COMPLIANCE.

Subsection (f) of section 319D of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-4) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2016, \$133,300,000 for fiscal year 2017, and \$133,300,000 for fiscal year 2018”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3691, the Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act of 2015, introduced by my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. TONKO of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MATSUI of California, and Mr. CÁRDENAS of California.

In most instances, withdrawal or detoxification is not clinically appropriate for pregnant women with opioid use disorders. The withdrawal symptoms associated with discontinuing opioid use in pregnant women can lead to miscarriage or other negative birth outcomes. Buprenorphine and methadone can be used to treat a woman's

opioid use disorder while pregnant. Such treatment can result in improved outcomes for both mothers and babies.

Unfortunately, babies exposed to opioids in utero may be born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, NAS, which refers to medical issues associated with opioid withdrawal in newborns. Mothers suffering from opioid use disorder may be sent home with babies who have NAS with very little guidance or support, which can have negative consequences for their babies.

NAS can result from the use of prescription opioids as prescribed for medical reasons, abuse of prescription opioid medication, or the use of illegal opioids like heroin.

The grant program reauthorized in H.R. 3691 helps support residential treatment facilities where women and their children receive support, education, treatment, and counseling that they need to address opioid addiction and NAS. The newly created pilot program will allow States more flexibility in providing these services for women and children in need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise and voice my support for H.R. 3691, the Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act. The Pregnant and Postpartum Women—PPW—program is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—SAMHSA—Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

The program was designed to expand the availability of comprehensive residential substance abuse treatment, prevention, and recovery support services for pregnant and postpartum women and their children. The program provides grants to public and nonprofit private entities to provide substance use disorder treatment to women in residential facilities.

For too long our laws have taken a punitive approach with pregnant women and new mothers suffering from addiction. Criminal approaches have failed to work. Solutions should emphasize a nonpunitive, public health approach like the PPW program.

Substance abuse treatment that supports the family as a unit has proven effective for maintaining sobriety and enhancing child well-being. Given the magnitude of this epidemic, there is a need for increased availability of treatment options that are responsive to women's complex responsibilities.

H.R. 3691 reauthorizes residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women. This vital program provides for substance use treatment for women in need as well as their minor children. Family-based treat-

ment services include individual and family counseling, prenatal and postpartum care, and training on parenting.

The bill will also create a pilot program to allow up to 25 percent of the grants to be made for outpatient treatment services. This will give State substance abuse agencies greater flexibility to provide access to treatment and address gaps in delivery of care for pregnant and postpartum women, including services in nonresidential settings, and encourage new approaches of services available to pregnant women along the continuum of care.

I want to thank the bill's sponsor, Representative BEN RAY LUJÁN, who is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Health Subcommittee, for his leadership in introducing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3691 so that pregnant and postpartum women can receive comprehensive, residential substance abuse treatment when fighting opioid drug addiction.

According to the National Perinatal Association, 4 percent of all live births in the U.S. occur in women who abuse illicit or prescription drugs, such as opioid pain relievers. This would equate to 159,436 births in 2014 from women who abuse illicit or prescription drugs.

This is simply unacceptable. We must take action to ensure that pregnant and postpartum women receive the care they need to protect American families.

H.R. 3691 simply states that support should be extended for residential substance abuse treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women through 2020 and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment should carry out a pilot program to make grants to State substance abuse agencies to support services for pregnant and postpartum women who have a substance abuse disorder.

By extending these services and working through this pilot program, we can ensure that pregnant and postpartum women can receive the care that they need so that they can care for their families. That is why I am supporting H.R. 3691.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill so we can extend care to all mothers and soon-to-be mothers who fight drug addiction.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN), the cosponsor of the bill.



Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking the chairman and ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Subcommittee on Health for their bipartisan efforts to address the Nation's drug crisis and for advancing my legislation, the Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act.

Our Nation continues to face a substance abuse crisis that is tearing apart communities and families. In New Mexico, we have seen a crisis that is multi-generational, with people growing up in communities where abuse is commonplace.

The grant program for residential treatment that my bill enhances is an important part of our effort to break the cycle of drug abuse that grips our communities. My bill would also increase funding for the Pregnant and Postpartum Women grant.

As originally written, my bill contained an authorization of \$40 million, significantly above the current level, to avoid any cuts to existing residential programs. Through bipartisan cooperation, we arrived at a small increase over the next 5 years.

By focusing on women with young children and soon-to-be mothers, we help ensure that these families get on the right path from the very beginning. People want to be better. But, unfortunately, too often there are too few resources and avenues for help.

Certainly this is true in New Mexico, which is among the States most impacted by the epidemic plaguing our country. Too many people are suffering, and too many people are being shut out from access to help.

This bill helps address this by creating a demonstration project in the existing Pregnant and Postpartum Women grant program to allow grants to be used for nonresidential care.

Residential programs are critically important where they are available. In my home State of New Mexico, there are far too few residential programs to serve the needs of my constituents. In addition, many of the existing facilities have wait lists. With New Mexico's vastness, residential facilities are out of reach for too many.

That is why this demonstration project is critical. It will allow us, while continuing to support residential treatment programs, to explore how to ensure the services and care we are providing work for those in need.

While I am pleased that we have been able to work together across the aisle in an effort to authorize increased funding and ensure the inclusion of the demonstration project, I think it is important to say more must be done.

Supporting residential facilities and innovation to make treatment more available is essential, and both will require significant investments.

Mr. Speaker, in 2014, 47,055 people died from drug overdoses. That is 129 people per day. We must do more.

I hope that, as we continue this conversation beyond today, we can all come to recognize the need for funding above and beyond what we are doing today.

I respectfully ask for support of this bill.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague and neighbor from Houston.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate the gentleman from Texas for his leadership and the gentleman from New Mexico for his outstanding leadership on this important legislation and his concern and passion.

Let me thank my friends who are managing the legislation and let the American people know and our colleagues know that we are continuing our commitment on dealing with the issues of addiction, in this instance, opioid. And, of course, we know that there are other forms of addiction, from alcohol, to crack, to cocaine, but we are moving forward.

I rise to support H.R. 3691, the Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act of 2015. It is clear that this is an issue that has plagued both the woman and as well the newborn baby.

Let me offer to say that President Obama has updated that guideline to encourage doctors to be more cautious when prescribing opioid painkillers and to emphasize nonopioid therapies for certain conditions. Many times women who are pregnant are under treatment.

Additionally, the Obama administration has awarded \$94 million to community health centers to improve and expand the delivery of substance abuse services. In the President's FY 2017 budget, the administration proposed \$1.1 billion to combat drug addiction considering modifying certain rules to improve treatment.

As misuse of opioids have increased over the past decade, so has the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome, referring to the medical effects on newborn infants suffering from drug withdrawal because their mothers were drug addicts.

The GAO report found that a lack of available treatment programs for pregnant women and newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome, including the availability of comprehensive care and enabling services, such as transportation and child care, has hampered Federal efforts to address the issue.

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I am glad that this bill, which is why I rise to support it, reauthorizes residential treatment grant programs for pregnant and postpartum women who have substance abuse problems—pro-

grams that are administered by the Health and Human Service Department's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, increasing the authorized funding level by 6 percent. This gives me an opportunity to say that, with regard to all of these bills, I know that we will all join together to make sure the right funding is available for these bills to really work.

I join in support of this legislation and add to it legislation that I have introduced, Improving Safe Care for the Prevention of Infant Abuse and Neglect Act, and, which I introduced recently, the Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016, which will help the Federal Bureau of Prisons to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system for pregnant offenders by establishing a pilot program of critical stage development nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates. Likewise, at that time, one may discover the concerns that are being expressed here today.

However, the Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act of 2016, also establishes a pilot program to provide grants to State substance abuse agencies to promote innovative service delivery models for pregnant women who have a substance use disorder, such as opioid addiction, including for family-based services in nonresidential settings.

This is a good bill because it is more than the adult who is being treated here. It is a good bill because we are concerned about the newborn, the innocent baby who needs to have a start in life. In this instance, this legislation will both treat the mother and provide assistance—residential and nonresidential care—so that these individuals can have the starts in life that they need.

Let us be reminded of the fact that this addiction of these drugs becomes an illness. We have seen overdoses that cause the loss of life. Let us be part of stemming the tide, but, more importantly, let us help those who are trying to hang onto life and to start a new life. This legislation does that, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his leadership, and I thank him for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3691, the "Improving Treatment for Pregnant & Postpartum Women Act of 2015," that was approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee.

In the past decade and a half, the growth in the number of physicians prescribing opioids to help patients deal with pain from surgeries, dental work and chronic conditions has resulted in an increasing number of patients becoming dependent on the powerful and highly addictive painkillers—with patients not only abusing the use of those painkillers but often turning to heroin once their opioid prescription ended.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nearly 259 million opioid

prescriptions were written in 2012, more than enough for every adult in the United States.

It is estimated that in 2013 nearly 4.5 million people in the United States without a valid medical need were using prescription painkillers.

The Health and Human Services Department estimates that the number of unintentional overdose deaths from prescription painkillers almost quadrupled between 1999 and 2013.

Abuse of prescription opioids now kills nearly 30,000 Americans each year.

Both states and the federal government have begun responding to this growing public health crisis, with many states moving to make anti-overdose drugs more available and shield first-responders from liability in administering those drugs.

President Obama, meanwhile, has updated prescribing guidelines to encourage doctors to be more cautious when prescribing opioid painkillers and to emphasize non-opioid therapies for certain conditions.

Additionally, the Obama administration has awarded \$94 million to community health centers to improve and expand the delivery of substance abuse services.

In the president's FY 2017 budget the administration proposed \$1.1 billion to combat drug addiction, considering modifying certain rules to improve treatment.

As misuse of opioids has increased over the past decade, so has the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome, referring to the medical effects on newborn infants suffering from drug withdrawal because their mothers were drug addicts.

A 2015 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that a lack of available treatment programs for pregnant women and newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome, including the availability of comprehensive care and enabling services such as transportation and child care, has hampered federal efforts to address the issue.

This bill reauthorizes residential treatment grant programs for pregnant and postpartum women who have substance abuse problems that are administered by the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, increasing the authorized funding level by 6%.

Seeking to right the same wrongs as H.R. 4843, the "Improving Safe Care for the Prevention of Infant Abuse and Neglect Act," I introduced the, "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016," or the "SIMARRA Act," which will help the Federal Bureau of Prisons to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system for pregnant offenders, by establishing a pilot program of critical-stage, developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates.

It is time that our nation recognizes a long-persistent need to break the cycle of generational, institutional incarceration amongst mothers serving time for non-violent crimes and the children they birth behind prison bars.

H.R. 5130, the, "SIMARRA Act of 2016," gives those infants born to incarcerated mothers a chance to succeed in life.

"SIMARRA" is not merely yet another second chance program, demanding leniency from the criminal justice system.

Instead, H.R. 5130 asks our national criminal justice system what it can do for those young Americans born and relegated to a life of nearly impossible odds of survival.

"SIMARRA" provides that first chance—a first chance for American infants—that many of their mothers, born themselves to mothers behind bars, never received.

The "Improving Treatment for Pregnant & Postpartum Women Act of 2015," also establishes a pilot program to provide grants to state substance abuse agencies to promote innovative service delivery models for pregnant women who have a substance use disorder, such as opioid addiction, including for family-based services in nonresidential settings.

Of the amounts appropriated for the HHS residential treatment program, up to 25% would be available to carry out the pilot program.

No funds would be made available to carry out the pilot program for a fiscal year, however, unless the amount made available to carry out the residential treatment program for the fiscal year is more than the comparable amount made available for FY 2016.

The Senate on March 10, 2016, passed by a 94–1 vote, S. 524, an antiopioid abuse bill that would authorize grants for opioid treatment services and first-responder training in using anti-overdose drugs, as well as create a task force to review and update best practices for prescribing pain medication.

The measure offsets the increased authorization through a \$5 million reduction in the existing FY 2017 authorization for Centers for Disease Control (CDC) public health capability enhancement activities.

Under current law, \$138.3 million is authorized for those activities each year through FY 2018.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not yet released a cost estimate for the bill.

H.R. 3691 would also mandate investigations into heroin distribution and unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, and require the creation of a national drug awareness campaign that takes into account the association between prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

This week we are scheduled to consider a series of more than a dozen bills that address the opioid abuse problem facing America.

This measure reauthorizes grants from HHS's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment to public and nonprofit private entities that provide residential substance abuse treatment for pregnant and postpartum women, authorizing \$16.9 million each year through FY 2021—\$1 million (6%) more than the current \$15.9 million authorization.

Under the pilot grant program, proposed services for eligible pregnant and postpartum women would not have to be provided solely to women who reside in facilities.

However, the center must specify a minimum set of services, including substance abuse counseling, and it must solicit stakeholder input.

The bill directs HHS's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality to fund an evaluation of the pilot program at the conclusion of the first grant cycle.

Under the program, grant recipients are required to provide an individualized plan of

services for each participating woman that includes substance abuse counseling and certain supplemental services, such as pediatric health care for the woman's children.

The measure directs the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment to carry out a five-year pilot grant program to help state substance abuse agencies address identified gaps in the services that are furnished to pregnant and postpartum women with substance abuse issues, and encourage new approaches and models of service delivery.

H.R. 3691, the "Improving Treatment for Pregnant & Postpartum Women Act of 2015," is a valuable piece of legislation that I encourage my colleagues to support.

Additionally, I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring and supporting all legislation targeting the improvement of care for the prevention of infant abuse and neglect, such as H.R. 5130, the, "Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016" or the "SIMARRA Act."

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague's comments on this legislation, and I'm encouraged by the bipartisan support to advance not only my bill, but all of the important bills we are discussing today.

I'd like to take a few minutes to discuss some of the stories of those who have faced addiction. Stories from people in my home state of New Mexico—who have faced the challenges of substance abuse and are healthier today and working to improve their communities.

As we come here and discuss the importance of various programs and we debate the need for greater investments—which I think we need to address this crisis—let us not lose sight of the people whose lives are at the center of this.

Mr. Speaker, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, friends and neighbors—everyone is impacted by this drug crisis.

I'd like to share Kayla Trujillo's story. Kayla has been in recovery since November of 2014 and is using her experiences to help others struggling with drug addiction. She is working to become a Certified Peer Support Worker.

But at the age of 14, Kayla was struggling.

"As a young teen I had no sense of self-worth, no ability to cope with life, and sought things outside myself to help fill the empty void I felt inside," she wrote to me.

She was also a straight A, honor roll student, because she knew good grades were a ticket to a better life. But one day, she went to her mom's medicine cabinet and found a green bottle labeled Percocet for pain and took three pills.

She writes: "That day I started my thirteen year love/hate affair with opiates that would forever change my life. Once I was physically dependent on opiates I took whatever means necessary to obtain my pills.

"I resorted to faking injuries, stealing my friends' and family members' pain pills, buying pills off the street, and eventually trading sex for pills just to support my daily pain pill habit . . . One day I ran out of pills, was very ill, and there were no pills to be sold so I picked up heroin to stay well. Once introduced to heroin I knew I had to change my way of life before it was too late."

Kayla checked herself into a rehab facility and got help. But there are too many people who don't have access to the treatment they need.

I'd also like to share the story of Joshua Trujillo. Joshua is a Certified Peer Support Worker at Inside Out Recovery in Espanola, New Mexico. He entered recovery after spending 11 years on the streets using drugs and alcohol. He wrote to me to share his story, and I'd like to read from that letter:

"I was in and out of jail for various drug related crimes. I would steal and lie to everyone that came in contact with me just to support my addiction. I attempted to abstain from drugs many times through my own means and would never succeed. In addition, I had been through drug court programs and licensed therapists and could never stay clean. I found it difficult to relate to anyone that had not experienced addiction firsthand.

"In August of 2011 I entered the doors of Inside Out Recovery where I met a Certified Peer Support Worker. Through the CPSW's own experience with addiction I came to believe that I could live my life without drugs. I had finally found someone I could relate to and learn from. Our talks were invaluable in my early recovery because I knew that if the CPSW could stay clean that I could too. The seed of recovery had been planted with that CPSW's experience and I immediately knew I wanted to dedicate the rest of my life toward staying clean and helping the addict that still suffers."

Joshua and Kayla's stories of addiction are all too common, and their stories of recovery are ones that we must ensure become more common as well.

We are taking important action on the floor today, but let's make sure that we are providing the resources necessary to address this crisis.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3691.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3691, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**VETERAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN SUPPORT ACT OF 2016**

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1818) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1818

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2016".*

**SEC. 2. ASSISTING VETERANS WITH MILITARY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING CIVILIAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.**

*Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 314 the following:*

**"SEC. 315. ASSISTING VETERANS WITH MILITARY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING CIVILIAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.**

*"(a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program consisting of awarding demonstration grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures in order to assist veterans who completed military emergency medical technician training while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States to meet certification, licensure, and other requirements applicable to becoming an emergency medical technician in the State.*

*"(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received as a demonstration grant under this section shall be used to prepare and implement a plan to streamline State requirements and procedures as described in subsection (a), including by—*

*"(1) determining the extent to which the requirements for the education, training, and skill level of emergency medical technicians in the State are equivalent to requirements for the education, training, and skill level of military emergency medical technicians; and*

*"(2) identifying methods, such as waivers, for military emergency medical technicians to forgo or meet any such equivalent State requirements.*

*"(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a State shall demonstrate that the State has a shortage of emergency medical technicians.*

*"(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Congress an annual report on the program under this section.*

*"(e) FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section. This section shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1818, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2016, introduced by my

colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce—Mr. KINZINGER from Illinois and Mrs. CAPPS from California.

Members of the U.S. military who trained as combat medics face State licensing challenges when they try to find similar work after discharge. Many States do not recognize their qualifications as being applicable to the licensing requirements of the civilian healthcare system for emergency medical services, such as EMTs or paramedics. State licensing laws vary, and while some States make exceptions for former military medics to allow for reciprocity and a chance to sit for the licensing exam without repeating their training, many States do not.

This legislation would provide grants to States with emergency medical technician shortages so as to help streamline State requirements for veterans to enter the EMT workforce without there being an unnecessary duplication of their training. This will help them more easily transition to their becoming civilian EMTs.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1818, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act.

Our Nation's servicemen and -women receive some of the best medical training and experience in emergency medicine while serving our country. Their commitment to duty, training, real-world experience, and ability to work effectively in challenging environments make them exceptionally well suited for working as emergency medical technicians, EMTs, upon their return to civilian life.

However, experienced military medics who want to work in civilian EMT jobs are often required to repeat their medical training at the most basic level to receive certification in order to be hired. Depending on the State, a returning veteran may have to obtain or renew their EMS license. The requirements can vary significantly by State. This is an unnecessary impediment for both our service personnel and our communities that are in need of qualified emergency medical service personnel. We should not be keeping veterans out of the workforce and withholding valuable medical personnel from supporting our communities.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook, approximately 55,000 new civilian EMT and paramedic jobs have already been or will be created between 2012 and 2022. Highly skilled and properly trained veterans are well positioned to fill these essential provisions.

H.R. 1818 will authorize a demonstration grant program for States to streamline certification and licensure requirements for returning veterans with military EMT training so they can work as civilian EMTs as quickly as possible. Streamlining the licensing process will make it easier for the civilian EMS community to hire experienced combat medics. This is not only beneficial to our veterans, but also to our communities, and it will enhance the level of care that is provided to our citizens.

I thank the bill's sponsors—Representative LOIS CAPPs, who is a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and of our Subcommittee on Health, and Congressman ADAM KINZINGER—for introducing and championing this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), my colleague and good friend on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, who is a veteran Air Force pilot himself.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I appreciate the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act will help our veterans and our communities by assisting States in reducing burdens for military medics who want to become civilian EMTs.

Emergency medical technicians are an important part of the medical workforce and, as first responders, are critical to our goal of combating the thousands of opioid overdoses each year. EMTs respond to hundreds of thousands of overdoses. In 2014 alone, EMTs responded to 240,000 calls at which naloxone was administered.

According to the Department of Labor, the demand for EMTs and paramedics is expected to increase by 33 percent by the year 2020. This expected shortage is on top of some communities that are already reporting a shortage of EMTs.

My legislation, H.R. 1818, the Veteran EMT Support Act, works to address this by helping States to streamline requirements and procedures in order to assist veterans who completed military EMT training in the Armed Forces to meet the certification, the licensure, and other requirements to become civilian EMTs.

Although some service branches train military medics to EMT national certification standards, States generally have required additional training for State licensure. This creates a barrier for servicemembers who have received some of the best EMT training and have practiced their profession on the battlefield.

The Veteran EMT Support Act is a commonsense way to help veterans

transition into the civilian workforce, improve public health, and ensure communities have highly qualified, professional men and women to answer challenging emergency calls like opioid overdoses.

I thank Congresswoman CAPPs for her strong support and advocacy of this legislation, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

Mrs. CAPPs. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1818, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act.

As the ranking member of our committee just said, our military medics receive some of the best technical training in emergency medicine on the battlefield, and it is proven in extreme circumstances. However, when these medics return home and attempt to apply their skills to work in the civilian EMT sector, they are often forced to start back at square one. Repeating coursework isn't just a waste of time, it is also incredibly expensive. Similarly, civilian EMTs who are also in the military or in the reserves often must let their civilian certifications lapse when they are deployed.

In either circumstance, this is an unfair burden on our military men and women who have bravely defended our country. It is also so shortsighted for our communities, which could benefit from their expertise. We need these valuable medical personnel to be working in our communities, especially as we now deal with this opioid crisis.

That is why I am so pleased to have again joined with my Republican colleague, Representative KINZINGER, to introduce the Veteran EMT Support Act. The bill is a small but straightforward effort to help States streamline their EMT certification processes to take military medic training into account for civilian licensure. It is the least we can do to help ensure that our military medics' transition home is a little bit easier, and it is the least we can do to ensure that our communities have the best civilian first responder personnel working for them.

I thank Chairmen UPTON and PITTS and Ranking Members PALLONE and GREEN and their staffs for their support in getting this bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1818, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act. I thank Congressman KINZINGER for his leadership on this bill. I also recognize the chief op-

erations officer for the Western Berks EMS, in my district, Ed Moreland, who came to my office and shared with me what this bill was all about.

It is a very easy bill to support. Not only is it an easy bill to support, but it is a very important, valuable bill for me and other Members to support because in my State of Pennsylvania where I used to be a county commissioner and, before that, a township supervisor, we would see firsthand the very valuable role that EMTs and paramedics provide to local communities. We also know that there is a demand for more EMTs and paramedics. In fact, over the next 8 years, it is estimated that there will be another 40,000 EMTs and paramedics that we will need in this country.

I have the honor to serve on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. One of the things on which we focus on that committee is to work to find innovative solutions to help our veterans find successful careers when they return home and to utilize the skills that many servicemen and servicewomen obtain and possess during their service. Indeed, many of the best training and experience that military men and women get overseas is in the area of emergency medicine.

When one looks at what it takes to be an EMT—the education, training, skill level, and what is required in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in many other States—you realize that there is an equivalency that many veterans already have, which they obtained while serving in the military.

This bill seeks to streamline the process so that if a veteran already has the training, the education, the skill level, the experience, we can basically not require that veteran to spend more time and more money going through the process of obtaining a certification. Instead, we can get him into the practice of actually serving his community and working in a professional environment. It gets qualified veterans to work quicker. It also fills the communities' safety needs quicker.

It is commonsense, bipartisan legislation to address the demand for qualified professionals in our communities, and it provides veterans with good job opportunities. It is why I encourage my colleagues to support it. It is why I commend Congressman KINZINGER and why I thank Ed Moreland of the Western Berks EMS for bringing this to my attention.

□ 1745

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1818.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1818, the "Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of

2015," which emphasizes the necessity to add requirements and procedures that assist veterans with military EMT training to meet state EMT certification, licensure, and other requirements.

I support this legislation, because it benefits states with a shortage of emergency medical technicians.

H.R. 1818 allows veterans to reenter society and assist the helpless within the emergency medical community.

The bill enables the Public Health Service Act to direct the Department of Health and Human Services in an efficient approach for veteran assistance.

Specifically, H.R. 1818 requires the secretary to establish a program consisting of awarding demonstration grants to states to streamline state requirements and procedures.

H.R. 1818 determines the extent to which the requirements for education, training, and skill level of emergency medical technicians are equivalent to the requirements for military emergency medical technicians.

The bill identifies methods to facilitate the attainment of state requirements for military emergency medical technicians.

For proper usage of the grant provided by the bill, a state shall demonstrate its shortage of emergency medical technicians.

This bill introduces a feasible alternative for veterans within the community.

With consistent experience in high pressure situations and emergency environments, veterans are the appropriate choice for this profession.

This is a comprehensive bill that will simultaneously provide opportunity for veterans while alleviating the shortage of staff in a medical specialty involving care for undifferentiated and unscheduled patients with illnesses or injuries requiring immediate medical attention.

I urge all Members to join me in support of H.R. 1818.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1818, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JOHN THOMAS DECKER ACT OF 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4969) to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide for informational materials to educate and prevent addiction in teenagers and adolescents who are injured playing youth sports and subsequently prescribed an opioid, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4969

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "John Thomas Decker Act of 2016".*

**SEC. 2. INFORMATION MATERIALS AND RESOURCES TO PREVENT ADDICTION RELATED TO YOUTH SPORTS INJURIES.**

*(a) TECHNICAL CLARIFICATION.—Effective as if included in the enactment of the Children's Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-310), section 3405(a) of such Act (114 Stat. 1221) is amended by striking "Part E of title III" and inserting "Part E of title III of the Public Health Service Act".*

*(b) AMENDMENT.—Title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after part D of such title (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) the following new part E:*

**"PART E—OPIOID USE DISORDER**

**"SEC. 341. INFORMATION MATERIALS AND RESOURCES TO PREVENT ADDICTION RELATED TO YOUTH SPORTS INJURIES.**

*"(a) REPORT.—The Secretary shall—*  
*"(1) not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this section, make publicly available a report determining the extent to which informational materials and resources described in subsection (b) are available to teenagers and adolescents who play youth sports, families of such teenagers and adolescents, nurses, youth sports groups, and relevant health care provider groups; and*

*"(2) for purposes of educating and preventing addiction in teenagers and adolescents who are injured playing youth sports and are subsequently prescribed an opioid, not later than 12 months after such report is made publicly available and taking into consideration the findings of such report, develop and, in coordination with youth sports groups, disseminate informational materials and resources described in subsection (b) for teenagers and adolescents who play youth sports, families of such teenagers and adolescents, nurses, youth sports groups, and relevant health care provider groups.*

*"(b) MATERIALS AND RESOURCES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this section, the informational materials and resources described in this subsection are informational materials and resources with respect to youth sports injuries for which opioids are potentially prescribed and subsequently potentially lead to addiction, including materials and resources focused on the dangers of opioid use and misuse, treatment options for such injuries that do not involve the use of opioids, and how to seek treatment for addiction.*

*"(c) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section. This section shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any

extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4969, the John Thomas Decker Act of 2016, introduced by my colleagues, Mr. MEEHAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. KIND of Wisconsin, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. VEASEY of Texas.

Young athletes have been disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic currently plaguing our country. One study found that adolescent males who played sports were twice as likely to be prescribed opioids than their peers and four times more likely to abuse them than nonathletes. Writing a prescription for opioids in a population that may not fully grasp the risk associated with the drugs can be dangerous and lead to unintended negative outcomes.

H.R. 4969 amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study what information and resources are available to youth athletes and their families regarding the dangers of opioid use and abuse, nonopioid treatment options, and how to seek additional addiction treatment.

The Secretary would then be required to report the findings and work with stakeholders to disseminate resources to students, parents, and those involved in treating a sports-related injury.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4969, the John Thomas Decker Act.

A crisis of this magnitude requires a multiprong, robust response across the full continuum of those exposed to and affected by addiction. People suffering from addiction are originally prescribed or exposed to opioids in a wide variety of circumstances, one of which is through youth sports injuries.

H.R. 4969, the John Thomas Decker Act, will bring needed education on the danger of opioids and the benefits of alternative approaches to pain treatment to youth sports.

The John Thomas Decker Act will direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Injury Prevention to examine and report on what informational materials and resources are currently available to teenagers and adolescents participating in sports on the dangers of opioid use and misuse, alternative treatment options, and how to seek treatment for addiction.

Based on the findings of this report, the legislation directs the CDC and the

National Center for Injury Prevention to develop and disseminate such informational materials as necessary.

Young people playing sports who incur an injury for which painkillers are frequently prescribed can be uniquely vulnerable to addiction if they or their parents, guardians, and coaches are not well informed of the potential for misuse, abuse, and addiction.

H.R. 4969 will play a role in helping curb the epidemic opioid abuse and heroin use by ensuring adequate and appropriately tailored resources for our Nation's youth.

I thank the bill sponsor, Representative MEEHAN, for introducing this legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support the John Thomas Decker Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for their strong support of this very, very important bill, which will use the resources of the Centers for Disease Control in very important outreach to young people, particularly student athletes.

Now, we have heard heart-wrenching stories all day long about the tremendous growth of the use of opioids. In fact, 207 million prescriptions were written in 2013 for opioids. Unfortunately, that has led to about 2.1 million Americans who are hooked on opioids.

And when the opioid is not available, we have begun to see them switch to a cheaper alternative, which is heroin. 450 million Americans are currently hooked on heroin.

I know in my own State of Pennsylvania we lose seven people a day to heroin addiction. We are seeing it in the important nature of the comprehensive bills that have been put forward today. We are seeing it in veterans. Many are coming back with traumatic injury and are finding release in the opioids. We are seeing it in pregnant mothers and the impact that it has in children. One of the single biggest increase is in women, mothers who are over 30.

One of the niches that is often underappreciated, but remarkably dangerous, is young student athletes. The reason being is that young student athletes are more inclined than just about anybody else to suffer sports-related injuries. Some of those injuries can be serious, and what we are seeing is a high rate of prescription of opioids for some of these athletes.

Now, in the NCAA, you have a little bit more oversight. Even there, we see abuse. Almost 26 percent of college-level athletes will use opioids at some point in time, many without prescriptions.

Where the real danger comes down is at the high school level. I have the

good privilege of chairing one of the youth sports caucuses with my good friend, Mr. KIND of Wisconsin. We deal with a broad variety of issues promoting healthy activity and youth sports, but we are seeing a piece of this challenge right now in which we are watching the opioid addiction and problems with young athletes.

Eleven percent of high school athletes will use painkillers without a prescription. That is something that I talked to one of the trainers in my high school, a student trainer, about how kids who want to play in the game will hide their injuries and self-medicate. What a danger that is.

This brings me to the young man who inspired this bill, the John Thomas Decker Act. This is John Thomas Decker. I had the privilege of knowing John personally and knowing his wonderful family.

John was an incredible athlete. I watched him play football. He set a receiving record that was held for nearly a decade in our region of Pennsylvania.

He went on to play lacrosse at Cornell University in a program that won a national championship. So John was the consummate blue-chip athlete and a wonderful kid to boot. He was a great student and a great leader.

But John, like so many other kids, fought through the pain because he wanted to play. So what he did was he self-medicated and began to deal with the issue of opioid addiction.

Now, John worked his way through it as an athlete, but later in life returned again to using opioids and, ultimately, heroin. Ultimately, it led to his death.

His story inspired me to say we have to do something about it because many high school kids just like John who are playing through the pain believe that, because they are using the opioids and because they are prescription medicines, somehow there is no danger of any kind of addiction or otherwise, that somehow it is nowhere near as dangerous as heroin. Yet, it is unfortunately too easy.

In fact, one of the other misconceptions is: I don't have to worry about a dependency. But the medical authorities have confirmed that daily use for even a short period of time, just a few weeks or even days, can create the kind of psychological dependency in which there is the beginning of the misuse of the opioids.

One of the things we begin to see as well is, as the opioid begins to lose its protective effect, they will take more and higher doses in order to have the same pain-killing capacity. So they start to move further on down the chain.

Oftentimes they are able to kick it for a period of time. But when they come back, they will go back to using the opioid at the higher level than they once did before. Imagine the implication of that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, the CDC is in a position now to be able to utilize the resources it has to do a better study of making sure that we are aware of the information and resources that are being made available to those who are in the privy of relationship with these students—these can be coaches; these can be school nurses; these can be the students themselves—and then come up with a plan for us to be able to distribute this in an effective manner, all the way down through the network.

There can be appropriate use under medical care with the kind of attention to concerns about addiction so that, where there is legitimate pain—we don't want to suggest that there is never a use, but this will now create the kinds of guidelines in which there is genuine oversight if opioids are introduced.

This will also give the kinds of guidelines to local trainers and others, even local physicians, about taking more time to assess the backgrounds of individuals that they are giving the opioids to, not appreciating perhaps that a young man may be dealing with depression or other kinds of things, a binge drinker in association with that opioid that could lead to death.

All of these things are things that could be part of the CDC's approach to doing much better education so that we can prevent the next young star athlete like John from coming into opioid addiction and ultimately leading to his demise.

Let us let John's voice be heard. Let us use this as the opportunity to ensure that future student athletes are not addicted to opioids.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his work on this bill.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4969 because opioid addiction does not discriminate based on age.

H.R. 4969 requires the CDC to report on information regarding prescription opioid abuse after youth sports injuries. According to a study by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, 12 percent of male athletes and 8 percent of female athletes have used prescription opioids in the last 12 months.

According to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 80 percent of these teenagers and adolescents made the switch

to heroin after abusing opioid pain-killers, according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This is completely unacceptable and 100 percent preventable.

Every effort should be made to ensure that our youth are protected from the trap of drug abuse. That is why I am supporting H.R. 4969. We need all the information available so we can take the right steps to ensure our youth are protected.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4969.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4969, the "John Thomas Decker Act of 2016."

Our nation values the importance of transparency and availability of public information regarding prescription drugs.

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to require the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to report on the availability of information regarding prescription of opioids after youth sports injury.

This report includes the information on opioid use and misuse, injury treatments that do not involve opioids, and treatment for opioid addiction.

The report must determine the extent this information is available to teenagers and adolescents who play youth sports, their families, youth sports groups, and health care providers.

Opioids are drugs with effects similar to opium, such as heroin and certain pain medications.

In addition to stimulants and central nervous system (CNS) depressants, prescription opioids are one of the three main broad categories of medications that present abuse liability.

Due to prescription opioids' similarity to heroin and morphine, they present an intrinsic abuse and addiction liability for non-medical purposes.

Opioid, heroin, and morphine act on the same brain systems.

In an effort to increase their euphoric effects, the "high", people tend to take them in their most dangerous and addictive methods.

Understanding the dangers of these addictive drugs highlight the importance of John Thomas Decker Act, which increases awareness and educating the youth people of the adverse effects of opioids.

H.R. 4969 also allows for public transparency in making available public reports, informational materials, and resources are available to teenagers, their families, and health professionals.

Our country has acknowledged the importance of preventive healthcare and education within our nation.

Providing education to those directly or indirectly associated with opioid usage enables them to have control over their thoughts and actions, offsetting the potential for drug abuse.

I support this legislation because it will help protect the integrity of consumers through implementation of effective preventative strategies.

H.R. 4969 provides the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with specific responsibilities for dissemination.

H.R. 4969 is a positive step in the right direction and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4969, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1800

LALI'S LAW

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4586) to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to States for developing standing orders and educating health care professionals regarding the dispensing of opioid overdose reversal medication without person-specific prescriptions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4586

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "Lali's Law".

SEC. 2. OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL MEDICATION ACCESS AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) TECHNICAL CLARIFICATION.—Effective as if included in the enactment of the Children's Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-310), section 3405(a) of such Act (114 Stat. 1221) is amended by striking "Part E of title III" and inserting "Part E of title III of the Public Health Service Act".

(b) AMENDMENT.—Title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after part D of such title (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) the following new part E:

"PART E—OPIOID USE DISORDER

"SEC. 341. OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL MEDICATION ACCESS AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAMS.

"(a) GRANTS TO STATES.—The Secretary may make grants to States for—

"(1) developing standing orders for pharmacies regarding opioid overdose reversal medication;

"(2) encouraging pharmacies to dispense opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to a standing order;

"(3) implementing best practices for persons authorized to prescribe medication regarding—

"(A) prescribing opioids for the treatment of chronic pain;

"(B) co-prescribing opioid overdose reversal medication with opioids; and

"(C) discussing the purpose and administration of opioid overdose reversal medication with patients;

"(4) developing or adapting training materials and methods for persons authorized to prescribe or dispense medication to use in educating the public regarding—

"(A) when and how to administer opioid overdose reversal medication; and

"(B) steps to be taken after administering opioid overdose reversal medication; and

"(5) educating the public regarding—

"(A) the public health benefits of opioid overdose reversal medication; and

"(B) the availability of opioid overdose reversal medication without a person-specific prescription.

"(b) CERTAIN REQUIREMENT.—A grant may be made under this section only if the State involved has authorized standing orders regarding opioid overdose reversal medication.

"(c) PREFERENCE IN MAKING GRANTS.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to States that—

"(1) have not issued standing orders regarding opioid overdose reversal medication;

"(2) authorize standing orders that permit community-based organizations, substance abuse programs, or other nonprofit entities to acquire, dispense, or administer opioid overdose reversal medication;

"(3) authorize standing orders that permit police, fire, or emergency medical services agencies to acquire and administer opioid overdose reversal medication;

"(4) have a higher per capita rate of opioid overdoses than other applicant States; or

"(5) meet any other criteria deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

"(d) GRANT TERMS.—

"(1) NUMBER.—A State may not receive more than 1 grant under this section.

"(2) PERIOD.—A grant under this section shall be for a period of 3 years.

"(3) AMOUNT.—A grant under this section may not exceed \$500,000.

"(4) LIMITATION.—A State may use not more than 20 percent of a grant under this section for educating the public pursuant to subsection (a)(5).

"(e) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary in such form and manner and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including detailed proposed expenditures of grant funds.

"(f) REPORTING.—Not later than 3 months after the Secretary disburses the first grant payment to any State under this section and every 6 months thereafter for 3 years, such State shall submit a report to the Secretary that includes the following:

"(1) The name and ZIP Code of each pharmacy in the State that dispenses opioid overdose reversal medication under a standing order.

"(2) The total number of opioid overdose reversal medication doses dispensed by each such pharmacy, specifying how many were dispensed with or without a person-specific prescription.

"(3) The number of pharmacists in the State who have participated in training pursuant to subsection (a)(4).

"(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL MEDICATION.—The term 'opioid overdose reversal medication' means any drug, including naloxone, that—

"(A) blocks opioids from attaching to, but does not itself activate, opioid receptors; or

"(B) inhibits the effects of opioids on opioid receptors.

"(2) STANDING ORDER.—The term 'standing order' means a document prepared by a person authorized to prescribe medication that permits another person to acquire, dispense, or administer medication without a person-specific prescription.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2019.  
 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 3 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this section may be used by the Secretary for administrative expenses of carrying out this section.”

### SEC. 3. CUT-GO COMPLIANCE.

Subsection (f) of section 319D of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-4) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “(except such dollar amount shall be reduced by \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2017)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4586, Lali's Law, introduced by my colleagues in the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

The rate of overdose for individuals age 24 to 34 has nearly tripled, going from 8.1 overdose deaths per 100,000 to 23.1 overdose deaths per 100,000. Families across the country are losing loved ones to reversible opioid overdose. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that can prevent opioid overdose deaths by binding to the opioid receptors in the body and preventing the overdose.

H.R. 4586 amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to States for developing standing orders and educating healthcare professionals regarding the dispensing of opioid overdose reversal medication without person-specific prescriptions.

This legislation is a first step in promoting wider access of naloxone or other opioid overdose reversal drugs that may come to market. Standing orders are prescriptions that are not person-specific. If a pharmacy has a standing order, anyone needing the medication may come and fill a prescription for it.

Naloxone, while incredibly effective at stopping opioid overdose, does not have severe side effects if used incorrectly or if used when not needed. Many States have standing order laws in place but need help bridging the gap between law and a functioning program. The grants funded by this legislation will help aid that process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 4586, Lali's Law.

Mr. Speaker, between 2001 and 2014, there was a threefold increase in prescription drug overdoses and a sixfold increase in heroin overdoses in the United States. We must do more to prevent drug misuse and abuse to avoid these tragedies in the first place. We must also ensure that those suffering from addiction to prescription and non-prescription drugs have access to potentially lifesaving treatments when and where they need it.

Naloxone has proven to be a successful lifesaving intervention for patients presenting with overdose if administered quickly. When used, naloxone helps restore breathing that has been stopped by the overdose and has potential for saving thousands of lives each year.

H.R. 4586 would create a competitive grant program to help States increase access to overdose reversal medications. The primary purpose of the grant is to fund State programs that allow pharmacists to distribute overdose reversal drugs without a person-prescription to qualified individuals or entities.

To be effective, overdose reversal drugs must be given to the patient almost immediately. In an emergency situation, the ability for emergency medical technicians, law enforcement, substance abuse treatment providers, and qualified individuals to have such medications on hand can make the difference between life and death. Qualified individuals and entities often need to possess treatment before a specific patient is identified.

Many States have established and use these programs to allow local law enforcement officers or emergency medical technicians to carry and use the overdose reversal drug naloxone. H.R. 4586 would expand these programs by helping States develop standing orders and educate healthcare professionals about dispensing these medications without person-specific prescriptions.

I want to thank the bill's sponsors, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD), for introducing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4586.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my friend.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4586 because it is critical that we educate healthcare professionals about opioid overdose reversal medications.

This bill allows the CDC to authorize grants to States based on their ability to educate healthcare professionals in dispensing opioid reversal medication. Specifically, this opioid reversal medication, called naloxone, can be used in emergency situations to stop an opioid overdose death.

Also, through this bill, pharmacists will be able to dispense naloxone to patients without a prescription, increasing access to this lifesaving antidote. This access will help save lives in emergency situations when patients do not have the time or ability to seek or receive professional medical care. The World Health Organization states that this increased access will save up to 200,000 lives.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I believe it is our duty to always educate Americans about the lifesaving tools available to them. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4586 so more people can be educated and have access to lifesaving medication related to opioid overdose.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), a cosponsor of the bill.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DOLD for joining me in this legislation, and I also thank the family of Alex Laliberte for sharing their story. We offer our deepest sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, across Massachusetts and the Nation, too many parents are desperately trying to save their child from the deadly grip of the opioid crisis. In the past year alone, this public health crisis has claimed nearly 1,400 lives in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The bill before us today, Lali's Law, is a critical part of addressing this crisis.

Naloxone, commonly known as Narcan, is a lifesaving drug. It stops the effect of heroin within minutes after it is administered, and it allows breathing to resume. But it is critical that it is widely available.

Under this bill, States that have authorized a standing order that allows anyone to obtain naloxone from a pharmacist would be eligible for a grant that can be used for public education campaigns and training for healthcare providers and pharmacists.

I want to share the story of a family from my district that illustrates the difference training and the availability of Narcan can make.

One night, a 9-1-1 call came in, a desperate and frantic new mother with a very young baby who was unresponsive. The first responders arrived at the scene, but despite their best efforts, this baby was not reviving. A responding firefighter relied on his training and quick thinking to save this child's life by administering Narcan. It worked.



Even though the mom had not revealed that she was addicted to prescription painkillers, the first responder knew the symptoms and made the right guess and saved this child's life. If he had not been trained to administer Narcan and not had the life-saving drug with him that night, that baby would not be alive. But the man was, and now the baby and mom have a future.

This crisis presents an urgent calling for all of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, to put aside our differences and do what we can to save lives. That is what we are talking about here: increasing the availability of Narcan will save lives.

I am happy to join with my friend from Illinois to offer this important bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD), my good friend.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend for yielding. I want to thank my friend from Massachusetts for her work on this legislation. Representative CLARK sharing that story is extremely powerful.

In the suburbs of Chicago, Mr. Speaker, somebody dies from using heroin every 3 days. Nationally, that statistic is 1 every 19 minutes. Every single one of them leaves behind a family in grief.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am joined in the Chamber by Chelsea Laliberte, Jody Daitchman, and Gary Laliberte, the family of a young man from Buffalo Grove named Alex.

Alex graduated from Stevenson High School. He played sports. He got good grades and made a lot of friends. He was a typical teenager who had his whole life ahead of him. But behind his happy exterior, Alex was sick. He was struggling with escalating drug abuse.

During Alex's sophomore year in college, he came down with an unknown illness. He would go to the hospital, and he would get better—at least for a while. But then a few months later he would get sick. He would be admitted to the hospital and again would repeat the cycle. His family didn't know it then, but Alex was dependent on prescription drugs and was suffering from withdrawal.

Alex continued this pattern until just a few days before his final exams. At that point in time, Alex actually overdosed on prescription drugs and heroin and, at the age of 20, passed away. His family never even had the chance to seek help for his dependency.

Unfortunately, this story is far too common across our country.

As a father, I can't even imagine the pain of losing a child to a drug overdose; but sadly, too many families like the Lalibertes have experienced this loss. Heroin and heroin abuse have become an epidemic in our country.

During my work as the co-chair of the Suburban Anti-Heroin Task Force,

I have met countless families who have been affected by drug abuse—literally torn apart. This is not an isolated issue. It affects every community, every ZIP Code, regardless of your socioeconomic status, regardless of your educational status.

I talk to parents who say, "It is not in my community." It is. It is in your community, let me just assure you.

My work with Live4Lali and the Lake County Opioid Initiative inspired me to introduce this law with Representative CLARK. Our bipartisan bill is named in Alex Laliberte's memory.

Lali's Law increases access to a life-saving antidote called naloxone, which, in Lake County, Illinois, has already saved nearly 100 lives since first responders and the police force requested the opportunity to be able to use this lifesaving antidote. The police officers actually would respond, would get there before the paramedics—often 5 to 7, sometimes 9 minutes faster—and refused to sit by idly as they watched these young people die from an overdose.

When used properly, naloxone helps restore breathing that has been stopped by an overdose. You have heard the statistics, but the World Health Organization predicts that increased access to naloxone could save another 20,000 lives each and every year.

Lali's Law is a decisive step to not only save young people like Alex Laliberte from falling victim to drug abuse, but also to help those in our communities struggling to get their lives back on track. Our bill—and, frankly, the work that has been done here in this body today, and I think we have got some 18 different bipartisan bills coming together to try to solve this prescription drug epidemic, this heroin epidemic that is sweeping our country—is proof of what is possible when we set aside partisanship and get to work for the people that we all represent.

Lali's Law has already brought Alex's story to the United States Congress and has amplified the lifesaving benefit of Live4Lali's amazing work. Now, by passing this overwhelming bipartisan bill, we can ensure that Alex's lasting legacy includes helping countless others get a second chance at recovery and saving their families from the unbearable heartbreak.

Mr. Speaker, together, we truly can save lives.

Again, I want to thank Representative CLARK. I want to thank the Laliberte family. I want to thank the first responders, the stakeholders back in Lake County, and all those here in this body who are working to try to create an environment, create the opportunity for us to be able to take a huge step forward in combating this prescription drug and heroin epidemic.

I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

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Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4586.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4586, also known as Lali's Law.

Sadly, Lali's Law was named after Alex Laliberte: a Buffalo Grove, Illinois resident who tragically passed away seven years ago from a drug overdose.

Alex was a good kid. He was an athlete during high school, and also did well academically.

During his sophomore year in college, he began being hospitalized for a mysterious illness.

Unknown to his friends and family, Alex soon developed an addiction to the prescription drugs and was being hospitalized for withdrawal.

He would stay in the hospital until his symptoms subsided only to leave the hospital and repeat the cycle.

Alex continued this cycle until he died of an opioid overdose a few days before his final exams.

He was only 20 years old.

Our lack of education on opioids and harm reduction contributed to Alex's early death, and we must act to prevent a repeat of this tragedy.

Lali's Law is an important piece of legislation that would authorize grants to states to develop standing orders and educate health care professionals about the dispensing of opioid overdose reversal medication without person-specific prescriptions.

In addition, this bill would encourage pharmacies to dispense opioid overdose reversal medication pursuant to a standing order.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2.1 million people nationwide abuse opioids.

Mr. Speaker, Lali's Law is instrumental in helping these victims reverse their addiction.

Lali's Law would also implement the following guidelines and practices for those people authorized to prescribe the medication:

Only prescribe opioids for chronic pain  
Opioid overdose reversal medication must be co-prescribed with opioids; and  
the purpose and administration of opioid overdose reversal medication must be discussed with the patients.

Furthermore, H.R. 4586 would require the development and adaptation of training materials and methods for the people authorized to prescribe or dispense the medication to use in educating the public, which includes:

When and how to administer opioid overdose reversal medication, and

The steps that should be taken after administering the opioid overdose reversal medication.

Lastly, Lali's Law would educate the public regarding the health benefits of the opioid reversal medication and the availability of the medication without a person-specific prescription.

In 2014, rates of opioid overdose deaths jumped significantly, from 7.9 per 100,000 in

2013 to 9.0 per 100,000, which is a 14 percent increase.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in support of H.R. 4586.

This legislation is vital for reducing opioid-related deaths across our nation, protecting the lives of those at risk to opioid abuse.

It is our job to make sure that Alex's lasting legacy includes helping others get a second chance at recovery and a second chance at life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4586, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### REDUCING UNUSED MEDICATIONS ACT OF 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4599) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to permit certain partial fillings of prescriptions, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4599

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016".*

##### SEC. 2. PARTIAL FILLS OF SCHEDULE II CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 309 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 829) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*“(f) PARTIAL FILLS OF SCHEDULE II CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.—*

*“(1) PARTIAL FILLS.—*

*“(A) IN GENERAL.—A prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II may be partially filled if—*

*“(i) it is not prohibited by State law;*

*“(ii) the prescription is written and filled in accordance with the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), regulations prescribed by the Attorney General, and State law;*

*“(iii) the partial fill is requested by the patient or the practitioner that wrote the prescription; and*

*“(iv) the total quantity dispensed in all partial fillings does not exceed the total quantity prescribed.*

*“(B) OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.—A prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II may be partially filled in accordance with section 1306.13 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016).*

*“(2) REMAINING PORTIONS.—*

*“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), remaining portions of a partially*

*filled prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II—*

*“(i) may be filled; and*

*“(ii) shall be filled not later than 30 days after the date on which the prescription is written.*

*“(B) EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.—In emergency situations, as described in subsection (a), the remaining portions of a partially filled prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II—*

*“(i) may be filled; and*

*“(ii) shall be filled not later than 72 hours after the prescription is issued.”*

*(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority of the Attorney General to allow a prescription for a controlled substance in schedule III, IV, or V of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) to be partially filled.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4599, the Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016, introduced by Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. STIVERS of Ohio.

The number of prescriptions for opioids has significantly increased in recent years. While opioids can benefit patients when used appropriately, once their pain is subsided, there may be unused pills that could be misused and diverted.

Several States have considered enabling pharmacies to partially fill such prescriptions to minimize the number of pills in circulation while continuing to address the patient needs. However, current DEA regulations are not entirely clear about when such partial fills are permitted.

H.R. 4599 amends the Controlled Substances Act to clarify when schedule II controlled substances, including opioid pain medications, can be partially filled. This is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that will help save lives.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for H.R. 4599, Reducing Unused Medications Act.

Opioid abuse in the United States is rising at alarming rates. In 2014, nearly 2 million Americans abused or were addicted to prescription opioids. Opioids

are now one of the most prescribed classes of medications, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that over 70 percent of adults who misuse prescription opioids get them from a friend or relative.

A promising step to reduce the number of prescription opioids is a permanent partial filling of these prescriptions. Current Drug Enforcement Administration regulations allow pharmacists to partially fill prescriptions for schedule III, IV, and V substances, however, only allow partial fulfillment of schedule II substances in long-term-care settings or to terminally ill patients and when the full prescription cannot be supplied.

While these regulations do not explicitly prohibit a pharmacist from partially filling prescriptions for schedule II substances outside of these certain limited circumstances, DEA recognizes that the regulations lack clarity as to when partial filling of schedule II substances is permitted. This bill would provide clarity.

The Reducing Unused Medications Act would allow pharmacists, at the request of patients or doctors, to partially fill prescriptions for schedule II drugs, such as opioids, meaning that a patient or doctor can request to receive a 10-day supply of a 30-day prescription initially and then return later to receive the remaining portion, if needed. This flexibility may help reduce the number of unused pills in circulation and reduce the risk of substance misuse, diversion, and overdose.

The bipartisan bill before us reflects a careful compromise that holds the potential to reduce the amount of unused opioid medications in circulation and is an important step in helping curb a growing opioid epidemic.

I want to thank Representatives CLARK and STIVERS for their leadership in sponsoring this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the Reducing Unused Medications Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the sponsor of this bill.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, over the last decade, we have seen a staggering increase of opioid overdose deaths. In 2015, this epidemic claimed 125 lives in my district alone. There are a lot of different causes of this crisis, but the number of prescription opioids in circulation is a critical factor.

Over the last 15 years, the amount of prescription painkillers has quadrupled and generic Vicodin is now the most prescribed drug to Medicare beneficiaries.

Now, we know that often patients don't use all the opioids they are prescribed. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, over 70 percent of adults who misuse prescription

drugs get them from friends or relatives.

Millions of half-filled bottles of unused and unwanted prescription drugs line our families' medicine cabinets, and too often that is where opioid addiction begins.

One promising way to reduce the amount of unused and unwanted painkillers that are fueling this public health crisis is by allowing patients and doctors to only partially fill opioid prescriptions.

By allowing pharmacists to partially fill a prescription for opioids at the request of a patient or doctor, we can reduce the number of unused pills and help stop pill diversion and misuse.

Currently, the DEA allows partial filling of prescriptions for many drugs, but the regulations are narrower and less clear for opioid drugs. That is why I, along with Representative STIVERS, have introduced the Reducing Unused Medications Act.

This legislation will resolve any ambiguity and clearly establish that a prescription for schedule II substances, like opioid painkillers, may be partially filled upon the request of a patient or doctor.

We have all heard the stories. Just last weekend I ran into a dad whose son had been given a 30-day prescription of opioid painkillers for having a wisdom tooth taken out, and he had just received an unwanted prescription, also for 30 days, after having minor surgery.

This bill will empower patients to manage their prescriptions and can be a critical tool in an effort to address the opioid epidemic. This is a commonsense bill that will help us stop the misuse of prescription drugs that has fueled the use of heroin and this opioid epidemic.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4599, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for H.R. 4599, commonsense legislation that offers the potential to reduce the number of unused and unwanted prescription opioids that have been misused or diverted as a part of the opioid epidemic.

The number of prescription opioids dispensed in the U.S. has nearly quadrupled in the last 15 years, and over 70 percent of adults who misuse prescription opioids get them from a friend or a relative. This is often due to the fact that many patients fill legitimate prescriptions for opioids and for one reason or another do not use the entirety of the prescription.

One way to help reduce the amount of unused opioid medications in home medicine cabinets is to permit the partial filling of Schedule II prescriptions. Partial fill policies allow providers, pharmacists, and patients the option to dispense a portion of a prescription

with the option of filling the total amount of the prescription at a later time. For example, a patient or practitioner could request that 10 or 15 days of a 30-day prescription be dispensed initially with the remaining portion available later if needed. It is hoped that this additional flexibility would reduce the number of unused pills in circulation and ultimately reduce misuse and diversion of these prescription opioids.

Current Drug Enforcement Administration regulations allow pharmacists to partially fill prescriptions for Schedule III, IV, and V substances, however, Schedule II substances can only be partially filled in long term care settings, for terminally ill patients, or when the full prescription cannot be supplied. While these regulations do not prohibit partially filling prescriptions for Schedule II substances in other situations, the DEA has acknowledged that the regulations may need to be amended to provide additional clarity as to when partial fill of Schedule II substances is allowable.

The Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2015 was introduced in the House by Representatives KATHERINE CLARK (D-MA) and STEVE STIVERS (R-OH) to do just that—provide additional clarity regarding when Schedule II prescriptions may be partially filled under the Controlled Substances Act.

In addition to the circumstances outlined in current DEA regulations, H.R. 4599 would also allow partial fill of Schedule II substances if requested by a doctor or patient, as long as the prescription is written and dispensed according to federal and state law. It further makes clear that remaining portions of a partially filled prescription for a Schedule II substance may not be filled later than 30 days after the date the prescription is written.

Partial fills would also be allowed in emergency situations, with the remaining portion to be filled not later than 72 hours after the prescription is issued. This legislation does not impact the ability of Schedule III, IV, or V prescriptions to be partially filled.

H.R. 4599 is the result of careful compromise among the authors of this legislation, the stakeholders, and our Committee members, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4599 the "Reducing Unused Medication Act of 2016".

This bill is an important measure that will decrease the number of unused medications available for misuse to the public by setting limitations on the most frequent avenues used to secure unused medication.

As we know, many times patients are prescribed medication far beyond their needs.

Unused prescription medication creates a lethal danger to households and communities across America, and failing to properly dispose of unfinished medications can have dire consequences on the environment and our ecosystem.

According to a new study conducted by Geisinger Health System and published in the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association just 11 percent of unused prescription drugs were disposed of via drug take-back programs, while 55 percent were left in the medicine cabinet, 14 percent were thrown in the trash, and 9 percent were flushed down the toilet.

As we have heard many unfortunate stories as we bring greater awareness to this issue, we know that abuse of medicine among teenagers is a growing problem.

Easy access to parents' and grandparents' leftover medications is just throwing gasoline on the fire.

Meanwhile, more than 60,000 young children are taken to the emergency room each year after ingesting a family member's medication.

With respect to the environment, the FDA no longer recommends flushing drugs down the toilet because sewage treatment plants lack the capacity to remove pharmaceuticals and personal care products' residue.

H.R. 4599 will amend the Controlled Substances Act to permit certain fillings of prescriptions—such that a prescription for a controlled substance may be partially filled if:

It is not prohibited by state law;

The prescription is written and filled in accordance with the Controlled Substances Act, regulations prescribed by the Attorney General, and State law;

The partial fill is requested by the patient or the practitioner that wrote the prescription; and

The total quantity dispensed in all partial fillings does not exceed the total quantity prescribed.

Mr. Speaker, enacting this legislation will work to not only combat a number of prescription drug abuses, but also deal a debilitating blow to the mounting opioid abuse epidemic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZINKE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4599, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXAMINING OPIOID TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4982) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate and report on the in-patient and outpatient treatment capacity, availability, and needs of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4982

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2016".*

#### SEC. 2. STUDY ON TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE.

*Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate an evaluation, and submit to Congress a report, of the inpatient and outpatient treatment capacity, availability, and needs of the United States, which shall include, to the extent data are available—*

(1) the capacity of acute residential or inpatient detoxification programs;

(2) the capacity of inpatient clinical stabilization programs, transitional residential support services, and residential rehabilitation programs;

(3) the capacity of demographic specific residential or inpatient treatment programs, such as those designed for pregnant women or adolescents;

(4) geographical differences of the availability of residential and outpatient treatment and recovery options for substance use disorders across the continuum of care;

(5) the availability of residential and outpatient treatment programs that offer treatment options based on reliable scientific evidence of efficacy for the treatment of substance use disorders, including the use of Food and Drug Administration-approved medicines and evidence-based nonpharmacological therapies;

(6) the number of patients in residential and specialty outpatient treatment services for substance use disorders;

(7) an assessment of the need for residential and outpatient treatment for substance use disorders across the continuum of care;

(8) the availability of residential and outpatient treatment programs to American Indians and Alaska Natives through an Indian health program (as defined by section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)); and

(9) the barriers (including technological barriers) at the Federal, State, and local levels to real-time reporting of de-identified information on drug overdoses and ways to overcome such barriers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4982, Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2016, introduced by my colleagues, the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. PALLONE of New Jersey, and Mr. FOSTER of Illinois.

H.R. 4982 directs the Government Accountability Office to evaluate and report on the inpatient and outpatient treatment capacity, availability, and needs of the United States. It is important to have the data necessary to assess the opioid infrastructure in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4982, Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act.

Opioid use disorder is a chronic disease that can be effectively treated, but it requires ongoing management. As the current epidemic has drawn sharply into focus, significantly more resources are needed to ensure availability of and access to evidence-based treatment.

A public health-based approach to drug abuse and addiction requires having broad-based treatment services available for those with opioid use disorders, including both behavioral therapies and proven medication-assisted treatment and insurance coverage for such treatment.

Medication-assisted treatment is often in combination with behavioral treatment, which has been shown to be highly effective in the treatment of opioid addiction.

However, many patients in need of treatment face significant barriers. Physicians cite barriers finding and placing patients in addiction treatment and recovery programs.

Current capacity of treatment and recovery programs is inadequate to meet the population's needs. There are too few physicians and programs offering treatment and recovery services.

In order to address these shortages, better information and data is needed for our existing opioid treatment infrastructure. H.R. 4982, the Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act, will direct the GAO to conduct a study on the inpatient and outpatient treatment capacity of the United States.

It instructs the agency to examine the capacity of acute residential or inpatient detoxification programs, inpatient clinical stabilization programs, transitional residential support services, and residential rehabilitation programs.

The GAO is directed to report on geographic differences in the availability of treatment and recovery programs for substance abuse disorders; the availability of programs that offer evidence-based treatment options, including the use of FDA-approved medications; and the number of patients' different treatment settings.

Finally, the agency would include an assessment of the need for residential and outpatient treatment for substance use disorders across the continuum of care.

We must face this crisis head-on and address the serious gaps in evidence-based treatment. The Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act will help us do this.

I want to thank the bill's sponsor, Representative BILL FOSTER, for introducing this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support the act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my friend.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4599 because treatment of addiction to opioid painkillers and heroin is vital in fighting the U.S. drug abuse epidemic.

H.R. 4982 requires the Government Accountability Office to report on inpatient and outpatient treatment capacities, detoxification programs, rehabilitation programs, and treatment programs for pregnant women and adolescents.

Inpatient and outpatient treatment centers are usually one of the biggest obstacles communities face when trying to help people who are fighting addiction. Unfortunately, for most communities, local treatment facilities are few and far between and many of them are full.

As a lifelong healthcare professional, I believe the only way we will be able to adequately fight this opioid abuse epidemic is if we work together.

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We need to adequately understand the treatment services that are available to people with addiction across the country so we can use these tools to their fullest extent. That is why I am supporting H.R. 4982. By understanding all the tools the community can use, we can begin to fight this epidemic.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill so we can begin to leverage our resources to help our communities fight opioid abuse.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER), a cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GREEN for yielding me the time.

My bill, H.R. 4982, the Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2016, is straightforward, and it is bipartisan.

If we are ever going to get a handle on the heroin and opioid epidemic tearing through our communities, we have to know what we are dealing with. We need data, and we need to know what capacity we have in place and what capacity we need to treat this epidemic so that we can make smart and adequate investments, which is why we need this bill.

This important bill directs a study of the inpatient and outpatient addiction treatment capacity and availability throughout the U.S., as well as an assessment of the needed types and numbers of treatment options.

It seems simple, but there is no better place to start than at the beginning, with an understanding of the addiction treatment infrastructure that we have versus the need for that infrastructure.

When I was first elected to Congress, I was not prepared to hear the stories

from family members who had lost a loved one due to substance abuse. My office often gets calls from parents wanting to share their stories of the children they have lost to addiction.

While opioid addiction may start in many ways, it ends with a scientifically understood, increasingly treatable medical condition in which the biochemical pathways necessary to normal decisionmaking in the brain have been hijacked, and the chemistry of the brain permanently altered.

The more we learn about the science of addiction, the more convinced we become that the best path forward is treating addiction like the medical, biochemical condition that it is. To do this successfully, we need the correct number and types of addiction treatment facilities.

That is why I introduced the Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2016, with my friend from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

We know that opioid use and abuse has become an epidemic, and now let's make sure that we know the real numbers we are dealing with so we can allocate the necessary resources.

I urge support of the Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2016.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4982.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4982, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION ACT**

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4981) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to improve access to opioid use disorder treatment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4981

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act".

**SEC. 2. FINDING.**

The Congress finds that opioid use disorder has become a public health epidemic that

must be addressed by increasing awareness and access to all treatment options for opioid use disorder, overdose reversal, and relapse prevention.

**SEC. 3. OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT MODERNIZATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(g)(2) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) and inserting the following:

“(i) The practitioner is a qualifying practitioner (as defined in subparagraph (G)).

“(ii) With respect to patients to whom the practitioner will provide such drugs or combinations of drugs, the practitioner has the capacity to provide directly, by referral, or in such other manner as determined by the Secretary—

“(I) all schedule III, IV, and V drugs, as well as unscheduled medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration, for the treatment of opioid use disorder, including such drugs and medications for maintenance, detoxification, overdose reversal, and relapse prevention, as available; and

“(II) appropriate counseling and other appropriate ancillary services.

“(iii)(I) The total number of such patients of the practitioner at any one time will not exceed the applicable number. Except as provided in subclause (II), the applicable number is 30.

“(II) The applicable number is 100 if, not sooner than 1 year after the date on which the practitioner submitted the initial notification, the practitioner submits a second notification to the Secretary of the need and intent of the practitioner to treat up to 100 patients.

“(III) The Secretary may by regulation change such total number.

“(IV) The Secretary may exclude from the applicable number patients to whom such drugs or combinations of drugs are directly administered by the qualifying practitioner in the office setting.

“(iv) If the Secretary by regulation increases the total number of patients which a qualifying practitioner is permitted to treat pursuant to clause (iii)(II), the Secretary shall require such a practitioner to obtain a written agreement from each patient, including the patient's signature, that the patient—

“(I) will receive an initial assessment and treatment plan and periodic assessments and treatment plans thereafter;

“(II) will be subject to medication adherence and substance use monitoring;

“(III) understands available treatment options, including all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder, including their potential risks and benefits; and

“(IV) understands that receiving regular counseling services is critical to recovery.

“(v) The practitioner will comply with the reporting requirements of subparagraph (D)(i)(IV).”;

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) The practitioner reports to the Secretary, at such times and in such manner as specified by the Secretary, such information and assurances as the Secretary determines necessary to assess whether the practitioner continues to meet the requirements for a waiver under this paragraph.”;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “Upon receiving a notification under subparagraph (B)” and inserting “Upon receiving a determination from the Secretary under clause (iii)

finding that a practitioner meets all requirements for a waiver under subparagraph (B)”; and

(C) in clause (iii)—

(i) by inserting “and shall forward such determination to the Attorney General” before the period at the end of the first sentence; and

(ii) by striking “physician” and inserting “practitioner”;

(3) in subparagraph (G)—

(A) by amending clause (ii)(IV) to read as follows:

“(IV) The physician has, with respect to the treatment and management of opiate-dependent patients, completed not less than eight hours of training (through classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications, or otherwise) that is provided by the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Psychiatric Association, or any other organization that the Secretary determines is appropriate for purposes of this subclause. Such training shall address—

“(aa) opioid maintenance and detoxification;

“(bb) appropriate clinical use of all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder;

“(cc) initial and periodic patient assessments (including substance use monitoring);

“(dd) individualized treatment planning; overdose reversal; relapse prevention;

“(ee) counseling and recovery support services;

“(ff) staffing roles and considerations;

“(gg) diversion control; and

“(hh) other best practices, as identified by the Secretary.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) The term ‘qualifying practitioner’ means—

“(I) a qualifying physician, as defined in clause (ii); or

“(II) during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act and ending on the date that is three years after such date of enactment, a qualifying other practitioner, as defined in clause (iv).

“(iv) The term ‘qualifying other practitioner’ means a nurse practitioner or physician assistant who satisfies each of the following:

“(I) The nurse practitioner or physician assistant is licensed under State law to prescribe schedule III, IV, or V medications for the treatment of pain.

“(II) The nurse practitioner or physician assistant satisfies 1 or more of the following:

“(aa) Has completed not fewer than 24 hours of initial training addressing each of the topics listed in clause (ii)(IV) (through classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications, or otherwise) provided by the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, or any other organization that the Secretary determines is appropriate for purposes of this subclause.

“(bb) Has such other training or experience as the Secretary determines will demonstrate the ability of the nurse practitioner

or physician assistant to treat and manage opiate-dependent patients.

“(III) The nurse practitioner or physician assistant is supervised by or works in collaboration with a qualifying physician, if the nurse practitioner or physician assistant is required by State law to prescribe medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder in collaboration with or under the supervision of a physician.

The Secretary may review and update the requirements for being a qualifying other practitioner under this clause.”; and

(4) in subparagraph (H)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting after subclause (II) the following:

“(III) Such other elements of the requirements under this paragraph as the Secretary determines necessary for purposes of implementing such requirements.”; and

(B) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act, the Secretary shall update the treatment improvement protocol containing best practice guidelines for the treatment of opioid-dependent patients in office-based settings. The Secretary shall update such protocol in consultation with experts in opioid use disorder research and treatment.”.

(b) **RECOMMENDATION OF REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION IN CASE OF SUBSTANTIAL NONCOMPLIANCE.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may recommend to the Attorney General that the registration of a practitioner be revoked or suspended if the Secretary determines, according to such criteria as the Secretary establishes by regulation, that a practitioner who is registered under section 303(g)(2) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2)) is not in substantial compliance with the requirements of such section, as amended by this Act.

(c) **OPIOID DEFINED.**—Section 102(18) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802(18)) is amended by inserting “or ‘opiate’” after “The term ‘opiate’”.

(d) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and not less than over every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Drug Enforcement Administration and experts in opioid use disorder research and treatment, shall—

(A) perform a thorough review of the provision of opioid use disorder treatment services in the United States, including services provided in opioid treatment programs and other specialty and nonspecialty settings; and

(B) submit a report to the Congress on the findings and conclusions of such review.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of—

(A) compliance with the requirements of section 303(g)(2) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2)), as amended by this Act;

(B) the measures taken by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure such compliance;

(C) whether there is further need to increase or decrease the number of patients a waived practitioner is permitted to treat, as provided for by the amendment made by subsection (a)(1);

(D) the extent to which, and proportions with which, the full range of Food and Drug Administration-approved treatments for opioid use disorder are used in routine health

care settings and specialty substance use disorder treatment settings;

(E) access to, and use of, counseling and recovery support services, including the percentage of patients receiving such services;

(F) changes in State or local policies and legislation relating to opioid use disorder treatment;

(G) the use of prescription drug monitoring programs by practitioners who are permitted to dispense narcotic drugs to individuals pursuant to a waiver under section 303(g)(2) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2));

(H) the findings resulting from inspections by the Drug Enforcement Administration of practitioners described in subparagraph (G); and

(I) the effectiveness of cross-agency collaboration between Department of Health and Human Services and the Drug Enforcement Administration for expanding effective opioid use disorder treatment.

#### SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the Sense of Congress that, with respect to the total number of patients that a qualifying physician (as defined in subparagraph (G)(iii) of section 303(g)(2) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2))) can treat at any one time pursuant to such section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services should consider raising such total number to 250 patients following a third notification to the Secretary of the need and intent of the physician to treat up to 250 patients that is submitted to the Secretary not sooner than 1 year after the date on which the physician submitted to the Secretary a second notification to treat up to 100 patients.

#### SEC. 5. PARTIAL FILLS OF SCHEDULE II CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 309 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 829) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **PARTIAL FILLS OF SCHEDULE II CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**—

“(1) **PARTIAL FILLS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II may be partially filled if—

“(i) it is not prohibited by State law;

“(ii) the prescription is written and filled in accordance with the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), regulations prescribed by the Attorney General, and State law;

“(iii) the partial fill is requested by the patient or the practitioner that wrote the prescription; and

“(iv) the total quantity dispensed in all partial fillings does not exceed the total quantity prescribed.

“(B) **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.**—A prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II may be partially filled in accordance with section 1306.13 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016).

“(2) **REMAINING PORTIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), remaining portions of a partially filled prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II—

“(i) may be filled; and

“(ii) shall be filled not later than 30 days after the date on which the prescription is written.

“(B) **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**—In emergency situations, as described in subsection (a), the remaining portions of a partially filled prescription for a controlled substance in schedule II—

“(i) may be filled; and

“(ii) shall be filled not later than 72 hours after the prescription is issued.”.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority of the Attorney General to allow a prescription for a controlled substance in schedule III, IV, or V of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) to be partially filled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act, introduced by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

More than 2 million Americans are living with a substance use disorder. Evidence strongly suggests that medication-assisted treatment can have a significant impact on combating this epidemic.

H.R. 4981 would amend the Controlled Substance Act to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for patients with substance use disorders while improving the quality of care provided and minimizing the potential for drug diversion.

For the first time, this bill would authorize nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe maintenance treatment in an office-based setting after meeting certain training requirements.

H.R. 4981 would improve the training that all qualifying practitioners receive, and it would maintain the critical role counseling and other recovery support services play in the provision of quality medication-assisted treatment.

Further, the bill would require HHS to perform a thorough review of opioid use disorder so we know what is working well and where there is a need for further improvement.

H.R. 4981 is the product of extensive bipartisan discussion at the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act.

Despite the fact that we are in the middle of an unprecedented opioid and heroin crisis, we know that treatment gaps continue to limit our ability to address the growing crisis. Only 1 in 10 people struggling with addiction receive any form of treatment, despite the fact that we have evidence-based, medication-assisted treatment for those struggling with prescription drug or heroin addiction.

One available treatment is buprenorphine. The medication is safely prescribed from an office setting similar to any other medication a patient might take.

Unfortunately, in the midst of our current opioid epidemic, currently, physicians are restricted to how many patients they are allowed to treat with this medication, and nurse practitioners and physician assistants are not allowed to treat patients with this medication at all.

As a result, many patients are placed on prolonged waiting lists with addiction specialists as they await access to this treatment. This is not acceptable.

We must significantly increase the cap of the number of patients a physician can treat, as well as permanently allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat patients with this medication.

Today's legislation is not perfect, but it is the first step toward reaching bicameral, bipartisan agreement on a package that meets these goals. I remain committed to working with my colleagues to expand access to this important evidence-based treatment as we move to conference with the Senate.

I want to thank the bill's sponsors, fellow members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Representative PAUL TONKO and Representative LARRY BUCSHON, for introducing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), a cosponsor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act, is the product of months of stakeholder engagement, expert input, and bipartisan negotiation.

The opioid epidemic has left no area of this Nation untouched. Day in and day out, we hear from our constituents and see in the news the direct impact this has on the everyday lives of our fellow citizens.

The evidence is clear that this epidemic is growing and it will continue to grow unless immediate action is taken.

As a doctor, a father, and a public policymaker, I want to do my part to help our communities overcome this challenge. That is why I am proud to offer H.R. 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act today with my colleague from New York (Mr. TONKO).

We have worked together over the past several months to find common ground and move forward with a well-crafted policy solution. Our final bill represents months of stakeholder engagement and bipartisan work to improve access and quality treatment for opioid use disorder while limiting diversion of treatment medications for abuse themselves.

H.R. 4981 targets four main areas:

Increase access to opioid use disorder treatment where it is most needed;

Empower physicians through education, training, and quality-of-care measures;

Encourage a multi-pronged approach to opioid use disorder treatment;

Deter bad actors and reduce diversion, as previously was mentioned.

This is a positive step toward increasing access for treatment for opioid use disorder while raising the quality of care and reducing diversion.

Again, I want to thank Mr. TONKO and all those who have worked with us throughout this process. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4981's passage, and I look forward to productive discussions with the Senate to get critical opioid legislation to the President's desk.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), a fellow member on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

I rise in support of H.R. 4981, Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act, which I have had the honor of working on with my colleague and friend, Representative LARRY BUCSHON, in introducing.

At the outset, I would like to thank Representative BUCSHON and his staff, as well as the hard work of individuals on the committee staff, and our committee leaders, Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE, to get this bill to this point.

I would also like to praise my colleague and fellow New Yorker, Representative BRIAN HIGGINS, for his introduction and leadership on the TREAT Act, without which we would not be making this progress today.

It is no hyperbole to announce that we are in a crisis when it comes to the opioid epidemic sweeping our Nation. More than 47,000 people have died of drug overdoses in 2014—family members, friends, and neighbors within that 47,000, for each and every one of us—a vast majority of which were opioid-related.

It is a sign of the times that when you drive down the thruway in my district in upstate New York, instead of billboards advertising for McDonald's or Taco Bell, you see billboards advising to you call 911 in case of an opioid overdose.

It is disturbing how quickly this has become the new normal. This crisis has affected our neighbors, our families, and our beloved communities.

Having worked with the addiction recovery community, I know that one of the most important things we can do as policymakers is to ensure that when an individual struggling with addiction cries out for help, that there is someone there to answer the call. That is what this bill endeavors to do.

Right now, treatment capacity for those seeking help for opioid use disorder in an office-based setting is artificially capped at 100 patients. What this means in reality is that if you are patient 101 or 102, you get a closed door and have to wait weeks, if not months, for treatment. Expectedly, these delays can be deadly.

The legislation before us will support the goal of raising the caps for qualified physicians to 250, expanding existing opioid treatment capacity by some 150 percent, all while ensuring the care that individuals receive is high quality and minimizes the risk of diversion.

In addition, this legislation will, for the first time, expand buprenorphine-prescribing authority to nurse practitioners and physician assistants who meet certain training requirements and comply with applicable State laws.

By bringing these practitioners into the fold, we can expand treatment capacity, especially in rural areas where physicians oftentimes might be few and far between.

Importantly, this bill expands access to high-quality addiction treatment, promoting the full range of psychosocial services that makes recovery possible, and providing HHS with new tools to remove bad actors from the system.

Any Member interested in decreasing the unlawful diversion of buprenorphine should support this legislation.

This legislation is not perfect, and I would still like to see a higher patient limit for the top class of physicians.

In the midst of this crisis, ensuring access for all needs to be our utmost top priority. No matter where we ultimately land on this arbitrary number, we will still be closing the door on someone who needs our help. We would not accept this in any other field of medicine, so we all need to think long and hard about why we are allowing this situation to persist in the field of addiction.

In addition, I would like to draw attention to two changes made to this bill before floor consideration. First, instead of statutorily lifting the DATA

2000 caps, this legislation includes a sense of Congress, if you will, that the caps should be lifted.

Secondly, this legislation would time-limit the expansion of prescribing authority to nurse practitioners and physician assistants to some 3 years.

Both of these temporary changes were made to bring the bill into compliance with PAYGO procedures for floor consideration and must be fixed as we move this bill into conference.

□ 1845

I would just ask, Mr. Speaker, are we firm in our commitment to combat the addiction to heroin? Are we firm in our efforts to assist those who struggle with the illness of addiction? Do we stand for providing true hope to individuals who count on us to provide the resources along with the legislation to make life available to them?

I would suggest that this House and the Senate look hard and fast at providing resources that are real and that provide for an effective outcome. If we fail to find a path forward for a meaningful expansion of the physician caps and certainly the nurse practitioners' and physician assistants' prescribing authority, then we are rationing care, pure and simple.

The starting point for any conference discussion should be the bill as reported out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. In any final legislation, we must include a statutory lifting of the DATA 2000 caps as well as full authority for our NPs and PAs. I would ask for the commitment of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in continuing to work toward these goals.

Notwithstanding these issues, I believe it is critically important to keep up the momentum and to pass this bill. Even in its imperfect form, this bill will make a huge difference in the lives of those who struggle with this disease. If we cannot find a way to get a bill to the President's desk that will provide needed relief in the midst of this epidemic, shame on us.

While this legislation is not a cure-all for the opioid epidemic, I believe the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act will go far in helping to alleviate our acute treatment capacity issues and put more people on the path to recovery. I ask my colleagues in this House and down the hall in the Senate to support a bill—this bill—so that we can bring hope, truly bring hope into the lives of those individuals, those families, and those communities who grapple with this crisis on a daily basis.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, people come here to the people's House from all walks of life. We are blessed to have a pharmacist amongst us. The only pharmacist here. These are difficult issues. Legal prescription drugs are diverted and

abused, and heroin is illegal. It is great to have his expertise.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding and for his efforts, along with Dr. BUCSHON and others across the aisle, Congressman GENE GREEN and all those who have been involved in this. This is a very important subject.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4981 because making sure modern treatments are available for opioid addiction should be one of our top priorities in the fight against opioid drug abuse.

H.R. 4981 makes reforms to the Controlled Substances Act that would modernize the way doctors approach opioid addiction and how patients obtain treatment. These reforms, which make treatment tools more available to patients, are one more step we can take to improve treatment services for patients. With these reforms, more patients will receive higher quality care, increasing the success of overall treatment.

As a lifelong healthcare professional, I have witnessed patients firsthand who have struggled with receiving care for their addiction. We must stop the cycle of failing to provide patients with proper care because the system is not adequately structured to provide it.

The only way we are able to provide the appropriate care is if we continue to support the evolution of treatment and care for this ever-changing opioid abuse epidemic. That is why I am supporting H.R. 4981. By reforming the way treatment is provided, we can begin to truly help all patients with opioid addiction.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage and urge my colleagues to support this very important bill, H.R. 4981.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4981 the "Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act".

This bill highlights the abuse of opioids that has become a public health epidemic.

Opioids are drugs with effects similar to opium, such as heroin and certain pain medications.

H.R. 4981 would encourage and train health care providers to prescribe overdose reversal drugs, such as Naloxone, when they prescribe common opioids-like pain medication to patients at risk of addiction.

The plague of opioid overdose deaths across the nation is disturbing, but there are ways to combat this trend.

Any party receiving treatment assessments under this legislation will be privy to the following.

1. A treatment plan and periodic assessments.

2. Will also be subject to medication adherence and substance use monitoring.

3. Treatment options, including all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder, including their potential risks and benefits.

4. Receiving regular counseling services is critical to recovery.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nearly 259 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2012, more than enough for every adult in the United States.

Enacting this legislation will implement a diversion control plan that contains specific measures to reduce the likelihood of the diversion of controlled substances prescribed by the physician for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

In 2013 nearly 4.5 million people in the United States without a valid medical need were using prescription painkillers.

Both states and the federal government have begun responding to this growing public health crisis.

The Obama administration has awarded \$94 million to community health centers to improve and expand the delivery of substance abuse services.

Mr. Speaker, the mounting number of people adversely affected and the over 25,000 lives lost expressly demonstrates the need for this type of legislation.

H.R. 4981 is a positive step in the right direction and I urge all members to support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4981, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Akron, Ohio, April 18, 2013:

Kem Delaney, 23 years old.

Kiana Welch, 19.

Maria Nash, 19.

Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 20, 2016:

Dorothy Brown, 74 years old.

Barbara Hawthorne, 68.

Mary Lou Nye, 62.

Mary Jo Nye, 60.

Richard Smith, 53.

Tyler Smith, 17.

Lakeland, Florida, January 6, 2016:

Eneida Branch, 31 years old.

David Washington, 24.

Angelica Guadalupe Castro, 23.

Pelzer, South Carolina, March 5, 2014:

Victor Vandegrift, 48 years old.

Wanda Renee Anderson, 43.



Hank Eaton, 32.  
 Kansas City, Kansas, March 7, 2016:  
 Randy J. Nordman, 49 years old.  
 Mike Capps, 41.  
 Austin Harter, 29.  
 Clint Harter, 27.  
 Jackson, Tennessee, April 28, 2016:  
 Dartalin Pharmer, 32 years old.  
 Delandis Cortez Clark, 31.  
 Brian Jontez Banes, 31.  
 Tashonda Davis, 22.  
 Wilmington, Delaware, February 11, 2016:  
 Steven Rinehart, 50 years old.  
 Laura Elizabeth Mulford, 47.  
 Officer Michael Manley, 42.  
 Christine Belford, 39.

**SENATE BILLS REFERRED**

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1252. An act to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. 1352. An act to increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen public safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce; in addition, to the Committee on the Budget; and to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

**EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.**

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5322. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Standard Preparations, Limits of Potency, and Dating Period Limitations for Biological Products [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-1170] received May 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5323. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule —

Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0921] (RIN: 0910-AG35) received May 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5324. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final order — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Butyryl Fentanyl and Beta-Hydroxythiofentanyl into Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-434F] received May 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5325. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Brivaracetam into Schedule V [Docket No.: DEA-435] received May 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5326. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5327. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to Congress on the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement", together known as the Migration Accords, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, Sec. 2245; (112 Stat. 2681-824); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5328. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the FY 2015 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, 203(a); (116 Stat. 569); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5329. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Amendments to Special Enrollment Periods and the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan Program [CMS-9933-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AS87) received May 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1621. A bill to modify

the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-562, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3211. A bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon (Rept. 114-563). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

**DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration H.R. 1621 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

**PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. LOVE:

H.R. 5188. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to promote physician training in newly recognized primary medical specialties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 5189. A bill to address the opioid abuse crisis; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Veterans' Affairs, Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, Armed Services, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5190. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide greater flexibility to States in carrying out the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program and employing local veterans' employment representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5191. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for employers to establish student loan repayment programs and to make contributions to qualified tuition programs on behalf of children of employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 5192. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for overflights of national recreation areas where the primary recreational activities involve motorized watercraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 5193. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the rules related to qualified tuition programs and qualified ABLE programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5194. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against

tax for costs incurred by certain businesses for drug disposal programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FARR, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 5195. A bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 5196. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an income tax credit for eldercare expenses; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 5197. A bill to provide assistance to foreign countries to interdict or seize shipments of items in contravention of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 or 2231, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 5198. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices related to the marketing and provision of overdraft coverage programs at depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 5199. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, and to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements; to the

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 5200. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on cooperation between Iran and the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. LEE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 5201. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand eligibility for public service student loan forgiveness to certain contractor employees of national laboratories; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. HAHN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mrs. TORRES):

H.R. 5202. A bill to require the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fill all asset management positions located at non-core office locations of the Office of Multifamily Housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H. Res. 723. A resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the designation of a National Day of Recognition for the centennial of the Convention Between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PETERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mrs. BLACK):

H. Res. 724. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week on May 6, 2016, through May 12, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

mitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. LOVE:

H.R. 5188.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is in the power of the Congress To regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution as applied to providing for the general Welfare of the United States through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 5189.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5190.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5191.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 5192.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 5193.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5194.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitution of the United States provides clear authority for Congress to pass tax legislation. Article I of the Constitution, in detailing Congressional authority, provides that "Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . ." (Section 8, Clause 1). This legislation is introduced pursuant to that grant of authority.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5195.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5196.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 5197.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5198.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 5199.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are sub-

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the ability to enact legislation nessecary and proper to effectuate its purpose in taxing and spending.

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 5200.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 5201.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sections 8 and 9

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 5202.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 24: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mr. MEEHAN.
- H.R. 167: Mr. DUFFY.
- H.R. 183: Mr. WESTERMAN.
- H.R. 187: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
- H.R. 239: Miss RICE of New York.
- H.R. 265: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
- H.R. 303: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. COFFMAN.
- H.R. 329: Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 335: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
- H.R. 379: Mr. HARPER and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
- H.R. 428: Ms. STEFANIK.
- H.R. 448: Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 540: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
- H.R. 563: Ms. DEGETTE.
- H.R. 611: Mr. WALKER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 649: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
- H.R. 706: Mr. O'ROURKE.
- H.R. 716: Mr. VARGAS.
- H.R. 835: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. KENNEDY.
- H.R. 836: Mr. PITTENGER.
- H.R. 840: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
- H.R. 863: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
- H.R. 923: Mr. YODER and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
- H.R. 953: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
- H.R. 973: Mrs. LOWEY.
- H.R. 986: Mr. UPTON.
- H.R. 1139: Mr. PASCRELL.
- H.R. 1141: Mr. PETERS.
- H.R. 1197: Mr. ROSKAM.
- H.R. 1221: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 1247: Mr. CRAMER and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
- H.R. 1274: Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 1401: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 1519: Mr. VARGAS.
- H.R. 1559: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. HARDY.
- H.R. 1602: Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 1655: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 1686: Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 1736: Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 1752: Mr. MASSIE.
- H.R. 1814: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1877: Mr. GIBSON.
- H.R. 1911: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
- H.R. 1940: Mr. HECK of Washington and Mr. WELCH.
- H.R. 1943: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

- H.R. 1981: Mr. THORNBERRY.
- H.R. 2056: Mr. SABLAN.
- H.R. 2076: Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 2144: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 2156: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. BYRNE.
- H.R. 2173: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 2227: Ms. STEFANIK.
- H.R. 2260: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 2274: Mrs. DINGELL.
- H.R. 2285: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H.R. 2350: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. ASHFORD.
- H.R. 2434: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 2450: Mrs. KUSTER.
- H.R. 2500: Mr. COSTA and Mr. COLE.
- H.R. 2513: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
- H.R. 2519: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. ASHFORD.
- H.R. 2622: Mrs. WALORSKI.
- H.R. 2627: Mr. AGUILAR.
- H.R. 2658: Mr. BOUSTANY.
- H.R. 2669: Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 2694: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KIND, and Mr. SERRANO.
- H.R. 2737: Mr. BERA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. MEEKS.
- H.R. 2739: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
- H.R. 2799: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 2805: Mrs. HARTZLER.
- H.R. 2844: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. DELAURO.
- H.R. 2889: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 2894: Mr. LOEBSACK.
- H.R. 2896: Mr. SIMPSON.
- H.R. 2948: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
- H.R. 2980: Mr. KATKO and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 3011: Mr. POSEY.
- H.R. 3012: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. ROHR-ABACHER.
- H.R. 3084: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. WHITFIELD.
- H.R. 3088: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
- H.R. 3095: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 3096: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
- H.R. 3105: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 3222: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. MEADOWS.
- H.R. 3225: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
- H.R. 3229: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MARINO, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
- H.R. 3250: Mr. PAULSEN.
- H.R. 3266: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 3294: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 3299: Mr. MESSER and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
- H.R. 3323: Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. TIPTON.
- H.R. 3355: Mr. PASCRELL.
- H.R. 3471: Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 3690: Mr. GRAYSON.
- H.R. 3706: Mr. COOK, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. ROUZER.
- H.R. 3742: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
- H.R. 3799: Mr. PALMER, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
- H.R. 3817: Ms. STEFANIK.
- H.R. 3846: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. COURTNEY.
- H.R. 3870: Ms. DELAURO.
- H.R. 3882: Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ISRAEL.
- H.R. 3957: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
- H.R. 4007: Mr. KING of Iowa.
- H.R. 4019: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. CONNOLLY.
- H.R. 4059: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. OLSON.
- H.R. 4062: Mr. GRIFFITH.
- H.R. 4137: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
- H.R. 4146: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. CAPUANO.
- H.R. 4147: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. CAPUANO.
- H.R. 4247: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. MCCAUL.
- H.R. 4266: Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 4301: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. OLSON.
- H.R. 4333: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4365: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. JOYCE.
- H.R. 4428: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
- H.R. 4442: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4445: Mr. DEFAZIO.
- H.R. 4448: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.
- H.R. 4514: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Ms. MCSALLY.
- H.R. 4575: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan and Mrs. BEATTY.
- H.R. 4592: Mr. POSEY, Mr. SIREs, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. RUSH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
- H.R. 4602: Mr. JEFFRIES.
- H.R. 4625: Mr. ZELDIN.
- H.R. 4626: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 4636: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. WESTERMAN.
- H.R. 4658: Mrs. LOVE.
- H.R. 4662: Mr. HARPER.
- H.R. 4684: Ms. GABBARD.
- H.R. 4696: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 4703: Mr. ROKITA.
- H.R. 4760: Mr. BRIDENSTINE and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
- H.R. 4768: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. RIBBLE.
- H.R. 4770: Mr. BOUSTANY.
- H.R. 4773: Mr. GUINTA, Mr. HARPER, Mr. PALMER, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
- H.R. 4782: Mr. O'ROURKE.
- H.R. 4792: Mr. CONNOLLY.
- H.R. 4818: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
- H.R. 4819: Mr. ROSKAM and Mrs. BLACK.
- H.R. 4828: Mr. ROSKAM.
- H.R. 4830: Mr. RUSH and Mr. ROKITA.
- H.R. 4867: Mr. MEEHAN.
- H.R. 4905: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 4907: Mrs. NOEM and Mr. TIPTON.
- H.R. 4913: Mrs. WAGNER.
- H.R. 4926: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.
- H.R. 4928: Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. YOHO.
- H.R. 4933: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 4942: Ms. LEE.

- H.R. 4956: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.  
H.R. 4959: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 4960: Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 4963: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 4965: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 4966: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 4994: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 4999: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 5001: Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 5015: Mrs. HARTZLER and Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 5025: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. CUELLAR.  
H.R. 5044: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. CUELLAR.  
H.R. 5064: Mr. KATKO.  
H.R. 5073: Mr. RIBBLE.  
H.R. 5082: Mr. CHABOT.  
H.R. 5090: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, and Mr. SERRANO.  
H.R. 5100: Mr. ASHFORD.  
H.R. 5111: Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
H.R. 5112: Mr. BARR and Mr. MULVANEY.  
H.R. 5119: Mr. HILL.  
H.R. 5124: Mr. CICILLINE and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 5130: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. LEE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H.R. 5146: Mr. RICHMOND and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
H.R. 5164: Mr. HUELSKAMP.  
H.R. 5172: Mr. REED.  
H.R. 5183: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 5187: Mr. NEAL.  
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. COSTA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. HULTGREN.  
H. Con. Res. 100: Mr. PEARCE.  
H. Con. Res. 122: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H. Con. Res. 128: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.  
H. Res. 14: Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LEE, and Ms. SPEIER.  
H. Res. 28: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H. Res. 521: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H. Res. 565: Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H. Res. 571: Mr. HARRIS.  
H. Res. 683: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H. Res. 712: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H. Res. 722: Mr. MCGOVERN.

**SENATE—Monday, May 11, 2016**

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, give us reverence for Your greatness. Guide our Senators around the pitfalls of their work, enabling them to have hearts sustained by Your peace. May they surrender their will to You as they trust You to direct their path. Lord, give them the wisdom to receive Your reproof with the understanding that You chastise those whom You love for their good. Undergird them with Your enabling might as You make their lives productive for the glory of Your Name.

Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

**SEVERE WEATHER IN WESTERN KENTUCKY**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about the severe weather that hit my home State of Kentucky yesterday. A large tornado touched down in Mayfield in Graves County in Western Kentucky. It damaged homes and businesses and reportedly injured 10 people as it made its way through that part of my State.

Tornadoes were also reported in Muhlenberg and Union Counties. Thankfully, no deaths have been reported in Kentucky as of the latest news reports. Kentuckians are, as always, reaching out to help their neighbors in times of distress, with reports that local churches and businesses have opened their doors to those displaced by the tornadoes as they recover.

We are thinking today of all the Kentuckians who have been hurt by this severe weather. We continue to monitor the situation, and we are thankful that the damage that has been reported so far was not worse.

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, after much hard work, research, and deliberation from both sides of the aisle, we are closer to having an opportunity to pass the first funding bill of the appropriations season, the energy security and water infrastructure funding bill.

I know Members have some differences of opinion about an amendment authored by Senator COTTON, but this is how the legislative process is supposed to work. Senator COTTON's amendment, which would prevent future funds to purchase heavy water from Iran, is germane to this funding bill, and it deserves a vote.

We are going to have that vote today, allowing Senators from both sides to have their say on this issue and allowing us to move forward on this important measure.

The energy security and water infrastructure funding bill will positively impact every State in America. We know it includes important measures to support energy research and innovation to promote public safety, to maintain waterway infrastructure, and to promote nuclear security.

Let's work to advance this bill and keep the appropriations process moving forward in a responsible manner.

**AMERICAN MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS AND DEFEND TRADE SECRETS BILLS**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate passed the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act, a bipartisan bill that—as my friend, the chairman of the Finance Committee, observed—shows our “commitment to helping our economy with more jobs, bigger paychecks, and a stronger American manufacturing base.”

Later today the President will sign into law the Defend Trade Secrets Act, another Senate-passed bill that promotes our economy and helps create and retain American jobs. Both of these bills are the result of the work of two dedicated committee chairmen, Senator HATCH and Senator GRASSLEY. They are also the result of a Senate that is back to work for the American people.

I thank the Finance Committee and Judiciary Committee chairmen for their efforts to advance these bills, just as I thank Senators BURR, PORTMAN, TOOMEY, and FLAKE for their diligent work to help support American businesses and the economy through their efforts to pass the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act.

**THE ECONOMY**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, President Obama recently bragged to the New York Times Magazine about his performance on the economy. He boasted about his economic legacy and actually claimed that, by his estimation, the administration managed the economic recovery better than any peer economy facing a financial crisis—now listen to this—“on Earth in modern history.” Well, that is a quote to remember.

The same day this story hit, the Bureau of Economic Analysis released its first quarter report showing only 0.5 percent economic growth. It is the latest reminder of the actual economy that Americans are forced to confront day in and day out.

President Obama has presided over the worst economic recovery since World War II. Growth is anemic, wages are stagnant for too many, poverty is up for too many, jobs are scarce for too many, and Americans are losing faith in the future.

Somehow President Obama doesn't seem to think any of this is his problem or a problem at all. The issue isn't his policies or his refusal to work across the aisle on solutions. No, to him it is just a messaging problem. It is just that he was too busy to “take victory laps” or explain things properly.

He believes “the U.S. economy is in much better shape than the public appreciates.” As the magazine story I mentioned previously observes, in fact, he claims that “by almost every economic measure, we are significantly better off.”

Well, many in the middle class feel quite differently. Just don't take my word for it. Here is what Bill Clinton thinks of the Obama administration economy. He said: “Millions and millions and millions and millions of people look at that pretty picture of America he painted and they cannot find themselves in it to save their lives.”

That is Bill Clinton on the Obama economy. Hard-working middle class families simply cannot find themselves in the picture this President has painted of the American economy.

Median household incomes have shrunk under this President. Too many Americans have given up even looking for work altogether, after years of failed attempts.

One survey found that more than half of Americans say that “the next generation will be worse off than them financially.”

The middle class has now shrunk to such an extent under President Obama

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

that it no longer contains the majority of Americans. That is something none of us should take comfort in.

I will read a quote from the President. I am not sure he intended it, but President Obama said something a few months ago that seemed to sum up his economic legacy. He said: "There was a time I think when upward mobility was the hallmark of America."

He is right. There was a time. There can be a time again.

We don't have to accept the Obama economy as the new normal in our country. Democrats may want middle-class families to keep their gaze down and their expectations tempered, but we have a right to expect more in this country. We have a right to believe in our future. It is clear we need a change to get America moving again.

The Republican-led Senate will continue to look for and pass real solutions that aim to get our economy back on track—solutions to help foster economic growth, solutions to help create jobs and strengthen our workforce, and solutions to help America prosper once more.

If President Obama wants to actually build an economic legacy for himself and not just try to spin Americans on one, then I invite him to finally join us.

My Republican colleagues will have more to say on the economy this afternoon.

I thank my colleague Senator SULLIVAN, who has been outspoken on this important matter.

I also thank Senator COATS for his work to strengthen our economic policies as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, as well as a member of the Finance Committee.

These Senators know the costly toll the Obama economy has had on people in their home States, and they are working to address it.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### COMMENDING BRAD HATCHER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Brad Hatcher, who is serving as my legislative fellow for defense issues this year, has done a terrific job. We are so fortunate to have the military we do have, and he exemplifies that.

#### THE ECONOMY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is interesting to hear my friend fictionalize what is going on in the world economy and in our American economy especially.

We all know that when President Obama took office—the month after he

was elected in November, 8 years ago—the economy lost 800,000 jobs. It was not 1 month. That continued. When President Bush took over the economy, we had a surplus of \$10 trillion over 10 years—a surplus.

My friend the Presiding Officer and, frankly, his good father have talked about money that was spent by this country that shouldn't have been.

However, when Bush took office, we had a surplus. We had a balanced budget under Bill Clinton—a balanced budget. We didn't need to legislate it. It happened. Of course, with his leadership and the Deficit Reduction Act that we passed, it worked out very well.

But that was all wiped out by the spending of the Bush administration. It was 8 years of 2 wars unpaid for and trillions of dollars—not hundreds of billions but trillions of dollars—paid for with a credit card. Tax cuts were paid for with a credit card.

What did that bring to us? The collapse of Wall Street.

President Obama went to work. It was difficult, but we passed the American Recovery Act, or the stimulus, as it was known. But for that, who knows how difficult our situation would be.

In Nevada, we had the experience of what happened when Wall Street collapsed. We weren't the only State. It happened all over this Nation. For my friend to talk about how great the economy was during the Bush years is simply fictional.

Are things perfect now? Of course not. We have had no help in the Senate. We had very little help in the House. For 7½ years, all Republicans have done is try to oppose—they didn't try; they opposed—everything President Obama has attempted to do. We have been able to overcome some of that.

Since Obama took office, the U.S. economy saw the longest stretch of private sector growth in its history, and it is still ongoing.

There were some complaints last month that only 160,000 jobs were created. That was 160,000 compared to 800,000 being lost during the Bush administration. We need to do more. There is no question about that, but we need some help.

Republicans are doing everything they can—and they have proven that in the last 7½ years—to make it tough for President Obama.

We have a lot of people who aren't being paid enough. How about those people working on minimum wage and trying to survive? Yet Republicans refuse to help us raise that.

How about paycheck fairness so that my daughter and my granddaughters are paid the same amount of money for the same work they do that a man does?

Student debt is unbearable. I am seeing it now with my grandchildren. It is incredible. You are going to have to go borrow money.

It is Republicans who stood in the way of recovery in so many different ways. So let's talk about the real world—not a fictional world.

#### FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week, the senior Senator from Iowa confirmed what Democrats have said all along: Senate Republicans want Donald Trump to fill the Supreme Court vacancy.

I am sorry to direct my attention to the Presiding Officer, but I can't imagine how the Presiding Officer must feel with Donald Trump being the leader of the Republican Party. I can't imagine. I can't imagine what your good father thinks of Donald Trump leading the Republican Party, but I can imagine, and I have a number of times.

In an interview with the Des Moines Register, Iowa's largest newspaper, Senator GRASSLEY said of Trump: "Based upon the type of people [Donald Trump would] be looking for, I think I would expect the right type of people to be nominated by him to the Supreme Court."

That is fairly shocking, coming from a Senator who should know better. The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee trusts Donald Trump to pick "the right type of people" for the Supreme Court. I can't think of a worse idea than placing the power to pick the next Supreme Court Justice in the hands of an unhinged individual who derides women, who calls them dogs and pigs. Look at the front page of the New York Times, at how he and Howard Stern decided how they were going to treat women. Read it. It is demeaning to my wife, my daughter, and my 9 or 10 granddaughters. I have them mixed up. There are 19. It is an uneven number, but they are close. I can't think of a worse idea than placing the power to pick the next Supreme Court Justice in the hands of this unhinged individual. He calls Latinos rapists and murderers.

This is the Supreme Court of the United States we are talking about—the Court that decided *Marbury v. Madison* and *Brown v. Board of Education*, the anniversary of which is coming up next Tuesday. This is not Donald Trump's reality show. This is the real world. This is no game. This is not a choice about whether Meatloaf or Gary Busey made a better art project; it is a choice about the future of America. The balance of the Supreme Court has real-life consequences for all of us.

Rational people don't want Donald Trump filling a Supreme Court vacancy. Iowans don't. The American people don't. But Senate Republicans obviously do, and Senator GRASSLEY does—or I should say he does now. Two weeks ago, before Donald Trump wrapped up the Republican nomination

to my dismay, the senior Senator from Iowa sang a much different tune. Back then—all of 13 days ago—before Donald Trump was his standard bearer, Senator GRASSLEY said it would be a risk to let Trump pick a Supreme Court nominee. That was less than 2 weeks ago. This is what he said: “If Trump’s elected president, it probably is a little more unknown. . . . I would have to admit it’s a gamble.” It is a gamble, and it is not at a Las Vegas crap table or a slot machine. That it is a gamble is an understatement.

Trump picking a Supreme Court nominee is a guaranteed recipe for disaster. But now that Trump is the nominee, Republicans are marching in lockstep with him on the Supreme Court vacancy. Republicans want to put the Supreme Court in the hands of an unbalanced egomaniac.

Senator GRASSLEY and his colleagues say they want the future of the highest Court to be determined by an anti-woman, anti-Latino, and anti-middle-class billionaire who demeans women every day. Yesterday GRASSLEY told a reporter that “there’s no problem with Trump appointing people to the Supreme Court.” But what had he said 2 weeks earlier? That it is a gamble.

Donald Trump wants to ban all Muslims from even coming into our country. That is whom Republicans want picking the Justices to do the work of our judiciary system, deciding questions about civil liberties—somebody who says Muslims shouldn’t even come to this country. Trump encouraged supporters to physically assault protesters. Here is what he said: “Knock the crap out of them.” That is whom the Republicans want to select Justices to interpret the law. It is insane that my Republican colleagues are willing to entrust such an important responsibility to this egomaniac.

Instead of relying on the whims of an unscrupulous real estate tycoon—who inherited his money, by the way—Senate Republicans should trust in the Senate’s time-honored process of considering Supreme Court nominees. Republicans can start by reviewing Judge Garland’s nominee questionnaire, which the Senate got yesterday. After that, the Senate Judiciary Committee and Chairman GRASSLEY should do their job and hold a hearing. Then the Republican leader should bring Merrick Garland’s nomination to the floor for a vote. A hearing and a vote—that is what we need to have, and that is how we will get, in Senator GRASSLEY’s words, the right type of people on the Supreme Court. Meet with the man, hold hearings, and vote.

This year the Republican Senate is on pace to work fewer days than any Senate in the past six decades—60-plus years. So in that we are not doing much anyway, couldn’t we just work in a little time to have a Supreme Court nominee?

Senator GRASSLEY was right the first time. Letting Donald Trump pick a Supreme Court Justice is indeed a gamble. It is a risk the American people can’t afford and shouldn’t afford. Instead of waiting for Donald Trump, Republicans should just do their job and at least allow the Court to have a full complement of nine Justices.

Mr. President, I see no one here on the floor, so I ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Cotton) amendment No. 3878 (to amendment No. 3801), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, but I ask that the time be charged equally to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, in about 5 or 6 minutes, the Senate will proceed to the scheduled vote on the Cotton amendment on the Energy and Water appropriations bill. Actually, it will be cloture on the Cotton amendment. Before that vote, I ask unanimous consent that I first be allowed to speak for a few minutes, and following me, Senator FEINSTEIN, and then we vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I will save most of my remarks for after the vote, but I wish to make two kinds of remarks. One is to give an update on the bill, where we are. The second remark is to restate my reasons why I will not vote for cloture on the Cotton amendment. First, in terms of where we are, we have the Cotton amendment at 10:30. The Senator from California

and I have agreed—and I think our staffs and the Republican and Democratic leaders have discussed it—that there could be a vote for Senator CARDIN and Senator FISCHER at 60 votes, a voice vote on Senator FLAKE. That is it. Then we would have another cloture vote if we need it and a vote on final passage.

In my view, and I believe in terms of Senator FEINSTEIN’s view, we ought to easily be able to finish the bill today. I think we should finish it today. I thank the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, for starting the appropriations process earlier this year than it ever has been started before. I thank the Democratic leader, Senator REID, for working with us through some difficult issues we had on this first bill that we didn’t expect and to make it possible for us to come to what looks like a prompt conclusion.

This is an important bill. The Senators know that. We have had nearly 80 Senators contribute parts of this bill. Some are very important to their States and this country. Whether it deepens the Mobile port or the west coast ports or rebuilds locks in Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee or whether it properly funds the national laboratories across the country or moves ahead with our nuclear weapons program, this is one of the most important appropriations bills that we have.

Today we will have spent 2 weeks on it, not counting the week we had for recess. We will have processed 21 amendments, if I go through the amendments I just described. If we succeed today in finishing the bill, it will be the first time since 2009 that the Energy and Water appropriations bill has gone across the floor in regular order.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have worked pretty hard together, and as she likes to say, both of us have engaged in some give and some take in order to create a result that the Senate can be proud of and set a good example for the next 11 appropriations bills. We have a lot waiting to be done. The majority leader has already announced he would like to move ahead with the transportation and military construction bill. On both sides of the aisle, there is concern about moving ahead with Zika, which could be done during that bill. The Defense authorization bill needs to be dealt with before we get to the next recess. We have nine more appropriations bills to deal with, and there is a very important biomedical research bill called the 21st Century Cures Act. I hope we get to that bill sometime before July.

AMENDMENT NO. 3878

Mr. President, I have one other thing to say. Senator FEINSTEIN and I have worked hard to give all the Senators who had germane, relevant amendments a vote on their amendments, and we succeeded very well with that. We

processed 21 amendments, and that includes the amendment by Senator COTTON, which prohibits the United States from using tax dollars to buy heavy water from Iran in the year 2017. I defended his right to have a vote on that amendment, which we are about to have, but I will vote no on that amendment because I don't believe it belongs on the bill. No. 1, I think it should be considered first by the Foreign Relations and the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees because it is filled with national security implications. No. 2, if it were adopted, I think there would be dangerous complications because it could increase the possibility that heavy water from Iran, which in the United States would be used for peaceful purposes, could be sold by Iran to another country, such as North Korea, and used to help make nuclear weapons. I don't want to have the Senate approve an amendment that would create that kind of possibility. No. 3, the President said he will veto it, which would result in not only having the Cotton amendment rejected, but the bill would fail as well.

The discussion of where Iran's heavy water goes is an important discussion, and the Senator has a right to bring it up. Iran has it, and we don't want them to have it because they could use it to make nuclear weapons. We don't produce it, but we need it for medical and scientific research, so it makes sense for us to buy it. In the great scheme of things, it is not a great amount of money. But the idea of letting it go on the international market and perhaps find its way to countries building nuclear weapons is something I can't support, so I will vote no.

I thank the Senator from California for working through all of these issues with us, and I am glad that following Senator FEINSTEIN's remarks, we will vote on the Cotton amendment. I hope that with the cooperation of the majority leader and Democratic leader, we will be able to finish the bill today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee for his leadership and willingness to settle issues to get this bill to the point where it really is ready to be voted on by this body. I think he has made the argument against the Cotton amendment eloquently and correctly. I am very grateful for the fact that he did what I think is a noble thing and changed his vote and will be voting against the Cotton amendment.

Let me say something about this process. Both the chairman and I have been here for a long time, and we were here when appropriations bills were passed. The key to doing that is keeping poison pills off appropriations bills so they can be passed quickly. In addition to the arguments made by the

chairman, the White House had very strong feelings and indicated they would veto this bill if it passed with this amendment. How do we start an appropriations process with a Presidential veto in the wings? I don't think we do. Hopefully, the appropriate thing will happen in this vote, and cloture will be defeated. I hope that it sends a signal—a strong signal—for the rest of the appropriations process. We want to show that we can run this place and get business done and poisons pills have no place on appropriations bills. That is my very deep belief, and that is where it once was.

Once again, I thank the chair for his help, cooperation, and leadership. It is quite wonderful to be able to work with the Senator from Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, and I too urge a "no" vote on cloture.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3878 to amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thad Cochran, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, Marco Rubio, David Vitter, Patrick J. Toomey, Steve Daines, Richard C. Shelby, James Lankford, John Thune, James M. Inhofe, Lisa Murkowski, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts, John Barasso, John Hoeven.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3878, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, for the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, to amendment No. 3801, as amended, to H.R. 2028, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 67 Leg.]

#### YEAS—57

Ayotte	Blunt	Capito
Barrasso	Boozman	Cassidy
Blumenthal	Burr	Coats

Cochran	Hatch	Perdue
Collins	Heitkamp	Portman
Corker	Heller	Risch
Cornyn	Hoeven	Roberts
Cotton	Inhofe	Rounds
Crapo	Isakson	Rubio
Cruz	Johnson	Sasse
Daines	Kirk	Scott
Donnelly	Lankford	Sessions
Enzi	Lee	Shelby
Ernst	Manchin	Sullivan
Fischer	McCain	Thune
Flake	McConnell	Tillis
Gardner	Menendez	Toomey
Graham	Moran	Vitter
Grassley	Murkowski	Wicker

#### NAYS—42

Alexander	Gillibrand	Paul
Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	McCaskill	Tester
Casey	Merkley	Udall
Coons	Mikulski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Franken	Nelson	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3878

Cloture not having been invoked on amendment No. 3878, under the previous order, there will be 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I regret that the Senators failed to invoke cloture on my amendment, but I am gratified that a large bipartisan majority of the Senate agrees that we should not use U.S. taxpayer dollars to subsidize Iran's nuclear program over and above the obligations of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Now that cloture has not been invoked, my amendment is still pending, and I understand that Democrats denied cloture on the bill three times because my amendment is able to be called up after cloture on the bill.

I want this bill to move forward, I want it to pass in an expeditious fashion, and therefore I intend later today to withdraw my amendment so it cannot be called up postcloture on the bill, leaving Democrats no reason not to agree to cloture on the bill and agree to final passage of the bill.

Finally, I want to thank the Senator from Tennessee as well as the Senator from Kentucky, the majority leader, for working with me to make sure we have the Senate on record on this important issue. I regret that it took multiple days to get to a point we could have reached very early on, as I had agreed to a 60-vote threshold 2 weeks ago, but I do think it is important that the Senate has spoken on this most critical issue.

I yield the floor.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Arkansas for withdrawing his amendment. I defended his right to have the amendment. I opposed the amendment, and I explained before the vote why I did that, so it is not necessary for me to say more about it.

As Senator FEINSTEIN and I said before the vote, we are ready to finish the bill. We have had terrific cooperation from Senators on both sides of the aisle. We will have included 21 amendments in the bill by the time we are finished. More than 80 Senators have made a contribution to the bill. It has importance to every part of our country. It is the first bill of a series of 12 that we need to deal with. It is within the budget levels. It is not a part of the Federal debt problem because the discretionary spending we are talking about is fairly flat.

It is a well-designed bill, and we are ready to finish the bill. When it will be finished, of course, is up to the majority leader and the Democratic leader as they schedule.

All that remains to be done, since Senator FEINSTEIN and I have recommended that we have votes on the Cardin and Fischer amendments at 60 and that we adopt a Flake-modified amendment by voice vote—then all that remains is a cloture vote, if necessary, and final passage. In our view, that could be done today, but there may be larger issues that have to do with the Senate schedule that would cause that to be put off until tomorrow, and we will wait for an announcement from the majority leader and the Democratic leader about what that schedule is.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. For the information of Senators and staff, there will be a vote at noon. We expect a cloture vote at noon on the bill. There may be other things to discuss at that time. Several Senators have asked me about votes, and I indicated that there were a couple and that there might not be votes until after lunch, but the plan now is to have a vote at noon on cloture on the bill. Perhaps by then we will be able to lock in some other votes, which would occur after lunch.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the Zika virus and the urgent need for Congress to provide the \$1.9 billion President Obama has requested to combat this health crisis.

The Zika virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947. The virus is transmitted by the same mosquito species that transmits dengue, yellow fever, and chikungunya. Prior to 2007, the Zika virus had no known outbreaks and only 14 documented human cases. However, in the spring of 2007, scientists documented 185 suspected cases of Zika on Yap Island, Micronesia, followed by more than 30,000 suspected cases in French Polynesia and other Pacific islands between 2013 and 2014, and in May 2015 the first case of Zika was reported in Brazil.

On February 1, 2016, the World Health Organization declared the ongoing Zika outbreak to be “a public health emergency of international concern.” According to the World Health Organization’s International Health Regulations, a public health emergency of international concern is a situation where the disease outbreak “constitutes a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease, and potentially requires a coordinated international response.” The World Health Organization predicts that 3 to 4 million people—3 to 4 million people—in the Americas will contract Zika within 1 year.

There is a common refrain among scientists and experts studying Zika: There is much they still do not know about Zika, and what they do know is worrisome. Until recently, the Zika virus has been viewed as a relatively minor virus. The majority of individuals infected with the virus are asymptomatic, and those who do experience symptoms often complain of fever, rash, joint pain or conjunctivitis.

However, newer research has shown the Zika virus can cause a number of previously undetected medical conditions, especially in regard to pregnant women. Last month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the link between Zika infection during pregnancy and severe fetal brain defects like microcephaly. The World Health Organization recently concluded that Zika can cause Guillain-Barre, a rare condition that attacks the body’s nervous system, causing muscle weakness and even pa-

ralysis. Scientists have also recently confirmed the virus can be transmitted sexually—a first for this type of virus.

As of April 2016, the World Health Organization documented Zika virus transmission in 62 countries and territories around the world, including 33 in the Americas. Brazil has been hardest hit by the virus, recording more than 91,000 cases of the virus and nearly 5,000 suspected cases of Zika-related microcephaly. Across the U.S. territories, nearly 600 people have contracted Zika, including more than 400 in Puerto Rico. Here in the Continental United States, there have been over 420 related Zika cases, including 12 in my home State of Maryland.

As we continue moving toward the summer months and the height of the mosquito season, the number of locally acquired and travel-associated Zika infections in the United States and its territories will undoubtedly climb. Just last month, CDC Director Tom Frieden indicated that clusters of locally acquired Zika were possible in the southern United States by the summer.

Last month, the administration officially announced they would transfer \$510 million from the remaining Ebola funds to jump-start the Zika response while waiting for congressional action. While \$510 million is a good start, it is just a fraction of what is needed to mount a full response to Zika. Congress does need to act because the \$510 million Ebola fund isn’t just found money. Those dollars were sustaining efforts to detect and prevent another Ebola outbreak in West Africa while also helping developing countries better respond to outbreaks on their own. It is unacceptable that we would force our public health professionals to choose between addressing Ebola or addressing Zika.

There is no question the United States must take the threat of Zika seriously and mount an urgent, aggressive, and sustained response to the virus. As we speak, a Federal inter-agency task force, led by the Department of Health and Human Services, is working around the clock to mitigate the impact of Zika. Within the task force, the CDC is working closely with laboratories in affected countries, in the United States, and its territories to enhance laboratory and surveillance capacity and improve diagnostics.

The CDC is also engaging in public health studies and is providing guidance to health professionals and educating the general public about prevention. The agency is also working with local authorities in the United States to improve mosquito control efforts.

In Maryland, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health is supporting preclinical and clinical development of vaccines for the mosquito

virus and other mosquito-borne diseases. The Institute is also collaborating with stakeholders to conduct vital research that will allow us to better understand the origins and pathology of Zika and bring us closer to developing a vaccine.

The Food and Drug Administration is working to improve and refine diagnostics for the Zika virus. Most notably, the FDA recently issued two Emergency Use Authorizations for two newly developed Zika diagnostic tests. To date, more than 25 States and the District of Columbia have verified their ability to test for Zika using these methods, which will enhance our ability to monitor this growing epidemic. The FDA is also working closely with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to advance vaccine research and development.

I am also pleased the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, is working with UNICEF to develop and implement communication campaigns and community mobilization for behavioral change related to personal protection against mosquitos, as well as community-based mosquito mitigation and elimination efforts—commonly referred to as vector control—in areas hardest hit by the virus. The agency is also partnering with the World Health Organization and its South American arm, the Pan American Health Organization, to implement and monitor vector control programs.

In addition to providing personal protection commodities, USAID is also working closely with the international health partners to develop and adopt guidelines for addressing Zika in at-risk populations, particularly pregnant women.

This is just a fraction of what a Zika response looks like. I would be here much longer if I were to go through every detail of what our agencies are doing to respond to the threat. Suffice it to say, this is an all-hands-on-deck emergency, and we cannot implement and sustain an adequate response without fully funding the President's request.

More than 2 months have passed since the President sent his request to Congress. The Zika virus is not some nebulous foreign threat. It is already on our shores. Congress needs to act. I call on my fellow Senators to come to an agreement on a robust and comprehensive Zika supplemental that enables us to better prevent, treat, and respond to the virus both at home and abroad, while also replenishing the critical Ebola funds.

When it comes to global health pandemics, which know no borders, the Congress of the United States can and must act to protect American citizens and people around the world.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, within a few minutes, we will be voting for the fourth time on cloture on the bill. This time I expect it to pass. The Cotton amendment has been disposed of. Following that, if it is successful, Senator FEINSTEIN and I have recommended to the majority leader and the Democratic leader that we move to a vote on the Cardin and Fischer amendments, at 60 votes, and a voice vote on the Flake amendment. Then, all that would be remaining would be a final cloture vote, which may or may not be necessary, and final passage. None of those votes have been agreed to yet, and we will let Senators know when they are. But in the opinion of the bill managers, we are ready to finish the bill, and we thank Senators for their cooperation to get us to this point.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3878 WITHDRAWN

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, I withdraw the Cotton amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Bob Corker, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, Joni Ernst, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Daniel Coats, Chuck Grassley, Shelley Moore Capito, Thad Cochran, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3801, offered by the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, as amended, to H.R. 2028, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 68 Leg.]

#### YEAS—97

Alexander	Fischer	Nelson
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Baldwin	Franken	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Peters
Bennet	Gillibrand	Portman
Blumenthal	Graham	Reed
Blunt	Grassley	Reid
Booker	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Boxer	Heitkamp	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Rubio
Burr	Hoeben	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Scott
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kirk	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Corker	Markey	Tillis
Cornyn	McCain	Toomey
Cotton	McCaskill	Udall
Crapo	McConnell	Vitter
Cruz	Menendez	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warren
Donnelly	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Wyden
Ernst	Murphy	
Feinstein	Murray	

#### NAYS—2

Heller Lee

#### NOT VOTING—1

Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 2.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am glad to see an enthusiastic vote of support on the cloture motion on the fourth try. We gain a little bit every time.

For the information of Senators, there will be two votes at 4:30 p.m., on the Cardin and Fischer amendments at 60 votes each.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 3871, 3888, AND 3876 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3801

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to call up the following amendments and that they be reported by number: Cardin amendment No. 3871, Fischer amendment No. 3888, and Flake amendment No. 3876; further, that the time until 4:30 p.m. be equally divided between the managers

or their designees for debate on the amendments concurrently; and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the Cardin and Fischer amendments in the order listed, with a 60-affirmative-vote threshold for adoption for amendments Nos. 3871 and 3888; I further ask that there be no second-degree amendments in order to any of these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. ALEXANDER], for others, proposes amendments numbered 3871, 3888, and 3876 to amendment No. 3801.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3871

(Purpose: To use Federal and State expertise to mitigate fish and wildlife impacts at Corps of Engineers projects)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROTECTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available to carry out project or project operation studies unless the Secretary of the Army ensures evaluation of and mitigation for impacts to fish and wildlife resources consistent with recommendations developed by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior, and the States pursuant to section 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 662), including recommendations to properly evaluate impacts and avoid adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of the Army shall not select a recommended alternative for a water resources project if the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service concludes that the impacts of that alternative cannot be successfully mitigated.

(2) MITIGATION.—The mitigation requirements under this section shall be in addition to any other mitigation measures required under section 906 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2283) and any other applicable Federal or State law (including regulations).

AMENDMENT NO. 3888

(Purpose: To provide for the operation of reservoir projects by the Bureau of Reclamation)

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds made available by this Act that would be provided to the Bureau of Reclamation for reservoir projects, operations, administration of water rights, or other action in the Republican River Basin may be used in a manner that does not comply with each applicable—

(1) current resolution of the Republican River Compact Administration, dated November 24, 2015, for accounting and reservoir operations for 2016 and 2017; and

(2) State order necessary to carry out that resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 3876

(Purpose: To require that certain funds are used for the review and revision of certain operational documents)

On page 5, line 22, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided herein, for any Corps of Engineers project located in a State in which a Bureau of Reclamation project is also located, any non-Federal project regulated for flood control by the Secretary of the Army located in a State in which a Bureau of Reclamation project is also located, or any Bureau of Reclamation facilities regulated for flood control by the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Army shall fund all or a portion of the costs to review or revise operational documents, including water control plans, water control manuals, water control diagrams, release schedules, rule curves, operational agreements with non-Federal entities, and any associated environmental documentation.”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the threat that the Zika virus poses—a threat to the health of Americans and to people around the world.

Every day we learn more about this virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed a link between Zika and microcephaly. That is a condition where babies are born with smaller heads and with brain defects. It is a devastating problem that we are all facing.

Studies have linked Zika to something called Guillain-Barre syndrome—a condition I studied in medical school and have seen patients with. It can lead to paralysis, which is another very serious condition.

Last week the Centers for Disease Control also confirmed the first Zika-related death in Puerto Rico.

Because this virus is mostly spread by mosquitoes, the potential risk is only going to become more urgent as the weather turns warmer. So we must do what we can now—today—before this turns into a true epidemic rather than the threat it is today. America's drug companies and researchers need to continue working on treatments, tests, and vaccines. Our cities and towns need to start taking aggressive measures to control mosquitoes. Doctors can help to educate people who are at risk of contracting the disease—this virus—but we really do need all hands on deck.

Washington has an important part to play, and Republicans in the Senate are ready to address this issue. Congress has already passed legislation that adds Zika to what is called the priority review voucher program. This program awards financial incentives to the sponsor of a new drug that is ap-

proved to prevent or treat a tropical disease. That is a good way Congress can help speed up the research process in dealing with Zika. Congress has also approved the transfer of nearly \$600 million in existing, unobligated funds for an immediate Zika response, so the money has already been moved to help.

We can also make a big difference by cutting through redtape, and there is significant redtape in this city that actually makes it harder to kill mosquitoes that carry this virus. We would think we would want to make it easier to kill mosquitoes, but there is redtape in Washington, DC—bureaucrats making it harder to kill the mosquitoes that carry the virus.

Today it is hard to believe that there are requirements for permits that I think are absolutely unnecessary and that make it more difficult and more expensive to spray for mosquitoes in the United States. So if a farmer or a rancher, a city or a community wants to spray for mosquitoes, they have to use a pesticide that has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency; that is No. 1. In a lot of cases, people who want to spray for mosquitoes also have to get a separate permit under the Clean Water Act. That is No. 2. There are two steps—one, to get the permit to spray, and two, to get the EPA approval of what they are going to spray with. This doesn't add any benefit to the environment, and it certainly doesn't help protect anybody from the Zika virus. It is Washington getting in the way. It adds another hoop for people to jump through before they can get rid of the mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus.

Senator MIKE CRAPO from Idaho has written legislation that would eliminate this second unnecessary requirement. It is not saying that anyone can go out and spray whatever they want. The pesticide would still have to be approved so that we know they are safe. But the legislation says that we don't need this second permitting process that Washington demands. It is a commonsense change. It is the kind of thing we could do to help local officials on the ground make the best decisions about how they can fight these mosquitoes and this virus in their communities, in the places they know the best, and do it quickly.

The Crapo bill has 18 cosponsors, and I am proud to be one of them. It is a bipartisan bill with bipartisan support, and it has already passed the Environment and Public Works Committee. We should take up this bill and pass it and get these tools into people's hands as quickly as possible.

I know that some of what America can do to help fight Zika—and people understand this—is going to require us to spend money, and I support that. That is why the Appropriations Committee is looking at the need for additional funding, additional spending to

address this threat. Regular appropriations bills are the best way for us to carefully look at where the priorities are for spending the taxpayers' dollars. That is how we should be paying for things around here, not just another continuing resolution or some emergency measure.

When something new comes up, we can look at it, figure out how to balance the costs, and if we have to do an emergency bill to get some money out the door more quickly, we can take a look at that as well, but we can't do that without at least having a plan from the administration on where and how this money they are requesting is going to be spent.

The Obama administration has not yet given us the level of information we need to make an informed decision. It appears that the administration is trying to take advantage of this Zika emergency to give itself an additional \$2 billion to use however it wants—maybe to fight Zika but maybe to do other things. What the administration is saying is that they want the money to be used for “assistance or research to prevent, treat, or otherwise respond to Zika virus . . . or other infectious diseases.” The wording is much too vague. It would allow the administration to use these emergency funds on other priorities well beyond a Zika response.

The President's request for emergency funding goes on to say that most of the money, they say, could be transferred to other parts of the government, like the Environmental Protection Agency and even the Department of Defense. It includes a lot of expenses that don't necessarily qualify as emergency spending outside the regular appropriations process.

Both sides of the aisle know the Zika situation is serious, and both sides want to do what we can to help. But Congress also has an obligation to make sure that our taxpayer dollars are being spent responsibly, that there is accountability. We shouldn't be writing a big check for the Obama administration to cash without adequate explanation and adequate accountability. We deserve that. The American people deserve it. They will expect it, and they deserve it.

I want to be clear. Zika is a very real public health threat, and it deserves serious discussion. It deserves urgent action. This fight against the Zika virus should not be turned into a political game. So I think it is a terrible sign that some Democrats in the Senate have begun to treat this devastating health issue like just another political talking point. That is what they have done here on the floor of the Senate. A couple of weeks ago, Democrats actually held a press conference calling on Congress to approve emergency funds for Zika. Then these same Democrats turned around and blocked passage of

the Energy and Water appropriations bill for a number of days.

The appropriations process is the best way for us to fund the Zika response, and the Senate Democrats are holding up this process for political purposes. We need to get moving beyond this appropriations bill to the next one that is going to address the issue of Zika. Then we hear that the minority leader might want to wait until next week to get on this bill. We need to get on this bill now.

So the Democrats have made it clear that they don't even want to talk about offsetting any of the Zika funding. The Obama administration continues to stonewall our reasonable requests for adequate information about how it wants to spend these taxpayer dollars.

Senate Republicans are going to keep asking for this information. We are going to keep pushing to use the appropriations process the way it is intended, and we are committed as Republicans to addressing the public health threat posed by the Zika virus. We will continue working across the aisle to respond to the threat and to do it in a way that is reasonable, responsible, and accountable.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor to once again urge my Republican colleagues to listen to the vast majority of the people across the country, do their job and allow us to do ours: fulfill our constitutional responsibilities, hold hearings for Judge Merrick Garland, and give him a vote.

We owe that to the people we represent. It is simply the right thing to do. Two months ago, the President did his job. He selected a nominee. For 2 months, Judge Garland has been ready and willing to meet with any Senator who will make the time. Yesterday Judge Garland did his job by submitting a questionnaire to the Senate Judiciary Committee outlining his background and his work history, which is standard for judicial nominees.

What about the Senate? In complete disregard of what so many Members continue to hear in their home States across the country, Republican leaders

are refusing to act. Senate Republicans will not say they are opposed to Judge Garland. They are refusing to even live up to their constitutional responsibility and consider him. This kind of pure obstruction and partisanship is so wrong. People across the country are not going to stand for it. We are now at an unbelievable 88 days into this Supreme Court vacancy. Especially after knowing what I do after meeting with Judge Garland and what many Republicans know after meeting with him as well, his distinguished career and work history show that he is, without a doubt, someone who deserves fair consideration by all of us in the Senate.

Judge Garland led a massive investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing and supervised the prosecution of Timothy McVeigh. He called his work for the Justice Department, following the Oklahoma City bombing, the most important thing he has ever done in his life.

His fairness and diligence earned him praise from Members of both parties, from victims' families, law enforcement officers, and even from the lead lawyer who was defending McVeigh. As a prosecutor, he ensured proper respect for the rights of criminal defendants.

He was confirmed to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals in 1997 with a strong bipartisan vote of 76 to 23. Several of those who confirmed him in 1997 still serve in the Senate today. Clearly this is less about Judge Garland as a nominee and more about political obstruction and partisanship, especially after one Republican Senator admitted that if it looks as if Donald Trump will lose the November election, we should quickly confirm Judge Garland. This comes after weeks of saying the Senate should not do its job until we have a new President.

Evaluating and confirming Supreme Court Justices is one of the most important roles we have in the Senate. I have heard from people all over my State of Washington who want the Senate to do its job.

If Republicans continue to refuse to do their jobs, they aren't saying the people should decide; they are saying they believe the Republican Presidential nominee should. That is just wrong, especially after we heard from the presumptive Republican nominee last night on FOX News.

Recently, he said that he thinks women should be punished for exercising their constitutionally protected reproductive rights.

Last night he went a step further. He would only appoint “pro-life” Justices who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Let me repeat that. The candidate Republicans would like to see in the White House nominating Supreme Court Justices has committed to taking our country back to the Dark Ages.

That is appalling, and it is something I know millions of men and women

across the country are scared of. It is just one more reason that people will continue demanding that Senate Republicans do their jobs now.

Washington State families should have a voice right now. Families across America should have a voice right now. The tea party gridlock and dysfunction that has dominated too much of our time and work in Congress should be pushed aside right now.

I hope Republicans will reconsider. I hope they will meet with Judge Garland, hold a hearing, and give him a vote. We need nine Justices serving on the highest Court in the land.

The American people deserve a fully functioning Supreme Court.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about a very important responsibility that the Senate has to deal with in an expeditious manner—a Supreme Court nomination.

In a practice consistent with every single Supreme Court nominee before him, President Obama's nominee to fill the vacancy, Judge Merrick Garland, submitted his completed questionnaire yesterday to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Inside 6 boxes were 141 pages—with 2,066 pages of appendices—in which Judge Garland provided incredibly thorough answers to the standard questions asked of every Supreme Court candidate.

He detailed the highlights of his career, his published writings, the many honors and awards he received, the cases he litigated, the judicial opinions he gave, as well as his speeches and his interviews.

Despite the fact that Senate Republicans have forced Judge Garland into an unprecedented limbo, he remains focused on the task before him. He has acted with the greatest decency, thoughtfulness, and bipartisanship while agreeing to meet with 46 Senators, including 14 Republicans.

Judge Garland respects the process. Why can't Senate Republicans?

President Obama clearly respected the process when he picked Judge Garland, who—as Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the second most important court in the country—has more Federal judicial experience than any other Supreme Court nominee in history.

Let me repeat that. Judge Garland, the nominee from our President, who was duly elected not once but twice, has more Federal judicial experience than any other Supreme Court nominee in history.

Judge Garland has committed much of his life to public service, from his days leading the successful prosecutions of the Oklahoma City bombers and the Unabomber, to his nearly two decades as a Federal appellate judge. He is brilliant and he is evenhanded.

The Congressional Research Service called him “pragmatic” and “meticulous,” a nominee who prioritizes “collaboration over ideological rigidity.”

Let me repeat that. He is a nominee who prioritizes “collaboration over ideological rigidity.”

He has also received high praise from some Republican Senators, and that praise deserves repeating.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM said: “He’s honest and capable, and his reputation is beyond reproach.”

Senator JIM INHOFE, the chairman of the committee on which I serve as ranking member said: “I think a lot of him.”

Senator ROB PORTMAN: “He’s an impressive guy.”

Senator JEFF FLAKE said: “Nobody has a bad thing to say about him.”

Yet in the same breath, these are some of the very same Republicans who refuse to hold a hearing and schedule a vote on Judge Garland’s nomination, even though article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution says that it is the Senate’s job to provide “advice and consent” on the President’s Supreme Court nominees.

This is what gets me—that my Republican friends say they care about the Constitution. They love the Constitution. They abide by the Constitution. They want a literal reading of the Constitution. Well, let’s read it together—article II, section 2, clause 2: The President “shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . judges of the Supreme Court.”

It doesn’t say the President “may nominate”; it says the President “shall nominate.” It doesn’t say the Senate “may give advice and consent”; it says they “shall.” The President shall, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. They also shall appoint Ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and judges of the Supreme Court.

So here it is. This clause wasn’t put in some bottle and miraculously washed up on the shore and read—this is what our Founding Fathers wanted. It is in the Constitution. It doesn’t say “may.” It doesn’t say to the Senate: “And by the way, p.s., if you don’t like the President, forget it.” No, no, no. It is not in there. I looked. It doesn’t say: “Well, if you think that a President isn’t a good President and that you are going to get a better one, you can put it off.” No, it doesn’t say that.

The American people have three words for the Republicans who are disrespecting this process, disrespecting our Constitution, disrespecting our President, and threatening to create a

man-made crisis at the Supreme Court. And it is a crisis. If they deadlock, it is a crisis. We will have one set of laws in one part of the country and one set of laws in the other part of the country, or we are not going to have a ruling on a very important issue. It doesn’t matter what your ideology is, you are setting up deadlocks.

It is bad enough that there is obstruction here. I know my friend, the Senator from Illinois, will talk about the obstruction when it comes to judges and Ambassadors and the like because we face it every day. That is bad enough. But the highest Court in the land, governed by this Constitution—it doesn’t say: “Look at the other side of the paper. You really don’t have to act.” No.

Across party lines, the American people are saying three words to my Republican friends: Do your job. Do your job.

Since 1916, when the Senate Judiciary Committee began holding public confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominees, the Senate has never denied a Supreme Court nominee a hearing and a vote. Let me say that again. Since 1916, the Senate has never denied a Supreme Court nominee a hearing and a vote. The Democrats never did it, and the Republicans never did it—until now. And this is from the very people who say: “Oh, I carry the Constitution in my heart. I am a strict constructionist.”

If you are such a strict constructionist, read this and follow the Constitution.

I am not sure about this. I think I read that somebody is either thinking about filing a lawsuit or they have filed a lawsuit because of inaction. I tell you, if I wasn’t here, I would truly think about that. You can’t read this Constitution and come up with any conclusion other than that what they are doing is unconstitutional—the very same people who say: “Follow the Constitution.”

So in closing, which are the words my friend is waiting for, here is what I want to say. Our Republican friends have to rethink their obstructionist approach because they are going to do lasting damage to two of our country’s most important institutions—the Senate and the Supreme Court. I know they love their country. I know they may not like this nominee, even though a lot of them seem to like him quite a bit. Maybe they are waiting for Donald Trump to put someone up. I hope that never happens. But I am going to tell you now that you are obstructing. You are obstructing the will of the people. You are obstructing a President who was elected twice. You are obstructing justice for the American people, and they all hate what you are doing, including the Republicans who have been polled.

My Republican colleagues have to end these political games. It is time to

give Judge Garland the same consideration as every other nominee before him. It is time to bring some respect back to the Senate and to the Supreme Court nomination process. The American people are going to hold my Republican colleagues accountable for this because you cannot do this. This is not right.

If you want to vote against a nominee, fine. I have done it. Of course, vote against the nominee. But as much as I have opposed nominees before—and I have—I have never suggested, nor has any other Democrat I know of ever suggested, that you don't go forward with the process.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor, noting that my friend from Illinois is going to address us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, will the Presiding Officer tell us what the order of business is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is postcloture on amendment No. 3801.

Mr. DURBIN. There are no time limits agreed to?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time is evenly divided until 4:30 p.m.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Chair.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, the Executive Calendar is sitting here on the table for each Member of the Senate to take a look at. I have renamed it. It is no longer the Executive Calendar; it is the political obituaries.

These are men and women who have been nominated to serve in positions of our government, who are excited about the opportunity to be public servants, many of whom have gone through extensive background checks, FBI checks, with staff having taken a look at their resumes, asked hard questions, demanded answers, and put these nominees through hearings. Many went through extensive periods of investigation and hearings and then were reported—20 of them, 20 judicial nominees—by the Senate Judiciary Committee to the floor of the Senate. Were they controversial? No. All 20 came to the floor by unanimous vote.

Think about it. Here is a Senate divided—54 Republicans and 46 Democrats—and 20 judicial nominees made it through what I just described to the Executive Calendar of the Senate, Wednesday, May 11, 2016. And there they sit, day after weary day, month after weary month, thinking they might have a chance to serve this Nation but realizing the clock is running out. What do I mean by that? In this Congress we have approved 17 judges—2 circuit judges, those at the appellate level, and 15 at the district level. Twenty still sit on the calendar. And across the United States, we have 87 judicial vacancies, including 29 that are in districts we think are in serious trouble if they aren't filled quickly.

The Republican majority in the Senate puts these men and women through this process, reports them out of committee, and then lets them languish on the floor of the Senate. They will not call them for a vote. What are they waiting for? Well, it is a political decision. Here is what it comes down to. There is an unwritten rule—you will not find it in our rule book—called the Thurmond rule. It relates to Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. He must have articulated this at some point in his career, but he said: When it comes to an election year—like this one—we will stop approving nominations as of the beginning of the political conventions.

Well, in this year, that is going to be about the middle of July. So if you do the countdown of when we are in session, we have probably 5, 6 weeks left to consider nominations before they die under the unwritten Thurmond rule. So what the Republicans are doing is running out the clock on these 20 people. We shouldn't be surprised. If they would do this on a nomination to fill a vacancy on the highest Court of the land, it shouldn't surprise us they would do the same thing when it comes to these 20 nominees. What are they waiting for? Why don't they want to approve these noncontroversial judges? They are waiting in prayerful reflection for the election of Donald Trump as President.

Mr. President, you know that many people in your party have mixed feelings about the candidacy of Mr. Donald Trump. But I would say, stepping aside from the merits of his candidacy, we shouldn't have mixed feelings when it comes to the Constitution, and the Constitution is explicit when it comes to vacancies on the Supreme Court. The Founding Fathers, in the Constitution—quoted a few minutes ago by my colleague from California—in article II, section 2, didn't mince words or equivocate. They said the President shall appoint nominees to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

We both have a role. The President is required by the Constitution to appoint someone to fill a vacancy. And 3 months ago, the untimely passing of Justice Antonin Scalia created that vacancy. Two months ago—56 days ago—President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to be the next Justice on the Supreme Court. The President met his constitutional responsibility. But the Republicans in the Senate announced, hours after Justice Scalia was found to have passed away, they would not even consider a nominee by this President to fill that vacancy—not a hearing, not a vote.

You might say to yourself: Well, that is politics in Washington. Should we expect anything different? Should we expect a Republican Senate to approve a nominee from a Democrat? Come on,

this is hard ball here; this isn't bean bag.

Well, let me tell you a little story. In 1988, with a vacancy on the Supreme Court, Republican President Ronald Reagan, in his last year in office, nominated Anthony Kennedy to fill that vacancy and sent the nominee to this Chamber in the Senate when it was controlled by the Democratic side. What did the Democratic majority say to the Republican President, trying to fill a Supreme Court vacancy? We know our responsibility. And that Senate, under control of the Democrats, took up the name offered by the Republican President, approved him, and sent him to the Supreme Court in 1988.

So to argue "This is just typical politics. Don't make a lot of noise. We do this all the time"—let me make it clear: What the Republican Senate majority is doing today has never—underline that word "never"—happened in the history of the United States of America.

This is disrespect for a constitutional provision that is explicit. This is disrespect for a Court which now sits with 8 members on the Court—a Court which could find itself—and already has in several instances—tied 4 to 4. How important is that? Let me read a quote from back in 1987: "Every day that passes with the Supreme Court below full strength impairs the people's business in that crucially important body." Who made that statement? Republican President Ronald Reagan. What he said then applies now.

What the Republican majority is doing in the Senate—refusing Merrick Garland a hearing and a vote, holding up on the calendar 20 nominees who should be on the Federal bench—is obstructionism at its worst. It is what the people are sick of across this country. It is disrespectful to the Constitution, it is obstructionism, and it is pure politics.

Why? Why are they so determined to keep this vacancy? Some of them, as I said, are dreaming of the possibility of a President Trump picking the next Justice on the Supreme Court. I will let your mind race away with the possibilities if "The Donald" is going to choose the next Justice on the Supreme Court, but others really bring it down to a much more basic level.

There are special interest groups who want to make sure the next Justice on the Supreme Court is their friend. They do not want to run the risk that someone is going to be put on the Court who will not rule in their favor. So they are praying their political prayer: Hang on, hang on, Senate Republicans. Take the grief that two-thirds of the American people think you are wrong in what you are doing and be prepared to accept that grief if you want the support of these special interest groups.

That is what this comes down to. It is the sad reality of politics in Washington today. And I will tell you, there is blame for both sides on many issues, but on this one there is crystal-clear clarity. The President has met his constitutional responsibility. The Senate Republican leaders, for the first time in the history of the United States of America, are denying a Supreme Court nominee a hearing and a vote. That is fundamentally wrong under the Constitution and fundamentally unfair to Merrick Garland.

Merrick Garland was born in Illinois, so maybe I am partial to him a little bit, but he has quite a record. He has been touted as one of the best nominees in terms of qualifications. He is now the chief judge of the D.C. Circuit Court, right below the Supreme Court. That is a big job, but he is the man for it, according to people from both political parties.

Solicitors General of the United States of America just sent a letter to the Senate. Nine of them signed, Democrats and Republicans. These are men and women who have argued before the Supreme Court representing the United States of America—attorneys who are familiar with that Court, the gravity of the decisions they face, the requirements to serve on the Court—and unanimously, Democrats and Republicans, they said to the Senate: Merrick Garland is the right man to serve on the Supreme Court.

We come today with sadness, and even more with a sense of injustice that the Republicans would allow this political gambit to continue. To think that they are waiting for President Donald Trump to fill this vacancy is almost impossible to say or to believe, but it is a fact.

I will close by saying I have checked the Constitution, and I check it regularly. There has been no change in the provision that says, in November of 2012, Barack Obama was reelected President of the United States to serve for 4 years—4 full years—and that would include this year. The Republican argument that he is out of business now and we will wait for the next President defies the verdict of the American people in that election. By 5 million votes they said: Barack Obama, you are the President of the United States for 4 years, with the powers attendant to that office. The denial by Republicans of that constitutional reality is a reflection on their feelings about a document which they have sworn individually to uphold and defend.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). The Senator from South Dakota.

#### THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago we received the initial report on economic growth in the first quarter of

2016. The news was not good. As my colleague, the Senator from Alaska, Mr. SULLIVAN, has pointed out many times on the floor and in many forums, our economy grew at a dismal rate of one-half of 1 percent during the first 3 months of 2016—one-half of 1 percent economic growth. In other words, the economy barely grew at all.

While this report was particularly terrible, the truth is, weak economic growth has become the norm under the Obama administration. Since the recession ended in June of 2009, the economy has grown at an average rate of just 2.1 percent. In the typical post-1960 recovery, by contrast, economic growth averaged 3.7 percent. That is a huge difference. It is the difference between a stagnant economy and a flourishing economy—and, for millions of American families, it is the difference between surviving and thriving.

Middle-class families are making 6.5 percent less than they were making in 2007, before the start of the great recession. A large part of the reason for that is the sluggish economic growth we have experienced in the Obama recovery. For too many families, this slow recovery has meant the end of cherished dreams—the dream of owning their own home, the dream of sending their kids to college, the dream of a secure retirement—and the kind of growth we need to escape from these economic doldrums is nowhere in sight.

In fact, the Obama economy has led some economists to wonder if 2 percent growth is the new normal. Right now, the Federal Reserve is projecting the economy will grow at a median rate of just 2.2 percent in 2016 and 2.1 percent in 2017. I would argue, based upon the 0.5 percent economic growth the first quarter of this year, they may be dramatically overshooting the rate of economic growth if the current trend continues, and the St. Louis Fed expects that weak growth to continue for the next decade. That is very bad news for American families who are facing a less prosperous future with less economic opportunity and mobility.

During the entire postwar period from 1947 to 2013, our Nation averaged 3.3 percent economic growth. At that pace, Americans' standard of living almost doubles every 30 years, incomes rise, financial security increases, and more people are able to afford homes, take vacations, and save for higher education. On the other hand, at the pace of growth we have seen since 2007, it will take far longer for the standard of living to double.

Fortunately, we are not condemned to weak economic growth. If we look at the President's record, it is easy to see why our economy is still sputtering along: We had a failed \$1 trillion stimulus program; \$1.7 trillion in new taxes; the President's health care law, which raised premiums for families and increased costs for small businesses;

more than 2,700 new Federal regulations—and counting, we are not done yet—get added to by the day; and a Federal debt that has nearly doubled on the President's watch and more.

The President's policies don't have to be permanent. We can repeal ObamaCare and the incredible burdens it is placing on so many families and small businesses. We can replace it with something that makes more sense, creates competition, gives consumers more choices, and drives down prices.

We can replace the President's tax hikes with comprehensive tax reform that focuses on lowering taxes for families and making America the best place in the world to do business, we can take serious action to address the spending that is fueling our national debt, and we can repeal some of the thousands of burdensome regulations the President has imposed during his tenure.

It is easy to forget that every regulation the government imposes, no matter how small, has a cost—and those costs are paid by American families and American businesses. Take the national energy tax the President imposed on coal-fired powerplants. This rule will potentially drive up electricity bills for families by hundreds of dollars each year, and it will be especially harmful to low-income families and seniors who are living on fixed incomes.

Take the President's decision to allow the EPA to regulate ponds and ditches on private land. This regulation will have significant economic impacts for farmers and property owners who will likely be hit with new Federal permits, compliance costs, and the threat of significant fines. Over the past 7-plus years, the Obama administration has imposed more than 2,700 regulations, including hundreds of major regulations. When I say "major," those are regulations that cost American families and businesses more than \$100 million each year. Out-of-touch Washington bureaucrats reaching into our States and imposing regulatory burdens from afar has become all too common in the Obama administration. Repealing some of the worst of these regulations would drastically reduce the burdens facing American families and businesses, and that would put more money in American families' pockets and free American businesses to do what they do best; that is, to innovate and create new, good-paying jobs.

If we continue on the path we are on right now, we might be the first generation of Americans to leave the next generation of Americans worse off, but we don't have to be. We can reverse the course the President has set during his administration and put in place the kind of policies that will create conditions that are favorable to economic

growth, to grow our economy and lift the burdens on American families.

Republicans in the Senate have already been working to undo the worst policies of the Obama administration. We are going to continue to fight until our Nation's economy is thriving and all families have the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

If we can just achieve 1 percentage point additional growth in the economy each year, we are told by leading economists that would add 1.3 million jobs to our economy, raise wages by \$9,000 a year, and generate an additional \$300 billion of Federal revenue that would make our fiscal picture look a lot smaller by comparison.

We have to get spending under control. We have to reform entitlement programs that are unsustainable, that are going to bankrupt future generations of Americans, to get our fiscal house in order, but we also have to grow the economy at a faster rate. One-half of 1 percent is not adequate—nor is 1 percent, nor is 2 percent. We need to get back to a normal growth period in our economy. As I said, since the end of World War II, 3.3 percent has been the average, 3.7 percent has been the norm in a recovery coming out of a recession. If we get to that level of growth, we will see millions of new jobs in our economy, we will see American families getting their wages back to where they are growing with the economy, better paying jobs for American workers, and a fiscal picture that looks a lot more manageable than the one we face today.

Economic growth is key to so many things that affect Americans' lives on a daily basis. We in the Senate ought to be focused like a laser on what we can do to put the right policies in place that would encourage and promote economic growth, rather than coming up with new ways to make it more difficult and more expensive in this economy to create jobs. Far too often, everything that happens in Washington, DC, today leads to more expenses, more mandates, more requirements, more regulations, and higher taxes, making it more difficult for our economy to get to that faster growth that is so important if we are going to make Americans' standard of living and quality of life better and hand off to the next generation a standard of living they deserve and that will improve on the one we enjoy today. That is what this is all about, and that is what we ought to be focused on.

I am pleased the Senator from Alaska is here. I am told the Senator from Indiana will be joining him in just a minute to discuss the subject. The Senator from Alaska, Mr. SULLIVAN, has been a great advocate of growth in our economy and has been down on the floor talking about the implications of a half percent of growth and what that means; that if we don't change that

trajectory and change it soon, we are going to continue down a path that makes it more and more difficult for American families to get ahead. That needs to change—faster growth, higher growth, the right kind of policies—to make that possible.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I compliment my good friend from South Dakota, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, for coming down and leading the discussion on a very important topic that, to be honest, we are not talking about nearly enough in the Senate—and certainly the Obama administration is not talking about nearly enough—and that is the importance of our economy.

I was on the floor a couple weeks ago and I made a prediction. I said there is going to be big economic news coming out, and my prediction was that nobody in the administration was going to talk about it and none of our friends in the media were going to talk about it. Unfortunately, my prediction came true.

The big news, as Chairman THUNE said, is that last quarter we grew at 0.5 percent GDP growth. We essentially didn't grow. We didn't grow. The great American economy, the thing that has made us great as a country for 200-plus years, just stalled—and nobody talked. The Obama administration didn't talk about it. The media didn't talk about it.

When we talk about gross domestic product, this is essentially the health of the economy. It is the measure of opportunity in America. Unfortunately, what we saw last quarter was additional proof that the Obama administration on this critical issue—economic growth for our citizens—is one of the worst in U.S. history. It is not just me saying that. People should take a look at these numbers. These numbers are actually from the administration and other administrations. This looks at recent economic growth for the last 50 years, starting with President Kennedy's administration, but as my colleague from South Dakota said, the average growth for the United States in our 200-plus-year history has been about 3.7 percent GDP growth.

We look at this chart—and this is very bipartisan, of course—almost 4 percent GDP growth average for the country. This is what has made us great, strong. We look at this chart, and it shows the ups and downs. This red line is 3 percent GDP growth, which is considered pretty good. It is not great but pretty good. We certainly should be targeting that.

Look at the Obama administration right here in the corner. It has never even hit 3 percent GDP growth—not once, not even in one quarter—ever.

What we are seeing right here, in the almost 10 years of President Obama, relative to any other administration, Democratic or Republican—Johnson, Nixon, even Carter, Reagan, Clinton, real strong growth there—clearly, the Obama administration has been, by any measure, a lost decade of economic growth. Unfortunately, you don't hear the administration talking about it at all. You can understand why. It is an abysmal record. But the truth is, if you look back in history and that news came out—whether it was a Democratic or Republican administration—the Secretary of the Treasury would have said: Don't worry America, we know you are hurting; we have a plan. The Secretary of Commerce would have said: We have ideas on growing the economy; we know that 0.5 percent GDP growth—essentially flat growth, no growth—is not the historical tradition of America. Historically, Cabinet members in any administration would have told us: We know it is a problem, and here is how we are going to fix it.

When this news came out 2 weeks ago, we heard nothing from this administration—nothing. When they do talk about the economy, there are typically three types of responses: One is, as my colleague from South Dakota mentioned, there is this talk in Washington about the "new normal." In my view, it is one of the most dangerous phrases being bantered about in DC. The new normal says that we know America has been growing at this robust rate, almost 4 percent GDP growth for most of our history, but there are new factors, and we should not expect that anymore. We shouldn't even expect 3 percent. Let's just dumb down our expectations.

They talk about the new normal. The new normal should be about 1.5, 2 percent GDP growth, maybe. The people in Washington are telling the rest of the country: You guys should be satisfied with that. We shouldn't be. That is a surrender of the American dream. So that is one response—the new normal.

The second thing the President has done for a while, but he can't do it anymore, unfortunately. He has looked around the world and said: Well, at least we are growing better than Europe or Japan or Brazil. Really, the only measure that actually matters is not another country; it is how do we stack up against America? He does not want to talk about that, so he talks about Europe. He can't talk about Europe anymore because we are growing at 0.5 percent GDP growth, and last quarter Europe grew at 2.2 percent. It is not great, but it is certainly better than ours. Obviously, they have to get rid of that talking point.

The third thing they do is come out and try to tell us: Hey, you know what, you are actually doing better. I know you are feeling horrible and your wages haven't gone up, but you are doing better, trust me.



In a New York Times article, the President recently lamented that, looking back, he didn't sell all the great stuff he was doing on the economy. He didn't sell it better. I don't think he needs to sell it. Most people feel it, and it is not great. He even said:

Anybody who says we are not absolutely better off today than we were just seven years ago, they're not leveling with you. They're not telling the truth. By almost every economic measure, we are significantly better off.

I think it is astounding that the President of the United States is saying that kind of stuff to the American people because it is simply not true.

Let me provide some facts. The story they tell is of a country that by almost every economic measure is actually worse off than we were when the Obama administration started. In the past 8 years, the labor force participation rate has slid to its lowest measure since the mid-1970s. Essentially, that is people who have quit looking for a job because they can't find one.

According to the most recent census data, the percentage of Americans below the poverty line in the last 8 years has grown. It is up almost 4 percent. Real median household incomes in the last 8 years have declined from \$54,900 to \$53,600. Since the President took office, food stamp participation has actually soared. It is up by almost 40 percent. The percentage of Americans who own homes—a marker of the promise of the American dream—is down 5 percent. This is all in the 8 years, 7½ years, since President Obama has been in office.

The late Vice President Hubert Humphrey once said:

Propaganda, to be effective, must be believed. To be believed, it must be credible. To be credible, it must be true.

No matter how much this administration uses soaring speeches or articles from media sources that have been favorably disposed toward them or clever tweets insisting that the economy is doing well, it simply is not. These are the facts, and Americans know it. Americans know it.

We are spending more on housing and food. Wages are stagnant. As I have mentioned, many have given up looking for good jobs. Some are questioning the ability to put their kids through college.

What is interesting is that Washington, DC, is doing fine. When you grow the government the way we have in the last 8 years, this part of the country actually never had a recession. It is not one of the richest places in America, right here in Washington, and that is why so many in the DC press corps weren't writing about this. The President says the economy is doing well, so it must be doing well.

I think the good news is that even now the media is starting to pick up on this because the problem is so perva-

sive. In this election season, this is what we are hearing Americans talk about.

Here is a heading from a recent Atlantic article: "The lonely poverty of America's white working class." Here is another one from the same publication: "The Resurrection of America's Slums." Here is one from another publication: "Poverty in America: the Deepening Crisis."

Recently, there have been numerous articles about how poverty leads to addictions and to higher mortality rates. The New Yorker had an article entitled "Life-Expectancy Inequality Grows in America."

The Washington Post is now starting to do some heartbreaking stories about poverty, death, and economic despair in our great country. Talking about the recent West Virginia primary election, the Washington Post stated: "But many poorer, less-educated folks who have been left behind in the 21st century—the ones who have seen their wages stagnate, their opportunities for upward mobility disappear and their life expectancies shorten—are looking to disrupt a status quo that has not worked for them."

What does this mean for our great country, our citizens? One indication is, in poll after poll, Americans are telling us they are running out of hope. Sixty-five percent of Americans now believe the country is on the wrong track. That is not surprising. We never hit 3 percent GDP growth in the last decade.

The vast majority of Americans don't believe their kids are going to be better off than they are. They are telling us that the quality that has made America great, the quality that is in the DNA of the United States, and that is progress, is losing out to this idea of the new normal. It is a new normal where our children are not going to be better off than we are, where we can't grow the economy. The American dream is all about progress. We need to remember that. We can't settle for another lost decade of economic growth. We can't settle for stagnation.

A number of my colleagues, particularly on the other side of the aisle, come to the Senate floor—and I have respect for everybody in this great body—and they talk about the moral imperatives they believe are important, moral imperative on this topic, moral imperative on another topic, but they rarely talk about the moral imperative of growth and opportunity. To me, that is the biggest moral imperative we have, with the exception of national defense in this body.

It is a moral imperative to recognize that we have experienced a lost decade of economic growth. We have a moral imperative to talk about the pervasive poverty, what that does to our citizens, how it creates holes in the social fabric that holds us together, and how, when

our own citizens fall through those holes, a piece of all of us goes with them because although we are individuals, we are all Americans together.

We have a moral imperative to tell our fellow citizens that working together we don't have to accept this, the new normal. We have the moral imperative to lift up American workers with policies that actually help them.

Like most Americans, I was shocked when Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said that under her administration she would put coal miners out of work. Here is the quote: "We are going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business." That is shocking. Think about that. I come from a State where there is a lot of mining. These are great jobs. These are important jobs. These are important for the national economy of America. To have a candidate say that she intends to put coal miners out of work is part of the problem.

As Senator THUNE mentioned, the other part of the problem is that Washington is no longer a partner in opportunity for coal miners, for workers, for growing the economy, but it has become an obstacle.

We have to do a lot to get this economy moving. My colleague from South Dakota mentioned a number of ideas. We are going to be on the floor talking about them—the moral imperative to provide economic opportunity and hope for Americans.

One thing for certain we have to do is get control of the Federal Government that wants to regulate every single aspect of our lives and economy. This is a chart that shows how Federal rules from this town go straight up. Every year there are more. As a matter of fact, the Obama administration is going to be the first in U.S. history to have proposed in a single year 80,000 pages of new Federal regs. If you think that is going to help the coal miners or other Americans or working-class families with hope and opportunity, that is not the right solution. What we need is less government and more economic freedom and the truth about what is going on with this great economy of ours in our great country. That is what we are going to continue to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Alaska, Senator SULLIVAN, for what he just presented to us here. He hit the nail right on the head. Along with our colleague from South Dakota, I want to add my voice to what has been said here.

As chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, we pay a lot of attention to the state of the economy. We are presented with numbers and facts about where we are as a nation. The refrain that is becoming all too familiar; that is, we really are in a stagnant position, not going anywhere.

Of all the statistics that come to us, two stand out here just recently. One is the fact that the April jobs report was significantly lower than it needs to be in order to provide meaningful jobs for Americans who are searching for jobs, and for Americans trying to move from part-time jobs to full-time permanent jobs, to put some certainty into their lives. With just 160,000 jobs created in April, basically that covers those who are retiring—maybe fewer than that—but certainly not the number of new jobs that give an indication of growth in the economy. That was a disappointing number, and obviously Wall Street paid attention to it. Hopefully it won't be repeated, but it is a worrying signal that we are not creating the kind of dynamic growth in the economy that will put our out-of-work individuals across this country back to work, that will provide opportunities for our young people who are graduating from college and high school this month and next month. That is nowhere near the number of jobs we need to even reach an average growth rate over the years, as my colleague from Alaska said.

I think we have had eleven major recessions from World War II to the present. The recovery rate out of each of those recessions has been at 4 percent. That rate of growth provided new hope for the people who lost their jobs and new hope for those coming out of educational institutions to secure a good job and begin the process of building a family, buying a home, and living the American dream. Yet this recovery—from a recession that began in late 2007 with the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the bank failures has been long. It was a deep recession. And it has taken a considerable amount of time to get moving in the right direction.

Clearly, after the last 7½ years of the Obama administration, we have not begun to achieve the kind of recovery that has been the average of all the recoveries since the end of World War II. We've been about half of that, and because the recoveries have been half of that, we have not been able to provide opportunity for the American people.

I think what we have seen here can best be defined as a result of the failed policies by this administration. We have policies that have raised taxes significantly on the American people even though their incomes have not increased. We have had policies of overspending here in Washington to the point where our national debt—based on years of deficit spending—has almost doubled from \$10.7 trillion when this administration began to over \$19 trillion after their 7½ years of governing and putting policies in place that have clearly failed.

You can come to no other conclusion, despite what the White House puts out. The American people know better be-

cause their situation is in contrast to the White House saying that things are going well and that we are on the march forward. When the American people compare that with their situation, there is no comparison to be made whatsoever.

Deficit spending, plunging into debt, and overregulation are burdening innovators and burdening businesses from having the ability to expand their business. Overtaxing and clearly overspending. Those three policies determine economic growth.

I have had the great privilege of representing a State that has done just the opposite. Under Republican leadership, our State has controlled spending, controlled regulations, and put innovative processes in place that have allowed our State to thrive and grow. We came out of a deep deficit situation some years ago and have turned that around to the point where we now have a triple-A credit rating. We went from deficit spending, which caused borrowing, to a surplus well over \$2 billion. We have become an attractive State to live and do business in.

Let me state a couple of things that have been said about our State. Chief Executive Magazine recently named Indiana one of the top five States in the Nation for business. The magazine asked 513 chief executive officers to rank the States they were familiar with on tax and regulatory regime, workforce quality, and living environment. Let me state a couple of their quotes.

Indiana . . . has its act together and is impressive.

Indiana . . . has consistently ranked in the top 3 in offering not just competitive incentives for business, but also packages that improve the skill sets to hire a qualified, work-ready workforce.

Don Brown, chief executive officer of Indianapolis-based Interactive Intelligence, Inc., recently said that the State's low costs and low taxes allow job creators to invest more resources into their businesses and their employees. He went on to say:

Limited regulations make it easy to grow here, freeing up time, which is perhaps an entrepreneur's most coveted gift. . . . We have great universities turning out lots of talented graduates. . . . The public and private sectors work effectively together in an effort to improve conditions for everybody.

How I wish that quote would reflect what is happening here in Washington. How I wish I could use that quote to say this is what is happening across the United States. I wish I could use that quote to be able to say that under the direction of this President and with the support of this Congress, we have reined in our overspending, tamped down our overregulation, put incentives in place to create jobs, and put policies in place that to create economic growth. Unfortunately, that is not the case, as has been made clear by my colleagues, and the case I am trying to make now.

The contrast between a geographic entity called a State and the Federal Government and the policies which govern that State and govern our Federal Government in the three areas of taxation, regulation, and spending is dramatic. Why wouldn't we look at the States that have succeeded? Why wouldn't we look to the policies implemented by a State that has succeeded and demonstrated dynamic economic growth over the same timeframe as the Federal Government, who has done exactly the opposite relative to taxation, regulation, and spending, and draw the clear conclusion that the policies that have been implemented by this administration have failed?

Let's stop pointing fingers at what the motives are. Let's just look at the results, and the results are very clear: We have a stagnant national economy, people not receiving opportunities to increase their income. If you go back to what the average earnings in America per family were at the start of this administration, it was \$3,000 higher than it is today.

Whatever releases come out of the White House or whatever the spokesman for the President says or the President himself says just simply doesn't match up to the facts. The facts are related to the policies that either have been put in place. It is clear that in the remaining months of this administration, those policies are not going to change. Simply there is denial of the fact that the country is not growing at a rate that provides opportunity and gives us hope for the future.

But we do have a model, and my State is not the only model. We have models of States that have done exactly the opposite of that. Yes, they have regulations, but they are there for safety and health. They are beneficial and were not put in place to micromanage how businesses operate. States have been careful with the tax dollars and revenue that come in, and they balance their fiscal budget on an annual basis. They don't throw themselves ever deeper into debt. They recognized that is not the path to growth, and they spend the taxpayers' money wisely.

Overtaxation, overregulation, and overspending clearly are not the path to economic growth. It is clear that the path is just the opposite of that.

In the remaining months I have here, I will keep talking about this issue. I hope my colleagues will pay attention and make decisions on the basis of fact, not on the basis of ideology or what they have been told by the administration or the President. They need to look at the results, and the results are dramatic in terms of application of the basic principles that stimulate economic growth and provide hope for the American people.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

## BIPARTISAN STUDENT LOAN CERTAINTY ACT

Mr. KING. Mr. President, when Senators rise on this floor, typically we are identifying problems, we are talking about how to solve them, and we are talking about how prior actions haven't quite worked. Today I have the pleasure of rising for the opposite reason. I am here to talk about something that has worked, something that we did, something that we worked on together on a bipartisan basis that has made an enormous difference for the students of our country.

In the spring of 2013, there was an impending deadline. The interest rate on student loans, which in the past had been set by statute by Congress without regard to what the underlying economics were at the time or what the borrowing rate of the Federal Government was—it was an arbitrary number set by Congress, and it was due to double. In July of 2013, it was due to double to 6.8 percent.

There was a proposal put forward by the leadership and by the Members on this side of the aisle which did not get sufficient votes. There was another proposal put forth by the Senators on the other side of the aisle which also didn't get enough votes. We were left with a situation with no proposal on the floor and an impending deadline that would have doubled rates for student loans for millions of students across the country. At that point, a small, bipartisan group of us got together and said: There has to be a better way to find a solution. We can't let this happen to our students.

This is a particularly important time of the year to talk about this because this is when students are finding out where they are going to college next year, they are making their arrangements for financial aid, and they are thinking about what their commitment will be. Well, as of this afternoon, those students are going to be able to breathe a bit of a sigh of relief because we just learned that the interest rate on student loans taken out for next year based upon the cost of borrowing for the U.S. Government will be 3.76 percent. That is the lowest it has been in a decade, and it is considerably below—by almost half—what it would have been had we not come to that solution on that hot summer day in the middle of the summer of 2013.

The group of people who worked on this and put it together were, as I said, a bipartisan group. The group consisted of Senator RICHARD BURR of North Carolina; Senator MANCHIN; Senator Tom Coburn, my friend from Oklahoma; Senator ALEXANDER; Senator TOM CARPER; Senator DICK DURBIN; and Senator Tom Harkin. We had a lot of meetings, discussions, negotiations, and ultimately worked together to determine a fair and equitable way to set the rate for student loans from the Federal Government based upon the

Federal Government's own cost of borrowing money and combined the best ideas from both plans. We got the strong support of the President, who encouraged the Democratic Members of our group to join in these negotiations, and we reached a consensus. The Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act passed this body with something like 80 votes, and that has made a real difference for our students.

Here are some numbers: \$50 billion, \$5 billion, \$275 million. Those are the answers. What are the questions?

The first is, \$50 billion is the amount of money students will save over the next 10 years based upon the difference of what the interest rate would have been and what it is going to be. This says 3.8 percent. We made this yesterday. It is actually lower; it is 3.76 percent. But this differential over 10 years equals \$50 billion in the pockets of students across this country. That is a \$5 billion-a-year difference in what they will have to pay in interest and what they would have paid had the law not been changed. That is an enormous amount of money for our students. In the State of Maine, the New America Foundation has estimated that this translates into over \$275 million in interest savings to students just in the State of Maine.

Well, those are big numbers: \$275 million, \$50 billion, \$5 billion. So what does it mean in reality to an individual student? Here is what we are talking about. Under the old law, an individual typical undergraduate would have paid \$17,000 in interest as opposed to \$10,000. That is at least \$6,000 that goes into the pockets of our students. That is going to make a real difference.

I am delighted that we have had this success and that we have been able to report something that has actually been done right around here and then has truly benefited millions of students across this country, but we have plenty of work still to do. College is still too expensive. The burden of student debt generally is very heavy and weighs on not only the students but our economy. We need to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. We need to enact meaningful changes in the whole structure of how colleges can keep their prices affordable. We need to give students the tools they need to succeed. We also need to look at the structure of student loan programs to simplify, A, how you apply, and B, how you pay them back, how the structure is, and have simple, easily understood techniques to pay back according to your means, according to what you are earning at the time, an earnings-based repayment schedule so that students don't exit college with this enormous burden. One student told me: Senator, I feel like I have a mortgage but no house. That is essentially what is happening.

So what I am talking about today is truly good news, but it is not the end of

the story and we should not say: Well, we have taken care of that issue. Let's move forward.

I do think every now and then it is important to acknowledge that occasionally the policies work out, and this is one that has worked out spectacularly for the students of America. Fifty billion dollars over the next 10 years will be saved by students who would otherwise be paying that money in interest, and that is money they can invest in their own futures and so can make a better life for themselves, their families, and our country.

I appreciate the opportunity to acknowledge the work that was done by this entire body and by the House and by the President to resolve what would have been a true crisis for our students and to move it toward a much more manageable solution. I look forward to continuing to work on this issue and to keeping in touch with Chairman ALEXANDER and Members of this body who are interested in continuing to work on this issue of the cost of college and how student loans are structured in order to make them work most effectively and fairly for the young people of this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3888

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss my amendment No. 3888. I am proud to join my colleagues from Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado to offer this bipartisan amendment. Our three States are signatories to the Republican River Compact, which allocates the water resources from the Republican River Basin as it travels across our States.

Through this allocation process, our States work closely with the Republican River Compact Administration and the Bureau of Reclamation to help ensure the most efficient utilization of our waters as they head to families and businesses across the region. In Nebraska we value clean water. Our citizens go to great lengths to preserve and protect these resources.

However, in recent years, the Bureau of Reclamation has violated administrative orders issued by Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado with no justification for their actions. This lack of accountability from the BOR is costing money. It is limiting citizens' access to precious water resources.

Our bipartisan amendment that is before us would halt funding for the BOR when it violates State orders. Federal law already requires the BOR to comply with the States through interstate

compacts. Our amendment would hold this agency accountable for its actions. Our States have a right to manage their own water resources for the benefit of compact compliance.

But through its action, the BOR has effectively altered those compacts. This agency was not created to operate unilaterally and exert veto power over the decisions States make to comply with compacts. Our amendment will ensure that Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas retain control of their waters. It will protect other States that have these interstate compacts from the consequential actions of an unaccountable Federal agency.

Nebraska and its neighbors in Kansas and Colorado are good stewards of natural resources. We protect our water. We protect it at the State and the local levels. These States should be free to preserve their resources without unjustified intervention by the Federal Government. I urge all of my colleagues to consider this amendment, to consider the impact of a Federal agency overreaching and violating the rights of States to determine how to control, how to manage, how to work together, and how to work within compacts in order to meet the obligations they have.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RULEMAKING

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have come across an embarrassing situation. The U.S. Department of Education has apparently earned an F from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service in its first attempt to write a regulation under the new law fixing No Child Left Behind that passed this body with 85 votes last year, passed the House overwhelmingly, and that President Obama signed into law in December calling it "the Christmas miracle."

Most of us will remember this law. I know the Senator from Pennsylvania had a major role in some provisions in it. This was a law to fix a law that everybody wanted fixed. It was 8 years overdue.

The law that needed to be fixed was called No Child Left Behind. Over the last several years, what had happened was that the U.S. Department of Education had become, in effect, a national school board. Everybody was upset with how much those who worked in the Department of Education were telling teachers, school boards, states, and students in 100,000 public schools what

to do. They were telling them what to do about how to evaluate teachers, what to do about what their academic standards should be—adopt common core—telling them what to do about how to use test scores, and saying how to fix a school that might be in trouble. There are seven defined ways to fix a troubled school. People grew so upset with it that we had a massive bipartisan uprising in the Congress.

It is not easy to get 85 Senators on behalf of a big complex piece of legislation, but we did. The Wall Street Journal said that it was the largest transfer of power from Washington, DC, to the States in 25 years. Almost everybody liked it except some people in the U.S. Department of Education, who set about almost immediately to try to rewrite the law as if they had actually been elected to something.

We anticipated that. In this law we took the extraordinary step—we in Congress who under article I of the Constitution are elected to write laws—to write prohibitions into the law.

For example, in the law there is a specific provision that said the U.S. Department of Education may not tell Tennessee or Pennsylvania or any other State what its academic standard must be specifically. It may not tell it that it must adopt common core. That is in the law. That is a specific prohibition.

What I want to talk about today is a report by the Congressional Research Service that Congressman KLINE, chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, and I released today that says in the very first attempt by the Department to write a regulation implementing the new law, they flunked the test. Those are my words, not those of the Congressional Research Service, but their words are nearly as plain as mine.

A new report by CRS says that their proposed "supplement not supplant" regulation goes beyond "a plain language reading of the statute" and is likely against the law.

Congressman KLINE said:

The administration spent years dictating national education policy and failed to deliver the quality education every child deserves. Now, the department seems determined to repeat its past mistakes. There is no question this regulation would violate both the letter and intent of the law, and it must be abandoned. Congress and the administration promised to reduce the federal role and restore local control, and we will use every available tool to ensure that promise is kept.

Mr. President, I know, Congressman KLINE knows, and the Members of this body know that a law is not worth the paper it is printed on unless it is implemented properly. I am determined, as the chairman overseeing the Committee on Education, to make sure that this law is implemented properly.

We will have this year six hearings on implementation of this law. There is

a coalition of organizations that includes the Nation's Governors, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and others. These are people who don't always agree on education policy. They helped pass this law, and they are equally determined to make sure it is implemented correctly.

They are not just working at a national level. The Governors in Tennessee and in other States are working with coalitions of those same organizations to make sure the law is implemented properly.

On April 12, we had a hearing in the Education Committee, and I talked with the newly confirmed Education Secretary about this. I urged the President to appoint an Education Secretary because I wanted someone there who was accountable to the Senate, and he was confirmed. His responsibility is to discharge his duties faithfully according to the law, but based upon this first regulation, no one seems to be taking that seriously.

Let me be specific about it. There is a provision in the law that goes back to about 1970 that says that if you are going to get money from the Federal Government—we call that title I money—that you have to provide at least comparable services with state and local funding in schools that get the money and schools that don't, except that teacher salaries may not be included in that computation. That is in the law. That has been there for decades now.

Now we had a debate in our committee and on the floor about whether we should change that law. The Senator from Colorado, Mr. BENNET, feels very strongly about it. He said that we ought to change the law to say that teachers' salaries should be included in comparing spending in title I schools and non-title I schools. I had a different proposal. I said: Well, I agree with your point, Senator BENNET, but my proposal I would call Scholarship for Kids. Let's just take the Federal dollars in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, or Maryland and let the States decide to create \$2,100 scholarships—the amount it could be—and follow each low-income child to the school that the child attends. Neither Senator BENNET's proposal nor my proposal could be adopted by the Senate. So we did not change the law.

We then put specifically into the law a provision that said to the Department of Education that it may not write a regulation in such a way that requires parity or equal spending among school districts. That is in the law as well. Yet what happens? In the first regulation that the Department of Education sought to do in what we call a negotiated rulemaking process, they came up with a scheme, because as the departing Secretary said, his lawyers

are smarter than the people in the Senate or the people who work here. They came up with a scheme and requirements that would violate the law, and the method they chose to require is prohibited by another provision in the law. I don't call that being clever. I call that just ignoring the law, and I am not going to put up with it. I am not going to allow the Department of Education to sit here and watch us in both bodies of Congress—by big bipartisan majorities and supported by Governors, as well as teachers unions—decide that we don't want Washington dictating every little thing that happens in the schools, and as soon as the President himself signs the law, they start rewriting it over in his own Department.

If this one provision, this rule that the Department came up with, were adopted, these are some of the consequences.

It would, No. 1, require a complete costly overhaul of almost all of the State and local finance systems in the country. Maybe they need to be overhauled, but we did not decide that they needed to be, and no one is elected in the Department of Education to require that.

No. 2, it would require the forcing of thousands and thousands of teachers to transfer from one school to another school. Perhaps they should transfer, but there are 100,000 public schools and there are 3.5 million teachers, and we did not decide in our law that they had to transfer, and the Department can't decide that either.

It would require States and local school districts to move back to the burdensome practice of detailing every individual cost on which they spend money to provide a basic educational program to all students, which is exactly what we were trying to free States and districts from under the law. We heard from superintendents and from school boards that this nit-picking, "mother may I" approach of the Department bureaucrats was wasting the time of superintendents, school boards, and teachers. So we wrote more flexibility into the law. The Department now wants to take it back.

According to the Council of the Great City Schools, this new proposed rule would cost \$3.9 billion just for the 69 urban school systems to eliminate the differences in spending between the schools.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks a copy of a statement that Congressman KLINE of Minnesota, the chairman of the House Education Committee, and I made concerning the report of the Congressional Research Service that says likely that the Department has "exceeded its statutory authority and appears to go beyond what would be required under a plain language reading of the statute."

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks a statement I made in connection with the April 12 hearing with our Education Committee in the Senate, when Secretary King testified.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks an editorial from the Wall Street Journal entitled "Obama's Ed-Run" that was published on April 18 of this year.

The Wall Street Journal said, among other things, that "the administration is now rewriting the parts of the law it doesn't like." A law passed with big bipartisan majorities.

This is an intolerable situation. This is a complete flouting of the specific bipartisan intent of large majorities of the Senate and the House by a small group of people in a single department who know better than to do this. They know better than to do this. They are ignoring what we have written into law.

They are not elected to anything. If they would like to be in the Congress or the Senate, they can resign their positions and the elections come up this year. They can run, and they can try to change the law. It took us 8 years to debate. We debated these provisions with very good people. The Senator from Colorado, who weighed in on this whole question of parity of spending between school districts, is a former distinguished superintendent of the Denver school district. He feels very passionate about it. I used to be the U.S. Secretary of Education myself. I have a different proposal about how to fix it, and I feel pretty passionate about it. But I feel even more passionate that if we are going to decide the answer to the question, we are going to decide it here, and it is not going to be decided down the street by regulations that are not authorized by law and in a method that is specifically prohibited by the provisions of a law that was signed by the President in December.

So this is the first such regulation, but there will be more. I would hope that the Secretary of Education and the men and women who work for him would stop and take a deep breath and realize that we were serious when we passed this law, that we have the broad support of the entire education community across the board, and that I am not going to rest until I make sure that this law is implemented in the way it was written. That means that we are going to continue to hold the remainder of our six hearings this year. I am going to work with the coalition of Governors, teachers organizations, chief State school officers, and others to put a spotlight on the Department. I am going to urge the State departments of education to begin to write their own state education plans, which they then later submit to the Depart-

ment in order to obtain their Federal dollars under the law. Then, if the regulations are not consistent with the law, I don't believe they should follow them. That means the State should ask for a hearing. And if the Department persists, then the State should go to court to sue the Department.

If the Department persists, we have our own remedies in the Senate and the House of Representatives. We have something called the Congressional Review Act. It only takes 51 of us to overturn a final rule that we believe is not consistent with the law. We can do that. I will be at the head of the line in trying to do it. We have an appropriations process. The U.S. Department of Education has to come before us and be accountable to us for all of the money they receive.

I expect from here on out for those who write the rules to follow the law. It is not just me saying this, it is not just Congressman KLINE saying this, we have the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service that has examined this regulation. I hope my colleagues will look at this report. They have concluded that the regulation the Department proposed does not follow the plain language reading of the statute that was enacted and signed into law only last December, and is likely against the law.

This is the first shot across the bow, as far as I am concerned. I am going to be watching every single one of these regulations. I hope this does not happen a second or third time or there will be a large number of us seeking to do anything we can do to make sure the law is implemented the way it should be.

This was the most important law passed by the U.S. Congress last year. It affected 50 million children, 3.5 million teachers, and 100,000 public schools. It restored to the people closest to the children the authority for dealing with those children. Everybody wanted that. Virtually everybody wanted that except a few people in the U.S. Department of Education who cannot keep their hands off America's 100,000 public schools. They need to do that. They need to learn to do that. They are supposed to create an environment in which teachers, students, and school boards can succeed; they are not supposed to serve as a national school board.

Congressman KLINE, the chairman of the House committee, and I released this report today. I call it to the attention of my colleagues. I call it to the attention of the Governors, teachers, organizations, and all who care about our schools.

I can guarantee you that we are going to keep our eye on the ball and make sure that future regulations are within the authority of the law we passed and that this law—the most important law passed last year by this

Congress and signed by the President—is implemented the way Congress wrote it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ALEXANDER, KLINE: NONPARTISAN GOVERNMENT ANALYSIS CONFIRMS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED REGULATION IS AGAINST THE LAW

WASHINGTON, May 11.—A new report by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) finds the Department of Education's proposed "supplement not supplant" regulation goes beyond "a plain language reading of the statute" and is likely against the law.

The CRS report was prepared in response to broad congressional interest in the proposed regulation on the new law that replaced No Child Left Behind and whether the department has the legal authority to issue the regulation. The report found that the department's "interpretation appears to go beyond what would be required under a plain language reading of the statute," and that proposed regulation "appear[s] to directly conflict with this statutory language, which seems to place clear limits on [the Education Department's] authority." The CRS report also states that a "legal argument could be raised that [the Education Department] exceeded its statutory authority if it promulgates the proposed [supplement not supplant] rules in their current form."

Senate education committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) said: "This report from the non-partisan Congressional Research Service confirms that what the Education Department is proposing is against the law. So now Congress has told the education secretary it's against the law, a government agency has researched it and said it's against the law, and members of the negotiated rulemaking committee who rejected it said it was against the law. I will use every power of Congress to see that this law is implemented the way Congress wrote it."

House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline (R-Minn.) said: "The administration spent years dictating national education policy and failed to deliver the quality education every child deserves. Now, the department seems determined to repeat its past mistakes. There is no question this regulation would violate both the letter and intent of the law, and it must be abandoned. Congress and the administration promised to reduce the federal role and restore local control, and we will use every available tool to ensure that promise is kept."

In writing the new law last year, Congress debated and ultimately chose to leave unchanged a provision in the law often referred to as "comparability." This provision in the law says school districts have to provide at least comparable services with state and local funding to Title I schools and non-Title I schools.

A separate provision, known as "supplement not supplant" or SNS, is intended to keep local school districts from using federal Title I dollars as a replacement for state and local dollars in low-income schools.

The department's proposed supplement not supplant regulation attempts to change comparability by forcing school districts to include teacher salaries in how they measure their state and local spending and require that state and local spending in Title I schools be at least equal to the average spent in non-Title I schools.

The department proposed the regulation to a negotiated rulemaking committee in March, but the committee could not reach agreement on the proposal. Wisconsin Superintendent Tony Evers, a member of the rule-making committee, warned that "Congressional intent isn't necessarily being followed here."

On the question of the department's legal authority for its regulations, CRS says: "The Supreme Court often recites the 'plain meaning rule,' that, if the language of the statute is plain and unambiguous, it must be applied according to its terms. Thus, if the language of the statute is clear, there is no need to look outside the statute to its legislative history or other extrinsic sources in order to ascertain the statute's meaning or underlying congressional intent."

"In the draft proposed rule . . . the Education Department (ED) provided only a limited discussion of how this statutory language gives ED the legal authority to require parity in expenditures in Title I-A and non-Title-I-A schools. According to ED, the reason that the proposal requires that Title I-A schools receive at least as much in state and local funding as non-Title I-A schools is 'so that Title I funds can provide truly supplemental support in Title I schools.' . . . On its face, however, the plain language of the SNS provisions does not appear to require such a result. Notably, the statutory language does not establish any type of standard or requirement regarding how to demonstrate that a Title I-A school receives all of the state and local funds it would have received in the absence of Title I-A funds. . . . ED's interpretation appears to go beyond what would be required under a plain language reading of the statute."

On the question of whether the law specifically prohibits the department from requiring equalized spending, the report says: "(The Every Student Succeeds Act) retained the Title I prohibition that states: 'Nothing in this title shall be construed to mandate equalized spending per pupil for a State, local educational agency, or school.' The proposed SNS regulations, however, appear to directly conflict with this statutory language, which seems to place clear limits on ED's authority. This prohibition against equalized spending thus raises significant doubts about ED's legal basis for proposing regulations that would require Title I-A per pupil expenditures to meet or exceed those of non-Title-I-A schools. . . . Congress's decision to expressly prohibit ED from requiring equalized expenditures among schools indicates that Congress did not intend to impose such a requirement in the SNS context, particularly in light of the absence of explicit language to the contrary."

On the question of Congressional intent for the department to address comparability, the report says: "Meanwhile, the legislative history behind Title I's comparability provisions raises similar questions about ED's legal authority to establish the proposed SNS regulations in their current form. Over the eight-year period during which Congress considered a comprehensive reauthorization of the ESEA, several bills and amendments were introduced that would have modified the comparability provision to require that actual school-level expenditures be used in the determination of comparability, but none of these proposals have been adopted. Most recently, during consideration of S. 1177 in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator Michael Bennet offered and withdrew an amendment to require that comparability determina-

tions be based on state and local per-pupil expenditures (including actual personnel and non-personnel expenditures). Ultimately, the ESSA, which comprehensively reauthorized the ESEA, did not make any changes to the comparability requirement, leaving in place the statutory prohibition on the use of staff salary differentials for years of employment when determining expenditures per pupil from state and local funds or instructional salaries per pupil from state and local funds. In other words, the ESSA did not alter the existing statutory language that prohibits the use of staff salary differentials for years of employment when determining expenditures per pupil from state and local funds or instructional salaries per pupil from state and local funds in making comparability determinations.

"Thus, the proposed SNS regulations appear to effectively require (local educational agencies) to use actual teacher salaries for SNS purposes despite the fact that the ESSA did not address this matter. Because a reviewing court could view this legislative history as relevant evidence of congressional intent to maintain current statutory requirements related to comparability determinations, a court could potentially conclude that ED lacks the statutory authority to attempt to impose a similar requirement via other methods, including promulgation of the proposed SNS regulations."

The report concludes: "Based on the plain language of the above provisions in conjunction with the legislative history and the statutory scheme as a whole, it therefore seems unlikely that Congress intended section 1118(b) to authorize ED to establish regulations that would require Title I-A per-pupil expenditures to meet or exceed those of non-Title-I-A schools. Given some of the concerns identified above, it seems that a legal argument could be raised that ED exceeded its statutory authority if it promulgates the proposed SNS rules in their current form."

[From the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions]

CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: ALREADY "DISTURBING EVIDENCE" THAT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS IGNORING THE NEW LAW

WASHINGTON, DC, April 12.—Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) today said there is already "disturbing evidence" that the Education Department is ignoring the law that Congress passed in December and told the Education Secretary he would use "every power of Congress to make sure the law is implemented the way we wrote it."

Alexander said that in a negotiated rule-making session, "your department proposed a rule that would do exactly what the law says it shall not do . . . Not only is what you're doing against the law, the way you're trying to do it is against another provision in the law."

Alexander was chairing the second of six planned oversight hearings on the law passed last year to fix No Child Left Behind. Education Secretary John King was today's witness.

"As Secretary, you have sworn to discharge your duties faithfully, and in your confirmation hearing, you said you would 'abide by the letter of the law.' The importance of the hearing today is to make sure that you and your employees are doing just that," Alexander said.

In writing the law last year, Congress debated and ultimately chose to leave unchanged a provision in the law often referred to as "comparability," first put in there in 1970, that says school districts have to provide at least comparable services with state

and local funding to Title I schools and non-Title I schools.

The law specifically says that school districts shall not include teacher pay when they measure spending for purposes of comparability.

At today's hearing, Alexander said: "To accomplish your goals on comparability, you are using the so-called 'supplement not supplant' provision that is supposed to keep local school districts from using federal Title I dollars as a replacement for state and local dollars in low-income schools.

"The department is forcing school districts to include teacher salaries in how they measure their state and local spending and require that state and local spending in Title I schools be at least equal to the average spent in non-Title I schools."

THE CHAIRMAN'S PREPARED REMARKS ARE  
BELOW

Mr. Secretary, I urged the president to nominate an Education Secretary because I thought it was important to have a confirmed Secretary when the department was implementing the new law fixing No Child Left Behind.

As Secretary, you have sworn to discharge your duties faithfully, and in your confirmation hearing, you said you would "abide by the letter of the law."

The importance of the hearing today is to make sure that you and your employees are doing just that.

Last year this committee worked to pass a bill that fixed No Child Left Behind. The legislation signed by the president passed the House 359-64. It passed the Senate 85-12. The president called it a Christmas miracle.

The reason we were able to achieve such unusual unanimity and consensus is that people had gotten tired of the Department of Education telling them so much of what they ought to be doing.

It wasn't just Republicans or governors who were fed up, it was school superintendents, teachers, principals, parents, state legislatures, school boards, and chief state school officers.

There hasn't been a broader coalition that's helped to pass a law in a long time.

The Department of Education had become a national school board, telling Washington state how to evaluate teachers, telling Kansas what their standards must be, and telling Tennessee how to fix failing schools.

The legislation we passed got rid of all that. And then—it went further—to the extraordinary length of putting in statute explicit prohibitions on the department in anticipation of another effort at regulatory overreach.

It's a dramatic change in direction for federal education policy—the Wall Street Journal read it and said it's the "largest devolution of federal control to the states in a quarter-century."

But it isn't worth the paper it's printed on if not implemented properly.

Today, we're holding our second hearing of at least six to oversee the implementation of this law and already we are seeing disturbing evidence of an Education Department that is ignoring the law that each of this committee's 22 members worked so hard to craft.

It wasn't easy to pass a law that most of us could agree to. As I said last year, there were crocodiles at every turn.

One of them was an issue people call "comparability." They're talking about a provision in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, first put in there in 1970, that says school districts have to provide at least comparable services with state and local

funding to Title I schools and non-Title I schools.

The law specifically says that school districts shall not include teacher pay when they measure spending for purposes of comparability.

This committee has debated several times whether or not teacher pay should be excluded. Senator Bennet felt very strongly about his proposal to address this, and I felt strongly about mine.

Ultimately the United States Congress made two decisions about this issue, as reflected in the law we passed:

First, we chose not to change the comparability language in law, so the law still says teacher pay shall not be included:

Second, we added a requirement that school districts report publicly the amount they are spending on each student, including teacher salaries, so that parents and teachers know how much money is being spent and can make their own decisions about what to do with it, rather than the federal government mandating it be used in comparability calculations.

The law that the president signed in December didn't do one thing to change the law that teacher salaries not be included.

But here's what your department did on April 1—you tried to do what Congress wouldn't do in Comparability by regulating another separate provision in the law.

In a negotiated rulemaking session, your department proposed a rule that would do exactly what the law says it shall not do—that is, force districts to include teacher salaries in how they measure their state and local spending and require that state and local spending in Title I schools be at least equal to the average spent in non-Title I schools.

If your proposed rule were adopted, it would:

1. Require a complete, costly overhaul of almost all the State and local finance systems in the country.

2. Require forcing teachers to transfer to new schools.

3. Require states and school districts to move back to the burdensome practice of detailing every individual cost on which they spend money to provide a basic educational program to all students, which is exactly what we were trying to free states and districts from under this law.

4. According to the Council of Great City Schools, it would cost \$3.9 billion just for their 69 urban school systems to eliminate the differences in spending between schools.

But I'm not interested in debating today whether what you've proposed is a good idea or a bad one—the plain fact of the matter is that the law specifically says you cannot do it.

Not only is what you're doing against the law, the way you're trying to do it is against another provision in the law.

To accomplish your goals on comparability, you are using the so-called "supplement not supplant" provision that is supposed to keep local school districts from using federal Title I dollars as a replacement for state and local dollars in low-income schools.

According to a Politico story published on December 18, the former Secretary of Education said: "Candidly, our lawyers are much smarter than many of the folks who were working on this bill."

We in Congress were smart enough to anticipate your lawyers' attempts to rewrite the law.

So we included specific prohibitions in the "supplement not supplant" provision that

would prohibit you from doing the very thing you have proposed.

Section 1118(b)(4), says "Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize or permit the Secretary to prescribe the specific methodology a local educational agency uses to allocate State and local funds to each school receiving assistance under this part."; and

Section 1605, says "Nothing in this title shall be construed to mandate equalized spending per pupil for a State, local educational agency, or school."

I'll use every power of Congress to make sure the law is implemented the way we wrote it, including our ability to use the appropriations process and to overturn such regulations once they are final.

In addition, if you try to force states to follow these regulations that ignore the laws we wrote, I'll encourage them to request a hearing with the department. And if they lose, I'll tell them to take you to court.

Second, I'm not the only one who can read the law. You're going to come right up against the broad coalition of groups who helped pass this law—the governors, school superintendents, teachers, principals, parents, state legislatures, and school boards.

They've already sent you a letter saying that "Regulations and accompanying guidance should clarify how supplement, not supplant is separate and distinct from maintenance of effort and comparability, and steer clear of anything that would change or modify any of those provisions beyond the statutory changes already signed into law."

Wisconsin Superintendent Tony Evers, a member of the rulemaking committee, said last week that "Congressional intent isn't necessarily being followed here."

Noelle Ellerson of the school superintendents association, says that the prohibitions in the law, "in tandem with Congress' deliberate act of leaving comparability unchanged, makes a seemingly tight case against expanding supplement not supplant."

You've testified here and in the House of Representatives that you will "abide by the letter of the law."

It's not abiding by the letter of the law to require local school districts to use teacher salaries and equalize spending between Title I and non-Title I schools when the law prohibits you from doing that.

It's not abiding by the letter of the law to use the supplement not supplant provision to achieve your goals for Comparability when Congress debated this issue and chose to not make any changes in the law.

I'm making a point of this today because we're at the beginning of the implementation of a law that affects 3.4 million teachers and 50 million students in 100,000 public schools.

I'm determined to see that the law is implemented the way Congress wrote it.

I think it's important at the beginning of this implementation to make sure that you and those who work at the department understand that.

[From Wall Street Journal, Apr. 18, 2016]

OBAMA'S ED-RUN—THE ADMINISTRATION TRIES TO DICTATE STATE AND LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDING

President Obama has no inhibitions about rewriting laws he doesn't like—even those he's signed. Witness the Administration's revision of the Every Student Succeeds Act to allow the feds to regulate state and local school spending.

The law—which passed Congress last year with large bipartisan majorities—devolved

power to the states and rolled back some federal mandates. In doing so, Congress rebuffed the White House's previous attempts to direct local education policy with No Child Left Behind waivers.

Mr. Obama nonetheless hailed the law as a civil-rights success that "reflects many of the priorities of this administration." One notable achievement was giving local school districts more discretion over Title I funds, which target poor students. Federal policy dating to 1970 requires that Title I funds must supplement, rather than supplant, state and local spending.

This requirement isn't controversial, but school districts still complained that the cost of completing the federal paperwork to comply diverted resources from instruction. Congress eased the burden by letting school districts establish their own methodology to show compliance. The law also prohibited the Secretary of Education from prescribing the "specific methodology a local educational agency uses to allocate State and local funds" or mandating "equalized spending per pupil for a State, local educational agency, or school."

The Administration is now rewriting the parts of the law it doesn't like. The Education Department recently proposed assessing the local school district's compliance with the law by whether a Title I school "receives at least as much in State and local funding as the average non-Title I school." In other words, the Administration is trying to do exactly what the law prohibits it from doing.

Progressives want to force local school districts to equalize spending among schools. Regardless of the policy merits, this is impractical since staff compensation represents more than 80% of school spending. Younger teachers with lower base salaries are more likely to work at low-income schools due to seniority rules in labor agreements and state laws.

This is why the law forbids the feds from considering "staff salary differentials for years of employment" when assessing comparability between Title I and non-Title I schools. Mandating equalized spending in Title I schools as non-Title I schools would force states to rewrite their education funding formulas and districts to redo their labor agreements.

Experienced teachers earning higher salaries might have to be forcibly transferred to low-income schools. Or teachers at Title I schools would have to be paid more. Another alternative—and the goal on the left—is to compel school districts to employ more staff at low-income schools. Alas, the quantity of employees is a poor proxy for the quality of education.

This Administration line-item veto violates both the letter and spirit of a law that was intended to reduce federal control over education rather than increase it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

AMENDMENT NO. 3871

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to take this time to speak on an amendment I have authored, amendment No. 3871, which will be voted on shortly—at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon.

I was listening to my friend Senator ALEXANDER. I know he was not talking about my amendment—he was talking about a different subject—but I always listen to Senator ALEXANDER because he always makes such important

points. I couldn't agree with him more that laws are not worth the paper they are printed on unless they are implemented properly. That was a comment he made. That is the reason I filed amendment No. 3871.

I wish to point out that Congress passed the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act in 1958. It was that act which requires all Federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior and the head of the applicable State fish and game departments on water projects.

The concern we have today is that we have many water projects that are being initiated—it could be a dam project, a levy project being done by the Army Corps—and they are required to work with the recommendations of Fish and Wildlife as it relates to the impacts these projects have on fish and wildlife. In fact, they are not doing it. That is the reason I authored this amendment, to carry out congressional intent—not congressional intent—what we wrote into the law so that it is very clear that as part of the consultation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the States are to determine the potential impact to wildlife resources, describe the damages that will be caused by the project, and develop mitigating measures to prevent those damages and improve wildlife resources. That is the current rule.

The problem is that the Federal agencies are not required to adopt the recommendations. I understand that, but they must give the recommendations full consideration, and they are not doing that today. At least they are not doing it as much as we think they should be. That is the purpose for this amendment, to make it clear that we meant what we said when we passed the law—similar to what my good friend said in regard to the education bill we passed last year.

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act review is a longstanding and critically important component of water resources planning. Utilization of expert recommendations in these reviews makes sense.

Let me underscore what we are talking about. Water projects are very important. I know that. I serve on the Environment and Public Works Committee, which is the authorizing committee on many of these issues, to get these water projects moving. I understand the challenges. But one of the purposes is to make sure we preserve fish and wildlife.

Every year, hunting and fishing contribute \$200 billion to our total economic activity, to our Nation's economy. It is a huge part of the reason we require that type of consultation and working together—in order that when these projects move forward, the recommendations that are made by Fish and Wildlife and our local government

entities are totally consistent with our local communities, that they are heeded and taken into consideration so that we not only get the needed water projects but we also preserve our fish and wildlife habitats so that we don't endanger the species as part of the project.

I wish to emphasize that not only is this an environmental issue, this is about State involvement. Not only does the Army Corps need to ensure that projects meet Federal environmental requirements, it needs to respect each State's unique situation. If State fish and wildlife experts express concern about a project, my amendment reiterates what the law already is. The Army Corps must listen. That is what it says. It is as simple as that.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. It has the strong support of many of our wildlife federations. The National Wildlife Federation supports it. Izaak Walton League of America, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited, and wildlife federations from many of our States support it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter in support of my amendment.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

APRIL 25, 2016.

Re: Support Cardin Amendment 3871 to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

DEAR SENATOR: As organizations representing a broad range of conservation, sportsmen and women, recreation, and outdoor interests, we urge you to support Amendment 3871 to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. This common sense, cost-effective amendment will protect fish and wildlife, make federal water projects better, and give a real voice to the nation's state and federal fish and wildlife experts.

Every year, hunting and fishing contribute \$200 billion in total economic activity to our nation's economy. Ensuring that water resources projects are designed, built and operated to sustain and improve fish and wildlife populations is critical to this economy and to our sporting traditions.

Since 1958, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act has fully integrated state and federal fish and wildlife expert review into the Army Corps of Engineers water resources planning process. As part of the water resources project review process, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service evaluates the impacts of proposed water resources projects and makes recommendations to reduce the harm to fish and wildlife resources. State fish and wildlife experts are also encouraged to provide input under this process.

Despite the extensive work undertaken by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the states in analyzing projects and developing important recommendations, the Army Corps of Engineers often does not follow the expert recommendations that are developed. When this happens, federal water projects can cause significant, and entirely avoidable, harm to the nation's fish and wildlife. Failing to follow these expert recommendations also leads to mitigation plans that do not work.

Amendment 3871 would ensure that the recommendations of the nation's fish and



wildlife experts are fully accounted for during the planning of water resources projects. This is a common sense, cost-effective way to protect our nation's wildlife and make water projects better for all of us. Our organizations urge you to vote yes on amendment 3871.

Respectfully,

National Wildlife Federation, Izaak Walton League of America, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited, Arkansas Wildlife Federation, Conservation Federation of Missouri, Nebraska Wildlife Federation, North Carolina Wildlife Federation, South Dakota Wildlife Federation, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Mr. CARDIN. I encourage my colleagues to read the language of this amendment. It carries out current law. That is simply what it does. Current law requires this consideration by Fish and Wildlife on these projects.

This amendment makes it clear that we want the Federal agencies to comply with the law. That is why we wrote it that way. And this amendment would make sure the intent of Congress in implementing the statute is, in fact, carried out.

Mr. President, with that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I come to the floor again today to discuss the Zika virus, which has been in the news quite often in my home State of Florida and internationally.

In a moment, I want to enter into the RECORD a number of articles that have appeared just in the last week in papers across the State of Florida.

On May 7, the newspaper in Pensacola had this headline: "Panhandle conditions create a Zika 'powder keg.'" The argument it makes is that part of the State—as are many of the areas in the South—is an area where you find prevalent a species of mosquito which is the primary one that is now transmitting the Zika virus. It goes on to say that as temperatures rise and rainfall increases—these are the two elements that mosquitoes need to spread. So there is going to be a massive spread—as there is every year—in the specific species of mosquitoes that transmit the Zika virus in the panhandle of Florida.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Pensacola News Journal article.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From <http://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2016/05/07/panhandle-conditions-create-zika-powder-keg/83698034/>, May 7, 2016]

#### PANHANDLE CONDITIONS CREATE ZIKA 'POWDER KEG'

(By Carlos Gieseken)

Nine out of 10 mosquito bites in Northwest Florida can be attributed to the culprit known to scientists as *aedes albopictus* and colloquially as the Asian Tiger.

It is black and white and measures about a quarter of an inch in length. It is the sister to *aedes aegypti*, best known as the Yellow Fever Mosquito because of its past success at delivering that disease. It is behind the numerous outbreaks that caused panic and killed thousands in Pensacola between 1765 and 1905.

Today the two are once again in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons—they carry Zika, a virus suspected of causing birth defects in Brazil and other Latin American countries as well as the Caribbean.

*Aedes aegypti* was prevalent in the Florida Panhandle until the mid 1980s, said John P. Smith, a medical entomologist with Florida State University at Panama City who has studied insects that affect public health for more than 30 years.

At that time, the Asian Tiger began to assert itself when it came to the United States from Southeast Asia via the used tire trade.

"They are both bad guys, no doubt about it," Smith said. "Or should I say bad girls. Only the females bite."

Both mosquitoes also spread yellow fever, dengue and chikungunya.

The Asian Tiger is found in high concentrations on the Gulf Coast, creating a potential powder keg. This is because Zika spreads when mosquitoes bite multiple people after biting an infected person.

To date, the Panhandle mosquito population has not been infected. According to the Florida Department of Health, there has been one case of Zika in Santa Rosa County in a person who was infected while traveling abroad. As of Friday, there have been 105 travel-related cases of Zika in Florida.

A great deal of media ink and broadcast time has been spent on the disease, but how worried should the Panhandle be?

"I think it is a real concern," Smith said, "and worth doing something to prevent it."

#### YEAR-ROUND CONCERN

But mosquito control technicians in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties wage a year-round war against the tiny, slender pests.

When temperatures regularly hit 60 or above in March or April, the teams start spraying to knock out the adult mosquitoes who have hatched and begun their warm weather pursuit for food, i.e. blood.

But during the winter months, even in the coldest frost of January or February, mosquito larvae can lie dormant, stunting their own development to wait for warmer temperatures before emerging.

Keith Hussey and Temika Wilkes are the mosquito control directors at Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, respectively. Their staffs are out inspecting those places where mosquito larvae lie like baby vampires through the brisk weather months.

They inspect drainage ditches, holding ponds and woodland pools. They also do neighborhood sweeps in search of man-made mosquito nurseries like old tires or other containers, foreclosed homes and abandoned swimming pools.

Larvicide and gambusia fish, which are the size of guppies and thrive in stagnant water where they feed on mosquito larvae, are effective weapons.

"You can get more mosquitoes killed in a small pond of water than you can when they fly away all over the place," said Matthew Mello, Escambia County mosquito control supervisor.

FSU's Smith monitors 12 sites in Santa Rosa County. The mosquito control personnel in that county use his data to help strategize where and when they treat for mosquitoes. He and his staff also test the mosquitoes for diseases they are known to carry.

Escambia County's mosquito control budget for fiscal year 2015 to 2016 is just under \$620,000. Santa Rosa County's budget this year is \$495,000, and has proposed a budget of \$594,518 for next year.

Smith said that because of the size of the area that needs to be covered, "The programs in Northwest Florida are some of the poorest funded throughout the state."

Bay County and other counties have specific taxing districts that are used to raise millions of dollars to combat mosquitoes. Their programs include aerial spraying from helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, public education programs and more staff who can cover more area.

The amount of local funding is enough to handle day-to-day and regular mosquito season needs, officials from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties say. But is it enough should a Zika infection break out locally, instead of from a far flung place?

"The county's mosquito control program has adequate funds to fulfill its mission and has successfully protected the residents from disease spread by mosquitoes for many years," said Ron Hixon, environmental manager for Santa Rosa County in a statement. "Every year the county reviews its funding for mosquito control based on prior years mosquito data to ensure adequate funds are available."

"Please be assured that the Santa Rosa County Environmental Department staff, specifically its Mosquito Control division staff, are actively monitoring the Zika situation and that the SRC Board of County Commissioners are ready to deploy whatever resources are necessary to protect the residents of Santa Rosa County," he said.

The Florida Department of Health said in a statement that it has an incident management team in its central office in Tallahassee. It coordinates with the state departments of agriculture and environmental protection as well as the Division of Emergency Management, the governor's office, VISIT Florida and others. Escambia County's Wilkes said "operations are currently funded at a level that supports effective mosquito control. However, just like during a hurricane or other natural disaster, if we were to have a Zika outbreak and a subsequent state of emergency, we would need additional funding for supplies and overtime costs."

Mr. RUBIO. The second article says: "Zika findings could be 'game changers,' opening doors to research." It begins by saying:

Two groups of scientists reported Wednesday that fetal mice infected with Zika showed brain damage, a finding that confirms the prevailing view that the virus can disrupt the development of fetal brains in humans and provides a clearer avenue to study the problem.

The work should put to rest lingering doubts in some quarters that the Zika outbreak sweeping through Latin America and

the Caribbean is responsible for a surge in babies born with microcephaly and other brain anomalies.

It goes on to quote an associate professor of pathology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, who says:

Let me put it bluntly: These are game changers. . . . We need to move forward now.

There is an article dated May 10 in the Miami Herald: "Two new Zika cases in Miami-Dade raise state total to 109."

Florida health officials confirmed two new Zika infections in Miami-Dade on Tuesday, raising the statewide total to 109 people who have contracted the virus this year, more than any state.

In Miami-Dade, where most of Florida's Zika cases have been reported, 44 people have been infected with the virus, said the state health department, but the disease has not been transmitted locally by mosquito bites. Broward County has reported 15 cases of Zika.

At about 5 o'clock today, I will meet with the Governor of our State, who is here asking for Federal aid to prepare for and combat the virus in the State of Florida.

The Governor said:

It's going to get warmer, we're going to have more rainfall, we're probably going to see more mosquitoes in our state. Our federal government has a variety of plans they're talking about. . . . We've got to address the Zika issue. Hopefully, we can get ahead of it.

But it isn't just limited to Florida. This is an article from USA TODAY dated May 6, 2016: "Gulf Coast could be ground zero for Zika."

The Gulf Coast may know hurricanes, but this year the region of 60 million people could find itself unprepared and at ground zero for a different type of storm: a mosquito-borne Zika epidemic.

A look at the region's urban hubs, small towns and rural outposts shows a patchwork of preparedness. Cities such as Houston have robust plans in place, while smaller towns, such as Corpus Christi, Texas, struggle with fewer resources.

This is just part of painting an overall picture of this very serious problem.

I would just say that the notion that we should only be worried about Florida or the States on the gulf coast alone would not be wise. Mosquitoes that infect people are found in 30 of the 50 States in this country. There are now Zika infections and Zika cases in multiple States across the country.

We now know that Zika isn't just transmitted from mosquitoes but can also be sexually transmitted. In fact, the only case of transmission in Florida was one that was sexually transmitted in Central Florida.

As we debate all these other important issues, this is a looming public health crisis. This is the situation we are now facing in this country. The time to act has come. The moment to act has come because right now in this body and in Washington, DC, we are facing a debate about this issue, about

how much money we are going to spend on it.

Look, the President has proposed \$1.9 billion to deal with it. About \$500 million of that is designed to pay back the Ebola funding that has been used in the short term to fill in the gap, but the rest of it is for real programs that go into dealing with this issue and particularly dealing with it on the island of Puerto Rico, which has been disproportionately impacted. When I hear people say there haven't been any cases of Zika transmitted in the United States, they are wrong. People of Puerto Rico are American citizens. They travel to the mainland extensively. It is our responsibility to also fight and care for them in this process.

But the bottom line is that it is not a question of if, it is a question of when. There will be a mosquito transmission of Zika in the continental United States at some point over next few days, weeks, or months. We cannot get caught unprepared to deal with the consequences. The consequences, by the way, are not just to pregnant women, which in and of itself is reason to act—I don't mean to diminish it. The impact on pregnant women and their unborn children is extraordinary and devastating. The science on that is indisputable. We are seeing evidence of it all across the world and especially the Western Hemisphere being impacted by it. That alone is reason to act. But there is now a definitive link between Zika and Guillain-Barre syndrome, which is a debilitating, often fatal neurological condition that we know is associated with this.

By the way, these children who are being born after being infected in the womb with Zika, we don't know what the long-term prognosis is. Just because they are not born with microcephaly does not mean they will not suffer from other neurological deficiencies or other neurological conditions in the years to come. We simply don't know. It is not just a first-trimester threat anymore. We now know Zika can be transmitted and can do serious damage in the second trimester as well.

We know that soon the Olympic games will be played in Brazil, and that means hundreds of thousands of people will travel from and through the United States to the Olympics and back. We know we have constant visitors coming in and out of this country. How else would we get 109 cases in Florida? These are people who have either traveled abroad or have been infected by a partner in the one case I have cited.

This is an issue we should jump on with a real sense of urgency. It is a Federal responsibility to be involved in this. It is the job of the Federal Government to keep our people safe from external threats, and Zika today is an external threat spreading to this coun-

try—a country that is at the epicenter of global commerce and transit. It is just a matter of time before someone contracts Zika through a mosquito bite in the United States, and we have not prepared for it.

Localities and States are doing the best they can with their limited resources, but they do not have the comprehensive resources the Federal Government can bring to bear. They do not have the resources for research the Federal Government can bring to bear. They do not have the ability to deal with it at the ports of entry the way the Federal Government can. These are important priorities I hope we will move on.

In the last few hours, I have heard encouraging reports that there are a number of efforts going on behind the scenes in the Senate—at least one of them in a bipartisan way—to begin to address this issue. Over the next few hours, we will meet with the different stakeholders and others who are engaged in this issue to see if we can come up with a way forward.

Here is what I hope we will not do. I hope we will not politicize this issue. Zika is not a Republican issue or a Democratic issue. It shouldn't be a campaign issue, although I promise it will become one if we have a Zika outbreak in the United States and we are back home doing our constituent work and not here voting. People are going to ask: Why did you do nothing on this issue? You knew it was coming. It was clearly broadcasted and predicted. All the indicators were there and nothing happened. Inaction on this is, quite frankly, inexcusable. I don't believe voters will excuse us for refusing to act on this.

This should not be a political issue. It should not be a partisan issue. It shouldn't be used for one party to beat up on the other. There are so many other issues we can fight over but not on this—not where the real lives of real people are at stake. My hope is very soon—and I mean in the next couple of days—we can bring before this body a way forward on this issue that brings both parties together and that deals with this public health crisis in a responsible way.

Let me say, look, we are running a debt in this country. So if there is a way to pay for it—and I believe there can be a way to pay for it—I am all for that. I have ideas about how we can come up with some of that money. We can find \$1.4 billion, \$1.5 billion, \$1.9 billion to pay for this, and I think we should endeavor to do so, but even if we cannot, we should never allow the inability to agree on how to pay for it to stand in the way of addressing a public health crisis that threatens to become a public health catastrophe. I prefer that we pay for it. I am for that, but I am not going to let an objection to that stand in the way of addressing this issue.

So through all the other issues we are debating today, from Presidential campaigns to water projects, I still do not believe we have given sufficient intensity, urgency or attention to this burgeoning issue that threatens the safety and security of our people. So it is my hope that over the next few hours and days we can come forward in a bipartisan way with a way forward, and I will continue to work to address and to achieve that.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE  
CALENDAR

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise to address the issue of vacancies on the Federal bench in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In the 5½ years I have been in the Senate, I have sought to find common ground with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, with considerable success—and sometimes we continue to search for that success—whether it is legislation to prevent pedophiles from infiltrating our classrooms or working to fight this terrible scourge of opioid abuse and overdoses in Pennsylvania or trying to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the dangerously mentally ill.

One of the accomplishments of which I am most proud is the work I have done with Senator CASEY to fill vacancies as they have occurred on the Federal bench in Pennsylvania. Senator CASEY and I have developed a fairly elaborate process. We are blessed to have very talented men and women who have volunteered their time, energy, and expertise to help us identify and vet candidates when a vacancy occurs, to recommend those candidates, and to begin a process by which we can get some of the best and brightest people in Pennsylvania who are able and willing to serve on the Federal bench to do exactly that.

Using this process, Senator CASEY and I have gotten together, we have agreed, and we have recommended to the President, the President has then nominated, and this Senate has confirmed 16 men and women to the Federal bench in Pennsylvania; 14 are district court judges, 2 circuit court judges. There are only two States in the Union that have confirmed more Federal judges in this period of time, and those are the very large States of California and New York, which have had considerably more vacancies. This makes a difference for the people of Pennsylvania.

For instance, because Senator CASEY and I have cooperated this way, we have been able to fill empty courthouses—Federal courthouses which have sat vacant where people do not have convenient access to justice. In the cities of Reading, Williamsport, and Easton, vacant courthouses are no longer vacant because through our work we now have Federal judges sitting, hearing, and trying cases, and providing justice in those communities.

Despite what has been a very successful record so far, we have more work to be done. We have vacancies in Pennsylvania now. As a matter of fact, there are currently four district court—district court—nominations for Pennsylvania that are pending in the Senate. Two are still being reviewed by the Judiciary Committee, and two have been approved by the committee. They have had their hearing, they have had their markup, they have voted, they have been successfully reported out of committee, and they are on the Executive Calendar.

For some time, Senator CASEY and I have been working to get all four of these nominees through the process and confirmed, and I strongly believe all four should be confirmed.

Today, I want to focus in particular on two, and those are the two who have already been successfully reported out of committee. They are now listed on the Executive Calendar. These are vacancies that are especially concerning to me, because in one case the Federal courthouse in Erie, PA—the fourth biggest city in Pennsylvania—has a vacant courthouse. It is vacant. It has been vacant for almost 3 years. For almost 3 years, there has been no Federal judge able to hear cases, and so the people in Erie and the surrounding counties have very long travel distances. They have to go all the way down to Pittsburgh or take a very long drive to get to another Federal courthouse, and that is not right. It is not right for the people of Erie, and it is not right for the people of Northwestern Pennsylvania generally. We have another district judgeship in the Western District of Pennsylvania that likewise has been vacant for almost 3 years.

Here is what I want to stress: The two nominees for these judgeships who I am talking about would fill judgeships that have been vacant far longer than any other pending on the Executive Calendar. There are other nominees pending on the Executive Calendar. I get that. There are people who want to confirm every one of them. I understand that, but no vacancies have been outstanding for as long as these two vacancies for which we have two qualified candidates who have been successfully reported out of committee, and they are very well-qualified nominees. In fact, I want to talk briefly about each of them.

Judge Susan Baxter has a very impressive 34 years of legal experience, including over 20 years serving as a Federal magistrate judge and over a decade as a practicing lawyer in both the public and private sectors. She spent 3 years as a teacher. She completed her education at two of Pennsylvania's very impressive schools, getting her law degree from Temple and her undergraduate degree from Penn State. Judge Baxter has agreed to sit in the Erie courthouse, which would eliminate the problem of a vacant Federal courthouse in the city of Erie.

Marilyn Horan is the other judge. Judge Horan likewise has extensive legal experience for 37 years, 20 of those years as a judge in the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas in Butler County, PA; 17 years as a practicing lawyer, including 14 as a partner in a law firm. Judge Horan likewise attended two terrific Pennsylvania schools. She got her law degree from the Pittsburgh School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Penn State.

There is no question in my mind, both of these women will make outstanding additions to the Federal bench in Pennsylvania. I believe the seats they will fill, if they are confirmed by the Senate, have been vacant too long. Three years is just far too long.

Yesterday my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, made a unanimous consent request for these 2 Pennsylvania judges but also 9 others, for a total of 11. I was not on the Senate floor at the time. Had I been, I would have voiced my support for that request, and I would have agreed to that vote. Unfortunately, Leader MCCONNELL disagreed and raised an objection. So we find ourselves stuck at zero: We have nobody pending for confirmation. We have our colleagues on the other side saying let's have 11 judges confirmed.

I am suggesting a slightly different course. How about we try a step in the right direction? How about we vote on these 2 judges, 2 of the 11? That is not the entire slate, but it is not zero. They are the two judges who would fill the vacancies that have been vacant the longest.

These women represent real bipartisan cooperation. One was initially suggested to the President by Senator CASEY. I suggested the other. One is a Democrat. The other is a Republican. The other seats have had vacancies for far shorter periods of time.

So I think this would be progress if we could simply agree to have a vote on these two nominees, then see where we go from there. Let's get off this all-or-nothing, 0-or-11 situation, and let's confirm the two judges who would fill the vacancies that have lasted the longest.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following

nominations: Calendar Nos. 460 and 461 en bloc; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

On the Executive Calendar, there is a queue of judges who have come out of the Judiciary Committee and are ready for floor action. By my count, along that queue, the two Pennsylvania judges my distinguished colleague refers to are Nos. 9 and 10; Senator JACK REED's and my Rhode Island judge is No. 8. We would very much like to enter into an agreement where these judges start to be moved in regular order—as we often say we like around here—through the queue, as is the tradition in the Senate, so we can get them all cleared.

The senior Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. CASEY, as the junior Senator mentioned, came here to move a larger block. I would not object to this request if it were amended to include all 10 of those judges on the Executive Calendar, down to and including the two Pennsylvania judges to whom my distinguished colleague refers. That would be Calendar Nos. 307, 357, 358, 359, 362, 363, 364, the all-important 459 from Rhode Island, and 460 and 461.

So if the Senator from Pennsylvania would amend his unanimous consent request to accommodate that, then I would not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator so modify the request?

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, parliamentary question.

I am not sure whether the majority leader's objection was to Senator TOOMEY's unanimous consent request or to my attempt to modify it. If it was to the former, we are moot, and this conversation has concluded. If not, then I will object if I cannot get the regular order for the judges ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard on the modification.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, my understanding—what I intended to do was to object to the modification offered by the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, with that clarification, I must regretfully object to the unanimous consent

request propounded by the junior Senator from Pennsylvania. But I do hope very much that we can find a way to work toward getting these judges confirmed. These are judges who came out of the Judiciary Committee, which is a fairly contentious committee, unanimously. They are district judges. If we can't move them, then I suggest the Senate is really not working the way it ought to, and I very much hope we can get to a place where we can move them all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think it bears repeating again what I have said the last few days. If you look at the Barack Obama years—he will ultimately have 8 years in the White House—and the George W. Bush 8 years in the White House, and you draw a line at this point in their Presidencies, Barack Obama has gotten 21 more lifetime appointments, Federal judges, than George W. Bush did during the same period. By any objective standard, President Obama has been treated more than fairly during the course of his Presidency—much more fairly than George W. Bush was treated during the same period of his Presidency.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I want to make it clear that I did not have an objection to the modification of the unanimous consent request that was made by the Senator from Rhode Island.

I think Senator MCCONNELL makes a valid point about judicial vacancies that have occurred under President Obama. But where we disagree is that I think right before us we have excellent candidates who have been vetted by both sides. They have been chosen by both sides. They have come through the process. They have had their hearings. They have been reported out by the committee. It does not serve the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to have to continue to wait.

I am not finished in this effort. I am stymied today. I must say that I am disappointed that my friends on the other side can't agree to make some progress. It is not as though I am, for instance, asking that only Republican judges be confirmed or only judges who are chosen by Republicans. I am not asking that. We have a Democrat and a Republican, chosen by my Democratic colleague and myself, and I understand they are not in the sequence that is traditionally dealt with. But we are at an impasse here. They are the two judges who would fill the vacancies that have lasted the longest, through no fault of their own. I am trying to find a way to get somewhere between 0 and 11, neither of which is accepted. This is a very frustrating and dis-

appointing moment, but I am not going to give up trying.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, let me add to what the distinguished Senator from Pennsylvania has said by noting first that the impasse to which he refers is created by his own leadership, which refused to bring up judges that have come out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously.

There is a problem here. It is one that can be solved within the Republican caucus. We can't very much help with that, but we hope that a solution comes.

The second point is that the question here should not be viewed only as to whether the President is being treated fairly but that there are vacancies on Federal courts, and it is our responsibility to provide advice and consent. We have a duty of fairness to the constituents who have empty seats in courtrooms, and we have a duty of fairness to the candidates—the nominees—who have put their lives on hold with the expectation that they would be treated fairly by the Senate. That is our job—to treat nominees fairly and to see to our constituents' needs. It is not just a question of numbers and who is President.

I yield the floor.

I appreciate the persistence of both colleagues from Pennsylvania, and I am sure we will continue to do this until we make some headway.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BIPARTISAN STUDENT LOAN CERTAINTY ACT

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today is an excellent day for students across the country who are taking out college student loans. For the upcoming school year, the Treasury auction just took place on 10-year notes. Some folks might ask: What is the connection with student loans and Treasury notes?

Three years ago, Senator ALEXANDER, myself, Senator MANCHIN, Senator KING, and others said something very simple: We are going to get politicians out of the business of setting student loan rates, and we are going to let the marketplace do it. That was a wise decision, as was the law we passed—the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act. Since 2013 it has saved students and their parents \$36 billion in taking out student loans. We will save another \$10 billion again this year. That means that 200,000 North Carolinians—students and their parents—are saving even more on student loans. Those 200,000 North Carolinians take out about \$500 million in student loans to

attend universities and colleges. Because of this law, they have been saving. Because of today's Treasury auction, they are going to save even more. They are going to save about \$1.1 billion across my State alone because of the reduction in the Treasury note from a little over 4 percent on the 10-year to 3.76 today.

Congressional Research Service tells us that about \$4,500 less will be paid out for a 4-year degree. I hold this up because I think this is indicative of where we are this year—the lowest student loan rate since the year 2004. I know this is a debate not only within the body of the Senate and the House but also on the campaign trail for our Presidential candidates.

Prior to 2013, interest rates had been written into law by politicians and were essentially set at 6.8 percent. Many of us looked at it and said: This is insane. For the protection of American taxpayers, it ought to be tied to some financial instrument. So we tied it to the 10-year bond. Since that point, taxpayers—specifically, students and their parents—have saved \$36 billion because we decoupled it from the political process here.

In fact, those interest rates have dropped significantly since last year—4.29 percent to 3.76 percent today. That means about \$40 more per month in the average graduate's pocket. It means \$4,500 more overall in saved costs.

What would have happened if we hadn't come together to pass this law? Students would have shelled out another \$46 billion in student loan interest payments. This is one thing that Congress can hold up, and we can highlight the fact that we did something responsible. For those who claim we haven't done anything about the high cost of student loans, let me suggest to you that we have done a lot. We have saved parents and students \$46 billion. We probably could save them more than that if, in fact, we didn't divert some of the proceeds that the Government gets off of student loans to the Affordable Care Act by about \$2 billion a year.

We ran into significant pushback from several Members of this body. In fact, 18 Members of this body, mostly from the other party, opposed this law. The junior Senator from Vermont called it a disaster for young people in our country looking to go to college. This law was also vocally opposed by the senior Senator from Massachusetts. But today, it demonstrates the shortsightedness that was displayed then. Today, because of what we did in a bipartisan fashion passed by this body, parents and students have saved \$46 billion, and in North Carolina this next year, it is projected that they will save another \$1.1 billion in interest payments on their student loans. This is a day that Congress can be proud of because we have done something good for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the Senator from North Carolina. He was the leader in 2013, along with Senator MANCHIN and Senator Coburn, who was here at the time—I was a little bit involved at the time—and Senator ANGUS KING from Maine. We worked with the President and with the House. The Senator is exactly right. The decision that Senator BURR and others made, persuading this Congress and working with the President in 2013 to take the student loan interest rate out of politics and tie it to a certain rate, today reduces the rate by 0.5 percent for nearly 6.4 million students and saves millions and millions of dollars on student loans.

There is a lot of talk about student loans and the cost of them. Some people don't look at all aspects of them. In Tennessee, the independent colleges and universities have pointed out to me that the new overtime rule proposed by the Department of Labor would add as much as \$850 per student to the cost of tuition at all of the independent colleges in Tennessee, which is an outrageous thing to be doing.

Here is an example of real leadership, real action, and real results by the Senator from North Carolina, the Senator from Maine, and the Senator from West Virginia, who by their action in 2013, working with the President, have reduced the cost of going to college for 6.4 million American students. A lot of people can talk; some people can get a result.

The Senator from North Carolina, the Senator from Maine, and the Senator from West Virginia got a result. I thank them for it. Let's give credit where the credit is due. President Obama was instrumental in that decision. He worked with Senator Harkin and with others in helping us come to an agreement.

For those who think that things can't get done, things do get done here, and sometimes they help people who would like to have the help. Congratulations to Senator BURR for saving millions of dollars for students who are taking out student loans.

Mr. President, in just a moment, we will have two votes on the Energy and Water appropriations act. The first is on the amendment by the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN. The second vote is on the amendment by the Senator from Nebraska, Mrs. FISCHER. Other than a voice vote on Senator FLAKE's amendment, those are the last votes on amendments that we have for the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

As soon as the majority leader and the Democratic leader agree that we can schedule the vote on final passage—either later today or tomorrow—for the first time since 2009, we will have completed an Energy and Water

bill in regular order across the floor of the Senate, which every single Member of this body has a chance to participate in, rather than just having the 30 members of the Appropriations Committee and then everybody else being presented with a great big omnibus bill at the end of the year, which they really don't have a chance to change.

Everybody had a chance to weigh in on this. About 80 Senators did before it came to the floor. We will have considered about 21 more amendments. It has been a very good process. There were a couple of bumps, but this is the Senate. We deal with the bumps. I thank Senator CARDIN for his contributions and Senator FISCHER for hers. When we are through with that, we hope to finish the bill.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3871

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3871, offered by the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, for the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 39, nays 60, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 69 Leg.]

YEAS—39

Baldwin	Franken	Nelson
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—60

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Capito	Heitkamp	Roberts
Cassidy	Heller	Rounds
Coats	Hoehn	Rubio
Cochran	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Isakson	Scott
Corker	Johnson	Sessions
Cornyn	King	Shelby
Cotton	Kirk	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Tester
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Daines	Manchin	Tillis
Enzi	McCain	Toomey
Ernst	McCaskill	Vitter
Feinstein	McConnell	Wicker

## NOT VOTING—1

Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

## VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3888

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3888, offered by the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, for the Senator from Nebraska, Mrs. FISCHER.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 70 Leg.]

## YEAS—52

Ayotte	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Bennet	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Toomey
Donnelly	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	

## NAYS—47

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murray
Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Peters
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Kirk	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Cochran	McCaskill	Udall
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	

## NOT VOTING—1

Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The majority leader.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority lead-

er, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 307; that there be 60 minutes for debate only on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am pleased to report to the Senate, on behalf of Senator FEINSTEIN and myself, that basically we are finished with our work on the Energy and Water appropriations bill. The final vote—all that remains to be done—will be set whenever the majority leader and the Democratic leader agree it can be.

I will have more to say about the bill tomorrow, but I thank Senators for their cooperation on this. If we are able to pass it tomorrow, this will be the first time we have taken this bill—the Energy and Water appropriations bill—across the floor in the regular order since 2009. What that means is that every single Senator has had a chance to weigh in on it—first in the committee, where we received recommendations for policy from 80 or so Senators on both sides of the aisle, and then we processed another 21 amendments here on the floor. I hope it is a good model for the other 11 appropriations bills that we have.

When we voted for the fourth time on whether to end debate on the bill, I was pleased to see that the vote was 97 to 2. I hope that is an indication of what the final vote will be when the leaders set it. I am confident that Senators will vote for it in big numbers because we have had an open and fair process. We have had a full amendment process.

Almost every Senator is represented in the bill, and many Senators have already been home taking credit for what is in the bill. So I hope they will now vote for what they have been taking credit for when they have an opportunity—hopefully tomorrow.

So we will wait to see when the majority leader and the Democratic leader decide to set the vote, but other than the final passage of the bill, we have completed our work on the Energy and Water appropriations bill, and I thank the Senate for the opportunity to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am encouraged that the Senate will soon complete consideration of the Energy

and Water Development appropriations bill. This legislation funds important components of our national defense, invests in our waterways and flood control infrastructure, and supports a safe and affordable domestic energy supply. I commend the managers of the bill, the senior Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, and the senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN. They make a good team. They have been persistent and they have worked diligently to ensure that all Senators' interests have been considered in drafting this legislation.

I look forward to continued progress on appropriations bills in the weeks ahead.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## REMEMBERING BARBARA BROWN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, southern Illinois lost a legend and one of its brightest lights. Last week, Barbara Brown passed away at the age of 61. Barbara was blessed with every God-given gift one could ask for: intelligence, strength, compassion, kindness—just to name a few. She had it all.

She was a remarkable woman who wore many hats during her political career: vice-chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois, precinct committee-woman, chairwoman of the Randolph County Democratic Central Committee, and treasurer for the Pierre Menard Democrat Club. She also helped found and lead the Southwestern Illinois Democratic Women and the Southern Illinois Democratic Women, two grassroots organizations working toward a more equitable representation of women in all levels of government. Barbara Brown was an exceptional leader.

Born in Red Bud, IL, Barbara spent her life working for the people of southern Illinois. In 1985, she earned her doctorate from Southern Illinois University, at Carbondale, and a love for teaching. Barbara taught political science at SIU for more than 30 years.

And when she made a commitment to something, she saw it through. Barbara began playing the organ when she was 14 years old at St. Mary's Catholic Church of Ellis Grove. She became a lifelong parishioner and continued playing the organ for more than 40 years.

The highlights of her life were her family. She and her husband, Dick, had three sons: Jay, Matt, and Nate. The tribute Nate gave to his mother at her funeral service was every mother's dream: a salute to a life of values, caring, support and love.

Even outside her home, Barbara was the quintessential teacher by the book and by her example. She gave up many summers to teach classes in American Government and democracy for international students through a program funded by the U.S. State Department. Her legendary energy made her an inspirational professor and at the same time a tireless public servant. She was a trailblazer. Barbara ran for office when many women held back. She was a two-time candidate for the Illinois State Senate and a nine-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention, including playing key roles in the Presidential campaigns for Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. And from 2000–2012, Barbara Brown was the clerk of courts for Randolph County, IL.

Outside of politics, Barbara was a co-founder and president of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership and helped establish the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Randolph County. She was a force of nature. Through her many leadership roles, Barbara became a prominent voice for the rights of women, the underprivileged, and the most vulnerable in the community. And that is what public service meant to Barbara Brown. She was driven by a willingness to offer a helping hand and a caring heart.

Barbara had an amazing career and was known for many accomplishments, but I knew her as a friend, a friend to the people of southern Illinois, and an inspiration to us all. Today there is an empty space in the world without Barbara Brown. She will be missed, but not forgotten. Through the love of her former students, colleagues, friends, family, and everyone who was fortunate enough to cross her path, Barbara's spirit will always shine on southern Illinois.

#### BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for May 2016. The report compares current law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts the Senate agreed to in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2016, the conference report to accompany S. Con. Res. 11, and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, P.L. 114–74, BBA 15. This in-

formation is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budget points of order lie against pending legislation. It has been prepared by the Republican staff of the Senate Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act.

This is the fourth report that I have made this calendar year. It is the first report since I filed the statutorily required fiscal year 2017 enforceable budget limits on April 18, 2016, pursuant to section 102 of BBA 15, and the eighth report I have made since adoption of the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution on May 5, 2015. My last filing can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on April 6, 2016. The information contained in this report is current through May 9, 2016.

Table 1 gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution and the fiscal year 2017 enforceable budget levels filing. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, CBA. For fiscal year 2016, which is still enforced under the 2016 congressional budget resolution, Senate authorizing committees have increased direct spending outlays by \$2.7 billion. Over the fiscal year 2017–2026 period, which is the entire period covered by the fiscal year 2017 enforcement filing, Senate authorizing committees are unchanged from assumed levels. Prior to updating the budget window, however, this table would have shown that Senate authorizing committees violated their allowable outlay levels by \$147.9 billion over the fiscal year 2016–2025 period. This breach is largely attributable to the nonappropriations provisions, extensions of the tax expenditure policies originally found in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, included in last year's consolidated omnibus appropriations bill, most of which were charged to the Committee on Finance.

Table 2 gives the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations exceeds or is below the statutory spending limits for fiscal year 2016. This information is used to determine points of order related to the spending caps found in section 312 and section 314 of the CBA. On December 18, 2015, the President signed H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, P.L. 114–113, into law. This bill provided regular appropriations equal to the levels set in BBA 15, specifically \$548.1 billion in budget authority for defense accounts, revised security category, and \$518.5 billion in budget authority for nondefense accounts, revised nonsecurity category.

Table 3 tracks the same enforcement information as Table 2 for fiscal year

2017. While no appropriations bills have been enacted, subcommittees are charged with permanent and advance appropriations that first become available for fiscal year 2017. These include spending on veterans healthcare, special and K–12 education, housing assistance, job training, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The discretionary limits, which were increased by a combined \$30 billion in BBA 15, split evenly between defense and nondefense accounts, are \$551.1 billion for defense and \$518.5 billion for nondefense.

Table 4 gives the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations is below or exceeds its allocation for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism, OCO/GWOT, spending for fiscal year 2016. This separate allocation for OCO/GWOT was established in section 3102 of the conference report for S. Con. Res. 11, and is enforced using section 302 of the CBA. The consolidated appropriations bill included \$73.7 billion in budget authority and \$32.1 billion in outlays for OCO/GWOT in fiscal year 2016. This level is equal to the revised OCO/GWOT levels that I filed in the RECORD on December 18, 2015. There is no equivalent enforcement of OCO/GWOT for fiscal year 2017. Instead, the handling of OCO/GWOT-designated spending will revert back to the traditional treatment with the chairman of the Budget Committee making dollar-for-dollar adjustments to levels for congressional enforcement and the Office of Management and Budget making statutory adjustments to the limits if the President agrees with the congressional designation of spending as OCO/GWOT.

The fiscal year 2016 budget resolution established two new points of order limiting the use of changes in mandatory programs in appropriations bills, CHIMPS. Tables 5 and 6 show compliance with fiscal year 2016 limits for overall CHIMPS and the Crime Victims Fund CHIMP, respectively. This information is used for determining points of order under section 3103 and section 3104, respectively. Enacted CHIMPS are under both the broader CHIMPS limit, \$1.3 billion less, and the Crime Victims Fund limit, \$1.8 billion less. While the Crime Victims Fund limit is enforced only for fiscal year 2016, the overall CHIMPS limit remains in effect for fiscal year 2017 and is displayed in Table 7.

In addition to the tables provided by the Senate Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting additional tables from CBO that I will use for enforcement of budget totals agreed to by the Congress.

Because legislation can still be enacted that would have an effect on fiscal year 2016, CBO provided a report for both fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017. This information is used to enforce aggregate spending levels in budget resolutions under section 311 of

the CBA. CBO's estimates show that current law levels of spending for fiscal year 2016 exceed the amounts in last year's budget resolution by \$138.9 billion in budget authority and \$103.6 billion in outlays. Revenues are \$155.2 billion below the revenue floor for fiscal year 2016 set by the budget resolution. As well, Social Security outlays are at the levels assumed for fiscal year 2016, while Social Security revenues are \$23 million below levels in the budget.

The significant breach of aggregate spending levels in fiscal year 2016 is attributable to increased spending unaccompanied by action on any of the deficit reduction assumed in the budget resolution. The violation of revenue levels stems from the tax provisions from last year's final appropriations and tax extenders bill. A point of order was raised against this violation, but Congress waived the budget discipline by a vote of 73 to 25, rollcall vote No. 338 of the 114th Congress, First Session. Of the 73 votes that waived budget discipline on this bill, 37 were from the majority, and 36 were from the minority. In voting no, I was joined by 15 other members of the majority and 9 members of the minority.

For fiscal year 2017, CBO estimates that current law levels are below the fiscal year 2017 enforcement filing's allowable budget authority and outlay aggregates by \$974.3 billion and \$592.4 billion, respectively. The allowable spending room will be reduced as appropriations bills for fiscal year 2017 are enacted. Revenues are at the level assumed for fiscal year 2017. Finally, Social Security outlays and revenues are at the levels assumed in the fiscal year 2017 enforcement filing.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate's pay-as-you-go rule. As part of the fiscal year 2017 enforcement filing, the Senate's pay-as-you-go scorecard was reset to zero. The scorecard will reflect the deficit effects of legislation over the fiscal year 2016–2021 and fiscal year 2016–2026 periods. Prior to updating the pay-as-you-go scorecard for the new budget window, the scorecard showed deficit reduction of \$20.4 billion and \$95.7 billion over the fiscal year 2015–2020 and fiscal year 2015–2025 periods, respectively. This balance was largely attributable to counting the offsets contained in BBA 15 but not the spending, which was discretionary and subject to future appropriations actions, and omitting legislation from the scorecard that increases the deficit, for instance section 1001(b) of title X of division O of P.L. 114–113, which kept most of revenue and direct spending provisions included in the bill from being counted. The Senate's pay-as-you-go rule is enforced by section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 budget resolution.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TABLE 1.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (–) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

	(In millions of dollars)			
	2016	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
<b>Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Armed Services:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	–66	0	0	0
Outlays .....	–50	0	0	0
<b>Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Commerce, Science, and Transportation:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	130	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Energy and Natural Resources:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Environment and Public Works:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	2,880	0	0	0
Outlays .....	252	0	0	0
<b>Finance:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	365	0	0	0
Outlays .....	365	0	0	0
<b>Foreign Relations:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Homeland Security and Government Affairs:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Judiciary:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	–3,358	0	0	0
Outlays .....	1,713	0	0	0
<b>Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Rules and Administration:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Intelligence:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Veterans' Affairs:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	–2	0	0	0
Outlays .....	388	0	0	0
<b>Indian Affairs:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	0	0	0	0
<b>Small Business:</b>				
Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0
Outlays .....	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>				
Budget Authority ...	–51	0	0	0
Outlays .....	2,669	0	0	0

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS<sup>1</sup>

	(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)	
	Security <sup>2</sup>	Nonsecurity <sup>2</sup>
Statutory Discretionary Limits .....	548,091	518,491
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies .....	0	21,750
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies .....	5,101	50,621
Defense .....	514,000	136
Energy and Water Development .....	18,860	18,325
Financial Services and General Government .....	44	23,191
Homeland Security .....	1,705	39,250
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies .....	0	32,159
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies .....	0	162,127
Legislative Branch .....	0	4,363
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies .....	8,171	71,698
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs .....	0	37,780
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies .....	210	57,091

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS<sup>1</sup>—Continued

	(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)	
	Security <sup>2</sup>	Nonsecurity <sup>2</sup>
Current Level Total .....	548,091	518,491
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (–) Statutory Limits .....	0	0

<sup>1</sup> This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBEDCA.

<sup>2</sup> Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE 3.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS<sup>1</sup>

	(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)	
	Security <sup>2</sup>	Nonsecurity <sup>2</sup>
Statutory Discretionary Limits .....	551,068	518,531
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies .....	0	9
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Defense .....	45	0
Energy and Water Development .....	0	0
Financial Services and General Government .....	0	0
Homeland Security .....	0	9
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies .....	0	24,690
Legislative Branch .....	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies .....	0	60,634
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs .....	0	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies .....	0	4,400
Current Level Total .....	45	89,742
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (–) Statutory Limits .....	–551,023	–428,789

<sup>1</sup> This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBEDCA.

<sup>2</sup> Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE 4.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS

	(In millions of dollars)	
	BA	OT
OCO/GWOT Allocation <sup>1</sup> .....	73,693	32,079
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Defense .....	58,638	27,354
Energy and Water Development .....	0	0
Financial Services and General Government .....	0	0
Homeland Security .....	160	128
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Legislative Branch .....	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs .....	14,895	4,597
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies .....	0	0
Current Level Total .....	73,693	32,079
Total OCO/GWOT Spending vs. Budget Resolution .....	0	0

BA = Budget Authority; OT = Outlays  
<sup>1</sup> This allocation may be adjusted by the Chairman of the Budget Committee to account for new information, pursuant to section 3102 of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.



TABLE 5—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

Table with columns: (Budget authority, millions of dollars), 2016. Rows include CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2016, Senate Appropriations Subcommittees, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, etc.

TABLE 6—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAM (CHIMP) TO THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND

Table with columns: (Budget authority, millions of dollars), 2016. Rows include Crime Victims Fund (CVF) CHIMP Limit for Fiscal Year 2016, Senate Appropriations Subcommittees, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, etc.

TABLE 6—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAM (CHIMP) TO THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND—Continued

Table with columns: (Budget authority, millions of dollars), 2016. Rows include Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Current Level Total, Total CVF CHIMP Above (+) or Below (-) Budget Resolution.

TABLE 7—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

Table with columns: (Budget authority, millions of dollars), 2017. Rows include CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2017, Senate Appropriations Subcommittees, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, etc.

U.S. CONGRESS, CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, Washington, DC, May 11, 2016. Hon. MIKE ENZI, Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC. DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on

the fiscal year 2016 budget and is current through May 9, 2016. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Since our last letter dated April 6, 2016, the Congress has not cleared any legislation for the President's signature that affects budget authority, outlays, or revenues.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016, AS OF MAY 9, 2016

Table with columns: (In billions of dollars), Budget Resolution, Current Level, Current Level Over/Under (-) Resolution. Rows include On-Budget: Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues; Off-Budget: Social Security Outlays, Social Security Revenues.

Source: Congressional Budget Office. Excludes emergency funding that was not designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016, AS OF MAY 9, 2016 (In millions of dollars)

Table with columns: Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues. Rows include Previously Enacted: Revenues, Permanents and other spending legislation, Appropriation legislation, Offsetting receipts; Total, Previously Enacted; Enacted Legislation: An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes (P.L. 114-25), etc.; Total, Enacted Legislation; Entitlements and Mandatories: Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs, Total Current Level, Total Senate Resolution, Current Level Over Senate Resolution, Current Level Under Senate Resolution.

Source: Congressional Budget Office. Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law. Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016: the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 114-1); the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 114-4), and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-10). Emergency funding that was not designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for certain budgetary enforcement purposes. These amounts, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-41)	0	917	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113)	-2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>c</sup> For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.  
<sup>d</sup> Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the budgetary levels in S. Con. Res. 11, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution. The Initial Senate Resolution total below excludes \$6,872 million in budget authority and \$344 million in outlays assumed in S. Con. Res. 11 for disaster-related spending. The Revised Senate Resolution total below includes amounts for disaster-related spending:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Initial Senate Resolution	3,032,343	3,091,098	2,676,733
Revisions:			
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 4311 of S. Con. Res. 11	445	175	-766
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11	700	700	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11	0	1	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 4313 of S. Con. Res. 11	269	269	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 3404 of S. Con. Res. 11	36,072	-997	0
<b>Revised Senate Resolution</b>	<b>3,069,829</b>	<b>3,091,246</b>	<b>2,675,967</b>

U.S. CONGRESS,  
 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
 Washington, DC, May 11, 2016.  
**Hon. MIKE ENZI,**  
*Chairman, Committee on the Budget,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2017 budget and is current through May 9, 2016. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2016, pursuant to section 102 of the

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-74).  
 This is CBO's first current level report for fiscal year 2017.  
 Sincerely,  
**KEITH HALL.**

Enclosure.

**TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AS OF MAY 9, 2016**

(In billions of dollars)

	Budget Resolution	Current Level	Current Level Over/Under (-) Resolution
On-Budget Budget Authority	3,212.4	2,238.0	-974.3

**TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AS OF MAY 9, 2016—Continued**

(In billions of dollars)

	Budget Resolution	Current Level	Current Level Over/Under (-) Resolution
Outlays	3,219.2	2,626.8	-592.4
Revenues	2,682.0	2,682.0	0.0
Off-Budget			
Social Security Outlays <sup>a</sup>	805.4	805.4	0.0
Social Security Revenues	826.1	826.1	0.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.  
<sup>a</sup> Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

**TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AS OF MAY 9, 2016**  
 (In millions of dollars)

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,681,976
Permanents and other spending legislation	2,054,886	1,960,659	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	504,803	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-834,250	-834,301	n.a.
<b>Total, Previously Enacted</b>	<b>1,220,636</b>	<b>1,631,161</b>	<b>2,681,976</b>
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	1,017,381	995,610	0
<b>Total Current Level<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>2,238,017</b>	<b>2,626,771</b>	<b>2,681,976</b>
<b>Total Senate Resolution</b>	<b>3,212,350</b>	<b>3,219,191</b>	<b>2,681,976</b>
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	974,333	592,420	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2017-2026:			
Senate Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	32,350,752
Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	32,350,752
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.  
 Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.  
<sup>a</sup> For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

**TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS, AS OF MAY 9, 2016**  
 (In millions of dollars)

	2016-2021	2016-2026
Beginning Balance <sup>a</sup>		0
Enacted Legislation: <sup>bcd</sup>		
Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act (P.L. 114-148) <sup>e</sup>		0
Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act (P.L. 114-151)		*
Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (S. 1890)		*
Current Balance		0
	<b>2016-2021</b>	<b>2016-2026</b>
Memorandum:		
Changes to Revenues	0	0
Changes to Outlays	0	0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.  
 Notes: n.e. = not able to estimate; P.L. = Public Law.  
 \* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.  
<sup>a</sup> Pursuant to the statement printed in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2016, the Senate Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard was reset to zero.  
<sup>b</sup> The amounts shown represent the estimated impact of the public laws on the deficit. Negative numbers indicate an increase in the deficit; positive numbers indicate a decrease in the deficit.

<sup>c</sup> Excludes off-budget amounts.  
<sup>d</sup> Excludes amounts designated as emergency requirements.  
<sup>e</sup> P.L. 114–148 will cause a decrease in spending of \$7 million in 2018 and an increase in spending of \$7 million in 2020 for a net impact of zero over the six-year and eleven-year periods.

**OLDER AMERICANS ACT  
 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016**

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, we wish to highlight an issue of importance to Colorado and its community of senior citizens. Earlier this month, Congress passed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016 and sent it to the President for his signature. This reauthorization ensures that a wide range of social and nutritional services directed to assist senior citizens is not disrupted. While the reauthorization improves the status quo for the State of Colorado, we continue to have concerns about the disproportionate level of funding going to our State in comparison to the rest of the country.

Mr. BENNET. I agree with my colleague from Colorado. In an attempt to protect certain States with guaranteed funding levels, in 2006 Congress changed the Older Americans Act funding formula to ensure States received a guaranteed funding level based on senior populations. Due to Colorado's growing senior population and this provision from 2006, Colorado saw massive cuts during sequestration, when other States did not.

Mr. GARDNER. Instead of allowing the funding to go to States with growing senior populations, the hold-harmless funding formula in the current reauthorization continues the disproportionate trend by preventing funding in States with lower senior populations from going to States with growing levels of senior citizens. While we are supportive of the services provided by the Older Americans Act, Congress's priority should be ensuring the stability of the programs that millions of seniors around the country depend upon.

Mr. BENNET. We believe that, moving forward, it is imperative that steps are taken in future reauthorizations to safeguard services for all seniors regardless of their State of residence. It is our hope that as Congress continues to address issues that are important to all senior citizens, we find a path forward to address the issue we have raised here today.

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

**TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL  
 TAMHRA HUTCHINS-FRYE**

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Tamhra Hutchins-Frye on her recent promotion to brigadier general in the Arkansas Air National Guard.

Brigadier General Hutchins-Frye was born in Bakersfield, CA, and entered

the Air National Guard in November 1984 as an airman first class. She received her commission in August 1989 through the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, TN, and has held various assignments in the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith, AR, the 189th Airlift Wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base, and Arkansas Air National Guard and Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock.

She was deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the chief of staff of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Afghanistan Transformation Task Force and then the Headquarters International Security Assistance Force, where she helped lead the transformation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as it transitioned to self-rule.

Tamhra earned a bachelor of science in elementary education from Arkansas Tech University in 1983 and a master of arts in human resource management from Webster University in 2012. She has also completed numerous trainings and programs during her time in the Air National Guard.

As a dedicated member of the Air National Guard, Hutchins-Frye has been awarded the Legion of Merit and a Bronze Star. She is also an active member of her community and takes a proactive role in giving back and investing in the lives of others as displayed by her roles as cochairman of the Women's Foundation of Arkansas's Girls of Promise and as a member of the board of directors of Heart of Arkansas United Way, among other types of service.

It is also important to note that Brigadier General Hutchins-Frye is the first woman to obtain this rank in the Arkansas Air National Guard. By virtue of this latest achievement in her impressive and distinguished career, she serves as role model for many, including the young women in our Armed Forces, of how hard work and professionalism can lead to historic and ground-breaking achievements.

I offer my sincere congratulations to BG Tamhra Hutchins-Frye on this momentous occasion, and I applaud her continued commitment and dedication to our Nation's readiness. I know she will continue to make Arkansas proud in this new chapter of her career.●

**RECOGNIZING THE BENTONVILLE  
 POLICE DEPARTMENT**

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bentonville Police Department, which was established on May 9, 1916, when community leaders

adopted an ordinance to create the Office of Watch to protect its 2,000 citizens.

As the community grew, so did the need to increase police personnel. In 1951, community leaders approved expanding the department by adding a chief of police, two patrolmen, and the first patrol car. A lot has changed with the Bentonville Police Department in the last century. Today there are 99 men and women in the police department providing services that extend beyond the description of the 1916 department, and they are doing things only imagined at that time.

The talents and abilities of the men and women serving in today's department are put to good use to protect the 44,000 Bentonville residents. They work tirelessly to ensure the public is safe as members of investigative units, forensic analysis teams, K9 teams, a bomb squad, a bicycle team, a SWAT team, and a crisis negotiations team. Their commitment to the community is exemplified by the numerous programs and outreach efforts they offer to the people of Bentonville.

The wide range of calls members of the Bentonville Police Department respond to shows the need for preparation and training. These officers are among the most visible public servants and risk their lives to protect the community.

I offer my congratulations on this milestone and thank Bentonville Police Chief Jon Simpson and the officers and staff who serve and protect the citizens of Bentonville for their service to the community. They have made Bentonville one of the safest communities in Arkansas and in the United States.●

**TRIBUTE TO AL RANKINS, SENIOR**

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Al Rankins, Sr., of Greenville, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 80th president of the Delta Council. Since its founding in 1935, this important organization has grown into a widely respected economic development collaborative representing the business, professional, and agricultural interests of the Mississippi Delta region. I am grateful to Delta Council for its continuous role in meeting the economic and quality of life challenges in this unique part of our country.

Al Rankins' tenure as council president began in May 2015, and he has been a notably strong advocate for the Delta Council's role in water resources development. His effective leadership on flood control issues affecting the alluvial floodplain has served the area

well. His former service as a local public official has provided him a unique perspective on the needs of proper access to healthcare, workforce readiness, educational progress, and important matters related to transportation infrastructure in this rural, predominantly agricultural region.

A native of Washington County, MS, Mr. Rankins graduated from Simmons High School in Hollandale, MS, and later received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Mississippi Valley State University. Prior to his contributions as president of Delta Council, Mr. Rankins served his community as a law enforcement officer, an elected county official, past president of 100 Black Men of the Mississippi Delta, and active participant in the local Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Rankins' dedication to the future of the delta and all of those who live there is laudable. I am pleased to join the people of my State in commending Al Rankins and sharing our appreciation with his wife, Mary, and their children, CeCelia, Alfred, Jr., Ansel, and Anthony, as the 81st annual meeting of the Delta Council organizational membership convenes.●

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, IRCO, a nonprofit organization that serves the many immigrant and refugee communities that come to Oregon seeking a new and better life.

Since its founding in 1976, IRCO has been helping individuals and families who come to the United States with few resources and little support. Established by refugees, for refugees, the organization has a long track record of providing vital housing, healthcare, and employment services. IRCO staff offer peer-to-peer assistance and culturally specific services through programs like the Asian Family Center and Africa House. IRCO served more than 28,000 people in 2015 alone, helping these new Oregonians integrate into communities across our State while maintaining an important connection to their rich heritage and traditions.

Beyond offering immediate support for those starting a life in the United States, IRCO has also become an advocacy arm for Oregon's immigrants and refugees. Its leadership development programs have graduated many individuals who have worked with key decisionmakers to pursue change in Oregon and beyond.

As many in this Chamber know, I am the son of immigrants who fled Nazi Germany to avoid persecution. The act of helping immigrants and refugees resettle, to become contributing Americans, is close to my heart. I know first-

hand how this country thrives by harnessing the ideas, energy, and hard work of those who come to our shores—in fact, I stand here today as the proof. That is why I will continue to do what I can to support organizations, like IRCO, working day-in and day-out to ensure everyone gets a fair shot at success.

I conclude by congratulating IRCO on 40 years of tremendous service and by wishing all of its staff, volunteers, and partners continued success in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 32. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes.

S. 125. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletinproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 2755. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2137. An act to ensure Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety, and the safety of their families, during a covered furlough.

H.R. 3209. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the disclosure of certain tax return information for the purpose of missing or exploited children investigations.

H.R. 4063. An act to improve the use by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4957. An act to designate the Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building".

H.R. 4985. An act to amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to pro-

tect classified information in Federal court challenges.

H.R. 5048. An act to require a study by the Comptroller General of the United States on Good Samaritan laws that pertain to treatment of opioid overdoses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5052. An act to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3209. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the disclosure of certain tax return information for the purpose of missing or exploited children investigations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4063. An act to improve the use by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4985. An act to amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to protect classified information in Federal court challenges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5048. An act to require a study by the Comptroller General of the United States on Good Samaritan laws that pertain to treatment of opioid overdoses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5052. An act to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5359. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; ordered to lie on the table.

EC-5360. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Butanedioic acid, 2-sulfo-, C-C9-11-isoalkyl esters, Cl0-rich, disodium salts; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9945-58-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5361. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clethodim; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9945-68-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the

President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5362. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fluxapyroxad; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9945-48-OCSP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5363. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California and Imported Table Grapes; Revisions to the Administrative Rules and Regulations for Shipments to Charitable Organizations” (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0100) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5364. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on Corrosion Policy and Oversight Budget Materials”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5365. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Long-Haul Telecommunications” ((RIN0750-AI72) (DFARS Case 2015-D023)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5366. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Duty-Free Entry Threshold” ((RIN0750-AI76) (DFARS Case 2015-D036)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5367. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Multiyear Contract Requirements” ((RIN0750-AI80) (DFARS Case 2015-D009)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5368. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Disclosure to Litigation Support Contractors” ((RIN0750-AH54) (DFARS Case 2012-D029)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5369. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Term Limit for

Energy Savings Contracts” ((RIN0750-AI74) (DFARS Case 2015-D018)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5370. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report Specifying for Each Reserve Component The Additional Items of Equipment That Would be Procured, and the Additional Military Construction Projects That Would be Carried Out When the Aggregate Amounts Identified For Reserve Component Equipment And Construction In The Future-Years Defense Program Is Less Than An Amount Equal To 90 Percent Of The Average Authorized Amount For These Requirements In The Preceding Two Fiscal Years”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5371. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning operations at the Naval Petroleum Reserves for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5372. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Changes to Exchange Act Registration Requirements to Implement Title V and Title VI of the JOBS Act” (RIN3235-AL40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5373. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, with respect to the blocking of property of certain persons and prohibition of exportation and re-exportation of certain goods to Syria; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5374. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Suspension of Community Eligibility” ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5375. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5376. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to operation of the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5377. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5378. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Depart-

ment of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Procedures for Requests for Correction of Errors in Rules” (RIN1904-AD63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5379. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Refuge-Specific Regulations; Public Use; Kenai National Wildlife Refuge” (RIN1018-AX56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5380. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Technical Amendments to Performance Specification 18 and Procedure 6” ((RIN2060-AS86) (FRL No. 9944-26-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5381. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision to the Research, Development and Demonstration Permits Rule for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills” ((RIN2050-AG75) (FRL No. 9943-87-OLEM)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5382. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for Billings, MT 2010 SO2 Nonattainment Area” (FRL No. 9945-64-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5383. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 9946-00-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5384. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Commissioner's Orders for A. B. Brown and Clifty Creek” (FRL No. 9946-08-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5385. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on civil works activities for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5386. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Benefits Under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014" ((RIN1545-BM66 and RIN1545-BM86) (TD 9765)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5387. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Fire Safety Requirements for Certain Health Care Facilities" ((RIN0938-AR72) (CMS-3277-F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5388. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Price Inflation Adjustments for Contribution Limitations Made to a Health Savings Account Pursuant to Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code" (Rev. Proc. 2016-28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5389. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—May 2016" (Rev. Rul. 2016-11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5390. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Examples of Program Related Investments" ((RIN1545-BK76) (TD 9762)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5391. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Adjusted Applicable Federal Rates and the Adjusted Federal Long-Term Rate" ((RIN1545-BM20) (TD 9763)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5392. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 6708 Failure to Maintain List of Advisees With Respect to Reportable Transactions" ((RIN1545-BF39) (TD 9764)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5393. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports relative to the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the New START Treaty) (OSS-2016-0098); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5394. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2016-0712); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5395. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2016-0713); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5396. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2016-0643); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5397. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2016-0644); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5398. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0064 - 2016-0065); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5399. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5400. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Preparations, Limits of Potency, and Dating Period Limitations for Biological Products" (Docket No. FDA-2016-N-1170) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5401. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research"

((RIN0985-AA12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5402. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Amendments to Special Enrollment Periods and the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan Programs" (RIN0938-AS87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5403. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2015 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5404. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled "Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Report to Congress" for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5405. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals; Technical Amendment" ((RIN0910-AG64) (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0143)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5406. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption; Technical Amendment" ((RIN0910-AG35) (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0921)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5407. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of Labor Implementation of OMB Guidance on Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5408. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5409. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Review of Summer Youth Employment Programs in Eight Major Cities and the District of Columbia"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5410. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve

System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5411. A communication from the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5412. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-374, "Youth Suicide Prevention and School Climate Survey Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5413. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-375, "Firehouse Parking Exception Regulation Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5414. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-376, "Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency Salary Approval Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5415. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-377, "Supporting Normalcy and Empowering Children in Foster Care Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5416. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-378, "Transportation Reorganization Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5417. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5418. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on applications made by the Government for authority to conduct electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence during calendar year 2015 relative to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5419. A communication from the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to submitted amendments to the Rules of Appellate and Criminal Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5420. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Butyryl Fentanyl and Beta-Hydroxythiofentanyl into Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-434F) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5421. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of

Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Brivaracetam into Schedule V" (Docket No. DEA-435) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5422. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5423. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Fisheries for 2016" (RIN0648-BE88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5424. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commission Participation and Commission Employee Involvement in Voluntary Standards Activities" (RIN3041-AD32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-165. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida condemning the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel and calls upon its governmental institutions to denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION 1001

Whereas, the citizens of the State of Florida have long opposed bigotry, oppression, discrimination, and injustice as a matter of public policy, and

Whereas, Florida and Israel have enjoyed a long history of friendship and are great allies in support of each other's interests, and

Whereas, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in that region, and

Whereas, the elected representatives of the state recognize the importance of expressing Florida's unwavering support of the Jewish people and the State of Israel's right to exist and right to self-defense, and

Whereas, there are increasing incidents of anti-Semitism throughout the world, including in the United States and in Florida, reflected in official hate crime statistics, and

Whereas, the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitic perspectives and advocating the elimination of the Jewish State, and

Whereas, activities promoting Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against Israel have

increased in the State of Florida, including on university campuses and in other Florida communities, and contribute to the promotion anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist propaganda, and

Whereas, the increase in BDS campaign activities on college campuses around the country has resulted in increased confrontation, intimidation, and discrimination against Jewish students, and

Whereas, leaders of the BDS movement express that their goal is to eliminate Israel as the national home of the Jewish people, and

Whereas, the BDS campaign's call for academic and cultural boycotts has been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic associations, more than 250 university presidents, and many other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic freedom: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida*, That the Florida House of Representatives condemns the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel and calls upon its governmental institutions to denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be presented to the President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the proper authorities of the State of Israel as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2919. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide greater flexibility to States in carrying out the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program and employing local veterans' employment representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2920. A bill to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. NELSON, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2921. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve health care and benefits for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2922. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for partnerships and

contracts between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and eligible academic affiliates for the mutually beneficial coordination, use, or exchange of health-care resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 927

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 927, a bill to provide regulatory relief for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to improve the safety of hazardous materials rail transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 2040

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2040, a bill to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2341

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2341, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2437

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2437, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial of the cremated remains of persons who

served as Women's Air Forces Service Pilots in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 2566

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2566, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide sexual assault survivors with certain rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2577

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2577, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with disabilities to save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts above the current annual maximum contribution if they work and earn income.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 2825

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2825, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require compliance with domestic source requirements for footwear furnished to enlisted members of the Armed Forces upon their initial entry into the Armed Forces.

S. 2833

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New

York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2833, a bill to amend section 214(c)(8) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the data reporting requirements relating to nonimmigrant employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2840

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2840, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

S. 2864

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2864, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent catastrophic out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

S. 2865

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2865, a bill to promote stability and security in the Asia-Pacific maritime domains, and for other purposes.

S. 2904

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2904, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S.J. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 16, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women.

S. RES. 349

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 349, a resolution congratulating the Farm Credit System on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.



S. RES. 459

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 459, a resolution recognizing the importance of cancer research and the vital contributions of scientists, clinicians, cancer survivors, and other patient advocates across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, and designating May 2016, as "National Cancer Research Month".

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 459, supra.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2920. A bill to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the Tribal Law and Order Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2016. Senator MCCAIN and I are introducing this important piece of legislation to enhance public safety efforts in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

I want to thank Senator MCCAIN for his leadership, as a former Chairman and a current Member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, on this issue. He has been a staunch advocate for safe Indian communities, particularly for the children.

This bill would build on the improvements made by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 passed by Congress to address the unconscionably high crime rates in these communities. The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 was intended to be a first step in the right direction in improving the effectiveness of criminal justice systems in Indian Country.

The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 was based on five fundamental principles: to increase the Federal response and accountability; encourage greater cooperation between tribal, Federal, and State law enforcement; provide tribal justice officials with additional tools to combat crime; improve Federal programs to strengthen tribal justice systems; and improve data collection and information sharing relating to Indian Country crime.

Since that time, numerous reports have been issued by the Departments of the Interior, Justice, and Health and Human Services as required by the act. The Committee has held oversight hearings on public safety issues in Indian communities, including a field hearing in my home state of Wyoming on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The Committee also held a roundtable with many stakeholders regarding the next steps needed for improving justice systems in these communities.

The testimony and discussions were clear that the crime rates have diminished some but still remain unacceptably high on too many reservations. Likewise, barriers for Indian law enforcement agencies still exist to accessing criminal databases, sharing information, receiving required reports, training, and technical assistance. The Committee received testimony on the need for more resources to develop various part of tribal justice systems including jury trials and public defenders services.

Most notably, the testimony indicated that alcohol and substance abuse were contributing factors in nearly all crimes in Indian communities. Several witnesses, including U.S. Attorney Christopher "Kip" Crofts from my home state of Wyoming, highlighted the need to address this problem to improve public safety.

The most troubling aspect of the reports, the discussions, and the hearings is that the children face the most heartbreaking situations. In particular, American Indian and Alaska Native juveniles are overrepresented in Federal and State juvenile justice systems. In addition, there is a lack of training, collaboration, communication, and cooperation among agencies regarding juvenile justice for these youth.

The tribal youth in the Federal system may spend more time in secure confinement than youth in the state systems, sometimes by several years. Tribal youth in the Federal system may also be placed in facilities which can be located far away from their communities and families. On top of this, appropriate services for tribal youth in the Federal system may be unavailable as well.

Tribal leaders have expressed concerns to me that they do not want to lose a generation of their people. It is incumbent upon Congress and the administration to do everything we can to help these young people turn their lives around.

For these reasons, we introduced this bill to work toward safer communities and provide more accountability from the Federal agencies which have a trust responsibility to the Indian tribes and their members.

The bill would address Federal accountability; increase data sharing and access to data bases; support alternatives in detention; reauthorize and build on resources for public safety efforts; and improve justice for Indian youth. It would also assist Indian tribes in addressing violent and drug crimes through Federal courts.

This is the type of bill that we can all get behind and get signed into law this year. I urge Members to join me in

the effort to improve the lives of Indian people through these stronger public safety measures.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Leveraging the U.S. Science and Technology Enterprise."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the United States Customs and Border Protection Agency."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2016, at 3 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2016, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND  
THE LAW

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Proposed FCC Privacy Rules."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brad Hatcher, who is serving as my legislative fellow for defense issues this year, be granted privileges of the floor for the duration of 2016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Michael Wolfe, who is a fellow on my staff, during consideration of H.R. 2028, the Fiscal Year 2017 Energy and Water Appropriations Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 12,  
2016

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein; further, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2028; finally, that all time during the adjournment and morning business count postclosure on the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:49 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ROBERT M. TOBIAS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, VICE DEBORAH L. WINCE-SMITH, TERM EXPIRED.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BLAIR ANDERSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR POLICY, VICE PETER M. ROGOFF, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CAROL Z. PEREZ, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J. PATRICIA WILSON SMOOT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. SIDNEY N. MARTIN

## IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF ARMY RESERVE/COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3038:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES D. LUCKEY

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5035:

*To be admiral*

VICE ADM. WILLIAM F. MORAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5141:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT P. BURKE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. THOMAS J. MOORE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

VICE ADM. JAN E. TIGHE

## IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

CHRISTOPHER R. MCNULTY

## IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be colonel*

ERNEST C. LEE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

TERRANCE W. ADAMS  
KRISTAFER R. AILSLIEGER  
JOHN B. ALEXANDER  
JAMES P. ALLEN  
STEPHEN D. ALLEN, JR.

BRUCE A. ANDERSEN  
TAMARA R. ARENDT  
JEFFREY T. AVOLIO  
JEFFREY S. BAUM  
AMY B. BEUSCHLEIN  
KELVIN L. BOONE  
BENJAMIN L. BOURGOYNE  
KEVIN N. BURAS  
SEAN M. CAMPION  
MARTIN A. CASE  
PHILIP R. CHURCHILL  
DAVID A. CLARK  
TODD A. COE  
DAWN M. CONNER  
CHRISTOPHER W. COOK  
ROBERT L. CORDRAY III  
RONALD G. CORSETTI  
DAVID E. COVOLESKY  
EDWIN C. COX  
JOHN R. CUNLIFFE  
HARVEY A. CUTCHIN  
PHILIP S. DIZON  
DALE D. DRAEGER  
DANIEL D. EDDY  
JOHN F. EGAN  
TODD L. ERSKINE  
PETER E. FECHTMANN  
AMY L. FIELDS  
JAMES W. FORBES  
JEFFREY D. GABEL  
GINA R. GARABEDIAN  
BENJAMIN GARCIA  
CONSTANCE M. GARCIA  
MARC L. GAUVAL  
MATTHEW N. GEBHARD  
LAWRENCE A. GNEWUCH  
CHRISTINA S. GRAMOND  
DENNIS H. GRECO  
MICHAEL M. GREER  
RUSSELL L. GREGORY III  
RUSSELL W. GRIFFIN  
JAY J. GUEVARRA  
JOHN C. HAPLEY  
KELLY A. HAGENBECK  
DAVID A. HAGLER  
JENS J. HANSEN  
CATHERINE B. HARKER  
STEVEN C. HART  
CAROL A. HAYMAN  
ROBERT L. HOHMAN, JR.  
GARY J. HOLBEN  
MATTHEW C. HOLBERT  
FREDERICK J. HOLMES  
ANTHONY T. HU  
JEROME JACKSON  
NICOLE S. JONES  
AARON J. JUSTICE  
MICHAEL A. KARNIS  
LAURA A. KENNEY  
ROBERT T. KRUMM  
EVELYN E. LAPTOOK  
ANDREW M. LAWFIELD  
MATTHEW A. LAZAR  
DANIEL E. LEAVITT  
JOHN M. LEGG  
MICHAEL D. LEWIS  
KENT J. LIGHTNER  
ELDON S. LOWDERMILK  
ROBERT W. MARTIN  
CHRISTOPHER D. MASON  
DONALD N. MATCHECK  
ANDREAS J. MCGHEE  
WILLIAM J. MCNEELY  
KELLY D. MCNEESE  
MICHAEL S. MIKULSKI  
JONATHAN C. MOYER  
LISANDRO MURPHY, JR.  
KEN R. NANCE  
DAVID W. NAVRATIL  
TREVOR J. NEHLS  
MICHAEL P. O'BRIEN  
BRANDI B. PEASLEY  
SCOTT D. PERRY  
TROY A. POSTIN  
WILLIAM J. POTTERTON  
ROBERT S. POWELL, JR.  
SONYA A. POWELL  
SALVATORE L. RAO, JR.  
ROYCE P. RESOSO  
REGINALD T. RICHARDSON  
JAVIER J. RIVERA  
STEVEN J. ROBERTSON  
DAVID D. ROBINSON  
DAVID M. SAMUELSEN  
ANDREW F. SCARCELLA  
JOHN C. SCHARRETT  
WILLIAM H. SCHERMERHORN  
JAMES E. SIMPSON, JR.  
DAVID R. SKAVNAK  
SHAD G. SMITH  
RANDALL A. SNOW  
MATTHEW C. STACKER  
MARK A. STIEFBOLD  
PAUL B. STRICKLAND  
JOEL S. STRINGER  
SHAWN P. SULLIVAN  
STEPHEN R. SUTTON  
LESLIE A. TEMPLIN  
CHRISTOPHER C. THIEL  
TUAN A. TRUONG  
DOUGLAS A. VANDERHOOF  
LESLIE Y. VAZQUEZ

GITA R. VELU  
KIRK J. VENABLE  
BRENDA L. VERVOORT  
SCOTT W. WARD  
JOHN F. WELLS  
PETER J. WHALEN  
HEATHER B. WHITE  
LEO WHITE III  
RONALD E. WIER  
STEPHANIE R. WIESING  
DAVID M. WILSON  
DENISE M. WURZBACH  
MOLLY D. YOUNG  
ROBERT E. YOUNG, JR.  
CYNTHIA M. ZAPOTOCZNY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

JENNIFER L. ADAMSBUCKHOUSE  
PAUL M. AMRHEIN  
ALFRED J. ANTONIK  
SALVATORE S. BARBARIA  
GUY D. BASS  
ALBERT L. BENSON, JR.  
TEERAPHAN BEVILL  
MARK A. CHITWOOD  
DANIEL A. COLE  
JAMES G. CRAIG III  
KENNETH R. CROWE  
KEVIN F. DANIELS  
MANU L. DAVIS  
TRAVIS C. DELK  
STEVEN F. EGAN  
TAD T. FICHTEL  
JEFFREY GATCH  
VINCENT A. GILKEY  
VICTOR R. GREEN  
MARCUS W. HARRING  
RICHARD P. HARVEY  
FRANK E. HOPKINS III  
CHARLES L. KIDD II  
LEWIS G. KNAPP  
CARL W. KOEHLINGER  
JAMES P. LINCOLN  
JOHN W. MAENHARDT, JR.  
ANDREA L. MCCOLLUM  
ELGIN MERCADO  
JAMAL MILES  
KERRY E. NORMAN  
JAMES A. PARKINSON  
FRANK O. PFAU  
CHARLES R. PHARISS II  
MICHAEL D. POSS  
JAMES A. ROGERS  
JEFFREY S. RYNEARSON  
PETER J. SCHMIDT  
JASON J. SCHRANK  
WILLIAM C. SEARS  
MICHAEL W. SHARP  
JACQUELINE M. SIMMONS  
JOHN A. STEWART  
CHRISTOPHER J. SWEENEY  
BRIAN A. THOMAS  
MICHAEL S. UNDERWOOD  
MICHAEL S. VAIL  
CLAUDIUS R. VONFAHNESTOCK  
STUART E. WERNER  
RICHARD E. WILLIAMS  
ASHLEY D. WORBOYS  
WILLIAM S. WYNN  
MELVIN W. ZIMMER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

JEFFREY A. ABELE  
ANDREW C. ANDERSON  
LAWRENCE B. AUSTIN  
PETER R. BARAJAS  
JAMEY J. BARCOMB  
ROBERT S. BAREFOOT  
REGINALD L. BARNES  
JOHN L. BATES  
DAVID A. BECKER  
SHAWN P. BELL  
REED L. BERRY  
RENITA L. BERRY  
WILEY O. BLEVINS, JR.  
TODD M. BOOKLESS  
STEPHEN M. BOUSQUET  
RHONDA S. BRACH  
LONNIE J. BRANUM, JR.  
WILLIAM T. BREEZE  
JASON E. BRIGGS  
RYAN C. BROWN  
KEITH M. BROWNELL  
DAVID J. BRUSCHWEIN  
ROBERT K. BRYAN  
JAMES M. CAHILL  
TIMOTHY A. CAREY  
MOIRA E. CARPENTER  
LUKE E. CHARPENTIER  
CHRISTOPHER CHOMOSH  
DANIEL J. COLEMAN  
BRETT P. CONAWAY  
CHARLES H. CONNORS  
CHRISTOPHER R. CRONIN  
DANIEL P. CROUCH

JOHN R. CUNNINGHAM  
CARL C. DANBERG  
RICHARD R. DARVEAU  
DARRELL J. DEBISH  
THOMAS P. DENNIS  
ERIC A. DERUE  
KENNETH H. DILG  
JOHN T. DONNELLAN, JR.  
CRAIG S. DRISKELL  
ILOS J. DUCKSWORTH  
CHARLTON T. DUNN  
ANDRA M. DUSKIE  
JOHN H. EBBIGHAUSEN  
ANDRE L. EDISON  
TIMOTHY J. EICH  
GARY T. ELLIOTT, JR.  
THOMAS J. FIELDS III  
BRENT D. FLACHSBART  
RYAN P. FLOYD  
DONOVAN T. FONTENOT  
JEREMY R. FOOT  
THOMAS W. FORREST  
GREGORY E. FRITZ  
NICOLE M. GABRIEL  
RAYMOND G. GARCIA  
STANLEY T. GARCIA  
DAVID S. GAYLE  
JERALD R. GILBERT  
RODNEY K. GINTER  
WESLEY R. GOLDEN  
KIRBY S. GONYER  
QUVATOR R. GORE  
MIRIAM GRAY  
ARNOLD J. GRIFFIN  
MICHAEL P. GRUNDMAN  
JEFFREY S. HACKETT  
ROBERT D. HALES  
DAVID W. HALL  
KELLY S. HAMMOND  
CYNTHIA J. HARKRIDER  
WILLIAM M. HARLOW  
MARY E. HARRIS  
JAMES A. HARRISON  
GREGORY B. HARTVIGSEN  
DENNIS R. HAWTHORNE  
DAVID L. HAYES  
JEFFREY S. HEASLEY  
JASON A. HENRY  
JEFFREY W. HOLZWORTH  
BARRY D. HON  
ERIC W. HONAKER  
MARK A. HOWARD  
FRED D. HRYHORCHUK  
DAMON M. HUNT  
STEPHEN W. JACO  
JOSEPH V. JACOBSON  
REOLITO G. JAO  
DANIEL T. JOHNSON  
EDWARD M. JOHNSON  
MICHAEL J. KARWATKA  
PATRICK E. KEEFE  
SCOTT M. KEELEY  
RICKY A. KIMMEL  
CECIL W. KING  
RAY A. KNUTSON  
JOHN M. KRUTHAUP  
MICHAEL A. LADD  
JAMES G. LAKE  
THOMAS J. LESNIESKI  
JEFFREY E. LONG  
PHILIP H. MACCHI  
ROBERT W. MANDELL  
TODD M. MANION  
JAMES W. MANN  
RANDALL P. MANTOOTH  
KELSEY A. MARCHALK  
HUGH A. MCCALLUM  
DONALD L. MCFADDEN  
DAVID D. MCGRAW, JR.  
TIMOTHY S. MCLAUGHLIN  
WILLIAM E. MEADE  
CHRISTOPHER W. MICKAN  
GLENN E. MILLER  
JESSE L. MILLER  
VALENTINE M. MILLER  
MICHAEL S. MISMAH  
STEVEN C. MOE  
CRISTINA M. MOORE  
WILLIAM M. MOORE  
LAUREN E. MUGLIA  
GARY W. MUNDFROM  
ERIK A. MYHRE  
CRAIG T. NORMAND  
JAMES R. OLSON  
ANGEL M. ORTIZ  
TERRI L. OSWALD  
GREGORY S. OTA  
GEORGE A. OTEIZA  
KELTON E. PANKEY  
VICTOR J. PARZIALE  
GREGORY L. PELTS  
LOREN D. PENNEY  
STEVEN D. PERRY  
STEVEN P. PETERSEN  
HENRY S. PETTIT  
CORNELIUS E. PUTNAM  
DAVID B. RAYNOR  
DAVID W. REED  
BENJAMIN M. RICHARDSON  
ROBERT J. RODGERS  
DARYL R. ROERICK  
FRANCISCO L. ROMERO

GARY A. ROPERS  
KELLY S. ROSENBERGER  
PAUL R. ROWE  
WILLIAM P. SCOTT, JR.  
JOSHUA M. SEMLER  
GARRY W. SEYB, JR.  
THEODORE A. SOBOCIENSKI  
WILLIAM J. SPENCE  
PATRICK D. STAPLETON  
CHARLES G. STEPHENSON  
SHANE R. STEWART  
RICHARD J. STRADINGER  
PAUL W. STROUD  
JEFFREY A. SUVER  
SHAHRAM A. TAKMILI  
EMMA F. THYEN  
RONALD L. TILLOTSON  
DONALD N. TINGEN  
MICHAEL A. TOUGHER III  
JOHN N. TUMINO  
THOMAS O. TYLER  
MARK A. ULVIN  
DAVID A. UPDEGRAFF  
RICKY S. UTLEY  
BENJAMIN S. VALENTINE  
DENISE W. WALKER  
ROBERT H. WALTER, JR.  
MICHAEL T. WARFEL  
MICHAEL P. WARRINGTON  
WILLIAM G. WATSON  
MARK T. WEAVER  
MICHAEL E. WEGSCHEIDER  
DOUGLAS L. WHITE  
KATHERINE E. WHITE  
RONALD R. WILKINS  
DENISE L. WILKINSON  
MAURY A. WILLIAMS  
JOHN J. WOJCIK  
JAMES M. ZIEBA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

*To be major*

KATHRYN A. KATZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

*To be major*

BRYAN P. HENDREN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

*To be major*

WESTON C. GORING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

*To be major*

SRILALITHA DONEPUDI

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

OLIVIA L. BETHEA  
KERTRECK V. BROOKS  
BRENT E. COWER  
SUZANNE M. JOHNSON  
CHRISTIAN A. STOVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

ROGER S. AKINS  
MANUEL F. ALSINA  
HERNAN O. ALTAMAR  
MICHAEL R. ANCONA  
SUSAN F. ANTLE  
KYLE R. BERRY  
BRADLEY L. BUNTEN  
ALEXANDER I. BUSTAMANTE  
JAMES E. CALLAN  
RUSSELL B. CARR  
WALTER W. DALITSCHE  
GERARD DEMERS  
CHRISTOPHER I. ELLINGSON  
JENNIFER M. ESPRITU  
BRIAN L. FELDMAN  
MARC A. FRANZOS  
KATERINA M. GALLUS  
JONATHAN E. GILHOOLY  
HERMANN F. GONZALEZ  
RODNEY S. HAGERMAN  
KEITH A. HANLEY  
STEVEN R. HANLING  
SEAN M. HUSSEY  
DAVID P. JOHNSON

MICHAEL L. JULIANO  
ARNETT KLUGH  
ERIC A. LAVERY  
MIKE H. LEE  
MARK J. LENART  
EUGENIO LUJAN  
GREGORY N. MATWIYOFF  
MATTHEW D. MCLEAN  
JOHN W. MORONEY  
GEORGE P. NANOS III  
CRAIG D. NORRIS  
KEVIN M. OMEARA  
CHRISTOPHER A. ORSELLO  
JOSEPH F. PENTA  
BLAINE M. POWELL  
TIMOTHY M. QUAST  
SCOTT B. RADER  
ALFREDO R. RAMIREZ  
CRAIG J. RANDALL  
ROBERT L. RICCA  
GEORGE M. RICE  
MICHAEL A. ROBINSON  
JOHN P. H. RUE  
MARLENE L. SANCHEZ  
TIMOTHY E. SAYLES  
ANDREW W. SCHIEMEL  
DANNY T. SHIAU  
STUART H. SHIPPEY III  
MICHAEL P. SHUSKO  
BRYAN M. SPALDING  
MICHAEL T. SPOONER  
ERIC T. STEDJELARSEN  
WALTER A. STEIGLEMAN  
RICHARD W. TEMPLE  
KARIN E. THOMAS  
ANTHONY TUCKER  
BRIAN P. WELLS  
DAVID R. WHITTAKER  
CHARLES E. WILSON  
MICHAEL D. WITTENBERGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

RICHARD S. ADCOOK  
ANDREW J. AVILLO  
DAVID M. CRAIG  
SEAN P. DONOVAN  
ERIC S. EVANS  
CHAD A. LEE  
JOHN D. MCLAUGHLIN  
ANN B. MONASKY  
ENRIQUE M. MORALES  
RACHEL MYAINGMISFELDT  
STEVEN M. STOKES  
GARY J. WALKER  
JOHN H. WILSON  
BENJAMIN W. YOUNG, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

ANDREW M. ARCHILA  
ANTHONY R. ARTINO, JR.  
MATTHEW F. BOUMA  
DAVID B. BRENNER  
GABRIEL T. BROWN  
ROGER L. BUNCH  
ALAN B. CHRISTIAN  
JASON B. DARBY  
PAUL B. DURAND  
GREGG W. GELLMAN  
SCOTT L. GREENSTEIN  
JESSIE E. GROSS  
BRANDON W. HARDIN  
TRACI J. HINDMAN  
KRISTIN R. HODAPP  
PETER O. IM  
TODD J. LAUBY  
KARLA M. LEPORE  
JAMES R. LINDERMAN  
CHAD E. MCKENZIE  
STEVEN W. NEWELL  
KEITH B. NEWTON  
PETER J. OBENAUER  
GUILLERMO PIMENTEL  
WENDY H. PINKHAM  
ROSE E. RICE  
CHERYL C. RINGER  
KATHARINE K. SHOBE  
TARA N. SMITH  
JEFFREY D. STANCLIL  
DOUGLAS E. STEPHENS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

SHANE D. COOPER  
LAURIN N. ESKRIDGE  
JENNIE L. GOLDSMITH  
DAVID M. GONZALEZ  
JOSEPH G. HOELZ  
THOMAS F. LEARY  
IRVE C. LEMOYNE, JR.  
MICHAEL J. LUKEN  
JONATHAN M. MCLEOD  
ROBERT P. MONAHAN, JR.

JOSHUA P. NAUMAN  
ELYSIA G. H. NGBAUMHACKL  
RANDALL J. VAVRA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

JOHANNES M. BAILEY  
MELISSA A. BARNETT  
LISA A. BRAUN  
KEVIN P. BUSS  
RAUL J. CARRILLO  
CRAIG A. CUNNINGHAM  
LAURA D. DEATON  
EVA S. DOMOTORFFY  
JOHN E. ECKENRODE  
MELISSA A. FARINO  
JEAN F. FISAK  
JEREMY J. HAWKER  
JULIE M. HILLERY  
LONNIE S. HOSEA  
HEATHER C. KING  
MICHAEL S. KOHLER  
CLINT A. LEMAIRE  
RACHEL M. LEWIS  
PAUL A. LOESCHE  
EDDIE LOPEZ  
SCOTT J. MESSMER  
DANIEL N. MEYERHUBER  
STEVEN J. PARKS  
JUSTICE M. PARROTT  
SARA S. PICKETT  
THECLY H. SCOTT  
KATHALEEN L. SMITH  
JOSEPH L. TAYLOR  
ELIZABETH G. VOGELROGERS  
JOHN E. VOLK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

SUSAN L. AYERS  
MICHAEL V. BENEDETTO  
PATRICK C. BLAKE  
WILLIAM D. BOOTH  
DAVID D. CARNAL  
EUGENE S. CASH  
DAVID E. DOYLE  
PAMELA C. DOZIER  
JOHN S. DUENAS  
CHARLES DWY  
JOSE L. FELIZ  
JASON B. FITCH  
MARK R. GARRIGUS  
NICOLA M. GATHRIGHT  
EDMOND J. GAWARAN  
MICHAEL W. HERYFORD  
MATTHEW D. HOLMAN  
JULIE M. HUNTER  
JERRY A. KING  
GREGORY R. LASK  
DOUGLAS S. MACKENZIE  
THOMAS J. NEVILLE III  
THOMAS A. SCOTT  
JULIE M. TREANOR  
MILTON W. TROY III  
ALSANDRO H. TURNER  
DENNIS J. TURNER  
TODD A. WANACK  
LEROY H. WEBER  
ANTHONY D. YANERO  
MICHAEL YORK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

MICHAEL D. BROWN  
KIM M. DONAHUE  
JOHN M. HAKANSON  
BRIAN J. C. HALEY  
JAMES L. JOHNSON  
JOHN A. KALANTZIS  
DANIEL L. MODE  
EMILE G. MOURD  
JAMES H. PITTMAN  
GREG T. SCHLUTER  
WILLIAM D. STALLARD  
BRIAN J. STAMM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

JOHN R. ANDERSON  
DANIEL W. COOK  
JORGE R. CUADROS  
EILEEN J. DANDREA  
JEFFREY C. DEVINEY  
CAMERON J. GEERTSEMA  
KENT R. HENDRICKS  
JEFFREY D. LENGKEEK  
NATHANAEL B. PRICE  
WILLIAM A. SIEMER  
KEMIT W. SPEARS  
STEVEN J. STASICK  
CHRISTOPHER R. VIA  
BURR M. VOGEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be lieutenant commander*

DEVIN D. BURNS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

RACHAEL A. DEMPSEY  
CHRISTOPHER L. GABRIEL  
RONALD J. PIRET  
IVO J. PRIKASKY  
SEAN D. ROBINSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

ANN E. CASEY  
COLIN W. CHINN  
HAROLD T. COLE  
MICHAEL C. ELLIOT  
SHELLY V. FRANK  
JENNA K. HAUSVIK  
JAMES H. HENDERSONCOFFEY  
OWEN M. SCHOOLSKEY  
HENRY M. VEGTER  
DARYK E. ZIRKLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

CLAUDE W. ARNOLD, JR.  
THANONGDETH T. CHINYAVONG  
TRACY L. HINES  
DONALD E. HOCUTT  
KAMBRA R. JUVE  
KRISTIAN P. KEARTON  
BRADLEY L. KINKEAD  
MATTHEW J. LABERT  
JOHN E. LARSON, JR.  
ROB W. STEVENSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

ALBERT ANGEL  
ANDREW J. CHARLES  
CHRISTOPHER R. KOPACH  
KEVIN E. NELSON  
DAVID M. OVERCASH  
FRANK G. SCHLERETH III  
PETER N. SHEPARD  
SETH A. WALTERS  
SCOTT D. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

THOMAS L. GIBBONS  
RICKY L. GILBERT  
MAXINE GOODRIDGE  
THOMAS M. GOREY III  
GLEN P. JACKSON  
MICHAEL J. MCGINN, JR.  
ALONZA J. ROSS  
VINCENT E. SMITH  
KURT E. STRONACH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

DAVID L. AAMODT  
DEREK S. ADAMETZ  
CHRISTOPHER W. ADAMS  
ALLEN D. ADKINS  
ALBERT A. ALARCON  
DAMON K. AMARAL  
ALYSA L. AMBROSEMANSFIELD  
WAYNE W. ANDREWS III  
STEVEN W. ANTCLIFF  
CORY R. APPLEBEE  
LONNIE L. APPELEGT  
SCOTT A. AVERY  
DAVID N. BACK  
JAMES D. BAHR  
CHRISTOPHER G. BAILEY  
SHAWN T. BAILEY  
DAVID S. BAIRD  
GREGORY E. BAKER  
NATHAN A. BALLOU  
CRAIG D. BANGOR  
MATTHEW A. BARKER  
ANTHONY C. BARNES  
JOHN J. BARNETT  
MICHAEL C. BECKETTE  
STEVEN J. BELLACK  
JERRIS L. BENNETT  
RYAN J. BERNACCHI  
ROBERT A. BERNER  
MICHAEL A. BISBEE

CORY J. BLASER  
 GREGORY D. BLYDEN  
 MATTHEW R. BOLAND  
 MATT L. BOREN  
 MOLLY J. BORON  
 JOHN J. BRABAZON  
 WESLEY P. BRINGHAM  
 JOHN L. BUB  
 WILLIAM H. BUCEY III  
 JOHN E. CAGE  
 MARK J. CALLARI  
 DARYLE D. CARDONE  
 ADAM T. CARLSTROM  
 SCOTT A. CARROLL  
 GARY L. CAVE  
 JEFFERY E. CHISM  
 MARC R. CHRISTINO  
 TODD F. CIMICATA  
 FRANKIE J. CLARK  
 PATRICK B. CLARK  
 JOSEPH W. COLEMAN  
 MATTHEW T. COLLINS  
 CLARKE F. CRAINE  
 WESLEY S. DAUGHERTY  
 MICHAEL F. DAVIS  
 COLIN P. DAY  
 ANDREW P. DEMONTE  
 WILLIAM F. DENTON  
 JOHN W. DEPREE  
 MICHAEL B. DEVORE  
 GRAHAME A. DICKS  
 BRIAN J. DIEBOLD  
 CYNTHIA A. DIETERLY  
 KEITH B. DOWLING  
 MATTHEW J. DUFFY  
 TREVOR B. ESTES  
 CHAD M. FALGOUT  
 DAVID B. FIELDS  
 LONNIE L. FIELDS  
 CHRISTOPHER G. FOLLIN  
 THOMAS F. FOSTER, JR.  
 WILLIAM D. FRASER  
 JOHN P. FRIEDMAN  
 SEAN D. FUJIMOTO  
 JOSEPH A. GAGLIANO  
 RUSSELL M. GERALDI  
 MATTHEW G. GILLE  
 ANTHONY S. GRAYSON  
 CRAIG M. GUMMER  
 PETER A. HAGGE  
 PATRICK D. HANSEN  
 SCOTT A. HARDY  
 MICHAEL J. HARRIS  
 ROBERT E. HAWTHORNE III  
 THOMAS B. HECK  
 CHRISTOPHER H. HERR  
 BRETT C. HERSHMAN  
 CHRISTOPHER F. HILL  
 RICHARD B. HILL  
 JESSE W. HILLIKER  
 STEVEN E. HNATT  
 ERICA L. HOFFMANN  
 JEFFREY P. HOLZER  
 MICHAEL G. HRITZ  
 SHAWN W. HUEY  
 JESSIE D. HUGHES, JR.  
 LIAM M. HULIN  
 CHRISTOPHER H. INSKEEP  
 DENNIS J. JACKO  
 SCOTT P. JANIK  
 PATRICK E. JANKOWSKI  
 MICHAEL R. JARRETT, JR.  
 MATTHEW J. JERBI  
 ROBERT J. JEZEK, JR.  
 THADDEUS M. JOHNSON  
 SCOTT A. JONES  
 PRZEMYSŁAW J. KACZYNSKI  
 ERIC S. KELLUM  
 JAMES P. KENNEDY IV  
 JAMES R. KENNY  
 GEORGE A. KESSLER, JR.  
 RYAN T. KEYS  
 HENRY S. KIM  
 TIMOTHY F. KINSELLA, JR.  
 DALE D. KLEIN  
 NEIL A. KOPROWSKI  
 VICTOR A. LAKE  
 DAVID P. LAMMERS  
 ROBERT W. LANDIS  
 KEVIN A. LANE  
 CHANDEN S. LANGHOFER  
 LANCE C. LANTIER  
 CURTIS G. LARSON

BRETT A. LASSEN  
 GREGORY J. LELAND  
 RAYMOND C. LEUNG  
 TODD A. LIBBY  
 ANTHONY C. LITTMANN  
 ABDEL I. LOPEZ  
 MICHAEL J. MAJEWSKI  
 DAVID R. MARKLE  
 BOBBY MARKOVICH  
 ERIC L. MASON  
 NICOLE L. MAVERSHUE  
 ANTOINETTE M. MCCANN  
 SCOTT C. MCCLELLAND  
 WILLIAM R. MCCOMBS  
 LOUIS M. MCCRAY  
 CARLOS A. MEDINA  
 JEFFREY A. MELODY  
 LEONARD H. J. MILLIKEN  
 PETER T. MIRISOLA  
 DANIEL D. MOORE  
 TODD D. MOORE  
 EVAN L. MORRISON  
 JONATHAN R. MURPHY  
 BRIAN T. MUTTY  
 DEREK A. NELSON  
 MATTHEW D. NORRIS  
 THEODORE J. NUNAMAKER  
 CHRISTINE R. OCONNELL  
 DAVID M. ODEN  
 BRIAN P. OLAVIN  
 JUSTIN P. ORLICH  
 ERIN P. OSBORNE  
 PAUL R. PAMPURO  
 WILLIAM A. PATTERSON  
 BRYAN S. PEEPLES  
 ANDREW M. PENCE  
 SAMUEL E. PENNINGTON  
 WILLIAM C. PENNINGTON  
 WILLIAM A. PERKINS  
 MIKAL J. PHILLIPS  
 KEVIN PICKARD, JR.  
 JOHN T. PITTA  
 DAVIDTAVIS M. POLLARD  
 MATTHEW T. POTTENBURGH  
 MICHAEL E. RAY  
 KEVIN K. ROACH  
 CHRISTOPHER A. ROBERTO  
 GREGORY G. ROBERTS  
 EDWARD J. ROBLEDO  
 MICHAEL A. ROVENOLT  
 DAVID R. SAUVE  
 GREGORY P. SAWTELL  
 JONATHAN L. SCHMITZ  
 PETER M. SCHNAPPAUF II  
 BRIAN T. SCHRUM  
 BRUCE G. SCHUETTE  
 KURT M. SELLERBERG  
 THOMAS H. SHUGART III  
 JOHN W. SKARIN  
 JEFFREY S. SMITH  
 DAVID T. SNEE  
 KEVIN L. SNODE  
 MARK D. SOHANEY  
 DAVID W. STALLWORTH  
 VERNON H. STANFIELD  
 CHARLES M. STICKNEY  
 MONIKA W. STOKER  
 JOHN D. STONER, JR.  
 JEFFREY W. SUMMERS  
 BRIAN C. TADDIKEN  
 BRIAN J. TANAKA  
 DONALD I. TENNEY  
 RYAN T. TEWELL  
 PATRICK C. THIEN  
 JOHN A. THOMPSON  
 GREGORY S. THOROMAN  
 ERIK M. THORS  
 MATTHEW J. THRASHER  
 BRENT K. TORNGA  
 BRIAN L. TOTTERO  
 JOHN E. TURNER, JR.  
 TIMOTHY T. URBAN  
 DANIEL W. VALASCHO  
 RANDY J. VANROSSUM  
 GABRIEL A. VARELA  
 DENNIS J. VIGEANT  
 MATTHEW I. WEBER  
 MICHAEL L. WEELDREYER  
 RICHARD H. WEITZEL  
 CHRISTOPHER K. WELLS  
 ROBERT R. WILLIAMS  
 MARGARET V. WILSON  
 HUGH E. WINKEL

NATHAN S. YORK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

MICHAEL B. BILZOR  
 JOSEPH C. FORAKER III  
 RICHARD G. MCGRATH, JR.  
 JOSEPH J. MCINERNEY  
 MATTHEW A. TESTERMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

PAUL D. CLIFFORD  
 PATRICK A. CROLEY  
 CHARLES W. EHNS  
 DANIELLE N. GEORGE  
 JOSEPH J. KELLER  
 DAVID S. KUHN  
 CARA G. LAPOINTE  
 JEREMY T. LEGHORN  
 THOMAS D. MCKAY  
 JOSEPH A. SCHNEIDER  
 NATHAN A. SCHNEIDER  
 BRIAN K. VAZQUEZ  
 RICARDO VIGIL  
 STEVEN P. WERNER  
 DIANNA WOLFSOHN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

ERROL A. CAMPBELL, JR.  
 WILLIAM E. COLEMAN, JR.  
 JOHN E. DOUGHERTY IV  
 BENJAMIN W. HARRIS  
 MICHAEL K. KASLIK  
 MICHAEL J. ORR  
 KENNETH B. STERBENZ  
 JEFFREY M. VICARIO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

JEFFREY J. CHOWN  
 THOMAS M. DALL  
 DARREN T. JONES  
 ANTHONY S. KELLY  
 DEMICHAEL T. MORGAN  
 BRET A. WASHBURN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

BROOK DEWALT  
 PHILIP R. ROSI II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

AARON C. HOFF  
 JENNIFER R. MILLS  
 RAYMOND P. OWENS III  
 JOHN M. TULLY

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on May 11, 2016 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

SETH B. CARPENTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE MATTHEW S. RUTHERFORD, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 12, 2015.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Alabama Historical Commission and the National Historic Preservation Act.

On October 15, 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. The legislation established the nation's legal framework for the protection and preservation of historic buildings, landscapes, and archaeological discoveries.

My home state of Alabama played a key role in the creation of the National Historic Preservation Act. In fact, the book "With Heritage So Rich," written by Alabama Congressman Albert Rains, drew attention to the importance of preserving historical sites throughout the nation and led to the creation of the Alabama Historical Commission.

Over the last 50 years, the National Historic Preservation Act and the creation of the Alabama Historical Commission has had a profound impact on communities throughout Alabama and all across the United States. In the past year alone, the Alabama Historical Commission welcomed over 250,000 visitors to its historic sites and engaged more than 1,000 volunteers in 8,958 hours of service.

The Federal Preservation Tax Incentives Program, created by the National Historic Preservation Act and implemented by the Alabama Historical Commission in my home state, is the largest federal program supporting historic preservation. The program has helped spur job creation, saved thousands of historic structures, and attracted billions of dollars in investment.

The National Register of Historic Places, also created by the National Historic Preservation Act, contains more than 80,000 historic properties, with at least one place listed in almost every county in the United States.

In Alabama, we are home to over 1,200 historic places including the Bottle Creek Site, the First Confederate Capitol, Fort Morgan, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park, Gaineswood, and the Freedom Rides Museum.

This year, thousands of public, private, and nonprofit sector partners are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act throughout 2016 under the banner of "Preservation50."

Mr. Speaker, in order to remain an optimistic and hopeful nation, it is critical we understand our history and how we got to this point. So on their 50th Anniversary, I am proud to highlight the important impact of the Alabama Historical Commission and the National Historic Preservation Act.

ABIGAIL MOORE

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Abigail Moore for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Abigail Moore is an 11th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Abigail Moore is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Abigail Moore for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING NATHANIEL CAMPBELL

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathaniel Campbell. Nathaniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 271, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathaniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathaniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathaniel has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Nathaniel has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nathaniel designed and constructed "The Bear", a laser-cut steel and powder-coated artwork depicting the school mascot for Briarcliff Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathaniel Campbell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 2016 KING KAMEHAMEHA LEI DRAPING CEREMONY

### HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the annual lei draping ceremony for King Kamehameha the Great will be held in the Emancipation Hall on May 22, 2016.

King Kamehameha's statue stands in the Capitol building as a representation of Hawaii's rich history and the legacy of the Native Hawaiian people. Each year, we drape lei or garlands on his statue to celebrate his accomplishment of uniting the Hawaiian Islands into one Kingdom, which secured a future for the Native Hawaiian people and protected the islands' resources in a quickly westernizing world. Kamehameha's foresight shows us the importance of uniting to face dramatic changes to our world, which today includes climate change.

This year, the celebration draws upon an ancient prophecy and saying—"e hea aku ana i ka iwa kilou mokula; the frigate bird which interweaves the islands is calling"—that characterizes King Kamehameha as the war bird destined to hook the islands into a single nation. The theme is meant not only to honor King Kamehameha's success in uniting the Native Hawaiian people, but also to recognize this year's special guests, sailors of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. On the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage, they are currently sailing the voyaging canoe, Hokulea around the world on a mission to hook countries, nations and peoples of island Earth together for a sustainable future that preserves our Earth's cultural and natural resources—a vital lesson for stabilizing our climate.

I am grateful to have assisted the Hawaii State Society, whose members work tirelessly each year to bring us the King Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremony. I look forward to honoring the legacy of King Kamehameha and Hokulea, which hopefully will inspire us to unite to protect our Earth.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING HUNTER CLOUSE ON BEING ACCEPTED AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Springfield Catholic High School student Hunter Clouse, of Springfield, Missouri, on his being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Scientists and Technology Leaders by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. It is specifically for students who aspire to be scientists, engineers and technologists, and helps to provide a path and mentorship for students to accomplish those dreams. It takes place at the University of Massachusetts over 3 days, and helps to spark meaningful dialogues and exchanges of ideas between future leaders in the fields of science and technology.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants must be recommended by either a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Students must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA and represent all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Students like Clouse, who qualify for this incredibly selective honor, exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Hunter Clouse has dedicated himself to his studies and exhibited a passion for science and technology. He will soon be representing the future of the state of Missouri at this conference, and I have the utmost confidence that he will do an excellent job. I would like to extend my personal congratulations for his achievement, and on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to thank him for representing our community.

HONORING MR. RICHARD BURNS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative HUFFMAN rise today to honor Rich Burns, who has retired after 36 years of public service. Throughout his career, Rich demonstrated his commitment to protecting our nation's lands through his work ethic, integrity, and genuine interest in the well-being of his community and employees.

After completing his degree in Rangeland Sciences at Oregon State University in 1979, Rich began his career with the U.S. Forest Service as a Range Technician at the Humboldt National Forest in Nevada. He joined the

Bureau of Land Management as a Range Conservationist in 1980, and, over the next decade, he served in a variety of positions with the Bureau in Nevada, Colorado, and California.

He has served as Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management Ukiah Field Office for the last 19 years of his federal career, overseeing more than 270,000 acres of public land in California across Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Solano, Mendocino, Lake, Yolo, Colusa, and Glenn Counties.

Among his many achievements, Rich led the successful effort to save the Black Forest from logging in 1999. Thanks to his work with the community, Lake County and the Lake County Land Trust were able to purchase the forest, which was then deeded to the Bureau of Land Management for preservation.

During his tenure, Rich also managed and assisted successful projects including the Cedars Area of Critical Environmental Concern in 1987, the Cache Creek Wilderness Area in 2000, the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area in 2006, the Cedars ACEC Main Canyon Addition in 2011, the Point Arena-Stornetta portion of the California Coastal National Monument in 2014, and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, Rich dedicated his career to preserving our country's natural resources. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement and many happy memories to come with Kelly, his wife of 36 years, and their daughter and son-in-law Ashley and Travis in retirement.

CAL MARSELLA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the vision and leadership of Cal Marsella during his tenure with the Regional Transportation District in the Denver Metro area.

Under Cal's leadership, the expansion project along Interstate 25 was conceived and completed on time and under budget. In addition, he also assisted in the planning, and implementation of FasTracks, one of the biggest projects in our nation's transit systems. According to Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, there would be no FasTracks without Cal Marsella.

While completing his master's program at the University of Connecticut, Cal participated in a transportation-related internship which turned into a career. In 1995, he was hired as the General Manager and CEO of the Denver Regional Transit District and served in this capacity for 14 years until his retirement in 2009.

In that position, Cal oversaw the addition of the Southeast and Southwest rail lines, the C line serving the Auraria Campus, Sports Authority Field at Mile High and the Pepsi Center, as well as worked with the Colorado Department of Transportation to create high-occupancy toll lanes on I-25. Sadly due to his unexpected death, he was not able to see the

completion of the transit system he's credited for starting.

I extend my deepest thanks and condolences to Cal Marsella's family for his service and dedication to the Denver Metro Area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 180 and 181.

HONORING CHASE FOLSOM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chase Folsom. Chase is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 271, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chase has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chase has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Chase has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Shaman in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Chase has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Chase designed and constructed the Briarcliff Elementary School 'Veggie Patch,' which included constructing six planter boxes and a six foot chain link fence around the garden.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chase Folsom for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRENDA BURNS

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the last 35 years Brenda Burns has set the gold standard for public service with her selfless contribution to her hometown. Born and raised in Willis, Brenda's strong love of community and ability to develop strong relationships have served all of Willis well.

Through a vocational education program at Willis High School, Brenda began her career

working for the City of Willis on May 26, 1981. She started as a part-time Utility Billing Clerk, but her value was obvious and the position quickly became full-time. Only two short years later, Brenda took on new duties as the city's Tax Assessor/Collector while continuing to handle utility issues. Brenda kept learning every day as she mastered the intricacies and minutiae of municipal government. She found a mentor in then-City Secretary Janice Wilson. In 1994, Brenda assumed the mantle of City Secretary, a position Willis would be blessed to have her serve in for 22 years.

During her 35 years of service to the City of Willis, much has changed as this community has grown and prospered. While Brenda served as the rock for 4 mayors and countless councilmembers, and the interstate highway grew from 2 to 6 lanes. As Willis' population soared into the several thousands, city staff quadrupled, meaning more and more people came to rely on Brenda. You might say Willis has been her family even longer than her husband, David, and their daughters, Monica and Katie.

Court Administrator Chrissy Dahse has been working with Brenda for a decade and will miss her "warm smile". Chrissy says Brenda can always be counted on for "a thoughtful answer and an honest opinion. Her commitment and dedication to The City of Willis is unmatched."

During her tenure, Brenda considers the move from a General Law to Home-Rule form of government as Willis' greatest accomplishment. While she may not know quite as many people who come into City Hall now as she used to, her vast and unmatched contribution to the City of Willis and its citizens has set an amazing example of service.

Assistant City Secretary Marissa Quintanilla summed up how Willis feels as they prepare to wish Brenda a happy retirement, "It's hard to say goodbye to a person so valued and respected and who is in my opinion the 'City of Willis'." Marissa has spent the last 13 years working with Brenda and personally knows how hard it will be to fill her shoes. For 35 years Brenda Burns has been an example of public service and selfless contribution to the City of Willis, Texas.

Through all of this change the City of Willis has been able to rely on one constant, Brenda Burns. She has become synonymous with Willis and her love for her hometown has shone through her entire career. Thank you, Brenda, for your service and the great example you have set.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 181 on H.R. 5052, I mistakenly recorded my vote as Nay when I should have voted Yea.

EMILY KIMBALL

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emily Kimball for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Emily Kimball is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emily Kimball is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emily Kimball for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 180 and 181. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on both.

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IN RECOGNITION OF FIONE EVANS & ABBIE O'BRIEN, SECOND PLACE WINNERS OF 2016 NATIONAL C-SPAN STUDENT CAM VIDEO CONTEST

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fione Evans & Abbie O'Brien, who participated in the 2016 National C-SPAN Student Cam Video Contest. The 7-minute entry entitled "National Immigration Issues" earned Fione and Abbie 2nd Place in the nationwide contest.

In the video, Fione and Abbie covered a variety of aspects regarding immigration, currently facing the United States. The two students inquired what actions should be taken for individuals that reside in the United States without legal status and how to best provide for those seeking asylum. The video featured interviews with local leaders Scranton Mayor Bill Courtright and Congressman LOU BARLETTA, as well as an interview with U.S. Park Rangers Dennis Mulligan & Kathleen Durkin of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. C-SPAN footage of politicians speaking about immigration policy was included in the piece to

show the scope of positions within the national debate. The two advocated for a fair but compassionate approach to resolve current immigration issues and urged lawmakers to work together. Fione and Abbie concluded their video by urging presidential aspirants to make immigration a top priority of their message.

It is an honor to recognize the achievement of these two industrious young women. I extend my congratulations and applaud Fione and Abbie on a job well done. May they continue to strive for excellence in their education and achieve ever greater honor in the future.

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HONORING HUNTER D. HALL

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter D. Hall. Hunter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 324, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hunter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hunter has earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Hunter has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hunter collected items for care packages and sent them to members of the United States Marine Corps deployed overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hunter D. Hall for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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GOING TO THE CHAPEL DIFFERENT THIS TIME BY INA HUGHS

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Ina Hughs, a longtime columnist for the Knoxville News-Sentinel, has written a very honest and entertaining column about her upcoming marriage at the age of 75.

First, I want to congratulate her and her husband-to-be. Second, I want to call this enjoyable column to the attention of my colleagues and other readers.

Third, I will recall a story I heard in the News Sentinel many years ago when Senator Strom Thurmond was running for re-election one month short of his 94th birthday.

Someone—either the Senator or somebody on his staff—had found a 105-year-old woman who had been a babysitter for Senator Thurmond when she was 16 and he was five.



This 105-year-old endorsed the almost 94-year-old and called him a "fine young man." I hope Ms. Hughs and her "intended" will be a fine young couple.

GOING TO THE CHAPEL DIFFERENT THIS TIME

Well, I have a bit of news. Not breaking news worthy of interrupting regularly scheduled programs. But rather shocking nevertheless. Close friends with whom I first shared this—well, their reaction over the phone was a long silence, howling laughter, and then they dropped the receiver.

I am getting married.

In three days.

I met him and his late wife in the early 1960s, when he and my husband served churches in the Norfolk area. As couples we became friends. Over time our families exchanged Christmas cards, but then a few years ago he and I landed in the same area in retirement. His wife sadly died of invasive cancer, and I had been single for some 20 years.

Shortly after the news got around town, I called a friend to wish her a happy birthday. When she read on the caller ID who I was, she answered by saying, "Oh, goody! You're calling to ask me to be a bridesmaid?"

After my daughter digested the news—in great joy—she asked what was I going to wear. Did I want her to go with me to David's Bridal?

"Honey," I said, laughing, "I don't even own a dress. How do you expect me to wear a gown?" She made me promise I'd find a friend with better taste in clothes than me to help find my outfit so I wouldn't embarrass the family.

I am not doing any of that young bride stuff except maybe the old-new-borrowed-blue. The something old, of course, will be me. At 75, what else could you call it? The Zombie Bride?

The borrowed item will be white pants I inherited from my older sister, who will no doubt be peering over a cloud from heaven saying, "Don't you have any clothes of your own? What on earth did you wear before I died and you got all mine?"

Something blue? That would be a necklace my younger sister gave me for my 21st birthday back in the previous millennium: a strand of white and blue pearls to match a blue jacket that is new, closing out my four-part matrimonial couture.

I do worry a bit that I'll look like a sea captain: white top, white pants, blue jacket. But it doesn't have brass buttons and I won't have on the cap. Or, Lord forbid, a veil.

And we aren't throwing rice or birdseed or rose petals. If there's any throwing to do, it'll be me sick with nerves. Blushing, teary-eyed and bashful is charming in youth. It just makes old women look wrinkled, frog-eyed and acutely geriatric.

Although I am 100 percent sure I won't be left at the altar, I find it humbling and altogether amazing that my intended (Where, pray tell, did that word come from? Does that mean every relationship that doesn't end in marriage is unintended? I think not.) is willing to cast lots with me at our ripe old age.

Me of the elastic-waist pants. Me of age-spotted hands. Me of trifocals and bunions. I do sleep in socks. On the rare occasions I do wear a bathing suit, it's always under a cover-up. I often fall asleep in the recliner and drool. I sometimes break wind when getting out of the back seat of a car, and if you find that funny you are either under 50 or your grandmother is dead.

We are like the old couple that came into the drugstore holding hands. "Do you sell wheelchairs and canes?" they asked.

The pharmacist answered, "Yes. We have a whole back room full of the latest models."

"Do you sell magnifying glasses?"

"Yes. Right over there."

"Heating pads? Walk-in bathtubs? Medical alert systems? Adjustable bed rails? Blood pressure kits? TV sound amplifiers?"

"Yes. Yes. Yes."

"We'd like to use you as our bridal registry."

So, my friends, never say never. One day you, too, might have your friends dropping the phone.

MARAWAN ALTAWHEEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marawan Altaweel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Marawan Altaweel is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marawan Altaweel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Marawan Altaweel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE PIPER HIGH ROCKETRY TEAM ON QUALIFYING FOR THE 2016 TARC FINALS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Piper High School Rocketry Team from Broward County, Florida and their advisor on qualifying for the 2016 Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) Finals, being held this weekend in The Plains, Virginia. Piper High School is one of only 100 teams from across the United States to qualify.

In order to qualify for this event, the Piper High School team had to design a rocket capable of flying to an altitude of 850 feet with a flight duration of 44 to 46 seconds, while carrying two raw eggs and return them to Earth uncracked. To make this more difficult, this year the eggs had to be placed perpendicular to each other in the rocket, complicating rocket body design.

TARC is the world's largest student rocket contest—approximately 5,000 students participate each year. The competition gives middle and high school students a chance to pursue

further study and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and is a critical piece of the aerospace and defense industry's strategy to build a stronger workforce development pipeline.

It is important to recognize not only the achievement of the Piper High School Team in qualifying for the TARC finals, but also the interest and drive that makes these young people want to participate in STEM oriented extracurricular activities, so I want to personally recognize each of them here today: Joseph Callahan, Shaun Cochrane, Jared Eckert, Adam Husein, Amit Lalchan, and Benjamin Liang. I also want to thank their advisor, Mr. Walter Weidler, for inspiring the interest of these students in science and engineering. It is educators like Mr. Weidler who are responsible for keeping America at the forefront of technology.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of these students, and of all of the students in Florida and the United States who are engaged in STEM education. They represent the future of this great nation.

REMEMBERING JUDGE THOMAS A. RYMER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of the Hon. Thomas A. Rymer, who passed away on April 15. He was ninety-one years old and had dedicated his career to public service on behalf of the State of Maryland and Calvert County.

I was privileged to be Tom's friend for decades, and I was deeply saddened by his passing. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1971–1987 and was Majority Whip for a good portion of that time. During part of that period, I served as President of the Maryland State Senate, and we worked together on a number of occasions. During his tenure, Tom fought for school funding that invested in education for students in Calvert County. He spearheaded efforts to build roads and infrastructure and encourage development in what was then a very rural part of our state. Tom was also a tireless advocate for justice and equal opportunity.

Judge Rymer was born in Asheville, North Carolina, and he moved with his family to Washington, D.C., in 1939. A student at the University of Maryland when World War II broke out, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was commissioned as an Ensign. After serving our nation honorably, he returned stateside and finished his degree at Cornell University in New York in 1948. He then went on to earn his law degree from the George Washington University in 1955.

During the 1950's, Tom worked as an engineer with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and served in a number of civilian roles with the Navy, Air Force, and Secretary of Defense's office. When he left the Pentagon in 1964, he was serving as chief of the Air Force Military Construction Program.

From 1966–1970, Tom served the people of Calvert County as State's Attorney before running for the House of Delegates. In Annapolis,

he chaired the Calvert County delegation and served as Chair of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland from 1979–1982. He also Chaired the Joint Ethics Committee. Tom was well respected in the Assembly, lauded for his integrity and honesty and for his mentorship of younger lawmakers. After leaving office, Tom was appointed to sit on the Calvert County Circuit Court. He served until his retirement in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to his beloved wife of four decades, Grace Mead Rymer. My thoughts and prayers are also with his sons Gary Rymer, Ronald Rymer, and Thomas Rymer Jr.; his stepchildren, Grace Mary Brady, Robert Manual Garrett, John Michael Garrett, Nell-Marie Chaney, William Francis Garrett, and Allan Garrett; his fifteen grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and his ten great-grandchildren. Sadly, his stepson Thomas Garrett passed away last year. Many of the Rymers and Garretts continue to live in Calvert County, on which their father and step-father leaves a lasting impact that will surely benefit generations to come. I join in thanking Judge Thomas A. Rymer for his service to Calvert County, to the Fifth District, to the State of Maryland, and to our nation, and I hope my colleagues will do the same.

IN HONOR OF GULINDA LOUISE  
ESTERS-SMILEY

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of my sister-in-law, Gulinda Louise Esters-Smiley, who passed away on April 28, 2016.

Gulinda was born on August 21, 1963 in River Rouge, Michigan to the union of the late Robert Harris and Alice Esters. She was the eldest of seven children and affectionately called "G" by family and friends who will always cherish her memory. Gulinda transitioned from this life at peace surrounded by her family with a smile on her face knowing she was loved.

For more than 19 years she worked for Detroit Diesel. She also worked at Orchards Children Services where she cared for the well-being of children.

Gulinda married Tyrone Smiley on May 22, 1992, they had one daughter, Dominique Alexis Smiley. She also raised Darryl, Jr., Tyrone, Tyeshia, Tyrell and Tyese. Gulinda had an infectious smile, she was the go-to person for all the teenagers in the family, especially my son John III and Tyrell.

Gulinda leaves to cherish her memory: her husband Tyrone; her children Darryl and Dominique; her mother Alice (Delbert); mother-in-law Ada; her siblings Monica (John), Robert, Michael (Peaches), Reginald (Sherry), Ervin, Kimberly (Kevin); brother-in-laws Lewis and Joe of Detroit; sister-in-laws Ada and Christine (Rodney); grandchildren Zyrell, Tyrell and Terrell, along with a host of other relatives and friends.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of my sister-in-law, Gulinda Louise

Esters-Smiley—a beloved Wife, Mom, Sister, Daughter, Friend, Grandma, Auntie, Cousin, Co-Worker, Protector, Angel and GodMom.

HONORING PRESTON SIVILS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Preston Sivils. Preston is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 271, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Preston has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Preston has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Preston has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Preston has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Preston designed, planned, and installed five agility obstacles for Waggin Tails, the new North Kansas City, Missouri, off-leash dog park.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Preston Sivils for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SKIE CLARK

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Skie Clark for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Skie Clark is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Skie Clark is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Skie Clark for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARTMAN'S  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Artman, a personal care and nursing community in Ambler, PA that is celebrating 100 years of care to seniors in the community.

Since opening its doors in 1916, Artman has provided personal care, skilled nursing, rehabilitation and hospice services to seniors in the greater Philadelphia area as a part of Liberty Lutheran Services, a non-profit faith-based social ministry organization. Groups like Liberty Lutheran Services are essential to ensuring our region's seniors receive the quality care they deserve.

I congratulate the administrators and staff at Artman throughout the years on this milestone.

RECOGNIZING AURORA WEST COLLEGE  
PREPARATORY ACADEMY

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aurora West College Preparatory Academy (AWCPA), a runner-up for the prestigious Game Plan for Success Award. I also applaud AWCPA for maintaining their "Performance level" school status, the highest rating that can be granted to a Colorado school. This status serves as well-deserved tribute to their students' sustained growth over time toward state standards and proficiency levels.

The students, teachers and administration of Aurora West College Preparatory Academy have worked hard to transform their school into a thriving and active educational environment. AWCPA fosters an inspiring learning environment and their school community is certainly seeing the positive results. Their dedication to high expectations, independent learning, and consistent, constructive testing has earned them runner-up for the Game Plan for Success Award.

Today, I also honor the principal of Aurora West College Preparatory Academy, Brian Duwe. Mr. Duwe has shown incredible leadership and his passion for education is an inspiration for students and educators alike.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the entire Aurora West College Preparatory Academy community for their academic achievement, and I am confident that the school will continue to excel.

HONORING GASPAR ENRIQUEZ

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend internationally renowned artist and

pride of El Paso's Segundo Barrio, Gaspar Enriquez.

Mr. Enriquez's art is synonymous with the Chicano movement and El Paso. His celebrated works have been displayed across the country, from the Tucson Museum of Art, to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin, the Albuquerque Museum of Art, the El Paso Museum of Art and the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Born in 1942, Mr. Enriquez was raised in El Paso's Segundo Barrio, a neighborhood known as the cradle of the Chicano movement and the soul of El Paso. The neighborhood served as the inspiration for Mr. Enriquez's art, always present in the faces and landmarks depicted in his art.

As a teacher and mentor for 33 years at Bowie High School, Mr. Enriquez worked to inspire the youth of Segundo Barrio teaching self-expression through art.

Mr. Enriquez is a continuing source inspiration and pride to our community.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 11, 2016 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on May 11th answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Russell Joseph Allabastro, Gerald W. Arnold, Jack P. Astorino, Joseph F. Baron, Richard M. Bieniek, Robert J. Bierwirth, Raymond E. Bogard, William A. Bonacci, Howard C. Boone Jr., Frank Bossi, Marvin Brantman, Kazimierz Brenski, Lawrence E. Bromley, Rudolph Brunner, Joseph Chmielewski, Warren E. Cochran, Myron Cohen, Donald K. Collins, David E. Conrad, Donald L. Cothern, James M. Davis, Donald Clyde Day, Richard A. Dolejs, Peter R. Doyle, Richard L. Duchossois, Jacob L. Dvoratchek, Henry J. Dziekan, Robert W. Enloe, Richard A. Evans, Samuel D.

Faircloth, Stanley L. Fazy, Robert J. Gecas, Michael Glienna, John O. Goad, Albert Godra, Donald J. Greenhill, James A. Grigsby, Davis H. Hall, James L. Hanrahan, William Harris, Walter L. Hayes, Phillip Healey, Charles P. Healy, Charles J. Henczel, James T. Hendron, Frank E. Hennig, Paul K. Heuberger, William F. Jones, William B. Kort, Joseph F. Kossman, Alfred C. Kotlarz, Paul E. Kroll, William G. Kruse, Eugene L. Lakinski, Fred Lane, George Lee Jr., Arthur J. Lietz, William P. Littell Jr., Ralph Markus, Allen C. McClellan, Ned L. McCray, Ewing Metoyer, Kenneth Warren Miller, Walter Miller, Wilbert P. Minnich, Louis Joseph Mirabelli, James Ward Montgomery, Ted E. Mueller, Donald R. Mundt, Richard J. Nicola, Ralph L. O'Brien, Hugh B. O'Hagan, Verner H. Ohst, Gerald Petersen, Paul P. Ponschke, Harold C. Prichard, Walter E. Rapata, Anthony Repeta, Gilbert Romo, Elliott D. Rosenberg, Sam Schechter, Arthur W. Schultz, Charles A. Sengstock Jr., Fred H. Siebert, Richard L. Smith, Robert L. Snyder, Lawrence J. Solarski, William Swale, David G. Tillinghast, Raymond Tinley, Wayne L. Uecker, Everett Van Kuiken, Edward F. Vascik, Raymond J. Vatch, Sidney J. Wallach, John H. Weir, Robert D. Wheeler, Quentin Wilmington, Eugene Wojciechowski, Carl M. Wolak, Harold D. Wolin, Walter J. Zielinski Jr., Richard P. Zukowski.

ZACH McCOLLUM

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zach McCollum for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Zach McCollum is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zach McCollum is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Zach McCollum for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR SAFE DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our nation is faced with unprecedented levels of prescrip-

tion drug abuse. In 2012, nearly 260 million prescriptions were written for prescription painkillers—roughly one prescription for every adult in the country. While we see prescriptions for pain management on the rise, we don't have an easy or effective way of disposing of leftover, unused medication.

A 2014 study found that over 65 percent of participants kept some or all prescription opioids even if they were no longer taking the medication, while only about 6 percent of patients reported safely disposing of their prescription opioids. Families are left with powerful narcotics after their loved ones have passed away. Parents struggle over what to do with leftover pain medications in their home.

Without better options, when trying to dispose of medications, people often turn to flushing them down the toilet, putting our water at risk. One study by EPA scientists found that half of the 50 large-size wastewater treatment plants nationwide tested positive for at least 25 drugs.

When it becomes more difficult to dispose of a medication than to get it prescribed in the first place, we know something is wrong.

Today I am introducing the Safe Drug Disposal Tax Credit Act. This legislation would offer qualified entities a tax credit for starting or maintaining drug disposal and take back programs.

Existing take back programs are typically run by law enforcement agencies. While the aim of these programs is admirable, they are not easily accessible to most members of the public, or are only available on specially designated dates. Locating safe drug disposal and take back programs at pharmacies and other health care organizations will increase access to safe medication disposal. This tax credit would help offset some of the expenses of establishing and maintaining a sustainable program.

IN RECOGNITION OF TINICUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tincum Elementary School on its 50th Anniversary.

Tincum Elementary School has demonstrated its commitment to educating young students in the community for half a century. It's been a pillar of the Tincum Township and Interboro School District communities and generations of students have learned and benefited from it.

I congratulate the Principal Tim Fanning, Assistant Principal Stephanie Farmer, and all the school's hardworking teachers, staff, students and parents for earning this impressive distinction.

HONORING BLAKE SMITH ON BEING ACCEPTED AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Branson High School student Blake Smith, of Branson, Missouri, on his being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Scientists and Technology Leaders by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. It is specifically for students who aspire to be scientists, engineers and technologists, and helps to provide a path and mentorship for students to accomplish those dreams. It takes place at the University of Massachusetts over 3 days, and helps to spark meaningful dialogues and exchanges of ideas between future leaders in the fields of science and technology.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants must be recommended by either a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Students must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA and represent all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Students like Smith, who qualify for this incredibly selective honor, exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Blake Smith has demonstrated a passion for science and technology. Just as importantly, Blake has excelled in his studies and impressed both his teachers and his peers with his academics. He will soon be representing the future of the state of Missouri at this conference, and I have the utmost confidence that he will do an excellent job. I would like to extend my personal congratulations for his achievement, and on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to thank him for representing our community.

CONGRATULATING MRS. CORA ALICE "CAM" MCCARREY BOHMAN

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Cora Alice "Cam" McCarrey Bohman for her 50th year in music instruction in the state of Alaska.

I would like to recognize Cam for her dedication and contributions to music education throughout her career in Tok and Anchorage. Thousands of Alaskan youths state-wide have benefitted from Cam's work. She has served in both middle school and high school as a choir teacher, community choral director, vocal

coach, music adjudicator, and music director. Cam continues to serve as the Music Coordinator for the Alaska School Activities Association.

This year, Cam received the 2016 "Alaska's Mother of Achievement" award from the national organization, American Mothers. This award recognizes "those outstanding women whose positive influence, talents, and community service have made a significant impact in the lives of children and families." Cam's alumni music students nominated her for the award. I would also like to note that in 2014, Cam received the State of Alaska Governor's award for arts advocacy. These are only two examples of Cam's many honors.

Cam inspired countless students to join choir, and each school year her classes reached the all-time high of about 300 total students. Recently, students at South High School in Anchorage made a documentary titled "Unwritten Song" to highlight the importance of elective teachers and featured Cam's influence on generations of Alaskans.

I commend Cam for her 50 years of service and know she will continue to make Alaska a better place through her excellence.

**SHEA BLACKMAN**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shea Blackman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Shea Blackman is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Shea Blackman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Shea Blackman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on April 28 and 29, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Numbers 173, 174, 175, 176, and 177 and "NAY" on Numbers 178 and 179.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHUCKWAGON RESTAURANT

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Chuckwagon Restaurant of Adair, Iowa for winning the 2016 Iowa's Best Burger Award from the Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) and the Iowa Beef Industry Council (IBIC).

ICA and IBIC have teamed up for the past seven years to award an Iowa restaurant for showcasing their great beef products. The product of choice for the nominations and selection is an Iowa favorite: the hamburger. This year's winning entrant was a local hometown café, like so many of those in Iowa. The Chuckwagon Restaurant in Adair, Iowa has all the markings of a great burger place—with extra helpings of community pride and tailor-made with private recipe seasonings a hearty slab of beef placed firmly between two homemade buns.

The Chuckwagon's owner, Kim Reha, opened the doors to the restaurant in 2008. Ms. Reha has continually made changes and improvements not only to the facility, but to the burgers as well. Every burger is made-to-order with a toasted bun and homemade house seasonings. Katie Olthoff, Director of Communications for ICA said "They do an outstanding job of showcasing the great beef project with each of their great-tasting burgers on behalf of Iowa's beef farmers."

I commend Kim Reha and the staff at The Chuckwagon Restaurant for creating an outstanding menu featuring Iowa beef. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating The Chuckwagon Restaurant for winning Iowa's Best Burger Award. I wish Kim and all of the staff continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE PAGANO II

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate George Pagano II on completing the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge.

Media, Pennsylvania native George Pagano II and his partner Caitlin Miller recently completed rowing the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge, a 2,554 nautical mile race from the Canary Islands to Antigua. They are the youngest Americans and the youngest pair to ever compete.

George and Caitlin faced numerous challenges as they competed in this race—isolation, sleep deprivation, and even a tropical storm. Despite these challenges, the team completed the race in 58 days, 5 hours and 6 minutes.

I congratulate George and his partner Caitlin for their success. Their charity, the ALS Association of Greater Philadelphia, will benefit in

its mission to find treatments and a cure for this terrible condition.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DR.  
RONALD L. BOBO, SR. FOR HIS  
30TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Servant of God and long-time inspiring leader in St. Louis, Missouri, Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Bobo, Sr.

He is being honored for his thirty years of service to his congregation on June 12, 2016, at the 30th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration of West Side Missionary Baptist Church, "One Unified Church in Two Locations". He has set, and continues to set, a standard of excellence in spiritual leadership, social justice, and religious leadership that has been equaled by few other people.

Rev. Bobo has provided for three decades, and continues to provide, exceptional outreach services, not only to his congregation and to the citizens of St. Louis, but also to people around the world. He serves with great distinction in many capacities including as Foreign Mission Secretary for the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Missouri and as Executive Director/Founder of Sharing Hope International Ministries.

Rev. Bobo's ministry is par excellence. God's Light continues to shine brightly on this St. Louisan who has emerged to become one of the most effective religious leaders in the nation. He has worked tirelessly to help the disadvantaged and disenfranchised as well as uplift and inspire the souls and hearts of people in twenty-nine countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, Australia, as well as both North and South America.

Rev. Dr. Bobo, Sr. is a person of great integrity, a gentleman and a scholar, and a man with a warm smile and a caring heart whose highest mission is to help others. He is a minister extraordinaire, beloved husband, father, and dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of Congress to join me in honoring Reverend Dr. Ronald Bobo, Sr. on Sunday, June 12, 2016, at West Side Missionary Baptist Church for his 30th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration. I applaud this eloquent, compassionate, and dynamic Pastor for his role in being an agent for transformative change, and for his strong commitment to confront hopelessness, injustice, and inequality wherever he finds it to exist.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MOUNT UNION CONCERT CHOIR

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding collection of tal-

ented young women and men that make up the University of Mount Union Concert Choir. Hailing from Alliance, Ohio the University of Mount Union Concert Choir is one of the oldest collegiate choirs in the United States. It is world renowned, touring the U.S. and abroad. Last year, they traveled to Austria and had an opportunity to perform inside many historically significant churches, cathedrals, and abbeys. These remarkable young musicians are from a variety of academic disciplines such as biology, criminal justice, neuroscience, mathematics, political science, and more.

The Choir is led by Dr. Grant William Cook, III, who is a Kent State University alumni and accomplished musicologist. The Concert Choir recently visited Washington D.C. and performed at the National Cathedral on May 8th—Mother's Day. I am proud to recognize such gifted young Ohioans and welcome you to join me in celebrating their achievements.

A TRIBUTE HONORING WALLACE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE—SELMA

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hidden jewel in Alabama's 7th Congressional District—Wallace Community College of Selma, Alabama.

Wallace Community College—Selma is a stellar two-year institution that provides incredible educational opportunities to students of Dallas County and across the Black Belt of Alabama.

Now more than ever, America needs greater innovation in our educational system to meet the increasingly demanding needs of tomorrow. Outstanding higher education institutions in the State of Alabama are producing some of our state's and nation's best and brightest who will lead us into the next era of American cutting-edge technology, research, business leadership, entrepreneurship, science and innovation.

Wallace Community College—Selma (WCCS) is leading that charge in my district through its dual-enrollment program which allows high school students to complete college courses and graduate with a high school diploma as well as an associate degree from this junior college. In 2008, Wallace Community College—Selma graduated 31 students from the Selma Early College High School (ECHS), which was the first of its kind on a college campus in the state of Alabama.

The 2016 graduation class will include 22 dual enrollment students including 20 students that participated in a special partnership with Tuskegee University. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) program with Tuskegee allowed WCCS to increase the participation of underrepresented minority students from Alabama's Black Belt counties in the important fields of science and research. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute dual enrollment program offers high school students an opportunity to take classes at WCCS and Tuskegee and graduate with their high school diploma as well as an associate degree in science.

Mr. Speaker, the dual-enrollment program at Wallace Community College—Selma is accomplishing what it set out to do—giving Dallas County high school students a head start on college. The benefits of this important opportunity are immeasurable. Cutting the cost and time spent in College while providing high school students significant exposure to the types of classes and fields of interest that will give them an important advantage and jump start on their peers.

Collaborations like these are so critically important to our youth gaining invaluable educational experience while obtaining college credit through dual-enrollment. America must encourage more of these types of efforts as we seek to lead the world in educating our people and attracting a new generation of high-tech and high-paying jobs and careers—understanding that science and technology are critical to our nation's economic growth and sustainability.

As the Member of Congress for the 7th Congressional District, I take great pride in working to offer solutions that will help lay the foundation for creating better-paying jobs, and for our education system to thrive into the future. In order to achieve this, we need innovative approaches to education and create a pipeline with our K–12 school systems, community colleges and universities to provide the resources our students need to become the best trained workforce. Our children deserve our greatest effort and America deserves our best workforce.

I am so proud to acknowledge today the tremendous efforts and outstanding programs offered at Wallace Community College—Selma which exemplify the invaluable role our two-year institutions serve in our communities. This college's leadership and innovation in creating a 21st century learning environment is to be greatly commended. What a jewel to have serving our students in the Black Belt of Alabama. I am proud to represent a district that cares so greatly for the future of the community and the future of this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. James Mitchell for his tremendous leadership as President of WCCS. The faculty, administrators and students of the WCCS are truly outstanding.

This Friday, May 13, 2016 is graduation day at Wallace Community College—Selma. I want to congratulate the entire class of 2016 and especially acknowledge the academic achievement of the 22 dual enrollment students who will receive a special congressional commendation. HHMI Students: Lekeybriana Allen, Connor Blackmon, Ronnie Caver, Brian Crum, Shaqueria Dial, Lauren Ellis, Khamari Gibbs, Kiara Horton, Kalissa Johnson, Kaylin Jordan, Thomas Kendrick, Walter Kendrick, Will Kendrick, Brandon Oliver, LaDaria Shorts, Epiphany Simmons, Khadijah Simmons, Alexis Walker, Marketa Williams, Alanna Young. Dual Enrollment Students: Tyniquea Edwards, and Tori Hatfield.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous achievements of the Wallace Students who were Alabama Skills USA Winners: Jonniece Collins—First Place in Masonry and was the first woman in the state of Alabama to win this honor. Other winners included Roderick Perkins—Second Place Masonry, Terrence Campbell—Third Place Masonry and

Francis Phillips—Second Place Cosmetology in the Men's Hair Design Competition. I want to recognize the outstanding athletic achievements of Ki'Onna Likely who was the 2015–16 Alabama Community College Conference Player of the Year as well as NJCAA Second Team All-American.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all the accomplishments of the outstanding students and graduates of Wallace Community College—Selma and to praise the leadership of Dr. James Mitchell and the hardworking staff and faculty of WCCS.

Congratulation to the Graduating Class of 2016—I wish you the very best in all your future endeavors. We are counting on you to make difference.

JULIANA MEJIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Juliana Mejia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Juliana Mejia is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Juliana Mejia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juliana Mejia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING OSCAR GARCIA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Oscar M. Garcia of Willacy County, Texas. On April 20, 2016, his family gathered at the Garcia Ranch to celebrate his life and legacy, and I want to share the story of this important South Texan with my colleagues.

Oscar Garcia was born on November 4, 1930, west of Sebastian, Texas, on the Las Anacuas Ranch. At a young age, he began working in the fields of South Texas.

His wife, Hortencia Caballero, was born in 1945 near Lyford, Texas, and the couple married on June 15, 1952, in Lyford. Together they raised six children: Alma, Oscar Jr., Rolando, Armando, Reynaldo, and Elizabeth, and they had 16 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Garcia began operating a trucking company in 1948. The business prospered under

his management, and, with the profits of the company, he was able to purchase farm land in Willacy and Cameron Counties. Over the years, he amassed thousands of acres of prime land—much of it being the same land that he and his father worked on as sharecroppers or field hands. He grew his business over time, employing many and contributing greatly to the local economy. Mr. Garcia operated his trucking company for more than 50 years and farmed for 40 years.

In 1972, Mr. and Mrs. Garcia purchased their homestead property on Business 77 between Sebastian and Lyford. Although Mr. Garcia built his home for his family to live in and enjoy, the family business had a central role. The most used room in the house was the office he shared with his wife, and the family used the vast acreage of the Garcia Ranch to store equipment, a practice that continues today.

Mr. Garcia passed away on October 25, 2010. He was preceded in death by his son, Rolando. Until the day he died, Mr. Garcia continued to work hard, to provide for his family, and to earn the respect of every person he met.

Since the loss of her husband, Mrs. Garcia has continued to manage and operate the property acquired during her husband's lifetime. Additionally, she remains dedicated to the legacy of hard work, respect, and caring for her community that she and her husband built together. She is an active member of her church and a patron of the local volunteer fire department, and established an annual scholarship for Lyford High School students.

The recent community gathering to honor Mr. Garcia and the entire Garcia family was also a testament to the Willacy County community, which has been challenged greatly in recent years. Despite setbacks, Willacy County remains a community that is united and filled with the most valuable of all resources—people like Oscar Garcia who care about each other and the place they live. Perhaps the greatest legacy of Oscar Garcia's life is the inspiration to future generations to work hard and serve their community.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives in standing in honor of Oscar Garcia, his family, and his Willacy County community.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD M.  
PHILLIPS, ESQ.

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Richard M. Phillips of Tiburon, California, upon his retirement from the law firm of K&L Gates LLP after 45 years of private practice. Throughout his lengthy career, Mr. Phillips has been a leader in the areas of securities regulation and enforcement. He spent his professional career in both government service and private practice, with a focus on the development and enforcement of our nation's key laws and regulations relat-

ing to the protection of investors and the securities marketplace.

Mr. Phillips' career spans many years of public service, holding various positions within the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, including Assistant to the Chairman of the SEC, Assistant General Counsel, and Staff Director of SEC Corporate Disclosure and Investment Company Studies. He was recognized for his contributions to the development of securities law and for his service to the financial and SEC communities over the years when he was awarded the prestigious William O. Douglas Award by the SEC Alumni Association in 2001.

In 1971, Mr. Phillips became a founding partner of the law firm of Hill, Christopher & Phillips of Washington, D.C., which eventually evolved into the current global law firm of K&L Gates LLP. Upon moving to Tiburon, California, with his wife Elda in 2000, Mr. Phillips co-founded the San Francisco office of K&L Gates, where he built his practice in the areas of securities regulation and investment management, representing and guiding clients through the complexities of the securities laws.

In addition to Mr. Phillips' many accomplishments in the area of securities law, he has been a prolific writer and lecturer and has served in leadership roles for various publications and organizations focused on securities regulation, both at the national level and around the globe. Notably, he co-authored, edited, and was a guiding force behind the first Securities Enforcement Manual: Tactics and Strategies which was published in 1997 by the American Bar Association Section of Business Law. The Manual combined the collective practical experience of Mr. Phillips and his law firm colleagues in helping guide experienced and novice lawyers through the thicket of strategic and tactical issues in securities enforcement practice. He co-edited the second edition in 2007. These books continue to be relied upon by practitioners in this area.

Mr. Phillips has been a tremendous mentor and guide to younger lawyers in helping them develop their expertise, and has been a valued member of his law firm whose accomplishments will live on. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Phillips for his record of accomplishment and public service and in extending best wishes to him and to his wife Elda upon the occasion of his retirement.

LONG BEACH LOSES LEGEND,  
MARILYN GREEN

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, it is with considerable sadness and a profound sense of loss that I report that the Long Beach community lost a dear friend and a dedicated public servant on the passing of Marilyn Green on October 29, 2015. Marilyn—with long-time professional partner Dick Cantrell—founded the law firm of Cantrell Green—now Cantrell Green Pekich Cruz & McCort—in 1971.

Marilyn was also the heart and soul of the progressive movement in Long Beach. She

was an advocate, mentor, and friend to several generations of progressive leaders in Long Beach. I count myself lucky to have had her friendship and counsel over the years.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Marilyn eventually made her way to Stanford Law School. While attending as one of only two female students in her class, she met and married journalist Terence Green.

Determined to finish what she started, she sat for the California Bar exam in 1951 and was admitted to practice law in January, 1952, just one month before her first son, Alan, was born. She used to recall how odd it felt walking to take her oath while almost 9 months pregnant.

Terry's job brought them to Playa del Rey and, eventually, to the Long Beach area that would become their home for well over 50 years.

Like many women of her generation, Marilyn found herself unwelcome in many law firms due to her gender and was limited to family law practice. Knowing it was a matter of time before she found the right job, she settled into family law. She used to joke that, as a young lawyer, she had no idea how to create a safe exit strategy while interviewing a less-than-savory character. During one such interview, she decided "the case was much too complicated" and referred the person to the FBI. She later told us "From then on, I decided to keep the FBI's number in my top drawer, but think I certainly wore out my welcome!"

Marilyn joined the prestigious Levy & Van Bourg firm as an applicant's attorney in Workers' Compensation in the late 1960s early 1970s.

When she and Richard Cantrell first opened Cantrell and Green in 1971, their first office was a public phone booth on the corner of Broadway and Pine Avenue in downtown Long Beach. Later, good friend and union official Tony Rodriguez from the United Rubber Workers Union, would offer them a small office at his Local.

Marilyn and Richard would go on to build Cantrell and Green into one of the most well-known and respected workers' compensation firms in Southern California. Their practice also included social security, labor law, and personal injury claims.

Not only did Marilyn Green talk the talk, she walked the walk. When asked why she would settle in a practice not as lucrative as other areas of practice, Marilyn said "If I wanted to make money, I would never have chosen a workers' compensation practice. However, I love and believe in what I do and that is why I became a lawyer."

Over the years, Marilyn was honored by many organizations, including being named as Long Beach Bar Association Lawyer of the Year. She was a true professional in her work, a good friend to many, and a powerful force for good in our community who will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LISLE, ILLINOIS

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Lisle, Illinois.

Lisle is a thriving and vibrant municipal and has built a friendly and welcoming community through its continued dedication to its residents and visitors.

Since its founding in 1832, Lisle has become a center of culture and commerce within the Chicagoland area and has served as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations. Its multitude of parks, including the beautiful Morton Arboretum, and youth and family friendly activities make it a superb place to work, live, and raise a family.

On the occasion of this 60th Anniversary, we join together to celebrate Lisle's legacy of growth and prosperity and to look ahead to the opportunities facing this great village.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Lisle, Illinois, and wishing her residents a very successful year ahead.

HONORING E.J. ALMO LORENZI ON HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Mr. JIM COSTA, to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Merced Community, E.J. Almo Lorenzi on his 85th birthday. This is a tremendous milestone that deserves to be commended.

E.J. was born in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley's fertile lands of California on May 18, 1931. Growing up, he attended Our Lady of Mercy. At the young age of 13, E.J. began his first job working at Purity Stores as a box boy. He graduated from Merced Union High School in 1945 and then began working for Stefani's Clothiers.

In 1954, he was offered a job working for the firm of I.H. Reuter Insurance Agency. He purchased Reuter and Merced Tordini Agency with a partner, John Masasso and together they created the Lorenzi Masasso Agency. They eventually branched out to form Professional Benefits Services. Mr. Lorenzi worked endlessly to advance the status and relationships of the agency and maintains an active role as the Managing Partner of Lorenzi Land and Lifestyle Investments.

Involved in the Merced community, E.J. is a member of several organizations including: the Mercy Hospital Heritage Club, Golden West, Boosters of Merced, Catholic Professional Business Club, and Italo-American Lodgers. He is a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus, Italian Catholic Federation, and the

Commonwealth Club of California. The Merced City Council selected E.J. Lorenzi as the City's Ambassador of Goodwill and in 2011 he was selected as Man of the Year by the Greater City Chamber of Commerce.

E.J. is happily married to his wife, Madeline. They have five children, ten grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. E.J. is known in the community for his perseverance, honesty, and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleague, Mr. COSTA, in honoring E.J. Lorenzi for his unwavering leadership and recognizing his many accomplishments and invaluable contributions.

CHRISTOPHER CANNIZZARO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christopher Cannizzaro for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christopher Cannizzaro is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christopher Cannizzaro is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christopher Cannizzaro for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

MR. JOSEPH PARISI

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the incredible life of Mr. Joseph Parisi.

Joseph was born in 1916 to Francesco Parisi and Rosaria Cacciola. He attended James Monroe High School in Manhattan until he had to leave and help with the family business. Joseph worked tirelessly to ensure that his family came first—a testament to the type of person he is. Joseph returned to his studies and attended Harlem High School for two years, managing to complete his education.

In June of 1943, Mr. Parisi answered the call of duty and joined the war effort to ensure we remained the free nation we are today. After Basic Training, he attended Group School on repair and maintenance of telephones and equipment and was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1159th Combat Engineers Group, as a Technician 4th Grade, or

Tec4. Joseph narrowly escaped death in 1945 when he crossed over a bridge east of the Rhine River. The 1159th Combat Engineers Group, led by Lt. Col. Kenneth Fields, took over command of the engineering units at Remagen, Germany and shortly after crossing the bridge, the east end collapsed into the Rhine resulting in the death of 28 and several hundred injuries. Joseph served in the Army until February of 1946, when he was released from active service. During his time in the service, he received numerous decorations including: the American Theater Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars; Good Conduct Medal; Victory Ribbon; Service Stripe; Overseas Service Bar; and Sharpshooter-carbine.

Joseph will be turning 100 years old on September 30, 2016; but today I would like to thank him for his years of dedication and service to our country and community. What he has managed to accomplish during his lifetime and give back to the country cannot be summarized in a few words; however it is important we honor these individuals as best we can. It is my hope that many will follow in his footsteps and give back to their country as graciously as he did. People like him are a rare breed and they help make not only our country, but our world a much safer and better place.

HONORING SKYLER SMITH ON BEING ACCEPTED AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Seneca High School Student Skyler Smith, of Seneca, Missouri, on her being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Scientists and Technology Leaders by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. It is specifically for students who aspire to be scientists, engineers and technologists, and helps to provide a path and mentorship for students to accomplish those dreams.

To be considered for acceptance a delegate, applicants must be recommended by either a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Students must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA and represent all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Students like Skyler, who qualify for this incredibly selective honor, exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Skyler Smith has shown that she excels in her studies and has dem-

onstrated a passion for a career in science. She will soon be representing the future of the state of Missouri at this conference and I have the utmost confidence that she will do an excellent job. I would like to extend my personal congratulations for her achievement, and on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to thank her for representing our community.

CONGRATULATING TREVOR STORY ON BEING NAMED THE NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trevor Story of Irving, Texas, on being named Major League Baseball's (MLB) National League Player of the Week for the week of April 4th. As the season progresses, this rookie continues to surpass expectations and has excited MLB fans across the country. The Colorado Rockies couldn't be more enthused with their new star in the making.

Trevor quickly entered his name into the record books with an outstanding performance to start the season. Mr. Story was the first player in MLB history to homer in the first four games of his career and hit seven home runs in his first six career games. He is also one of only four rookies to ever win the player of the week since it was first awarded in 1974. Trevor's outstanding rookie season continues to gain momentum and draw comparisons to some of the league's best.

Trevor was always an impactful athlete, a standout in both baseball and football during his career with the Irving High School Tigers. He made a difficult but prosperous decision to put aside playing quarterback after his sophomore year to focus on baseball. While great at shortstop, Trevor was a hard throwing pitcher who was once clocked at 96 mph, although he never pursued pitching. Scouts would fill the stands when he took the field and teams would pitch around him as his hitting ability scared most opponents.

Off the field, Trevor is an active community servant with many local nonprofit groups including Irving ISD and Irving Cares, where his mother, Teddie Story, heads the nonprofit which serves families and children in need. Trevor will continue to inspire young players and build on his already impressive personal and professional resume as his baseball career continues.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Trevor Story on his work ethic and athletic achievements.

HONORING CRAIG K. ROBBINS OF PENNSYLVANIA

### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, Craig K. Robbins, on his upcoming retirement after 32 years with the East Pennsboro Area School District in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Robbins has served his students in numerous capacities, to include special education teacher, head track and football coach, assistant principal, and for the last 17 years, principal of East Pennsboro Area High School. Mr. Robbins also helped found and maintain the Family Fund, a charity that has raised more than \$150,000 for local families in crisis.

From the beginning of his career, Mr. Robbins was the epitome of professionalism and tireless devotion to his duty—positively impacting countless students, teachers and families.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, with great pride I commend and congratulate Craig K. Robbins upon his retirement after 32 years of selfless service to the East Pennsboro Area School District.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF JOYCE GARVER KELLER

### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the life of Joyce Garver Keller.

Throughout her life, Joyce was a steadfast and passionate advocate for Ohio and its Jewish community. For twenty-five years she served as the Executive Director of Ohio Jewish Communities.

The fruits of Joyce's labor, and her influence, can be found throughout the great state of Ohio. Although her career was long and full of many accomplishments, among her most noteworthy was the constructing of the Holocaust and Liberators Memorial located on the grounds of the Ohio Statehouse. In addition to this, Joyce was able to secure funds for services to the elderly in assisted living facilities; help refugees from the former Soviet Union access funds around the state for citizenship classes; and expand English as a second language programs. Joyce's actions spoke volumes about her mission to make a difference in her community and will continue to resonate for many years to come.

Joyce's tremendous efforts touched many people, and the power and zeal of her conviction inspired those around her. She was a loyal friend and was always willing to reach out to new people or lend a helping hand. Her unconquerable spirit is but one reason Joyce was successful in her professional career and so loved by those who knew her. The recent passing of Joyce Garver Keller is truly an immense loss for Ohio. This remarkable woman will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.



TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE  
OF WILLIAM V. CAMPBELL

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of William V. Campbell, who was born August 31, 1940, in Homestead, Pennsylvania, and passed away on April 18, 2016, in Palo Alto, California, at the age of 75.

Bill Campbell is survived by his wife Eileen Bocci Campbell, his children Jim and Maggie, and his three step-children, Kevin, Matthew and Kate Bocci.

Bill Campbell attended Columbia University where he played football and was named to the All-Ivy team. He graduated in 1962 and in 1964 he earned a Master's Degree in Education, also from Columbia. After serving as an Assistant Coach at Boston College, he became Coach of Columbia's football team, a position he held from 1974 to 1979. He entered the business world when he joined J. Walter Thompson, went on to work at Kodak, and became Apple's VP of Marketing and headed its Claris software division. Bill Campbell was CEO of GO Corporation, a company he sold to AT&T in 1993, and was CEO of Intuit from 1994 to 1998. He retired as Board Chair of Intuit in 2016.

The chorus of praise for Bill Campbell is intense and varied, and comes from a broad spectrum of people across Silicon Valley who benefited from his extraordinary generosity of his time and considerable talents. He was a generous benefactor to his home town, to Columbia University, to Boston College and to many other schools and charitable organizations. He has been called "the most important executive you've never heard of", energetic and vibrant, a great sports and executive coach, a proponent of creative talent, a geek and a nerd whisperer. He was a devout Catholic and a staunch advocate for the rights of women and the LGBT community. He was humble and profane, adored children, and made everyone who knew him feel like he was their best friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our most sincere condolences to Bill Campbell's wife and family. A giant has been taken from our midst but we are a better and stronger nation because he walked among us.

AMALIA OGANESEAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amalia Oganesean for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Amalia Oganesean is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amalia Oganesean is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Amalia Oganesean for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SARAH D. CULBERTSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor a remarkable organization, the Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital, in Rushville, IL. This year marks their 95th anniversary of improving the lives of the community with a tradition of quality health care.

Dr. Frederick Culbertson opened the doors to his newly established hospital on February 15, 1921 with the support and determination of his wife, Sarah D. Culbertson. During the Great Depression, there was no guarantee that a hospital would succeed, but with Sarah's steadfast attitude and administrative role, the hospital ensured care for its patients throughout the 1930's, while achieving financial stability.

Before Dr. Culbertson died in 1949, he willed the hospital to the people of Schuyler County. In loving memory, he stated that the very existence of the hospital was because of his wife. As a result, the hospital now bears her name as a symbol of her devotion to the people of Schuyler County.

Today, under the leadership of Chairman David Hester, the hospital provides extensive inpatient and outpatient services and has expanded to two other locations in Illinois. The hospital retains the Culbertsons' vision through its mission: "To provide quality, compassionate care to the communities we serve."

I applaud the efforts of the Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital and staff. They continue to provide their patients with a family-centered community facility committed to improving local healthcare. Congratulations to the Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital and their team on a prosperous ninety-five years providing quality healthcare services to the residents of Central Illinois.

RECOGNIZING TIM DORAN

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tim Doran for his retirement from

the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association (OADA) after nearly 40 years with the association.

Tim graduated from Ohio University in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. Soon after graduation in 1976, Tim joined OADA as the Director of Services. He quickly rose through the ranks at OADA and eventually took the role of President.

The OADA works to support and increase the values of the Ohio automobile dealerships to make them the strongest in the nation. In his role as President, he has overseen all OADA Services and business activities, including implementing dealer programs, delegating staff projects, and monitoring all administrative and operations functions.

Beyond managing the OADA, Tim is instrumental in his role as a liaison between the Ohio legislature and the over 800 OADA members. He ensures all of the automobile dealerships, large or small, receive effective representation and support.

Tim Doran has shown incredible dedication to serving the automobile businesses in Ohio. I would like to thank him for his great service to these companies over the years and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call Number 184.

COMMENDING THE POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY FOR THE MALAMA HONUUA WORLDWIDE VOYAGE

**HON. MARK TAKAI**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Polynesian Voyaging Society and to commend its sailors' current journey across the world's oceans, as part of the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage, on the two Polynesian voyaging canoes, Hokulea and Hikianalia.

Formed in 1973 to revive Polynesian navigation practices many thought were lost to history, the Polynesian Voyaging Society built a voyaging canoe based on ancient sketches and in 1976 sailed from Hawaii to Tahiti only by using observations of the stars, sun, ocean swells, and other natural patterns. Now, the Polynesian Voyaging Society is bringing their awesome feat to the rest of the world through its worldwide voyage, called Malama Honua, which means "to care for our Earth."

As Hokulea circumnavigates the globe, the voyagers hope to teach and learn from others how to harness our world's traditions to protect our cultural and environmental resources

for future generations. In a time when world powers and leading scientists struggle to mitigate climate change through modern technology and politics, this triumph of ancient Polynesian navigation shows us the power of nature and importance of sustainability and stewardship for Island Earth.

So, on behalf of Congress, I honor the Polynesian Voyaging Society for its decades of accomplishments and celebrate the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage. I hope to speak of their mission and values for years to come.

CONGRATULATING ANNA HOLZER  
ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE  
CITY OF HURST, TEXAS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Councilmember Anna Holzer for her 43 years of dedicated service to the City of Hurst, Texas.

Anna and her family first arrived in Hurst in 1968 and, since then, for over forty years, she has stood as a pillar of the community, serving Hurst and the surrounding areas with honor and distinction. Anna possesses a dedication to community that is unrivaled by many in public service. She has devoted her life to improving not only the safety and security of our communities, but to improving our public education system as well.

Driven by her passion for education, Anna served as the Director of Library Services at the Northwest Campus of Tarrant County College where she focused her efforts on assisting students achieve their educational goals. Anna served in this capacity for 30 years before retiring from Tarrant County College in 2008.

Since first being elected to the city council in May, 1992, Anna has served on the Hurst Crime District Control Board, Hurst Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association, Hurst Planning and Zoning Commission, Hurst Library Board, is a city council liaison to the HEB Teen Court Advisory Board, and is Chair of the United Way—Northeast Steering Committee. Additionally, in 2012, Anna was selected by her peers on the city council to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Anna's exemplary commitment to her community will leave a lasting mark upon the City of Hurst for many years to come. Her tenure with the Hurst City Council will be forever remembered by the countless lives her service has touched.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the contributions Anna has made to the City of Hurst. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Anna Holzer for her many years of service.

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF  
MILITARY FORCE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to challenge this House to live up to our Constitutional duty to debate the ongoing war in the Middle East.

For nearly two years, our brave servicemen and women have been fighting yet another war.

As they face snipers and mortar rounds—increasingly some claim that they are not in combat.

How can we claim this is not combat?

And worse, how can we ask them to go to war when Congress cannot even muster the courage to debate it?

The last four Presidents have bombed the Middle East with little or no Congressional oversight; will we allow a fifth President to continue these wars unchecked?

As the NDAA comes to the Floor next week, I submitted an amendment to force a debate on this war and repeal the 2001 blank check for endless war that got us into this mess.

The Rules Committee should allow this important debate to come to the House Floor.

Mr. Speaker, let us debate this war, its costs and consequences and a real strategy to end ISIL's reign of terror.

HONORING JUNWON PARK ON  
BEING ACCEPTED AS A DELEGATE  
TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE  
SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGY  
LEADERS BY THE NATIONAL  
ACADEMY OF FUTURE  
SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Greenwood Laboratory School student Junwon Park, of Springfield, Missouri, on his being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Scientists and Technology Leaders by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. It is specifically for students who aspire to be scientists, engineers and technologists, and helps to provide a path and mentorship for students to accomplish those dreams. It takes place in the University of Massachusetts over 3 days, and helps to spark meaningful dialogues and exchanges of ideas between future leaders in the fields of science and technology.

To be considered for acceptance a delegate, applicants must be recommended by either a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Students must have a minimum of

a 3.5 GPA and represent all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Students like Park, who qualify for this incredibly selective honor, exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Junwon Park has proven that he is not only an excellent student, but also passionate about science and technology. Junwon will soon be representing the future of the state of Missouri at this conference, and I have the utmost confidence that he will do an excellent job. I would like to extend my personal congratulations for his achievement, and on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to thank him for representing our community.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS OF  
FOREIGN WARS POST 10354

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2016*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10354, locally known as the Madrid-McLaughlin-Navarrete Post, located in the Mission Valley of El Paso, Texas. I am pleased to recognize them as a distinguished Veteran Service Organization.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10354 was founded on April 15, 1952 and named after three outstanding El Pasoans: Daniel Madrid, an Airborne Trooper with the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment who died while serving in Europe during World War II; Francis J. McLaughlin, a service member with the U.S. Army who died while serving in the South Pacific theater during World War II; and Manny Navarrete, a U.S. Army retiree who returned to El Paso after transitioning out of the military and continued his service to our country through his active participation and advocacy with Post 10354.

Since its inception, Post 10354 has dedicated itself to serving veterans, current service members and their families, and community members throughout the El Paso community. Today, the Post is made up of 143 members. Collectively, these members contribute 3,000 volunteer hours a year as a Veterans Service Organization, mainly focused on assisting veterans file their benefits claims, appeals, and other medical requests with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Other examples of Post 10354's service to the El Paso community includes their biannual picnics with food, music, and youth activities; food drives during the holiday season; and partnerships with El Paso schools, including the Ysleta Independent School District, where they encourage and work with students to identify opportunities to give back to the El Paso community.

I thank the VFW and the Madrid-McLaughlin-Navarrete Post 10354 for their commitment to honoring our veterans and helping to strengthen the El Paso community's dedication to public service. I am glad that Veteran Services Organizations like these exist in my district, and I thank them for their selfless service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,197,497,243,132.16. We've added \$8,570,620,194,219.08 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 2016 I was not present to vote on H.R. 4957. I wish to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for roll call No. 180, I would have voted "YEA."

CONGRATULATING ANGIE LEE ON BEING NAMED ONE OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize Jungin "Angie" Lee, an exceptional and accomplished young woman from Naperville, Illinois. Angie was recently named one of the top ten youth volunteers in the nation by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

When Angie was just 15 months old, her family learned she had an autosomal recessive disease called spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). This genetic disorder causes debilitating and often fatal muscle weakness. Yet this disease did not stop Angie from helping people. Nine years ago, at the ripe age of 8, Angie and her friend, Kyra Scadden, started a nonprofit called "Angie's Hope" to raise money for SMA research.

Since its inception, Angie's Hope has gone from raising \$200, literally one penny at a time through a penny collection drive, to raising \$40,000 in 2015. Through it all, Angie has never lost sight of the fact that individual efforts can change lives. Angie has helped raise over 200,000 dollars for SMA research with no plans to stop anytime soon. She is planning "something big" for the charity's 10th anniversary and would eventually like to expand the nonprofit to multiple states. Angie truly is an inspiration for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Angie Lee on receiving her award and

thanking her for the dedication and commitment she has displayed in her work.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 13

9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. SR-222

MAY 17

10 a.m. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine the status of advanced nuclear technologies. SD-366 Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife To hold hearings to examine marine debris and wildlife, focusing on impacts, sources, and solutions. SD-406 Committee on Finance To hold hearings to examine integrating the corporate and individual tax systems, focusing on the dividends paid deduction considered. SD-215 Committee on the Judiciary To hold hearings to examine National Foster Care Month, focusing on supporting youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. SD-226

11 a.m. Committee on Foreign Relations To hold hearings to examine the War in Syria, focusing on next steps to mitigate the crisis. SD-419

2 p.m. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power To hold hearings to examine S. 2524, to insure adequate use and access to the

existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, S. 2533, to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California and provide for long-term investments in drought resiliency throughout the Western United States, S. 2616, to modify certain cost-sharing and revenue provisions relating to the Arkansas Valley Conduit, Colorado, S. 2902, to provide for long-term water supplies, optimal use of existing water supply infrastructure, and protection of existing water rights, and S. 2907, to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to strike the termination date for funding for pilot projects to increase Colorado River System water in Lake Mead.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine America's insatiable demand for drugs, focusing on assessing the Federal response.

SD-342

4 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017".

SD-124

MAY 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions To hold hearings to examine Every Student Succeeds Act implementation, focusing on perspectives from education stakeholders.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine assessing the security of critical infrastructure, focusing on threat, vulnerabilities, and solutions.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Donald Karl Schott, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Paul Lewis Abrams, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Stephanie A. Finley, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Claude J. Kelly III, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and Winfield D. Ong, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies To hold hearings to examine a review of the Department of Veterans Affairs' electronic health record (VistA), progress toward interoperability with

- the Department of Defense's electronic health record, and plans for the future.  
SD-124
- 2 p.m.  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine small business and the Affordable Care Act.  
SR-428A
- 2:15 p.m.  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine S. 2785, to protect Native children and promote public safety in Indian country, S. 2916, to provide that the pueblo of Santa Clara may lease for 99 years certain restricted land, and S. 2920, to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities.  
SD-628
- 3 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism  
To hold hearings to examine ransomware, focusing on understanding the threat and exploring solutions.  
SD-226
- MAY 19
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment  
To hold hearings to examine improving communities and businesses access to capital and economic development.  
SD-538
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 2017-2022 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program.  
SD-366
- MAY 24
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine understanding the role of sanctions under the Iran Deal.  
SD-538
- MAY 25
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine understanding the role of sanctions under the Iran Deal, focusing on Administration perspectives.  
SD-538

## SENATE—Thursday, May 12, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Chris Justice, Pastor of Lee Park Church in Monroe, NC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father in Heaven, Your Name is great. You are sovereign and holy. You offer Christ-centered salvation and peace. You are ever present in our time of need.

We thank You for the great gift of the United States of America. We ask You to protect, guide, and direct the Members of the U.S. Senate.

For all the issues that might divide us, I pray that Your Spirit would enlighten us and convict us to fulfill Your call to love one another as You have loved us.

May it be true that in all our ways we would acknowledge You so that You would make our paths straight. May it be true that we would desire and actively pursue that Your will be done and Your Kingdom come, on Earth now as it is in Heaven. May it be true that we would be careful to give You all the praise, honor, and glory due You.

We pray to You and we praise You in Jesus's Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The Senator from North Carolina.

### WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome a constituent, the senior pastor of Lee Park Church in Monroe, NC, Chris Justice, to the Senate.

Chris's story is an inspiring one. In 2005, Chris was a well-known broadcaster on dual television stations in Charlotte, NC. In November of that year, Chris was called by the Lee Park Church, a congregation of 50 faithful, at which time he committed to be their pastor and to split his time between the church and being a broadcaster.

Chris kept that pace up for the next 3 years as he grew a church. He understood that God's calling was to the church and to service, not necessarily to broadcasting.

Let me just say that Pastor Chris has grown that church to a lively congregation that is involved in their community. His senior leadership there has provided the nurturing that is needed for a community to find their calling in life as part of that church. From the beginning of his career as a news anchor, Chris always wanted to give back and to be part of the community. He is surely doing that today.

Today, Pastor Chris continues to do so, and he has followed the simple strategy that remains the mission of the church—preach the word and love people. I think that sums up Pastor Chris—preach the word and love the people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of my colleague, the senior Senator from North Carolina. I welcome Pastor Chris, his lovely wife, and friends of the Steward family who came to visit this great Capitol and to grace us with his presence.

I will give you a different story. I have been to Lee Park. I was there for an annual event, and I was invited there to be a pimento cheese judge. Let me warn you never to volunteer to taste 29 different varieties of pimento cheese.

Pastor Chris has said that they have refined the event now, but what struck me most about that event is how much the people who were at that event love Pastor Chris and love the Justice family.

You have done a great job in Monroe. We thank you for your service to the great citizens of the State. We thank you for your service to this great body today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, after much deliberation from both sides of the aisle, today we will complete our work on the Energy and Water appropriations bill. We know this bill is the result of a great deal of

effort, research, and collaboration across the aisle. It passed out of the committee unanimously. It was subject to nearly two dozen amendments from both parties on the floor. As Senator ALEXANDER pointed out yesterday, we have clearly had an open process from the start that benefited both sides.

The energy security and water infrastructure bill is important for our country. We know it will support commerce, public safety, waterway infrastructure, energy innovation, and our nuclear deterrence posture.

We know it is important for the way forward on appropriations as well. Remember, following regular order—especially on the appropriations process—allows both Democratic and Republican Members to better represent their constituents' views. It provides for more open debate and deliberation. It offers a path to reaching a kind of product both sides can support. Empowering Members to make more judicious decisions about how taxpayer dollars are spent is something we should all want. So we know the appropriations process is important.

I urge my colleagues to work together to keep moving these appropriations bills as both sides have expressed interest in doing.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### DONALD TRUMP AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Republican Presidential nominee—it is hard for me to say these words—Donald Trump, comes to Capitol Hill. He secured the party's nomination. He did that last week. Donald Trump will meet privately today with Speaker RYAN and Republican Leader McCONNELL. It is just the latest sign that Republican leaders in both Houses are marching lockstep with Donald Trump.

Senator McCONNELL has fully embraced Donald Trump. He said last week when Trump secured the nomination: "I have committed to supporting the nominee chosen by Republican voters."

While speaking with reporters earlier this week, the Republican leader sounded enthusiastic about Trump's chances in the general election. I guess he should be giddy about a Trump Presidency. Donald Trump is everything the Republican leader and his party could ever want in a nomination.

Trump's policy decisions are identical to the Republican Party platform. Today, when they meet in an hour or two, Senator MCCONNELL can discuss that consensus with Trump.

Let's talk about the Supreme Court. Donald Trump and the Senator from Kentucky can talk about their obstruction—for the first time in the history of the country—to a Presidential Supreme Court nomination. It has never happened before. We have had some stalling and a couple of filibusters, but this is one where people didn't want to meet with him. A few of them have broken from that. They certainly don't want to have a hearing, and they don't want to vote.

It was Trump who said Republicans should "delay, delay, delay" filling the Supreme Court vacancy. Following Trump's lead, the Republican leader has personally overseen the blockade of Judge Garland's nomination, forcing Senators to fall in line.

Let's talk about Trump and women. When they get together they can talk about their policy about being anti-woman. Since Senator MCCONNELL has so enthusiastically embraced Trump, we can only assume he agrees with Trump's view that women are dogs and pigs. We can only assume that the Republican leader is not repulsed by Donald Trump's vulgar behavior towards women. Look at the New York Times story yesterday with his cavorting with Howard Stern and how they talked about women.

After all, the Republican Party has spent years blocking every substantive bill for American women—equal pay for equal work. This Republican Senate has undermined women's health at every turn, trying to turn Planned Parenthood into a punching bag—even though millions and millions of American women have been helped by Planned Parenthood.

They will have an opportunity this morning to talk about the anti-Latino vote. They can discuss their anti-immigrant policies and their agenda. Since the Republican leader is all in for Donald Trump, we can only assume that he approves of Trump's calling immigrants rapists and murderers, and the DREAMers as being mules for drug dealing.

I assume they can have a long discussion about the wall—how high it should be, how they are going to get the Mexicans to pay for the wall—even though most people think the idea is insane.

Let's not forget Republicans have demagogued Latinos and immigrants for decades. They are doing it today.

The Republican leader voted against comprehensive immigration reform.

Under Senator MCCONNELL's leadership, Senate Republicans almost came within hours of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security because of President Obama's executive actions on immigration.

They can talk about their outlook on families. Donald Trump and the Republican leader can mention how little they have done for American families. Except now, in today's news, they are going to cut Medicaid and Medicare. I guess that is because he is getting lined up for the meeting with PAUL RYAN, because that is his No. 1 issue.

Since the Republican leader has firmly established himself in Donald Trump's corner, one can only assume he is OK with Trump's shady business practices. He doesn't mind that Donald Trump rips off hard-working Americans, filed bankruptcy many, many times, and has a university that is corrupt. And the trial will go forward during the election.

Sadly, a disregard for the middle class is an all-too-familiar position for today's Republicans. The Republican Party refuses to address the minimum wage, college affordability, or any other legislation that helps families.

Here is a doozy. They can spend a lot of time talking about climate change. Trump and the Republican leader can, in this private conversation, talk about denial of climate change. But 97 percent of all scientists worldwide believe it is here. It is upon us. Ask the senior Senator from Florida. He will tell you it is here. Look at what is happening in Miami. You can talk to the Senators from Virginia, and they will tell you what is happening in military bases on the coast of Virginia.

Donald Trump's highest ranking supporter in Congress, Senator MCCONNELL, assumingly agrees with Trump that climate change is a hoax—here is what Trump said—perpetrated by Chinese manufacturers. That position fits with a Republican Party that refuses to acknowledge the environmental and national security threats posed by climate change. If elected, Trump and Senator MCCONNELL would lead the nation backward on a climate change denial agenda that would put polluters first and make the United States the laughingstock of the world.

More than 170 countries have agreed to address climate change because of U.S. leadership, but Trump and MCCONNELL have stated publicly that they will walk away from this.

Let's talk about what Republicans like to talk about—what is happening with the economy—keeping in mind that Bill Clinton balanced the budget. Keep in mind that when George Bush came to the Presidency, there was a \$7 trillion surplus over 10 years. With two wars unpaid for costing trillions of dollars and with tax cuts not being paid for, that surplus has long since gone.

So they can talk about that. They can talk about how Trump has said that he thinks America should default on its debt. Just get the people we owe money to take less money. That is what he said. He doesn't want to pay our national debt. It seems that, on

that issue, there is little distance between him and the Republican leader.

Senator MCCONNELL has presided over a Republican caucus that has taken America to the brink of default on a number of occasions, not the least of which is shutting down the government—this great government—shutting it down for 17 days—closed, out of business.

So Donald Trump and the Republican leadership should have a long, long conversation. They have a lot to talk about. At some point in the conversation, Donald Trump should thank the senior Senator from Kentucky. Trump owes his candidacy to the Republican leader and the policies he has led. It was the obstructionist, anti-woman, anti-Latino, anti-Muslim, anti-middle-class, anti-environment, anti-Obama, anti-everything Republican Party during the last 8 years that has made Donald Trump a reality.

I note that no one is on the floor. Will the Chair announce what the Senate is going to do this morning.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time of the Republicans and the Democrats be preserved. No one is here, but we should preserve that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I think the order already is that the time will be equally divided. If that is not the case, I ask that that be the case.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, on March 10, this body, the U.S. Senate, passed legislation to address what is a growing problem in all of our communities, and that is the heroin and prescription drug epidemic.

On March 10, this body voted for a comprehensive bill called CARA, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. It deals with prevention, treatment, and recovery, helping our law enforcement, getting prescription drugs off the shelves of our bathrooms so they are not being used to get people into this addiction, and helping to stop the overprescribing with a drug monitoring program. This was a comprehensive approach intended to help our communities deal with this growing problem. The No. 1 cause of death now in my home State of Ohio is not car accidents anymore, it is overdoses. It is overdoses from prescription drugs and heroin.

Since March 10, I have come to the floor four times—this is now the fifth time—every week we have been in session since then, to urge the House to act quickly on CARA, because with a 94-to-1 vote, with that kind of consensus built around this place, which is highly unusual, it shows that this is a problem in all of our communities and all of our States. We spent 3 years putting together the legislation. We worked with experts from all around the country. We sought out best practices. This is not just a matter of throwing more money at a problem, this is a matter of taking the resources in Washington, spending them more wisely and targeting them toward what we know works—toward evidence-based programs, prevention, treatment, and recovery that has actually shown promise to be able to begin to turn the tide on this horrible epidemic.

The House has begun to act, and I am encouraged by that. Obviously, I wish they had taken up CARA right away and sent it to the President. I think it would have been already helping in our communities in significant ways.

During the time between when the Senate acted, March 10 to now, we have lost 7,400 Americans to drug overdoses. We lose a fellow citizen every 12 minutes on average, but the House is moving, and yesterday the House passed, legislation in the form of over a dozen different bills, smaller bills that will help with regard to this problem that I think are steps in the right direction.

Today they are planning to take up a more comprehensive bill, the CARA legislation, that has also been reported out of the Judiciary Committee—as it was in this body—and perhaps a couple

other bills as well. I am told that vote is likely to occur today, and that is great. I am concerned the legislation that passed in the House still leaves some gaps, and those gaps are in some significant areas. I am hopeful some amendments will be adopted today to help fill some of those gaps so we can indeed have a comprehensive approach to this issue.

Sadly, this issue is not getting better; it is getting worse. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration just last week conducted their National Drug Prescription Take-Back Day, where you take drugs off the shelf and put them into a disposal unit to get rid of them so that your kid or grandkid or somebody visiting your home doesn't get these prescription drugs and misuse them. They had a record number of drugs turned in, 893,000 pounds of unwanted medicine; that is, 447 tons of prescription drugs that were not needed. I am grateful for those who participated in the take-back program. This is good news, to get these drugs off the shelves and be sure they are not being misused, but unfortunately that is just the tip of the iceberg, and it shows the severity of this problem.

We have continued to see communities throughout my State and throughout the country being torn apart by this issue and families who are being devastated. Last week, a man pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter in Columbus, OH, because his infant son had ingested fentanyl-laced heroin and died. Last week, we also saw the arrest of three people who drove to Steubenville, OH, to buy heroin, and then while driving they used it in the car with a 4-year-old with them. This all happened in the last week. Last week, a 23-year-old pregnant woman and her unborn child were found dead of an apparent overdose in New Carlisle, OH. Yesterday, an Akron man pled guilty to selling heroin to his uncle who subsequently died of an overdose. In Cleveland, we have lost 148 people to drug overdoses in just the first quarter of this year. That is double—double—last year's rate in Cleveland, OH—one town in one State.

By the way, the plurality of these deaths is that a majority were from fentanyl—fentanyl often laced with heroin. Fentanyl is a synthetic heroin that is about 50 times more dangerous. It is a growing problem in my State of Ohio.

Unfortunately, these headlines are just the tip of the iceberg. We see this death toll rising, and it is tragic, but we also need to focus on the wounded, not just those who overdose but those who, because they have this addiction, have lost their job, cannot get their lives back together, are separated from their families. As one recovering addict told me: The drug was everything. I abandoned my kids, my wife.

These are also people who are ending up in our jail system. Prosecutors back

home tell me the majority of the crime—one county prosecutor told me a couple of weeks ago, 80 percent is being committed because of this issue—so theft, stealing in order to pay for a habit, and ending up in the prison system. All of us are paying for that of course.

Everywhere I go in Ohio, people tell me about how this epidemic is affecting them. I had a townhall meeting the week before last, a tele-townhall with 25,000 people on a phone call. We do these once a month. A gentleman called in and he wanted to talk about the CARA legislation. He seemed to know a lot about it. He focused on the treatment part of it. His voice had a quiver.

So I asked him: Would you mind sharing? You are on the line with a lot of people, but would you mind sharing why you are so interested in this issue? Again, he was focused a lot on the treatment side, and there was silence on the line. I knew what he was going to say.

When he came to the point where he could speak, he said: I lost my daughter. Then he proceeded to tell the story. It was of a child who had started with prescription drugs, ended up with heroin, had committed some crimes—probably theft—ended up in and out of prison. She had finally come to the point where she was willing to face up to her addiction. She was ready to go into treatment to start long-term recovery. She had committed this to her parents. He said they took her to the treatment center. There was a 14-day wait. They pleaded: Can she get in someplace else? No; no room at the inn and a 14-day wait. During those 14 days is of course when she overdosed on heroin.

His point was very simple: You guys need to do more to help provide access to treatment and the right kind of treatment. That is what this legislation does.

Last Tuesday, I spoke at an opiate conference, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authority's annual meeting, with record attendance this year of over 1,000 people. I heard from doctors, nurses, counselors, social workers, attorneys, law enforcement, all saying the same thing to me, which is: ROB, this problem is not getting better. It is getting worse.

Washington does have a role to play, to be a better partner with State and local government and with the non-profits that are in the trenches dealing with this issue every day. The Kaiser Family Foundation last week released a survey that showed that 44 percent of the public knew someone who struggled with addiction to opioids. Of those 44 percent, one in five said it was a family member; one in five said it was a close friend; one in five said it was an acquaintance; two-thirds overall said they want the State government and

the Federal Government to do more about this addiction epidemic. Of course they do. People are desperate to figure out how to get at this issue.

Again, our approach is evidence-based. It is based on the testimony of the experts around the country. It is based on best practices, what is working what is not working. Is Washington going to solve this problem? No, but we are part of the solution. It is going to be solved in our communities and in our families. We can turn this tide. We have in the past. We can do it again. The question is whether we are serious about it and whether we can move this legislation through the House, through the Senate, get it to the President, and get it working in our communities.

In countless parts of Ohio, at the State and local level, people are taking action. I am encouraged by that and I applaud them for it. In my hometown of Cincinnati, the police force at the University of Cincinnati is now carrying Narcan and getting training to know how to use it. By the way, that is in this legislation to provide training to ensure people aren't just getting the naloxone, that they know how to use it. This is a miracle drug called Narcan—naloxone—so that when someone has overdosed, they will be able to bring them back.

I have been in drug treatment centers all over my State, and I have heard the testimony, including a man who told me: I died. I faced my own death. I saw my father in Heaven. I was gone. Narcan brought me back to life. That is why I am in this treatment center, because that is how I hit rock bottom.

So it is important, but the training needs to include, as you are giving people Narcan to use for their loved ones, giving it to the police officer to use when they are responding or a firefighter—I would tell you that if you go to most of our firehouses around the country, you will find there are more runs for heroin and prescription drug overdoses than there are for fires. That is true in my State, and it is probably true in yours. But if you are providing Narcan to somebody, you need to give them the ability to tell these people: Here is the treatment center. It is not enough just to save a life from a tragic occurrence like an overdose; we also have to figure out how not to be—as some firefighters and police officers told me—saving that life again and again but instead getting these people into the right treatment and recovery programs so they cannot just have their lives saved but begin to lead full and productive lives.

I am very encouraged by something that happened yesterday. Stephen Stack, the president of the American Medical Association, issued a public letter to physicians. I think this is a major step forward. I don't know Stephen Stack, but I read his letter very

carefully because I think he is putting his finger on something that the medical profession has been slow to realize. His letter said this:

[F]ar too often, [opiate addiction] has started from a prescription pad. . . . I call on all physicians to . . . avoid initiating opioids for new patients with chronic non-cancer pain . . . limit the amount of opioids prescribed for post-operative care . . . register and use your state prescription drug monitoring program . . . [and] reduce stigma to enable effective and compassionate care.

That is a step in the right direction. I hope every physician in the country gets a copy of this letter.

We have incredibly compassionate, caring physicians out there, but we need to face the facts. There has been overprescribing, and that is part of the issue. Four of the five people in my State of Ohio who will die from heroin overdoses over this next month will have started with prescription drugs. There is a link here. We need to face it, and the medical profession needs to face it. In the Senate, we have taken action. A 94-to-1 vote is not the typical way things happen around here, as you know. That is highly unusual. That shows the seriousness of this issue.

One of the things I am concerned about in the alternative to CARA that is being voted on in the House today is that it omits some of the key pillars, including a drug take-back program, which I think is important, and prescription drug monitoring programs.

What we have in our legislation is very simple. It gives incentive grants to States to set up prescription drug monitoring programs. Most States have them already, but to have them so they work with other States, we need interoperability between the States.

My own State of Ohio borders many other States, and what they tell me is this: We can have this prescription drug monitoring program for Ohio, but if someone goes to Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, or Indiana, we don't know. And if this is in our legislation, that would help. We hope that is added to the House bill.

Prevention, recovery support services—I hope those are being adopted in the House as amendments. If they are not, we are going to work hard to get those included in conference. We are not going to send a bill to the President that is not comprehensive.

With regard to prevention, there are some provisions that were omitted from the House alternative, including a national awareness program to let people know what is going on with prescription drugs. That connection we talked about a moment ago is incredibly important. It will save lives. It will bring people's lives back on track. It will avoid the situation where somebody goes to get his or her wisdom teeth pulled, they are given narcotic pain pills, they end up getting addicted and then move to heroin as a cheaper

alternative, and sadly, in some cases—including a father who testified before a congressional committee in Ohio a week ago Friday—die of an overdose. That is what is happening.

Prevention is important. The prevention grants we have are important. They are the most effective way to fight back against this epidemic, in many respects. If we can keep people from getting into the funnel of addiction in the first place, think of the lives that can be saved, the families that can be kept together rather than torn apart, the communities that will not be devastated by this spike in crime.

Think of the impact on our economy and people not going to work. They say there is a \$700 billion economic impact based on addiction.

It is the faces of addiction we care about the most. Think about Marin Riggs from Pickerington, OH. She was a high school student. She was about to graduate. She was very smart. She had good grades. She was a star athlete. She was popular, full of life. It seemed like she had it all. She made a mistake; she tried heroin with her boyfriend. She became addicted. Something changed physiologically in her brain to give her this disease. It is a disease. Her parents started missing money from their wallets. Charges started showing up on her dad's credit card. She tried to quit. She went into rehab. She wrote in her journal that she was heroin's "worst enemy." She was going to beat this thing. But she relapsed. The grip of this addiction is horrible. Her brother found her dead of a heroin overdose 2 weeks after her 20th birthday.

This can happen to any family anywhere. It knows no ZIP Code. It is not an inner-city problem. It is not a suburban problem. It is not a rural problem. It is everywhere. Addiction doesn't ask what your political party is, either. That is why we kept this nonpartisan. It is not just bipartisan. That is why I hope we can move this legislation quickly to the President and get him to sign it into law, because it is needed right now, and prevention needs to be part of it.

Marin's mom, whose name is Heidi, is letting her voice be heard throughout Ohio. She is educating kids and parents about the dangers of experimenting with drugs. I commend her for that. I am so grateful for her and the other moms and dads around Ohio who are doing that. They are amazing.

Tonda DaRe came to testify before the Judiciary Committee. Her daughter's name was Holly. Holly died when she was in her early twenties. She started Holly's Song. She is talking to people, working with people, families, letting them know what the dangers are but also, if they have a son or child who is addicted, letting them know



how to get them into treatment and recovery so that other lives will not be lost.

I have heard stories of these teenagers whose wisdom teeth are being taken out and they end up getting addicted to Percocet and Vicodin. Angie Trend of Lake County is one of them. She told me her son was 16 when he had his wisdom teeth taken out. He is one of the lucky ones; he is now in recovery. He is 25 years old. But the pain and agony that family went through when he was age 16 to 25 could have been avoided.

When I think of these stories, I cannot leave out prevention. It has to be part of it.

I started my own anti-drug coalition in my home State, in my home city, about 20 years ago. It continues to be effective today. It is all about prevention, getting the entire community engaged and involved. That is what needs to happen on a national basis, and it needs to happen now in order for us to save lives.

The approach we took in writing this legislation, the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act, was unusual around here. We spent 3 years pulling together experts and getting best practices but also accepting ideas from anywhere where there was a good idea. We didn't care whose idea it was; all we cared about was whether it worked.

I know that these statistics about heroin addiction and overdoses are heartbreaking. They can be pretty discouraging. But I also know there is hope. I have run into people from our State who have struggled with addiction and who have found their way to treatment and effective recovery—usually it is long-term recovery—with support from family and friends and others who have been through addiction. Now they are back on their feet, and they are not just productive, working members of our communities, but they are helping others.

I heard the story of Courtney Golden. She was addicted to oxycodone. She received treatment and has been clean for 7 years. She is now the director of an outpatient counseling center. I heard the story of Terri Skaggs of the Sojourner House in Portsmouth, OH. She was addicted for 17 years, but after 17 years, she didn't give up. She has now been clean for 2 years. They beat this, and they are helping other people. I see this at every treatment center I go to.

There is hope. We can turn the tide, but it does require this institution to pull its act together and get a good bill out of conference that is comprehensive, that is evidence-based, that is going to make a real difference throughout our communities, and get that bill to the President for his signature.

We have lost more than 7,400 Americans since the Senate passed this legis-

lation on March 10. Every 12 minutes, we lose another American, another one of our fellow citizens. Partial solutions will not suffice. We need a comprehensive approach. I will insist on it, as will others.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the time today. I am encouraged by what the House is doing on the floor. I hope the next time I come to the floor, I will not be talking about how the House must act but, rather, congratulating the House for acting and congratulating the President for signing a legislative initiative that will make a difference in my home State and in our communities all around this country.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I appreciate the remarks my colleague from Ohio made about this opioid issue and the impact it is having on our citizens and particularly on our young people. I support his significant contributions and efforts in terms of dealing with this problem. It is affecting my State, his State, and all of our States.

We are passing legislation to deal with it, but it is going to take more than legislation; it is going to take an all-out effort by everybody. To watch our kids, our children, our young people, and Americans become addicted and victims of this scourge that is taking place is disheartening, to say the least. We need to do all we can to address that. Our State is trying to do that and making some significant steps forward. We all have a long way to go.

#### WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, that is not why I am here today. I come down every week, as my colleagues know, to talk about the waste of the week. While I am dealing with documented evidence of the waste of taxpayers' money through waste, fraud, and abuse and while we have totaled up well over \$150 billion of documented waste, it is only a pebble in the sea, a grain of sand compared to what we are doing by allowing deficit spending to plunge us ever more into debt.

Without a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, this body has not had the discipline to match our spending with the revenues that come in or the political will to go to the American people and say: If you want this much government, this is how much it is going to cost. Instead, we say: We will give you what you want, and we will borrow the money to cover it because we don't have the tax revenue. And we don't have the will to say: We have to raise your taxes if this is what you want. It has put us in a dire situation from a financial standpoint. It is not talked about as much as it should be. But when I returned to the Senate, having been elected in 2010

to serve another term, our debt level was bad enough at that point at \$10.7 trillion. But under this administration, in less than 8 years, it has almost doubled. It is now \$19.2 trillion, I think is the latest, and the clock is ticking. Tune in to my Web site and you will see the debt clock. It is stunning to sit there and look at how fast those digits are turning of money that is being borrowed, which we have to pay interest on and which is slowing down our economy and crippling our future generations.

I see the young pages sitting here on the steps. Many of them have listened to my "Waste of the Week" speeches. I want to tell you that my generation—I am not pointing fingers at one party or another—has failed to achieve some kind of fiscal discipline that will put you in a position where you can inherit from my generation something that my parents and our parents and our generation gave to us, and that is a prosperous, growing, dynamic economy that gave us the opportunity to get an education, gave us the opportunity to be engaged meaningfully in the workforce, become homeowners, raise a family, save for our kids' future.

I stand here as a father with 3 children and 10 grandchildren. It is sickening to me to think about the challenges they are going to have because my generation didn't step up to the responsibility of running a fiscally sound economy through the decisions we make in the U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, and the White House. Yes, I have blamed this President for not treating this in a serious enough manner. We made every type of effort you could think of in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and we finally threw up our hands and gave up because of the six or seven things that were presented to the President over that period of time, he has rejected every one of them. I was part of one of those negotiations and was very involved with that negotiation. I directly dealt with the President and his top people. We gave him a lot of what he said he wanted, and in the end he turned it down.

I wish I had the clock ticking behind me. We are getting ever deeper into debt, and that will have a significant impact on the country.

I was speaking on the floor yesterday. The growth—if you can call it that—in the latest quarter is 0.5 percent. That is about as anemic as it gets, teetering on falling into a recession. That is what the statistic shows for growth during the first quarter of 2016. The number comes from the Department of Labor. It shows that there was a very low amount of new jobs. Those new jobs basically replaced those who were retiring. It is far below what we need to provide meaningful jobs for people in this country.

After having failed over a period of years to put together a credible, long-

term plan to deal with our debt crisis, balance our budget, and stop adding more to our debt, I have come down to show my colleagues documented evidence of the waste, fraud, and abuse that nonpartisan agencies have inspected and told us about. For over 40 weeks, I have been in this cycle of coming to the Senate floor to identify yet a new waste, fraud, or abuse, and the total is significantly trending toward \$200 billion worth of waste. It is no wonder that Americans at home are furious with the dysfunction that is taking place in Washington and demanding change. We see this on both sides of the aisle. The people have said: We have had it. It is enough. We are done with you guys and gals. We need to shake this place up. A revolution is taking place across the country. The country is finally grasping onto the fact that we have simply not been functional. The one way we can be functional, or at least do something, is to have the government's own accountability office, which looks into the programs that are part of what we have enabled and provides the needed spending for certain areas—if they see there is fraud, waste, and abuse, can't we at least do something about that? That is the reason I am here today.

I have been a strong supporter of the U.S. armed services. I am a veteran, and I served on the Armed Services Committee during my previous tenure in the Senate. I have a deep regard and respect for the need for adequate spending to provide for our common defense. That is the first obligation in the Constitution that we swear to when we are sworn into the U.S. Senate. There is no agency that is exempt or getting a pass if they are engaged in bad decisions that spend and waste money, especially if they don't correct those things that are pointed out by their own inspectors general or government agencies that look into all of this.

Today I am talking about the Department of Defense. They are not immune from issues of waste, fraud, and abuse, and we need to document those as well. One of the reasons we need to document those is they need every penny they have because their portion of the budget is continuing to shrink due to our dire fiscal situation. At the very least, we have to make sure they are not wasting money because it is needed to protect and provide security for Americans. This waste of the week involves expenditure in Afghanistan, where we have troops and commitments over there. They had a request for cargo planes. We need planes to transfer cargo between the bases and different parts of Afghanistan. So the decision was made to provide 20 cargo planes to fulfill that mission. The Department of Defense went to the country of Italy. Maybe they went to Italy because they are part of the coalition

and felt obligated to buy some equipment from them, and so they bought 20 Italian cargo planes. The purpose of the purchase was to support the Afghan Air Force, and as I said to transport troops and equipment around the country.

At the time the Afghans had old, out-of-date, Soviet-era Russian planes and the Department of Defense wanted to replace them, so again they went to Italy to purchase these planes. The purchase price for 20 of these cargo planes was \$486 million. That is a lot of money, but I am not here to say they should have paid less or should have paid more. That is what the price was and that is what they negotiated. This was documented by two inspectors general who looked at this program and said: Wait a minute. We have a problem here, guys. The first problem was they didn't buy 20 cargo planes, they only bought 16 planes. The price was \$486 million for 20 planes, and somehow only 16 arrived. I am not sure what happened to the other four planes, so there were problems from the beginning.

It became abundantly clear early on that these planes were not made to fly in the type of conditions that exist in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has a lot of desert, sand, wind, and these planes apparently have all kinds of problems flying in that kind of atmosphere. You would have thought that since we were there, we would know this because our own planes fly in that atmosphere. I think somebody basically didn't do their homework and say: Before we pay out \$486 million, maybe we ought to make sure the planes we are buying to replace the old Soviet planes, which we know don't work, can fly in the atmosphere here. Since we have had problems with some of our own planes, we need to make sure these planes are capable of holding up under these type of conditions.

As it turned out, they flew the planes for only 9 months, and in those 9 months they accumulated 235 hours of flight time, and one of the reasons for that is because they were constantly in the maintenance shop having repairs made because of the conditions they were flying in. The planes were purchased on the basis that they could get 4,500 hours out of each plane and that would carry a lot of cargo. I can understand why they wanted them, but because the problems they had were so extensive, it turned out they needed a lot of spare parts. When they looked in terms of what it would cost to buy new spare parts for these planes, the total came up to another \$200 million. So on top of the \$486 million, another \$200 million would have to be added to that. Since they didn't have the money to do that, they said: Let's take 6 of the remaining 16 planes off the airfield and tear them down for spare parts. So now we are down to 10 planes. We started

with 20, somehow they only got 16, and now they decommissioned 6 planes and used them for spare parts for the other planes so they wouldn't have to spend the \$200 million. Now we are down to 10 planes at a cost of \$486 million, but even after that they continued to have problems and so they decided to scrap the whole thing.

You would have thought somebody somewhere with different conditions would want to buy those planes. We are now down to 10 planes. Maybe they could have taken the spare parts off those planes and maybe salvage a few more, but, no, the decision was made to scrap those planes and decommission them. So they decided the next step was that since we can't use them, let's just tear them apart. This is a nice picture of what happened to the planes.

Here we have a nice pile of scrap. They said we have to salvage something so they said: Let's sell the scrap. We spent \$486 million for planes that were sold for scrap. We sold the scrap for 6 cents a pound and we retrieved \$32,000. We spent \$486 million, decommissioned 6 planes so we could get spare parts, which meant we only had 10 planes, and since that didn't work, they just took a bulldozer to that, scrapped it, and now this machine is picking up the scrap and probably putting it in the container and selling it for 6 cents a pound.

I come down here every week, and these stories are just mind-boggling. The taxpayer hears about these stories and some might say: In this atmosphere, maybe we shouldn't be exposing all of this. No, we are exposing it so we can stop this and have an efficient and effectively run government doing the essential things the Federal Government needs to do and not getting itself into this constant week after week after week—look, there have been books written by Senators. My former colleague Tom Coburn wrote a book about waste, which basically documented hundreds of billions of dollars of waste, fraud, and abuse. He stepped down from office 2 years ago, and we miss him. I am just trying to carry on his legacy, probably in a less effective way than he did, by exposing what is happening with Americans' tax dollars.

Every day people haul themselves out of bed, start their coffee, get in the car, go to work, come home, try to save money, look at their paycheck, and when they see the amount of money that is being deducted for taxes, they say: Ok. Well, maybe that is what we need to do to protect our country and provide for programs. And then when they learn about stuff like this, they say: What am I going to work for, just to turn this money over to Washington so they can spend it and make decisions like this.

This is one of 40-some presentations I have given on the Senate floor, and I will keep doing this as long as I stay in

the Senate because our people need to know and put pressure on their representatives. They need to think about this so the next person they elect to walk into the White House will hopefully have the courage to address our fiscal problems in a way that is not going to put our next generation in such dire situations.

With that, I add to our ever-growing list of waste, fraud, and abuse another \$486 million for a total of \$162,764,055,817. Think how that money could be used for essential items like Zika, Ebola, research at the National Institutes of Health, education, paving roads, doing infrastructure repairs—any number of things that need to be done, which is how that money could be better used than selling used airplane scrap for 6 cents a pound. Think about the money that could be returned to the taxpayers that they wouldn't have to pay in taxes if we could simply run a much more efficient, effective government.

Spending is a huge issue. It needs to be addressed in this election. The American people need to be aware of where we stand. Where we stand today is substantially worse than when I arrived to start my second term in the Senate 5½ years ago.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

Alexander (for Flake/McCain) amendment No. 3876 (to amendment No. 3801), to require that certain funds are used for the review and revision of certain operational documents.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I want to talk about the Obama administration's nuclear agreement with Iran and the many ways the agreement has failed to rein in Iranian hostile behavior over the course of the last year.

Over the last week, I thought it was interesting that there was great reluctance on the part of people who voted in an enabling way to allow the Iranian agreement to occur to take a stand on the position that Mr. COTTON brought to the Senate floor, where we would not now give Iran millions of dollars to purchase heavy water that they would use in their nuclear activities and obviously continue to produce.

In addition to that, I saw on Monday of this week that Iran tested a variant missile with a range of over 2,000 kilometers capable of striking Israel. Over and over again, we see Iran participating in hostile behavior and, somehow, none of that behavior violates either the spirit or the 'letter of the agreement that was discussed as such an important breakthrough with what was going to happen in Iran.

For those of us who predicted that Iran's behavior would not change and that behavior in the neighborhood would change in fear of what would happen because of Iran—I think those predictions are becoming more and more obviously true.

On April 2, 2015, a framework agreement was reached on that program. Here we are a year later. This agreement seems not to have accomplished any of the things that we would want to accomplish with the country of Iran.

According to President Obama: "Iran so far has followed the letter of the agreement, but the spirit of the agreement involves Iran also sending signals to the world community and businesses that it is not going to be engaging in a range of provocative actions that might scare business off."

That is an absolute quote from the President.

Now, why we are concerned about scaring business off from Iran, I don't know, because another quote from the administration over and over again is that Iran is the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism. I think if we were talking more about that activity of Iran and less about what they need to encourage business activities, we would be doing what we should be doing.

Jennifer Rubin wrote in the Washington Post that 'his comments are curious both because the 'letter of the agreement' seems to be forever changing to incorporate Iran's demands and because despite Iran's actions, the president continues to make more and more concessions.'

The administration sold this deal on the promise that we would see a great change in behavior. Take, for example, the behavior that has occurred: Iran's continued disregard of the United Nations Security Council resolutions dealing with ballistic missiles. Since the conclusion of the nuclear deal last summer, Iran has test-fired new classes of missiles whenever it wanted to; as I just mentioned, as late as last Monday. In October, they tested new missiles that are precision guided and more sophisticated than the current missiles they have. They have now tested missiles that could reach Israel.

Despite the U.N. Security Council explicitly calling for Iran to halt its ballistic missile activity, Iran's leaders have consistently rebuffed anything that is coming from the international community that it says is out of bounds of the resolution, and apparently everything is out of bounds of the resolution. In August of 2015, the deputy foreign minister of Iran and chief nuclear negotiator told the Tehran Times: "The restrictions on weapons posed through Resolution 2231 . . . are not mandatory and we can disregard them."

That statement directly contradicts Secretary of State Kerry's statement when he talked about the resolution. When he testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last July, on July 23, Secretary Kerry said:

They are restrained from any sharing of missile technology, purchase of missile technology, exchange of missile technology work on missiles. They cannot do that under Article 41, which is Chapter 7 and mandatory. . . .

Obviously the administration has a much different interpretation of the current U.N. resolutions than Iran, but they also appear to have a completely flexible interpretation of what the agreement actually says.

In March of this year—just a few weeks ago—the Department of Justice unsealed an indictment of Iranians who carried out cyber attacks against critical infrastructure and the financial sector of the United States with the knowledge of the Iranian Government. What does critical infrastructure mean? Critical infrastructure means the utilities, the transportation network, the things we have to rely on every day to provide the infrastructure the country needs to function.

The indictment notes that one of the hackers "received credit for his computer intrusion work from the Iranian government toward completion of his mandatory military service in Iran."

I don't know any other way to interpret that than to say that if someone is in the Iranian military and if they want to cyber attack the United States, they will give someone credit for military service time to do that.

I would think the administration would consider applying sanctions to

put more pressure on Iran and not worry quite so much about Iran's future business opportunities. Curiously, yet predictably, the administration has taken the opposite approach and continues to reward bad behavior. That reward can come and has come in the administration's basically easing financial restrictions that prohibit U.S. dollars from being used in transactions with Iran.

The dollar continues to be the principal economic currency of the world. Why we would want Iran to have more access to that currency, I don't know. Yet the Secretary of the Treasury, Jack Lew, said that giving Iran access to U.S. currency would ease the blockade. He said, "Since Iran has kept its end of the deal, it is our responsibility to uphold ours, in both letter and spirit."

There may be only five people in the world—and they are all in the Obama administration—who believe that Iran has kept up its end of the deal.

On April 2, 2016, Eli Lake wrote about how the President has to keep on giving to save his Iran deal. In other words, Mr. Lake wrote:

I was under the impression that the nuclear negotiations with Iran ended in July. There was the press conference in Vienna, the U.N. resolution that lifted the sanctions on Iran and the fight in Congress that followed. That turns out to have been wrong.

He goes on further to say:

It wasn't part of the "deal" in July, which only lifted nuclear-related sanctions on Iran but kept other sanctions to punish the country's support for terrorism, human rights abuses, and its ballistic missile program.

We don't seem nearly as committed to those sanctions.

On April 3, 2016, the Ambassador of the UAE to the United States wrote an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal highlighting concerns about Iranian actions in the year since the nuclear deal. The Ambassador pointed out that behind the talk of change, the Iran we have long known is still around. He then goes on to list the concerning actions Iran has taken in the last year, such as firing rockets near the USS *Truman* aircraft carrier in December 2015 while the *Truman* was peacefully transitioning the Strait of Hormuz; No. 2, detaining 10 American Navy sailors in January of 2016; No. 3, Iranian visits to Russia to purchase military fighter jets and equipment, presumably with the billions they received as part of the nuclear deal. According to the Ambassador, the list can go on and on, with Iranian influence continuing to cause instability in Yemen, Syria, as well as Iran's support for Hezbollah.

There can be no doubt that the Obama administration's nuclear agreement with Iran has left regional allies nervous. The Ambassador from the UAE in the editorial I referenced has made that point very clearly, and I ask unanimous consent to have it printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 3, 2016]

ONE YEAR AFTER THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL  
(By Yousef Al Otaiba)

Saturday marked one year since the framework agreement for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—the nuclear deal with Iran—was announced. At the time, President Obama said this agreement would make "the world safer." And perhaps it has, but only in the short term and only when it comes to Iran's nuclear-weapons proliferation.

Sadly, behind all the talk of change, the Iran we have long known—hostile, expansionist, violent—is alive and well, and as dangerous as ever. We wish it were otherwise. In the United Arab Emirates, we are seeking ways to coexist with Iran. Perhaps no country has more to gain from normalized relations with Tehran. Reducing tensions across the less than 100-mile-wide Arabian Gulf could help restore full trade ties, energy cooperation and cultural exchanges, and start a process to resolve a 45-year territorial dispute.

Since the nuclear deal, however, Iran has only doubled down on its posturing and provocations. In October, November and again in early March, Iran conducted ballistic-missile tests in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

In December, Iran fired rockets dangerously close to a U.S. aircraft carrier in the Strait of Hormuz, just weeks before it detained a group of American sailors. In February, Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan visited Moscow for talks to purchase more than \$8 billion in Russian fighter jets, planes and helicopters.

In Yemen, where peace talks now hold some real promise, Iran's disruptive interference only grows worse. Last week, the French navy seized a large cache of weapons on its way from Iran to support the Houthis in their rebellion against the UN-backed legitimate Yemeni government. In late February, the Australian navy intercepted a ship off the coast of Oman with thousands of AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades. And last month, a senior Iranian military official said Tehran was ready to send military "advisers" to assist the Houthis.

The interference doesn't stop there. Since the beginning of the year, Tehran and its proxies have increased their efforts to provide armor-piercing explosive devices to Shiite cells in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. A former Iranian general and close adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called for Iran to annex all of Bahrain. And in Syria, Iran continues to deploy Hezbollah militias and its own Iranian Revolutionary Guard to prop up Syria's Bashar Assad.

These are all clear reminders that Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism—a persistent threat not only to the region but to the U.S. as well. "Death to America" has always been more than an ugly catchphrase; it has been Iranian policy. Iran has orchestrated countless terrorist attacks against Americans: from the Marine barracks in Beirut to Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. During the Afghanistan war, Iran paid Taliban fighters \$1,000 for each American they killed.

In Iraq, Iran supplied the improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that killed or maimed thousands of U.S. soldiers. And in recent weeks seven Iranian hackers were indicted in a U.S. federal court for a cyberattack against U.S. banks and critical infrastructure.

As Henry Kissinger once said, Iran can be either a country or a cause. Today "Iran the cause" is showing little of the same kind of pragmatism and moderation in its regional policies and behavior as it did in the nuclear talks. Last week, Mr. Khamenei insisted ballistic missiles were key to the Islamic Republic's future. "Those who say the future is in negotiations, not in missiles, are either ignorant or traitors," he said.

It is now clear that one year since the framework for the deal was agreed upon, Iran sees it as an opportunity to increase hostilities in the region. But instead of accepting this as an unfortunate reality, the international community must intensify its actions to check Iran's strategic ambitions.

It is time to shine a bright light on Iran's hostile acts across the region. At the Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Riyadh later this month, the U.S., the U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman should reach an agreement on a common mechanism to monitor, expose and curb Iran's aggression. This should include specific measures to block its support for the Houthi rebels in Yemen, Hezbollah units in Syria and Lebanon, and Iranian-linked terrorist cells in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

If the carrots of engagement aren't working, we must not be afraid to bring back the sticks. Recent half measures against Iran's violations of the ballistic-missile ban are not enough. If the aggression continues, the U.S. and the global community should make clear that Iran will face the full range of sanctions and other steps still available under U.N. resolutions and in the nuclear deal itself.

Iran's destabilizing behavior in the region must stop. Until it does, our hope for a new Iran should not cloud the reality that the old Iran is very much still with us—as dangerous and as disruptive as ever.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, the administration's nuclear agreement has left the region nervous, has left the world less stable, and has left our colleagues in the Senate who voted for it unwilling to vote on anything else about Iran. I think we are finding that the people we work for don't believe this was a good agreement, and we will be talking about this agreement and the aftermath the agreement has created for a long time.

We need to restore a world where America's friends trust us and our enemies are afraid of us. It is a dangerous world if we have exactly the opposite of that happening, when our friends don't trust us and our enemies aren't afraid of us, and this Iranian agreement is one of the reasons that is the case.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 70, I voted yea. It was my intention to vote nay. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome of the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate will pass the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017. By rejecting the poison pill riders that sidelined the appropriations process for

much of last year, the Senate has taken a responsible step forward to meet the needs of the American people, keeping our government functioning, and investing in critical programs to support energy research, production, and management.

I am particularly pleased that the Senate rejected efforts to eliminate Federal support for key regional commissions, including the Northern Border Regional Commission. The Northern Border Regional Commission, like others across the country, is a joint Federal-State economic development effort that includes some of the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped counties in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and northern New York. Every Federal dollar invested through the commission leverages on average \$2.6 in matching funds in return for vital economic development and infrastructure projects. The \$10 million this energy and water bill provides for the NBRC will help create new jobs and retain thousands more.

This bill also makes important investments in the Army Corps of Engineers, in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, in scientific research, for weatherization programs, and in environmental cleanup. I want to thank Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN for working with me, too, on important report language to encourage the Department of Energy to facilitate the sharing of information and resources among host communities with nuclear power plants that face decommissioning. Communities impacted by the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant would benefit greatly from the experiences and best practices of other host communities in which plants have recently been decommissioned. I look forward to working with the Department of Energy to further advance these goals. The bill also includes report language that directs the Department of Energy to fund activities that support the development and testing of new low-emission, highly efficient wood stoves, an important heat source for many Vermont homes because of the affordable and renewable thermal energy they provide.

Senator ALEXANDER and Senator FEINSTEIN have worked in a bipartisan way to produce a responsible, rider-free appropriations bill, and I hope this process will serve as a model for the Senate as we continue the appropriations process this year.

Mr. BLUNT. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FREE TRADE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, spring has sprung, April showers are giving way to May flowers, and soon we will be in the dog days of summer. Every bit as much as a tired cliché, we have again heard sabers rattle in opposition to free trade, which tends to happen at this point every even year. 'Tis the season for anti-free trade rhetoric.

Opponents of free trade are vehemently arguing that the country needs to "get tough" and hide behind protectionist barriers. Unfortunately—and this is what is most troubling—a lot of these arguments are coming from the Republican side of the aisle. When Congress turned its attention to renewing trade promotion authority a couple of years ago, I commented that some Republicans had to do some pretty impressive verbal gymnastics to put themselves in opposition to free trade. If that was the case then, we have to be witnessing mental triple gainers here with calls to end NAFTA, to reject the Trans-Pacific Partnership outright, and to hike tariffs to ridiculous levels. It is unfortunate, indeed, when this time of year brings out strawman arguments scapegoating free trade for everything that ails the U.S. economy.

The truth is, free trade expands economic freedom, spurs competition, raises productivity, facilitates job creation, and increases the standard of living for all countries if we choose to embrace it. To put it simply, free trade provides the U.S. economy with access to global markets. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 80 percent of the purchasing power and more than 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside of our borders. In addition, 92 percent of the world's economic growth is also outside of U.S. borders. In an increasingly global economy, it is incredible to think of the financial opportunities that free trade opens up for a variety of sectors of our economy.

According to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. exports supported more than 11 million jobs in goods and services in 2013, a quarter of U.S. manufacturing jobs, and more than 900,000 jobs in the agriculture sector just since 2012. And it is not just jobs directly related to exports. In 2013, the United States spent more than \$450 billion in research and development—more than any other country on the planet. Do we really think U.S. companies are going to pour their hard-earned dollars into developing products and technology if they are able to sell only to the U.S. market alone? Not a chance.

Lowering trade barriers and allowing reciprocal access to U.S. markets also provide U.S. consumers access to lower cost goods, boosting their purchasing power. By some reports, U.S. middle-class Americans gain more than a quarter of their purchasing power from trade, allowing individuals and families coast to coast to purchase a wider variety of goods at lower cost. This is the part that some people don't appreciate. Imports not only stretch dollars for consumers at the cash register, but free trade also allows for access to cheaper inputs that make U.S. industries more globally competitive around the world. In fact, it is estimated that half of U.S. imports are actually inputs for U.S. production for U.S. manufacturing. Lower price imports also help reduce production costs and can lead to expanded production, employment, and wages in the United States.

I bring up these issues today because in the midst of somewhat predictable politically heated comments, albeit from somewhat unpredictable sources on the Republican side of the aisle, it is important to remember that trade is a critical component of the U.S. economy. We should be working to expand trade, not impede it.

Beyond barring the direct benefits I have noted, a protectionist agenda can only result in a chilling effect on foreign investment. In the long run, U.S. workers, industry, and consumers will all lose out if foreigners perceive the U.S. as a hostile place of doing business.

I understand it is difficult for politicians to point to the benefits of free trade. It is tougher to look out there and find individuals who directly benefit from buying cheaper goods or having cheaper inputs for their own production. It is easy to find individuals whose companies have closed down because of global competition, but in the aggregate, on the whole, the country is far better off, and we should understand that here. We have access to the information and the modeling, to everything that tells us that trade is extremely beneficial to the economy, and it is good for the U.S. worker as well.

We are often told to everything there is a season. Unfortunately, this is the season where empty protectionist rhetoric is allowed to bloom.

I urge my colleagues to consider this carefully the next time they are tempted to talk about protectionist benefits rather than the benefits of free trade.

With that, I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I wish to spend a couple of moments to talk about the Zika virus and our response from Congress to it. There has been a lot of conversation about the Zika virus, both in the media and in a multiple of our committees for months, actually. This is not a new issue that has been brought up. This is an existing issue. The spread of the Zika virus is moving across our hemisphere. It is rapidly spreading in multiple countries to the south of us, and it is moving toward the United States.

As most people know, the Zika virus is carried by a mosquito—a particular type of mosquito. Not all mosquitoes can transmit the Zika virus. This particular type of mosquito can carry the virus from one person when the Zika virus is in their blood. It gets in the mosquito. The mosquito bites someone else and transfers it. The interesting thing that most people don't realize is that the Zika virus for most individuals is not all that difficult or painful to be able to work through.

In their own materials that they have now put out in their response to the Zika virus, the CDC tries to list the symptoms of Zika and what it really means for most individuals. For most individuals, it is something they will have for a few days. They said that for many individuals, they don't even know they have it. It is something similar to having a cold, where they may have some muscle pain and a headache. They may have a fever or a rash, but it goes away after a few days. They are then immune to it for the rest of their life.

In fact, the CDC says that if you have it, the treatment they list for the Zika virus—obviously, they always suggest that you check in with your doctor. But the common treatment from CDC is to get plenty of rest, drink fluids, and take Tylenol. It is not something that most people should be afraid of unless you are pregnant, but the risk of birth defects is astronomical.

Now, not everyone who is pregnant and gets the Zika virus also has birth defects, but for those that have, it can be very, very serious. This is to be taken seriously, but it is not a new issue as well.

The Zika virus has been known to be around since the 1950s. It has moved through multiple different countries in multiple different regions. In the United States, though, we have yet to have a single case in the continental United States that originated in the United States. These are individuals who traveled to countries south of us in Central America or South America and picked up the virus there or in Puerto Rico or in some of the other areas in the Caribbean and then have come back to the United States. But it is yet to have a transfer, that we know of, from any individual within the

United States to another person in the United States.

Again, that doesn't belittle the issue, but I want to put it in the context of where we are. We are at the early stages of dealing with this as U.S. citizens. In Puerto Rico and other areas, it is very advanced and there are hundreds of cases there. Now the determination is this: What do we do?

The CDC has already stepped up, trying to intervene and trying to find ways to be able to develop a vaccine for it, which they feel confident they can do. I met with the Director of the CDC not long ago. He feels very confident they will be able to have a vaccine within a couple of years. But then we have a couple of years that we are dealing with in the process just for the development of the vaccine and then the distribution of that vaccine.

The main thing that can be done right now is actually putting down mosquito populations. It is getting into areas where there is rapid advancement of mosquitoes and actually putting pesticides in those areas to greatly diminish the population of mosquitoes. It is developing better testing for Zika. It is getting out the opportunity in different health departments around the country to say: How are we going to evaluate this and how do we know if someone just has a fever and a rash, if that is something else related to heat, or if that something related to Zika? The CDC is engaging in all of those things.

In the middle of this, the White House has requested almost \$2 billion in what they are calling an emergency request for Zika. I do believe there should be a response to Zika, and we should aggressively lean in. The last thing we should do is sit around and wait until the Zika virus spreads across the United States and affects many of these pregnant moms who are out there. Then we have birth defects because of our inactivity in the days ahead. But almost \$2 billion in an emergency request is interesting to me because for a lot of it they haven't given us great detail on it of really what all of that will engage. But they have said they need this large amount of money.

I have to tell you that I am a little bit skeptical when anyone comes and says: It is an emergency. I need \$2 billion, and I will tell you what it is for later.

We went through this with the Ebola funding, where there was a \$5 billion request for Ebola funding. Two years later, they spent about \$2.5 billion of that. Recently, the administration transferred half a billion dollars of that funding for Ebola into treatment and discovery for Zika. So they have already reprogrammed some of that money and have started to be able to move it over.

I would ask just a couple of things of this body as we consider how we are

going to handle Zika. One is to treat it seriously. Though for most people it is not a serious issue, if you are pregnant, it is serious. We should treat it seriously.

The second thing is that we should do this appropriations in the normal appropriations process. I do not think we need to have additional debt spending. We can reprogram existing funds to be able to deal with this. We also need real detail of how this money is going to be spent so that we don't allocate dollars and then find out later how they were going to be spent. We have a responsibility as Congress to know how American tax dollars are being spent, and I think my skepticism is justified.

Let me give you just a quick idea. Right now, if we are going to deal with actually funding this area—which I believe we should—then we should begin with allowing the Department of State, HHS, and USAID to have transfer authority within their existing accounts to be able to address this. These three agencies currently have \$86 billion in what they call unobligated balances from previous years that they already have right now—\$86 billion. With this much money lying around, there is absolutely no need to ask the American people to pay an additional \$1 billion on top of the originally already obligated—overobligated—and bloated budget.

The transfer authority I would ask for would be accompanied by a comprehensive spending plan that requires the administration to detail exactly how it plans to use these funds and then report out any obligations to match up with the original spending plan. Before we write a blank check to the administration, I believe the American people should actually know how this is being spent.

Now, there are some individuals who would say this is an emergency. We just need to add \$1 billion more in debt and figure out how to pay for it later.

I would disagree. We have transfer authority. This is not new. In fact, if you go back to 2009, President Obama requested transfer authority to HHS to deal with the H1N1 panic. Remember when the big panic was about swine flu and about H1N1 in 2009? As a nation, we stood up and addressed some of these issues.

At that time the President made a very specific request for transfer authority to deal with this. That is not any different than what I am saying right now. I don't understand how this is different than how we were dealing with H1N1. Right now we have to have additional spending on top of everything else, but in 2009 it was entirely appropriate to be able to reprogram funds.

Again, this is not new. As I have mentioned before about for the Ebola

emergency supplementals, the President has already taken about \$600 million from Ebola and transferred that over to Zika.

It is interesting to note that in March President Obama reprogrammed \$500 million from the Economic Support Fund, which is designated by Congress to combat infectious diseases. He took \$500 million from the fund to combat infectious diseases and instead reprogrammed it over for the Green Climate Fund. So he took half a billion dollars from the infectious diseases account and used it instead for the Green Climate Fund—internationally.

He has done this before. In fact, it was just days ago that the President took \$8 million out of a different account and reprogrammed it to purchase almost \$9 million of heavy water from Iran.

This body, of all bodies, has the responsibility to be able to not only deal with the health emergencies that are happening around the world but also the fiscal issues that we have in our Nation. We can do both. There is no reason to do debt spending when the money is there right now to be reprogrammed. We do not have to break the budget caps, and we do not have to accelerate other areas of spending just to do what is our responsibility. We should do the responsible thing in dealing with Zika. We should also assume the responsibility we have to take care of the American taxpayer at the same time.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRESCRIPTION OPIOID ABUSE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am honored to represent the State of Illinois. It is a big State. From Chicago to Carroll at the southern tip of our State is 400 miles, and, of course, there is more State north of Chicago. I traveled the State over the last several months, and last week I went to the southern tip of the State, worked my way through, came back through central Illinois, and was in the city of Chicago. There is one recurring challenge I find all across the State: No matter what community I visit, I have learned that there is no town too small, no suburb too wealthy, no city that has escaped the opioid and heroin epidemic we are now facing. America is losing more people to heroin overdose than we are

to traffic accidents. It has become that common.

I try to have roundtables around the State—rural areas, suburban towns—and really try to get the picture of what is happening. I think I have come to understand it a little better because of this effort, and I would like to discuss it today.

The opioid/heroin crisis demands our immediate attention. It demands a comprehensive response involving local, State, and Federal Government, law enforcement agencies, and the private sector. For too long we have focused our efforts almost exclusively on responding to and treating addiction. That is a critical element, and I am not going to diminish it, but we need to look beyond that.

Yes, we need to make sure substance abuse treatment is available. Right now there are some archaic laws in the Medicaid Program that restrict the number of beds one can have in a treatment facility. I see Senator ALEXANDER from Tennessee has come to the floor, and he is chair of the committee that may consider this issue. He may be aware of the fact that many years ago we restricted the number of treatment beds in substance abuse treatment facilities to 16 beds. If we can imagine, for facilities treating the city of Chicago, 16 beds doesn't even touch the problem we are facing with addictions today, so I hope we can increase that number. I talked to Senator COLLINS of Maine, and she has run into the same thing in her home State, and I bet others have as well.

When it comes to treatment, there are things we must do, and this is one when it comes to Medicaid. But we have to do more than that. Simply dealing with substance abuse treatment, as important and critical as it is, is not enough. We need to look at the root causes of the issue.

Each year in America, the pharmaceutical industry produces 14 billion opioid pills—14 billion. That is enough to provide every adult in America a 1-month prescription of opioid painkillers. There is a definite need for these painkillers and pain management. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 14 to 16 percent of Americans face chronic and acute pain. I want to be sensitive to their needs and make certain they have the kind of pain relief and pain management they desperately need every single day, but what we have now is a market in America flooded with these opioid pills. The number of opioid prescriptions has risen dramatically, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to 245 million in 2014—more than triple the amount. The United States is the largest consumer of opioid pain pills, accounting for almost 100 percent of the world's total consumption of hydrocodone and 81 percent of OxyContin.

There are a number of reasons we have seen the sharp rise in the number

of opioids being prescribed over the last two decades: There is increased attention on identifying and treating pain; there is perceived financial incentive in some cases to overtreat pain; and there is a lack of insurance coverage for alternative pain treatment modalities. However, the single largest reason behind the dramatic increase is the production on the pharmaceutical side.

The dramatic increase in prescriptions for these addictive pain killers can be directly linked to Purdue Pharma introducing OxyContin in the late 1990s. Between 1996 and 2002, Purdue Pharma funded more than 20,000 pain-related educational programs for doctors through direct sponsorship or financial grant and launched a multifaceted campaign to encourage long-term use of OxyContin for chronic, noncancer pain. They, of course, promoted their pills to doctors and patients on the false promise that these powerful painkillers could relieve pain for up to 12 hours in many patients. When clinical trials and physicians' and patients' feedback showed that OxyContin didn't last for that full period, Purdue Pharma refused to explore other dosing intervals. Instead, they urged doctors to increase the dosage, leading to highs and lows of crippling addiction and overdose.

The recent guidelines released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended against using opioids for chronic, noncancer pain management, but by this point Purdue Pharma had opened the door for others to follow. From 1972 to 2015, the Food and Drug Administration has approved more than 400 different opioid products—100 brand-name drugs and more than 300 generic versions. The pharmaceutical industry is flooding our communities with greater and greater quantities of these drugs. Between 1993 and 2015, the production of hydrocodone increased twelvefold, the production of hydromorphone increased twenty-three-fold, and the production of fentanyl increased twenty-five-fold. As I mentioned earlier, there are approximately 14 billion prescription opioid pills on the market in America every year.

What has been the result of this overproduction and overprescribing? Nearly 2 million people in the United States are currently addicted to opioids. We have seen alarming increases in opioid-related emergency room visits and treatment admissions for abuse. In 2014 opioids were involved in 28,647 deaths in America. In 2014 Illinois had 1,652 opioid-related drug overdose deaths—a nearly 30 percent increase over 2010. Each week in Illinois, we average eight deaths due to prescription drug overdose.

And it doesn't stop there. In so many cases, prescription opioid abuse leads to heroin addiction. Four out of five

current heroin users say their addiction began with prescription opioids. It is heartbreaking to have these roundtables in communities and to sit across the table from recent graduates from high school who tell the story of having been addicted in high school for years, and then when they couldn't afford the expensive pills, they switched to heroin, which was cheaper and in many cases for their friends, deadly.

The United States currently has 467,000 heroin addicts. Between 2002 and 2013, the rate of heroin-related overdose deaths nearly quadrupled, with more than 8,200 people dying from heroin in 2013.

It is time to change. We need a comprehensive solution. We need it now. We have to prevent these drug companies from flooding the market with excessive amounts of addictive pills. We can't sit idly by while they tell us these powerful painkillers are safe. We know better. We must encourage the Drug Enforcement Agency and the FDA to use their authority to keep unnecessary, unsafe drugs off the market, and we must crack down on doctors and providers who are overprescribing.

Let me repeat. People suffering chronic and acute pain need help. They need pain relief, and they need pain management. I will never stand in their way. But we know from the volume of painkillers that are being prescribed that there are many people who are abusing.

I shared with four major medical societies a recent letter asking them to help us help our Nation combat this epidemic. I want them to endorse mandatory continuing medical education programs for those who prescribe opioids—doctors and dentists. They should support proposals to require that physicians and dentists check prescription drug monitoring databases before they prescribe opioids to patients, ensuring that these patients aren't just doctor shopping, and they should increase awareness and transparency in physician-prescribing practices, as well as proper accountability and intervention.

Every stakeholder in this complex opioid epidemic has played a role in reaching this dreadful point, and now every stakeholder has a responsibility to help us address this crisis.

The Senate passed a bill earlier this year that has some good provisions and authorizes new programs, but it did not go far enough. It didn't provide additional funding for the crisis. Simply passing an authorizing bill and giving stirring speeches on the floor of the Senate is not going to solve the problem. It didn't address the overprescription of opioids, and it is time for us to be honest about this. I recently heard one of our leaders on this subject tell us: Well, we are going to start teaching the new doctors in medical school not to make the same mistakes. I am

sorry, but that is not good enough. Those who currently have the legal authority to prescribe have to change their ways to stop this epidemic. And the bills we considered didn't address the overproduction of these addictive drugs.

We can't solve this massive American problem with half measures. We need to come together—Congress, local government, law enforcement, health care providers, drug companies, doctors—to help solve this problem, and we need to do it as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, today, May 12, all postcloture time be considered expired and that following the disposition of the Alexander substitute amendment, the cloture motion on H.R. 2028 be withdrawn, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2577

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water appropriations bill, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2577, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill; further, that the pending amendments be withdrawn and that Senator COCHRAN or his designee be recognized to offer a substitute amendment that contains the text of S. 2844 and S. 2806 as reported by the Appropriations Committee with a technical citation correction in section 237 of S. 2844; further, that the substitute amendment be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for the purpose of rule XVI and that H.R. 2577 serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under rule XVI for the division of the substitute that contains S. 2844 and that H.R. 4974, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee, serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under rule XVI for the division of the substitute that contains S. 2806; finally, that floor amendments be drafted to one of the two divisions and use the corresponding House text for defense of germaneness and that rule XVI discipline apply during consideration of this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

ENERGY POLICY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today I rise to talk about a movement—a vision—called "Keep It in the Ground" and why it is so important to the future of our energy policy here in the United States and our energy strategy around the world.

The core challenge we face as citizens of this planet and as policymakers in the United States is that the impact of global warming is having devastating effects across our country and the world. We can simply look at my home State of Oregon and see that because the winters are warmer, and the pine beetles are thriving and killing a lot more trees. There is such a broad swath of dead trees that it is referred to as the red zone. You can fly above the red zone, as I have, in a plane and see—it feels like it is from horizon to horizon—this swath of red. It is causing extraordinary damage to the forests, and it impacts the natural ecosystem and timber industry, which is a key part of the economy of Oregon.

We could go across the State to the Oregon coast where the oyster industry started having severe problems about the time I was elected to the Senate. The problem was rooted in the fact that baby oysters were dying, and they couldn't figure out why. They thought that perhaps it was due to a bacteria or virus. They had help from research scientists who stepped in to study the situation. It turned out to be the increasing acidity of the Pacific Ocean, and that acidity was making it very hard for the baby oysters to form a shell. As a result, they were dying.

So they artificially manipulated the acidity of the water that the baby oysters were bred in, and that is helping quite a bit. What other challenges are there for the food chain in the oceans if our oceans have absorbed so much carbon and produced so much carbonic acid that it is affecting the formation of shells on our oysters?

What else will start going wrong? We can turn to the changing weather patterns that are producing drought and floods with greater intensity and understand the impact on agriculture. We can look to the Klamath Basin in my State, which has had the three worst droughts within a 15-year period. We can look at the impact of the snowpack in the Cascades and realize and see the decline of the winter snow entertainment industry.

We can look around the country and see all kinds of other impacts. We see that the moose are dying in the northeastern part of the United States because the winters are not cold enough to kill the ticks. The ticks are killing the moose and the moose are disappearing.

We can look at Louisiana. Recent reports say that they are losing a football field's worth of coastline every 48



minutes due to global warming. That is less than an hour. That is a substantial amount of land that is disappearing hour after hour, day after day, week after week, month after month, and, of course, year after year. It is having a huge impact.

We have come to understand that as the weather warms, certain insects that provide hosts to various diseases gain a greater terrain. As the temperature changes, mosquitoes from the southern part of the United States are moving north, and two of those mosquitoes carry the Zika virus. That is just one example of the concerns that are presented by changing insect populations.

We can look at the impact on the lobsters in Maine. The lobsters are moving north as the water warms in Maine. They are also dealing with the loss of their cod fishery because of the changing water temperatures.

The impact is everywhere. For anyone who looks across the United States and does not recognize that we are in an extraordinary time of multiple changes in the weather patterns, temperatures, and the impacts on animals, insects, agriculture, and timber—if you can't see that, you are really choosing not to look, and we cannot afford not to look. It is our responsibility to be aware of what is happening, why it is happening, and how we need to respond. That is why I am on the floor today.

I am here to talk about "Keep It in the Ground." I will be doing a series of speeches about different components of the challenge we have in responding to global warming. A part of those conversations will involve looking at these various effects in more detail, such as what I have already mentioned, and other speeches will talk about the promise of new policy strategies, new technologies, new investments, mission innovations, et cetera, that provide a glimmer of hope of what is happening here in the United States and across the globe.

Here is the challenge. What this all boils down to is that these problems are created by the massive burning of fossil fuels. I think people are generally aware that fossil fuels are created by hundreds of millions of years in which plant life has settled to the bottom of the ocean, then is trapped and submerged. Over time, it is converted into coal, oil, and natural gas. We are pulling out that carbon that has developed over these hundreds of millions of years in a very short span of a few generations on this planet—just over the last 150 years. It has been just over the last 150 years. We have been burning it so it is putting this massive infusion of carbon dioxide back into the air and changing the chemistry of our air. Therefore, it is changing the heat retention of our thin layer of atmosphere that covers our planet and thereby

warming our planet—the greenhouse effect as it is referred to.

So our core challenge is to pivot from burning fossil fuels for energy to other forms of energy that do not put carbon dioxide into the air and to do so in a very short period of time.

Naturally, this leads to the question: How much of these fossil fuels can we continue to burn without devastating consequences? That is something that is referred to as the climate math, and that is what I am going to turn to now.

The basic situation is, we have proven reserves that equate to about 2,800 gigatons of carbon dioxide. Those are fossil fuels in the ground equating to about 2,800 gigatons of carbon dioxide. If we were to burn all of those proven reserves that we have in the ground currently, we would massively accelerate global warming, and with the feedback mechanisms, that is disastrous for our planet.

The international community has gotten together and said: What do we need to aim at in order to avoid these catastrophic consequences? There will be serious consequences. We already have serious consequences and we can't avoid them. How do we avoid catastrophic consequences? The general position they have put forward is that we need to limit the warming of the planet to no more than 2 degrees centigrade. In the United States, we primarily operate in terms of Fahrenheit, so we translate 2 degrees centigrade to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

Since the time we started burning coal until now, we have already raised the temperature of the planet about half that amount—1 degree centigrade or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit. So we are already halfway toward the limit beyond which the effects become more and more catastrophic. As scientists have evaluated that 2,800 gigatons of carbon dioxide trapped in fossil fuels and asked how much more can we burn, they essentially have come to the conclusion that we can burn about one-fifth of it—one-fifth of the proven reserves.

Let's translate what that means. That means, to avoid catastrophe, we have to leave 80 percent of the proven reserves in the ground. This is an enormous challenge for human society—for governments and policymakers and individuals across the planet—to undertake because every owner of those proven reserves has the knowledge that their coal, their oil, their natural gas has substantial value on the market. They want to preserve the ability to extract it out of the ground and sell it for combustion. For example, some oil is used in making plastics, but the great majority is utilized in combustion—the creation of energy. That is where this challenge is coming from.

So how do we go about creating policies that keep 80 percent of the proven reserves in the ground, when they have

so much value to their owners and the owners want to retain the ability to extract them? That is the challenge we face. It is an extraordinarily difficult challenge.

The reason I particularly want to emphasize this "Keep It in the Ground" movement is it shines a bright light on this carbon math, this global warming math.

When we talk about, well, the planet is getting warmer, and we have to burn less so we need to make our buildings more energy efficient, that is absolutely true, and we should do everything to make our buildings more energy efficient, but it doesn't convey the fundamental understanding of the size of the challenge we face, which is to keep 80 percent of the proven reserves in the ground.

When we talk about the need to make our cars more fuel efficient in order to burn less gasoline, which means burn less oil to produce less carbon dioxide, that is true. We absolutely need to make our cars more energy efficient, but talking about that doesn't convey the enormity of the challenge, which is to keep 80 percent of the proven reserves in the ground. When we talk about the need to move more freight on trucks that are more efficient and shift more freight to trains because they are more fuel efficient, that also is absolutely true, but again it doesn't convey the key challenge.

As we look at each of these areas of strategy and conservation, all of them are tools we are going to need to use to keep our reserves in the ground. We are also going to need to use other tools. Those tools certainly involve a quick pivot to produce more renewable energy to substitute for the electricity that is generated by the burning of coal and the burning of natural gas. We have to pivot quickly, but again, when we talk about pivoting quickly, it doesn't convey the size of the challenge.

What is that challenge? We must leave 80 percent of the proven reserves in the world in the ground. That is the challenge. So we must do energy conservation. We must proceed to pivot quickly to renewable energy, but we need to understand the urgency, the speed with which we do so because we have a limited carbon budget.

On this chart, the layout in the orange bar is the size of the proven reserves that are in the ground. Here, with this yellow bar, is the amount of fossil fuels we can burn and not exceed 2 degrees centigrade or a 3.6-degree Fahrenheit temperature change.

As we can see, the vast bulk of the reserves that are in the ground have to be left in the ground. That is the 80 percent that has to be left in the ground. This "Keep It in the Ground" movement is all about understanding this core carbon math and crafting policies in which we emphasize that we

are on a pathway to achieving success; that is, to leave this 80 percent in the ground.

This also leads to a conversation about the U.S. ownership of a vast amount of fossil fuels. You and I, as citizens of the United States, we are owners of a huge amount of coal, a huge amount of natural gas, a huge amount of oil. We don't think of ourselves as energy barons, but each and every one of us as citizens collectively own a vast amount of fossil fuels because on Federal land there is a tremendous amount of oil, a tremendous amount of coal, and a tremendous amount of natural gas. We have the responsibility in the Senate and in the House and in the executive branch to manage what we own as citizens of the United States for the public good.

In the past, managing for the public good meant let's do leases and raise some revenue for the Federal Government, and we have leased out about 10 percent of the carbon reserves that we own as citizens—our citizen-owned carbon, fossil fuel reserves—but 90 percent of it has not been leased out. When we do a lease, it creates a legal contract in which the individual company that has purchased the lease now has the right to extract that oil, to extract that natural gas, to extract that coal for years to come, and to renew the lease. There are many leases that result in extraction going on for decades—for 10 years, for 20 years but even three decades, four decades, five decades into the future. We cannot afford, as Americans or as citizens of this planet, to be facilitating the extraction of fossil fuels to be burned three, four, or five decades into the future. There is no way that the world is going to meet this challenge of keeping 80 percent of the carbon in the ground, 80 percent of their fossil fuels in the ground if the public entities can't even exercise discipline not to extract and burn these fossil fuels.

So how much do we own? How big of oil barons are the citizens of the United States? How much oil and natural gas and coal do we have? Well, the total amount measured in terms of carbon dioxide is about 300 to 450 gigatons. That is this green bar. If we think about the 80 percent we leave in the ground, that substantial amount, which is over 2,000 gigatons, this amount we own as citizens is a substantial percentage. It has been estimated to be in the range of about 14 to 20 percent of the amount the world needs to leave in the ground.

So if we make the decision as Americans to leave what we own in the ground to save our planet, we have helped set the world on a course in which we reach this 80 percent target of what is left in the ground, but if we can't exercise discipline and quit leasing out our fossil fuel reserves, often at \$1 or \$2 per acre—if we can't stop that,

how can we anticipate adopting the policies necessary to help lead the world in this enormous challenge?

So this has led to the keep-it-in-the-ground bill I introduced last year. The keep-it-in-the-ground bill says the fossil fuel reserves that you and I own best serve the public good by not burning them, by not doing new leases for extraction—extraction that will continue 30, 40, 50 years into the future; that we cannot afford to do that without devastating consequences to our planet. The existing leases—we have already leased out 10 percent of the fossil fuel reserves, which means there isn't a complete shutdown of the fossil fuel enterprise on public lands, but it does mean we are not going to go any further or, as it has been put, if you are in a hole, quit digging. In this case, we are in a carbon hole and we absolutely need to quit digging.

There have been a number of Senators sign on to the keep-it-in-the-ground bill, recognizing the best, highest use of our citizen-owned fossil fuels is to keep them in the ground, and I appreciate their support a great deal.

There has also been a series of conversations around the country since the time the bill was introduced that have been very relevant or related to these issues. The first conversation was about the Keystone Pipeline. Should we build a pipeline that turns the tap on to some of the dirtiest fossil fuels on the planet, the Canadian tar sands? The answer is no. Those tar sands need to be left in the ground. We need a Canadian keep-it-in-the-ground movement to say that Canada, too, is going to utilize its citizen-owned fossil fuels at the highest purpose, which is to leave them in the ground, to keep them in the ground. Certainly, the United States shouldn't be facilitating the extraction by building a convenient, cheap way to move those fossil fuels out of the ground. So I applaud all of those who stood with humanity in this key mission and said no to the Keystone Pipeline.

Another aspect has been offshore drilling. There was a big conversation about drilling in the Arctic. The Arctic, because it is so cold and frozen and full of ice, has been a terrain, particularly offshore, where drilling is extraordinarily difficult, with extreme risk of oilspill. Should an oilspill occur in very cold water, that means the damage will be enormous because the oil will break down so slowly. So I put forward a keep-it-in-the-ground bill for no offshore drilling in the Arctic. And that is not the bill we have had action on here in the Senate, but, as it turns out, we have moved forward. Shell, which was the leading company to explore offshore in the Arctic, sent ships up for several years. They had one calamity after another, one disaster after another because of the harsh and challenging circumstances. Citizens in the

United States, in a grassroots movement, said: Shell, no. Shell, no. This is wrong. This is the height of irresponsibility to our environment and to have the U.S. leading extraction in a whole new area. We should be leading the Arctic nations and leaving the Arctic off limits as part of this "Keep It in the Ground" movement, not leading the front edge of extraction.

Well, Shell abandoned its leases, both because of the difficulty of drilling and because of citizen reaction here at home saying what they were doing is wrong. I thank Shell for ending its Arctic drilling program, and I thank the administration for saying that they are not going to issue any more leases for drilling in the Arctic waters.

Let's go further. The United States is the chair of the Arctic Council. Let's use that chairmanship to lead nations in putting the Arctic off-limits. That would be a tremendous collaborative effort among a small group of nations to move forward this "Keep It in the Ground" movement and to save our planet.

Another big piece of this conversation has been about coal leases. As I mentioned, we often lease acres of coal for just a few dollars. It is no substantial revenue in the large scheme of things to the United States. It is hugely beneficial to the cheap extraction of coal, though, which is the opposite of the direction we need to go. So we need to quit doing new coal leases. That is part of the keep-it-in-the-ground bill I introduced. No more leases of citizen-owned fossil fuels. And the Obama administration has now suspended its leases on coal, new coal leases. That is a tremendous event. Part of what the administration said was that we need to pause and evaluate the impact on global warming in doing these leases.

We need to also evaluate the impact on American leadership in the world on this major issue facing humanity. If we are telling other nations "Please don't burn coal. Please expand your use of renewable energy and do it quickly," how is that consistent? How is our plea for partnership—because we must do this as a collection of nations—how is our request for partnership in this great and important mission of our generation consistent with us continuing new leases of coal? It certainly is not consistent. We need to put an end to these coal leases, and I applaud the administration. And in the next administration, whether it is Democratic or Republican, we need to work together to do no new coal leases. So that was a tremendous step forward in this effort.

Back in December, nearly 200 nations came together to work together to create an international accord with the singular goal of reducing the burning of fossil fuels and converting to renewable energy or reducing the burning of

fossil fuels because of energy conservation. The countries made a variety of pledges. One of those countries that made those pledges was India. I had a chance to lead a bilateral meeting between legislators from the United States and members of the Government of India. They said: We have 300 million citizens in India who do not have access to electricity. As a national government, we have to expand our electric infrastructure to provide electricity for a basic standard of living and basic economic development.

We can certainly understand that mission. We went through rural electrification. Our goal was to make sure there was wiring in every house in America to improve the standard of living for Americans. So Americans we are certainly understanding of the goal of the Indian Government.

They proceeded to say this: Right now we plan to provide electricity to 100 million individuals through renewable energy and 200 million citizens of India through coal-burning power.

It almost causes your heart to sink, this plan for massive increases in coal-burning in India.

So here is an opportunity. How can we in the United States work with India so they can meet that demand of 300 million citizens with conservation and renewable energy rather than new coal plants? How can we work in partnership with China as they work to provide electricity to their hundreds of millions of individuals and to do so with renewable energy and conservation, not new coal-burning plants? This is a challenge for us, and an important challenge, but we certainly have no credibility talking to India about trying to make sure they do no new coal-burning plants if we are signing new leases to extract coal off of our public lands. Credibility is very important in this international conversation.

It has been said that we are the first generation to feel the impacts of global warming and we are the last generation to be able to do something about it. That is profoundly true. That is the moral challenge to American leaders in our generation. That is the moral challenge to international leaders in our generation. Our children and our children's children, our children's grandchildren and great-grandchildren are going to say: You were the generation that saw the impact of global warming on our Nation and on our planet, and you knew from the science that we had to move quickly to pivot off of fossil fuels, and yet you did too little and you damaged the quality of life for billions of children and children of children for generations to come because of your short-term failure to act.

Let that not be the story told by our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. Let them instead say: That generation was the first to see the impact of global warming and

know they had to act quickly to reverse the steady climb of temperature on our planet. Let's thank them because they saw the challenge and they acted, and we are forever indebted to them for doing so.

Let that be the story that is told. Let this be the moment that we act.

Thank you, Madam President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, in about 15 minutes, the Senate will vote on final passage of the Energy and Water appropriations bill that the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and I have been working on with Members of the Senate for the last few weeks. The Senate began consideration of this bill on Wednesday, April 20.

According to the Congressional Research Service, this is the earliest date the Senate has begun debating an appropriations bill in the last 40 years. When we finish today, this will be the earliest the Senate has passed an appropriations bill in the last 40 years.

Eighty Senators either submitted requests or offered amendments to the bill. Senator FEINSTEIN and I have worked hard to accommodate most of those. The last time this bill, the Energy and Water appropriations bill, was considered by the Senate and passed in regular order was in the year 2009. By "regular order," I mean it came to the floor, it had an open amendment process, all 100 Senators had a chance to participate in it, instead of just the 30 on the Appropriations Committee, and it was eventually voted on and approved.

Yesterday, the Senate voted to end debate on the substitute amendment by a vote of 97 to 2. As I mentioned, today we are ready for final passage in about 15 minutes. By the end of this process, we will have considered 21 amendments and adopted 14.

I appreciate my colleagues supporting the regular appropriations process. I thank Senators who offered germane and relevant amendments, and I hope we can now overwhelmingly pass the bill.

I begin by pointing something out. It is appropriate that we have in the chair the Senator from Georgia, who has devoted so much of his time this year to reforming our budget process.

This is the part of the budget that we are working on. It is a little more than a trillion dollars, and it is not the Federal spending problem that we have. This is 2008 through about today, and you can see that spending levels are

pretty flat. This is the projection by the Congressional Budget Office about where spending for this part of the budget will go over the next several years.

What is in this blue line? It is all of our national defense; all of the work we need, such as in this bill, to deepen the harbors in Savannah and in Charleston; all the money for our national laboratories; all the money for our Pell grants for college students; and the money for the National Institutes of Health for treatments and cancer cures. In this part of the budget—in this trillion dollars that we work on—there are very important matters that virtually everyone who votes for us would like to see us address. I believe those of us on the Appropriations Committee have done a good job of oversight of this trillion dollars in spending.

Here is where the problem is—this red line. This is the entitlement spending. It gets to be three times as much as this blue line. It is up toward \$4 trillion. This is \$1 trillion.

This is where we need to go to work. Sometimes Senators of each party will come to the floor and beat their chests, bragging about cutting this blue line as if they were doing something about the red line. I hope we will stop that. I hope we will go to work and figure out what we are going to do to responsibly keep this line under control as we go forward.

What we have done—with the cooperation of the Senate in the last couple of weeks—is to pass the first of the Senate appropriations bills and to do it earlier than it has been done in the last 4 years.

I see the Senator from California has arrived. I wish to acknowledge her leadership and thank her for it. In her words, we give and we take. We have a process whereby we stick to our principles, but we do our best to come to a result, which we have done. It is a great pleasure to work with her.

I am going to cease my remarks 5 minutes or 6 minutes before the vote so that Senator FEINSTEIN will have a chance to speak if she would like to speak.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Thank you.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I also wish to thank the staffs for their work on this bill. They have been remarkably good. In Senator FEINSTEIN's staff are Doug Clapp, Chris Hanson, Samantha Nelson, and Tim Dykstra.

The staff on my side includes Tyler Owens, Adam DeMella, Meyer Seligman, Jen Armstrong, Haley Alexander, David Cleary, Allison Martin, Mackenzie Burt, Lucas DaPieve, Kayla McMurray, and John Rivard.

Then I thank the Republican floor staff, who have had to put up with us as we have had tried to work through the amendments: Laura Dove, Robert Duncan, Megan Mercer, Chris Tuck,

Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Tony Hanagan, Mike Smith, and Katherine Kilroy.

I thank the Democratic floor staff as well for working with us and making this possible.

I will make a few remarks about this bill. This bill is almost half and half defense and nondefense, about \$37.5 billion. It supports several Federal agencies that do important work, including the U.S. Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, National Nuclear Security Administration, which has to do with our nuclear weapons, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

It invests in our waterways. It repairs our locks. It deepens our harbors. It puts us one step closer to doubling basic energy research. It helps to resolve the nuclear waste stalemate that our country has been in for 25 years, finding appropriate places to put used nuclear fuel so we can continue to have a strong nuclear power program—which produces 60 percent of all the carbon-free electricity we have in this country—and it cleans up hazardous materials at Cold War sites.

I mentioned earlier that I thought we had done a good job of being stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. That is this blue line here. We have kept this under control.

For example, Senator FEINSTEIN and I have again recommended—and the Senate has agreed—to eliminate funding for a fusion project in France. That saves us \$125 million.

We worked together to help keep big projects such as the uranium facility at Oak Ridge on time and on budget. We are working with Senator GRAHAM, Senator SCOTT, and Senator MCCAIN to try to take the big MOX facility in South Carolina and see what we can do about the huge expense of what we are doing there. We are being good stewards.

The President cut \$1.4 billion from the Corps of Engineers. Well, we put it back. We set a new record level of funding for the Corps. There is no funding line in this budget that more Senators are concerned with.

It includes \$1.3 billion for the Harbor Maintenance Fund. It is the third consecutive year that we have done that, consistent with the recommendations of our authorizing committees. That deepens harbors in Gulfport, Charleston, Mobile, Texas harbors, Louisiana harbors, Anchorage Harbor, and Savannah Harbor. There is money for the west coast harbors as well.

We take a step toward doubling basic energy research. Our top priority was the Office of Science, which for the second consecutive year has a record level of funding for an appropriations bill.

There is \$325 million for ARPA-E, an agency we value because of the good work it does.

We support the administration's request to keep the United States at the

forefront of supercomputing in the world.

As I mentioned, we support nuclear power, especially efforts to find places to put used nuclear fuel.

We have again included the pilot program Senator FEINSTEIN authored, and which I support, and support for private waste facilities that could also serve that same function.

We have money for advanced reactors and for safely extending the length of time nuclear plants can operate, which is the easiest way to keep the largest amount of reliable carbon-free electricity available over the next several years.

In terms of the National Nuclear Security Administration, we support the warhead life extension programs and the *Ohio*-class replacement submarine. We have \$575 million for the uranium facility, and \$5.4 billion for cleaning up hazardous wastesites left over from the Cold War.

I am proud of the bill, but I am even more proud of the process which we have gone through. This has almost been a learning process for the Senate. More than half of the Senators have never been through a process where we take more than one appropriations bill, take it through committee, consult with every Member of the Senate, bring it on the floor, and give all 100 Members a chance to offer amendments and consider their amendments.

We have processed 21 amendments and have adopted 14. Almost any Senator who had a contribution to make that they wanted to make to this bill has had a chance to do that. There is a great deal included in here that every Senator can be proud of. I suspect that is why on the last vote that we had to cut off debate and move toward final passage, the vote was 97 to 2.

I hope we have that same enthusiasm when it comes time in a few moments to have a vote on final passage of the bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to begin by extending my congratulations to our chairman.

You are a distinguished chairman, and it really has been a great pleasure for me to work with you. I think we have accomplished a task which hopefully sets an example for other bills that will be shortly forthcoming. But, more importantly than anything, it is really the integrity, sincerity, and earnestness with which you go about this job of chairing this subcommittee. I am very pleased to be Tonto to your Lone Ranger. So thank you very much for that.

The chairman has been very distinct in his remarks about pointing out some of the major features, but we have one major infrastructure program in our bill, and that, of course, is the Army

Corps of Engineers—other than, I should say, the highway bill.

That is \$1.4 billion over the budget request. I think that is a very good number that should enable more projects that are vital all across this great land to move forward.

The second is the Bureau of Reclamation, and that is \$163 million over the budget request. It includes \$100 million for western drought.

We have 17 States within the Bureau of Reclamation's jurisdiction. What is happening with dryness in the western part of the United States is really a very serious threat to the economic and social well-being of our country. I am very pleased at that mark.

All applied energy accounts are funded at levels equal to current-year levels. We have increased funding for cleaning up nuclear sites, including the WIPP site in New Mexico and the Hanford site in the State of Washington. We matched the budget request for nuclear nonproliferation. Actually, this includes MOX funding of \$270 million.

The chairman spent some time on the floor, and I did as well, in terms of making the point that what appropriations bills really concern is but 15 percent for what is called domestic discretionary and 15 percent for military discretionary. Together, they are but 30 percent of what the Federal Government expends and outlays each year. The fact of the matter is that 63 percent of the money that is spent in a given fiscal year—2016—goes for entitlements and mandates: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, and all the other mandatory programs. They are not actually in the budget.

This is the huge spending, and interest on the debt is 6.3 percent. That brings the mandatory spending up to nearly 70 percent of what we spend in fiscal year 2016. In fiscal year 2017, it will go up slightly from there so that the relative amount of spending that these bills contain is very small in comparison to the amount the Federal Government actually spends.

There are a lot of people who think we should do more with entitlements and increase that 63 percent of total spending to even more. That is a question that remains to be seen, but how you pay for all of that is a totally different and more difficult story.

I extend my congratulations to the distinguished Senator from Tennessee on passing this bill. We have not passed a free-standing Energy and Water bill on this floor for 7 years, since 2009, when Senators Dorgan and Bob Bennett were chair and ranking member. Not only are we passing the bill, but we are passing a good bill.

I thank the subcommittee staff for their work. Interestingly enough, the staff had only 12 days from receiving a notional allocation, which is how much we can spend, to help us produce a bill

and report it for subcommittee consideration.

So let me thank Tyler Owens, Meyer Seligman, Adam DeMella, Jennifer Armstrong, and on our minority side, Doug Clapp, Chris Hanson, Samantha Nelson, and Tim Dykstra for their hard work.

I would also like to recognize the work done by Senator ALEXANDER's personal office and my own in helping get this bill passed.

Frankly, I want to thank the floor staff on both sides of the aisle. They were really helpful and, in addition to that, they were patient and willing to provide some guidance. So I thank them as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 3876

The question is on agreeing to Flake amendment No. 3876.

The amendment (No. 3876) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3801, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the substitute amendment No. 3801, as amended.

The amendment (No. 3801), as amended, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion on H.R. 2028 is withdrawn.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 71 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Cardin	Donnelly
Ayotte	Carper	Durbin
Baldwin	Casey	Enzi
Barrasso	Cassidy	Ernst
Bennet	Coats	Feinstein
Blumenthal	Cochran	Franken
Blunt	Collins	Gardner
Booker	Coons	Gillibrand
Boozman	Corker	Graham
Brown	Cornyn	Grassley
Burr	Cotton	Hatch
Cantwell	Crapo	Heinrich
Capito	Daines	Heitkamp

Hirono	Merkley	Schumer
Hoeven	Mikulski	Scott
Inhofe	Moran	Shaheen
Isakson	Murkowski	Shelby
Johnson	Murphy	Stabenow
Kaine	Murray	Sullivan
King	Nelson	Tester
Kirk	Perdue	Thune
Klobuchar	Peters	Tillis
Lankford	Portman	Toomey
Leahy	Reed	Udall
Manchin	Reid	Vitter
Markey	Risch	Warner
McCain	Roberts	Warren
McCaskill	Rounds	Whitehouse
McConnell	Rubio	Wicker
Menendez	Schatz	Wyden

NAYS—8

Cruz	Heller	Sasse
Fischer	Lee	Sessions
Flake	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Boxer	Sanders
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The bill (H.R. 2028), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in morning business for 20 minutes, equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to reiterate something I am sure Senator FEINSTEIN would agree with. First, I thank the majority leader for scheduling our bill early. He scheduled it earlier than any appropriations bill has been scheduled in the last 40 years. The reason I am sure she agrees with that is because she told me that and because not only did the majority leader make this a priority but so did the Democratic leader, Senator REID, and all of the Democratic Senators.

We worked hard to try to set an example for the Senate for the next 11 appropriations bills. According to the Congressional Research Service, this is the earliest the Senate has passed an appropriations bill in the last 40 years. More than that, the vote was 90 to 8, which is an unusually large bipartisan vote for such a large and complex bill. I think that reflects on the fact that more than 80 Senators made contributions to this bill. We processed more than 21 amendments. Our experience is, when Senators have a lot of input into a bill, they are more comfortable with it and more likely to support it.

I especially thank not just the leaders but the Republican and the Democratic floor staffs for helping us with this. Passing a bill like this is more of an exercise in human nature sometimes than it is an exercise in policy, and they are the essential grease in

making that happen. I thank them very much for it.

This is the basic constitutional work of the U.S. Senate. Both the Republican and Democratic leaders have gotten us back on track in doing this. I appreciate having the chance to be a part of it. I thank the Senators for their cooperation with Senator FEINSTEIN and me as we set out to get what I believe is an excellent result for the people of this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

WORK OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the American people have been frustrated in recent years with the dysfunction they see in Washington. Their assessment of us has been correct. The biggest symbol of dysfunction has been the inability, as the chairman of our Energy and Water Development Subcommittee just pointed out, to do the basic work of government.

There are 12 bills that fund the government, the basic work of government. We haven't passed each of those 12 bills since 1994. So under majorities of both parties, we have had at least some degree of dysfunction, and in recent years they all get balled up into one great big bill. It looks awful, and that is no way to conduct the affairs of the government.

I said that we were going to devote the floor time, which is always at a premium in the Senate, to give us a chance to do the work of what we were sent to do, regardless of party. Fortunately, we had Chairman ALEXANDER, who is arguably the best—or maybe the second best only to the Senator from Maine—bill manager on our side, take up the first bill, and there were some snags along the way. It took a little bit longer than we had hoped, but we have completed it. We have completed it at a record early time. We are going to keep on doing this right up until we break on July 15 to go to the conventions.

We are going to give the Senate every opportunity to do the basic work of government this year. Some have said that because it is an election year, we can't do much. I would like to remind everyone that we have had a regularly scheduled election in this country every 2 years since 1788 right on time. I heard some people say we can't do it because we have an election next year, and others have said we can't do whatever it is because we have an election this year. We have elections in this country right on time, and that is not an excuse not to do our work.

We will turn to transportation, which is chaired by the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, and military construction, chaired by Senator KIRK. We are going to bind those two together and move them across the floor, and then

we are going to turn to the National Defense Authorization Act and pass that before the Memorial Day break, and then we are going to turn to the Defense appropriations bill right after authorization, and hopefully we can do that in a record short period of time because all of the amendments should have been offered on the authorization bill which will come right before it.

I thank Senator ALEXANDER for his good work and look forward to having Senator COLLINS pick up the baton and continuing the great progress we are making.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, before the Senator from Tennessee leaves the floor, I, too, wish to commend him for his excellent stewardship of this highly complex appropriations bill and for the cooperative way in which he worked with the ranking member, Senator FEINSTEIN, and indeed all of the Members, not only those on the Appropriations Committee but the entire Senate. Senator ALEXANDER deserves a great deal of credit.

I also commend our leader for making it a priority for us to get the appropriations work done. Never before in recent years have we started the process so early. The Appropriations Committee has completed its hearings, we have marked up several bills, and we are proceeding with floor consideration. This will avoid a situation that I believe all of us really abhor, and that is being faced with voting for repeated continuing resolutions at the end of the fiscal year which lock in last year's priorities and do not reflect this year's priorities, or the bills are bundled together into an omnibus bill that is many thousands of pages long and does not receive the kind of in-depth debate and amendments it deserves. I commend the leader of the Senate for making this a priority and for ensuring that we are all doing our job.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Arizona be permitted to speak in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

#### FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, in the fall of 2014, an outbreak had the world

on edge in West Africa. The Ebola virus had come about, and three countries were being decimated. It was at this time that the director of the National Institutes of Health gave an interview where he argued that a vaccine would likely be available if the Congress had enough funding for the agency. He added that the Ebola virus had forced NIH to divert money from other critical research.

These are striking charges, especially for an agency that has a budget of \$30 billion. So it stands to reason that if underfunding NIH was allowing a crisis such as this, we ought to be appropriating more money to the agency.

We cannot ignore the fact, obviously, that at that time the Nation was \$18 trillion in debt and running nearly a half-trillion-dollar deficit. So I began to look into NIH funding and some of the research projects that were being funded. Here are some of the questions I found researchers were trying to find answers to.

One of the questions they were trying to find answers to at the NIH, and this was part of a taxpayer-funded study or grant, is: Why do some people see Jesus's face on toast? That is right, a taxpayer-funded study to determine why people see the face of Jesus on toast.

Another study that was funded by NIH is: Do drunk birds slur when they sing? That was part of a \$5 million NIH grant that found not only is the answer yes, but according to NIH standards, there is a binge-drinking bird out there now.

They also wanted to answer the question of: What type of music do monkeys and chimpanzees prefer to listen to? I am not sure what is more surprising, the fact that the NIH wanted to study this or that the answer is Metallica.

Another thing they wanted to study: Is yawning contagious? I would say anyone who has ever listened to a Senator give a speech knows the answer is yes, but the NIH decided to spend taxpayer money to study it anyway.

So I began seeing projects being funded by other research arms within the Federal Government, including the National Science Foundation and DARPA in the Defense Department. Here are some of the questions those agencies are using their multibillion-dollar budgets to try to answer: Where does it hurt to be stung most by a bee? One researcher used part of a \$1 million NSF grant to sting each part of his body. He came to the conclusion it is most painful on the nostrils or on the lips or on other, shall we say, more sensitive areas, although he admitted his adviser would not allow him to be stung on the eyeball so we really don't know which body part holds the title of being the most painful.

Another thing that was studied by NSF and DARPA is: Who will be America's next top model? That is right.

Taxpayer money was spent to try to find out who would be America's next top model. Researchers used taxpayer money to scour Twitter and Instagram to develop scientific models that could forecast success for models in the fashion industry. It turns out that having a strong social media presence helps more than meeting the industry's "aesthetic standards." This is a phenomenon the researchers dubbed the "Kendall Jenner effect." Not surprising there.

Another study was: Are chimpanzees better gamers than humans? At least one chimpanzee that was sometimes bribed with candy to keep working was better than humans at gaming. Unfortunately, that chimpanzee has since died from complications from diabetes. That study which found that humans are not above trying to cheat in order to beat a chimp at a video game was part of a \$340,000 grant awarded by NSF and NIH.

I am not going around here trying to say that NIH, NSF, DARPA, and other federally funded research is a waste of money. It is not. To the contrary, I believe federally funded research can do wonderful and amazing things.

In 1961, at the height of the Cold War, the United States faced the Soviet Union in a heated space race. President John F. Kennedy stood before Congress and aimed for the Moon. He said:

I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth. No single space project in this period would be more impressive to mankind, or more important for the long-range exploration of space.

Armed with a clearly defined goal and backed by concentrated research from the Federal Government, America's best scientists, researchers, and engineers got to work. Eight years later, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were walking on the Moon. That is a towering feat that no country has ever been able to repeat. More than a half century later, that moonshot stands in stark contrast to a massive and disorderly constellation of federally funded science projects floating aimlessly in the Federal budget.

Projects that ask, for example: Are Republicans or Democrats more disgusted by eating worms? This researcher whom you will see in this picture found that the answer is that Republicans are more disgusted. That said, once folks hear that this study was funded with taxpayer money—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FLAKE. When folks hear that this study was funded by taxpayer dollars, I am sure there will be equal disgust by both Republicans and Democrats.

Another study was funded to see if one can outrun a dinosaur. The NSF and NIH gave taxpayer dollars to enterprising researchers who are not deterred by the fact that dinosaurs are now extinct. They found an alligator was close enough. They had to put him on a treadmill to find out how fast he could run. They found out what nobody—certainly not even the Presiding Officer from Louisiana—would discover; that alligators don't like treadmills very much. He wasn't very cooperative, but they went ahead with the study, and found that humans could probably outrun a dinosaur. It is a good thing.

"Are cheerleaders more attractive when they are a part of a squad?" was another study we funded. This was a NSF taxpayer-funded grant that was actually inspired by the sitcom "How I met Your Mother." They had something on that show called the cheerleader theory. Researchers found that the answer is, yes, cheerleaders are more attractive as part of a squad than individually. Their tongue-in-cheek research paper postulates that "having a few wingmen or wingwomen may indeed be good dating strategy, particularly if their facial features complement, and average out, one's unattractive idiosyncrasies."

That brings us full circle, as the White House has asked Congress to appropriate \$1.5 billion for emergency spending to tackle the latest crisis, Zika. I believe we do need to find a solution and a vaccine for the Zika virus, but we ought to look hard at the other things that these agencies are spending money on as we talk about more money for these research projects.

To that end, I have released "Twenty Questions: Government Studies that will Leave You Scratching Your Head." This is a study—you can see the cover here—the report not only profiles many of the questionable projects I have highlighted today, it seeks to set a path to ensure that our money is spent wisely.

The report recommends that these agencies set clearly defined national goals and objectives for federally funded research. Following the example set by President Kennedy's moonshot more than a half century ago, we ought to give the agencies a clear mission.

The report also recommends that agencies prioritize billions of dollars in existing Federal research funding to best meet the national goals in a manner that strengthens America's scientific leadership. We also need to ensure that these research projects are transparent. So when funding goes to these research projects, we ought to know how much is spent on each individual project, not just the broader grant. We don't know exactly how much money was spent on the cheerleader effect because we can't—they will not tell us.

I have introduced legislation in concert with this report which will require that the Federal agencies actually tell us how much money is spent on these individual projects.

It is time Washington sets clear goals for federally funded research and we improve transparency measures. I hope we can do so.

With that, Mr. President, I yield back.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Morning business is closed.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2577, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Collins/Reed amendment No. 2812, in the nature of a substitute.

Collins/Reed amendment No. 2813 (to amendment No. 2812), to make a technical amendment.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2812 AND 2813 WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the pending amendments are withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AMENDMENT NO. 3896

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I call up the Collins-Kirk substitute amendment No. 3896.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] proposes an amendment numbered 3896.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 3897 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3896

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up the Lee amendment No. 3897.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL], for Mr. LEE, proposes an amendment numbered 3897 to amendment No. 3896.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to carry out a rule and notice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development)

At the appropriate place in Division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the final rule of the Department of Housing and Urban Development entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" (80 Fed. Reg. 42272 (July 16, 2015)) or to carry out the notice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool" (79 Fed. Reg. 57949 (September 26, 2014)).

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3898, 3899, AND 3900 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3896

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be called up and reported by number: the Nelson amendment No. 3898, on Zika; the Cornyn amendment No. 3899, on Zika; and the Blunt-Murray amendment No. 3900, on Zika.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL], for others, proposes amendments numbered 3898, 3899, and 3900 en bloc to Amendment No. 3896.

(The amendments are printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Nelson amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3898 to amendment No. 3896 to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Marco Rubio, Debbie Stabenow, Harry Reid, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Al Franken, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert Menendez, Brian E. Schatz, Joe Manchin III, Bill Nelson, Charles E. Schumer, Michael F. Bennet, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall, Gary C. Peters.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Cornyn amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3899 to amendment No. 3896 to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Lamar Alexander, Richard C. Shelby, Thad Cochran, John McCain, Michael B. Enzi, Jeff Flake, John Cornyn, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Richard Burr, Bob Corker, Susan M. Collins, John Hoeven.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Blunt-Murray amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3900 to amendment No. 3896 to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Lamar Alexander, Richard C. Shelby, Thad Cochran, John McCain, Michael B. Enzi, Jeff Flake, John Cornyn, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Richard Burr, Bob Corker, Susan M. Collins, John Hoeven.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to begin the Senate debate on the fiscal year 2017 appropriations bill for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

This bill funds many programs that are essential to the American people.

Let me begin by thanking the committee chairman, Senator COCHRAN, and the vice chairwoman, Senator MIKULSKI, for their leadership in advancing this bill.

I also want to pay a special thank-you and acknowledge the hard work and commitment of Senator JACK REED, the ranking member of the subcommittee. The two of us have worked together so closely in drafting this bill, and we have worked to incorporate the recommendations of more than 70 Senators from both sides of the aisle.

This bill targets limited resources to programs that meet our most essential transportation and housing needs. It makes vital investments in our Nation's transportation infrastructure, providing \$16.9 billion for the Department of Transportation to support much needed upgrades to our roads, bridges, seaports, railroads, transit systems, and airports.

The bill will also provide \$39.2 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to meet the housing needs of low-income, disabled, and older Americans, to shelter the homeless, and to create jobs in our communities through economic development programs.

I want to underscore for our colleagues that we have met these essential needs in a fiscally responsible manner. Our bill is \$827 million below the current enacted funding levels, and \$2.9 billion below the President's budget request. We have also ignored gimmicks in the President's budget request that would shift more than \$7 billion in transportation programs from discretionary to mandatory spending.

The bill before us is critical to meeting the vast needs of our Nation's crumbling infrastructure. The TIGER Program is an example of a valuable program that helps do just that. We provide \$525 million for this oversubscribed program, which supports not only much needed infrastructure projects but also helps to create jobs and boost economic development in every one of our home States.

The need for the TIGER Program is demonstrated by the statistics. Last year, 625 applicants from all 50 States and territories requested nearly \$10 billion in assistance illustrating the need for and the popularity of this vital program. To maintain our Nation's airspace and ensure that it remains the safest in the world, \$16.4 billion is provided to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Funding is increased to continue to modernize the Nation's air traffic control system, support the research and safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the airspace, and to help improve our Nation's airport infrastructure.

Consistent with the FAST Act, which we passed at the end of last year, \$44 billion is made available for the Fed-

eral-Aid Highway Programs, including the new freight program and the FASTLANE grant for critical freight and highway projects. I also want to highlight several safety-related provisions included in our bill that will enhance the safety of commercial motor carrier vehicles.

Regrettably, the Department of Transportation has continued to delay its proposed rule on speed governors which will improve safety on our Nation's roadways by preventing commercial trucks and busdrivers from speeding. Once again, our bill requires the Department to issue the proposed rule expeditiously since the Department has already missed the deadline established in last year's omnibus funding bill by Congress.

The growth of autonomous vehicle technologies, or driverless cars, has led the Department to reexamine existing regulations and policies that could affect the safe deployment of these vehicles. Our bill provides additional funding to ensure the safe deployment of autonomous vehicles onto our Nation's roadways and to reduce the cyber security vulnerabilities in their electronics.

The bill also builds on the critical infrastructure investments for rail, providing \$50 million for railway safety grants to address the serious and troubling problem of rail accidents. Additional funding is provided to help address the substantial backlog of rail infrastructure needing repair.

For housing programs, this bill provides sufficient funding to renew all existing rental assistance for section 8, for public housing, elderly, and disabled housing programs. The Appropriations Committee continues to face constraints that required us to make difficult decisions regarding funding at a time when resources are limited under the 2015 budget agreement.

Our priority is to ensure that our Nation's most vulnerable individuals and families do not lose assistance that prevents many of them from being at risk of homelessness. Therefore, the bill provides necessary funding to keep pace with the rising cost of housing to these families who might otherwise become homeless.

It is important that rental assistance supports those who truly need it. However, we are aware of a recent HUD inspector general report that found that more than 25,000 households had incomes in excess of qualifying limits. We don't have extra money available to pour into households where the individuals don't meet the eligibility requirements. In response to this finding by the IG, we have included language prompting HUD to update its regulations that ensure there is a process in place to identify and transition such households out of public housing when it is appropriate.



The transportation-housing appropriations bill faces challenges stemming from these unavoidable increases for rental assistance for low-income families and disabled and elderly individuals. In fact, rental assistance alone consumes more than half of our subcommittee's allocation and is a shocking 84 percent of HUD's budget. That makes funding other important needs difficult.

Nevertheless, Senator REED and I share a passion about reducing and ending homelessness. Therefore, we have included \$2.33 billion for homeless assistance grants, and we have also managed to make critical investments to reduce homelessness among our veterans and our youth.

To further help homeless young people, we provided \$40 million in grants that are targeting this underserved population. Additionally, to better support youth who are exiting the Foster Care Program, the system includes \$20 million for family unification vouchers and makes changes to this program to improve its effectiveness. I know many Members share our concern that young people who age out of the Foster Care Program should have—must have—somewhere safe to go.

For our Nation's homeless veterans, the bill provides \$57 million, including \$7 million to serve our Native American veterans living on tribal lands. Despite the administration once again this year proposing to eliminate this program, the subcommittee continues to provide funding, recognizing that while we are making progress—veterans homelessness has decreased by 36 percent since the year 2010—we have yet to reach the goal of ending homelessness among our veterans. As the percentage of homeless veterans continues to decrease, less funding will be needed.

Senator REED played an absolutely essential role in another important issue that we address in this bill; that is, the presence of lead paint in homes, which is of particular concern to families with children under the age of 6. Our bill requires HUD to expeditiously complete its rulemaking to update its lead standards based on the most current CDC guidelines, an action Senator REED and I requested in a February letter to the HUD Secretary.

While this bill helps families in need, it also recognizes the hardships local communities are facing. Boosting local economies is critical to job creation and helping families obtain financial security. Thus, our bill supports local development efforts by providing \$3 billion through the Community Development Block Grant Program and \$950 million through the HOME Program.

These programs support the development of affordable housing and other infrastructure projects, which again promote economic development and lead to job creation in ways that allow

local communities to tailor the programs to meet their specific needs.

The bill before us does not solve every problem facing our transportation system or our housing program. We simply don't have the money to do that, even if we had a higher allocation in this era of very high debt. This is a fiscally responsible bill, and it is a bill that sets and reflects important priorities. I very much appreciate the opportunity to present this legislation to the Chamber as we begin the debate on the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill.

I urge my colleagues to consider the careful balance struck by the compromises and the negotiations our committee worked so hard to achieve. Again, I thank the ranking member for being such an extraordinary partner as we sought to write this very important bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to join Senator COLLINS in support of the fiscal year 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. I want to join her in commending Chairman COCHRAN and Vice Chairwoman MIKULSKI for their great work, but I particularly want to commend Chairman COLLINS for her extraordinary work, her thoughtfulness, and her diligence. All those aspects are evidenced in this bill.

She has, once again, developed a balanced and thoughtful bill that includes priorities for Members on both sides of the aisle. This bill allows for our Nation to continue moving forward by investing in critical transportation and housing initiatives, and, suffice it to say, without her leadership, we would not be here today with a bill that not only merits our attention, but also merits our support.

This bill includes policies and funding that will grow our economy, improve the safety of our national transportation system, create jobs, and preserve affordable housing for our most vulnerable citizens.

Working within a tight allocation, this bill makes important contributions to the development and safety of our national transportation system. For example, the bill provides \$16.4 billion to fully fund the needs of the Federal Aviation Administration, including \$1 billion for NextGen modernization activities, which will bring our aviation system to a new level of performance and safety.

This funding level also fully accommodates the needs of contract towers and Essential Air Service, and provides for new safety staff and pay for air traffic controllers.

The very popular TIGER Program, which the Chairman mentioned, is funded at \$525 million. That is a \$25 million increase from last year. TIGER grants allow State and local govern-

ments to make transformative investments in their transportation infrastructure that traditional formula grant programs are not able to address.

The fiscal year 2016 grant competition just ended 2 weeks ago for TIGER grants, and the Department of Transportation reports that they have received over 600 grant applications, totaling nearly \$100 billion in requests. This money is extraordinarily important to localities, and we have just barely increased it. Without the Chairman's leadership, however, I don't think that we would have made that increase. Again, I thank her.

There is high demand for this program that is evidenced by these applications. That goes to underscore a point that the Chairman has made about the need for even more significant investment in infrastructure.

This legislation also provides a boost to essential transit programs throughout the country, in order to sustain and expand their services.

This bill provides \$2.3 billion for the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant program to help meet growing demand across the country.

This bill also continues investment in the Washington Metrorail system, while holding the system accountable for improved financial management and ensuring that the FTA has the needed resources for strong safety oversight.

Indeed, the bill before us maintains a key focus on safety across all modes of transportation. For example, the bill fulfills the promises of the FAST Act through a \$199 million investment in Positive Train Control grants in order to protect passengers and workers on commuter and interstate rail lines with the next generation of railroad safety technology.

The bill funds new research at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on the safety and cybersecurity of autonomous vehicles. As autonomous vehicles are integrated into the general driving population, there is the potential to save thousands of lives with this innovative technology. However, an appropriate safety framework must be in place to realize the benefits of this promising transportation revolution.

In addition, the bill continues ongoing crude-by-rail safety initiatives at both the Federal Railroad Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. These initiatives will work to ensure the safe transportation of crude oil and crude products across the country.

The bill also provides \$85 million for rail grant programs that were recently authorized by the FAST Act. These grants can be used for rail safety and state-of-good-repair projects, such as Positive Train Control implementation and grade-crossing improvements.

For Amtrak, the bill provides \$1.4 billion. In response to the FAST Act, the THUD appropriations bill now allows the revenue generated on the Northeast Corridor to remain there. Again, this is consistent with the FAST Act.

This investment will fully fund the Northeast Corridor and the National Network, while putting Amtrak in a better position to address the \$28 billion state-of-good-repair backlog.

I am also proud of what we were able to accomplish together for our Nation's housing programs. The bill preserves HUD's rental assistance programs, expands housing for youth and families experiencing homelessness, and increases lead-based paint remediation programs. These programs are vital to our Nation's safety net and also to the prosperity of local economies.

I wish to speak briefly about how this bill increases protections for children against lead-based paint hazards. The bill—and the Chairman has discussed this—directs HUD to align its blood lead level regulations with the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is a significant change that will help young children.

If you just look at my home State of Rhode Island, 935 children will enter kindergarten this year exceeding the CDC standard for lead poisoning, but under the HUD standard, only 32 of those children would exceed the blood lead level standard. Now, when this regulation is implemented, there will be 900 children who not only are properly identified, but also, we hope, will have access to remediation in their homes, so that they will not be further affected by lead exposure.

To help mitigate the threat of lead in the home, the bill provides \$25 million in new resources for public housing agencies to address lead-based paint hazards in public housing units in response to this new health standard. We are really trying to synchronize best practices with practical systems that will make a huge difference in the lives of children.

There is also \$135 million for lead-hazard reduction grants, \$25 million more than in 2016. This increased spending will support lead-based paint reductions in over 1,750 additional units.

The bill increases support for the training of maintenance staff at public housing agencies to ensure that lead-based paint hazards are identified and properly managed.

Finally, it encourages HUD to increase tenant awareness of lead-based paint hazards in the home to help ensure that families are able to address hazards before damage is done. These are immediate, cost-effective changes that will improve the lives of children living in low-income housing.

Preventing lead poisoning is an issue that I have long worked on. I am so

pleased to see the steps and strides that we are taking in this bill.

The bill also provides funding for other critical HUD programs, including \$40 million for new interventions targeting homeless youth, 6,000 new vouchers for homeless veterans through the HUD-VASH Program, housing and supportive care for 2,500 young people aging out of the foster care system, and services to help families and young people get jobs and increase their earnings.

Again, I thank Senator COLLINS for her tremendous work, her leadership, and her unstinting commitment to making sure that these resources are directed appropriately and properly.

We always wish that we could do more, but this bill provides a workable balance of resources for transportation and housing programs. The bill responds to the priorities of the Members of this Chamber. It makes wise investments that will benefit our Nation, not only in the present, but also in the future.

In that regard, I must once again return to the issue of lead exposure to children in their homes. This is something that has a lifetime effect on children. I do not have the expertise of the Presiding Officer when it comes to these issues, but childhood exposure can have incredible lifetime cognitive impacts on a child and can have huge costs to society. The steps that we are taking are going to help those lifetime costs be reduced.

I again thank the Chairman, Senator COLLINS. I appreciate her leadership, her willingness, and her extraordinary effort.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, we are bringing up the MILCON-VA appropriations bill today, and I urge its adoption.

This year the MILCON-VA bill was the first appropriations bill. We marked up 5 weeks earlier than last year, and the bill is on the floor 6 months earlier than before. We are in a very advantageous position of telling the House to do their work, which never happens with regard to the Senate. We are very proud of that.

We are so proud that we have crafted this bill in an open and collegial way with the full support of my ranking Democratic member, Senator JON TESTER of Montana. This bipartisan bill was adopted unanimously by a vote of 30 to 0 in the full Appropriations Committee.

In MILCON, the bill provides \$7.9 billion for over 200 critical defense construction projects. It adds \$515 million to MILCON to ensure that our military is ready to fight and win. There are no OCO gimmicks in the bill. My top priority in this legislation is missile defense in Europe.

Last year, the bill funded the Aegis Ashore BMD site in Poland. We have built on that in this year's bill. This bill funds the Long Range Discrimination Radar, or LRDR, in Clear, AK, at \$155 million.

For Veterans Affairs and related agencies, our bill provides \$75.1 billion to protect our veterans. This is record-high funding in this legislation, this bipartisan bill. The budget is up \$3.4 billion, or 4.8 percent, over this year, reflecting the higher medical costs in the economy.

The VA must now be reformed. We must work much better for veterans now. This bill includes strong oversight provisions for the VA to protect the protectors of our veterans. By that, I mean the whistleblowers. In this legislation is my VA Patient Protection Act of 2016, which protects whistleblowers and makes sure that doctors, nurses, and other medical care professionals are able to have the full whistleblower protections they deserve. This bill provides strong whistleblower protections and punishment for those who retaliate against whistleblowers.

A number of opioid safety provisions are included, such as no copayments for opioid antagonists, like Narcan, which can save a life rapidly.

The bill includes a provision that will screen medical providers to make sure the VA refrains from transferring bad doctors from one hospital in one State to another. The bill adds 100 staff to the VA Office of Inspector General, which is very important.

We continue to insist that the VA develop a fully interoperable electronic medical health record with DOD, using open source code. My vision here is to make sure we use open source code for VA medical records and DOD, to make sure that core of 25 million patients is protected, with no net burden on the soldiers when they are leaving active duty. The entire record goes over, so we have complete continuity of care.

By having open source coding, we repeat the success of the Motorola Android system, which happened in my State, where 70,000 apps were written just with that code. I want to make sure the electronic medical record industry is always located in the United States, based on this standard.

The bill adds \$8.7 million to fix the Veterans Crisis Line that we fund. Now the veterans suicide hotline will never go unanswered. It also adds \$20 million for gender-specific health care for female veterans. The bill adds \$30 million to combat veteran homelessness; we have received a request on this issue from over 25 Senators. The bill adds \$12 million for important medical receipts for vets—like genomic research. In committee, we adopted an amendment that I supported by a vote of 23 to 7 to allow the VA to treat veterans and their spouses with in vitro fertilization for service-connected problems.

This is a strong bill. It is a very strong bill, and it does right by our troops and especially our veterans.

My Senate colleagues should pass this measure quite quickly, just as they did in the full committee.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, over two decades ago, Congress passed a law on an overwhelming bipartisan basis to provide a standard way of doing business for motor carriers nationwide. This preemption provision resulted in increased efficiencies that led to lower transportation costs and improved services, which have benefitted shippers and consumers throughout the country.

For two decades, this intent of Congress was adhered to for those involved in interstate commerce, and even upheld by the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, a recent Ninth Circuit Court decision has brought confusion to what had been the clear intent of Congress, and in my home State of Kansas, numerous trucking companies and drivers have become victims of these unintended consequences.

As the Senate begins consideration of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, THUD, Appropriations bill, the issue of trucking preemption laws may be debated once again. Due to escalating rhetoric and increasingly pointed statements regarding this issue, I sought the objective, authoritative policy expertise of the Congressional Research Service, CRS, to answer one-by-one many of the claims being made.

As the debate on THUD appropriations moves forward, I would encourage any of my colleagues interested in the trucking preemption debate to consult this CRS analysis and judge for themselves the merits of this important issue. I think they will find many of the claims made in opposition are exaggerations, if not outright falsehoods, and that the original intent of Congress on this matter was and continues to be critical for preventing unnecessary burdens on an industry that hauls our Nation's freight and is vital to our economic well-being.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the CRS memo provided to me with its thoughtful and informative answers.

Thank you.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE,  
April 6, 2016.

#### MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. Jerry Moran.  
From: Rodney Perry.  
Subject: Implications of Section 611 of the Proposed Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016.

This memorandum provides responses to your questions concerning California law and

the implications of Section 611 of the proposed Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Section 611).

Section 611 contains two primary provisions. The first provision would expressly preempt state laws that prohibit employees whose hours of service are subject to regulation by the Department of Transportation (DOT) under 49 U.S.C. §31502 from working "to the full extent permitted or at such times as permitted under [49 U.S.C. §31502]." It would also preempt any state laws that "impos[e] any additional obligations on motor carriers if such employees work to the full extent or at such times as permitted" by DOT regulations issued pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §31502, which permits DOT to prescribe requirements for the qualifications and maximum hours of service of motor carrier employees.

The second provision of Section 611 would expressly preempt any state laws that require payment of "separate or additional compensation" by a motor carrier that compensates employees on a piece-rate basis, so long as the total sums paid to an employee, when divided by the employee's total number of hours worked during the corresponding work period, equals or exceeds the applicable minimum wage for that state.

You specifically asked for responses to the following questions:

1. Although the meal period must be paid if the employee is on-duty or required to remain on the premises, doesn't California law permit an on-duty meal period only if there is a written agreement between the parties that can be revoked at any time? Absent such agreement, isn't the default obligation to provide an off-duty meal period? Does the employer have to pay for an off-duty meal period?

Under California law, unless an employee is relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period is considered an "on duty" meal period that counts toward hours worked, and is thus compensable. On duty meal periods are only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved of all duty; and (2) there is a written agreement between the employer and employee for on duty meal periods. Such a written agreement must state that the employee can, in writing, revoke the agreement at any time. Absent such an agreement, any meal periods provided as required by law are off duty. Off duty meal periods do not count toward time worked (*i.e.*, they are unpaid).

2. Does anything in Sec. 611 mandate that motor carriers utilize piece-rate pay systems?

Under Section 611, if a motor carrier compensates an employee on a piece-rate basis, it is not required to provide any additional compensation so long as the sum of the piece-rate compensation, when divided by the total number of hours worked during the corresponding pay period, equals or exceeds the applicable minimum wage. This does not appear to require motor carriers to pay their employees on piece-rate bases. Rather, it seemingly prevents an employer that chooses to pay its employees on a piece-rate basis from having to provide additional compensation in specified circumstances.

3. Is an employer, paying an employee on a piece-rate basis, in compliance with federal minimum wage laws if the sum paid to the employee, when divided by the total number of hours worked, meets or exceeds the applicable minimum hourly wage rate?

This appears to be correct. Courts have generally held that an employer meets federal minimum wage requirements if the

total weekly wage paid is equal to or greater than the number of hours worked in the week multiplied by the statutory minimum rate.

4. Would a motor carrier employee loading a truck have to be compensated for that time as hours worked under federal law? Does anything in Sec. 611 alter the conclusion?

Pursuant to the federal minimum wage requirements, covered employers must pay employees the applicable minimum wage for all compensable hours worked. The Supreme Court has held that activities that are an "integral and indispensable part of the principal activities for which covered workmen are employed" are compensable. At least one federal appellate court has found that loading a truck is an integral and indispensable part of the principal activity for which a truck driver is employed (driving a truck), and thus is compensable. Section 611, by its terms, specifies circumstances wherein state laws, regulations, or "other provision[s] having the force and effect of law" are preempted by federal law. As such, it does not appear that section 611 would alter the determination of whether time spent loading a truck is compensable under federal law.

5. Under California law, would a motor carrier have to pay a driver for the mandated 10-minute rest break? If a driver were to take a rest break or any other type of break of 10 minutes, would a motor carrier have to pay the driver for that time under federal law? If Sec. 611 were enacted, would the requirement under federal law still apply?

Under California law, motor carriers are required to provide employees with paid 10-minute rest breaks for every four hours worked. Under federal law, employer-provided breaks that are between 5 and 20 minutes in duration are generally compensable. Section 611, by its terms, specifies circumstances wherein state laws, regulations, or "other provision[s] having the force and effect of law" are preempted by federal law. As such, it does not appear as though section 611 would alter the determination of whether a 10-minute break is compensable under federal law.

6. Does California Labor Code §226.2 apply to independent contractors or only to employees?

By its terms, California Labor Code §226.2 (Section 226.2) applies to "employees." Given the time constraints required to respond to your request, and the methodology used to search for relevant cases, CRS could find no case law interpreting Section 226.2 that discusses its potential applicability to independent contractors.

7. Would Section 611 preempt state meal and rest break laws, like California's, as applied to motor carriers?

Section 611 would preempt any state laws that prohibit employees whose hours of service are regulated by the Department of Transportation (DOT) under 49 U.S.C. §31502 "from working to the full extent permitted or at such times as permitted under [49 U.S.C. §31502]." Section 611 would also preempt any state laws that "impos[e] any additional obligations on motor carriers if such employees work to the full extent or at such times as permitted" by DOT regulations issued pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §31502, which permits DOT to prescribe requirements for the qualifications and maximum hours of service of motor carrier employees. Thus, any state meal or break laws that impose more stringent requirements on motor carriers than DOT's meal or break regulations for motor carriers, found at 49 C.F.R. Part

395, would seem to be preempted by Section 611. This interpretation of the legislative language would appear to be consistent with the legislative intent behind Section 611.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I am here to talk about two separate topics today. The first is the Zika virus. I am encouraged that in the last 24 hours, we finally seem to have found some action here in Congress in dealing with the Zika virus. We not only have one, we have three separate proposals that will be introduced to deal with Zika. We will continue to work on and debate these proposals next week.

About 5 weeks ago, I met with Federal, State, and local health officials in Miami and came out in support of the President's emergency funding request to deal with Zika. Since then, I have come before the Senate on numerous occasions to call for action. I have stated my belief that there shouldn't be anything divisive with this. Zika is a public health emergency that sooner or later will impact the vast majority of the United States because this is a virus transmitted by mosquitoes that are only going to become more prevalent as the weather heats up and because our people routinely travel to and from the island of Puerto Rico, the most impacted community in the entire United States.

When I spoke here yesterday, the count of people infected in Florida stood at 109. Since then, just 24 hours later, it has become 112. One-hundred and twelve Zika cases is the most of any State in the Union. Of the three

new cases in Florida, two were in Volusia County and one was in Orange County.

I have said repeatedly that Congress should not allow politics to delay action on Zika. One issue we have been encountering is the desire to offset the spending. I made it clear that if we can offset the spending and find the money somewhere else in the budget to pay for what it is going to cost to deal with Zika, we should do it, but that in times of public health emergencies, just like natural disasters, we shouldn't delay acting while we figure out and try to agree on what we are going to cut from other parts of the budget.

Another issue we have encountered is whether we do this through the normal process that is going on or fund it as an emergency spending bill. Again, I am open to either one of those approaches. But back in the real world, people infected by this and their families, who have already been impacted by this, don't have the time for us to figure all of this out; they just believe, as I do, that we need to get going here and get something done.

I have said that we should deal with this issue fully and that the \$1.9 billion requested so far may not even be enough when it is all said and done. But I believe there is no one here who wants to get caught in a situation where it is August and people are back in their States, maybe even campaigning for reelection, and have to scramble back here in the middle of the summer to come up with solutions when it gets hotter and there are more mosquitos and when the conditions are ripe for more people to be impacted by Zika.

I commend Senator NELSON, my colleague from Florida. I especially commend Senators MURRAY from Washington and BLUNT from Missouri and others who are taking this seriously and trying to come up with a solution and a way forward.

This is indeed a devastating disease. It has taken lives throughout our hemisphere, and the way it impacts unborn children alone should call us to action. Let's deal with this now, and let's protect our people. There is no reason that every proposal to address Zika cannot be bipartisan and earn broad support.

I am hopeful that we can reach a final outcome that fully addresses the problem. I am hopeful we will see some meaningful action on the Zika public health emergency very soon, including the American citizens in Puerto Rico who have been most impacted so far, and that is one of the reasons I plan to introduce—along with my colleague from Florida, Senator NELSON—an amendment to provide the full \$1.9 billion request to fight the Zika virus. The strain on Puerto Rico's health system from Zika must be addressed, and this is the only proposal so far that

tries to fully deal with the unique challenges Puerto Rico faces with the Zika virus.

I think it is important to remind people who are asking themselves "Why should we care about Puerto Rico?"—I will remind them that 4 million U.S. citizens live there, that the first American to lose their life to Zika lived in Puerto Rico, and that Puerto Ricans routinely travel to the continental United States—to Florida and New York especially. These 4 million Puerto Rican citizens have no voice here in the Senate, so I will make sure they are not forgotten as we work on solutions to this virus that has disproportionately impacted these Americans.

When we return next week to continue debating appropriations bills, I hope we can come together on this issue. I hope we can find a way forward that deals with these issues fully and that helps to stop this disease in its tracks and that saves lives.

I urge my colleagues here in the Senate, and the House as well, to look at the proposal Senator NELSON and I will introduce and offer their input and ultimately sign on and get this passed. As we know, it is not going to be enough to see progress here in the Senate; we need the House to act as well, and I hope we can start doing that next week. We need to act. Zika is taking lives, it is hurting unborn children, and this problem is only going to get worse as we move forward.

#### EUREKA GARDENS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, tomorrow I will be visiting the Eureka Garden Apartments in Jacksonville, FL, which is a Section 8 apartment complex that is supposed to provide affordable and safe living conditions for low-income members of the Jacksonville community, but it doesn't. Instead, its tenants have been subjected to dangerous, often downright disgusting living conditions for years. They raised their concerns repeatedly with the managers of the facility and local officials, only to be met for the most part with bureaucratic indifference.

My staff and I have been working on this since it first came to light last fall, but there has been a frustrating, disturbing lack of progress from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and, more importantly, from the owner of the complex.

Frankly, I have had enough. I am heading down there tomorrow to see what we have to do and whom we need to put pressure on to get things moving. I will be touring the facility and meeting with Tracy Grant, who is the president of the tenants association. I will be joined by Councilman Garrett Dennis, Jacksonville Mayor Len Curry, and Pastor Mark Griffin of Wayman Ministries, who will be meeting with residents. I intend to commend the

residents tomorrow for how united and resilient they have been throughout this ordeal, even while the Federal Government failed them.

For years the Department of Housing and Urban Development has certified this facility and as a result has put hundreds of families at risk. When HUD inspected the property last summer, they passed the complex with a score of 85 out of 100. Less than a month later, residents were complaining about how bad their living conditions were.

When my staff visited the complex, it was nearly unlivable. They saw crumbling stairs, black mold, and exposed electrical wiring that had been covered up by a trash bag. They smelled the natural gas that would soon hospitalize residents days later. This was and is unacceptable.

For months, my office, along with Mayor Curry, the city council, and the tenants association, pushed to have improvements and repairs done to this complex. In February, HUD finally had a date by which all repairs must be completed. When the time came to reinspect Eureka Gardens, it passed inspection, and they eventually renewed their contract with the property's owner, but the residents continued to say what they had said all along: HUD's inspections aren't working.

Just recently, HUD revealed that Eureka Gardens passed with a score of 62. The passing score is a 60. However, a senior HUD official admitted that HUD officials do not believe the property would currently pass another inspection. HUD essentially admitted that it had certified a failing facility. Something is clearly wrong with the inspection process, and Floridians are being hurt because of it.

I will be down there tomorrow to find out how we can put an end to this problem once and for all. The residents of Eureka Gardens cannot be forced to suffer under mismanagement and apathy any longer. Children cannot continue to be put at risk due to gas leaks and other hazardous conditions. HUD cannot be allowed to continue to rubberstamp approval of failing housing complexes, only to further slum-like conditions for the most vulnerable tenants.

I will continue to look for solutions to help make sure the conditions in Eureka Gardens are fixed and aren't repeated anywhere else. If we determine that congressional action is necessary, then I am prepared to take it. The residents of Eureka Gardens deserve safe living conditions, and we will make sure that is exactly what they get.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I wish to open my remarks with a congratulatory note to the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative based in Gloucester, MA.

Since it began less than 11 months ago, this program is now partnering with more than 100 police departments in 24 States around the country to help people with opioid addiction to get the treatment they need. The program's approach is simple, but it is also revolutionary: having law enforcement work with those suffering from the disease of addiction by removing the stigma surrounding it and placing them into treatment instead of behind bars.

I thank the founders of this program—Gloucester police chief Leonard Campanello and John Rosenthal—for their leadership and compassion, and I urge everyone to learn more about this national model for combating the opioid crisis.

It is that crisis that I am here to talk about this afternoon. Today, I wish to call attention to a serious issue facing Massachusetts and soon to face every single community in the United States of America. Illicit fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin. Let me say that again. Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more powerful than morphine. It is responsible for the largest increase in drug overdose deaths in recent years.

More than 700 deaths in the United States were attributable to fentanyl and its components between 2013 and 2014. In Massachusetts alone, 336 people died from fentanyl-related overdoses between 2014 and 2015. More recently, among the 1,319 opioid-related deaths in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2015 for which a blood test was available, more than half—754—tested positive for fentanyl. That is an astounding number for one State. That is an astounding increase in the impact that fentanyl is having in deaths in the State of Massachusetts.

But it is not just isolated to Massachusetts, because fentanyl is the Godzilla of opioids, and it will overrun communities and lay them to waste unless we take action now to stop it.

For those who may not know about this new scourge, Mexico and China are the primary foreign sources for illicit fentanyl, for the chemicals and building blocks from which it is made, and for other illicit substances very similar to fentanyl—called fentanyl analogs—and which are trafficked into the United States from outside of our borders. Fentanyl powder is often mixed with other illicit drugs like heroin or is disguised in pill form to resemble an opioid painkiller like OxyContin.

Many drug users overdose on fentanyl because they have no idea that it is mixed into whatever substance they are injecting or whatever pills they are swallowing, and they do not realize just how deadly it is until it is too late.

But capturing a total and accurate number of drug overdoses caused by fentanyl has been very challenging. Coroners and medical examiners do not usually test for the drug unless they are asked to, and they are often unaware that an overdose has a fentanyl link when an individual tests positive for a different substance such as heroin.

Even more troubling, the men and the women who first respond to the scene of an overdose may not know how to identify fentanyl or how to handle the drug. This makes local and State first responders very vulnerable to the drug's harmful effects, because if the fentanyl powder is absorbed into the skin or accidentally inhaled, it can be deadly. In fact, a dose of just three salt-sized grains of fentanyl can be lethal.

So think about that. You are a first responder. You are going into a home or a business thinking that you are responding to an opioid overdose situation when, in fact, you might be exposing yourself to the fentanyl in the air or to something which gets on your skin. That is how deadly this new substance is that is creating this epidemic across our country.

Recently, DEA agents in Seattle raided a suspected fentanyl lab wearing HAZMAT suits and protective gear to make sure they did not inadvertently breathe in or touch the fentanyl. The DEA has told me that they sometimes cannot use dogs to sniff packages coming in from overseas suspected of containing fentanyl because these drug-detection dogs may die if they even inhale it.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is so concerned about this synthetic opioid that in March of 2015 it issued a nationwide alert highlighting fentanyl as a threat to health and public safety.

Fentanyl is a very real problem in my home State of Massachusetts. Lawrence, MA, which is about half an hour north of Boston, is a hotspot for fentanyl trafficking. From Lawrence, the drug ends up being processed and sold all over New England.

There are efforts already in place to address the spread of fentanyl. Mexico and China are its primary foreign sources and have been the focus of diplomatic efforts to curb fentanyl trafficking. We need to make sure that those countries are living up to their promises to combat the flow of this deadly drug and other synthetic opioids into the United States.

We know naloxone, sometimes called Narcan, is an effective antidote against

an opioid overdose. But a single dose of naloxone is typically not enough to combat an overdose that includes fentanyl.

That is why earlier today I called on the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of State to outline our domestic and international strategy against the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into America. As we await their responses, I know there are several critical steps that we must take in order to save lives.

We must educate the public about the existence of illicit fentanyl and the harm it can do.

We must educate first responders—our firefighters, our EMTs, our sheriffs, our health care workers—so that they can protect against injury to themselves as they are trying to identify a fentanyl overdose and so that they can protect themselves from the harmful effects of that drug.

Identifying a fentanyl overdose could mean the difference between administering multiple lifesaving doses of naloxone or death.

We should invest in programs that ensure that naloxone—Narcan—is readily available and accessible to those most likely to witness an overdose. We need to make sure that there are no shortages or unnecessary price increases for this lifesaving treatment.

We should issue guidance to States regarding the protocol for fentanyl testing in order to obtain a more accurate picture of fentanyl's deadly impact.

Illicit fentanyl is different from other opioids. It is difficult to detect and has deadly consequences for those who unknowingly come within its path. We cannot let another day pass without taking the necessary steps to educate our communities about fentanyl, to develop a national strategy, and to collaborate with our international partners—the Mexicans and the Chinese, especially—so that we can keep this illicit drug out of the cities and towns all over our country.

American lives depend on a solution to the latest opioid crisis. It is going to be something that people look back at and say: How can something have been worse than the heroin epidemic? How can something have caused more deaths than the heroin epidemic? That is where fentanyl is already in the State of Massachusetts. It is something that is going to come to each and every State in our country.

We have to take action now. We have to ensure that we protect our borders from it entering, but then we have to make sure that we give the proper training and protections and put them in place for every State and every city and town to be able to protect against this infecting our communities.

So I thank the Chair for giving me the opportunity to address the Chamber today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GUN VIOLENCE AND NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the epidemic of gun violence that continues to plague our Nation.

Every year, around 32,000 Americans are killed by guns. According to recent Centers for Disease Control statistics, every day, on average, 297 Americans are shot, and 91 of those shootings are fatal. Communities across the Nation are affected by this violence, and no community has suffered more than the city of Chicago in my home State of Illinois.

From the start of the year through May 10, at least 1,242 people were shot in Chicago. During the same period, there were at least 215 murders in Chicago, the vast majority committed with guns. The level of violence in Chicago is significantly higher than in recent years. And more people have been shot in Chicago this year than in New York City and Los Angeles combined. It is devastating.

I met 2 weeks ago with the top Federal law enforcement officials in Chicago: U.S. Attorney Zach Fardon, U.S. Marshal Ed Gilmore, and leaders from the FBI, ATF, and DEA. They reaffirmed their commitment to do all they can at the Federal level to bring down this high level of gun violence in the city. They are committed to working with the Chicago Police Department and its new superintendent, Eddie Johnson, to ensure that Chicago's residents are both protected and respected by law enforcement.

There is much work that needs to be done to improve community policing in Chicago to better safeguard the public's safety. I am confident that the Justice Department's ongoing review of the CPD will lead to important reforms that will build trust between officers and the communities they serve. We have seen Justice Department reviews in other cities produce dramatic improvements. When communities and cops are working together with a relationship of trust and respect, it makes it harder for criminals to operate.

I also want to commend the many community leaders, faith leaders, teachers, volunteers, and family members who are working to provide Chicago's children with a better path, away from the violence. I met recently with students at John Hope College

Prep in Englewood on the South Side of Chicago, along with City Year volunteers who worked with them. It was inspiring to hear how these high school freshmen and sophomores talked about their work with their City Year mentors. One student told me "the thing I love most about City Year is that they never let you give up." With the help of their mentors, these students are doing well in school, steering clear of the gangs, and planning for a bright future.

It is so important that we nurture these kinds of efforts throughout Chicago. We have to give the younger generation the opportunities and hope that will lead them away from the path of gangs and violence.

We also have a responsibility to help these efforts by stemming the flood of illicit guns that comes into Chicago. When it is easy for gang members to get their hands on guns, it is hard for children and communities to avoid violence. We must all do our part to stop the gun trafficking that supplies Chicago's criminal gangs.

I want to commend President Obama for taking an important step last week to help combat gun trafficking. This step has to do with smart gun technology.

Right now we have security features on our phones and computers that can prevent thieves and unauthorized people from using them. You can secure these devices so they can only be unlocked with a password, fingerprint, or some other security feature. We can develop similar technology so that an unauthorized user cannot fire a gun. This would make it far harder for a prohibited gun buyer to get his hands on a gun he can use.

Smart gun technology would also prevent thieves from stealing guns to resell them, and it would help prevent kids from playing with guns and getting hurt.

For years there has been resistance to smart gun technology. Part of this resistance has come from the gun lobby, which always fights against proposals that might reduce gun sales. But resistance has also come from law enforcement, which had concerns about whether smart gun technology would work effectively.

Last week, the administration announced that it would partner with law enforcement to develop voluntary standards for what law enforcement would need in order to consider using smart gun technology. Within 6 months, this effort will produce baseline specifications for the reliability, durability and accuracy of this technology.

Once there is agreement on a set of standards for smart gun technology, then innovators can get to work on developing products that meet those standards and bringing those products to market. The administration will

help this effort with its research dollars and purchasing power. They will help make this technology a reality.

This could be a game changer when it comes to deterring illegal gun trafficking. It is exactly the kind of effort that the city of Chicago needs. I commend the administration for undertaking this effort, and I will do everything in my power to support it.

As we work to prevent future gun violence, it is also important that we remember and pay tribute to those we have lost to this epidemic of violence.

June 2, 2016, will mark what should be the 19th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton. Hadiya was 15 years old when she was gunned down while standing in a park on Chicago's South Side on January 29, 2013. She had just performed with her King College Prep school band at the President's inauguration ceremony one week before.

I have come to know Hadiya's family—her mother Cleo and her father Nate—and I have met many people who have been deeply affected by Hadiya's senseless murder.

After her death, Hadiya's friends started a campaign to urge people to wear orange on June 2, Hadiya's birthday, to honor victims of gun violence. Orange is the color that hunters wear in the woods so that nobody shoots them.

This campaign became a national phenomenon. June 2 has now become Gun Violence Awareness Day. Last year I was proud to join with students, faith leaders, community leaders, media figures, lawmakers, and many more across the Nation who wore orange to honor Hadiya and the 32,000 victims lost each year to gun violence.

I will be wearing orange again on June 2 this year, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

We must never forget our solemn obligation to do all we can to keep the American people safe, and that includes keeping Americans safe from preventable gun violence.

Thousands of Americans are shot and killed each year in shootings that could have been prevented. There are steps we can take, consistent with our Constitution and with our traditions of hunting and sport shooting, to avoid these tragic deaths. We should not be afraid to take those steps.

This June 2, Hadiya Pendleton should be celebrating her 19th birthday. Instead, a nation will mourn her loss and the loss of so many others due to gun violence. We owe it to Hadiya and to the victims to do our best to spare others from this violence in the future.

#### REMEMBERING WALLY HENDERSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago I lost a dear friend and my hometown of Springfield, IL, lost one of its best. His name was Earl Wallace Hen-

derson, but everyone knew him as Wally. He was an acclaimed architect who helped design Springfield's future while, at the same time, preserving its priceless past as the hometown of President Abraham Lincoln.

In the 1960s, Ferry & Henderson, the architectural firm he co-founded, took on one of its most important projects: expanding Illinois' historic old State capitol building to include underground parking, room for the State historical library, and other modern amenities.

The concept of architectural preservation was relatively new at that time, and Wally became one of its pioneering leaders. Expanding the old State capitol involved taking the building apart piece by piece, cataloguing and moving more than 3,300 stones to the Illinois fairground, and then painstakingly rebuilding the structure over the new parking garage and library.

Wally's decades of innovative work in architectural preservation earned him admission in 2011 to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows, one of the highest honors in his field.

Interestingly, Wally became an architect almost by accident. What he wanted to be all through high school was an astronaut. More to the point, he wanted to be the first man to walk on the moon. This was back in the late 1940s, which gives you an idea of Wally's ability to imagine a future that few others could see.

Wally left Springfield in 1949 to study aeronautical engineering at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. He was his parent's only child, and the first person in his extended family ever to go to college. When he came home for spring break during his freshman year, his parents were so proud of their son, the college student, that they invited a bunch of friends over.

One of the neighbors asked Wally, "What are you studying?"

Wally told them, "Aeronautical engineering."

Another neighbor asked, "So you want to build airplanes, do you?"

Wally replied, "No, I want to be the first man on the moon."

Years later in an interview, he recalled what followed.

"As those folks departed my mother said, 'Here, sit down, your dad and I want to talk to you for a moment.'"

Wally sat down between his dad and his mom, whom he respected greatly. His mother said, "You know, it's alright to say that to your dad and me about 'wanting to go to the moon.' But everybody else thinks you're crazy."

That was the end of Wally's dreams of being an astronaut. He went back to the university and asked a counselor what other school on campus would accept the credits he had earned.

Fortunately for Springfield, Wally's counselor suggested architectural engi-

neering. That was the start of his long and distinguished career.

Wally graduated from the University of Illinois in 1954, moved to Indianapolis, and went to work for an engineering firm. Six months later, he was drafted into the Army and sent to Korea. This was several months after the ceasefire that ended the conflict. Wally was assigned to an engineering battalion.

One day, a young Korean boy about 11 years old was polishing Wally's boots to earn money for his family. The boy was telling Wally about his hometown, a little village. He said it was the best village in the world.

Wally said he started bragging about his own hometown, reached into his pocket and pulled out the only coin he had, a penny with Lincoln's image on it, and said, "I'm from his hometown."

The little boy had probably never traveled farther than 10 miles from his own village, but when he saw that penny, his face lit up. To this young boy, Wally said, "Abraham Lincoln was everything." Right there, 3,000 miles from home, Wally listened as this Korean child told him the story of the Great Emancipator.

Wally was stunned. He thought, "Here I am, from Abraham Lincoln's hometown. I lived nine or ten blocks from Lincoln's home, and this child knows as much about Abraham Lincoln as I do."

Over the next several decades, that would change. As an architect and architectural preservationist, Wally would play a crucial role in helping to preserve what is now called the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and the Capital Complex. As I mentioned, he also helped preserve and rebuild the old State capitol in Springfield, where Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided" speech, warning that the Nation could not endure half slave and half free. Coincidentally, it was also at the old State capitol that another lanky lawyer from Illinois, Barack Obama, announced his candidacy for President of the United States in 2007.

I was honored to serve with Wally Henderson on the commission that helped create the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. We also served together on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee, which helped lead the Nation in remembering Abraham Lincoln during 2009, the bicentennial of his birth.

Wally was a past president and longtime board member of the Abraham Lincoln Association, a distinguished group of Lincoln scholars. In 2009, the Lincoln Association awarded him its Logan Hay Medal, for his work in preserving and making more accessible buildings and landmarks associated with President Lincoln's life.

In 2013, the Springfield Journal Register named Wally Henderson Springfield's "First Citizen." The ceremony took place, fittingly, at the old State capitol State historic site, which Wally's firm had helped to restore.

That Wally became such an important and cherished part of Springfield is a bit of an irony. You see, when Wally Henderson left Springfield to go to college, he vowed to himself that he would never move back.

After serving in Korea, Wally used the G.I. Bill to earn his master's degree in architecture at the University of Illinois. He met his first wife, Sally; they got married, and Wally landed a great job working as an architect in Denver.

Then came the fateful phone call: Wally was contacted by a young architect in Springfield, the brother-in-law of Wally's best friend in high school. The brother-in-law's name was Don Ferry. He was working for a Springfield firm that was designing hospitals, and they needed another architect. Was Wally interested?

Wally came home, talked with Don Ferry, and left unimpressed. He went back to Denver and finished work on a church that his firm was building in the Rocky Mountains. The completed church was spectacular. At its grand opening, Sally nudged Wally and said, "You're leaving." She knew that Wally needed another professional challenge. So, at the age of 28, after 4 years as an architect in Denver, Wally packed up his wife and baby and moved home.

He told Don Ferry that he would work with him, but he had conditions. He told Don, "You quit your job, I'll quit my job and we'll open an office in Springfield because, by God, Springfield needs higher education and a whole bunch of other things."

His other condition: Wally said, "We're not competing with anybody. We're going to bring contemporary architecture to Springfield, Illinois." There were about a dozen architectural firms in town at that time, but no one was doing much of anything new.

Wally Henderson and Don Ferry formed their own firm, Ferry & Henderson Architects, in 1961. They started out in a one-room office that contained two stools, a drafting table, and a telephone. They worked together for decades and literally transformed Springfield.

They spearheaded projects including the Springfield Municipal Plaza, the Willard Ice Building, and the building that houses the Springfield Journal-Register.

One reason Wally had vowed never to return to Springfield was because the town lacked a university. Ferry & Henderson helped rectify that omission when their firm designed the Public Affairs Building, the first permanent building at Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois at Springfield. Wally remained a strong

supporter of the university until the end of his life.

When Wally moved back to Springfield, the area surrounding the Lincoln Home was run-down and nondescript. Wally helped stir Springfield's civic pride and its resolve to take care of its priceless legacy as Abraham Lincoln's hometown. I have been proud to have my congressional and Senate offices in this restored area.

Just as that little Korean boy had enabled Wally to see Springfield through new eyes, Wally helped others in Springfield to envision a future in which the Lincoln Home, the old State capitol, and other places that Lincoln loved would become the crown jewels of America's Lincoln historic sites.

Last year, more than 233,000 people visited the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, up nearly 20 percent from the year before. Those visitors spent more than \$13.8 million at local businesses.

My wife, Loretta, and I were fortunate to count Wally Henderson as a dear friend and neighbor. We both extend our condolences to Wally's wife, Brynn, and to their children and grandchildren, all of whom Wally loved deeply.

When Abraham Lincoln left Springfield to start his inaugural journey to Washington, friends from all over town came to see him off at the Great Western Railway station. In what is now known as his Farewell Address, the new President said: "My friends, no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything." He closed by saying, "I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Likewise, to my old friend Wally Henderson, who did so much to preserve the legacy of President Lincoln and to enrich our hometown in so many other ways, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, every year in May we commemorate National Police Week, a time to reflect upon the sacrifices made by the men and women who serve in law enforcement. In particular we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty. Our law enforcement officers risk their lives every day to protect and serve our communities in Vermont and across the country. This year I am proud to say that Congress has come together to deliver more than just rhetoric in honor of this service. This year we are providing something much more important—tangible, life-saving protection for hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers. On Tuesday, the House of Representatives joined the Senate and passed my bipartisan reauthorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

I originally worked with former Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell to establish the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program in the wake of the Carl Drega shootings on the Vermont-New Hampshire border. While the Federal officers engaged in a shootout with Drega were equipped with body armor, many of their State law enforcement counterparts were not, which resulted in the death of two State troopers. Now, nearly 20 years later, this program has provided more than 1.2 million protective vests to more than 13,000 law enforcement agencies around the country, including more than 4,400 vests for Vermont officers; yet the program's charter expired in 2012, and I have been working to reauthorize it ever since. The Senate passed the bipartisan measure coauthored by Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM last year. I am proud that the House has now done the same, and the legislation is headed to the President's desk for signature. This program saves lives and proves that Congress can work together to protect those who protect us.

While the Bulletproof Vest Partnership will continue to protect officers, we must never forget the more than 20,000 fallen officers enshrined on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. These walls stand as a testament to the dedication and commitment of our brave law enforcement officers. Officers like Sergeant Gary A. Gaboury, a patrol commander in Shaftsbury and member of the State police dive team, who tragically died 24 years ago today, on May 12, 1992, as he was attempting to recover a drowning victim. No matter how old these wounds are, our communities must not forget the sacrifice of Sergeant Gaboury and others in uniform.

Tomorrow the names of 252 fallen officers will be added to the walls of the memorial. Among those who will be added to the wall is Vermont State Trooper Kyle Young, who tragically died last September. Trooper Young, who suffered heat stroke during a training exercise, was the first line-of-duty death in Vermont in 12 years. Like so many of his fallen colleagues, Trooper Young died while working to be a better public servant. He hoped to be promoted to the agency's tactical team, and he died showing the same grit and determination that he showed throughout his life, always trying to achieve the next goal. Trooper Young was only 28 years old and the father of two young girls. He was an outstanding high school athlete who went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force, with tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. His colleagues described him as an active trooper who, with less than 2 years on the job, quickly found his calling.

The tragedy of Trooper Young's death will not be forgotten, nor will the lives of 23 other Vermont law enforcement officers who have died in the



line of duty. Vermont is fortunate to be served by so many professional and dedicated public servants in law enforcement. That is why I have worked so long to provide law enforcement officers with what they need to keep both themselves and their communities safe. It is my hope that the reauthorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program will do just that—and will help keep names off that wall.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROSS BAKER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have often likened the counsel that Senators receive from their staff to the confidential advice a lawyer provides to a client. That is why it is so rare that, over the last 40 or so years, Ross Baker, a Distinguished professor at Rutgers University, has taken several sabbaticals to research the inner workings of Capitol Hill. Most recently, as a scholar in residence in Senate Minority Leader HARRY REID's office, Professor Baker has been given the unusual access to the inner workings of one of the Senate's leading offices. The result? Professor Baker is considered the go-to academic expert on the Senate, one of the preeminent scholars of congressional history, the author of six books about Congress and government, and an insightful resource for the news media about the often inscrutable goings-on in Congress.

I came to know Professor Baker when he joined my staff as an adviser in 2000, when he returned to Capitol Hill to gain a better understanding of Senate seniority. When he returned to my staff in 2004, during a period of fierce debate in the Senate Judiciary Committee over the direction of our courts and our national security policy, Professor Baker saw firsthand how lawmakers, including myself, balance meaningful, large-scale policy debates with the day-to-day responsibility of representing and advocating for our constituents. It goes without saying that my relationship with Professor Baker was a two-way street. It was not uncommon for me to respond to his questions with some of my own.

In 2008, Ross Baker joined then-Majority Leader REID's staff at a pivotal time in both Congress and in the political arena. Long and diverse primary campaigns, coupled with the winding down of the tumultuous Bush administration, provided Professor Baker with even more fodder for his courses at Rutgers. As he concludes his final stint with Senator REID's office, one can only wonder how today's political dialogue both on the campaign trail and on the floor of the Senate will inform Professor Baker's American Government course when he resumes teaching this fall.

Vermonters have entrusted me to represent them in Washington several times. Like Professor Baker, I have

spent time studying what works, and what doesn't. His insights are as important to the chronicle of Senate history as they are to the students he teaches today.

I ask unanimous consent that a May 5 article in the Washington Post entitled "History Professor Landed a Privileged Perch to See How Harry Reid Works" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 5, 2016]

HISTORY PROFESSOR LANDED A PRIVILEGED PERCH TO SEE HOW HARRY REID WORKS

(By Paul Kane)

Harry Reid almost never says no.

"When he gets a new piece of information or a request or anything, he says—he uses this phrase all the time—he says: 'I'll look at it,'" says Ross K. Baker, a distinguished congressional scholar at Rutgers University.

That approach gives the Senate minority leader wiggle room to make decisions in private, a style of leadership that is decidedly different from the "master of the Senate," bulldozing approach that Lyndon B. Johnson honed as leader in the 1950s.

That's just one of the countless insights that Baker, 77, has drawn in three separate stints as "scholar in residence" on Reid's staff. Last week, he finished his final tour with the retiring Senate leader as an unpaid adviser and observer, a one-of-a-kind sabbatical for the professor. Over the past 41 years, Baker has done seven stints on Capitol Hill, working in the House and Senate.

Rather than teaching undergraduate students his "American Government" course, the professor embedded himself in real American government at an irregular pace in the past, but over the past 16 years he's been here every four years. Nothing can compete with the access he has been given in Reid's leadership office in the Capitol. He watched the early stages of the 2008 presidential primary play out on the Senate floor between then-Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. He has seen Senate battles over treaties, and, without fail, has seen countless legislative battles end in gridlock.

Baker's time on Capitol Hill has provided history the chance to have an academic get an up-close view of one of this era's most influential political figures, but also one of the most difficult to understand.

"The panorama is breathtaking," Baker said. "Here is somebody who has his [finger on the] pulse [of] all the major policy areas, has to, and has a staff that is equipped to do that. So the feelers are out, the sensors are everywhere, the neurons are firing constantly."

Reid said he wanted Baker to "focus on the Senate as an institution" for history's sake, and the professor wrote a 2014 book, "Is Bipartisanship Dead?," based largely on his 2012 experience with Reid.

"We all trust him," Reid said in a telephone interview this week from Nevada.

He allowed Baker into every senior staff meeting and let him watch Reid's senior aides prep the senator every Tuesday morning for his weekly news conference. "He doesn't speak up very often, but when he does, we all listen," Reid added.

The low-light came when Republicans filibustered the ratification of a treaty to elevate global standards for the disabled, opening Baker's eyes to the ability of conservative groups to block legislation.

Now, Baker thinks the calls on both sides for "regular order"—legislation beginning in committee, involving junior members, emerging to full and open debates on the House and Senate floor—are hollow.

"There are just too many forces arrayed against it for it to work," he said. "I think it's a function of polarization, that leaders have to get control of the process and have to use exotic procedures that are basically incomprehensible."

Yet Reid was never the dictator in Johnson's 1950s style, according to Baker. Those senators whom Reid rebuffed after his initial "I'll take a look at it" would soon find him doing a quick favor. "He will double back and do something for that person to make them feel important," Baker said.

Baker has long been known as a leading congressional expert, a go-to resource for news media in need of translating Washington. These stints on Capitol Hill have given him a first-hand experience, spanning decades, that few scholars can match.

Baker's political interests started randomly. In the mid-1970s, when he was fashioning himself as an Africa expert and writing occasional op-eds in *The Washington Post*, Baker decided to refocus his career on U.S. politics, and on Congress in particular.

So the 36-year-old professor persuaded Sen. Walter Mondale's chief of staff, Richard Moe, to give him a break. Baker read the academic version of Washington in journals on his bus commute, then lived the real-life version by day, spending a full academic year among the offices of Mondale (D-Minn.) and Sens. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) and Frank Church (D-Idaho).

Back then, Baker was more like a regular staffer, writing speeches for Bayh and helping Church in his late-breaking bid for the 1976 presidential nomination. He almost accepted Church's offer of a full-time job but returned to Rutgers for the fall of 1976.

"But I got a serious, you know, a chronic case of Potomac Fever," Baker said.

By 1983, the time of his next full-year sabbatical, he had landed a gig with the House Democratic Caucus, when the massive majority included dozens of "Boll Weevil" Democrats who backed Ronald Reagan's tax cuts and strong military posture.

Baker went another 17 years before he got back to the Capitol, returning to the Senate and to his only Republican boss, then-Sen. Chuck Hagel (Neb.).

He bounced from there into the office of Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (Vt.), the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, spending several months there in 2000 and again in 2004. There, he saw up close how senior senators have to focus on one significant policy arena at the expense of others.

"There's this sort of policy triage that senators have to engage in, which is: They can't possibly devote themselves equally to three major committee assignments," Baker said.

Several years later, Baker's Rutgers connection paid off.

Reid's longtime senior aide Susan McCue was a Rutgers alumna, connecting Baker with Reid, which led to tours with the majority leader in 2008 and 2012, as well as a brief stint during the 2014 lame-duck session. These past four months were Baker's first stint with Reid in the minority.

With his Reid partnership ending, Baker is returning to another semester of "American Government" this fall at Rutgers.

"I at least come out of it with fresh anecdotes for my undergraduates," Baker said. "I mean, I just don't want to ever be in a position of mentioning a name and they look at me blankly."

**BUDGET COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE—S. 2844**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I offer for the RECORD the Budget Committee's cost estimate of S. 2844, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017.

The reported measure provides \$56.5 billion in discretionary budget authority for fiscal year 2017, which will result in new outlays of \$46.3 billion. When outlays from prior-year budget authority are taken into account, non-emergency discretionary outlays for the bill will total \$120.5 billion.

The reported bill matches its section 302(b) allocation set forth in S. Rept.

114-238 for budget authority for both the security and nonsecurity categories and is below the 302(b) allocation for outlays by \$10 million.

The bill contains emergency-designated appropriations, which are effectively exempt from budget enforcement. The Budget Act provides a mechanism to prevent abuse of the emergency designation in the form of the 314(e) point of order, which allows any Senator to challenge whether the appropriation is actually needed for an emergency. Specifically, the bill transfers to the community planning and development account previously appropriated emergency-designated Housing and Urban Development spending for

administrative costs related to disaster relief efforts. This transfer does not change budget authority, but increases outlays by \$1 million. I will adjust the allocations by this amount unless a challenge to the use of the emergency designation is successful, which would occur if fewer than 60 Senators agree that the appropriation is needed for an emergency purpose.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the table displaying the Budget Committee scoring of the bill.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**S. 2844, 2017 TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS—SPENDING COMPARISONS—SENATE-REPORTED BILL**

(Fiscal Year 2017, \$ millions)

	Budget Authority		Outlays	
	Security	Nonsecurity	Total	Total
Senate-reported bill .....	275	56,199	56,474	120,461
Senate 302(b) allocation .....	275	56,199	56,474	120,471
2016 Enacted .....	210	57,391	57,601	120,469
President's request .....	211	51,781	51,992	118,800
<b>SENATE-REPORTED BILL COMPARED TO:</b>				
Senate 302(b) allocation .....	0	0	0	-10
2016 Enacted .....	65	-1,192	-1,127	-8
President's request .....	64	4,418	4,482+	1,661

Note: Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Includes emergency-designated spending.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE—S. 2806**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I offer for the RECORD the Budget Committee's cost estimate of S. 2806, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017.

The reported measure provides \$75.1 billion in discretionary budget author-

ity for fiscal year 2017, which will result in discretionary outlays of \$83.1 billion.

The reported bill matches its section 302(b) allocation set forth in S. Rept. 114-238 for budget authority for both the security and nonsecurity categories, and is below the 302(b) allocation for outlays by \$10 million.

The bill is not subject to any budget-related points of order.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the table displaying the Budget Committee scoring of the bill.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**S. 2806, 2017 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—SPENDING COMPARISONS—SENATE-REPORTED BILL**

(Fiscal Year 2017, \$ millions)

	Budget Authority		Outlays	
	Security	Nonsecurity	Total	Total
Senate-reported bill .....	7,930	75,100	83,030	83,141
Senate 302(b) allocation .....	7,930	75,100	83,030	83,151
2016 Enacted .....	8,171	71,698	79,869	79,813
President's request .....	7,443	75,254	82,697	83,778
<b>SENATE-REPORTED BILL COMPARED TO:</b>				
Senate 302(b) allocation .....	0	0	0	-10
2016 Enacted .....	-241	3,402	3,161	3,328
President's request .....	487	-154	333	-637

Note: Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Excludes Overseas Contingency Operations funding in President's request.

**BUDGETARY REVISIONS**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate will soon consider Senate amendment No.

3896, filed by Senator COLLINS. This amendment includes the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, as reported by the Committee on Appropriations. The amendment includes a provision related to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's administrative costs for disaster relief activities that results in \$1 million in outlays. This provision is designated as an emergency pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act of 1985. The inclusion of this designa-

tion makes this spending eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

As a result, I am increasing the budgetary aggregate for 2017 by \$1 million in outlays. I am also increasing the 2017 allocation to the Appropriations Committee by \$1 million in outlays.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

<p><b>REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES</b> (Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">\$s in millions</th> <th style="text-align: right;">2017</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Spending Aggregates:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget Authority .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,212,350</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outlays .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,219,191</td> </tr> </table>	\$s in millions	2017	Current Spending Aggregates:		Budget Authority .....	3,212,350	Outlays .....	3,219,191	<p><b>REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—Continued</b> (Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">\$s in millions</th> <th style="text-align: right;">2017</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Adjustments:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget Authority .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outlays .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> </table>	\$s in millions	2017	Adjustments:		Budget Authority .....	0	Outlays .....	1	<p><b>REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—Continued</b> (Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">\$s in millions</th> <th style="text-align: right;">2017</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised Spending Aggregates:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget Authority .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,212,350</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outlays .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,219,192</td> </tr> </table>	\$s in millions	2017	Revised Spending Aggregates:		Budget Authority .....	3,212,350	Outlays .....	3,219,192
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Budget Authority .....	3,212,350																									
Outlays .....	3,219,192																									

**REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017**  
(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

\$s in millions	2017
Current Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	551,068
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	518,531
General Purpose Outlays .....	1,181,800
Adjustments:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0
General Purpose Outlays .....	1
Revised Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	551,068
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	518,531
General Purpose Outlays .....	1,181,801
Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above	
	OCO
	Program Integrity
	Disaster Relief
	Emergency
	Total
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0
General Purpose Outlays .....	0

**TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DOUGLAS J. SCHWARTZ**

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of Col. Douglas J. Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, and to wish him well upon his retirement. A dedicated and loyal public servant, Colonel Schwartz has served the people of Indiana and the United States in the U.S. Air Force for approximately 35 years. A command pilot, Colonel Schwartz has more than 4,200 flying hours, and his service includes deployments in support of U.S. military efforts in the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

A native of Fort Wayne, IN, Colonel Schwartz graduated from Purdue University and received his commission through the Air Force Officer Training School in 1981. Shortly thereafter, he entered pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, AZ, and was assigned to the 325th Bomb Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base, WA. He transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 1992 and flew KC-135R Stratotankers with the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron at Grissom. From October 1992 until March 2007, he held numerous command and leadership assignments at Grissom, including assistant chief pilot, chief of standardization and evaluation, operations officer, flight commander, and detachment commander. Colonel Schwartz has also served as detachment commander and operations group commander of the 927th Air Refueling Wing at MacDill Air Force Base, FL; vice commander of the 932nd Airlift Wing at Scott Air Force Base, IL; director of staff for the 4th Air Force; and wing commander of the 927th Air Refueling Wing at McDill Airforce Base, FL, before returning to Grissom to assume command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing in June 2014.

Under the leadership of Colonel Schwartz, Grissom is home to one of our Nation's finest Air Force units with the dedicated men and women of the 434th Air Refueling Wing and the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command. Colonel Schwartz has helped Grissom play a large and growing role in our national defense, and he has worked to ensure the Air Force recognizes the tremendous asset we have in Indiana.

We thank Colonel Schwartz for his service, dedication, and commitment to protecting Hoosiers and our Nation. Indiana has a long and proud tradition of serving our country, and Colonel Schwartz's leadership has played a critical role in ensuring that our brave men and women at the 434th Refueling Wing have the training and support they need. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I wish Colonel Schwartz and his wife, Ann, the best in the years ahead.

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

**TRIBUTE TO DAVID C. QUAM**

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor David Quam, deputy director for policy with the National Governors Association, or NGA. Senator MANCHIN and Senator ROUNDS both join me in honoring David, who concluded his tenure with NGA after 13 years of service to the Nation's Governors on April 29.

As he begins a new chapter in his distinguished professional career, I would like to highlight the important work David led at NGA, the bipartisan organization of the Governors of the 55 States, territories, and Commonwealths. David has been a strong voice for the Nation's Governors in the areas of State taxation, telecommunications

and technology, budget and appropriations, national security, veterans affairs, the National Guard, and the critical role of States in responding to the great recession and natural disasters. He testified before Congress 15 times, principally on State taxation matters. David also helped launch NGA's international program, leading a series of subnational trade conferences in Salt Lake City and Beijing between U.S. and Chinese Governors under a bilateral agreement between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

Since 2003, David has helped frame and convey the bipartisan views of U.S. Governors to Members of Congress, Presidential administrations and Federal executive branch officials, private sector executives, and international leaders. He has represented the consensus positions of Governors through numerous television appearances and print interviews with publications, including: the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Washington Post, CNN, National Public Radio, Congressional Quarterly, Bureau of National Affairs, Politico, Boston Globe, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Denver Post, and the Bond Buyer.

David relished his role as chief advocate presenting the collective voice of the Nation's Governors, often describing it as the "best job in Washington, D.C." He executed it well.

Through David's leadership of the Office of Federal Relations, NGA holds a respected record in developing policy solutions and effectively advocating the Governors' collective policy priorities before Congress and the administration. David and his team of professionals have helped to maintain a seat

at the table for the Nation's Governors on many critical national issues.

On behalf of all of my Senate colleagues who are former Governors, especially Senator MANCHIN and Senator ROUNDS, many of whom have worked directly with David Quam for years, I wish to express our thanks for his zealous bipartisan advocacy on behalf of the Nation's Governors, sound counsel, good humor, and tireless defense of the Tenth Amendment on behalf of the States.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM GRANT

● Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the significant contributions that Peterborough native Jim Grant has made to New Hampshire throughout his life. I am proud to recognize Jim's service in the Granite State and dedication to his fellow New Hampshire residents.

Jim has lived his entire life in Peterborough and is proud of his roots, which are represented on his vanity license plate with the phrase "LUVPBRO." In addition to being well-known and beloved by his neighbors, Jim epitomizes the spirit of generosity in New Hampshire. Spanning decades, Jim's dedication to volunteerism is outstanding, and he has served as a volunteer firefighter for 53 years. His record of service also includes volunteering for the Salvation Army, founding the Monadnock Workspace—an organization that employs and empowers those with developmental challenges—and co-founding the Peterborough Sunshine Fund, which assists individuals with emergency and travel needs.

It is only fitting that Jim's own profession would be as a teacher who educated and inspired generations of students. His passion for teaching compelled him to found the organization where he works today, Staff Development for Educators. By ensuring and enriching the professional development needs of educators, Jim is helping to spread education across the globe.

Jim has contributed greatly to the Greater Monadnock region, injecting positivity into the lives of people he may never know. It is an honor to highlight Jim's life of service and commitment to a cause greater than himself. His selflessness and generosity is a testament to all that is great in New Hampshire.

I extend my sincerest thanks to Jim for all that he has done and continues to do for the people of New Hampshire. I am extraordinarily proud to join his friends and neighbors in commending Jim for a life well lived and his lifetime of giving.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DELANEY BIEL

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a Hinsdale High

School senior, Delaney Biel. Delaney is described by her EMT instructor, Dorothy Jensen, as "a determined team player, who is committed to her community. She consistently exceeds expectations . . . I'd trust her with my life." Delaney is already a nationally certified emergency medical technician and will soon be receiving her State certification any moment now.

The loss of three classmates in recent years inspired Delaney to enroll in an EMT course offered at her own high school. Initially, an aspiring businesswoman, she has said, "the class absolutely changed what I wanted to do as a career. As a kid I was afraid of hospitals, but with the ambulance I get to make decisions in a fast-paced environment and I can get down to business without getting flustered." So far she has responded to women in labor and individuals with cardiac and diabetic emergencies. Last year, Delaney gave up basketball, volleyball, and most of her free time in the service of her community.

As a fifth generation Montana rancher, making the switch from farming equipment to an ambulance was simple. Both working her family's ranch and participating in Hinsdale athletics prepared her for the collaboration essential to high quality urgent care. Delaney has said, "This is a team sport; it's not about you, it's about everyone using their strengths to make the team work."

Delaney likes to keep a full schedule. Since April of last year, she has completed 500 hours of community service, administering bimonthly blood pressure screenings at the local senior center. She is also a member of FFA, president of student council, a member of the music department, and a member of the National Honor Society.

This fall, at Montana State University-Northern, Delaney will continue on her path to becoming a medical professional by pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing. After college, she intends to gain hands-on experience in the emergency rooms of Billings and Great Falls before applying to medical school. Her long term goal is to raise a family in Hinsdale and spend a few days each week where she got started, with the volunteer ambulance.

This young woman's dedication is inspiring. It is our small-town family values that makes Montana so special. Her example encourages each of us to reach beyond expectations we have set for ourselves and do our part to strengthen our communities.

Delaney, I wish you the best in college, and thank you for your service to our great State. Keep making us proud.●

#### CONGRATULATING JOHN TIERNEY

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate John Tierney on

being named Nevada's 2016 Michael Landsberry Teacher of the Year. This accolade is truly prestigious, attained by only the most influential of Nevada's educators. Without a doubt, Mr. Tierney's work at Adobe Middle School in the Elko County School District warrants recognition with this incredible award.

Mr. Tierney started his career in teaching three decades ago at the Fremont Unified School District. In 1989, he moved to Nevada and began teaching English and social studies at Adobe Middle School and has remained a valued member of the Red-Tailed Hawks' faculty department ever since. In addition to time spent in the classroom, Mr. Tierney leads the social studies department and serves on the School Improvement Team at Adobe Middle School. He is also a national facilitator for PBS TeacherLine, which provides online professional development courses for Pre-K through 12th grade teachers. Mr. Tierney's unwavering dedication to his students at Adobe Middle School over the last 25 years goes without question. He is truly a role model, providing an innovative and interactive teaching style for those in his classroom, and he encourages students with open discourse and debate. His commitment to his students is invaluable to the Elko community.

As the father of four children and as the husband of a teacher, I understand the important role educators play in enriching the lives of Nevadans. Ensuring students throughout the Silver State are prepared to compete in the 21st century is critical for the future of our country. The State of Nevada is fortunate to be home to educators like Mr. Tierney.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in thanking Mr. Tierney for his dedication to enriching the lives of Nevada's students and congratulating him on receiving this award. I wish him well in all of his future endeavors and in creating success for all students who enter his classroom.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAROLE VILARDO

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Carole Vilardo on her retirement after three decades of service to the Great State of Nevada. Ms. Vilardo has gone above and beyond in her role with the Nevada Taxpayers Association, NTA, embodying Nevada's values of strength and steadfast dedication to improving the Silver State's tax laws.

Ms. Vilardo began her career with the NTA in 1986 when she was assigned to work on issues including taxes, spending, and business regulation. Prior to this, she owned a retail shop and teamed up with former Nevada State Senator Ann O'Connell in spearheading work to create tougher shoplifting laws in Nevada. These laws were

later adopted and became a model to other States. From 1972 to 1986, the two worked as a team to better the State of Nevada by advocating for greater accountability for the Clark County Commission in its actions and decisions.

After joining the NTA, Ms. Vilardo worked for 30 years to maintain unbiased and fair tax laws for the Silver State. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Vilardo was recognized as a tax expert with an unparalleled ability to explain complex issues to those around her. Even with the slightest change in legislation, Ms. Vilardo could explain the direct effects these decisions would have on Nevada's economy. She was one-of-a-kind, earning the trust of anyone she made contact with. In addition, she served as a true watchdog of Nevada's spending. Her public service will be sorely missed by our Great State.

After three decades of providing insightful testimony on tax policy and instrumental counsel to those helping shape Nevada's laws, Ms. Vilardo recently retired. Her legacy throughout the Silver State and at the NTA will continue on for years to come. Ms. Vilardo will continue to be respected for her in-depth knowledge, years of unwavering dedication to our State, and for her ability to create long-lasting and positive relationships throughout Nevada. Her vigilance and determination in creating effective tax policy for our State will not be forgotten.

Ms. Vilardo has demonstrated true commitment to Nevada, exemplifying what it means to fight for the greater good of our Great State. We are lucky to have had someone of such dedication working on behalf of the Silver State. I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in thanking Ms. Vilardo for her years of service, and I wish her well in all of her future endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN F. CAMPBELL

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a strategic leader and exceptional warrior of tremendous talent. After a lifetime of distinguished service to our Nation, GEN John F. Campbell is retiring from the U.S. Army. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize General Campbell's decades of dedicated service to our Nation.

General Campbell graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1979 and commissioned in the U.S. Army infantry. During his more than 37 years of service, he has commanded units at every echelon from platoon leader, to four-star command, and in places such as Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Upon promotion to brigadier general in 2005, he was assigned as the deputy commanding general for Maneuver, 1st Cavalry Division, deployed to Baghdad, and is widely credited with holding together the force during a very violent

period leading up to the surge. His following assignment was the deputy director for regional operations at the Joint Staff. After being promoted to major general, he was named commander of the Screaming Eagles, 101st Airborne Division, and deployed to Afghanistan as commander, Regional Command East, International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, and commander, Combined Joint Task Force-101. He commanded over 30,000 coalition servicemembers and 65,000 Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. The scope of his responsibility included the protection of 13 million people and the security of a 450-mile border with Pakistan.

At Fort Campbell, KY, General Campbell cultivated lasting relationships within the community to support soldiers, civilians, and families. He installed programs to facilitate a comprehensive fitness program, develop soldier and family resiliency, and significantly decrease the suicide rate. As lieutenant general, he became the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Training. He was promoted to general and, in 2014, confirmed as the 34th U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff, where he promoted the physical, moral, and mental fitness required for improved readiness and resiliency. He was an advocate for stopping sexual harassment and assault and supported Wounded Warrior programs. He was vital in updating Congress on the Army's path ahead for these and other key issues. In addition, he coordinated a restructure of posts and stations that helped decrease 17,500 personnel by fiscal year 2017 to meet mandated end strength goals.

In 2014, General Campbell deployed to Afghanistan and took command of the NATO ISAF mission and United States Forces—Afghanistan. During his first 6 months, Afghanistan held an extended electoral process and installed a new President and Chief Executive as part of the National Unity Government. After this, General Campbell managed an over 90 percent drawdown of U.S. forces and installations; he transitioned the force from regional commands to train, advise, and assist commands. He helped transition ISAF to a functionally based security force assistance mission designated Resolute Support and became commander of both Resolute Support and United States Forces—Afghanistan for the next 14 months. He served as adviser to the President of Afghanistan, the Ministers of Defense and Interior, and the National Director of Security. His influence during the era of the National Unity Government will have long lasting strategic impacts in Afghanistan and the region.

General Campbell is well known for his strategic brilliance and calm fortitude. He is the embodiment of all the

values we expect in our most revered leaders: the rare tenacity to accomplish impossible missions; the selfless commitment to country, soldier, and family; and the composition of character that demonstrates only the highest moral and ethical values. He is known for telling his soldiers, "Leadership makes a difference," yet it is his exemplary leadership that had made a difference to countless thousands both abroad and at home.

I thank his wife, Ann; his daughter, Jennifer; and his son, John, Jr., who is also serving in the Army, for their years of dedication and support. As the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and on behalf of those who serve beside me, let me express the deepest respect and gratitude to General Campbell for his remarkable service to our Nation. I wish you and your family all the best in beginning your new chapter of life together.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, MI. I appreciate the opportunity to speak about this truly significant milestone in the history of this congregation, as well as the city of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. I offer Beth Israel my warmest regards and congratulations on its centennial. I am also pleased to express my pride in the many contributions of the congregation's members, who dedicate their talents to benefit Beth Israel and the greater good in Ann Arbor.

Established in 1916, Beth Israel was Ann Arbor's only Jewish congregation for many years. Initially, families met informally in the home of Osias Zwerdling to celebrate the Jewish High Holidays and community milestones. Mr. Zwerdling, a furrier by trade, would serve as the diverse congregation's president for the next 40 years. His leadership was particularly valuable given the fact that the congregation, as in many small American towns in the early twentieth century, operated without a rabbi. Instead, members of the congregation volunteered in a variety of roles, including teaching in Hebrew school, leading the congregation in prayer as cantor, or serving as its *schochet* to ensure the kosher slaughter of animals.

Early on, Beth Israel hired Reverend Pincus Gropstein, who was paid \$18 a week to serve the congregation's 30 families. In 1932, Rabbi Joshua Sperka became the congregation's first ordained rabbi and served in the role until 1934. After his departure, the congregation continued to rely on the devoted efforts of its members, who provided a steady backdrop to the contributions of Rabbi Julius Weinberg, who served from 1952 to 1961; Rabbi

Allan Kensky, who served from 1971 to 1988; and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, who has guided Beth Israel since 1988 with wisdom, humor, and warmth.

Beth Israel Congregation was the first conservative congregation in southeast Michigan to become egalitarian, encouraging men and women to participate equally in the ritual and spiritual life of the congregation, and was the first conservative congregation in the United States to choose a female president. The community's welcoming spirit is exemplified in its longstanding support of the LGBT community, where it is an active leader in promoting inclusion in the conservative Jewish movement, which is highlighted by its advocacy for the ordination of LGBT rabbis. Moreover, Beth Israel has taken steps to ensure people with disabilities have full access to the synagogue and its services.

In addition to nurturing an inclusive environment at Beth Israel, the congregation is committed to supporting the Jewish community at home and abroad. Members take steps to ensure that everyone has a place to celebrate the Passover Seder, volunteer in the congregation's extensive Hebrew language program, and send care packages throughout the world, including a care package that gave a soldier in Manila and Jewish communities in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Uganda the chance to celebrate Purim. The synagogue is also proud of its sponsorship of trips to Israel, as well as serious dialogue it fosters on issues related to Israel and the Middle East. Beyond its service to the Jewish community, Beth Israel is committed to the larger Ann Arbor community; playing an active role in city's Interfaith Hospitality Network, Interfaith Round Table, and the Ann Arbor Shelter Association.

Once again, I applaud Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, MI, on its 100th anniversary. The congregation's generosity and commitment to diversity exemplify the values of the people of Ann Arbor and the State of Michigan, who I am proud to represent in the Senate. I thank Beth Israel for its decades of service to the Jewish community and everyone in Ann Arbor. I wish the congregation and leadership of Beth Israel many more decades of success and may they always go from strength to strength.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NEAL ACKER

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Mr. Neal Acker, who at the end of this year will be retiring from a distinguished 12-year career as the general counsel of the Alabama Housing Finance Authority, AHFA. Neal graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law and was formerly associated with the law firm of Capell and Howard in Montgomery. Neal and his wife, Beth, have

been close and valued friends of mine for many years and have been wonderful public spirited citizens.

The Alabama Housing Finance Authority was established by the Alabama State Legislature in 1980 to provide financing options for low and moderate-income families. In its first year, AHFA issued \$150 million in low-interest loans, but since then, that number has grown by over \$2 billion. The last 35 years, the organization has expanded from providing financing to individual homeowners, to capitalizing substantial housing investment projects across the State.

Neal served AHFA through some of the worst natural disasters in Alabama's history. Through his leadership and dedication, the organization was able to provide temporary lodging to those affected by Hurricane Katrina and the 2011 tornado outbreak. Throughout his service to the people of Alabama, Neal also worked closely with the Tuscaloosa VA to develop housing options for homeless veterans.

Neal is a brilliant lawyer with great judgment. These qualities have played a key role in the success of the AHFA. AHFA has been governed most effectively during its dramatic growth. It is certainly one of the finest Housing Finance Authorities in America. Neal has been a right hand to this success and helped my office assist the authority in its good work. I am honored to have been able to work with Neal and am proud to call him my friend.●

#### RECOGNIZING BUENO FOODS

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a longstanding New Mexico institution: Bueno Foods. New Mexicans pride ourselves for our creative and delicious food, especially our homegrown chile. It is our official State vegetable and even the reason for our official state question, "Red or Green?" While generations of New Mexicans have loved chile in all sorts of forms, even dessert, our famous cuisine has more recently been adopted by food lovers across the world. And that is largely thanks to Bueno Foods.

On May 18, 2016, Bueno Foods of Albuquerque, NM, will celebrate its 65th anniversary. That is a cause to celebrate Bueno Foods can trace its heritage to Hispanic farmers and businessowners going back to the Spanish explorers who came to New Mexico in the 1500s. The company was formed in 1946 when several brothers from an old New Mexico family, the Bacas, returned from serving in World War II and scraped together enough money to start a grocery business. Their grocery was very successful at the beginning, but it faced a strong challenge when larger chains started opening up branches in the State. So the Baca brothers set out to benefit from New Mexico's unique heritage,

differentiate their business from out-of-state grocers, preserve our traditions, and of course, expand their sales.

Bueno Foods was born, founded in 1951, manufacturing corn and flour tortillas, tamales and posole at a time when household appliances were just entering many homes around the country. The brothers had another idea, too: to take chile, roast it over an open flame as the New Mexico autumn tradition dictates, and freeze it so that people could enjoy green chile year-round. It was a success, and history was made.

Over half a century later, you can find Bueno Foods in nearly every grocery store in the State and many others outside New Mexico. From Hawaii to Washington, DC, Bueno Foods has served as a proud ambassador of New Mexico cuisine, exposing new markets to delicious, fiery chile and the critical question, "red or green?"

For 65 years, Bueno Foods has made an old dicho the reality for all of us. "Panza llena, corazon contento; Full belly, happy heart." Today, I recognize the Baca brothers, Jacqueline, Gene, Catherine, Ana, and the rest of the Bueno Foods family for the business they started and the tradition they still are helping to preserve.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13611 OF MAY 16, 2012, WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—PM 47

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, with respect to Yemen is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2016.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Yemen and others continue to threaten Yemen's peace, security, and stability, including by obstructing the implementation of the agreement of November 23, 2011, between the Government of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which provided for a peaceful transition of power that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people for change, and by obstructing the political process in Yemen. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 12, 2016.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3680. An act to provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program for co-prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs.

H.R. 3691. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women and to establish a pilot program to provide grants to State substance abuse agencies to promote innovative service delivery models for such women.

H.R. 4599. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to permit certain partial fillings of prescriptions.

H.R. 4843. An act to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require certain monitoring and oversight, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4969. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide for informational materials to educate and prevent addiction in teenagers and adolescents who are injured playing youth sports and subsequently prescribed an opioid.

H.R. 4976. An act to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to seek recommendations from an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration before approval of certain new drugs that are opioids without abuse-deterrent properties, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4978. An act to require the Government Accountability Office to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the United States and its treatment under Medicaid, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4981. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to improve access to opioid use disorder treatment.

H.R. 4982. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate and report on the in-patient and outpatient treatment capacity, availability, and needs of the United States.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 4336) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service.

At 1:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4611. An act to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes.

At 3:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 32. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes.

S. 125. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 2755. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

H.R. 4238. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities.

H.R. 4336. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inurnment in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3680. An act to provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program for co-prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3691. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women and to establish a pilot program to provide grants to State sub-

stance abuse agencies to promote innovative service delivery models for such women; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4599. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to permit certain partial fillings of prescriptions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4641. An act to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4843. An act to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require certain monitoring and oversight, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4969. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide for informational materials to educate and prevent addiction in teenagers and adolescents who are injured playing youth sports and subsequently prescribed an opioid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4976. An act to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to seek recommendations from an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration before approval of certain new drugs that are opioids without abuse-deterrent properties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4978. An act to require the Government Accountability Office to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the United States and its treatment under Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4981. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to improve access to opioid use disorder treatment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4982. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate and report on the in-patient and outpatient treatment capacity, availability, and needs of the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals For Fiscal Year 2017" (Rept. No. 114-253).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 2348. A bill to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, and for other purposes.

S. 2577. A bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support

accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 2840. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2923. A bill to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the "Saint-Gaudens National Park for the Arts", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2924. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to former United States Senator Max Cleland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 2925. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the inspection of kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the same standards for kitchens and food service areas at hospitals in the private sector are being met at kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 2926. A bill to make technical changes to provisions authorizing prize competitions under the Stevenson-Wyder Technology Innovation Act of 1980, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2927. A bill to prevent governmental discrimination against providers of health services who decline involvement in abortion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 2928. A bill to require an expedited decision with respect to securing land-based missile fields, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2929. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2930. A bill to ensure that Federal funding for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change complies with applicable statutory limitations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Res. 461. A resolution commending the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, John Sopko, and his office for their efforts in providing accountability for taxpayer dollars spent in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. REID, and Mr. CARPER):

S. Res. 462. A resolution urging the United States Soccer Federation to immediately eliminate gender pay inequity and treat all athletes with the same respect and dignity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SASSE, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. Res. 463. A resolution honoring the memory and service of Omaha Police Officer Kerrie Orozco; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 464. A resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Alaska State Troopers; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Con. Res. 37. A concurrent resolution recognizing the George C. Marshall Museum and George C. Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Virginia, as the National George C. Marshall Museum and Library; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 71

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 804

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1301

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to amend title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to restore Medicaid coverage for citizens of the Freely Associated States lawfully residing in the United States under the Compacts of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to suspend, rather than terminate, an individual's eligibility for medical assistance under the State Medicaid plan while such individual is an inmate of a public institution.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to repeal debt collection amendments made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2348, a bill to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, and for other purposes.

S. 2377

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2377, a bill to defeat the Islamic



State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and protect and secure the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2551

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2551, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and mass atrocities, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States civilian capacities to prevent and mitigate such crises.

S. 2604

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2604, a bill to establish in the legislative branch the National Commission on Security and Technology Challenges.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2613, a bill to reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide comprehensive mental health reform, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2736, a bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2795

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2795, a bill to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.

S. 2825

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require compliance with domestic source requirements for footwear furnished to enlisted members of the Armed Forces upon their initial entry into the Armed Forces.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs.

GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance for the rehabilitation and repair of high hazard potential dams, and for other purposes.

S. 2840

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2840, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

S. 2849

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2849, a bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

S. 2892

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2892, a bill to accelerate the use of wood in buildings, especially tall wood buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 2904

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2904, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 2909

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2909, a bill to amend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 to allow for the use of certain assets of foreign persons and entities to satisfy certain judgments against terrorist parties, and for other purposes.

S. 2921

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2921, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve health care and benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 30

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 30, a concurrent resolution expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to exercise its veto in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

S. RES. 349

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 349, a resolution congratulating the Farm Credit System on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

S. RES. 397

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 397, a resolution supporting the recognition of 2016 as the "Year of Pulses" and acknowledging the nutritional benefit and important contribution to soil health of pulse crops.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 459

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 459, a resolution recognizing the importance of cancer research and the vital contributions of scientists, clinicians, cancer survivors, and other patient advocates across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, and designating May 2016, as "National Cancer Research Month".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2924. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to former United States Senator Max Cleland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2924

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Max Cleland Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2016".

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

(1) Joseph Maxwell “Max” Cleland has demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism and has served as an inspiration to friends, family, veterans, and many others while dedicating his life to the public service of the United States.

(2) Max Cleland began his career in public service when he joined the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps as a young college student, went on active duty in the United States Army (in this section referred to as the “Army”) in 1965 as a Second Lieutenant, and volunteered for service in Vietnam, rising to the rank of Captain.

(3) The Army recognized Max Cleland with a Silver Star for his gallantry in action during the Battle of Khe Sanh in April of 1968. According to the letter of commendation from the Army, “The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 8, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Captain (Signal Corps) Joseph Maxwell Cleland, United States Army, for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.”

(4) Max Cleland, a Battalion Signal Officer dispatched to set up a radio relay antenna, was severely wounded on the battlefield and, as a result, lost both of his legs and his right arm. Cleland would endure 18 months of extremely difficult rehabilitation and recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and hospitals of the Department of Veterans Affairs (in this section referred to as “VA hospitals”) in Washington, DC. In 1969, Cleland testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on the hardships faced by veterans returning home from war.

(5) Upon returning to Georgia, Max Cleland was determined to continue his public service and, in 1970, at the age of 28, was elected as the youngest Georgia State senator and helped pass legislation to make public facilities accessible for veterans, older people, and individuals with disabilities.

(6) Max Cleland later came to Washington, DC and joined the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs as a professional staff member, investigating VA hospitals across the country and the treatment of service members returning from Vietnam.

(7) In 1977, President Jimmy Carter named Max Cleland, then just 34 years old, the youngest ever individual, and first Vietnam veteran, to serve as Administrator of the Veterans Administration. As Administrator, Cleland helped create the “Vet Center” counseling program, which later expanded to 300 facilities nationwide helping veterans and their families receive psychological care for post-traumatic stress disorders and other problems associated with warfare.

(8) Following his term as Administrator of the Veterans Administration, Max Cleland returned to elective office in 1982 when he was elected as Secretary of State of the State of Georgia. As Secretary of State, Cleland implemented the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) in Georgia and added almost 1,000,000 new voters to the rolls.

(9) Max Cleland was elected to the United States Senate in 1996 and would go on to chair the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate. In the Senate, Cleland was known for his work in expanding benefits for service members and in improving veterans’ health care, education, and the environment.

(10) After his service in the Senate, Max Cleland continued his distinguished career in

public service by becoming a commissioner on the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (commonly referred to as the “9/11 Commission”) and later as a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

(11) In 2009, President Barack Obama named Max Cleland Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. As Secretary of the Commission, Cleland is charged with commemorating both the permanent cemeteries of the United States located in foreign countries and the military memorials, monuments, and markers demonstrating where members of the United States Armed Forces have served overseas since World War I.

(12) In 2010, President Obama again called on Max Cleland to serve his country and Cleland again accepted. This time, Cleland agreed to serve as co-chair, and eventually the inaugural chair, of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery, which was established to help fix the problems facing the final resting place for many of the heroes of the United States. After his tenure as chair, Cleland was awarded the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service of the Army, the highest honorary award that the Secretary of the Army can confer on a civilian.

(13) After overcoming some of the most difficult challenges imaginable, Max Cleland has spent almost five decades of his life in service to the United States and the country is forever indebted to his service.

**SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to Joseph Maxwell “Max” Cleland.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

**(c) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under this Act at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(2) SALE OF DUPLICATE MEDALS.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals under paragraph (1) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

**SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS****SENATE RESOLUTION 461—COMMENDING THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION, JOHN SOPKO, AND HIS OFFICE FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN PROVIDING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR TAXPAYER DOLLARS SPENT IN AFGHANISTAN**

Mr. PAUL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 461

Whereas the Office of Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) was created in 2008 “to provide independent and objective analysis and supervision of audits and investigations,” “to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness,” and to “prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse” with regards to “amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan”;

Whereas the Office of Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction has, under the leadership of SIGAR John Sopko, been a strong voice for the good stewardship of taxpayer dollars;

Whereas Special Inspector General Sopko has provided testimony 11 times before Congress;

Whereas the recommendations of SIGAR have resulted in more than \$1,000,000,000 in potential savings;

Whereas one investigation revealed contract bid-rigging and price-fixing that led to the termination of a \$1,000,000,000 Afghan Ministry of Defense fuel contract, resulting in \$214,000,000 in contract savings to the United States Government;

Whereas SIGAR investigations into waste, fraud, and abuse have led to nearly 700 contractors being prohibited from future United States Government contracts;

Whereas SIGAR exposed mismanagement and fraud within the United Nations-administered Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan, which provides billions of dollars in payments to the Afghan National Police;

Whereas SIGAR has further exposed poor attendance and accounting procedures that allow the existence of non-existent Afghan “ghost” soldiers and police, whose salaries are pocketed by corrupt officials;

Whereas SIGAR discovered the expenditure of \$6,000,000 on 9 goats meant to start a cashmere industry in Afghanistan, the whereabouts of which are now unknown;

Whereas SIGAR has attempted to provide accountability to \$210,000,000 spent on the construction of health care facilities in Afghanistan, discovering that nearly 80 percent of facilities have incorrect location data, where 13 facilities were built outside of Afghanistan, including one in the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas SIGAR also investigated the circumstances that led to the construction of a \$36,000,000 United States military command and control facility at Camp Leatherneck that the commanders on the ground stated they neither wanted nor needed, and which was never occupied;

Whereas SIGAR brought to national attention that the Department of Defense lost \$29,000,000 worth of heavy equipment, such as tractor trucks and cranes, which impeded efforts to constitute an independent Afghan

equivalent to the Army Corp of Engineers; and

Whereas SIGAR exposed the Department of Defense had spent \$43,000,000 on a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling station, costing nearly 86 times more than a similar project, and that further almost no vehicles in Afghanistan run on CNG and the cost to convert a vehicle is more than the average annual Afghan salary; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction for its ongoing role in identifying and reducing waste, fraud, and abuse; and

(2) urges all inspectors general to look to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction as an example of the vigor and independence with which the Senate expects inspectors general across government to pursue their duty.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 462—URGING THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION TO IMMEDIATELY ELIMINATE GENDER PAY INEQUITY AND TREAT ALL ATHLETES WITH THE SAME RESPECT AND DIGNITY**

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. REID, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 462

Whereas title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as “title IX”) requires schools and institutions of higher education to provide the same opportunities for girls that the schools and institutions of higher education provide for boys;

Whereas 6 years after the date of enactment of title IX, the approximate percentage of girls playing team sports increased from 4 percent to 25 percent, a sixfold increase;

Whereas the participation of girls in club soccer in the United States increased by approximately 37 percent between 1995 and 2015;

Whereas the participation of girls in high school soccer programs increased by approximately 45 percent between 1999 and 2014;

Whereas the participation of girls in team sports results in lifelong improvements to the educational, work, and health prospects of the girls;

Whereas the United States Soccer Federation is the governing body of soccer in all forms in the United States and endeavors to make soccer a preeminent sport in the United States;

Whereas the United States Women’s National Team has won 3 Federation Internationale de Football Association (commonly referred to as “FIFA”) Women’s World Cups, 4 Olympic Gold Medals, and 7 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (commonly referred to as “CONCACAF”) Gold Cups;

Whereas the United States Women’s National Team is ranked first in the world as of the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas the 2015 final Women’s World Cup match generated an audience of approxi-

mately 750,000,000 viewers worldwide and more than 25,000,000 viewers in the United States, the largest audience of any soccer game shown in the United States on English language television;

Whereas the members of the United States Women’s National Team are some of the most visible athletes in the world and serve as an inspiration and as role models to young athletes across the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the members of the United States Women’s National Team, despite the international success of the members, are consistently paid less than similarly situated members of the United States Men’s National Team for doing the same job, regardless of the performance of the teams;

Whereas a woman in 1963 was paid on average only 59 cents for each dollar paid to a male counterpart;

Whereas, in 1963, Congress passed and President Kennedy signed the landmark Equal Pay Act of 1963 (29 U.S.C. 201 note; Public Law 88-38) (referred to in this preamble as the “Equal Pay Act”), unequivocally affirming that women deserve equal pay for equal work;

Whereas the enactment of the Equal Pay Act laid the groundwork for title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) and title IX, which together vastly expanded opportunities for girls and women at school and work;

Whereas the pay disparities suffered by the members of the United States Women’s National Team are reflective of the reality of many women in the United States who, more than 50 years after the enactment of the Equal Pay Act, still make on average only 79 cents for each dollar made by a male counterpart;

Whereas those pay disparities exist in both the private and the public sectors and, in many instances, the pay disparities can only be due to continued intentional discrimination or the lingering effects of past discrimination;

Whereas unequal pay on the basis of gender tells women and girls that, whether on the soccer field or in the office, the hard work of the women or girls is not valued equally to that of male counterparts;

Whereas unequal pay on the basis of gender violates generally held beliefs regarding equality and fundamental fairness;

Whereas the wage gap equals approximately \$10,762 less per year in median earnings for women and their families compared to men;

Whereas, compared to the earnings of white, non-Hispanic men, women on average face a lifetime wage gap of \$430,480, African-American women on average face a lifetime wage gap of \$877,480, and Latinas on average face a lifetime wage gap of \$1,007,080; and

Whereas unequal pay on the basis of gender threatens the economic security of women and their families while the women are in the workforce and the retirement security of women after the women have left the workforce: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) urges the United States Soccer Federation to immediately end gender pay inequity and to treat all athletes with the respect and dignity those athletes deserve;

(2) supports an end to pay discrimination based on gender and the strengthening of equal pay protections; and

(3) instructs the Secretary of the Senate to submit a copy of this resolution to the United States Soccer Federation.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 463—HONORING THE MEMORY AND SERVICE OF OMAHA POLICE OFFICER KERRIE OROZCO**

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SASSE, and Mrs. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 463

Whereas Officer Kerrie Orozco bravely served the Omaha Police Department for 7 years as an officer and detective, working in the gang unit of the Omaha Police Department;

Whereas Officer Orozco was a beloved wife, daughter, sister, and mother;

Whereas Officer Orozco was a devoted public servant who engaged in many volunteer pursuits in Nebraska and Iowa, including youth sports, youth mentoring, and animal rescue;

Whereas, as a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Omaha, Officer Orozco was committed to her Catholic faith;

Whereas Officer Orozco was killed in the line of duty on May 20, 2015, while serving an arrest warrant on a suspect; and

Whereas Officer Orozco was the first female officer of the Omaha Police Department to be killed in the line of duty: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors the memory and service of Omaha Police Officer Kerrie Orozco.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 464—COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS**

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 464

Whereas the 15th Alaska Territorial Legislature established the Territory of Alaska Highway Patrol in 1941 for the purpose of enforcing traffic codes in the Territory of Alaska;

Whereas the jurisdiction of the Alaska Highway Patrol was expanded in 1945 in response to the need for a full spectrum police agency in the Territory of Alaska to address crimes outside the jurisdiction of local police departments;

Whereas the Alaska Territorial Legislature created the Alaska Territorial Police in 1953, which became the Alaska State Police on the admission of Alaska to statehood;

Whereas the Alaska State Police was renamed the Alaska State Troopers in 1967;

Whereas, in 1972, Governor of Alaska Bill Egan assigned responsibility and authority for the protection of the fish and wildlife resources of Alaska to the Department of Public Safety, leading to the formation of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, which is part of the Alaska State Troopers;

Whereas Alaska is 1/5 the size of the contiguous 48 States, consisting of—

- (1) 586,412 square miles of diverse terrain;
- (2) more than 3,000 rivers;
- (3) approximately 34,000 miles of coastline; and

(4) over 200 communities, many of which are not connected to each other by a road;

Whereas the daily responses to requests for law enforcement assistance presents unique challenges in Alaska seldom experienced in other States;

Whereas through the use of airplanes, boats, snowmachines, helicopters, and all-terrain vehicles, the Alaska State Troopers are able to respond across vast areas of the Alaska wilderness, battling the extremes of climate and terrain, to ensure that each Alaskan receives an answer to a call for help;

Whereas from the urban centers of Anchorage and Fairbanks to the small, isolated villages on the vast river systems in Alaska, the challenges of ensuring an effective law enforcement presence in Alaska are unequaled anywhere in the world;

Whereas the Alaska State Troopers partners with tribal organizations throughout Alaska to sponsor the Village Public Safety Officer program, which provides law enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical, and search and rescue services to remote Alaska Native villages throughout the State of Alaska;

Whereas the motto of the Alaska State Troopers is "Loyalty, Integrity, Courage, Compassion, Leadership, and Accountability";

Whereas the approximately 390 commissioned officers and 147 civilian personnel of the Alaska State Troopers have met the challenge of policing Alaska through their dedication, professionalism, and innovation; and

Whereas 16 members of the Alaska State Troopers and predecessor agencies of the Alaska State Troopers and 2 Village Public Safety Officers have given their lives in the line of duty: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Alaska State Troopers on its 75th anniversary; and

(2) expresses appreciation to the commissioned officers and civilian personnel of the Alaska State Troopers and to the Village Public Safety Officers, who are the "first responders of the last frontier", and to their families, for their service and sacrifice.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—RECOGNIZING THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL MUSEUM AND GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH LIBRARY IN LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, AS THE NATIONAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. CON. RES. 37

Whereas General George C. Marshall served as Army Chief of Staff during World War II, Special Ambassador to China, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense;

Whereas General George C. Marshall was promoted to General of the Army in 1944, one of only five Army five-star generals in the history of the United States;

Whereas General George C. Marshall was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1946 for his military strategy and vital role during World War II;

Whereas General George C. Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 for developing the European economic recovery strategy known as the Marshall Plan;

Whereas the George C. Marshall Foundation was established in 1953 and is devoted to preserving the legacy of General George C. Marshall through educational scholarship programs and facilities;

Whereas the George C. Marshall Foundation opened the George C. Marshall Museum and George C. Marshall Research Library in 1964 in Lexington, Virginia, on the post of the Virginia Military Institute, which is the alma mater of General George C. Marshall;

Whereas the George C. Marshall Museum educates the public about the military and diplomatic contributions of General George C. Marshall through extensive exhibits; and

Whereas the George C. Marshall Research Library maintains the most comprehensive collection of records documenting the life and leadership of General George C. Marshall: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress recognizes the George C. Marshall Museum and George C. Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Virginia, as the National George C. Marshall Museum and Library.

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the George C. Marshall Foundation's museum and library as the National George C. Marshall Museum. General George C. Marshall was born in Uniontown, PA, to a Virginia family. He is a distant relative of Chief Justice John Marshall, the fourth Supreme Court Justice of the United States. General Marshall graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1901 as senior first captain of the Corps of Cadets.

General Marshall served in a variety of posts in the Philippines, the United States, France, and China, distinguishing himself as a military leader. In 1939 he was named Chief of Staff by President Roosevelt and was responsible for building, supplying, and deploying over 8 million soldiers. Marshall also urged military readiness prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

After World War II, President Truman sent General Marshall to China to broker a coalition government between the Nationalist allies under Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the Communists under Mao Zedong. In 1946, General Marshall received the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. President Truman appointed Marshall Secretary of State in 1947. In what became known as the Marshall Plan, as Secretary of State Marshall oversaw the post-war European economic recovery strategy. In 1953, General Marshall received the Nobel Peace Prize for his post-war work, the only career officer in the United States Army to ever receive this honor.

The George C. Marshall Foundation was established in 1953 and officially opened in 1964. The Foundation's museum is located in Lexington, VA, and is dedicated to educating the public and the military and diplomatic career of General George C. Marshall. The foundation has devoted its mission to educating the public about the important contributions of General Marshall through its museum and research Library. The Museum has five extensive exhibits and houses General Marshall's Nobel Peace Prize.

I am proud to submit this resolution which will recognize and honor General George C. Marshall.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3896. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

SA 3897. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. SHELBY)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra.

SA 3898. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra.

SA 3899. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. RUBIO)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra.

SA 3900. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. LEAHY)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra.

SA 3901. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3902. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3903. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3904. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3905. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3906. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3907. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINÉ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3908. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment

SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3896.** Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### **DIVISION A—DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

##### TITLE I

##### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$116,396,000, of which not to exceed \$2,758,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$1,040,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary; not to exceed \$20,772,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed \$11,108,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; not to exceed \$16,020,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs; not to exceed \$2,569,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs; not to exceed \$30,054,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration; not to exceed \$2,142,000 shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs; not to exceed \$1,760,000 shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat; not to exceed \$11,089,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response; and not to exceed \$17,084,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent by all such transfers: *Provided further*, That notice of any change in funding greater than 5 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$60,000 shall be for allocation within the Department for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, excluding fees authorized in Public Law 107-71, there may be credited to this appropriation up to \$2,500,000 in funds received in user fees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for the position of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

##### RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses related to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, \$13,044,000, of which \$3,218,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training: *Provided further*, That any reference in law, regulation, judicial proceedings, or elsewhere to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration shall continue to be deemed to be a reference to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation.

##### NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

For capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, \$525,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall distribute funds provided under this heading as discretionary grants to be awarded to a State, local government, transit agency, or a collaboration among such entities on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region: *Provided further*, That projects eligible for funding provided under this heading shall include, but not be limited to, highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code; public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code; passenger and freight rail transportation projects; and port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry): *Provided further*, That the Secretary may use up to 20 percent of the funds made available under this heading for the purpose of paying the subsidy and administrative costs of projects eligible for Federal credit assistance under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, if the Secretary finds that such use of the funds would advance the purposes of this paragraph: *Provided further*, That in distributing funds provided under this heading, the Secretary shall take such measures so as to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds, an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas, and the investment in a variety of transportation modes: *Provided further*, That a grant funded under this heading shall be not less than \$5,000,000 and not greater than \$25,000,000: *Provided further*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading may be awarded to projects in a single State: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made under this heading shall be, at the option of the recipient, up to 80 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall give priority to projects that require a contribution of Federal funds in order to complete an overall financing package: *Provided further*, That not less than 30 percent of the funds provided under this heading shall be for projects located in rural areas: *Provided further*, That for projects located in rural areas, the minimum grant size shall be \$1,000,000 and the Secretary may increase the Federal share of costs above 80 percent: *Provided further*, That projects conducted using funds provided under this heading must comply with the requirements of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall conduct a new competition to select the grants and credit assistance awarded under this heading: *Provided*

*further*, That the Secretary may retain up to \$20,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading, and may transfer portions of those funds to the Administrators of the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration and the Maritime Administration, to fund the award and oversight of grants and credit assistance made under the National Infrastructure Investments program.

##### NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND INNOVATIVE FINANCE BUREAU

For necessary expenses for the establishment and administration of a new National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau (the Bureau) within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall use such amount for the necessary expenses to establish the Bureau and to fulfill the responsibilities of the Bureau, as detailed in section 9001 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Public Law 114-94) (49 U.S.C. 116): *Provided further*, That the Secretary is required to receive the advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to exercising the authorities of 49 U.S.C. 116(h): *Provided further*, That the program be available to other Federal agencies, States, municipalities and project sponsors seeking Federal transportation expertise in obtaining financing.

##### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPITAL

For necessary expenses for upgrading and enhancing the Department of Transportation's financial systems and re-engineering business processes, \$4,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2018.

##### CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to wide area network and information technology infrastructure, improvement of network perimeter controls and identity management, testing and assessment of information technology against business, security, and other requirements, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives and information infrastructure enhancements, implementation of enhanced security controls on network devices, \$15,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2018.

##### OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$9,751,000.

##### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, to remain available until expended, \$12,043,000: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$3,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses of the Interagency Infrastructure Permitting Improvement Center (IIPIC): *Provided further*, That there may be transferred to this appropriation, to remain available until expended, amounts from other Federal agencies for expenses incurred under this heading for IIPIC activities not related to transportation infrastructure: *Provided further*, That the tools and analysis developed by the IIPIC shall be available to other Federal agencies for the permitting and review of major infrastructure projects not related to transportation to the extent that other Federal agencies provide funding to the Department as provided for under the previous proviso.

## WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For necessary expenses for operating costs and capital outlays of the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed \$190,389,000 shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the above limitation on operating expenses shall not apply to non-DOT entities: *Provided further*, That no funds appropriated in this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without majority approval of the Working Capital Fund Steering Committee and approval of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no assessments may be levied against any program, budget activity, subactivity or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees.

## MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM

For the cost of guaranteed loans, \$339,000, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 332: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$18,367,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, \$602,000.

## SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION AND OUTREACH

For the necessary expenses to establish Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Outreach, that will ensure small and disadvantaged business policies of the Secretary of Transportation are developed and implemented in a fair, efficient and effective manner, \$4,646,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 332, these funds may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

## PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS

## (AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 41731 through 41742, \$150,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in determining between or among carriers competing to provide service to a community, the Secretary may consider the relative subsidy requirements of the carriers: *Provided further*, That basic essential air service minimum requirements shall not include the 15-passenger capacity requirement under subsection 41732(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act or any other Act shall be used to enter into a new contract with a community located less than 40 miles from the nearest small hub airport before the Secretary has negotiated with the community over a local cost share: *Provided further*, That amounts authorized to be distributed for the essential air service program under subsection 41742(b) of title 49, United States Code, shall be made available immediately from amounts otherwise provided to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration: *Provided further*, That the Administrator may reimburse such amounts

from fees credited to the account established under section 45303 of title 49, United States Code.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the modal administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for Congressional notification.

SEC. 102. Notwithstanding section 3324 of title 31, United States Code, in addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department's Working Capital Fund is hereby authorized to provide payments in advance to vendors that are necessary to carry out the Federal transit pass transportation fringe benefit program under Executive Order 13150 and section 3049 of Public Law 109-59: *Provided*, That the Department shall include adequate safeguards in the contract with the vendors to ensure timely and high-quality performance under the contract.

SEC. 103. The Secretary shall post on the Web site of the Department of Transportation a schedule of all meetings of the Council on Credit and Finance, including the agenda for each meeting, and require the Council on Credit and Finance to record the decisions and actions of each meeting.

## FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS

## (AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Aviation Administration, not otherwise provided for, including operations and research activities related to commercial space transportation, administrative expenses for research and development, establishment of air navigation facilities, the operation (including leasing) and maintenance of aircraft, subsidizing the cost of aeronautical charts and maps sold to the public, lease or purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, in addition to amounts made available by Public Law 112-95, \$10,048,352,000 of which \$9,190,000,000 shall be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, of which not to exceed \$7,593,785,000 shall be available for air traffic organization activities; not to exceed \$1,286,982,000 shall be available for aviation safety activities; not to exceed \$19,826,000 shall be available for commercial space transportation activities; not to exceed \$771,342,000 shall be available for finance and management activities; not to exceed \$60,155,000 shall be available for NextGen and operations planning activities; not to exceed \$107,161,000 shall be available for security and hazardous materials safety; and not to exceed \$209,101,000 shall be available for staff offices: *Provided*, That not to exceed 2 percent of any budget activity, except for aviation safety budget activity, may be transferred to any budget activity under this heading: *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any appropriation by more than 2 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 2 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year

hereafter, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to Congress in December 2004 pursuant to section 221 of Public Law 108-176: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a companion report that describes a comprehensive strategy for staffing, hiring, and training flight standards and aircraft certification staff in a format similar to the one utilized for the controller staffing plan, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That funds may be used to enter into a grant agreement with a nonprofit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for new applicants for the second career training program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new aviation user fees not specifically authorized by law after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, foreign authorities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred in the provision of agency services, including receipts for the maintenance and operation of air navigation facilities, and for issuance, renewal or modification of certificates, including airman, aircraft, and repair station certificates, or for tests related thereto, or for processing major repair or alteration forms: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$159,000,000 shall be for the contract tower program, including the contract tower cost share program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act for aeronautical charting and cartography are available for activities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to eliminate the Contract Weather Observers program at any airport.

## FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

## (AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for acquisition, establishment, technical support services, improvement by contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including initial acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; engineering and service testing, including construction of test facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; construction and furnishing of quarters and related accommodations for officers and employees of the Federal Aviation Administration stationed at remote localities where such accommodations are not available; and the purchase, lease, or transfer of aircraft from funds available under this heading, including aircraft for aviation regulation and certification; to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, \$2,838,000,000, of which \$489,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017, and \$2,349,000,000 shall remain available until

September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, for expenses incurred in the establishment, improvement, and modernization of national airspace systems: *Provided further*, That no later than March 31, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to the Congress an investment plan for the Federal Aviation Administration which includes funding for each budget line item for fiscal years 2018 through 2022, with total funding for each year of the plan constrained to the funding targets for those years as estimated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress.

RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT  
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for research, engineering, and development, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including construction of experimental facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant, \$176,002,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, which shall be available for expenses incurred for research, engineering, and development.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS  
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For liquidation of obligations incurred for grants-in-aid for airport planning and development, and noise compatibility planning and programs as authorized under subchapter I of chapter 471 and subchapter I of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, and under other law authorizing such obligations; for procurement, installation, and commissioning of runway incursion prevention devices and systems at airports of such title; for grants authorized under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code; and for inspection activities and administration of airport safety programs, including those related to airport operating certificates under section 44706 of title 49, United States Code, \$3,750,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the obligations for which are in excess of \$3,350,000,000 in fiscal year 2017, notwithstanding section 47117(g) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be available for the replacement of baggage conveyor systems, reconfiguration of terminal baggage areas, or other airport improvements that are necessary to install bulk explosive detection systems: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 47109(a) of title 49, United States Code, the Government's share of allowable project costs under paragraph (2) for subgrants or paragraph (3) of that section shall be 95 percent for a project at other than a large or medium hub airport that is a successive phase of a multiphased construction project for which the

project sponsor received a grant in fiscal year 2011 for the construction project: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of funds limited under this heading, not more than \$107,691,000 shall be available for administration, not less than \$15,000,000 shall be available for the Airport Cooperative Research Program, not less than \$31,375,000 shall be available for Airport Technology Research, and \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available and transferred to "Office of the Secretary, Salaries and Expenses" to carry out the Small Community Air Service Development Program: *Provided further*, That in addition to airports eligible under section 41743 of title 49, such program may include the participation of an airport that serves a community or consortium that is not larger than a small hub airport, according to FAA hub classifications effective at the time the Office of the Secretary issues a request for proposals.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL  
AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 110. None of the funds in this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 technical staff-years under the federally funded research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2017.

SEC. 111. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to pursue or adopt guidelines or regulations requiring airport sponsors to provide to the Federal Aviation Administration without cost building construction, maintenance, utilities and expenses, or space in airport sponsor-owned buildings for services relating to air traffic control, air navigation, or weather reporting: *Provided*, That the prohibition of funds in this section does not apply to negotiations between the agency and airport sponsors to achieve agreement on "below-market" rates for these items or to grant assurances that require airport sponsors to provide land without cost to the FAA for air traffic control facilities.

SEC. 112. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may reimburse amounts made available to satisfy 49 U.S.C. 41742(a)(1) from fees credited under 49 U.S.C. 45303 and any amount remaining in such account at the close of that fiscal year shall be made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) for the subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 113. Amounts collected under section 40113(e) of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to the appropriation current at the time of collection, to be merged with and available for the same purposes of such appropriation.

SEC. 114. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for paying premium pay under subsection 5546(a) of title 5, United States Code, to any Federal Aviation Administration employee unless such employee actually performed work during the time corresponding to such premium pay.

SEC. 115. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase a store gift card or gift certificate through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SEC. 116. The Secretary shall apportion to the sponsor of an airport that received scheduled or unscheduled air service from a large certified air carrier (as defined in part 241 of title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, or such other regulations as may be issued by the Secretary under the authority of section 41709) an amount equal to the minimum ap-

portionment specified in 49 U.S.C. 47114(c), if the Secretary determines that airport had more than 10,000 passenger boardings in the preceding calendar year, based on data submitted to the Secretary under part 241 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 117. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for retention bonuses for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration without the prior written approval of the Assistant Secretary for Administration of the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 118. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act or any prior Act may be used to implement or to continue to implement any limitation on the ability of any owner or operator of a private aircraft to obtain, upon a request to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a blocking of that owner's or operator's aircraft registration number from any display of the Federal Aviation Administration's Aircraft Situational Display to Industry data that is made available to the public, except data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SEC. 119. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than nine political and Presidential appointees in the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 119A. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to increase fees pursuant to section 44721 of title 49, United States Code, until the Federal Aviation Administration provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report that justifies all fees related to aeronautical navigation products and explains how such fees are consistent with Executive Order 13642.

SEC. 119B. None of the funds in this Act may be used to close a regional operations center of the Federal Aviation Administration or reduce its services unless the Administrator notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 90 full business days in advance.

SEC. 119C. None of the funds appropriated or limited by this Act may be used to change weight restrictions or prior permission rules at Teterboro airport in Teterboro, New Jersey.

SEC. 119D. None of the funds provided under this Act may be used by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to withhold from consideration and approval any application for participation in the Contract Tower Program, pending as of January 1, 2016, including applications from Cost-share Program participants if the Administrator determines such tower is eligible under the criteria set forth in the Federal Aviation report, Establishment and Discontinuance Criteria for Airport Traffic Control Towers (FAA-APO-90-7).

SEC. 119E. For fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Transportation shall apportion to the sponsor of a primary airport under section 47114(c)(1)(A) of title 49, United States Code, an amount based on the number of passenger boardings at the airport during calendar year 2012 if the airport had—

(1) fewer than 10,000 passenger boardings during the calendar year used to calculate the apportionment for fiscal year 2017 under section 116; and

(2) 10,000 or more passenger boardings during calendar year 2012.

SEC. 119F. Section 47109(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as

follows: “The Government’s share of allowable project costs determined under this subsection shall not exceed the lesser of 93.75 percent or the highest percentage Government share applicable to any project in any State under subsection (b), except that at a primary non-hub and non-primary commercial service airport located in a State as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection that is within 15 miles of another State as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Government’s share shall be an average of the Government share applicable to any project in each of the States.”.

SEC. 119G. Section 911 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-95) is amended by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) COLLABORATION AND REPORTING.—

“(1) The Administrator, in coordination with NASA, the Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and after consultation with other relevant agencies shall develop a joint plan to carry out the research under subsection (a) and report back to Congress within 180 days.

“(2) The Administrator, in coordination with the Administrator of NASA, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall continue research and development activities into the development and deployment of jet fuels as outlined in subsection (a).”.

SEC. 119H. Section 332(c) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-95; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN FLIGHT TEST FACILITIES.—The Administrator shall expand the program established under paragraph (1) to permit projects under the program to be carried out at any public entity authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration as an unmanned aircraft system flight test center before January 1, 2009.”.

SEC. 119I. Notwithstanding Section 40117(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation may authorize use of a passenger facility charge to finance an eligible airport-related project if the eligible agency seeking to impose the new charge controls an airport where a \$2 passenger facility charge became effective on January 1, 2013; and the airport where the passenger facility charge is collected and the airport at which the project will be carried out were under the control of the same eligible agency on October 1, 2015.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed \$433,295,000, together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Highway Administration, shall be obligated for necessary expenses for administration and operation of the Federal Highway Administration. In addition, not to exceed \$2,500,000 shall be transferred to the Appalachian Regional Commission in accordance with section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Funds available for the implementation or execution of Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs authorized under titles 23 and 49, United States Code, and the provisions of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act shall not exceed total obligations of \$43,266,100,000 for

fiscal year 2017: *Provided*, That the Secretary may collect and spend fees, as authorized by title 23, United States Code, to cover the costs of services of expert firms, including counsel, in the field of municipal and project finance to assist in the underwriting and servicing of Federal credit instruments and all or a portion of the costs to the Federal Government of servicing such credit instruments: *Provided further*, That such fees are available until expended to pay for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amounts are in addition to administrative expenses that are also available for such purpose, and are not subject to any obligation limitation or the limitation on administrative expenses under section 608 of title 23, United States Code.

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs authorized under title 23, United States Code, \$44,005,100,000 derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to remain available until expended.

(RESCISSION)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Of the unobligated balances of funds apportioned among the States under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, a total of \$2,211,000,000 is hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That such rescission shall not apply to funds distributed in accordance with sections 104(b)(3) and 130(f) of title 23, United States Code; section 133(d)(1)(A) of such title; the first sentence of section 133(d)(3)(A) of such title, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of MAP-21 (Public Law 112-141); sections 133(d)(1) and 163 of such title, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59); and section 104(b)(5) of such title, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of MAP-21 (Public Law 112-141): *Provided further*, That such rescission shall not apply to funds that are exempt from the obligation limitation or subject to special no-year obligation limitation: *Provided further*, That the amount to be rescinded from a State shall be determined by multiplying the total amount of the rescission by the ratio that the unobligated balances subject to the rescission as of September 30, 2016, for the State; bears to the unobligated balances subject to the rescission as of September 30, 2016, for all States: *Provided further*, That the amount to be rescinded under this section from each program to which the rescission applies within a State shall be determined by multiplying the rescission amount calculated for such State by the ratio that the unobligated balance as of September 30, 2016, for such program in such State; bears to the unobligated balances as of September 30, 2016, for all programs to which the rescission applies in such State.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 120. (a) For fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways—

(A) amounts authorized for administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) amounts authorized for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(2) not distribute an amount from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways that is equal to the unobligated balance of amounts—

(A) made available from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years the funds for which are allocated by the Secretary (or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which obligation limitation was provided in a previous fiscal year;

(3) determine the proportion that—

(A) the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate of amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; bears to

(B) the total of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraphs (1) through (11) of subsection (b) and sums authorized to be appropriated for section 119 of title 23, United States Code, equal to the amount referred to in subsection (b)(12) for such fiscal year), less the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;

(4) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than programs to which paragraph (1) applies) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act and title 23, United States Code, or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of that title, by multiplying—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year; and

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) and the amounts distributed under paragraph (4), for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs that are apportioned by the Secretary under title 23, United States Code (other than the amounts apportioned for the National Highway Performance Program in section 119 of title 23, United States Code, that are exempt from the limitation under subsection (b)(12) and the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to each State for such fiscal year; bears to

(B) the total of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to all States for such fiscal year.

(b) EXCEPTIONS FROM OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—The obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall not apply to obligations under or for—

(1) section 125 of title 23, United States Code;

(2) section 147 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 92 Stat. 2714);

(3) section 9 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981 (95 Stat. 1701);

(4) subsections (b) and (j) of section 131 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2119);

(5) subsections (b) and (c) of section 149 of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (101 Stat. 198);



(6) sections 1103 through 1108 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2027);

(7) section 157 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on June 8, 1998);

(8) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 1998 through 2004, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(9) Federal-aid highway programs for which obligation authority was made available under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 107) or subsequent Acts for multiple years or to remain available until expended, but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used;

(10) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2005 through 2012, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(11) section 1603 of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 118 note; 119 Stat. 1248), to the extent that funds obligated in accordance with that section were not subject to a limitation on obligations at the time at which the funds were initially made available for obligation; and

(12) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (but, for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017, only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000).

(c) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall, after August 1 of such fiscal year—

(1) revise a distribution of the obligation limitation made available under subsection (a) if an amount distributed cannot be obligated during that fiscal year; and

(2) redistribute sufficient amounts to those States able to obligate amounts in addition to those previously distributed during that fiscal year, giving priority to those States having large unobligated balances of funds apportioned under sections 144 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112-141) and 104 of title 23, United States Code.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS TO TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall apply to contract authority for transportation research programs carried out under—

(A) chapter 5 of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) title VI of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Obligation authority made available under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) remain available for a period of 4 fiscal years; and

(B) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.

(e) REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of obligation limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall distribute to the States any funds (excluding funds authorized for the program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code) that—

(A) are authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for Federal-aid highway programs; and

(B) the Secretary determines will not be allocated to the States (or will not be apportioned to the States under section 204 of title 23, United States Code), and will not be

available for obligation, for such fiscal year because of the imposition of any obligation limitation for such fiscal year.

(2) RATIO.—Funds shall be distributed under paragraph (1) in the same proportion as the distribution of obligation authority under subsection (a)(5).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds distributed to each State under paragraph (1) shall be available for any purpose described in section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the sale of data products, for necessary expenses incurred pursuant to chapter 63 of title 49, United States Code, may be credited to the Federal-aid highways account for the purpose of reimbursing the Bureau for such expenses: *Provided*, That such funds shall be subject to the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs.

SEC. 122. Not less than 15 days prior to waiving, under his or her statutory authority, any Buy America requirement for Federal-aid highways projects, the Secretary of Transportation shall make an informal public notice and comment opportunity on the intent to issue such waiver and the reasons therefor: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall provide an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on any waivers granted under the Buy America requirements.

SEC. 123. None of the funds in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to provide credit assistance unless not less than 3 days before any application approval to provide credit assistance under sections 603 and 604 of title 23, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation provides notification in writing to the following committees: the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: *Provided*, That such notification shall include, but not be limited to, the name of the project sponsor; a description of the project; whether credit assistance will be provided as a direct loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit; and the amount of credit assistance.

SEC. 124. (a) A State or territory, as defined in section 165 of title 23, United States Code, may, hereafter, use for any project eligible under section 133(b) of title 23 or section 165 of title 23 and located within the boundary of the State or territory any earmarked amount, and any associated obligation limitation, provided that the Department of Transportation for the State or territory for which the earmarked amount was originally designated or directed notifies the Secretary of Transportation of its intent to use its authority under this section and submits a quarterly report to the Secretary identifying the projects to which the funding would be applied. Notwithstanding the original period of availability of funds to be obligated under this section, such funds and associated obligation limitation shall remain available for obligation for a period of 3 fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the Secretary of Transportation is notified. The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out with funds made available under this section shall be the same as associated with the earmark.

(b) In this section, the term “earmarked amount” means—

(1) congressionally directed spending, as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules

of the Senate, identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration; or

(2) a congressional earmark, as defined in rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

(c) The authority under subsection (a) may be exercised only for those projects or activities that have obligated less than 10 percent of the amount made available for obligation as of October 1 of the current fiscal year, and shall be applied to projects within the same general geographic area within 50 miles for which the funding was designated, except that a State or territory may apply such authority to unexpended balances of funds from projects or activities the State or territory certifies have been closed and for which payments have been made under a final voucher.

(d) The Secretary shall—

(1) for fiscal year 2017, submit consolidated reports of the information provided by the States and territories each quarter to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; and

(2) for fiscal year 2018 and thereafter, post such information annually on the Department’s public Web site.

SEC. 125. None of the funds in this Act may be used to make a grant for a project under section 117 of title 23, United States Code, unless the Secretary, at least 60 days before making a grant under that section, provides written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the proposed grant, including an evaluation and justification for the project and the amount of the proposed grant award.

SEC. 126. (a) IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM.—Section 1105(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 is amended by adding at the end the following: “(89) United State Route 67 from Interstate 40 in North Little Rock, Arkansas, to United States Route 412.”

(b) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ROUTE SEGMENTS ON INTERSTATE SYSTEM.—Section 1105(e)(5)(A) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 is amended in the first sentence by striking “and subsection (c)(83)” and inserting “subsection (c)(83), and subsection (c)(89)”

(c) DESIGNATION.—Section 1105(e)(5)(C)(i) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“The route referred to in subsection (c)(89) is designated as Interstate Route I-57”.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS  
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the implementation, execution and administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs pursuant to section 31110 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, \$277,200,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Motor

Carrier Safety Administration, the sum of which shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for implementation, execution or administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs authorized under title 49, United States Code, shall not exceed total obligations of \$277,200,000 for “Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs” for fiscal year 2017, of which \$9,180,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019, is for the research and technology program.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS  
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out sections 31102, 31103, 31104, and 31131 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, \$367,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of motor carrier safety programs shall not exceed total obligations of \$367,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 for “Motor Carrier Safety Grants”; of which \$292,600,000 shall be available for the motor carrier safety assistance program, \$31,200,000 shall be available for the commercial driver’s license program implementation program, \$42,200,000 shall be available for the high priority activities program, and \$1,000,000 shall be available for the commercial motor vehicle operator grant program.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 130. Funds appropriated or limited in this Act shall be subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in section 350 of Public Law 107–87 and section 6901 of Public Law 110–28.

SEC. 131. Section 133 of division L, title I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Public Law 114–113, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the requirement for two off-duty periods from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. under subsection 395.3(c) or the restriction on use of more than one restart during a 168-hour period under subsection 395.3(d) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, and such provisions shall have no force or effect as of the date of submission of the final report issued by the Secretary of Transportation, as required by section 133 of division K of Public Law 113–235, unless the Secretary and the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation each review and determine that the final report—

“(1) meets the statutory requirements set forth in such section; and

“(2) establishes that commercial motor vehicle drivers who operated under the restart provisions in operational effect between July 1, 2013, and the day before the date of enactment of such Public Law demonstrated statistically significant improvement in all outcomes related to safety, operator fatigue, driver health and longevity, and work schedules, in comparison to commercial motor vehicle drivers who operated under the restart provisions in operational effect on June 30, 2013.

“(b) If the Secretary and Inspector General do not each make the determination required by subsection (a), the 34-hour restart rule in operational effect on June 30, 2013,

shall be restored to full force and effect on the date the Secretary submits the final report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act shall be available to implement, administer, or enforce such rule.

“(c) If the 34-hour restart rule in operational effect on June 30, 2013, is restored to full force and effect pursuant to subsection (b), a driver who uses that restart rule may not drive after being on duty more than 73 hours in any period of 7 consecutive days, where the 7-day measurement period moves forward 1 day at midnight each day.”.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary to discharge the functions of the Secretary, with respect to traffic and highway safety authorized under chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, \$160,075,000, of which \$20,000,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2018.

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH  
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, \$145,900,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2017, are in excess of \$145,900,000, of which \$140,700,000 shall be for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 403 and \$5,200,000 shall be for the National Driver Register authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That within the \$145,900,000 obligation limitation for operations and research, \$20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018, and shall be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for future years.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS  
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)  
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)  
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of 23 U.S.C. 402, 404, and 405, and section 4001(a)(6) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, to remain available until expended, \$585,372,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account): *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2017, are in excess of \$585,372,000 for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 402, 404, and 405, and section 4001(a)(6) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, of which \$252,300,000 shall be for “Highway Safety Programs” under 23 U.S.C. 402; \$277,500,000 shall be for “National Priority Safety Programs” under 23 U.S.C. 405; \$29,500,000 shall be for “High Visibility Enforcement Program” under 23 U.S.C. 404; \$26,072,000 shall be for “Administrative Expenses” under section 4001(a)(6) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used for construction, rehabilitation, or remodeling costs, or for office furnishings and fixtures for State, local or private build-

ings or structures: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 of the funds made available for “National Priority Safety Programs” under 23 U.S.C. 405 for “Impaired Driving Countermeasures” (as described in subsection (d) of that section) shall be available for technical assistance to the States: *Provided further*, That with respect to the “Transfers” provision under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(1)(8), any amounts transferred to increase the amounts made available under section 402 shall include the obligation authority for such amounts: *Provided further*, That the Administrator shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of any exercise of the authority granted under the previous proviso or under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(1)(8) within 5 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 140. An additional \$130,000 shall be made available to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, out of the amount limited for section 402 of title 23, United States Code, to pay for travel and related expenses for State management reviews and to pay for core competency development training and related expenses for highway safety staff.

SEC. 141. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration set in this Act shall not apply to obligations for which obligation authority was made available in previous public laws but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration, not otherwise provided for, \$208,500,000, of which \$15,900,000 shall remain available until expended.

RAILROAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for railroad research and development, \$40,100,000, to remain available until expended.

RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM

The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to issue direct loans and loan guarantees pursuant to sections 501 through 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–210), as amended, such authority to exist as long as any such direct loan or loan guarantee is outstanding.

CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS

For necessary expenses related to Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grants as authorized by section 24407 of title 49, United States Code, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$25,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 24407 (c)(1) of title 49, United States Code; and \$25,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 24407 (c)(5), (c)(6), (c)(7), and (c)(10) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided*, That the Secretary may withhold up to one percent of the amount provided under this heading for the costs of project management oversight of grants carried out under section 24407 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That such funds shall only be used for grants related to railroad safety.

FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR STATE OF GOOD REPAIR GRANTS

For necessary expenses related to Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair

Grants as authorized by section 24911 of title 49, United States Code, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may withhold up to one percent of the amount provided under this heading for the costs of project management oversight of grants carried out under section 24911 of title 49, United States Code.

#### RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

For necessary expenses related to grants, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$5,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 24408 of title 49, United States Code; and \$10,000,000 shall be available for capital grants for the restoration or initiation of intercity passenger service in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the total project cost: *Provided*, That the Secretary may withhold up to one percent of the funds provided under this heading to fund the costs of project management and oversight.

#### NORTHEAST CORRIDOR GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the Northeast Corridor as authorized by section 11101(a) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (division A of Public Law 114-94), \$345,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the funds provided under both this heading and the National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation heading to fund the costs of project management and oversight of activities authorized by section 11101(c) of division A of Public Law 114-94: *Provided further*, That in addition to the project management oversight funds authorized under section 11101(c) of division A of Public Law 114-94, the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$5,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading to fund expenses associated with the Northeast Corridor Commission established under section 24905 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading and the National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation heading, not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available to bring Amtrak-served facilities and stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### NATIONAL NETWORK GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the National Network as authorized by section 11101(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (division A of Public Law 114-94), \$1,075,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$2,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading to fund expenses associated with the State-Supported Route Committee established under 24712 of title 49, United States Code.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 150. None of the funds provided to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may be used to fund any overtime costs in excess of \$35,000 for any individual employee: *Provided*, That the President of Amtrak may waive the cap set in the previous proviso for specific employees when the President of Amtrak determines such a cap poses a risk to the safety and operational efficiency of

the system: *Provided further*, That the President of Amtrak shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations each quarter within 60 days of such quarter of the calendar year on waivers granted to employees and amounts paid above the cap for each month within such quarter and delineate the reasons each waiver was granted: *Provided further*, That the President of Amtrak shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by May 15, 2017, a summary of all overtime payments incurred by the Corporation for 2016 and the three prior calendar years: *Provided further*, That such summary shall include the total number of employees that received waivers and the total overtime payments the Corporation paid to those employees receiving waivers for each month for 2016 and for the three prior calendar years.

SEC. 151. Section 24408 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by—

- (1) Striking the words "or enhancing" in subsection (b) and inserting in its place the words "enhancing, or supporting";
- (2) Striking subparagraph (c)(3)(C);
- (3) Striking paragraph (d)(5); and
- (4) Striking subsection (e) and replacing with a new subsection (e) that states "Grants made under this section may not exceed 80 percent of the projected net operating costs."

#### FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For necessary administrative expenses of the Federal Transit Administration's programs authorized by chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, \$110,665,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided or limited in this Act may be used to create a permanent office of transit security under this heading: *Provided further*, That upon submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2018 President's budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to Congress the annual report on New Starts, including proposed allocations for fiscal year 2018.

#### TRANSIT FORMULA GRANTS (LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION) (LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS) (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the Federal Public Transportation Assistance Program in this account, and for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, and section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, and sections 3006(b) and 3028 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, \$10,800,000,000, to be derived from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of programs authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, and section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, and sections 3006(b) and 3028 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, shall not exceed total obligations of \$9,733,706,043 in fiscal year 2017: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the cost of activities carried out under section 5312 shall not exceed 80 percent, except that if there is substantial public interest or benefit, the Secretary may approve a greater Federal share.

#### CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5309 and section 3005(b) of the FAST

Act, \$2,338,063,000, to remain available until expended.

#### GRANTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as authorized under section 601 of division B of Public Law 110-432, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall approve grants for capital and preventive maintenance expenditures for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority only after receiving and reviewing a request for each specific project: *Provided further*, That prior to approving such grants, the Secretary shall certify that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is making progress to improve its safety management system in response to the Federal Transit Administration's 2015 safety management inspection: *Provided further*, That prior to approving such grants, the Secretary shall certify that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is making progress toward full implementation of the corrective actions identified in the 2014 Financial Management Oversight Review Report: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has placed the highest priority on those investments that will improve the safety of the system before approving such grants: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, in order to ensure safety throughout the rail system, may waive the requirements of section 601(e)(1) of division B of Public Law 110-432 (112 Stat. 4968).

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING RESCISSION)

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or limited by this Act under the heading "Fixed Guideway Capital Investment" of the Federal Transit Administration for projects specified in this Act or identified in reports accompanying this Act not obligated by September 30, 2021, and other recoveries, shall be directed to projects eligible to use the funds for the purposes for which they were originally provided.

SEC. 162. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated before October 1, 2016, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred to and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 163. Section 5303(r)(2)(C) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) by inserting "and 25 square miles of land area" after "145,000"; and
- (2) by inserting "and 12 square miles of land area" after "65,000".

SEC. 164. Any unobligated amounts made available for fiscal year 2012 or prior fiscal years to carry out the discretionary job access and reverse commute program under section 3037 of the transportation equity act for the 21st century are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That such amounts are made available for projects eligible under 49 U.S.C. 5309(q).

SEC. 165. Section 5307(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may make grants under this section to finance the operating cost of equipment and facilities for use in public transportation, excluding rail fixed guideway, in an urbanized area with a population of not fewer than 200,000 individuals, as determined by the Bureau of the Census—

“(A) for public transportation systems that—

“(i) operate 75 or fewer buses in fixed route service or demand response service, excluding ADA complementary paratransit service, during peak service hours, in an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the share of the apportionment which is attributable to such systems within the urbanized area, as measured by vehicle revenue hours; or

“(ii) operate a minimum of 76 buses and a maximum of 100 buses in fixed route service or demand response service, excluding ADA complementary paratransit service, during peak service hours, in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the share of the apportionment which is attributable to such systems within the urbanized area, as measured by vehicle revenue hours; or

“(B) subject to paragraph (3), for public transportation systems that—

“(i) operate 75 or fewer buses in fixed route service or demand response service, excluding ADA complementary paratransit service, during peak service hours, in an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the share of the apportionment allocated to such systems within the urbanized area, as determined by the local planning process and included in the designated recipient's final program of projects prepared under subsection (b); or

“(ii) operate a minimum of 76 buses and a maximum of 100 buses in fixed route service or demand response service, excluding ADA complementary paratransit service during peak service hours, in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the share of the apportionment allocated to such systems within the urbanized area, as determined by the local planning process and included in the designated recipient's final program of projects prepared under subsection (b).

“(3) LIMITATION.—The amount available to a public transportation system under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) shall be not more than 10 percent greater than the amount that would otherwise be available to the system under subparagraph (A) of that paragraph.”

#### SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as amended, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the Corporation's budget for the current fiscal year.

#### OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

##### (HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses to conduct the operations, maintenance, and capital asset renewal activities of those portions of the St. Lawrence Seaway owned, operated, and maintained by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, \$36,028,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 99-662.

#### MARITIME ADMINISTRATION MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a U.S.-flag merchant fleet to serve the national security needs of the United States, \$275,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Maritime Administration may make a reduction in payment pro rata in the event sufficient funds have not been appropriated to pay the full annual payment authorized for the Maritime Security Fleet pursuant to section 53106 of title 46: *Provided further*, That the Maritime Administration shall allocate the funds across 60 ships.

#### OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses of operations and training activities authorized by law, \$175,160,000, of which \$22,000,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of training ships at State Maritime Academies, and of which \$6,000,000 shall remain available until expended for National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Program for State Maritime Academies and National Security, and of which \$2,400,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2018, for the Student Incentive Program at State Maritime Academies, and of which \$1,200,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance payments, and of which \$18,000,000 shall remain available until expended for facilities maintenance and repair, equipment, and capital improvements at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and of which \$3,000,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2018, for Maritime Environment and Technology Assistance grants, contracts, and cooperative agreement, and of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the Short Sea Transportation Program (America's Marine Highways) to make grants for the purposes provided in title 46 sections 55601(b)(1) and 55601(b)(3): *Provided further*, That not later than January 12, 2017, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall transmit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the annual report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at the United States Merchant Marine Academy as required pursuant to section 3507 of Public Law 110-417.

#### ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SHIPYARDS

To make grants to qualified shipyards as authorized under section 54101 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 113-281, \$10,000,000 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall issue the Notice of Funding Availability no later than 15 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That from applications submitted under the previous proviso, the Secretary of Transportation shall make grants no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act in such amounts as the Secretary determines: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 2 percent of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for necessary costs of grant administration.

#### SHIP DISPOSAL

For necessary expenses related to the disposal of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet of the Maritime Administration, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$8,000,000 shall be for the decommissioning of the Nuclear Ship *Savannah*.

#### MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI) PROGRAM ACCOUNT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized, \$5,000,000, of which \$2,000,000 shall

remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be available for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for “Operations and Training”, Maritime Administration.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 170. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to any existing authority, the Maritime Administration is authorized to furnish utilities and services and make necessary repairs in connection with any lease, contract, or occupancy involving Government property under control of the Maritime Administration: *Provided*, That payments received therefor shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That rental payments under any such lease, contract, or occupancy for items other than such utilities, services, or repairs shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

#### PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

##### OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$23,207,000: *Provided*, That no later than June 30, 2016, the Secretary of Transportation shall initiate a rulemaking to expand the applicability of comprehensive oil spill response plans, and shall issue a final rule no later than December 18, 2016: *Provided further*, That \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to “Pipeline Safety” in order to fund “Pipeline Safety Information Grants to Communities” as authorized under section 60130 of title 49, United States Code.

##### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

For expenses necessary to discharge the hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$57,619,000, of which \$7,570,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That up to \$800,000 in fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 5108(g) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training, for reports publication and dissemination, and for travel expenses incurred in performance of hazardous materials exemptions and approvals functions.

##### PIPELINE SAFETY

##### (PIPELINE SAFETY FUND)

##### (OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND)

For expenses necessary to conduct the functions of the pipeline safety program, for grants-in-aid to carry out a pipeline safety program, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 60107, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$149,959,000, of which \$20,288,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and shall remain available until September 30, 2019; and of which \$129,671,000 shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Fund, of which \$59,835,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That not less

than \$1,058,000 of the funds provided under this heading shall be for the One-Call state grant program.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS  
(EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

Notwithstanding the fiscal year limitation specified in 49 U.S.C. 5116, not more than \$28,318,000 shall be made available for obligation in fiscal year 2017 from amounts made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(h), and 5128(b) and (c): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 5116(h)(4), not more than 4 percent of the amounts made available from this account shall be available to pay administrative costs: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(h), 5128(b), or 5128(c) shall be made available for obligation by individuals other than the Secretary of Transportation, or his or her designee: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 5128(b) and (c) and the current year obligation limitation, prior year recoveries recognized in the current year shall be available to develop a hazardous materials response training curriculum for emergency responders, including response activities for the transportation of crude oil, ethanol and other flammable liquids by rail, consistent with National Fire Protection Association standards, and to make such training available through an electronic format: *Provided further*, That the prior year recoveries made available under this heading shall also be available to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5116(a)(1)(C) and 5116(i).

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspector General to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$93,550,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the Department of Transportation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 180. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department of Transportation shall be available for maintenance and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of liability insurance for motor vehicles operating in foreign countries on official department business; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 181. Appropriations contained in this Act for the Department of Transportation shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for an Executive Level IV.

SEC. 182. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 110 political and Presidential appointees in the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on temporary detail outside the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 183. (a) No recipient of funds made available in this Act shall disseminate personal information (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(3)) obtained by a State department of motor vehicles in connection with a motor vehicle record as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(1), except as provided in 18 U.S.C. 2721 for a use permitted under 18 U.S.C. 2721.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall not withhold funds provided in this Act for any grantee if a State is in noncompliance with this provision.

SEC. 184. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Railroad Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration's "Federal-Aid Highways" account and to the Federal Railroad Administration's "Safety and Operations" account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 185. None of the funds in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or grant unless the Secretary of Transportation notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project competitively selected to receive a discretionary grant award, letter of intent, loan commitment, loan guarantee commitment, line of credit commitment, or full funding grant agreement.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department of Transportation from travel management centers, charge card programs, the subleasing of building space, and miscellaneous sources are to be credited to appropriations of the Department of Transportation and allocated to elements of the Department of Transportation using fair and equitable criteria and such funds shall be available until expended.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this or any other Act that the Secretary determines represent improper payments by the Department of Transportation to a third-party contractor under a financial assistance award, which are recovered pursuant to law, shall be available—

(1) to reimburse the actual expenses incurred by the Department of Transportation in recovering improper payments; and

(2) to pay contractors for services provided in recovering improper payments or contractor support in the implementation of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002: *Provided*, That amounts in excess of that required for paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(A) shall be credited to and merged with the appropriation from which the improper payments were made, and shall be available for the purposes and period for which such appropriations are available: *Provided further*, That where specific project or accounting information associated with the improper payment or payments is not readily available, the Secretary may credit an appropriate account, which shall be available for the purposes and period associated with the account so credited; or

(B) if no such appropriation remains available, shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts: *Provided further*, That prior to the transfer of any such recovery to an appropriations account, the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the amount and reasons for such transfer: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term "improper payments" has the same meaning as that provided in section 2(d)(2) of Public Law 107–300.

SEC. 188. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any funds provided in or limited by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be pro-

vided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, transmission of said reprogramming notice shall be provided solely to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and said reprogramming action shall be approved or denied solely by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation may provide notice to other congressional committees of the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on such reprogramming but not sooner than 30 days following the date on which the reprogramming action has been approved or denied by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 189. Funds appropriated in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are purchased to provide a direct benefit to the applicable modal administration or administrations.

SEC. 190. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a program that establishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency transit pass and transit benefits authorized under section 7905 of title 5, United States Code, including distribution of transit benefits by various paper and electronic media.

SEC. 191. The Department of Transportation may use funds provided by this Act, or any other Act, to assist a contract under title 49 U.S.C. or title 23 U.S.C. utilizing geographic, economic, or any other hiring preference not otherwise authorized by law, except for such preferences authorized in this Act, or to amend a rule, regulation, policy or other measure that forbids a recipient of a Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration grant from imposing such hiring preference on a contract or construction project with which the Department of Transportation is assisting, only if the grant recipient certifies the following:

(1) that except with respect to apprentices or trainees, a pool of readily available but unemployed individuals possessing the knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the work that the contract requires resides in the jurisdiction;

(2) that the grant recipient will include appropriate provisions in its bid document ensuring that the contractor does not displace any of its existing employees in order to satisfy such hiring preference; and

(3) that any increase in the cost of labor, training, or delays resulting from the use of such hiring preference does not delay or displace any transportation project in the applicable Statewide Transportation Improvement Program or Transportation Improvement Program.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2017".

TITLE II  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Executive Offices, which shall be comprised of the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Adjudicatory Services, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Public Affairs, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, the Departmental Enforcement Center, and the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, \$30,608,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of the

amount made available under this heading shall be available to the Secretary for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Administrative Support Offices, \$503,852,000, of which \$53,451,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer; \$79,053,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; \$202,823,000 shall be available for the Office of Administration; \$41,641,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer; \$52,568,000 shall be available for the Office of Field Policy and Management; \$19,130,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer; \$3,891,000 shall be available for the Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity; \$5,147,000 shall be available for the Office of Strategic Planning and Management; and \$46,148,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary administrative and non-administrative expenses of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, not otherwise provided for, including purchase of uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that directly support program activities funded in this title: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations quarterly written notification regarding the status of pending congressional reports: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide in electronic form all signed reports required by Congress.

#### PROGRAM OFFICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Public and Indian Housing, \$220,500,000.

##### COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Community Planning and Development, \$110,000,000.

##### HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Housing, \$393,000,000.

##### POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Policy Development and Research, \$24,500,000.

##### FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, \$74,235,000.

##### OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, \$8,075,000.

##### WORKING CAPITAL FUND

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the working capital fund for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this paragraph as the "Fund"), pursuant, in part, to section 7(f) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(f)), amounts transferred to the Fund under this heading shall be available for Federal shared services used by offices and agencies of the Depart-

ment, and for such portion of any office or agency's printing, records management, space renovation, furniture, or supply services as the Secretary determines shall be derived from centralized sources made available by the Department to all offices and agencies and funded through the Fund: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available in this title for salaries and expenses under the headings "Executive Offices", "Administrative Support Offices", "Program Office Salaries and Expenses", and "Government National Mortgage Association", the Secretary shall transfer to the Fund such amounts, to remain available until expended, as are necessary to fund services, specified in the first proviso, for which the appropriation would otherwise have been available, and may transfer not to exceed an additional \$10,000,000, in aggregate, from all such appropriations, to be merged with the Fund and to remain available until expended for use for any office or agency: *Provided further*, That amounts in the Fund shall be the only amounts available to each office or agency of the Department for the services, or portion of services, specified in the first proviso: *Provided further*, That with respect to the Fund, the authorities and conditions under this heading shall supplement the authorities and conditions provided under section 7(f).

#### PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) ("the Act" herein), not otherwise provided for, \$16,431,696,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2016 (in addition to the \$4,000,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that shall be available on October 1, 2016), and \$4,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2017: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:

(1) \$18,355,000,000 shall be available for renewals of expiring section 8 tenant-based annual contributions contracts (including renewals of enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act) and including renewal of other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts provided under this paragraph and any carryover, the Secretary for the calendar year 2017 funding cycle shall provide renewal funding for each public housing agency based on validated voucher management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, and by making any necessary adjustments for the costs associated with the first-time renewal of vouchers under this paragraph including tenant protection, HOPE VI, and Choice Neighborhoods vouchers: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph may be used to fund a total number of unit months under lease which exceeds a public housing agency's authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration, which are instead governed by the terms and conditions of their MTW agreements: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), prorate each public housing agency's allocation otherwise estab-

lished pursuant to this paragraph: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the following provisos, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated to the public housing agencies based on the allocation and pro rata method described above, and the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of their annual budget by the latter of 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2017: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may extend the notification period with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements and shall be subject to the same pro rata adjustments under the previous provisos: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may offset public housing agencies' calendar year 2017 allocations based on the excess amounts of public housing agencies' net restricted assets accounts, including HUD held programmatic reserves (in accordance with VMS data in calendar year 2016 that is verifiable and complete), as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall also be subject to the offset, as determined by the Secretary, excluding amounts subject to the single fund budget authority provisions of their MTW agreements, from the agencies' calendar year 2017 MTW funding allocation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use any offset referred to in the previous two provisos throughout the calendar year to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding, as determined by the Secretary, and to avoid or reduce the proration of renewal funding allocations: *Provided further*, That up to \$75,000,000 shall be available only: (1) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies, after application for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs of vouchers resulting from unforeseen circumstances or from portability under section 8(r) of the Act; (2) for vouchers that were not in use during the previous 12-month period in order to be available to meet a commitment pursuant to section 8(o)(13) of the Act; (3) for adjustments for costs associated with HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers; and (4) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the previous proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) \$110,000,000 shall be for section 8 rental assistance for relocation and replacement of housing units that are demolished or disposed of pursuant to section 18 of the Act, conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8, the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act, relocation of witnesses in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency, enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act, HOPE VI and Choice Neighborhood

vouchers, mandatory and voluntary conversions, and tenant protection assistance including replacement and relocation assistance or for project-based assistance to prevent the displacement of unassisted elderly tenants currently residing in section 202 properties financed between 1959 and 1974 that are refinanced pursuant to Public Law 106-569, as amended, or under the authority as provided under this Act: *Provided*, That when a public housing development is submitted for demolition or disposition under section 18 of the Act, the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance when the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may only provide replacement vouchers for units that were occupied within the previous 24 months that cease to be available as assisted housing, subject only to the availability of funds: *Provided further*, That any tenant protection voucher made available from amounts under this paragraph shall not be reissued by any public housing agency, except the replacement vouchers as defined by the Secretary by notice, when the initial family that received any such voucher no longer receives such voucher, and the authority for any public housing agency to issue any such voucher shall cease to exist;

(3) \$1,768,696,000 shall be for administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program, of which up to \$10,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to allocate to public housing agencies that need additional funds to administer their section 8 programs, including fees associated with section 8 tenant protection rental assistance, the administration of disaster related vouchers, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, and other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That no less than \$1,758,696,000 of the amount provided in this paragraph shall be allocated to public housing agencies for the calendar year 2017 funding cycle based on section 8(q) of the Act (and related Appropriation Act provisions) as in effect immediately before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-276): *Provided further*, That if the amounts made available under this paragraph are insufficient to pay the amounts determined under the previous proviso, the Secretary may decrease the amounts allocated to agencies by a uniform percentage applicable to all agencies receiving funding under this paragraph or may, to the extent necessary to provide full payment of amounts determined under the previous proviso, utilize unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading from prior fiscal years, excluding special purpose vouchers, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That all public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements, and shall be subject to the same uniform percentage decrease as under the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this paragraph shall be only for activities related to the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under section 8, including related development activities;

(4) \$110,000,000 for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: *Provided*,

That administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the special purpose vouchers in this paragraph shall be funded under the same terms and be subject to the same pro rata reduction as the percent decrease for administrative and other expenses to public housing agencies under paragraph (3) of this heading;

(5) \$7,000,000 shall be for rental assistance and associated administrative fees for Tribal HUD-VA Supportive Housing to serve Native American veterans that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas: *Provided*, That such amount shall be made available for renewal grants to the recipients that received assistance under the rental assistance and supportive housing demonstration program for Native American veterans authorized under the heading "Tenant-Based Rental Assistance" in title II of division K of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235, 128 Stat. 2733): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to specify criteria for renewal grants, including data on the utilization of assistance reported by grant recipients under the demonstration program: *Provided further*, That any amounts remaining after such renewal assistance is awarded may be available for new grants to recipients eligible to receive block grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. section 4101 et seq.) for rental assistance and associated administrative fees for Tribal HUD-VA Supportive Housing to serve Native American veterans that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas: *Provided further*, That funds shall be awarded based on need and administrative capacity established by the Secretary in a Notice published in the Federal Register after coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That renewal grants and new grants under this paragraph shall be administered by block grant recipients in accordance with program requirements under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996: *Provided further*, That assistance under this paragraph shall be modeled after, with necessary and appropriate adjustments for Native American grant recipients and veterans, the rental assistance and supportive housing program known as HUD-VASH program, including administration in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs and overall implementation of section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor stands, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such assistance: *Provided further*, That grant recipients shall report to the Secretary on utilization of such rental assistance and other program data, as prescribed by the Secretary;

(6) \$50,000,000 for incremental rental voucher assistance for use through a supported housing program administered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: *Pro-*

*vided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make such funding available, notwithstanding section 204 (competition provision) of this title, to public housing agencies that partner with eligible VA Medical Centers or other entities as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, based on geographical need for such assistance as identified by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, public housing agency administrative performance, and other factors as specified by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for (in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs), any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such voucher assistance: *Provided further*, That assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for homeless veterans upon turn-over;

(7) \$20,000,000 shall be made available for new incremental voucher assistance through the family unification program as authorized by section 8(x) of the Act: *Provided*, That the assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for family unification upon turnover: *Provided further*, That for any public housing agency administering voucher assistance appropriated in a prior Act under the family unification program that determines that it no longer has an identified need for such assistance upon turnover, such agency shall notify the Secretary, and the Secretary shall recapture such assistance from the agency and reallocate it to any other public housing agency or agencies based on need for voucher assistance in connection with such program;

(8) \$11,000,000 shall be made available for the housing choice voucher mobility demonstration authorized under section 243 of this title; and

(9) The Secretary shall separately track all special purpose vouchers funded under this heading.

#### HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing" and the heading "Project-Based Rental Assistance", for fiscal year 2017 and prior years may be used for renewal of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts and for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided*, That any obligated balances of contract authority from fiscal year 1974 and prior that have been terminated shall be rescinded: *Provided further*, That amounts heretofore recaptured, or recaptured during the current fiscal year, from section 8 project-based contracts from source years fiscal year 1975 through fiscal year 1987 are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated,

to remain available until expended, for the purposes set forth under this heading, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

#### PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program to carry out capital and management activities for public housing agencies, as authorized under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (the “Act”) \$1,925,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, during fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing any authority under paragraph (2) of section 9(j) regarding the extension of the time periods under such section: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such section 9(j), the term “obligate” means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future: *Provided further*, That up to \$10,000,000 shall be to support ongoing public housing financial and physical assessment activities: *Provided further*, That up to \$1,000,000 shall be to support the costs of administrative and judicial receiverships: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, not to exceed \$21,500,000 shall be available for the Secretary to make grants, notwithstanding section 204 of this Act, to public housing agencies for emergency capital needs including safety and security measures necessary to address crime and drug-related activity as well as needs resulting from unforeseen or unpreventable emergencies and natural disasters excluding Presidentially declared emergencies and natural disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in fiscal year 2017: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under the previous proviso, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be for safety and security measures: *Provided further*, That in addition to the amount in the previous proviso for such safety and security measures, any amounts that remain available, after all applications received on or before September 30, 2018, for emergency capital needs have been processed, shall be allocated to public housing agencies for such safety and security measures: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading \$35,000,000 shall be for supportive services, service coordinator and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437z-6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$15,000,000 shall be for a Jobs-Plus initiative modeled after the Jobs-Plus demonstration: *Provided further*, That the funding provided under the previous proviso shall provide competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings: *Provided further*, That applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may allow public housing agencies to request exemptions from rent and income limitation requirements under

sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 as necessary to implement the Jobs-Plus program, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may approve upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective implementation of the Jobs-Plus initiative as a voluntary program for residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the preceding proviso no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice: *Provided further*, That for funds provided under this heading, the limitation in section 9(g)(1) of the Act shall be 25 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the limitation in the previous proviso to allow public housing agencies to fund activities authorized under section 9(e)(1)(C) of the Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies requesting waivers under the previous proviso if the request is approved or denied within 14 days of submitting the request: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Secretary shall provide bonus awards in fiscal year 2017 to public housing agencies that are designated high performers: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify public housing agencies of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$25,000,000 shall be available for competitive grants to public housing agencies to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in public housing by carrying out the activities of risk assessments, abatement, and interim controls (as those terms are defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851b)): *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, a grant under the previous proviso shall be considered funds for projects or activities under title I of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) for purposes of section 26 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1437x) and shall be subject to the regulations implementing such section.

#### PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND

For 2017 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)), \$4,675,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

#### CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

For competitive grants under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (subject to section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), unless otherwise specified under this heading), for transformation, rehabilitation, and replacement housing needs of both public and HUD-assisted housing and to transform neighborhoods of poverty into functioning, sustainable mixed income neighborhoods with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs, \$80,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That grant funds may be used for resident and community services, community development, and affordable housing needs in the community, and for conversion of vacant or foreclosed properties to affordable housing: *Provided further*, That the use of funds made available under this heading shall not be deemed to be public housing notwithstanding section 3(b)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That grantees shall commit to an additional period of affordability determined by the

Secretary of not fewer than 20 years: *Provided further*, That grantees shall provide a match in State, local, other Federal or private funds: *Provided further*, That grantees may include local governments, tribal entities, public housing authorities, and nonprofits: *Provided further*, That for-profit developers may apply jointly with a public entity: *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, a grantee shall be treated as a public housing agency under section 26 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437x), and grants under this heading shall be subject to the regulations issued by the Secretary to implement such section: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided, not less than \$48,000,000 shall be awarded to public housing agencies: *Provided further*, That such grantees shall create partnerships with other local organizations including assisted housing owners, service agencies, and resident organizations: *Provided further*, That no more than \$5,000,000 of funds made available under this heading may be provided as grants to undertake comprehensive local planning with input from residents and the community: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures, remaining from funds appropriated under the heading “Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI)” in fiscal year 2011 and prior fiscal years may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That implementation grants awarded under this heading may only be awarded to grantees that have previously been awarded planning grants.

#### FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

For the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8(o) and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, \$75,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That the Secretary may, by Federal Register notice, waive or specify alternative requirements under sections b(3), b(4), b(5), or c(1) of section 23 of such Act in order to facilitate the operation of a unified self-sufficiency program for individuals receiving assistance under different provisions of the Act, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That owners of a privately owned multifamily property with a section 8 contract may voluntarily make a Family Self-Sufficiency program available to the assisted tenants of such property in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such procedures established pursuant to the previous proviso shall permit participating tenants to accrue escrow funds in accordance with section 23(d)(2) and shall allow owners to use funding from residual receipt accounts to hire coordinators for their own Family Self-Sufficiency program.

#### INDIAN BLOCK GRANTS

For activities and assistance authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 with respect to Indian tribes (42 U.S.C. 5306(a)(1)), and related technical assistance, \$714,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:



(1) \$646,500,000 shall be available for the Indian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title I of NAHASDA: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding NAHASDA, to determine the amount of the allocation under title I of such Act for each Indian tribe, the Secretary shall apply the formula under section 302 of such Act with the need component based on single-race census data and with the need component based on multi-race census data, and the amount of the allocation for each Indian tribe shall be the greater of the two resulting allocation amounts: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 302(d) of NAHASDA, if on January 1, 2017, a recipient's total amount of undisbursed block grant funds in the Department's line of credit control system is greater than three times the formula allocation it would otherwise receive under the first proviso under this paragraph, the Secretary shall adjust that recipient's formula allocation down by the difference between its total amount of undisbursed block grant funds in the Department's line of credit control system on January 1, 2017, and three times the formula allocation it would otherwise receive: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the previous two provisos, no Indian tribe shall receive an allocation amount greater than 10 percent of the total amount made available under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That grant amounts not allocated to a recipient pursuant to the previous two provisos shall be allocated under the need component of the formula proportionately among all other Indian tribes not subject to an adjustment under such provisos: *Provided further*, That the second and third provisos shall not apply to any Indian tribe that would otherwise receive a formula allocation of less than \$8,000,000: *Provided further*, That to take effect, the four previous provisos do not require issuance or amendment of any regulation, and shall not be construed to confer hearing rights under any section of NAHASDA or its implementing regulations: *Provided further*, That the Department will notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) \$2,000,000 shall be made available for the cost of guaranteed notes and other obligations, as authorized by title VI of NAHASDA: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such notes and other obligations, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$17,857,142 to remain available until September 30, 2021;

(3) \$60,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes for carrying out the Community Development Block Grant program as authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, up to \$4,000,000 may be used for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 204 of this title): *Provided*, That not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be expended for planning and management development and administration; and

(4) \$5,500,000 shall be to support the inspection of Indian housing units, contract expertise, training, and technical assistance needs in Indian country related to funding provided under this heading.

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND  
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z-13a), \$5,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, up to \$1,341,463,415, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That up to \$750,000 of this amount may be for administrative contract expenses including management processes and systems to carry out the loan guarantee program: *Provided further*, That an additional \$1,000,000 shall be available until expended for such costs of guaranteed loans authorized under such section 184 issued to tribes and Indian housing authorities for the construction of rental housing for law enforcement, healthcare, educational, technical and other skilled workers: *Provided further*, That the funds specified in the previous proviso are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, up to \$243,902,439 to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may specify any additional program requirements with respect to the previous two provisos through publication of a Mortgage Letter or Notice.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT

For the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH  
AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), \$335,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, except that amounts allocated pursuant to section 854(c)(3) of such Act shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall renew all expiring contracts for permanent supportive housing that initially were funded under section 854(c)(3) of such Act from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2010 and prior fiscal years that meet all program requirements before awarding funds for new contracts under such section: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 854(c)(1) of such Act or any implementing regulation, the Secretary shall allocate 90 percent of the funds by formula, of which 75 percent shall be among cities that are the most populous unit of general local government in a metropolitan statistical area with a population greater than 500,000 and have more than 2,000 persons living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or AIDS, and States with more than 2,000 persons living with HIV or AIDS outside of metropolitan statistical areas, as reported to and confirmed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as of December 31 of the most recent calendar year for which such data is available, and of which 25 percent shall be among such eligible States and cities that are the most populous unit of general local government in a metropolitan statistical area based on fair market rents and area poverty indexes, as determined by the

Secretary: *Provided further*, That a grantee's share shall not reflect a loss greater than 5 percent or a gain greater than 10 percent of the share of total available formula funds that the grantee received in the preceding fiscal year: *Provided further*, That any grantee that received a formula allocation in fiscal year 2016 shall continue to be eligible for formula allocation in this fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

For assistance to units of State and local government, and to other entities, for economic and community development activities, and for other purposes, \$3,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, unless otherwise specified: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided, \$3,000,000,000 is for carrying out the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended ("the Act" herein) (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.): *Provided further*, That unless explicitly provided for under this heading, not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated under this heading shall be expended for planning and management development and administration: *Provided further*, That a metropolitan city, urban county, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe, or insular area that directly or indirectly receives funds under this heading may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to another such entity in exchange for any other funds, credits or non-Federal considerations, but must use such funds for activities eligible under title I of the Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 105(e)(1) of the Act, no funds provided under this heading may be provided to a for-profit entity for an economic development project under section 105(a)(17) unless such project has been evaluated and selected in accordance with guidelines required under subparagraph (e)(2): *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEES  
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2017, commitments to guarantee loans under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any part of which is guaranteed, shall not exceed a total principal amount of \$300,000,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding obligations guaranteed in subsection (k) of such section 108: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy cost of zero for guaranteeing such loans, and any such fees shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME Investment Partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, \$950,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the amount made available under this heading, the threshold reduction requirements in sections 216(10) and 217(b)(4) of such Act shall not apply to allocations of such amount: *Provided further*, That the requirements under provisos 2 through 6 under this heading for

fiscal year 2012 and such requirements applicable pursuant to the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013”, shall not apply to any project to which funds were committed on or after August 23, 2013, but such projects shall instead be governed by the Final Rule titled “Home Investment Partnerships Program; Improving Performance and Accountability; Updating Property Standards” which became effective on such date: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

#### SELF-HELP AND ASSISTED HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

For the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program, as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be made available to the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$35,000,000 shall be made available for the second, third, and fourth capacity building activities authorized under section 4(a) of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), of which not less than \$5,000,000 shall be made available for rural capacity building activities: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$5,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building by national rural housing organizations with experience assessing national rural conditions and providing financing, training, technical assistance, information, and research to local nonprofits, local governments and Indian Tribes serving high need rural communities: *Provided further*, That an additional \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for a program to rehabilitate and modify homes of disabled or low-income veterans as authorized under section 1079 of Public Law 113-291.

#### HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For the emergency solutions grants program as authorized under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended; the continuum of care program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act; and the rural housing stability assistance program as authorized under subtitle D of title IV of such Act, \$2,330,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under such continuum of care program shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That not less than \$250,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such emergency solutions grants program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$2,013,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such continuum of care and rural housing stability assistance programs: *Provided further*, That up to \$7,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: *Provided further*, That all funds awarded for supportive services under the continuum of care program and the rural housing stability assistance program shall be matched by not less than 25 percent in cash or in kind by each grantee: *Provided further*, That for all match requirements applicable to funds made available under this heading

for this fiscal year and prior years, a grantee may use (or could have used) as a source of match funds other funds administered by the Secretary and other Federal agencies unless there is (or was) a specific statutory prohibition on any such use of any such funds: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be available to provide funding for new projects, except for projects created through reallocation, unless the Secretary determines that the continuum of care has demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the continuum of care’s system performance: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall prioritize funding under the continuum of care program to continuums of care that have demonstrated a capacity to reallocate funding from lower performing projects to higher performing projects: *Provided further*, That any unobligated amounts remaining from funds appropriated under this heading in fiscal year 2012 and prior years for project-based rental assistance for rehabilitation projects with 10-year grant terms may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided further*, That all balances for Shelter Plus Care renewals previously funded from the Shelter Plus Care Renewal account and transferred to this account shall be available, if recaptured, for continuum of care renewals in fiscal year 2017: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation from amounts allocated (which may represent initial or final amounts allocated) for the emergency solutions grant program within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That up to \$40,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be to implement projects to demonstrate how a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth, age 24 and under, in up to 11 communities, including at least five rural communities, can dramatically reduce youth homelessness: *Provided further*, That such projects shall be eligible for renewal under the continuum of care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other renewal applicants: *Provided further*, That youth aged 24 and under seeking assistance under this heading shall not be required to provide third party documentation to establish their eligibility under 42 U.S.C. 11302(a) or (b) to receive services: *Provided further*, That unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under or families headed by youth aged 24 and under who are living in unsafe situations may be served by youth-serving providers funded under this heading.

#### HOUSING PROGRAMS

##### RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION

For continuing activities under the heading “Rental Assistance Demonstration” in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55), \$4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such funds shall only be available to properties converting from assistance under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(c)(2)).

##### PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (“the Act”), not otherwise provided for, \$10,501,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2016 (in addition to the \$400,000,000 previously appropriated under

this heading that became available October 1, 2016), and \$400,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2017: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for amendments to section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11401), for renewal of section 8 contracts for units in projects that are subject to approved plans of action under the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, and for administrative and other expenses associated with project-based activities and assistance funded under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That of the total amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed \$235,000,000 shall be available for performance-based contract administrators for section 8 project-based assistance, for carrying out 42 U.S.C. 1437(f): *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may also use such amounts in the previous proviso for performance-based contract administrators for the administration of: interest reduction payments pursuant to section 236(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(a)); rent supplement payments pursuant to section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s); section 236(f)(2) rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(f)(2)); project rental assistance contracts for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); project rental assistance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667); and loans under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667): *Provided further*, That amounts recaptured under this heading, the heading “Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing”, or the heading “Housing Certificate Fund”, may be used for renewals of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts or for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the request of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based Housing Assistance Payments contract that authorizes HUD or a Housing Finance Agency to require that surplus project funds be deposited in an interest-bearing residual receipts account and that are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available in addition to the amount otherwise provided by this heading for uses authorized under this heading.

##### HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

For amendments to capital advance contracts for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, and for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such

Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, and for senior preservation rental assistance contracts, including renewals, as authorized by section 811(e) of the American Housing and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, as amended, and for supportive services associated with the housing, \$505,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, up to \$75,000,000 shall be for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects: *Provided further*, That amounts under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 202 projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the initial contract term for such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration: *Provided further*, That upon request of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 202 project rental assistance contract, and that upon termination of such contract are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until September 30, 2020: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available, in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading, for amendments and renewals: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be available for amendments and renewals notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

#### HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

For amendments to capital advance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of such Act and for project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667), including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, for project rental assistance to State housing finance agencies and other appropriate entities as authorized under section 811(b)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Housing Act, and for supportive services associated with the housing for persons with disabilities as authorized by section 811(b)(1) of such Act, \$154,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects: *Provided further*, That, in this fiscal year, upon the request of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 811 project rental assistance contract and that upon termination of such contract are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to

be available until September 30, 2020: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading for the purposes authorized under this heading: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading may be used for the current purposes authorized under this heading notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

#### HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

For contracts, grants, and other assistance excluding loans, as authorized under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, \$47,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, including up to \$4,500,000 for administrative contract services: *Provided*, That grants made available from amounts provided under this heading shall be awarded within 180 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That funds shall be used for providing counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to property maintenance, financial management/literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist them in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership; for program administration; and for housing counselor training: *Provided further*, That for purposes of providing such grants from amounts provided under this heading, the Secretary may enter into multiyear agreements as appropriate, subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

#### RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE

For amendments to contracts under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s) and section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1) in State-aided, noninsured rental housing projects, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount, together with unobligated balances from recaptured amounts appropriated prior to fiscal year 2006 from terminated contracts under such sections of law, and any unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated under this heading after fiscal year 2005, shall also be available for extensions of up to one year for expiring contracts under such sections of law.

#### PAYMENT TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING FEES TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses as authorized by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), up to \$10,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$10,500,000 is to be derived from the Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund: *Provided*, That not to exceed the total amount appropriated under this heading shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund pursuant to section 620 of such Act: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced as such collections are received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at zero, and fees pursuant to such section 620 shall be modified as necessary to ensure such a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation: *Provided further*, That for the dispute

resolution and installation programs, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may assess and collect fees from any program participant: *Provided further*, That such collections shall be deposited into the Fund, and the Secretary, as provided herein, may use such collections, as well as fees collected under section 620, for necessary expenses of such Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the requirements of section 620 of such Act, the Secretary may carry out responsibilities of the Secretary under such Act through the use of approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

#### FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee single family loans insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund shall not exceed \$400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2017, obligations to make direct loans to carry out the purposes of section 204(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed \$5,000,000: *Provided further*, That the foregoing amount in the previous proviso shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with sales of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund: *Provided further*, That for administrative contract expenses of the Federal Housing Administration, \$130,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

#### GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-3 and 1735c), shall not exceed \$30,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2017, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 204(g), 207(1), 238, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed \$5,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

#### GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION

#### GUARANTEES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed \$500,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That \$23,000,000 shall be available for necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Government National Mortgage Association: *Provided further*, That to the extent that guaranteed loan commitments exceed \$155,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2017, an additional \$100 for necessary salaries and expenses shall be available until expended for each \$1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below \$1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed \$3,000,000: *Provided further*, That receipts from Commitment and Multiclass fees collected pursuant to title III of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH  
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, and for technical assistance, \$90,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 204 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements funded with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, or State or local governments and their agencies for research projects: *Provided further*, That with respect to the previous proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements must contribute at least a 50 percent match toward the cost of the project: *Provided further*, That for non-competitive agreements entered into in accordance with the previous two provisos, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall comply with section 2(b) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-282, 31 U.S.C. note) in lieu of compliance with section 102(a)(4)(C) with respect to documentation of award decisions: *Provided further*, That prior to obligation of technical assistance funding, the Secretary shall submit a plan, for approval, to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on how it will allocate funding for this activity: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, and section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, \$65,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Secretary may assess and collect fees to cover the costs of the Fair Housing Training Academy, and may use such funds to provide such training: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading shall be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$300,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for the creation and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in utilizing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND  
HEALTHY HOMES  
LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

For the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, as authorized by section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, \$135,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, of which \$20,000,000 shall be for the Healthy Homes Initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and

Urban Development Act of 1970, that shall include research, studies, testing, and demonstration efforts, including education and outreach concerning lead-based paint poisoning and other housing-related diseases and hazards: *Provided*, That for purposes of environmental review, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other provisions of the law that further the purposes of such Act, a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative, or the Lead Technical Studies program under this heading or under prior appropriations Acts for such purposes under this heading, shall be considered to be funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$55,000,000 shall be made available on a competitive basis for areas with the highest lead-based paint abatement needs: *Provided further*, That each recipient of funds provided under the previous proviso shall contribute an amount not less than 25 percent of the total: *Provided further*, That each applicant shall certify adequate capacity that is acceptable to the Secretary to carry out the proposed use of funds pursuant to a notice of funding availability: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this or prior appropriations Acts, and that still remain available, may be used for any purpose under this heading notwithstanding the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated if a program competition is undersubscribed and there are other program competitions under this heading that are oversubscribed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

For the development of, modifications to, and infrastructure for Department-wide and program-specific information technology systems, for the continuing operation and maintenance of both Department-wide and program-specific information systems, and for program-related maintenance activities, \$273,000,000, of which \$250,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018, and of which \$23,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund under this Act shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund from amounts appropriated by previously enacted appropriations Acts may be used for the purposes specified under this Fund, in addition to any other information technology purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading for development, modernization and enhancement may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, for approval, a plan for expenditure that—(A) identifies for each modernization project: (i) the functional and performance capabilities to be delivered and the mission benefits to be realized, (ii) the estimated life-cycle cost, and (iii) key milestones to be met; and (B) demonstrates that each modernization project is: (i) compliant with the department's enterprise architecture, (ii) being managed in accordance with applicable life-cycle management policies and guidance, (iii) subject to the department's capital planning and investment control requirements, and (iv) supported by an adequately staffed project office.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out

the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$129,000,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel issues within this office.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)  
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

SEC. 201. Fifty percent of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 percent of the cash amounts associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from projects described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1437 note) shall be rescinded or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with such section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to refinance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 202. None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used during fiscal year 2017 to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including the filing or maintaining of a non-frivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a Government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 203. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amount allocated for fiscal year 2017 under section 854(c) of the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12903(c)), to the city of New York, New York, on behalf of the New York-Wayne-White Plains, New York-New Jersey Metropolitan Division (hereafter "metropolitan division") of the New York-Newark-Edison, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area, shall be adjusted by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by: (1) allocating to the city of Jersey City, New Jersey, the proportion of the metropolitan area's or division's amount that is based on the number of persons living with HIV or AIDS, poverty and fair market rents, in the portion of the metropolitan area or division that is located in Hudson County, New Jersey; and (2) allocating to the city of Paterson, New Jersey, the proportion of the metropolitan area's or division's amount that is based on the number of persons living with HIV or AIDS, poverty and fair market rents, in the portion of the metropolitan area or division that is located in Bergen County and Passaic County, New Jersey. The recipient cities shall use amounts allocated under this subsection to carry out eligible activities under section 855 of the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12904) in their respective portions of the metropolitan division that is located in New Jersey.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amount allocated for fiscal year 2017 under section 854(c) of the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12903(c)), to the city of Wilmington, Delaware, on behalf of the Wilmington, Delaware-Maryland-New Jersey Metropolitan Division (hereafter "metropolitan division"), shall be adjusted by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by

allocating to the State of New Jersey the proportion of the metropolitan division's amount that is based on the number of persons living with HIV or AIDS, poverty and fair market rents, in the portion of the metropolitan division that is located in New Jersey. The State of New Jersey shall use amounts allocated to the State under this subsection to carry out eligible activities under section 855 of the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12904) in the portion of the metropolitan division that is located in New Jersey.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall allocate to Wake County, North Carolina, the amounts that otherwise would be allocated for fiscal year 2017 under section 854(c) of the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12903(c)) to the city of Raleigh, North Carolina, on behalf of the Raleigh-Cary North Carolina Metropolitan Statistical Area. Any amounts allocated to Wake County shall be used to carry out eligible activities under section 855 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12904) within such metropolitan statistical area.

(d) Notwithstanding section 854(c) of the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12903(c)), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may adjust the allocation of the amounts that otherwise would be allocated for fiscal year 2017 under section 854(c) of such Act, upon the written request of an applicant, in conjunction with the State(s), for a formula allocation on behalf of a metropolitan statistical area, to designate the State or States in which the metropolitan statistical area is located as the eligible grantee(s) of the allocation. In the case that a metropolitan statistical area involves more than one State, such amounts allocated to each State shall be based on the proportion of the metropolitan statistical area's amount that is based on the number of persons living with HIV or AIDS, poverty and fair market rents, in the portion of the metropolitan statistical area that is located in that State. Any amounts allocated to a State under this section shall be used to carry out eligible activities within the portion of the metropolitan statistical area located in that State.

SEC. 204. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be made on a competitive basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).

SEC. 205. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1950 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Reserve banks or any member thereof, Federal Home Loan banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811-1).

SEC. 206. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a reprogramming of funds, no part of any appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be available for any program, project or activity in excess of amounts set forth in the budget estimates submitted to Congress.

SEC. 207. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of such Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 2017 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: *Provided*, That collections of these corporations and agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the extent expressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso shall not apply to the mortgage insurance or guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States Government.

SEC. 208. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all uncommitted, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit additional, updated budget information to these Committees upon request.

SEC. 209. The President's formal budget request for fiscal year 2018, as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development's congressional budget justifications to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall use the identical account and sub-account structure provided under this Act.

SEC. 210. A public housing agency or such other entity that administers Federal housing assistance for the Housing Authority of the county of Los Angeles, California, and the States of Alaska, Iowa, and Mississippi shall not be required to include a resident of public housing or a recipient of assistance provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 on the board of directors or a similar governing board of such agency or entity as required under section (2)(b) of such Act. Each public housing agency or other entity that administers Federal housing assistance under section 8 for the Housing Authority of the county of Los Angeles, California and the States of Alaska, Iowa and Mississippi that chooses not to include a resident of public housing or a recipient of section 8 assistance on the board of directors or a similar governing board shall establish an advisory board of not less than six residents of public housing or recipients of section 8 assistance to provide advice and comment to the public housing agency or other administering entity on issues related to public housing and section 8. Such advisory board shall meet not less than quarterly.

SEC. 211. No funds provided under this title may be used for an audit of the Government National Mortgage Association that makes applicable requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

SEC. 212. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may authorize the transfer of some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statu-

torily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.

(b) PHASED TRANSFERS.—Transfers of project-based assistance under this section may be done in phases to accommodate the financing and other requirements related to rehabilitating or constructing the project or projects to which the assistance is transferred, to ensure that such project or projects meet the standards under subsection (c).

(c) The transfer authorized in subsection (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) NUMBER AND BEDROOM SIZE OF UNITS.—

(A) For occupied units in the transferring project: The number of low-income and very low-income units and the configuration (i.e., bedroom size) provided by the transferring project shall be no less than when transferred to the receiving project or projects and the net dollar amount of Federal assistance provided to the transferring project shall remain the same in the receiving project or projects.

(B) For unoccupied units in the transferring project: The Secretary may authorize a reduction in the number of dwelling units in the receiving project or projects to allow for a reconfiguration of bedroom sizes to meet current market demands, as determined by the Secretary and provided there is no increase in the project-based assistance budget authority.

(2) The transferring project shall, as determined by the Secretary, be either physically obsolete or economically nonviable.

(3) The receiving project or projects shall meet or exceed applicable physical standards established by the Secretary.

(4) The owner or mortgagor of the transferring project shall notify and consult with the tenants residing in the transferring project and provide a certification of approval by all appropriate local governmental officials.

(5) The tenants of the transferring project who remain eligible for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project or projects until new units in the receiving project are available for occupancy.

(6) The Secretary determines that this transfer is in the best interest of the tenants.

(7) If either the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the receiving project resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project by the Secretary, except that the Secretary may waive this requirement upon determination that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate the financing of acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of the receiving project or projects.

(8) If the transferring project meets the requirements of subsection (d)(2), the owner or mortgagor of the receiving project or projects shall execute and record either a continuation of the existing use agreement or a new use agreement for the project where, in either case, any use restrictions in such agreement are of no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended) of any FHA-insured mortgage, except to the extent that appropriations are provided in advance for the amount of any such increased cost.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the terms “low-income” and “very low-income” shall have the meanings provided by the statute and/or regulations governing the program under which the project is insured or assisted;

(2) the term “multifamily housing project” means housing that meets one of the following conditions—

(A) housing that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing mark to market debt restructuring under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Housing Act;

(C) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended by section 801 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(D) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as such section existed before the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(E) housing that is assisted under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act; or

(F) housing or vacant land that is subject to a use agreement;

(3) the term “project-based assistance” means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937;

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act (as such section existed immediately before October 1, 1983);

(C) rent supplement payments under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965;

(D) interest reduction payments under section 236 and/or additional assistance payments under section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act;

(E) assistance payments made under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959; and

(F) assistance payments made under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act;

(4) the term “receiving project or projects” means the multifamily housing project or projects to which some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions are to be transferred;

(5) the term “transferring project” means the multifamily housing project which is transferring some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and the statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions to the receiving project or projects; and

(6) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(e) RESEARCH REPORT.—The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the transfer authority under this section, including the effect of such transfers on the operational efficiency, contract rents, physical and financial conditions, and long-term preservation of the affected properties.

SEC. 213. (a) No assistance shall be provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual who—

(1) is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

(2) is under 24 years of age;

(3) is not a veteran;

(4) is unmarried;

(5) does not have a dependent child;

(6) is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in section 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving assistance under such section 8 as of November 30, 2005;

(7) is not a youth who left foster care at age 14 or older and is at risk of becoming homeless; and

(8) is not otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, individually or jointly, are not eligible, to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(b) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a person to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), any financial assistance (in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges) that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or an institution of higher education (as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except for a person over the age of 23 with dependent children.

SEC. 214. The funds made available for Native Alaskans under the heading “Indian Block Grants” in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native Alaskan housing block grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005.

SEC. 215. Notwithstanding the limitation in the first sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715g–20(g)), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may, until September 30, 2017, insure and enter into commitments to insure mortgages under such section 255.

SEC. 216. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2017, in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 or other Federal programs, the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other programs that are attached to any dwelling units in the property. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that such a multifamily property owned or held by the Secretary is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (“MAHRAA”) and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect prior to foreclosure, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the af-

fectured tenants and use of other available remedies, such as partial abatements or receivership. After disposition of any multifamily property described under this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements under section 524 of MAHRAA.

SEC. 217. The commitment authority funded by fees as provided under the heading “Community Development Loan Guarantees Program Account” may be used to guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, notes, or other obligations issued by any State on behalf of non-entitlement communities in the State in accordance with the requirements of section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: *Provided*, That any State receiving such a guarantee or commitment shall distribute all funds subject to such guarantee to the units of general local government in non-entitlement areas that received the commitment.

SEC. 218. Public housing agencies that own and operate 400 or fewer public housing units may elect to be exempt from any asset management requirement imposed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in connection with the operating fund rule: *Provided*, That an agency seeking a discontinuance of a reduction of subsidy under the operating fund formula shall not be exempt from asset management requirements.

SEC. 219. With respect to the use of amounts provided in this Act and in future Acts for the operation, capital improvement and management of public housing as authorized by sections 9(d) and 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d) and (e)), the Secretary shall not impose any requirement or guideline relating to asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)(1), (2)): *Provided*, That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2).

SEC. 220. No official or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder unless the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has determined that such allotment holder has implemented an adequate system of funds control and has received training in funds control procedures and directives. The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD sub-office under the accounts “Executive Offices” and “Administrative Support Offices,” as well as each account receiving appropriations for “Program Office Salaries and Expenses”, “Government National Mortgage Association—Guarantees of Mortgage-Backed Securities Loan Guarantee Program Account”, and “Office of Inspector General” within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 221. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall, for fiscal year 2017 and hereafter, notify the public through the Federal Register and other means, as determined appropriate, of the issuance of a notice of the availability of assistance or notice of funding availability (NOFA) for any program or discretionary fund administered by the Secretary that is to be competitively awarded. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2017 and hereafter, the Secretary may make the NOFA available only on the

Internet at the appropriate Government web site or through other electronic media, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 222. Payment of attorney fees in program-related litigation shall be paid from the individual program office and Office of General Counsel salaries and expenses appropriations. The annual budget submission for the program offices and the Office of General Counsel shall include any such projected litigation costs for attorney fees as a separate line item request. No funds provided in this title may be used to pay any such litigation costs for attorney fees until the Department submits for review a spending plan for such costs to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 223. The Secretary is authorized to transfer up to 10 percent or \$4,000,000, whichever is less, of funds appropriated for any office under the heading "Administrative Support Offices" or for any account under the general heading "Program Office Salaries and Expenses" to any other such office or account: *Provided*, That no appropriation for any such office or account shall be increased or decreased by more than 10 percent or \$4,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide notification to such Committees three business days in advance of any such transfers under this section up to 10 percent or \$4,000,000, whichever is less.

SEC. 224. For fiscal year 2017 and hereafter the Disaster Housing Assistance Programs, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall be considered a "program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development" under section 904 of the McKinney Act for the purpose of income verifications and matching.

SEC. 225. (a) The Secretary shall take action under subsection (b) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance:

(1) receives a Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) score of 30 or less;

(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary within 3 days that all Exigent Health and Safety deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected; or

(3) receives a UPCS score between 31 and 59 and has received consecutive scores of less than 60 on UPCS inspections.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and noninsured projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), but do not apply to such units assisted under section 8(o)(13) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g).

(b) CORRECTIONS OF DEFICIENCIES.—

(1) The Secretary shall notify the owner and provide an opportunity for response within 30 days. If the violations remain, the Secretary shall develop a Compliance, Disposition and Enforcement Plan within 60 days and must provide the owner with a Notice of Default with a specified timetable, determined by the Secretary, for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary must also provide a copy of the Notice of Default to the tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator. If the owner's appeal results in a UPCS score of 60 or above, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default.

(2) At the end of the time period for correcting all deficiencies specified in the No-

tice of Default, if the owner fails to fully correct such deficiencies, the Secretary may—

(A) require immediate replacement of project management with a management agent approved by the Secretary;

(B) impose civil money penalties;

(C) abate the section 8 contract, including partial abatement, as determined by the Secretary, until all deficiencies have been corrected;

(D) pursue transfer of the project to an owner, approved by the Secretary under established procedures, which will be obligated to promptly make all required repairs and to accept renewal of the assistance contract as long as such renewal is offered;

(E) transfer the existing section 8 contract to another project or projects and owner or owners;

(F) pursue exclusionary sanctions, including suspensions or debarments from Federal programs;

(G) seek judicial appointment of a receiver to manage the property and cure all project deficiencies or seek a judicial order of specific performance requiring the owner to cure all project deficiencies;

(H) work with the owner, lender, or other related party to stabilize the property in an attempt to preserve the property through compliance, transfer of ownership, or an infusion of capital provided by a third-party that requires time to effectuate; or

(I) take any other regulatory or contractual remedies available as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Secretary.

(c) The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other remedies set forth above. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that the property is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 ("MAHRAA") and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance.

(d) The Secretary shall report quarterly on all properties covered by this section that are assessed through the Real Estate Assessment Center and have UPCS physical inspection scores of less than 60 or have received an unsatisfactory management and occupancy review within the past 36 months. The report shall include:

(1) The enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identify properties that have such conditions multiple times; and

(2) Actions that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking to protect tenants of such identified properties.

SEC. 226. None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, for purposes authorized under section 8 (only with respect to the tenant-based rental assistance pro-

gram) and section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, including bonuses, for the chief executive officer of which, or any other official or employee of which, that exceeds the annual rate of basic pay payable for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule at any time during any public housing agency fiscal year 2017.

SEC. 227. Section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v) is amended—

(1) in subsection (m)(1), by striking "fiscal year" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "fiscal year 2017."; and

(2) in subsection (o), by striking "September" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "September 30, 2017.".

SEC. 228. None of the funds in this Act provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development may be used to make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project, State, locality, housing authority, tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices.

SEC. 229. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require or enforce the Physical Needs Assessment (PNA).

SEC. 230. None of the funds made available by this Act nor any receipts or amounts collected under any Federal Housing Administration program may be used to implement the Homeowners Armed with Knowledge (HAWK) program.

SEC. 231. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Administration, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to insure, securitize, or establish a Federal guarantee of any mortgage or mortgage backed security that refinances or otherwise replaces a mortgage that has been subject to eminent domain condemnation or seizure, by a State, municipality, or any other political subdivision of a State.

SEC. 232. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to terminate the status of a unit of general local government as a metropolitan city (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) with respect to grants under section 106 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5306).

SEC. 233. Amounts made available under this Act which are either appropriated, allocated, advanced on a reimbursable basis, or transferred to the Office of Policy Development and Research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development and functions thereof, for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, and which are unexpended at the time of completion of a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, may be deobligated and shall immediately become available and may be reobligated in that fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year for the research, evaluation, or statistical purposes for which the amounts are made available to that Office subject to reprogramming requirements in section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 234. None of the funds under this title may be used for awards, including performance, special act, or spot, for any employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development who is subject to administrative

discipline in fiscal year 2017, including suspension from work.

SEC. 235. Funds made available in this title under the heading "Homeless Assistance Grants" may be used by the Secretary to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots authorized under section 526 of division H of Public Law 113-76, section 524 of division G of Public Law 113-235, section 525 of division H of Public Law 114-113, and such authorities as are enacted for Performance Partnership Pilots in an appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017: *Provided*, That such participation shall be limited to no more than 10 continuums of care and housing activities to improve outcomes for disconnected youth.

SEC. 236. With respect to grant amounts awarded under the heading "Homeless Assistance Grants" for fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 for the continuum of care (CoC) program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, costs paid by program income of grant recipients may count toward meeting the recipient's matching requirements, provided the costs are eligible CoC costs that supplement the recipients CoC program.

SEC. 237. Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for administrative costs of the Office of Community Planning and Development associated with funds appropriated to the Department for specific disaster relief and related purposes and designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, including information technology costs and costs for administering and overseeing such specific disaster related funds, shall be transferred to the Program Office Salaries and Expenses, Community Planning and Development account for the Department, shall remain available until expended, and may be used for such administrative costs for administering any funds appropriated to the Department for any disaster relief and related purposes in any prior or future act, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided*, That the amounts transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and shall be transferred only if the President subsequently so designates the entire transfer and transmits such designation to the Congress.

SEC. 238. (a) Section 302 of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4822) is amended in subsection (e)—

- (1) in paragraph (1)—
  - (i) by striking "handicapped" and inserting "persons with disabilities, or any 0-bedroom dwelling";
  - (ii) by inserting "or" after "expected to reside"; and
  - (iii) by striking "less than 7 years of age" and inserting "under age 6";
- (2) in paragraph (2) by striking "or" and inserting "and"; and
- (3) by striking paragraph (3).

(b) Section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851b) is amended in paragraph (27)—

- (1) by inserting "or any 0-bedroom dwelling" after "disabilities,"; and

(2) by deleting "housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities) or any 0 bedroom dwelling" and inserting "housing)".

(c) Section 401 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2681) is amended in paragraph (17)—

(1) by inserting "or any 0-bedroom dwelling" after "disabilities,"; and

(2) by deleting "housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities) or any 0 bedroom dwelling" and inserting "housing)".

SEC. 239. (a) CAPITAL FUND REPLACEMENT RESERVES.—Section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (j), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) TREATMENT OF REPLACEMENT RESERVE.—The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to funds held in replacement reserves established pursuant to subsection (n)."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(n) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPLACEMENT RESERVES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Public housing agencies shall be permitted to establish a replacement reserve to fund any of the capital activities listed in subsection (d)(1).

"(2) SOURCE AND AMOUNT OF FUNDS FOR REPLACEMENT RESERVE.—At any time, a public housing agency may deposit funds from such agency's Capital Fund into a replacement reserve, subject to the following:

"(A) At the discretion of the Secretary, public housing agencies may transfer and hold in a replacement reserve funds originating from additional sources.

"(B) No minimum transfer of funds to a replacement reserve shall be required.

"(C) At any time, a public housing agency may not hold in a replacement reserve more than the amount the public housing authority has determined necessary to satisfy the anticipated capital needs of properties in its portfolio assisted under this section, as outlined in its Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan, or a comparable plan, as determined by the Secretary.

"(D) The Secretary may establish, by regulation, a maximum replacement reserve level or levels that are below amounts determined under subparagraph (C), which may be based upon the size of the portfolio assisted under this section or other factors.

"(3) TRANSFER OF OPERATING FUNDS.—In first establishing a replacement reserve, the Secretary may allow public housing agencies to transfer more than 20 percent of its operating funds into its replacement reserve.

"(4) EXPENDITURE.—Funds in a replacement reserve may be used for purposes authorized by subsection (d)(1) and contained in its Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan.

"(5) MANAGEMENT AND REPORT.—The Secretary shall establish appropriate accounting and reporting requirements to ensure that public housing agencies are spending funds on eligible projects and that funds in the replacement reserve are connected to capital needs."

(b) FLEXIBILITY OF OPERATING FUND AMOUNTS.—Paragraph (1) of section 9(g) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(1)" and all that follows through "Of" and inserting the following:

"(1) FLEXIBILITY IN USE OF FUNDS.—

"(A) FLEXIBILITY FOR CAPITAL FUND AMOUNTS.—Of"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) FLEXIBILITY FOR OPERATING FUND AMOUNTS.—Of any amounts appropriated for

fiscal year 2017 or any fiscal year thereafter that are allocated for fiscal year 2017 or any fiscal year thereafter from the Operating Fund for any public housing agency, the agency may use not more than 20 percent for activities that are eligible under subsection (d) for assistance with amounts from the Capital Fund, but only if the public housing plan under section 5A of the agency provides for such use."

SEC. 240. Section 8(x)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)) is amended by striking "(B)" and all that follows up to the period and inserting the following:

"(B)(i) for a period not to exceed 36 months, otherwise eligible youths who have attained at least 18 years of age and not more than 24 years of age and who, at age 16 or older, have left or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act, and is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless, or (ii) except that an applicant may extend the 36-month period, if the applicant enrolls an eligible youth in a program authorized under section 23, in accordance with the length of the contract of participation for that eligible youth under section 23(c)(3)".

SEC. 241. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may establish, through notice in the Federal Register, a demonstration program to incentivize public housing agencies, as defined in section 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (in this section referred to as "the Act"), to implement measures to reduce their energy and water consumption.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Public housing agencies that operate public housing programs that meet the demonstration requirements, as determined by the Secretary, shall be eligible for participation in the demonstration.

(c) INCENTIVE.—The Secretary may provide an incentive to an eligible public housing agency that uses capital funds, operating funds, grants, utility rebates, and other resources to reduce its energy and/or water consumption in accordance with a plan approved by the Secretary.

(1) BASE UTILITY CONSUMPTION LEVEL.—The initial base utility consumption level under the approved plan shall be set at the public housing agency's rolling base consumption level immediately prior to the installation of energy conservation measures.

(2) FIRST YEAR UTILITY COST SAVINGS.—For the first year that an approved plan is in effect, the Secretary shall allocate the utility consumption level in the public housing operating fund using the base utility consumption level.

(3) SUBSEQUENT YEAR SAVINGS.—For each subsequent year that the plan is in effect, the Secretary shall decrease the utility consumption level by one percent of the initial base utility consumption level per year until the utility consumption level equals the public housing agency's actual consumption level that followed the installation of energy conservation measures, at which time the plan will terminate.

(4) USE OF UTILITY COST SAVINGS.—The public housing agency may use the funds resulting from the energy conservation measures, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3), for either operating expenses, as defined by section 9(e)(1) of the Act, or capital improvements, as defined by section 9(d)(1) of the Act.

(5) DURATION OF PLAN.—The length in years of the utility conservation plan shall not exceed the number of percentage points in utility consumption reduction a public housing



agency achieves through the energy conservation measures implemented under this demonstration, but in no case shall it exceed 20 years.

(6) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may establish such other requirements as necessary to further the purposes of this demonstration.

(7) EVALUATION.—Each public housing agency participating in the demonstration shall submit to the Secretary such performance and evaluation reports concerning the reduction in energy consumption and compliance with the requirements of this section as the Secretary may require.

(d) TERMINATION.—Public housing agencies may enter into this demonstration for 5 years after the date on which the demonstration program is commenced.

SEC. 242. Section 211 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2008, is repealed.

SEC. 243. (a) AUTHORITY.—To encourage families to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (hereafter referred to as “Secretary”) may implement a mobility demonstration to administer Housing Choice Voucher assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (hereafter referred to as “1937 Act”) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2021.

(b) DEMONSTRATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary must establish the competitive selection criteria and requirements for participation in the demonstration. The Secretary may require participating PHAs to use a randomized selection process among the families eligible to receive mobility assistance under this demonstration.

(2) REGIONAL HOUSING MOBILITY PLAN.—Applicant PHAs must submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan (hereafter referred to as “the Plan”).

(A) The Plan must meet all requirements established by the Secretary and must identify—

(i) the PHAs that will participate in the regional housing mobility program and the number of vouchers each participating PHA will make available out of its existing programs in support of the mobility demonstration;

(ii) any community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities that commit to participate;

(iii) any waivers or alternative requirements requested for the execution of the Plan; and

(iv) specific actions that the PHAs and other entities will undertake to accomplish the goals of the demonstration, which must include a comprehensive approach to enable a successful transition to opportunity areas and may include counseling and continued support for families.

(B) The Plan may also establish preferences for participating families, including a preference for families with children, based on regional housing needs and priorities.

(C) The Plan may provide for the use of exception payment standards that do not exceed 110 percent of the HUD-published small area Fair Market Rent for the covered exception payment standard area.

(D) Units contributed by a PHA participating in a regional housing mobility program to a pool of vouchers that will be project-based within the jurisdiction of that program are exempt from the percentage limitation in section 8(o)(13)(B) of the 1937 Act.

(c) FUNDING FOR MOBILITY-RELATED SERVICES.—In order to provide mobility-related services, PHAs participating in this demonstration may use administrative fees under section 8(q) of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)), their administrative fee reserves, and funding from private entities. Mobility-related services may include but are not limited to such things as counseling, portability coordination, landlord outreach, and administrative activities associated with establishing and operating a regional housing mobility program.

(d) WAIVERS OR ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) In order to allow for PHAs to implement and administer their Plans, the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for the following provisions of the 1937 Act:

(A) Sections 8(o)(7)(A) and 8(o)(13)(E)(i) (related to the term of a family’s assisted lease and associated mobility requirements).

(B) Section 8(o)(13)(C)(i) (related to the ability of a PHA participating in a regional housing mobility program to administer assistance contributed to the program consistent with the Plan identified in paragraph (2)).

(C) Section 8(o)(13)(F) (related to the term of a housing assistance payments (HAP) contract).

(D) Section 8(r)(2) (related to the ability of a PHA participating in a regional housing mobility program to administer assistance under section 8(o) anywhere within the jurisdiction of that program).

(E) Section 8(x)(2) (related to the length of time a PHA may provide assistance under section 8(o) to youth participating in the Family Unification Program (FUP)).

(2) The Secretary must publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements for statutory provisions no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION BY NOTICE.—The Secretary may implement the demonstration, including its terms, procedures, requirements, and conditions, by notice.

(f) EVALUATION.—No later than five years following implementation of the regional housing mobility programs, the Secretary must publish an evaluation of the effectiveness of the demonstration, subject to the availability of funding to conduct the evaluation.

SEC. 244. The language under the heading Rental Assistance Demonstration in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), is amended—

(1) in the undesignated paragraph before the first proviso, by inserting the following before the colon: “(‘First Component’ herein);”;

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “until September 30, 2018” and inserting “for fiscal year 2012 and thereafter”;

(3) in the fourth proviso, by striking “185,000” and inserting “250,000”;

(4) in the fourteenth, by—

(A) inserting “or nonprofit” before “entity, then a capable entity,”; and

(B) striking “preserves its interest” and inserting “or a nonprofit entity preserves an interest”;

(5) by amending the eighteenth proviso to read as follows—  
“Provided further, That for fiscal year 2012 and hereafter, owners of properties assisted or previously assisted under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing

Act, or section 8(e)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, for which a contract expires or terminates due to prepayment on or after October 1, 2006 has caused or results in the termination of rental assistance or affordability restrictions or both and the issuance of tenant protection vouchers under section 8(o) or section 8(t) of the Act, or with a project rental assistance contract under section 202(c)(2) of Housing Act of 1959, shall be eligible, subject to requirements established by the Secretary, including but not limited to tenant consultation procedures, for conversion of assistance available or provided for such vouchers or assistance contracts, to assistance under a long-term project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the Act, which shall have a term of no less than 20 years, which shall have initial rents set at comparable market rents for the market area, with subsequent rent adjustments only by an operating cost factor established by the Secretary, and which shall be eligible for renewal under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), or, subject to agreement of the administering public housing agency, to assistance under section 8(o)(13) of the Act, to which the limitation under subparagraph (B) of section 8(o)(13) of the Act shall not apply and for which the Secretary may waive or alter the provisions of subparagraphs (C) and (D) of section 8(o)(13) of the Act (“Second Component” herein);”;

(6) by inserting the following proviso before the nineteenth: “Provided further, That conversions of assistance under the Second Component may not be the basis for re-screening or termination of assistance or eviction of any tenant family in a property participating in the demonstration.”;

(7) in the twentieth, as amended (reordered) above, by striking “previous proviso” and all that follows through the end of the proviso and inserting “Second Component, except for conversion of Section 202 project rental assistance contracts, shall be available for project-based subsidy contracts entered into pursuant to the Second Component.”;

(8) in the twenty-first proviso, as amended (reordered) above, by striking “previous two provisos” and inserting “Second Component, except for conversion of section 202 project rental assistance contracts,”;

(9) in the twenty-second proviso, as amended (reordered) above, by striking “three previous provisos” and inserting “Second Component, except for conversion of section 202 project rental assistance contracts,”;

(10) by inserting the following proviso before the twenty-third proviso, as amended (reordered) above: “Provided further, That the Secretary may transfer amounts made available under the heading ‘Housing for the Elderly’ to the accounts under the headings ‘Project-Based Rental Assistance’ or ‘Tenant-Based Rental Assistance’ to facilitate any Section 202 project rental assistance contract conversions under the Second Component, and any increase in cost for ‘Project-Based Rental Assistance’ or ‘Tenant-Based Rental Assistance’ associated with such conversion shall be equal to amounts so transferred.”; and

(11) in the twenty-fourth proviso, as amended (reordered) above, by striking “previous four provisos” and inserting “Second Component, as applicable.”.

SEC. 245. The Secretary shall establish by notice such requirements as may be necessary to implement section 78001 of title LXXVIII of the Fixing America’s Surface

Transportation Act (Public Law 114-94), and the notice shall take effect upon issuance: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall commence rulemaking based on the initial notice no later than the expiration of the 6-month period following issuance of the notice and the rulemaking shall allow for the opportunity for public comment.

SEC. 246. For fiscal year 2017 and hereafter, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may use amounts made available for the continuum of care program under the "Homeless Assistance Grants" heading under this title to renew the grant originally awarded under the heading "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Permanent Supportive Housing" in chapter 6 of title III of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 122 Stat. 2351) in the continuum of care program, authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.). Notwithstanding any provision of law, for purposes of grant application and renewal, the State of Louisiana may continue to permit a program participant to receive or retain tenant-based rental assistance outside the continuum of care's geographic area, and the funding of such assistance shall not be considered operation of a continuum of care in more than one geographic area.

SEC. 247. Section 428 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11386b) is amended by adding at the end of the section, subsection (f) to read as follows: "(f) TRANSITION FOR REALLOCATED GRANT.—

"(1) From amounts under this subtitle made available to carry out subtitle B and this subtitle, the Secretary may award one-year transition grants to recipients to transition from one Continuum of Care program component to another.

"(2) In order to be eligible to receive a transition grant, the project must have the consent of the Continuum of Care, and meet standards determined by the Secretary."

This title may be cited as the "Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2017".

TITLE III  
RELATED AGENCIES  
ACCESS BOARD  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Access Board, as authorized by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, \$8,190,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation funds received for publications and training expenses.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Maritime Commission, as authorized by section 201(d) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 307), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343(b); and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902, \$27,490,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to carry out the pro-

visions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$23,274,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern the obtaining of such services within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment within the Corporation: *Provided further*, That concurrent with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2018, the Inspector General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a budget request for fiscal year 2018 in similar format and substance to those submitted by executive agencies of the Federal Government.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Transportation Safety Board, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for a GS-15; uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901-5902), \$106,000,000, of which not to exceed \$2,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses. The amounts made available to the National Transportation Safety Board in this Act include amounts necessary to make lease payments on an obligation incurred in fiscal year 2001 for a capital lease.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION  
PAYMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

For payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for use in neighborhood reinvestment activities, as authorized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101-8107), \$135,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall be for a multi-family rental housing program.

UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON  
HOMELESSNESS  
OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in carrying out the functions pursuant to title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, \$3,600,000: *Provided*, That title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11319) is amended by striking "October 1, 2017" in section 209 and inserting "October 1, 2018" and in section 204(a) by striking "level V" and inserting "level IV".

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Surface Transportation Board, including services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$37,000,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$1,250,000 from fees established by the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and used for necessary and authorized expenses under this heading: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced by a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2017, to result in a final appropriation from the general fund estimated at no more than \$35,750,000.

TITLE IV  
GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 401. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 403. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through a procurement contract pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in the Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or "new age" belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice 915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants' personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

SEC. 405. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2017, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates a new program;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds

have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;

(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, administration, or department different from the budget justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations or the table accompanying the explanatory statement accompanying this Act, whichever is more detailed, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the report shall include—

(A) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the prior year enacted level, the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation and its respective prior year enacted level by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriation; and

(C) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 406. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2017 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2017 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2018, for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided*, That a request shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 407. No funds in this Act may be used to support any Federal, State, or local projects that seek to use the power of eminent domain, unless eminent domain is employed only for a public use: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, public use shall not be construed to include economic development that primarily benefits private entities: *Provided further*, That any use of funds for mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway projects, as well as utility projects which benefit or serve the general public (including energy-related, communication-related, water-related and wastewater-related infrastructure), other structures designated for use by the general public or which have other common-carrier or public-utility functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government, and projects for the removal of an immediate threat to public health and safety or brownfields as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Public Law 107-118) shall

be considered a public use for purposes of eminent domain.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 409. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to pay the salary for any person filling a position, other than a temporary position, formerly held by an employee who has left to enter the Armed Forces of the United States and has satisfactorily completed his or her period of active military or naval service, and has within 90 days after his or her release from such service or from hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not more than 1 year, made application for restoration to his or her former position and has been certified by the Office of Personnel Management as still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position and has not been restored thereto.

SEC. 410. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301-8305, popularly known as the "Buy American Act").

SEC. 411. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 8301-8305).

SEC. 412. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class airline accommodations in contravention of sections 301-10.122 and 301-10.123 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 413. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit under sections 41301 through 41305 of title 49, United States Code, or exemption application under section 40109 of that title of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 bis of the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict or otherwise preclude the Secretary of Transportation from granting a foreign air carrier permit or an exemption to such an air carrier where such authorization is consistent with the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement and United States law.

SEC. 414. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees of a single agency or department of the United States Government, who are stationed in the United States, at any single international conference unless the relevant Secretary reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days in advance that such attendance is important to the national interest: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section the term "international conference" shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 415. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may

be used by the Surface Transportation Board to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in an amount in excess of the amount authorized for district court civil suit filing fees under section 1914 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 416. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or any other Federal agency under this Act to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

This Act may be cited as the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017".

#### **DIVISION B—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

##### TITLE I

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$532,359,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$1,087,572,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$1,579,798,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$2,038,980,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$232,930,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$143,957,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$68,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$38,597,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$188,950,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$177,932,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$205,237,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$325,995,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and

maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$300,915,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$274,429,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$59,157,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$3,258,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$200,735,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$94,011,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$61,352,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 per-

cent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than \$35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days

prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of February 2009, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 124. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 125. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2021:

"Military Construction, Army", \$40,500,000;  
 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$143,000,000;  
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$195,465,000;  
 "Military Construction, Defense-Wide", \$64,364,000;  
 "Military Construction, Army National Guard", \$16,500,000;  
 "Military Construction, Air National Guard", \$11,000,000;  
 "Military Construction, Army Reserve", \$30,000,000;

"Family Housing Construction, Army", \$14,400,000:

*Provided*, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2017 submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That such funds are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 126. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Defense from prior appropriation Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

"Military Construction, Army", \$30,000,000;  
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$22,340,000;  
 "Military Construction, Defense-Wide", \$132,283,000; and

"North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program", \$15,000,000:

*Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

SEC. 127. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used to consolidate or relocate any element of a United States Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) outside of the United States until the Secretary of the Air Force (1) completes an analysis and comparison of the cost and infrastructure investment required to consolidate or relocate a RED HORSE squadron outside of the United States versus within the United States; (2) provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress ("the Committees") a report detailing the findings of the cost analysis; and (3) certifies in writing to the Committees that the preferred site for the consolidation or relocation yields the greatest savings for the Air Force: *Provided*, That the term "United States" in this section does not include any territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 128. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or transfer of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies

guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$90,119,449,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$17,224,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2018 under this heading shall be reimbursed to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

#### READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$13,708,648,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

#### VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, \$124,504,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$107,899,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017.

#### VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, during fiscal year 2017, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$198,856,000.

#### VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$36,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,517,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$389,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,163,000.

#### GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$2,856,160,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

#### VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; \$1,078,993,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, \$44,886,554,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$1,400,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the

implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans.

#### MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$7,246,181,000, plus reimbursements, of which \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020; and, in addition, \$9,409,118,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, \$1,500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

#### MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$6,654,480,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

#### MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; \$495,100,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, \$5,434,880,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$250,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

#### MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$675,366,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$286,193,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$417,959,000, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$156,096,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That up to \$2,500,000 may be available to facilitate the furnishing of legal and other assistance, without charge, to veterans and other individuals who are unable to afford the cost of legal representation in connection with a decision by the Board of Veterans Appeals under chapter 71 of title 38, United States Code, in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth in Public Law 102-229 under the heading "Salaries and Expenses" under the heading "Court of Veterans Appeals": *Provided further*, That the Board of Veterans Appeals submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification that there is a substantial unmet need for pro bono representation before the Board of Veterans Appeals prior to expending funds for this purpose.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$4,278,259,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That \$1,272,548,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed \$37,100,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That \$2,534,442,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed \$180,200,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That \$471,269,000 shall be for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Pro-*

*vided further*, That amounts made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the "Information Technology Systems" account for development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading may be used by the Interagency Program Office through the Department of Veterans Affairs to define data standards, code sets, and value sets used to enable interoperability: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement for VistA Evolution or any successor program, not more than 25 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

(1) Certifies in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that the Department of Veterans Affairs has met the requirements contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) which require that electronic health record systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have reached interoperability, comply with national standards and architectural requirements identified by the DoD/VA Interagency Program Office in collaboration with the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology;

(2) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the VistA Evolution Business Case and supporting documents regarding continuation of VistA Evolution or alternatives to VistA Evolution, including an analysis of necessary or desired capabilities, technical and security requirements, the plan for modernizing the platform framework, and all associated costs;

(3) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes a strategic plan for VistA Evolution, or any successor program, and the associated implementation plan including metrics and timelines; a master schedule and lifecycle cost estimate for VistA Evolution or any successor; and an implementation plan for the transition from the Project Management Accountability System to a new project delivery framework, the Veteran-focused Integration Process, that includes the methodology by which projects will be tracked, progress measured, and deliverables evaluated;

(4) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report outlining the strategic plan to reach interoperability with private sector healthcare providers, the timeline for reaching "meaningful use" as defined by the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology for each data domain covered under the VistA Evolution program, and the extent to which the Department of Veterans Affairs leverages the State Health Information Exchanges to share health data with private sector providers; and

(5) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes the extent to which VistA Evolution, or any successor program, maximizes the use of commercially available software used by DoD and the private sector, requires an open architecture that leverages best practices and rapidly adapts to technologies produced by the private sector, enhances full interoperability between the VA and DoD and between VA and the private sector, and ensures the security of personally identifiable information of veterans and beneficiaries:

*Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the report accompanying this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$160,106,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$528,110,000, of which \$448,110,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021, and of which \$80,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account and contracting officers who manage specific major construction

projects, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2017, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2017; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, \$222,620,000 for Veterans Health Administration major construction projects shall not be available until the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(1) enters into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department of Veterans Affairs Federal entity to serve as the design and/or construction agent for any Veterans Health Administration major construction project with a Total Estimated Cost of \$100,000,000 or above by providing full project management services, including management of the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes, consistent with section 502 of Public Law 114-58; and

(2) certifies in writing that such an agreement is executed and intended to minimize or prevent subsequent major construction project cost overruns and provides a copy of the agreement entered into and any required supplementary information to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$372,069,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, along with unobligated balances of previous "Construction, Minor Projects" appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$90,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2017 for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, in this or any other Act, under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities" accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers between the "Medical Services" and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers between the "Medical Services" and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the "Medical Facilities" account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects", and "Construction, Minor Projects") shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or ex-

amination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services" account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation and Pensions".

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2017 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2017 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$47,668,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and \$3,532,000 for



the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the “General Administration” and “Information Technology Systems” accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliarys, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans Integrated Service Network 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

(1) a national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;

(2) an explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated within each VISN;

(3) a cost vs. benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with contract care or other outsourced services;

(4) an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a VA medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care;

(5) an inventory of VA buildings with historic designation and the methodology used to determine the buildings’ condition and utilization;

(6) a description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and

(7) consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: *Provided*, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 212. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisi-

tion and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects”.

SEC. 214. Amounts made available under “Medical Services” are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 215. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Medical Services” and “Medical Community Care” accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 216. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term “rural Alaska” shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Of the amounts appropriated in title II of division J of Public Law 114-113 under the heading “Medical Services” which become available on October 1, 2016, \$7,246,181,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 219. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the explanatory statement described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 Public Law 114-113 in title II of Division J of the consolidated Act in the paragraph entitled “Quarterly Report”, under the heading “General Administration”.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Amounts made available under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “General Administration”, and “National Cemetery Administration” accounts for fiscal year 2017 may be transferred to or from the “Information Technology Systems” account: *Provided*, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent ag-

gregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the “Information Technology Systems” account: *Provided further*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 221. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for “Medical Services”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “Construction, Minor Projects”, and “Information Technology Systems”, up to \$274,731,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That section 223 of title II of division J of Public Law 114-113 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 223. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2017, for “Medical Services”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, up to \$280,802,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law

110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 225. Of the amounts available in this title for “Medical Services”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 226. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 228. None of the funds made available for “Construction, Major Projects” may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 229. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report that contains the following information from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: (1) the average time to complete a disability compensation claim; (2) the number of claims pending more than 125 days, disaggregated by initial and supplemental claims; (3) error rates; (4) the number of claims personnel; (5) any corrective action taken within the quarter to address poor performance; (6) training programs undertaken; and (7) the number and results of Quality Review Team audits: *Provided*, That each quarterly report shall be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of the respective quarter.

SEC. 230. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for “Medical Support and Compliance” a maximum of \$40,000,000 may be obligated from the “Medical Support and Compliance” account for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects: *Provided*, That funds in addition to these amounts may be obligated for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 232. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, under the “Board of Veterans Appeals” and the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 233. Of the unobligated balances available within the “DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund”, \$52,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 234. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$5,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 235. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 236. Paragraph (3) of section 403(a) of the Veterans’ Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) DURATION.—A veteran may receive health services under this section during the period beginning on the date specified in paragraph (2) and ending on September 30, 2018.”

SEC. 237. (a) Section 1722A(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Paragraph (1) does not apply to opioid antagonists furnished under this chapter to a veteran who is at high risk for overdose of a specific medication or substance in order to reverse the effect of such an overdose.”

(b) Section 1710(g)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “with respect to home health services” and inserting “with respect to the following:”

“(A) Home health services”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) Education on the use of opioid antagonists to reverse the effects of overdoses of specific medications or substances.”

SEC. 238. Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended in subsection(c)(1) by striking the phrase “that makes a recommendation or otherwise suggests corrective action.”

SEC. 239. The Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to administer financial assistance grants and enter into cooperative agreements with organizations, utilizing a competitive selection process, to train and employ homeless and at-risk veterans in natural resource conservation management.

SEC. 240. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Medicine for an assessment on research relating to the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure and to evaluate the feasibility of a research entity or entities to conduct research relating to health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure while serving in the Armed Forces.

SEC. 241. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 for “Medical Services”, \$3,000,000 in each year for carrying out and expanding to each medical center of the Department the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 242. Section 5701(l) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

SEC. 243. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, as part of the hiring process for each health care provider considered for a position at the Department of Veterans Affairs after the date of the enactment of this Act, require from the medical board of each State in which the health care provider holds or has held a medical license—

(1) information on any violation of the requirements of the medical license of the health care provider; and

(2) information on whether the health care provider has entered into any settlement agreement for a disciplinary charge relating to the practice of medicine by the health care provider.

(b) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

SEC. 244. (a) Notwithstanding section 552a of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, with respect to each health care provider of the Department of Veterans Affairs that has violated a requirement of their medical license, provide to the medical board of each State in which the health care provider is licensed or practices all relevant information contained in the State Licensing Board Reporting File or any successor file of the Department with respect to such violation.

(b) The Secretary shall provide the information required in subsection (a) to a medical board described in such subsection notwithstanding that such board may not have formally requested such information from the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 245. Upon determination by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that such action is necessary for providing health care, benefits and other services, the Secretary may transfer amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 by this Act between any discretionary appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2017: *Provided*, That amounts so transferred shall be merged with the account to which transferred: *Provided further*, That the total amount that the Secretary may transfer under this section may not exceed two percent of the total discretionary appropriations made available to the Department for fiscal year 2017 by this Act: *Provided further*, That a transfer of funds between the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities” accounts shall not be counted toward the two percent limitation in the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided by this section may be exercised only to support activities in an appropriations account that

have a higher priority than those undertaken in the appropriations account from which budget authority is transferred, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority may not be used to provide budget authority for an activity that the Secretary lacks the authority to carry out: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

VA PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

SEC. 246. (a) PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

“§ 731. Whistleblower complaint defined

“In this subchapter, the term ‘whistleblower complaint’ means a complaint by an employee of the Department disclosing, or assisting another employee to disclose, a potential violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

“§ 732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints

“(a) FILING.—(1) In addition to any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint, an employee of the Department may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with a supervisor of the employee.

“(2) Except as provided by subsection (d)(1), in making a whistleblower complaint under paragraph (1), an employee shall file the initial complaint with the immediate supervisor of the employee.

“(b) NOTIFICATION.—(1)(A) Not later than four business days after the date on which a supervisor receives a whistleblower complaint by an employee under this section, the supervisor shall notify, in writing, the employee of whether the supervisor determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that the complaint discloses a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

“(B) The supervisor shall retain written documentation regarding the whistleblower complaint and shall submit to the next-level supervisor and the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h) a written report on the complaint.

“(2)(A) On a monthly basis, the supervisor shall submit to the appropriate director or other official who is superior to the supervisor a written report that includes the number of whistleblower complaints received by the supervisor under this section during the month covered by the report, the disposition of such complaints, and any actions taken because of such complaints pursuant to subsection (c).

“(B) In the case in which such a director or official carries out this paragraph, the director or official shall submit such monthly report to the supervisor of the director or official and to the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h).

“(c) POSITIVE DETERMINATION.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under

subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint of an employee, the supervisor shall include in the notification to the employee under such subsection the specific actions that the supervisor will take to address the complaint.

“(d) FILING COMPLAINT WITH NEXT-LEVEL SUPERVISORS.—(1) If any circumstance described in paragraph (3) is met, an employee may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with the next-level supervisor who shall treat such complaint in accordance with this section.

“(2) An employee may file a whistleblower complaint with the Secretary if the employee has filed the whistleblower complaint to each level of supervisors between the employee and the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(3) A circumstance described in this paragraph is any of the following circumstances:

“(A) A supervisor does not make a timely determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint.

“(B) The employee who made a whistleblower complaint determines that the supervisor did not adequately address the complaint pursuant to subsection (c).

“(C) The immediate supervisor of the employee is the basis of the whistleblower complaint.

“(e) TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEE WHO FILES WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint filed by an employee, the Secretary shall—

“(1) inform the employee of the ability to volunteer for a transfer in accordance with section 3352 of title 5; and

“(2) give preference to the employee for such a transfer in accordance with such section.

“(f) PROHIBITION ON EXEMPTION.—The Secretary may not exempt any employee of the Department from being covered by this section.

“(g) WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT FORM.—(1) A whistleblower complaint filed by an employee under subsection (a) or (d) shall consist of the form described in paragraph (2) and any supporting materials or documentation the employee determines necessary.

“(2) The form described in this paragraph is a form developed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Special Counsel, that includes the following:

“(A) An explanation of the purpose of the whistleblower complaint form.

“(B) Instructions for filing a whistleblower complaint as described in this section.

“(C) An explanation that filing a whistleblower complaint under this section does not preclude the employee from any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint.

“(D) A statement directing the employee to information accessible on the Internet website of the Department as described in section 735(d).

“(E) Fields for the employee to provide—

“(i) the date that the form is submitted;

“(ii) the name of the employee;

“(iii) the contact information of the employee;

“(iv) a summary of the whistleblower complaint (including the option to append supporting documents pursuant to paragraph (1)); and

“(v) proposed solutions to the complaint.

“(F) Any other information or fields that the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) The Secretary, in consultation with the Special Counsel, shall develop the form

described in paragraph (2) by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(h) CENTRAL WHISTLEBLOWER OFFICE.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office—

“(A) is not an element of the Office of the General Counsel;

“(B) is not headed by an official who reports to the General Counsel;

“(C) does not provide, or receive from, the General Counsel any information regarding a whistleblower complaint except pursuant to an action regarding the complaint before an administrative body or court; and

“(D) does not provide advice to the General Counsel.

“(2) The central whistleblower office shall be responsible for investigating all whistleblower complaints of the Department, regardless of whether such complaints are made by or against an employee who is not a member of the Senior Executive Service.

“(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office maintains a toll-free hotline to anonymously receive whistleblower complaints.

“(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office has such staff and resources as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the functions of the central whistleblower office.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘central whistleblower office’ means the Office of Accountability Review or a successor office that is established or designated by the Secretary to investigate whistleblower complaints filed under this section or any other method established by law.

“§ 733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints

“(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out the following adverse actions against supervisory employees (as defined in section 7103(a) of title 5) whom the Secretary, an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or the Inspector General of the Department determines committed a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c):

“(A) With respect to the first offense, an adverse action that is not less than a 12-day suspension and not more than removal.

“(B) With respect to the second offense, removal.

“(2)(A) An employee against whom an adverse action under paragraph (1) is proposed is entitled to written notice.

“(B)(i) An employee who is notified under subparagraph (A) of being the subject of a proposed adverse action under paragraph (1) is entitled to 14 days following such notification to answer and furnish evidence in support of the answer.

“(ii) If the employee does not furnish any such evidence as described in clause (i) or if the Secretary determines that such evidence is not sufficient to reverse the determination to propose the adverse action, the Secretary shall carry out the adverse action following such 14-day period.

“(C) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7513 of title 5, subsection (c) of such section, paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7543 of such title, and subsection (c) of such section shall not apply with respect to an adverse action carried out under paragraph (1).

“(b) LIMITATION ON OTHER ADVERSE ACTIONS.—With respect to a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c), if

the Secretary carries out an adverse action against a supervisory employee, the Secretary may carry out an additional adverse action under this section based on the same prohibited personnel action if the total severity of the adverse actions do not exceed the level specified in subsection (a).

“(c) **PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION DESCRIBED.**—A prohibited personnel action described in this subsection is any of the following actions:

“(1) Taking or failing to take a personnel action in violation of section 2302 of title 5 against an employee relating to the employee—

“(A) filing a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 of this title;

“(B) filing a whistleblower complaint with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

“(C) providing information or participating as a witness in an investigation of a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 or with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

“(D) participating in an audit or investigation by the Comptroller General of the United States;

“(E) refusing to perform an action that is unlawful or prohibited by the Department; or

“(F) engaging in communications that are related to the duties of the position or are otherwise protected.

“(2) Preventing or restricting an employee from making an action described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

“(3) Conducting a negative peer review or opening a retaliatory investigation because of an activity of an employee that is protected by section 2302 of title 5.

“(4) Requesting a contractor to carry out an action that is prohibited by section 4705(b) or section 4712(a)(1) of title 41, as the case may be.

**“§ 734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses**

“(a) **EVALUATION CRITERIA.**—(1) In evaluating the performance of supervisors of the Department, the Secretary shall include the criteria described in paragraph (2).

“(2) The criteria described in this subsection are the following:

“(A) Whether the supervisor treats whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title.

“(B) Whether the appropriate deciding official, performance review board, or performance review committee determines that the supervisor was found to have committed a prohibited personnel action described in section 733(b) of this title by an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or, in the case of a settlement of a whistleblower complaint (regardless of whether any fault was assigned under such settlement), the Secretary.

“(b) **BONUSES.**—(1) The Secretary may not pay to a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) an award or bonus under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the determination was made under such subsection.

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue an order directing a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) to repay the amount of any award or bonus paid under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, if—

“(A) such award or bonus was paid for performance during a period in which the supervisor committed a prohibited personnel action as determined pursuant to such subsection (a)(2)(B);

“(B) the Secretary determines such repayment appropriate pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary to carry out this section; and

“(C) the supervisor is afforded notice and an opportunity to a hearing before making such repayment.

**“§ 735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints**

“(a) **TRAINING.**—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary, in coordination with the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman designated under section 3(d)(1)(C) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), shall provide to each employee of the Department training regarding whistleblower complaints, including—

“(1) an explanation of each method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint;

“(2) an explanation of prohibited personnel actions described by section 733(c) of this title;

“(3) with respect to supervisors, how to treat whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title;

“(4) the right of the employee to petition Congress regarding a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 7211 of title 5;

“(5) an explanation that the employee may not be prosecuted or reprimanded against for disclosing information to Congress, the Inspector General, or another investigatory agency in instances where such disclosure is permitted by law, including under sections 5701, 5705, and 7732 of this title, under section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act), under chapter 93 of title 18, and pursuant to regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191);

“(6) an explanation of the language that is required to be included in all nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements pursuant to section 115(a)(1) of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (5 U.S.C. 2302 note); and

“(7) the right of contractors to be protected from reprisal for the disclosure of certain information under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41.

“(b) **MANNER TRAINING IS PROVIDED.**—The Secretary shall ensure that training provided under subsection (a) is provided in person.

“(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall provide training on merit system protection in a manner that the Special Counsel certifies as being satisfactory.

“(d) **PUBLICATION.**—(1) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, and display prominently at each facility of the Department, the rights of an employee to file a whistleblower complaint, including the information described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a).

“(2) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, the whistleblower complaint form described in section 732(g)(2).

**“§ 736. Reports to Congress**

“(a) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

“(1) with respect to whistleblower complaints filed under section 732 of this title during the year covered by the report—

“(A) the number of such complaints filed;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints in which a positive determination was made by a supervisor under subsection (b)(1) of such section;

“(2) the number of whistleblower complaints filed during the year covered by the report that are not included under paragraph (1), including—

“(A) the method in which such complaints were filed;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints; and

“(3) with respect to disclosures made by a contractor under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41—

“(A) the number of complaints relating to such disclosures that were investigated by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the year covered by the report;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints.

“(b) **NOTICE OF OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL DETERMINATIONS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives from the Special Counsel information relating to a whistleblower complaint pursuant to section 1213 of title 5, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such information, including the determination made by the Special Counsel.

“(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—In this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.”.

**(2) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

(A) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Such chapter is further amended by inserting before section 701 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”.

(B) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended—

(i) by inserting before the item relating to section 701 the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”;

and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

“731. Whistleblower complaint defined.

“732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints.

“733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints.

“734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses.

“735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints.

“736. Reports to Congress.”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES AS OFFICIAL DUTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, as designated by section 2(a)(2)(A), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty

“(a) CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.—An employee of the Department is performing official duty during the period with respect to which the employee is testifying in an official capacity in front of either chamber of Congress, a committee of either chamber of Congress, or a joint or select committee of Congress.

“(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall provide travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, to any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs performing official duty described under subsection (a).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 2(a)(2)(B), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 713 the following new item:

“715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty.”.

SEC. 247. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the “Medical Services” account, for fiscal year 2017, not less than \$18,000,000, and for fiscal year 2018, not less than \$70,000,000, shall be used for the provision of fertility treatment and counseling, including treatment using assisted reproductive technology, to veterans and their spouses if the veteran has a service-connected condition that results in the veteran being unable to procreate without the use of such fertility treatment.

(b) In this section, the term “service-connected condition” means a condition that was incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).

SEC. 248. None of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by title II may be used to carry out the Home Marketing Incentive Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs or to carry out the Appraisal Value Offer Program of the Department with respect to an employee of the Department in a senior executive position (as defined in section 713(g) of title 38, United States Code): *Provided*, That the Secretary may waive this prohibition with respect to the use of the Home Marketing Incentive Program and Appraisal Value Offer Program to recruit for a position for which recruitment or retention of qualified personnel is likely to be difficult in the absence of the use of these incentives: *Provided further*, That within 15 days of a determination by the Secretary to waive this prohibition, the Secretary shall submit written notification thereof to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress containing the reasons and identifying the position title for which the waiver has been issued.

SEC. 249. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used in a manner that would—

(1) interfere with the ability of a veteran to participate in a medicinal marijuana program approved by a State;

(2) deny any services from the Department to a veteran who is participating in such a program; or

(3) limit or interfere with the ability of a health care provider of the Department to make appropriate recommendations, fill out forms, or take steps to comply with such a program.

SEC. 250. (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of verifying that an individual performed service under honorable conditions that satisfies the requirements of a coastwise merchant seaman who is recognized pursuant to section 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note) as having performed active duty service for the purposes described in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of Defense shall accept the following:

(1) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom no applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner’s document or Z-card, or other official employment record is available, the Secretary of Defense shall provide such recognition on the basis of applicable Social Security Administration records submitted for or by the individual, together with validated testimony given by the individual or the primary next of kin of the individual that the individual performed such service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(2) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom the applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner’s document or Z-card, or other official employment record has been destroyed or otherwise become unavailable by reason of any action committed by a person responsible for the control and maintenance of such form, logbook, or record, the Secretary of Defense shall accept other official documentation demonstrating that the individual performed such service during period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(3) For the purpose of determining whether to recognize service allegedly performed during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946, the Secretary shall recognize masters of seagoing vessels or other officers in command of similarly organized groups as agents of the United States who were authorized to document any individual for purposes of hiring the individual to perform service in the merchant marine or discharging an individual from such service.

(b) TREATMENT OF OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—Other documentation accepted by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall satisfy all requirements for eligibility of service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(c) BENEFITS ALLOWED.—

(1) MEDALS, RIBBONS, AND DECORATIONS.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) may be awarded an appropriate medal, ribbon, or other military decoration based on such service.

(2) STATUS OF VETERAN.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled by reason of such recognized service to any benefit that is not described in this subsection.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$75,100,000 to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$30,945,100: *Provided*, That \$2,500,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$70,800,000 of which not to exceed \$28,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the “Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies” account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$64,300,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$22,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading “Department of Defense—

Civil, Cemeterial Expenses, Army”, may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery, making additional land available for ground burials.

SEC. 302. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 4727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

#### TITLE IV

##### GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of “E-Commerce” technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 406. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 407. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contraven-

tion of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 409. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

This Act may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017”.

**SA 3897.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. SHELBY)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in Division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the final rule of the Department of Housing and Urban Development entitled “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing” (80 Fed. Reg. 42272 (July 16, 2015)) or to carry out the notice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development entitled “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool” (79 Fed. Reg. 57949 (September 26, 2014)).

**SA 3898.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in Division B, insert the following:

#### TITLE \_\_\_\_

##### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

#### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally, and to develop necessary medical countermeasures and vaccines, including the review, regulation, and post market surveillance of vaccines and therapies, and administrative activities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

#### CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

##### CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support”, \$743,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally; and to carry out titles II, III, and XVII of the Public Health Service (“PHS”) Act with respect to domestic preparedness and global health: *Provided*, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries: *Provided further*, That the provisions in section 317S of the PHS Act shall apply to the use of funds appropriated in this paragraph as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) to be appropriate: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at the State and local level: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for acquisition of real property (including long-term ground leases) and equipment, and construction, demolition, or renovation of facilities, including construction on leased land: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred by the Director of CDC to other accounts of the CDC for the purposes provided in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For an additional amount for “National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases”, \$277,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally, including expenses related to carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That such funds may be transferred by the Director of the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”) to other accounts of the NIH for the purposes provided in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
EMERGENCY FUND  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, \$233,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally; to develop necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary medical supplies, and administrative activities; for carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to domestic preparedness and global health; and for carrying out title III of the PHS Act and title V of the Social Security Act to provide health care and related services in areas affected by Zika virus: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to procure security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F-2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act, as amended by this Act): *Provided further*, That paragraphs (1) and (7)(C) of subsection (c) of section 319F-2 of the PHS Act, but no other provisions of such section, shall apply to such security countermeasures procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That products purchased with funds appropriated in this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred to the fund authorized by section 319F-4 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may, for purposes of providing primary health services in areas affected by Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, be used to assign National Health Service Corps (“NHSC”) members to Puerto Rico and other Territories, notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limi-

tations in or under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), or 333A(a) of the PHS Act, and to make NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards under section 338B of such Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be awarded for projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and other Territories authorized under section 501 of the Social Security Act, notwithstanding section 502 of such Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be used for the alteration or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at the State and local level: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred to other appropriations of the Department of Health and Human Services, as determined by the Secretary to be appropriate, to be used for the purposes specified in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That any transfers of these funds shall be made in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amount shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

GENERAL PROVISIONS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. \_\_\_01. For purposes of preventing, preparing for, and responding to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases and related health outcomes domestically and internationally, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may use funds provided in this Act—

(1) to acquire, lease, construct, alter, renovate, equip, furnish, or manage facilities outside of the United States, as necessary to conduct such programs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, either directly for the use of the United States Government or for the use, pursuant to grants, direct assistance, or cooperative agreements, of public or nonprofit private institutions or agencies in participating foreign countries; and

(2) to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)), within the United States and abroad: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

SEC. \_\_\_02. Section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) The heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, and the Agency for International Development may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319, candidates needed for positions to perform critical work in direct response to a public health threat requiring an immediate response for which—

“(1) public notice has been given; and  
“(2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that such a public health threat exists.”.

SEC. \_\_\_03. Funds appropriated by this Act may be used to reimburse accounts administered by the Department of Health and Human Services for obligations incurred for Zika virus response prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. \_\_\_04. Funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services in this Act may be transferred to and merged with other Federal accounts for purposes specified in this Act following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided*, That such transfer authority shall be in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation.

SEC. \_\_\_05. Section 319F-2(c)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(c)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)(III)(bb), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii)(I) the Secretary determines to be a necessary countermeasure to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, or treat harm from any infectious disease that may pose a threat to the public health; and

“(II)(aa) is approved or cleared under chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or licensed under section 351 of this Act; or

“(bb) is a countermeasure for which the Secretary determines that sufficient and satisfactory clinical experience or research data (including data, if available, from pre-clinical and clinical trials) support a reasonable conclusion that the countermeasure will qualify for approval or licensing within 10 years after the date of a determination under subclause (I).”.

SEC. \_\_\_06. (a) The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall award grants to territories of the United States for the purpose of combating the Zika virus.

(b) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a territory shall submit to the Secretary a plan describing how the territory will use the grant funds. Within 30 days of receiving such a plan, the Secretary shall—

(1) approve any such plan that includes efforts for combating the Zika virus through education, prevention, testing, screening, treatment, services, or evaluation efforts; or

(2) disapprove any such plan that contains extraneous efforts not related to combating the Zika virus.

(c) To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2016. Any unobligated funds available on October 1, 2018, shall be returned to the general fund of the Treasury.

(d) For purposes of this section, the term “territory” means Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the United States Virgin Islands.

(e) Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amounts shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designation to the Congress.

## TITLE \_\_\_\_

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, \$14,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That up to \$2,419,000 may be made available for medical evacuation costs of any other Department or agency of the United States under the Chief of Mission authority, and may be transferred to any other appropriation of such Department or agency for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amounts shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designation to the Congress.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND  
CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Services”, \$4,000,000 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amounts shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designation to the Congress.

REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for “Repatriation Loans Program Account” for the cost of direct loans, \$1,000,000, to support the response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such funds are available to subsidize an additional amount of gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,880,406: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amounts shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designation to the Congress.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes,

other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amounts shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designation to the Congress.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE  
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT  
GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Global Health Programs”, \$325,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for assistance or research to prevent, treat, or otherwise respond to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for multi-year funding commitments to incentivize the development of global health technologies: *Provided further*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amounts shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designation to the Congress.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM,  
DEMING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, \$8,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response and research efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amounts shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designation to the Congress.

MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “International Organizations and Programs”, \$13,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response and research efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amounts shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amounts and transmits such designation to the Congress.

GENERAL PROVISIONS  
TRANSFER AUTHORITY

SEC. \_\_\_\_01. (a) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Global Health Programs”, “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, “International Organizations and Programs”, and “Operating Expenses” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this

title under such headings to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, and “Repatriation Loans Program Account” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(c) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(d) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORITY

SEC. \_\_\_\_02. Funds appropriated by this Act may be used to reimburse accounts administered by the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of State for obligations incurred for Zika virus response prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

SEC. \_\_\_\_03. Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. \_\_\_\_04. Funds available in this Act to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)) in the United States or abroad: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

**SA 3899.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. RUBIO)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of Division B, insert the following:

**DIVISION \_\_\_\_—ZIKA FUNDING**

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

For an additional amount for “Primary Health Care”, \$40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph



shall be used to expand the delivery of primary health services authorized by section 330 of the Public Health Service (“PHS”) Act, including outreach, education, and screening in Puerto Rico and other territories: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### HEALTH WORKFORCE

For an additional amount for “Health Workforce”, \$6,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for providing primary health services in areas affected by Zika virus or other vector-borne diseases, for assigning National Health Service Corps (“NHSC”) members to Puerto Rico and other Territories, notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limitations in or under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), or 333A(a) of the PHS Act, and for making NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards under section 338B of such Act: *Provided further*, That for purposes of the previous proviso, section 331(a)(3)(D) of the PHS Act shall be applied as if the term “primary health services” included health services regarding pediatric subspecialists: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

For an additional amount for “Maternal and Child Health”, \$5,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be awarded for projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and other Territories authorized under section 501 of the Social Security Act, notwithstanding section 502 of such Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

##### CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support”, \$449,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally; and to carry out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to domestic preparedness and global health: *Provided*, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries: *Provided further*, That the provisions in section 317S of the PHS Act shall not apply to the use of funds appropriated in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of nonfederally owned facilities to improve pre-

paredness and response capability at the State and local level: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated in this paragraph, \$88,000,000 may be used to reimburse accounts administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for obligations incurred for Zika virus response prior to the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For an additional amount for “National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases”, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally, including expenses related to carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, \$150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally; to develop necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary medical supplies, and administrative activities; for carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to domestic preparedness and global health; and for additional payments for distribution as provided for under the “Social Services Block Grant Program”: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to procure security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F-2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act, as amended by this Act): *Provided further*, That paragraphs (1) and (7)(C) of subsection (c) of section 319F-2 of the PHS Act, but no other provisions of such section, shall apply to such security countermeasures procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That products purchased with funds appropriated in this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That countermeasures related to the Zika virus shall, in this and subsequent fiscal years, be deemed to be security countermeasures as defined in section 319F-2(c)(1) of the PHS Act, and paragraph (7)(C), but no other provision, of such section 319F-2(c) shall apply to procurements of such countermeasures: *Provided further*, That \$75,000,000 shall be transferred to “Social Services Block Grant” for health services, notwithstanding section 2005(a)(4) of the Social Security Act, in territories with active or local transmission cases of the Zika virus, as confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall distribute funds transferred to the “Social Services Block Grant” in this paragraph

to such territories in accordance with objective criteria that are made available to the public: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. For purposes of preventing, preparing for, and responding to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes domestically and internationally, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may use funds provided in this title to acquire, lease, construct, alter, renovate, equip, furnish, or manage facilities outside of the United States, as necessary to conduct such programs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, either directly for the use of the United States Government or for the use, pursuant to grants, direct assistance, or cooperative agreements, of public or nonprofit private institutions or agencies in participating foreign countries.

SEC. 102. Funds appropriated by this title may be used by the heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, and the Agency for International Development to appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319 of title 5 of the United States Code, candidates needed for positions to perform critical work relating to Zika response for which—

- (1) public notice has been given; and
- (2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that such a public health threat exists.

SEC. 103. Funds appropriated in this title may be transferred to, and merged with, other appropriation accounts under the headings “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”, “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, “Health Resources and Services Administration”, and “National Institutes of Health” for the purposes specified in this title following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations shall be notified 10 days in advance of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this title may be transferred pursuant to the authority in section 206 of division G of Public Law 113-325 or section 241(a) of the PHS Act.

SEC. 104. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title, including estimated personnel and administrative costs, to the Committees on Appropriations. The Secretary of Health and Human Services should also provide quarterly obligation updates to the Committees until all funds are expended or expire.

#### TITLE II

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

##### ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, \$14,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for

necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That up to \$4,000,000 may be made available for medical evacuation costs of any other Department or agency of the United States under the Chief of Mission authority, and may be transferred to any other appropriation of such Department or agency for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND  
CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Services”, \$4,000,000 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for “Repatriation Loans Program Account” for the cost of direct loans, \$1,000,000, to support the response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such funds are available to subsidize an additional amount of gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,880,406: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT  
GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Global Health Programs”, \$211,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for assistance or research to prevent, treat, or otherwise respond to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such funds may be made available for multi-year funding commitments to incentivize the development of global health technologies, following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this title may be made available for the Grand Challenges for Development program: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM,  
DEMING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, \$4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for nec-

essary expenses to support response and research efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “International Organizations and Programs”, \$13,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response and research efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 shall not apply to funds appropriated in this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Global Health Programs”, “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, “International Organizations and Programs”, and “Operating Expenses” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings to carry out the purposes of this title.

(b) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, and “Repatriation Loans Program Account” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings to carry out the purposes of this title.

(c) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(d) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

(e) No funds shall be transferred pursuant to this section unless at least 15 days prior to making such transfer the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing of the details of any such transfer.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 202. Funds appropriated by this title that are made available to respond to the Zika virus outbreak, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases shall not be available for obligation unless the Secretary of State or the USAID Administrator, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing at least 15 days in advance of such obligation.

SPEND PLAN REQUIREMENT

SEC. 203. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act and prior to the obligation of funds made available by this title to respond to the Zika virus outbreak, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator, as appropriate, shall submit spend plans to the Com-

mittees on Appropriations on the anticipated uses of funds on a country and project basis, including estimated personnel and administrative costs: *Provided*, That such plans shall be updated and submitted to the Committee on Appropriations every 90 days until September 30, 2017, and every 180 days thereafter until all funds have been fully expended.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OVERSIGHT

SEC. 204. Of the funds appropriated by this title, up to \$500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, to remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported pursuant to this title with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator, as appropriate, and the Comptroller General shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

RESCISSION

SEC. 205. Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Operating Expenses” in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), \$10,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE III

REMOVING BARRIERS TO COMBATING THE ZIKA  
VIRUS AND MOSQUITO-BORNE TRANSMISSION  
OF DISEASE

SEC. 301. Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) MOSQUITO CONTROL WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Administrator (or a State, in the case of a permit program approved under subsection (b)) shall not require a permit for a discharge from the application by an entity authorized under State or local law, such as a vector control district, of a pesticide in compliance with all relevant requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.) to control mosquitoes or mosquito larvae to protect the public health and welfare, including for the prevention or control of the Zika virus, West Nile virus, or dengue fever. The Administrator shall not directly or indirectly require any State to require such a permit.”

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES AND PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. Unless otherwise provided for by this division, the additional amounts appropriated pursuant to this division for fiscal year 2016 are subject to the requirements for funds contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. 402. Funds made available by this division to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)), within the United States and abroad, subject to prior consultation with, and the notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

DESIGNATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 403. Each amount designated in this division by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to Congress.

RESCISSION

SEC. 404. From amounts appropriated for the Prevention and Public Health Fund under section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-11)— (1) for fiscal year 2017, \$1,000,000,000 shall be rescinded on the date on which such amounts are available for obligation; and

(2) for fiscal year 2018, \$200,000,000 shall be rescinded on the date on which such amounts are available for obligation.

SHORT TITLE

SEC. 405. This division may be cited as the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Zika Response and Preparedness Act, 2016”.

SA 3900. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. BLUNT for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

TITLE

ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS CHAPTER 1 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Primary Health Care”, \$40,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally: Provided, That funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to expand the delivery of primary health services authorized by section 330 of the Public Health Service (“PHS”) Act in Puerto Rico and other territories: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Health Workforce”, \$6,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally: Provided, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may, for purposes of providing primary health services in areas affected by Zika virus or other vector-borne diseases, be used to assign National Health Service Corps (“NHSC”) members to Puerto Rico and other Territories, notwithstanding

the assignment priorities and limitations in or under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), or 333A(a) of the PHS Act, and to make NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards under section 338B of such Act: Provided further, That for purposes of the previous proviso, section 331(a)(3)(D) of the PHS Act shall be applied as if the term “primary health services” included health services regarding pediatric subspecialists: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Maternal and Child Health”, \$5,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally: Provided, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be awarded for projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and other Territories authorized under section 501 of the Social Security Act, notwithstanding section 502 of such Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support”, \$449,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally; and to carry out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to domestic preparedness and global health: Provided, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries: Provided further, That the provisions in section 317S of the PHS Act shall not apply to the use of funds appropriated in this paragraph: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at the State and local level: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated in this paragraph, \$88,000,000 may be used to reimburse accounts administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for obligations incurred for Zika virus response prior to the enactment of this Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases”, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related

health outcomes, domestically and internationally, including expenses related to carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, \$150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes, domestically and internationally; to develop necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary medical supplies, and administrative activities; for carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to domestic preparedness and global health; and for additional payments for distribution as provided for under the “Social Services Block Grant Program”: Provided, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to procure security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F-2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act, as amended by this Act): Provided further, That paragraphs (1) and (7)(C) of subsection (c) of section 319F-2 of the PHS Act, but no other provisions of such section, shall apply to such security countermeasures procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph: Provided further, That products purchased with funds appropriated in this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That countermeasures related to the Zika virus procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be deemed to be security countermeasures as defined in section 319F-2(c)(1) of the PHS Act, and paragraph (7)(C), but no other provision, of such section 319F-2(c) shall apply to procurements of such countermeasures: Provided further, That \$75,000,000 shall be transferred to “Social Services Block Grant” for health services, notwithstanding section 2005(a)(4) of the Social Security Act, in territories with active or local transmission cases of the Zika virus, as confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Provided further, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall distribute funds transferred to the “Social Services Block Grant” in this paragraph to such territories in accordance with objective criteria that are made available to the public: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. For purposes of preventing, preparing for, and responding to Zika virus, other vector-borne diseases, and related health outcomes domestically and internationally, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may use funds provided in this chapter to acquire, lease, construct, alter, renovate, equip, furnish, or manage facilities outside of the United States, as necessary to conduct such programs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, either

directly for the use of the United States Government or for the use, pursuant to grants, direct assistance, or cooperative agreements, of public or nonprofit private institutions or agencies in participating foreign countries.

SEC. \_\_\_\_ Funds appropriated by this chapter may be used by the heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, and the Agency for International Development to appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319 of title 5 of the United States Code, candidates needed for positions to perform critical work relating to Zika response for which—

(1) public notice has been given; and

(2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that such a public health threat exists.

SEC. \_\_\_\_ Funds appropriated in this chapter may be transferred to, and merged with, other appropriation accounts under the headings “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”, “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, “Health Resources and Services Administration”, and “National Institutes of Health” for the purposes specified in this chapter following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations shall be notified 10 days in advance of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this chapter may be transferred pursuant to the authority in section 206 of division G of Public Law 113-325 or section 241(a) of the PHS Act.

SEC. \_\_\_\_ Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this chapter, including estimated personnel and administrative costs, to the Committees on Appropriations. The Secretary of Health and Human Services should also provide quarterly obligation updates to the Committees until all funds are expended or expire.

## CHAPTER 2

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#### ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, \$14,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That up to \$4,000,000 may be made available for medical evacuation costs of any other Department or agency of the United States under Chief of Mission authority, and may be transferred to any other appropriation of such Department or agency for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, \$4,000,000 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, to remain available until

expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Repatriation Loans Program Account” for the cost of direct loans, \$1,000,000, to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such funds are available to subsidize an additional amount of gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,880,406: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Operating Expenses”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

#### FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Global Health Programs”, \$211,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for assistance or research to prevent, treat, or otherwise respond to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such funds may be made available for multi-year funding commitments to incentivize the development of global health technologies, following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this chapter may be made available for the Grand Challenges for Development program: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#### NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM, DEMING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Deming and Related Programs”, \$4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response and research efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

#### FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “International Organizations and Programs”, \$13,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017 for necessary expenses to support response and research efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases: *Provided*, That section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 shall not apply to funds appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. \_\_\_\_ (a) Funds appropriated by this chapter under the headings “Global Health Programs”, “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Deming and Related Programs”, “International Organizations and Programs”, and “Operating Expenses” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this chapter under such headings to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(b) Funds appropriated by this chapter under the headings “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, and “Repatriation Loans Program Account” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this chapter under such headings to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(c) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(d) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

(e) No funds shall be transferred pursuant to this section unless at least 15 days prior to making such transfer the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing of the details of any such transfer.

#### NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. \_\_\_\_ Funds appropriated by this chapter that are made available to respond to the Zika virus outbreak, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases shall not be available for obligation unless the Secretary of State or the USAID Administrator, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing at least 15 days in advance of such obligation.

#### SPEND PLAN REQUIREMENT

SEC. \_\_\_\_ Not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act and prior to the obligation of funds made available by this chapter to respond to the Zika virus outbreak, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases, the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator, as appropriate, shall submit spend plans to the Committees on Appropriations on the anticipated uses of funds on a country and project basis, including estimated personnel and administrative costs: *Provided*, That such plans shall be updated and submitted to the Committee on Appropriations every 90 days until September 30, 2017, and every 180 days thereafter until all funds have been fully expended.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OVERSIGHT

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Of the funds appropriated by this chapter, up to \$500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, to remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported pursuant to this chapter with funds appropriated by this chapter: *Provided*, That the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator, as appropriate, and the Comptroller General shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

RESCISSION

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Of the unobligated balances available under the heading "Operating Expenses" in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), \$10,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CHAPTER 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES AND PROVISIONS

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Unless otherwise provided for by this title, the additional amounts appropriated pursuant to this title for fiscal year 2016 are subject to the requirements for funds contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Funds made available by this title to support response efforts related to the Zika virus and related health outcomes, other vector-borne diseases, or other infectious diseases may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)), within the United States and abroad, subject to prior consultation with, and the notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

DESIGNATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Each amount designated in this title by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. This title shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

**SA 3901.** Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 67, line 14, strike "2018" and insert "2019."

**SA 3902.** Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Division B, add the following:  
EXTENSION OF VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM

SEC. 251. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in section 101(p)(2), by striking "3 years" and inserting "6 years"; and

(2) in section 802(d)(1), by striking "\$10,000,000,000" and inserting "\$17,500,000,000".

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.—(1) Subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(2) In the Senate, subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

**SA 3903.** Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 26, after line 21, add the following:

SEC. 119J. (a) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report assessing the importance of collegiate aviation flight training operations and the effect of such operations on the economy and infrastructure of airports in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems.

(b) In the report required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the total capacity of collegiate aviation flight training programs in the United States to meet the needs of the United States to train commercial pilots.

(2) An assessment of the footprint of collegiate aviation flight training operations at the airports in the United States.

(3) An assessment of whether infrastructure beyond that necessary for operations of commercial air carriers is needed at airports at which collegiate aviation flight training operations are conducted.

(4) If such infrastructure is needed, an estimate of the cost of such infrastructure.

(5) An identification of funding sources, available before the date of the enactment of this Act or that may become available after such date of enactment, that may be used to construct such infrastructure.

(6) Recommendations for improving technical and financial assistance to airports to construct such infrastructure.

**SA 3904.** Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in Division B, insert the following:

REPROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$1,100,000,000 of the unobligated balances of amounts made available to the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2015, or any fiscal year before fiscal year 2015, that remain available for obligation may be transferred or reprogrammed by the head of the applicable agency for use to prevent, prepare for, or respond to the Zika virus.

(b) NOTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days prior to the transfer or reprogramming of funds made available pursuant to subsection (a) or section 7058(c) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113)—

(A) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall certify to the appropriate Congressional committees that the net effect of all transfers and reprogramming made pursuant to subsection (a) shall not result in an increase in outlays over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2021; and

(B) the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a multi-year spending plan that specifies the proposed uses of such funds.

(2) SPENDING PLAN.—The spending plan submitted under paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

(A) the objectives, indicators to measure progress, and a timeline to implement a successful strategy to respond to the Zika virus;

(B) the amounts intended to be transferred or reprogrammed pursuant to this Act, that are made available from prior Acts making appropriations for—

(i) the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs to support such strategy; and

(ii) the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies;

(C) a description of how any foreign assistance planned to be transferred or reprogrammed pursuant to subsection (a) will differ from, complement, and leverage funds allocated by—

(i) each government for countries in which the United States will use funds authorized by this Act; and

(ii) other governmental, nongovernmental, and intergovernmental donors; and

(D) a description of—

(i) the resources each government described in subparagraph (C)(i) possess to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Zika virus; and

(ii) the political will of each government described in subparagraph (C)(i) to use the resources described in clause (i).

(c) FOLLOW UP REPORT.—Not later than November 30, 2017, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees, a report that contains a full accounting, on a program level, of funds transferred or reprogrammed pursuant to subsection (a). Such report shall, to the greatest extent practicable, contain a comparison of the full accounting contained in the report to the original spending plan described in subsection (b)(2).

(d) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The authority provided in the section to reprogram and expend funds shall terminate on September 30, 2017.

(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appropriate Congressional committees” means the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

**SA 3905.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in Division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available under this Act shall be used to provide housing assistance benefits for an individual who is convicted of—

(1) aggravated sexual abuse under section 2241 of title 18, United States Code;

(2) murder under section 1111 of title 18, United States Code; or

(3) any other Federal or State offense involving—

(A) severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as those terms are defined in paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively, of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102); or

(B) child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code.

**SA 3906.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in Division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **NO BUDGET, NO PAY.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “No Budget, No Pay Act”.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Member of Congress”—

(1) has the meaning given under section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) does not include the Vice President.

(c) **TIMELY APPROVAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—If both Houses of Congress have not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget as described under section 301 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) for a fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year and have not passed all the regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year, the pay of each Member of Congress may not be paid for each day following that October 1 until the date on which both Houses of Congress approve a concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year and all the regular appropriations bills.

(d) **NO PAY WITHOUT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be appropriated or otherwise be made available from the United States Treasury for the pay of any Member of Congress during any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e).

(2) **NO RETROACTIVE PAY.**—A Member of Congress may not receive pay for any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e), at any time after the end of that period.

(e) **DETERMINATIONS.**—

(1) **SENATE.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Secretary of the Senate shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for certification of determinations made under clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Senators may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Senators may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for certification of determinations made under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on February 1, 2017.

**SA 3907.** Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 30, strike lines 3 through 11 and insert the following:

SEC. 120. (a) For fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways amounts authorized for—

(A) administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code;

(B) the Bureau of Transportation Statistics; and

(C) the programs under sections 203 and 204 of title 23, United States Code;

On page 37, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

(f) **ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **RESERVATION OF FUNDS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of the obligation limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall reserve for the use of the National Park Service any funds that—

(i) are authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year for the programs under sections 203 and 204 of title 23, United States Code; and

(ii) but for subsection (a)(1)(C), the Secretary would have distributed to the States under subsection (e).

(B) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Funds reserved under subparagraph (A) shall be available for any purpose described in section 203 of title 23, United States Code.

(2) **OBLIGATION LIMITATION.**—Of the obligation limitation that the Secretary reserves under subsection (a)(1)(C), the Secretary shall make available for use with the funds under paragraph (1) an amount of obligation limitation equal to the amount of funds reserved under that paragraph.

(3) **OTHER FUNDS AND OBLIGATION LIMITATION.**—Any funds reserved under paragraph (1), and any obligation limitation made available under paragraph (2), shall be in addition to funds or an obligation limitation otherwise made available to the National Park Service under section 203 or 204 of title 23, United States Code.

**SA 3908.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and

Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, line 25, strike "airport" and insert the following: "airport: *Provided further*, That an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be available for use to revise existing third class medical certification regulations such that a general aviation pilot is authorized to operate an aircraft authorized under Federal law to carry not more than 6 occupants and with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of not more than 6,000 pounds if the pilot has held a third class medical certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration in the preceding 10 years, has completed an on-line medical education course in the preceding 2 years, has received a medical examination by a State-licensed physician in the preceding 4 years, and is under the care and treatment of a physician as directed".

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining America's Role in the World."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2016, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Examining Due Process in Administrative Hearings."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following congressional fellows in my office be given floor privileges for the remainder of this session: Elyssa Hesky, Jeanette Roberts, Karen Paczkowski, Alec Bogdanoff, Angela Cervetti and Hugh O'Donnell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN BRUSSELS AND HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENS MURDERED IN THOSE ATTACKS**

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 452, S. Res. 442.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 442) condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels and honoring the memory of the United States citizens murdered in those attacks, and offering thoughts and prayers for all the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the Belgian people, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of Belgium and all our allies in the face of continuing terrorist attacks on freedom and liberty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 442) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 27, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**RECOGNIZING THE 195TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE**

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 449, S. Res. 394.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 394) recognizing the 195th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SASSE. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 394) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 9, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**AMENDING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM**

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1523.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1523) entitled "An Act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes," do pass with an amendment.

Mr. SASSE. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**HONORING THE MEMORY AND SERVICE OF OMAHA POLICE OFFICER KERRIE OROZCO**

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 463, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 463) honoring the memory and service of Omaha Police Officer Kerrie Orozco.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Kerrie Orozco of the Omaha Police Department. This month will mark the 1-year anniversary of the officer's death. I would like to take a few minutes to remember her life and celebrate the legacy of this brave young woman who died in the line of duty.

Officer Kerrie Orozco was born on September 19, 1985, in Walnut, IA. Walnut is a small town about an hour east of Omaha and the place where Kerrie's devotion to community and public service began at an early age. Her mother, Ellen Holtz, remembers Kerrie as a leader from the start, recalling that "she was my oldest, but had the best sense of humor and kind of took care of her brothers and sisters." She was also active in sports, music, and volunteer groups. Her high school alumni volleyball team called themselves the Wolf Pack.

Leadership and service were in her blood. Kerrie's aunt, Laurie McNeil, said Kerrie always wanted to be a cop. "She was just a doer," Laurie remembered in an interview with Omaha's WOWT last year. "Whether it was church, 4-H, everything she was involved in, she gave 100 percent."

Faith was also deeply ingrained in Kerrie, whom Aunt Laurie called a "very strong Catholic girl" who was always smiling. Putting it simply, Kerrie "was a saint," her aunt said.

Kerrie's natural instinct for leadership and service led her to join the police force in 2007. This decision had a special place in Kerrie's heart because of a promise she made to her father. Earlier that year her father fell gravely ill, and by the fall it became clear that he would not recover. Kerrie made a promise to him in those final moments of his life that she would make him proud. Two months later, in December of 2007, she joined the academy.

During the next 7 years, as an officer with the Omaha Police Department, Kerrie became active in the community she protected. She volunteered with the Special Olympics and helped raise funds as president of the Police Officers Ball. She led a Girl Scout troop and took part in area events like Shop With a Cop. For years, Officer Orozco was also known as "Coach K" to the baseball team she led through the North Omaha Boys and Girls Club. This devotion to so many people in the Omaha community earned Kerrie the police department's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award last year.

Her love of these children was unmatched by the love of her own family, particularly her husband Hector and his two children. In February of 2015,

they welcomed the birth of their first child together, a daughter named Olivia. Their daughter was born premature, and Kerrie postponed her maternity leave while Olivia remained in the prenatal care unit.

Three months later, on May 20, 2015, Officer Orozco was preparing to serve an arrest warrant as a member of the department's Metro Area Fugitive Task Force. When her team arrived, the suspect opened fire and Kerrie was hit. She was rushed to Creighton University Medical Center, where she died shortly thereafter. Officer Kerrie Orozco was 29 years old and was 1 day away from going on maternity leave to care for her new daughter, who had just been released from the hospital after 3 months of prenatal care.

She was the first female officer of the Omaha Police Department to die in the line of duty. Thousands of people from Nebraska, Iowa, and beyond braved the rain to line the streets for her funeral procession and honor the officer who gave her life for her fellow citizens.

This month marks the first anniversary of her death, but her memory and service to Omaha live on in all our hearts. Her mother Ellen said she often comes home to find gifts in honor of Kerrie, sometimes without any idea of whom they are from.

The Omaha Police Department considers itself a united family, and in the year since Kerrie's death, the common refrain of "Kerrie On" has been referenced time and time again to honor her spirit, legacy, and memory.

Several of her family members, as well as her colleagues and members of the Omaha First Responders Foundation, are here this week to honor Officer Orozco in our Nation's Capital. I join them and all Nebraskans to celebrate the life and legacy of a truly great person, a proud police officer, and a beloved wife and mother. Officer Kerrie Orozco represents the best of Nebraska and our Nation, and she will ever inspire us to "Kerrie On."

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 463) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 464, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:  
A resolution (S. Res. 464) commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Alaska State Troopers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 464) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m., Monday, May 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that following morning business the Senate proceed to executive session, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:05 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 16, 2016, at 2 p.m.



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, May 12, 2016

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 12, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### MAY IS STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, we understand that the Speaker of the House is receiving a special visitor today: the heavyweight, undisputed champion and leader of the Republican Party, the person who speaks for every single House Republican, the Presidential nominee of the Republican Party. And just so that we are clear on how important this visit is, I hold in my hand the actual menu from the cafeteria today. This is the menu from the Senate Carryout, and today's special is—wait for it—taco salad. They even have little pictures of the taco salad.

The Republicans love the Hispanics so much that they put taco salads on the menu so that we can honor the love and affection that their Presidential

nominee feels for each and every one of us—the Hispanics. I am sure that that love and respect extends to all the working men and women in the cafeterias, not just one part of Hispanics, but the other working men and women who are part of the Blacks, the Asian, and the Whites. They work hard every single day in the cafeterias of the Capitol and the surrounding buildings. It is not something I am proud of, but the reality is many of them don't even make a living wage.

Oh, and, look, it says here that May is Strawberry Festival Month in the cafeterias. Now, let's see if we can guess who picks the strawberries that will be served in the cafeterias, shall we, Mr. Speaker? I would venture to guess that every single strawberry that is served on yogurt to Members of Congress will have passed through the hands—rough hands—of an undocumented immigrant. Whether it was growing them, picking them, packing them, shipping them, unloading them, or some other part of the process, the Strawberry Festival Month really means “undocumented farm worker month.”

We are all complicit. Any food you eat will have been touched by undocumented immigrant hands, immigrants that the Republican Party wants to remove from our country by the millions—11 million people, their families, their businesses, their homeownership, their consumer buying power, their U.S. citizen wives and husbands, and their U.S. citizen children. They have all got to go.

Now, it was less than 2 years ago, upstairs in this building, that the respected chairman of the House Rules Committee said to me, in a committee hearing, that he was unaware of anyone in the Republican Party, he said: “There is no one in responsible Republican leadership who would suggest or support mass deportation.” He said it was “inflammatory” for me to suggest otherwise, just 18 months ago. He said it was “extremely distasteful” of anyone, including me, to suggest Republicans would favor driving out 11 million immigrants.

Now the standard bearer, the leader, the nominee, Orange Chief—El Jefe Anaranjado—who is leading the party into the November election is calling for the mass deportation or removal of 11 million people, in detail, out loud.

So as we eat our taco salads today or have a sweet, delicious strawberry, I hope my colleagues chew on the words and keep in mind the philosophy and

values your leader is espousing on the campaign trail on your behalf, the de facto head of the Republican Party.

Just taste the immigrant labor, the hands of Mexicans—and a lot of other people with and without papers—that went into every morsel of the food that you taste today. I also want you to think about the nearly 1 million American-born Latino citizens who have turned 18 in the last 12 months and the half a million more that will turn 18 before November.

Think about the 82,000 Puerto Ricans who have left the island of Puerto Rico—most of them moving to Florida, a very important electoral State—and the tens of thousands more who will arrive before the election as citizens of the United States.

As you eat your last strawberry, please, please, please, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will think about the 25 percent increase that we have seen in the first quarter of 2016 in citizenship applications, the 8.8 million eligible immigrants who can apply for citizenship today, and the thousands more who will be eligible before November.

Sure, you can chomp on your taco salad, Mr. Speaker, and you can concentrate on the 11 million or so undocumented immigrants who are daily targets of lies and slander on the campaign trail, but come November, the Latinos you will really have to worry about are the more than 27 million Latino citizens, like me, of the U.S.A. who are your constituents, who are eligible to vote, and who are fired up to vote more and more with each passing day.

### ATROCITIES IN SYRIA AND AMERICA'S MISSION TO BE AN EXEMPLAR OF SELF-GOVERNANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton once said, when asked what his greatest regret was of his time in office, that his greatest regret was the failure to act on the genocide in Rwanda.

Mr. Speaker, today, over a half million Syrians have been killed by a brutal dictator, Bashar al-Assad. What I think is important to note is that a lot of times when we talk about something happening somewhere that is not here, we think of it as something that doesn't affect us because these people may look different, maybe they speak a different language, maybe they worship a different God, and, frankly, it is oceans away.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, right here is just a picture of a number of Syrian children. These are children who are having their lives torn up by war. It is children, in fact, just like these that in past years were gassed by Bashar al-Assad.

I want you to imagine that, gassing. As you drown, knowing that you are taking among your last breaths; as your mom and dad sit there and are affected by the same chemical weapons and are watching their children die. It is tragic. That was done indiscriminately by Bashar al-Assad.

But that is nothing new for him. Bashar al-Assad learned from the greatest man he knew—his father—who leveled cities and killed tens of thousands who dared disobey his will, the will of one man.

So in 2011, these generations of repressed Syrians who do not like to live under dictatorships—humanity does not like to be oppressed and live under dictatorship—these millions of citizens rose up and began to peacefully protest their dictator. How did the dictator respond? Did he talk about reforms that could be done to government? No. He responded with tanks, with armies, and with murder. He responded with chemical weapons.

The United States and other countries were rightfully concerned with what was going on, and a red line was placed by our President. That red line was not adhered to. Bashar al-Assad got away with using chemical weapons at no cost and no penalty. So this brutal civil war continues.

Children and women are among the chief targets, by the way, of the regime because they believe it inflicts more pain per capita on the population than killing a man. So they target them specifically. They continue to die.

The West thought they had negotiated—and the President thought he had negotiated—a cease-fire; but yet, in the end of April, a Doctors Without Borders hospital was bombed. Was it the one we hear so much about in Afghanistan, the mistaken bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital that was tragically done by the American military? No, not that one, as tragic as that is. But it was the regime of Bashar al-Assad that killed over 60 people in a Doctors Without Borders hospital, despite a cease-fire that is occurring. Now we are back at the table hoping to make this one cease-fire actually stick.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in this campaign season people have been seductively lured into the idea that America's responsibility now is just to come home and lick our wounds. I believe that America has a mission that is a God-inspired mission. It is a mission to be an example to billions of people of self-governance and to be an example of human rights and dignity. But it is also in our self-interest to be involved.

What has the brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad done besides tragically kill almost a half million people, as if that is not bad enough? Bashar al-Assad has created an area for ISIS to spawn and breed. ISIS wouldn't be in existence today if Syria was a stable country potentially under democratic rule because the people wouldn't turn to it. Bashar al-Assad created and incubates ISIS—fact. Bashar al-Assad brutalizes his people, and you can not fix the situation in Syria with Bashar al-Assad remaining in existence.

It may not be popular to say. People may say: Do you want to intervene in another Middle Eastern war? No, I don't want to. But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, America has a mission; and if we forget that mission, if we wake up and if the President some day in an interview says, "My greatest regret was inaction in Syria," that is on all of us, too.

These children want to be teachers, they want to be police officers, and they want to have kids of their own some day. Don't forget their voices.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. PHIL SMITH OF NEBRASKA MEDICINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the retirement of Dr. Phil Smith of Nebraska Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Over 35 years ago, Dr. Smith established the Nebraska Infection Control Network to educate healthcare professionals regarding infection control in nursing homes and hospitals.

Dr. Smith is a pioneer in the field of infectious disease, and his perseverance and dedication led to the establishment of the very critical biocontainment unit at Nebraska Medicine in 2005. Commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control, the unit was at ground zero in the fight against Ebola, providing Ebola training to more than 30 of the country's top hospitals while successfully treating several Ebola patients. Dr. Rick Sacra, who contracted the disease in West Africa, credits the Omaha unit with saving his life.

Recently, Dr. Smith codeveloped the Center for Preparedness Education, a coalition between the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University Medical Center.

It is very difficult to sum up this career that he has had. What is critical, though, is that the Ebola problem and crisis is not going away.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center, the community that I come from, Omaha, Nebraska, and the entire State of Nebraska are committed to fighting Ebola. It will continue to do so by developing an even more significant

biocontainment center, developing teaching regimens, and developing research regimens at the University of Nebraska Medical Center to fight Ebola and other infectious diseases.

It is difficult to sum up the career that Dr. Smith has had, but I will quote this. He says: "Patient care has been part of my life. It's a noble profession, and nothing beats the gratification of making a diagnosis and helping a patient."

Nothing is more critical than the treatment of the Ebola crisis at the University of Nebraska. Saving lives, creating an atmosphere for further research, and creating a facility for training healthcare professionals from around the world is the mission that the University of Nebraska has taken up.

□ 1015

Dr. Smith's contributions to Nebraska and our Nation are immeasurable, and we are grateful for his service.

Interestingly enough, the University of Nebraska biocontainment unit is now in the capable hands of Dr. Angie Hewitt, who is the daughter of one of our colleagues, Representative GENE GREEN of Texas. Dr. Hewitt will continue the work that Dr. Smith has begun and will continue to enlarge and engage the world in the fight against infectious disease.

#### ISRAEL AND U.S. MUST FACE COMMON THREATS TOGETHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Israel has always been surrounded by threats. Since it was established, Israel has survived Arab armies waiting at its borders to destroy the Jewish state. It has persisted in the face of suicide bombers and terrorist onslaughts like no other country in history. Recently the threats to Israel have increased and become even more dangerous.

Iran's Supreme Leader has stated clearly that he wants to destroy Israel. Thanks to the nuclear deal made by the administration, it is only a matter of time before the mullahs in Iran develop a nuclear weapon.

The Iran deal will go down in history as one of the administration's worst foreign policy mistakes. This Neville Chamberlain deal ensured that Iran gets to keep enriching uranium. It does not have to dismantle any of its nuclear infrastructure. So, in 10 years, Tehran just has to flip a switch to get a nuclear bomb, and Israel is the first target. Tehran wants to put the entire Middle East under its thumb.

Iran continues to defy U.N. security resolutions on ballistic missiles. Since the nuclear deal was signed, Iran has conducted three ballistic missile tests.

Some of the previously launched missiles were even marked in Hebrew with the words "Israel must be wiped off the Earth."

There is more. Iran has announced that it would give \$7,000 to families of Palestinians who murder Israelis and an additional \$30,000 to every family whose home Israel demolished due to the family's involvement in terrorism.

The Iranian mullahs have hate and murder in their souls, and they want to eliminate Israel. The fact that the administration gave a \$100 billion signing bonus in sanctions relief to a regime that consorts with North Korea and sends terrorist proxies to do its bidding is a really bad foreign policy.

There is more. Iran has sent Hezbollah to go after Israelis around the world. Hezbollah now has an estimated 150,000 rockets and missiles in its stockpile. That is enough to rain down thousands of rockets a day on Israel for months.

In fact, Iran has transferred new game-changing advanced weapons to the terrorist group Hezbollah. This includes antiship cruise missiles, air defense systems, and precision-guided surface-to-surface missiles.

Then there is Hamas in the south. In Gaza, Israeli officials now believe that Hamas has completely replenished all of its rocket supply that Israel destroyed 2 years ago.

Hamas is building a sophisticated network of tunnels under the Gaza Strip for the purpose of securing arms and supplies. This tunnel network has only one purpose: to strike at the heart of the Israeli population centers.

More. Since September, Palestinian lone-wolf terrorists have carried out hundreds of vicious attacks against Israeli citizens. These terrorists will do anything to kill. They ram vehicles into civilians, shoot indiscriminately, and stab anybody in the way.

Immediately following the first attack, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas proclaimed: "We welcome every drop of blood spilled in Jerusalem. This is pure blood, blood on its way to Allah."

This latest wave of attacks has killed 34 people and injured 400. Among those killed were two Americans, and one of them was a citizen of Texas, Taylor Force. These terrorists are only happy when they have destroyed Israeli and American families wherever they find them.

ISIS, which is even more brutal than al Qaeda, controls large parts of Syria. These terrorists no doubt view Israel as a threat and will likely turn to attacking the Jewish state in due time.

Those who threaten Israel, Mr. Speaker, threaten the United States. The same terrorist groups that want to destroy Israel want to destroy the United States. The same Iran that calls Israel the "Little Satan" calls the United States the "Great Satan."

Mr. Speaker, Israel is a bright star, the lone star of liberty, freedom, and democracy in the Middle East. The villains that want Israel destroyed are picking a fight with the wrong folks. They will lose that fight because Israel and the United States will work together, no matter who the enemy is, for liberty, justice, and freedom not only for Israel, but for the United States.

And that is just the way it is.

#### DR. KENT SCRIBNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my remarks, I want to share a story about a conversation that I had with one of my colleagues here on the House floor. It was a colleague from Arizona.

I asked the colleague: How is the new superintendent that is coming to the Fort Worth Independent School District, Dr. Scribner?

The colleague told me how lucky we were to be getting Dr. Scribner from the Phoenix Independent School District because he has done such a remarkable job there and that the community was really saddened, but happy for him that he was given the opportunity to come and work in one of Texas' largest independent school districts.

I want to rise today to lend my unwavering support for a respected educator that has made a mark very quickly in the Fort Worth community, and that is Dr. Kent Scribner.

Dr. Scribner is a dedicated educator who is leading, again, one of the largest school systems in the entire State of Texas. But recently he has come under attack from centralized forces in Austin that don't believe in local control and, by the way, would like to actually take money out of the Fort Worth ISD and let that money be used for poor-performing schools in the form of school vouchers.

What Dr. Scribner is under attack for from Austin is by trying to protect transgender students. Under the guidelines issued by Dr. Scribner, transgender students are allowed to use the bathroom and locker room of their choice.

Teachers are to address them by the pronoun that reflects the student's gender identity. Staff are to protect a student's privacy about decisions to transition from one gender to another. An employee who does not comply with these rules could face discipline.

It also protects other students. It says that students who do not feel comfortable using a bathroom with a transgender student are provided a reasonable and safe accommodation for them as well.

These guidelines, unlike it was first reported, were not developed in isola-

tion. The Fort Worth School Board has been working on these policies since 2014 and drafted a new set of guidelines last summer.

Instead of condemning Dr. Scribner, we should applaud his leadership because it encourages an environment that protects our children's safety. Dr. Scribner has children, also, I want to make clear, in the Fort Worth Independent School District, and I doubt that he would want to subject his children to an environment that he didn't feel was safe.

Many transgender students simply cannot use the restroom or locker room of the gender they were assigned at birth. Asking transgender students to use a separate restroom, like a faculty restroom, singles them out and increases the risk of bullying. Transgender students should not also have to face bullying from government officials.

Allowing transgender students to use the correct restroom is just telling them that they can use the restroom like anyone else. Doing otherwise would tell them that they are unwelcome at the school they attend. Restricting restroom access for transgender students goes against the consensus of medical professionals and mental health experts.

The guidelines that Dr. Scribner has issued are similar to those adopted by hundreds of school districts around the country. Let me just also tell you that Dr. Scribner has a lot of good backup in what he is doing. These best practices are supported by the Child Welfare League of America, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, and the Texas Council on Family Violence.

Dr. Scribner's leadership is especially commendable at a time when we are seeing a dramatic increase in hateful, discriminatory, and anti-LGBT legislation across the United States. It is imperative that we stand together to ensure that no one is discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

That is why I am a proud sponsor and a proud cosponsor of the Quality Act and I am also a member of the Quality Caucus. I wholeheartedly believe that preventing this type of discrimination only makes our country a better place.

The fight for LGBT equality has seen tremendous progress, but we still have a lot of work to do to make sure that all of our students feel safe in school.

I am honored to stand in solidarity with Dr. Scribner. I ask my colleagues to stand with me as we support the rights of all Americans.

#### OPIOID ADDICTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, opioid addiction has proven to destroy hope, it destroys opportunity, and it is destroying families.

Certainly we see this across the country, but we are also seeing the devastating effects of addiction in Tennessee. Tennessee has the second highest rating nationally for opioid addiction.

As many States are exceedingly aware, drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in this country. As we started working on this issue in the Committee on Energy and Commerce, so many people did not realize that prescription drug abuse is the leading cause of accidental death in our country, with over 18,000 fatalities last year. Addiction does not care about race, gender, or politics. It is an issue that affects all of us, and it affects the people that we are here to serve.

Together many of us—families and those that we love in our communities—are working to find solutions that will combat this epidemic and help remedy those who are suffering from addiction the most. Just this week—and you can look at the bills that have been on the agenda and have passed the House; many of these are being done with bipartisan support—there have been 15 amendments to these bills. They have all passed by voice vote.

What the bills will do is streamline the burdensome bureaucracy which currently debilitates finding a solution for this crisis.

I commend my colleagues for focusing on this issue and for saying: What do we do to get to the root cause of this problem and put the tools in place so that, at the local, State, and Federal levels, this can be addressed and it can be solved?

One of the things that we have done is to improve the situation with the VA and the oversight mechanisms that they have to make certain that our veterans are being protected and that the issues of addiction are being appropriately addressed and dealt with.

Earlier this year we achieved a success that is one way that the Federal Government can help in the work that our State legislators are doing. In my State of Tennessee, State Senator Dr. Joey Hensley and State Representative Barry Doss have been the leaders on these issues for our general assembly.

The legislation that I authored along with Congressman TOM MARINO was signed into law and ensures access to proper medication for patients with legitimate needs while allowing us to continue battling the drug diversion and abuse problem that exists here in our country. It will enable our local and State officials to move forward, address the pill mills, and, at the same time, make certain that patients with needs have access.

The legislation is called the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016. What it will do is to combat the inappropriate use of prescription drugs by bringing greater clarity—something that is needed in so many laws and rules—but bringing greater clarity and transparency to the requirements needed for safe and secure distribution of medications.

Mr. Speaker, the people battling addiction are moms and dads, brothers and sisters and children, neighbors and friends. They are saying: We need your help. Our healthcare professionals and our pharmacists have said: We need clarity. That is what we in the House are seeking to do this week.

□ 1030

#### 2016 CALL TO ACTION: COMBATING OPIOID ABUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, in the United States, 2.1 million people suffer from dependency and addiction to prescription opioid drugs. Eighty percent of the world's pain pills are consumed in the United States, but we only have 5 percent of the world's population. This is an epidemic that reaches every corner of our Nation, transcending regional, State, community, and neighborhood lines. More people died from drug overdose in 2014 than ever before. Over 60 percent of those deaths involved the use of an opioid. Seventy-eight Americans die every single day from an opioid overdose. There are more people dying from prescription drug overdoses than from car accidents.

This week, the House is considering 15 bipartisan measures that seek to address some of the widespread problems that have caused and perpetuated this national crisis; but as we look at treatment options and support for those who are dealing with this addiction, it is important that we actually focus on the root cause of the problem.

We have seen for decades major pharmaceutical companies that have misled the FDA, doctors, and patients about the safety and risks of opioid dependence on commonly prescribed prescription drugs in their efforts to sell more drugs. Three top executives from Purdue Pharma even pleaded guilty to criminal charges.

Just last week, the LA Times revealed how Purdue Pharma has made over \$31 billion off of OxyContin, America's best-selling painkiller, by advertising the drug's 12-hour pain relief. Investigations have found that for many people the drug actually doesn't last for 12 hours. In fact, it wears off hours earlier for most people. This often leads to "excruciating symptoms of withdrawal, including an intense craving for the drug."

Despite multiple complaints from doctors, sales representatives, and independent research showing that many patients don't experience this 12-hour pain relief, the company has continued to market the drug's 12-hour relief and is even encouraging doctors to prescribe stronger doses when patients complain about its shortened effects. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more than 7 million Americans have abused OxyContin.

Many abusers then turn to heroin, which is made from the same poppy plant and has the same effect. After people are addicted to opioid prescription drugs, they turn to heroin when they can't get their hands on those pills. To give you some context, one 60-milligram pill costs, on average, around \$60. To get the very same amount of heroin, you will pay one-tenth of the price.

The problems created by companies like Purdue are felt deeply by families all across the country. It is happening to our police officers, to teachers, to nurses, and to others in our communities who all share the same stories. They used to take prescription drugs, but now they inject heroin. In my home State of Hawaii, the rate of pain medicine abuse is more than 10 percent above the national average. According to the Hawaii State Department of Health data, opioid-related deaths have increased 133 percent from 2000 to 2016.

Veterans, people who have served our country in uniform, have been disproportionately impacted by this epidemic. I have heard from some of my friends and fellow veterans of how, during their visits to the VA in their seeking treatment, even after telling their doctors "I don't want drugs," they received prescriptions for those drugs. Up until recently, the VA prescribed opioids almost exclusively to veterans who were experiencing chronic pain.

Prescriptions for opiates spiked by 270 percent over 12 years, according to the 2013 analysis by the Center for Investigative Reporting. This led to addictions and to a fatal overdose rate amongst veterans at a rate of twice the national average. The VA is beginning to start to change some of its practices by offering alternative modes of treatment, but even so, that change is not comprehensive and it is not happening everywhere across the country.

A national health crisis of this magnitude requires leadership, commitment, resolve, and partnership at every level of government, within our medical community and within our community itself. I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for further action to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable that are profiting off of America's addiction problems, to hold doctors accountable who are irresponsibly overprescribing these addictive drugs, and to focus instead on finding

real solutions that can truly help people.

I urge the U.S. Surgeon General to make combating opioid abuse the 2016 Call to Action, which is a yearly initiative that helps to stimulate nationwide action to solve a major public health program in the U.S. In the past few years, the national Call to Action has addressed exercise and walkable communities, skin cancer prevention, breastfeeding, deep vein thrombosis, and underage drinking. With 78 Americans dying every single day from opioid overdose, this is an issue that demands our national attention and action.

SAUK RAPIDS' 2016 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate April Meyers for being named the 2016 Citizen of the Year in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

The Sauk Rapids Citizen of the Year was created by the Sauk Rapids Chamber and is meant to recognize individuals who have impacted the community for the better.

Meyers, who was unaware that she had even been nominated, was selected by a committee made up of city staff, local businesses, and previous Citizen of the Year recipients. Since 1992, April has been involved with the Great River Rotary, the Living Waters Lutheran Church, the Sauk Rapids School District, and she is also the director of housing for the Good Shepherd Community.

Thank you, April. Thank you for your dedication to the less fortunate, to our children, and to the elderly. Thank you for being an inspiration to others. Thank you for making Sauk Rapids such a great city in the Sixth Congressional District. It is because of people like you that Minnesota is such a great place to live and raise a family.

A 100-YEAR CELEBRATION

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor one of the great families in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District, the Bernicks, and their business that is celebrating an incredible 100 years of operation.

Bernick's was founded in 1916 in St. Cloud, Minnesota, by Elizabeth and Charles Bernick. Originally a soda pop bottling company, Bernick's used to deliver their products in a horse-drawn wagon. The company has come a long way since then. Over the past century, this family-owned company has passed from generation to generation, expanding into a booming business with more than 650 employees. Today, Bernick's provides full beverage, vending, and food services to the central Minnesota area while maintaining its family roots in St. Cloud.

Running a business is no small feat. Running one successfully for a century is something that we can all be proud of. Congratulations to the Bernick family for their five generations of success.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

REMEMBERING FALLEN OFFICERS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Police Week, a time when we remember the men and women in blue who paid the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect and serve our great Nation.

The great State of Minnesota is home to many phenomenal law enforcement officers—men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day to ensure the safety and security of our communities. They live their lives to serve, and some tragically lose their lives in the line of duty. These are the true heroes.

Just this past year, an officer named Deputy Steven Sandberg was shot and killed in the line of duty in St. Cloud, Minnesota. While his death was both senseless and tragic, today we remember the courageous way that he and many other fallen police officers chose to live and serve their communities. This week, in honoring fallen officers like Deputy Sandberg, we remember and we honor their service and their sacrifice.

ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a national epidemic: opioid addiction and abuse.

Addiction is a disease that does not discriminate based on age, education, or wealth, and it even happens in small town Minnesota. Recently I learned firsthand that addiction knows no bounds. Unfortunately, like too many people today, I have seen the danger and the devastation caused by addiction up close and personal.

I come from a small town in Minnesota with a population of, approximately, 5,000 people. We pretty much know everybody. I have had the great fortune to raise seven kids in this great little town, and as a youth hockey coach for almost 20 years, I have had the opportunity to work with and to get to know many of the kids in our community—kids who have big hopes and dreams. Unfortunately, because of the opioid and heroin crisis in this country, two of them left us way too soon.

Today, nearly one person dies every 12 minutes of a drug overdose. This must stop. It is going to take more than government policy to fight this epidemic, but I am so grateful for the efforts here in Washington, on both sides of the aisle, to take on this epidemic. I just want to thank my colleagues for all of their work on this important issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their re-

marks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, nearly 700,000 people in the United States today are living with a brain tumor. Sadly, over 16,000 of them will lose their battles this year alone. Many of them will be children, with brain tumors being the leading cause of death from cancer for those who are under 14.

Unfortunately, the treatment and removal of brain tumors presents significant challenges because of the brain's uniquely complex and fragile nature, due, in no small part, to there being more than 120 different types of tumors. While brain tumor research is supported by a number of private non-profit research foundations and by institutes at the National Institutes of Health, there still remain daunting obstacles in the development of new treatments. Moreover, there are currently no strategies for screening or for the early detection of brain tumors.

Despite the number of new people who are diagnosed with brain tumors every year and their devastating prognoses over the past 30 years, there have only been four FDA-approved drugs and one device to treat brain tumors. On top of that, the four approved drugs have provided only incremental improvements to patient survival, and mortality rates remain little changed over the past 30 years.

It is clear that much more must be done. That is why I am proud to introduce a resolution designating this May as National Brain Tumor Awareness Month.

Throughout the month, advocates around the country unite to educate the public about brain tumors and to advocate for policies that are vital to the discovery of a cure. Their efforts are crucial for shining a light on the difficulties that are associated with research on brain tumors and the opportunities for advancements in brain tumor research and treatment.

I ask my colleagues to honor those who have lost their lives to a brain tumor and to please support this resolution so we can move one step closer to ending this devastating disease.

OPIOID BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the action the House is taking this week to combat the crisis of opioid abuse.

As a registered nurse, I have seen the grim reality of the addiction from all

sides. I have witnessed its grip on families—the way it slowly steals the life behind its victims' eyes and how what was thought to be a quick fix can easily spiral into a deadly experience.

We all know that addiction is an equal opportunity destroyer of potential. It does not care about your race, gender, income, or political party. Therefore, the solutions that we offer in Congress must also reach across artificial boundaries to help all who are touched by this epidemic to get back on their feet.

I am proud that, all told, the House will take up 18 bills this week that are aimed at combating opioid abuse. Among these solutions is a bill creating an interagency task force to ensure healthcare professionals have up-to-date guidelines and best practices for treating patients with acute and chronic pain. This is critically important as 17 percent of opioid users today get their highs from medications that are legally prescribed to them by a doctor.

The House also passed legislation that makes it safer for veterans to seek pain management care. Specifically, the bill would require the VA employees who prescribe opioids to receive education and training on pain management while also calling for a government watchdog report on the VA opioid use and treatment.

Importantly, for me as a nurse, Congress has additionally taken steps to protect newborns from the exposure to addictive opioid drugs while in the womb. This includes legislation to authorize residential treatment grant programs for pregnant and postpartum women who have substance abuse problems, as well as a bill calling for a government study on the prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome and offering recommendations to improve access to treatment.

□ 1045

While these bills offer an important starting point, Congress cannot single-handedly legislate away the threat of opioid abuse. It takes willing partners in our community to help raise awareness and intervene before addiction sets in.

I was reminded of this recently when I visited and met with the Smith County Anti-Drug Coalition back in my district. This organization is going into schools to arm young people with the facts about drug abuse. They are providing drop boxes in the public spaces so citizens can safely dispose of unused medication, and they are working with law enforcement to ensure that their efforts are as effective as possible. We can never underestimate the importance of nonprofits and volunteer-supported organizations like this.

Mr. Speaker, opioid addicts are not bad people trying to be good. They are sick people trying to get well. When we

come together with an eye on the solution and an emphasis on personal responsibility, we can find victory over this preventable disease and help those who are hurting to reassemble their lives and regain their pursuit of the American Dream.

#### HOUSTON FLOODING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I and a host of colleagues find ourselves on a mission of mercy. This is a mission of mercy, Mr. Speaker, for people who are suffering in Houston, Texas, and the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman GENE GREEN, the original cosponsor of H.R. 5025, the 2016 Tax Day Floods Supplemental Funding Act. I want to thank Congressman JOHN CULBERSON for being the first person to sign on, such that the bill has become bipartisan. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation.

I want to talk about suffering today, Mr. Speaker, because a good many people in Houston, Texas, are suffering for a multiplicity of reasons. I will share just a few.

Before I do this, I want to remind friends and colleagues that tonight, after the Republican hour and the Democratic hour, my colleagues and I will take to the floor to say much more about what is happening in Houston, Texas.

For now, I want to mention the suffering, because suffering can teach us that which we can learn no other way. Some things bear repeating. Suffering and pain can teach us that which we can learn no other way. It is one thing to sympathize and to say, "There but for the grace of God go I" and understand that there is suffering associated with that statement, but it is another thing to empathize because you had the experience associated with the suffering that goes along with the statement, "There but for the grace of God go I."

So in Houston, Texas, a good many people are suffering because they have had their homes flooded not once, but twice—some even more. They are suffering because some of them were just getting back into their homes, and their homes were flooded again. They are suffering because they have lost their means of transportation, the ability to get to work, to sustain the livelihood that causes them to have the ability to take care of themselves and their families.

There is suffering in Houston, Texas. They are suffering because they don't know what the future holds. They don't know what next year will bring or next month will bring because these 100-year floods are happening quite regularly in Houston, Texas. So they are suffering in Houston.

I want my colleagues and my friends to know, Mr. Speaker, that this suffering is something that we can mitigate. We may not be able to eliminate it totally, completely, and absolutely. No one can stop all of the flooding all of the time, but there are projects that have been authorized that we are currently funding on a piecemeal basis. There are projects that, if completed, Mr. Speaker, would mitigate the flooding. We have a piecemeal approach to a problem that requires a wholesale solution. There is suffering, and we could eliminate much of this suffering. That which we cannot eliminate, we can mitigate.

The suffering I have called to your attention thus far, Mr. Speaker, involves property, real and personal. But I also want to mention the ultimate pain that is being endured by a good many in Houston, and that is losing someone whom you love to circumstances that could have possibly been eliminated.

Eight lives, possibly nine—I am told that there may be another—eight lives were lost, Mr. Speaker. Eight people lost their lives to flooding in Houston, Texas, in the tax day flood, so-called because it occurred on the last day to pay your taxes. Eight lives were lost. The family members of these persons who lost their lives are suffering in Houston, Texas.

So I come to the floor with an appeal to my colleagues. We ask that you kindly give consideration to H.R. 5025, the 2016 Tax Day Floods Supplemental Funding Act, that has now some 60 cosponsors. But it is more than a bill, Mr. Speaker. It is an opportunity to eliminate suffering in Houston, Texas.

I will close with this. I mentioned that suffering can teach us that which we can learn no other way. One of the things that I have learned is that, when a storm hits the East Coast and people are suffering, as a Member of Congress, I have to be there for them. When we have the tornadic activities and people suffer, I have to be there for them. Mr. Speaker, I want people to remember that suffering will teach you that which you can learn no other way.

God bless you, and God bless our great country.

#### TENNESSEE RADIO HALL OF FAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this year's inductees to the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

Tennessee has a long history in the radio broadcast industry, dating back to the early 1920s. It has since grown to nearly 450 stations which, collectively, reach almost 7 million people.

Tennessee's radio outlets have served as a shining example, providing a consistent source of quality information,

while never forgetting the core reason for their existence, which is to serve our growing communities. In light of that, I would like to take a moment to recognize this year's Radio Hall of Fame inductees—Harry Chapman; Warren Medley; Dave Overton; Aaron Robinson, Sr.; Charlie Scott; and Cal Young, Jr.—all of whom, collectively, made decades of significant broadcast contributions prior to their death.

In addition, I would like to recognize Maxine Humphreys, Cathy Martindale, and Bart Walker.

Also, I would like to highlight those from my district in Chattanooga—Chattanooga's very own Billy Joe Poindexter of WUSY, US 101; Keith Landecker of Power 94; Earl Freudenberg of WDYN AM 980; and station of the year, WUSY, US 101—all of whom continue to make significant contributions to the radio industry.

On a personal note, when I was a lawyer in my district, I had a radio show. During that time, I had the privilege of working with Earl Freudenberg on the Dynamo of Dixie on AM 1310. I learned much from Earl during that time, and I am proud to call him a friend. Needless to say, I enjoyed my radio years in the Chattanooga community immensely.

Again, I would like to congratulate this year's Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame inductees.

#### POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, this is Police Week, a week which offers all of us an opportunity to honor those who selflessly keep our community safe.

"To protect and serve," that is more than just a slogan on the side of police cars across the country. It is a promise, a promise that brave men and women in uniform keep every day as they uphold law and order in our cities and towns.

But to be able to protect and serve us, our law enforcement needs the tools and resources that are vital to successfully doing their job. And, unfortunately, some of that essential lifesaving equipment that they need to protect us and to protect themselves has been stripped away.

Last June, President Obama arbitrarily and unilaterally decided to limit the 1033 surplus equipment program, a Federal program that provides lifesaving Defense Department equipment to State and local law enforcement agencies.

Because of this ill-conceived action, I am hearing from the sheriffs, police chiefs, and law enforcement officials throughout the 18 counties that I am fortunate to represent. I am hearing about how the safety of the brave men

and women in blue and their departments are being compromised by the President's action.

It is clear that the President's decision to unilaterally cut access to lifesaving equipment was a knee-jerk reaction that put politics in front of public safety, and that is something that we simply can't let happen.

So in response, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Protecting Lives Using Surplus Equipment Act to stop this action dead in its tracks and to ensure that any changes to this program are the result of a data-driven debate here in Congress, not through some arbitrary, unilateral action by the President.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up against this administration's attack on law enforcement safety by supporting my bill and making sure that our police have the equipment they need for their own safety and for the safety of the American people. They deserve nothing less.

#### NEW YORK STATE'S REJECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, during the winter months, natural gas demand in New York City outstrips the ability of existing pipelines to deliver natural gas from the nearby Marcellus gas field in Pennsylvania. This capacity limitation can cause gas prices to spike during cold weather. For example, on January 22, 2014, when the price in the Marcellus was \$3.50 per thousand cubic feet, the New York City price was \$123. I want to repeat that; \$3.50 in the Marcellus, and in New York City the price was \$123.

Constraints on natural gas make electricity more expensive. High energy prices are especially hard on the poor. Businesses suffer and jobs are lost when they lack abundant supply of affordable, clean energy. However, there is a shovel-ready solution: build the Constitution pipeline to bring more of Pennsylvania's Marcellus gas to New York.

You would think that New York would welcome a new supply of clean, economical natural gas to lower consumer costs. However, on April 22, New York's State Department of Environmental Conservation denied the construction of the Constitution pipeline needed to deliver more Pennsylvania gas.

For several years, the Constitution Pipeline Company, a group led by Williams Partners, located in my district, has been developing an \$875 million privately funded project to build a pipeline from Pennsylvania to Albany to deliver gas to the Iroquois pipeline and

to consumers in New York State and in New England.

□ 1100

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Constitution pipeline in 2014. I want to repeat that. FERC approves of the pipeline. According to the company, FERC's final environmental review of the proposed pipeline concluded that environmental impacts would be reduced to "less than significant levels." A year and a half later, the State of New York decided to deny certification necessary to issue construction permits.

The Williams Group worked with the State for 3 years, including two 1-year extensions requested by the State, and yet the State asserted that information provided by the company concerning the 250 or so stream crossings was incomplete.

The company refuted the State of New York's assertions, saying: "Completely contrary to the New York DEC's assertion, we provided detailed drawings and profiles for every stream crossing in New York, including showing depth of pipe. In fact, all stream crossings were fully vetted with the DEC throughout the review process. We are appalled . . ."

Amazingly, Federal regulations provide no recourse to challenge a State's rejection of a section 401 certification, so Constitution Pipeline may need to initiate legal action to contest the decision. The decision has every appearance of political motivation. The Wall Street Journal called it "Cuomo's Energy Jobs Veto."

One has to wonder if the Governor of New York really wants to help the poor and if he can recognize a shovel-ready job when he sees one. This pipeline project would create 2,400 construction jobs and infuse \$130 million of labor income into the region, in addition to providing a reliable supply of clean energy. The real victims in this matter, Mr. Speaker, are the people of New York.

Hopefully, political agendas that threaten to deny New Yorkers the benefits of the Constitution pipeline will be confounded. In the meantime, the message from New York's executive branch is that would-be energy suppliers to New York State need not apply. It appears to be time for consumers and their representatives to make their views known in Albany and for Congress—that is us—to revisit the pipeline permitting process.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of mercy, thank You for giving us another day.

You have kept Your covenant with every generation. In a world shadowed by the many infidelities and many inconsistencies of frail humanity, grant us faith in Your enduring love and patience with us.

Confirm the Members of the people's House in Your power that they may accomplish the tasks You set before them.

Since You have called them to serve this great Nation, grant them the gifts they need to discern Your holy will and accomplish deeds of justice and integrity, today and every day of their lives.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

## SOUTH CAROLINA IS A PRO-BUSINESS STATE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently Chief Executive Magazine and the United National Movers Study confirmed what we already knew firsthand: South Carolina is a great place to live and work.

South Carolina is ranked seventh in the Nation as one of the best States for

doing business, up three spots in the past year according to Chief Executive Magazine.

Our dynamic citizens, probusiness environment, and right-to-work laws create jobs. South Carolina is already home to BMW of Germany, Volvo of Sweden, Michelin of France, Bridgestone of Japan, Boeing, and many more.

In addition to creating jobs, more people are moving to South Carolina, according to data from the United National Movers Study. Our strong job market, excellent climate, and friendly citizens give South Carolina the second highest rate among States of individuals moving to the State.

I am grateful to Governor Nikki Haley, Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, and all of the economic development groups who are working tirelessly to bring jobs to South Carolina with technical training.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

## APPROVAL OF NORWEGIAN AIR INTERNATIONAL'S FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, on April 15, the Department of Transportation tentatively approved the Norwegian Air International's request for a foreign air carrier permit, which would enable it to operate flights in the United States.

This decision is inconsistent with the intent of the United States-European Union Air Transport Agreement and threatens thousands of U.S. jobs by undercutting American wages and working conditions.

While Norwegian Air International is owned by a Norwegian company, it operates under a flag of convenience, which allows it to dodge Norway's collective bargaining laws, tax regime, and regulatory climate. The application should be denied.

I have cosponsored legislation to permit the issuance of this permit and will continue to work with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion to ensure a level playing field for U.S. businesses and American workers.

## AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN LIBYA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, 5 years after the United States removal of Libyan dictator Qadhafi, Libya is a dangerous mess.

U.S. policy was simple: remove the country's dictator, then get out of town. Now there is chaos. The U.S. gave its blessings as arms were shipped into the Libyan tinderbox. Then Libya quickly exploded. Now Libya is a state of perpetual anarchy, civil war, and death.

Al Qaeda and ISIS have since infiltrated Libya, exploiting the power vacuum United States policy created. At least 6,500 ISIS fighters control over 150 miles of the coast. ISIS will not stop in Libya. They are using the Libyan base as a hub from which to create mayhem across North Africa.

To be clear, the United States has no plan when it comes to Libya. Libya is another example of an overall weak and indecisive U.S. foreign policy. Meanwhile, more terror by ISIS and evildoers will continue.

And that is just the way it is.

## ZIKA VIRUS

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, recently I called for a vote on legislation to address the threat of the Zika virus, but nothing was done. Now there are more than 1,000 and rising confirmed cases of Zika in the United States and its territories.

Pregnant women and their children across the country are now more at risk as the summer months and mosquito season approach. It is just a matter of time.

In fact, on Monday the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District confirmed that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which can carry Zika, was detected in my hometown of Coachella.

Madam Speaker, no vote, no funding, means that you are willing to accept that children will be born with microcephaly. Allowing gridlock, hyperpartisanship, and congressional dysfunction to put women and their children at high risk is unacceptable to me and American families.

As an emergency physician, I know that emergency funding now will allow physicians and scientists to better protect the health security of women and their children.

Madam Speaker, let's vote on emergency funding to combat Zika now before it is too late.

## RECOGNIZING JOCELYN GALT

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition to contributions of Jocelyn Galt, my agricultural expert. Agriculture is the number one industry in Montana.



As Jocelyn goes to Montana, I recognize the contributions of her and her family to Montana. You may know that the Galts are pioneers in Montana and their family includes Jeannette Rankin, the first female Member of this body. She was a Member of this body before females were allowed to vote.

I wish Jocelyn, as she returns to Montana and to farming and ranching, the very best, fair winds and following seas. Jocelyn Galt, Bravo Zulu.

CELEBRATING U.S.-ISRAEL  
RELATIONSHIP

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, to celebrate the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Sixty-eight years ago, the Israeli Declaration of Independence announced that Israel "will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture."

To those who seek to undermine and delegitimize Israel at the U.N., I suggest that you ask whether your own countries value complete equality for everyone, irrespective of religion, race, or sex, or whether you even strive for that equality.

To those who engage in economic warfare against Israel through boycotts, especially on college campuses, I ask why you attack a country that shares our own values of equality and freedom and vibrant debate even as you ignore those countries and regimes that subjugate the rights of their own people, those for whom women's equality, LGBT rights, religious tolerance, and open political discourse are anathema to their leaders and those who encourage terrorism against innocent Israelis.

Mr. Speaker, as President Johnson said: "America and Israel have a common love of human freedom and they have a common faith in a democratic way of life."

I stand proudly here today in deep support of our love of human freedom and unyielding support of our faith in a democratic way of life and in strong support of our great ally Israel on her 68th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING 68TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE  
STATE OF ISRAEL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 68th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

The United States and Israel have long maintained a strong friendship, and our two countries share much more in common than many realize. We believe in freedom and equality and share many basic rights, such as free elections, a free press, and freedom of religion.

We were both founded by people seeking relief from tyranny, and we both continue to serve today as symbols of liberty in a world plagued by oppression.

Israel is a beacon of democracy in a sea of violence and hostility, and it deserves our support. A strong Israel is key to stability and security in the Middle East. I will continue to stand with our friend and ally.

RAYNER EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS

(Mr. BERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional small business in my community: Rayner Equipment Systems. They have just been awarded the highest honor the United States Government can give to an American exporter.

I had the pleasure of meeting Rich and Gordon Rayner and visiting the facility with Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Sacramento business leaders earlier this year.

Their hard work and competitiveness really highlight the innovation in America: the small businesses. It is why we have to open a fair playing field across this world. When we have that fair playing field, American companies win.

I want to highlight Rich and Gordon Rayner and their innovation, their hard work, their tenacity, and their service to our country and our community.

OPIOID ABUSE

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, the opioid abuse epidemic has tragically touched every corner of this Nation with over half of all drug overdoses linked to prescription opioids. At least once a day someone in my home State of Colorado loses a friend or family member due to drug abuse.

In 2013, Colorado was ranked as having the second most prevalent epidemic prescription drug abuse in the country. The Colorado Consortium was created that year to form a collaborative group dedicated to finding solutions to opioid addiction and abuse. Efforts like the Colorado Consortium can help supple-

ment existing programs in areas where they already operate.

However, without raising national awareness of the heroin and opioid epidemic, these local efforts will continue to struggle to gain the resources they need. There is no silver bullet. It will take multifront, coordinated approaches to aid communities in combating the opioid epidemic.

Beyond securing our borders and enabling law enforcement to do their jobs, expanding opioid abuse prevention and education efforts and treating those afflicted with addiction are the most important actions that Congress can take. That is the focus of our work in the House on the bipartisan heroin task force.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRYSTAL  
JUDSON FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, at times, something important comes out of tragedy. For the past 10 years, the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center in Tacoma has been an example of that.

Lane Judson began the center to honor the tragic loss of his daughter to domestic violence. Domestic violence knows no race, no age, no gender, sexual orientation, or income status. It affects all of us every day right where we live.

Our community stepped up to support this center, a place that projects our best values as a community. This is a place that fosters truth and seeks justice for those who deserve it. It is a place of empowerment with caring staff who change the trajectory of lives and of families.

Centers like this deserve our continued support, whether it be with our time, our donations, or with our public investments.

This matters. I applaud the Judsons for carrying the memory of their daughter with advocacy rather than with anger. As the dad of two daughters, I am grateful for all that the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center does. I thank them for their hard work and 10 impactful years. I am grateful to be their partner.

HEROIN AND OPIOIDS DAMAGING  
COMMUNITIES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, 78 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose in this country. This trend is not an isolated problem. It is an epidemic that now outpaces deaths from motor vehicle accidents and is found in every geographic region across

the country, from small farm towns, like in my district, to New York City.

Statistics we have been hearing reveal a troubling reality. Addiction does not discriminate. It impacts the young, old, poor, rich, male, female, and it ruins the lives of all those involved.

The package of bipartisan bills on the floor this week include two important elements. They ensure Federal dollars are allocated to the most effective programs and methods to reduce drug abuse while also providing doctors, law enforcement, and treatment facilities the better tools they need to combat this growing epidemic. These are solutions Americans in all walks of life need right now.

Just last month, for example, Sacramento saw 10 people lose their lives in just 12 days from pills laced with fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, as well as in my own rural district, the continued push of heroin into the area especially as a higher value substitute for cartels as marijuana becomes more and more legal.

We can and must do better. I encourage my colleagues from both sides to continue to act quickly so we can advance these solutions to the President's desk and effectively tackle this crisis.

□ 1215

#### AMERICA'S SMART AND STRONG NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, May 1 marked the 5-year anniversary of the SEAL Team 6 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.

As co-chair of the Special Operations Forces Caucus, I commend the targeted approach of our intelligence agencies and our special operators who brought this terrorist to justice. The success of that raid showed our enemies that America will not stop until those who threaten our safety are eliminated.

Now we are facing a new and dynamic threat to our security in the form of ISIS, and last week we were reminded of the sacrifices of our servicemembers when Charles Keating IV, a Coronado-based Navy SEAL, was killed on the front lines of this fight.

Just as we did 5 years ago, we must act decisively to destroy this threat, to support our men and women in uniform, and to keep Americans safe by following a smart and strong national security strategy that eliminates ISIS.

#### ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, many Americans are deeply concerned over the recent surge in hostilities along the front line between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This outbreak of violence has claimed dozens of lives on both sides.

As we have seen in eastern Ukraine and Georgia, Russia continues to exploit separatist movements along its periphery to pressure America's friends and bring them back into its orbit. We must remain steadfast in our support for our friends in Azerbaijan in the face of this Russian meddling.

These latest hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia, once again, remind us of the urgency to find a peaceful solution to the protracted Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. I urge the administration to step up its efforts to achieve a peaceful solution and to work with both sides to stabilize the situation.

#### ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., BETA MU OMEGA CHAPTER

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the outstanding, the illustrious, the venerable Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Beta Mu Omega Chapter in Fort Worth, Texas, for its 80 years of dedicated service to the community.

Founded in 1936 by 13 graduate women, the Beta Mu Omega Chapter has continued the founding organization's commitment to scholarship, sisterhood, and service. Since its inception, Beta Mu Omega has provided numerous humanitarian services, volunteer hours, and financial contributions to the Fort Worth community.

The chapter continues to give back to the community by providing Easter baskets for the children at the Polytechnic High School Daycare Center, by bringing cleaning supplies and toiletries to the residents of the Como Community Church of Hope, by purchasing books for children in Fort Worth through the Reading is Fundamental program, and by providing a scholarship opportunity for high school graduates, which has raised over \$32,000 since 1976.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the Beta Mu Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for its 80 years of distinguished service to the Fort Worth community.

#### VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S PREDICTIONS ARE NOT TRUE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, in 2006, former Vice President Al Gore released his film, "An Inconven-

ient Truth." Now, a decade later, most of Vice President Gore's predictions, inconveniently, have not become true.

For example, he claimed that Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest peak, would be snow free within the decade; yet there is still snow on Kilimanjaro year round.

Mr. Gore claimed that extreme weather would intensify due to climate change, but even the very liberal Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found low confidence that extreme weather events would increase in the future.

Mr. Gore also, conveniently, ignored the 15-year halt in global warming. A recent peer-reviewed study published in the journal "Nature" confirms this hiatus.

The only truth is that Mr. Gore's predictions, like those of many climate change extremists, simply have not become true.

#### ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent vibrant AAPI communities in my 44th Congressional District, and I salute my 12 Asian American and Pacific Islander colleagues here in the House, including six from California.

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which is a month dedicated to honoring the countless contributions and immeasurable accomplishments of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The legacies of these communities are tied to both proud and dark chapters of American history.

We remember the Chinese laborers who faced grueling conditions while constructing the Transcontinental Railroad, as well as the cruel irony of patriotic Japanese American troops who fought in World War II while their families back home were kept in U.S. internment camps. For generations, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have worked to better this country despite often facing discrimination and hardship.

As educators, activists, artists, small business owners, servicemen and -women, and elected officials, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have added so much to this Nation. They are a reminder that diversity continues to be America's greatest strength. It is why I will continue to fight to fix our broken immigration system, to expand opportunities for people of all backgrounds, and to combat discrimination wherever it occurs.

#### TROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. TROTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TROTT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the historical society in Troy, Michigan. The society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Since 1966, this group of volunteers has been a valuable resource in our community. Their work has created the Troy Historic Village, a cultural destination which allows visitors to explore Michigan's history and learn about the story of the city of Troy.

History is a treasure that must be preserved and used for education. We need to understand our past in order to build a better future. Over the past 50 years, historical society members have led efforts to preserve 10 historic buildings at the village, and they have provided educational programs for 12,000 students annually.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of southeast Michigan, I congratulate the Troy Historical Society on its 50th anniversary. I am confident that in the years to come, the dedicated volunteers at the society will continue contributing to our community and continue connecting people with Troy's rich historical heritage.

HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I believe everyone in this Chamber will agree with me that when we invest in our students and in our schools, we invest in the future success of this Nation.

Yet, as I hear from so many of my students back home, the rising costs make affording college harder and harder for them and their families. On average, the class of 2016 will graduate with about \$37,000 in student debt, up about 6 percent from last year. The number of students graduating from college with debt is about 70 percent of them.

For this reason, comprehensive higher education reform should be at the forefront of our legislative agenda here in Congress. Programs such as the Pell grant and the Perkins Loan Program should be increased so that we can increase the availability of the American Dream.

Next week I plan to reintroduce the Middle Class CHANCE Act, which will aid our students in affording college by increasing the strength of the Pell Grant.

It is time for this Congress to address the increasing costs of college and make college more affordable for future generations and working families.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HANK LEVY

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Mr. Henry "Hank" Levy and all of his accomplishments in improving the Savannah community.

Born in 1927, in Savannah, to Morton and Sadie Kaufman, Mr. Levy began drawing on boards in his father's architectural firm at the age of 14. This early interest in architecture, along with the guidance of his father, led Mr. Levy to attend Georgia Tech, and then architectural school in France. After graduation, Mr. Levy made numerous, significant improvements to the Savannah community.

He led the effort to build the Harry S. Truman Parkway, a project that is now a major thoroughfare for Savannahians. Furthermore, he was awarded the project to build the oceanography center for Savannah, now called the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. His other projects include designs for the Savannah Airport Terminal, Levy's department store, the Great Southern Federal Bank building, and more than two dozen churches.

Mr. Levy not only built structures for the Savannah area, but he had a generous heart and would help anyone in need. Once, he paid for the cap and gown of a student who couldn't afford it when he graduated from Savannah State University.

Mr. Levy died on Monday, May 2, 2016, at the age of 89. His heartfelt devotion and energetic spirit will truly be missed.

HONORING MARION FLETCHER AND TROY BUCK

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of two legends in the National FFA program.

Marion Fletcher and Troy Buck have been leaders in the Future Farmers of America for more than 50 years each.

Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Buck have taught students the values of hard work, morals, and leadership. The love these men hold for agriculture education is evident in the numerous awards and recognition that have been bestowed upon them. They have lived lives of service and dedication to Arkansas, to agriculture, and, most importantly, to the youth of our great State, modeling to us the FFA motto of "learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, and living to serve."

While I congratulate them on their impending retirements, I can't help but feel a loss for future generations of students who will miss out on the opportunity to learn from two men who impacted my life and the lives of countless others.

Thank you, Mr. Buck and Mr. Fletcher, for your wisdom and mentorship.

CONGRATULATING FRED FESEMYER ON YELLOW DOG AWARD

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Fred Fesenmyer of Bradford, McKean County.

Mr. Fesenmyer will be recognized next month with the Penn-Brad Oil Museum's Yellow Dog Award, which is intended to recognize the leadership and dedication of those who have helped preserve the history of the Bradford Oil Field and its unique culture.

The Bradford Oil Field is an essential part of Pennsylvania's history since it was there that oil was first discovered in 1859, when Colonel Edwin Drake drilled the world's first commercial oil well. Even today, Bradford is home to the Nation's oldest continuously operating oil refinery.

Fred's contributions are vital to the region as the CEO of the world's oldest family-owned and -operated independent oil firm, the Minard Run Oil Company, which was founded by his great-grandfather, Lewis Emery, Jr.

In addition to his activities in business, Fred is an active member of the Penn-Brad Oil Museum and serves on multiple boards that are dedicated to the community, including the Bradford Airport Authority, the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association, and the Drake Well Foundation.

I congratulate Mr. Fesenmyer on this achievement, and I wish him continued success in serving his community in the years ahead.

□ 1230

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, as we recognize National Police Week, I rise today for a somber occasion. I rise to honor the life and memory of Detective Brad Lancaster of the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department who was tragically killed in the line of duty earlier this week.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force and a 20-year veteran of local police departments in the Kansas City metro area, he spent his career as a public servant, putting himself in harm's way in order to keep our communities safer.

Two days ago, he was shot and killed while assisting patrol officers responding to a suspicious person call. He was only 39 years old.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his loved ones left behind after this tragic event: his wife, his mother, and his two daughters, who are just ages 9 and 10.

Mr. Speaker, as the Kansas City community and Detective Lancaster's family begin to heal, let us never forget the selflessness and bravery of police officers across our country who work tirelessly each and every day to enforce our laws, protect our communities, and save lives.

#### THE FACES OF OPIOID ABUSE DEMAND A SOLUTION

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, in 2014, our community leaders, families, and victims alike came together to fight the growing epidemic of heroin and opioid abuse in northern Illinois. Together we launched a district-wide action plan. Today we can celebrate many successes as its recommendations have been implemented.

This year DuPage County celebrated 100 lives saved by first responders using Narcan. Lake County officers counted 65 rescues, and there are many more throughout the Chicago suburbs. Tragically, relapses and overdoses still claim lives.

I have met families and parents who know this too well. Tim Ryan grew up in my district in Crystal Lake and overcame his own heroin habit only to see his own 20-year-old son die of an overdose.

Today, this afternoon, tonight, young people are still using heroin. Prescription drugs are still being abused in our communities. Our fight is far from over. We must continue to work through meaningful community and State partnerships.

Connecting affected individuals and organizations with each other is paramount to our future success. The faces and the stories of heroin are real. They demand and deserve hope and solutions.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-134)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a na-

tional emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, with respect to Yemen is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2016.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Yemen and others continue to threaten Yemen's peace, security, and stability, including by obstructing the implementation of the agreement of November 23, 2011, between the Government of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which provided for a peaceful transition of power that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people for change, and by obstructing the political process in Yemen. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 12, 2016.

#### COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2016

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5046, about to be considered by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 720 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5046.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1234

##### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5046) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes, with Ms. FOXX in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today the United States is in the throes of an epidemic of prescription opioid and heroin abuse. Every Member of this body has heard a tragic story about a constituent who has become addicted to opioids, and, tragically, many have lost their lives to the addiction.

The statistics are shocking. In 2014, 47,055 Americans died from a drug overdose. Of those deaths, 18,893 were attributable to prescription pain relievers and 10,574 were related to heroin. The number of opioids prescribed nearly tripled from 1991 to 2013.

Though the United States has 5 percent of the world's population, Americans consume 80 percent of the global opioid supply. More than half of chronic prescription drug abusers obtain those pills from prescriptions written for them or for friends or family members. In 2014, nearly half a million teenagers used prescription painkillers for nonmedical purposes.

My home State of Virginia is not immune to the ravages of opioid addiction. In 1999, approximately 23 people died from abuse of fentanyl, hydrocodone, methadone, and oxycodone, the leading prescription opioids abused. By 2013, that number jumped to 386 prescription opioid deaths, a staggering increase of 1,578 percent.

In 2013 alone, deaths attributed to fentanyl use increased by more than 100 percent. Data also shows a sharp rise in heroin deaths in Virginia. In 2010, 49 deaths were attributed to heroin use. By 2013, just 3 years later, that figure had risen to 213, an increase of 334 percent. The number of drug overdose deaths in Virginia surpassed the number of traffic fatalities for the first time in 2014.

This is a problem that affects Americans in all regions of the country, across all socioeconomic levels, and one that Congress will address with passage of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016, and other opioid legislation approved by the House this week.

H.R. 5046, sponsored by Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER, provides resources to States, localities, Indian tribes, and others to help fight the historic problem of opioid abuse. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bill.

H.R. 5046 is an important, reasonable piece of legislation that will do a great deal to combat the opioid epidemic. It creates a comprehensive opioid abuse reduction program at the Department

of Justice, which will direct Federal resources for drug abuse programs targeted at the opioid problem within our criminal justice system. By styling this as a competitive grant program for opioids, this bill will give States and localities maximum flexibility to attack opioid abuse issues unique to their communities.

States will be able to use the grant funds for a variety of important criminal justice programs, including alternatives to incarceration, treatment programs for incarcerated individuals, juvenile opioid abuse, investigation and enforcement of drug trafficking and distribution laws, and significant training for first responders in carrying and administering opioid overdose reversal drugs like naloxone.

States will also be allowed to enlist nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, in the fight against opioid abuse. The bill authorizes this new program at \$103 million annually over 5 years.

Importantly, the comprehensive grant program created by H.R. 5046 is fully offset in accordance with the House CutGo protocol. This means that Congress has successfully directed funds to address the opioid epidemic by taking advantage of existing funding streams to Department of Justice grant programs. The result is no net increase in spending authorizations and no additional burden on the American taxpayer, which is a responsible, good government approach to this epidemic.

H.R. 5046 is thoughtful, historic legislation that, once enacted, will help fulfill Congress' duty to protect the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act.

H.R. 5046 is an important complement to a wide range of legislation being considered in the House this week that is aimed at combating the devastating impact of drug abuse and addiction that is afflicting communities across our Nation.

We are, in fact, in the midst of a major public health crisis caused by prescription and opioid abuse. It is a crisis that affects Americans of all ages, races, and income levels in our cities, suburbs, and rural areas across the United States.

Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of death in our Nation. In my State of Michigan, for example, there were 1,745 drug overdose deaths in 2014, and more than half of these overdose deaths were attributed to opioids and heroin. In fact, 78 Americans die from an opioid overdose every single day. I

am very familiar with the devastation heroin can exact over people and their communities.

Heroin took a deadly toll on Detroit in the 1970s and is now threatening to take hold of a new generation of addicts. Armed with lessons learned from that era and the crack epidemic of the 1980s, we are wiser and more capable. This time we can and must do more to respond to this crisis.

Fortunately, a number of States have undertaken various innovative measures to better respond to the rapid increase of individuals addicted to prescription opioids and heroin and to prevent individuals from dying as a result of drug overdose.

For instance, the Judiciary Committee's Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee held a hearing last year that examined, among other things, the promising use of the law enforcement-assisted diversion approach employed in cities such as Seattle and Santa Fe.

We have learned that there are successful ways to get addicts to treatment and to quickly provide them with needed services that address their addiction and prevent recidivism. We know that evidence-based treatment and treatment alternatives to incarceration work.

The Comprehensive Opioid Addiction Recovery Act, as authorized by H.R. 5046, would establish a competitive grant program to provide funds to State and local governments to continue and improve their efforts to protect Americans from the dangers of opioid and heroin abuse and to make sure that addicts have access to the services that are provided.

Funds from the new grant program could be used for the following purposes: treatment alternatives to incarceration, collaboration between State criminal justice agencies and State substance abuse systems, for first responders to purchase and be trained in the use of naloxone, medication-assisted treatment programs by criminal justice agencies, investigating the legal distribution of opioids, prescription drug monitoring programs, addressing juvenile opioid abuse, and for comprehensive opioid abuse response programs.

□ 1245

Our communities need our assistance in meeting the threat of opioid abuse, and this bill before us will fund innovative approaches to the problem such as the LEAD program developed in Seattle that I mentioned earlier.

H.R. 5046 would go a long way toward providing that critical help, and so, accordingly, I support this bill. I urge all my colleagues to give it their support as well.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the chief author of this legislation.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act.

The misuse of and addiction to opioids, such as heroin, morphine, and other prescription pain medications, has had a devastating hold on this country. It affects every State and every district. Prescription painkillers and heroin are the primary driving forces behind this epidemic. According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2014, 45 percent of the people who used heroin reported that they were also addicted to prescription painkillers.

Additionally, drug overdoses now surpass automobile accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 64. Nearly a half million Americans lost their lives to drug overdoses in 2015. More than 800 of those deaths occurred in my home State of Wisconsin, double the number of deaths from overdoses in 2004, just 11 years earlier. Yet, despite these staggering numbers, the crisis is getting worse. Drug overdose deaths have increased 137 percent since 2010, with opioid-related overdose deaths increasing by 200 percent.

The moment to reverse our current course and make a genuine and lasting impact in the fight against addiction is here. All over the country, people are calling on Congress to find solutions. In townhall meetings, on the campaign trail, and through social media, lawmakers are hearing heartbreaking stories from families and friends of addicted individuals and leaders of impacted communities.

There is no single solution to this epidemic. The most effective way to approach addiction is to pursue a comprehensive response, which must include a strict focus on prevention, law enforcement strategies to stop drug dealers and traffickers, a plan to address overdosing, and a plan to strengthen opioid abuse treatment and recovery options for those struggling with their addiction.

The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act is an important piece of this puzzle. While State and local officials and community organizations must be at the forefront of confronting this challenge, the Federal Government should help support these efforts. My legislation authorizes the Attorney General to make grants available to States and localities for a number of services related to opioid and heroin abuse.

The grant program contains eight allowable uses of the grant funds, which

are broadly construed to give States flexibility in responding to the epidemic within their borders, meaning not a one-size-fits-all program. These include alternatives to the incarceration programs; collaboration between criminal justice agencies and substance abuse systems; training for first responders in carrying and administering opioid overdose reversal drugs, including naloxone; and prescription drug monitoring programs.

It is imperative that we pursue aggressive measures to stunt opioids' dangerous progression, for a stronger, more prosperous America. The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act is a commonsense and bipartisan approach that addresses the issue head-on and will make a positive impact on our fight against addiction. H.R. 5046 is fully offset and contains strong accountability provisions to ensure funding is spent wisely.

I want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and my colleagues in the Senate for their tremendous work while addressing the opioid epidemic. I am optimistic that, with passage of this bill and the additional opioid measures the House of Representatives is considering this week, we can go quickly to conference and send meaningful legislation to the President for his signature. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5046.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairwoman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations of the Committee on the Judiciary, who has done tremendous work on this subject.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I thank the distinguished ranking member and the dean of this institution for yielding and for his leadership; but it is even more powerful that the leadership joins with our distinguished chairman of the full committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, because this is the beginning of our effort of criminal justice reform that certainly has been one of the guiding focuses of the chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, who has, likewise, been a former chair of the full committee but has steadily worked on thoughtful legislation dealing with the overall issue of criminal justice reform.

I am delighted to be a partner in this legislation and to be a cosponsor and to work on this whole concept of dealing with opioids but, as well, to deal with the question of criminal justice reform with a whole new attitude.

I might say that I heard words from Leader PELOSI yesterday evening as she received the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil and Human Rights Award. She indicated that there are three major issues that we should be governed by in this

Congress: number one, children; number two, children; and number three, children.

One might ask: Why are we discussing children? I thought we were discussing the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016, and that we are. I am very pleased that it is a very forthright and thoughtful approach to this issue. I support it. But it is a compilation, if you will, of many thoughts about how we should deal with the question of mass incarceration.

What does mass incarceration deal with? It deals with human beings. It deals with men and women. It deals with families. It deals with mothers who have children. Previously, if you were on any manner of drugs or you possessed drugs, you were nonviolent, you were incarcerated. If you were on crack or cocaine, you were incarcerated.

I commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, for his work, as I said, and Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS because we now have, from the Committee on the Judiciary, a legislative initiative that does not have mandatory minimums. In fact, it deals with a passionate and compassionate approach, and it deals with the issue of addiction and recovery, the bill that I was a sponsor of earlier, a predecessor to this one, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

I would be happy to see the committee pass that bill, but I am pleased that we have been able to work together to produce an alternative bill that will help address issues related to opioid abuse—again, I emphasize, no mandatory minimums, but a way of addressing this question, Madam Chair, that I think will be long term.

I look forward to continued collaboration with my colleagues to find additional solutions to the drug crisis America now faces. We must take action because today a leading killer of Americans is drug overdose. Between 2000 and 2014, almost a half million people died from drug overdoses. Many of these deaths were preventable. In 2014 alone, more than 47,000 people died of drug overdoses. The largest percentage of overdose deaths in 2014 was attributable to opioids like prescription painkillers, methadone, morphine, and heroin. Therein lies the origin of this massive impact, including our juveniles, who find them in many different ways. Specifically, 28,647 people overdosed and died because of an opioid in 2014.

We are experiencing an emergency that impacts citizens in every State, city, and town in this country—that is, prescription painkiller and opioid abuse. This emergency is compounded due to the perilous connection between prescription painkillers and heroin. I

get it. We understand that physicians who did take their oath very seriously wanted to provide the medical care, the legitimate medical care when there was a massive response to pain from all of their patients and others.

Prescription painkiller abuse is the strongest risk factor for future heroin use, but it came about maybe not through the prescription and the initial prescription, but from lack of information that patients should have about the impact of opioids; what it does to the brain, what it does when you do not have it, how you become addicted. So out of this, approximately three out of four new heroin users report that their use began with their abuse of prescription painkillers initially given to them legitimately for medical reasons.

Heroin use becomes appealing to those addicted to prescription painkillers because it is cheaper and easier to obtain. Due to its potency, heroin use tends to lead to addiction. The same kind of lack of information maybe led to a young woman, in my district, on hydrocodone with two little babies in the car driving and side-swiping two cars and killing an innocent person on a motorcycle.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Or the mother who gave hydrocodone and alcohol as a prom gift to her son and his date. That date wound up dead at the end of that prom.

The rate at which the occurrence of heroin overdose deaths increased is cause for alarm. In the 4 years between 2010 and 2014, heroin overdoses more than tripled.

This legislation encourages the development of alternatives to incarceration that provide treatment as a solution to the underlying motivation for criminal behavior or conduct associated with mental disorders. We must make our best efforts. It puts police in a position to be trained to use those drugs that will help when they come upon an unconscious person, like naloxone. It allows the criminal justice system to talk to the substance abuse system. In essence, it increases the use and availability of those drugs. Addiction is a disease; we recognize that.

Finally, if I might say, I started with children, children, children. Just today, Dr. Phil is here discussing the foster care system. He said that most children are taken away because of neglect, and that neglect is based upon the use of drugs. That is a wrong direction. The direction should be that we keep families together, we invest, and we provide the training to provide them parental skills and, if they are addicted, to get them off of those addictive ways to be able to keep families together.

Today I will introduce a bill that provides for nurseries in the Federal prison system for women in short-term nonviolent offenses, mostly drug offenses, to reinforce the value of mothers and children being together. This bill, even though it may not point to that, is an overall change of attitude that looks to America and says: We want you not to be addicted. We don't want you to be on prescription drugs and lead you to addiction after your illness is over. We want you to be cared for medically, but we don't want you to become addicted. In order to do that, we are not going to criminalize you. We are going to give you treatment and allow the criminal justice system—police, prosecutors, and others—to have an alternative to ensure that that can be done.

I am very pleased that we are on the floor today. I know that we will have an omnibus tomorrow. I hope that you will support the underlying bill.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chairman, it is now my pleasure to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman and congratulate him on a great bill.

When the abuse of prescription medications silently took hold of rural towns in Appalachia over a decade ago, we knew we had to do something to curb the rising tide of addiction and overdose deaths.

□ 1300

We gathered individuals from all disciplines and backgrounds—teachers, preachers, parents, judges, cops, doctors, pharmacists, community leaders, and others—to brainstorm as to what we could do to address the staggering problem.

We quickly realized there was no silver bullet that could easily solve the crisis, but we responded by creating a holistic, multidisciplinary organization called Operation UNITE: Unlawful Narcotics Investigations Treatment and Education.

Since 2003, UNITE's law enforcement agents have confiscated more than \$12 million worth of these drugs and arrested over 4,300 bad actors. But we also established 30 drug courts so that the nonviolent offenders could get their lives back on track.

UNITE established a toll-free treatment referral helpline, receiving 1,200 calls a month. We have provided 4,000 free vouchers to individuals who otherwise would be unable to access treatment for their addiction.

UNITE also works hard to engage our young people through community coalitions of thousands of people as well as UNITE clubs in our schools. Over 100,000 students have taken part in antidrug education activities to warn about the dangers of prescription drugs.

Today it is difficult to imagine a single town in the country that has eluded the devastating grasp of opioid addiction. So UNITE took its model to the national stage.

Over the past 5 years, the National Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit in Atlanta has brought together thousands of our country's brightest, most dedicated minds.

At the Federal level, we should be replicating UNITE's holistic, multi-pronged approach. I am, therefore, proud to support this bill, which will enable communities around the country to unite to implement similar strategies, incorporating law enforcement, treatment, and education.

There is no silver bullet, Mr. Chairman, to bring an end to addiction, but together we can certainly save lives and restore hope in every community. I think this bill allows that to occur.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), who is very concerned about this issue.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and Mr. SENSENBRENNER for all their good work on this. This is really one of the great days, great weeks, I think, on this House floor because of what we are doing here to address the heroin and opioid crisis in America.

It is sad to watch someone from Virginia and someone from Wisconsin and someone from Michigan and someone from Ohio and someone from Texas all get up and really kind of embody and express how deep this problem is in our country today. I know we have all been to calling hours and we have all been to funerals and seen up close and personal how devastating this epidemic is here in the United States.

Like many of my colleagues, unfortunately, Ohio has now seen accidental deaths by overdose surpass even car accidents. So we all need to come together, Democrats and Republicans, to try to solve this problem. I think this week is a major step in that direction.

I am supporting the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act and many other bills that are coming to this floor this week.

In Trumbull County alone, one of my biggest counties, a few months back we had 22 overdoses and, of that, 7 deaths in that one county. This is pervasive in Cuyahoga County, which is Cleveland. We have almost one death a day that we are dealing with in Ohio.

So the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act program creates at the Department of Justice a real opportunity for us to fix this program. It focuses on how we can tackle substance abuse through preventative programs, expansion of the prescription drug programs, and resources for veteran treatment court programs. That is one of the key elements of this: how we are

going to make sure our veterans can get diverted through veterans courts.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DONOVAN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. In Ohio alone, we have seen first responders use naloxone. In 2013, over 12,000 doses were administered. This is a huge problem. We have seen the men and women and we have seen the families that have been destroyed because of this.

I hope that, as we get the Senate bill out of conference, we make sure that it is comprehensive, that it is addiction, treatment, and recovery, and, as we move through the budget process, through the appropriations process, we make sure that there is the appropriate revenue, the appropriate amount of money, going to these programs that will ultimately hit the ground and help us get our arms around this program.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MIMI WALTERS), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Chairman, across the United States we are faced with a substance abuse epidemic that results in overdoses, addiction, and, for too many, death. From opioids to heroin, no community—not even Orange County, the place I have called home for 50 years—is immune.

Statistics show that nearly 130 people die every single day from drug abuse. Though this is a nationwide epidemic, there is not a one-size-fits-all cure to addiction. That is why the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act is so important.

This bill will create a grant program to help State and local governments combat opioid addiction in their communities and give them flexibility to dedicate resources to the needs of their specific community, whether that means prescription drug monitoring programs, overdose treatment training for first responders, or rehabilitation programs.

This legislation passed the Judiciary Committee with unanimous support. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill because its passage will save lives and help Americans suffering from addiction reclaim their lives.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this critical legislation to address the nationwide opioid epidemic which has affected south Florida, where I am from, as it has communities from California to New Hampshire.

Today I want to tell you about a related crisis that is obstructing the recovery of addicts and damaging the

character of south Florida neighborhoods, and neighborhoods across the Nation. I am talking about the overproliferation in residential areas of group homes for recovering addicts called sober homes.

In theory, it is a very good thing, a way to reintegrate addicts back into the community. It is activity protected by two historic laws that prohibit discrimination in housing against persons with disabilities.

But this civil rights protection is being abused by two many unscrupulous actors who are luring young adults away from their families and placing them in group homes that have no standards and then leaving them to their own devices until their insurance runs out. The result is an overdosing nightmare as well as an increase in homelessness, code enforcement violations, and crime.

Making matters worse, cities and towns feel regulation and consumer protection would be in violation of Federal law. As a consequence, we are seeing thousands of sober homes in south Florida disrupting services and the health and safety of neighborhoods and leaving young people who are trying to repair their lives spiraling back into hopelessness.

Mr. Chair, I urge this Congress and the President to work with folks in my area and around the country to find the proper balance between protecting the rights of addicts and getting them recovered and keeping the integrity and character of our neighborhoods.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5046. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his work to combat the Nation's opioid epidemic.

This legislation is important to the whole country and will especially have positive impacts in Arkansas by freeing up new grants for funds for drug courts. Drug courts have a positive impact on people's lives and are integral to countering our Nation's opioid epidemic.

Drug courts in Arkansas have a strong record of success. Last week I visited with Judge Berlin Jones in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. His Jefferson County drug court has a recidivism rate of only 4.9 percent.

Drug courts have also saved billions of taxpayer dollars, on average, because it costs \$14 a day to send a person to a drug court whereas incarceration costs \$58 per day in my State of Arkansas. Taxpayers also save money because these individuals can return to the workforce and provide for their families.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 5046 to counter this epidemic ruining our families and communities.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, which will provide more effective cooperation between our law enforcement and treatment agencies, grow our treatment capabilities, and strengthen programs for training and veterans. This bill is an important step in combating the growing costs of the terrible opioid epidemic.

Just last year, in my home State of New Hampshire, deadly overdoses following the abuse of heroin killed over 430 people. That staggering figure marks the rising toll of this epidemic.

I commend my colleagues for offering this legislation as part of the response to the epidemic and as part of a wider plan moving through the House this week.

This bill aims to bring sorely needed resources to different groups and agencies working to help families and individuals in need, sometimes in desperate need.

For too long, too many of those helping our sons and daughters and our veterans have been underfunded in their efforts. This week we have heard and shared stories of people suffering from this epidemic all over the country. These stories help us draft and pass effective response to the needs of our communities.

We know that no one bill or amendment on its own is equal to the massive scale of this epidemic, but together they can begin to address some of its worst effects and harshest consequences. We need to incorporate the best practices that have emerged across disciplines and different agencies, and we need to ensure cooperation between actors on the ground.

As part of the House response to the Senate-passed Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, this bill represents our commitment to restoring hope in shattered communities. I have been a proud sponsor of many of the bills coming forward this week, and I am pleased that so many have passed and many more are expected to pass today.

We provide a cohesive, unified, and far-reaching legislative package to meet the enormity of this epidemic, and I believe we have begun to move in that direction. I thank my colleagues for their dedication and tireless work to support this effort.

I particularly want to commend Chairman GOODLATTE on his leadership and his efforts as we continue to help and provide hope for people not just in New Hampshire, but all across the country.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Reduction Act of 2016, because we need to ensure that every State has the tools they need to fight the opioid abuse epidemic.

H.R. 5046 establishes a comprehensive opioid abuse grant program to provide training to first responders, criminal investigation for the distribution of opioids, resident treatment centers, and drug courts.

Approximately 47,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2014, and approximately 21.5 million people ages 12 and older suffer from substance abuse. As a lifelong pharmacist, I have seen firsthand the struggles that these people face.

H.R. 5046 seeks to fight the opioid epidemic through a grant program that would provide States with the resources to provide programs to help Americans fight this disease.

It would help improve prescription drug monitoring programs, help address juvenile opioid abuse, give first responders the training to reverse opioid overdoses, and improve access for veterans in treatment court.

The only way we are going to be able to fight this battle is if we work together as a team to educate and help victims of the opioid abuse.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1315

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, like many States across the country, heroin and opioid addiction is shattering people's lives in my State of Michigan as well.

To the families that are suffering, we are here to offer solutions, to provide hope, and help them recover and get back on their feet.

There are many community-based programs and groups in my district working on the front lines to raise awareness and combat this public health crisis; groups like the Monroe County Substance Abuse Coalition, the Eaton County Substance Abuse Advisory Council, Andy's Angels in Jackson, and many more.

In Lenawee County, my home county, community stakeholders recently came together to hold an addiction summit, and a recovering addict from Monroe County recently organized a march to show there is hope after heroin. Their work on the local level is absolutely critical.



Here at the Federal level, we must work side-by-side with our State and local partners to stop the damaging trends of addiction in its tracks.

The bipartisan legislation we are considering today establishes a comprehensive opioid abuse reduction program, and gives State and localities the flexibility to tailor prevention and treatment efforts to the specific needs of their communities.

I want to thank my colleague, Representative SENSENBRENNER, for his leadership on the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, and I encourage its passage so we can help rebuild and save lives in our communities.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlemen from Virginia and from Wisconsin for their great work on this important issue.

I rise in strong support of the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act for many reasons, but one in particular, for the support that it now gives to Veterans Treatment Courts.

As a former prosecutor, I saw firsthand the effectiveness of this. But we are also seeing amongst those who are struggling with opioid addiction a unique cohort being veterans. Many of them are returning—in fact, 67 percent of our returning vets face mental health challenges, and too many of them are choosing to self-medicate, or are dealing with injuries that they have acquired, through opioids. It has led to not only addiction, but other kinds of behaviors.

When we are able to bring them into the court system under the guidance, it creates not only the oversight of the system but, as well, the promotion of this peer-to-peer in which other veterans enable them to work together to get back not only their dignity and their lives, but they take advantage of the kinds of resources that we have within the veterans system to deal with the underlying addiction and other kinds of issues.

This is a tremendous additional effort to authorize a program which we have been able to support here in Congress and create permanence for it. I believe this is another important opportunity for us not to leave our injured back on the battlefield.

I thank the gentlemen for their support.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this measure.

As a former State and Federal prosecutor who has been in charge of prosecuting narcotics cases, I have seen firsthand the devastating effect that opioid and heroin addiction has had. This nationwide opioid and heroin epidemic stretches home into my district in central and west central Illinois.

Seventy-eight people die from heroin or opioid overdoses each day. That has quadrupled since 1999. Now it is the leading cause of death, far surpassing deaths by motor vehicle accidents.

Just last week I hosted a series of roundtable forums across my district to personally hear from law enforcement officers, medical professionals, treatment providers, local government officials, and those who have lost loved ones due to overdose.

They shared with me the reality of the situation back home. Law enforcement has had to double its on-hand stock of Narcan, and expand training for police officers when it comes to these overdoses.

Heroin is now the primary abused substance in drug court programs like the one in Springfield, Illinois, but those programs are at capacity. Treatment centers have waitlists over 40 days.

The consensus is clear. This is a public health crisis. To end it, we need to do a number of things. Update medical best practices for coping with pain. We need to expand access to addiction specialists and treatment centers. We need to give law enforcement the tools they need, and we must continue to promote programs like drug courts.

Because this problem is complex, it must be addressed from all angles, and that is precisely what we are doing in the House this week.

This bill will address this epidemic, and the concerns I heard last week. It would establish a comprehensive opioid abuse reduction program at the Department of Justice, target Federal resources directly at the opioid problem, give States flexibility, and create a streamlined comprehensive opioid abuse grant program.

Without raising taxes, this measure authorizes \$103 million each year for a variety of programs, including residential substance abuse treatment, drug courts, training for law enforcement and first responders.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield an additional 1 minute to Mr. LAHOOD.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Chairman, this funding includes treatment for law enforcement and first responders, and criminal investigations for the unlawful distribution of these opioids.

Opioid addiction transcends socioeconomic boundaries, racial, gender, regional, and educational boundaries. We need to address this crisis now.

I thank my colleague, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Chairman GOODLATTE, for bringing this legislation forth. This is a problem that is preventable, and we are doing something about it this week in the Congress.

I am proud to support this legislation. I look forward to supporting it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased now to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, it has been refreshing and important to listen to the many Members from all over the country discussing this important initiative and, more proudly, it is from the Judiciary Committee, which is the holder of the laws and the Constitution of this land. We are here indicating an admittance and a recognition that addiction, and opioids, and all kinds of addictions are not necessarily a crime, and that we do not come to this floor, in this bill, with mandatory minimums.

So I want to follow up on some statements that I made on the floor yesterday and also in the Rules Committee concerning the contrast in the way we are dealing with the opioid crisis and the way we addressed crack cocaine in the 1980s.

Many of those individuals from neighborhoods like mine, many of them still are incarcerated. And at that time, we—I was not here—Congress took action that we are still trying to rectify.

At one point, more than 80 percent of the defendants sentenced for crack cocaine offenses were African Americans, despite the fact that more than 66 percent of crack users were either White or Hispanic.

As we work on other legislation to address the enforcement and sentencing disparities related to crack issues, we must reexamine our approach to that and other drug issues. I think we are on the right track. I think we are being fair.

This week, the House has been engaged in a comprehensive approach to addressing a serious public health crisis involving heroin and other opioids.

In my earlier statement, I complimented my chairman of the full committee and my chairman of the subcommittee because we are working together.

Overdoses and deaths involving heroin are on the rise. While law enforcement has an appropriate role, the bills, including H.R. 5046 before us now, reflect a broader strategy that reflects the fact that this is an addiction issue.

I know that Mr. CONYERS and many others who are on this floor, Mr. DAVIS, we come from inner-city communities, and we have watched the young people of our community die and lose their future life through crack cocaine.

Accordingly, we are not raising sentences or impacting mandatory minimums, but we are funding anti-addiction mechanisms such as treatment alternatives to incarceration, and we are bringing in the police persons, the police departments. What a great idea: criminal justice and substance abuse and police persons dealing with this issue in a non-incarceration mode.

We are not adding to mass incarceration with all of the related and devastating collateral consequences but, instead, we are incentivizing State and local governments to prevent, treat, and heal. That is what we should be doing, and that is what we should have done for crack and cocaine addicts.

We are learning. We understand now that we have a different pathway, but it is not too late. So I am saying to my colleagues here as we are working together, we should find a way before Congress has completed its work on this legislation and send a bill to the President that applies a more comprehensive approach, or a comprehensive approach that adds to this very strong foundation, including treatment alternatives for those who may still be suffering from crack and cocaine addiction.

I remember signing the sentencing, the reduction bill that we had in 2009 dealing with the crack cocaine disparities. We came together as a bipartisan group. So I know that these are things that we can do.

I have had this issue and discussed it with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and I hope that we can work together as we move forward and that our colleagues can work together as we move forward to look at these issues because if we walk our neighborhoods today, from one inner city to the next, and maybe our rural communities, we will find those crack cocaine addicts.

Mr. CONYERS. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. I just want the gentlewoman to know that her recollection of the years before, where we have come from a more narrow focus, more punitive, and we now are seeing a newer strategy that is far more useful, far more successful than before. And I want to congratulate her for her perseverance and determination that we will still get it even better under control through our looking carefully at the results of our activities.

I thank the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues.

As I finish, let me just say that today, again, I will be introducing the recidivism—to End Infant Mortality and Reduce Recidivism bill dealing with incarcerated women. Many of those women are incarcerated because

of drug addiction issues that involve the possession or sale of narcotics.

What we are attempting to do, if a baby is born in prison, we are attempting to recognize that they should not be separated from that mother, and to have some postnatal nursery situation in a pilot program to examine how that works, because we know that addiction, in many instances, has caused women to be incarcerated.

There are many issues that we can look at, and I hope, as we work our way through this, we will find some solutions for those who are still addicted to crack cocaine and need some of the same or similar services that this underlying legislation has.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016, of which I am an original cosponsor.

I commend the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, JIM SENSENBRENNER, for his work on this bill and I also commend Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS for their ability to find common ground on this very important issue.

I also note that I was a cosponsor of a similar bill that was the predecessor to this one, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

I would have been happy to see the Committee pass that bill, but I am pleased that we have been able to work together to produce an alternative bill that will help address issues related to opioid abuse.

I look forward to continued collaboration with my colleagues to find additional solutions to the drug crisis America now faces.

We must take action because today a leading killer of Americans is drug overdose.

Between 2000 and 2014, almost half a million people died from drug overdoses.

Many of these deaths were preventable.

In 2014 alone, more than 47,000 people died of drug overdoses.

The largest percentage of overdose deaths in 2014 was attributed to opioids—like prescription painkillers, methadone, morphine, and heroin.

Specifically, 28,647 people overdosed and died because of an opioid in 2014.

We are experiencing an emergency that impacts citizens in every state, city, and town in this country—that is prescription painkiller and opioid abuse.

This emergency is compounded due to the perilous connection between prescription painkillers and heroin.

Prescription painkiller abuse is the strongest risk factor for future heroin use.

Approximately three out of four new heroin users report that their use began with their abuse of prescription painkillers.

Heroin use becomes appealing to those addicted to prescription painkillers because it is cheaper and easier to obtain.

Due to its potency, heroin use tends to lead to addiction.

Heroin addiction is often deadly, leading to overdose or other chronic diseases.

The rate at which the occurrence of heroin overdose deaths increased is cause for alarm.

In the four years between 2010 and 2014, heroin overdoses more than tripled.

More than 10,500 people died from heroin overdoses in 2014.

In 2013, more than 8,200 people died from heroin overdoses.

In that same year, 11 million people admitted to improper use of prescription painkillers.

Not only were 11 million people at risk of overdosing due to their abuse of prescription painkillers, 11 million people were also at high risk of becoming addicted to heroin—with its attendant risks and dangers.

This current crisis requires an immediate and comprehensive response and the bill before us today is one element of a broader strategy.

This bill will establish a grant program, to be administered by the Department of Justice, to assist states and local governments, particularly by helping criminal justice agencies to tackle the opioid problem from a variety of angles.

This bill encourages the development of alternatives to incarceration that provide treatment as a solution to the underlying motivation for criminal behavior or conduct associated with mental disorders.

We must make our best efforts to prevent individuals from moving from painkillers to heroin by making treatment for addicts more accessible by encouraging the use of evidence-based programs, such as medication-assisted treatment.

Life-saving overdose reversal drugs, like naloxone, are most valuable in the hands of trained individuals who regularly come in contact with individuals who are prone to drug overdoses.

This bill will increase the use and availability of naloxone and other overdose reversal drugs to first responders.

Addiction is a disease that affects the brain and eventually changes the behavior of addicts, causing them to experience mental health issues and encounter legal problems.

Treatment is the most reasonable and effective approach to diverting these individuals away from homelessness and prison.

There are also specific provisions in this bill that allow for a wide range of services to be offered to our veterans who tend to suffer from mental health issues and addiction.

I support this bill because I believe that it will help save lives and prevent and treat opioid addiction.

The approach Congress is taking with the crisis of heroin and other opioids is thoughtful and comprehensive.

I hope it signals a departure from some of the failed approaches concerning other drug crises in the past.

For instance, our response to the surge in crack cocaine in the 1980s was to enact draconian mandatory minimum penalties with vastly disparate treatment for crack and powder cocaine.

Unfortunately, that exacerbated the disproportionate minority impact of our drug laws and their enforcement.

Today, no matter who is suffering from the effects of illegal drugs, we must learn from the past and embrace new ways of addressing the problem.

The bill before us today, and the approaches contained in other legislation passed by the Senate and introduced in the House,

reflect our experience in dealing with drug prevention, addiction, treatment, and recovery.

While there is still work to do in Congress to address the mistakes of the past with respect to mandatory minimum sentences that are unjust, unwise and financially unsustainable, I commend my colleagues for embracing drug treatment, alternatives to incarceration, and improved training to first responders and the criminal justice system on how to put substance abusers on a better path.

With those considerations in mind, and a hopeful note about the progress we are making in our approach to these issues, I ask that my colleagues join me in voting in favor of this important bill.

I want to follow up on my earlier statement concerning the contrast in the way we are dealing with the opioid crisis and the way we addressed crack cocaine in the 1980s.

At that time, we Congress took action that we are still trying to rectify.

At one point, more than 80% of the defendants sentenced for crack offenses were African American, despite the fact that more than 66% of crack users are white or Hispanic.

As we work on other legislation to address the enforcement and sentencing disparities related to the crack issue, we must re-examine our approach to that and other drug issues.

This week, the House has been engaged in a comprehensive approach to addressing a serious public health crisis involving heroin and other opioids.

Overdoses and deaths involving heroin are on the rise.

While law enforcement has an appropriate role and the bills recognize that, the bills—including H.R. 5046 before us now—reflect a broader strategy that reflects the fact that this is an addiction issue.

Accordingly, we are not raising sentences or impacting mandatory minimums but we are funding anti-addiction mechanisms such as treatment alternatives to incarceration.

We are not adding to mass incarceration—with all of the related and devastating collateral consequences—but instead we are incentivizing state and local governments to prevent, treat, and heal.

That is what we should be doing, and that is what we should have done for crack and cocaine addicts.

But it is not too late—we should find a way, before Congress has completed its work on this legislation and sends a bill to the President, to apply this more comprehensive approach, including treatment alternatives, to those suffering from crack and cocaine addiction.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to do this.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act.

Addiction affects people from all walks of life. It is not confined to people of certain races, classes, and ages. Its broad reach is perhaps what makes it so terrifying.

Prescription drug abuse and alarming increases in heroin abuse have gripped our country and it is past time for it to grip the attention of the Congress.

I was proud to vote for many great bills this week to improve the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, particularly opioid abuse.

While all of these bills, including the one before us today, address many aspects of this complex issue, we need to be honest and admit that in order to truly address this problem, we have to invest funding in it.

There are already many programs in place that are successful in preventing and treating substance abuse, but they are underfunded. We need to change that.

As we embark on the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations process, I urge my colleagues to keep this mind.

Substance abuse destroys families, friendships, our communities, and virtually everything else in its path. The time to act is now.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to yield back after the gentleman from Michigan yields back.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Members of the Committee, we have had a very interesting and important discussion. As an original cosponsor of H.R. 5046, we see more clearly how it will provide critical grants to prevent and treat opioid abuse and addictions, and, most importantly, because it will help save lives.

So, in closing, I want to commend my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee in particular for their work on this measure, starting with our chairman, Mr. GOODLATTE, and our subcommittee chairman, JIM SENSENBRENNER, for his extraordinary leadership in crafting this important bill, and, of course, our gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for her continuing vigilance to improve our approaches towards dealing with this opioid abuse and addiction challenge.

This bill before us has the power to fortify America's fight against the opioid epidemic. I am extremely proud to not only support it, but I urge all of my colleagues to join with me.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, let me say I appreciate the huge, bipartisan support that this legislation has attracted.

I have been working on legislation to deal with Department of Justice grants in the opioid addiction area for over 2 years. It took a while, and, unfortunately, it took the expansion of a problem into an epidemic to show this Congress that we have to act, we have to act comprehensively, and we have to act in a manner that actually goes down to our communities to help out those communities and, more importantly, the people who are addicted and their families.

The package of bills that the House has debated yesterday and is debating today does exactly that. For those who criticize Congress for not doing any-

thing, this is something that is probably going to have a very, very meaningful impact on the lives and livelihoods of people who have gotten hooked on something, and it gives them a way out in a compassionate and effective manner.

Let me say I am not sure that the American public is going to realize the importance of what we are doing today, because I see the wide-open spaces in the press gallery above the Speaker's rostrum. I think that is unfortunate because this is something, number one, that is important; number two, it will help people; number three, it is bipartisan, which shows very clearly that we don't spend all of our time here arguing and fighting amongst ourselves; and number four, it is bicameral. This is Congress the way it should work and the way it is working in a lot more cases than many in the American public think it is.

So I guess my message to everybody today is, number one, we are doing our job, and we are doing our job with this legislation in a vitally important manner to help turn some lives around and to prevent tragedy; and number two, the fact that we can get together to deal with a national problem in a bipartisan manner shows that we take our job seriously, whether we sit on the Democratic side of the aisle or the Republican side of our aisle, and we are rising to the occasion.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-52. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 5046

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016".*

**SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**"PART LL—COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE GRANT PROGRAM**

**"SEC. 3021. DESCRIPTION.**

*"(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From amounts made available to carry out this part, the Attorney General may make grants to States, units of local government, and Indian tribes, for use by the State, unit of local government, or Indian*

tribe to provide services primarily relating to opioid abuse, including for any one or more of the following:

“(1) Developing, implementing, or expanding a treatment alternative to incarceration program, which may include—

“(A) pre-booking or post-booking components, which may include the activities described in part HH of this title;

“(B) training for criminal justice agency personnel on substance use disorders and co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders;

“(C) a mental health court, including the activities described in part V of this title;

“(D) a drug court, including the activities described in part EE of this title; and

“(E) a veterans treatment court program, including the activities described in subsection (i) of section 2991 of this title.

“(2) In the case of a State, facilitating or enhancing planning and collaboration between State criminal justice agencies and State substance abuse systems in order to more efficiently and effectively carry out programs described in paragraph (1) that address problems related to opioid abuse.

“(3) Providing training and resources for first responders on carrying and administering an opioid overdose reversal drug or device approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and purchasing such a drug or device for first responders who have received such training to carry and administer.

“(4) Investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities related to the unlawful distribution of opioids.

“(5) Developing, implementing, or expanding a medication-assisted treatment program used or operated by a criminal justice agency, which may include training criminal justice agency personnel on medication-assisted treatment, and carrying out the activities described in part S of this title.

“(6) In the case of a State, developing, implementing, or expanding a prescription drug monitoring program to collect and analyze data related to the prescribing of schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances through a centralized database administered by an authorized State agency, which includes tracking the dispensation of such substances, and providing for data sharing with other States.

“(7) Developing, implementing, or expanding a program to prevent and address opioid abuse by juveniles.

“(8) Developing, implementing, or expanding an integrated and comprehensive opioid abuse response program.

“(b) **CONTRACTS AND SUBAWARDS.**—A State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe may, in using a grant under this subpart for purposes authorized by subsection (a), use all or a portion of that grant to contract with or make one or more subawards to one or more—

“(1) local or regional organizations that are private and nonprofit, including faith-based organizations;

“(2) units of local government; or

“(3) tribal organizations.

“(c) **PROGRAM ASSESSMENT COMPONENT; WAIVER.**—

“(1) **PROGRAM ASSESSMENT COMPONENT.**—Each program funded under this subpart shall contain a program assessment component, developed pursuant to guidelines established by the Attorney General, in coordination with the National Institute of Justice.

“(2) **WAIVER.**—The Attorney General may waive the requirement of paragraph (1) with respect to a program if, in the opinion of the Attorney General, the program is not of sufficient size to justify a full program assessment.

“(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Not more than 10 percent of a grant made under this subpart

may be used for costs incurred to administer such grant.

“(e) **PERIOD.**—The period of a grant made under this part may not be longer than 4 years, except that renewals and extensions beyond that period may be granted at the discretion of the Attorney General.

“**SEC. 3022. APPLICATIONS.**

“To request a grant under this part, the chief executive officer of a State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe shall submit an application to the Attorney General at such time and in such form as the Attorney General may require. Such application shall include the following:

“(1) A certification that Federal funds made available under this subpart will not be used to supplant State, local, or tribal funds, but will be used to increase the amounts of such funds that would, in the absence of Federal funds, be made available for the activities described in section 3021(a).

“(2) An assurance that, for each fiscal year covered by an application, the applicant shall maintain and report such data, records, and information (programmatic and financial) as the Attorney General may reasonably require.

“(3) A certification, made in a form acceptable to the Attorney General and executed by the chief executive officer of the applicant (or by another officer of the applicant, if qualified under regulations promulgated by the Attorney General), that—

“(A) the programs to be funded by the grant meet all the requirements of this part;

“(B) all the information contained in the application is correct;

“(C) there has been appropriate coordination with affected agencies; and

“(D) the applicant will comply with all provisions of this part and all other applicable Federal laws.

“(4) An assurance that the applicant will work with the Drug Enforcement Administration to develop an integrated and comprehensive strategy to address opioid abuse.

“**SEC. 3023. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.**

“The Attorney General shall not finally disapprove any application (or any amendment to that application) submitted under this part without first affording the applicant reasonable notice of any deficiencies in the application and opportunity for correction and reconsideration.

“**SEC. 3024. GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.**

“The Attorney General shall ensure equitable geographic distribution of grants under this part and take into consideration the needs of underserved populations, including rural and tribal communities.

“**SEC. 3025. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this part:

“(1) The term ‘first responder’ includes a firefighter, law enforcement officer, paramedic, emergency medical technician, or other individual (including an employee of a legally organized and recognized volunteer organization, whether compensated or not), who, in the course of professional duties, responds to fire, medical, hazardous material, or other similar emergencies.

“(2) The term ‘medication-assisted treatment’ means the use of medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid abuse.

“(3) The term ‘opioid’ means any drug, including heroin, having an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability similar to morphine or being capable of conversion into a drug having such addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability.

“(4) The term ‘schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance’ means a controlled substance that is listed on schedule II, schedule III, or schedule IV of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)).

“(5) The terms ‘drug’ and ‘device’ have the meanings given those terms in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

“(6) The term ‘criminal justice agency’ means a State, local, or tribal—

“(A) court;

“(B) prison;

“(C) jail;

“(D) law enforcement agency; or

“(E) other agency that performs the administration of criminal justice, including prosecution, pretrial services, and community supervision.

“(7) The term ‘tribal organization’ has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).”

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 1001(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (26) the following:

“(27) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part LL \$103,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.”

**SEC. 3. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF GRANTEES.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “covered grant program” means a grant program operated by the Department of Justice;

(2) the term “covered grantee” means a recipient of a grant from a covered grant program;

(3) the term “nonprofit”, when used with respect to an organization, means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code; and

(4) the term “unresolved audit finding” means an audit report finding in a final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that a covered grantee has used grant funds awarded to that grantee under a covered grant program for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved during a 12-month period prior to the date on which the final audit report is issued.

(b) **AUDIT REQUIREMENT.**—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, and annually thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of covered grantees to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds awarded under covered grant programs. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of covered grantees to be audited each year.

(c) **MANDATORY EXCLUSION.**—A grantee that is found to have an unresolved audit finding under an audit conducted under subsection (b) may not receive grant funds under a covered grant program in the fiscal year following the fiscal year to which the finding relates.

(d) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—If a covered grantee is awarded funds under the covered grant program from which it received a grant award during the 1-fiscal-year period during which the covered grantee is ineligible for an allocation of grant funds under subsection (c), the Attorney General shall—

(1) deposit into the General Fund of the Treasury an amount that is equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the covered grantee; and

(2) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the Fund from the covered grantee that was improperly awarded the grant funds.

(e) **PRIORITY OF GRANT AWARDS.**—The Attorney General, in awarding grants under a covered grant program shall give priority to eligible entities that during the 2-year period preceding the application for a grant have not been found to have an unresolved audit finding.

(f) **NONPROFIT REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **PROHIBITION.**—A nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the

purpose of avoiding the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, shall not be eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, any funds from a covered grant program.

(2) **DISCLOSURE.**—Each nonprofit organization that is a covered grantee shall disclose in its application for such a grant, as a condition of receipt of such a grant, the compensation of its officers, directors, and trustees. Such disclosure shall include a description of the criteria relied on to determine such compensation.

#### SEC. 4. VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS.

Section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797aa) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

“(i) **ASSISTING VETERANS.**—

“(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **PEER TO PEER SERVICES OR PROGRAMS.**—The term ‘peer to peer services or programs’ means services or programs that connect qualified veterans with other veterans for the purpose of providing support and mentorship to assist qualified veterans in obtaining treatment, recovery, stabilization, or rehabilitation.

“(B) **QUALIFIED VETERAN.**—The term ‘qualified veteran’ means a preliminarily qualified offender who—

“(i) served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves; and

“(ii) was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable.

“(C) **VETERANS TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM.**—The term ‘veterans treatment court program’ means a court program involving collaboration among criminal justice, veterans, and mental health and substance abuse agencies that provides qualified veterans with—

“(i) intensive judicial supervision and case management, which may include random and frequent drug testing where appropriate;

“(ii) a full continuum of treatment services, including mental health services, substance abuse services, medical services, and services to address trauma;

“(iii) alternatives to incarceration; or

“(iv) other appropriate services, including housing, transportation, mentoring, employment, job training, education, or assistance in applying for and obtaining available benefits.

“(2) **VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, may award grants under this subsection to applicants to establish or expand—

“(i) veterans treatment court programs;

“(ii) peer to peer services or programs for qualified veterans;

“(iii) practices that identify and provide treatment, rehabilitation, legal, transitional, and other appropriate services to qualified veterans who have been incarcerated; or

“(iv) training programs to teach criminal justice, law enforcement, corrections, mental health, and substance abuse personnel how to identify and appropriately respond to incidents involving qualified veterans.

“(B) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Attorney General shall give priority to applications that—

“(i) demonstrate collaboration between and joint investments by criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse, and veterans service agencies;

“(ii) promote effective strategies to identify and reduce the risk of harm to qualified veterans and public safety; and

“(iii) propose interventions with empirical support to improve outcomes for qualified veterans.”.

#### SEC. 5. EMERGENCY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.

Section 609Y(a) of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10513(a)) is amended by striking “September 30, 1984” and inserting “September 30, 2021”.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 114–551. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. DONOVAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 114–551.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 6, strike “part HH” and insert “part DD or HH”.

Add at the end of the bill the following:

#### SEC. 6. INCLUSION OF SERVICES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER FAMILY-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE GRANTS.

Part DD of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act (42 U.S.C. 3797s et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2921(2), by inserting before the period at the end “or pregnant women”; and

(2) in section 2927—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “pregnant or” before “a parent”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or pregnant women” after “incarcerated parents”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by myself and Mr. TURNER. This amendment expands eligibility for existing family-based substance abuse treatment grants to include pregnant women.

In New York State alone, over 1,700 pregnant women pass through our corrections system each year. On any given day, there are 12 to 15 pregnant women in New York State prisons and 110 in local jails, and many of these women are coming in with drug addictions that pose harm to not only themselves, but to their unborn children.

States across the country have passed laws and implemented programs to provide community and family-based alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent parent offenders. However, State programs targeting offenders who are parents-to-be are not currently

eligible for grants. This peculiarity makes it difficult for States to develop programs addressing the particularly vulnerable population of nonviolent pregnant offenders. This amendment would make clear that such funding could be provided to States to develop and expand family-based substance abuse treatment programs that focus on expectant mothers.

When a drug-addicted pregnant woman comes through the criminal justice system, we make every effort to help that expectant mother beat her drug addiction both for herself and for her child.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER), my friend and cosponsor of this amendment.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) for yielding and for his work on this amendment, which I am proud to cosponsor.

Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment is simple: increase access to substance abuse treatment for pregnant women. We accomplish this by making clear that States receiving grants from an existing Department of Justice program may use them to provide family-based treatment.

Currently, nonviolent mothers and fathers have access to family- and community-based substance abuse treatment options that help keep their families together, and that should be true for expectant mothers as well. Our amendment would help provide this access to the 60 pregnant women in Ohio State prisons last month and countless others across the country, all of whom are ineligible for it today.

I have met with doctors, nurses, hospitals, law enforcement, and treatment professionals, and have seen firsthand the devastating effects that heroin and opioid abuse have inflicted on pregnant women and newborns in my own southwest Ohio community. In December of 2013, I toured Soin Medical Center in Beavercreek, Ohio, and discussed the concerning trend the hospital was observing: increasing numbers of infants born addicted to opiates.

At the Dayton Children’s Hospital neonatal intensive care unit, I witnessed the hardship that heroin and opioid addiction inflicts on both women and their babies. I met with mothers struggling with substance abuse who had given birth to infants who had become addicted in the womb. I watched newborns just starting their lives suffering through the painful symptoms of neonatal abstinence syndrome.

At the Women’s Recovery Center in Xenia, Ohio, I spoke to young women participating in opiate abuse intervention and treatment programs. One former heroin user I spoke to shared with me her story about how the intervention and treatment she received at

the center allowed her to overcome her addiction before giving birth to her son.

It is vital that we provide women access to this treatment—for their own health and for the health of the children that they will bring into the world.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this amendment.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate the proponents of the amendment and indicate to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that I think many of us are on the same page.

The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to State and local governments for prison-based family substance abuse treatment programs for the incarcerated parents of minor children.

These programs can provide a comprehensive response to the needs of incarcerated parents of minor children, not only substance abuse treatment, but also a range of family-related services. These can include child early intervention services, family counseling, medical care, mental health services, parental skills training, pediatric care, physical therapy, and prenatal care.

The importance of the value of these programs to pregnant women who find themselves incarcerated as well as to women who are already mothers is beyond dispute. We want to give our children—no matter who they are and where they are born in this country—a great and wonderful pathway to success. This amendment makes pregnant women equally eligible to participate in such programs.

As indicated earlier on the floor today, I am planning to introduce the Stop Infant Mortality and Recidivism Reduction Act of 2016, which is to respond to women who have children while they are incarcerated, to provide them with some sort of support system where their babies are not separated from them. Those babies may be born addicted. I think it is important that this amendment looks at those pregnant women who may be incarcerated; and in this instance, this looks at pregnant women to provide them alternatives. It can be of tremendous benefit to these mothers-to-be as well as their children and families.

This effort has my wholehearted support, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment to the underlying bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding and commend him for offering this amendment.

The amendment makes reasonable and appropriate changes to the Justice Department's Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Program, a program authorized under the Second Chance Act. The program supports State and local government agencies and federally recognized Indian tribes in establishing or enhancing residential substance abuse treatment programs in correctional facilities that include recovery of family supportive services. This amendment ensures that the program's definition of an incarcerated parent with minor children includes pregnant women.

As a person who believes life begins at conception, I believe it is entirely appropriate for this program to provide services to pregnant women to meet their unique needs and those of their unborn children.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 114-551.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 14, strike "and".

Page 2, line 17, strike the period at the end and insert "; and".

Page 2, after line 17, insert the following:

“(F) a focus on parents whose incarceration could result in their children entering the child welfare system.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to join with my colleague from Indiana, Representative TODD YOUNG, in offering our amendment to strengthen families by addressing parental substance abuse and decreasing the number of children entering foster care.

Our amendment is common sense. It simply allows the CARA substance abuse treatment diversion grants to

focus on parents whose incarceration could result in their children entering foster care.

I am deeply troubled that almost 8 percent of children placed into foster care each year enter due to parental incarceration. This is approximately 20,000 young children every year. In some States like Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, and South Dakota, over 20 percent of children enter foster care due to parent incarceration.

We also know that substance abuse underlies a substantial percentage of child welfare cases.

□ 1345

Aside from neglect, alcohol or other drug use is the number one reason for removal from the home. In 2014, over 77,000 youth were removed from their homes due to drug abuse.

What is exciting is that we have strong, empirical evidence that working with parents experiencing substance abuse significantly helps children and families experience fewer days in foster care, higher reunification rates, less recurrence of child maltreatment, and better permanency over time.

Neither the Senate nor the House CARA bill addresses this critical intersection of criminal justice, substance abuse, and foster care. Yet, this intersection underlies the surging numbers in both the judicial and child welfare systems.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, an amazing champion for foster youth, just released a report 2 weeks ago that recommended that judges consider the impact on kids and families when making sentencing and confinement decisions.

Our amendment is necessary to demonstrate congressional intent that the Department of Justice improve our judicial system to decrease the horrible family impact of incarceration that swells our child welfare system and undermines child well-being.

That is why over a dozen key child welfare advocates support our amendment, including the American Public Human Services Association, the American Psychological Association, Children's Defense Fund, Children's Home Society of America, Child Welfare League of America, National Association of Counsel for Children, National Foster Family-Based Treatment Association, National Foster Parent Association, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Ray E. Helfer Society, Voice for Adoption, and Zero to Three.

I urge support of our amendment that will do much to strengthen families and improve child welfare.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, and I support it.

The opioid epidemic has victimized countless Americans, including the most vulnerable among us—our children. We are all aware of the grim statistics surrounding prescription opioid abuse by teenagers. However, a young child who loses a parent to addiction is also a victim that needs our help.

I support this effort, which will promote family unity while holding certain offenders accountable and ensuring community safety.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for introducing this amendment, shedding light on one of the most vulnerable populations affected by this national opioid epidemic: our children.

As communities, non-profits, and policymakers search for solutions to address this harrowing drug epidemic, it is essential that we not lose sight of the children whose lives have been fundamentally and forever altered by this nationwide crisis.

Kids across the country are having their lives turned upside down. They are watching parents taken into custody. They are forced to leave homes, wondering whether they will ever be able to see their father or mother again. These are things children shouldn't have to worry about and shouldn't have to go through.

The national opioid epidemic has hit my home State of Indiana particularly hard. A small Hoosier community of 4,300 was catapulted into the spotlight last spring. We had over 190 Hoosiers diagnosed with HIV primarily due to intravenous drug use. It is a tragedy the CDC has cited as one of the worst documented HIV outbreaks among users in the past 2 decades.

This localized epidemic, similar to others across the country, is linked to the use of a powerful painkiller, a very highly addictive opiate.

In addressing this nationwide problem, we are going to have to overcome the negative stigmas of drug addiction. We need to treat these individuals—and I say this literally—treat them as patients who need our encouragement and our support to get well.

That is what this amendment accomplishes. Under this amendment, thousands of children who would otherwise see their parent destined for a prison

cell will instead see the parent they love and depend on get the treatment they need.

The need for this amendment is urgent. The Indiana Department of Child Services estimates 2,600 children had to be removed from homes due to parental drug abuse in just a 6-month period that ended last March. That is a 71 percent jump from 2 years earlier.

We, as legislators, have a real responsibility to look out for these children.

When States develop a substance abuse treatment program that can be an alternative to incarceration, this amendment allows them to focus on treating parents whose incarceration could result in their children languishing in an overwhelmed child welfare system. More than a dozen child welfare organizations support this bipartisan endeavor.

I want to thank Mr. DAVIS, as I close here, and his staff for collaborating with me and Jaymi Light in my office in order to ensure that we can help this vulnerable population.

I ask my colleagues to support the amendment and help us ensure our most vulnerable children are no longer caught up in this epidemic.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. DEL BENE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 114-551.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 14, strike “and”.

Page 2, line 17, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 2, after line 17, insert the following:

“(F) a community-based substance use diversion program sponsored by a law enforcement agency.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a simple clarifying amendment to ensure that State, local, and tribal governments can develop and implement community-based programs that have demonstrated success in reducing recidivism and getting people the help that they need. I am hopeful everyone in this Chamber can support it.

The growing epidemic of heroin use and prescription drug abuse is having a devastating effect on the health and safety of our families and our communities both in my home State of Washington and across the country.

The problem has become so severe that adults in the United States are now more likely to die from a drug overdose than a car accident. With more than 120 deaths occurring from drug overdoses in this country every day—more than half of which are from prescription drugs—it is clearer than ever that Congress must take action.

That is why I am so pleased to see my colleagues on both sides of the aisle coming together to combat the epidemic of addiction. This legislation represents an important first step. It authorizes much-needed funding for the opioid abuse reduction programs that will expand substance abuse prevention and intervention efforts, boost resources for law enforcement officers and first responders to administer overdose reversal drugs, improve substance abuse treatment for individuals in the criminal justice system, and help prevent the illegal distribution of opioids in our streets.

Among the programs authorized under the bill are treatment alternative to incarceration programs, an important tool for law enforcement agencies in the fight against opioid abuse. My amendment simply clarifies that this provision includes a model with demonstrated success in Seattle and King County.

First launched in 2011, the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, or LEAD, is a community-based pilot program that offers a helping hand rather than jail time for those suffering from substance abuse.

According to an initial study, it successfully reduces recidivism by as much as 60 percent. Other cities have taken notice, with Santa Fe and Albany already working to implement the model in their communities.

Instead of arresting and prosecuting low-level drug offenders, we should be supporting successful programs like LEAD that direct them to the community-based services and help that they need.

My amendment will do just that. It will ensure resources are available to expand successful models that are already working and make a meaningful difference in addressing this crisis.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington for offering this amendment, and I support it.

This amendment clarifies that grant monies authorized by H.R. 5046 can be used to fund community-based substance abuse diversion programs sponsored by law enforcement agencies.

There are a variety of programs across the country administered by State and local law enforcement and prosecuting agencies that offer diversion to drug treatment and other services as an alternative to incarceration.

In my home State of Wisconsin, Treatment Alternatives and Diversion, or TAD, programs “offer offenders the opportunity to enter and do voluntary substance abuse treatment, case management, and other risk reduction services as a safe alternative to jail or prison confinement. Diverting non-violent offenders into substance abuse treatment keeps them out of jail and correctional facilities, thereby saving bed space and taxpayer dollars, as well as treating the underlying addiction that may have influenced the commission of a crime or may contribute to future criminal behavior.”

These are precisely the types of treatment alternatives to incarceration programs that I believe should be eligible for funding through this new Department of Justice grant.

I thank the gentlewoman from Washington for working with us on drafting the amendment.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman. I rise in support of her amendment. I also rise to state my unyielding support for the underlying legislation introduced by my friend, JIM SENSENBRENNER from Wisconsin, literally an institution of statutory production in the halls of this Congress. I appreciate it.

This DelBene amendment would enable States and local governments to use grant monies for treatment alternatives to incarceration programs, including community-based abuse diversion programs sponsored by a law enforcement agency.

H.R. 5046 authorizes the attorney general to make grants to State and local governments for the development, expansion, or implementation of opioid abuse treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration. This amendment would expand eligibility for such grants to community-based substance abuse diversion programs sponsored by a law enforcement agency.

The cooperation and involvement of local law enforcement agencies is an

important component in any comprehensive effort to combat opioid abuse. Diversion programs can play a key role in improving outcomes and rehabilitating opioid drug offenders.

Diversion programs also benefit law enforcement by conserving law enforcement resources, judicial and penal resources, while enabling police agencies and courts to focus on drug traffickers and other serious criminals.

Based on those facts, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 114-551.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 21, insert after “providing for” the following: “interoperability and”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1400

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, let me say how happy I am to be here in a bipartisan spirit on this important issue of the opioid epidemic in this country.

I rise, obviously, to support this particular amendment, and I thank my colleague from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for being a partner in this effort.

Our amendment simply clarifies that grants authorized under this bill may be used to develop multi-State interoperable Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs. PDMPs are one of the most important tools in the fight against prescription drug abuse.

All of us come here today from separate starting points. For me, like many others, it was because of parents of children who were lost to this epidemic.

Bob and Carmen Pack were constituents in an affluent suburb of San Francisco, which is in my district and is formerly in my State legislative district, who took their two young children, Troy and Alana Pack, out for a walk to the local ice cream shop for a treat on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately, a woman, who was later

convicted of abusing and doctor shopping for opioids and also of using alcohol, swerved across the street, killing Troy and Alana and almost killing Carmen Pack, who was expecting at the time. Fortunately, she survived and had a child.

Bob, a software engineer, proceeded to put his energies into updating the California PDMP to make it electronic, to make usable in realtime, and to make it effective in trying to control opioid addictions. He partnered with multiple attorneys general in California to see this effected.

As a State senator, I was able to partner with them to institute a program and fully fund CURES, the California PDMP that allows for the realtime monitoring of prescriptions. It went from 13,000 users in the course of a year to over 200,000 users, and it is now fully implemented.

One of the weak points of the CURE system in California is its inability to communicate with other systems as they are developed around the country and the ability for people who abuse these products, including organized crimes, to go to other States. So it is important at this point, as States start to develop these sophisticated but very cost-effective systems, that we establish them in such a way that they are interoperable.

While doctors and pharmacies work hard to prevent anyone from filling unneeded orders, it is more difficult to stop doctor shopping by individuals who visit multiple doctors and pharmacists in an attempt to obtain more opioids. Some individuals who are addicted will cross State lines—and, obviously, organized crime will do so—to avoid their States’ prescription drug monitoring systems. Unfortunately, many State programs are not interoperable with neighboring States and do not coordinate and share this information effectively.

To improve the success of these programs, our amendment explicitly states that these funds can be used to promote interoperability and data sharing between States. Our amendment is a small step towards improving existing systems, and it will help States better understand patterns of interstate drug trafficking.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WESTMORELAND). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from California and the gentleman from Georgia for offering this amendment.



This amendment makes a small but important change to H.R. 5046 to clarify that grants can be used to improve the interoperability of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, or PDMPs, which are a valuable tool in combating the opioid epidemic and have been established across the country. This amendment will help medical practitioners see what potentially dangerous medications a patient has received in another State before writing a prescription.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his support of what I consider to be a very important amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment to H.R. 5046 because Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs and their effectiveness are key to fighting prescription drug abuse in this country.

As a lifelong pharmacist and as the author of the Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program while I was a member of the Georgia General Assembly, I believe PDMPs are one of the most important tools in the fight against prescription drug abuse. To increase the success of these programs throughout the country, interoperability and data sharing between States is paramount.

I commend Chairman GOODLATTE and the Judiciary Committee for their work on this bill; but to continue the growth and the success of PDMPs, interoperability should be included in any discussion to improve these systems so States can better share information about patients and the patterns that occur with interstate prescription drug trafficking.

I thank the gentleman from California for his work on this important issue, and I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

Mr. DESAULNIER. I thank Mr. CARTER and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for supporting this commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF MICHIGAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 114-551.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 3, insert the following:  
“(9) Developing, implementing, or expanding a program (which may include demonstration projects) to utilize technology that provides a secure container for prescription drugs that would prevent individuals, particularly adolescents, from gaining access to opioid medications that are lawfully prescribed for other individuals.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman GOODLATTE, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased to be here in the spirit of bipartisanship because, as you all know, this problem affects all Members' districts. It is a problem that sheriffs and local law enforcement in my district deal with on a daily basis. Admittedly, my amendment is not the silver bullet that will end this epidemic, but it is a commonsense step in the right direction, something we can take to address the problem at its roots, which is within the home.

The National Institutes of Health estimates that 800,000 children between the ages of 12 and 17 try opioids for the first time each year and that 70 percent of the opioids obtained by kids are from their families, friends, and relatives. It also found that 62 percent of kids say prescription medicines are easy to get from their families' medicine cabinets and that one in two kids, alarmingly, thinks pills are available everywhere.

In response to these statistics, my amendment would allow the State and local governments to invest in programs that utilize secure containers for prescription drugs. It is important to note that this amendment does not mandate such programs; it merely makes available the opportunity should local governments voluntarily choose to take advantage of the program.

While there may not be an easy fix to cure all of the alarming statistics, there are things that we can do and have done. In fact, in the 1960s, children were dying at an alarming rate from ingesting medications that were not meant for them. Congress responded, and it responded by passing the Poisoning Prevention Packaging Act of 1970, which requires child-resist-

ant caps for a number of different medications. That was the last time major changes were made to drug containers.

As we all know, technology has advanced significantly in every category since 1970. Today, new technologies exist that make it harder to steal medications out of the family medicine cabinet, but they are not widely used. Secure containers, clearly, will not fix this problem, but they will act as a deterrent to the source of the problem.

As a father of three, I know that kids face all sorts of pressures at school and in their daily lives. Oftentimes, they don't respond in the appropriate way, and they sometimes give in to those pressures. That doesn't make them bad kids, but we cannot continue to turn a blind eye in denial while it is happening. My amendment would allow for the implementation and the development of a program that utilizes secure containers for prescription drugs.

This is a commonsense solution that addresses a problem at its source. It is a common practice to lock up things that we deem valuable and that could be dangerous to others. We lock up our cars, we lock up our bikes, we lock the doors of our homes; some of us may even lock the drawers of our desks or lock up valuables and weapons in safe places in our homes. Therefore, it only makes sense when it comes to dangerous pills that are being stolen and that are leading us down dangerous paths to addiction, that we lock up these medicines and deter them from being stolen in the first place.

This is not a mandate and it is not a directive for anyone to do this. My amendment simply allows States and localities to utilize funds or programs that provide for secure containers. Again, it is not to be considered the be-all and end-all solution, but it is a genuine step in the right direction to thwart this tragic epidemic.

I urge all Members to support my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment authorizes grants for programs to develop secure prescription drug containers to prevent individuals, particularly children, from gaining access to opioid medications that have been lawfully prescribed to others.

This amendment addresses a serious problem—the unauthorized access to or use of lawfully prescribed prescription opioid medications by a person other than the individual for whom the drugs were prescribed.

The use of prescription opioid medications is controlled for a good reason. The misuse of such medications can have serious, even fatal, consequences. Perhaps the most tragic situation is one in which a child finds and, out of innocent curiosity, takes a prescription medication that is in the home, with the drugs having been prescribed for a parent or other family member, and that person then suffers an overdose. This amendment will help prevent this problem by providing funding for programs that utilize technology to help develop secure containers for prescription drugs.

The advancement of such potentially lifesaving technology deserves our full support. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I commend the gentleman from Michigan for offering this amendment and for his commitment to combating opioid abuse, including joining as an original cosponsor of H.R. 5046.

In a recent poll, 62 percent of American teenagers stated that prescription drugs are easy to get from the family medicine cabinet. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, a full 70 percent of prescription drug medications that are obtained by adolescents are acquired from family, relatives, or friends.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, of the 2.4 million people annually who use prescription drugs nonmedically and for the first time, a shocking 800,000 are aged 12 to 17. Often, the drugs are pilfered, which means a child or a visitor takes one or two from a bottle at a time in order to escape detection from a parent or a friend.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment that addresses this problem.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. GUINTA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 114-551.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 3, insert before the period at the end the following: “, including prevention and recovery programs”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment that I introduced with my colleague, Congresswoman KUSTER.

This amendment would add prevention and recovery programs to the list of allowable uses in this legislation.

While the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic is taking a terrible toll on our Nation, with proper treatment and recovery support systems, individuals can and do recover.

□ 1415

Today, 23 million Americans are in recovery from substance use disorders and are contributing to our society and to our economy.

In my home State of New Hampshire, over 430 people died of opioid overdose just last year. This number, unfortunately, is expected to rise in 2016.

By allowing prevention and recovery programs to receive this important grant money, individuals who need the long-term recovery support have a better chance of surviving and thriving as they beat their addiction.

Beyond the work that we are doing here in Congress, I would like to thank all of those heroes who are helping our communities to address this widening crisis. Specifically, in New Hampshire, people like my friend, Melissa Cruz, are among the many who are working behind the scenes to end this epidemic. Her work with Hope for New Hampshire Recovery to create another treatment and recovery center in our State's largest city, Manchester, my hometown, is essential to getting addicted Granite Staters back on their feet for long-term success.

I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GUINTA. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment.

As the gentleman knows, addiction treatment and recovery in a non-criminal justice context are not within the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction and, therefore, were not included in H.R. 5046, as reported by the committee, since this bill establishes a grant program in the Department of Justice.

I do not oppose the amendment since I recognize that treatment and recovery are important functions in addressing this epidemic. However, I would like to work with the gentleman in going forward to ensure that treatment and recovery are appropriately tailored

to DOJ functions or are otherwise addressed through appropriate grant programs, such as those administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

We must ensure that the grant programs to address the opioid epidemic are appropriately tailored to and administered by the Federal agencies with expertise in the areas for which they will be awarding funding. Otherwise, we are not fulfilling our duty to use taxpayer dollars efficiently.

With that caveat, I support the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) for his support in this area and appreciate his willingness to continue to work in this arena. I certainly will continue to do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congressman GUINTA for introducing this amendment. As my partner and as co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, we appreciate his tireless work on this issue. I also want to thank the authors of this important legislation, Congressman SENSENBRENNER and Congressman CONYERS, for bringing forward the bill that makes such important progress in authorizing \$103 million annually in grants through the Department of Justice.

I am proud of the work that we are accomplishing here together this week. But that being said, we have many areas in which we have an opportunity to improve upon the legislation on the floor. And one of those areas is improved assistance for prevention, treatment, and lifelong recovery programs.

Substance use disorder can be a lifelong challenge, and those struggling with this illness need access to the lifelong support required, just as we assist those with diabetes or heart disease.

This critical amendment makes a simple change that would allow the grants authorized by this legislation to be used for prevention and recovery programs. We must address this crisis in a holistic way that includes efforts to treat addiction and strengthen lifelong recovery.

I urge my colleagues to pass this critical amendment and to pass the underlying legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for his leadership and work in this area.

Prevention and recovery is incredibly important as we try to help those who deal with substance abuse challenges

and addiction challenges, not just in New Hampshire, but around the country.

I would urge again support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ROTHFUS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 114–551.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 3, insert the following:

“(9) Developing, implementing, or expanding a program to prevent and address opioid abuse by veterans.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Wisconsin for his leadership on this very important piece of legislation, and the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for working together to bring it to the floor today.

The United States is being ravaged by skyrocketing levels of prescription opioid and heroin abuse. This brutal epidemic accounted for more than 28,000 American deaths in 2014. It is destroying families and devastating our local communities.

Tragically, our Nation’s veteran population has been particularly hard-hit by this crisis. Veterans suffer significantly higher rates of opioid abuse than their civilian counterparts. And according to some estimates, the number of opioid use disorders among veterans has increased 55 percent in the past 5 years. Worst of all, the death rate from opioid overdose among veterans is nearly double the national average. Clearly our veteran population has a unique set of needs when it comes to dealing with addiction that must be addressed through specialized programming. We need meaningful and evidence-based solutions, including treatment for co-occurring illnesses, such as depression and PTSD.

I have been working to help develop those solutions as part of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic and by holding a series of roundtables with stakeholders in my district. I strongly believe that the legislation we are considering here today is another step forward in that process.

Specifically, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act will direct

\$103 million in Federal funds toward abuse programs focused squarely on addressing the opioid epidemic. By structuring this funding as a competitive grant program, the bill provides States and localities with maximum flexibility to attack opioid abuse that is unique to their communities.

Among other things, States will be able to use the grant funds for various types of anti-opioid programs, including veteran treatment courts. These specialized courts, which seek to divert veterans away from traditional justice systems and provide them with both treatment and tools for rehabilitation, are certainly worthwhile and should be supported. But it is also my sincere hope that we can reach many veterans who are at risk of opioid or heroin abuse long before they enter our court system in the first place. And that is the goal of my amendment.

Specifically, my amendment would expand the list of permissible uses for funds from the newly created Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program to include efforts to develop, implement, or expand programs to prevent and address opioid abuse by veterans. As currently drafted, the legislation permits similar funding for efforts to prevent and address opioid abuse by juveniles. My amendment will simply ensure that the same resources are available to treat our veterans.

We have a solemn obligation to stand with our veterans. It is the principle of solidarity. They stood for us; we need to stand for them. Let us keep that commitment today by ensuring that our veterans have the resources and support they need to combat this horrible epidemic.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for yielding and for offering this amendment.

The amendment adds a purpose area to the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program established under H.R. 5046, which would allow grantees to use funds awarded under the program to develop, implement, or expand the program to prevent and address opioid abuse by veterans.

I strongly support programs to provide services to our Nation’s veterans, who have done so much to protect our freedom and our way of life. As the gentleman is no doubt aware, the underlying bill recognizes that many veterans, particularly those who have been wounded in defense of our Nation, in a tragic irony, have become addicted to the medications they were prescribed to deal with pain from their wounds of war. And the bill includes provisions supporting Veterans Treatment Courts and other mechanisms to provide services to veterans.

I would like to work with the gentleman going forward as we move to

conference with the Senate to streamline the provisions in my bill with the gentleman’s amendment and to ensure that the bill contains appropriate, non-redundant provisions to protect our Nation’s veterans.

I support the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) for his work on this important legislation.

To close, I simply urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment to ensure that the funds provided in this legislation can be used for programs that will provide direct assistance to our veterans in the fight against opioid and heroin abuse.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I don’t oppose the underlying amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would expand the list of eligible grant uses for the new program under H.R. 5046 to include efforts to develop, implement, or expand a program to prevent and address opiate abuse by veterans. This amendment would add programs for veterans to prevent and address opiate abuse to the list of grants authorized under H.R. 5046.

The bill creates a grant program geared toward addressing opiate abuse. As currently drafted, the bill defines eight areas of uses for which grants may be awarded.

This amendment makes clear that veterans programs are among the purposes for which the grants may be used. Our veterans have sacrificed for us, and we should take appropriate steps to assist those veterans who suffer from opiate abuse and heroin abuse.

I support this amendment and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 114–551.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 3, insert the following:

“(9) Developing, implementing, or expanding a prescription drug take-back program.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) and

a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 5046 to include drug take-back programs in the list of funds made available under the bill's Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that healthcare providers in the U.S. write 259 million prescriptions for opioids a year, enough for every American adult to have their own bottle of pills.

In Massachusetts alone, 4.4 million opioid prescriptions, including 240 million pills, capsules, or tablets were dispensed in 2014. Further, nearly half of the people in my State report that it is too easy to get prescription opioids from those who have leftover pills. And the people who share these leftover pills are usually unaware of the significant dangers that they represent.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that nearly 4 in 5 people addicted to heroin say their habit began by misusing prescription medications. Over half of those people report they got their prescription painkillers from a friend or a relative for free. And this includes adolescents.

My amendment would help give these people ways to stop their problem before it starts. More than ever, communities need to supply safe disposal services to their residents to get excess pills out of the hands of people who don't need them. My amendment would make sure that our communities have access to the resources they need to do so.

The American Medical Association recognizes this point in its strong support of drug take-back programs, and the FDA has published information regarding proper disposal of unused medications as well.

When I was a district attorney, I worked with local and State police to combat the flow of drugs coming into our neighborhoods. Yet, as the public supported these efforts to keep dangerous drugs off the streets, they didn't realize that the greatest supply of these dangerous drugs was sitting in their own medicine cabinets.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Chairman SENSENBRENNER. I also thank my colleagues—Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Dr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. BERA—for cosponsoring this amendment and joining me in this effort to add a common-sense step toward solving this important public health epidemic.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy, and

I strongly support everything he just said. We are in a situation today where we have a massive epidemic of opioid abuse. We are prescribing it in unimaginable volumes, and many times people are getting supplies that are far more than they need.

We are finding that young people, in particular, 62 percent of teens who abuse prescription drugs do so because they are easy to get from a parent's medicine cabinet or from a medicine cabinet of a neighbor or a friend or people who break into homes. We need to have a systematic effort to be able to safely dispose of drugs.

One of the problems in some cases is people are flushing them down the toilet. As a result, we are finding in our water supply traces of these medications. We are slowly medicating the American population. That itself is extraordinarily dangerous, and it is expensive for our water treatment systems.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I hope this is a first step for us to have a systematic effort at the Federal level to be able to support these important programs to keep it out of the medicine cabinets and out of the sewer systems.

I have introduced legislation that would provide a tax credit for providers to be able to provide these services. I hope that we can continue this conversation going forward.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA).

Mr. BERA. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleagues. I would also like to thank my colleague and fellow physician, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), for partnering with me on the Dispose Responsibly of your Pills Act, the DROP Act.

As a doctor, I have seen firsthand the devastation that misused prescription drugs can have on families. Deb Simpson, from Sacramento County, shared her family's story with me. Her son became addicted to prescription medications he found in the family's medicine cabinet. By the time Deb realized what was happening, he was already addicted. Thankfully, through help and rehabilitation facilities, her son recovered, but far too many families suffer the tragic loss of a child or a loved one. We can easily prevent this. Let's make it easier to dispose of medications by supporting this simple amendment.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for offering this amendment, and I support it.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, more Americans are now dying every year from drug overdoses than in car accidents, and a majority of those overdoses involve prescription medications. In 2012, healthcare providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for opioid pain medications, enough for every American adult to have a bottle of pills.

In 2010, the House Committee on the Judiciary and Committee on Energy and Commerce shepherded through Congress the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act, which amended the Controlled Substances Act to allow patients to legally return unused or expired prescription drugs to local pharmacies, police stations, and community drug disposal programs.

That same year, the Drug Enforcement Administration began hosting National Prescription Drug Take-Back events. At the previous 10 take-back day events, over 5.5 million pounds of unwanted, unneeded, or expired medications were surrendered for safe and proper disposal. On April 27, I was pleased to host, along with Committee on Appropriations Chairman ROGERS, a drug take-back event here on Capitol Hill.

At this year's National Take-Back Day, held on April 30, Americans disposed of more unused prescription drugs than during any of the previous 10 events. The DEA and over 4,200 State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies collected 893,498 pounds of unwanted medicines, about 447 tons, at almost 5,400 sites spread through all 50 States, surpassing the previous high of 390 tons in the spring of 2014.

This amendment will allow grant funds to be used to sponsor these important drug take-back events. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), a lead sponsor of this amendment.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman. I also want to thank my colleagues, particularly the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING), my friend, for inviting me to work with him on this important amendment, which adds drug take-back programs to the list of authorized uses under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program created by this legislation.

While prescription drugs can be life-saving when used properly, they can also be harmful and even lethal if they

end up in the wrong hands. As recognized by Mr. KEATING, unused prescription medications can pose a real safety concern and public health risk, particularly in homes with children. These unused drugs can be accidentally ingested, stolen, or misused, which is why it is absolutely essential that we take appropriate steps to provide both a safe and responsible means of disposing of them. This amendment ensures that Federal grant funds can be used for that purpose.

I believe this is a positive step and will offer real benefits in reducing accidental overdose deaths. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), a sponsor of the amendment.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the chairman for yielding. I rise in support of this amendment.

Prescription drug abuse is a growing problem throughout the United States, particularly in east Tennessee, where I live. There is no question that a significant source of the supply for prescription drug abuse is unused prescriptions. We need to do everything possible to encourage the safe disposal of drugs that may be ripe for abuse.

I worked with the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), my friend, on a bill to establish a grant program to fund programs to help law enforcement agencies, pharmacies, narcotic treatment programs, hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities to properly dispose of outdated or unused prescription medications. I am pleased that the passage of this amendment will create a similar funding stream.

Currently there are no existing grants available for programs to properly dispose of prescription drugs, and I believe this effort could help curb the widespread prescription drug abuse we are seeing throughout the country.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 114-551.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 3, insert the following:  
“(9) Developing, implementing, or expanding a program to ensure the security of opioids in medical facilities.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to commend Chairman BOB GOODLATTE and Mr. SENSENBRENNER, as well as Mr. CONYERS and Mr. JOHNSON, for their effort in bringing this important bill to the floor.

I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016. Mr. Chairman, my amendment, if adopted, will allow grants authorized under the underlying bill to provide for developing, implementing, or expanding programs to ensure security and custody of opioids at medical facilities.

The issue of abuse of prescription painkillers is not a new one, but the rise of this epidemic has really been fueled by the increased strength of and proliferation of these addictive drugs. It is well documented that the road to the use and abuse of an illicit opioid drug like heroin frequently begins with the legitimate use or diverted use of prescription opioid painkillers like OxyContin or Vicodin.

Through a variety of ways, these powerful drugs end up in the hands of individuals struggling with their disease. One of the most frequent ways that these drugs make it to the street is after they have been stolen from a medical facility in which they are stored for legitimate use.

In the wake of our nationwide prescription drug abuse epidemic, these drug diversion crimes have increased across the country. I will give you a few examples, but there are many.

At a Georgia hospital, according to the Georgia Board of Pharmacy consent order, a theft scheme lasted for more than 4 years and diverted more than 1 million doses of controlled drugs.

In my own district at home, two nurses at the Massachusetts General Hospital diverted nearly 16,000 pills, mostly OxyContin, resulting in the hospital paying a \$2.3 million fine.

In New York, a doctor stole 200,000 pills of oxycodone with a \$5.6 million street value.

In Utah, at the Utah VA, a pharmacist there stole 7,000 units of prescription drugs for sale on the street.

I am not criticizing these institutions. I am merely underscoring that the addictive nature and the power of these drugs is really driving these crimes. I am just trying to underscore that there is a need to address the drug diversion issue.

The Controlled Substances Act requires that registrants notify the Drug Enforcement Agency in writing of a theft or significant loss of any controlled substance, but we need to try to

prevent the diversion of these drugs and work together to improve and strengthen the systems in place to deter the thefts that put these addicts in this position and put the addictive drugs on the street.

If adopted, my amendment will help do that. My amendment will give States and local governments the resources to work with their hospitals and community health centers, physician clinics, and treatment facilities to identify areas in which they can improve the security and custody of these prescription drugs. By regularly reviewing best practices and updating protocols and existing systems, we can keep these drugs secure and save some lives in the process.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the cities I represent and others across the country are combating this effort from all sides. My amendment is another tool in the toolbox. Quite simply, we need to do everything we can to keep these drugs off the street.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I first want to commend the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for his support of this underlying bill and for his sincere desire to improve the bill.

While I appreciate that desire to ensure that opioids are secured appropriately in medical facilities, that is the responsibility of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and there are already rigorous standards in place to ensure this. So I must oppose the amendment as being duplicative and causing waste of resources and diverting some of the resources provided under this bill from some of the other good purposes that are already provided for in the bill. The amendment creates a new grant purpose area for developing, implementing, or expanding a program to ensure the security of opioids in medical facilities.

The DEA regulations set forth extensive physical security requirements for the transportation, storage, and dispensing of opioids and other narcotic prescription drugs. The DEA regulations also place tight restrictions on which individuals can access and handle these drugs.

The responsibility for regulating and enforcing the rules governing the distribution and storage of schedule II and schedule III narcotics, including opioids, lies with the DEA, and it is not a task that can be undertaken by a

grant recipient through the program created by H.R. 5046.

For these reasons, I must oppose the amendment; although, I would say to the gentleman that, if he would like to withdraw the amendment, as we move to conference with the Senate, I would be happy to undertake his concerns and see if there was some other way to work to incorporate them into the bill that we ultimately send to the President's desk.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I have great respect for the gentleman from Virginia, and I applaud him on the great work he has done here. However, I started up an adolescent rehab center because of the huge problem I have got in my district with young people. I understand this bill is focused on veterans as well. That is another very vulnerable population, with our folks coming back after multiple tours, but I really feel strongly about the need for securing these opioids.

I have got a lot of hospitals in my district. We are having problems with the clinics and hospitals. This is really a problem that we all own and not just the DEA. So I would have to insist on my amendment and ask Members to support it.

Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Lynch amendment. It expands the list of eligible grant uses for the grant program created by H.R. 5046 to include programs that ensure the security of opioids in medical facilities.

This amendment would add programs that ensure the security of opioids in medical facilities to the list of grant uses authorized under H.R. 5046. Maintaining opioids securely in medical facilities protects the public by helping to ensure that the drugs will not fall into the hands of individuals who will use them or sell them improperly or illegally.

If State or local governments wish to take steps to better secure these facilities, grant funding under this program should be available to them.

Therefore, I support the amendment.

Mr. LYNCH. In closing, Mr. Chairman, there is a gap out there in terms of the security and custody of these

opioids within medical facilities. I am trying my best, just as the chairman is trying his best, to address the problem that we have in our districts. It is a real problem.

So it is a great bill. There is just this one gap, and I am trying to close that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I appreciate the gentleman's dedication to the issue. However, according to the DEA, the vast majority of diversion does not occur because employees are stealing drugs from hospitals or distribution centers. The vast majority of diversion occurs through the over-prescribing of opioid pain medication.

Is this amendment intended to prevent pharmacy robberies? Who is the grantee that the gentleman believes will be able to do what this amendment contemplates?

Given the limited resources available, I very strongly believe grantees must use their money for the most appropriate and efficient purposes available and not for a purpose that is already covered by the strict regulations administered by a Federal agency.

So I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. ISRAEL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 114-551.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, strike lines 3 through 7, and insert the following:

**"SEC. 3024. EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**

"In awarding grants under this part, the Attorney General shall ensure equitable distribution of funds based on the following:

"(1) The geographic distribution of grants under this part, taking into consideration the needs of underserved populations, including rural and tribal communities.

"(2) The needs of communities to address the problems related to opioid abuse, taking into consideration the prevalence of opioid abuse and overdose-related death in a community."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a commonsense, bipartisan amendment that I think will have significant impact on the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program.

I want to thank the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) for working with me on this.

This amendment basically would direct the Attorney General, when awarding grants, to consider the prevalence of opioid abuse and opioid-related overdoses in a community.

The underlying legislation already properly ensures an equitable geographic distribution of funds. This amendment simply makes sure that the areas hardest hit by the epidemic are getting the resources that they need.

I happen to represent Suffolk County on Long Island in New York. We have suffered with more opioid and related deaths than any other county in my State. Between 2009 and 2013, 334 people lost their lives to heroin or opioids. By comparison, Brooklyn, which has 1 million more residents, had only one-half the number of opioid deaths in the same time.

Treatment admissions for opioid addiction on Long Island rose from 12,887 in 2010 to 16,681 in 2014. That is a 29 percent increase. These are percentages and statistics, Mr. Chairman, and all of us in this body know how this epidemic is affecting real lives.

Just over 2 weeks ago I met with students from Half Hollow Hills High School West's One World Youth Organization. I met with a young woman named Alexa Wasser. She shared with me that her brother, Zachary Wasser, died of an overdose in January at 23 years old.

He was friendly. He was outgoing. He loved to spend time with his family. He was a good kid who got caught up in an epidemic that is impacting way too many Long Island families and way too many American families, so much so that they have nicknamed the Long Island Expressway the "Heroin Highway."

Mr. Chairman, for the sake of the Wassers and for the hundreds of Long Island families whose lives have changed forever, I urge support for my amendment and I urge passage of the underlying bill. I again want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their cooperation and support for this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition even though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, as we have said repeatedly, the opioid epidemic affects every Member's district, every region of our country, and every socioeconomic level.

In order to ensure these grants are dispensed broadly, as is needed, the underlying bill includes language requiring the Attorney General to also consider the needs of rural and tribal communities in making grants.

This amendment builds upon that requirement by directing the Attorney General to also consider the prevalence of opioid abuse and overdose-related deaths in a community. This is a good amendment which will help ensure these grant funds reach across the Nation and are directed where they will help the most.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), a strong supporter of this amendment and the underlying purpose.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my colleague's amendment to this important bill.

This amendment would make sure that rural and tribal areas receive the funding they need to combat the growing drug use epidemic.

My district is very rural. My district also has two of the five counties in the entire State that have the highest rates of unintentional painkiller overdoses.

In 2014, Oklahoma had the 10th highest drug overdose rate in the Nation and more people died from unintentional overdoses than in car crashes.

Rural areas have some of the highest overdose death rates in the entire country, and this is a growing epidemic. We must ensure that these rural areas are getting the tools they need.

This is why I am offering this amendment with my colleagues, Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. MCKINLEY, to ensure that rural and tribal areas receive the proper Federal drug abuse prevention efforts they deserve.

I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I again want to commend the chairman, the gentleman from Oklahoma, and the gentleman from West Virginia for their cooperation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part B of House Report 114-551.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of the bill the following:

**SEC. 6. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH RELATIVE TO SUBSTANCE USE AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on how the Department of Justice, through grant programs, is addressing prevention of, treatment for, and recovery from substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults. Such study shall include an analysis of each of the following:

(1) The research that has been, and is being, conducted or supported pursuant to grant programs operated by the Department of Justice on prevention of, treatment for, and recovery from substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults, including an assessment of—

(A) such research relative to any unique circumstances (including social and biological circumstances) of adolescents and young adults that may make adolescent-specific and young adult-specific treatment protocols necessary, including any effects that substance use and substance use disorders may have on brain development and the implications for treatment and recovery; and

(B) areas of such research in which greater investment or focus is necessary relative to other areas of such research.

(2) Department of Justice non-research programs and activities that address prevention of, treatment for, and recovery from substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults, including an assessment of the effectiveness of such programs and activities in preventing substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults, treating such adolescents and young adults in a way that accounts for any unique circumstances faced by adolescents and young adults, and supports long term recovery among adolescents and young adults.

(3) Gaps that have been identified by officials of the Department of Justice or experts in the efforts supported by grant programs operated by the Department of Justice relating to prevention of, treatment for, and recovery from substance use by and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults, including gaps in research, data collection, and measures to evaluate the effectiveness of such efforts, and the reasons for such gaps.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), including—

(1) a summary of the findings of the study; and

(2) recommendations based on the results of the study, including recommendations for such areas of research and legislative and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 720, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for his work and leadership on the underlying bill.

We know that addiction does not wait until adulthood. A majority of adults in substance use treatment start using before turning 18.

My amendment would direct the GAO to study research and programs carried out by the Department of Justice and its grantees and report on those programs' findings and work regarding substance use and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults.

The amendment would require GAO to report on any gaps in the research around adolescent and young adult substance use that have been identified by experts or Department of Justice officials.

We need to understand what extended opioid use means for young brains and how it affects development and growth. We also need to understand how early exposure to opioids might change young people's needs with respect to treatment and support on the road to recovery.

I would like to tell you about a constituent of mine named Chip. Chip was an athlete. He excelled at hockey and baseball. Playing sports was extremely important to him. But then, in eighth grade, he started drinking. Shortly after, drugs entered the picture, and Chip stopped caring about everything.

As a young husband and father by the time he was 22, Chip always felt like something was missing. Anytime there was a problem, Chip reached for drugs as a solution. He received two OUIs in 1 year. He lost his license. He lost his family. He overdosed on heroin and became homeless.

The addiction ruined his life and devastated anyone who cared for him. It was only when serving a jail sentence for a third OUI that Chip finally heard a recovering addict who came to speak to inmates, and for some reason he connected.

Chip has been in recovery and has been clean and sober for 7 years. He works today as a recovery coach in my district, walking together with others with substance use disorder on the long road to recovery and a future.

We owe it to young adults like Chip who were successful, ambitious, and energetic before opioids to understand what happened to them and how we can prevent it from happening to other adolescents and young adults. We owe it to them to understand how to help them seek and gain effective treatment.

The more information we can collect about how addiction begins in adolescents and how to treat young adults, the clearer we can see where there are gaps in our understanding and the better chance we have of combating this horrific epidemic.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment.

The amendment directs the Government Accountability Office to study and report on Justice Department programs and research relative to substance abuse and substance use disorders among adolescents and young adults.

I share the gentlewoman's desire for additional information on the programs available to combat the opioid epidemic. This is an appropriate piece of the legislative package.

Having said that, I am concerned that, as drafted, the amendment requires the GAO to study things DOJ might not be doing and does not have the expertise to do so effectively.

Specifically, the amendment directs the GAO to study and report on DOJ programs relative to substance abuse and substance use disorders by adolescents with no nexus to the criminal justice system.

I do not oppose the amendment, but I would like to work with the gentlewoman going forward to ensure the provisions of the amendment are appropriately tailored to the responsibilities and programs within the Justice Department's jurisdiction.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the gentleman from Wisconsin not only for the support of this amendment, but for all the work and leadership he has shown around this issue.

We look forward to working with him to make sure this amendment is tailored to meet the needs of the underlying bill and to be in line with the Department of Justice's work and research.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for her offer of working together.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) having assumed the chair, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5046) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 1500

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

APRIL 21, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Pursuant to section 451 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Pub. L. 113-128), I am pleased to appoint Mr. James T. Brett of Massachusetts to the National Council on Disability.

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,  
*House Democratic Leader.*

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1540

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) at 3 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 12, 2016.*

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following mes-

sage from the Secretary of the Senate on May 12, 2016 at 3:18 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2028.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 720 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5046.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1541

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5046) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes, with Mr. WESTMORELAND (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 11 printed in part B of House Report 114-551 offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 225, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 186]

AYES—190

Adams	Boyle, Brendan	Carson (IN)
Aguilar	F.	Carter (TX)
Ashford	Brady (PA)	Cartwright
Bass	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Beatty	Brownley (CA)	Castro (TX)
Becerra	Bustos	Chu, Judy
Bera	Butterfield	Ciциlline
Beyer	Capps	Clark (MA)
Bishop (GA)	Capuano	Clarke (NY)
Blumenauer	Cárdenas	Clay
Bonamici	Carney	Cleaver



Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fitzpatrick  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Gibson  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Heck (NV)  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)

Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeb  
Loeb  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney  
Caroly  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Pingree  
Pocan

NOES—225

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodel  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishek  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Conaway

Cook  
Cooper  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Culberson  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Doggett  
Dold  
Donovan  
Duffy  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Fox  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)

Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rokita  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Duncan (SC)  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)

Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hensarling  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador

LaHood  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Long  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
Schradler  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer

Bilirakis  
Duncan (SC)  
Fattah  
Fincher  
Garamendi  
Hastings

Pearce  
Perry  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster

NOT VOTING—18

Herrera Beutler  
Huffman  
LaMalfa  
Latta  
Maloney, Sean  
Mooney (WV)

Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

□ 1602

Messrs. ABRAHAM, CARTER of Georgia, RICE of South Carolina, BISHOP of Michigan, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. KING of Iowa changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against: Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 186, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay."

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to. The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5046) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to assist State and local governments in addressing the national epidemic of opioid abuse, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 720, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules with regard to H.R. 1818 and H.R. 4586.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 5, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 187]

YEAS—413

Abraham	Carson (IN)	DeSaulnier
Adams	Carter (GA)	DesJarlais
Aderholt	Carter (TX)	Deutch
Aguilar	Cartwright	Diaz-Balart
Allen	Castor (FL)	Dingell
Amodel	Castro (TX)	Doggett
Ashford	Chabot	Dold
Babin	Chaffetz	Donovan
Barletta	Chu, Judy	Doyle, Michael F.
Barr	Ciulline	Duckworth
Barton	Clark (MA)	Duffy
Bass	Clarke (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Beatty	Clawson (FL)	Duncan (TN)
Becerra	Clay	Edwards
Benishek	Cleaver	Ellison
Bera	Clyburn	Ellmers (NC)
Beyer	Coffman	Emmer (MN)
Bilirakis	Cohen	Engel
Bishop (GA)	Cole	Eshoo
Bishop (MI)	Collins (GA)	Esty
Bishop (UT)	Collins (NY)	Farenthold
Black	Comstock	Farr
Blackburn	Diaz-Balart	Fitzpatrick
Blum	Conaway	Fleischmann
Blumenauer	Connolly	Fleming
Bonamici	Conyers	Flores
Bost	Cook	Forbes
Boustany	Cooper	Fortenberry
Boyle, Brendan F.	Costa	Foster
Brady (PA)	Costello (PA)	Fox
Brady (TX)	Courtney	Frankel (FL)
Brat	Cramer	Franks (AZ)
Bridenstine	Crawford	Frelinghuysen
Brooks (IN)	Crenshaw	Fudge
Brown (FL)	Crowley	Gabbard
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Gallego
Buchanan	Culberson	Garrett
Buck	Cummings	Gibbs
Bucshon	Curbelo (FL)	Goodlatte
Burgess	Davis (CA)	Gosar
Bustos	Davis, Danny	Gowdy
Butterfield	Davis, Rodney	Graham
Byrne	DeFazio	Granger
Calvert	DeGette	Graves (GA)
Capps	Delaney	Graves (LA)
Capuano	DeLauro	Graves (MO)
Cárdenas	DelBene	Grayson
Carney	Denham	
	Dent	
	DeSantis	

Green, Al	Lummis	Ruiz	NAYS—5		Doyle, Michael F.	Kildee	Peterson
Green, Gene	Lynch	Ruppersberger	Amash	Gohmert	Sanford	Kilmer	Pingree
Griffith	MacArthur	Rush	Brooks (AL)	Massie		Kind	Pittenger
Grijalva	Maloney,	Russell				King (IA)	Pocan
Grothman	Carolyn	Ryan (OH)	NOT VOTING—15		Duncan (SC)	King (NY)	Poe (TX)
Guinta	Marchant	Salmon	Fattah	Latta	Pitts	Kinzinger (IL)	Poliquin
Guthrie	Marino	Sánchez, Linda T.	Fincher	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David	Kirkpatrick	Polis
Gutiérrez	Matsui	T.	Garamendi	Mooney (WV)	Titus	Kline	Pompeo
Hahn	McCarthy	Sanchez, Loretta	Hastings	Nolan	Webster (FL)	Knight	Posey
Hanna	McCaul	Sarbanes	Herrera Beutler	Norcross	Whitfield	Kuster	Price (NC)
Hardy	McClintock	Scalise			Engel	Labrador	Price, Tom
Harper	McCollum	Schakowsky	ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE		Eshoo	LaHood	Quigley
Harris	McDermott	Schiff	The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.		Esty	LaMalfa	Rangel
Hartzler	McGovern	Schrader	□ 1611		Farenthold	Lamborn	Ratcliffe
Heck (NV)	McHenry	Schweikert	So the bill was passed.		Farr	Lance	Reed
Heck (WA)	McKinley	Scott (VA)	The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.		Fitzpatrick	Langevin	Reichert
Hensarling	McMorris	Scott, Austin	A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.		Fleischmann	Larsen (WA)	Renacci
Hice, Jody B.	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner			Fleming	Larson (CT)	Ribble
Higgins	McNerney	Serrano			Flores	Lawrence	Rice (NY)
Hill	McSally	Sessions			Forbes	Lee	Rice (SC)
Himes	Meadows	Sewell (AL)			Fortenberry	Levin	Richmond
Hinojosa	Meehan	Sherman			Foster	Lewis	Rigell
Holding	Meeks	Shimkus			Fox	Lieu, Ted	Roby
Honda	Meng	Shuster			Frankel (FL)	Lipinski	Roe (TN)
Hoyer	Messer	Simpson			Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)
Hudson	Mica	Sinema			Frelinghuysen	Loebsock	Rogers (KY)
Huelskamp	Miller (FL)	Sires			Fudge	Lofgren	Rohrabacher
Huffman	Miller (MI)	Slaughter			Gabbard	Long	Rokita
Huizenga (MI)	Moolenaar	Smith (MO)			Gallego	Loudermilk	Rooney (FL)
Hultgren	Moore	Smith (NE)			Garrett	Love	Ros-Lehtinen
Hunter	Moulton	Smith (NJ)			Gibbs	Lowenthal	Roskam
Hurd (TX)	Mullin	Smith (TX)			Gibson	Lowey	Ross
Hurt (VA)	Mulvaney	Smith (WA)			Gohmert	Lucas	Rothfus
Israel	Murphy (FL)	Speier			Goodlatte	Luetkemeyer	Rouzer
Issa	Murphy (PA)	Stefanik			Gosar	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Roybal-Allard
Jackson Lee	Nadler	Stewart			Gowdy	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Royce
Jeffries	Napolitano	Stivers			Graham	Lummis	Ruppersberger
Jenkins (KS)	Neal	Stutzman			Granger	Lynch	Rush
Jenkins (WV)	Neugebauer	Swalwell (CA)			Graves (GA)	MacArthur	Russell
Johnson (GA)	Newhouse	Takai			Graves (LA)	Maloney,	Ryan (OH)
Johnson (OH)	Noem	Takano			Graves (MO)	Carolyn	Salmon
Johnson, E. B.	Nugent	Thompson (CA)			Green, Al	Marchant	Sánchez, Linda T.
Johnson, Sam	Nunes	Thompson (MS)			Green, Gene	Marino	Sanchez, Loretta
Jolly	O'Rourke	Thompson (PA)			Griffith	Matsui	Sanford
Jones	Olson	Thornberry			Grijalva	McCarthy	Sarbanes
Jordan	Palazzo	Tiberi			Grothman	McCaul	Scalise
Joyce	Pallone	Tipton			Guinta	McClintock	Schakowsky
Kaptur	Palmer	Tonko			Guthrie	McCollum	Schiff
Katko	Pascrell	Torres			Gutiérrez	McDermott	Schrader
Keating	Paulsen	Trott			Hahn	McGovern	Schweikert
Kelly (IL)	Payne	Tsongas			Hanna	McHenry	Scott (VA)
Kelly (MS)	Pearce	Turner			Hard	McKinley	Scott, Austin
Kelly (PA)	Pelosi	Upton			Harper	McMorris	Scott, David
Kennedy	Perlmutter	Valadao			Hartzler	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner
Kildee	Perry	Van Hollen			Heck (NV)	McNerney	Serrano
Kilmer	Peters	Vargas			Heck (WA)	McSally	Sessions
Kind	Peterson	Veasey			Hensarling	Meadows	Sewell (AL)
King (IA)	Pingree	Vela			Hice, Jody B.	Meehan	Sherman
King (NY)	Pittenger	Velázquez			Higgins	Meeks	Shimkus
Kinzinger (IL)	Pocan	Velázquez			Hill	Meng	Shuster
Kirkpatrick	Poe (TX)	Visclosky			Himes	Messer	Simpson
Kline	Poliquin	Wagner			Hinojosa	Mica	Sinema
Knight	Polis	Walberg			Holding	Miller (FL)	Sires
Kuster	Pompeo	Walden			Honda	Miller (MI)	Slaughter
Labrador	Posey	Walker			Hoyer	Moolenaar	Smith (MO)
LaHood	Price (NC)	Walorski			Hudson	Moore	Smith (NE)
LaMalfa	Price, Tom	Walters, Mimi			Huelskamp	Moulton	Smith (NJ)
Lamborn	Quigley	Walz			Huffman	Mullin	Smith (TX)
Lance	Rangel	Wasserman			Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney	Smith (WA)
Langevin	Ratcliffe	Schultz			Hultgren	Murphy (FL)	Speier
Larsen (WA)	Reed	Waters, Maxine			Hunter	Murphy (PA)	Stefanik
Larson (CT)	Reichert	Watson Coleman			Hurd (TX)	Nadler	Stewart
Lawrence	Renacci	Weber (TX)			Hurt (VA)	Napolitano	Stivers
Lee	Ribble	Welch			Israel	Neugebauer	Stutzman
Levin	Rice (NY)	Wenstrup			Issa	Newhouse	Swalwell (CA)
Lewis	Rice (SC)	Westerman			Jackson Lee	Noem	Takai
Lieu, Ted	Richmond	Westmoreland			Jeffries	Norcross	Takano
Lipinski	Rigell	Williams			Jenkins (KS)	Thompson (CA)	Thompson (CA)
LoBiondo	Roby	Wilson (FL)			Jenkins (WV)	Thompson (MS)	Thompson (MS)
Loebsock	Roe (TN)	Wilson (SC)			Jenkinson (GA)	Nugent	Thompson (PA)
Lofgren	Rogers (AL)	Wittman			Johnson (GA)	Nunes	Thornberry
Long	Rogers (KY)	Womack			Johnson (OH)	O'Rourke	Tipton
Loudermilk	Rohrabacher	Woodall			Johnson, E. B.	Olson	Tonko
Love	Rokita	Yarmuth			Johnson, Sam	Palazzo	Torres
Lowenthal	Rooney (FL)	Yoder			Jolly	Pallone	Trott
Lowey	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoho			Jones	Palmer	Tsongas
Roskam	Ross	Young (AK)			Jordan	Pascrell	Turner
Luetkemeyer	Rothfus	Young (IA)			Joyce	Paulsen	Upton
Lujan Grisham (NM)	Rouzer	Young (IN)			Kaptur	Pearce	Valadao
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Roybal-Allard	Zeldin			Katko	Pelosi	Van Hollen
	Royce	Zinke			Keating	Perlmutter	Vargas
					Kelly (IL)	Perry	Veasey
					Kelly (MS)	Peters	Vela
					Kelly (PA)		
					Kennedy		

Velázquez  
 Visclosky  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Walden  
 Walorski  
 Walters, Mimi  
 Walz  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters, Maxine

Watson Coleman  
 Weber (TX)  
 Welch  
 Wenstrup  
 Westerman  
 Westmoreland  
 Williams  
 Wilson (FL)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack

Woodall  
 Yarmuth  
 Yoder  
 Yoho  
 Young (AK)  
 Young (IA)  
 Young (IN)  
 Zeldin  
 Zinke

Chu, Judy  
 Cicilline  
 Clark (MA)  
 Clarke (NY)  
 Clawson (FL)  
 Clay  
 Cleaver  
 Clyburn  
 Coffman  
 Cohen  
 Cole  
 Collins (GA)  
 Collins (NY)  
 Comstock  
 Conaway  
 Connolly  
 Conyers  
 Cook  
 Cooper  
 Costa  
 Costello (PA)  
 Courtney  
 Cramer  
 Crawford  
 Crenshaw  
 Crowley  
 Cuellar  
 Culberson  
 Cummings  
 Curbelo (FL)  
 Davis (CA)  
 Davis, Danny  
 Davis, Rodney  
 DeFazio  
 DeGette  
 Delaney  
 DeLauro  
 DeBene  
 Denham  
 Dent  
 DeSantis  
 DeSaulnier  
 DesJarlais  
 Deutch  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Dingell  
 Doggett  
 Dold  
 Donovan  
 Doyle, Michael  
 F.  
 Duckworth  
 Duffy  
 Duncan (SC)  
 Duncan (TN)  
 Edwards  
 Ellison  
 Ellmers (NC)  
 Emmer (MN)  
 Engel  
 Eshoo  
 Esty  
 Farenthold  
 Farr  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann  
 Fleming  
 Flores  
 Forbes  
 Fortenberry  
 Foster  
 Foxx  
 Frankel (FL)  
 Franks (AZ)  
 Frelinghuysen  
 Fudge  
 Gabbard  
 Gallego  
 Garrett  
 Gibbs  
 Gibson  
 Gohmert  
 Goodlatte  
 Gosar  
 Gowdy  
 Graham  
 Granger  
 Graves (GA)  
 Graves (LA)  
 Graves (MO)  
 Grayson  
 Green, Al  
 Green, Gene  
 Griffith  
 Grijalva  
 Grothman

McCaull  
 McClintock  
 McCollum  
 McDermott  
 McGovern  
 McHenry  
 McKinley  
 McMorris  
 Rodgers  
 McNeerney  
 McSally  
 Meadows  
 Meehan  
 Meeks  
 Meng  
 Messer  
 Mica  
 Miller (FL)  
 Miller (MI)  
 Moolenaar  
 Moore  
 Moulton  
 Mullin  
 Mulvaney  
 Murphy (FL)  
 Murphy (PA)  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neal  
 Neugebauer  
 Newhouse  
 Noem  
 Norcross  
 Nugent  
 Nunes  
 O'Rourke  
 Olson  
 Palazzo  
 Pallone  
 Palmer  
 Pascrell  
 Paulsen  
 Payne  
 Pearce  
 Pelosi  
 Perlmutter  
 Perry  
 Peters  
 Peterson  
 Pingree  
 Pittenger  
 Pocan  
 Poe (TX)  
 Poliquin  
 Polis  
 Pompeo  
 Posey  
 Price (NC)  
 Price, Tom  
 Quigley  
 Rangel  
 Ratcliffe  
 Reed  
 Reichert  
 Renacci  
 Ribble  
 Rice (NY)  
 Rice (SC)  
 Richmond  
 Rigell  
 Roby  
 Roe (TN)  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rohrabacher  
 Rokita  
 Rooney (FL)  
 Ros-Lehtinen  
 Roskam  
 Ross  
 Rothfus  
 Rouzer  
 Roybal-Allard  
 Royce  
 Ruiz  
 Ruppertsberger  
 Rush  
 Russell  
 Ryan (OH)  
 Salmon  
 Sanchez, Loretta  
 Sarbanes  
 Scalise  
 Schakowsky  
 Schiff  
 Schrader

Schweikert  
 Scott (VA)  
 Scott, Austin  
 Scott, David  
 Sensenbrenner  
 Serrano  
 Sessions  
 Tiberi  
 Tipton  
 Sherman  
 Shimkus  
 Shuster  
 Simpson  
 Sinema  
 Sires  
 Slaughter  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smith (TX)  
 Smith (WA)  
 Speier  
 Stefanik  
 Stewart  
 Stivers  
 Stutzman  
 Swalwell (CA)  
 Takai  
 Takano  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Thornberry  
 Tiberi  
 Tipton  
 Tonko  
 Torres  
 Trott  
 Tsongas  
 Turner  
 Upton  
 Valadao  
 Van Hollen  
 Vargas  
 Veasey  
 Vela  
 Velázquez  
 Visclosky  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Walden  
 Walker  
 Walorski

Walters, Mimi  
 Walz  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters, Maxine  
 Watson Coleman  
 Weber (TX)  
 Welch  
 Wenstrup  
 Westerman  
 Westmoreland  
 Williams  
 Wilson (FL)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Woodall  
 Yarmuth  
 Yoder  
 Young (AK)  
 Young (IA)  
 Young (IN)  
 Zeldin  
 Zinke

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—17

Amodei  
 Cramer  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Fattah  
 Fincher  
 Garamendi

Hastings  
 Herrera Beutler  
 Latta  
 Maloney, Sean  
 Mooney (WV)  
 Nolan  
 Pitts  
 Titus  
 Walker  
 Webster (FL)  
 Whitfield

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1618

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LALI'S LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4586) to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to States for developing standing orders and educating health care professionals regarding the dispensing of opioid overdose reversal medication without person-specific prescriptions, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 4, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 189]

YEAS—415

Abraham  
 Adams  
 Aderholt  
 Aguilar  
 Allen  
 Amodei  
 Ashford  
 Babin  
 Barletta  
 Barr  
 Barton  
 Bass  
 Beatty  
 Becerra  
 Benishek  
 Bera  
 Beyer  
 Bilirakis  
 Bishop (GA)

Bishop (MI)  
 Bishop (UT)  
 Black  
 Blackburn  
 Blum  
 Blumenauer  
 Bonamici  
 Bost  
 Boustany  
 Boyle, Brendan  
 F.  
 Brady (PA)  
 Brady (TX)  
 Brat  
 Bridenstine  
 Brooks (IN)  
 Brown (FL)  
 Brownley (CA)  
 Buchanan

Buck  
 Bucshon  
 Burgess  
 Bustos  
 Butterfield  
 Byrne  
 Calvert  
 Capps  
 Capuano  
 Cárdenas  
 Carney  
 Carson (IN)  
 Carter (GA)  
 Carter (TX)  
 Cartwright  
 Castor (FL)  
 Castro (TX)  
 Chabot  
 Chaffetz

Chu, Judy  
 Cicilline  
 Clark (MA)  
 Clarke (NY)  
 Clawson (FL)  
 Clay  
 Cleaver  
 Clyburn  
 Coffman  
 Cohen  
 Cole  
 Collins (GA)  
 Collins (NY)  
 Comstock  
 Conaway  
 Connolly  
 Conyers  
 Cook  
 Cooper  
 Costa  
 Costello (PA)  
 Courtney  
 Cramer  
 Crawford  
 Crenshaw  
 Crowley  
 Cuellar  
 Culberson  
 Cummings  
 Curbelo (FL)  
 Davis (CA)  
 Davis, Danny  
 Davis, Rodney  
 DeFazio  
 DeGette  
 Delaney  
 DeLauro  
 DeBene  
 Denham  
 Dent  
 DeSantis  
 DeSaulnier  
 DesJarlais  
 Deutch  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Dingell  
 Doggett  
 Dold  
 Donovan  
 Doyle, Michael  
 F.  
 Duckworth  
 Duffy  
 Duncan (SC)  
 Duncan (TN)  
 Edwards  
 Ellison  
 Ellmers (NC)  
 Emmer (MN)  
 Engel  
 Eshoo  
 Esty  
 Farenthold  
 Farr  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann  
 Fleming  
 Flores  
 Forbes  
 Fortenberry  
 Foster  
 Foxx  
 Frankel (FL)  
 Franks (AZ)  
 Frelinghuysen  
 Fudge  
 Gabbard  
 Gallego  
 Garrett  
 Gibbs  
 Gibson  
 Gohmert  
 Goodlatte  
 Gosar  
 Gowdy  
 Graham  
 Granger  
 Graves (GA)  
 Graves (LA)  
 Graves (MO)  
 Grayson  
 Green, Al  
 Green, Gene  
 Griffith  
 Grijalva  
 Grothman

Guinta  
 Guthrie  
 Gutiérrez  
 Hahn  
 Hanna  
 Hardy  
 Harper  
 Harris  
 Hartzler  
 Heck (NV)  
 Heck (WA)  
 Hensarling  
 Hice, Jody B.  
 Higgins  
 Hill  
 Himes  
 Hinojosa  
 Holding  
 Honda  
 Hoyer  
 Hudson  
 Huelskamp  
 Huffman  
 Huizenga (MI)  
 Hultgren  
 Hunter  
 Hurd (TX)  
 Hurt (VA)  
 Israel  
 Issa  
 Jackson Lee  
 Jeffries  
 Jenkins (KS)  
 Jenkins (WV)  
 Johnson (GA)  
 Johnson (OH)  
 Johnson, E. B.  
 Johnson, Sam  
 Jolly  
 Jones  
 Jordan  
 Joyce  
 Kaptur  
 Katko  
 Keating  
 Kelly (IL)  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA)  
 Kennedy  
 Kildee  
 Kilmer  
 Kind  
 King (IA)  
 King (NY)  
 Kinzinger (IL)  
 Kirkpatrick  
 Kline  
 Knight  
 Kuster  
 Labrador  
 LaHood  
 LaMalfa  
 Lamborn  
 Lance  
 Langevin  
 Larsen (WA)  
 Larson (CT)  
 Lawrence  
 Lee  
 Levin  
 Lewis  
 Lieu, Ted  
 Lipinski  
 LoBiondo  
 Loebsock  
 Lofgren  
 Long  
 Loudermilk  
 Love  
 Lowenthal  
 Lowey  
 Lucas  
 Luetkemeyer  
 Lujan Grisham  
 (NM)  
 Luján, Ben Ray  
 (NM)  
 Lummis  
 Lynch  
 MacArthur  
 Maloney  
 Carolyn  
 Marchant  
 Marino  
 Matsui  
 McCarthy

NAYS—4

Amash  
 Brooks (AL)

Massie  
 Sanford

NOT VOTING—14

Fattah  
 Fincher  
 Garamendi  
 Hastings  
 Herrera Beutler

Latta  
 Maloney, Sean  
 Mooney (WV)  
 Nolan  
 Pitts  
 Sánchez, Linda  
 T.  
 Titus  
 Webster (FL)  
 Whitfield

□ 1625

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for voting on Thursday, May 12th, Had I been present and voting, I would have voted accordingly: "Aye" on rollcall No. 186 (Lynch Amendment to H.R. 5046); "aye" on rollcall No. 187 (Final Passage of H.R. 5046); "aye" on rollcall No. 188 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1818, Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2016); and "aye; on rollcall No. 189 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4586, Lali's Law).

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 524, COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-564) on the resolution (H. Res. 725) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 524) to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERMISSION TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 4909, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 4909.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING THE REINSTATEMENT OF MILITARY BURIAL HONORS TO THE WASP

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of the bill that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots, known as WASP, I applaud the passage by the House and Senate of legislation that will reinstate burial rights at Arlington National Cemetery to these women pioneers.

I would like to congratulate my dear friend and colleague Congresswoman MARTHA MCSALLY, sitting right in front of me, the first woman pilot in the U.S. Air Force to fly combat missions, who led this effort.

I am humbled to represent a diverse south Florida community, home to some of these women trailblazers, like Ruth Shafer Fleisher, Shirley Kruse, and Bee Haydu, as well as the late Frances Rohrer Sargent and Helen Wyatt Snapp. I am so glad that we helped to bring them back their right to lay at Arlington Cemetery if they wish to do so.

I am truly honored, Mr. Speaker, to have joined Congresswoman MCSALLY, and I thank those who joined us in this valiant effort.

□ 1630

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise as a proud daughter to talk about a matter of government transparency.

The families of those who lost their lives on September 11th and all Americans deserve to know who was behind these terrible, horrific terrorist attacks.

I believe some of those answers can be found in the 28 classified pages from the joint inquiry into the attacks—28 pages my father, Senator Bob Graham, has been advocating for the release of for 12 years.

I have read the 28 pages. My father has read the 28 pages. Some of my col-

leagues in the Congress have read the 28 pages; yet, still today, the American people aren't able to read them.

As elected officials, we answer to the people. Adlai Stevenson said it best: "As citizens of this democracy, you are the rulers and the ruled, the lawgivers and the law-abiders, the beginning and the end."

Mr. Speaker, no one has been able to answer the question of why is it necessary to continue to hide the truth from the public, so it is time to allow all Americans to read the 28 pages and make up their own minds, as is their American right.

CMS ON STATE EXCHANGES

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, thanks to a report by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we now know that a top CMS official misled Congress during a hearing that was investigating wasted funds on ObamaCare State exchanges. I have the report right here in my hand.

When ObamaCare was enacted, the President freely gave taxpayer money to States to establish these State exchanges. Since then, exchanges in Oregon, New Mexico, Hawaii, Nevada, among others, have failed and billions of taxpayer dollars have been squandered. I think I speak for the American taxpayer when I ask: Where is all the leftover money?

My legislation, H.R. 4262, addresses this problem by establishing a plan to recoup Federal funds and, most importantly, protect American taxpayers from having to pay back the balance.

Clearly, State exchanges are a mess if a CMS administrator cannot speak correctly or accurately on them. Faulty State exchanges are not going away. It is a problem that is only just beginning, and it is going to get worse.

I thank the committee for their investigation, and I urge my colleagues to support my legislation, the Transparency and Accountability of Failed Exchanges Act.

CONGRATULATING HAROLD HAYES

(Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Harold Hayes, who is retiring after more than 35 years in broadcasting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Harold has a lifelong connection to the city of Pittsburgh. Born in McKeesport, Harold went on to graduate from South Hills High School and then from the University of Pittsburgh.

He joined KDKA-TV as a reporter in 1979, and he has been there ever since, providing the people of southwestern Pennsylvania with solid, objective reporting about the news that matters to them.

There is no doubt that Harold Hayes has served as Pittsburgh's reporter throughout his many years with KDKA. I want to commend Harold for his contributions to our community, congratulate him on his retirement, and wish him all the best as he begins the next phase of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Harold Hayes, who's retiring after more than thirty-five years in broadcasting in Pittsburgh, PA.

Harold has a lifelong connection to the City of Pittsburgh. Born in McKeesport, Harold went on to graduate from South Hills High School and then from the University of Pittsburgh in 1975 with a Bachelor's degree in Speech and Communications. After graduation, Harold worked as a research assistant in the "Reading is Fundamental" program, sponsored by the Urban League of Pittsburgh.

In August of 1979, Harold joined KDKA-TV as a reporter, and he's been there ever since, providing the people of southwestern Pennsylvania with solid, objective reporting about the news that matters to them. Since joining the station, Harold has covered everything from military operations in the Middle East to landmark local court cases. He has amassed an impressive portfolio of overseas coverage, including reporting on Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia in 1990, the government of Kuwait's memorial to the local lives lost during Operation Desert Storm in 1993, and the funeral of Pope John Paul II in 2005.

Yet his touch has really been felt locally, not only reporting on the day-to-day lives of Pittsburghers, but even making sure to follow up on stories that made headlines years ago. For example, he covered the 1981 court desegregation order that resulted in the creation of the Woodland Hills School District. Twenty years later, he found one of the students he had interviewed back then, and discovered that the former student now had a child who was about to graduate from Woodland Hills as well. It is this type of dedication and compassion that has distinguished Harold from most other reporters in Pittsburgh for years.

Harold has covered both tragedy and triumph, as well as the personal stories of working people, Presidents, and protesters all with equal grace, fairness, compassion, and his special dry sense of humor. Harold brings both humility and perspective to his work every day, and because of that, has remained a consummate professional throughout his 37 years of work. He represents that high level of personal integrity and the demanding work ethic that characterize the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania. There is no doubt that Harold Hayes has served as "Pittsburgh's Reporter" throughout his many years with KDKA. We will miss Harold's presence on the air.

Harold represents the best that there is in broadcast journalism, and he will be recognized for his contributions by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in September when he will receive a Lifetime

Achievement Award at a ceremony in Philadelphia, PA.

Harold's commitment to our community extends far beyond his career as a newsman. He has also become a spokesperson for the Negro Educational Emergency Fund (NEED), and he created a scholarship in his mother's name for local students. In addition, he helps raise money for the Rev. J. Harold Hayes Scholarship, named for his late father, a former pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in McKeesport.

I want to commend Harold for his contributions to our community, congratulate him on his retirement, and wish him all the best as he begins the next phase of his life.

#### OPIOID ADDICTION

(Ms. MCSALLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, opioid addiction is an epidemic that is tearing our communities apart. This devastation is acutely felt by families in southern Arizona, many of whom know all too well the pain of losing a loved one to an overdose. Nobody, no family, is immune.

A recent analysis showed that Pima County, which I represent, has an overdose rate twice as high as any other county in Arizona, which had the 10th highest rate in the Arizona.

Southern Arizona's close proximity to the border exacerbates this problem, as more and more opioids come flowing into our communities. Reports show that, between 2010 and 2015, heroin seizures spiked by more than 300 percent. Too many lives have been ruined by the tragic consequences of opioid abuse, which is why we must act.

This week the House is voting on 18 bills that take steps such as launching medication and treatment intervention programs, expanding resources to evidence-based incarceration alternatives, and increasing the availability of life-saving overdose reversal drugs.

These are many important first steps to stopping the rise of opioid addiction, and I pledge to continue working to address this very grave and urgent issue.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Police Week and to honor police officers killed in the line of duty.

Sobering stories of everyday heroes lost in the line of duty led me to introduce H.R. 2350, Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act, along with my fellow Pennsylvania colleague, Congressman MIKE FITZPATRICK.

This is a commonsense bill that would ease the financial burden of fam-

ilies of fallen law enforcement as well as other first responders by increasing Federal student aid opportunities for those children to pursue a college education.

Every child should have a fair opportunity to pursue a college degree, especially those who have suffered the unimaginable loss of a parent in the line of duty.

I commend the Senate for passing our companion bill earlier this week, and I call upon the House to pass our bill immediately.

#### DECLASSIFY DOCUMENTS

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senator BOB GRAHAM of Florida for taking the national lead to declassify the 28 pages about 9/11, when so many Americans were killed. The information is critical to the freedom of America.

Representatives LYNCH, MASSIE, and myself have introduced H. Res. 14. We have over 54 colleagues in both parties who have joined us to say to President Obama: You have the authority—you don't even need Congress—to declassify this information. You promised the 9/11 families that you would do this.

Mr. President, keep your promise to the 9/11 families who are in so much pain. Keep your promise to the American people and let the American people know the truth about 9/11.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CARL WHITMARSH

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege to be able to come to the floor and acknowledge the giants that live among us.

Today I want to honor a giant in my community, the 18th Congressional District, which I have the privilege of representing. That giant's name is Carl Whitmarsh.

If one were to think of those like Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, William Jefferson Clinton, President Obama, and many other leaders who invested in America, you would think of Carl Whitmarsh.

He invested in the process of democracy. He invested, yes, in the Democratic Party because he was known as a democratic activist, but he had a sincere heart, being one of the members of the Texas Young Democrats.

But in the course of being a democratic person and an activist, Carl worked with one of the first African Americans to integrate the Young

Democrats in the name of Doris Hubbard. They worked together to say that, in this Nation, we are all equal.

Yes, he was feisty. He was strong. He made us stand up and acknowledge our responsibilities of service. We lost him this past weekend.

I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Schlett for the great work that they have done to answer his need in the place he lived. I thank the Schletts for all they have done.

Let me thank all of his friends for all they have done. Certainly, he was a friend of Hillary Clinton. He was a friend of mine and a friend of those who now mourn him.

So among those of us who count ourselves as activists, let me simply say that he was a public servant and he believed in helping people.

Let me also give my sympathy to the Oak Forest Area Democrats and all of his friends and family. Because we know that not only is a voice of democracy silenced, but we realize that a person who loved all of us and loved life and was willing to share—that person is Carl Whitmarsh.

May he rest in peace. We have lost you, but not your spirit, your memory, and your legacy.

#### PLANNING 2.0

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, today in the Natural Resources Committee here in the House we heard testimony about how the Bureau of Land Management's Planning 2.0 rule might affect counties around this country that are dealing with Federal lands in their districts.

FLPMA, which is the Federal Land Policy Management Act, is a law that was designed to give local government a lot of input especially in counties where there is a tremendous amount of Federal land.

We heard today from counties that have 90 to 95 percent of their land owned by the Federal Government. They need input into what is going on in their districts. FLPMA contemplated that.

For Planning 2.0, the new proposed rule to change that and perhaps eliminate some opportunities for local governments to have input into Federal land management decisions would be a huge mistake.

I ask the Bureau of Land Management to extend the time beyond the 30 days they granted and allow 180 days for the time that local governments and other stakeholders are allowed to respond to the proposed new rule.

#### REACHING OUT TO CONSTITUENTS

(Mr. MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, as I often do, I reached out to my constituents to find out what issues are most important to them.

I sent out a survey, and thousands responded. The top three issues on the minds of folks back home are affordable housing, gun control, and police-community relations.

In every Congress since I have been here, I have pushed to raise funding for HUD and NYCHA so that we can renovate housing and increase both the amount of section 8 vouchers and affordable housing units in New York City and this country.

On gun control, I have cosponsored nearly every gun violence prevention bill in Congress, and I will continue to stand up to the NRA and the rest of the gun lobby.

I am keenly aware of the need to improve police-community relations. We need to force an honest dialogue with police and the communities they serve.

So to the folks back home, I want to reassure you I hear you loudly and clearly and I will continue to stay focused on the issues most important to you. Thank you for participating in the survey we sent out. I will continue to fight for you, as I always have.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### OPIOID ADDICTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for what feels like the first time this year, the House got to work on something that would genuinely help millions of Americans: addressing the opioid crisis.

My home State of New Jersey is a perfect example of this epidemic in both reach and financial impact. Four of every five new heroin users started their drug abuse addictions with a prescription opioid. By one estimate, New Jersey is now home to more than 128,000 heroin addicts.

□ 1645

In the past 10 years, heroin has claimed 5,000 lives in my State, and we fall just short of the top 10 in the percent of healthcare costs we use on those suffering with opioid addiction.

Opioids, both heroin and prescription painkillers, are driving the national crisis of lethal overdose, with more than 60 percent of these deaths attributed to opiate abuse.

Many have called this an epidemic, and they are absolutely right. It deserves our attention, and I applaud the bipartisan work we have done this week.

But while we have taken a few vital steps, there are two very important things that I need my colleagues to understand. First, that although we have newly and rightly chosen to show those dealing with opioid addiction compassion and clemency, the only thing new about the addiction epidemic is its face.

The greatest spikes have been among White, suburban Americans, for whom we are opening doors for treatment, rehabilitation, and alternatives to incarceration.

Meanwhile, communities of color have watched families arrested, convicted, and imprisoned for decades over nonviolent drug offenses. African Americans are three to four times more likely to be arrested for drug crimes, and when these offenders go behind bars instead of to treatment beds, it breaks families and has lasting, devastating impacts on both families and communities.

We have now begun to take an evidence-based approach to drug abuse, one that recognizes that arrest and long prison terms come at great cost and zero benefit. It is something that we should have done a long time ago.

But now that we recognize the flawed policies of the past, we need to turn a critical eye to the victims of the older paradigm and offer them the doors to rehabilitation that we have created for today's offenders.

There is a second vital step here, Mr. Speaker, without which all of our bipartisanship today would be meaningless. We have authorized a variety of measures that have the potential to stop the advance of the opioid crisis, but without funding and continued review, our work will be worthless.

States and local municipalities need new resources to combat this crisis if we are going to make any kind of difference. That is why my Democratic colleagues put forward a proposal that will provide \$600 million in new funds specifically to fight opioids and heroin.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle voted to block that proposal, which makes me concerned that they assume that the handful of authorizations we have worked on will be enough.

With 78 Americans dying from opioid overdose every day, the American people cannot afford for us to wash our hands of this issue without providing the resources necessary to halt this epidemic for all of those that are affected. We need to keep pushing forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the honorable chairman of our Progressive Caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I also want to lend my voice to hers as I stand here before you to say that I was happy to vote for the legislation addressing opioid addiction today; sad that Republicans didn't support Democratic initiatives, but overall happy with the work that has been done on this this week.

I know many people fighting opioid addiction. It is debilitating. It is heart-breaking in the lives that it has ruined. And I think that though the steps we took today were positive, we could have taken more.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reflect upon an issue that is related to this, but give a little historic perspective because I think that Congress' response to opioid addiction has, I think, in the main, been commendable.

Unfortunately, if it were 20 years ago today, in the mid 1990s, perhaps the response of Congress then to crack cocaine was very different.

The response to crack cocaine was massive incarceration. The effect of the crack cocaine epidemic was massive blanketing of police in certain neighborhoods, front-end loaders in poor neighborhoods.

I hope that what this more humane, more medical-oriented response to drug addiction represents is America learning how to deal with drug addiction because I think a more cynical person, not me, might say that because crack cocaine was associated with people who were African Americans, a more harsh, police-oriented, prison-oriented response was warranted and tolerable; and because opioid is more broad and affects the majority community as well, that a more reasoned response is warranted.

Thinking about people like Kemba Smith, who got 24 years in prison when she was a student at Hampton University. She never touched 1 gram of crack cocaine; had a boyfriend who was a drug dealer. He housed some drugs in her house. She got convicted, ended up getting 24 years in prison.

Thank goodness President Clinton gave her a commutation, but ruined her life.

We now have about 2.4 million people in prison, many of them for nonviolent drug offenses, many who were arrested and given an enormous amount of time in the crack cocaine wars of the 1990s.

I hope that the enlightened approach that we have now, which is not marked with helicopters and front-end loaders and all types of weaponry, literally militarizing Black neighborhoods across the United States back in the 1990s—I am glad that that is not the response we have taken this time. I hope it means we have learned something,

but I hope it also means that we go back and ask ourselves if some of the exorbitant sentences that people got, life sentences in some cases, 10 years, 20 years, we revisit these; we look at mandatory minimums for some of these offenders; that we look at how we have exploded massive prison rates all around crack, even though, in my opinion, crack and powder cocaine are basically the difference between ice and water. They are essentially the same chemical.

We incarcerate one much more severely than the other. One is used predominantly by Whites; the other, more Blacks are found in possession of it, and the rates of incarceration are dramatically different.

This Congress corrected a grievous injustice where we punished crack cocaine 100 times more severely than we did powder. We changed that to 18 times more. That is improvement; it is not equality.

But I hope that today, the way we dealt with opioids, which I supported and I voted for—because I do believe that we do need to have more of a medical approach to drug addiction than the militarized, police-oriented, incarceration-oriented measure that we have used in the past—I hope that this new way of dealing with drug addiction is an advance in our understanding rather than a reflection of who is being hurt.

I think that if we really want to demonstrate that it is a reflection of what we have learned, then we have some unfinished business to achieve because there are still a lot of people who are dealing with the vestiges of mass incarceration and the war on crack cocaine.

Let me also just say that I remember being a young criminal defense lawyer in Minnesota, and I remember being in court when a courageous young judge named Pam Alexander, an African American female, found that the difference between powder and crack cocaine sentencing was not warranted by the facts or the evidence; in fact, amounted to an equal protection violation under the Minnesota constitution.

To the credit of the Minnesota State Supreme Court, they upheld her ruling, but Pam Alexander paid a heavy toll for her courageous judicial work because she was nominated to be a Federal district judge. That was blocked by people who wanted to maintain the status quo, and she never got to be a Federal district court judge.

Now, she is still a distinguished journalist, to the pride of us all; but, you know, just showing that some people went to prison for this and others had their careers limited because of their willingness to speak up against these equal protection problems.

So I just hope that today represents advancing our understanding rather than just the different treatment that different people historically have received in our country.

I definitely feel that I was proud to vote for the four measures today and enjoyed the debate and definitely was—my heart was in sync with all of my colleagues when they were talking about some of the very horrific problems that people suffer from opioid addiction. I am right there with them and my heart is right there with them and my mind is right there with them.

But I cannot get it out of my head about how differently we dealt with the crack epidemic. According to the Center for Disease Control, Blacks and Whites use crack about the same rate. And yet, there were whole jurisdictions in this country where there was literally no White person being charged with crack possession, and there were African Americans getting 5 years for a few grams, 10 years for a few more, and their lives absolutely devastated because of it.

I mentioned 2.4 million Americans behind bars. Much of this is driven by the war on drugs. There are 2.7 million children whose parents are behind bars. When your parent goes to prison, it devastates family income.

So I am just going to turn it back over; announce that I am proud of the votes that I took in favor of addressing opioid addiction today; say that I hope that it was because we learned something about the war on drugs; say that we must go, sort of fix some of the overzealousness of the war on crack years in the 1990s; and say that I really hope that our sympathies don't return only in favor of people who look like us, but to all Americans.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota. I appreciate the remarks that he has made and the issues that he has brought before this body this evening, particularly his illuminating for us and reminding us of the disparities of the criminal justice system, of the way we dealt with drug addiction in the past.

But we are in an enlightened period now, as evidenced by the work that we did just today; and I hope that we look at the issue of drug addiction and those addicted in the same humane manner, even if it is not an addiction to just heroin or an addiction to opiates, but it is an addiction to a drug that is harmful to their well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Representative BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, for hosting this Special Order to talk about opioids and drug policies.

Our country is currently facing a great crisis. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 78 Americans die each day from an opioid overdose. We are in the midst of an addiction epidemic, an epidemic robbing mothers and fathers of their children, and children of their future.

I cannot imagine the torture and hardship that not only those with these addictions suffer, but their families and friends as well, seeing their loved ones in pain, unable to help them. But that does not have to be the case.

Congress can make a difference. Our actions here can help save lives, save people from suffering and having to bury a loved one. But we cannot stop this epidemic with just congressional authorization of new grant programs, studies, reports. We must fund these needed tools so that communities have the resources they so desperately need.

Today the House passed, and I was proud to support the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, a bipartisan bill creating the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program. And while I wholeheartedly support this new program, we have to make sure we provide the funding that is necessary to get the program up and running.

This new program and any others we enact will be no help without funding to support it.

Since 2000, there has been a 200 percent increase in the rate of deaths attributed to opioids. This problem is only getting worse, and has been for some time.

□ 1700

Our actions are already too late for the 28,000 lives lost just in 2014.

The leading cause of accidental death in New York State is now an overdose. An estimated 886 lives were lost city-wide in 2015. That is 886 preventable deaths a year just in New York City, 886 individuals that could still be here today had we acted sooner.

Last month, Mayor de Blasio announced a new \$5.5 million plan to combat deaths caused by overdose, building on the ThriveNYC initiative, a program to support those suffering with mental health problems.

Actually, today, the first lady, Chirlane, was here in Washington meeting with the delegation on the Thrive initiative on ways that we were working in the city to combat the opioid epidemic.

Earlier this week, Governor Cuomo of New York launched a statewide task force to face the heroin and opioid crisis in the State head-on. But our States can't do it alone, and they shouldn't need to. This isn't a problem confined to one district, one State, or one section of the country. It is a nationwide epidemic that cannot be allowed to continue unabated any longer.

We owe it to all those suffering, those addicted and their families, to show we recognize this problem and that we are working for them, not only through our efforts, our votes authorizing these new programs today, studies, and reports, but through actually putting the necessary support behind these efforts and funding them.

We can and we must work to save lives. But all those votes are for

naught if we don't actually get these programs off the ground. Communities across the country need our help, and the time to act is now. We have already lost too many to this epidemic. I am proud of the votes on the floor today in support of moving forward to do something about it.

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and for yielding.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Texas, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN for leading this Special Order and for bringing us together around two very important issues, not only this question of opioids, but, as well, the question of the rights of women.

Let me say that this has been a week for news, news coming from the most powerful lawmaking body in the Nation. As I heard a Member say in the course of the debate on the list of opioids legislation, it is not that we needed it, for the record is established through the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, but that we would want to have those areas that are usually filled with media really take hold of what is being done on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and, of course, the complementary legislation of the other body.

Over the past 2 days, we passed legislation dealing with pregnant women, we passed legislation dealing with teenagers who lost their lives because of overdose of prescription drugs, and we passed legislation that gave a whole litany under the Judiciary Committee not of mandatory minimums and mass incarceration, but how do we bring law enforcement and substance abuse counselors together? How do we provide training for police officers to use naloxone? How do we ensure that there is training or resources for those who are addicted? How do we get parental training as it relates to individuals who are addicted and their children are addicted? How do we monitor the issuance of prescription drugs with the respect for the medical profession that we all have in doing their job?

Because we do realize that this prescription journey started with the new approach to pain management that had been studied on an evidence-based basis that you would heal better if you could allow the pain not to be so devastating, then, of course, what happens are many things: the amount of prescription is more than you would need; or your children get ahold of it, or other people's children; or there is no place to dispose of it.

In this discussion of opioids, I want it to be reflected that the Congress came together as Republicans and Democrats

focusing on how we should address this as a sickness and an addiction and not as incarceration and punitive sentencing.

We followed the beginning, in 2009, where we removed some of the disparities between crack cocaine and didn't have it in this large, unfair basis where, if you had a little bit of crack you were in prison for 400 years, if you had cocaine, you might skip by. We made that step. But now it is 2016, and we made a metamorphic change because we moved from the idea of mass incarceration to the idea of treatment.

When I finished the debate on the floor on the most recent Judiciary Committee bill authored by Mr. SENBRENNER working with Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, many Members, and me, I indicated that we missed a period of history of the crack cocaine users. Many of them are languishing in prisons. So I am hopeful about this bipartisan spirit, as we look to sentencing reduction through H.R. 3713, for something miraculous, because it includes retroactivity. Many of those crack cocaine users are nonviolent. We will have the ability as this legislation works its way through Congress to include them in the scheme of treatment and the restoration part of what we are trying to do in the lives of people who are sick and addicted.

I had someone come to me who said: Don't forget the meth users. We know that meth was an epidemic—and still is—and how destructive it is to one's physical look and body.

So I am delighted to join my colleagues here to say that we did have a newsworthy great week and that we were taking a look at opioids in a different manner, that we are taking a look and working with physicians and the medical profession to be able to ensure that they do their work and that we find a way to provide a monitoring situation so that we can stem the tide of this horrific, horrible, and destructive drug addiction that destroys the lives of so many young people.

I close by saying that some years ago, my late mother was in the hospital. We know how we treat our parents—but our mothers. I was flying back and forth from this House checking and determining what her condition was. She had so many moments where she was on the brink but she came on back.

One of the moments that I came to the hospital, there was erratic behavior. It wasn't my mother. That is the issue that we want. We want people to be explained to as to what is going on. It was a treatment that was dealing with trying to ease her pain.

I had to ask them: What is she using? Percocet.

The first time that I heard that word was 6 years ago—or even later, beyond 6 years. That was 2010, so it was even earlier than that. I didn't know the

ramifications of Percocet. I am a lawyer and not a doctor. But I realize that whatever it was, the cure was worse than the disease, and I asked them to take my mother off the Percocet and for me never to see that again.

Now, how many families do that?

She did get off of it. Thank God, she healed and walked out of that hospital. That wasn't the time that she passed. She lived for another day.

But we need, in this opioid discussion, as we are moving against mass incarceration, to explain to families and physicians to talk about what these painkillers can do. Because, in essence, they are sometimes so toxic that they, in many instances, easily cause addiction, as I have heard many parents say about their youngsters who had athletic injuries.

So I thank the Congresswoman for yielding to me because I think this week has been a magnificent week when we have opened the door and kicked the can not down the road, but we have kicked it to open the door to say to all of us in America that it is okay. Addiction can be cured. But we are going to work alongside of you so that you can openly seek that cure to relieve yourself of addiction, and we are not going to direct you down the path of incarceration and mandatory minimums. I want that for those who are languishing and who have been sentenced on crack cocaine, and I am looking forward to working so that legislation covers that aspect of those who are still incarcerated.

With that, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for always sharing with us in our Special Order Hour her wisdom, experience, unique observations, recommendations, and proposals. I thank the gentlewoman very much.

Mr. Speaker, let me add just one more thought to this topic.

This week we demonstrated that bipartisanship is still possible on issues that matter to the American people. We need to take that same spirit and apply it to the countless other issues that have always been bipartisan. Restoring the Voting Rights Act, for one; addressing the significant dangers of a virus, in this instance, of the Zika virus is another illustration; and passing a budget that creates jobs and grows paychecks for American workers.

As we now shift topics here, Mr. Speaker, there is another issue that this body has been avoiding for decades. A few months ago, I joined my colleagues on the floor of the House to urge the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. We are here again, Mr. Speaker, and we will keep coming back until it is done.

We have been avoiding ensuring protection for women in the Constitution



for almost 100 years, and with enduring biases and discrimination against women, there is no better time than now.

The ERA would give Congress the constitutional grounds to pass legislation that gives women victimized by gender-based violence recourse in Federal court and restoring elements of the Violence Against Women Act that have been deemed invalid by the Supreme Court. The ERA would give women a stronger legal platform from which to protest gender bias discrimination at work, giving cases like Betty Dukes' 2011 suit against Walmart the standing they would need. When you prove statistically lower pay and slower promotion, the biases are obvious and shouldn't be allowed to continue just because they haven't been specifically expressed. The ERA would keep women from being forced out of work during pregnancy, a protection that currently does not exist.

Those are just a few of its benefits.

For a long time, the push for the ERA has been viewed from a single perspective. But it is time for a coalition of women of every ethnicity, every religion, every nationality, and every race to stand united in the call for the ERA because it is for all of us. There are unique issues that every minority group faces, but they are all compounded when you add the gender to that plate. We can and we must work together to level the gender playing field, and the ERA is the best route to that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to a fierce fighter for women and the ERA, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I truly want to thank BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN for hosting this Special Order to talk about the Equal Rights Amendment. I can't think of anything that is more important than protecting the rights of half the population of America.

We in Congress and in our country have helped other countries win their independence and craft their constitutions. One of the things we worked to place in that constitution is equality of treatment for all people. We have seen that countries that treat women well have less terrorism, less turmoil, and more economic stability, and that adds to the peace of the world. Yet we don't have women in the Constitution of the United States of America.

□ 1715

I think it is long past due, and it doesn't cost any money. It just is an equality statement in a Constitution giving protection to half the population.

I have come to this Congress and reintroduced the Equal Rights Amendment. We know that it passed in the 1970s. It fell three States short of rati-

fication. You need 38 States, and 35 ratified it. It has already passed in this country before, and there is huge support. Currently, we have over 187 bipartisan cosponsors that have joined Bonnie and me in this effort.

There is an old Chinese saying that women hold up half the sky. But what most women are concerned about is how they are treated while they are on the Earth. We want to be treated fairly on the Earth. The exclusion of women—half the population—from the Constitution has dire consequences.

Last month we commemorated Equal Pay Day, or more appropriately, "Unequal Pay Day," when the average woman's salary catches up with an average man's earning from the previous year. To put it simply, women have to work 3½ months more than a male colleague doing the same job with the same pay to reach his equal pay.

Now, I can say we have made progress. When I first entered the workforce, we were at 59 cents to the dollar. We have made progress. We are now at 79 cents to the dollar. But economists say that, if we continue at the same rate, it will be the year 2025 before anything near equality is reached in equality of pay.

Given that fact, the economic state of women in the United States is unequal, unfair, and unacceptable if we want to ensure financial stability of American families and protect economic growth.

It is very interesting. One study was done by Heidi Hartmann, who is a MacArthur Award-winning economist. She stated that, if you just paid women equally, you would eliminate half the poverty in the United States.

So everybody talks about job programs and everything else. Just pay women fairly and you would eliminate half the poverty in our country. That is an easy way to address opportunity and fair treatment.

This unfairness of 79 cents to the dollar is also much, much more unfair when it goes to women of color. The pay gap is even larger. The pay gap has narrowed slightly over the years, but its impact is perhaps more detrimental today than ever before because women are participating in the workforce in record numbers.

Increasingly, women are sometimes absolutely necessary for the income of the family, and some are single parents, as I am. I am a widow. When you treat a woman fairly, you are treating her husband fairly and her children fairly. With more women in the workforce because they have to work, bringing home a full, fair paycheck becomes more and more important.

I recently asked the Joint Economic Committee democratic staff to study the effects of the gender gap, not just the 79 cents to the dollar, but what does it mean over a lifetime. This report, which was probably the most

comprehensive, in-depth report on the subject to date, looked at the pay gap by age, race, State, and congressional districts.

What it showed is that, over the span of a lifetime, it compounded. Women are 75 percent more likely to live in poverty in their old age than their male counterparts. The unequal pay in the paycheck translates into lower pensions, lower Social Security, lower savings, and just less cash in the pocketbook.

They say that, in 1 year over the lifetime of a woman, the average is that you lose over \$500,000 in pay. That is just the pay. Then you have to compound it into all of the savings aspects that all of us rely on in our older age.

We found that the gender gap varies widely by race, age, and State. Working mothers—this is so interesting. For a country that says we honor the family, we honor the mothers and the fathers, if you become a mother—and many economists have written the same thing—you pay a penalty in the form of depressed wages when compared to working fathers and women without children.

Women that become mothers, the study showed that they are paid less—they call it the "mommy penalty"—yet, men that become fathers are paid more. Men that become fathers are paid not only more than women, but they are paid more than men without children. So it is interesting.

And the statistics are that men with children make 15 percent more than men without children and significantly more than women. Over a career, this disparity widens for women, making them more likely to live in poverty. Older women are the largest segment of poverty in our country.

Women cannot support their families or fully participate in the economy when they are consistently paid less than men doing comparable work. This is bad for everyone. As you go through it, you wonder why does the gender gap persist and what can we do about it.

In the past 30 years, the gender gap has been stuck at 79 cents to the dollar. After controlling for the complex factors that contribute to the gender gap, which could be leaving work to take care of children, taking care of an elderly parent, or other reasons, there is a 40 percent gap which many economists attribute to discrimination. Without the ERA, there is little to do. There is no recourse to fight gender discrimination when it does exist.

The late Justice Antonin Scalia agreed and famously said, "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't."

I believe that Justice Scalia, who Ruth Bader Ginsburg called her closest friend on the Court, was doing the women's movement and like-minded

men who care about women a favor by making this crystal clear.

He was a strict constitutionalist. He went by the Constitution. His statement made it very clear: Women are not in the Constitution; therefore, I, as a Justice, and others would not protect them.

We need to correct this. It is something that we could join hands and make happen. If we don't explicitly protect women in the Constitution, there can be no expectation for equality in the workforce, government, sports, or academia. There is no remedy for discrimination against women in the court.

There have been some celebrated Supreme Court decisions that the dissent has said that this will be reversed in later years, and I believe it will. But they decided against women on the point that women aren't in the Constitution. Well, let's change that. That is something we can do in this House: pass a bill that puts women in the Constitution of our great country.

Leaving women out of the Constitution and legally defenseless harms all of us in other areas of our lives. The progress women have made can too easily be rolled back, laws can be repealed, and judicial attitudes can shift. Something as fundamental as equality of opportunity and rights should not be at the whim of who is on the Court, who is in the legislature, or any other law that could be put in place to roll rights back.

I would say that equality for women is a fundamental right that the vast majority of this country supports. I polled it once, and 99 percent of the people in America said, yes, people should have equal rights, and, yes, they should have equality of opportunity.

Yet, this fundamental aspect for half of the population of America—and it is an important half of the population. Every man had a mother. Women are there working in the home, in the society, and in the communities.

As we help and support and empower women, we empower our country and empower our economy. We can't compete and win in this world economy without using the strength of all of our people. That means not just talented men, but talented women, also.

Ninety percent of the country actually thinks the Constitution already fully protects women because it seems so much like a no-brainer. If you asked anyone in this body, they would say "Of course women should be treated equally," "Of course I want my daughters and my sons to have equal opportunity."

Properly valuing women is the right thing to do for our daughters, sisters, mothers, and grandmothers. It is also the closest thing to a silver bullet to stimulate the economy. If you just paid women equally, you would move so much more money into the economy

that would have to be consumed and spent in the economy.

I want to really thank the like-minded men and women who support the opportunity and the goal for women to be treated fairly. I believe this is an issue that we could all agree on. It is a fundamental right. I think that people believe in opportunity. This is one way to make sure that all of our citizens have the same opportunity.

I want to thank BONNIE for bringing this issue to the floor. She brings it to the floor once a month. That shows a persistence and a commitment that I want to follow and want to support.

I can't think of anything more important that we could spend our time on as a Nation or as individuals than helping people have the equal treatment and the equal opportunity that they so justly deserve in this great country.

I just want to close by saying I wake up every morning and I say a prayer and I kiss the ground and thank God that I was born an American. There is no question in my mind that we are the greatest country on Earth. We treat our people the best. It is amazing.

We just did a report that came out of the President's Office of Economic Advisers that shows that our economy is leading the world. The only thing that is hurting our economy is the suffering other economies that are pulling us down. We are a great country. But one of the reasons that we are so great is that we always strive to be better.

I can't think of doing anything more important or better than treating all of our citizens equally and allowing them to have the same equal opportunity under our great flag and under our great Constitution. It is long past due to put women in the Constitution.

I hope my colleagues will join me in helping to make this dream of equality a reality in the great country of the United States of America.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York. I welcome our partnership on this endeavor. We committed to one another that we are going to continue to raise the issue of the ERA on a monthly basis so that people will be reawakened to just how significant and important this is.

I was very struck by the information that she shared with us with regard to the unequal pay as it relates to women versus men. While we cited sort of the general knowledge or norm that is associated with the ERA and with unequal pay, we recognize that there is an even greater disparity when it comes to African American women and Latin women to the tune of 63 cents on the dollar and 54 cents on the dollar.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), who is also a fierce fighter for equality for all people.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as I listened to Congresswoman MALONEY,

I heard her mention the Constitution and the importance of the Equal Rights Amendment and I am reminded of the constitutional amendment that was needed in 1920 to allow women the right to vote.

If you took a broad assessment of the American people, they might allude to women have the right to vote. But what I would offer to say to them is that every time we wanted to be sure of a right given to a left-out group, we had to add to the Bill of Rights.

□ 1730

The Bill of Rights includes the Fifth Amendment, which is the protection of our property and due process. It includes the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, which codify, constitutionally, the wrongness of slavery and the concept of equal protection under the law. But in all of that, it has not protected women in their rightful place in this society to have a legal basis to object to unequal pay. It did not provide the cover for Lilly Ledbetter, who went to protest the fact that she was paid less and was not given any respect by the employer who felt that there were no laws that protected her.

I believe that, in all of my tenure in Congress, I have supported the Equal Rights Amendment legislation. So I just answer today, for those who may be querying "here they come again" or "they already have a Bill of Rights" or "they have the amendment allowing them to vote," yes, we have sectors of rights—the right to vote—and maybe we join in and have the right to due process.

What the Equal Rights Amendment does is it pierces the veil of governmental leadership and governance, and it says to the 50 States: you must adhere to the Constitution as it is related to women and that, with every aspect of governmental action that impacts women, without discrimination against men, you must put them on an equal footing.

We have title VII and we have title IX; but, Mr. Speaker, in spite of those statutes, women are still discriminated against because you can't section off their rights and expect all of their rights to be protected. Discrimination under title VII fits one box, and title IX, with athletics, fits another box. Then, for some reason, we have all of these different aspects that seem either not to prevail under lawsuits under title VII or not to prevail under lawsuits under title IX, but women are still discriminated against.

If there were an amendment that would cover all aspects of governance that States had to adhere to, that counties had to adhere to, that cities had to adhere to, and that, certainly, the Federal Government had to adhere to, because the Constitution is the Constitution of the United States for all people, then we would see the lifting of those issues that impact women

and that are not clarified through the statutory process.

I rise today again to support the movement of this bill through the Judiciary Committee, to the floor of the House, and, ultimately, through the Senate. For my colleagues, many of you know that there is a constitutional process that would engage the States. Then, ultimately, that would become an amendment to the United States Constitution. What better process of engaging the people of the United States in determining whether they want and recognize the importance of an Equal Rights Amendment than the process of amending the Constitution of the United States.

I finish by saying we are doing what is right, and I am hoping that its conclusion will be in short order on behalf of the women and the men and the families of this great United States of America.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for joining us in this discussion as well.

Mr. Speaker, it has been almost a century; so the time for the ERA is right now.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK: BLUE LIVES MATTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, tonight, my colleagues and I come to the floor of the United States House of Representatives to spotlight and highlight a very special week, a week that brings families and police officers together here in Washington, D.C. It is a week that is called National Police Week where these families and police officers from around the country come and gather to remember those police officers whose lives were tragically taken in the line of duty during the past year, and this happens every year. In that process, we not only remember those lives who were lost in the past year, but we also remember those lives who were lost in all of the years prior to that. Later on, I will talk about a couple of close friends of mine whose lives were taken early in their careers in the King County Sheriff's Office.

I should say that, prior to coming to Congress, I spent 33 years in the King County Sheriff's Office in Seattle, starting in a patrol car, then as a detective, then as a SWAT commander, a hostage negotiator, a precinct commander, and, finally, as a sheriff, then coming here to Congress.

To begin tonight, I honor Chehalis Police Officer Rick Silva and Washington State Trooper Brent Hanger, who both tragically died in the State of Washington in the line of duty.

I begin with Washington State Trooper Brent Hanger.

Trooper Hanger died on August 6, 2015, while investigating a marijuana grow in a small town called Yakima, Washington. He was 47 years old. He had a wife, Lisa, and six children: Emily, Erin, Kailey, Erik, Kyle, and Kevin. Trooper Hanger served with the State Patrol for 17 years, all of which were spent in the State Patrol's District 7, which includes Washington State's Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties. Early in his career, in 2000, Trooper Hanger received the Award of Merit from the State Patrol for assisting and saving the life of a suicidal person.

It is one of the things we forget about with regard to police officers. We are really peace officers, and we are there to protect people and keep the peace. The vast majority of us who go into law enforcement enter into law enforcement to protect people and to save lives, and that is what Trooper Hanger did in 2000 on just one occasion that he was recognized for.

I also recognize Chehalis Police Officer Rick Silva.

Rick was 60. He died in Chehalis on June 18, 2015, in Centralia, Washington. He had a wife named Cindy and a daughter named Shannon. From 1986 to 1988, he was a Lewis County corrections officer. From 1988 to 2002, he was an officer with the Lewis County Sheriff's Office; and he was employed, when he passed away, with the Chehalis Police Department. He was a self-taught master fabricator, race car driver, automotive restorer, and carpenter.

Since the first known line of duty death in the year 1791, more than 20,000 U.S. law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice. A total of 1,439 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years—an average of one death every 61 hours, or 144 per year. There were 123 law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2015. Since the beginning of 2016, 36 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty—36 this year. So far, the number of firearm-related fatalities is up 50 percent compared to the same time last year. In 2014 alone, there were 15,725 assaults against law enforcement, resulting in 13,824 injuries. Now, we hear sometimes in our own communities about those who lost their lives, but we don't always hear about those who were injured in the line of duty.

The next speaker I will introduce here in a moment is also a career law enforcement officer. He was also a sheriff, a sheriff in Florida, and I am sure that he and I together could trade police stories all night that would illustrate for you, Mr. Speaker, and for others who are listening the danger that one experiences as a law enforcement officer across this country.

I yield to the sheriff, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

Mr. NUGENT. I thank Sheriff REICHERT so very much for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we are here at a very solemn time in the law enforcement community. National Police Week is the week that we honor those who have fallen the year before and in all of the prior years.

When Sheriff REICHERT was talking about the statistics of assaults on law enforcement officers and about the number of law enforcement officers who are killed annually, behind each of those stories is a real person—a son or a daughter who is not coming home anymore, or a wife or a husband.

I have been a police officer. I was a police officer for 38 years, and I was ultimately a sheriff in Hernando County, Florida. I have buried my share of fellow law enforcement officers in those 38 years—too many to even talk about without bringing a tear. I can tell you, as a rookie police officer who was right out of the academy, in the first year I was on the street, one of the guys with whom I went through the academy was shot and killed. That was the first year out of the academy. I was held hostage at one point in time in my career by a guy who was intent on killing his wife.

We all have stories like that. Sheriff REICHERT is one of those true heroes in law enforcement. He is too modest to talk about the times that he has been assaulted, stabbed, or of the folks he has put in jail—the Green River Murderer. That is just the type of people we are. We are very humble. I was blessed to be in law enforcement for 38 years, and 12 of those years were outside the city of Chicago. I will tell you this: the brotherhood in law enforcement is the same wherever you go across this great Nation.

We are made up of people, though, and we have flaws like anybody else. Whether you are a physician or a teacher or even a priest, sometimes they do wrong things, but 99.99 percent of those in law enforcement do it for all of the right reasons. It is not because they are going to make great pay, and it is not because: Oh, my gosh, I get to work the weekends or work holidays or work midnights or miss birthday parties. They do it because of the love that they have for the people whom they serve in whatever community it may be—as large as New York City and as small as Apopka, Florida. It doesn't matter. The feelings that go into being a law enforcement officer are those of service to his fellow man.

I have been blessed. My wife and I have been married for 41 years, with three sons—all of them in the military—but the one middle son, who is a Blackhawk pilot for the Florida Army National Guard, is also a deputy sheriff in Hillsborough County, Florida. I know the feeling that his wife has every time he dons that uniform and goes to work: Is he going to come home tonight?

That is the feeling that all of our wives and mothers and grandmothers felt for their children as they went out the door wearing that uniform of whatever city, county, township they supported or State police agency.

We have been blessed in America, and it is because of those people—that thin blue line—who are willing to stand in front of danger to protect the normal, average citizen, somebody they have never met and may never meet again. They run into burning buildings, just like on 9/11, to save people. They face down felons to save their fellow man. All they ask for is a little respect, and I don't think that is too much to ask.

This week we passed a piece of legislation, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act, that allows us as Members of Congress and in the Senate to provide a flag. It is a small token of our everlasting appreciation for the sacrifices their families have made in the deaths of loved ones who served their country while wearing a law enforcement officer's uniform. We passed that here, and the President is going to sign it. It gives us the ability to provide that flag at no cost to the families. Go figure. At the end of the day, it is really about recognizing in a very small and symbolic way that it does matter. Blue lives matter, and all lives should matter.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished sheriff, the gentleman from Washington State, DAVE REICHERT.

□ 1745

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, Sheriff NUGENT served 35 years. I know he looks a lot younger than I do, but he served a couple of years longer than I did.

Sometimes we call people heroes and we don't readily accept those titles because, as the sheriff said, we just want to help. Cops just want to help. They want to help people. They want to serve the community and want to keep people safe.

I am proud to have another Member here tonight who I am going to introduce who has been a staunch supporter of law enforcement since his time in Congress. We actually came here together in 2005, and he happens to be a judge from Texas.

So I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Sheriff REICHERT, Sheriff NUGENT, and all the Members in Congress who have served in law enforcement before they came to the House.

This is a solemn week when we show our respect and honor to those who have worn the shield or the star. You notice, Mr. Speaker, the shield or the star is always over the heart, and it is symbolic of protecting us from outlaws, from criminals.

Law enforcement stands between us and those who would do us harm. That

is why they wear the shield or the star over their heart, because they will give their lives and have for the rest of us, protecting us from those do-bads out there.

I served as a prosecutor in Houston, Texas, for 8 years and then 22 years in the criminal courts trying all kinds of cases. I met a lot of police officers. I still know a lot of them. They are certainly a rare breed that would do what they do.

Most Americans couldn't go on patrol one day and do what they do. They are to be admired. We honor those who have died last year, but we honor those who have died in previous years.

Some in America don't realize that the Capitol Police protect us around the Capitol. In 1998, two Capitol police officers, John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, gave their lives protecting Members of Congress. We should remember them.

Last year, 128 peace officers were killed in the United States. Eleven of those were females. Twelve were killed in Texas, the highest of any State. There were also two K-9s who were officers that were killed in Texas.

Three of those officers who were killed were from my hometown of Houston, Texas: Darren Goforth of the Sheriff's Department, Officer Tronoski Jones of the Sheriff's Department, and Officer Richard Martin of the Houston Police Department.

About this time last year, there was a robbery in progress—we call those hijackings in Houston—at a service station on Sunday morning. The Houston Police Department responded.

They get to the scene and see a stolen U-Haul van speeding away from the service station. There is a high-speed chase. The U-Haul got a distance on the Houston police officers, jumped out of the U-Haul, grabbed a lady that was getting in her minivan, pushed her out of the way, stole the minivan, took off, and are firing shots at the police officers. Meanwhile, most of Houston is asleep and safe.

Their chase goes on for a long time. Officer Richard Martin was ahead of the chase. He got his patrol car far enough ahead that he jumped out of the car and put spikes in the road to stop this outlaw from getting away.

The outlaw sees Richard Martin, veers off the road, hits him and kills him and keeps driving for 20 miles before the Houston Police Department stopped him.

Richard Martin was 47. He had only been a peace officer for 4 years. He had other careers before that, including serving in the United States Air Force. He has two children. I met Tyler last week. He is 11. It was a rough, rough conversation talking to him about his dad.

As Sheriff NUGENT said, these are real people and they are good people. They are a rare breed, the American

breed, who will wear that star, that badge, over their hearts to protect us.

All that separates us from evil and criminals is the thin blue line. That is it. You either have anarchy or you have the rule of law. Those who want to cause anarchy and mischief and crime in our communities are stopped by the law. That is why we call them law officers, peace officers.

They are protecting us from those that would do us harm, and we certainly should give them and their families the respect and honor that they rightfully deserve because they make a sacrifice every day. They willingly make that sacrifice for us.

Most peace officers I ever met have an extra job. They don't make enough money being a peace officer; so, to support their families, they do something else. They work long hours all week doing everything they can to make an income to take care of their families, and we should recognize that they are the best that America has.

In closing, I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, peace officers are really the last strand of wire in the fence that protects good from evil, that protects the chickens from the coyotes. That is the peace officers. We appreciate what they have done.

I want to thank Sheriff REICHERT for his service to our country, especially all those cases that you solved years ago. I am sure that the criminals are glad that you are in Congress and not back in Washington State chasing them down.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge POE for his service, too, and for his staunch support of law enforcement officers across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, who has a real understanding of what it means to serve. His family is a family of military service. So he understands the service that law enforcement officers provide across this country as well.

I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Sheriff DAVE REICHERT along with Sheriff RICHARD NUGENT and Judge TED POE for their service to law enforcement in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday marks the beginning of National Police Week, a time each year when we especially honor the service and sacrifice of our Nation's police officers. Tragically, the citizens of South Carolina's Second Congressional District lost two distinguished and courageous officers this year.

Officer Gregory Alia, a 7-year veteran of the City of Forest Acres Police Department, was beloved by his friends, family, and the entire community where he was born and raised. Gregory was an Eagle Scout, a graduate of Richland Northeast High School, and a

graduate of the University of South Carolina.

In 2003, I was grateful to accompany him along with my son, Hunter, with Troop 100 of St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Columbia to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, for a 100-mile trek. I knew he was a great fellow.

A hardworking, dedicated, and humble man, he was the embodiment of a hero every day of his life. As a new father, he loved his family, looked for the good in everyone, and was a selfless leader, one who brought people together.

His end of watch was September 30, 2015, when he was shot while pursuing a suspect.

I am grateful his wife, Kassy; parents, Dr. Richard and Alexis; aunt, Catherine Alia-Harding; and his infant son, Sal, are here in the gallery and community today.

Gregory's legacy lives on not only in the outpouring of love and appreciation from the community, but also in the actions of his family and friends.

I would like to especially recognize his wife, Kassy, for her selfless service in the days, weeks, and months following the loss of Gregory.

Less than a week—actually, even during the funeral service—after her husband was killed, the community was devastated by a 1,000-year rain, which caused widespread flooding.

Days after Gregory's funeral, Kassy volunteered at the Harvest Hope Food Bank. She also started Heroes in Blue, an organization dedicated to sharing and caring and providing courageous stories of police officers in South Carolina and across the country. She founded Gregory Alia Day on December 14, the date of what would have been their fourth anniversary.

Hundreds of community members and local businesses honored his memory by providing hot meals to 13 police stations in the Midlands of South Carolina.

Nearly a month after Gregory Alia was provided final honors at St. Joseph's Church, our community faced another tragedy when Officer Stacy Case lost her life in the line of duty.

Stacy, an Iraq war veteran, served the Army for 15 years, earning several commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Award, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Originally from Michigan, Stacy joined the City of Columbia Police Department in 2011. She worked one of the most difficult beats of the department and regularly sought opportunities for professional development. Stacy was killed in an automobile accident when responding to a shots-fired call on November 7, 2015.

A highly respected member of the Columbia Police Department, her legacy

will continue to live on. Indeed, last month the City of Columbia Police Department commissioned a new K-9 officer named Case in Stacy's memory. It is just one of the many tributes to her honor.

As we mark National Police Week, I remember those that we have lost and stand in support of the men and women who risk their lives every day to protect us.

God bless and protect our law enforcement and their devoted families.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILSON for his support and for being here tonight to help us highlight law enforcement Police Week and remember those who have died in the line of duty and those continuing to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to introduce Mr. GOWDY from South Carolina, who also has a career in law enforcement and has continued that effort here to do the right thing and protect the American people here in Congress.

I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY).

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Sheriff Reichert for his service to the country and to the great State of Washington. I want to thank Judge POE, Sheriff Nugent, and my friend and colleague from South Carolina, JOE WILSON, who is the father of a prosecutor.

Mr. Speaker, Allen Jacobs was going to be a father again, but this time was going to be a little bit different. He was already the father of two precious little boys, but he was going to be the father of a little girl. His wife, Meghan, and he were expecting a child this July.

Life had prepared Officer Jacobs very well to be a father. He was an outstanding student, an athlete in Greenville, South Carolina. He put that athleticism and intelligence to work for our country in the United States Army.

He was deployed to Iraq, Mr. Speaker, for 15 months and even volunteered to live in the neighborhoods of Baghdad because he understood that all people want to live in a peaceful, secure environment.

After Iraq, he was deployed to Haiti because he wanted to help the Haitian people in the aftermath of their tragic earthquake.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the tug of fatherhood is strong. So Allen decided to return to the Upstate of South Carolina, but his desire to protect and serve others and to provide peace and security to others never dissipated.

So he left the uniform of the United States Army and put on the uniform of the Greenville City Police Department. He pursued that calling with the same vigor and the same strength and the same professionalism that epitomized every other facet of his life, whether it was service on the SWAT team or the

Cops on the Court, as a patrol officer for schools or a gang resistance team.

Mr. Speaker, Allen Jacobs would stop his patrol car from time to time to shoot basketball with young men in the inner city of Greenville who did not have the father figure that he was to his boys and that he would be to his daughter.

□ 1800

Now, Mr. Speaker, I learned all of this from Allen's mother in a telephone call we had 2 days before his funeral. This strong man who survived Iraq and Haiti and boot camp and police officer training couldn't survive an encounter with a teenage gang member who had just been released from jail. He never even had a chance to unholster his weapon, Mr. Speaker. He was just trying to protect, serve, enforce the law, and he was ambushed.

His funeral gave all of us an opportunity to reflect not only on his life, but on the lives of all the other folks in the upstate of South Carolina who died in the line of duty, whether it be Russ Sorrow or Kevin Carper or Eric Nicholson or Marcus Whitfield or Greg Alia, who was killed in the line of duty, as my friend from Columbia made note of. His wife is here and his parents are here and his aunt is here. They have a little boy who is less than 1 year old.

I want to say this in conclusion, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all the women and men in uniform who are willing to do what most of us are not willing to do, and interact with people that most of us are not willing to interact with, and miss things in life that most of us are not willing to miss. But I especially want to send a message, Mr. Speaker, to Allen Jacobs' two sons and his daughter on the way and Greg Alia's son. Their fathers lived a life of service and sacrifice and significance, and they left the greatest legacy that you can ever leave children, which is a good name to be proud of.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GOWDY.

I was going to try to get some courage up to tell one of my stories about my partner who was killed in 1982, but I think I am going to wait and gain my composure.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY), who has led one of these Special Orders in the past in honor of police officers and is another staunch supporter of law enforcement across this great Nation.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sheriff. I want to associate myself—I know we all do—with our colleague Mr. GOWDY's remarks. This is personal for so many.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Pinellas County, Florida, the people in the State of Florida, who, if they were here in this Chamber tonight, would also want to associate themselves with the gratitude that fills

this well, gratitude to law enforcement officers who each day do risk their lives. They risk their own security, they risk the stability of their family, and at times they risk the security of their children, knowing the risk that is on the line every day.

Mr. Speaker, the risk is very real. It is very audible. We know—it has been talked about tonight—that, on average, we lose a law enforcement officer once every 3 days in the line of duty. As Sheriff Reichert very rightfully pointed out, we also know the prevalence of assaults and injuries. By some accounts, more than one assault every single hour of every single day, 365 days of every single year. The risk is real.

We all have an opportunity, a privilege, to hold the public trust. When we sit in this Chamber, we represent fine men and women who wear the uniform. We represent multiple police departments, sheriff's departments, other law enforcement agencies. One of the great departments I have gotten the opportunity to work with since being a Member is the Clearwater Police Department—men and women of impeccable character, impeccable bravery, but also impeccable sacrifice, a department that dons the number 4 on their shirts to remember four law enforcement officers from their department who paid the ultimate sacrifice: Patrolmen Harry Conyers, Ronald Mahony, John Passer, and Peter Price.

So what can this body do in addition to paying tribute, on behalf of the people we represent, to those who serve in blue, our men and women in law enforcement? We can do what we are doing tonight, but we need to do it every single year. What we need in this town are Members of Congress and elected officials who stand with law enforcement.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of people in this town who refuse to stand with law enforcement, who take cheap shots questioning the integrity of men and women who put their valor on the line, on display every single day. You want to make America safer? You want to solve civil unrest throughout the country? Let's stand with law enforcement. Let's say: Just as you have our back, we have yours.

The way to solve so many of these issues that we have seen on display on television in the last 2 years is to dispense with the rhetoric, dispense with the vitriol, dispense with the lies and the rumors and say: You know what? As a body, this Congress, this government is going to stand with our law enforcement officers each and every day.

There are two simple measures that I have introduced, and I am joined by colleagues, each who have other measures as well. There are a lot of good measures out there.

One we will be highlighting tomorrow in a national press conference is

called the Thin Blue Line Act. It provides for enhanced penalties for anyone who assaults or takes the life of a police officer. We currently provide those additional protections for someone who attacks a child, an elderly person, a disabled person. I think we should take that model code and apply it to law enforcement officers as well and very simply say to somebody: If you take the life of a law enforcement officer, be prepared to lose your own.

Another piece of legislation I think we should move on is something that addresses some of the questions about the 1033 program to provide surplus equipment. This President has launched a war on local law enforcement by restricting the availability of equipment and technology for local law enforcement agencies. Why don't we trust the leadership and the judgment of our local law enforcement leaders, our chiefs, and our sheriffs to determine what equipment is necessary for their force?

I have legislation that would leave 1033 perfectly in place but simply require the local law enforcement agency to certify that they have personnel trained and capable of operating that equipment. It is the right way to stand with law enforcement and say we are going to make sure you have the tools and technology you need.

The risk is very real; the politics, at times, are absolutely disgusting. We may never be able to replace the loss of families whose fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters were lost in the line of duty; we may never be able to heal the wounds; but we can honor our law enforcement officers every day. It is what this body is attempting to do tonight. It is the commitment of my colleagues I stand here with to let law enforcement officers around the country know that, just as you have got our back, we have got yours.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOLLY for his comments and his strong support of law enforcement over the years. I especially appreciate his comments regarding the partnership between police and community.

The police cannot protect our families and our neighborhoods and our communities alone. The communities can't do it alone. There has to be a partnership there, Mr. Speaker, and that partnership has to be based on trust.

So together, as a nation, in our communities across this great country, we have got to come together, police and communities, for the good of our children and the protection of our neighborhoods and the safety of our country. I think we can accomplish that with dialogue and especially going back to the good old days of community policing and actually visiting and talking with members of the community, as Mr. GOWDY pointed out, a police officer who stopped in his neighborhood, got

out of his car and played basketball with the young men and women on the street. I can remember those days myself. I got hurt in a basketball game with some kids on the street, but that is another story.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. REICHERT—Congressman, colleague, and sheriff—for this opportunity to support National Police Week and, more importantly, to thank him for his long career in law enforcement and his service.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet with the families of fallen Kentucky State Troopers Eric Chrisman and Blake Tribby. Tomorrow I will meet with the families of fallen Nicholasville, Kentucky, Police Officer Burke Rhoads and fallen Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis.

Each of these men died while doing his job, to defend our communities and to keep our families safe. These families have been deprived of a loved one, endured tremendous pain, and made enormous sacrifices so that all of us can live with greater peace of mind.

At a time when some are using the bad actions of a few to attack the dignity of the entire law enforcement profession, let the sacrifices of these men and their families remind us that uniformed officers are putting their lives on the line for our benefit every single day. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to all law enforcement officers throughout this country, and especially to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

My wife, Carol, and I had the privilege and the honor of attending the memorial service for fallen Richmond, Kentucky, Police Officer Daniel Ellis just a few months ago. The memorial service in the Eastern Kentucky University Alumni Coliseum was packed full of family and friends and colleagues on the Richmond police force. But even more impressive, brothers in blue from all over Kentucky and all over the country were packed in that coliseum to pay tribute to this hero to our community.

Richmond Police Chief Larry Brock, who was eulogizing his colleague, addressed the crowd, and speaking of Ellis' valor and his kindness, he also expressed the heartbreak felt by all of Ellis' colleagues in blue. This is what he said:

“As we left the hospital to escort Daniel to Frankfort for the required medical exam, the skies opened up and it poured rain. It was as if the angels themselves were crying at the loss of this special young man,” said Brock, his voice breaking.”

I would like to join all of my colleagues in welcoming the tens of thousands of people who have come across the country to our Nation's Capital in support of National Police Week. I especially want to thank Katie, the

widow of Officer Ellis, and Officer Ellis' 3-year-old son, Luke. In the words of the Gospel, John 15:13: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Congressman REICHERT for hosting this important Special Order to recognize the contributions and the sacrifices of police officers from across the country.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BARR for his comments and his support.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK).

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Sheriff Reichert and others who have so eloquently spoken and recognize the importance of this week.

Police Week gives us the opportunity to honor and thank those law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to protect us. The men and women who work in law enforcement know the definition of sacrifice. They know the look on their spouse's face when they leave for the swing shift. They know the loneliness of a patrol car on a snowy night. They know how many times they have looked at that picture of their family on the dashboard, and they know what it is like to lose one of their own.

In Colorado, we have already lost three officers this year: Deputy Sheriff Travis Russell, Corporal Nate Carrigan, and Deputy Sheriff Derek Geer. But speaking their names on the House floor won't bring them back for dinner tonight or put them in their patrol car or seat them in the bleachers of their son's baseball game on Saturday.

We must honor those who have fallen, but our honor must engender resolve; otherwise, we are forgetting too quickly the sacrifices we meant to remember. This is why I have introduced the Blue Lives Matter Act. The despicable criminals who would assault or kill an officer simply because of that officer's status as a member of law enforcement deserve an enhanced sentence and a prosecution and investigation from every possible agency that we can bring resources from. This legislation ensures that these criminals see justice.

Everywhere I go in Colorado, I run into officers who thank me for introducing this bill, and I appreciate that, but I don't deserve their thanks. Protecting police officers isn't something we do because we have some extra time or because we feel especially patriotic. Congress has a duty to protect those who protect us.

□ 1815

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the gentleman for his support and taking time to honor those fallen in the State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN). The gentleman from Washington has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. REICHERT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen and sheriff, and I would also like to thank President John F. Kennedy for his proclamation recognizing our peace officers.

I want to say that I am grateful that the gentleman has chosen to come to the floor and have this Special Order honoring those who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

I have heard persons talk about the virtues of peace officers. I don't have to have it explained to me because I have a personal experience that I can relate to.

My uncle was a deputy sheriff. My uncle was a peace officer. He was well respected in his community. I adored him. My uncle and I were together in his patrol car, and I was asking a lot of questions.

His comment to another person with us was: This boy is asking a lot of questions. He is going to be a lawyer because he is asking so many questions.

I did not know what a lawyer was, but I knew that, if my uncle, who was a deputy sheriff, said I was going to be a lawyer, then a lawyer I would be.

From that day forward, I had one mission in life when it came to my education and my career. That was to be a lawyer because my uncle, the deputy sheriff, the peace officer, proclaimed it as such.

So I am honored tonight to pay tribute to him. His name was Dallas Yates. He served in Florida in a small town called Gifford, near Vero Beach.

He lived into his nineties, became a minister, and passed away just recently. It was not in the line of duty, but it meant something to me to know that he lived and made a difference in the lives of others.

With reference to the phrase itself, this terminology, "in the line of duty," it takes on new meaning if you go to the home-going ceremony of a peace officer. It will take on a new meaning.

When you see that riderless horse with the boots in the stirrups, it takes on a new meaning. When you see the family grieving, it takes on a new meaning. When you understand this is a person who was willing to sacrifice so that others might have life, it takes on a new meaning.

So I am honored to be here tonight, and I want people to know that there are many of us who believe that we have to support our law enforcement officers and stand with them and recognize that "in the line of duty" means more than going to work. It sometimes means not coming home.

Mr. REICHERT. I thank Mr. GREEN for his support. I think your uncle gave you great advice.

Mr. Speaker, as I stood here tonight and listened to all the other presenters, I came to the realization that there were a lot of people here that might be

a lot more articulate about what it means to be a police officer. Even though I have served for 33 years, I found that a lot of words here touched me tonight because it brings back memories of good friends.

I want to tell a brief story related to some topics that were discussed earlier tonight about the opioid epidemic here. Yes, we are concerned about the people who are addicted. We are concerned—and rightly so—about the families who are trying to deal with that addiction and the danger that it presents to the person addicted, the danger it presents to the family, the tragedy it presents to that family and the addicted individual and the community in the entirety.

But sometimes we forget to include the police officer in that group of people that is endangered by this epidemic that has ripped our Nation. They are the first people there. They are the first ones called to a scene where someone might be acting up as a result of being addicted to heroin or some other drug.

I can remember a night. I just want to share this short story so that, Mr. Speaker, you can understand this is something that happens to police officers across this country every day of the year.

I was with a team of officers who were assigned to serve a drug search warrant on an apartment. We were all assigned a room to go to. I kicked in the door and I went to the right to a small bathroom.

When I entered that door and went into the bathroom, there was a young man in the bathroom with a rubber band around his arm and a needle injected in his arm. His eyes were glazed over. He was standing by the toilet.

He saw me come in with my badge over my heart and my gun in my hand. I said: Raise your hands above your head and drop to your knees. He raised his hands, but he didn't go to his knees. He stood there and stared at me for a short time. Eventually, his right hand moved to the right behind a half wall and came out with a gun.

At that moment, I had to make a decision. Every police officer across this Nation has to make a split-second decision: Do I shoot? Is my life in danger? Am I going home to my family? Am I not going home to my family? Is this the time? Those things go through your mind in a millisecond. In the snap of a finger, you have to make a decision.

Something told me I could talk to this young man. And so I continued to talk, and he finally leaned back and dropped the gun in the toilet, fell to his knees, and we handcuffed him and took him to jail.

I share that story to just emphasize the fact that police officers are going through these dangerous situations every day, having to make those decisions. And then, Mr. Speaker, every

day after that they second-guess themselves, if they had decided to pull the trigger, and then the community will continue to second-guess.

And, yes, we need to be questioned. And, yes, we need to be held accountable. And, yes, we need to be trained. All of those things are true. But it is so easy to Monday-morning-quarterback.

I had a partner that was killed in 1982. We were tracking down a murder suspect. In the process of that, my partner was ambushed and shot in the chest and killed. He had five sons. They are all grown men now. They grew up without their father.

In 1984, another friend and partner was stabbed and killed with a World War II sword. His name was Michael Rayburn. My partner's name was Sam Hicks. But just a few years before that, Mike Rayburn saved my life.

I was directing traffic in the middle of the night, at 2 o'clock in the morning, on Pacific Highway just south of Seattle. It was a pretty major accident. I had my back turned to the ditch behind me. Deputy Rayburn drove up.

Just at the moment he drove up, somebody jumped out of the ditch. He had a knife in his hand and was running across the lanes of traffic to bury that knife in my back. Mike Rayburn was there just in the nick of time and tackled that man who was about to stab me. Two years later, Mike Rayburn was dead. His kids grew up without their father.

I am here tonight to honor them. I am here tonight to honor every police officer in this country. I am here tonight, Mr. Speaker, to ask people across the Nation to say thank you to the police officers that protect their community, protect their children, and protect their homes each and every day.

I will be there on Sunday at the memorial in front of the Capitol and be with those families. I have held the widows in my arms, as the sheriff. I have held the children and cried. I will be doing that again on Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### TAX DAY FLOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored tonight to stand here in the U.S. House of Representatives to call to the attention of my colleagues, my friends, H.R. 5025, a bill that will bring some relief to much suffering in the Houston area in the State of Texas.

But before I get into the bill itself, I think it appropriate to thank some people for what they have done to help us get to this point.

I thank my colleague who will be speaking in just a moment, the Honor-

able GENE GREEN, who serves in the 29th District, which is adjacent to the district that I serve. I want to thank my friend GENE GREEN because he is the original cosponsor of this legislation. He was there to help shape it, and it means something to know that you have a friend that you can work with to this extent.

I want to thank my friend Congressman JOHN CULBERSON. He is the first to make this legislation bipartisan. This is not a partisan issue. Flooding is not a partisan issue. The homes that are damaged, the lives that are lost, none of this is partisan. I am grateful to Congressman CULBERSON for signing onto this bill.

I would like to thank the 60-plus cosponsors of this legislation who have said that they want to see what has been authorized materialized, such that, in Houston, Texas, we cannot only eliminate a lot of flooding—and we will. We can't eliminate all of it, but we can mitigate that which we cannot eliminate.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL of the Homeland Security Committee. He published the letter for us, the members of the delegation, to sign and send to the President of the United States, asking that Texas have certain areas within the State declared disaster areas because of the horrific flooding that took place on what we call Tax Day.

I thank the leadership for allowing us to have this team on the floor tonight on both sides. The leadership makes these things possible, and I am grateful to all leadership for doing this.

Finally, I want to thank President Barack Obama because he did, Mr. Speaker, declare certain areas in Texas disaster areas so that we might receive the help of FEMA and funds to help people recover and to restore their lives and continue with their lives.

So tonight I will say more about some of these things mentioned, but now I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), my colleague, who is the lead cosponsor of this, to have his commentary.

His district has suffered greatly not just this time, but in the past, from these floods. I will not go into it. I will leave all to be said about it to him.

But I think it appropriate that I acknowledge his great work in the Congress of the United States of America not only on this issue, but on many other issues impacting people within his district and across the length and breadth of this great country.

□ 1830

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and neighbor and friend for setting this Special Order tonight for what we call the tax day floods in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

Our district was hit by flooding, but not near as much as in Congressman

AL GREEN's, because I was in his district that week, and also in the neighboring districts, Congressman CULBERSON, Congresswoman LEE and Congressman MCCAUL, and Congressman BRADY.

But I was just looking at a memo. In our district, we have Hunting Bayou, which is part of the legislation, that was overflowed; and the people who live in that area, along Interstate 10 East, they cleaned out their homes, the Sheetrock and everything else, and it is literally a tragedy.

On April 18, the city of Houston and Harris County, Texas, was subjected to paralyzing flooding which claimed the lives of 9 of our citizens and required the rescue of at least 1,200 others.

Approximately 2,000 housing units were flooded, and we are currently working to figure out where to house the folks who cannot return to their homes.

This is the second major flooding disaster Houston has experienced in the last 6 months. The city is expecting additional rain, even this weekend, tomorrow and Saturday.

Residents of our congressional district, as well as other Members' districts, have been severely affected, and we must do everything we can to stop the needless loss of life.

The President has recognized the significance of the catastrophe and fulfilled a request for a disaster declaration. Now it is the job of Congress to help our constituents. That is why I have worked closely with my neighbor and friend and colleague, Representative AL GREEN, to introduce the Tax Day Floods Supplemental Funding Act, H.R. 5025.

The legislation would provide \$311 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction and, in most cases, completion of our bayou and flood projects in the Houston and Harris County, Texas, area.

Flooding is not new to Houston, but we have learned how to control it. Our bayou system has saved countless lives and millions of dollars in damage since the creation of them. Unfortunately, due to the consistent budget pressure, the Army Corps of Engineers cannot adequately fund these projects.

This bill would ensure that our Federal, State, and local authorities have the resources necessary to expedite these flood control projects we know protect people and property.

My colleagues and I have requested the Director of FEMA and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to tour our districts and see the damage firsthand, and I renew that request again today.

The support in the community is overwhelming. The Greater Houston Partnership, our chamber of commerce, supports this legislation, and they estimate that the total lost is about \$1.9 billion.

It is also supported by our local—in Harris County we created a flood control district that partners with the



Corps of Engineers. Our Harris County Flood Control District also supports this legislation.

Additionally, I want to make sure that the folks on the ground have the information they need to get back in their homes.

FEMA has opened disaster centers in our community, but if you are not near one of those centers, you can apply to FEMA by phone. Call 1-800-621-3362. That is 1-800-621-FEMA, 1-800-621-3362.

FEMA can offer two types of assistance: housing assistance, temporary housing, money to help repair or replace your primary residence.

Non-housing needs include medical, dental, funeral costs, clothing, household items, tools, home fuel, disaster-related moving and storage, replacement of a disaster-damaged vehicle. After 24 hours, FEMA will follow up with you.

It is important in our district to know that, if your Spanish-speaking households have children that are U.S. citizens or legal residents, FEMA can help you if there is a legal resident or a citizen living in that home.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we help victims in our neighborhoods so we can get back on top and help them.

I urge our body, this House, to pass the emergency funding legislation and do so as quickly as we can.

Again, I want to thank my colleague and friend. I was impressed that day when we were in his district, in Westbury, at the flooding and the outpouring of people.

I have seen it in my district where people will literally move everything from their house; they have to throw it away. It is out on the curb. The city of Houston is cleaning it up as fast as they can, but we need to get these people back into their homes.

But this bill that we have will make sure their homes are not flooded again because, that way, we don't need to have these repetitive floods like we have had in the last few years.

Again, I want to thank my colleague for this Special Order tonight but, more importantly, I want to thank him for his leadership on this piece of legislation. I am proud to be his cosponsor.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman very much. I greatly appreciate all that he has done to help us, especially coming into my district, and being there with the mayor, if you recall, who was there.

We had a county commissioner in attendance, County Commissioner Gene Locke, Mayor Sylvester Turner, and persons from that neighborhood. This was not your district, but the people were people that the gentleman cared about, and they are grateful, as am I, for the gentleman's coming in and visiting with us.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. If the gentleman will yield to me; we also had the press conference, and everybody

was confused. We also have the gentleman's city council member, Larry Green. So they had Congressman AL GREEN, Congressman EUGENE GREEN, and City Councilman Larry Green. They can call all of us and we will help them.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Absolutely. In Houston, Green is a good name if you want to become a member of the political order.

Again, I thank my colleague.

Let me elaborate for just a moment on the letter from the Greater Houston Partnership because a good many people are not aware that this is another way for us to say chamber of commerce in Texas. We have gone beyond a simple chamber of commerce. We call ours a partnership because it is an effort among the many to make sure that commerce excels, but also to make sure that people have great opportunities.

Houston is a city of opportunity, and I want to thank the Greater Houston Partnership for the letter that has been sent to us supporting H.R. 5025.

But now let's be a little bit more specific. I want to thank Mr. Jamey Rootes. He is the chairperson of the Greater Houston Partnership. He and I have been talking, and he has been working with me and with my colleagues to try to make sure that we have an opportunity to get our message out to the masses. He has done what he can to help us with this messaging, a message that includes the position of the Greater Houston Partnership, I must add.

Also, Mr. Bob Harvey, who is the president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. We made a call to them one morning, asking if they could get a letter to us indicating their support, and that afternoon we had the letter in hand, the letter that I hold in my hand currently. And that letter is, without question, a solid indication of support for this project.

The last paragraph of it reads: "We want to make sure that we do all that we can to help you and your staff as you consider every potential opportunity for Federal support. Please do not hesitate to call." And they give names and numbers.

They are committed to doing what they can to not only help with this legislation, but to help people in their recoveries, and to prevent this from happening again.

The Harris County Flood Control District, Mr. Michael Talbott, sent the letter, the executive director. And in his letter, he speaks of how this can benefit the Houston area to the amount of about \$2.4 billion.

He goes on to talk about the jobs that can be created—6,220 created if we can get this legislation done, if we can get this money into Houston.

I must add this: this money is money that we will get eventually into Hous-

ton. This is not money that we won't ever get. These projects have been authorized. They are already in progress. It is just that we are getting the money in a piecemeal fashion, and we need a wholesale representation of this emolument for Houston, such that we can get on with these projects, such that we can prevent future damages, such that we can save lives. What we cannot eliminate, we can mitigate in terms of damages.

So I am honored that the Corps of Engineers has these projects that they are working on, and I am especially honored that the Harris County Flood Control District has let us know that they are absolutely in support of what we are trying to accomplish with H.R. 5025.

Now, having said all of these things and making it clear that this is money that has to be matched, that this is money that we will eventually acquire, I think it's appropriate for me to say this:

This is about more than money. It is about more than things, inanimate objects. This is about more than homes and personal property, cars, and all of the things that we call creature comforts. It is about more than these things. It is about people. This legislation really is about human beings. It is about human beings who are in a recovery phase right now, many of them recovering from the tax day flood, some still recovering from the Memorial Day flood which took place last Memorial Day. Mr. Speaker, it is about these people, but not only these people, it is about people who lost their lives in this flood.

My colleague mentioned that there were nine—nine persons, that we know of, lost their lives. And wouldn't it be a shame to remember the flood, remember the damages that were imposed upon the homes, and the cars, and the furniture, remember the damages, but not remember the people who lost their lives?

So tonight I want to take just a moment on behalf of my colleague and many others in this House and just recognize, memorialize the lives that were lost in this horrific flood, a tragedy that, quite frankly, could have been mitigated if we had all of these projects to completion.

Let's just remember these persons and not forget them. So with a degree of solemnity, I would like to just call their names and say a little bit about each of the nine.

The first, German Antonio Franco. He was 66 years of age, Mr. Speaker. He was a retired HEB produce manager. HEB is one of our food stores. He also worked as a part-time contract limousine driver. This was a man who had children—three children and four grandchildren. The circumstances of his death are that he died after an encounter with high water, something we

will see consistently as I go through this. But he lost his life in Houston, Texas, in a flood.

I would like to mention Ms. Claudia, last name is Melgar. Claudia Melgar. She lost her life, 25 years of age. She was a college student. She died in an encounter with high water.

Now, there are those who would say that you can avoid an encounter with high water. I believe that in many circumstances you can, but in Houston, Texas, we have what are known as flash floods, floods that occur in a flash, and there are many times when you can be caught in a circumstance such that you cannot extricate yourself.

Because of this, the waters will envelop you and you will find yourself in a position such that you cannot even leave the car that you are in because of the way the electronics can malfunction. And if you don't have some device, some tool to break windows, to move yourself through some passageway other than that door, you will find yourself in harm's way and you can lose your life.

□ 1845

This has happened to many people. It happened to Claudia.

I would also like to mention Pedro Rascon Morales, 61 years of age. He was a big rig driver, a father, and a grandfather. He died in the cab of his 18-wheeler while trapped in a flooded roadway in Houston, Texas.

All of these persons are in and around the Houston area. They all lost their lives in water due to flooding with the tax day floods as we call them. These are lives that we can never forget. I think that we should remember the damages that were caused to property and the destruction, but we shouldn't forget the lives that were lost because there are families that are grieving to this day because they lost people that they loved.

These were the daughters and sons of somebody, and we should never forget that they lived and that they lost their lives, some, I might add, in a needless circumstance—this is my opinion—because of our not fulfilling our obligation to fund what has been authorized.

Next, we have Charles Edward Odum, 56 years of age, seventh grade social studies teacher, married, with two children. Circumstances of his death: died after encountering high water.

Then there was Teri White Rodriguez, 41 years of age, a wife and mother of three. Circumstances of death: died in her vehicle after an encounter with high water, an encounter with high water in Houston, Texas.

It was an unfortunate circumstance, and we should not forget that lives were lost.

I know it is going to be easy for many of us to go on with our lives. This will be put behind us. We have a

moment when we focus on these things, but life is such that there are so many other things that we encounter that our focus is lost or that we focus on something else. That is important, so I don't begrudge anybody who has to focus on other things. I just believe that I have a duty, an obligation, and a responsibility to make sure that we don't forget these lives that were lost. There will be others, but we don't want to forget these. There have been others, but we won't forget these.

We won't forget Sunita Singh, 49, an electrical engineer, a wife and a mother of two children, drowned in her car after an encounter with high water.

Let's not forget Suresh Kumar Talluri, 49, a husband and father of two young children ages 6 and 8, drowned in his car after he was trapped by high water.

We shouldn't forget and we should commemorate the life of Dharamendra Uppal. This is an unfortunate circumstance wherein we have the age of the person undisclosed, the circumstances of the death undisclosed in the sense that we don't know personal information about this person who lost his life, or her. I am assuming that from the name it was a female, but this person died and was found deceased in his car, a male, deceased in his car which appears to have been submerged. He was a male. The name is important. The identity is not known completely because we don't know the age and we don't have personal information.

Then there is a woman with an undisclosed name, with no personal information available to us at this time who drowned after an encounter with high water.

All of these unfortunate circumstances involved people. I want to make sure tonight that while we will talk about the billions of dollars in damages—and there were billions of dollars in damages, billions of dollars. It is estimated that it is as high as \$8 billion in damages when you combine the Memorial Day flood with the tax day flood, as much as \$8 billion.

That \$8 billion, by the way, is 25 times the \$311 million that we might use to take preventive action.

This money will not go to help people get new homes. This money won't go to help people get personal items that have been destroyed. All of this money will go to projects that have been authorized, projects that, if completed, can possibly prevent the loss of future lives and projects that, if they had been completed, may have prevented the loss of some of these lives.

So I take it as my personal responsibility to call this to the attention of this House and to ask my colleagues to please consider H.R. 5025. The President has declared the area that I am speaking of as a disaster area. FEMA is there. This is an opportunity for us to act. We have done it before, and we should do it now.

I want to assure my colleagues that, when there is a disaster of this magnitude, you can count on our good offices being with you to help you through your time of need. We understand that we should be there for people. This is what we have done in the past, whether it was Sandy, hurricanes, or whether it was tornadic activities. Whether it is fires or hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, we want to be there for our people.

This is our country, and a country is more than bricks, buildings, skyscrapers, and military. It is people who live ordinary lives, who expect that they would have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams, to go to work and come home safely and not find themselves in harm's way by virtue of waters that are not expected, floodwaters that can come in a flash and take them away.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who have signed on to this piece of legislation. I want to again thank the President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama, for making his desires known by declaring certain areas in Texas a disaster area. I thank the Governor of the State, by the way, Mr. Speaker, because he acted quickly, swiftly, and promptly to make the request of the President.

I have mentioned Mr. MCCAUL. I thank the gentleman again for his actions in circulating the letter so that all of the members of the Texas delegation could be on it requesting that certain areas in Texas receive this attention from the President.

Finally, I know that these are difficult times for us across the Nation and across the world. There are many things that are happening that are challenging for us. But among these things, let us not forget that there were people who lost their lives in Houston, Texas, and let us not forget that these floods occur with a degree of regularity such that it is predictable that it will happen again.

We can prognosticate now that this will happen again. If it does, I will find myself back here as a reminder that there are things that we could have done, should have done, and hopefully will do to eliminate much of the flooding and mitigate that which we cannot eliminate. I am grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4238. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities.

H.R. 4336. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inurnment in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service.

S. 32. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes.

S. 125. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 2755. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue

squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 13, 2016, at 9 a.m.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOYCE MEYER, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 29 AND APR. 7, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Joyce Meyer	3/31	4/2	Philippines		588.00		(3)				588.00
	4/2	4/6	Australia		1,718.00		(3)				1,718.00
Committee total					2,036.00						2,036.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

MS. JOYCE MEYER, Apr. 21, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO IRELAND, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 23 AND MAR. 28, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Peter King	3/24	3/28	Ireland		2,034.00		2,983.16				5,017.16
Hon. Richard Neal	3/24	3/27	Ireland		1,908.00		3,455.26				5,363.26
Hon. Michael Fitzpatrick	3/24	3/28	Ireland		1,725.00		1,142.86				2,867.86
Hon. John Katko	3/25	3/28	Ireland		1,599.00		2,323.90				3,922.90
Hon. Brian Higgins	3/24	3/27	Ireland		1,908.00		3,429.86				5,337.86
Hon. Daniel Kildee	3/24	3/28	Ireland		1,725.00		2,070.66				3,795.66
Committee total					10,899.00		15,405.70				26,304.70

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETER T. KING, Apr. 27, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, Apr. 8, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Will Smith	1/30	1/31	Australia		615.00						615.00
	1/31	2/3	New Zealand		879.00						879.00
	2/3	2/7	Antarctica								
	2/7	2/8	New Zealand		293.00						293.00
Local transportation							269.35			269.35	
Commercial airfare							11,449.80			11,449.80	
Jim Kulikowski	1/30	1/31	Australia		615.00						615.00
	1/31	2/3	New Zealand		879.00						879.00
	2/3	2/7	Antarctica								
	2/7	2/8	New Zealand		293.00						293.00
Local transportation							269.35			269.35	
Commercial airfare							11,462.36			11,462.36	
Leslie Albright	1/30	1/31	Australia		615.00						615.00
	1/31	2/3	New Zealand		879.00						879.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016—Continued

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include members like B.G. Wright, Colin Lee, Cornell Teague, etc., and a final 'Committee total' row.

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Luke Messer	12/28	12/29	Japan		221.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				221.00
	12/29	12/31	Thailand		492.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				492.00
	12/31	1/2	Burma		676.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				676.00
Hon. Carlos Curbelo	1/2	1/3	Japan		69.00				* 1,391.16		1,460.16
	1/19	1/22	Afghanistan		12.50				* 18,418.26		18,430.76
	1/22	1/24	Kuwait		499.52				**		499.52
Committee total				1,970.02			19,809.42				21,799.44

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.  
 \* MILAIR broke down.  
 \*\* Roundtrip to USA.

HON. JOHN KLINE, Chairman, Apr. 19, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
David Redl	2/21	2/25	Spain		1,631.60		7,092.46				8,724.06
David Goldman	2/21	2/25	Spain		1,661.44		7,091.46				8,752.90
David Redl	3/3	3/10	Morocco		1,485.25		14,773.66				16,258.91
Charlotte Savercool	3/3	3/10	Morocco		1,485.25		14,588.86				16,074.11
Gerald Levrich	3/3	3/10	Morocco		1,485.25		14,773.66				16,258.91
Committee total					7,748.79		58,320.10				66,068.89

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Apr. 21, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Dennis Ross	1/18	1/20	Israel		1,000.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				1,000.00
	1/20	1/21	Oman		227.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				227.00
	1/21	1/22	UAE		440.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				440.00
	1/22	1/23	Bahrain		530.16		( <sup>3</sup> )				530.16
	1/23	1/24	Qatar		288.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				288.00
Hon. Randy Hultgren	1/24	1/25	Belgium		315.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				315.00
	2/14	2/17	Australia		840.30		( <sup>3</sup> )				840.30
	2/17	2/18	Singapore		445.84		( <sup>3</sup> )				445.84
	2/18	2/19	Tanzania		289.81		( <sup>3</sup> )				289.81
	2/19	2/20	Rwanda		297.80		( <sup>3</sup> )				297.80
	2/20	2/21	Ethiopia		390.14		( <sup>3</sup> )				390.14
Hon. David Schweikert	2/21	2/23	Spain		166.26		( <sup>3</sup> )				166.26
	3/4	3/6	Chile		612.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				612.00
	3/6	3/8	Argentina		686.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				686.00
	3/8	3/10	Uruguay		504.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				504.00
	3/10	3/11	Paraguay		271.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				271.00
	3/11	3/12	Costa Rica		208.00				707.43		915.43
Committee total					7,511.31		707.43				8,218.74

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. JEB HENSARLING, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 1, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Paul Behrends	3/18	3/21	Belgium		1,301.11		13,418.00				14,719.11
Philip Bednarczyk	3/18	3/21	Belgium		1,301.11		2,283.46				3,584.57
Thomas Alexander	2/14	2/16	United Kingdom		1,014.00		1,237.46				2,251.46
Sadaf Khan	2/16	2/18	France		1,001.92						1,001.92
	2/18	2/20	Netherlands		643.67						643.67
	2/14	2/16	United Kingdom		999.52		1,237.66				2,237.18
	2/16	2/18	France		1,000.92						1,000.92
	2/18	2/20	Netherlands		639.50						639.50
	3/4	3/6	Chile		612.00			( <sup>3</sup> )			612.00
Sarah Blocher	3/6	3/8	Argentina		686.00				( <sup>3</sup> )		686.00
	3/8	3/10	Uruguay		504.00				( <sup>3</sup> )		504.00
	3/10	3/11	Paraguay		271.00				( <sup>3</sup> )		271.00
	3/11	3/12	Costa Rica		208.00				( <sup>3</sup> )		208.00
	2/14	2/16	United Kingdom		980.73		1,237.46				2,254.19
	2/16	2/18	France		1,001.92						1,001.92

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 1, 2016—Continued

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include members such as Rep. Jeff Duncan, Rep. Scott DesJarlais, Rep. Ted Yoho, Rep. Albio Sires, Rebecca Ulrich, Mark Walker, Greg Simpkins, Lesley Warner, Rep. Reid Ribble, Leah Campos, Piero Tozzi, Doug Campbell, Eric Jacobstein, Rep. Edward Royce, Rep. David Trott, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Rep. Reid Ribble, Rep. Eliot Engel, Thomas P. Sheehy, Doug Campbell, Cory Fritz, Worku Gachou, Amy Porter, Elizabeth Heng, Lesley Warner, Matt Zweig, and Kristen Marquardt.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 1, 2016—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Committee total					68,322.21		142,043.49		6,598.21		216,963.91

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.  
 \* Indicates Delegation Costs

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
CODEL Carper:											
N. Torres	1/14	1/15	Guatemala				( <sup>3</sup> )				
	1/15	1/16	El Salvador				1,146.99				1,146.99
Committee total							1,146.99				1,146.99

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, Apr. 28, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Sean Moran	2/14	2/21	Panama		932.00		1,148.26		800.00		2,880.26
John Clocker	2/14	2/18	Panama		932.00		1,148.26				2,080.26
Mary Sue Englund	2/14	2/18	Panama		897.00		842.26				1,739.26
Cole Felder	2/14	2/18	Panama		907.00		842.26				1,749.26
James Fleet	2/14	2/18	Panama		914.00		1,119.16				2,033.16
Edward Flaherty	2/14	2/20	Panama		907.51		1,148.26				2,055.77
Khalil Abboud	2/14	2/18	Panama		913.00		1,148.26				2,061.26
Committee total					6,402.51		7,396.72		800.00		14,599.23

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Raúl Labrador	3/3	3/12	Chile		871.00		( <sup>3</sup> )		1,410.00		2,281.00
			Argentina				( <sup>3</sup> )				
			Uruguay				( <sup>3</sup> )				
			Paraguay				( <sup>3</sup> )				
			Costa Rica				( <sup>3</sup> )				
Committee total					871.00				1,410.00		2,281.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2016.

(AMENDMENT) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Sean Hayes	12/6	12/12	France		733.00		1,088.00				1,821.00
Ryan Hambleton	12/6	12/12	France		733.00		1,088.00				1,821.00
Committee total					1,466.00		2,176.00				3,642.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Cynthia Lummis	12/28	12/29	Japan		289.00						289.00
	12/29	12/31	Thailand		458.00						458.00
	12/31	1/2	Burma		694.00						694.00
Hon. Steve Russell	1/16	1/18	Turkey		860.00		13,708.00				14,568.00
	1/18	1/20	Jordan		780.00						780.00
	1/20	1/21	Austria		343.00						343.00
Delegation expenses									7,562.00		7,562.00
Hon. Stephen Lynch	1/16	1/18	Turkey		860.00		16,525.00				17,385.00
	1/18	1/20	Jordan		780.00						780.00
	1/20	1/21	Austria		343.00						343.00
Sang Yi	1/16	1/18	Turkey		860.00		15,091.00				15,951.00
	1/18	1/20	Japan		780.00						780.00
	1/20	1/21	Austria		343.00						343.00
Bruce Fernandez	1/16	1/18	Turkey		860.00		15,091.00				15,951.00
	1/18	1/20	Jordan		780.00						780.00
	1/20	1/21	Austria		343.00						343.00
Hon. Stephen Lynch	2/12	2/14	Germany		660.00		8,101.00				8,761.00
Hon. Tim Walberg	2/15	2/17	Australia		622.00						622.00
	2/17	2/18	Singapore		351.00						351.00
	2/18	2/19	Tanzania		264.00						264.00
	2/19	2/20	Rwanda		270.00						270.00
	2/20	2/21	Ethiopia		379.00						379.00
	2/21	2/22	Spain		180.00						180.00
Committee total					12,099.00		68,516.00		7,562.00		88,177.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Steve Chabot	3/5	3/7	Guatemala		223.00		1,275.52				1,498.52
	3/7	3/9	Honduras		284.00						284.00
	3/9	3/11	Costa Rica		256.00						256.00
Kevin Fitzpatrick	3/5	3/7	Guatemala		223.00		1,380.52				1,603.52
	3/7	3/9	Honduras		284.00						284.00
	3/9	3/11	Costa Rica		256.00						256.00
Committee total					3,052.00		2,656.04				5,708.04

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. STEVE CHABOT, Chairman, Apr. 28, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JEFF MILLER, Chairman, Apr. 26, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Angela Ellard	3/6	3/8	Japan		765.67		17,139.86		1,224.20		19,129.73
	3/8	3/10	Malaysia		424.70				150.37		575.07
	3/10	3/12	Singapore		721.66						721.66
Stephen Claeys	3/6	3/8	Japan		736.41		17,139.86				17,876.27
	3/8	3/10	Malaysia		395.44						395.44
	3/10	3/12	Singapore		692.40						692.40
Committee total					3,736.28		34,279.72		1,374.57		39,390.57

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. KEVIN BRADY, Chairman, May 2, 2016.



REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016 \*

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include members like Hon. Brad Wenstrup, Hon. Michael Conway, Hon. Frank LoBiondo, etc.

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

3 Military air transportation.

\* In accordance with title 22, United States Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted.

HON. DEVIN NUNES, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. TREY GOWDY, Chairman, Apr. 20, 2016.

### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5330. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility; Virginia: Albermarle County, Unincorporated Areas, et al.; [Docket ID: FEMA-2016-0002; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8429] received May 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5331. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Commission Participation and Commission Employee Involvement in Voluntary Standards Activities [CPSC Docket No.: CPSC-2013-0034] received May 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5332. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0143] (RIN: 0910-AG64) received May 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5333. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (RIN: 0985-AA12) received May 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THORNBERRY: Committee on Armed Services. Supplemental report on H.R. 4909. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-537, Pt. 2).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 725. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 524) to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use (Rept. 114-564). Referred to the House Calendar.

### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FORBES (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER):

H.R. 5203. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for new procedures pertaining to the processing of petitions and applications for immigrant or non-immigrant visas or for immigration benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 5204. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide an exclusion from income for student loan forgiveness for students who have died or become disabled; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5205. A bill to require ingredient labeling of certain consumer cleaning products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GUINTA (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 5206. A bill to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the "Saint-Gaudens National Park for the Arts", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr.

HONDA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. NOR-TON, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BLU-

MENAUER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CUM-MINGS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SIREN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HOYER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FARR, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. HANNA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KIND, Mr. HIMES, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mrs. NAPOLI-TANO, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WALZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. MENG, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CON-NOLLY, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CART-WRIGHT, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALO-NEY of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MI-CHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RICHMOND, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 5207. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an alien may not be denied admission to the United States because of the alien's religion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 5208. A bill to require a report on the designation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 5209. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for the payment to affected producers and their employees of duties that are collected pursuant to countervailing and antidumping duty orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUM, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LONG, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 5210. A bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. BARR, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 5211. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to update the purpose of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 5212. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to establish rules to prohibit unfair or deceptive acts or practices related to the provision of funeral goods or funeral services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 5213. A bill to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to provide notice and comment rulemaking for the revised enforcement policy relating to the exemption of retail facilities from coverage of the process safety management of highly hazardous chemicals standard under section 1910.119(a)(2)(i) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5214. A bill to amend the Social Security Act, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to require that the value of child's savings accounts be disregarded for the purpose of determining eligibility to receive benefits under such Acts; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALO-

NEY of New York, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 5215. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NEAL, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KEATING, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KIND, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SIREN, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BASS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. LEE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 5216. A bill to provide funding for opioid and heroin abuse prevention and treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 5217. A bill to affirm "The Agreement Between the United States and Westlands Water District" dated September 15, 2015, "The Agreement Between the United States, San Luis Water District, Panoche Water District and Pacheco Water District", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DESANTIS (for himself, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. MARINO):

H.R. 5218. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a certification proc-

ess for the issuance of nondisclosure requirements accompanying certain administrative subpoenas, to provide for judicial review of such nondisclosure requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 5219. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women, to require an annual report to Congress on approved new drug applications with information on pregnancy and lactation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 5220. A bill to direct the President to develop a policy on when an action in cyberspace constitutes a use of force against the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 5221. A bill to require that States and localities receiving grants under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program require law enforcement officers to undergo training on and thereafter employ de-escalation techniques to assist in reducing the need for the use of force by such officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE:

H.R. 5222. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons responsible for knowingly engaging in significant activities undermining cybersecurity on behalf of or at the direction of the Government of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WALZ):

H. Res. 726. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Federation of Teachers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H. Res. 727. A resolution supporting the Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H. Res. 728. A resolution supporting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Cambodia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 5203.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to "establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization." The Supreme Court has long found that this provision of the Constitution grants Congress plenary power over immigration policy. As the court found in *Galvan v. Press*, 347 U.S. 522, 531 (1954) "that the formulation of policies [pertaining to the entry of aliens and the right to remain here] is entrusted to Congress has become about as firmly imbedded in the legislative and judicial tissues of our body politic as any aspect of our government."

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 5204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, which states "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes," and Article I, Section 7, which states "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 5206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 5207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 5210.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Consistent with the understanding and interpretation of the Commerce Clause, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation in accordance with Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 5211.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 5212.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §8, cl. 3: "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5213.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of commerce among the several states).

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5214.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 5215.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, to regulate the commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 5216.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 5217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 5218.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, Specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H.R. 5219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 5221.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE:

H.R. 5222.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States pertaining to the regulation of commerce with foreign nations.

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.  
 H.R. 38: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 40: Mrs. BEATTY.  
 H.R. 155: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 191: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 243: Ms. DELAURO.  
 H.R. 250: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BOUTSTANY, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
 H.R. 266: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.  
 H.R. 402: Mr. UPTON.  
 H.R. 448: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VELA, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
 H.R. 563: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
 H.R. 649: Mr. COFFMAN.  
 H.R. 664: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.  
 H.R. 670: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
 H.R. 711: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 759: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
 H.R. 781: Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
 H.R. 836: Mr. HENSARLING.  
 H.R. 842: Mr. MCHENRY.  
 H.R. 865: Mr. RUIZ.  
 H.R. 986: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.  
 H.R. 1221: Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
 H.R. 1301: Mr. DUFFY.  
 H.R. 1519: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H.R. 1530: Mr. ISRAEL.  
 H.R. 1603: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.  
 H.R. 1688: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.  
 H.R. 1713: Mr. ELLISON.  
 H.R. 1718: Mr. THORNBERRY.  
 H.R. 1779: Mr. WELCH.  
 H.R. 1865: Ms. LEE, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. MATSUI.  
 H.R. 1984: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.  
 H.R. 2044: Mr. POLIQUIN.  
 H.R. 2058: Mr. MASSIE.  
 H.R. 2059: Mr. HILL.  
 H.R. 2142: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 2170: Mr. KATKO.  
 H.R. 2218: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. GIBSON.  
 H.R. 2274: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
 H.R. 2285: Mr. PITTINGER and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 2290: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 2481: Mrs. NOEM.  
 H.R. 2759: Mr. COLLINS of New York.  
 H.R. 2874: Mr. CICILLINE.  
 H.R. 2903: Mr. POMPEO.  
 H.R. 3084: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 3094: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. HINOJOSA.  
 H.R. 3119: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 3142: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
 H.R. 3193: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
 H.R. 3351: Ms. BASS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
 H.R. 3365: Ms. HAHN and Ms. SINEMA.  
 H.R. 3377: Mr. HECK of Washington.  
 H.R. 3486: Ms. LEE.  
 H.R. 3523: Mr. POCAN.  
 H.R. 3546: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

- H.R. 3684: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 3799: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 3817: Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 3870: Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 3880: Mr. THORNBERRY.  
H.R. 3892: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. YODER, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 4055: Mr. HONDA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.  
H.R. 4062: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.  
H.R. 4073: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4177: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. DEFazio.  
H.R. 4183: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. DONOVAN.  
H.R. 4212: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 4229: Mr. POLIQUIN and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.  
H.R. 4262: Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 4298: Mr. HILL.  
H.R. 4365: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana and Mr. WENSTRUP.  
H.R. 4460: Mr. BEYER and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 4474: Mr. WALZ.  
H.R. 4479: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. NEAL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SIREs, Mr. VELA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ESTY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FARR, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. COSTA, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ASHFORD, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. LIPINSKI.  
H.R. 4499: Mr. MEEHAN.  
H.R. 4554: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Ms. HERERA BEUTLER.  
H.R. 4585: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 4592: Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. SARBANES.  
H.R. 4625: Mr. CLAY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. WALDEN.  
H.R. 4632: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 4640: Mr. PETERS and Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 4662: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H.R. 4695: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. WALDEN.  
H.R. 4701: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 4715: Mr. WALZ, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.  
H.R. 4717: Mr. DESANTIS.  
H.R. 4729: Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 4764: Mr. MARINO.  
H.R. 4768: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. RIGELL.  
H.R. 4773: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. FLORES, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4775: Mr. RENACCI.  
H.R. 4792: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 4794: Mr. GARRETT.  
H.R. 4795: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. GARRETT.  
H.R. 4798: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 4816: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. BOUSTANY.  
H.R. 4819: Mr. GRIFFITH.  
H.R. 4828: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 4848: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. POMPEO.  
H.R. 4864: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.  
H.R. 4892: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Ms. SINEMA.  
H.R. 4893: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.  
H.R. 4925: Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 4933: Mrs. DAVIS of California.  
H.R. 4938: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
H.R. 4959: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. BENISHEK.  
H.R. 4960: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 4979: Mr. LONG and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 4994: Mr. WOODALL.  
H.R. 5001: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. POMPEO.  
H.R. 5053: Mr. COOK, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. POMPEO.  
H.R. 5073: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 5075: Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 5079: Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
H.R. 5091: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.  
H.R. 5123: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 5130: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 5147: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 5148: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H.R. 5165: Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 5166: Mr. OLSON, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. JONES.  
H.J. Res. 48: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.  
H.J. Res. 93: Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. KILDEE.  
H. Con. Res. 128: Mr. MARCHANT.  
H. Con. Res. 129: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. HONDA.  
H. Res. 14: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.  
H. Res. 220: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CAPUANO.  
H. Res. 647: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H. Res. 650: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. MARINO.  
H. Res. 660: Mr. SIREs and Mr. YOHO.  
H. Res. 683: Mr. KILDEE.  
H. Res. 684: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.  
H. Res. 686: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. EDWARDS.  
H. Res. 693: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. LAHOOD.  
H. Res. 711: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H. Res. 712: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H. Res. 713: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. PALLONE, and Mrs. LOWEY.  
H. Res. 717: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. HIGGINS.  
H. Res. 724: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. TAKANO.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JASMINE MACIAS

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jasmine Macias for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jasmine Macias is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jasmine Macias is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jasmine Macias for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YPSILANTI AREA COMMUNITY FUND

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund. It is both an honor and a privilege to recognize the contributions this great organization has made to our community.

Established in 2001, the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund (YACF) is dedicated to building a permanent endowment to enrich the quality of life in the Ypsilanti area. The YACF's Advisory Committee includes community leaders who work together to award grants that meet the changing needs of Ypsilanti's community. The YACF has provided an outlet for people who are looking to give back to the community in a strategic way, receiving more than \$2.5 million in gifts, large and small, from those who care about Ypsilanti. These donations have directly supported local organizations and programs that serve Ypsilanti residents by awarding more than \$30,000 in competitive grants each year, and more than \$1.4 million in total support to local community projects and programs over the past 15 years.

Helping local health clinics provide access to quality health care, providing funding for new musical instruments and music instructors at the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra, helping

Parkridge Community Center expand programming, and helping to rebuild the Rutherford Community Pool are just a few examples of how YACF grants have made a real difference in the Ypsilanti community. The YACF's long-term investment strategy ensures that its endowment will continue to grow and allows the group to focus on the continued investment in our community's future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the 15th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund. For fifteen years now, the YACF has displayed an immense passion and deep devotion for improving our community, and we wish them many more years of success.

### IN RECOGNITION OF SEYOUM TSEHAYE

### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, in honor of World Press Freedom Day—which was observed last week—I rise today to recognize the bravery of journalist Seyoum Tsehaye and to support press freedom around the world.

Seyoum Tsehaye is the uncle of Vanessa Berhe, a Villanova student who started the organization One Day Seyoum to advocate for press freedom and the release of unjustly imprisoned journalists in Eritrea.

In September 2001, the Eritrean government detained a number of journalists who had spoken out against the government. Seyoum Tsehaye was one of the journalists detained. He was taken from his home without an official arrest warrant. Mr. Tsehaye remains in prison and has yet to receive a trial.

Mr. Speaker, freedom of the press and freedom from unjust detainment are pillars of democracy and good governance here in the United States and in nations around the world.

### CITY OF CARMI, ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Carmi, Illinois upon her Bicentennial. Founded in 1814 and incorporated in 1816, the City of Carmi was named in the first home in Carmi, now known as the Robinson Stewart House. It is the County Seat of White County, Illinois.

Carmi has a rich history. Using her natural resources, early settlers used the river for transportation and was involved in agriculture.

Today, Carmi citizens still benefit from the natural resources of the coal and oil industry as well as agriculture.

One of Carmi's most famous visitors was Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln visited the community to speak at a political rally in 1840 and stayed in the building now known as the Ratcliff Inn. Today, The Ratcliff Inn is owned by the White County Historical Society.

Today, Carmi boasts of outstanding schools, several stores and businesses on Main Street, many museums owned by the White County Historical Society and a number of parks. I extend my congratulations to Mayor Jeff Pollard and the citizens of Carmi upon this celebration. May the City of Carmi have many successful years ahead.

### HONORING JANICE ANN MAYS

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janice Ann Mays on her retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives, and to thank her for over 40 years of public service. During a career spanning over 40 years, from 1975 to 2016, she served the House of Representatives as Democratic Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Committee on Ways and Means. She is a friend to all and well known for referring to everyone who meets her affectionately as "Sweetie."

Janice received her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. She then received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia College of Law in Athens, Georgia.

Janice joined the Ways and Means Committee staff on December 15, 1975. She was one of three Tax Counsels and the only woman. Janice was given a small desk behind a door in 1104 Longworth. She was paid less than the men on her team and found women often excluded from organizations where tax policies were developed.

To say that Janice overcame obstacles and flourished is an understatement. She worked hard and went to school in the evening. She received a Masters of Law in Taxation from the Georgetown University School of Law. She was a founding member of an organization that gathered women in D.C. working on tax policy to discuss ideas and legislative initiatives. In May 1987, she was promoted to the Committee's Chief Tax Counsel and Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Select Revenue. In 1993, she became the Democratic Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Committee.

Janice's exhaustive efforts on behalf of the Congress and legendary work on the Tax Reform Act of 1986 have improved the lives of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

millions of Americans. She has managed with grace a Committee with broad jurisdiction that touches all aspects of American life—tax, trade, Social Security, Medicare, unemployment compensation, and many other income security issues.

If you ask Janice about her proudest accomplishment, she will smile and quickly tell you that it is encouraging people to work in government. She is proud of the Committee staff she has built. She has been a friend and a mentor to many on Capitol Hill—from interns to Staff Directors and Members. Staff on both sides of the aisle admire her and look up to her. For so many she has served as the model Capitol Hill staff person. If you catch her in a moment of reflection, she will say that it is leaving the people she has met, worked with, and mentored that cause her the most sadness.

I know I speak for the Members of the Ways and Means Committee—present and past—when I say we are truly honored to have worked with Janice. It is hard to imagine the Ways and Means Committee, and indeed, the House of Representatives, without Janice Mays. Her service has epitomized the very best in public service: hard work, loyalty and complete dedication to making government work for the people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in thanking Janice for the lasting mark she has left on the Ways and Means Committee and the U.S. Congress. I wish her the best as she moves on to the next chapter in her career and her life. Congratulations. We will truly miss you.

MYRA GUTZMER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Myra Gutzmer for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Myra Gutzmer is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Myra Gutzmer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Myra Gutzmer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM R. SNEAD

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of William R. Snead of Danville, Virginia, who passed away May 7, 2016 at age 92.

Mr. Snead was drafted into the United States Army in 1943 during World War II and trained in Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was part of the 5th Brigade of Amphibious Engineers which was attached to the 29th Infantry Division that landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Snead was a company engineer with the 5th Division that landed after the first wave of infantry hit the beaches of Normandy to carry out the logistical and supply tasks that were essential to the Allied conquest of Europe.

Upon Mr. Snead's return from the war, he dedicated his life to farming in Pittsylvania County, later moving to South Boston, where he began to learn the trade of house painting, in which he would eventually start his own company, W.R. Snead Painting Company in Halifax until his retirement in 1984. Mr. Snead also served our community as a council member of the South Boston Church of God for many years, as well as a trustee, and taught their Adult Sunday school class for over 50 years.

In 2013, I was honored to see Mr. Snead receive the French Legion of Honor for his service during the Second World War and participate in a ceremony honoring Mr. Snead in Halifax. We remain forever grateful for Mr. Snead's bravery and sacrifices—may he rest in peace.

On the occasion of the passing of William R. Snead, I ask that the members of this House of Representatives join with me, Mr. Snead's wife Frances Jones Snead, his four children, ten grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, three great, great grandchildren, and the communities of Halifax and Pittsylvania in honoring the memory of a great American hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JIM CARPENTER

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Carpenter on his retirement after forty-one years of dedicated service to St. Rose-McCarthy Catholic School in Hanford, California.

For over four decades, Mr. Carpenter has been a dedicated educator and administrator at St. Rose-McCarthy School, working to shape the minds of countless children in our community. As a 1966 graduate of the school himself, St. Rose-McCarthy has played a significant role in Mr. Carpenter's life.

Upon his college graduation, Mr. Carpenter returned to St. Rose-McCarthy to teach in

1975. During his long career with the school, Mr. Carpenter served in various positions, and taught third, fourth, and sixth grade students. For seven years, Mr. Carpenter even served as the Principal of St. Rose McCarthy before his return to teaching in 2010.

As both a student and an educator, Mr. Carpenter spent over fifty years at St. Rose-McCarthy Catholic School, which accounts for almost half of the institution's entire history. I myself had the honor of being a student in Mr. Carpenter's class, as he was my third grade teacher and basketball coach. Additionally, I had the honor of working with Mr. Carpenter as his United States Representative in 2014 and 2015, as he was instrumental in organizing many class trips to Washington, D.C. and introducing students to the legislative process, helping students to understand how our government works at an early age.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Jim Carpenter for his decades of dedicated service and congratulating him on his recent retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 184 on passage of H.R. 4641, a bill to provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING MR. CRAIG WHITTON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Craig Whittom, who will retire after 27 years of public service with the City of Vallejo, California.

Mr. Whittom completed his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Public Policy at Duke University in 1983, before going on to earn his Master of Public Policy from the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley in 1985.

After completing his graduate degree, Mr. Whittom spent more than 15 years working for the cities of Berkeley and Vallejo in California in a variety of economic development roles. Mr. Whittom then served as the Redevelopment Agency Director for the City of Fremont from 2001 to 2003, managing programs in commercial districts and affordable housing.

Mr. Whittom led the City of Vallejo's Community Development Department from 2007 to 2011, overseeing housing, economic development, and planning programs during a difficult time for the local economy. As an integral

member of the team that managed the city's entry into and exit from Chapter 9 bankruptcy, Mr. Whitton helped craft a plan for Vallejo's economic recovery. Mr. Whitton now serves as Assistant City Manager for the City of Vallejo, and has been an important leader in managing the city's economic plan, overseeing housing and information technology initiatives, and working with local labor groups on behalf of the city.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Whitton dedicated his career to promoting the economic success of the communities he has served. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today and extend my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement and many happy memories to come with his family.

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FELIX DIAZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Felix Diaz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Felix Diaz is a 7th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Felix Diaz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Felix Diaz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN AUTOIMMUNE RELATED DISEASES ASSOCIATION

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association on their 25th anniversary on the occasion of their annual Derby Luncheon and Auction.

Founded in 1991, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA) was established with the mission of alleviating the suffering and impact of autoimmune diseases with the goal of eradicating autoimmune diseases throughout the U.S. and the world. AARDA's purpose is to initiate, foster, and facilitate collaboration among researchers, educators, advocates, and patient services in the autoimmune disease field while ensuring the highest level of effectiveness,

ethics, and efficiency. We are proud to have such a distinguished national organization headquartered in the State of Michigan.

Autoimmune diseases affect upwards of 50 million Americans and are the second leading cause of chronic illness in the U.S. An autoimmune disease develops when the immune system, which defends the body against disease, decides the healthy cells are foreign. As a result, the immune system attacks healthy cells. Depending on the type, an autoimmune disease can affect one or many different types of body tissue. It can also cause abnormal organ growth and changes in organ function.

Many autoimmune diseases are well known including Juvenile and Type 1 Diabetes, Psoriasis, Crohn's, Fibromyalgia, Narcolepsy, and Multiple Sclerosis. Many other autoimmune diseases are lesser known, but all are difficult, frustrating, and challenging for the individual suffering with the disease.

AARDA has been a tireless advocate for those impacted by autoimmune diseases, which impacts not only the patient, but their family, workplace and communities. Their work has not only resulted in critical research, drug treatments, and answers but has also been a critical support to those who have been diagnosed. They are responsible for remarkable accomplishments.

AARDA initiated the founding of the Center for Autoimmune Disease Research at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center, providing a major grant to facilitate start-up and continued support of the Center's research program. AARDA's advocacy was also responsible for the establishment of the Centers for Excellence in autoimmune diseases at NIH. As the Association has grown, they have increasingly funded peer reviewed research. AARDA also focuses considerable energy on educating physicians, patients, and the public. It is through these educational efforts that the field has continued to refine its focus on autoimmune diseases and their impacts, so that ultimately scientists are able to find treatments and cures.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association on their 25th Anniversary and wish them many more years of success in researching some of the most difficult diseases we face and in the support they have given so many.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE COPELAND'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE

**HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I write in recognition of Detective Mike Copeland, a financial crimes investigator from Chatham County, North Carolina.

For the past thirteen years he has served and protected the people by investigating crimes ranging from robbery and larceny to assault and homicide.

Recently, Detective Copeland managed to recover \$10,000 extorted from a victim. This

noble effort marks just one example of how Detective Copeland continues to protect the ill-fated targets of malicious scammers.

I would like to thank Detective Copeland for his outstanding service and his work to protect those who become victims of financial fraud.

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RECOGNIZING CARLA SANTORNO FOR HER WOMEN IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD BY THE NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Carla Santorno, the Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools. Earlier this spring, Ms. Santorno was awarded the Women in School Leadership award by the National Superintendents Association for the passion, dedication, and innovation she brings to the lives of students.

The Women in School Leadership award seeks to recognize women educational administrators who excel in their leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Ms. Santorno has gone above and beyond in these areas to help Tacoma School District students to succeed in life after school.

Tacoma Public Schools serves more than 30,000 students from kindergarten through grade 12, and employs more than 5,000 individuals. Under Ms. Santorno's leadership, Tacoma Public Schools has been recognized by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction as one of the state's most innovative districts and has seen important improvements throughout the system across many different areas. Graduation rates have steadily increased in Tacoma high schools, decreasing the achievement gap. The district has developed a legislative agenda and has led the promotion of the Whole Child Initiative, which seeks to systematically focus on students' social, emotional, and academic needs. As a part of this effort, Ms. Santorno has initiated meaningful relationships with over 40 community organizations and has dramatically increased parental involvement. Additionally, Ms. Santorno has increased efforts to provide transparent achievement results, develop a data-driven system to recognize each student's needs, and align the budget process with the school board's strategic accountability system. All of these innovative efforts have bettered the lives of Tacoma students and the community as a whole.

Carla Santorno has committed her life to public education. She spent most of her career as a teacher, principal, administrator, and area superintendent in the Denver Public Schools before moving to Seattle to serve as chief academic officer for Seattle Public Schools. Ms. Santorno has been with Tacoma Public Schools since 2009, and has served as superintendent since 2012. The progress that has been achieved in just a few years at Tacoma Public Schools is truly remarkable and I look forward to her continued work to improve the lives of Tacoma's young people.



Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Carla Santorno for her inspiring work and incredible enthusiasm. Her unrelenting dedication to the Tacoma community serves as an example of the tremendous impact one person can have.

DANIEL PERGOLA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Pergola for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Daniel Pergola is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Pergola is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Pergola for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING HARRY  
FRIEDMAN

**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Harry Friedman from Key Largo, Florida for earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouts which takes years of dedicated effort. Community service and leadership are the most important tenets of being a Boy Scout and Harry has proven to possess both.

Harry's service project involved constructing a community garden located at the Keys Jewish Community Center in Tavernier, FL. Harry then arranged for the harvested vegetables to be donated to the Burton Memorial Church for their Food Bank Program. This program has assisted in feeding the homeless by adding locally grown, fresh vegetables to their diet on a regular basis.

Many of my district's constituents have already been positively affected by Harry's contributions to our community. We are all grateful for his dedication to service and know he will go on to accomplish great things.

On behalf of the Twenty-Sixth Congressional District of Florida, congratulations again on becoming an Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE  
AND LEGACY OF MR. HENRY  
WILSON

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I met and got to know Henry Wilson in January of 1969 when I took a job as the Executive Director of Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission where Mr. Henry Wilson was a member of the Board of Directors.

Henry worked for Western Electric at its Hawthorne Plant; which at its height, employed 45,000 people in its operations. Henry came off the assembly line and ultimately became the Director of Community Relations. Western Electric was incorporated in New York in 1915 and became the telephone monopoly until 1984 when it split and became AT&T Technologies. Henry as a pioneer in corporate community relations used his position at Western Electric to assist local community charitable, not-for-profit and faith institutions in fund-raising, planning and program development activities.

Mr. Wilson was a great advocate for education and youth programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and YMCA activities.

He loved Chicago, he loved the Englewood community where he lived and especially the North Lawndale Community where much of his work was centered.

CELEBRATING WILLIE BROWNING

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Willie Browning's service to central Texas. On May 12, she will retire from over 20 years of work in the veteran community as a volunteer Veterans Service Officer in Harker Heights. Her commitment to putting our troops and veterans first reflects the very best of the generous spirit of the Lone Star State.

Willie knows that the interests of our brave men and women who have served in uniform must remain a top priority for the United States government. A veteran herself, she has truly exemplified what it means to give back to her community. Along with her military service and commitment to ensuring veterans get what they earned, Willie's involvement in multiple civic organizations and her work as a published author are just a few reasons she is admired and respected by many.

Following the death of her husband, SGM William Edwards Evans, Willie didn't waste any time combining her talent and passion to proactively overcome the challenges both in her life and in the lives of others. She worked as a selfless and effective daily volunteer, helping to process over 140,000 claims from veterans and their families. Over the years, she became a trusted ally and resource for veterans in central Texas. There is no doubt

that Willie's perseverance and formidable skills helped many who otherwise may not have received benefits.

Willie Browning's positive impact in her community deserves the utmost praise and recognition. With the love and support of her three daughters, three sons in law, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Willie has played a huge role in directly helping to improve the lives of so many veterans. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish her the best in both her much deserved retirement and all her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH  
PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF  
REVEREND AARON N. GIBSON,  
SR.

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Aaron N. Gibson, Sr. on his 20th Pastoral Anniversary. As the pastor of Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Long Branch community.

Installed as pastor of Second Baptist Church in Long Branch, New Jersey on May 19, 1996, Rev. Gibson brought with him a wealth of experience that has helped him lead his congregation and oversee an extensive expansion of the church. Prior to his call to serve the Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson served as an Associate Minister of the Fulton Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, Assistant Pastor of the Gospel Service in Vogelweh, Germany and Director of Parish Development for the Chaplaincy during his service to the U.S. Army Chaplain Board. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Rev. Gibson served in the Chaplain Corps for 27 years, reaching the rank of Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School and the Commandant of the Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy.

In addition to his service to Second Baptist Church, Rev. Gibson is an active member of the community. He is a co-founder of the Urban Ministerium of Long Branch and served as its first President, a position he held for over 10 years. Rev. Gibson is also a member of the Permanent Council of the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association of Central Jersey and previously served as its Second Vice-Moderator and Acting Moderator. He is also a member of the NAACP and has been recognized for his many contributions to the community, ministry and country, achieving both the Legion of Merit military award and the Whitney M. Young Service Award, among countless others.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Aaron Gibson, Sr. His leadership, service and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

ADAM SEAMAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adam Seaman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Adam Seaman is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adam Seaman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adam Seaman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE WASHINGTON PREMIERE OF WALK WITH ME: THE TRIALS OF DAMON J. KEITH

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Judge Damon J. Keith's outstanding career and service to the United States as we celebrate the Washington premiere of the documentary *Walk With Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith*. Judge Keith has a long and distinguished record and this documentary honors his legacy by chronicling some of his most notable accomplishments.

From an early age, Judge Keith excelled in and out of the classroom. He graduated from Northwestern High School in Detroit, where he ran track. He went on to become the first in his family to earn a college degree when he graduated from West Virginia State College in 1943. After serving in the U.S. Army for three years, he continued his education and earned his law degree from Howard University Law School in 1949.

In 1967, Judge Keith became the second African American to sit on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan after being appointed by President Lyndon Johnson. He served as a Judge for the Eastern District from 1967 to 1977, and was named Chief Judge in 1975.

During the decade he served the District Court, Judge Keith delivered a series of key civil rights rulings including: *Davis v. School District of the City of Pontiac* (1970) (school desegregation); *Stamps v. Detroit Edison Co.* (1973) and *Baker v. City of Detroit* (1979) (employment discrimination and affirmative action); and *Garrett v. City of Hamtramck* (1971) and *Zuch v. Hussey* (1975) (housing discrimination).

He was unanimously affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in the landmark civil liberties case *U.S. v. Sinclair* (1971), known as the "Keith decision," which found that wiretap surveillance absent a court order in domestic security cases to be unconstitutional, contributing to the passage of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Keith to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, where he served for 18 years until he took senior status in 1995. During the 1980's, he chaired the Sixth Circuit and Judicial Conference Committees commemorating the Bicentennial of the Constitution.

In the wake of post-September 11 civil liberty challenges, Circuit Judge Keith, ruled in *Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft* (2002) that the absolute closure of deportation hearings in "9-11 special interest" cases was unconstitutional, thereby ensuring openness in government proceedings.

Judge Keith is widely revered, having received numerous honors and awards, including: the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's highest award, the Springarn Medal, in 1974; the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award in 1997; the Edward J. Devitt Award for Distinguished Service to Justice in 1998, presented by a panel comprised of a United States Supreme Court Justice, a federal circuit court judge, and a federal district court judge; and honorary degrees from Harvard University, Yale University, Georgetown University, the University of Michigan, Tuskegee University, and over thirty other institutions.

Throughout his career, Judge Keith has consistently stood as a defender of the Constitution and civil rights of all people.

On the occasion of the Washington premiere of the documentary *Walk With Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith*, I applaud his many accomplishments. I am glad that Judge Keith's story is being shared and that many more people will have the opportunity to learn of his contributions to our Nation.

ST PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Strasburg, Illinois.

On April 15, 1866, even before the formation of the Village of Strasburg, worshipers came together to form St. Paul's. The congregation at first had no building in which to worship, and so the first members would meet in each other's homes or in public schools. But it would not be long before the first church was constructed, and in 1954 the current church was built, which to this day offers Sunday services.

The parishioners of St. Paul's feel devoted to their parish and to each other, as genera-

tions have worshipped together as members of an extended family. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church has a long tradition of community involvement and care, and for 150 years it has been serving the spiritual and emotional needs of its members and the community.

St. Paul's celebrated its 150th anniversary with a special service and an appearance from the Concordia Seminary Touring Choir of St. Louis, and its celebration will continue with special events scheduled for later this summer. I look forward to the continued success of St. Paul's, and I extend my best wishes as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 2016, on Roll Call Number 180 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4957, To designate the Federal Building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building," I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4957.

On May 10, 2016, on Roll Call Number 181 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 5052, Opioid Program Evaluation Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 5052.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES RAGLAND

**HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles Ragland of Palm Beach County who passed away in August after a courageous fight with brain cancer.

Charles Ragland was a beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. He was a decorated Vietnam Veteran, a dedicated public servant and inspiration to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Following his graduation from the University of Miami in 1965, Charles joined the United States Army and attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. After receiving a commission as a Lieutenant, Mr. Ragland completed Jungle Warfare School in Panama before serving two years in Vietnam as a member of the First Cavalry Division.

Mr. Ragland served honorably and courageously while in Vietnam, receiving a number of commendations for his service. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Bronze Star with Valor and an additional Bronze Star.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army in 1969, Charles began what would be a long and successful career in finance. He began working as the National Coordinator of State Finance Chairman for President Gerald Ford's 1976 Election Campaign. After leaving the campaign, Charles worked with Our Lady of Lourdes Children's Cancer Foundation in Miami and the American Red Cross—Palm Beach County Chapter before finding his true calling as an Investment Director with Wells Fargo Advisors.

Alongside his prominent financial career, Mr. Ragland continued to selflessly serve his community. He served as the President of Kiwanis of Palm Beach as well as chairing the board of Pine Crest School at Boca Raton. Most notably, Charles was the Founding Board Chairman of Operation Homefront—Florida. His exemplary dedication to his community and to helping veterans in need through this organization earned him the prestigious Wachovia Way award in 2008 and the 2010 Wells Fargo Volunteer of the Year award.

On October 29, 2010, Mr. Ragland was diagnosed with a stage four Glioblastoma. This highly malignant form of brain tumor is unfortunately difficult to treat as it reproduces quickly and is made up of a multitude of different cell types which do not all respond to treatment in the same way. Charles outlasted Glioblastoma's median survival rate of 14 months, fighting off the disease for nearly five years until his passing on August 2, 2015.

Mr. Ragland will be sorely missed but his memory will live on through all of the lives he impacted. While we all are deeply saddened by his passing, I hope that Mr. Ragland's fight may raise awareness for this deadly disease so that others might beat this cancer in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for all of Palm Beach County in saying that we are grateful for Mr. Ragland's service and I know that he will live on in the memory of his family and friends. Charles Ragland was a soldier, a skilled businessman and dedicated pillar in his community, who lived his life in a way that we should all strive to live our own. Charles will be truly missed.

DESTINY GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Destiny Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Destiny Garcia is an 8th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Destiny Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Destiny Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

DECLASSIFICATION OF THE 28 PAGES OF THE 9/11 JOINT CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling on President Obama to finally declassify the 28 pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into Intelligence Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001.

This year will mark 15 years since the horrific September 11 attacks that struck at the heart of our nation, and shook us to our core. The United States suffered an immeasurable tragedy that day, but for the victims and their families, their loss is beyond words. They lost sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sisters and brothers. These families' lives were forever changed, and their road to healing is made all the more difficult by the questions that remain unanswered.

These classified pages in the 9/11 joint congressional inquiry contain vital information about the circumstances surrounding the attacks, and can provide crucial guidance for our future counterterrorism policies. I have personally read these pages and am confident that they can be released without compromising intelligence-gathering sources and methods. The Obama Administration is currently undertaking a review and is expected to announce its decision in the coming weeks. I strongly urge it to complete its review as soon as possible and declassify the 28 pages.

I am pleased to be part of this bipartisan effort to give the families the answers they deserve. Together with my colleagues Congressman WALTER JONES and Congressman THOMAS MASSIE, we introduced H. Res. 14 urging the President to release the pages. I want to thank Congresswoman GWEN GRAHAM for organizing these speeches that are bringing renewed attention to this matter. I also want to acknowledge and thank former Senator Bob Graham for his hard work as Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence when the Joint Congressional Inquiry was written, and his steadfast advocacy for making these pages public.

Mr. Speaker, the victims' families and our nation experienced a profound personal loss and after 15 years they deserve to have their questions answered. The declassification of the 28 pages will be an important step in that direction.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF COL. TANYA S. BAKER FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Tanya S. Baker of Woodbridge, VA on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Army. Throughout her 30 year career, Col. Baker has selflessly served our country and community; namely, during the time she spent as North American Aerospace Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM) Coordination Officer to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), at the Pentagon. NORAD USNORTHCOM is a tremendous institution and its Washington Office is charged with building trusted relationships with mission essential partners, such as DHHS. NORAD USNORTHCOM provides command and control of Department of Defense (DOD) homeland defense efforts and coordinates Defense Support of Civil Authorities. In performing both of these critical missions, USNORTHCOM defends America's homeland and protects our people, national power, and strategic freedom of action.

Col. Baker was commissioned via Georgetown ROTC in May of 1986, after matriculating from George Mason University. She received her commission as a Medical Service Corps Lieutenant and served in many notable assignments of increasing responsibility, including Federal Coordinating Center Coordinator at Tripler Army Medical Center, in Honolulu, Hawaii and Battalion Commander for the Army Reserve Careers Division, 13th Battalion, in Aurora, CO. Such roles have enabled Col. Baker to positively and significantly influence her colleagues, fellow Soldiers, as well as the future strategic leaders of our military.

Col. Baker holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from George Mason University and Master of Strategic Studies from the Army War College. Col. Baker also completed a second Senior Service College—the Air War College. In addition to her academic success, Col. Baker has received an extensive number of awards and decorations. These include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation Award and Army Staff Identification Badge. Such accolades are indicative of the high caliber of her unfailing and dedicated service to our nation.

On June 6th, 2014, Col. Baker assumed duties as the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Coordination Officer to the Department of Health and Human Services, at the Pentagon. As a Coordination Officer, Col. Baker has directly and significantly contributed to NORAD and USNORTHCOM's mission success in response to the Unaccompanied Children Humanitarian Crisis and the international and domestic responses to the Ebola Virus Disease

outbreak. The trusted partnerships that Col. Baker meticulously built among diverse stakeholders will remain as her key national-level contribution and legacy. Even though she will no longer be present at NORAD and USNORTHCOM on a day-to-day basis, her legacy will inevitably carry on.

Col. Baker is supported in her retirement by her parents: Thermus R. Baker, Sr. and Ruth B. Baker; her brothers: Thermus R. Baker, Jr., Everett S. Baker, Gary B Baker, and Reginald M. Baker; her sister Monica R. Frazier; and her faithful companion and dog Zoe Simone.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to congratulate Col. Baker on the culmination of a distinguished 30 year career in the United States Army. I wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

HONORING MR. BRAD ONORATO

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Mr. Brad Onorato for his great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Brad to further the preservation of our nation's great open spaces.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It is an honor to highlight their continued commitment to the spiritual and cultural life of the Washtenaw County community.

In 1916, The Beth Israel Congregation was established, and for many years was the only Jewish congregation in Ann Arbor. At its inception, the congregation celebrated the Jewish High Holidays in the home of Osias Zwerdling who served as the President of the congregation for forty years. The congregation was without a Rabbi until Joshua Sperka who served from 1932–1934. For many years, the Beth Israel congregation occasionally had a Rabbi, but made the community work through a wonderful spirit of volunteerism and faith. Today, the congregation is blessed to have the leadership of Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal.

The Beth Israel Congregation has had an important influence on Jewish life in Washtenaw County. In fact, Beth Israel was one of the first conservative congregations in southeast Michigan to become an egalitarian congregation. For the Beth Israel congregation, participation in, leading, or chanting the service is an important aspect of the congregation and they have fully welcomed LGBT individuals into this congregational life. Beth Israel Congregation's services reflect Ann Arbor's rich diversity; making it one of the leading advocates for the ordinations of LGBT rabbis in the Jewish diaspora. Beth Israel is a faithful, forward looking congregation that is growing, welcoming new members, and staying positively involved in the community, in the finest tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Beth Israel Congregation and wish them many more years of faithful service.

JAMES TRESKO

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James Tresco for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

James Tresco is a 7th grader at Jefferson Senior/Junior High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by James Tresco is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their edu-

cation and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to James Tresco for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GUNNY SERGEANT GEORGE A. CRISWELL

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of Gunny Sergeant George A. Criswell as he retires from the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC). Gunny Sergeant Criswell served in the USMC for 20 years and deserves to be commended for his outstanding service and dedication to our country.

Gunny Sergeant Criswell was born in York, Pennsylvania on March 18, 1972. From a young age he embodied the traits of a Marine; he is selfless, courageous, intelligent, loyal, and enthusiastic. It is no coincidence that Gunny Sergeant Criswell would dedicate his life to serving our country and become a heroic leader to our nation.

During his most recent overseas deployment from November 10, 2011 through October 31, 2012, he served as the Staff Non-Commissioned-Officer-in Charge of CJ3 Borders Division, Combat Joint Task Force and Regional Command—East. While he was deployed, Gunny Sergeant Criswell was in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom XIII in Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan as well as other locations throughout Afghanistan. The mission of Operation Enduring Freedom XIII was to facilitate coordination of near-border combat operations and emergency de-escalation of fires between Coalition Forces, Afghan National Security Forces, and the Pakistani Military.

While stationed in the Bagram Airfield, Gunny Sergeant Criswell witnessed a situation in which 2000 local Afghans attempted to breach an entry control point. When Sergeant Gunny Criswell returned to the United States, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his valiant service where he was subject to over 45 indirect fire attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the career and noble service of Gunny Sergeant George A. Criswell. It is with great pride that we thank him for his genuine selflessness and service to our country.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS OF U.S. AND CANADA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

### HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and offer

my heartiest congratulations to the professional musicians and leadership of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM). This year, the union which represents more than 80,000 professional musicians will convene and celebrate its 100th Annual International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 20, 2016. Many members of Congress maintain a close personal relationship with the professional musicians of this storied organization many of whom live and work in your respective districts. I know you like I wish them another 100 years addressing the complex issues that drive the American music industry.

For more than 119 years, the AFM has represented the interests of musicians working in America's major and regional symphony orchestras like the Washington National Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and many others. The organization also represents jazz, country and pop greats such as Winton Marsalis, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, and Willie Nelson to name a few. AFM musicians for decades have performed the sounds movie goes around the world have been privileged to hear in such epic American films as Star Wars, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Sponge Bob Movie, the Wolf of Wall Street, and Trumbo to name a few. These incredibly talented American musicians have performed under the batons of such distinguished American internationally recognized composers and AFM members as John Williams, Clint Eastwood, Lennie Niehaus, and others.

The AFM also has a unique set of accomplishments on Capitol Hill, successfully representing musicians in the areas of performance rights, copyright, intellectual property, federal appropriations, immigration reform, Department of Transportation regulatory reform, Department of the Interior regulatory reform, as well as work in the area of tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, no other national instrumental music organization has the tenure and reach of the American Federation of Musicians having affected legislation and regulations that have helped more than one million professional musicians, students and amateur professionals create uniquely American music.

The AFM's longevity is so storied that the United States Department of Labor recognizes it as one of a few American labor organizations that has existed for more than 100 years and proudly displays a plaque in honor of that accomplishment in the corridors of the Department of Labor.

As a performing musician myself, I understand the nature of the music business and recognize that the work of the AFM has benefited more than its own members but has been a driving force in the advancement of America music recognized the world over as some of the most progressive and entertaining domestic product in great demand around the globe.

So, I ask members of congress to join with me in celebrating a unique American institution comprised of some of the best musicians recognized across the globe. Our hats are off to those who make American music great.

A TRIBUTE: REMEMBERING THE  
2015 AMTRAK DERAILMENT

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the 8 people who were killed, as well as the more than 200 people injured in the Amtrak train 188 derailment one year ago today in Philadelphia. This tragedy affected the entire region, touching the lives of hundreds of people across the country. It serves as an important reminder that we must work to ensure the necessary safeguards are in place, in order to protect Amtrak riders and employees from unnecessary heartbreaks such as this.

On this day, it is also important to remember and be thankful for the selfless work of our first responders and hospital staff that treated the victims and consequently saved lives. Equally important was the open hearted response of the residents of the area, who truly showed the nation why we are known as the "City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection" by immediately opening their doors to the victims and providing food and water. In spite of this terrible tragedy, we can be proud of the humanity exhibited by all those who offered help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring the victims of the train 188 derailment one year ago today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on April 28 through 29, 2016, I was inadvertently detained on Rollcall Votes 176, 177, and 179. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "yes" on each. In addition, I was inadvertently detained on Rollcall Vote 178. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "no."

MASON KIM

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mason Kim for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Mason Kim is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mason Kim is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and de-

velop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mason Kim for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM HUELSKAMP**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on May 11, 2016, I was not present for roll call vote number 182 due to a meeting with Senator PAT ROBERTS. If I had been in attendance, I would have voted yes on roll call vote 182.

AZERBAIJAN

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express deep concern over the recent surge in hostilities along the front line between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

This outbreak of violence has claimed dozens of lives on both sides.

The recent violent clashes followed a successful visit to the U.S. by President Aliyev of Azerbaijan, which included meetings with Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Kerry, as both reaffirmed U.S. support for expanding ties with Azerbaijan, a reliable strategic partner in a tough neighborhood.

Given Russia's apprehension with the strategic Southern Gas Corridor project championed by Azerbaijan and providing energy security for our allies in Europe, and Azerbaijan's security alliance with the United States, this latest upsurge in fighting is another sign of Moscow's meddling in the affairs of states along its borders.

As we've seen in Eastern Ukraine and Georgia, Russia continues to exploit separatist movements along its periphery to pressure America's friends and bring them back into its orbit.

Unfortunately, it's not the first time that Armenia—the Kremlin's key regional ally and the host to a number of Russian military bases—is being used as a proxy to intimidate U.S. partners, including Azerbaijan and Georgia.

As the latest loss of life shows, Armenia's nearly complete economic, political and military dependence on Russia no longer is a threat to its neighbors alone—it's a security challenge to Armenia itself.

These latest hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia once again remind us of the urgency to find a peaceful solution to the protracted Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

I urge the Administration to step up its efforts to achieve a peaceful solution and work with both sides to stabilize the situation.

Meanwhile, in the face of increasing Russian interference and aggression against its neighbors, the United States should remain steadfast in its support for our friends in Azerbaijan.

IN HONOR OF JOHN MORRIS  
DAVIS' EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE  
TO HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I seek to honor the life of John Morris Davis, Jr., who died May 7th 2016 due to a cardiac arrest suffered while volunteering as a firefighter in Kenly, North Carolina.

Mr. Davis had a fierce passion for serving his community, as made apparent through his role as a local police officer and also as a volunteer firefighter. He always sought to provide aid to people in need, frequently showing up to help even on days he wasn't expected to. Mr. Davis' heroic bravery in seeking to save the life of another speaks volumes about his character and his dedication to the motto of others before self.

Mr. Davis is survived by his wife, Dwaina; three children, Courtney, Autumn, and Hanna; and his brotherhood of the Kenly Fire Department.

John M. Davis, like so many of our brave firefighters and policemen, sacrifice time with their families and loved ones to ensure our community's safety. We are forever indebted to them for their courageous service.

CONGRATULATING KIMMIE  
ETHEREDGE ON HER RETIREMENT  
AS PRINCIPAL OF KAY  
GRANGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kimmie Etheredge for her nine tremendously successful years as Principal of Kay Granger Elementary School in Fort Worth, Texas.

Principal Etheredge came to the Northwest Independent School District in north Fort Worth in 2007 to open Kay Granger Elementary. She helped build a community in the new suburb by meeting parents and encouraging them to be a part of their children's education. She called and personally welcomed every incoming student to the new school.

She developed a strong academic and parental and community support base, and is extremely popular among current and former students and their families. Under her leadership, the campus has averaged over 10,000 volunteer hours every year.

The school won the district's Partner in Education Campus of the Year Award three years in a row. It received an exemplary rating in academics for five straight years. It was cho-

sen as a state School of Character in 2012, and was designated a National School of Character the following year.

During her 28 years in education, Principal Etheredge spent 12 years teaching Fourth Grade, two years as assistant principal, and 14 years as a campus principal. She was named a 2014 Texas National Distinguished Principal.

Principal Etheredge has co-chaired the Texas Elementary Principals and School Administrators (TEPSA) State Schools of Character Initiative since 2011. She is a sought-out speaker statewide on character development, teacher and campus morale, and fostering grit in both student and adult learners.

The statewide TEPSA group has chosen Etheredge to be co-director of its Transformational Leadership Community program. She will be mentoring new principals throughout Texas, and training others to be mentors as well. She will leave Granger Elementary next month to move on to her new position.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Principal Etheredge as a friend and admired her leadership as a principal and in the community. We will miss her in our local schools, but we know she will now be improving all of our schools. Please join me in congratulating her for her service, and wishing her well in her new endeavor.

PABLO FLORES-CERVANTES

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Pablo Flores-Cervantes for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Pablo Flores-Cervantes is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Pablo Flores-Cervantes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pablo Flores-Cervantes for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID R. STONE  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. David R. Stone for his contributions and years of service to the field of

nonprofit community mental health. I congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Dr. Stone has committed his entire career to nonprofit community mental health. For the past 27 years, he has served as Chief Executive Officer of Sound Mental Health, which is one of King County's most comprehensive mental health providers. Services provided include mental health, substance abuse, and behavioral health services to children, men, and women. Following the passage of the Affordable Care Act, under Dr. Stone's leadership, Sound Mental Health successfully facilitated the integration of behavioral health with primary care, realizing tremendous growth from this alignment. His unrelenting dedication to mental health services resulted in Sound Mental Health growing to 80-plus programs, supporting more than 20,000 people, and generating annual revenue in the millions of dollars.

Dr. Stone has been an influential leader in the field of behavioral health in the community as well as all over the country for the past 42 years. He is known for his gracious manner and his strong business sense. Dr. Stone's perseverance has elevated the conversation about mental health and changed the way our community views this important field. Dr. Stone's influence has changed minds and impacted the mental health field tremendously.

Prior to serving as the CEO of Sound Mental Health, Dr. Stone served as the Executive Director for Mental Health Services of Upper Pinellas and Baltimore Mental Health Systems. Dr. Stone is very active in the community. He serves on the board of directors for Mental Health Corporations of America and the Washington Community Health Council while also finding time to be an active member of the King County Mental Health Providers Association.

Dr. Stone earned his B.A. in Psychology from Eckerd College, his M.A. in Psychology from the University of Florida, followed by a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, also from the University of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Dr. David R. Stone for his admirable leadership as CEO of Sound Mental Health and congratulate him on his recent retirement. His work will undoubtedly continue to impact the mental health community for many years to come.

HONORING MS. CASEY  
BADMINGTON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Ms. Casey Badmington for her great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and

policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Casey to further the preservation of our nation's great open spaces.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVINE CHILD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Divine Child High School Music Program in Dearborn, Michigan. The longevity of musical excellence at Divine Child's Music Program, which gives young musicians opportunities to develop and showcase their talents, is known and valued throughout the Dearborn community.

Divine Child High School was founded in 1958 as a co-ed Catholic high school centered on Christian values and traditions. With a strong tradition of excellence in partnership with the community, Divine Child is committed to providing opportunities to nurture students academically, creatively, socially and spiritually. Divine Child High School develops youth who will pursue lives of responsibility and leadership.

Since 1966, Divine Child High School Bands and Choirs have provided a rich musical backdrop for all school events. This tradition serves as an inspiration for today's students, as well as generations of Divine Child graduates. Today, the music program includes nearly twenty percent of Divine Child's student population with over one hundred performers. Divine Child musicians and vocalists have shared their talents locally, nationally and

internationally, showcasing ten music groups including marching, symphonic, jazz, musical, and pep bands. The program has won best band awards from America's Thanksgiving Parade to Mackinaw City and has performed at Disney World, The Field Museum in Chicago and The Old Post Office in D.C. Divine Child High School Bands have learned from advanced clinics at Vanderbilt University, Catholic University and with Broadway conductors in New York City. In addition to public appearances, Divine Child Pep Bands greet incoming freshmen in the fall and celebrate graduation with the seniors in the spring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Divine Child High School Music Program and we wish them many more years of success.

HONORING HELEN AND TAYLOE MURPHY

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helen and Tayloe Murphy of Mount Holly, VA for their many years of dedicated service to conservation, beautification and preservation efforts in Virginia.

Helen has been engaged in preservation and conservation activities for over 50 years. She has served on the boards of the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Nature Conservancy, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Department of Historic Resources, the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and the Rappahannock Community College. In addition to serving on these boards, Helen served as the President of the Menokin Foundation from 2004 to 2010 and the President of The Garden Club of Virginia from 1992 to 1994.

Tayloe has also dedicated his life to public service. After graduating from Hampton—Sydney College, Mr. Murphy attended law school at the University of Virginia and then went on to serve as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. Continuing his public service career, he was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1982 to 2000, and was later appointed Secretary of Natural Resources during Governor Mark Warner's administration. While a member of the General Assembly and as Secretary of Natural Resources he served on the Chesapeake Bay Commission and was its chairman three times. Tayloe has practiced law since 1960, and he has been a leading voice for environmental interests for decades, playing an instrumental role in the development of key legislation, regulations and policies. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Preservation Virginia. He is a former President of the Northern Neck Historical Society and serves on the Board of Directors of Union Bankshares Corporation. Tayloe just finished his term as President of the Menokin Foundation after serving for six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have shown an unwavering commitment to the conservation of Virginia's natural resources. Their leadership

and hard work has not gone unnoticed. The Murphy's active involvement has made their community a better place and I am proud to have them as residents of the First District. I thank both Helen and Tayloe for their leadership of the Menokin Foundation and for working tirelessly to protect our natural resources and environment for future generations.

BROOKE CATLIN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brooke Catlin for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Brooke Catlin is an 11th grader at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brooke Catlin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brooke Catlin for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

THE ZIKA PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS: THE URGENT NEED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the topic of the Zika Virus threat that is real and something that the Congress should address.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, which has a core mission of emergency preparedness of state and local governments to be equipped to react to emergencies make me acutely aware of the potential for the Zika Virus to be a real challenge for state and local governments in the coming months.

I thank President Obama for his leadership in requesting \$1.9 billion to address the threat of the Zika Virus.

The Administration due to the threat posed by Zika has used funds allocated for Ebola, which will need to be replaced once Zika funding is available.

The region of the world impacted by Ebola is still seeing new victims and the funds allotted for Ebola are therefore still needed.

I like many of my colleagues with districts along the Gulf Coast am well aware of the presence of mosquitoes.

These areas are known to have both types of the Zika Virus vectors: the *Aedes Aegypti* and the *Aedes Albopictus*, which is why I held a meeting in Houston on March 10, 2016 about the evolving health threat.

I convened a meeting with Houston, Harris County and State officials at every level with responsibility for combating the Zika Virus to discuss preparations that would mitigate the spread of the mosquitoes that can carry the virus.

Houston, Texas, like many cities, towns, and parishes along the Gulf Coast, has a tropical climate like parts of Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean. Tropical climates are hospitable to mosquitoes that carry the Zika Virus.

In addition, Houston has a large and very diverse population that travels to many of the Zika Virus impacted zones, located throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean where mosquito transmission of the Zika Virus is the primary means of exposure to the illness.

I have identified shared concerns among state and local agency officials regarding a need to have a plan to address the Zika Virus in the Houston and Harris County area that would include every aspect of the community.

Part of the Zika Virus response must be to ensure that we are doing all that we can and should be doing to reach every community.

CDC has a disease surveillance unit at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

The participants in the March 10, 2016 meeting I hosted on the Zika Virus provided insight into each of the areas that local governments will have to address.

The participants in the March 10, 2016 meeting I held in Houston included:

Dr. Peter Hotez, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology, Baylor College of Medicine; Dr. Umair Shah, Executive Director for Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services; Dr. Dubboun, Director of the Harris County Public Health Environmental Services Mosquito Control Division; Dr. Gruber, Assistant Commissioner from Regional and Local Health Services for the State of Texas; Dr. Raouf Arafat, Houston Health and Human Services Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness; Stephen Williams, Director of Houston Health Department; Dr. David Persse, Physician Director, Emergency Medical Services, Houston Public Health Authority; and Julie Graves, (Confirmed) MD, MPH, PhD, Regional Medical Director, Health Service Region 6/5S, Texas Department of State Health Services.

The collective wisdom of these experts revealed that we should not let the fear of the Zika Virus control public policy; but that we should get in front of the problem, then we can control the Zika Virus from its source—mosquitoes.

The fight against the Zika Virus will be neighborhood by neighborhood and will rely upon the resources and expertise of local government working closely with State governments with the support of federal government agencies.

The consensus of the experts is that the existence of the Zika Virus are through: health community communication with the public; cor-

rect vector control; surveillance; planning; keep yards clean, road ways, and lots free of any breeding environments for mosquitoes; and community engagement in the work that must be done is essential.

Poverty and the conditions that may exist in poor communities can be of greatest risk for the Zika Virus breeding habitats for vector mosquitoes.

Illegal dumping of tires; open ditches, torn screens, or no screens during the long hot days of summer will make for a perfect storm for the spread of the virus.

Mr. Speaker, I will remind my colleagues that eighty percent of those infected will not know they have the Zika Virus.

An uninfected mosquito biting this person can spread the virus when it bites other people.

The rate of spread of the disease by the *Aedes Aegypti* is problematic because the mosquito will bite many people to collect enough blood to lay eggs.

The *Aedes Aegypti* has evolved to rely exclusively on human blood, which means it adapted to fly low—close to the ground; seeks any opportunity to enter homes; can breed in as little as a cap of dirty water; is known to breed in fish aquariums; plant water catch dishes; or tires.

Blood is essential for breeding of the vector mosquitoes for the Zika Virus and the *Aedes Aegypti* is seeking an opportunity that keeps it near people.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need to be alarmed, but we should be preparing to do what we can to prevent and mitigate the Zika Virus in communities around the nation.

We know that 33 states have one or both of the vector mosquitoes.

It is anticipated that the Americas including the United States can expect 4 million Zika Virus cases in the next four months and to date there are over a million cases in Brazil.

The most serious outcome of the Zika Virus exposure is birth defects that can occur during pregnancy if the mother is exposed to the Zika Virus.

The virus is believed to invade the central nervous system of the developing baby and inhibit brain development, which can result in: still births; microcephaly; the rate for the Zika Virus exposure far exceeds that number.

Microcephaly is brain underdevelopment either at birth or the brain failing to develop properly after birth, which can cause difficulty walking; difficulty hearing; and difficulty with speech.

There are no tests to detect the virus and there is no vaccine or cure.

If we do not act—the public reaction to Ebola will seem tame compared to how the public might react to the arrival of mosquitoes transmitting the Zika Virus.

I call on my colleagues to pass the President's request for the \$1.9 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations.

If you are not sure whether the Zika Virus is a potential problem in your districts, I challenge you to hold a meeting like the one I held in Houston on March 10, to become informed.

## RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF THE D.C. CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION COMMITTEE

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing not only our outstanding high school artists in the District of Columbia who participated in this year's Congressional Art Competition, but also the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee which made this year's competition a success.

Since its inception in 1982, the Congressional Art Competition has encouraged the artistic talents of high school students from across the country. This year my office received 135 pieces of artwork from students in grades 8 through 12 from 24 public, charter, and private schools in the District, the largest number of D.C. schools, that have ever participated in this annual art competition.

But the untold story of the Congressional Art Competition is of the volunteers whose time and expertise are responsible for executing the entire competition. Here in the District of Columbia, this year's competition would not have been possible without the dedicated work of our D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee:

THOMAS ATKINS, OWNER, TERA GALLERY

Mr. Atkins, a former staff member whose many duties included the annual art competition, generously continues to serve as an advisor who assists wherever he is needed.

WILLIAM BROWER, OWNER, JBV PRODUCTION

Mr. Brower provided the valuable services of setting up the venue for the reception, as well as clean up at the end of the evening.

YAIDA FORD, ATTORNEY AT LAW, FORD LAW FIRM

Ms. Ford did a tremendous amount of outreach to secure art supply donations and prizes for all of our student participants, including an iPad for the second place winner. She also dedicated her own time to volunteer for day-of operations at the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Reception.

TIFFANI GOMEZ, SALES ASSOCIATE, BLICK ART SUPPLIES

Ms. Gomez is one of the most passionate members of the committee. She helped secure art portfolios for student artwork, and helped with day-of operations at the reception.

ERIC KOKUMA, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES, MILITARY OPERATIONS RESEARCH SOCIETY; JENNIFER LITRELL, PROGRAM LEAD, CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Mr. Kokuma and Ms. Littrell were in charge of entertainment for the reception, and recruited Ward 1 ANC Commissioner Frank Agbro to perform with his family jazz band.

DONNELL LEWIS, PRESIDENT, ONE CREATIVE SOURCE

Mr. Lewis is the generous and enormously capable longtime chairman of the committee.

CAMILO MANJARRES, CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW,  
CONGRESSWOMAN ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

Mr. Manjarres has worked diligently to facilitate committee meetings and logistics for our annual art competition, and expanded the competition's community outreach to increase participation.



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PATRICIA MITCHEL, SYSTEMS ANALYST, AMTRAK

Ms. Mitchel has been a very active member of the committee. She has worked tirelessly to secure food and drink donations for our reception, including cupcakes from Georgetown Cupcakes and food from &pizza.

ZOMA WALLACE, CURATOR AND ART BANK COORDINATOR, D.C. COMMISSION ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Ms. Wallace took on the responsibility for the day-of logistics, and essentially curated the competition to make sure that all of the student art was strategically placed and easy for participants to review. She also served as a juror, and helped select this year's winners.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing each member of the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee for their indispensable work in this year's competition, and I take this opportunity to again thank the student artists for submitting such wonderful work.